THE DEAD ZONE

"SAVED"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1  EXT. SEASIDE HIGHWAY - DAY

Johnny's car is stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

2  INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY

Johnny and Bruce are hot and crabby. Johnny sighs.

JOHNNY
This traffic is crazy.

BRUCE
We could be at the blues festival in Rockland by now. At least it's at a five-star resort. You sure Reverend Purdy doesn't mind me taggin' along?

JOHNNY
Hey, we're friends. Compadres. Wherever I go, you go.

BRUCE
You didn't tell him I was coming, did you?

JOHNNY
Not a word.
(re. the traffic)
Not that it's going to matter seeing how we're going to spend the entire weekend sitting in the car.

Bruce scans through the radio...
CONTINUED:

BRUCE
Hey, you got the Satellite radio installed.

He scans some stations, then we hear a familiar voice.

PURDY (RADIO)
Fellow worshipers, join with me in pondering the eternal mysteries of our faith...

JOHNNY
Wait... leave it there.

Purdy CONTINUES preaching in the BACKGROUND (TO BE WRITTEN)

BRUCE
Is that Purdy preaching?

JOHNNY
Satellite radio must have picked up the new Faith Heritage Channel.

BRUCE
The Faith Heritage Channel? Why does that sound so scary?

Johnny makes a turn.

JOHNNY
Finally...

EXT. OLD-FASHIONED BEACH RESORT - DAY - ESTABLISHING

It's a sprawling, posh, but understated resort--more the kind of place Bush Sr. would be found than P. Diddy. Bruce and Johnny get out of the car.

BRUCE
Wow. I can almost smell the money.

Johnny hands the keys to the VALET.

Bruce goes through the revolving door, Johnny follows him, but when he puts his hands on it -- WHOOSH!

GREG STILLSON - VISION

Standing next to him, desperately pleading.
CONTINUED:

STILLSON
Smith. You have to listen to me.
You’re the only one who can help.

RESUME - JOHNNY

Is spit out of the revolving door, shaken by the weirdness
of this intense FLASH VISION. He stares at the empty
door as it swings around again, convincing himself that
it's indeed empty.

BRUCE
Johnny, you okay?

JOHNNY
Fasten your seat belt, I think
hell's about to freeze over.

OFF JOHNNY AND BRUCE.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY

Greg Stillson and his new girlfriend, MIRANDA ELLIS, are on her family’s vintage sailboat. Greg moves up behind her and kisses her on the neck, a cocktail in his hand.

MIRANDA
We're getting close.

STILLSON
Where are we going anyway?

MIRANDA
Just out past the reef. There's a great picnic spot on the outer island.

STILLSON
As long as we get back in time for the party.

MIRANDA
Reverend Purdy's shakedown.

STILLSON
I know, but it's important. Your father will be there. Although, I'm still not sure if he likes me.

MIRANDA
Are you kidding? You're the first guy I've dated that he's approved of since... I can't remember.

The boat crests and dips on some waves, as Stillson seems a bit unsteady.

STILLSON
Whoa.

MIRANDA
Feeling dizzy again?

STILLSON
I guess I'm not much of a sailor. I better grab another Dramamine.

He plants another kiss on her and moves to the open hatchway. He TURNS...

(CONTINUED)
STILLSON
Have I told you how much I love you?
Miranda smiles, as Stillson climbs below deck. It's only as he's gone that we see another look come across her face... it's not love.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

Bruce and Johnny are standing behind another couple of RICH TOURISTS checking in.

BRUCE
How do you explain a vision of Greg Stillson asking you for help?

JOHNNY
I can't, but I saw it happen.

BRUCE
Last time you two hooked up, he accused you of murder.

JOHNNY
Your point?

BRUCE
I think you should stay away from the guy. He's nothing but trouble.

Johnny and Bruce step up to the front desk.

CLERK
Good day. Are you gentlemen here for the golf tournament?

BRUCE
I look like Tiger Woods?

JOHNNY
We're here for the Faith Heritage fundraiser.

CLERK
If you'll sign the register.
Excuse me.

As the Clerk turns away to answer the phone, Johnny goes to sign the register and WHOOSH--

VISION

Quick flashes of people signing the register.
Flashes stop on Greg Stillson and Miranda.
Vision Johnny walks around them, examining them—but Miranda in particular.

VISION JOHNNY
Stillson's here. With a woman.

BRUCE
Let me guess. Married? Underage?

VISION JOHNNY
This one seems different...

PURDY O.C.
Johnny, I'm so glad you made it...

Johnny flashes out of the vision, and turns to see Purdy behind him.

INT. HOTEL BAR - MOMENTS LATER
Johnny, Bruce and Purdy are sitting at a table.

PURDY
Bruce, this is an unexpected surprise. I didn't realize you were a boating enthusiast.

BRUCE
I'm not. We were supposed to go to a blues festival.

PURDY
Well, the foundation sincerely appreciates your musical sacrifice.

JOHNNY
Speaking of the foundation, congratulations on the new Faith Heritage Network.

PURDY
God continues to show his blessings. Thanks to modern communication technology I'm now able to bring the Word to millions around the globe.
BRUCE
That must cost serious money.

PURDY
Like most things in this life, it's all about whom you know.

JOHNNY
Does that include Greg Stillson?

PURDY
Congressman Stillson has been very supportive. I understand your feeling towards him, but he's a changed man since his father's tragic passing.

JOHNNY
Changed?

PURDY
More focused and settled. The rumor mill has him about to secure the hand of his beloved.

BRUCE
Stillson's getting married?

PURDY
So they say. I've actually had the pleasure of meeting the young lady. Miranda Ellis.

JOHNNY
As in Senator Harlan Ellis?

PURDY
His only child. The Ellises are one of Maine's oldest families.

JOHNNY
And a quantum leap up the social ladder for somebody like Stillson.

Purdy freezes as his eyes fall on a dark-suited figure -- MALCOLM JANUS-- in the distance. Johnny TURNS to look, but Janus is already gone.

PURDY
Perhaps we'll have more time to talk later. Gentlemen.

As Purdy leaves, the WAITER comes back with the check.
Cont.: (2)

BRUCE
I know Purdy's got the body temperature of a shark, but did he seem a little nervous to you?

JOHNNY
Now that you mention it...

As the Waiter hands Johnny the check, Johnny touches the leather check holder,

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - VISION - NIGHT

Greg and Miranda laughing, heads close, at the end of a romantic dinner. Greg is handing the check to the very same Waiter. Vision Johnny closely observes Greg and Miranda.

STILLSON
(playful)
Come on, tell me? Who took you to the prom?

MIRANDA
No...

STILLSON
A Rockefeller, I bet. Or a Kennedy?

A beat, then...

MIRANDA
I didn't go to my prom. My father wouldn't allow it.

