THE DEAD ZONE

“THE STORM”

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH
BRUCE LEWIS
SARAH BANNERMAN
WALT BANNERMAN
REV. GENE PURDY
DANA BRIGHT

JORDAN
COMELY GIRL
MALE PARTYGOER
GAS STATION/CAFÉ MANAGER
TONI DONAHUE
MITCH MCMURTRY
FLO MCMURTRY

NON-SPEAKING

GUYS IN HAWAIIAN SHIRTS
GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS
PIZZA DELIVERY MAN
CAFÉ CUSTOMERS
CARNIES
TATTOOED MAN
PIN-CUSHION MAN
MISC. FREAK SHOW CHARACTERS
EMERGENCY CARNIVAL WORKERS
CHILDREN OF CARNIVAL WORKERS
MITCH MCMURTRY JR.
FIONA MCMURTRY
MEDICS/FIREMEN/EMTS

STATE PATROLMAN
CARNY
CARNIVAL MOM
LITTLE PERSON
STRONGMAN
FUTUREMAN
LITTLE GIRL
NEWSRADIO VOICE
VOICES FROM SMITH KITCHEN
THE DEAD ZONE

"THE STORM"

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VEHICLES

BRUCE’S P.T. CRUISER

WINNEBAGO

EMERGENCY VEHICLES
  Firetrucks
  Ambulance

TONI’S SMALL TRUCK

CARNIVAL RIGS, RIDES, TRAILORS, ETC.

PROPANE VEHICLE
FADE IN:
RECAP - BRIEF REMINDER OF KATE'S DEATH

1 EXT. FAITH HERITAGE ALLIANCE - DAY
The Cruiser parks, BRUCE alone inside, and we can hear the car radio tuned to a news station before he turns off the engine...

NEWSRADIO
...a few clouds... maybe a widely scattered sprinkle or two... nothing to spoil our Fourth of July weekend...

That's all and he's out, moving toward the administration building... a light roll of thunder brings his attention to --

2 HIS POV - THE SKY (STOCK)
scattered clouds but not overcast... an interesting sky... one cloud though looks kind of ominous... a thunderhead...

3 RESUME BRUCE
as he grins and shakes his head...

BRUCE
(to himself)
If you don't like the weather in Maine, just wait a few minutes.

4 INT. PURDY'S OFFICE - DAY
SARAH, WALT and DANA are already there chatting with a concerned PURDY as Bruce enters...

BRUCE
Hi guys...

PURDY
Ah, good, that's everyone then. (sighs) I think you all know why we're here...

(CONTINUED)
DANA
(to Bruce, re: Johnny)
Has anyone talked with him lately?

BRUCE
He's not into talking. Or listening.

SARAH
If you ask me, he still hasn't gotten over Kate's death.

BRUCE
It's Kate... but it's more than Kate. It's all of it. It's all the visions. Every day of his life. Hundreds of them.

PURDY
(sighs)
...God has asked a lot of him...
Under the same conditions, any of us might begin to lose our way.

DANA
You mean the way out. He's barely left his house for the last few months.

WALT
And the only people he lets in are the kids he's tutoring in science this summer.

SARAH
He just... doesn't want to touch anyone...
(and even worse)
...and doesn't want anyone to touch him.

More than anyone, Sarah can't bear to think of Johnny in this fashion...

(CONTINUED)
PURDY
I'd like to propose an intervention. His best friends confronting him as a group. I've done several for members of the congregation...

BRUCE
We have to get him out of that house...

PURDY
Agreed. I'm happy to offer the Alliance retreat up at Moosehead...

BRUCE
I'll get him there.

DANA
How do you throw a surprise party for a psychic?

BRUCE
You don't let him touch you.

EXT. SMITH HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY
Rolling thunder.
INT. SMITH HOUSE - DAY - JOHNNY SMITH

Wearing a lab apron, protective goggles hanging around his neck, looking at us through a small maze of science lab equipment, a wry smile on his face.

JOHNNY
Behold, a tablespoonful of ordinary flour, just like you might bake cookies with.

Johnny picks up a bunsen burner and torches the spoonful of flour. Reveal we're:

INT. JOHNNY'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Johnny has converted his dining room into a science class for a group of high school students he's tutoring - a HALF DOZEN KIDS failing chemistry - something he's determined not to let happen. His dining room table is covered in lab gear, beakers, glass tubing, a distilling rig, a bunsen burner, several 3D models of simple molecules.

Behind Johnny is a rolling white board covered in a diagram of flour and oxygen molecules, along with the words; PARTICLE, DISPERSION, COMPACTION, FLAMMABLE, INFLAMMABLE, each with a dictionary definition written underneath.

JOHNNY
Observe what happens when we apply heat -- doesn't burn does it? Why?

THE KIDS

Kind of a rough bunch, not your typical science nerds, in fact just the opposite, but they're into it, drawn in by Johnny's enthusiasm... and the prospect of blowing up the house.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
The tiny flour particles are too compact, there's no room for oxygen molecules to get in there to feed the chemical reaction necessary for a fire. We have plenty of heat, but no oxygen. Not much fun huh?

During the above, the doorbell rings.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
(yelling)
It's open.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Bruce pokes his head in, surprised at what he finds.

BRUCE

Hey...

JOHNNY

Oh good it's just you. I was worried it might be the Fire Marshall. Welcome to Mr. Wizard's science lab.

BRUCE

Don't let me interrupt.

Johnny continues with his demonstration as Bruce watches; he picks up a large glass tube, about a quarter inch in diameter and two feet long. As Bruce and the students watch in curiosity, he dips one end of the tube into the flour, so that the end of the tube is stuffed full of about a half inch of powder.

JOHNNY

Same flour as before.

Next he places the other end of the tube in his mouth.

GOTH GIRL

Whasup Mr. Smith, you gonna smoke that?

JOHNNY

No... I'm going to disperse it. Everybody step back.

With a bit of a mad professor grin, Johnny aims the glass tube at the bunsen burner and BLOWS. The flour dust hits the flame of the burner and EXPLODES in a ball of fire. The kids all recoil and duck, eyes wide.

GOTH GIRL

Cool!

Johnny and Bruce exchange a mischievous look. Bruce almost forgets for a moment why he's there.

JOHNNY

When I blew the flour out of the tube, the compacted particles became dispersed allowing the oxygen molecules in the air to feed the fire.

During the above, he circles dispersion up on the whiteboard, then checks his watch.

(CONTINUED)
Johnny cleans up... as the kids leave, murmuring to each other about the awesome demonstration. Bruce moves to Johnny...

BRUCE
(appreciating him)
I've never actually seen the old John in action.

JOHNNY
(with a trace of loss)
I was a pretty good teacher in my day.

BRUCE
You still are.

JOHNNY
(without conviction)
Yeah.

Johnny moves away from these feelings, physically moving away from Bruce who represents responsibility he doesn't want to face... Bruce trails him --

BRUCE
Hey, let's get out of here. I've planned a day trip for us.

JOHNNY
Naw, I really think I'll stick close to home this weekend. Holiday traffic and all that. And there's a triple header on ESPN I've really been looking forward to...

