FADE IN:

1 INT. SUV -- DAY

No sound. We are in a speeding SUV. The passenger, LARA, unsnaps her seat belt and reaches for the door handle. The driver, JOHN, sees her door open and dives to GRAB her. The SUV spins, HORNS BLARE, TIRES SCREECH, cars swerve to avoid collision. We aren't sure what is happening, but we know something has gone terribly wrong. Cut to BLACK. Read:

THE LAST THREE YEARS

2 INT. STEAK HOUSE -- NIGHT

Two couples sit at a table, picking at dessert, JOHN and LARA BRENNA on one side, MICK and ERIT on the other. JOHN is attractive in a worn kind of way, but has the eyes of a kid with a discipline problem. You have to really know him to understand if he is mocking you or agreeing with you. He is a master of irony and has a true enjoyment of the absurd. LARA looks beautiful even in her wrinkled suit. She appears to have had a hard day at the office. She's been drinking at dinner; it hasn't eased her nerves. John's good-looking brother, MICK, boasts his blue collar roots and a gorgeous, if slightly trashy, girlfriend, ERIT, who isn't ashamed of her body or sharing her opinions. JOHN and MICK are laughing. Lara puts cash on the tray beside Mick's credit card.

LARA
You know what? If you were smart you would stop talking right now.

ERIT
Sue me. I just know that women should never work for women.

John laughs and applauds. Mick buries his head.

LARA
How can you say that??

ERIT
They're always threatened. Especially if you're beautiful and they're not.

LARA
Erit, you are so full of shit.

ERIT
So, your boss isn't threatened by you?

(CONTINUED)
LARA
Because she's a bitch! --
(as John and Mick laugh)
--Not because she's a woman.

ERIT
And you would describe her as
"attractive"?

LARA
That has nothing to do with it!

ERIT
And there is my answer.

JOHN
Either of you like another drink?

Lara shoots John a burning look as Erit builds on her victory.

ERIT
Women should work under men, men
under women. That's it.

JOHN
(egging her on)
But men under men?

ERIT
That's fine, too.
(the men burst into laughter)
They're used to it! Why are you
laughing?

MICK
(re: Erit)
I don't know, bro, but I think I'd
rather work under you than her.

ERIT
(insulted, shoots back)
Oh please, I'd rather work under
him, too.

That was a dig at Mick but Lara is primed for a fight.

LARA
You'd rather "work under" John?

ERIT
You have a problem with that, too?

(CONTINUED)
LARA  
No, why would I have a problem with your little sexual innuendo?

ERIT  
What is up your ass tonight??

Mick throws John a "This is all your fault and now it is going to explode" look. John feigns complete innocence.

LARA  
So, I shouldn't take offense that you're coming on to my husband right in front of me.

ERIT  
(claws out now)
Lara, if I wanted your husband I would have him.

LARA  
How? You couldn't possibly show him more of your tits.

The men are on their feet before blows are exchanged.

ERIT  
-- You know what your problem is?!

JOHN  
That was a great meal!  
MICK  
Okay--okay!

Mick and Erit head toward Mick's sporty pickup. John and Lara step into foreground, Lara still fuming.

JOHN  
She is completely full of shit.

LARA  
DON'T try and agree with me now.

JOHN  
You know what? I don't even believe she is in the dental profession.

Lara knows this game; he is trying to get her out of her black mood, and she has no intention of letting him.

LARA  
Shut up.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
I bet she can't even spell anesthesiologist. Woman's a complete fraud.

LARA
We went to her office party, idiot.

JOHN
I think she hit on me that night, too.

Lara opens the back door of their black Prius and tosses in the raincoat she was carrying. They climb in, under....

LARA
You are completely delusional. She wasn't even hitting on you in there; I just don't like her.

JOHN
I understand. People who look like that should not be allowed anywhere near oral surgery.

She feels a smile coming to her lips and tries to force it away.

LARA
You are such an asshole.

JOHN
You're in the chair trying to stay calm; how are you supposed to do that with those things hanging over your--

She can't stand how attractive he is in this moment -- she stops him short by kissing him passionately. His hands slip under her blouse; she tugs at his sweater.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Someone's going to --

Her hand goes to his pants. He yanks at the seat lever and it goes crashing back, Lara landing atop him.

After a moment he sits up quickly and pushes down the visors. She laughs and kisses him and they disappear into each other.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - BACK DOOR -- NIGHT

Lara and John enter, Lara carrying her raincoat, her hair sticking up in the back, John's shirt untucked.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LARA
Hello!

JENNA, the teenage baby-sitter, sees right through them.

LARA (CONT'D)
Did he cry?

JENNA
Only when I dropped him down the stairs.

Lara shoots her a look, hangs up her coat and exits upstairs.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY
She peeks in her son's room, sees him sleeping soundly.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FOYER
Lara comes down to find John paying Jenna. John nods for
her to check the mirror. She tugs at the knot in her hair.

JOHN
Thanks. See you next weekend.

Jenna exits. Lara shows him that his sweater is inside out.
John reacts: "Oh God." Lara's smile broadens; she kisses
him. He pins her to the wall and they start all over again.
He feels for the light switch. He finds it; we cut to BLACK.

INT. JOHN AND LARA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
Lara wakes, troubled. It's the middle of the night.

INT. LUKE'S ROOM -- NIGHT
Lara finds Luke's window closed but unlocked. She locks it
and looks out. Satisfied, she sits and watches her son sleep.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING
Three year-old LUKE holds a knife and fork as he sits at the
table watching his dad cut up his pancakes.

JOHN
Okay, your turn.

Luke skewers a piece with his fork. Lara passes, hustling
to get to work.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Very good, very good...

(CONTINUED)
Luke puts it in his mouth.

JOHN (CONT'D)
No, no, no; you feed me.
(to Lara)
Your son is hopeless.

Lara grabs her phone and leans over them to take a photo.

LARA
Squeeze in tight.

JOHN
You can't do this every morning. It is way too corny.

LARA
Smile. It's just until he's eighteen.

It flashes. Lara kisses John, puts an alien-looking electric toothbrush on the table & walks off to pour coffee to go.

LARA (CONT'D)
Present.

JOHN
(examining it)
Sweetie, you have to stop believing everything you read in a catalogue.

LARA
You hate brushing your teeth; this one brushes them in thirty seconds.

JOHN
(as if stung)
I love brushing my teeth.
(to Luke)
The lies your mother tells.

LARA
(ignoring him)
When's your last class?

JOHN
Three, and I have papers to grade. Can you pick up Luke?

LARA
After yesterday I probably don't have a job anyway. Do you think it was wrong to call her a useless cow?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN
Bosses admire that kind of frank exchange.

LARA
(pulls note off fridge)
Did you call your father?

JOHN
When?

LARA
(heading for bathroom)
"When?" Yesterday, for his birthday!

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - BATHROOM

Lara puts her foot up and jabs herself with insulin.

JOHN (O.S.)
I sent him flowers and a handmade card.

LARA
You're completely impossible.

JOHN (O.S.)
Did you notice what I got for my birthday this year? A grunt.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

JOHN
Mom said Happy Birthday and my father went <GRUNTS>. Made me tear up.

Lara returns, trying hard not to smile.

LARA
Ever think that someone has to be the bigger person here?

JOHN
(to Luke)
Remember this for the custody hearing: how Mommy is always scolding Daddy.

LARA
How are you going to feel if Luke grows up and doesn't call you?

Lara can't keep a straight face and heads to the foyer.
CONTINUED:

JOHN
Now she's driving a wedge between us.

LARA
I give up.

JOHN
And now she is abandoning you.

Lara grabs her raincoat and notices a stain on the back shoulder. Irritated, she heads back to the bathroom.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

Lara rinses the stain under the sink, surprised to see it run red. She looks at her hands: blood. The doorbell rings.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

John rises to answer the door.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

Lara looks at her coat, wonders how the hell she got blood on her shoulder. She rubs liquid soap into it.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FOYER

As John opens the door, DETECTIVE QUINN shows his badge. DETECTIVE COLLERO and a team of detectives push past. John has no time to react.

DETECTIVE QUINN
Police. Mr. Brennan?

LUKE sees the police rush past him and gets scared.

DETECTIVE QUINN (CONT'D)
My name is Detective Quinn. This is a search warrant for these premises.


DETECTIVE QUINN (CONT'D)
(stops him)
Stay where you are.

JOHN
Get your --

DETECTIVE QUINN
Touch me again and you'll be arrested.
16 INT. BRENAN HOUSE - DOWN THE HALL

Lara steps from the bathroom and is met by Detective Collero. She sees the coat with the water spot; nods to a team member, who takes it and bags it under:

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Lara Brennan?

LARA
WHAT?!

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Lara Brennan, you are under arrest for the murder of Elizabeth Gesas.

She takes her wrist and professionally turns and cuffs her.

LARA
She's dead?? Elizabeth is dead??

17 INT. BRENAN HOUSE - FOYER

JOHN
(tries to push past)
She didn't do anything!

DETECTIVE QUINN
I will only --

JOHN
(tries again)
She didn't do anything!

DETECTIVE QUINN
Put him in cuffs.

The uniform pushes him up against the wall and cuffs his wrists. John watches as his child cries, his wife is led out in handcuffs and the house is torn apart. Cut to BLACK.

18 INT. BRENAN HOUSE -- NIGHT

LUKE (O.S.)
Daddy!... DADDY!!

A light comes on. John steps out of his bedroom and enters his son's room.

JOHN (O.S.)
It's okay. Just a bad dream.

He comes back out carrying Luke, now SIX YEARS-OLD.
INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT


JOHN
You okay?


JOHN (CONT'D)
Okay, you can sleep here as long as you stay on this side of the bed.

Luke immediately scrambles over his father to take his side.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You're such a snake, I don't know why I keep falling for the same trick.

John kisses Luke, who closes his eyes and snuggles his pillow.

John reaches for the lamp. Beside it sits the framed photo that Lara snapped of the three of them that fateful morning. He switches off the lamp, and the screen goes BLACK.

EXT. PITTSBURGH -- DAY

The "T," the city's fast-moving trolley, rises up from underground and we CRANE UP to see the city.

JOHN (O.S.)
But Sam's your friend, right?

EXT. ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL -- DAY

Tilt down from a passing T-Train to find John and Luke, walking toward the huge, modern Allegheny County Jail.

LUKE
Not at lunch.

JOHN
Does he take your food?

LUKE
No.

JOHN
Did he say something mean?
(Luke nods)
About Mommy?

((CONTINUED)
LUKE

Yeah.

JOHN

Did you hit him?

LUKE

Yeah.

JOHN

Good. Where did you hit him?

LUKE

Near the swings.

JOHN

Wow. I bet that hurt.

LUKE

Yeah.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- DAY

- John waits in a long line, mostly women. He glances over at the pleasant and colorful play area in the corner and sees children playing. Luke plays by himself.

- John puts his key ring in a plastic container. The guard takes it and puts the keys with other visitors' belongings. John guides his son toward the metal detector. Luke walks through and the buzzer goes off.

John instinctively moves forward to help. A guard stops him with a hand on his chest. On the other side of the metal detector another guard runs a wand over Luke, pulls something from his pocket, looks at it curiously.

JOHN

It's a toy!


JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't worry. We'll get it back.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CORRIDOR -- DAY

They walk along the hall with all the other visitors.
INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- DAY

John stares out the window at the city beyond. Life seems so close.

He looks back into the large communal visiting room; a dozen round tables and plastic chairs. The concrete block walls are covered with naive paintings in bright colors and messages of hope. Luke plays at his feet with a basket of Legos.

The door at the far side buzzes, a guard opens it and prisoners in red jump-suits marked VISITING ROOM enter.

Lara enters and looks around. She is pale, thin and her hair has returned to its natural color. Lara hurries to him and gives him a real kiss. She breaks and steps to Luke, who plays with his back to her.

LARA
Hi honey. Can Mommy get a kiss?
(no response. Tickles him)
Come on, give Mommy a kiss.

JOHN
Rat-Bag. Give Mommy a kiss.

He gives her a peck on the cheek and goes back to his Legos.

LARA
Is Daddy reading you my letters?

JOHN
Every night at bedtime.

LARA
What are you building? A fort?

Lara pulls him into a hug; no response. She kisses his head and sits at the table with John. She squeezes his hand.

LARA (CONT'D)
Was he scared going to school?

JOHN
I walked him to class, gave him a kiss; he didn't even look back to wave.

LARA
What did you make him for lunch?

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
Turkey sandwich, just butter and bread, no "vegetables" on it. He swore he ate his apple.

He hands her a pack of photos. Lara devours them.

LARA
Look at his friends. And his desk. This is his teacher?

JOHN
Miss Phillips.

LARA
You may have to move to another school district.

JOHN
Already spoke to a realtor.

LARA
(still looking at photos)
How was your first day?

JOHN
Excellent. Over half my class stayed awake. Talked to your mom.

LARA
When is she coming?

JOHN
She's having a lot of trouble with her business.

LARA
It's only been a couple of years, I'm sure she'll get around to it. (beat) Have you heard anything?

JOHN
About the appeal? Yes, and I'm just not telling you. What did Meyer say?

LARA
--Don't--

JOHN
-- It can take months for the court to rule.

(CONTINUED)
LARA
I saw that woman. She was there.
She couldn't have just disappeared.

JOHN
Meyer's looking for a new investigator.

LARA
Her coat snagged my purse, I felt a button pop - they must have been blind not to find it.

JOHN
He'll go through all the evidence again.

LARA
Great, because I haven't quite bankrupted us yet.

JOHN
We're doing fine.

LARA
(fondly)
You just lie and lie.
(strokes his face)
But you are very handsome.
(admiring him)
Can you do me a favor?

JOHN
I don't know, I'm a little busy.

LARA
I need you to run for governor.

JOHN
-- Oh, that I can do.

LARA
You can change this rule about no conjugal visits, because I don't think I can last another twenty years.

She smiles but is already traveling toward a dark place. He reaches out and holds her tight, stroking her back.

LARA (CONT'D)
I'm okay. I'm okay.
JOHN
I know. But it's going to be fine.
I promise.

She just stares at Luke, his back to them, playing.

LARA
You think he'll ever want to kiss me again?

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- LATER

The prisoners file out and are patted down. Lara turns and blows Luke and John a kiss. They watch with the other visitors, who all stand on the far side of the room.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CHANGING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Lara and the female inmates pull off their visiting jump-suits and hand them to a female guard, who searches them for contraband. Lara retrieves her regular jump-suit and pulls it on over her underwear. Another small, daily humiliation.

INT. JOHN'S BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Start VERY CLOSE ON JOHN'S DIGITAL WATCH. Widen to see Luke standing on a low step at the sink in his pajamas using a complicated-looking electric toothbrush. John sits on the toilet, staring at his watch.

JOHN
Twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty.

Luke puts it down and checks his teeth in the mirror.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Good?


EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - GARAGE AND ALLEY -- MORNING

The garage door opens; the Prius has a lot more miles on it. John backs out, Luke in his child seat. He brakes and finds PAULA, the woman who lives behind them, at his window.

PAULA
How's Lara?

JOHN
She's doing okay.

(CONTINUED)
PAULA
Tell her we're pulling for her.

JOHN
I will.

She holds up a plastic water bottle.

PAULA
They won't recycle these unless you take off the cap.
(cap vs. bottle)
This is trash. This is recyclable.

JOHN
Ok. Thanks.

John drives off, wondering what kind of world he lives in.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Sitting on the park bench, John allows his feelings to wash over his face. He watches Luke play with a girl his age.