Stillson seems genuinely moved...

STILLSON
I had a daddy like that. Nearly suffocated underneath him.

Greg gently lifts her chin with his hand.

STILLSON
If you were mine, I'd never deny your happiness. Not ever.

INT. BAR - RESUME

Out of vision, Johnny turns to Bruce.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JOHNNY
I think Stillson's really in love.

BRUCE
Even a blind squirrel finds a nut.

JOHNNY
If he's going to come to me for help, I'll feel better if I know why. Let's take a look around.

OMITTED

EXT. BOAT SLIP - MOMENTS LATER

Bruce and Johnny walk the dock. There are some very nice boats.

JOHNNY
The Ellis boat is called the Seamore 9. It's docked in slip F8.

BRUCE
I bet these boats cost more than my apartment.

JOHNNY
Bigger too.

Johnny and Bruce find slip F8. It's empty.

BRUCE
You think Stillson and Miranda took a little day cruise?

Johnny touches the piling. WHOOSH--

EXT. SAILBOAT - VISION

In the open ocean, Greg Stillson scrambles around the deck of a sailboat, screaming “Miranda!” Frantically looking out into the waves. There’s obviously been an accident.

EXT. MARINA - SLIP F8 - DAY

Out of the vision...
JOHNNY
She's gone overboard.

BRUCE
Miranda?

JOHNNY
Call Walt. Have him contact the Coast Guard. Tell him it's an emergency.

He looks out towards the open ocean.

EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY

In dramatic contrast, Miranda and Greg are on the boat, looking picture perfect. They are out of sight of the shoreline, carving through the waves, sails full. She steers with her foot while she reaches for some dip.

MIRANDA
You feeling alright?

Greg is the color of guacamole. He shakes his head.

STILLSON
It's the movement.

MIRANDA
Maybe you should lie down.

STILLSON
Maybe you're right. Of all the incredibly beautiful, intelligent women, I had to fall for a sailor.

He forces a smile and vanishes below deck. When he's gone, we see something shift in her eyes, something we don't quite understand.

OMITTED

EXT. COAST GUARD BOAT - SHORT TIME LATER

Johnny, Walt and Bruce are watching from the observation area, Walt uses binoculars to scan the horizon.

(CONTINUED)
WALT
I hope you know what you're doing, John. It wasn't easy to convince these guys to start an all out search on the word of a psychic.

JOHNNY
I know what I saw. Miranda was gone and Stillson was calling her name. He seemed... terrified.

BRUCE
I never liked the ocean. Too many things down there that can eat ya.

The Officer calls out to them from his radio station inside.

OFFICER
Sheriff, we just got a radio report from the far side of the island. They found the Seamore.

Off Johnny's look at Walt...

INT. COAST GUARD BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny, Walt, and Bruce are mid private conversation with the ranking officer (Captain).

OFFICER
According to the initial report, Congressman Stillson was the only one found onboard. He's being transported back as we speak.

JOHNNY
What about the girl?

OFFICER
Still missing.

He pulls down a MAP divided into quadrants.

OFFICER
The sail boat was found here. The current is moving Easterly.

(MORE)
OFFICER (CONT'D)
If she's alive, we'll find her someplace in this area.

WALT
How long can a person last out there in the water?

OFFICER
Depends on the person.

He walks away, leaving them to ponder the situation...

EXT. HOTEL AREA - DUSK

Bruce, Walt, Johnny, and the Coast Guard Captain return from the Coast Guard station. They round a corner into a spontaneous press conference with senior SENATOR HARLAN ELLIS.

SEN. ELLIS
I have a brief statement. I'd like to thank everyone involved in the rescue operation. I emphasize 'rescue'. Miranda is a strong willed young woman. If anyone can come through this, she can.

REPORTER #1
Sir, how long have your daughter and Congressman Stillson known each other?

Ellis seems put off by the timing of such a personal question.

SEN. ELLIS
No comment.

REPORTER #2
Is there anything to the rumors they were planning to announce their plans to marry?

He can see exactly where this is going and decides to end it.

SEN. ELLIS
That's all I have to say.

He spots Walt.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SEN. ELLIS
You can direct any further questions to Sheriff Bannerman.

The press corp turns their attention on WALT, standing next to the Coast Guard Captain.
REPORTER #1 (O.S.)
Sheriff Bannerman, has there been any sign of the missing girl?

Bruce and Johnny back up before they are spotted.

WALT
Not yet. But I can assure you that Captain Nelson and the Coast Guard are doing everything possible to find her.

REPORTER #1
How is Congressman Stillson?

WALT
Congressman Stillson has been taken to a local hospital for observation. I wouldn't want to speculate on his condition.

REPORTER #2
Is there evidence that this might be something other than an accident?

Walt exchanges a knowing glance with Johnny...

WALT
Not at this time.

AWAY FROM THE CAMERAS, Purdy joins Johnny and Bruce.

PURDY
You saw this coming, didn't you?

JOHNNY
I saw it. But I couldn't stop it.

PURDY
I've canceled the fundraiser. Now is the time for prayer.

Purdy walks away.

BRUCE
This must be more serious than I thought if Purdy's willing to close down the cash register.

JOHNNY
He does seem a little jumpy.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

BRUCE
What now?

JOHNNY
I don't know about you, but I'm starving. I'm going to go to my room and get cleaned up.

BRUCE
I'll come by and get you in about twenty minutes.

Johnny walks away up the catwalk...

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny is changing his shirt while watching NEWS COVERAGE of the story. There's an urgent KNOCK on his door. Then another KNOCK.

JOHNNY
Alright, keep your socks on.

Johnny MOVES to the door, and OPENS it expecting Bruce...

JOHNNY
I thought you said twenty...

He's stunned to find a hollow-eyed Greg Stillson, just like in his first vision...

STILLSON
Smith. You have to listen to me. You're the only one who can help.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. JOHNNY'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It’s a tense moment. Two enemies, face-to-face. Stillson glances around nervously, a gym bag slung over his shoulder...

STILLSON
Did you hear what I said?

JOHNNY
I heard you. I just don't believe you.

STILLSON
Look, it's probably not good for either of us if I'm seen standing outside your room.

Johnny reluctantly lets him in.

JOHNNY
I was just heading out.

STILLSON
I need to know if she’s dead or alive.

Stillson pulls a woman's sweater from the gym bag.

JOHNNY
What is that?

STILLSON
Miranda's sweater. She's my...

JOHNNY
I know who she is.

STILLSON
I want you to touch it. Tell me what happened to her.

They lock eyes. Johnny's gaze strays to the sweater, then he looks away.

JOHNNY
I can't help you.

STILLSON
Look, I know what you're thinking. Am I involved in her disappearance? The answer is no. I swear.

(CONTINUED)
JOHNNY
Well, if you swear it must be true.