BRUCE
You've been sticking close to home going on months now, John. Come on, you need a little fresh air.

JOHNNY
(casual, on the move)
I can't control things outside that door, Bruce.

(MORE)
JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Outside that door are visions and Stillson and Armageddon and world where someone like Kate has to die just so someone else can live. At least here, I have some control...
(picking up the TV remote control)
The remote control... and an occasional chance to be the old John with a few kids who are trying to pass chemistry...

CONTINUOUS
Johnny turns to his friend, this is a thanks for your concern but it's not going to work moment...

JOHNNY
Hey, look, really, I'm glad you're here, it's not that I don't appreciate...

He tries to put his arm around his friend... but Bruce weaves out of his touch...

JOHNNY
What?
(is the problem?)

Johnny looks at him curiously... realizing Bruce is trying to avoid being touched.

BRUCE
Come on, John... let's go for a ride...

JOHNNY
What is it with you and this day trip?

He reaches out to touch Bruce and Bruce avoids him again...
CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY
(really suspicious now)
You really don't want me to touch you, do you?

Tries again... Bruce avoids it again... But then Johnny finally connects with Bruce's arm... and we RAMP IN TO JOHNNY'S FACE --

A VISION - AN EXTREME WIDE SHOT OF THE ALLIANCE RETREAT AT MOOSEHEAD LAKE AGAINST A MUSTARD GREEN SKY

Deceptively calm... a surreal landscape... like everything in the picture is a freeze frame -- except --

ANGLE TO FIND JOHNNY STANDING THERE

turning to look at --

HIS POV - FREEZE FRAME - PURDY, DANA, SARAH, WALT

standing there looking at him... HEAR a musical percussion sound...

JOHNNY

turns to the sound to see --

WIND CHIMES

hanging from the cabin... beginning to tinkle in the breeze... then hears a squeak... and his mind's eye goes to --
CONTINUED:

A KINETIC SCULPTURE

beginning to turn in the breeze... and a banging... and his mind's eye goes to --

A WOOD GATE

banging back and forth in the breeze...

JOHNNY

reacts in the vision, wonders what it all means... and the vision ends as we...

RESUME JOHNNY

at the instant of contact with Bruce...

JOHNNY

What, were we going to pick up everyone else on the way? No thanks. I don't need an intervention.

BRUCE

Your friends are worried about you and you're gonna hear what they have to say. And when we get there, you're gonna act surprised.

JOHNNY

I'm not going.

BRUCE

Look, John... one way or the other, you're going. I'm fully committed to putting you in that car... and I'll do anything it takes to get you into that car. We can do this any way you like...

JOHNNY

Read my lips. I am not going.

SMASH CUT TO:
INT. BRUCE'S CRUISER

Bruce driving...

JOHNNY
If you let me go, I'll tell you how you're gonna break your leg.

BRUCE
Break my leg?

JOHNNY
Big white cast... clump... clump... clumping around for six weeks... I can save you all that pain...

BRUCE
Liar. You didn't see any broken leg.

JOHNNY
Suit yourself.

As Bruce pulls off the road into a gas station...
CONTINUED:

JOHNNY
You know how your skin gets all red and itchy under the cast and you can't scratch it...?

BRUCE
That's not funny.

EXT. RURAL GAS STATION/CAFE - DAY

Modern, not old fashioned. As Bruce pulls in to fill up... and they get out of the car...

BRUCE
Don't you go wander off.

JOHNNY
(waving the cane)
Where am I going to wander off to?

Johnny enters the cafe as Bruce pumps the gas...

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

A bell over the door tinkles as Johnny enters, moves immediately to the counter... where a rural faced MANAGER mans the cash register... there are large windows around the place so you can see outside... several customers are eating...

JOHNNY
(urgent, sotto)
I'm being abducted. The African-American man outside attacked me and forced me into his car.

(manager starts to look out a window)
Don't look at him. Call the police. Um, State police. Not the county sheriff.

MANAGER
Are you serious?

The bell over the door tinkles again as Bruce enters...

JOHNNY
(switching subjects for Bruce's benefit)
And I'll take this...
Johnny quickly grabs a bag of chips from beside the counter...

BRUCE
You want to get a couple sodas to go?

JOHNNY
Anything you say, mister.

Bruce doesn't notice the attendant staring at him with scared eyes...

JOHNNY
(beat, focusing the manager)
Think you can ring us up now...

As the manager looks back to Johnny, reaches for the chips to ring them up... on the exchange, RAMP TO JOHNNY FACE...

A JOHNNY FLASH - RUMBLING SURREAL CLOUDS ROLLING AT US (STOCK)

JOHNNY REACTS

ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH - THE LITTLE BELL OVER THE DOOR TINKLES AS THE DOOR SHAKES... INCREASINGLY MORE VIOLENT...

CLOSER ON JOHNNY AS HE REACTS

ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH - THE WINDOWS OF THE CAFE IMPLODE... GLASS FLYING EVERYWHERE... CUSTOMERS, THE ATTENDANT FALLING... CUT... DESTRUCTION... HORROR...

CLOSER STILL ON JOHNNY (CONTINUES IN ACT ONE AS SHOT)
as the flashes end...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

ON JOHNNY - CONTINUOUS

as he realizes Bruce and the manager are looking at him curiously... And Johnny hates this... he hates this... he's thinking, again? He sighs, has no choice, glances at Bruce... then back to the manager and says quietly...

JOHNNY
There's going to be a storm. A big storm, like a hurricane or a tornado...

The man just stares at him, this has to be some kind of joke...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
I'm not sure when. But soon. It will not be safe here.

BRUCE
This is Johnny Smith. I've known him a long time. He has psychic abilities. Believe him.

MANAGER
A minute ago, he told me you were abducting him.

BRUCE
(does a take, looks at Johnny who shrugs, I had to try)
He... told you... that...?

He laughs embarrassed...

MANAGER
Is this a rib? Did Wally at the car lot send you over here to...

JOHNNY
(deadly serious)
I know you don't believe me. But when the storm comes and it will come... remember what I said... don't wait, don't think... get everyone to safety right away. Please. People will die here if you do not take cover.

Off the manager's confused and concerned face...
EXT. CAFE - DAY

As they come out... but Johnny is not the usual Johnny - he's not into this... he doesn't want to be a hero... he feels more like a victim than a hero...

BRUCE
Hey, this better be on the level because if you're just trying to...

(get out of the intervention)
CONTINUED:

But he can see that Johnny is in a dark place... genuinely concerned... the internal pain that Johnny has been containing for months is moving to the surface...

JOHNNY
How many times do I have to see something like this? How many people have to die in my mind before I go crazy?

Bruce looks at him... and now Johnny makes eye contact with him...

JOHNNY
Why do I have to live with these things? I'm a human being.

It's all said quietly, painfully, lost... seeking answers where there are none. Bruce sees the pain his friend is in... tries to reassure him -- compassionate --

BRUCE
Hey, you may have just saved lives back there...

JOHNNY
(quiet, to himself)
Too many lives to save. Too many lives I can't save.

BRUCE
Look, John...

