

**THE DEAD ZONE**

"THE STORM"

Production #2014

Story by  
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Revised Story by  
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THE DEAD ZONE

"THE STORM"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH	JORDAN	*
BRUCE LEWIS	COMELY GIRL	
SARAH BANNERMAN	MALE PARTYGOER	
WALT BANNERMAN		
REV. GENE PURDY		
DANA BRIGHT	GAS STATION/CAFÉ MANAGER	
	TONI DONAHUE	
	MITCH MCMURTRY	
	FLO MCMURTRY	
<u>NON-SPEAKING</u>		
GUYS IN HAWAIIAN SHIRTS	STATE PATROLMAN	
GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS	CARNY	
PIZZA DELIVERY MAN	CARNIVAL MOM	
CAFÉ CUSTOMERS	LITTLE PERSON	
CARNIES	STRONGMAN	
TATTOOED MAN	FUTUREMAN	
PIN-CUSHION MAN	LITTLE GIRL	
MISC. FREAK SHOW CHARACTERS	NEWSRADIO VOICE	
EMERGENCY CARNIVAL WORKERS	VOICES FROM SMITH KITCHEN	
CHILDREN OF CARNIVAL WORKERS		
MITCH MCMURTRY JR.		
FIONA MCMURTRY		
MEDICS/FIREMEN/EMTS		

THE DEAD ZONE

"THE STORM"

SETS

INTERIORS

SMITH HOUSE  
FOYER  
LIVING ROOM  
DINING ROOM  
KITCHEN

FAITH HERITAGE ALLIANCE  
PURDY'S OFFICE

RURAL CAFÉ

SMALL WEATHER STATION

SMALL BLOCK BUILDING

MOOSEHEAD LAKE RETREAT CABIN  
MAIN ROOM  
HALLWAY  
KITCHEN  
STORAGE ROOM

EXTERIORS

FAITH HERITAGE ALLIANCE

RURAL MAINE HIGHWAY

RURAL GAS STATION/CAFÉ

RURAL AIRFIELD  
SMALL WEATHER STATION

MOOSEHEAD LAKE  
FAITH HERITAGE RETREAT  
CABIN  
LAKESIDE

SMALL BLOCK BUILDING

JOPPA ROAD

VEHICLES

BRUCE'S P.T. CRUISER

WINNEBAGO

EMERGENCY VEHICLES  
FIRETRUCKS  
AMBULANCE

TONI'S SMALL TRUCK

CARNIVAL RIGS, RIDES, TRAILORS, ETC.

PROPANE VEHICLE

THE DEAD ZONE

"THE STORM"

TEASER

FADE IN:

RECAP - BRIEF REMINDER OF KATE'S DEATH

1 EXT. FAITH HERITAGE ALLIANCE - DAY 1

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) 2

scattered clouds but not overcast... an interesting sky... one cloud though looks kind of ominous... a thunderhead...

3 RESUME BRUCE 3

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 4

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)

4 CONTINUED:

4

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)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

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.

4A EXT. SMITH HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

4A

Rolling thunder.

5 INT. SMITH HOUSE - DAY - JOHNNY SMITH 5

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:

6 INT. JOHNNY'S DINING ROOM - DAY 6

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)

6 CONTINUED:

6

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)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

JOHNNY

Okay, that's it for today. *DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!* See you all Monday.

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)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

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...

7 CONTINUOUS

7

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)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

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 --

8 A VISION - AN EXTREME WIDE SHOT OF THE ALLIANCE RETREAT AT MOOSEHEAD LAKE AGAINST A MUSTARD GREEN SKY 8

*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)

8 CONTINUED:

8

*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...*

9 RESUME JOHNNY

9

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:

9A OMITTED  
THRU  
10

9A  
THRU  
10

11 INT. BRUCE'S CRUISER

11

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)

11 CONTINUED: 11

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.

12 EXT. RURAL GAS STATION/CAFE - DAY 12

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...

13 INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS 13

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.

(the man 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...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 13

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...

14 *A JOHNNY FLASH - RUMBLING SURREAL CLOUDS ROLLING AT US (STOCK)* 14

15 JOHNNY REACTS 15

16 *ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH - THE LITTLE BELL OVER THE DOOR TINKLES AS THE DOOR SHAKES... INCREASINGLY MORE VIOLENT...* 16

17 CLOSER ON JOHNNY AS HE REACTS 17

18 *ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH - THE WINDOWS OF THE CAFE IMplode... GLASS FLYING EVERYWHERE... CUSTOMERS, THE ATTENDANT FALLING... CUT... DESTRUCTION... HORROR...* 18

19 CLOSER STILL ON JOHNNY (CONTINUES IN ACT ONE AS SHOT) 19  
as the flashes end...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

19 ON JOHNNY - CONTINUOUS

19

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...

20 EXT. CAFE - DAY

20

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)

20 CONTINUED:

20

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)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

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.

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

21

22 INT. A SMALL WEATHER STATION - DAY

22

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)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

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.

23 INT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - FAITH HERITAGE RETREAT - DAY

23

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)

23 CONTINUED:

23

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)

23 CONTINUED: (2) 23

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...