Johnny steps up close to Stillson in a threatening posture.

JOHNNY
I think you should go now.

STILLSON
Listen, I know there's bad blood between us--

Johnny flares, grabs Stillson by the front of his jacket.

JOHNNY
Bad blood?! Is that what you call what happened to Rachel? And what about Rebecca?! What about all the pain and misery you've rained down on everybody around you! What about that!?

Stillson struggles, but Johnny has him tight.

STILLSON
(passionately)
I love Miranda. She has nothing to do with any of that. Have I screwed up? Yes. But this isn't about me.

Johnny lets go of Stillson, eyes him for a beat.

JOHNNY
What happened out there on the water?

STILLSON
I'm not sure.

JOHNNY
You need to do better than that.

STILLSON
We were sailing. I felt sick, so I went below. When I came up, Miranda was gone.
   (voice catches)
I looked everywhere, but I couldn't find her.

JOHNNY
That doesn't make sense.
Johnny heads for the door.

JOHNNY
In fact, none of this makes any sense.

He opens the door.

STILLSON
I know you. You can't walk away from this. You can't leave an innocent girl out there alone to die.

Johnny stops, Stillson sees he's gotten to him.

JOHNNY
Why should I believe any of this?

STILLSON
Because I'm here. Because I swallowed every ounce of pride and ego I have left and knocked on your Goddamn door.

Johnny considers the moment, then releases his hold on Stillson. He steps over and picks up the sweater off the bed... WHOOSH!

UNDERWATER - VISION
It’s just a FLASH: Miranda’s face under water, eyes open. She's struggling, then drifts down out of sight...

RESUME JOHNNY
He flashes out as he looks to an expectant Stillson:

STILLSON
You saw her, didn't you?

Johnny is emotionally torn, but he's also a man with a God given gift, a gift he can't refuse an innocent person... even one unlucky enough to cross paths with somebody like Greg Stillson.

(CONTINUED)
JOHNNY
I don’t know if she’s dead or alive. But maybe I can help find out.

Stillson seems genuinely relieved.

STILLSON
Thank you.

JOHNNY
Let's get something straight. I'm not doing this for you. I'm doing it in spite of you. I'm doing it because if I didn't, it would make us the same. And we are not the same. We will never be the same.

Stillson considers the statement, then offers Johnny his hand... Johnny hesitates, then grasps it and... nothing happens. Johnny's visibly thrown by the moment...

STILLSON
What's wrong?

JOHNNY
Nothing. I'll meet you down at the marina in ten minutes.

Stillson heads for the door...

JOHNNY
Stillson?

Stillson turns...

JOHNNY
I find out you're involved in this and you're going down.

STILLSON
Ten minutes.

Stillson EXITS. Johnny ponders the weight of his decision.

INT. HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Bruce has just heard about Stillson's visit.

BRUCE
You didn't see anything when you shook his hand?

(MORE)
BRUCE (CONT'D)
No fire balls, or burnt out buildings?

JOHNNY
Nothing. Deciding to help him must've changed the future. Somehow it stopped Armageddon.

BRUCE
There it is. Just walk away and everything's good.

Bruce can see it's not that simple.

BRUCE
But you can't just walk away, can you?

JOHNNY
Stillson's the Devil, we all agree on that. But this girl is... different. I don't think she's seen who he really is.

BRUCE
Alright, so what do we do now?

JOHNNY
Not we, me. If something goes wrong, I'm going to need you around to tell the real story.

BRUCE
Johnny Smith and Greg Stillson working together. Never thought I'd see the day.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY
That makes two of us.

OMITTED

EXT. MARINA - THE SEAMORE 9'S SLIP - LATER THAT NIGHT

Stillson and Johnny walk towards the boat.

JOHNNY
I figured the boat would be sealed off as a possible crime scene.

STILLSON
There was no crime, haven't you been listening? Now let's do this before anybody sees us.

JOHNNY
Who's reputation you trying to protect? Yours or mine?

Stillson steps onboard, Johnny hangs back for a beat and studies the boat. Then he reaches for the rail to steady himself as he steps aboard and--

EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY - VISION

Miranda laughs as she jumps onboard.

STILLSON
Remember what you promised me?

MIRANDA
No matter what happens, I'll never tell.

She and Stillson hold a look, she means about his father, but covers with a smile, deflects.

MIRANDA
So you're afraid of the water, sweetie, so what.

STILLSON
I'd only do it for you.
(he pulls her close)
I'd do anything for you.
30  EXT. SAILBOAT

Out of vision, Johnny looks around.

JOHNNY
How long have you been afraid of the water?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Stillson looks back and realizes what's happening.

STILLSON
You really are creepy, you know.

Johnny moves across the boat, touches the hatch,

EXT. SAILBOAT - VISION

Stillson weaves a little, drink in hand, as he goes below.

EXT. SAILBOAT

Johnny confronts Stillson.

JOHNNY
How many drinks did you have?

STILLSON
You tell me.

JOHNNY
This isn't going to work unless you're honest with me. Which I'm sure goes against your better nature.

STILLSON
I came to you, remember?

JOHNNY
(hard)
I remember. I remember everything. Now you tell me what really happened out there or I walk!

Johnny instinctively grabs Stillson by the arm...

INT. ROOM - VISION - FLASH

It's indoors, but not clear where-- Stillson and Miranda.

STILLSON
(intense and drunk)
You want to see me? You want to know who I really am? Take a look! Take a real good look!
RESUME EXT. SAILBOAT

Flashing out...

JOHNNY
You fought with her. It got rough.

Greg backs away from Johnny.

STILLSON
No.

JOHNNY
And I suppose you only had one drink.

STILLSON
I felt sick. I went below deck to lie down.

JOHNNY
How long were you down there?

STILLSON
I don't know, twenty, thirty minutes.

JOHNNY
Thirty minutes? The boat could'a drifted 10 miles in that time. Did you tell the Coast Guard?

Stillson's silence speaks volumes.

JOHNNY
What's wrong with you?

STILLSON
I didn't do anything wrong. So save that holier than thou crap for someone who gives a damn.

Stillson walks away...

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lights off, Greg lets Johnny in through some French doors in the back.

JOHNNY
She gave you your own key?
STILLSON
That's right. And you might find some of my boxer shorts in her underwear drawer, if you look carefully.

Johnny looks around the apartment. Shabby chic, cozy, feminine. Sports trophies, pictures of dogs and horses and sailboats.

JOHNNY
Anything seem unusual in here?

STILLSON
Besides you and me creeping around in the dark?

Johnny notices more photos of Miranda with her dog, her cat and her horse.

JOHNNY
Miranda seems to be closer to animals than people.

Stillson notices the photos.

STILLSON
Her mother died when she was a little girl. She didn't have any brothers or sisters.