JOHNNY
I can't... do this anymore. I can't have these visions in my head any more.

He moves to the car. Bruce isn't sure what to do next... quietly --

BRUCE
So what do you want to do, John? I mean, about the storm.

A long beat as Johnny struggles with the weight of the responsibility... Bruce understands he needs to lead him here...

BRUCE (CONT'D)
Look, there's an airfield a few miles west of here... it's just a little out of our way... we need to find someone tied into the weather service... warn them, don't you think?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
BRUCE (CONT'D)

(he waits for a response, doesn't get one, grabs his cell)

Come on, get in. We'll backtrack this way later. I'll call the others to let them know we'll be late.

Johnny opens the car door to get in... a chip planted firmly on his shoulder... a chip against the fates, even against God...

JOHNNY

(whatever)

You're driving.

EXT. A RURAL AIRFIELD - DAY - ESTABLISHING (STOCK)

INT. A SMALL WEATHER STATION - DAY

In an office by the tower... it's full of high tech weather systems, Doppler radar, a computer monitor displaying weather maps and such... the meteorologist is an attractive woman dressed casually in jeans and a T-shirt... we'll call her TONI for old times sake... they've just told her about Johnny's vision and she's incredulous but trying to be polite. Johnny lets Bruce carry the ball, observes from his dark emotional place...

TONI

I don't know what to tell you, but there's nothing on the weather map that even begins to suggest...

BRUCE

(impatient)

Miss Donahue, if Johnny saw it, it will happen...

She looks at Johnny, tries not to show her skepticism...

TONI

I... I'm sorry but I can't put out an emergency advisory based on... a psychic vision... here, look at the radar yourself... these are WSR-88D images from the Doppler radar at Gray, Maine... the dark green is precipitation... you've got a little up by the border...

(MORE)
TONI (CONT'D)
light shower over in Aroostook...

Johnny's been through this too many times... he looks at Bruce...

BRUCE
Couldn't one of the little green things turn into a big green thing...?

TONI
We use a very sophisticated system called the Mesocyclone Detection Algorithm to identify potential supercells and there isn't one in sight...

BRUCE
And you're never wrong.

TONI
Of course, we're wrong sometimes...
We're The Weatherman. But we've only had one M-D-A detection failure in this region I know of and that was eight years ago...
June 6, 1995 near Lake Cobbosseecontee...

Johnny, who has been tuning out, now reacts...

JOHNNY
(reacts)
What... what did you say? June 6th?

TONI
1995.

JOHNNY
(beat)
I remember that storm. June 6th. That was the day of my accident.

He glances at Bruce who reacts... a curious coincidence to be sure.

INT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - FAITH HERITAGE RETREAT - DAY

We can see the lake and clear blue sky through the windows (VFX)... Purdy, Sarah, Walt, Dana... take in the lovely setting... Purdy checks his watch...

(CONTINUED)
PURDY
Well, if they're going to be awhile, I invite you to take advantage of the setting...

DANA
Anyone want to take a swim?

WALT
Swim? Now?

DANA
It's a lake, Walt.

SARAH
You brought a bathing suit to an intervention.

DANA
Who said anything about a suit?

SARAH
Maybe we should do an intervention for you while we're waiting for Johnny to get here.

PURDY
I'm sure Dana recalls... from earlier visits... that we keep a variety of swimwear for guests... if you're interested, I'm sure you'll find something that fits...

Dana grins evenly at Sarah and clearly her line about not wearing suits was just to provoke a response from Sarah...

PURDY (CONT'D)
If you're hungry, the chef sent up some lovely salmon for lunch... please make yourself at home...

The people move inside... Purdy walks over to the lakeside... takes in some fresh air... takes in the majesty of the lake...

NEW ANGLE

PURDY
If anyone needs me, I'll be taking a constitutional along the lake...

After a beat, something falls out of the sky next to him... and splats by his feet... he reacts with a start, looks down to see --

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

A FISH has fallen... and then another one falls... and another one...

PURDY REACTS as more fish drop...

WIDE ANGLE - PURDY

is caught in a downpour of fish falling from a clear blue sky... some dead, some still struggling...

INT. CRUISER - DAY

Bruce and Johnny... Johnny is still in a bad mood...

JOHNNY

It's the end of hope...

BRUCE

What?

JOHNNY

To know. And never be wrong. There is no hope left. I mean how many times have we've been through this, Bruce? We tell them what's gonna happen... they say it's impossible... they show you why it's impossible... and then it happens...

BRUCE

It doesn't always happen... sometimes you can change it...

JOHNNY

Unless I can't.

BRUCE

(beat)

Like Kate.

Raindrops begin to fall on the windshield; Bruce turns on the wipers...

(CONTINUED)
JOHNNY
(re: raindrops)
Like a storm.
(concerned)
How far are we from the cafe?

BRUCE
Five, six miles...

JOHNNY
We need to get there... make sure that guy believed me...

BRUCE
He's probably got the cops after my ass by now for kidnapping...

Suddenly, the drops begin to click-click-click... they react... it's starting...

BRUCE
Hail.

Now... it really starts to come down... the ice banging on the roof... the windshield blinded...

BRUCE
Damn... Gotta pull over.

He pulls off the road (they're near a culvert) but for the moment we stay in the car and their pov, Hitchcock style.

BRUCE
Man, it's really coming down.

But it gets worse. The ice is the size of golf balls now... and it's really coming down... the windshield cracks with the impact of a baseball sized ice block... BANG!... they recoil... another BANG and a crack... another... BANG!... and there are holes where the ice struck... and it's scary as hell... BANG, BANG, BANG...

And the wind is howling outside...
and the car is rocking back and forth... hard... Johnny's hand reaches up and touches the roof for stability... a DZ sound fx... push to Johnny as he gets a vision we can't see...

**JOHNNY**
We have to get out of the car...

**BRUCE**
What... are you crazy...? We can't go out in this...

But Johnny's pushing open the door... trying to get out...

**JOHNNY**
I'm a psychic, Bruce and I'm telling you we have to get out of the car.

**BRUCE**
I'm right behind you...

Bruce crawls over the front seat, follows him out the same door...

**EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS**

staying tight on them as they exit the car... Bruce and Johnny fight the wind and hail (and don't get seriously wet)... and duck inside the culvert, grabbing on to whatever they can...

**ANGEL - FROM INSIDE THE CULVERT**

the chaos of the storm around them... out of breath...

**BRUCE**
My car... I can't see my car...

Suddenly from straight overhead... the cruiser comes crashing down from the sky right on the front bumper... smashing and crunching up like an accordion just yards away...

On their reactions...

**FADE OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**
FADE IN:

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Johnny and Bruce walking along the rural highway... the sound of a car... it's approaching... they wave their arms...

JOHNNY & BRUCE
Hey... wait... slow down...

The car passes without slowing down...

BRUCE
(to the unseen driver)
Thank you, thank you very much.
(beat)
That's five, five 'good' people who looked right at us and made a conscious decision to ignore us.

JOHNNY
Yeah, well we're officially hitchhikers now. A lot people won't pick up hitchhikers.

BRUCE
(not really serious, using it to make his point)
No this is your fault. You've lost the karma, man.

