

Juan de Fuca Strait

An Original Screenplay by

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VANCOUVER ISLAND VICINITY, BRITISH COLUMBIA -- PRESENT DAY

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAWN

Grey morning. Echoing misty dewdrops on tree leaves. FEMALE SHOE steps on a crackling brown leaf.

DOWN JACKET scrapes past a bare branch -- muffled VREE! GREY SQUIRREL chitters on a mossy branch, flees.

Two pairs of MALE BOOTS advance in a bracken fern patch.

Profile of a FEMALE EAR turns to the sounds, reacts.

Her SHOES rush through autumn grey branches and fallen leaves.

RHONDA MULGREWE (14, dark hair, flannel shirt, levis) sprints through the woods, breathing fast, voices calling behind her.

Brothers HAROLD (16, down jacket, levis) and COTTY STEWART (14, sweater, red hair, freckles) are pursuing Rhonda.

HAROLD

Oh Rhonda...!

An OWL hoots. Harold howls like a wolf. They keep running.

COTTY

Look out for the cliff...!

Rhonda hears Cotty howl, trips over a log, falls down.

HAROLD

What's that I hear inside the forest?
Rhonda? Come here, my dearest!

Harold and Cotty reach Rhonda. Harold leaps on Rhonda, rips her shirt open. Rhonda screams.

Harold hears CLANKING CHAINS and MUFFLED VOICES, drops down.

Cotty starts jabbering, Harold slaps a hand over his mouth.

Too late -- Cotty and Harold are ripped from the ground by TWO SCREAMING RUSSIANS shoving shotguns into their faces.

TWO MORE RUSSIANS close in on Rhonda running to cliff's edge.

She grabs the cliff's topmost GRASSY EDGE as a WIND blows everyone screaming out over the ocean fifty feet below.

COTTY

They're coming! They're here!

Rhonda can't hold on, releases -- grass clumps fly...

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAWN - MOVING

HYPERSPEED CAMERA streaks over island outcrops of boulders and wind-seared Sitka pine up the Strait of Georgia. VOICES blast past in the wind -- blah blah, yakety-yak...!

MACH-SPEED CAMERA drops to water level toward an island on the horizon ahead -- WHOOSH!

CAMERA and SOUND slow from mach-speed to the cozy drone of a Cessna float plane winging over the waves toward the island.

VRRRR... Life slows a few more notches on Juan de Fuca Strait.

FOUR YEARS LATER

INT. LODGE - MORNING

An OLDER RHONDA (18, tangled dark hair) stares out the window, snaps out of her daymare, turns to the door.

Her brother TERRY MULGREWE (3, cowboy outfit, annoying snot) charges into the room firing a cap pistol.

TERRY

They're coming! They're here!

Rhonda's sister MICKEY (16, thick blond mane, fierce innocence) sits on the other bed applying Shoe Goo to a fishing hip boot.

A CESSNA FLOAT PLANE drones in the sky outside.

Rhonda groans, her smoldering eyes lock on Terry.

RHONDA

Shut up, you little creep.

She slings a hip boot at Terry who runs crying for mommy.

Mickey retrieves the hipboot, sets both hipboots by her bed.

MICKEY

He can't help it.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - MORNING

Sky threatens a downpour. Seagull picks at some dead thing along a grey network of bleached driftwood lacing the shore.

Three moored FISHING BOATS bob against grey FISH SHACK pilings. Fish rods, gas tanks, safety vests lay on a grey dock. Windssock and Canadian flag on a gull-shit white roof snick in the breeze.

Under an eave, a SPIDER concentrates on its billowing web.

EXT. LODGE - MORNING

Well-scrubbed log home. Willow furniture on porch. Smoke lingers from a stone chimney. Outside guest cabins nearby.

CHIPMUNK barks at a JAYBIRD as the Cessna passes overhead.

INT. CESSNA FLOAT PLANE - MORNING - MOVING

Stripped Swiss cheese pilot's panel of empty gauges and wires.

BUSH PILOT (40s, mustache, sunglasses) eyes a GPS INSTRUMENT dangling by one screw from the bare aluminum strut ceiling.

LARRY, KRIS and BLUE, (50s, noisy drunk Alabama execs, fishing outfits) crammed between duffel bags and beer cases, singing.

Bush Pilot waves off a sotted bourbon bottle offer from Blue.

BUSH PILOT
Victoria Alpha Tango to Juan de Fuca
Strait -- Mulgrewe, you in?

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Animal rugs, fish trophies, Stihl-sawed pine furniture. TWO-WAY RADIO on rolltop desk crackles with the BUSH PILOT'S VOICE.

STODDARD MULGREWE (40s, gaunt, haunted eyes, stubbled face, wool shirt) taps the radio handset.

STODDARD
Mulgrewe to Victoria Alpha Tango,
come back, yeah.

BUSH PILOT
Ten clicks out, they're rockin'.

Stoddard takes the bad news, rogers the Bush Pilot out.

STODDARD
Alright everyone -- three drunk
Americans want our fish!

He lifts a boot onto the desk, ties a lace -- 24/7 surveillance bracelet around his ankle -- ex-con on house arrest.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - MORNING

Mickey does pull-ups on a doorjamb bar -- she's buff.

Rhonda tosses a worn Vogue on her bed when Stoddard calls.
Pushes past Mickey exercising in the doorway.

MICKEY

Rude.

RHONDA

Egotist.

INT. LODGE. KITCHEN - MORNING

Mickey and Rhonda's mother NARA (42, faded beauty, outdoor attire) sharpens a knife. Stoddard calls. She puts the knife down, straightens other sharpened knives into a perfect row.

She passes a wall mirror, tidies up, fixes her clothes. Sees that one fillet knife is not perfectly parallel to the others.

She straightens the fillet knife, hurries out the door.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - MORNING

Stoddard stands beside the fish shack with Nara and Mickey.

Nara sees Rhonda dragging Terry toward them.

Float plane taxis toward the dock.

NARA

Hurry up, Rhonda.

RHONDA

Why, they're here for a week.

Nara eyes Rhonda's clothes, sniffs at her breath.

STODDARD

It can wait, Nara.

Rhonda pulls away from Nara, throws Terry's hand at her.

NARA

It's a little late for time-outs.

RHONDA

Then chill out.

Blue exits the plane, runs to dock's end. Pisses in the water.

BLUE
 Goddamn holding that since Vancouver.
 Brought you something, Rhonda.

Bush Pilot hands her a bag of fashion magazines, she brightens.
 Mickey eyes the magazines, jealous.

BLUE (cont'd)
 Why you need those when you got all
 this is beyond me.

NARA
 Don't encourage her, Blue.

Stoddard tosses gear in a wheelbarrow, pushes it up the dock.
 Raining. Float plane turns, heads for the Strait's bad weather.

BLUE
 He can fly in this?

STODDARD
 In what.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Pouring rain. Rhonda and Stoddard, in rain gear, clean out an
 overflowing rain gutter along the eave.

RHONDA
 Where's Mickey?

STODDARD
 She's too short. Get me a rake.

Nara pushes a wheelbarrow of luggage and groceries to the porch.

NARA
 Told you to clean those yesterday.

STODDARD
 Wasn't raining then.

Nara glares at Stoddard before entering the lodge with luggage.

RHONDA
 I'll help her get the rest.

STODDARD
 She's got her priorities, I got mine.
 Now find me a rake, willya.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Grey skies, fair weather. Rhonda, braless in flannel shirt, finishes loading three boats with coolers. Hooks a livewell tank tube to a pump in the first boat, switches it on.

Stoddard untangles a bird's nest of line in a level-wind reel.

Mickey emerges from the shack with three good level-wind rods.

MICKEY

I'll fix that later.

STODDARD

This is thirty test, not that twenty.

Rhonda switches on the livewell pump inside the second boat.

RHONDA

Twenty's best for tourists. More action, less cleaning.

Stoddard eyes Mickey, nods. Tosses the rod in the fish shack. Takes Mickey's good rods as she hangs up his tangled one.

Blue, Kris and Larry, in fishing attire, walk onto the dock.

BLUE

Where you want us, Stoddard?

Rhonda sees Larry eyeing her.

Nara walks onto the dock with three Igloo lunchboxes.

NARA

Rhonda, you pack ice and drinks?

Rhonda switches on the livewell tank inside the third boat.

RHONDA

Yeah, set with bait too.

Nara drops the lunchboxes on the dock. Tosses three hand radios to Mickey, Rhonda and Stoddard -- sees Rhonda's braless shirt.

NARA

They're charged, don't lose 'em.
Mickey, you and Blue. Stoddard and
Kris. Larry, Rhonda's a good guide.

Larry grins at Rhonda, grabs a lunchbox off the dock.

EXT. ISLAND. BELOW CLIFF. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda and Larry motor in. Rhonda shuts the engine down.

Larry tosses an empty beer can inside the boat, grabs his rod. He sees COTTY STEWART (17) above them near the cliff's edge.

LARRY
Who's that?

RHONDA
Nobody. Cotty the island psychotic.

LARRY
He could get killed falling off.

RHONDA
Yeah, cause for celebration.

Rhonda peers over the railing, counts Larry's salmon chain.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Two under limit. Need a better spot.

From Cotty's POV: Rhonda and Larry motor away.

EXT. COVE. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda drifts the boat in, hands Larry a salmon rod. Larry sips his beer, watches her drop the trolling motor, lascivious.

LARRY
Don't look like fish territory.

RHONDA
Fish are migratory. Don't stay in one place all the time.

LARRY
How'd you get to be so smart?

He tosses the empty beer can into the water.

RHONDA
We prefer keeping Canada green.

Rhonda steps closer to Larry with a net, leans over the rail to snare the beer can, her breasts almost in his face. Nets the can -- a fifty-dollar bill is waved in Rhonda's face.

LARRY
Green enough for you?

She raises an eyebrow, as if she's done this before. Larry matches the fifty with four more fifty-dollar bills.

Larry opens a button on Rhonda's shirt, revealing her breast.

LARRY (cont'd)
I swear you get smarter every year.

Rhonda pockets the money, grips the railing, a resigned look, scans the horizon for boats. Frightfully quiet. Water laps against the hull. A seal barks in the b.g. Seagulls fight on the rocks over a dead fish, birds chatter in the nearby trees.

Larry unzips his pants. As he reaches for Rhonda again, she scrapes her forearm over an oarlock, drawing blood.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Stoddard and Kris troll the water. Kris is impatient.

KRIS
Long way to go for nothing.

Kris sips at a flask, offers it to Stoddard who waves it off.

STODDARD
Can't since I got released.

KRIS
Thousand miles of ocean around us.

Stoddard takes a deep pull from the flask.

KRIS (cont'd)
They ever catch the others?

Stoddard spits in the water to reply.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Mickey steers Blue over a reef, hands him a deep sea rod.

MICKEY
We'll try some rock cod.

BLUE
But I can see the bottom.

MICKEY
Shelf drops sixty meters, twenty meters off starboard.
(off Blue)
About two-hundred feet down American, more than sixty feet to the right.

BLUE
Daddy raised a fine sea girly-guide.

Mickey snaps a kilo iron block to Blue's line.

BLUE (cont'd)
You could hurt someone with that.

MICKEY
Lead hurts the wildlife.

BLUE
Mighty fine wildlife here.

Mickey smiles, Blue takes it as a come-on. Grabs the back of her neck, pulls her forward for a kiss.

Blue hears a SNICK below his chin. Mickey stares him down with a knife tip against his throat. He releases her.

BLUE (cont'd)
I'm your daddy's best client.

She dips a towel in the ocean, tosses it to Blue who dabs his sweaty forehead. She baits his hook with a live sardine.

MICKEY
Maybe. When I say drop, release.
Rock cod hang tight to the shelf.
Wildlife's tougher than you think.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard washes his hands at the fish cleaning table. Joins Blue, Kris and Larry as they offer him a cigar.

Kris hands Stoddard his flask. Stoddard glances around, takes it, drinks, slips it back to Kris.

Stoddard sees Rhonda's glare from the cleaning table -- busted.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Nara turns at the steps, sees Stoddard drink -- major busted.

EXT. LODGE. WOODS BEHIND LODGE - DAY

Rhonda angrily rips off Sitka pine boughs, bundles them up.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda enters with the Sitka pine boughs, kicks her boots off.

INT. LODGE. BATHROOM - DAY

Rhonda strips off her shirt, naked to the waist, tosses it over a hamper. Turns both sink faucets on full blast, eyes herself in the mirror -- another thankless day at the lodge.

She rips tiny branches from the Sitka pine boughs, grinds the needles between her hands, around her wrists. Takes a bough, slaps her forearms, then rubs her face with the resin essence.

She runs a LAVA SOAP BAR under the water, grinds a toothbrush on it, scours under her broken, filthy fingernails. Uses her cut and bleeding forearm to wipe off the steaming mirror.

Blood streaks across the mirror. She rubs the toothbrush over the forearm cut, blood flows freely, evil smile at the mirror.

RHONDA

Well Larry, an eye for an eye.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Door closed. Family photos on a bedstand. Rhonda (cleaned-up, shirt, pants, bra) finishes counting Larry's money on the bed. Rises, pulls out a CIGAR BOX from between the mattress.

Mickey enters, startling Rhonda.

RHONDA

Damn, can't you knock?

MICKEY

Knock-knock, f-you, my room too.

Rhonda puts the bills in the box, shoves it under the mattress.

Mickey enters the bathroom, removes her shirt. Flips on the water, starts to wash, sees Rhonda's blood smear on the mirror.

MICKEY (cont'd)

Hey, careless.

Rhonda shows Mickey her bandaged forearm.

MICKEY (cont'd)

So, I'm not your maid.

Rhonda gets her shirt from the hamper, wipes off the blood.

RHONDA

Larry paid two-fifty American.

(off Mickey)

Oh c'mon, didn't you screw Blue?

MICKEY

How can you do a guy you don't know?

Rhonda tosses her bloody shirt back at the hamper.

RHONDA

Don't know, don't like, don't care.

MICKEY

That's too sick to even think about.

Rhonda examines her hands, sniffs her wrists, disgusted.

RHONDA

So's smelling fish all the time.

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Mulgrewes have dinner with Blue, Kris and Larry.

Nara enters with the main fish plate, hands the plate to Stoddard who serves the fish first to Larry. Nara sits.

NARA

Was it a good time out today?

LARRY

Rhonda's got the fish-eye, alright.

NARA

She knows how to keep clients happy.

LARRY

That ain't the half of it.

Larry and Nara both eye Rhonda but she returns no emotion.

STODDARD

Mickey okay too?

BLUE

No complaints here.

NARA

And all the beer cans?

RHONDA

(eyes Larry)

Canada's greener than ever.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Mickey and Rhonda play poker with Blue, Kris and Larry. Nara and Stoddard enter with tea.

NARA
Girls, it's getting late.

Rhonda smiles at Larry, tosses a stack of chips into the pot.

RHONDA
Raise you twenty.

NARA
Dollars American?

BLUE
She got all but my ride home.

Nara senses Rhonda has money. She's about to ask, when...

STODDARD
Guests wanna play, let 'em play.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nara, in nightgown, peeks out the door toward the living room. Stoddard's in bed, pats the mattress.

Nara returns to bed, Stoddard puts his arm around her.

NARA
How much does she have?

STODDARD
Whatever she earned.

NARA
It goes to the camp. We had a deal.

STODDARD
Then deal with it.

NARA
Why am I always the bad guy?

STODDARD
Nobody's better at it.

Nara sits up, angry.

NARA
You better be joking.