JOHNNY
Must be a lot of pressure being the only child of a powerful man.

STILLSON
As opposed to what? A Bible thumping dead-beat?

Stillson instantly realizes he's given away too much of himself. Johnny notices a series of trophies and ribbons, PHOTOS of Miranda in competitions, and on the sailboat. Miranda was, in fact, a champion high school swimmer.

JOHNNY
At least we know she can swim.

He sits down at her computer, touches the keyboard--WHOOSH.

SERIES OF FLASHES:

Miranda's there at different days and times, staring at a

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

website that shows WEATHER CHARTS and PREDICTIONS. Each time she empties the cache of her computer, so no record exists.

JOHNNY

Flashing out of the Vision...

STILLSON

Anything off the computer?

JOHNNY

(covering)

No... nothing.

Stillson seems unsure, Johnny MOVES to the kitchen phone. WHOOSH --

INT. APARTMENT - VISION

Miranda is on the phone.

MIRANDA

I want to make a bus reservation. Cross country, one-way to Seattle, Washington. -- That's Monday, the twenty-third at 5:30 PM.

RESUME INT. APARTMENT

Johnny flashes out of the vision. He checks his watch...

RESUME SCENE

Johnny realizes there's more here than meets the eye.

JOHNNY

I can't do this.
CONTINUED:

STILLSON
What are you talkin' about?

JOHNNY
I can't see things clearly when I'm tired.

STILLSON
Well, that's just too goddamn bad. What if she's out there somewhere?

JOHNNY
I can't force it.
(beat)
We'll start again in the morning.

On Stillson, eyes narrow as Johnny heads out,

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bruce is with him.

BRUCE
You think she faked this whole thing?

JOHNNY
She was a champion long distance swimmer. I saw her studying weather and current patterns... She bought a bus ticket. One way, cross country, leaving tomorrow night.

BRUCE
Why go to all the trouble of making everyone think you're dead? Just break up with the guy.

JOHNNY
Maybe she's afraid of what might happen if she tried.
EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS - DAY

Johnny's car heads down the driveway, away from the hotel. PAN OVER to see A BIG MAN IN DARK GLASSES watching it leave.
EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT

Sprawling shingle-style Old Maine mansion. Understated. Johnny and Greg are heading for the front door.

STILLSON
I don't know if this is such a good idea.

JOHNNY
Why? Because he'll think you're crazy running around with a psychic?

STILLSON
I'm not sure how I'm going to work it into the conversation.

JOHNNY
You're a politician, make something up.

INT. ELLIS MANSION

Johnny and Greg are following Miranda's father, tumbler of scotch in hand, through the house. He looks pretty shaken up.

MR. ELLIS
Forgive my lack of social graces. I've been up most of the night.

JOHNNY
I'm sorry we have to meet under such unusual circumstances.

Johnny touches a banister in passing, WHOOSH--

INT. MANSION - VISION

Sen. Ellis, looking slightly younger, argues with a neatly dressed BLACK MAN. Vision Johnny observes...

SEN. ELLIS
Lawrence, if you'll just be reasonable, I'm sure I can arrange to have the staff paid by the end of the month.

LAWRENCE
It's been nearly a month, Senator. I got a boy in college. I just can't work for no money.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SEN. ELLIS
You've been employed by my family
for nearly thirty years.

LAWRENCE
I'm sorry, sir. I truly am.

The man walks away, leaving Ellis looking lost and desperate.
INT. MANSION - MORNING

Johnny flashes out of the vision. They walk out on the porch, which looks out over the ocean.

STILLSON
I realize this is a little outside the box, Senator, but Mister Smith has a very impressive resume.

MR. ELLIS
I'd consult a voodoo doctor, if I thought it'd bring my baby girl home. I'm just afraid it might be too late for that.

As he says this, he touches Johnny on the shoulder, WHOOSH--

INT. MANSION - DAYS EARLIER - VISION

Sen. Ellis is in the same room where they are now. Vision Johnny watches as a distraught Miranda confronts her father.

MIRANDA
Daddy, please listen to me!
(beat)
I'm afraid of him.

SEN. ELLIS
Nonsense.

MIRANDA
You don't know the things he's capable of. I want your blessing to break off this relationship.

Ellis studies her, then...

SEN. ELLIS
Ever since you were a little girl, I've had but one thought in my mind... your happiness.

MIRANDA
Daddy...

SEN. ELLIS
It wasn't easy for me after your mother died. But I always came back to that one thought... what would be best for Miranda?

(MORE)
SEN. ELLIS (CONT'D)
(beat)
And now it appears we've come full circle and it's your turn to decide what's best.

MIRANDA
Daddy, I'm trying to tell you...

He turns and looks back at her.

SEN. ELLIS
Tell me what?

She knows how dangerous it might be to involve him.

MIRANDA
Greg's not who you think he is. He's done some things...

He steps close and lifts her face with his hand...
SEN. ELLIS
Even great men have weaknesses. Greg Stillson is one of this country's brightest new political stars. A union between the two of you could help take him to the top.

MIRANDA
And you with him?

Ellis is stung by the question...

SEN. ELLIS
(beat)
Things have taken a turn. Bad investments. The mining restrictions. Greg Stillson can change all that. He can offer us our dignity back.

MIRANDA
What about my dignity? Shouldn't that count for something?

SEN. ELLIS
In a perfect world. Unfortunately, we no longer live in that world.

Ellis walks away, leaving Miranda alone.

INT. MANSION - MORNING
Out of the vision...

JOHNNY
I'm sorry, I'm just not picking up anything.

Off Ellis' disappointed look...

EXTERNAL MANSION - DAY
Greg and Johnny walk out.

STILLSON
Not puttin' on much of a show.
(MORE)
STILLSON (CONT'D)  
(suspicious)  
Or maybe you're holding out on me?

JOHNNY  
I didn't want to say anything in front of her father.

STILLSON  
Say what?  
Johnny stops and turns.  

JOHNNY  
Miranda's dead.  

STILLSON  
(stunned)  
What? How can you be sure?

JOHNNY  
It's just something I know. I'm sorry.

Johnny starts away, as Stillson grabs him.  

STILLSON  
You're lying! She can't be dead!

JOHNNY  
I told you I'm sorry. Now let go of me.

Stillson holds him for a BEAT, then slowly releases his grip.  

JOHNNY  
I suggest you let the search play out and then make the appropriate announcement. Otherwise, you're going to have to explain to the world how you recruited a psychic. I'm not sure how that might play in the heartland.

Johnny walks away, as we hold on Stillson's look of emotional torment,
CONTINUED:

SEN. ELLIS
How can you be sure Smith's telling the truth?

He turns and looks into a darkened room--the library off the hall. A LAMP turns on, illuminating a man's face.

It's Janus.

JANUS
There are ways, Senator.