JOHNNY
Oh sure, blame my karma.

BRUCE
You have turned your back on the world and the world is turning its back on us.

Another car approaches... not a car... a Winnebago... they signal it to stop... it passes, then hits the brakes... so hard they squeal... Johnny and Bruce run to the car...

JOHNNY
I don't hear you giving my karma credit, man.

As they reach the Winnebago, the window rolls down to reveal a housewife in her forties, we'll call her FLO... driving is her husband, MITCH, and there are two kids, eight and ten, MITCH JUNIOR and FIONA.

(CONTINUED)
There's a little Kathy Bates about Flo... Mitch is from the Bill Daniels school of earnest parenthood...

FLO
Oh my Lord. Oh sweet lord. I don't believe it... I was right, it is you... it's Johnny Smith, Mitch...

MITCH
I don't believe it.

FLO
I said 'That's Johnny Smith' as we passed by, didn't I kids...?

MITCH
I don't believe it.

BRUCE
(sotto)
Omigod...

MITCH
Whatcha doing out here, Johnny? You boys need a lift?

Johnny hesitates, looks to Bruce, not sure if he wants to pursue this...

BRUCE
We had a little car trouble... got caught in the storm.

FLO
Storm?

JOHNNY
You didn't see it?

FLO
We've had beautiful weather all morning.

MITCH
We'd be honored. Honored. To have you join us in our traveling home away from home.

FLO
Climb in.
INT. WINNEBAGO - CONTINUOUS

This is a family that has taken great pains to make this space their own... nice family touches adorn the interior... post cards from several places they've been all over the country are stuck to the walls... one of the cards has the Indian Johnny logo...

As they get in...

FLO
Johnny Smith in our winnebago... wait til the girls back home hear about this...

MITCH
You won't believe it... but we just drove by your house down in Cleaves Mills yesterday... hoping to catch a glimpse of you...

FLO
Mitch and Flo McMurtry, Independence, Missouri... This is Mitch Junior... and little Fiona completes our family... say hello to Johnny Smith and Johnny Smith's friend, kids...

BRUCE
Bruce Lewis.

Fiona never takes off her earphones plugged into an MP3 player... her head bobs to some barely heard hip-hop beat... Mitch Jr. is into his Gameboy with both hands... he couldn't care less about Johnny Smith... neither pay him attention...

MITCH
(deadpan)
Hey, John... do me a favor and touch the kids and tell me if they'll go to ivy league schools...

For a beat, Johnny isn't sure if Mitch is serious...

MITCH
I'm just pulling your leg...

He laughs, pulls the big wagon back on the road...

MITCH
But you can touch them if you want. I don't mind.
28 CONTINUED:

FLO
Are you an important someone in Johnny's life, Bruce?

BRUCE
Friend and physical therapist.

FLO
Well, you've done a wonderful job with him... he's walking so well... whoever thought after that kind of terrible accident...

BRUCE
Y'all really seem to know all about John...

FLO
I've always had an interest in the paranormal.

MITCH
Flo herself is a firestarter.

FLO
Stop it; I am not.

MITCH
She is, she is.

FLO
Those were accidents.
(bashful)
There's nothing special bout me. But a strange thing did happen to me once...
(reluctant)
Oh, I'm sure people bother you with their life histories all the time... I don't want to...

MITCH
Gowan, he wants to hear it, don't you, John...?

JOHNNY
(how do I get out of this car?)
Please.
FLO
Well... Mitch Junior, he was playing outside at a neighbor's house in the field when he was a toddler... and there was this snake? Meanwhile I was in the bathtub with my eyes closed... and it was almost like I could hear him crying in my mind... I just knew he'd been bit... And I jumped up and ran across the street half dressed... Oh my, what a day, that was...

MITCH
They said in the emergency room a few minutes later would have been too late...

FLO
I mean, that's the only time I've ever felt anything like that... call it a mother's intuition, I don't know...
(a tear rolls down her cheek)
But it sure makes you wonder... where it comes from... how is it possible...

Her story has touched Johnny and he smiles genuinely for the first time in this episode...

JOHNNY
(genuine)
If you ever find out, let me know.

They share a smile.

FLO
For me... on that day... no doubt in my mind...
(beat)
It was a gift from God. A gift from God.

As Johnny reacts...

EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY

Purdy has called others out to see the fish... Walt and Sarah are collecting them in plastic bags...
SARAH
They're ice cold... some of them are frozen...

PURDY
It was absolutely the most startling thing I've ever seen...

WALT
No miracle here, Reverend. I've read about raining fish in National Geographic... A small waterspout in a thunderstorm is all you need - sucks them up into the clouds then dumps them miles away...

PURDY
But from a clear blue sky...?

WALT
It's been known to happen... and not just with fish, birds get caught up too, and there were some toads that fell in Mexico a few years back... and blood...

SARAH
Blood?

WALT
The article said "rains of blood" have been reported all over the world since ancient history.

Dana comes out of the cabin, carrying a folding chair... she's wearing a conservative and yet snug and sexy two piece bathing suit and sunglasses... Walt, being a red-blooded American man, can't help but glance her way as he says...

WALT (CONT'D)
Probably just red dust mixed with water.

He sees Sarah watching him watching Dana... he reacts, caught...

SARAH
I see you found something that almost fits.

DANA
You could use a little color in your face yourself, Sarah.

(MORE)
DANA (CONT'D)
Now that you're finally out of the kitchen.
(moving past her, to others)
Phone lines are down... I couldn't get through to the office...

WALT
There's your storm...

SARAH
What about cell phones?

PURDY
Sorry. One of the blessings of the retreat -- there's no reception up here.

As Dana opens the chair and lays down, staring at the dead fish...

DANA
(re: the fish)
Are these edible?

EXT. RURAL MAINE ROAD - DAY

As the Winnebago moves toward the gas station/cafe... half the cafe has been flattened, the other half is barely hanging together... there is debris everywhere... it looks like... well, it looks like a tornado has been there...

ANGLE ON THE WINNEBAGO

as it pulls to a stop... and Johnny and Bruce get out, followed by the McMurtrys... there are downed power lines fritzing... smoke...

JOHNNY
Call 9-1-1. Better keep the kids inside the van...

The parents acknowledge... John moves with a purpose toward the wreckage...

BRUCE
John, be careful... you've got live power lines...

Bruce trails as Johnny moves carefully to the creaky structure... Johnny moves closer and touches the debris...

(CONTINUED)
A DZ SOUND EFFECT... Push to Johnny as he realizes --

JOHNNY
There are people in there... and they're alive...

Johnny moves around the precarious structure... Bruce follows him, almost loses his footing on debris... the McMurtys react...

MITCH
Stay here.
(just in case something happens)
I love you, mother.

Kisses her on the cheek and rushes to help Johnny and Bruce... Johnny starts to duck down into an open space and pulls debris out of the way... the others move in to assist...

ANGLE
as they quickly clear their way to a basement door... and find five people huddled there... safe... but scared and hearts beating...

JOHNNY
Anybody hurt?

