

**The Great Surrender**  
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EXT. STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA - DAY

A highway sign reads: *Stillwater, Where Oklahoma Began!*  
Along the bottom of the sign, an image of horses and buggies.

SIRENS RING. The sky is ominous with increasing dark cloud cover. The winds pick up.

LOCAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
...Oklahoma is one of several states  
located in the area popularly known  
as "Tornado Alley"...

Shopping mall parking lots are nearly empty. Parents frantically pick up children from elementary schools. High school bells ring. Students depart.

LOCAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
...As a precaution, the mayor has  
dismissed all schools at noon today.  
Residents are told to take proper  
shelter.

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

A muscular rustic cross is embedded in the front lawns of Bethel Church - a run-down building in need of repairs. Bethel is nestled across the street from a sprawling forest.

Attached to the church is a more modern structure - a quaint library with a window looking out over the forest. Golden engraved signage reads: *The Bethel Library*.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

LAURA FOLEY, 50, plain-faced, blond hair and a speckle of gray throughout, sits at a round table with 2 other women, ALISON and KIM, both in their late 20s.

Each of the women have grammar booklets in front of them. Laura is the leader. She holds up a card with a word written on it.

ALISON  
Win....dow. Window.

LAURA  
Good Alison.

Laura flips to another card with a word written on it. She holds it up for Kim to read.

RICK (O.S.)  
Mom - look what I made.

In another part of the library, 3 CHILDREN (under 5) sit at a small table painting. RICK proudly holds up his painting - a splash of dark colors.

KIM  
That's beautiful honey.

RICK  
It's a storm!

Rick points out the library window and to the impending dark clouds outside.

KIM  
Let us finish our lesson Rick.

Kim looks at the card, sounds out the word.

KIM  
Hope.....ful.....Hopeful.

SELMA (O.S.)  
Sorry guys. We gotta go.

Standing in the library entranceway is SELMA LYONS, a no-nonsense African American woman in her 50s. She dresses semi-casual, but makes it look formal.

LAURA  
Practice your letters. Take the booklets. We'll see you Wednesday.

KIM  
Thanks Laura. You've been a real help.

Rick smacks his painting down in front of Laura on the table.

RICK  
Hang mine up Miss Foley!

The other two kids come running with their paintings yelling: "Mine too! Mine too!" They give Laura hugs, then race toward the window to watch the flying debris.

Laura takes the paintings to a corner of the room where several other children's paintings hang.

ALISON  
Patti, Jordan. Let's go.

KIM  
Get your coat on Rick.

Rick finds himself standing in the middle of the room looking up at a plaque that hangs above the library entrance.

The plaque reads, *God is love* with a reference to 1st John.

KIM (O.S.)

Rick, now.

The child stares at the plaque. Laura sees this and kneels down to him.

LAURA

What is it honey?

RICK

What's that say?

LAURA

"God is love".

RICK

What's that mean?

Laura considers, then hugs the boy and gives him a kiss.

LAURA

That's what it means.

A big smile grows on Rick's face. He hugs and kisses Laura back. Selma watches their interaction.

KIM (O.S.)

Rick!

Rick races past Selma out of the library.

The sound of the wind picks up, debris smacks against the window.

Laura shelves a book under *Religious Studies*, and another book, *Pride and Prejudice*, under *The Classics*.

SELMA

Laura Foley, what do you think you're doing? Stop and come with me now.

LAURA

He said he would be here.

She glances up at a wall clock - 12:25.

SELMA

Yeah, when pigs fly. And they might be flying today. You have a better chance of hitchin' a ride with a pig.

Laura laughs. Selma softens.

SELMA  
I'll drive you home.

LAURA  
No Selma. You have a full car.

SELMA  
We'll squeeze you in.

LAURA  
I'll wait for Zach.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

24 year old ZACHARY FOLEY throws footballs between goal posts in the crazy wind. He gets a kick out of it.

Zachary has a classic all-American look. His body is built for football. He wears dirty jeans and a white t-shirt. A chain of keys dangles from his belt.

Zachary scoops up another ball from a sack of footballs and kicks it between the goal posts. A gust of wind swerves the ball wildly and it hits the post.

ZACHARY  
OHHHHH!

INT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, COACH BROWN'S OFFICE - DAY

COACH BROWN, a burly 50-something man, soft nature, shuts off the lights to his office. His PHONE RINGS, he answers it.

COACH BROWN  
Yeah....Oh - hi Laura. What can I do for you?...

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary runs into the wind carrying a football. He crosses the end zone, slams down the ball and pretends crowd cheers.

COACH BROWN (O.S.)  
Zachary!