SEN. ELLIS
I don't like it. Stillson running around with a loose cannon like that.

JANUS
Let me worry about the Congressman.

The SHOT PUSHES TIGHT on his face, as...

OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

54 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

Johnny walks into the station. He checks his watch... 5:13 PM. He picks up a bus schedule, WHOOSH ...

54A INT. BUS STATION - DAY - CONTINUOUS - VISION

As Johnny picks up a schedule, he looks over to see a line of people about to get on a bus includes... A disguised Miranda. Suddenly, TWO MEN IN DARK SUITS, grab her and hustle her out the door into a waiting car and speed away.

55 RESUME INT. BUS STATION - DAY

Pick up with Johnny standing in the middle of a crowded bus station, schedule in his hand: it was a vision!

56 EXT. BUS DEPOT - DAY

Johnny finds... Miranda, headed for that line of people. Her hair is tucked under a baseball hat, she's wearing sunglasses, just as in his vision. He looks back across the station and SEES...

JOHNNY'S POV - GUYS IN DARK SUITS

The same two from his vision, as they ENTER and look around.

RESUME JOHNNY

He knows he has just seconds to spare. He hurries up to Miranda, all the while glancing back at the two guys approaching.

JOHNNY

Miranda Ellis?

MIRANDA

(covers)

You've mistaken me for someone else.

Johnny knows what's about to happen.

JOHNNY

I'm here to help you.

(CONTINUED)
He grabs her by the wrist and yanks her away, as he's spotted by the TWO MEN.

MIRANDA
Let go of me!

JOHNNY
I know about Stillson.

She's stopped cold. Looks at him, senses he's telling the truth. Johnny catches a glimpse of one of the guys talking on a HAND-HELD RADIO.

JOHNNY
This way!

He pulls her through the side door.

EXT. BUS STATION PARKING LOT, JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY

He leads her to where his car is parked. Johnny opens the driver's side door.

JOHNNY
Get in!

MIRANDA
Not until you tell me who you are and what's going on?!

Out of nowhere a BLACK SEDAN screeches around the corner, heading straight for them.

JOHNNY
I will, I promise. But right now we need to go!

She hesitates, then seeing something genuine in Johnny's eyes, she jumps into the car.

INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Johnny guns it and they whip out in front of the black sedan.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Johnny cuts in front of a truck, roars through a red light, and he loses the sedan.
INT. JOHNNY'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Miranda and Johnny escape in his speeding car.

JOHNNY
I know you faked your drowning.
I think I even know why. There's just some things in the middle
I'm still a little foggy about.

MIRANDA
Could you pull over?

JOHNNY
It's better if we keep moving.

MIRANDA
I think I'm going to be sick.

Johnny realizes she looks a little green...

JOHNNY
Oh. Right...

EXT. JOHNNY'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Johnny's parked in an industrial area, where they can disappear. Miranda's taking some deep breaths, trying to calm herself down as they walk a bit.

MIRANDA
I just needed some air.

JOHNNY
What was the plan? Take on a new identity? Never come back?

MIRANDA
It wasn't really a plan. Just a way to buy enough time to figure things out. A temporary fix.

JOHNNY
Like a band-aid to close open-heart surgery.

MIRANDA
It would have worked, if you hadn't interfered.

JOHNNY
Apparently, you didn't notice the two guys in the bus station. They were big, like coke machines with heads.

(MORE)
JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Did you recognize them?
MIRANDA
No. But, I don't even know your name, do I?

JOHNNY

MIRANDA
Greg's Johnny Smith?

JOHNNY
You've heard of me?

MIRANDA
I know Greg doesn't like you.

JOHNNY
He liked me enough to ask me to look for you.

She looks at him, fear in her eyes.

JOHNNY
Relax, you've probably figured out we're not exactly friends.

MIRANDA
How well do you know him?

JOHNNY
Well enough to understand why a beautiful young woman would give up everything to get away from him.

MIRANDA
It didn't start out this way.

JOHNNY
You were in love with him?

MIRANDA
I think I was in love with the idea of being in love. But in the end, it's a perfect stranger that rides to my rescue.

She looks at Johnny, the gratitude and relief in her eyes. There's even a hint of attraction.

MIRANDA
Thank you.
As she reaches over and gently touches his hand... WHOOSH

INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - VISION - NIGHT
It's the middle of the night. Miranda wakes up and reaches over to an empty pillow. She gets up, moves sleepily out to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - VISION - CONTINUOUS
Greg's sitting in the dark.

MIRANDA
Greg? Why are you sitting in the dark?

No answer. As he takes another gulp of scotch. She turns on the light.

STILLSON
Leave it off.

She turns it off.

MIRANDA
Are you okay?

He doesn't answer.

MIRANDA
Greg, what's the matter?

STILLSON
(tight)
Can't a man have a drink?

MIRANDA
Looks more like a bottle.

STILLSON
Twelve steps: step one, you're dating a drunk.

MIRANDA
I'm not having this conversation in the dark.

She goes to turn on the lamp, again.

STILLSON
I said, leave it off!

(continues)
MIRANDA
I can barely see you.

STILLSON
(drunk, intense)
You want to see me? You want to know who I really am?! Take a look! Take a real good look!

He grabs her forcefully, the moonlight now cutting across their faces, like part of each of them is still in the dark.

MIRANDA
Greg, stop--you're hurting me.

STILLSON
Didn't anybody tell you, darlin'? Love hurts.

Their eyes lock. Then he starts to cry. He lets her go and slumps into a chair.
Street light streams through the curtains, illuminating the pain in his eyes.

STILLSON
I'm sorry.

Never having seen Greg like this, Miranda moves around him cautiously. He's in shadow.

MIRANDA
You've had too much to drink. I don't know why you need this stuff? It only makes things worse.

She takes a blanket and covers his bare shoulders. He touches her hand and looks up, his eyes filled with tears.

STILLSON
No one knows me like you do. No one but... my father.

MIRANDA
Oh, baby, I'm sorry. Losing him must have been so hard for you.

STILLSON
That's just it. I didn't lose him... I killed him.

ON MIRANDA, startled.

MIRANDA
What?

Stillson rises and holds her close.

STILLSON
"The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

He pulls Miranda to him tight and in an almost whispered threat...

STILLSON
We're in this together now -- just you and me... forever.
RESUME EXT. JOHNNY'S CAR - PRESENT

Johnny looks at Miranda, tries to shake off the shock of what he now knows.

JOHNNY
Stillson killed his father?

Miranda can't understand how he could know...

MIRANDA
How could you...?

They lock eyes for a beat.

JOHNNY
That must be why they're after you. They must realize what you know about James Stillson's death.

MIRANDA
They?

JOHNNY
Stillson's people. All we need is some proof that he actually committed the murder. First we have to switch cars and find someplace you can hide.