24 INT. CRUISER - DAY 24

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)

24 CONTINUED:

24

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...

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

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...

25 EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

25

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...

26 ANGLE - FROM INSIDE THE CULVERT

26

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

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

27

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

JOHNNY &amp; 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)

27 CONTINUED:

27

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.

28 INT. WINNEBAGO - CONTINUOUS

28

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.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

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.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

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...

29 EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY

29

Purdy has called others out to see the fish... Walt and Sarah are collecting them in plastic bags...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

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)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

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?

30 EXT. RURAL MAINE ROAD - DAY 30

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...

31 ANGLE ON THE WINNEBAGO 31

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)

31 CONTINUED:

31

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...

DISSOLVE TO:

31A SOME TIME LATER

31A

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 goodbye... 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 --

(CONTINUED)

31A CONTINUED:

31A

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](http://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)

31A CONTINUED: (2)

31A

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...

32 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... UNTIL IT SPLATS ON -- 32

33 DANA'S NAVEL 33

*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...*

34 RESUME JOHNNY 34

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)

34 CONTINUED:

34

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

FADE IN:

35 EXT. RURAL HIGHWAY - TONI'S TRUCK - ROLLING ALONG, SET 35  
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 36

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)

36 CONTINUED:

36

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?

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

37

38 CLOSER - AS HE COMES OVER TO THE TRUCK

38

STATE PATROLMAN

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

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

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...

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

39

39A EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY

39A

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)

39A CONTINUED:

39A

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...?

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED: (2)

39A

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...

40 OMITTED

40

- 41 OMITTED 41
- 42 EXT. JOPPA ROAD - DAY 42
- 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...
- 43 ANGLE - JOHNNY, BRUCE AND TONI 43
- get out... and as they move toward the accident - it is a weird sight indeed --
- 44 THEIR POV - SLOWLY MOVING FORWARD - MAYBE EVEN SLOW MO 44
- 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...
- 45 RESUME ACTION 45
- 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)

45 CONTINUED: 45

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 --

46 THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE 46

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

47 RESUME 47

JOHNNY

1995. June 6th.

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)

47 CONTINUED: 47

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...

48 *A JOHNNY FLASH - A LIGHTNING BOLT SHOOTING DOWN RIGHT AT CAMERA THROUGH THE TREES - IT WHITES OUT THE FRAME* 48

49 RESUME JOHNNY 49

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...

50 VARIOUS SHOTS - OF BRUCE, TONI, THE CARNY ALL TAKING COVER 50

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)

50

CONTINUED:

50

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)

50 CONTINUED: (2)

50

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...

51 OMITTED

51

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY 52

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

53 INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS 53

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 54

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...

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

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)

54 CONTINUED: (2) 54

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...

55 INT. CABIN - DAY 55

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

55A INT. KITCHEN 55A

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)

55A CONTINUED:

55A

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'aint 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)

55A CONTINUED: (2)

55A

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)

55A

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

56

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)

56 CONTINUED:

56

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...

57 INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

57

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)

57 CONTINUED: 57

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

57A OMITTED 57A  
AND AND  
57B 57B

58 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 58

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.

58 CONTINUED:

58

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...

59 INT. ENTRANCE TO STORAGE CELLAR 59

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...

60 EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY 60

As Johnny comes outside, in this incredible storm and stares at --

61 THE MONEY SHOT... THE FULL FUNNEL OF AN F-3 TORNADO IN 61  
ALL IT'S GLORY... HOVERING IN FRONT OF HIM OVER THE  
LAKE...

62 JOHNNY 62  
studies it...

JOHNNY  
What do you want of me?

63 THE TORNADO 63  
moves closer...

64 JOHNNY - CLOSE - THE WIND AND RAIN WHIPPING HIS FACE 64

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...

64A ANGLE - A TREE IS UPROOTED AND FLIES AWAY 64A

64B RESUME JOHNNY - EVEN CLOSER 64B

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)

(CONTINUED)

64B CONTINUED:

64B

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.

65 OMITTED  
THRU  
66W

65  
THRU  
66W

FADE IN:

67 EXT. MOOSEHEAD LAKE - DAY - ESTABLISHING - THE SUN

67

is out. It looks like a perfect day. We don't see the house.

68 CLOSE ON THE LATCH TO THE STORAGE CELLAR

68

Sun shining on it... someone inside is trying to break out... and after a couple of hard rams from inside... the screws of the latch give way and the door opens...

Walt leads the way out with Bruce... Sarah, Dana, Toni and Purdy follow... and react as we widen to see...

The cabin is nothing but rubble... surrounded by a wide path of destruction... trees down everywhere... amazingly the cars that brought them - if we can see them from here - have been spared.

It is a stunning revelation and these people are emotionally shaken... not only by the house... but the thought that Johnny has been torn limb from limb...

(CONTINUED)

68

CONTINUED:

68

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...

69

NEW ANGLE - JOHNNY

69

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)

69 CONTINUED:

69

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.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

69

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