Zachary abruptly stops, sees Coach Brown lumber toward him.

COACH BROWN  
We don't pay you to play.

ZACHARY  
Sorry sir.

Coach Brown takes in the half-built shed just off the field.

COACH BROWN

You still not finished that equipment room.

ZACHARY

I'll get right on it sir.

COACH BROWN

Not now you won't. They're callin' for tornadoes. Now gather those footballs and beat it.

ZACHARY

Yes Coach.

COACH BROWN

Yer ma's been tryin' to reach you. Yer s'posed to pick'er up.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STILLWATER - LATER ON

Downtown's deserted with Zachary in one of only a few vehicles on the streets. He drives a pick-up truck with writing along the body that says FOLEY CONSTRUCTION.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The radio is on, but the voice breaks up...

LOCAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

In the last hour....damages...mostly high winds....north-easterly...

Radio goes static. The WIND HOWLS. Debris flies.

A piece of wood strikes the windshield. Zachary skids off the road and stops. He reaches for his cell - no power.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

The time on the wall clock is 1:45. The conditions deteriorate outside. Laura is on her cell, hears voice mail:

ZACHARY (V.O.)

This is Zach. Leave a message.

LAURA

Honey, where are you?

The plaque over the door falls and nearly hits Laura as she goes to exit the library into the church lobby.

A THUNDEROUS BANG shakes the building. The large window from across the room busts open. Books fall off shelves and children's artwork flies off the wall.

Laura fights to get to the window and latches it shut against the wind. But another gust, this one more powerful, shatters the window. The sheer force knocks Laura to the ground.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - DAY

Zachary grips the steering wheel. The winds pound the truck. He comes to a blocked roadway where a fallen tree lays.

EXT. ROADWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zachary hops out of his truck and pushes his way through the wind. A bent sign on the roadside reads: *Bethel Church 3 Miles.*

Zachary tries to move the tree. He hears a high-pitched screech and looks up. About a mile up the road, a twister comes at him.

Zachary makes a mad dash to a nearby variety store a half-block up the road.

The twister is unpredictable as it changes direction, seemingly chasing Zachary.

Zachary stumbles and falls into the door of the store.

ZACHARY

HELP!

The twister approaches. He BANGS on the door.

ZACHARY

SOMEBODY!

The door swings open and an overweight MAN yanks Zachary in.

INT. VARIETY STORE - CONTINUOUS

He pulls Zachary to a set of stairs going down. Once at the bottom, they hit the ground and cover their heads.

The ground rumbles and the building vibrates. The twister threatens to swallow up the store. And then things calm and the howling mercifully dissipates.

EXT. VARIETY STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary emerges. A not so forceful wind blows and showers rain down.

Shockingly, Zachary's truck remains on the roadway, untouched. He runs toward it, hops over the branches that block the roadway and sprints to Bethel.

EXT. ROADWAY - CONTINUOUS

He races hard, his legs pump. Tree branches are strewn over the roadway and he side-steps them as if avoiding tackles.

There is a bend in the road. He rounds the corner and comes face to face with the rugged cross in Bethel's front lawn.

The church has sustained significant damage - windows shattered, shingles torn off, a side wall ripped into...but the building remains intact.

Zachary lets out a sigh of relief. It's short-lived. He stops in his tracks, now shocked. The library is gone.

Hanging metal and cracked wood stick out the side of the church as if the library had been ripped out. Destroyed books and debris are everywhere.

Zachary scrambles into the church.

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The front door hangs from its hinges.

ZACHARY

Mom!

He races through the lobby with pieces of the ceiling on the ground. In the sanctuary, windows are shattered and walls cracked.

ZACHARY

MOM!

Nobody. He races back into the lobby toward the library.

ZACHARY

MOM!

He comes to where the library should be but finds a gaping hole.

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - LATER ON

Workers dig through rubble. Zachary assists them.

Small fires smolder amongst the rubble. Torn book pages blow and attach themselves against trees in the forest.

Zachary sifts through bricks and concrete. The gloves he wears are torn and blood seeps through. His hands shake.

Popular local reporter, BART ROVER is on the scene with a cameraman. Bart is a short, slim man in his late 30s.



SELMA (O.S.)

Zachary?

Zachary turns. Selma stands nearby. He ignores her and picks up more bricks.

SELMA

I called the house. Ethan's wondering where you and his mom are.

ZACHARY

I don't think she's here.

SELMA

You need to go home and be with Ethan.

ZACHARY

I can't leave now.

SELMA

There's nothing you can do here.  
I'll call if they find her.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - EVENING

Zachary pulls into his neighborhood which for the most part avoided any serious damage. He drives up to the house.