JOHN

Luke runs to him. John pulls Luke's jacket on. He doesn't notice the young mother on the next bench, NICOLE, watching him admiringly. She calls to the girl Luke was playing with.

NICOLE
Time to go, Carrie!

John glances in time to see CARRIE plop down in the sand, arms folded. He shares a sympathetic smile with Nicole, who heads to retrieve her daughter. John walks off with Luke.

INT. CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE -- DAY

John waits as a courtroom lets out. MEYER FISK steps out with a young associate. He spots John and approaches.

MEYER
John, I said my office at four o'clock. I can't leave, I'm in --

JOHN
(holds up a Subway bag)
I figured you had to eat.

Meyer relents, turns and calls to his associate.

(CONTINUED)
Do you have the ruling in Brennan?

She kneels and digs through her rolling briefcase.

John sits on a bench, pale and shaken, flipping through the ruling. The courtroom is empty, save a bailiff eating at his desk. During this he gets up and walks out past them.

But what if we find the woman who was leaving the parking lot?

The PCRA was rejected. No new evidence can be submitted. Not anymore.

It was a robbery! Someone stole her purse!

And if they'd used her credit cards we would have had something to argue. I'm sorry; this really...sucks.

John offers a smile at Meyer's unlawyer-like choice of words.

So, that's it. Now we just have the Supreme Court.

John, in the last thirty years, the Supreme Court hasn't heard one murder case. No decent lawyer would even file the pleadings.

So, I need to find an indecent one?

No, I'm going to file it. But I need you to do something for me.

Anything.
MEYER
I need you to look at the evidence
and just forget Lara is your wife.

JOHN
(stopped by that)
I've seen the evidence, Meyer.

MEYER
I'm not saying judge her innocent or
guilty, I'm just saying look at it.
He co-worker sees her leaving the
scene, she has the victim's blood on
her clothes, her fingerprints on the
murder weapon--

JOHN
(is this a bad joke?)
We went out for dinner! How do you
do that after you kill somebody?
She would have to be a psychopath!

MEYER
-- And the fight in the office.

JOHN
Everyone fights with their boss!

MEYER
But this one ended up dead.

John looks at Meyer anew, feeling profoundly betrayed.

JOHN
So, you never believed she was
innocent?

MEYER
How can you say that?

JOHN
So, what are you saying, Meyer?!

MEYER
That it no longer matters what we
believe; Lara's not getting out.
And you have no idea how much I hate
saying that.

JOHN
(exiting)
I'll find someone to file the
pleadings.

(CONTINUED)
MEYER
John! Come on! For Christ's sake.
JOHN!!

John is long gone. Meyer hurls his sandwich into the trash.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - VISITING BOOTH -- DAY

John waits alone on the visitors' side of the glass. The door opens, and Lara steps up on the other side. John smiles and picks up the phone, but Lara sees something in his face and doesn't pick up her phone, just stares at him.

John fights to keep his smile and nods for her to pick up her phone -- but now she can see the verdict chiseled on his face. Lara gasps and cries inconsolably.

John keeps the smile plastered on his face, but now tears run down his cheeks. He taps on the glass and points at her phone, but she doesn't respond. He taps harder and harder -- desperately wanting to comfort her, but she won't allow it.

He bangs on the glass with his fist, drawing the attention of the guard on his side.

Lara turns and exits. John stands and yells her name, but she can't hear it, and neither can we.

EXT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE -- DAY

We're in an old working class neighborhood. John sits in his car, trying to pull himself together.

INT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE -- DAY

MICK opens the door. GRACE, their mother, looks up from clearing the lunch dishes. John's face tells them everything they need to know. Mick slams his fist against the door.


EXT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE - BACK YARD -- LATE AFTERNOON

John, Mick and Grace sit in the worn wicker chairs on the back porch. Erit steps out with beers to replace their empties. She sits and they stare off, watching Luke and George play with the dog. After a moment Erit looks to John:

ERIT
I know you won't want to hear this...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

MICK
-- Erit, go put somebody to sleep.

She stares unbelieving, then walks off in a huff.

JOHN
Thanks.

MICK
* Had to be done.
(long beat)
I am really going to pay for that.

John has to smile.

EXT. THE HILL DISTRICT -- NIGHT (DUSK)

John drives through a rough part of town on their way home.
He stops at a light and notes the dealers on the corner. A
flashy car pulls up, hands are slapped; call the driver DAVID.
He takes a roll of cash from the dealer, looks around, catches
John staring. John looks away quickly and drives off.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John sits at his desk, surrounded by boxes of documents and
photographs. As John sifts through the evidence...

INT. LARA'S OFFICE - THE PAST -- NIGHT

Lara and her boss ELIZABETH argue loudly.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - THE PAST -- NIGHT

It's RAINING outside. ELIZABETH stands at her car door in a
small, partially covered garage -- maybe a dozen spots. She
turns toward camera --

A FIRE EXTINGUISHER comes right at camera, making a terrible
impact and

ELIZABETH collapses to the floor.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - THE PAST -- NIGHT

Lara turns, holding the fire extinguisher.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

As he flips through a handwritten witness statement.
EXT. PARKING LOT - THE PAST -- NIGHT

Lara's car speeds out of the parking lot. A male co-worker steps out of the rain just as her car passes. He stops as he sees ELIZABETH'S BODY lying beside her car.

INT. BRENnan HOUSE - BATHROOM - THE PAST -- DAY

Lara tries to scrub the blood off of her coat.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The phone beside him SHRIEKS. John picks it up.

EXT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

It's late; prime time for the ER. John runs in.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - SEVENTH FLOOR -- NIGHT

John enters breathlessly and finds the Nurses' Station.

JOHN
Lara Brennan; my wife. She was sent up here. Brennan. B-R-

DUTY NURSE
(finds name in roster)
She can't have visitors.

JOHN
That's ridiculous; I have to see her.

DUTY NURSE
I'm sorry.

John turns away and heads down the corridor to find her himself. The Duty Nurse sees this and takes off after him:

DUTY NURSE (CONT'D)
You can't go down there!

John shoves open a door, moves on to the next.

DUTY NURSE (CONT'D)
You can't be in here!!

JOHN
Lara!

(CONTINUED)
HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD #1
(running up)
I got him!

JOHN
Lara!

A long-haired doctor, BECSEY, steps into his path.

DR. BECSEY
What's going on?!

JOHN
My wife attempted suicide.

HOSPITAL GUARD 1
Let's go.

DUTY NURSE
(hands doctor chart)
She's not allowed visitors.

JOHN
I have to see her!

DR. BECSEY
Why isn't she in the ER?

HOSPITAL GUARD 1
I'm not asking. Now.

DUTY NURSE
She's a transfer from County Jail.

JOHN
Please. Two minutes.

Becsey is not unmoved. He shares a look with the nurse.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM -- NIGHT

DR. Becsey opens the door for John. Note a prison guard standing outside.

DR. BECSEY
Two minutes.

Becsey leaves. A uniformed female prison guard looks up from her magazine and keeps her eyes on John. He looks to his wife, who's attached to an I.V. and monitors, pale and weak, her arm bandaged where she cut it open along the artery.

Lara opens her heavy eyelids and John glimpses something terrible in her eyes: she's tortured to be alive. He kneels beside her and puts a hand on the bed. She takes his little finger, wraps her fingers around it.
John opens the door to let Jenna out; she looks considerably older.

JENNA
I'm sorry. He just keeps pretending he's asleep.

JOHN
(reaching for his wallet) *
Don't worry about it.

JENNA *
It's okay.

JOHN
I insist. I kept you out on a school night.

JENNA
I'm not in school anymore.

She offers a sad smile and leaves without the cash.

Luke lies in the crook of his father's arm, his own arms full of penguins, turtles, a black dog and an opossum. John reads him a letter, the yellow envelope open on the bed.

JOHN
And give a big hug to Pengui, Little Pengui, Big Turtley, Little Turtley, Kiki and Opossumy. Lots and lots of love, Mommy.
(beat)
You gonna give them hugs from her? *
(no response) *
Should we write her back?

LUKE
...When is she coming home?

JOHN
Soon honey. Soon.

LUKE
(thinks for a moment, then:)*
Can I have a quarter?

JOHN
Can you have a quarter?

(CONTINUED)
Luke points at the glass coin dish on night stand.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Ohhh. Sure, but you can't spend those. They come from the cottage where Mommy and I used to take you when you were a baby.

LUKE
Then can I have them all?

JOHN
...Sure.

He hands Luke the jar, and hoists up him and his animals.

INT. LUKE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Luke sets the coin jar on his nightstand. John tucks him in with his animals, then switches off the lamp. John looks back before closing it and watches Luke lie awake, staring at the jar, lost in confused thoughts of his mother.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Dirty dishes piled in the sink, John unloads the dishwasher. He finds the handle has cracked off Luke's favorite mug. He places the cup and handle on the counter, opens a drawer crammed with tools and screws and tape and such. He rummages through it. Not finding what he is looking for, he pulls handfuls of junk out of the drawer and slams it all down on the counter. The harder he searches the more he becomes frustrated, until he slams the drawer and leans on the counter, feeling destroyed and needy.

And then a female hand appears beside him, opens another drawer and reaches in. John stares at the hand, afraid to move, afraid to look up. The hand finds a tube of glue, places it on the counter and moves away.

John turns to see LARA walking away. She turns, smiling and shaking her head, and disappears into the dining room.

Stunned, John looks down at the glue on the counter, then suddenly pushes away and rushes into the dining room. No sign of her. And she isn't in the living room. He bolts into the foyer and finds the front door slightly ajar. He flings it open...

EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- NIGHT

John rushes out into the street, looking up and down for her -- finally realizing she was never there.

(CONTINUED)
He stands in the middle of the street, now searching for some way to survive.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - JOHN'S CLASSROOM -- DAY

Don Quixote is written on the chalkboard.

JOHN
So, what is it about? Julie?

JULIE
That belief in someone's virtue is more important than virtue itself?

JOHN
No. I mean, yes, that's in there. But what is it about?

No takers.

JOHN (CONT'D)
It is about how rational thought destroys the soul. It is about the triumph of irrationality, and the power that is in it.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LIBRARY -- DAY

John drops an armload of books into a library cart, each having something to do with prison or prison life.

He sits at a table at the back, flipping through them one at a time and discards each in turn.

As the shadows grow longer we find him staring at the computer screen linked to the school system.

ON THE SCREEN: a book summary disappears, to be replaced by the school search engine -- many of the items have already been inspected. John finds one that reads "Over The Walls." *

He clicks on the link and the title page appears. The author is DAMON PENNINGTON. There's a photo of him. The caption reads that he LIVES IN BROOKLYN, NY.

EXT. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK - STREET -- DAY

John gets out of a cab and heads into a local dive bar.

INT. BAR -- DAY

A couple of guys at the bar yell at the dog race on the TV screen. DAMON hands John a beer and nods toward a table. *

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
It's a course that investigates what drives men to be free, no matter the cost.

DAMON
Somebody else had dibs on Papillon?

JOHN
You escaped from jail seven times.

Damon lights a cigarette. A TOUGH GUY nearby objects.

TOUGH GUY
No smoking!!

DAMON
Yeah, who would want to cut short your precious life?

Damon takes a deep drag.

JOHN
Mind if I tape you?

DAMON
Go for it, it can't be used as evidence. What do you want to know?

John sets up the small digital recorder.

JOHN
How you escaped when no one else could.

DAMON
Balls and a little luck.
    (beat)
No prison in the world is airtight. Each one has a key. You have to find it.

JOHN
How do you do that?

DAMON
A lot of looking. Especially at things that break the daily routine. Guards get comfortable doing the same thing every day. Something happens where they have to think, adapt.

(MORE)
56 CONTINUED: (2)

DAMON (CONT'D)
That's when they will make mistakes. But when you see it you have to be ready. You have to have the entire plan already in place before you even know how you are going to get out of the jail. Escaping is easy; the hardest part is staying free.

57 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The tape recorder plays Damon's voice; John tears large sheets of art paper from a pad and tacks them to his bedroom wall.

DAMON (O.S.)
You have to know where you are going to go and how you are going to get there. You have to know how they plan to catch you, where, and when.

JOHN (O.S.)
How the hell do you know that?

He starts to write on the paper with a large felt marker.

DAMON (O.S.)
You pay off someone who knows. And a lot depends on if the prison is in the country or the city.

58 INT. BAR -- DAY

JOHN
The city.

That came out too quickly. Damon now understands. John sits, silent, knowing he blew it. Damon takes his time.

DAMON
Where are you from?

JOHN
...Pittsburgh.

DAMON
Pittsburgh is tough; so many bridges and tunnels they can block off.

59 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The art paper bunches and rips under the pressure of the marker. John tears it off the wall.

(CONTINUED)
From the time they make the call, the police can have the center of the city sealed tight in fifteen minutes.

John draws a circle on the wall and writes in it: 15 MINUTES --

Within thirty-five minutes they will have cops at every tollbooth on the interstate --

-- Surrounds it by a larger circle: 35 MINUTES.

And be running rolling stops on the secondary roads. They won't have your photograph yet, but they will have your description.

He draws spokes out from the circles.

What if you can't make it out?

Thirty-five minutes isn't a lot of time.

Then surrender.
DAMON (CONT'D)
Because they will shoot you on sight, along with anyone you are with.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
John writes DESCRIPTION at the end of one spoke.

DAMON (O.S.)
Stay far away from the train and bus stations.

INT. BAR -- DAY
DAMON
Forget the local airports. Leave from another state.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
John scribbles key words on the wall. DISTANT AIRPORT.

INT. BAR -- DAY
DAMON
Second: identity. It's easy to find fake papers, harder to find ones that will get you through an airport.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
John writes "IDENTITIES."

DAMON (O.S.)
You'll need a passport, driver's license and a social security number.

INT. BAR -- DAY
DAMON
If you have to rent a car, find a place that will take a cash deposit. They'll still run a credit check, so use a real person's name on the ID. (beat)
Third: destination.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
John writes furiously on the wall. "DESTINATION."

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DAMON (O.S.)
You want somewhere that doesn't attract American tourists and doesn't get American newspapers. Think Yemen and you get the idea.

INT. BAR -- DAY

DAMON
Then money.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John's writes "MONEY."

DAMON (O.S.)
You need a truck load of it. Everything's expensive: hotels, travel, information.

INT. BAR -- DAY

JOHN
How much?

DAMON
Enough to last at least five-six years. Run out of money and you run out of friends.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John underlines "MONEY."

INT. BAR -- DAY

John is starting to understand the enormity of this undertaking.

DAMON
But before you do anything, you have to ask yourself if you can do it. Can you forget about ever seeing your parents again. Can you kill a guard, leave your kid at a gas station, push a nice old lady to the ground because she is between you and the door? Because to do this thing, that's who you have to become. And if you can't, don't start, because you'll just get someone killed.
77 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John backs away from the wall to see it covered in a spiderweb of notes.

    JOHN (O.S.)
    How did you get caught?

78 INT. BAR -- DAY

    DAMON
    I gave myself up. I couldn't take wondering when someone was going to come through the bedroom door.
    (beat)
    Got what you need?

    JOHN
    Yeah.

    DAMON
    What do you have in your pocket?

John opens his billfold. Damon takes the cash, leaves him a twenty.

79 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

On the wall we see the massive diagram John has created. The screen goes BLACK. Read:

THE LAST THREE MONTHS

80 EXT. T-TRAIN -- DAY

The train crosses a bridge.

81 INT. T-TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS

John rides, looking down at the river below.

82 INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- DAY

John steps through the puffer (the machine that detects drugs) and into the secure area. He makes a mental note of everything he sees: the number of guards, cameras, etc.