STODDARD
Cut her some slack, yeah? A smile
don't cost you nothing neither.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey stretches, yawns as Blue and Larry count poker chips. She exits toward her bedroom.

BLUE
I'm done in for the night too.

Mickey exits. Blue follows, she shuts the door in his face.

Rhonda has a big pile of chips, lays down a full house. Eyes her cigar box brimming with American bills, frowns.

LARRY
You won. Ain't that enough? Want my flight ticket home too?

RHONDA
You willing to play for it?

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - NIGHT

Rhonda leads Larry in with a flashlight and a bottle of bourbon. She drops the cigar box on the table, lights a Coleman lantern.

RHONDA
What's the game?

LARRY
Simple rules. All you got is what you bet. No marks or IOUs.

RHONDA
Clothes part of the deal?

LARRY
Anything you want.

Rhonda sits, shuffles cards like a casino pro. Fans them over the table, loosens a button on her blouse, just enough skin.

RHONDA
Cut 'em.

Larry sits, eyes the bourbon and his chip stack, grins.

CLOSE-UP - EMPTY BOURBON BOTTLE

Larry has a castle of chips and all his clothes on.

Rhonda's down to bra, panties. Throws in her last two chips.

Larry shows three fours. Rhonda tosses her cards in, pissed.

LARRY
Now, nice and slow.

Rhonda quickly unsnaps her bra, tosses it on the table.

Larry leers as he draws the chips and Rhonda's bra toward him.

RHONDA
Just deal.

Rhonda eyes a clock on the dresser -- 1:00 AM.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bedstand clock shows 2:30 AM. Mickey rises in bed, sees the lantern burning in Larry's cabin. Rhonda's bed is empty.

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAWN

Two face-up hands on the table -- Rhonda's three nines, Larry's two aces. Rhonda's cigar box is packed with American bills.

We hear an audible O.S. WHACK! Larry grunts O.S.

Red-faced Larry, all four on the floor, takes a WHACK to his ass from a snowshoe wielded by a fully-clothed Rhonda.

RHONDA
Five.

Larry rises, grabs his clothes.

RHONDA (cont'd)
That's half what you owe me.

LARRY
Goddamn, I'd say you had enough.

Rhonda sees the rising sun outside the window.

RHONDA
Then where's your plane ticket.
Sun's up, make a decision -- fast.

Larry painfully exhales a cock-a-doodle-doo.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Outside.

She prods Larry out the door with the snowshoe -- it's cold!

LARRY
Freeze my cock-a-handle off.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAWN

Mickey wakes in bed after Larry crows. Looks out the window, sees the naked Larry flap his arms and rooster crow again.

MICKEY
Oh...yeah...!

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - DAWN

Stoddard steps out the front door, cup of coffee. Sees a naked Larry crowing in the early morning sun.

STODDARD
Oh...no...

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAWN

Rhonda enjoys the moment watching Larry crow like an idiot. Then sees Stoddard walking toward the cabin.

Larry sees Stoddard approach, turns back to the front door.

STODDARD
Know how cold it is?

LARRY
You're gonna tell me anyway.

STODDARD
Near six Celsius.

LARRY
Thanks, and in degrees?

STODDARD
Forty-two, forty-three. Seen my daughters lately?

LARRY
Not on a bet.

Stoddard nods to the lodge.

STODDARD
They can see you.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAWN

From the window, Nara sees Rhonda climb out Larry's cabin window and race for the lodge.

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAWN

Stoddard enters with Larry who rushes to put on his clothes.

STODDARD
You boys got some weird habits.

LARRY
Oh you know, away from the wives,
fresh air kinda opens a person up.

Larry's red-ass welts match the snowshoe on the table.

STODDARD
That's as open as I wanna know.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAWN

Rhonda shoves the cigar box between the mattress, jumps into bed fully clothed, pulls the blankets over her.

MICKEY
Where you been?

RHONDA
Cleaning grit outa snowshoes.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

The Mulgrewes watch the Cessna float plane take off with Blue, Kris and Larry. Plane banks, tips its wings, flies off.

NARA
Okay, let's rig up for the McGuires.

Stoddard nods, heads for the lodge.

NARA (cont'd)
And check the gutters again.

Stoddard waves back without looking. Nara turns to Mickey.

NARA (cont'd)
Take Terry up for a bath.

Mickey and Terry exit. Rhonda gets a gas tank in the shack.

NARA (cont'd)
Where you going?

RHONDA
To fill the boats.

NARA
Where is it? You know what I mean.

Rhonda knows what she wants, drops the gas tank on the dock.

RHONDA
That's my money.

NARA
This isn't a competition.

RHONDA
You couldn't even compete.

Rhonda storms off the dock, leaves Nara glaring at her wake.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda gets the cigar box from the mattress, throws it at Nara.

NARA
You think I'm unfair.

Rhonda shoves past Nara as she heads for the door.

RHONDA
Bitches don't know what unfair means.

NARA
Just because your father is back
doesn't mean the rules changed.
Without the lodge, we're nothing.

Nara removes the money, tosses the cigar box on Rhonda's bed.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard fumbles with the bird's nest line in the same level-wind, makes a bigger mess of it.

Rhonda nails down loose deck planks on the dock.

Mickey dries out the sardine net at dock's end.

RHONDA
Why'd you let her take it?

Rhonda heads for Mickey who's struggling with the sardine net.

STODDARD
She's complicated but right. We're
in it together. She relies on you.

Rhonda tacks nails on the piling tops toward dock's end.

RHONDA
You and Kris were drinking tea?

STODDARD
Don't get complicated too.

Mickey and Rhonda stretch the net over the pilings to dry.

RHONDA
You've been gone four years, you
don't know anything about me.
(to Mickey)
Roll it over the nail, don't rip it!

Stoddard tosses the bird's nest level-wind rod into the shack.

STODDARD
Think your mother's calling. Like I
said, she relies on you.

Stoddard spits at the bird's nest rod, heads for the lodge.

Rhonda pulls a radio out of the fish shack, turns it on. Hauls a salmon chain from the water, lays them on the fish cleaning table. Starts filleting a salmon.

MICKEY
What's the big deal about Vancouver?

RHONDA
They don't watch weather reports all
day. I can smoke pot in coffeehouses
and watch TV. I can live my life
without ever doing anything twice.

Mickey joins Rhonda at the table, grabs a knife and salmon.

MICKEY
You're leaving too many bones.

RHONDA
What?

MICKEY
Bones. Like this.

Rhonda watches Mickey trim a perfect salmon fillet. Turns to the radio playing a French pop song, grows even more pissed.

RHONDA
I've been doing this for years.

MICKEY

And I'm showing you a better way.
See, you don't touch them so much.

RHONDA

So super, natural. Canada's finest.

Rhonda tosses her fillet knife on the table, heads for the shack. She grabs the radio, tosses it in the water.

RHONDA (cont'd)

And turn that shit off!

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - EVENING

The Mulgrewes eat dinner together.

STODDARD

Rhonda, look at boat two tonight.
Engine sounded rough.

RHONDA

I did already, it needs a new engine.

NARA

We can't afford a new one.

RHONDA

I fixed it a million times, it's no good. Why can't you believe me?

NARA

Frank McGuire is bringing his son.

RHONDA

Another rich asshole's asshole.

NARA

So I'd like you to really behave.

STODDARD

You're talking to your mother.

RHONDA

Okay, you're right. I'm sorry.

NARA

I'm asking that you act respectable.

RHONDA

We need them more than they need us.

NARA
I'll forego the sarcasm, but thanks
for seeing my point of view.

RHONDA
What do they have that I don't?

NARA
Their money is what.

RHONDA
I see.

NARA
You do?

RHONDA
Sure. Since you got mine, I'm just
a worthless boat mechanic to you.

NARA
You trying to make me angry?

RHONDA
Is somebody finally ready to?

MICKEY
Can't you two get along? Dad?

STODDARD
It is a little much.

NARA
From who?

Mickey rises, exits out the front door.

RHONDA
I'll babysit your rich boys, but by
autumn, I'm gone.

Rhonda rises, heads for the front door.

NARA
With what to pay the ferry?

RHONDA
Whatta you think? I'm eighteen.
There's more where that came from.

Rhonda slams the front door on the way out.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Rhonda steps out the front door, joins Mickey leaning on the railing. Rhonda turns on a garden hose, furious.

RHONDA
She's the ugliest woman I ever met.

MICKEY
It's not her, it's Harold, isn't it.

RHONDA
Harold's dead, why can't she forget?

MICKEY
Nobody forgets around here, remember?

FLASH MEMORY:

A RUSSIAN MAN blasts a shotgun round into Harold's face.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Rhonda hoses a spiderweb off the railing.

RHONDA
Damn things are worse than leeches.

INT. CESSNA FLOAT PLANE - DAWN - MOVING

Bush Pilot, FRANK McGUIRE (40s, silver hair, outdoor attire) and son JORDAN (18, spoiled, trash attire) playing a GameBoy.

FRANK
You're gonna love it here.

JORDAN
Yeah, you caught a thirty-pounder.

FRANK
There it is.

Jordan sees nothing but rocks and trees outside the window.

JORDAN
Camping? Outside? In the weather?

FRANK
Cabins with water and lights. I won't see you after college starts.

JORDAN
With any luck.

FRANK
Stoddard has daughters your age.

JORDAN
They shave their armpits, right?

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAWN

Cessna float plane's moored beside the dock. Mickey and Rhonda roll the wheelbarrow onto the dock.

Frank steps out of the plane, hugs Stoddard, they release.

STODDARD
Frank, good to see you again.

FRANK
Four years, you haven't changed.

Mickey and Rhonda gape at Jordan in the plane -- he's hot.

Jordan exits the plane, shoots Mickey and Rhonda a tough guy, disinterested look. He's equally unimpressed with Stoddard.

FRANK (cont'd)
My son Jordan.

STODDARD
Good meeting you at last. Your dad's talked a lot about you.

Stoddard sticks out his hand, Jordan puts his hand in a pocket.

JORDAN
So how far is it to the North Pole?

FRANK
Last summer together except when he needs money.

Frank sees Nara and Terry walk down to the dock, brightens.

Stoddard sees Frank brighten when he picks up Terry.

FRANK (cont'd)
Boy, have you ever grown!

Nara, Frank, Stoddard and Terry head for the lodge. Bush Pilot tosses the last of the luggage on the dock.

BUSH PILOT
Spin her around for me, willya.

Mickey and Rhonda grab the wing and prop. Bush Pilot gets in.

JORDAN
Where's my cabin?

RHONDA
I'm Rhonda, this is my sister Mickey.

JORDAN
Okay, I'm Rhonda this is my sister
Mickey -- my cabin?

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN. BATHROOM - DAY

Rhonda and Mickey show Jordan the toilet.

JORDAN
So does it flush?

RHONDA
If you want it to.

Jordan pulls an iPod from a bag, cranks it up, irritating Mickey and Rhonda. He shuts it off, like he's doing them a favor.

JORDAN
Know what this is?

RHONDA
What, no vPod?

JORDAN
So you don't have one. You shave?

MICKEY
Excuse me?

JORDAN
Your pits.

RHONDA
What kind of place are you from?

JORDAN
The kind that tells me what kind of
hayseeds I'm dealing with.

RHONDA
I got a mind to let you sniff them.

Rhonda and Mickey exit. Jordan shrugs, eyes the room, sighs.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAY

Frank and Jordan head for the lodge. Frank winks at Jordan.

FRANK
You talk to Stoddard's girls?

JORDAN
Pretty sensitive, aren't they?

Frank slows, confused. Watches Jordan head for the lodge.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jordan enters with Frank behind him. Nara hands Jordan a Coke. He opens the can, drinks it, spits the Coke into the fireplace.

NARA
Is it spoiled?

JORDAN
Maybe warm?

FRANK
They flash freeze fish. They don't have refrigerators like at home.

NARA
There's a sack tied to the dock with cold cans if you'd like.

JORDAN
No 7-Eleven or Mickey D. Fine, I'll get a salty Coke from a fish sack.

Jordan puts the Coke on the table, exits the front door.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Jordan sees Rhonda working on boat engine two.

JORDAN
Where's your Cokes.

RHONDA
In the water.

Jordan pulls a nylon net bag from the water, takes out a Coke.

JORDAN
Whattya doing.

RHONDA
Know what this is?

JORDAN
Haven't a clue.

RHONDA
That's right, you only know iPods.
This is called a carburetor.

JORDAN
Thrilling. That what you do here?

RHONDA
No, I plan weddings, make sponge
cake and arrange sorority gatherings
with big bright party balloons.

JORDAN
So Martha Stewart, is there any fun?

Rhonda wipes off her forehead sweat with a greasy hand.

RHONDA
(Canuck accent)
Oh no, Mickey's the keener for the
entertainment department, I'm just
the Newfie, yah. But I'll tell ya
what there, Bart --
(no accent)
If you wanna help, I gotta blow the
airjets outa this no-running piece
of shit. Get a wrench -- or have
you ever screwed a nut before?

Rhonda grabs a wrench, then stares Jordan back off the dock.

LATER.

Stoddard and Mickey rig up fishing rods near the fish shack.

Rhonda puts lunchboxes in both boats.

Frank and Jordan walk up to the dock. Jordan's in a foul mood.

STODDARD
How's things?

JORDAN
Fish for dinner, fish for breakfast.
Anything to eat besides that?

FRANK
Sounds like someone didn't get enough
sleep last night.

JORDAN
Sleep? Goddamn sun never went down!

STODDARD
Mickey, you go with Frank.

Mickey likes this assignment -- anything but guiding Jordan.

FRANK
Stoddard, I haven't fished with you
in four years. They can go together.

STODDARD
Mickey, Rhonda -- take Jordan out.

Mickey and Rhonda eye spoiled monster a-hole Jordan: Swell...

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Frank and Stoddard fishing. Stoddard hands Frank a beer.
Frank offers it up, Stoddard refuses, Frank opens it.

FRANK
Sorry about Jordan.

STODDARD
He's being his age.

FRANK
Girls sure have grown.

STODDARD
They're being their age too.

FRANK
When you off parole?

STODDARD
When somebody feels like it.

FRANK
They ever catch the big boys?

STODDARD
Hal Stewart got off Scot-free.

FRANK
The name doesn't register.

STODDARD
Never found the Russians either.

FRANK
This Hal must've had a good lawyer.

Stoddard grabs Frank's fishing line.

STODDARD
Needs fresh bait.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Jordan, iPod headset on, Mickey and Rhonda are motoring along. Rhonda kills the engine.

RHONDA
Yes, we do.

Rhonda and Mickey show Jordan their underarms. Jordan smirks, puts his iPod away, scans the water.

JORDAN
There fish here?

RHONDA
They're migratory. Good as any spot.

Rhonda hands Jordan a salmon rod, opens the livewell bait tank. Jordan slings his line out.

JORDAN
I can do it myself.

Rhonda wiggles a live sardine by the tail. Jordan reels in.

MICKEY
In the lower lip. Don't squeeze,
they last longer.

Jordan wants nothing to do with the squiggly sardine. Rhonda baits his hook, tosses it overboard, starts the trolling motor.

JORDAN
You like this guide stuff?

RHONDA
Depends on the client.

JORDAN
Think I couldn't survive out here?

SCREE! Fishing line sears off Jordan's reel.

RHONDA
Loosen the drag, it's a King salmon.

Now Jordan's into fishing. Whoops for joy, cranks the reel.

Mickey sits behind Jordan, loosens the reel's drag.

MICKEY
Loosen it, like this.

RHONDA
Loosen it up, Mickey.