MANAGER
No... as soon as I heard the freight train coming... I started thinking about what you said and moved everyone to the basement...

BRUCE
Freight train?

MANAGER
(out of breath)
That's what it sounded like... only we don't have no tracks out here...

As they move out of the dangerous structure... it collapses behind them...
Emergency vehicles are now on the scene... fire trucks, an ambulance... Medics are attending to the Manager and his people... finding Mitch Jr. and Fiona by the Winnebago, both paying no attention, he's still Gameboying it, she's still bobbing her head to the MP3... and now, moving to Mitch and Flo.

MITCH
Johnny, we'd love to stay but this is just a little too exciting for the missus and me... we're heading down south to Graceland next...

JOHNNY
Thanks for your help, Mitch.

Johnny feels a hand touch his arm... he looks at Flo who smiles bashfully... pulls it back...

FLO
Sorry, I had to do it... everyone at home will ask if I touched Johnny Smith...

MITCH
So? What'dju see...?

FLO
Mitch, stop.

MITCH
No. What'dju see...

FLO
I don't want to know. Unless it's really bad of course.

JOHNNY
I saw a safe trip.

The McMurtrys climb back into the Winnebago... wave good-bye... as they pull away, Johnny and Bruce look over and see --

NEW ANGLE - TONI GETTING OUT OF A SMALL TRUCK

She's just arrived... looking at the damage, stunned... she moves to the back of the truck where some weather equipment is set up, including a laptop computer with wireless internet connection to get images while on the road... moving over to her --
BRUCE
How's your algorithm?

TONI
Embarrassed. I don't understand it... it never showed up on the radar... nothing on satellite coverage...

BRUCE
Are these satellite pictures taken in intervals?

TONI
(nods)
Every fifteen minutes. Radar every six minutes. I guess it could have happened between intervals... although this kind of damage... it's hard to believe. Based on the visual evidence, I'd almost want to guess an F-3 event... except... well I hate to use the word 'impossible' twice in one day...

BRUCE
Except what?

TONI
In its entire recorded history, Maine's never had an F-3.

Johnny and Bruce react... thunder rumbles... they look up... Toni looks to Johnny...

JOHNNY
What are your systems showing now?

Looking at portable radar screens, data analysis readouts [see: www.nssl.noaa.gov/wrd/msd/wdss.html]... on a laptop she has open...

TONI
Mesocyclone Strength Index for this area is at twelve...

BRUCE
What's that mean exactly?

(Continued)
TONI
It means there's a sixty-two percent chance this storm will result in additional tornado activity.

But a few heavy drops of rain have started falling again... we can see splats on the truck, the roadside... Johnny looks up and opens his palm to feel the rain and as...

CLOSER - A DROP HITS - FREEZE AND PUSH INTO IT AS AN INCREDIBLE VISION FOLLOWS... WE FOLLOW THE DROP OF RAIN UP UP UP UP UP INTO THE SKY... INTO A ROLLING CLOUDS... FILLED WITH THUNDER AND LIGHTNING... AND WE'RE THROWN AROUND AND SPEEDING THROUGH CLOUDS... AT INCREDIBLE SPEED... FOR MILES... AND THEN JUST AS SUDDENLY, WE'RE FALLING... DOWN DOWN DOWN DOWN DOWN DOWN DOWN... UNTIL IT SPLATS ON --

DANA'S NAVAL
as she lays relaxing by the lake... and she reacts as she feels the raindrop... sits up and looks up at the sky irritated... starts to pack it in... and the vision ends as we...

RESUME JOHNNY
as he reacts...

JOHNNY
The Lake. It's moving toward Moosehead.

TONI
He's a walking early warning system, isn't he...?

Thunder rolls again like it's talking to him...

JOHNNY
(to Bruce)
They're in danger. We have to warn them. There's still time.

BRUCE
(to Toni)
We were supposed to meet our friends there today.

(CONTINUED)
TONI
(acknowledges)
Lot of tourists up there this weekend. But phone lines all over north county were knocked out by the storm.

JOHNNY
Then we have to outrun it. Can you give us a lift?

TONI
Let's go.

They hustle into the truck and as they take off pan up to the sky to see threatening lightning crackle between clouds...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

35 EXT. RURAL HIGHWAY - TONI'S TRUCK - ROLLING ALONG, SET AGAINST A STORMY SKY - DAY

And I'm feeling we should keep the weather threatening for most of Johnny's journey now... not rain but a dangerous looking sky... full of electricity...

36 INT. TRUCK - DAY

As they drive... and Toni's eyes are on the road ahead but she's seeing the most frightening day of her life as she talks, a day that changed her, shaped her, haunts her... the speech needs to be spoken with great pace, evenly, not to be milked for emotion - just put out there with an intensity...

TONI

I was fourteen when I saw my first one. I was coming out of a movie theater outside Nashville. Rambo, Part Two. The boy I was with was a big Sly fan.

(smiles at the memory)

...Bobby Tucci... He was older and I wasn't supposed to be out with him, my parents didn't like him and I'd lied to them about where I was going... anyway, we're coming out... and the sky is a dark mustard green... and everything is still... you could just feel something was wrong.

And then we saw it... like a shoe-string in the sky... and Bobby, jerk, he takes off... just takes off and leaves me standing there...

BRUCE

See, your parents were right about him...

TONI

That's exactly what I was thinking. And I start to run across the street... and I hear myself saying 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry'... as though this storm was coming for me... you know, because I'd been out with Bobby Tucci...!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
TONI (CONT'D)
(she laughs)
I duck into a Shakey's Pizza with
a birthday party for some kids...
all with silver party hats on...
and we crawl under tables... One
kid is eating pepperoni pizza
under the table like nothing is
happening... and I'm closing my
eyes swearing out loud that I'll
never go out with Bobby again...

BRUCE
Did you?

TONI
Hell, no, I know better than to
tempt the fates.

(beat)
When it was over, we came out --
the other side of the street was
gone... it was gone... the movie
theater I just came out of was
gone... and our side was
untouched...

(beat)
It's hard to accept the idea of
random... we all like
explanations... a way to make
sense of things that don't make
sense... and I guess I've spent
my life trying to make sense of
that day...

(glances at Johnny)
And you haven't made my job any
easier today.

She reacts as she sees something up ahead...

TONI
Uh oh, what's this?

EXT. RURAL HIGHWAY - A ROAD BLOCK - A STATE PATROLMAN IN
A RAIN SLICKER WAVING A LANTERN... THE TRUCK STOPS.

CLOSER - AS HE COMES OVER TO THE TRUCK

STATE PATROLMAN
Storm washed out the road ahead.
Can't get through...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JOHNNY
We're trying to get to friends at Moosehead.

STATE PATROLMAN
You might be able to get through if you cut over to Joppa Road...
(he points)
No guarantees though... it's pretty rough country over there...

TONI
Thanks.

A flicker of lightning crackles across the sky...

STATE PATROLMAN
Damn, we're not through with this one yet, are we? I thought it was past us. Weatherman sure screwed this one up.

Toni gives an ironic smile...