83 EXT. COUNTY JAIL - DELIVERY AREA -- DAY

John sits in his car on the road above, surreptitiously taking pictures of the vehicles coming and going from the prison.
84 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT  
He tapes the photos to the wall.

85 INT. COUNTY JAIL -- DAY  
Walking down a corridor with the other visitors, John steps in a puddle of water. Behind him the others notice and step around it. Moving on, they pass a trustee on a ladder pulling a water-stained ceiling tile away as two guards watch.

86 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT  
John traces a route on a map with a highlighter.

87 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- DAY (NEW DAY)  
The wall grows thick with photos and notes.

88 INT. CLASSROOM -- NEW DAY  
He reads an article on his computer -- about illegal aliens and fake ID's.

89 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT  
John enters his bedroom and closes the door. We see how dramatically his plan has evolved on the wall as every inch is covered in notes, photos, maps, and various writings. He studies it as he bites into a sandwich.

90 INT. COUNTY JAIL - CORRIDOR -- DAY  
John and Luke walk near the front of the group of visitors toward the visitation rooms.

Just ahead he notices a guard using a key to call the elevator. John stops near the elevator and kneels, pulling one of Luke's shoelaces loose.

LUKE  
It was already tied.

John reties the lace as the group moves on. He keeps one eye on the elevator.

The door opens and the guard steps in - and John notices two WORKMEN in hardhats inside. The elevator closes, the shoelace is tied, the group has moved on down the hall and they are alone. John pulls the laces and unties Luke's shoe.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
You untied it again!  

(CONTINUED)
The guard looks back, now impatient. John offers a smile and throws a look down at the elevator tread, sees the name: OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY. Suddenly a voice comes from behind:

WOMAN'S VOICE
Mr. Brennan?

Startled, John turns to see DR. LIFSON.

DR. LIFSON
We met briefly. Byrdie Lifson.

JOHN
Oh, sorry. Hello, Doctor.

DR. LIFSON
(to approaching guard)
I'll bring them back myself.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CLINIC -- DAY

John leaves Luke playing and steps into the office. Lifson partially closes the door, so John can still see his son.

DR. LIFSON
We check your wife's blood regularly. She's been refusing her insulin. I don't want to sound dramatic, but it's just another form of suicide.

JOHN
I'll talk to her.

DR. LIFSON
If she doesn't --

JOHN
I'll talk to her.
(steps out)
Let's go, Squirrel.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- DAY


JOHN
Hey. Are you alright?

LARA
I'm fine. I'm fine.
Lara smiles to cover and bends down and kisses her son, who is engrossed in his toys as usual.

LARA (CONT'D)
Hi, sweet potato. How are you doing?

He doesn't respond. She kisses him on the head then takes a seat. John sits beside her. They speak in whispers.

JOHN
The doctor told me about the insulin.

LARA
(watching Luke)
Yeah, I forgot. It's no big deal.

JOHN
You forgot? For how many days?

LARA
I forgot, okay? I have things on my mind.

JOHN
--And so much to do.

LARA
Oh, that's nice.

JOHN
Why are you doing this?

LARA
Can I please just watch him play? Tell me about kindergarten.

JOHN
No. I need you to --

LARA
Fine, I won't forget again, okay? (trying to fight away these thoughts:)
I am just never going to walk him to school or wash his clothes or make him dinner...and I don't know how I can live knowing that. Okay?

JOHN
Lara. Look at me. Something will happen. I promise.
LARA
(cruelly - but hushed)
What? What is going to happen? There are no more appeals, there are no more anything. Exactly what miracle are we hoping for, John?

He looks down, beaten. She lets go of her anger.

LARA (CONT'D)
I need you to do something for me.

JOHN
Sure.

LARA
Stop bringing him.

JOHN
Come on...

LARA
He hates coming here. Look at him.

JOHN
Lara....

LARA
Please. It's not his fault. It's too hard to watch him forget me.

John looks at his son, playing at a distance, his back to them. It's hard to argue with her, she's right.

LARA (CONT'D)
You want to hear something funny?

JOHN
Yes. Anything.

LARA
My mother tried to send me anti-aging cream.

John smiles, but like hers it may be the saddest smile in the world. They sit and watch Luke play.
94 INT. REALTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

EUGENIE, the REAL ESTATE AGENT, walks John to the door.

EUGENIE
You're sure that you don't want a lawn sign?

JOHN
I'm very sure. Thanks.

95 INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LIBRARY -- DAY

A STUDENT shows John how to use Photoshop to enlarge and crop a photo.

96 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- LATE AFTERNOON

John uses Photoshop, looking through family pictures for an appropriate one to use for Lara's ID. Some of them are of the family at a cottage. He finds one that will work and starts to crop himself and Luke (as a baby) out of the photo. Then he turns and notices Luke standing behind him, staring at the screen.

97 EXT. PITTSBURGH -- DAY

A helicopter swoops over a bridge and traces the Monongahela River through the city. On the door of the helicopter is emblazoned the name of a local tour company.

98 INT. HELICOPTER -- DAY

John sits among six other passengers.

COPTER PILOT
On the left, Allegheny County Jail. Built in 1995, it is now the largest jail in the world. There have been three escape attempts. No one's made it out alive. On your right...

Everyone else looks to the right as the pilot continues. John stays fixed on the left window.

HIS POINT OF VIEW:

The massive rooftops of the jail. But then he sees exactly what he is looking for: workmen wearing yellow helmets spread hot tar and roofing paper. He spots a workman carrying a bucket heading around a tall outcropping on the roof.
LYLA, a student, reads from The Idiot as John returns to his desk with papers in his hands. His laptop lies open to Google Earth -- the rooftop view of the jail, from another angle. John closes it and spreads the papers on his desk -- a printed color version of the same. He draws an arrow to the outcropping where we now see a door; labels it ELEVATOR.

LYLA
On the first landing, which was as small as the necessary turn of the stairs allowed, there was a niche in the column, about a yard wide, and in this niche the prince felt convinced that a man stood concealed. He thought he could distinguish a figure standing there.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- DAY

John searches Craigslist for HELICOPTER PILOTS. Clicks on one that reads EXPERIENCED HELICOPTER PILOT, COMBAT VET, WILL CONSIDER ANY OFFER.

ANGLE ON JOHN'S WALL

Where a magazine clipping of a helicopter sits under the heading ESCAPE. Overlapping it he pins trimmed print-outs of several PILOT candidates.

Directly underneath is the Google Earth photo of the rooftop of the jail, the door marked with an arrow, and the landing site indicated with an X in a circle.

Below that is a rough sketch of the visitor's room and the adjacent corridor with an arrow marking the elevator. In block letters beside it is the word "KEY?"

INT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT


JOHN
Thanks.

George nods, takes Luke's hand and walks to the kitchen.
John drives, taking note of the corners where young men hang out, selling drugs or contraband.

John walks up to a guy leaning on the bumper of his car, the trunk partially open. Call him MOUSS.

JOHN
Adderall?

MOUSS
Ten apiece, five for forty.

John hands him a twenty, Mouss digs into a bag in his trunk and hands him a blister-pack strip of two pills, samples.

JOHN
I need some passports.

MOUSS
Piss off.

John nods and walks back across the street. The guy watches.

John climbs into his car and tosses the pills onto the passenger seat, among a half dozen others. There is a sharp RAP on his window; Mouss. John rolls down the window.

MOUSS
You have to pay up front.

JOHN
I can do that.

MOUSS
You know the Uptown on 5th Ave?

JOHN
No.

MOUSS
Ask for Harv.

JOHN
What's your name?

MOUSS
Just say Mouss.
John parks and steps out of his car.

Hip-hop blares, the clientele are low-lives, John doesn't exactly fit in as he enters and orders. His words are drowned out. The bartender gives him a beer on tap. John asks for "Hart." The bartender nods to a man at the back who is playing a video game. John walks off, passing a LONG-HAIRED GUY at the bar who watches him. John approaches HARV.

JOHN
Mouss said to come see you.

HARV
He did, did he? What do you want?

JOHN
Three passports, a driver's license, and real social security number.

HARV
How do you know Mouss?

JOHN
He babysits my kid.

HARV
*sizes him up, then:
Okay.

Harv gives him a look; nods for him to follow.

They step out the back door.

HARV
You have the photos on you?

JOHN
Yes. How much?

HARV
Fifteen hundred.

MOUSS steps out of the shadows and cracks John across the back of the head with a pipe. John stumbles to the ground.

The two men kick the shit out of John. John tries to protect his face; they just keep kicking.

(CONTINUED)
Mouss finally grabs John's hair and flicks a knife in his face as Harv searches his pockets and finds his money.

MOUSS
I ever see you again, you lose an eye.

The two men walk away and get into Mouss' van. John lies doubled up on the ground and eventually tries to stand.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - BATHROOM -- NIGHT
John cleans the cuts on his face with peroxide, adds a Band-Aid. He stares at his face, letting defeat wash over him.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
John deducts $2,000 from the MONEY column.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- MORNING
His face purple with bruises, John pulls himself out of bed in response to the RINGING DOORBELL.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FOYER -- CONTINUOUS
John limps to the front door and opens it to see Eugenie, his realtor, standing with a nice couple. They see his face, try and hide their reactions.

EUGENIE
You did remember I was showing the house?

JOHN
Give me two minutes.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS
John tacks two large dark blue sheets up over the wall, covering his plan.

EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FRONT PORCH -- CONTINUOUS
Eugenie reassures her skittish clients.

EUGENIE
It really is a great neighborhood.

INT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE -- DAY
Grace, John's mother, opens the door and sees John's face.

(CONTINUED)
INT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S KITCHEN -- DAY

John sits as Grace approaches with iodine and cotton balls. Through the window he sees Luke playing with the dog.

JOHN
It was stupid, I fell off the bike.

GRACE
The bike that's been in our garage for two years? Put your head back.

JOHN
Some guy made a crack about Lara.

GRACE
So, that's what you do now: punch everyone who thinks she's guilty?

JOHN
What's that supposed to mean?

GRACE
It means it's important what YOU believe, not --

JOHN
Really? So, what do you believe, Mom?

John stands and opens the back door.

GRACE
Why are you trying to start a fight?

JOHN
(calling out back door)
Come on, buddy!
(to his mother)
Where is his bag?

GRACE
Why are you doing this?!

Luke enters as Grace tries to hide her tears.

JOHN
No reason. I just stupidly thought people who loved her would actually believe she's innocent. My mistake.

(CONTINUED)
115 CONTINUED:

GRACE
Stop this!

John turns and sees GEORGE standing in the open doorway. He has heard everything. He gives his son a dismissive look and walks off towards his bedroom. John feels like a heel.

JOHN (to Luke)
Give Grandma a kiss.

Luke does, and the two of them leave with his bag.

116 EXT. GRACE & GEORGE'S - INSIDE THE PRIUS -- DAY

John gets in and checks his mirror. Luke is staring at him.

LUKE
Does your face hurt?

JOHN
A little.

LUKE
Did you hit him back?

JOHN
No.

LUKE
That's okay.

John pulls away.

117 EXT. HILL DISTRICT -- NIGHT

John drives, looking for someone selling fake papers. He sees Mouss' parked car and slows; Mouss stares at him. John flashes his middle finger and drives on. Mouss considers doing something but just flips him off.

118 EXT. HILL DISTRICT - ANOTHER INTERSECTION -- NIGHT

John asks a couple of guys on the corner about papers and is turned away. As he returns to his car, he doesn't notice MIKE, the long-haired guy from Drake's Bar, watching from astride his motorcycle. A SECOND RIDER pulls up beside Mike. John pulls out and the motorcycles follow at a distance.

119 INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- NIGHT

John watches Jenna leave; closes the door, climbs the stairs.
120 INT. LUKE'S ROOM -- NIGHT
John sees Luke sleeping, surrounded by his animals. The doorbell rings.

121 INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- NIGHT
John peers out surreptitiously, sees MIKE standing there. He rings the bell again.
John runs and snatches a kitchen knife, returns to the door, secures the chain lock and opens the door a crack.

JOHN
What?

Mike speaks in a loud, atonal and unnerving voice.

MIKE
I was at the bar. I know what you are looking for.

Caught off guard by the voice, John just stares at him.

MIKE (CONT'D)
I'm deaf, you idiot. I read lips.

John stares at him, unsure what to do.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You really want to talk out here?

John puts the knife in his back pocket and steps out onto...

122 EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FRONT PORCH -- CONTINUOUS
John tries to look tough. Mike smiles at John's bravado.

MIKE
What do you need?

John indicates Mike should lower his voice.

JOHN
Three passports, a driver's license and social security number that can take a credit check.

MIKE
Thirty seven hundred.

JOHN
That's too much.

(CONTINUED)
MIKE
It is if you never get them. I need photos and a thousand in advance.

John stares at the man, trying to read him. He turns.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

John pulls cash and an envelope from his jacket pocket.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FOYER -- NIGHT

Mike counts the money and shoves it in his breast pocket.

MIKE
I'll bring them Wednesday.

JOHN
Not here. Don't come here again.

Mike stares at him. John stares back.

MIKE
Parking lot of Don's. Eckert Street.
Under the bridge; two o'clock. If I'm not there on time, leave.

John closes the door behind him and watches Mike walk off toward his motorcycle.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

He drops the carving knife back in the drawer. As he looks up, he sees THE SECOND RIDER staring in the window, his helmet still on. John's heart almost stops. The rider DRIVES OFF.

EXT. STREET - UNDER A BRIDGE -- DAY

A beat-up old van sits parked on the crumbling sidewalk.
John hands seven hundred dollars to a sketchy-looking guy inside. The guy hands John a 9MM handgun wrapped in a oilcloth. John unwraps it and hands it back.

JOHN
Show me how to load it.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - KITCHEN -- EVENING


JOHN
No video game.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LUKE (O.S.)
Dad!

John moves to check the answering machine.

JOHN
I'll play checkers with you after dinner.

LUKE (O.S.)
You'll just lose again.

EUGENIE (V.O.)
(on voicemail:)
John? It's Eugenie. You're not going to believe it; the people I brought over? They made an offer! I'll bring it in the morning.

BEEP.

JOHN
(buoyed/to Luke)
Not tonight. Tonight, I utterly destroy you.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John watches a video on YouTube: "How to unlock any door." The person on screen demonstrates how to make a "bump key."

KID ON SCREEN
-- a bump key. First, find any key that fits into the same make of lock.

INT. BRENNAN'S GARAGE -- NIGHT

John files down a key, held in the jaws of a vice.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - BACK DOOR -- NIGHT

John inserts the bump key into the door lock, bumps it with the butt of a screwdriver. The key won't turn.

INT. BRENNAN'S GARAGE -- NIGHT

He files down the key some more.

EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - BACK PORCH -- NIGHT

He inserts the key, bumps it, turns. The lock opens.
INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - ELEVATOR -- DAY

John gets in, heading up to his classroom. People avoid looking at his face. One woman can't help noticing. John nods and smiles. He pushes the elevator button and notices the name: OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- DAY

John scans the room as he waits. Two children play in the set that is used to teach them how to speak to a prisoner behind glass using a phone. A moment later, a woman enters with a large shoulder bag. She is a NOTARY.

NOTARY
Mr. Brennan?

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- MORNING

No other visitors today. A NOTARY sits with Lara and John.

NOTARY
And just put your thumb there.

And Lara puts her thumb print on the book.

NOTARY (CONT'D)
Thanks, that's all I need.

The notary heads for the door. John turns to the female guard who is waiting.

JOHN
I'll just be a moment.

He turns back to his wife.