Rhonda pushes Mickey away, gets behind Jordan, grabs the rod.

JORDAN
Back off, it's my fish!

Jordan tightens the drag, the line breaks. He loses the fish.

But Mickey and Rhonda are locked in jealous glares.

RHONDA
Told you to loosen the drag.

MICKEY
He had no arc in his rod.

RHONDA
You let him snap the line!

JORDAN
Hey, what am I paying for here? Put
another fish on my string!

RHONDA
Line! Do it right and you'll keep
it. Forget what Mickey said.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - DAY

Shore lunch. Mickey gathers wood. Rhonda cooks salmon in a skillet on the fire. Jordan admires his salmon in the skillet.

Mickey purposely dumps wood next to Rhonda.

RHONDA
Chefs cook, cooks clean.

Mickey heads for the boat, starts organizing the fishing gear.

Jordan fires up a blunt, exhales. Watches Mickey and Rhonda.

JORDAN
What's that mean -- chefs cook?

RHONDA
I do lunch, Mickey swabs the plates.

Rhonda hands Jordan a tin plate of salmon. Mickey tosses a Coke to him, he catches it. Snaps open his Coke as Mickey takes the pan and spatula shoreline, cleans them.

JORDAN
Which is harder?

RHONDA
Let me guess, you never did either.

Jordan shrugs, digs into the salmon, nods to his blunt.

JORDAN
Fishing's what Frank does. This is all we got in common.

RHONDA
Can't imagine what you'd do if you really liked him.

JORDAN
She's a shrink too. Your dad cool?

RHONDA
He does his job, I do mine.

JORDAN
Well doctor, no isn't in Frank's vocabulary, yes-men all around. He said this would bring us together. Should I bond with him, doc?

MICKEY
We're paid to show you a good time.

JORDAN
You ever answer questions? So where's a good time? Sorry, another question. Okay -- show me one, Guide Martha.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAY

Jordan peers over the edge with Mickey and Rhonda.

JORDAN
This is a good time?

RHONDA
Only when you dive.

JORDAN
You're inbred too, aren't you?

MICKEY

You dive after the wave hits the cliff. Waves push you out before smashing you against the rocks.

JORDAN

Some other depressing life. Why?

RHONDA

Legend. An Indian woman haunts the cliff. Say you and I were in love --

JORDAN

Totally unbelievable, but go on.

RHONDA

If two people want to prove their love, they dive off the cliff. If they're in love, they survive.

JORDAN

Psychoanalysis, King salmon and suicide lovers in the same day.

Rhonda pulls Jordan to the edge, he jerks away. Rhonda laughs.

RHONDA

I hate love. Mickey won't dive too.

Jordan eyes Mickey and Rhonda: You two really are crazy...

JORDAN

Okay, are we gone yet?

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Mulgrewes have dinner with Frank and Jordan. Rhonda enters with a salmon platter, leans over to serve Jordan -- braless. Jordan reacts, spills his beer.

Rhonda smiles at Jordan, gets dagger eyes from Mickey.

Nara and Frank saw the whole show. Stoddard missed it.

FRANK

That's enough brew for you.

STODDARD

Looks like you kids got the fish eye. We got skunked.

NARA

Hand me the salmon.

Nara takes the platter from Rhonda, serves Frank.

TERRY
I caught a fish once.

FRANK
I'll bet it was a whopper.

Terry beams. Frank smiles up at Nara, she returns it.

FRANK (cont'd)
Salmon gets better every time.

Rhonda sees Frank and Nara's exchange. Jordan notices Rhonda.

STODDARD
Nara knows how to prepare it.

RHONDA
Thanks Dad, I made it.

STODDARD
Nothing surprises me about you.

Rhonda shoots Nara a smug look. Jordan sees it.

FRANK
Where'd you guys go today?

JORDAN
A cliff where crazies dive to prove
their love. Some Indian legend.

NARA
It's not a legend, Frank. It's a
bedtime story I told the girls.

FRANK
What story is that, Nara?

NARA
To warn the girls about that cliff.

FRANK
What about it?

STODDARD
Drug runners. Rough water, tide can
pull you out to the Pacific.

JORDAN
Rhonda wanted me to jump off. To
prove the legend.

NARA

She what?

STODDARD

Harold Stewart was killed there four years ago. Pass the salmon.

FRANK

How?

NARA

He fell the night Stoddard got caught.

STODDARD

Pass the salmon, please.

RHONDA

He didn't fall.

JORDAN

Who killed him?

FRANK

What legend?

NARA

Nobody killed him. He fell.

RHONDA

He didn't fall. You weren't there.

Nara stinkeyes Rhonda.

FRANK

Someone make sense here.

STODDARD

Somebody please pass the salmon!

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - EVENING

Mickey and Rhonda walk Jordan to his door, stop outside.

JORDAN

Drug runners, ghosts and cliffjumpers.

RHONDA

We pretend it never happened.

JORDAN

That your explanation for weirdness?

MICKEY

Some of us forget easier.

Rhonda eyes Mickey: Get lost. Mickey leaves. Rhonda leans in to kiss an unsuspecting Jordan, but before she connects...

JORDAN
Got any more local stories?

RHONDA
Locals don't kind to outsiders that don't ask the right questions.

It's meant as a come-on, but Jordan takes it as an insult.

JORDAN
Guess you'll be asking yourself what went wrong then.

Jordan enters the cabin, shuts the door in Rhonda's face.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - EVENING

Canadian sunset. A silhouetted Rhonda throws rocks in the water. She glances at Jordan's outside cabin. Hurls a rock.

RHONDA
Talking to myself. See if I show you a good time, sweetheart.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda slips into bed. Mickey's still awake in her bed.

MICKEY
Maybe Dad'll build me my own room.

RHONDA
You can have this one when I'm gone.

MICKEY
Did you screw him?

RHONDA
You can have him any time you like.

MICKEY
What, after you? No thanks.

RHONDA
We didn't play cards and we didn't screw, okay?

MICKEY
So where you been? Why is it when I want something you grab it first?

RHONDA

The more you talk, the less you know.

MICKEY

The more you talk, the less I like.

Mickey rolls over. Rhonda eyes the ceiling, closes her eyes.

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAWN

Rhonda, in a white gown, pushes a branch away, sees the sunrise, grows worried, pushes ahead.

O.S. clanking chains and muffled Russian VOICES. Rhonda sees the INDIAN WOMAN GHOST (20s, buckskin outfit, beads, long black hair) standing at cliff's edge, beckoning to her.

She turns -- Harold's behind her, seaweed on his bloody face.

HAROLD

Oh, howdy do. Hiding from me? C'mon,
let's dive together.

Harold grabs for Rhonda, she runs toward the Indian Woman who shapeshifts into a withered SEA HAG. Rhonda runs back to the forest, Harold and the Sea Hag in pursuit.

Rhonda runs into a huge spider web. Harold and the Sea Hag catch up. Harold rips Rhonda's gown open, down her back.

A float plane, wing lights flashing, plummets toward her.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAWN

Rhonda wakes from her daydream while raking seaweed off a dock piling. Sits on the planks, sees a float plane pass overhead.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Mickey, Jordan and Rhonda put cooler and fish gear in a boat. Frank and Stoddard board their boat. Stoddard eyes Rhonda.

STODDARD

Stay away from the cliff.

FRANK

You'll hang up on the rocks.

JORDAN

How old am I, Frank?

STODDARD
How'd you know about the rocks?

FRANK
You told us about them last night.

Stoddard eyes Frank: When...?

EXT. FISHING BOAT - MORNING - MOVING

Jordan pulls in another salmon -- he's really enjoying this.
Rhonda's at the helm, Mickey nets the salmon into the boat.

RHONDA
You're getting the hang of it.

Jordan grabs a sardine from the livewell bait tank, hooks it up, tosses the line back into the water.

JORDAN
I could do this the rest of my life.

RHONDA
Wanna switch to rock cod or bass?

JORDAN
I'll take 'em all.

He trolls the line out, fiddles with a sardine in the tank.

RHONDA
Got a custom here brings good luck.
Eating them multiplies the catch.

Mickey eyes Rhonda: What bullshit is this? Rhonda winks back.

JORDAN
Right, you first.

Rhonda grabs a sardine from the livewell tank, swallows it.

Mickey grabs a sardine, swallows it.

Jordan shrugs, grabs a sardine, swallows it.

JORDAN (cont'd)
Maybe a little mustard?

They all laugh.

Rhonda sees Jordan eye Mickey with admiration. Nets a handful of sardines into her hand, raises them to her mouth.

JORDAN (cont'd)
That's way beyond luck.

Rhonda sees Cotty approach them in his skiff. She drops the sardines back in the livewell tank.

RHONDA
Quick, pull in your line.

JORDAN
I just started my luck here.

Jordan sees Cotty's skiff, reels in. Rhonda starts the engine.

RHONDA
Cotty psychotic, the island idiot.

Cotty pulls his skiff alongside. Tosses a mooring rope to Mickey, but Rhonda grabs it, throws it back into the Strait.

COTTY
I'm talking to Mickey, not you.

Cotty turns to Mickey, pulls up a chain with two SEA TROUT.

COTTY (cont'd)
Got lunch plans for you and me.

MICKEY
I'm working here, bonehead.

COTTY
Fine way to treat a neighbor.

RHONDA
I'd soon as burn down your dock.

COTTY
Client's gonna think we Canadians
are unfriendly folk.
(to Jordan)
Cotty Stewart -- just plain Cotty.

JORDAN
Jordan McGuire.

COTTY
C'mon Mickey, just for an hour.
I'll show you where I got these.

Mickey glances at Rhonda, she nods. She boards Cotty's skiff. They motor off.

JORDAN
Mickey's paramour?

RHONDA
Depends on Mickey.

JORDAN
Another island secret?

RHONDA
No, it's worth lunch to find those
trout. Sweetest fish on the Strait.
(off Jordan)
Don't worry, he's a worthless coward.

EXT. COVE. FISHING BOAT - DAY

Cotty and Mickey beach the skiff. Cotty tosses the two sea trout onshore near Mickey.

Mickey refuses to pick the sea trout up.

MICKEY
Clean 'em yourself.

Cotty takes the trout to shoreline, cleans them. Mickey kicks sticks together for a fire.

LATER.

Mickey picks at the cooked trout on a tin plate. Cotty puts his empty plate aside, feeds sticks into the campfire.

MICKEY (cont'd)
Where'd you find them?

COTTY
Up the point north, stream runs into the ocean. He's a pretty boy.

MICKEY
Jordan's going to UC Berkeley.

COTTY
Jordan. Sounds queer, eh.

MICKEY
Nice fish. Your hour's up.

Mickey grabs the plates and skillet, washes them shoreline. Cotty approaches Mickey, puts his arms around her.

COTTY
What's the rush, you're in good hands.

Mickey jerks away, gets a bucket from the skiff, draws water, douses the fire, yanks the mooring line from under a rock.

MICKEY

And where have those hands been?
Cleaning fish, scratching your ass,
and picking your teeth afterwards.

Cotty stops picking at his teeth with his fingers.

COTTY

Mickey, we gotta get along on this
island whether we like it or not.

MICKEY

Thanks for the tip. Get aboard or
I'll shove off without you.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda's at the helm, Jordan's trolling his line.

RHONDA

It's like the worse we treat Cotty,
the more he hangs around.

JORDAN

Lemme drive for a while.

RHONDA

Are you listening to me?

Jordan pulls out a knife, taps the boat railing with it.

JORDAN

I could buy a thousand of these right
now on a credit card. Lemme drive.

RHONDA

Fine, you can steer for a while.

Rhonda lets Jordan steer. He swings over the fishing line.

RHONDA (cont'd)

Port! Hard a port!

JORDAN

Port what?

RHONDA

Kill it, kill the engine!

He twists the handle wide open. Line wraps around prop, rod flies out of Rhonda's hands, prop chops up the rod.

Rhonda kills the engine, raises it. Grabs Jordan's knife, jams it under the line and broken rod but the blade snaps off. She tosses the broken knife hilt at Jordan's feet, furious.

Suddenly, Jordan sees the Strait as a giant ocean.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Where's your credit card now? Or
did you leave Mama without it?

EXT/INT. SKIFF/LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY - MOVING

Cotty and Mickey motor along searching for Jordan and Rhonda.

COTTY
They musta gone in. It's gettin'
late. Tide's going out.

Stoddard sits at the rolltop desk. Taps on the radio.

STODDARD
Mulgrewe Base to Two Boat, what's
your twenty?

Mickey's radio crackles, she pulls it out.

MICKEY
Two Boat to Base, we're in the Strait.

STODDARD (V.O.)
Let me talk to Rhonda.

Mickey snaps off the radio. Island point is in view.

MICKEY
He'll kill me if he finds out I'm
here with you. Hit the gas.

COTTY
Not with your Dad's restraining order.

Mickey grabs a gaff hook, snags Cotty's neck with it.

MICKEY
Put this point behind us -- now!

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda sets two oars on the locks, hands one to Jordan. He accidentally flips the oarlock out, the ocean gulps it down.

Rhonda pulls Jordan's floating oar into the boat, scans the shoreline for life. Starts rowing with one oar.

JORDAN
Hello, we're going in circles.

RHONDA
Yeah, who's oar's out of the water?

Rhonda disconnects the gas tank nozzle, spins off the stanchion knobs, tosses the motor overboard. Ocean gulps that down too.

JORDAN
Okay, I'll start rowing.

RHONDA
Last time I'll see that no-running piece of shit.

JORDAN
You lost your gourd?

She shoves the fishing net into the missing oarlock hole, ties the oar to the handle with the gas nozzle hose. Starts rowing.

RHONDA
Tide's going out. We don't get to shore quick, we'll capsize. Strait doesn't care how rich you are. Right now, neither do I.

Jordan quickly grabs an oar, starts helping Rhonda row.

EXT. SKIFF - DAY - MOVING

Cotty and Mickey motor closer to the point, Cotty at the helm.

COTTY
Me, Harold and Rhonda were looking for the Indian woman.

FLASH MEMORY:

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAWN

Harold and Rhonda walk in the meadow -- THIS IS COTTY'S VERSION:

Cotty sits by a tree at forest edge, sees Harold and Rhonda kiss in the meadow, then lie down in the grass.

COTTY (V.O.)
Harold and Rhonda wanted to be alone, so I stayed in the forest.

Cotty hears Harold and Rhonda giggle in the grass.

MICKEY (V.O.)
You saw Harold rape Rhonda?

COTTY (V.O.)
I didn't see nothing. Then the
Russians came outa nowhere.

Harold and Rhonda are caught by FOUR RUSSIAN DRUG RUNNERS.

MICKEY (V.O.)
And the heroin?

COTTY (V.O.)
I was too busy running to notice.

Rhonda breaks away from the Russians, flees into the forest.

Cotty runs, hides behind a tree as TWO RUSSIANS push Harold to cliff's edge. ONE RUSSIAN shotgun blasts Harold in the face.

COTTY (V.O.) (cont'd)
They'd a killed all of us.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Cotty grows emotional. Mickey almost buys it, except...

MICKEY
Rhonda would never lie about that.

COTTY
I'm not lying about Harold. They
loved each other.

MICKEY
Not the way I see it.

COTTY
What's to see, you weren't there.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Jordan and Rhonda row, Jordan's tired. Island draws closer.

JORDAN
Why'd you toss the engine?

RHONDA
Just stick to your iPod.

Rhonda sees Cotty's skiff motor around the distant island point. Reaches for her radio -- realizes Mickey has it. She stands, waves an oar, shouts -- Jordan pulls her down.