WIDER - THE TRUCK GOES ONTO A TURNOFF AND RACES ACROSS THE WILDERNESS AS THE THUNDER ROLLS AGAIN... ROLLING ACROSS TO THE NEXT SCENE --

EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY
Walt and Sarah walk along the lakefront, holding hands, looking up at a darkening sky... the thunder more distant here...

WALT
Looks like a real old time summer storm moving in all right...

SARAH
I just wish we could call home and make sure JJ's all right...

WALT
He's not afraid of a little thunder.

SARAH
He's got the science fair coming up.

(CONTINUED)
WALT
Already? Didn't we just build a papier maché volcano?

SARAH
That was a year ago.

WALT
What else can you make out of papier maché?

SARAH
I was thinking maybe Johnny could help him this year.

Walt feels uneasy about it...

SARAH
I mean, it would be good for both of them, don't you think?... and Johnny used to teach science...

WALT
(overlapping)
Yeah. I just...
(awkward)
Look, sure, he's his father and he's got a right to...

SARAH
And you're his father too... a wonderful father... maybe you can all work together on the project...

WALT
(sarcastic)
Oh, that'll be fun.

A beat. He studies her...

WALT
So, you thought any more about giving JJ a baby sister or brother?

Sarah smiles... but it's not a decisive smile, she wrestling with it...

SARAH
I've thought a lot about it.

WALT
And...?
SARAH
(admitting)
And I realize how much I miss
having a baby in the house.

He smiles... encouraged...

SARAH
And I'm not getting any younger...

WALT
No just more beautiful.

Sarah looks up at him... wants so much to make him happy...
she kisses him gently on the lips. A cold breeze makes
Sarah shiver.

WALT (CONT'D)
Feels like the temperature just
dropped ten degrees. Better get
inside.

They move toward the cabin... but Sarah's eyes say she's
not at all sure about the drift of the conversation they
just had. As they walk into the cabin... as in Johnny's
vision --

WIND CHIMES

hanging from the cabin... beginning to tinkle in the
breeze... then we hear a squeak...

A KINETIC SCULPTURE

beginning to turn in the breeze... and a banging...

A WOOD GATE

banging back and forth in the breeze... lightning crackles
in the sky and distant thunder rumbles...
EXT. JOPPA ROAD - DAY

But dark in this forest of mammoth trees. Finding tall timber, struck by lightening, has fallen and blocked the way of a small traveling carnival... a rig has jack-knifed trying to avoid the fallen tree - it's a mess - a variety of games and rides and trailers are all backed up... Toni's truck pulls up behind them... but has no way around... she has to park...

ANGLE - JOHNNY, BRUCE AND TONI

get out... and as they move toward the accident - it is a weird sight indeed --

THEIR POV - SLOWLY MOVING FORWARD - MAYBE EVEN SLOW MO

among the carnies trying to clear the road... illuminated by the truck headlights and sporadic lightning... are a tattooed man... CARNIVAL MOM... LITTLE PERSON... STRONG MAN... pin-cushion man... and other assorted weird looking people from the carny "freak" show... there are a couple of young children of the carnies as well...

RESUME ACTION

TONI
You guys see what the problem is,
I'm gonna check the readings on
my equipment...

As Toni goes to the back of the truck... Bruce and Johnny move forward to see if they can help...

BRUCE
What happened?

And a CARNY turns to Bruce... and it's the same carny that appeared in our pilot... from the wheel of fortune... the night Johnny had his accident... thunder and lightning in the background punctuate the sequence...

CARNY
Lightning. Damn tree fell right in front of the truck... and we were supposed to be at the Penobscot fairgrounds hours ago...

He reacts as he sees Johnny...

CARNY
I know you...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BRUCE
Yeah, you've probably seen him on TV...

CARNY
No... not TV... years ago... you took me to the cleaners... Most amazing run on the wheel I ever saw... that's a face I'll never forget as long as I live... you remember that night?

JOHNNY
Yeah.

The wind blows... and there's a click-click-click... and Johnny turns to see --

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

trailer rig... the wind making the wheel turn a click at a time... and as we push to Johnny, this is just too weird...

RESUME

JOHNNY

Toni moves over urgently from the truck...

TONI
The MDA is showing two symmetric 2-D circulations at different elevations... right above us...

BRUCE
Are we chasing this storm or is this storm chasing us?

LITTLE PERSON
Hey, we're going to try and move this tree... can you give us a hand over here...

Thunder growls as the carny, Bruce and Johnny move over...

ANGLE

The crew has set up an ad hoc pulley device to try and facilitate the removal of the tree from the narrow road...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

the strong man, standing among the other 'freaks' about to pitch in, glances over to Johnny, smiles casually with appreciation for the helping hand...

STRONGMAN
(to Johnny)
Welcome to the fold.

Johnny acknowledges... as they all grab onto the device and begin to struggle with the weight... RAMP TO JOHNNY...

A JOHNNY FLASH - A LIGHTNING BOLT SHOOTING DOWN RIGHT AT CAMERA THROUGH THE TREES - IT WHITES OUT THE FRAME

RESUME JOHNNY

who reacts...

JOHNNY
Get back!

Reactions, uncertainty...

JOHNNY
Now! Run!

Well, if somebody says run... I'll run and ask questions later and Bruce sure doesn't need to be told twice...

BRUCE
Move it, move it...

And just as people start to scatter in confusion... lightning strikes the pulley device... the ground shakes with the impact... the sound is deafening... Johnny is thrown to the ground...

VARIOUS SHOTS - OF BRUCE, TONI, THE CARNY ALL TAKING COVER

ANOTHER LIGHTNING BOLT CRACKS NEAR-BY...

JOHNNY LOOKS OVER IN THE DIRECTION OF WHERE IT HIT AND SEES --

A MAN WHO DOESN'T BELONG HERE

he looks as confused as anyone...  

(CONTINUED)
he almost appears to be dressed as a homeless man... he's staring at Johnny... lightning illuminates...

HIS FACE
and...

JOHNNY'S FACE
who looks at him curiously...

CLOSER ON THE MAN WHO DOESN'T BELONG
as he says just two words...

FUTUREMAN
Johnny Smith.

JOHNNY
reacts. Another bolt of lightning blinds him for an instant. Then...

SAME ANGLE AS BEFORE
The mystery man is nowhere to be seen...

LITTLE GIRL (O.S.)
Mommy! Mommy!

JOHNNY TURNS TO THE VOICE

ANGLE ON HIS HAND
in the dirt... as we RAMP FROM HIS HAND ALONG THE GROUND LIKE A PSYCHIC IMPULSE AND IT ZIPS TO A LITTLE GIRL – ONE OF THE KIDS WE SAW BEFORE... and she's running scared...

LITTLE GIRL
Mommy?

JOHNNY
sees she's running in the direction of
CONTINUED: (2)

A PROPANE VEHICLE... FUEL TANK IN THE BACK

JOHNNY

knows what's about to happen... he scrambles to his feet and races to the best of his ability, limping on his bad leg, and scoops up the little girl before she can reach...

THE PROPANE VEHICLE

as lightning strikes it and it explodes....

VARIOUS ANGLES

the force of the explosion blowing the road clear...

BRUCE AND TONI

are safe...