LARA
(touching him, melting)
Your poor face. How could you do that to yourself?

JOHN
I am useless without you. I can't even ride a bike.

LARA
I think it's very sexy.

JOHN
I'm sorry we had to do this.

(CONTINUED)
LARA
You have nothing to apologize for.
But you should have told me before this.

JOHN
I know.

LARA
I don't want you not telling me things.

JOHN
From now on I will.

LARA
(beat)
I won't know where to picture you.
(off his look)
I close my eyes and I see Luke in
his bedroom, you on the sofa by the
Window. I won't know where to picture
you anymore.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - JOHN'S CLASSROOM -- DAY
John stares at his laptop as the class does a test. Knowing
he isn't paying attention, a STUDENT angles his multiple
choice test so that his friend behind can see the answers.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CORRIDOR -- DAY
John waits for the janitor to leave his tiny office and grabs
the door before it closes. He slips inside and finds a rack
with keys. He takes one from the hook marked ELEVATORS.

INT. BRENNAN'S GARAGE -- NIGHT
John files down the elevator key as he did the house key.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - GARAGE -- DAY
John moves aside a box on the shelf and removes the handgun,
wrapped in an old chamois.

PAULA  (O.S.)
John?
He turns to see Paula standing in the open garage door.

JOHN
Hi.

(CONTINUED)
John tries to look casual as he stands with the thinly disguised gun in his hand.

PAULA
I was wondering if I could ask you to water my plants next week; I'm going in for an operation.

JOHN
I hope it's nothing serious.

PAULA
My idiot doctor misdiagnosed me. He's blaming the lab; the lab's blaming him. But I'll be fine. Thanks.

And she walks off. John gets in the car and slips the gun between the seats.

INT. PRIUS -- DAY

John pulls into the empty parking lot beside Don's and waits. Checks his watch: 1:49 PM. A car pulls in. The guy sits there for a second, then gets out and enters the restaurant.

INT. PRIUS -- DAY

John checks his watch. 2:14. He looks around, knowing he is supposed to leave. He makes a call.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
English Department, this is Catherine.

JOHN
Hi. It's John. Luke isn't feeling well, I'm going to take him home. I need Carl to cover my 2:30 class.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
I will let him know.

INT. PRIUS - DON'S PARKING LOT - MANCHESTER -- AFTERNOON

John checks his watch: 2:27. His cell phone rings, displays the name MICK; John presses IGNORE. He feels for the gun between the seats.

EXT. DON'S PARKING LOT - MANCHESTER -- AFTERNOON

The guy comes out of the restaurant. John watches him walk to his car. The man sees him and stares back. John checks his watch. 2:45. The guy drives off, leaving the lot empty.
John presses the VOICEMAIL button on his phone.

MICK (V.O.)
Are you ever going to answer your goddamn phone?

Suddenly a man in a helmet raps on his side window and John realizes MIKE has pulled up without him noticing. His hand goes to the split between the seats, but stops short as the SECOND RIDER pulls up to the passenger window.

MIKE
You were supposed to leave.

JOHN
I need them.

MIKE
You notice that guy was a cop?

JOHN
Which guy?

MIKE
The one with the red light in his back window.

John feels ridiculous. Mike hands him the documents.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Just give me the money.

John hands him the envelope of money. Mike checks it.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You want this too much. You're going to fuck it up.

Mike speeds off. The second rider gives John a look and follows. John looks over the passports with their new names.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE - GARAGE -- AFTERNOON

Luke gets out of the car and heads into the house, swinging his lunch pale. John watches him go, then reaches down beside his seat and pulls out the gun, wrapped in a cloth. He hides it in the garage and thinks about what he is doing.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- DAY

John moves through the line toward the metal detector. He takes his key ring out of his pocket and slips it, and the separate elevator bump key, into a white plastic dish and

(CONTINUED)
places it atop the X-ray machine. He steps through the metal
detector and then grabs the plastic dish before the guard can
get to it. He hands the dish to the guard.

JOHN
How are you doing today?

GUARD
Don't touch that.

JOHN
Sorry.

John puts the dish down, and we see the bump key is gone --
John palmed it. The guard dumps John's key ring on the
counter with the keys and cell phones from the other visitors.

JOHN pockets the palmed key as he enters the jail.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CORRIDOR -- DAY

John moves down the hall with the fifty or so other visitors.
He eases toward the elevator, keeping his eye on the guard
ahead. By the time the group stops for the door ahead to
open, John's managed to be right beside the elevator.

He folds his coat over his arm to block others from seeing
and feels for the slot. Finding it, he slips in the bump
key. It fits.

The guard at the lead opens the door to the first visiting
room and the crowd starts moving again. John quickly bumps
the key and turns it -- but it won't turn. He bumps it again.
Visitors keep moving past him.

He looks over his shoulder, sees the guard following them is
preoccupied at the door.

He turns it harder. Nothing. He tries to pull it out.
It's stuck. John panics.

The rear guard closes the entry door and follows the crowd.

John tugs at it one last time, and then turns it hard and
snaps it off in the lock. A BLACK WOMAN among the visitors
sees what he is doing but averts her eyes.

John drops the rest of the broken key and kicks it into the
slot between the elevator and the shaft. He slips back into
the crowd and moves on.

Near the rear of the crowd now, John approaches the door to
the visiting room.

(CONTINUED)
He throws a look back, sees another guard step up and try to insert his key in the elevator.

John rounds the corner into the visiting room. The camera stays on his face until we finally hear a DEAFENING ALARM.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ANOTHER CORRIDOR -- DAY

John waits in a line against the wall, beside a door to a small office. Through the glass he watches the MAJOR interview the black woman who noticed what he was doing. She nods and leaves, passing him with a look. The Major holds the door open for him.

INT. MAJOR'S OFFICE -- A SHORT TIME LATER

The MAJOR plays John the CCTV video from the corridor. He flips between two camera positions at either end of the hall. The crowd of visitors shuffling toward the visiting rooms obscures the view of the elevator.

MAJOR
So, you are where in here?

JOHN
...In the middle there.

MAJOR
In the middle. Can you point to yourself?

JOHN
(looks)
It's hard to tell. I think that's me there. Why?

He freezes the tape and points to a blurry figure in the background.

MAJOR
So that's not you there. By the elevator?

JOHN
(looks)
....No.
(points to another person)
I was over here. You want to tell me what's going on?

MAJOR
You want me to tell you?
JOHN
Yes.
The Major holds the piece of the key that jammed in the lock.

MAJOR
You know what a bump key is?

JOHN
Sorry.

Major puts it on the desk and just stares at John. Finally:

MAJOR
If this was you, you might want to think about what's going to happen to your kids if both of their parents are in prison.

The major stares right through him.

149 INT. COUNTY JAIL - CORRIDOR -- DAY

John heads toward the exit, accompanied by a guard. As he nears the elevator he sees a technician climbing a step ladder, holding a new CCTV camera.

150 INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- DAY

Face chalk white, John heads for the exit, fighting the urge to run. The door opens just before he gets there and Collero steps in, Quinn holding the door for her. John charges past, noticing neither of them -- but Quinn recognizes him. Quinn turns and watches as John doubles over the short wall nearby and vomits.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
-- The worst date you've ever been on? This was worse. And this guy? He really thinks he is doing great.
Then he's driving me home and I know he's going to try and kiss me, so I pretend to fall asleep. I mean, I'm actually snoring, right in his car.
Does that stop him?

John turns and notices Quinn, behind the door, watching him. They lock eyes. Collero realizes that Quinn isn't paying attention and wonders what he's looking at.

DETECTIVE COLLERO (CONT'D)

...What?

(CONTINUED)
John turns and walks away. Quinn keeps watching.

DETECTIVE QUINN
Did I tell you not to date cops?

Collero's eyes find John as well. He disappears around the corner.

INT. T-TRAIN -- DAY

John rides home, devastated that his plan has failed, and wondering what he will do. He checks over his shoulder to make sure he isn't being followed.

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- DAY

John sits on the bare wood floor of the living room. His head turns as he hears someone POUNDING on the front door. He throws a look to the garage, thinks about the gun; dismisses the idea. Then he hears the voice: his brother.

MICK (O.S.)
Let me in, asshole!!

EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - FRONT PORCH -- CONTINUOUS

Mick bangs again.

MICK (O.S.)
Open up!
(more banging)
Your car is in the garage, I know you're in there!

INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

John doesn't move. As we pull back we see that the living room and dining room have been stripped of every bit of furniture, save an old TV set sitting on a box. John knows he can't let his brother see this.

The MALE NEIGHBOR in the house to the south opens his door and looks out and scowls.

MALE NEIGHBOR
What's your problem? He's not home!

MICK
Not home? So you're saying I'm blind?

MALE NEIGHBOR
No, I'm saying you're an idiot.

(CONTINUED)
Mick pounds on the door aggressively. Then just gives up.

MICK
You know what? You're right. I am an idiot.

And he walks off to his car.

John leans back against the wall, in the middle of the bare room, and listens to his brother's car start and drive away.

John stands, staring at his wall, now a vast collage, layer upon layer of photographs and notes. And no answers.

LUKE (O.S.)
...Dad?

John sits on a bench, frustrated and lost. Luke trots up.

LUKE
Can I have my cookies?

JOHN
You hungry? You want your sandwich?

LUKE
No.

John hands him two packaged cookies. Luke runs off and hands them to Carrie. Her attractive young mother, Nicole, sitting a couple of benches down, calls and draws John's attention.

NICOLE
Carrie!
(to John)
I'm sorry. She just already has it all figured out.

(John nods awkwardly)
Nicole.

JOHN
I remember.
NICOLE (knows he doesn't)
Really?

JOHN (smiles and admits)
I remember your daughter.

NICOLE
She's hard to forget.
(digs in her bag)
Oh, this is for you. Luke was supposed to bring it home.

Hands him an envelope. He opens it and sees a birthday invitation with jungle animals on the cover.

JOHN
He has his father's memory.

NICOLE
It's for Carrie's birthday party. Please come; I'd love to meet your wife.

JOHN
I'm afraid she can't be there. ...It's complicated.

NICOLE
I understand. With me, too. Carrie, come on, time for lunch.
(to John)
We're going to the cafe on the corner, would you like to join us?

JOHN
Oh, we're pretty...you know....

Busy?

John smiles, busted.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Come on, we owe you for the cookies.

JOHN
That's true. And I made those cookies.

NICOLE
And learned how to pre-package them.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN

They walk toward the street, the kids trailing behind. Neither John nor Nicole speak for a moment.

NICOLE
Do you trade off time with Luke?

JOHN
No. Luke and I are together full time.

NICOLE
Wow. I guess that's why I see you so much.

JOHN
She'd like nothing better than to be here. With him. Lara. She really misses...all this.

NICOLE
I guess it's all about priorities, isn't it?

JOHN
No. She's not like that. She'd... (has to admit) She's in prison.

NICOLE
Oh.

JOHN
I don't tell most people.

NICOLE
I understand.

JOHN
She's innocent. She didn't kill the woman.

NICOLE
...Good. I mean, I'm sure she didn't.

Nicole doesn't know what else to say.

JOHN
We should really be getting home.
NICOLE  (feigns disappointment)
Oh, okay.

JOHN  (waving the envelope)
Thanks for the invitation. We'll try and make it.

NICOLE
That would be great.


INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- LATE AFTERNOON

John and Luke enter, John sorting through the mail. Nothing from Lara.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John finishes writing a letter on lined paper. He opens his drawer; it is full of letters in yellow envelopes. He pulls one out; it is from Lara, on lined paper. He stuffs his new letter in the old yellow envelope.

INT. LUKE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

This is the only room that is still furnished. John pokes his head in, sees Luke on his bed playing by himself.

JOHN
You want to read a letter from Mom?

Luke shrugs as if he doesn't care, but then scoots over in his bed so that his dad can sit beside him. John does. He pulls the letter out of the envelope and reads.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Dearest Luke Who I Love, But Not As Much As Chocolate...

LUKE
She didn't write that.

JOHN
My mistake. Dearest Luke, who I love so, so much. I wish I could have walked you home today, it was so beautiful out.
Luke and John water Paula's vegetable garden.

LUKE
But what's wrong with her?

JOHN
She's not feeling well.

LUKE
Why didn't she just stay home?

JOHN
Because sometimes people get so sick you have to go to the hospital to get fixed.

LUKE
How do you know when you're that sick?

JOHN
The doctors do tests.

Something tweaks. John turns and looks back across the alley, at his open garage...and remembers their conversation. He drops the hose and takes Luke's hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Come on.

They drop the hose in the garden and walk back to the house.

John flings open the medicine cabinet, finds an old bottle of Lara's insulin. He checks the label.

John hits a key and a medical article appears: LIFE THREATENING COMPLICATIONS OF DIABETES.

...Severe Hyperkalemia...extremely high levels of potassium...cardiac arrest...particularly dangerous as there are no outward symptoms...

The camera swirls as John searches the wall and photos of delivery vans arriving at the jail. Not seeing what he wants, he charges the desk & rifles through more photos.

(CONTINUED)
He finally snatches the photo he's looking for. He turns it over -- on it is written TUESDAY 9:30 AM. And right over the phrase FIND THE KEY he pins the photo of a delivery van from a medical laboratory.

EXT. COUNTY JAIL -- MORNING

Parked at a distance, John watches from inside his Prius. Finally, a DRIVER steps out of the jail carrying a tray of test results. He opens the back door of the van.

EXT. STREETS -- DAY

John follows the van.

EXT. NURSING HOME -- DAY

John watches as the driver steps out with a tray, point and push his key fob, lock the doors and enter the nursing home.

IN THE PRIUS - MOMENTS LATER - John watches his stopwatch. The driver returns with a tray. John hits the stop button. 1 MINUTE 48 SECONDS.

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

John Googles: "How to break into a car."

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

John heats a screwdriver on the open flame of the gas fire, then places the red hot tip of it on an old tennis ball.

EXT. P.M.H. LAB -- MORNING

John waits, eating a donut. He sees the driver step out of Pittsburgh Med Health Lab and walk to his panel van.

EXT. STREETS -- DAY

John follows the van again.

EXT. MEDICAL FACILITY -- DAY

Wearing his iPod, the driver steps out with a tray and presses his key fob; the van chirps and locks. He enters the building as John steps up to the driver's door.

John checks no one is watching, places the tennis ball over the key slot and punches the ball flat. The lock pops open.
Shelves line the walls; on them sit plastic trays of envelopes. John climbs in and finds the tray from ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL.

The driver comes back out, heading for the van. He pauses to flirt with a nurse on her break, but she isn't buying.

John finds the envelope marked "Lara Brennan." He checks his watch, only 44 seconds have lapsed. He slips the card out, photograph it with his cell phone and puts it back.

The driver heads for the van as John opens the back door and climbs out. Oblivious to his narrow escape, John closes the door and walks away a heartbeat before the driver gets there.

John checks his son, who sits on the bare living room floor playing a video game on the TV, the remaining item.

    JOHN
    You okay?

Luke nods and shoots somebody.

John brings up Lara's form in Photoshop on his laptop and erases the hand-written numbers in the test results boxes.

John writes numbers in the blank boxes of the medical form. Then he sits back and worries that he's got it right. Calls:

    JOHN

John enters the child's bedroom and stops dead.

The wall over Luke's bed is covered with crayon scribbles, imitating the chart on his father's bedroom walls.
Luke walks into the room, and steps up beside his father, staring at the wall. He takes his father's hand, and the two just stand there in silence.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- DAY

John waits as the other prisoners enter. Lara kisses him; looks in his eyes. He sees the despair behind the smile.