JORDAN
We'll capsize!

RHONDA
Shout or row -- take your choice!

Jordan shouts -- but Cotty's skiff slips around the point.

JORDAN
I can't do this anymore!

RHONDA
Best we capsize and drown before
Orcas get us -- yeah, free Willy.

Jordan panic-searches the water, takes his oar, rows furiously.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - AFTERNOON

Rhonda anchors the boat to a rock. Jordan jumps off, races inland. Rhonda's ready to toss Jordan's knife in the water.

JORDAN
Wait, there's stuff inside.

Jordan unscrews the knife handle, pulls out matches and hooks.

Rhonda opens the tackle box, shows him the same items.

Jordan's hurt, thought he did something right to impress her.

Rhonda takes the matches from Jordan, heads inland.

RHONDA
Bring all of it, tarps too. I hate
sleeping on these goddamn rocks.

JORDAN
Overnight? In the weather?

Jordan scans this hostile-looking, wind-scarred barren island, then glances back at the Strait teeming with ravenous Orcas.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Stoddard's at dock end, searching the Strait. Mickey and Rhonda's boat is missing. He checks his watch, eyes the sun.

Frank walks across the dock to Stoddard who pulls out his radio.

STODDARD
 Base to Boat Two -- Mickey, you out
 there, over.
 (beat)
 Radio might be dead.

FRANK
 How serious is it?

STODDARD
 They gone overnight before.

EXT. ISLAND - EVENING

Jordan and Rhonda huddle at a fire near a tent of branches and tarps. Rhonda cooks fish in a skillet over the fire.

Jordan smokes a blunt, offers it to Rhonda, she refuses.

JORDAN
 Pretty cool, this survivor stuff.

RHONDA
 We need a ton of wood.

JORDAN
 We got enough to cook that.

RHONDA
 Not for an all-night signal fire.
 Now ditch that iPod and bud and go
 find us some more firewood!

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - EVENING

Cotty and Mickey dock the skiff. Rhonda's boat is missing.

Stoddard steps out of the lodge toward them. Frank follows.

Cotty boards his skiff, guns away from the dock.

STODDARD
 Court said no contact with them.

MICKEY
 He showed me where to get sea trout.

STODDARD
 Him? Where's Jordan and Rhonda?

FRANK
 Everything alright?

STODDARD
Dunno, Rhonda's boat has a bad motor.

FRANK
Why don't you buy a new one?

STODDARD
Ask Nara.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - EVENING

RCMP cutter moored offshore. Avon life raft moored to the dock. RCMP CAPTAIN ALLEN (35, blond, mustache), Mickey, Nara and Stoddard are talking. Frank paces nearby, anxious, angry.

Crack of lightning, thunder. Starts to sprinkle.

ALLEN
Rhonda's a sharp guide, Mr. McGuire.

STODDARD
She'd put Jordan's life above hers,
that's the way she was taught.

FRANK
Yeah? Where you been the past four
years to teach her?

Stoddard reacts like an ex-con, gets into Frank's face. Nara shoves her way in between them.

NARA
She'll be fine, Frank.

FRANK
Why's she got a bad motor?

Frank doesn't back down. Nara splits them, nods to Capt. Allen who saw the incident. Stoddard backs off -- he's on parole.

ALLEN
Mr. McGuire, we got daylight. Rain
makes the search tough enough.

FRANK
Then what are we waiting for?

Frank storms to the RCMP Avon life raft moored to the dock. Capt. Allen and Stoddard follow.

Mickey heads for her boat, Stoddard turns to her.

STODDARD
Where you going?

MICKEY
To look for Rhonda.

STODDARD
Stay, I'm not searching for two girls.

Mickey storms up the dock toward the lodge.

STODDARD (cont'd)
Mickey!

Mickey turns around, emotional, frustrated.

STODDARD (cont'd)
(eyes Nara)
Call the marine shop in Victoria.
Order Rhonda a new boat engine.

Nara reacts. Cheerful Mickey runs to the lodge. Stoddard eyes Nara, joins Frank and Capt. Allen in the raft.

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

Raining. Jordan and Rhonda work to keep the fire going.

JORDAN
Where am I gonna find more wood?

RHONDA
Under the trees, Mr. Survivor, where
it's dry. You watch too much TV.

Jordan scrounges for wood under the trees behind the fire. Sees a blurry grey object. Flash of lightning -- grey object sharpens to a TOOTHY WHALE JAWBONE.

Jordan thinks it's a ghost, reacts. Thunder peals, he bolts for the fire, dumps the wood.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Put it under the tarp.

Jordan throws the wood under the tarp, climbs in beside her. Glances back at the woods.

JORDAN
Aren't you scared out here?

RHONDA
You scared in your own backyard?

JORDAN
What's this ghost woman look like?

Rhonda sees Jordan is nervous, returns a mischievous grin.

EXT. RCMP CUTTER - NIGHT - MOVING

Raining. Capt. Allen, Frank and Stoddard are on the bridge strafing the Strait with high-beam searchlights.

STODDARD

Mickey said Jordan and Rhonda were here before the tide went out.

ALLEN

I'll check farther down the Strait.

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

Raining. Jordan and Rhonda under the tarp, stoking the fire.

RHONDA

If you see her before you dive off the cliff, you're dead.

FLASH MEMORY:

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - EVENING

The Indian Woman steps to the edge, shades her eyes, searches the angry ocean. A wolf howls nearby.

An INDIAN MAN (20s, fierce, warrior attire) joins her.

RHONDA (V.O.)

The Indian woman wondered if her man really loved her. A shaman said if they dove off the cliff together and survived, it proved their love.

The Indian Woman and Indian Man dive off the cliff.

JORDAN (V.O.)

Like a prenuptial agreement.

RHONDA (V.O.)

Except he died and she didn't.

JORDAN (V.O.)

So maybe he couldn't swim.

RHONDA (V.O.)

Maybe she didn't let him. If the dive didn't kill him first, cold water would've in five minutes.

Indian Man's hand rises above the surface, a quivering claw.

RHONDA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Or by whatever lives underneath.

Indian Man's hand disappears underwater with a jerk.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Jordan stares pie-eyed frightened at the campfire flames.

A clawlike BRANCH reaches over his shoulder, grabs it.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Like this!

Jordan shouts, scared shitless.

Rhonda SNAPS a canvas tarp over her, jarring him again. She rolls over, away from Jordan.

RHONDA (cont'd)
It's late, go to sleep.

But Jordan's too wide-eyed terrified to lie down.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - NIGHT

Nara searches the ocean like the Indian Woman.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Raining. Mickey's asleep in bed. A rain-soaked HAND reaches for her shoulder. Wet, dripping LIPS pull closer to her face, kiss her cheek. She wakes.

MICKEY
Get off me!

She hits the light. A wet Cotty falls to the floor, laughing.

COTTY
Did I scare ya?

A KNOCK at the door. Cotty leaps out the window. Mickey opens the door a crack, sees Nara outside.

NARA
I heard a noise.

MICKEY
I was cleaning up. Dad back yet?

NARA
No. You got enough troubles.

MICKEY

He didn't even want to know why I
was with Cotty?

NARA

Why were you with Cotty?

MICKEY

He showed me a sea trout spot.

Nara considers this, somewhat proud of Mickey, but...

NARA

Never again, understand?

Mickey nods. Nara exits the room.

Mickey closes the door, locks it. Returns to bed. A soaking
wet Cotty reappears in the window, leans in, dripping.

COTTY

I got something you can understand.

Mickey kicks Cotty in the chest, slams the window. Turns off
the light, goes to bed. A BEAT. She closes the curtains.

EXT. ISLAND - MORNING

Clear sky. Jordan is roused awake by a toe tap against his
butt. Rhonda stands over him.

RHONDA

I found your ghost.

EXT. ISLAND. HEROIN CACHE - MORNING

Rhonda leads Jordan to the underground hole covered in weathered
plywood planks and the TOOTHY WHALE JAWBONE.

JORDAN

This an ancient burial ground?

RHONDA

It's milled lumber, Stephen Hawking.

They crawl inside the hole, see a large stash of RED PLASTIC
BAGS. Rhonda opens one with a knife, white powder pours out.

RHONDA (cont'd)

Hal. I shoulda known.

JORDAN

Who?

Rhonda thinks for a BEAT, grins.

RHONDA
This is my ticket outa here.

JORDAN
What?

RHONDA
I could sell this and split before
Nara even knows I'm gone.

Jordan wets his finger, touches the powder, tastes it.

JORDAN
I won't get on a boat with this shit.

Rhonda's grin disappears. Jordan climbs out of the hole.

RHONDA
Scaredy-cat! Chicken!
(beat)
It's a joke. Man, you're sensitive.

Jordan climbs out, hears an engine. Sees the RCMP cutter offshore. He shouts, waves his arms, runs to the shoreline.

LATER.

Avon life raft beached onshore.

Frank and Jordan break from a handshake. Capt. Allen and Stoddard study Rhonda's motorless boat as she approaches.

RHONDA (cont'd)
Dad, I'm sorry about this.

STODDARD
Figured that motor had something to
do with it. S'alright, you're safe.

They hug. Jordan approaches the boat.

JORDAN
Orcas nearly got us.

Capt. Allen and Stoddard react with a smirk, then eye Rhonda.

RHONDA
They don't breed this time of year
around here.

JORDAN
You made me row my ass off!

RHONDA
 It's still there, isn't it?
 (to Capt. Allen)
 You need to see something.

Frank approaches, hears Rhonda, reacts.

EXT. ISLAND. HEROIN CACHE - MORNING

Capt. Allen peers at the RED PLASTIC BAGS inside the hole.

ALLEN
 Looks like we'll be here for a while.
 (on a hand radio)
 RCMP Seven Base calling for backup.

Frank grows fiercely silent. Capt. Allen sees his reaction.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Frank, Jordan, Rhonda and Stoddard watch the RCMP cutter pull away. Rhonda's motorless boat is moored to the dock.

Mickey rushes down the dock to Jordan. Nara and Terry follow.

MICKEY
 You okay?

Jordan's pleasantly surprised by Mickey's concern.

Nara sees Rhonda's motorless boat.

NARA
 What happened?

RHONDA
 Hey, I missed you too.

NARA
 Of course I'm glad to see you.

RHONDA
 Yeah, big happy face.

Rhonda pushes past Nara, heads up the dock to the lodge. Terry jumps into Rhonda's boat, pretends he's steering at the helm.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stoddard puts his boots by the door, starts undressing for bed. Nara enters. They've been arguing.

NARA
 Motor had a thousand hours on it.

STODDARD
Boats break down, get leaks. Everyone
does, time to time.

NARA
Swear it again, on your life.

STODDARD
The heroin again? Swear all I own.

NARA
No, on Kris's flask.

Stoddard stops undressing -- flask? Sits on the bed a BEAT.

STODDARD
So I broke a boat up a time or two.

NARA
Over swag. Four years I've been
without you over it. Louse it up
again, I'll take the girls, boats
and your guide license this time.

STODDARD
Never walked out of you for swag.
What's it take to be right with you?

Nara exits the room. Sees a RAT in the hall. Grabs Stoddard's
boot, hurls it at the rat, killing it. She re-enters the room.

NARA
The rats are back.

EXT. LODGE. GENERAL AREA - NIGHT

Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda sit around a fire. Beer cooler, hot
dogs and buns. Jordan wolfs down a hot dog, has another cooking
over the fire on a stick. Mickey steals shy glances at Jordan.

JORDAN
I'll never toss food out again.

RHONDA
I'll never eat again watching you.

Jordan glances back at a forest noise. Rhonda notices.

RHONDA (cont'd)
No Orcas here.

JORDAN
You guys are hayseeds, not that
there's anything wrong with that.

RHONDA
Is it that different up here?

Jordan pulls out a Blackberry, taps a few buttons, shows them the tiny display monitor.

JORDAN
My e-mail today.

RHONDA
Big deal. We know everything in five minutes too.

MICKEY
No TV or computers. Only school, chores and the lodge. It's okay.

RHONDA
Except for babysitting poor baby rich boys who can't row.

Rhonda throws a cooked hot dog at Jordan who barks like a seal, then catches another mid-air in his mouth. They laugh, then...

JORDAN
Nara really came down hard on you today. Wanna return the favor?

RHONDA
How.

Jordan finishes the hot dog in one bite, evil grin.

JORDAN
Make her piss in bed.

Rhonda considers this, then eyes Mickey who approves.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAWN

Nara and Stoddard are asleep in bed. Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda open the door. Jordan tests a warm bowl of water with a finger.

JORDAN
Perfect. Just warm enough.

He gives Rhonda the bowl. She crab-walks to the bed.

Nara's hand hangs over the side.

Rhonda gets the bowl of water under Nara's hand. Lifts the steaming bowl up to her fingers, dips them into the water.

Nara sniffs, groans, then falls back asleep. Rhonda can't tell if it's working or not. How long does this take...?

Jordan shrugs. Holds his hands up, fingers out for the count of ten. As each finger closes...

Nara grows more and more restless. Rhonda's ready to bolt.

Jordan has six fingers to go: Five...four...three...two...one.

Count's over. Rhonda scuttles to the door as Nara rolls over. She wakes, sits up, astonished. Looks down at the blankets.

NARA
Mother of pearl!

Nara bolts from the bed, holding her crotch.

Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda hide as Nara flies out the door and heads in the opposite direction to the bathroom.

Nara's bare foot steps on a rat trap -- SNAP! She falls down. Looks up along the baseboard -- sees a trap with a DEAD RAT.

Stoddard wakes to Nara's scream, rises, scratches his head.

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - MORNING

Frank, Nara and Stoddard eat breakfast. Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda enter, grab biscuits and bacon for an ice cooler.

NARA
Did you pack a lunch?

RHONDA
Running late, mother. Like Dad says,
fish are migratory.

Rhonda bites into an apple, juice spits on Nara's face.

RHONDA (cont'd)
When ya gotta go, ya gotta go.

Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda exit. Nara wonders what she meant.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Rhonda sees the RCMP cutter offshore, Avon raft at the dock.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Mickey, Nara, Stoddard and Terry see Capt. Allen hand a FIVE-HUNDRED DOLLAR CHECK to a surprised Rhonda.

ALLEN

It's the least the RCMP can do for you folks. That was more than a two million-dollar cache you found.

STODDARD

Like to join us for breakfast?

ALLEN

Love to, but the little lady here gave us a bit of work to do.

Capt. Allen boards the Avon raft, motors out to the cutter.

NARA

Mickey, take Terry up to the lodge. His breakfast is in the kitchen. Then bring the coolers down.

Mickey takes Terry's hand, heads for the lodge.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAY

Frank steps out the front door, shaved, buttoning his shirt. Sees the RCMP cutter pull away from the dock. Doesn't know what's happening but doesn't like the sight of it.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard enters the fish shack, grabs a gas tank.

STODDARD

That was nice of him.

Nara eyes Rhonda beaming at her check, puts out her hand.

RHONDA

What?

NARA

The camp, remember?

RHONDA

This isn't from your clients!

Nara takes the check.

NARA

Don't push me.

Rhonda shoves Nara to the fish cleaning table, puts a forearm against her neck, pushes her head down to the metal tray.

RHONDA
Wanna stop me?

Stoddard emerges from the shack, drops the gas tank. Grabs and lifts Rhonda's forearm -- gently but firm, like an ex-con.

STODDARD
Dock end!

Rhonda runs to the end of the dock, furious, crying.

Nara pulls away but Stoddard grabs her -- gently but firm.