As they get back into the car...

65A INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He puts the key in the ignition.

MIRANDA
(quietly)
Why are you doing this?

Johnny stops, turns to look at her.

JOHNNY
What?

MIRANDA
You don't even know me and you're willing to risk your life to keep me safe. Why?
Johnny considers the question, it's a good one...

FLASHBACK

Johnny and Stillson from an earlier exchange...
JOHNNY
I'm doing this in spite of you. Because if I didn't, it would make us the same. And we are not the same. We will never be the same.

RESUME SCENE
Johnny knows exactly why he's doing this.

JOHNNY
I guess I decided I couldn't live with the alternative.

As Johnny starts the car, then drives them away into the night.

INT. MOTEL - NIGHT
Johnny sits in a chair keeping protective watch over Miranda as she sleeps in the bed across from him.

ON JOHNNY, staring at Miranda, hair fanned out on the pillow. We see he's not immune to her beauty or her helplessness, but it feels deeper than that. He reaches down rubs the top of his hand, the hand she touched in the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOTEL - DAWN
Johnny's asleep in the chair. A razor thin beam of sunlight blasts through a tiny break in the curtains and across Johnny's face. He startles awake to see the bed EMPTY.

JOHNNY
Miranda?

He jumps up and checks the door, then hurries across the room and throws open the bathroom door.
INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miranda is just out of the shower, a towel wrapped around her body. It's a bit awkward --

JOHNNY
    Sorry. I thought... Sorry.

He EXITS, closing the door behind him.

JOHNNY
    (to himself)
    Terrific.

INT. MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Miranda is now dressed as Johnny glances out the window.

MIRANDA
    What time is it?

JOHNNY
    Nearly seven.

She hands him the cup of coffee.

MIRANDA
    It's instant. So's the heartburn, I'm afraid.

JOHNNY
    As long as it's hot.

Awkward beat, then...

JOHNNY
    Do you mind if I ask you a personal question?

MIRANDA
    Why Greg Stillson?

JOHNNY
    It doesn't seem to fit... the two of you.

MIRANDA
    My father has always been very protective of me. He always made sure I went to the best schools, associated with the best people.

JOHNNY
    He picked your boyfriends.

Her silence is a silent confirmation...
MIRANDA
Greg was different than the guys I've known. There was a sense of danger about him. I thought it was part of his personality, I never imagined it would turn out to be so real.

JOHNNY
You father seems to be taken with him.

MIRANDA
My father is attracted to power. He believes Greg is on a fast track to the White House.

Johnny considers the implications of that possibility...

MIRANDA
You never told me how you and Greg know each other?

JOHNNY
It's a long story.

She steps up close to Johnny and gently touches his face.

MIRANDA
I can tell that you've suffered. That you've lost someone. Does it have anything to do with him?

It's a shared moment, a bond of pain and regret. Less sexual, than survival...

JOHNNY
Let's just say I'm determined to see that Stillson never sets foot in the White House. No matter what it takes.

MIRANDA
This proof you were talking about. Any idea where we might find it?

JOHNNY
Yeah, I do. But we'll need to leave soon.
INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATER

Walt's digesting what Johnny's just said.

WALT
(into phone)
John, are you crazy? You remember the last time you and Stillson ended up in Washington?

INTERCUT:

INT. DIFFERENT CAR - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

They've ditched Johnny's Range Rover for a rental. Johnny drives, Miranda's in the passenger seat.

JOHNNY
This is different. Did you get the coroner's report?

WALT
James Stillson's death is listed as an accident. He was drinking and he fell. Autopsy showed trauma to his neck and throat which was consistent with witness statements.

JOHNNY
I'm almost sure that's not the way it happened.

WALT
You're still going to need another source to verify Stillson's confession.

Johnny looks over at Miranda.

JOHNNY
I'm working on it. I'll call you later.
MIRANDA
This is where Greg stays when he's in Washington.

JOHNNY
It's also where James Stillson died.

MIRANDA
How do we know what room he was in?

JOHNNY
I know.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION DESK - A FEW MINUTES LATER
Johnny's speaking to the registration CLERK, Miranda and he posing as a happily-married couple.

CLERK
That's a one night stay. For Mister and Mrs?

JOHNNY
Smith.

Miranda and Johnny exchange a smirk.

CLERK
Of course.

JOHNNY
We'd like room 1214, if it's available?

CLERK
I'll check.
   (checking)
You're in luck. That room has recently been remodeled.

JOHNNY
Remodeled?

CLERK
After the fire.

Johnny and Miranda exchange a look.

JOHNNY
There was a fire?
CONTINUED:

CLERK
Six months ago. Freak thing.
Just the one room was damaged.

The Clerk steps away as Johnny notices a Washington Patriot newspaper sitting on the counter and picks it up. The headline: "Congressman Continues To Hope."

Off their looks, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

OMITTED

INT. STILLSON OFFICE, MAINE - DAY

Stillson is in his office, blinds closed, drinking.

JANUS O.C.
That isn't going to help.

Stillson turns to see Janus, as if he's appeared out of thin air.

STILLSON
It isn't gonna hurt.

JANUS
(to Stillson)
Pour it out.

Stillson looks at Janus...

STILLSON
What?

JANUS
Pour it out... now.

Stillson considers the solemn face of Janus confronting him, then pours the drink into a nearby plant.

STILLSON
Happy?

He steps to the window and peers through the blinds.

STILLSON
Look at 'em out there. Like a pack of jackals. They're calling it another Chappaquiddick.

(CONTINUED)
JANUS
Yes, I know.

Stillson turns...

STILLSON
Did you have something to do with this?

Janus calmly pours himself a drink, a not-so-subtle gesture of power and control.

JANUS
I assure you, if I'd wanted Miranda Ellis dead, we would not be having this conversation.
(beat)
But she isn't dead. She's very much alive.

Stillson can't believe what he's hearing.

STILLSON
Alive?

JANUS
Johnny Smith didn't tell you?

STILLSON
You've been following me?

JANUS
There isn't a part of your life I'm not interested in. The thing you need to ask yourself is, why would the love of your life go to such measures to convince the world she was dead?

It's one bombshell after another for Stillson.

STILLSON
Miranda set this whole thing up?

JANUS
Soup to nuts.

STILLSON
I don't understand.

JANUS
I think you do.

They both know what he's talking about. Stillson breaks...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

STILLSON
I was drunk. I never meant to say anything.

JANUS
And now the one person in the world that knows the truth is with Johnny Smith in Washington checking into the Hotel Gerard. I find that interestingly ironic, don't you?

STILLSON
(betrayed)
Smith and Miranda? Sonofabitch!

Stillson, enraged, starts for the door.

JANUS
Do not open that door.

Stillson stops, his hand on the door knob.

