

Production Company:
Dead Zone Production Corp.

THE DEAD ZONE

"SAVED"

Production #09-4012

Written by

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|---|-------------|
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THE DEAD ZONE

"SAVED"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SEASIDE HIGHWAY - DAY 1

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

2 INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY 2

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)

2 CONTINUED:

2

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...

3 EXT. OLD-FASHIONED BEACH RESORT - DAY - ESTABLISHING

3

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!*

4 GREG STILLSON - VISION

4

Standing next to him, desperately pleading.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

STILLSON

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

5 RESUME - JOHNNY

5

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:

6 EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY

6

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)

6

CONTINUED:

6

STILLSON

Have I told you how much I love
you?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

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.

7 INT. HOTEL LOBBY

7

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--

8 *VISION*

8

Quick flashes of people signing the register.

Flashes stop on Greg Stillson and Miranda.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

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...

9 RESUME

9

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

10 INT. HOTEL BAR - MOMENTS LATER

10

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.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

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.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

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,

11 INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - VISION - NIGHT

11

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.

12 INT. BAR - RESUME

12

Out of vision, Johnny turns to Bruce.

(CONTINUED)

- 12 CONTINUED: 12
- 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.
- 13 OMITTED 13
- 14 EXT. BOAT SLIP - MOMENTS LATER 14
- 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--
- 15 EXT. SAILBOAT - VISION 15
- 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.*
- 16 EXT. MARINA - SLIP F8 - DAY 16
- Out of the vision...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

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.

17 EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY

17

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.

18 OMITTED
THRU
20

18
THRU
20

20A EXT. COAST GUARD BOAT - SHORT TIME LATER

20A

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

(CONTINUED)

20A CONTINUED:

20A

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...

20B INT. COAST GUARD BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

20B

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)

(CONTINUED)

20B CONTINUED:

20B

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...

21 EXT. HOTEL AREA - DUSK

21

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)

21

CONTINUED:

21

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.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

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)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

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...

22 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

22

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:

23 INT. JOHNNY'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

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)

23 CONTINUED:

23

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.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

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!*

24 *UNDERWATER - VISION*

24

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

25 RESUME JOHNNY

25

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)

25 CONTINUED:

25

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.

26 INT. HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

26

Bruce has just heard about Stillson's visit.

BRUCE

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

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)

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

JOHNNY
That makes two of us.

27 OMITTED 27

28 EXT. MARINA - THE SEAMORE 9'S SLIP - LATER THAT NIGHT 28

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--

29 EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY - VISION 29

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

30

Out of vision, Johnny looks around.

JOHNNY

How long have you been afraid of
the water?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

Stillson looks back and realizes what's happening.

STILLSON

You really are creepy, you know.

Johnny moves across the boat, touches the hatch,

31 *EXT. SAILBOAT - VISION* 31

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

32 *EXT. SAILBOAT* 32

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...

33 *INT. ROOM - VISION - FLASH* 33

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!

34 RESUME EXT. SAILBOAT

34

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...

35 INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - LATER

35

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

JOHNNY

She gave you your own key?

35 CONTINUED:

35

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.

36 *SERIES OF FLASHES:*

36

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

(CONTINUED)

- 36 CONTINUED: 36
- website that shows WEATHER CHARTS and PREDICTIONS. Each time she empties the cache of her computer, so no record exists.*
- 37 JOHNNY 37
- Flashing out of the Vision...
- STILLSON
Anything off the computer?
- JOHNNY
(covering)
No... nothing.
- Stillson seems unsure, Johnny MOVES to the kitchen phone.
WHOOSH --
- 38 INT. APARTMENT - VISION 38
- 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.
- 39 RESUME INT. APARTMENT 39
- Johnny flashes out of the vision. He checks his watch...
- 40 INSERT 40
- SUN - 22ND
- 41 RESUME SCENE 41
- Johnny realizes there's more here than meets the eye.
- JOHNNY
I can't do this.

41 CONTINUED:

41

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,

42 INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

42

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.

43 OMITTED

43

44 EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS - DAY

44

Johnny's car heads down the driveway, away from the hotel.
PAN OVER to see A BIG MAN IN DARK GLASSES watching it
leave.

45 EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT 45

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.

46 INT. ELLIS MANSION 46

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--

47 INT. MANSION - VISION 47

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)

47 CONTINUED:

47

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.*

48 INT. MANSION - MORNING

48

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--

49 INT. MANSION - DAYS EARLIER - VISION

49

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)

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

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...