The Foley house is the sharpest looking in the neighborhood with modern touches and character.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary enters the spacious front entrance. The crown molding is exquisite, with warm hues on the walls and artful light fixtures on display.

ZACHARY

Ethan!

ETHAN (O.S.)

I'm in the basement!

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Zachary descends the stairs to a rec room where ETHAN FOLEY, 15, sits on a chair in front of an easel and paints. Walking sticks hang off the side of the chair.

Ethan has some special needs, but clearly functions on his own. Once he focuses, it's hard to distract him.

ZACHARY

You okay?

ETHAN

Yeah. Why? Do I look sick?

ZACHARY

Were you scared?

ETHAN

'Bout what?

ZACHARY

The tornado.

ETHAN

Oh, that. Kristen drove me home and told me not to leave the basement. See...

Ethan reaches for a large note pad and flips it to a page that reads: *Don't Leave Basement.*

ETHAN

Where's mom?

ZACHARY

What're you painting?

ETHAN

You. Where's mom?

Zachary comes around to the easel. An old yearbook sits open beside Ethan. On the page, a young Zachary catches a football. He wears a Stillwater Pioneer jersey, #30. Ethan draws a replica of this photo.

ZACHARY

Pretty good Eth.

ETHAN

Where's mom? Kristen says you picked her up. I wrote that down too.

He flips to another page in the pad: *Zach driving mom home.*

Zachary hesitates. Ethan returns to painting.

ETHAN

(hollers)

MOM! Why don't you answer!? Is she outside?

ZACHARY

Ethan, listen to me.

ETHAN

You're not sayin' much.

Zachary's cell RINGS. He shudders and answers quickly.

ZACHARY

Hello?

SELMA (V.O.)

Zachary, it's Selma.

Zachary lets out a nervous breath. Ethan's brush striking the canvas is the only sound heard.

SELMA (V.O.)

They found your mom. She wasn't in the library.

Ethan stops painting, sees the blank stare on Zachary's face.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - SAME EVENING

Selma paces outside a closed hospital room. Elevator doors open at the end of the hallway. Zachary and Ethan emerge. Ethan walks with the assistance of his walking sticks.

The Foley boys are met by a compassionate OFFICER. Selma watches the exchange, but doesn't hear it. Ethan's face distorts, then shouts at Zachary.

ETHAN

You were suppos'd to get mom!

ZACHARY

I know Ethan.

ETHAN

I wrote it down!

ZACHARY

Stop yelling.

ETHAN

WHERE'S MOM?

Ethan takes one of his sticks and whacks Zachary in the leg.

ZACHARY

AHHHHH!

Ethan drops his sticks and tries to run, but falls flat on his face.

Selma is about to intervene when Zachary and the officer help him up. Ethan snatches his sticks from them and hobbles toward Selma.

ZACHARY

Ethan!

DR. COOPER approaches Zachary. Ethan comes face to face with Selma.

ETHAN  
Where's my mom?

SELMA  
I want you to calm down.

ETHAN  
No Selma!

SELMA  
Ethan, look at my eyes and relax.

Ethan does so. Zachary speaks to the officer and Dr. Cooper.

OFFICER  
She was found in the forest across from the library.

ZACHARY  
What're you telling me?  
(he looks to Dr. Cooper)  
Doctor?

DR. COOPER  
Her legs and shoulders are severely fractured. She also sustained serious damage to her skull and has a partially collapsed lung. She's being kept alive by life support.

Zachary looks down the hallway. Selma has temporarily settled Ethan.

DR. COOPER  
She was tossed about like a rag doll. There's not much more we can do.

SELMA  
Zachary! He wants to see her.

Dr. Cooper gives Zachary a sympathetic look. Zachary reluctantly nods in Selma's direction.

Selma opens the door to the hospital room and enters with Ethan. His reaction echoes into the hallway.

ETHAN (O.S.)  
Mom!

He cries, then mumbles inaudible words.

Zachary walks away from Dr. Cooper and approaches the room.

ETHAN (O.S.)  
I wanna hold her hand Selma.

SELMA (O.S.)  
Be gentle.

ETHAN (O.S.)  
Can she hear us?

SELMA (O.S.)  
Maybe sweetie.

ETHAN (O.S.)  
Love you mom. Love you...

Zachary turns into the doorway. Laura's face is black and blue. Machines monitor her heartbeat and brain waves. Her body is in traction.

Ethan has a determined look as he caresses Laura's hand. Zachary is drawn to their hands.

ETHAN  
No one would blame you for sleeping  
mom...but you can wake up now.

Selma comes up beside Zachary. She talks out of Ethan's earshot.