JOHN
...What's wrong?

She takes a letter from her pocket.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What is it?

She hands it to him. John reads. His face changes.

JOHN (CONT'D)
No...NO! They can't move you. Not without notice! Monday isn't notice!

LARA
I was only here through the appeal. We knew I'd be moved to a prison.

JOHN
Muncy is the other side of the state.

Lara nods. Off John's face, the screen goes BLACK. Read:

THE LAST THREE DAYS

INT. REALTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

John stands with Eugenie, the frightened realtor.

JOHN
I don't have two weeks! I need it tomorrow!

EUGENIE
The title hasn't been cleared -- there is no way that --

JOHN
How much can they give me?!

EUGENIE
Nothing!

John turns on his heel and slams out through the door.
183 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- DAY

John stares at the wall -- MONEY is down to $1,497.

He rifles through a drawer, finds a pair of sunglasses.

He snatches a baseball cap from a top shelf.

He tosses a bag on the bed, unzips it and pulls out the gun.

184 EXT. AIRPORT LONG TERM PARKING LOT -- DAY

John unscrews the license plate from a dusty black Prius.

He sticks the plate under his jacket, stands and checks over
his shoulder as he walks out of the massive parking lot.

185 INT. BANK AND MALL PARKING LOT -- DAY

A quiet neighborhood bank sits in the corner of an outdoor
mall. The Prius pulls into a spot; we dolly over to see the
stolen license plate.

Inside the Prius, John opens the backpack, puts on the hat
and sunglasses and places the gun on his lap. And again he
looks at the bank, tapping his toe manically. A guard opens
the bank door for a departing customer, smiles and heads
back inside. John tightens his grip on the gun, tries to
work up his courage, but ultimately realizes he can't do
this.

Furious with himself, he jams the car into reverse and backs
up without looking. He hears a scream, brakes hard and looks.

A WOMAN screams. John stomps on the brakes. He leaps out
of the car and sees a woman dropping her groceries and
scooping her child up in her arms. Call her ELAINE.

ELAINE
What are you doing?! You almost
killed us!

JOHN
Are you --?

ELAINE
Are you out of your mind?! You don't
look?!

She stoops to grab the few items that fell. He tries to
help.

JOHN
I am so sorry --

(CONTINUED)
ELAINE
Get away! Get away from us!

She stands and runs for her car. John returns to the car and sits, leaving the door open and the door alarm screaming. He sits there, letting the failure and his disgust for his weakness wash over him.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- AFTERNOON

John sits in the children's area, waiting for the line of visitors to get shorter. One look at his face and we can see how tortured he is. He has his cell phone to his ear:

MEYER (O.S.)
I'm sorry.

JOHN
No, it was a long shot. Thanks.

INT. CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

MEYER
(into phone)
How's Lara?

INT. COUNTY JAIL - ENTRY HALL -- CONTINUOUS

JOHN
She's okay. Thanks, Meyer.

John hangs up and stands.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - CONTACT VISITING ROOM -- AFTERNOON

John stands in the corner, staring out through the high, thick windows. He turns as he hears Lara and other prisoners coming. He tries to smile, but she knows something is wrong.

LARA
What's wrong?

JOHN
Nothing.

LARA
Is it Luke?

JOHN
No. He's fine. I had Meyer see what he could do about not getting you moved.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
JOHN (CONT'D)
I told him traveling that distance would be a hardship on us, that Luke was already having trouble at school. Which is true. I haven't been spending enough time with him.

LARA
You haven't? YOU haven't? God, John, you are too much. Luke is having a 'hard time' because mommy is in jail for murder, not because daddy doesn't spend enough time with him! Your father was right, you don't live in the same world we do.

JOHN
(stung)
That's nice, that the two of you talk. What world do I live in, Lara?

LARA
I don't know, but it's not the real one. I am in here for the rest of my life! And you want me to believe in some fantasy that -- !

A guard steps up and raps her knuckles on the table to get their attention. Only John looks up.

FEMALE GUARD
We good here?

JOHN
Yes. Sorry.

Lara lowers her voice a little, but not her intensity. The guard walks away under:

LARA
Now you come here all long-faced, like you've let me down. What do you want me to do, make you feel better?

JOHN
Got it. I'm sorry.

LARA
And now you're apologizing. You really are a gem.
189 CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN
What do you want from me?

LARA
Nothing. You're too perfect already. You know you never even asked me if I did it. If I killed her.

JOHN
(stopped dead)
Because I knew you didn't.

LARA
Then you'd be wrong.

She leans forward and whispers in his ear.

LARA (CONT'D)
I grabbed the fire extinguisher. I hit her in the face. I heard her neck snap. You know why I did it? Because she pissed me off. I threw her purse in the river. We paid for dinner with the cash from her wallet.

She sits back a bit to look in his face. Only now, looking in his eyes, a crack forms in her tough exterior.

LARA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I'm actually very sorry.

She stands. The guard opens the door and lets her into the changing room. John watches, unable to breathe.

190 INT. COUNTY JAIL - CHANGING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Lara gets one last look at John, through the glass, and then disappears behind the partition. She sits on the bench, leans her head between her knees, and breaks into shards.

191 INT. COUNTY JAIL - CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

John exits along with all the other visitors, destroyed by what he has heard, playing out what she said in his head. Then suddenly he just stops. The crowd keeps moving, leaving him behind. The guard following the group sees him standing there. Commands him:

GUARD #2
Sir, you cannot stand there.
(beat)
SIR, you need to exit the building NOW.
Lara takes a seat on her side of the glass partition. She picks up her phone and opens her mouth to speak.

JOHN
Shut up. I don't care what you say or how you say it. I don't believe you did it and I never will. I know who you are.

She opens her mouth to object but John slams the phone into the cradle. She pounds on the window. He just stares at her. Her eyes well up, and she smiles through her tears.

John steps out and sees the MAJOR waiting with his keys. They exchange a look.

JOHN
Thank you.

The Major nods and locks the door. John heads out.

Luke in his arms, John takes a My Little Pony off the shelf.

JOHN
You think?

LUKE
(already an expert)
Girls love them.

Grace opens the door. George stands a few steps behind her, quiet. Grace sees John and is immediately concerned.

JOHN
Hi Mom.

GRACE
What are you doing here?

JOHN
I've got class.

GRACE
Five o'clock at night?
WHITE  9-10-09

195 CONTINUED:

JOHN

Yes.
(kisses Luke)
Bye.

Luke runs in as John walks off.

196 EXT. GRACE AND GEORGE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

John's father watches through the window as his son leaves. In his gut, George knows something is wrong.

197 EXT. HILL DISTRICT -- NIGHT

John sits in his car down the street, watching the corner where he noticed kids selling drugs.

A car shows up - the same flashy car he saw weeks ago. The street dealer looks around, runs to the window, makes an exchange, and then the car drives off again. John checks his watch and settles in to wait.

198 EXT. HILL DISTRICT -- NIGHT

John watches as other cars drive up and score drugs. And then finally the flashy car cruises up again. John checks his watch: it has been two hours. Again the street dealer runs up and hands the driver an envelope. We recognize the driver -- he is the one from earlier, whom we are going to call DAVID. He drives away. John follows.

199 EXT. HILL DISTRICT -- NIGHT

John follows the flashy car at a distance. It stops at another corner and something is exchanged. It drives on; John follows.

200 EXT. HILL DISTRICT - NEIGHBORHOOD -- NIGHT

Not the best part of town. It looks rough even for The Hill. The flashy car parks and David crosses the street.

Half a block back, John turns left at the corner and then makes a quick right into the alley. He guesses how many houses from the corner David stopped, gets out and checks over the fences.

He stops a few houses away when he sees the porch light on a house flick on. David waits on the dilapidated back porch. He waves to whoever is watching him through the pinhole and the light goes out again.

(CONTINUED)
John inches closer as the back door opens. David exchanges a few words with whoever opened it and then packages are exchanged. The door closes and David walks off the way he came.

John waits a moment, then moves down the alley, hops the fence, and sneaks through the twisted bramble of the back yard. He finds a place to hide, on the ground right beside the back porch. He pulls out his gun and settles in to wait between the trash cans, his heart pounding in his ears.

Fade to BLACK. Beat, then: BANG! BANG! BANG!

EXT. DRUG DEALER'S BACK YARD -- LATER THAT NIGHT

John WAKES to HAMMERING on the door. The porch light flicks on and John is bathed in bright light -- he didn't realize he'd fallen asleep. David stands above him on the porch, holding the screen door open -- if he glanced down there is no way he wouldn't see him.

John holds his breath and waits. The porch light flicks off, the locks are unbolted, and finally the thick door opens. As before, the two exchange words, but now the POUNDING in John's ears is so loud we can barely hear anything else.

John takes a deep breath and springs to his feet -- knocking over the trash cans -- and onto the porch!

He smacks David with the gun, grabs him by the hair and jams him forward into the doorway, preventing the supplier -- ALEX -- from slamming the door on them.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Alex releases his BARKING German shepherd and it immediately attacks David, biting his leg. David screams in agony.

JOHN
(to Alex)
Back up! Get back!

Suddenly a THUG comes barreling in from the kitchen and aims a sawed-off shotgun at John, who keeps himself right behind David's head. The dialogue is almost drowned out completely by the sound of POUNDING in John's ears and David's SCREAMING.

ALEX
-- Shoot them both!

JOHN
-- I'll shoot the dog!

(CONTINUED)
ALEX
-- Shoot the dog!

THUG
-- You shoot the dog, I'll kill you!

John fires into the floor beside the dog.

ALEX
-- You want the police here, asshole?!

JOHN
-- Good idea!

John fires two more shots into the floor.

ALEX
(to thug)
-- Put the gun down!

The thug obeys, rests it against the wall.

JOHN
-- Call the dog off!! Put it away!

ALEX
-- Release!

The dog stops its attack but goes back to barking.

JOHN
-- Put it away!!
(aims gun at it)
PUT IT AWAY!!

Alex reluctantly opens a closet door.

ALEX
In! Get in!

He has to shove the barking dog into the closet.

JOHN
(to thug)
You, too!

THUG
I'm not getting in there!

John fires into the wall!

ALEX
Get in!

(Continued)
And the thug goes in the closet after the barking dog. John sees the bolt and drives it home, locking the door.

JOHN
-- Give me that chair!

Alex doesn't obey, so David grabs it and hands it to him. John props it under the handle of the closet door.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Move!

He shoves David forward, closer to Alex.

ALEX
You're dead.

DAVID
I didn't do anything!!

ALEX
You brought him!

DAVID
I didn't bring him!

JOHN
Shut up!

He pushes them both back into the next room; the dog in the closet never stops barking.

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN -- NIGHT

John shoves David to the floor and waves the gun between them.

JOHN
On your knees! Hands behind your head!

John catches Alex's eyes darting to the counter. Following his gaze he finds Alex's revolver on the counter. John grabs it, flips open the cylinder and spills out the cartridges.

DAVID
I can't kneel!

JOHN
On the floor!

David kneels with great difficulty. Alex calmly does as he's told, his eyes on John.

(CONTINUED)
John grabs the paper bag out of Alex's hand and opens it, finds a couple thousand in cash.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Where's the rest?

DAVID
That's twelve hundred dollars!
(emptying his pockets)
Here, take it.

A couple of hundred dollars spill onto the floor.

JOHN
(gun on Alex)
Where do you keep your money?!

Alex scoffs, seeing weakness in John.

ALEX
Yeah, I'm going to give you my money.

JOHN
I'll shoot you!

ALEX
You won't even shoot a dog.

JOHN
Tell me!

ALEX
Shoot the floor again, impress me.

John pistol-whips him and Alex goes down. John holds his gun to his head while he is on the ground bleeding.

JOHN
I'm going to kill you both.

ALEX
No, I'm going to kill you both.

DAVID
Give him your money!

ALEX
(to David)
Keep your dead bitch mouth shut.

Enraged, John fires a round into Alex's leg. Alex screams.

(Continued)
DAVID
Stop it!!

ALEX
(smiles thru pain)
See? You aren't going to kill me. That was the worst you can do. So, now you've done it. Go home. I'll come find you and kill you.

John looks around desperately. He spots an open bottle of tequila in the clutter on the counter. He grabs it and pours it on the floor.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You're wasting some good shit.

Now he pours it on Alex.

JOHN
Yeah, good shit; high alcohol content.

John smashes the bottle on the floor; tequila goes everywhere.

THUG (O.S.)
What's going on?! Let me out!

ALEX
You going to burn me out?

John lights a rag as the thug in the closet continues to yell and pound. Now calmly:

JOHN
Yeah. That's what I'm going to do.

DAVID
Oh Jesus. Oh Jesus.

JOHN
Your money.

ALEX
(no longer smiling)
This is a meth lab, you idiot!

JOHN
No. It was.

And he tosses the burning rag at the smashed bottle. David screams as the room explodes in flames.

(CONTINUED)
ALEX (suddenly desperate)
My kid is upstairs!!

JOHN
-- What??

ALEX
MY KID!!

Without warning, Alex dashes for the front hall. Stunned, John doesn't shoot. He grabs David by the hair, sticks the gun in his temple and shoves him into the front hall.

DAVID
Let me go!!

JOHN
Get up there!!

John pushes him up the stairs as a shield, following the trail of blood.

DAVID
The house is going to explode!

ANGLE ON BACK DOOR

Fire spreads, the thug yells, the dog barks. The shotgun leans against the wall where the thug left it. The closet door rocks as the thug kicks. The chair won't give way.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR -- NIGHT

John moves David quickly up the stairs in front of him and down the hall. They peer into one room, nothing. Into the next - what is clearly a CHILD'S ROOM.

Alex kneels on the far side of the room, barely visible behind the small bed, his back to us.

Until he wheels, gun in hand, and FIRES twice.

A bullet strikes David in the chest, the second grazes John's side. Both men are knocked back into the hall and onto the floor. John pulls himself out from under David as...

Running on adrenaline, Alex stands and strides forward. David looks up at him. Alex shoots him again and steps over him into the hall. He sees John, raises his weapon and....

John fires twice, hits Alex in the chest, knocking him down.

(CONTINUED)
John stands. Alex lies dead, sprawled over David. David looks around through the roiling smoke:

JOHN
Is anyone up here?!

He steps over Alex and into the room. He checks the closet -- empty of clothes; clearly no child lives here. John turns to where Alex was kneeling, sees a bureau pushed aside, a safe crudely installed in the wall lying open, a trash bag on the floor half-filled with cash.

John drops to his knees and shovels the remaining cash into the trash bag.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BACK HALL -- CONTINUOUS
The dog barks; the door SPLINTERS.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS
John steps over the bodies; sees David looking up at him.

DAVID
Don't leave me. I don't want to burn. Don't let me burn.

The hall is now thick with smoke. John stares terrified at the two men, one dead, one dying, and agonizes over what he knows is a mistake. Cut to BLACK.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BACK HALL -- MOMENTS LATER
John carries David past the closet just as the thug's boot kicks a hole in the door. Cut to BLACK.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND ALEX'S HOUSE -- NIGHT
John, bleeding himself, shoves the badly wounded dealer into the back seat. He throws the trash bag into the passenger seat and slams the door closed behind him. Not even a heartbeat later THE GERMAN SHEPHERD leaps up and snaps at the partially open window. John struggles to get the car turned on and the window up as THE DOG tries to force his way into the car.

Through the front windshield he sees THE THUG leap over the back fence, landing sprawled in the alley with the shotgun.

John jams the car into reverse and backs away -- the man in the back seat screaming for his life, the dog chasing the car, the thug getting off a shot.
John swerves wide around the corner, hitting a fire hydrant and shattering a taillight.