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

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.

50 INT. MANSION - MORNING

50

Out of the vision...

JOHNNY

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

Off Ellis' disappointed look...

51 EXT. MANSION - DAY

51

Greg and Johnny walk out.

STILLSON

*Not puttin' on much of a show.
(MORE)*

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

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,

52 INT. MANSION HALLWAY - SAME

52

Ellis paces nervously, not anywhere near a window.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

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...

53 OMITTED

53

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

- 54 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY 54
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 54A
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 55
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 56
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

(covering)

You've mistaken me for someone else.

Johnny knows what's about to happen.

JOHNNY

I'm here to help you.

(CONTINUED)

- 56 CONTINUED: 56
- 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.
- 57 EXT. BUS STATION PARKING LOT, JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY 57
- 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.
- 58 INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 58
- Johnny guns it and they whip out in front of the black sedan.
- 59 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS 59
- Johnny cuts in front of a truck, roars through a red light, and he loses the sedan.

60 THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AS AN EXCITING CHASE SEQUENCE. 60

61 INT. JOHNNY'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS 61

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...

62 EXT. JOHNNY'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER 62

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)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Did you recognize them?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

MIRANDA

No. But, I don't even know your
name, do I?

JOHNNY

Johnny. Johnny Smith.

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.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (3) 62

As she reaches over and gently touches his hand... *WHOOSH*

63 *INT. MIRANDA'S APARTMENT - VISION - NIGHT* 63

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.

64 *INT. LIVING ROOM - VISION - CONTINUOUS* 64

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!

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

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.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

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.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (3) 64

ON MIRANDA'S FACE, OVER STILLSON'S SHOULDER, FROZEN IN FEAR

65 RESUME EXT. JOHNNY'S CAR - PRESENT 65

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 65A

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?

(CONTINUED)

65A CONTINUED:

65A

Johnny considers the question, it's a good one...

FLASHBACK

Johnny and Stillson from an earlier exchange...

(CONTINUED)

65A CONTINUED: (2)

65A

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.

66 INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

66

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:

67 INT. MOTEL - DAWN

67

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.

68 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

68

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.

69 INT. MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

69

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...

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

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.

70 OMITTED 70

71 INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATER 71

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:

71A INT. DIFFERENT CAR - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY 71A

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.

72 OMITTED 72

73 INT. HOTEL GERARD 73

As Johnny and Miranda move into the lobby...

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

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.

74 INT. HOTEL RECEPTION DESK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

74

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)

74 CONTINUED:

74

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:

75 OMITTED

75

76 INT. STILLSON OFFICE, MAINE - DAY

76

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)

76 CONTINUED:

76

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)

76 CONTINUED: (2)

76

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.

77 OMITTED
AND
7877
AND
78

79 INT. HOTEL ROOM - MINUTES LATER

79

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)

79 CONTINUED:

79

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

MIRANDA

What's wrong?

JOHNNY

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

80 EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

80

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

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

81
THRU
89A

OMITTED

81
THRU
89A

90 INT. RESORT - AFTERNOON

90

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...

91 OMITTED 91

92 INT. PATIO - DAY 92

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.

92 CONTINUED:

92

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)

92 CONTINUED: (2)

92

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)

92 CONTINUED: (3)

92

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)

92 CONTINUED: (4)

92

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...

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: (5)

92

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...

93 *EXT. CAPITOL, ENGULFED IN FLAMES - VISION*

93

The familiar vision of Armageddon comes blasting back.

94 RESUME INT. PATIO - PRESENT

94

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)

94 CONTINUED:

94

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

95 INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - VISION

95

*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)

95 CONTINUED:

95

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...*

96 SCATTERED PHOTOGRAPHS 96

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.

97 OMITTED 97

98 RESUME INT. PATIO - PRESENT 98

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:

98A INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - ARMAGEDDON WALL - DAY 98A

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

(CONTINUED)

98A CONTINUED:

98A

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.

*

*

99 INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - LITTLE LATER

99*

Johnny, exhausted, troubled, wants to fall into bed.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

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!--**

100 *EXT. PARK - VISION*

100

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...*

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

100

JOHNNY
...and shalt be the third ruler
in the kingdom."

ON JANUS

JANUS
The choice is yours, Mister Smith.

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED: (2)

100

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

101
THRU
103

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END