JOHNNY AND THE LITTLE GIRL

are safe... although she's crying... one of the Carnival Moms, comes and takes her from Johnny...

    CARNIVAL MOM
    Honey... honey... no, it's okay...
    you're okay... Mommy's here...
    (to Johnny)
    Thank you, thank you so much...
    god bless you...

ANGLE

The explosion has set debris and the Wheel of Fortune on fire... the tree that had been blocking the road has been reduced to burning splinters... carnival emergency workers man fire extinguishers and attack the blaze...

JOHNNY FINDS BRUCE AND TONI...

And meanwhile...

ANGLE - THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

is burning... going up in flames...
FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY

The storm rolling in... lightning and thunder crackles.

53 INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Thunder continuing... the group is assembled...

SARAH
I wonder where Johnny and Bruce are... I hope they aren't caught in this...

Dana at the window... she's dressed again... looking out, her face is illuminated...

DANA
Have I ever mentioned that I have a thing about thunder and lightning? Ever since my dad left me home alone in a storm when I was five...

Another louder boom of a thunder... the others react as the lights in the cabin go out...

DANA
Okay. Does anyone have a doll I can hold?

54 EXT. ROAD ALONG THE LAKE - DAY

Toni's truck moving along... Bruce is driving now and Toni is in the back, taking readings... Johnny is in the passenger seat trying to make sense of all of this...

JOHNNY
You don't have any idea what I'm talking about.

BRUCE
I see some coincidences...

JOHNNY
The same carnival...

BRUCE
Comes up here every year, John... they tour New England...
JOHNNY
A storm that doesn't show up on radar... like the storm in '95...
a storm that seems to be following us... you said it yourself...

BRUCE
John, a joke... that's all it was...

Bruce is a spiritual man and he even considers what Johnny says for a moment but he just can't bring himself to buy it — after all, the coincidences really could be coincidental — they aren't so out of the ordinary. Almost to bolster his own beliefs —

BRUCE (CONT'D)
Toni, tell him that storms don't have minds of their own.

TONI
Storms don't have minds of their own. Of course, I still wouldn't go out with Bobby Tucci if he called.

(beat, off computer)
Okay, I'm reading a weak rotational couplet at 21-0-6 UTC... not good...

(she types the keyboard)

JOHNNY
Bruce... if we left... if we drove in the opposite direction, maybe we could draw the storm... I know you'll say it's crazy but...

BRUCE
...it's crazy...

JOHNNY
...but maybe it will follow us away from...

BRUCE
John... okay, I've seen some strange things around you... but what you're saying... it just doesn't... it's the weather...

TONI
(off readings)
There it is... an unstable, sheared environment...

(CONTINUED)
Toni
a right turning cell...
(beat)
We need to find shelter and soon...

Bruce
(glances at Johnny
then decides)
We're five minutes from the
retreat.

He drives... Johnny looks straight ahead... internal
confusion in his eyes...

INT. CABIN - DAY

Thunder rumbling in the distance... Walt tries the phone,
it's still out... Purdy is lighting candles...

INT. KITCHEN

Candlelight. Finding Sarah with Dana who is shuddering
with each storm sound... Sarah is pouring a bottle of
sherry into a glass for her...

Sarah
This'll calm you down...

Dana
Cooking sherry?

Sarah
(recalling Dana's
earlier line)
You'd be surprised what you can
find in 'the kitchen'.

Dana
Touché.

She drinks a shot.

Dana
(re: the sherry)
Oh that's bad. I'll have another.

Sarah pours...

Dana
I hope you don't do a lot of this
during the day.

(CONTINUED)
SARAH
Only in emergencies.

A crash of thunder.

SARAH
I think I'll join you for one.

Pours for herself.

DANA
Don't tell anyone but Purdy keeps a secret case of '89 Montrachet in the storage room... three hundred bucks a bottle...

SARAH
Then why the hell are we drinking five dollar sherry?

DANA
T'aient chilled -- it would kill him to serve a dry white at room temperature. Besides, it's a secret because if his flock knew he had alcoholic beverages at his Christian retreat...

SARAH
Ah.

A beat.

DANA
Sarah... (trying to muster the courage, Sarah looks at her curious)
I'm sorry.

SARAH
For what?

DANA
(being a bitch)
You know. The mouth.

SARAH
Don't worry. I can give as good as I get.

DANA
We're not going to be pals now are we?

((CONTINUED)
SARAH
I don't think so.

DANA
Good. That would be hard.

SARAH
Yeah.

DANA
Considering how we both feel about Johnny.

Dana makes eye contact with Sarah...

SARAH
I don't know what you think is going on... but Johnny is my best friend... He'll always be my...

DANA
(interrupting)
When are you going to face it, Sarah?

Sarah studies her... as a quiet roll of thunder fills the silence... and this speech is said with compassion, not anger.

DANA
I can be his best friend. You can't. He's too deep inside you. You're too deep inside him.

(beat)
You want to know what I think is going on? I think there isn't a day in your life that you don't wonder how it might be with Johnny, how you might break it gently to Walt, but you keep seeing that Gentle Ben face of his when you tell the poor bastard. Walt's a good man. He deserves someone who can really love him and only him and you hate yourself for not being able to give him that.

SARAH
You're wrong. In fact, Walt and I are talking about having a baby.

Dana's eyes narrow. And in a way Sarah is putting it out there not just to convince Dana but to convince herself.

(Continued)
55A CONTINUED: (3)

But Sarah has not made up her mind about this baby - in part because she knows it draws the final line between her and Johnny and she just doesn't know if she can do that yet. And there's the old nagging wonder if having a baby is a way to "save" this marriage - would she be doing it for the right reasons? All these considerations cannot be voiced here but they linger in the silence that follows the announcement. Finally to fill the void --

SARAH
(uncomfortable, not at all harsh)
Not that it's any business of yours. I don't even know why I told you.

DANA
Don't you?

Sarah gives her a look that says she's had enough of this, puts down her drink and exits...

DANA
Damn mouth.

She pours another drink for herself...

56

INT. MAIN CABIN - CONTINUOUS

As Sarah moves in... the front door suddenly opens and Johnny, Bruce and Toni come in... candles lit everywhere...

PURDY
Johnny. Well, I know this looks a little strange... it isn't exactly what we intended... but your friends have all gathered here today to...

JOHNNY
We can't do this now, Gene...

PURDY
Yes, well, I know how you must feel but...

BRUCE
No, he means we can't do this now... this is Toni Donahue, a stringer for the national weather service...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

TONI
There's a tornado forming along the lake... maybe more than one...

Dana who has entered downs the last of her sherry at that news... Walt goes to look out the window...

TONI
Stay away from the windows... is there a basement in this cabin...

PURDY
A storage cellar... there isn't much room...

TONI
It'll have to do...

PURDY
Yes. Of course. Through the kitchen.

The sound of wind building outside... the door that Walt was going to look out blows open... some candles blow out... Purdy moves instinctively to help close the door...

TONI
Leave it!

They move toward the kitchen... another door bursts open as they pass...

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

PURDY
(nervous)
This structure has been here for decades... through many storms... I'm certain that...