STILLSON
I'm going to kill him.

Janus steps to him and rests his hand on Stillson's shoulder.

JANUS
Everything in its time.

We realize there's another plan in the works.

OMITTED

AND

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Johnny and Miranda ENTER Room 1214. The room's been totally renovated, new furniture, new fixtures, fresh paint. Johnny walks through the room, gets no hits.

MIRANDA
This is where Greg killed his father?

JOHNNY
Yes. But it's all been changed... Like it's all been... erased.

He starts to walk out, then stops, something bothering (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

him. He crosses to the bedside table, opens it.

MIRANDA
What's wrong?

JOHNNY
There's no Bible. There's always a Bible.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny and Miranda walk towards their car.

JOHNNY
Consumed in flames. How's that for biblical? It's like they knew I'd end up here. Like somebody's pulling my strings.

MIRANDA
I hope we find them before they find us.

The BIG MAN steps out. Johnny instantly realizes what's going on.

JOHNNY
MIRANDA, RUN!

The Big Man whips out a TASER GUN and jams in hard into his chest. Johnny receives a powerful burst of electricity and drops to his knees. Meanwhile, ANOTHER MAN has grabbed Miranda and throws her into a dark sedan. As the Big Man makes his escape, Johnny reaches out and GRABS the guy's shoe and pulls it off. ON JOHNNY watching in pain as Miranda disappears.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

Johnny and Bruce ENTER the lobby.

BRUCE
Johnny, man, it's been six hours.
There's no sign of Miranda.

JOHNNY
Stillson played me. He didn't
want to find Miranda because he
loved her. He wanted her so she
could never tell the truth about
him murdering his father.

BRUCE
He must have known when he came
to you that there was a chance
you'd see what really happened.

JOHNNY
He also knew I'd need proof.
(tortured beat)
She trusted me and I led her to
them.

BRUCE
What do you think they'll do to
her?

JOHNNY
The same thing she tried to do to
herself, only this time for real.

Johnny suddenly SPOTS Stillson BELOW ON THE CROWDED
PATIO...

JOHNNY
(to himself)
Sonuvabitch!

As Johnny MOVES AWAY quickly, Bruce follows...
INT. PATIO - DAY

Johnny ENTERS to find a large crowd gathered... there's a buzz in the air. There are VIDEO CAMERAS, REPORTERS, MICROPHONES everywhere, the Faith Heritage Channel's LOGO AND CREW front and center.

JOHNNY
What's going on?

CAMERAMAN
Surprise press conference. Looks like Stillson's going to make some kind'a big announcement.
Johnny PUSHES FORWARD through the crowd, as he SPOTS Stillson ENTER from a side door and take the podium.

STILLSON
If ya'll just settle down, I'm sure you'll get all the information you need to make your deadlines.
(beat, deep breath)
People ask how I've been able to keep my composure the last 48 hours. And the answer is simple...
Faith. Faith in myself, in my team and, most importantly, in my God. I want to thank everyone for their prayers. I'm not sure I would have made it without them. Sometimes those prayers aren't answered the way we want them to be.

ON JOHNNY
He can't believe what he's hearing. How Stillson can calmly announce the death of this woman he loved.

RESUME STILLSON
He continues...

STILLSON O.C.
Sometimes we're left with nothing but questions and regret.
(beat)
I'm standing before you now to say this is not one of those times.

ON JOHNNY
He looks up quickly... What did he just say?

RESUME STILLSON
He breaks a smile for the first time...

STILLSON O.C.
I'm here to announce that our prayers have been answered.
(to an AIDE)
We ready?

(CONTINUED)
Crowd clears to REVEAL Miranda, being ushered out by her father, smiling to the APPLAUDING CROWD. AD LIB REPORTERS yelling her name. As FLASHBULBS POP, SLO-MO Miranda, deer in the headlights, assaulted by the attention.

Johnny can hardly believe what he's seeing as he glances over at Bruce and Purdy.

STILLSON
Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce you to the true hero of this story. The love of my life, Miranda Ellis.

Miranda gets a kiss from Stillson as she steps awkwardly to the podium. FLASHES POPPING OFF IN HER EYES, as she seems more fragile and alone than ever.

MIRANDA
(into microphone)
It's good to be alive.

More APPLAUSE.

MIRANDA
I'm not going to get into details. I'd just like to say thank you to everyone involved. But mostly to the one person who made this possible...

In the audience, her eyes suddenly land on Johnny... she hesitates, too shook up to speak... then she steadies herself... Stillson notices the brief connection.

MIRANDA
(emotional beat, then)
He's my own personal hero...
Greg Stillson.
(turns to Greg)
Through this experience, I have come to know who you really are...

More applause as he puts his arm around her.

MIRANDA
When everyone told you it was hopeless, you wouldn't give up. And I felt that... that love every second that I was lost.

REPORTER #1
Miss Ellis, where exactly were you?

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
I was, uh...

STILLSON
(quickly stepping in)
Miranda was picked up by a private fishing boat. An ordinary citizen who was there when she needed help.

REPORTER #3
Do you have a name? Can we interview him?

STILLSON
I believe he prefers to remain anonymous.

REPORTER #1
Miranda, what exactly do you remember about the accident?

She trades a momentary look with Stillson, then...

MIRANDA
It's still a little sketchy. There was a strong gust of wind and I was knocked overboard... Greg jumped in, but the current separated us. That's all I remember.

Miranda's father steps in.

SEN. ELLIS
My daughter's been through quite an ordeal. We appreciate your concern and want to thank everyone who participated in the search.

Greg steps in.

STILLSON
If I could beg your indulgence for one moment. I'd like to take the opportunity to do something I'd planned to do the day we went sailing.

He pulls out a velvet box and takes out a DIAMOND RING.

STILLSON
Miranda Ellis, will you do me the honor of becoming my wife?

(CONTINUED)
ON MIRANDA, frozen for a beat. She catches Johnny's eye again, then...

MIRANDA
I will. I do. Yes.

The crowd goes wild as Greg slips the ring on her finger and pulls Miranda into a kiss. He whispers to her...

STILLSON
Just you and me... forever.

ON JOHNNY watching in shock as he realizes they got to her.

STYLIZED SEQUENCE - QUICK CUTS, OVERLAPPING DIALOGUE:

REPORTER #1
Congressman Stillson is being called a hero.

REPORTER #3
He never stopped looking for her...

REPORTER #1
The kind of moment written for the movies.

REPORTER #2
Washington's newest power couple.

REPORTER #3
A modern day Camelot.

Bruce finds Johnny in the crowd.

JOHNNY
I don't get it.

BRUCE
(re: Miranda)
Maybe Stillson wasn't the one playing you after all.

A REPORTER SPOTS Johnny...
REPORTER #1
Johnny Smith, you made one of the first reports of the accident, isn't that right?