John slams the transmission into Drive and speeds off down the street.

The dog barking disappears. All that's left are the sounds of the dying man. John keeps throwing looks over his shoulder.

DAVID
I don't want to die. I don't want to die.

Now at a safe distance, John pulls over and looks into the back seat. We don't have to see the body to know he's dead.

John sits there a moment, listening to the sounds of approaching fire engines. He catches a glimpse of himself in the rearview mirror before pulling out. Cut to BLACK.

John's car idles at the curb, his back door sits open. He steps back into shot from the far side of the Prius, closes the door and gets in. As he drives away we see David's body lying on the bench, waiting to be discovered.

Standing at the sink shirtless, John pours alcohol on the wound in his side.

He mops up the blood with a wad of paper towels, then applies a bandage, fresh from the box. He pulls a new shirt and jacket from a Target bag.

A moment later, now dressed, John stuffs the trash bag full of cash into his backpack.

John steps out of the bathroom, zipping his new jacket. He barely draws a look from the few customers as he limps out of the restaurant. Cut to BLACK.
214  EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Water streams from the house, the front door and windows broken by firemen who now pack up their gear to leave. LIEUTENANT NABULSI strides into shot, drinking a Red Bull, which he crushes and discards on the porch.

215  INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS

Nabulsi climbs the stairs to find SGT. HARRIS watching the CSI team work. Nabulsi steps up behind the CSI worker. *

    LT. NABULSI
    (almost a whisper)
    Get out of my way.

The man flees like he just saw the prince of darkness. Nabulsi cocks his head and looks down at the dead man.

    LT. NABULSI (CONT'D)
    What do we have?

    SGT. HARRIS
    A miracle. Meth lab in the basement, the house still standing. Should be just a crater.

    LT. NABULSI
    (straddles Alex)
    Do we know him?

    SGT. HARRIS
    Alex Gaidar, history of violence and drug trafficking.

Nabulsi sees the brightly painted walls of the child's room.

    LT. NABULSI
    He have a kid?

    SGT. HARRIS
    Neighbor said wife left with him last year. Big surprise there.

    LT. NABULSI
    They type all this blood yet?

    SGT. HARRIS
    No, but someone left through the back door bleeding. Zone Three found a gunshot victim dead on a transit bench.

Nabulsi nods and descends the stairs.
John snips the links of a tall chainlink fence, then turns and walks back to the Prius.

John eases open his parents' front door and removes his key from the lock. It's the middle of the night, so he is surprised to see a light on in the kitchen. He enters, carrying his jacket and backpack, and places them on a chair. When he gets to the kitchen he sees his father in his pajamas, reading a biography and sipping a cup of tea.

JOHN
Hi. What are you doing up?

George shrugs. An uncomfortable silence.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I've come to get Luke.

George nods. After another silence, John starts down the hall. His father appears in the hallway behind him.

GEORGE
John? Are you alright?

John turns around, surprised.

JOHN
I'm fine.

The two men look at each other for a moment, John leaves the room.

His father steps into the living room and notices his jacket falling off the chair. George lifts it to set it right and sees something is sticking out of the backpack: airplane tickets and passports.

John steps into the room that he had as a teenager. Luke sleeps in the single bed. John sits beside him, touches his face, then looks around the room, wondering how he got here, and is overwhelmed.

George slips the tickets and passports out of the side pocket. We do not see the destination, but he does. He opens the passport and reads each of the false names.
John brushes away tears, no idea how he could be acting like this. He tries to wake Luke.

    JOHN
    Hey. Hey, buddy.

Not a chance. John checks the old alarm clock: it's just after three AM. He lies down beside Luke for just a moment.

John WAKES to the sound of a whistle. He checks the clock. It's almost five. How could that have happened?

John helps a sleepy Luke with his jacket, pancake rolled in his hand. John stands from the table strewn with food.

    JOHN
    What do you say?

    LUKE
    Thank you.

    JOHN
    Give Grandma a big kiss.

    LUKE
    I'm too tired to kiss.

    JOHN
    Luke...

    GRACE
    I'll get lots of kisses next weekend.
    (to John)
    We want to take him to the Harvest Festival in Kutztown, where they have the Clydesdales.

John thinks about saying something, can't. He watches Luke give Grace a kiss.

    LUKE
    Thank you, Grandma.

John turns to his father, who stands in the doorway.

His father holds out the jacket in silence. John takes it. The airline tickets stick out from the inside pocket.
John realizes the tickets have been moved from the bag. He looks at his father, who gazes back at him in silence. John can tell by the look in his father's eye that he knows.

JOHN
Bye Mom.

They kiss. John's father stands behind him.

GEORGE
Goodbye.

George grabs his son in an awkward hug. John is shocked. He pats his father's back. They break.

JOHN
(to Luke)
Let's go.

John leaves. The front door closes. Grace walks away.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET -- PRE-DAWN

John stands in the brightly lit, glass-walled kiosk of a rental car company, the Prius parked at the curb, as the sun threatens to break over the horizon.

EXT. STREET NEAR ALEX'S HOUSE -- PRE-DAWN

Nabulsi kneels beside a fire hydrant, using a shard from a taillight to scrape at a smudge of flaking black paint. Harris comes running up, out of breath, from the alley.

SGT. HARRIS
Neighbors saw a guy and a dog chase a black car down the alley, so that's probably his. We'll have the taillight debris at the lab by the time it opens.

LT. NABULSI
Before.*

Nabulsi stands and hands him the large shard of glass.*

INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

John packs a backpack -- two white lab coats, wire cutters, a large screwdriver, two rolls of duct tape, the handgun, insulin vials, etc.
226 INT. BRENNAN HOUSE -- MORNING

Luke sits on his bedroom floor, trying to cram a firetruck into his already full rollerboard.

LUKE (calls)
Can I carry it?

John appears with a box of trash bags.

JOHN
No. Just what fits in your bag.

John hurries off.

LUKE
....What about my pockets?

JOHN (O.S.)
Or your pockets.

Luke gives up on the truck and moves to his bedside table. He digs his hand into the small jar of coins his dad gave him and starts stuffing them in his pants pocket.

A quarter falls and rolls to the middle of the floor.

227 INT. JOHN'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

John takes a thick felt marker and writes two numbers on his wrist, right beside the watch. 15, and under it, 35.

He then turns and stares at his wall, all the photos, sketches, notes, wondering if he's forgotten anything. He decides it is too late to worry. He loosens an edge of wallpaper and starts tearing it all down.

228 EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - GARAGE AND ALLEY -- MORNING

Luke sits in the back seat with their carry-on bags. John tries to stuff all the garbage bags full of paper into the back.

He picks the last off the floor and turns and walks out to the alley. He looks around, then stuffs this final bag into his neighbor's trash can.

229 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET -- MORNING

John tosses the last trash bags over the side of the dumpster that sits in front of a demolished house. As he closes the tailgate we get a good look at the broken taillight.
He checks the clock on the dashboard and drives faster, taking a quick glance at his son to see if he is okay back there.

John sits in his car in the back alley, watching the parking lot. The driver comes out carrying trays of test results and puts them in the back of his van. John grabs the large wire cutters and screwdriver from his car and hops out. He takes a few steps to the rear of the one-story building, pries open the phone box and snips the phone wires.

A clerk on the phone is cut off. She jabs the connection key, does not get a dial tone -- looks to the lights on the other phone lines and sees them go out as...

John snips the last wire and hops back into the car. He is moving before the van exits the parking lot.

The van driver hops out and heads into the nursing home as the Prius pulls into the foreground. John turns to Luke.

JOHN
Daddy will just be a minute.

John holds his lab results between his teeth as he flips through the envelopes. He finally finds Lara's envelope, removes her report and replaces it with this one.

We watch through the windshield of the Prius as the lab van drives off in the direction of the prison.

Harris enters Lt. Nabulsi's cubicle to find him standing.
SGT. HARRIS

LT. NABULSI
(with a certain disgust)
What kind of a criminal drives a Prius?

SGT. HARRIS
A socially responsible one?
(avoids Nabulsi's searing look by reading the report)
Over a thousand of them registered in the city, seven thousand in the state.

LT. NABULSI
How many registered to felons?

SGT. HARRIS
Six in the state. Four of them to embezzlers or white collar criminals, one to a rapist, one to a murderer.

LT. NABULSI
Guess we start with the murderer.

SGT. HARRIS
She's in prison for life. The rapist is out.

LT. NABULSI
Find him.

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE -- MORNING


NICOLE (O.S.)
Hello?

They see Nicole in the side yard, spreading a paper tablecloth.

JOHN
...Hi.

They move to help keep the tablecloth from blowing away.

NICOLE
Thanks. Good to see you.
LUKE
(hands her present)
It's a pony.

NICOLE
Those aren't easy to wrap.
(now awkward)
You know the party is at eleven, right?

JOHN
What time is it?
(checks watch)
Nine. Oh, I'm so sorry, I should have looked more carefully.

NICOLE
It's no problem.
(to Luke, re: present)
Why don't you go give this to Carrie?

Luke spots Carrie on the back step and runs over.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Well, I guess you can help.

JOHN
Oh. Actually, I can't stay. I have to run some errands.

NICOLE
(recovering with grace)
We'll see you later then.

JOHN
Thanks so much.
(a moment)
If....

John looks to Luke and realizes this might be the last time he sees him.

JOHN (CONT'D)
He...He has my parents' phone number in his pocket. In case I'm late.

NICOLE
No problem.

John throws one more look at Luke then walks off.
239  EXT. COUNTY JAIL - DELIVERY AREA -- MORNING

The driver steps out of the prison and returns to the lab van carrying his tray.

240  INT. POLICE STATION - HOMICIDE DIVISION -- MORNING

        SGT. HARRIS
        (enters with reports)
    Rapist is in a wheelchair. Not sure
        if that was karma or --

        LT. NABULSI
    The murderer. Where is she
        incarcerated?

        SGT. HARRIS
        (checks papers in his hand)
    County; right here in town.

        LT. NABULSI
        (after mulling this over)
    She have a husband or kid old enough
        to drive?

Harris exits, knowing he should have checked.

241  INT. COUNTY JAIL INFIRMARY -- MORNING

    THE MALE NURSE re-reads the test results. Dr. Lifson
        approaches, having been summoned.

        DR. LIFSON
    What?

        MALE NURSE
        (handing it to her)
    Lara Brennan's bloodwork.

        DR. LIFSON
        (scans, now concerned)
    Get the lab.

He dials.

242  EXT. REAR OF P.M.H. LAB -- MORNING

    The phone REPAIRMAN is reconnecting the wires, speaking to the technician who discovered the lines were dead.

        PHONE REPAIRMAN
    You pissed off somebody, that's for sure.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Close on the wires -- he twists the second last pair, now connects the last as --

INT. COUNTY JAIL INFIRMARY -- CONTINUOUS

The MALE NURSE hangs up.

MALE NURSE
Still busy. I'll try again.

DR. LIFSON
(studying bloodwork)
No. Get an ambulance, take her to University. I'll meet them there.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - LARA'S CELL -- MORNING

Lara looks up as her door opens, and is surprised to see two FEMALE JAIL GUARDS with a wheelchair.

EXT. COUNTY JAIL -- MORNING

The Prius pulls up and John waits and watches. He checks the clock: it clicks over to 10:00.

INT. POLICE STATION - HOMICIDE DIVISION -- MORNING

SGT. HARRIS
(enters with paper)
Husband. School teacher.

LT. NABULSI
(rising)
You got a home address?

EXT. COUNTY JAIL -- MORNING

The two female guards pass off LARA to two MALE JAIL GUARDS who load Lara into an ambulance. JAIL GUARD #1 steps into the back of the ambulance with her. The ambulance pulls out, accompanied by a County Sheriff's car. John follows.

INT. AMBULANCE - MOVING -- DAY

Handcuffed and shackled, Lara stares lifelessly at her GUARD as the EMT connects the leads of a heart monitor.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- DAY

Knowing where they are going now, John passes the ambulance and escort vehicle.
Nabulsi peers in the window. Harris comes up the side from the back.

   SGT. HARRIS
   No car in the garage. You want to get a warrant?

   LT. NABULSI
   Yeah.

Nabulsi reluctantly slips a credit card into the door jam. Harris looks around to check no one is watching.

The front door pops open and Nabulsi and Harris step in. They quickly see that all the furniture is gone.

Nabulsi joins Harris, who is staring at the wall where the wallpaper has been removed.

   LT. NABULSI
   Get the warrant.

The sheriff's car and ambulance pull into the underground entrance. Guard #2 steps from the passenger seat of the ambulance and surveys the surroundings, shotgun in hand, before he knocks on the rear door of the ambulance. They follow procedure in taking the prisoner into the hospital. The sheriff watches until they are safe inside, then leaves.

Nabulsi inspects Luke's room, still fully furnished, the curious faded crayon drawing on the wall. He spots a couple of coins on the floor. He picks up a quarter, and flips it. Harris steps into the room.

   SGT. HARRIS
   She's being transferred to University Hospital.

   LT. NABULSI
   Right now?

   SGT. HARRIS
   Right now.
254 CONTINUED:

LT. NABULSI
...Have them call the escort vehicle.
Tell them we'll meet them at the hospital in less than ten.

And he pockets the quarter and steps out of the room.

255 INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - SEVENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR -- DAY

The EMT and two JAIL GUARDS wheel Lara up to the desk and hand over her chart.

JAIL GUARD #1
We have Lara Brennan.

The duty nurse checks her chart and nods to a NURSE.

DUTY NURSE
Put her in 7725 and start an IV.

The EMT passes her over to the nurse and leaves. The DUTY NURSE picks up the phone as they move off down the hall.

DUTY NURSE (CONT'D)
(onto phone)
Can you please page Dr. Becsey?

256 INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - ROOM 7725 -- DAY

The nurse wheels her in and GUARD #2 uncuffs her from the gurney, as GUARD #1 gets a call on his cell phone.

JAIL GUARD #1
Yeah?... We're here: prisoner's secure, no problems.... Will do.

He hangs up and turns to see John enter, carrying Luke's backpack, wearing a white doctor's smock. He raises a gun.

JOHN
Put the phone down.

Guard #1 obeys.

NURSE
Oh please, no.

LARA
John??

JOHN
Remove your holsters, put them on the floor and get on your knees.

(CONTINUED)
LARA
(can't make sense of this)
What are you doing here?

JOHN
DO IT!!

Guard #2 reaches for his weapon; John pistol whips him to the floor. The nurse cups a hand over her mouth to stifle a scream.

JOHN (CONT'D)
DO IT NOW!!

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Harris speeds toward the hospital. Nabulsi is on the radio.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Lieutenant, the prisoner is secure; jail personnel are 10-27, Code 4. A squad car will meet you at the entrance.

Nabulsi puts the walkie down and flips on the siren. Harris reacts.

SGT. HARRIS
She just said --

LT. NABULSI
Run the light.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - ROOM 7725 -- DAY

A second handgun and holster slides across the floor to meet the one that already lies by John's feet. The two guards kneel, facing the far wall. John pulls a roll of duct tape from the backpack and tosses it to the terrified nurse.

JOHN
Tape their hands and feet.
(when he hesitates)
Do it!!

The nurse tapes the guards' wrists behind their backs.

LARA
You have to stop this.

JAIL GUARD #1
You walk out that door with him and you will both be killed.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
Tape their mouths!

John picks up the key and undoes Lara's cuffs.

LARA
No. Stop.

John yanks her clothing and a white smock out of the bag and tosses them to her.

JOHN
Put it on.