STODDARD (cont'd)
You got what you wanted, now off.

Nara storms for the lodge with the check, rubbing her neck.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAY

Jordan steps out the front door, sees Nara hurry to the lodge. Heads to the other cabin porch where Frank watches the dock.

JORDAN
Morning. What's going on?

FRANK
Just a little family prayer.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard goes to Rhonda at dock's end.

RHONDA
I hate that bitch!

STODDARD
She's your mother, and I don't got a bitch's daughter.

RHONDA
I found that swag --

STODDARD
Then Jordan should get half too.
Everyone has to put their dreams
aside once in a while.

Stoddard sees Jordan heading for the dock.

STODDARD (cont'd)
He wants fish. Put it aside, go
find him a trophy.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Jordan and Rhonda fish near shore. Rhonda's at the helm, angry. She accidentally brushes the boat hull against a rock.

JORDAN
Hey, you trying to sink us? What's
the matter, is it Nara? She find
out how she peed in bed?

Rhonda's eyes well up with tears, she dabs them away. Grabs a sardine from the livewell tank, tosses it overboard.

RHONDA
Nothing. Everything is nothing.

JORDAN
She's mad about the boat motor, isn't
she. I'll say it's my fault. Frank
can her buy ten new ones if she wants.

Rhonda lifts the livewell tank out, pours the sardines out. Starts tossing a fishing rod overboard, Jordan stops her.

JORDAN (cont'd)
I can't help if you don't tell me.

RHONDA
I don't want your money or your help,
I don't want anything from anybody!

Rhonda falls into Jordan's arms, sobbing. CAMERA pulls back, leaving the two alone on a very wide and open Strait.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Stoddard ties off the boat. Frank heads for his cabin.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - AFTERNOON

Frank sees HAL STEWART (40s, swarthy, sweater) motor up to the dock and start yelling at Stoddard. Too far away to hear, but Frank senses they're not talking about fish.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Hal sits in his boat as Stoddard fills a gas tank.

HAL
That was my retirement!

STODDARD
You lied about all of it in court.

HAL
I lost my son. Ever think about
Harold in prison?

STODDARD
Only what he did to Rhonda.

HAL
Island thinks that swag was yours.
Think they gonna know it ain't?

Hal starts the engine, guns away.

HAL (cont'd)
Give the Booty Bandit my regards!

Rhonda and Jordan motor in.

RHONDA
What'd he say?

Jordan pulls a chainful of salmon from the water, happy.

JORDAN
I gotta show Frank!

Jordan races off the dock, heads for Frank's cabin.

Stoddard pulls a NEW BOAT MOTOR out of the fish shack.

RHONDA
What'd they do to you in prison?

Stoddard nods to the boat motor, then the salmon chain.

STODDARD
I'll do this, you clean those.

RHONDA
What'd they do?

STODDARD
Just clean the salmon, willya?

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Rhonda untangles Stoddard's bird's nest level-wind at the shack.

Jordan watches Mickey fillet salmon at the fish cleaning table.

JORDAN
Teach me how to do that.

Mickey puts another salmon beside her. Jordan steps up to the table, mimics her filleting actions.

MICKEY

Start here until here, like this.

Jordan guts the salmon, puts his hand in the blood, pretends he's been severely cut.

JORDAN

Oh no! Help!

Rhonda sees Jordan's hand, grabs a medical kit, runs over. Mickey's stunned silent. Jordan laughs -- he faked it.

RHONDA

Think that's funny? Where do you think you are, the city? We'd have to radio a pilot to fly you out!

Rhonda storms to the shack, turns, sees the growing chemistry in Mickey as she consoles Jordan's hurt feelings.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - NIGHT

Crackling campfire. Frank fires up a blunt, hands it to Jordan.

Franks wants quality time but Jordan has a different agenda.

JORDAN

How long you been coming up here?

FRANK

Before you were born.

JORDAN

You and Stoddard are too different. What's the attraction?

FRANK

The fishing. Otherwise, he does his gig and I do mine.

They pass the blunt back and forth to each other.

JORDAN

He was a drug runner?

FRANK

How many questions you got?

Frank reaches for the blunt, Jordan pulls away.

JORDAN
 You paid the bills while he sat in
 prison.

FRANK
 I might've canceled some trips, they
 might've kept the deposit.

Jordan hands the blunt to Frank. Hears Nara and Rhonda shout
 at each other inside the lodge. Rhonda bursts out the front
 door, runs off. Jordan rises for Rhonda, Frank grabs his arm.

FRANK (cont'd)
 Stoddard told me about this Canadian
 fish called a muskellunge. Nasty
 sharp teeth, an alligator with fins.

JORDAN
 Your point?

FRANK
 Only one way to land a muskie on
 board without losing a hand or finger.
 (off Jordan)
 Grab them first by the eyes.

Jordan hands Frank the blunt, walks off toward Rhonda.

JORDAN
 You need this more than me.

Frank smiles at Jordan, inhales the blunt into a GLOWING EMBER.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stoddard ties flies under a LAMP. Nara enters in a nightgown.

NARA
 Why'd you tell her it's her motor?

STODDARD
 She paid for it.

NARA
 So I'm the bad guy again.

STODDARD
 It isn't about good and bad.

NARA
 Must you always prove you're right?

Nara sits on the bed, emotional. Unties her hair, it falls to her shoulders, and the faded beauty glistens now with a former innocent, vulnerable spark -- and Stoddard notices.

STODDARD

I remember when you were different.
Changed all that, didn't I.

NARA

I don't want to fail Mickey.

STODDARD

I'm king of failure, not Rhonda.

NARA

She's having sex. So what, I suppose.
She needs protection, I don't know --
because of Rhonda. Tell her.

STODDARD

Now. Now?

Stoddard exits. Nara stares at his wake, wipes off the tears.

EXT. LODGE. WOODS BEHIND LODGE - NIGHT

Jordan catches up with Rhonda sitting on a fallen log, crying.

RHONDA

I'm off the clock.

JORDAN

You were quite good this morning.

Jordan dips a finger in an invisible bowl of water. Grabs his crotch, runs, grabs his foot, grimaces. Rhonda remains glum.

JORDAN (cont'd)

I'm trying to cheer you up.

RHONDA

This is me cheered up.

JORDAN

Got some farm-fresh BC bud.

Rhonda takes the bag, sniffs it, tosses it back to Jordan.

RHONDA

Skank. You got ripped off.

JORDAN

Frank got the new engine for you.

RHONDA
Frank? Nara didn't pay for it?

JORDAN
She was, but he stepped in.

RHONDA
Just pull out the old credit card.

JORDAN
Thought you'd be happy.

RHONDA
About what?

Rhonda crosses to the other side of the fallen log.

Jordan sniffs the bag of herb, shrugs, walks into darkness.

JORDAN (O.S.)
This trip is turning out like your
phony legend.

Rhonda wants to call him back, but lets him go.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mickey sits before a mirror putting makeup on. Stoddard enters.

STODDARD
That healthy?

Mickey finishes her makeup. Grabs a coat, heads for the door.

MICKEY
I'm sixteen, Dad.

STODDARD
Wait, something I gotta say.

Stoddard pulls a cucumber and condom package from his shirt pocket. Mickey backs up, sits on the bed.

LATER.

Mickey studies the rubber-covered cucumber, making a concerted effort not to burst out laughing.

Stoddard avoids looking at Mickey.

STODDARD (cont'd)
So, a hard dick has no conscience.

Mickey opens the top drawer of Rhonda's bureau -- revealing a BOX OF CONDOMS. She places the cucumber inside the drawer.

MICKEY
Thanks, Dad. Really.

Stoddard exits, red-faced. Mickey takes a condom from the box, puts it in her back pocket, taps it for good luck, exits.

EXT. LODGE. WOODS BEHIND LODGE - NIGHT

Jordan approaches the lodge, sees Mickey, notices her makeup.

JORDAN
Hey, you're different.

MICKEY
Like how.

JORDAN
Like really okay different.

MICKEY
Wanna go for a walk?

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - NIGHT

Moonlight. Jordan and Mickey walk along the gravel sand.

JORDAN
Rhonda told me about your parents
and Frank on the island.

MICKEY
Mom thinks Dad'll screw up again.

JORDAN
Will he?

MICKEY
I quit believing my parents got any
brains. Frank loaned them money.

JORDAN
He won't take it back.

MICKEY
Can we talk about something else?

JORDAN
Rhonda and Nara fought again.

MICKEY
 Not that either.
 (off Jordan)
 Okay, Mom took Rhonda to Vancouver
 for an abortion four years ago.

JORDAN
 So it's not about Frank's money.

MICKEY
 It starts that way but Vancouver's
 at the bottom of every argument.

EXT. LODGE. WOODS BEHIND LODGE - NIGHT

Rhonda stumbles drunkenly through the bracket with a scotch
 pint, takes a swig. Coughs, bursts into tears again. Stops.

Someone's wafting through the trees ahead -- the Indian Woman.

Rhonda glances around, fearful, unsure what she saw. Starts
 after the apparition -- gliding just out of reach ahead.

Rhonda breaks into a run -- but the Indian Woman stays ahead.

Rhonda bursts from the forest onto the shoreline.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - NIGHT

Jordan and Mickey stack driftwood together for a fire.

MICKEY
 Frank paid for Rhonda's abortion.
 It was Harold's. It's complicated.

JORDAN
 So why doesn't Rhonda just leave?

MICKEY
 Nara keeps taking her money away.

JORDAN
 That's a lot of bullshit.

MICKEY
 Nara lives in it.

Mickey lights a kindling tent under the driftwood. Jordan
 drops sticks on the fire, his cheek brushes against her hair.
 A BEAT...then it happens -- Jordan pulls her in, they hug.

Jordan raises Mickey's chin with a finger. A light kiss at
 first, then she melts into the moment at the growing bonfire.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Crackling fireplace seen through a scotch glass. Frank sips scotch from the glass on a sofa across from Nara and Stoddard sipping coffee on the couch.

Terry, in pajamas, enters dragging a blanket and stuffed bear.

TERRY
Mom, can you tuck me in?

NARA
Say good night to your father and
Uncle Frank.

Terry gives Stoddard a hug. Crosses, gives Frank a hug too.

TERRY
Night, Dad. Night, Uncle Frank.

Stoddard sees Frank smile as Terry exits with Nara.

STODDARD
Three years old. Time flies. Born
a year after I went to prison.

FRANK
You got something to say, say it.

Stoddard lifts the scotch bottle on the coffeetable, about to take a swig. Eyes Frank, puts it down.

STODDARD
I like things nice and tidy is all.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - NIGHT

Rhonda staggers along with the scotch pint, searching.

Indian Woman stands at shoreline thirty meters ahead.

Rhonda races for her. Indian Woman fades away as Rhonda draws closer and vanishes as Rhonda reaches the spot where she stood.

Rhonda then sees Jordan and Mickey's bonfire up ahead -- and Jordan leaning over to kiss Mickey.

RHONDA
That's what you want me to see?

Rhonda drains the scotch pint, hurls it into the ocean.

Jordan and Mickey break from their kiss after Rhonda's scotch pint splashes into the water beyond the darkened shore.

MICKEY

Orcas.

They laugh, return to their kiss.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Frank stares at the fire through his scotch glass. Nara enters.

NARA

Where's Stoddard?

FRANK

Keeping things nice and tidy.

Nara pours herself coffee from a pot on the dining table.

NARA

Did you tell him?

FRANK

He can add, Nara. He knows I took advantage of the situation.

NARA

Situation? How'd you get to the top, trusting the competition? Hotel chains are putting new fishing resorts around here every season. You think you took advantage of me?

FRANK

I guess I suppose not.

NARA

You better bet you supposed not.

Frank studies the fire through his glass.

FRANK

What if he were to go away?

NARA

Stoddard? Where's this going?

FRANK

Jordan's mother died when he was ten. You're the only woman I've ever been with since.

NARA

That's sweet Frank, but faithful as you claim to be, fact is you're gone fifty weeks. Stoddard at least puts out a half-ass attempt every day.

FRANK

Terry will never need anything. Or your daughters.

NARA

Round and round we go. Want it this time in French? Who will sleep in my bed if Stoddard's gone?

FRANK

And here's my answer in English -- you see me building a new dock each spring? Bring them home with me.

Nara drinks her coffee, sour look.

NARA

Why do you think it would ever work?

Frank rises, hands a check to Nara: TEN-THOUSAND DOLLARS.

FRANK

Can he offer that now? Or as much as you need any time you want?

Nara hands the check back, unplugs the coffee pot.

NARA

I need a man here, Frank.

FRANK

And I want Terry protected. They'd all have a better life down there.

NARA

Been talking to Rhonda. The world doesn't revolve around her yap.

Frank hands Nara the check again, she puts it in her pocket.

FRANK

Think about it, is all I'm asking.

NARA

Don't ask for a refund if you're disappointed.

Nara exits. Frank returns to the couch, sits and eyes the fire through his glass.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - NIGHT

Jordan and Mickey walk hand in hand, dreamy. Cotty steps out of the woods brandishing a stick.

MICKEY

Dad catches you, you're history.

Cotty grabs for Mickey. Jordan steps in, shoves Cotty back. Cotty clubs Jordan with the stick, Jordan goes down.

COTTY

Be at the cliff tomorrow.

MICKEY

I'm not diving for anyone.

COTTY

Face up, he'll leave like the rest.
You're nothing but a toy to him.

JORDAN

Whoa, Rhonda was right. You are the island idiot.

COTTY

Not talkin' to you, pretty boy.

MICKEY

You know I don't love you. Now go.

Cotty grabs her, Mickey struggles, her knife drops from her pocket. Jordan recovers, grabs Mickey's knife in the sand.

MICKEY (cont'd)

(to Jordan)

Stay out of this!

(to Cotty)

I want this over once and for all,
Cotty Stewart. The cliff tomorrow!

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Mickey opens the door. Jordan reaches for her, she pulls away.

JORDAN

Why are you going, it's nonsense.

MICKEY

Maybe, but I'm still here after you
leave. I don't love him, never will,
but I gotta get along. That's the
way it is here, like it or not.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nara pays bills at the rolltop desk. Mickey enters, sees
Frank's check on the desk.

NARA

I know where you've been, don't lie.
What did I tell you about getting
involved with clients?

MICKEY

Their money keeps the lodge going.

Mickey exits. Nara studies Frank's check, then Mickey's wake.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda climbs into the window, drunk. Heads for her bureau,
opens the top drawer, pulls out a new pint bottle of scotch.

She opens the bottle, starts to drink, sees the cucumber.

Mickey enters. Rhonda holds up the cucumber, condom attached.

MICKEY

Dad and his theory on life.

RHONDA

Before or after prison?

MICKEY

You're pretty wasted, aren't you.

Mickey starts undressing for bed.

RHONDA

So how good was Jordan?

Mickey throws the condom from her back pocket at Rhonda.

MICKEY

You think people are always screwing?

RHONDA

Or screwing over someone else.

Mickey grabs the cucumber from Rhonda, strips off the condom.

MICKEY

Dad said hard dicks got no conscience.

RHONDA

We never fucked on that island, if that's what you're implying.

MICKEY

What stopped you, your conscience?

Mickey throws the cucumber out the open window.

Rhonda snaps off the light, climbs into bed.

RHONDA

Think life is one big choice? Get a clue, I live with ones forced on me.

MICKEY

We all do, Rhonda. And if you can't be happy, let someone else be.

LONG SHOT.

The MOON rises over the dock...and DISSOLVES into a SUNRISE.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard pours fresh sardines into a livewell tank on the dock.