TONI
Sir, we've never seen a storm like this in Maine.

It sounds like a freight train approaching outside... a crack... crack...

They look up... to see --
CONTINUED:

P.O.V. - THE CEILING - PLANKS OF THE WOOD ROOF

are being pulled up... one... two... three... the sound of
the freight train growing louder now that it's open
above... lightning flashing through...

ANGLE THEY PUSH AHEAD... SCARED...

BUT NOW THE ENTIRE ROOF ABOVE THE HALLWAY IS SUCKED UP
AND AWAY

OMITTED

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

and just as they enter... a tree branch crashes through
one of windows in front of them...

THE OTHER WINDOWS SHAKE VIOLENTLY AND BREAK

REACTIONS

TONI

Down on the floor... keep moving...

They are deeper into the kitchen now... Purdy leads the
way, followed by Toni, Sarah, Walt, Bruce and Dana (in
that order). Johnny brings up the rear.

GLASSES AND PLATES CRASH AROUND OUR PEOPLE

Suddenly an entire tree comes crashing through the ceiling
landing between Sarah and Walt, barely missing them, but
separating them. The storm rages outside, the wind
intensifies.
CONTINUED:

PURDY, TONI AND SARAH

make it into the stone hallway. Purdy directs the women toward the storage cellar door.

PURDY
(to the others)
Keep coming, we're almost there!

Walt and Bruce crawl under the fallen tree and make to the stone hallway... Purdy goes to the storage room... lighting, thunder outside... the wind intensifies more... rain and hail falling on them... they're wet and it's slippery...

DRAWERS RATTLE AND SHAKE AND FINALLY OPEN AND KNIVES AND FORKS AND SPOONS FLY OUT...

JOHNNY AND DANA
crawl under the tree heading toward the hallway... but suddenly Dana is sucked toward the open windows... she grabs onto the refrigerator handle... but it's a fearsome pull... she's blown vertical, feet first toward the windows... Johnny reaches out for Walt's hand across the river of wind... Walt links arms with Bruce and they brace themselves against the stone wall to hold onto Johnny... Johnny grabs Dana's hand just as --

THE ENTIRE WALL BEHIND THE REFRIGERATOR IS SUCKED AWAY
revealing the black storm raging outside...

THE REFRIGERATOR SUDDENLY RISES OUT OF SIGHT

And Dana goes with it... and would be gone now... if it weren't for Bruce and Walt holding Johnny holding onto her...

HER FACE - FEARFUL

JOHNNY'S FACE - STRAINING

WALT AND BRUCE'S FACES - STRAINING

finally the storm breaks its grip and Johnny pulls her back... and they crawl under the tree...
INT. ENTRANCE TO STORAGE CELLAR

A small storage room with a few down stairs as they crowd in... Johnny is the last one... but he doesn't go in... he starts to close the door behind Bruce...

BRUCE
What... what are you...

But before he can react... Johnny shuts the door and latches it so Bruce can't stop him... he turns toward the sound of the roaring freight train...

EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY

As Johnny comes outside, in this incredible storm and stares at --
THE MONEY SHOT... THE FULL FUNNEL OF AN F-3 TORNADO IN ALL IT'S GLORY... HOVERING IN FRONT OF HIM OVER THE LAKE...

JOHNNY

studies it...

JOHNNY

What do you want of me?

THE TORNADO

moves closer...

JOHNNY - CLOSE - THE WIND AND RAIN WHIPPING HIS FACE

JOHNNY

I'm a science teacher... and I'm the first to admit... that the universe is full of things that I'll never understand... of... chaos that can't be explained... by me anyway...

(beat)

Okay... listen to yourself, you're talking to a tornado...

ANGLE - A TREE IS UPROOTED AND FLIES AWAY

RESUME JOHNNY - EVEN CLOSER

He presses on...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Is that to scare me? Or is it just a... a... random wind shear? Because... honestly? I can't even begin to accept the notion that you've been sent here like... like... the whale was sent to swallow Jonah... to teach me some kind of lesson... I'm sorry, I just... can't... I can't conceive of a God...

(beat)

...who would take a young woman's life... who would show me the future and not let me change it...

(MORE)
JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(beat)
So now I'm helpless again... what power do I have over a storm, over fate, over destiny? None.

He takes a deep breath, tells himself to get on with it... and gets to the bargain...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

But if it will help... and believe me I can't believe I'm saying this... if it will save my friends... and anyone else on this lake today... I can tell you one thing about the universe that I do understand now... and that's my place in it... and I will accept that. If you will spare them...

The tornado seems to be inches from Johnny as we intercut between him and it... and without resolving anything...

FADE TO BLACK.
CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON SARAH

as her eyes see him first... we don't...

SARAH
(to herself)
Johnny?

She starts to run... now yelling --

SARAH
Johnny...?

WALT

reacts, turns to see his wife sprinting... he follows her... as do the others...

NEW ANGLE - JOHNNY

is lying face down, arms splayed, unconscious or asleep or dead... as Sarah reaches him first...

SARAH
Johnny...

...kneels beside him... but as she touches his face gently...

HIS EYES SNAP OPEN

and he takes a sharp breath as though waking from a nightmare... sits upright... heart pounding... he's dirty, has scratches on his face... shirt torn... he looks at his hands and touches himself... as though to reassure himself that he's whole...

SARAH
Thank God.

A tear rolls down her cheek. Johnny looks at her a confused beat...

JOHNNY
(casual like any other day)
Hey, Sarah.

SARAH
(with love and relief)
Hey yourself.

(CONTINUED)
And her impulse is to take him in her arms and hold him but she fights it back... Walt and the others arrive...

BRUCE
Don't... don't move too quickly... take your time..

PURDY
What on God's earth you were thinking?

JOHNNY
I don't know. Just a crazy notion.

WALT
Not a smart move, John. You're lucky to be alive.

TONI
We all are.

Johnny is on his feet now, a little shaky...

JOHNNY
Everybody's okay?

DANA
Yes. We've been drinking a lovely Montrachet while we waited.

PURDY
(not me)
Some of us.

JOHNNY
(to Toni)
It's over. The storm. Check your readings - it's gonna be okay now...

We can hear sirens in the distance... the group moves apart to check out the awesome damage, leaving Johnny and Bruce more or less by themselves for a moment...

JOHNNY
I think we can skip the intervention... spring break's over...

Bruce studies him a long beat... and suddenly it comes to him... laughs...

BRUCE
Tell me you did it.
JOHNNY
What?

BRUCE
Made a deal with the storm.

JOHNNY
What kind a deal?

BRUCE
You did, you did... I know you...

JOHNNY
The storm was already running out of steam by the time I got out here, Bruce...

BRUCE
(teasing)
Liar. You are such a liar. Not exactly the intervention we came for. But hey, if it worked for you...

Toni moves over to them to say good-bye...

TONI
Well, I need to get back and make my reports.
(to Johnny)
We could use you in the national weather service. You don't need a job, do you?

BRUCE
He already has one.

And as she walks back toward her truck, we pull back and up...

JOHNNY
How do I get all those people out of my house?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END