LARA
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

JOHN
Because we have no other choice!!
Put it on!
(to nurse)
Turn around.

He does, John starts taping his wrists.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Lara, put the clothes on!

LARA
No.

JOHN
NOW!!

LARA
No!

They stare at each other. John offers her his cell phone.

JOHN
Okay. Tell your son you aren't coming.

LARA
...Where is he?

JOHN
Waiting for you. Tell him you aren't coming.

LARA
How can you do this to me?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN
Push send. Tell him I'm not coming back either.

LARA
John --

JOHN
Does it look like I'm going home?! Tell him he is alone now and his mother and father aren't coming back!

Lara stares at him with hatred, mutters:

LARA
You son of a bitch.

Lara pulls off her prison garb, standing before them naked except for her panties. She quite purposely does not turn away or cover herself, but lets her eyes burn into him. John presses the STOPWATCH button on his watch and the COUNTER starts running.

EXT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ENTRANCE -- DAY

A squad car pulls up outside the hospital's main entrance. One officer strides into the Emergency Room while the other takes a look around the parking lot.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - SEVENTH FLOOR HALLWAY

Lara and John step out into the hall. John's eyes flick to the Nurse's Desk but he keeps walking. As they pass we notice DR. LIFSON standing there with Lara's file in her hand. The Duty Nurse notices as well. It takes a second for Lifson to understand what is going on. She steps out into the hall and stares after them.

DR. LIFSON
What are you doing?

John yanks Lara's arm and makes a dash for the elevator, pulling his gun from his pocket.

The Duty Nurse sees what is happening and bolts down the hall, throwing open the door to room 7725.

INT. HOSPITAL - 7TH FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY

The elevator doors are closing as John arrives and jams his arm in between them. The passengers see the weapon.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
Get out! Get out!

They scurry out and the doors close. A heartbeat later the next elevator opens and the cop from downstairs steps off.

INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR -- DAY

LARA
Where's Luke?! Is he safe? Where is he?!

JOHN
He's safe!

EXT. EMERGENCY ENTRANCE -- DAY

The unmarked car brakes hard. Nabulsi and Harris stride out and into the ER, flipping their ID into their breast pockets.

INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR -- DAY

Lara and John barely breath.

EXT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - HANDICAP PARKING AREA -- DAY

The uniformed officer who stayed outside finds John's black Prius with the broken taillight parked in a handicapped spot. He lifts his walkie and CALLS IT IN.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - MAIN FLOOR -- DAY

Nabulsi jabs the elevator button. He reacts as a HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD comes running toward him.

LT. NABULSI
What's wrong?

Before he can answer, the elevator doors open and they come face to face with John and Lara. John sees their police IDs and levels his weapon.

Around them, patients and employees scream and run away.

JOHN
Back away!

LT. NABULSI
Don't be stupid. Drop the weapon.

JOHN
Get back!

(CONTINUED)
We have units at every exit. You'll be shot trying to leave.

(to Lara)
Hit the button.

Lara stands frozen.

Hit it!

She presses a button. The doors start to close.

Don't do this.

Doors closed. Nabulsi runs and screams:

Where are the stairs?!

HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD #2 leads the way. Nabulsi and Harris pass him at the door as he yells into his walkie.

Male and female; white lab coats!
Parking levels!

(freaking out)
Oh please oh please oh please...

It'll be okay.
(she keeps panicking)
Look at me! Do what I say; it'll be okay; I promise.

She stares at him, having never seen him like this before.

Lara?

She nods.

Take the coat off.
Nabulsi, Harris and the guard bound down the stairs into the lower elevator lobby. Nabulsi sees the doors aren't opening and runs back to the stairs, meeting the cop from upstairs on his way down.

LT. NABULSI
Stay here!

HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD #2
(into walkie)
Parking garage! Get your asses down here!

Nabulsi and Harris leave them and thunder down the stairs.

The elevator doors open and John tosses the lab coats out toward a trash can in the direction of the garage. He pounds the elevator button.

Nabulsi and Harris burst onto this floor -- see the elevator doors are closed.

LT. NABULSI
Watch that door!

Harris obeys as Nabulsi flings himself down the next flight.

The elevator isn't closing. John slams the button repeatedly. He hears Nabulsi's heavy feet on the stairs, angles and aims the weapon -- Lara can't believe what she's witnessing. Suddenly the doors close, just a heartbeat before Nabulsi gets there. Nabulsi spots the discarded lab coats and runs out into THE GARAGE. He heads for the ramp, scanning the parked cars.

Getting to the bottom of the ramp he looks up and sees a SQUAD CAR racing down toward him. As it brakes, Nabulsi realizes they couldn't have escaped this way; he's been had.

LT. NABULSI
(shouts into walkie)
Who's in the lobby?!

But he only gets static. He charges back toward the stairs.
INT. ELEVATOR - LOBBY LEVEL -- CONTINUOUS

The doors open. John peers around the corner, hiding his weapon. No police in the lobby, but through the glass doors he sees a squad car screeching to a halt. He grabs Lara's hand and leads her out of the elevator and around the corner.

They weave down a corridor, deeper into the hospital, passing another cop at the Emergency Desk who has his back to them.

They turn the corner, see a hospital guard running toward them. John recognizes him as the guard he argued with when Lara attempted suicide. John stiffens, but the guard runs past -- looking for a couple in lab coats. They quicken their steps. The guard stops at the end of the hall and turns to stare, recognizing them. He lifts his walkie and speaks.

HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD #1
Main floor, rear corridor.

John and Lara turn a corner. John spots the SHIPPING OFFICE. They enter and head for the loading bay.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Nabulsi and Harris break into the lobby, sweating. Officers run in the front doors toward him. Nabulsi surveys the scene, realizes they couldn't have gone out the front. He hears a shout:

HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARD #1 (O.S.)
Back here!

They turn and run in the direction of the voice, turning the corner and seeing the SECURITY GUARD at the end of the hall, who sees them coming turns and runs off after John and Lara.

LT. NABULSI
(into radio, on the run)
Get units to Grant Street!

INT. HOSPITAL LOADING DOCK -- CONTINUOUS

John punches open the door and they hop down off the dock and take off for the street.

EXT. REAR OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

John tugs Lara across the street, dodging traffic. He yanks off his jacket and pulls it back on inside-out -- this side is black and gold.
Nabulsi runs out of the loading dock and into the middle of Grant Street, HARRIS and the two OFFICERS trailing. Very few pedestrians right here. Nabulsi looks to his right: a crowded crosswalk, fans heading through a pedestrian mall to a Penguins game. He looks to his left: more fans moving toward the stadium. Almost all of them are wearing team colors - a sea of black and gold. Nabulsi curses.

Lara and John weave through the fans.

JOHN
Put your hair down.

Lara obeys without thinking. John checks his watch, then opens a door. Leaving the throng of fans, he guides Lara through and down the stairs into the T-Train Subway Station.

Nabulsi runs to the crosswalk as Harris takes the other direction. The other two officers take the far sidewalks.

John and Lara quicken their pace. The camera tilts up and to the glass ceiling.

Nabulsi searches the faces in the mall. He looks down through the station skylight, catches a fleeting glimpse of them. He runs for the entrance, his walkie flying to his face.

LT. NABULSI
They're on the platform! Block stations in either direction! Call the Port Authority. Stop all trains!

John sees a train approaching as they come down the stairs. Almost dragging Lara, John nudges past slower people to make it onto the train. Then they wait. The doors don't close.

Walkie in hand, Harris jumps into their unmarked car and pulls out. Two SQUAD CARS wail out past him.
281 INT. T-TRAIN SUBWAY STATION -- CONTINUOUS
Above -- Nabulsi sees the train and shoves past commuters.

282 INT. T-TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS
John spots him coming, slips the long screwdriver from the small backpack he's carrying. Lara sees him tighten his fingers around the grip. The doors finally close just as:

283 INT. T-TRAIN SUBWAY STATION -- CONTINUOUS
Nabulsi bounds down the stairs. The train leaves the station.

284 EXT. T-TRAIN STATION -- DAY
This station sits above ground. Three squad cars scream up. The officers clamor out of the cars and run for the platform.

285 EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET -- DAY
Harris skids the unmarked vehicle around the corner, heading parallel to the underground.

286 INT. SUBWAY TUNNEL -- DAY
Nabulsi runs down the tracks, the car ahead nowhere in sight.

287 INT. T-TRAIN -- CONTINUOUS
The T-Train DRIVER gets an emergency call from the base. He looks back into the car as IT RISES UP OUT OF THE UNDERGROUND.

Daylight floods the car as the train emerges from underground. John jams the long screwdriver into the door and PRIES IT OPEN.

288 EXT. T-TRAIN AND TRACKS -- DAY
The wheels SCREECH and the brakes SEIZE. Passengers topple to the floor. John grabs Lara and they leap out onto the tracks.

He finds the slit he cut in the tall fence. They slip out through it, onto the street and into the parking lot beyond.

289 INT. HARRIS' UNMARKED CAR -- CONTINUOUS
Harris screams along the road on the far side of the tracks. He locks up his BRAKES as he sees the stalled T-Train.
John yanks off his jacket as they jump into the rented SUV. John calms his racing heart, drives away and turns the corner.

Harris leaps from his vehicle and runs to the fence on his side of the tracks -- it is ten feet tall with razor wire, no way over it. He sees:

Nabulsi charge up out of the tunnel. He jumps into the stalled train car, looks around, doesn't see John and Lara.

The SUV comes up out of the dark and drives away from the city center, as a police helicopter swoops overhead, going the opposite direction.

John checks the counter, still running on his watch. 11:05. He wets his thumb and rubs his wrist until the 15 is erased. All that remains now is the second number: 35. They merge into traffic heading toward the suburbs.

Nabulsi pushes through the hole in the wire. Harris runs across the tracks with his jacket off, having scaled the fence on the far side.

LT. NABULSI
(into walkie)
Ring the city. Train and bus stations. Get their descriptions to the State Police.
(to Harris)
How old is their kid?

SGT. HARRIS
Six.

LT. NABULSI
Let's find out where he is.

LARA
Why didn't you tell me?
JOHN
You would've stopped me.

He nods toward the glove box

JOHN (CONT'D)
There's a case in there. Brush, moisturizer, makeup. Everything you had was old. I hope I got it right.

She opens the glove box, unzips the case, and is touched by this small gesture.

INT. POLICE STATION - HOMICIDE DIVISION -- DAY

Detective Collero, who we last saw when they arrested Lara, stops by Detective Quinn's cubicle.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
You want to take a guess who just escaped from jail?

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Lara sits in the SUV at the curb. John waits at the door. It is opened by BRENDA, Nicole's mother.

BRENDA
Hello.

JOHN
Hi. I'm here for my son.

BRENDA
Oh, they aren't back yet.

JOHN
Back from where?

BRENDA
The zoo.

JOHN
...The zoo?

Finds an invite and hands it to him. The back clearly says they are going to the zoo.

BRENDA
It's a zoo party.

(in case he's worried:)

They ate first.

(MORE)
BRENSDA (CONT’D)
They should be back in about an hour. Would you like to wait?

JOHN
No. Thank you.

John turns and walks back to the SUV. Brenda watches for a moment, made curious by his behavior. He gets into the vehicle. Lara is in a panic.

LARA
What’s wrong?

John punches ZOO into POINTS OF INTEREST on the GPS.

LARA (CONT’D)
Where’s Luke?

JOHN
He’s at the party.

He sneaks a look at his stopwatch: 24 MINUTES and counting.

LARA
What party? You said the party was here.

JOHN
I was wrong. She took them to the zoo.

The GPS comes up with an address. John punches a button.

LARA (can’t help herself)
She?

GPS VOICE
Estimated drive time: seventeen minutes.

JOHN
Carrie’s mom. Nicole.

He drops the transmission into gear and speeds off.

A squad car is waiting, another arrives. Harris pulls up and strides toward the house.

(CONTINUED)
SGT. HARRIS
Canvas the neighbors. We're looking for the boy and anything they've noticed in the last few days.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- MORNING
John drives like a man possessed.

INT. SUV - DRIVING THROUGH INTERSECTION -- MORNING
John brakes as he spots a State Trooper vehicle at an intersection. As he keeps an eye on the rearview mirror, the squad car puts on its flashers, turns and follows them.

John's hands tighten on the wheel. He keeps the speedometer at 35, praying he's not their target.

The police vehicle passes them and takes off fast down the four lane street.

John breathes again and drives on. He checks the stopwatch - 29 minutes flicks to 30. He pushes the button on the GPS.

GPS VOICE
Time to destination: eleven minutes.

Lara sees him sweat, unaware of the significance of the time.

EXT. STREETS -- DAY
The SUV swerves around a corner, heading into the outskirts of town.

INT. SUV - FOUR LANE STREET -- DAY
John's eyes flick to his stopwatch: 32 minutes flicks to 33.

Signs appear quickly now. Interstate: Keep Right; Zoo: Next Left.

John keeps driving, hoping somehow that he won't have to make this choice -- their freedom, or their son.

Too many questions rage across his face. Perhaps they can escape and his parents can somehow arrange to get Luke to them. Or perhaps Luke would be better off with his grandparents after all.

Then there it is:

The sign to the interstate points to the entrance ahead on the right.

(CONTINUED)
The sign to the Zoo sits behind it, pointing to the next road on the left.

34:02, 34:03, 34:04...

John takes the freeway ramp.

The SUV climbs up the on-ramp, leaving the city behind.

LARA
You took the wrong turn! It's back there.

No response. Lara looks back over her shoulder, wondering if this is some kind of shortcut.

LARA (CONT'D)
The zoo is back there. You're going the wrong way!
(no response)
It's back there!
(no response)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

JOHN
She'll call my parents.

LARA
What??

JOHN
They'll take care of him, I will figure out how to get him to us.

LARA
Are you out of your mind!

JOHN
I tried!! There's no more time!! Any second now there's going to be a roadblock ahead! It might be there now!! If we don't get out now we don't get out!!

Lara sits back in her seat, stunned and horrified, as John continues.
JOHN (CONT'D)
I promise. I promise I will find a way to get Luke to us. I will find some way.

Lara unsnaps her seat belt. She reaches for the door latch. John sees her pull the door and GRABS her by the shirt as he slams his foot on the brakes!

The tires SCREAM, the SUV skids into an uncontrolled turn.

Horns blare. Cars behind them swerve to avoid collision. John holds Lara in her seat as the SUV flies around in a circle and finally comes to a dead stop on the shoulder, miraculously facing in the right direction.

John allows himself to breathe. He lets go of Lara's shirt. She opens the door and steps out.

John closes his eyes and tries to gather himself back together. He opens his door and steps out.

305 EXT. INTERSTATE HWY - SHOULDER -- DAY

John sees the big rig truck driver look back from where he's pulled over. John nods to him that everything is okay and comes around the bumper to find Lara sitting on the gravel shoulder, leaning against the back tire, staring out at the field beyond. He sits beside her in silence.

Behind them the cars whip by. No one even thinks to stop to see if they need help.

Lara and John watch a cow in the farmer's field.

There is nothing for either of them to say, they both know how they got here.

Their hands sit on the gravel between each other. Without looking at him, Lara tentatively entwines a single finger with his. He slowly gathers strength from her touch.

306 INT. SUV - ON THE SHOULDER -- MOMENTS LATER

They close the doors, and John starts the engine and they drive forward. John takes the first exit.

307 EXT. BRENNAN HOUSE - ALLEY -- DAY

A garbage truck is just pulling up as Paula shows Harris and an officer her recycling bin. They pull out John's overstuffed trash bag.
Lara sits in the SUV by herself, watching the entrance.