Rhonda's on the backside of the fish shack, out of Stoddard's sight, polishing off the pint of scotch she started last night.

Stoddard sets the livewell tank inside a boat, straps it down.

Rhonda tosses the empty pint on shore rocks, smashing the glass.

Stoddard hears the glass breaking, rises. Heads for the sound when Mickey races down the dock and boards a boat.

STODDARD

Where you going?

Mickey starts the engine, warms it up.

MICKEY

Got things to do.

STODDARD

Things?

Mickey unties the mooring rope, tosses it into the bow.

MICKEY
You wouldn't understand.

Stoddard watches her gun the engine and motor off.

Rhonda rounds the fish shack corner, sees Stoddard, straightens her walk, heads for boat two, the one with the new engine.

Jordan enters the dock, gets a tackle box from the shack as Rhonda starts the engine. He sees Mickey off in the distance.

JORDAN
Where's Mickey going?

Jordan heads for Rhonda's boat. Stoddard stops him, points to the boat with the freshly-filled livewell tank.

STODDARD
I'm taking you out. Rhonda's breaking the new engine in today.

JORDAN
Is it okay if I went with Rhonda?
She brings me good luck.

Rhonda glares at Jordan as Stoddard heads for Rhonda's boat.

RHONDA
Ever break in a new engine?

JORDAN
I don't think so.

RHONDA
Gotta treat new engines gentle at first. Break 'em in wrong, they'll come back to bite you.

JORDAN
I just want to go fishing with you.

STODDARD
I'll break the engine in.

Jordan boards the boat with the freshly-filled livewell tank.

Rhonda gets out of her boat, boards the boat with Jordan.

RHONDA
Aren't you the lucky one.

Rhonda starts the engine. CAMERA ZOOMS IN on Rhonda's hand holding the steering rod.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

Rhonda's hand on the steering rod, same position.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda and Jordan motor across the Strait, Rhonda at the helm.

RHONDA

Why'd you really wanna go with me?

JORDAN

Mickey tell you what's happening?

RHONDA

Mickey. No. Whatever.

JORDAN

Last night, Cotty was there. Mickey's diving to prove she isn't in love.

Rhonda spins the boat around. Takes off at top speed.

RHONDA

Why the hell didn't you say so before!

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAY

Cotty and Mickey stand at the edge.

COTTY

C'mon, look over it.

Mickey peers over the edge -- no Indian Woman ghost.

MICKEY

Nope, told you I didn't believe it.

Cotty thinks Mickey's making fun of him. He's confused, angry.

MICKEY (cont'd)

It's a fable Nara told us. There is no ghost, no island legend.

Cotty peers over the edge -- no Indian Woman ghost.

Mickey walks backward around Cotty toward the forest.

MICKEY (cont'd)

I've got to go now, Cotty. And you're going to let me go too.

Mickey walks faster, facing him. Cotty argues with himself, can't decide what to do.

Mickey's far enough away. She turns, runs for the forest.

Cotty thinks he's been tricked and runs after her, shouting.

EXT. ISLAND. BELOW CLIFF. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Rhonda and Jordan land the boat, see Cotty and Mickey talking on the ledge above. They exit the boat, run up the pathway.

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAY

Jordan and Rhonda see Cotty chase Mickey toward them. They hide behind a tree.

Mickey passes the tree. Rhonda steps out, swings at Cotty -- SMACK! Cotty crumples to the ground.

Jordan sees Mickey vanish in the forest, wants to follow her.

Cotty rises, Rhonda steps on his chest, pushes him back down.

RHONDA
Never mind him, go!

Jordan hesitates, then runs into the forest after Mickey.

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAY

Jordan gains on Mickey, catches up, grabs her.

MICKEY
Let me go!

JORDAN
Rhonda's got him! It's over, you don't have to dive!

MICKEY
You thought I was going to dive?

JORDAN
You scared the shit outa me!

MICKEY
You come up here with your stateside manner thinking we're stupid Canucks.
(off Jordan)
I told him to meet me here, I never said I'd dive. I don't need you or Rhonda to deal with Cotty.

JORDAN
He assaulted me! Why are you
protecting him?

MICKEY
He's insane and hates outsiders but
wouldn't hurt a client. That's why
I told you to back off.

JORDAN
Look, I don't want to change you.

MICKEY
Why are your wants so important?

JORDAN
Okay, I'm wrong. Not everything can
be bought but I'm not always who you
think I am. This trip...I've always
seen things the way Frank does, but
I don't see them that way now.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAY

Mickey and Jordan emerge from the forest. Cotty and Rhonda
are shouting at each other.

RHONDA
Tell them what happened that night,
Cotty!

MICKEY
Leave him alone, he didn't hurt me!

RHONDA
Hey Jordan, want some local history?
Cotty's brother Harold was killed
here four years ago.

Cotty fights back tears -- Rhonda struck a nerve.

COTTY
Me and Harold was just scaring you
with your ghost story!

RHONDA
But Harold wanted more than scaring,
didn't he?

COTTY
Mom makes his bed every morning,
like he's still there. She don't
let nobody in that room. Never, you
hear me? Never! Harold loved you!

Rhonda rips meadow flowers out, shoves them in Cotty's face.

RHONDA
Smell the roses, idiot, he raped me!
(to Mickey)
And he watched Harold rape me!

Mickey reacts -- this is not what Cotty told her.

FLASH MEMORY:

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAWN

YOUNG COTTY and HAROLD chase RHONDA through the pines. Harold shoves Rhonda to the ground, jumps on her, rips at her shirt.

RHONDA (V.O.)
Why didn't you help me?

Harold grabs Rhonda by the hair, she spits back, they brawl.

HAROLD
Can't you just smell her? Sweet --

Harold starts TWISTING Rhonda's arms down to the ground.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAWN

Fog. FOUR RUSSIAN MEN pull ropes tied to TWISTED NETS of RED PLASTIC BAGS up over cliff's edge.

EXT. ISLAND. BELOW CLIFF. TWO FISHING BOATS - DAWN

Hal and Stoddard -- in respective boats -- shove RED PLASTIC BAGS into TWISTING NETS tied to ropes leading up the cliff.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Rhonda recreates Harold's rape by TWISTING Cotty's wrists.

COTTY
I didn't want no part of it!

FLASH MEMORY:

Harold repeatedly slaps Rhonda's face, Cotty cheers him on.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Rhonda repeatedly slaps Cotty's face, Cotty's scream-crying.

FLASH MEMORY:

Harold rapes a sobbing, snarling Rhonda.

Cotty dances about them, whooping and shouting.

COTTY (cont'd)
Lemme have some, Harold, lemme!

RHONDA
I'll kill you! I'll see you dead!

Rhonda feels for a branch, stabs Harold's side. Harold rolls off, screams in pain. Rhonda yanks up her pants, flees.

Rhonda runs across the meadow, Cotty and the injured bleeding Harold in hot pursuit.

Russians heard Harold's scream, head across the misty meadow.

Rhonda sees the Russians' foggy silhouettes, drops and curls under a bush.

Cotty and Harold race across the meadow past Rhonda under the bush without seeing her. Rhonda rises, runs into the forest.

Cotty and Harold run into the Russians in the foggy meadow.

EXT. ISLAND. BELOW CLIFF. FISHING BOAT - DAWN

Stoddard grabs a red plastic bag on deck. Bag rips open, white powder sprays everywhere inside the hull.

HAL
Fool, pick it up!

RCMP cutter beam lights approach, strafe the foggy water.

HAL (cont'd)
Goddamn Mounties! One word, you're
dead! Whole family's goddamn dead,
Mulgrewe, if you say I was here!

Hal guns his boat away, tossing red plastic bags overboard.

Stoddard throws his broken bag overboard. Fills a bucket with seawater, hurls it on deck -- but the powder sloshes everywhere.

RCMP sirens and flashing lights cut through the fog.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAWN

Cotty and Harold fight the FOUR RUSSIANS for their shotguns. ONE RUSSIAN with a shotgun drags Harold to cliff's edge.

Cotty breaks free, runs into the forest. Sees a silhouetted Harold fight the Russian at cliff's edge against RCMP flashing lights strafing the fog below them.

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST BEYOND CLIFF - DAWN

Rhonda sees THREE RUSSIANS chase Cotty in the fog toward her.

COTTY
They're coming! They're here!

Rhonda turns, sees the Indian Woman float through trees ahead.

Rhonda runs after her, Cotty follows. The Russians fire their shotguns, pellets whiz past them, shattering bark and branches.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAWN

The Russian shotgun-butts a struggling Harold in the forehead, flips the shotgun around, blasts Harold's head off.

Harold's headless body plunges over the cliff, hits the water by Stoddard's boat -- right into the RCMP cutter's light beam.

EXT. ISLAND. FOREST. ROAD - DAWN

Rhonda sees the Indian Woman reach the road clearing and vanish.

Cotty runs past Rhonda with his bike to the road, jumps on it, races away -- leaving Harold's bike in the bushes behind him.

Rhonda wanders out on the road in shock, lost. Sees Harold's bike. Climbs on it, rides away.

Down the road, Cotty stops, breaks into sobs on the handlebars.

Rhonda slowly rides Harold's bike past a sobbing Cotty. She's numb, detached. Cotty's a surreal vision to her.

Cotty mounts his bike, takes off for Rhonda. The Indian Woman appears before Cotty -- he swerves, crashes his bike.

Indian Woman shapeshifts into a BADGER that crosses the road before Cotty, hissing at him as it runs into the brush.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Cotty breaks down, collapses to the ground, hiccuping tears.

RHONDA
Remember now, Cotty?

COTTY
I didn't see nothing!

RHONDA

Don't lie, you sick twisted fuck, I
killed Harold's kid in Vancouver and
Hal sent Dad to prison! That's truth!

Rhonda kicks Cotty in the ribs, he's bawling, drooling, snot.

RHONDA (cont'd)

That's what it feels like inside me
every day. How's it feel, Cotty?
Does it hurt, you poor fucking baby!

Mickey jumps in before Rhonda kicks Cotty in the ribs again.

MICKEY

That's enough!

RHONDA

You got all this Jordan? This what
you want, right? Local story, tell
all your pals back home. Whattya
know about brothers or sisters, you
rich-ass only-child!

JORDAN

You made your point, leave him be.

Cotty's whimpered into a curled-up fetal position.

MICKEY

Happy now?

Rhonda storms to the cliff, peers over the edge -- a wave
smashes against the rocks.

CAMERA WHIP PANS down -- the Indian Woman blasts through the
foaming sea spray, up the cliff, and reaches for Rhonda.

RHONDA

Watch me, Cotty! Here's my love for
Harold! It's your fault he died and
your fault if I do too!

Shotgun blasts, VOICES to MACH SPEED -- louder, faster...

MOS.

Rhonda dives off the cliff.

END MOS.

Mickey screams, Jordan races to cliff's edge.

Rhonda hits the water below, vanishes beneath a giant wave.

Cotty's on the ground, melting in his own shrieking tears.
A BEAT. Rhonda doesn't surface between the crashing waves.

MICKEY

She didn't come up. Come up, Rhonda!

Jordan jumps over the cliff into the water.

He resurfaces with an unconscious Rhonda, swims toward shore.

EXT. ISLAND. BELOW CLIFF. SHORE - DAY

Jordan gives Rhonda CPR. Mickey arrives. Rhonda coughs.

CLOSE-UP - RHONDA'S UNCONSCIOUS FACE

as Mickey strokes her hair.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

RHONDA'S UNCONSCIOUS FACE as she lies in a hospital bed.

INT. VANCOUVER, BC. HOSPITAL. ROOM - DAY

DR. ELSON (50s, dark hair, walrus mustache, white smock) enters with Mickey, Nara and Stoddard. He crosses to several X-rays on a backlit wall, points at them with a pen.

ELSON

She experienced some spinal damage.
That was a very nasty fall.

Nara looks across the room at an unconscious Rhonda.

NARA

Will she...is she...?

ELSON

Cold water kept the swelling down,
Mrs. Mulgrewe. She's a very lucky
girl. But she'll need support.

Nara sags against Stoddard, starts to cry.

ELSON (cont'd)

There's a slight speech impediment
but it's the medication, nothing to
worry about in the long term.

NARA

She can't talk?

Rhonda rouses, groggy, turns to Dr. Elson and Mulgrewes.

RHONDA
Who can't talk?

Mulgrewes approach Rhonda. Nara touches Rhonda's hair, she tries to pull away, but her neck's in traction.

NARA
My baby.

RHONDA
(slow; deliberate)
I'm in Vancouver. Poor Nara's short
a fishing guide and cheap mechanic.

STODDARD
Pay no mind, it's the drugs talking.

Rhonda closes her eyes, drifts off. Nara exits in tears.

Stoddard holds Rhonda's hand.

STODDARD (cont'd)
Sometimes you say things you
shouldn't.
(beat)
I'm useless without you.

Mickey reacts, Stoddard's words make her feel worthless, exits.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAWN

Frank and Jordan watch the Cessna float plane pull up. Mickey, Nara and Stoddard get out of the plane.

Terry sits in a boat, play-driving the engine.

Frank, Nara and Stoddard exchange hugs, handshakes, etc.

STODDARD
Thanks for watching the camp.

They see Jordan and Mickey head for his cabin. Nara starts to say something, Stoddard grabs her hand.

STODDARD (cont'd)
Let 'em breathe.

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAY

Jordan enters with Mickey. He shuts the door, they hug.

MICKEY
You could've been killed jumping off
the cliff.

JORDAN
I hope I disproved your fairy tale
forever.

They kiss.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Stoddard tosses luggage to the Bush Pilot in the float plane.
Beside the plane, Frank hands Terry a twenty-dollar bill.

FRANK
Not a lot of places to spend it, but
don't spend it all at once.

TERRY
Thanks, Uncle Frank!

Terry races for Nara shouting happily to show her.

Frank reaches out to touch Terry's wake, smiles.

Stoddard sees the lingering glance between Frank and Nara.

They see Jordan and Mickey standing entwined on the lodge front porch, foreheads touching, talking quietly.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Jordan gives Mickey his daypack. She opens it to find an iPod.

JORDAN
Consider it your tip.

MICKEY
What'd you mean on the cliff, not
everything you want can be bought?

JORDAN
That buying dreams isn't like building
them. This place is pretty special.

FRANK (O.S.)
Jordan, we're taking off!

Jordan and Mickey embrace again, then break.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

The Bush Pilot, Frank and Jordan taxi away in the float plane.

Stoddard sees Nara and Terry wave happily at Frank. He enters the fish shack, annoyed, picks up the bird's nest level-wind.

But the level-wind line is perfectly wound -- Rhonda fixed it.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE-UP - LEVEL-WIND REEL

in a sports magazine ad that Rhonda's reading in bed.

INT. VANCOUVER, BC. HOSPITAL. ROOM - DAY

Rhonda looks out the window toward Burrard Inlet, sees a FLOAT PLANE taking off in the water.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Cessna float plane takes off, Nara and Terry head for the lodge.

Mickey sees the float plane bank, tip its wings and fly off. She watches the plane turn into a speck in the sky.

INT. CESSNA FLOAT PLANE - DAY

Jordan watches the Mulgrewe lodge outside the window grow smaller and smaller below. Turns to Frank in back, grins.

INT. VANCOUVER, BC. HOSPITAL. ROOM - DAY

Rhonda puts the sports magazine down, looks out the window at the skyline -- this is not the Vancouver fun she envisioned.

INT. LODGE. KITCHEN - DAY

Stoddard eats a meal at the table. Nara sharpens fillet knives.