Before Johnny can answer, we HEAR...

STILLSON
That's exactly right!

REVEALING Stillson as he steps up to where Johnny is standing. Miranda beside him.

STILLSON
I've been meaning to thank you for that, Mister Smith.

JOHNNY
It's nothing.

STILLSON
On the contrary, it's everything and you made it all possible. I'll be forever in your debt.

Stillson Extends his hand. Johnny hesitates, then under pressure from the crowd, he reaches out and shakes...

EXT. CAPITOL, ENGULFED IN FLAMES - VISION
The familiar vision of Armageddon comes blasting back.

RESUME INT. PATIO - PRESENT
Out of Vision, Stillson's eyes boring into him.

TRUAX
We need to move on, Congressman.

STILLSON
Until we meet again.

JOHNNY
I look forward to it.

As TRUAX ushers Stillson away, Johnny pulls Bruce aside.

JOHNNY
It's back.

BRUCE
What?

(CONTINUED)
JOHNNY
Armageddon. When we shook hands
I saw it. Just the way it's always been.

BRUCE
You must have changed the future again. Agreeing to help him find
Miranda changed it the first time, then losing her changed it back.

JOHNNY
Turning Stillson into a hero and setting him on a straight path
towards the White House. I have to stop this.

Johnny's first instinct is to go towards Miranda, to tell
her, but he is halted by one of Stillson's BODY GUARDS,
the same BIG MAN who abducted Miranda and tasered Johnny.
As the guy puts his hand against Johnny's chest... WHOOSH

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - VISION
Vision Johnny stands next to the BODY GUARD, watching...
Miranda sits at a small table. The room is dark. Someone
we can't see, moves around her, hidden in shadow.

MIRANDA
I don't know who you are, but I
know this. I'm more valuable to
you alive than I am dead.

JANUS' VOICE
In what way?

MIRANDA
In a way that will make your
wildest dreams come true. Greg's
Q rating has gone through the
roof since we've been together.
His profile is stronger, more
conservative, and that means votes.
Besides, another mysterious death
surrounding him will only cause
the press to ask questions...
questions that could be very bad
for everyone involved.

JANUS' VOICE
Beauty, brains and a gambler's
heart, a lethal combination.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
What do you want?

JANUS' VOICE
Reconciliation. Photo ops. And the cover of Lady's Home Journal.

MIRANDA
And if I refuse?

JANUS' VOICE
People will die. People you care about.

A business envelope is slid across the table in front of her. Hold on Janus's RING.

JANUS' VOICE
Open it.

She cautiously opens the envelope, takes out a stack of PHOTOS: VISION JOHNNY STEPS around behind her to see.

JANUS' VOICE
What's it going to be Miranda? Are you in, or out?

MIRANDA
If I agree to go back, he won't be harmed?

JANUS' VOICE
Not a hair on his head.

Miranda stares at the photos, as Vision Johnny looks on.

MIRANDA
Alright, I'm in.

JANUS' VOICE
There's a helicopter waiting. You'll be given further instructions on your way back.

Miranda RISES, the photos still in her hand...

JANUS' VOICE
You can leave those on the table if you don't mind. And have a safe trip home.

She tosses the photos on to the table and walks away... AS the CAMERA REVEALS...
SCATTERED PHOTOGRAPHS

Candid shots of Miranda and Johnny, everywhere they went together since leaving the bus depot. On every image of Johnny is etched the CROSS-HAIRS OF A RIFLE SCOPE. We suddenly realize she's agreed to return in order to save Johnny's life... the life of a virtual stranger, but the one person willing to risk it all for her.

We also see the pain in the eyes of Vision Johnny as he looks on helplessly.

OMITTED

RESUME INT. PATIO - PRESENT

Out of the vision, Johnny understands now why Miranda went back:

JOHNNY
She did it to protect me.

BIG MAN
I suggest you return the favor and walk away.

ON MIRANDA, eyes scanning the crowd, searching for JOHNNY, his eyes lock on hers.

ON JANUS, out of sight, away from the fray, but catching it all.

Stillson leads Miranda through the crowd of reporters and well-wishers, as Johnny MOVES quickly through from the other direction, trying to cut them off at the front door. As she's pushed past Johnny, he deliberately pulls her close to him...

JOHNNY
(whispered)
I will come for you.

She's hustled past him by Stillson, as she steals one last desperate glance back. The look in her eyes almost too much for Johnny to handle.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - ARMAGEDDON WALL - DAY

Johnny enters, still wearing the wardrobe he wore at the press conference, the evening edition of the local newspaper tucked under his arm.

(CONTINUED)
After he contemplates the wall for a beat, he tears something from the "A" section.

A front page photo. We don't see it until he tacks it to the wall.

It is a PHOTO OF MIRANDA and STILLSON with the accompanying article. The moment of their engagement, at the press conference (still frame from Scene 92). Johnny stares at the photo for a beat, then takes it down and RIPS it in half, right between Stillson and Miranda. He then tacks each up again, Stillson first, then Miranda's image, deliberately (emotionally) separating them.

After it's complete, Johnny contemplates the wall.

His life. His destiny. His curse.

JOHNNY
It's not over.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON MIRANDA's FACE.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
I promise, it's not over.

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - LITTLE LATER

Johnny, exhausted, troubled, wants to fall into bed.
As he steps to the dresser, he stops suddenly, and notices something behind him in the mirror. He turns, as the camera reveals something lying on the bed -- a Bible.

A weird feeling washing over Johnny, as he realizes someone has been in his bedroom while he was gone. He picks up the Bible and opens it...

"Property of the Hotel Gerard, Washington, D.C." It's the missing Bible from the hotel room where James Stillson was killed. *Whoosh!*

**EXT. PARK - VISION**

It's dark, as Johnny finds himself face-to-face with the man whom he knows instantly is behind all of this. Malcolm Janus is holding the Bible, speaking directly to Johnny in a weird "visiongram." Although he speaks to him, they don't really make direct eye contact...

**JANUS**

We finally meet, Mr. Smith.
Forgive this unorthodox method of communication, but I needed your complete, undivided attention.

As they both hold the same Bible and open it to a book marked passage...

**JANUS**

I've marked a passage for your perusal. From the Book of Daniel. I think you'll find it's quite... enlightening. If you'd allow me to begin...

(reciting from memory)

"And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing..."

As Johnny continues on, reading from the text...

**JOHNNY**

"And make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet..."

(beat)

...and a have a chain of gold about thy neck...
JOHNNY
...and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom."

ON JANUS

JANUS
The choice is yours, Mister Smith.
100 CONTINUED: (2)

As Johnny shuts the Bible, he flashes out of this most unusual vision, we're CLOSE ON the simple gold cross on the cover --

FADE OUT:

101 OMITTED
THRU
103

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END