Nicole, surrounded by a dozen six year-olds, passes Luke off to John.

JOHN
No, it really is fine. I can't thank you enough for taking care of him.

NICOLE
It is our pleasure. Wasn't it, Carrie?

John and Luke turn and walk toward the exit.

Lara turns and sees John and Luke walking toward her.

LARA
Hi.

LUKE
Hi.

LARA
Did you have a nice time at the party?

LUKE
Yeah.

Lara walks him to the car, as if this day is no different than any other.

LARA
What was your favorite thing?

LUKE
Ice cream cake.

She lifts him into his seat and buckles him in.

LARA
They had ice cream cake here?

LUKE
At Carrie's house.

(CONTINUED)
LARA
Oh. What flavor?

LUKE
Lots of flavors.

LARA
My favorite.

John starts the car.

LARA (CONT'D)
I'm going to sit back here, okay?

JOHN
Sure.

Luke plays with a toy. Lara closes the door behind her. She looks out the window and sees:

NICOLE standing at the entrance, looking at her.

Not exactly sure why she does it, LARA offers her a grateful smile.

NICOLE watches them pull away, confused about what she should do.

311 INT. SUV - ZOO PARKING LOT EXIT -- CONTINUOUS

John drifts up to the stop sign at the intersection. A sign points out the interstate to the left -- and he can see the overpass and freeway entrance; the business district to the right. He checks his watch: 48 minutes. He resets it to zero. Game over.

He switches on the radio and searches for NEWS.

Luke taps Lara on the shoulder. She leans down.

LUKE
I think we're going to the cottage.

LARA
Really?

He nods knowingly.

LUKE
I have money.

Lara almost loses it; smiles.

(CONTINUED)
LARA
Good. Then I'll stick close to you.

LUKE
Okay.

John finds the news station.

NEWS RADIO
-- Traffic down to two lanes at the tollbooths. And downtown is worse. Stay away from the train station if you are trying to get anywhere. Not sure what is happening but a KPGH caller says trains aren't moving and commuters are getting irate.

(etc.)

LARA
John?
(no reply)
What are we going to do?

JOHN
(finally)
We're going to the train station.

John turns right, heading downtown.

312 INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Detective Quinn spots Harris fly in carrying a brimming green trash bag. Quinn jumps up and follows him into the SITUATION ROOM. COLLERO hurries to catch up.

Harris dumps the contents onto the conference table as she enters. Quinn immediately dives into the contents. HARRIS and COLLERO share an awkward look.

SGT. HARRIS
(smitten)
Hi.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
(casting her eyes down)
Hi.

She and Harris dig into the crumpled papers and photos.

DETECTIVE QUINN
(to Collero)
You're not going to nod off, are you?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Collero gives Quinn a burning look. Nabulsi enters.

EXT. TRAIN STATION -- DAY

John double-parks and pulls on a ball cap. Traffic is snarled, the place is awash with police and squad cars. Hundreds of people mill out front.

JOHN
Stay in the car.

John puts on his sunglasses and walks right through the middle of it all. Lara watches, certain he will be spotted and arrested.

John steps onto the crowded sidewalk outside the front doors. He speaks to a large woman; she shakes her head. He goes on to speak to a black couple, who apparently aren't interested. He approaches an elderly couple.

INT. POLICE STATION - NABULSI'S OFFICE -- DAY

Nabulsi is on the phone, catching hell from his Captain, who has had an earful from his counterpart in the State Police.

LT. NABULSI
I understand....I understand. I didn't tell them to stop EVERY vehicle. Just the ones with a couple and a young child.

He hangs up, takes the quarter from his pocket and spins it on his desk.

INT./EXT. FREEWAY TOLLBOOTH -- DAY

John spies the tollbooth ahead, traffic down to two lanes. The ELDERLY MAN beside him has a small bag on his lap.

ELDERLY MAN
Are you sure twenty dollars is enough? Ticket to Buffalo costs three times that.

And now we notice the man's WIFE sitting in the back seat, with Luke and Lara. John pays the toll.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
(re: SUV)
This thing is very good on gas.

A State Trooper waves them toward the booth.

The trooper ahead checks them out and waves them on. They are free.

The same trooper stops the car behind them -- in it, a couple with a child.

317 INT. POLICE STATION - NABULSI'S OFFICE -- DAY

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Every one in the state.

LT. NABULSI
Go wider. Send their photos to every train, bus station and airport in a three hundred mile radius.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
(looking at her pad)
So, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Michigan, Kentucky and Indiana?

LT. NABULSI
You know what direction they are going, smart ass?

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Captain, a lot of these places barely have fax machines.

LT. NABULSI
Then start dialing.
(as they exit:)
Prioritize. Closest airports first.

Nabulsi spins the quarter again, staring at it as if it will give him the answer.

318 EXT. DOWNTOWN BUFFALO -- AFTERNOON

The Brennans drop off the elderly couple. John waves, drops his gun in the trash can, gets back in and drives away.

319 INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- LATE AFTERNOON

Harris and Collero finish recreating a portion of John's wall, complete with wallpaper.

(CONTINUED)
Harris steps out into the HALL, passing an INTERVIEW ROOM.

Behind the glass he sees QUINN grilling MICK. Harris keeps going into Nabulsi's office. Nabulsi sits, spinning the coin, jacket off, shirt untucked.

SGT. HARRIS

You want to see it?

LT. NABULSI

Only if it will tell me where they are.

SGT. HARRIS

Not so lucky.

Nabulsi flattens the coin. Something makes him stare at his fingers. He moves his hand, revealing a Canadian quarter.

LT. NABULSI

How far is it to the Canadian border?

SGT. HARRIS

Four, five hours?

LT. NABULSI

(rising)

Collero!!

The SUV takes the freeway exit and climbs the ramp.

Nabulsi comes out of his office, passing a waiting ERIT.

ERIT

Excuse me? You call this coffee?

Nabulsi shakes that off and enters the SITUATION ROOM. Every phone at the table is manned, all having the same conversation:

SGT. HARRIS

I'm calling from the Pittsburgh Police Department. We have a fugitive warrant for Lara and John Brennan, they are most likely traveling with their six year-old son, and we have reason to believe they might be flying out of your airport.

Collero hangs up from her call and looks to the next number.
321 CONTINUED:

LT. NABULSI
How many airports in Ontario and Quebec?

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Should I stop calling and count?

Nabulsi gives her a look. Collero dials.

SGT. HARRIS
Yes, we are sending you photographs. We would appreciate it if you could disseminate them....How many terminals?

DETECTIVE QUINN
(bursts in)
I got his parents!

321A OMITTED
AND
322

323 INT. PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - TORONTO -- EVENING
The Brennans enter, pulling their carry-on bags.

324 INT. PEARSON -- CHECK-IN DESK -- EVENING

AIR CANADA CLERK
(as she types)
Long way to go with just carry-on.

JOHN
(smiles)
You know how many times you've lost our bags?

AIR CANADA CLERK
I hear you.

325 INT. TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- NIGHT


326 INT. POLICE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOMS -- NIGHT

Collero questions Grace on the other side of the glass. She appears devastated.

(CONTINUED)
DETECTIVE COLLERO
So, you just decided to go for a drive, for the entire day?

GRACE
George wanted to see the leaves.

Track to the next room, where Nabulsi questions George.

LT. NABULSI
So you have absolutely no idea where they are going?

GEORGE
I told you. We never spoke.

George stares Nabulsi down.

INT. TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- NIGHT


INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - PASSPORT CONTROL -- NIGHT

The Brennans approach passport control. Lara glances at John, sees he is sweating and red. She slips her hand into his and takes the passports.

LARA
I'll do this.

She turns and smiles at the officer, putting on all her charm.

LARA (CONT'D)
Hello.

He remains stern-faced. Taking their passports, he examines them against PHOTOGRAPHS on his computer screen. He looks at them, looks at the passports again, then finally waves them through.

LARA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

As they step away, the passport officer turns, sees his replacement waiting. He stands and exits to take his break.

The SECOND PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICER takes his seat and motions for the next traveler to approach. As they do an ALERT comes on his computer screen. He taps on it -- and up comes photographs of LARA and JOHN.

(CONTINUED)
He notes them, taps the screen again and the two take their place beside the others on the watch list. He motions for the traveler to hand over her passport.

ANGLE ON THE BRENNAWS
walking away.

INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- NIGHT

The phones are quiet. Alone, Harris stares at the portion of the wall that he assembled. Collero enters.

DETECTIVE QUINN
Too bad you didn't find more of it.

SGT. HARRIS
Yeah. And wish I could figure out where this is.

He points to a small torn photo, taped back together.

SGT. HARRIS (CONT'D)
I checked websites for every tourist destination I could --

DETECTIVE COLLERO
That's the presidential palace. (Harris turns & stares)
It was all over CNN. When they deposed...what's-his-name.

INT. POLICE STATION - NABULSI'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Harris bursts in.

SGT. HARRIS
We know where they're going!

INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - GATE B-15 -- NIGHT


AIR CANADA ATTENDANT (V.O.)
We'll now begin boarding by rows.

INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - SECURITY OFFICE -- NIGHT

An AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF snatches photos of Lara and John out of the printer and bolts out of the office, joined by two other OFFICERS.
332  INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - JETWAY -- NIGHT

John, Lara and Luke walk down the jetway, until they are stopped by the crowd of passengers before them. John tries not to show how nervous he really is.

332A  INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - GATES -- NIGHT

Airport Security runs up to the gate and pushes past the boarding passengers, searching their faces. The Airport Security Chief strides past the passengers and onto the jetway, the pages of photographs in his hand.

333  INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- NIGHT

Nabulsi waits in silence on the other end of a phone. The room is full, no one speaks.

334  INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - JETWAY -- NIGHT

A second AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER squeezes along the wall, passing the waiting passengers. We pan to see Luke's brightly colored roller-board. Our hearts stop; it is all over.

335  INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- NIGHT

Nabulsi waits on the other line for an eternity. Finally:

AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF (O.S.)
Sorry. There is no one by their description on the flight.

LT. NABULSI
They're on it. Do you have the photographs?

335A  INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - JETWAY -- NIGHT

The young AIR CANADA FLIGHT ATTENDANT kneels to help the child with the colorful rollerboard -- we see it's a FIVE YEAR-OLD GIRL.

AIR CANADA ATTENDANT
Can I take this for you?

AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF (V.O.)
We have the photographs. They aren't on this plane.

336  INT. TORONTO AIRPORT - GATE 32 -- CONTINUOUS

Now see the GATE NUMBER and destination: PORT-AU-PRINCE.
336 CONTINUED:

AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF
(listens, turns to attendant #2)
Are there any other flights to Haiti tonight?

337 INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

AIRPORT SECURITY CHIEF (O.S.)
No other flights. Anything else?

LT. NABULSI
....No. Thank you.

Nabulsi hangs up, defeated. Quinn stares out the window, deep in thought.

DETECTIVE QUINN
It's starting to rain.

Nabulsi looks at him as if he's nuts.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
I'll call the FBI.

Collero exits, Quinn turns and looks at the partial "wall."

DETECTIVE QUINN
You ask yourself why we found this bag and not the others?

338 INT. AIRPLANE -- NIGHT

Lara looks up from her son, sees her husband staring out the window at the darkness beyond. Ding.

AIR CANADA ATTENDANT (V.O.)
The captain has switched off the seat belt light. Flight time to Caracas, Venezuela this evening is five hours and fifteen minutes. While in your seat, the captain asks--

339 INT. POLICE STATION - SITUATION ROOM -- NIGHT

Now it's just Harris and Nabulsi, staring at John's wall.

LT. NABULSI
This guy was a teacher?

SGT. HARRIS
At a community college.
Sitting in his pajamas, George flips open an ancient atlas and runs his finger down across the Gulf of Mexico to Caracas, Venezuela. And he thinks of his grandson and smiles.

A taxi snakes along a mountain road, through the dense forests of Venezuela.

Exhausted but awake, John stares out the window at the coastline below. Lara and Luke sleep beside him.

More rain. Detective Quinn squats in the covered parking lot, staring at the spot where the crime took place. Flash to:

Elizabeth turns at her car, is slammed in the head with the extinguisher and she falls dead.

The extinguisher is tossed to the floor and rolls.

A YOUNG FEMALE JUNKIE yanks at Elizabeth's purse, getting blood on her hands before she frees it. She looks like a junkie. She runs off toward the sidewalk.

She hurries along the sidewalk to get out of the rain. Turning the corner into the garage she COLLIDES with the JUNKIE. Lara's purse catches the woman's coat.

The JUNKIE puts her hand on Lara's shoulder, leaving a SMUDGE OF ELIZABETH'S BLOOD on Lara's raincoat. She tugs free. A BUTTON from the woman's coat POPS OFF and hits the sidewalk.

Lara turns and yells "Hey," then keeps going.

She is about to get in the car when she sees the fire extinguisher in front of her left wheel. She picks it up, turns, annoyed. She places it down by the wall.
Lara gets in her car and drives off, oblivious to Elizabeth's body lying on the concrete floor on the passenger's side.

Her co-worker sees her drive off as he steps into the garage. He spots the body and turns and looks after Lara's car.

EXT. LARA'S OFFICE BUILDING - PARKING LOT -- DAY

Quinn puts his used gum in a wrapper. COLLERO watches from the car as her partner walks to the corner of the building. QUINN steps up to where the two women collided and looks down at the sidewalk.

DETECTIVE QUINN
Was it raining when we searched the crime scene?

DETECTIVE COLLERO
Three years ago?? What are we doing here?

Quinn drops his gum wrapper onto the sidewalk. It hits a stream of water coming out from a rain gutter and washes away. Quinn watches it -- then follows... Collero shakes her head, grabs a newspaper to keep the rain off and follows.

The gum wrapper washes over the curb into the gutter and travels to the storm drain a half a block away.

Quinn gets there, kneels.

DETECTIVE QUINN
Act like a cop. Grab the other side.

DETECTIVE COLLERO
You're out of your mind.

Quinn jerks the grate up. Collero grabs the other side and helps him lift.

They stare down into the hole. Quinn runs his hand along the lip, digging up the mud and sediment...finds nothing.

DETECTIVE COLLERO (CONT'D)
You really thought you were going to find it?

Collero wipes her hands on a tissue as Quinn stares down the hole a little longer, then lets the grate fall.

(CONTINUED)
CLOSE ON INSIDE LIP OF STORM DRAIN

Just before the grate clangs we see JUNKIE'S JACKET BUTTON, squeezed between the grate and the wall.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SOUTH AMERICA -- EVENING

The taxi crosses the ancient square of a small town.

INT. COLONIAL HOTEL -- EVENING

The room has two single beds. John waits at the bathroom door. Lara steps out, a real awkwardness between them.

She touches his hand. He offers a smile. She slips past him. He steps into the bathroom and closes the door. Lara lies down on the single bed furthest from the bathroom, face to face with her sleeping son.

Without warning, he kisses her on the cheek, for the first time, without being prodded. He turns around and lets her wrap her arms around him. And she almost dies of happiness.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

John washes, trying not to look in the mirror, not wanting to glimpse the man he has become.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Lara and Luke sleep, spooning. John sits on the other bed. He picks up the TV remote and flips through Spanish language stations. And there it is: CNN in English. Sports right now, but John knows there is no place they can hide.

INT. BAR -- DAY

Damon takes the money from John's wallet, leaves him with a twenty.

DAMON

Good luck.

Damon leaves him there. As John wonders if he is capable of doing this, we cut to BLACK. Read:

THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

Hear: Knock knock. Roll credits.