STODDARD

Good ol' Frank to the rescue again.

Terry enters. Nara goes to the fridge, gets him a sandwich.

STODDARD (cont'd)

And his everyday reminder.

Terry runs out with the sandwich. Nara turns to Stoddard.

NARA

I'd like to chuck it all and start a new life somewhere too.

STODDARD

What's stopping you, your love or his lies?

Stoddard exits. Nara stabs the knife into the butcher block.

SOUND DISSOLVE:

Nara slaps the fillet knife against the hone -- TAPPITY TAP...

CLOSE-UP - CAPT. ALLEN'S HAND

knocks rapidly on the front door.

EXT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Stoddard, meal in hand, opens the door to Capt. Allen.

ALLEN

G'day, I have something for you.

Allen holds the key to Stoddard's surveillance ankle bracelet.

CLOSE-UP - STODDARD'S ANKLE BRACELET

is removed by Allen. Stoddard gives his ankle a grateful rub.

ALLEN (cont'd)

Hal Stewart said the heroin was yours.
I'd like to hear your side -- again.

STODDARD

Got coffee brewing inside.

LATER.

Stoddard drinks coffee with Capt. Allen at the dining table.

STODDARD (cont'd)

Whatever you need, name it.

ALLEN

How well do you know Frank McGuire?

Nara's in the kitchen, overhears them talking.

INT. VANCOUVER, BC. HOSPITAL. ROOM - MORNING

Rhonda wakes as a NURSE (40s, dark curly hair, glasses) enters.

RHONDA

It's starting to hurt again.

Nurse adjusts the vial attached to Rhonda's IV to drip faster.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - MORNING

A DEW DROP hits a spider web on a grey driftwood branch.

INT. FRANK'S HOME. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

ESTABLISHING SHOT of a Silicon Valley estate.

High-tech decor. SALMON TROPHY over marble fireplace. Frank paces the floor, shouting into a cordless landline phone.

INTERCUT -- CONTINUOUS

INT. FRANK'S HOME/HAL STEWART'S HOME. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

ESTABLISHING SHOT of a ramshackle house near a rocky shore.

White trash decor. SALMON TROPHY over brick fireplace. Hal paces the floor, shouting into a cordless landline phone.

FRANK

I haven't heard from you lately.
Every province has been on my back.

HAL

We got us a real serious delivery
issue, is what.

FRANK

Us? I don't like to keep investors
waiting, if you can understand. You
have the issue, not me. Fix it.

HAL

Strait's too locked up, I can't move.
Might as well have a hole in my boat.

FRANK

So plug it. The sooner the better,
and stop with the excuses.

Frank taps off the cordless phone, steely-eyed composure.

Hal slams his phone down, gives his phone the finger. Turns to see Cotty eavesdropping in the doorway behind him.

END CONTINUOUS INTERCUT.

Cotty runs to the front door, Hal drags him into the room.

COTTY

Nothing, I didn't hear nothing!

Hal slaps Cotty who fall to the floor, crying.

Tanya laughs. Jordan grabs the letter back, angry. Benny and Tanya squeeze into the crowd, laugh about the letter.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Autumn. Honking Canadian geese fly over trees turning color.

Mickey and Rhonda scrape boat hulls. Rhonda's speech is better.

RHONDA

Poor Jordan, all those college girls.
I'm sure he'd rather do this instead.

Mickey keeps scraping, refuses to let Rhonda get to her.

EXT. OUTSIDE CABIN - DAY

Rhonda and Stoddard varnish the log walls. Mickey struggles with the scaffolding. Jordan's letter falls from her pocket into the mud. She picks it up, carefully wipes off the mud.

RHONDA

Poor Jordan.

MICKEY

Shut up.

Stoddard eyes them both, doesn't want to get involved.

INTERCUT -- CONTINUOUS

INT. UC BERKELEY. BAR/LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda's asleep. Mickey puts Jordan's letter on the bedstand, turns off the light. Moonlight streams in from the window highlighting Jordan's letters on the bedstand.

Steamy college bar. Music, partying COEDS. Jordan and Benny enter. Jordan sees Tanya at the bar. She looks over her shoulder, invites him to join her with a smile and a nod.

Mickey closes her eyes.

Jordan and Tanya at a booth, pitcher of beer, glasses, drunk.

Jordan slides his hand between Mickey's legs on the shore.

Jordan's hand wanders between Tanya's knees.

Mickey's breathing quickens, Jordan kisses her ear.

Tanya's breathing quickens as Jordan does sub-rosa sex on her.

Mickey gazes over the porch rail at a pretty sunrise, dreamy.

Jordan wakes, rolls over in bed, sees Tanya sleeping semi-nude next to him. He reacts: What's she doing here...?

END CONTINUOUS INTERCUT.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Mickey does homework at the rolltop desk. Nara and Rhonda argue near the fireplace.

NARA

You'll be flipping burgers the rest of your ignorant life in Vancouver!

RHONDA

You said Frank's kid was Dad's!

Nara raises her hand to slap Rhonda -- Rhonda grabs it.

RHONDA (cont'd)

I'll kick your ass to Toronto!

Nara exits, furious. Mickey pulls Jordan's letter from a book.

Rhonda sits by the fireplace, angrily rips fashion model pages from a magazine and feeds them to a fire.

MICKEY

Hey, I wanted to read those.

RHONDA

Why, you'll never be one of them.

Mickey slams her book closed, rises.

MICKEY

Who are you telling me what I can or can't do?

Mickey storms across to Rhonda, yanks the magazine away.

MICKEY (cont'd)

Just because you wanna be nothing doesn't mean we gotta be cripples too! Gimme that! You can burn all you want when I'm done reading it!

Mickey grabs her books, enters her bedroom, slams the door.

EXT. ISLAND. VILLAGE - MORNING

Autumn. Rhonda and Terry, bundled up, motor up to the dock.

TERRY

I don't wanna go to school.

Rhonda ties off the mooring rope, pulls Terry out of the boat.

RHONDA

And after preschool there's elementary school, boring. Then secondary school to repeat what you've already learned and high school where nobody knows -- shit, where's your lunch?

TERRY

I'll tell Mom you said a bad word.

Rhonda gives Terry two dollars from her pocket.

RHONDA

I'll tell her myself. Give that back if you don't need it and don't lie, I'll ask the teacher.

Terry pulls Frank's crumpled twenty-dollar bill from his pants.

TERRY

I'm big now. I got money.

Rhonda swipes her two dollars back from Terry.

RHONDA

I suppose Frank will send you to college too.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Rhonda chips ice off the planks with a flat hoe. Cotty motors up in his skiff.

COTTY

Mounties wanna talk to me.

RHONDA

So what.

Rhonda walks toward Cotty, sees his bruised face.

RHONDA (cont'd)

What happened to you?

COTTY

I'm saying it's your Dad's swag.

Rhonda advances, flat hoe raised. Cotty guns the skiff away.

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - DAY

Rhonda talks to Nara and Stoddard eating at the table.

RHONDA
That's what he said. Is it true?

Stoddard turns to Nara who picks up her plate, starts leaving.

STODDARD
No. Nara, hear me out.

Nara stops, turns.

NARA
Tell it to her, I'm heard out.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda stares out the window at two bluejays fighting on a snowbank. Reaches for her pills, eats them without water.

MICKEY
Hal's making Cotty say that.

RHONDA
How do you know?

MICKEY
Cotty says anything Hal tells him.

RHONDA
Wish I knew Cotty like you.

Mickey's at a full-length mirror, fashion walk, tossing kisses to an imaginary audience. Rhonda chokes back a laugh.

MICKEY
Weren't you leaving for Vancouver by now? It's December. No, don't talk, I'm sick of your voice. We're all sick of listening to your voice.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Rhonda sits in a chair, stares at the ocean, stoned. She hears a bird chirping on the railing.

RHONDA
I'm sick of hearing you too.

She grabs a chunk of firewood, hurls it at the bird.

Ocean's like glass, ominous dark clouds overhead. She rises.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Mickey's at the mirror modeling a dress, awkwardly attractive.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Dark sky. Rhonda slides into a boat, throws her cane in the water, slips oars into the locks. Rows away from the dock.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Mickey, in bra and panties at the mirror, studies photos in a fashion magazine. Sucks in her cheeks, flips her hair up.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY

Snow falls on the water. Rhonda's tiny boat in the Strait's massive expanse. She's listless, shivers against the cold.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Mickey, at the mirror in bra and panties, shivers from the cold. Pulls on black sweats. Practices a tough girl look.

NARA (O.S.)

Can you help me out here?

Mickey sighs, slips on a full-length down overcoat, pulls a wool cap over her head down to her nose. Eyes the mirror: Who am I kidding, this is who I really am...

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Mickey, in down overcoat, wool cap, Sorels, scans the ominous horizon. Sees a boat missing, Rhonda's cane on the shoreline.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Stoddard's at the rolltop desk. Mickey bursts in.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY

Rhonda's boat is covered in snow. She's unconscious, slumped in the hull, covered in snow. A oar slips out, floats away.

She's committing suicide or going to Vancouver -- or both.

EXT. RCMP CUTTER - DAY

Snowing. Capt. Allen sees Rhonda's drifting boat.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Snowing. RCMP cutter's offshore, flashing red lights. Rhonda, strapped in a rescue basket, is lowered into an Avon life raft.

INT. LODGE. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Capt. Allen and Stoddard drink coffee at the table.

ALLEN

Couple more hours she'd a froze to death. Delirious when we picked her up. Talked about the cliff.

STODDARD

Nara's old ghost story.

ALLEN

She was talking about Russians.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda's sedated in bed. Nara enters with cup of broth, pulls a chair up bedside, offers a spoonful of broth to Rhonda who turns away. Nara waits a BEAT until Rhonda returns for a sip.

Nara almost breaks down, checks her emotions. Dips another spoonful to Rhonda's lips, watches her sip it.

NARA

Remember when you built that float plane down by the shore?

Rhonda refuses the next spoonful from Nara, shuts her eyes.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

YOUNG RHONDA (8-years old) opens her eyes sitting in the cockpit of a hand-made, grey driftwood model of a FLOAT PLANE.

A YOUNG NARA hands Rhonda a sandwich and juice. Rhonda puts them inside the cockpit, waves Nara off who steps back, smiles.

Young Rhonda prepares for take-off in her imaginary plane.

NARA (V.O.)

I wanted to be co-pilot, flying over the Bering Strait, China, Australia. Sometimes people's feet get planted too deep in the dirt.

Young Rhonda watches Nara slowly vanish. She closes her eyes.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Rhonda, eyes closed, takes another sip of Nara's broth.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Terry sits playing in the cockpit of Rhonda's deteriorated driftwood float plane half-buried in the gravel sand.

Rhonda approaches, yanks Terry out of the cockpit.

RHONDA

This isn't yours, get out.

Terry runs crying for Mommy toward the lodge.

Rhonda kicks the stabilizer off, then stomps and kicks the fuselage into splinters in a rage.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. UC BERKELEY. LAWN - DAY

Benny and Jordan kick a soccer ball around.

BENNY

Dude, Tanya's hot. Rich guys go after Hampton girls, not seaweed.

JORDAN

You'd really like Frank.

BENNY

Who made him rich, a fishing guide?

INT. ISLAND. POST OFFICE - DAY

Mickey and Rhonda enter. Mickey opens the post box, rushes through the mail -- no letter from Jordan.

RHONDA

He's not coming back. Get over it.

MICKEY

Maybe bad weather delayed it.

RHONDA

Weather doesn't stop the bills.

MICKEY

What would make you stop?

Mickey storms out the door ahead of Rhonda who shrugs.

RHONDA
I'm just saying...

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Mickey and Rhonda motor over the Strait, Mickey's at the helm.

MICKEY
You're becoming more and more like
Mom and Dad.

RHONDA
Don't be stupid.

MICKEY
That's what they say. Who leaves
for Vancouver without oars?

RHONDA
Why do you care?

Mickey shuts the engine down, lets the boat drift.

MICKEY
What were you trying to prove?

RHONDA
What's it to you?

MICKEY
Cliff jump, suicide, smashing Terry's
float plane. Can't share toys with
a baby? What did that accident ever
do to you? Why you always gotta be
the center of attention?

RHONDA
Who's being the ass now.

MICKEY
Spoken by the douchebag of a-holes.

Mickey stands in the boat, does a hoe-down dance, boat rocks.

MICKEY (cont'd)
Hey world, what's it all about?
Listen up -- IT'S ALL ABOUT RHONDA!
(sings; flat)
CENTER OF ATTENTION! GOTTA HAVE
ATTENTION! ME, MYSELF -- I...!!!

Mickey's "I...!!!" echoes across the water into total silence. Water snickers as it laps against the gunwales.

RHONDA
What'd you expect, applause?

MICKEY
I dunno, I'm in the same boat as you, you tell me.

RHONDA
Let's go.

MICKEY
I'm the pilot, I tell you what's up. Long as you're too stoned to pilot, and Mom and Dad won't let you go anywhere alone, I say what goes.

Mickey sits down, starts the engine.

MICKEY (cont'd)
You still think you're in charge. Okay, center of attention, let's race to see who gets home first.

Mickey guns the engine. Rhonda sinks in her seat, glum.

INT. ISLAND. VILLAGE. RCMP OFFICE - DAY

Capt. Allen hands a cup of coffee to Cotty seated in a chair.

Hal enters.

HAL
You tell him everything, Cotty?

ALLEN
Everything you told him to say.

Hal stinkeyes Cotty who shrinks in his seat.

COTTY
But it isn't the truth, Pop. That wasn't Stoddard's swag.

HAL
Get in the truck, son.

ALLEN
That's what he said on his own accord.

Cotty exits.

HAL
Stay away from my boy, on his own
accord or not.

INT. HAL STEWART'S HOME - DAY

Hal enters the front door, shoves Cotty into the room.

COTTY
I told him what you said but he kept
asking me questions!

Hal yanks Cotty by the hair, slaps his face.

HAL
Who'd you say it belonged to?

COTTY
I didn't say it was yours! Don't
slap me no more!

HAL
I can't count on you for even the
simplest things, you dumb-ass Canuck!
I'll knock you into next week if you
ever talk to that Mountie again!

Cotty shoves Hal away, Hal descends on Cotty.

INT. ISLAND. VILLAGE. RCMP OFFICE - DAY

Capt. Allen studies documents over a cup of coffee. Cotty enters, badly beaten, clothes torn, stumbles to a chair.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

The TOOTHY WHALE JAWBONE juts from the ground. Capt. Allen watches a MOUNTIE (20s, dark hair) dig near the heroin cache.

The Mountie strikes something hard in the trench.

LATER.

CLOSE-UP - FOUR HUMAN SKULLS

are lying exposed inside a freshly-dug trench.

INT. HAL STEWART'S HOME - DAY

Hal answers the door. Capt. Allen and the Mountie stand outside the door, two RCMP squad units parked along the street.

ALLEN

Hal Stewart, you're being arrested
on suspicion of murder. Step outside.

The Mountie handcuffs Hal who sees bruised and bandaged Cotty sitting in the back seat of an RCMP squad unit.

FADE TO BLACK.

Spring. Fuzzy-antlered MOOSE in a river eating something.
Wood floats downstream between tumbling chunks of ice.

Dogwood trees bloom over last year's grey mat of fern bracken.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Chainsawed blocks of grey driftwood. Peavey, splitting wedges,
maul, double-bitted ax are strewn across shoreline.

Terry aimlessly chops at a driftwood trunk with an ax. Stoddard sharpens a chainsaw. Mickey drags driftwood to him, sees Terry.

MICKEY

You're gonna hurt yourself.

TERRY

I can do it, I'm big.

Stoddard sharp-tests the chainsaw teeth, smirks at Terry.

MICKEY

Did you ever want three Terrys?

STODDARD

Instead of what.

MICKEY

Instead of me and Rhonda.

STODDARD

Kinda late to trade you in.

A medicated Rhonda walks the shore, tossing rocks in the water.

STODDARD (cont'd)

Everyone's reward in life's different.
Lucky ones die rich, other guys gotta
fight every day for every damn cent.
Guys like me gotta do life on parole
watching others take my share.

MICKEY

You ever win anything in life?

STODDARD

Bag of shit's all, only I keep getting
it handfuls at a time. What keeps
me from going off is you and Rhonda.

Terry hits his thumb between the handle and log, starts wailing.

STODDARD (cont'd)

Terry, put that damn ax down!

(to Mickey)

You two are the only things I ever
done right. Don't end up hating me
for it.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Budding flowers. Baby birds in a tree nest. Fox and her kits
troll the shoreline for scraps. Seals bob off shore with young.

Terry's small ax is nocked in the grey driftwood log. Mickey
sits on the chainsawed driftwood stack, writing a letter.

INT. UC BERKELEY. DORM ROOM - DAY

Benny and Jordan enter -- post soccer party crowd. Music's
blasting, someone tosses a beer can in the air.

Jordan searches through his mail.

BENNY

We're all going to Vegas for spring
break. You can't go to Canada.

Tanya hears the conversation, sidles up to Jordan with a beer.

TANYA

What's this about Canada?

JORDAN

Wanna get in some spring fishing.
Guys, there's a world out there and
it's not all soccer and parties.

TANYA

And there's no us if you do go.

Tanya storms off.

BENNY

Man, did you ever blow that.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda reads Vogue on her bed. Mickey's asleep in her bed.

A Cessna float plane drones overhead.

STODDARD (O.S.)
Someone give me a hand out here!

RHONDA
Wake up, go help him.

A miracle couldn't get Mickey to wake up. Nara enters.

NARA
It's Frank and Jordan.

A miracle -- Mickey shoots out of the room. Returns, checks her hair in the mirror, exits again. Nara gapes at her wake.

Rhonda smiles at her Vogue magazine.

RHONDA
Wow, he really came back.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shortwave radio crackles to life on the rolltop desk.

BUSH PILOT
Victoria Alpha Tango to base.

Mickey streaks by in the b.g., blasts out the front door.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAY

Mulgrewes wait for the Bush Pilot to dock the float plane. Frank and Jordan get out, Mickey leaps into Jordan's arms.

MICKEY
Why didn't you tell me?

Rhonda rolls her eyes, helps Stoddard unload the plane.

JORDAN
Why not surprise you? Dad had to go to Vancouver, I'm on spring break.

BUSH PILOT
Got a pickup twenty clicks south in ten minutes. Running tight today. I'll be back for you in the morning.

FRANK
Got any fishing time, Stoddard?

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAY

Jordan and Mickey walk near the cliff.

MICKEY
You stopped writing.

JORDAN
I had finals.

MICKEY
I thought you changed your mind.

JORDAN
I haven't stopped thinking about
this place or you one minute.

Jordan pulls Mickey in for a kiss. They whirl around, closer to the edge. Jordan peers over the edge, reacts to something.

MICKEY
You okay?

JORDAN
Yeah, fine.

Mickey looks over the edge, sees nothing but crashing waves.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Nara lifts the condom box out of Rhonda's bureau. Mickey enters with her folded laundry. Nara shows her the condom box.

NARA
Just what am I raising here?

Stoddard enters.

STODDARD
You said talk to her, I talked.

NARA
Mickey, let me tell you a fairy tale.
Once upon a time, the good life never
started with a man winking and
spending money on a woman. The end.

STODDARD
That's a far piece of tale.

Nara exits, scorched. Stoddard sits by Mickey on the bed.

STODDARD (cont'd)

She isn't the only one with a story. This mama bird had a nest and two chicks. Other mamas taught their chicks to fly. Chicks bounced off the twigs and hit the ground hard. Mama didn't want hers to get hurt so she never taught them to fly.

MICKEY

Cute, but I'm kinda old, you think?

STODDARD

Wait, so mama flies off one day for chow. Before she gets back a weasel climbs the tree and eats the chicks.

Mickey pats Stoddard's shoulder, rises, puts her laundry away.

MICKEY

And where was the Daddy bird?
(off Stoddard)
Would've straightened those chicks out, made 'em fly right.

STODDARD

You didn't hear a thing I said.

MICKEY

Dad, it's fine. Weasels have no conscience.

They both grin.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

Stoddard makes a fire for shore lunch. Sees Frank end a call on his cellphone in the distance. Frank returns to the fire.

FRANK

Friend of mine has a hotel chain, wants to add vacation packages.

STODDARD

Already got enough clients.

FRANK

You're passing up an opportunity.

STODDARD

Been passed over plenty.

FRANK
Stoddard, Nara was a mistake but
Terry has nothing to worry about.

STODDARD
I'd appreciate you not insulting me
on my own shore.

FRANK
I wasn't trying to insult you.

Stoddard hands the tin plate of cooked fish to Frank.

STODDARD
RCMP came around while back, told me
stuff I wish I never heard.

FRANK
What do you mean?

STODDARD
Want salt on your fish?

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - DAWN

Bush Pilot loads the docked Cessna plane with bags. Stoddard
is seeing Frank off. Jordan's on the dock, staying behind.

FRANK
Take care of yourself, son.

Frank shakes Jordan's hand, boards the plane, turns to Stoddard.

FRANK (cont'd)
Take care of him.

STODDARD
Like he's my own.

MONTAGE.

EXT. LODGE. GENERAL AREA - DAY

Stoddard shows Jordan how to use the chainsaw on the driftwood.

Jordan nails shingles on a roof with Mickey and Stoddard.

EXT. ISLAND. SHORE - NIGHT

Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda sit near a campfire. Rhonda tears
pages from a magazine, tosses them into the fire.

MICKEY
I got a game.

RHONDA
Already know it -- what's better,
rich or poor?

JORDAN
Rich, most definitely.

Mickey starts to ask another question, Rhonda cuts her off.

RHONDA
Rich or happy?

JORDAN
That's redundant.

Mickey cuts Rhonda off.

MICKEY
Rich or beautiful.

JORDAN
Seen Prince Charles' wife lately?

They laugh, then stare at the fire.

JORDAN (cont'd)
You two really got it made.

RHONDA
Easy praise from a trust-fund baby.

MICKEY
C'mon Rhonda, play the game.

RHONDA
I've played this game all along.
Frank owns us, his rich boy has you,
it's all over but the crying. You'll
get the camp, have his kids and I'll
be the crippled old aunt. She's
going to Berkeley too, isn't she.

MICKEY
That's kind of the plan.

JORDAN
Everyone knows you run it already.

RHONDA
Here? I'd rather die first.

JORDAN
You already tried that. They can't
run it without you. Get real.

INT. LODGE. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nara paces in her nightgown. Stoddard's in bed, defeated.

STODDARD
I'm sick of owing Frank.

NARA
Frank has a really good deal. Would it kill you to give it a look? If not for me, then do it for the kids.

STODDARD
At least Frank doesn't have the monopoly on that.

INT. FRANK'S HOME/LODGE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nara and Stoddard are doing paperwork at the rolltop desk. Phone rings, Stoddard answers it.

Frank paces the floor, wireless phone set on.

FRANK
Could you just meet the hotel CEO? No strings attached. I can send a plane at your earliest convenience.

STODDARD
You don't have to do this, Frank.

Nara's look tells Stoddard he better accept the deal.

STODDARD (cont'd)
Okay, when do you want to meet?

EXT. BURRARD INLET. FLOAT PLANE DOCK - DAY

Float plane is packed with supplies. Passenger seat is the only space open. Bush Pilot jams one last duffel bag in back.

RUSSIAN (40s, grey hair, sunglasses, leather jacket) approaches the Bush Pilot -- they know each other. Russian hands the Bush Pilot a wad of cash, Bush Pilot waves it off.

BUSH PILOT
No more runs until the heat dies down.

RUSSIAN
We ask you not for more runs, we ask you to check new radar surveillance equipment. Is nothing.

Russian shows Bush Pilot a silver box.

RUSSIAN (cont'd)

Five minutes I have it installed in cockpit, very simple. You stay under thousand feet going up to see if you are invisible.

BUSH PILOT

That's it?

RUSSIAN

You pick up Mulgrewe and fly at two thousand feet. It's all.

Bush Pilot considers it, takes the money.

BUSH PILOT

I'll get you a receipt.

Bush Pilot walks to his office. Russian leans into the cockpit, clamps the silver box (THE BOMB) under the instrument panel.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - AFTERNOON

Grey day. Jordan, Mickey and Rhonda watch the plane land.

Stoddard turns the plane, sees the silver box under the panel.

BUSH PILOT

New radar equipment.

Stoddard nods, climbs in. Bush Pilot starts the engine.

Jordan and Mickey return to the fish cleaning table. Jordan fillets a salmon when -- SLICE! Knife deeply cuts his hand.

JORDAN

Rhonda, no joke -- I need help!

LATER.

Medical kit on the fish cleaning table, bloody gauze everywhere. Nara and Rhonda frantically try to close the gash on Jordan's hand. Bush Pilot keeps the plane running. Starts to rain.

MICKEY

I'm going too.

BUSH PILOT
 Only got room for one.
 (to radio)
 Victoria Alpha Tango, I got an EMS.
 Going straight to Burrard. Have
 paramedics ready.
 (to Jordan)
 C'mon!

JORDAN
 Wait!
 (to Mickey)
 In my suitcase, something for you.

Jordan leans over, kisses Mickey.

JORDAN (cont'd)
 Make the leap, come to school.

Float plane taxis away from the dock. Inside the cockpit,
 Jordan waves back with his bloody bandaged hand.

CUT TO:

The silver box BOMB under the instrument panel.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Float plane climbs into the air, vanishes into the rain clouds.

Nara and Stoddard collect the medical kit, head for the lodge.

Rhonda grabs Terry's hand, follows Nara and Stoddard.

Mickey concentrates on filleting the salmon. She sees a BRIGHT
 FLASH in the sky followed by KABOOM! PLANE EXPLOSION registers
 with her in a BEAT -- she screams.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

As the plane explodes, Rhonda looks up from the rolltop desk,
 sees flaming pieces of the plane plunge and spatter into the
 Strait. She reaches for the radio, horrified yet in control.

RHONDA
 Mulgrewe base to Victoria Alpha Tango.
 Plane down. Mayday. Plane down.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - AFTERNOON - MOVING

Rain. Mickey, Rhonda and Stoddard, in slickers, gun the boat
 into the impact area. Plane wreckage scattered everywhere.

EXT. LODGE. FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Mickey sits on the stairs, numb. Rhonda sits down beside her.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - EVENING

Nara and Stoddard hug each other by the fish shack.

STODDARD

I should've been on that plane.

NARA

I told you to go on that trip.

They watch Terry lift a broken plane part on the shoreline.

Stoddard lifts a pant leg -- no surveillance ankle bracelet.

STODDARD

Never thought about nothing in prison
but this lodge. I'm no Frank, but
can't we pretend?

Nara's look and hug says she's already there.

NARA

I'll find a bracelet for you, mister.

INT. FRANK'S HOME. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Frank sits on the couch, paperwork in his lap, ball game on TV. Phone rings, he answers. Reacts to the horrible news.

INT. OUTSIDE CABIN - EVENING

Mickey opens Jordan's suitcase, finds a package labeled: MICKEY. Opens the package, finds a thick wad of money.

Rhonda enters, sees Mickey sobbing on the bed.

Nara enters, sees the money. Crosses to Mickey, eyes Rhonda, ignores the money and awkwardly pats and rubs Mickey's back.

EXT. LODGE. GENERAL AREA - NIGHT

Mickey and Rhonda sit and stare at the campfire flames.

MICKEY

You were right about choices being
forced on you.

Mickey pulls Jordan's wad of cash from her pocket, starts feeding bills into the fire, one by one.

Rhonda rakes the money out of the fire with her cane.

RHONDA
Hey, the camp could use this! Yeah --
the camp.

MICKEY
Why'd you dive?

RHONDAE
Harold maybe at first. But on the
edge, me.
(off Mickey)
No.

EXT. ISLAND. CLIFF - DAY

Mickey takes off her clothes as Rhonda watches.

RHONDA
Why?

MICKEY
Know why you can't leave? You're
always thinking about her!

RHONDA
What's everyone want from me?

MICKEY
Who wants what you got! Can't even
kill yourself right! There's no
ghost woman, everyone knows but you!
It's Nara's bedtime story -- it's
supposed to be her!

Mickey steps to the edge...

Clanking chains, Russians shouting, explosions going off in
Rhonda's head. Rhonda reaches to pull Mickey back...

MOS.

CAMERA pulls back as Mickey dives.

END MOS.

CLOSE-UP - FEAR ON RHONDA'S FACE

WHIP CAMERA over the edge -- Mickey's feet are swallowed by a
mass of crushing water -- straight out to sea, faster into the
clouds to sun-drenched Jesus rays beaming down on the Strait.

The sea pulls back, a lacework of boiling foam and water as another wave crashes against the cliff -- but no Mickey.

RHONDA
C'mon, surface!

Rhonda starts stripping off her clothes, walks to the edge.

RHONDA (cont'd)
You bitch, not her!

Rhonda's about to jump over when...

Mickey bursts through the surface, arms raised in victory.

MICKEY
Goddamn, it's cold!

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY - MOVING

Sardines swimming in circles in a livewell bait tank.

Rhonda and Stoddard are trolling along, Stoddard at the helm.

RHONDA
Suppose there's lot of folks out there with half a chance as us.

STODDARD
Fish are migratory -- swim until they're hooked. Quit leaning over.

Rhonda centers up on the bench, finger-snaps the line, teasing.

RHONDA
What if I said I wanted to stay?

STODDARD
World's full of idiots and fools, might as well stick with the ones you know.

Rhonda eyes Stoddard: I love you -- but stops.

STODDARD (cont'd)
Ain't teasing the line enough.

Rhonda beams, gives the rod line a hearty finger-snap.

FADE TO BLACK.

Drone of a Cessna float plane.

EXT. LODGE. DOCK - MORNING

A new Cessna float plane climbs out of the water into the sky.

RHONDA (V.O.)
Mulgrew camp, Juan de Fuca Strait.
Happy landing, Victoria Alpha Tango.

INT. LODGE. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rhonda, at the two-way radio on the rolltop desk, watches the Cessna float plane tip its wings and vanish in the distance.

She wipes a spider web off the desk.

Nara enters, puts a half-cut sandwich plate down on the desk.

Rhonda smiles back, grabs half a sandwich, eyes the handset.

NARA
What.

RHONDA
Think she'll miss this place?

EXT. VANCOUVER ISLAND. NANAIMO FERRY DOCK - DAY

From an overhead view, CAMERA slowly circles a FERRY BOAT chugging east toward the Vancouver skyline.

We see Mickey aft on the ferry boat. CAMERA pulls back until she's a tiny speck on deck, then circles the ferry boat...

And flies away, moving faster until it's flying at HYPERSPEED, streaking over island outcrops and wind-seared Sitka pine down the Strait of Georgia toward Vancouver.

VOICES blast past in the wind as the city skyline grows larger in front of us -- blah blah, yakety-yak...!