SELMA  
Pastor Evans is at the church  
assessing the damage. Do you want  
me to call him to come here?

ZACHARY  
What for?

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, ETHAN'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Ethan crawls into bed. Zachary sets the walking sticks beside the nightstand where Ethan's note pad sits. Written in bold letters on the page: *Mom in hospital.*

ETHAN  
Zach?

ZACHARY  
Yeah Eth.

ETHAN  
Did I look like mom after my accident?

ZACHARY  
A little bit.

ETHAN

Then she'll be okay 'cause I was  
okay. Right?

ZACHARY

Right.

Ethan looks at a photo on the nightstand of a young Zachary in full football gear wearing his #30 Stillwater jersey. Zachary frowns in the photo.

A younger Ethan and their father, Dennis, stand beside Zachary. Ethan and their dad wear Stillwater jerseys. They stand in a football field.

Ethan fixates on his father in the photo.

ZACHARY

Eth?

ETHAN

Maybe mom's gonna end up like dad.

ZACHARY

Not a chance.

ETHAN

You gonna leave me too?

ZACHARY

What? Never.

ETHAN

I'll be alone.

ZACHARY

Stop it Ethan. I'm right here.

ETHAN

Yeah but you were suppos'd to be  
there for mom.

Ethan's words pierce. Zachary leans in and kisses Ethan's forehead.

ZACHARY

Go to sleep now.

ETHAN

Zach?

ZACHARY

Yeah?

ETHAN

You stink.

Zachary smiles as he walks away with a slight limp.

ETHAN

What's wrong with yer leg?

ZACHARY

You whacked me with your stick.

ETHAN

I did?

(realizing)

Oh...sorry. But you deserved it.

ZACHARY

'Night Eth.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, SHOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary stands in the shower, eyes closed. His hands shake uncontrollably. Blood trickles out of cuts he got from picking up library debris.

EXT. STILLWATER STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Zachary stretches his leg. He gingerly jogs and runs with a grimace.

Zachary jogs past a grieving couple who stand in front of their damaged home. Their garage and a part of the house is in ruins. The WIFE cries into the HUSBAND's shoulder.

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary sucks back air, taking in the imposing cross. The library is a smoldering heap. Pages of books litter the ground, other books are burnt.

Standing across from the rubble are Alison and Kim. They are shell-shocked. Kim's boy, Rick, chases after a painting in the wind.

KIM

Rick, quit it.

RICK

(cries)

But it's my painting.

His painting blows high in the sky and lands across the street into an oak tree.

KIM

It's okay sweetie.

RICK

Did Miss Foley blow away too?

Rick hugs his mother's leg. Kim looks over to see Zachary staring in their direction. Rick sees a burnt book and picks it up.

RICK  
What's this say mom?

Kim takes in the cover, slowly puts the words together.

KIM  
The.....Gr...eat.....Surr-end-er.

RICK  
What's that mean?

KIM  
Let it go Rick. It's dirty.

She takes hold of her boy's hand. They leave with Alison and walk by Zachary. Alison makes eye contact with him.

ALISON  
You look familiar.

ZACHARY  
I'm...Laura's son.

ALISON  
...Oh.

They walk away from Zachary without another word.

Zachary steps closer to the library. He comes upon the book *The Great Surrender* - three bold words etched into the cover. The book's edges are singed, but remains intact.

SELMA (O.S.)  
That's one of your mother's favorite books.

Zachary turns, Selma approaches. She picks it up.

SELMA  
I'm sure she has a copy at the house.

Zachary looks passed Selma, sees Kim and Alison at the front of the church.

ZACHARY  
Who are those women?

SELMA  
Your mom was teaching them to read.  
(MORE)



SELMA (CONT'D)

(looks at library)

This place was more than just a building. Laura was a mentor to a lot of folks here.

ZACHARY

Where did they find her?

Selma points across the street to a gigantic oak tree with thick overhanging branches.

SELMA

By that oak tree...under some branches.

Zachary sprints toward the oak tree.

SELMA

Did you know your father built this library!

He stops in mid-stride, looks back at Selma incredulously.

SELMA

He was never one to brag and Laura's a quiet woman. But I was here, before you were born, when Dennis built it.

Torn pages whistle in the wind. Zachary eyes the destruction.

SELMA

Why weren't you here?

Zachary doesn't follow.

SELMA

Yesterday.

ZACHARY

You wanna piece of me too Selma?

SELMA

She was waiting for you Zach.

Zachary runs away hard and fast. Selma looks down at the book in her hands, then back up at Zachary who races through the forest.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY/LAURA'S ROOM - MORNING

Zachary drips with sweat as he walks through the hallways. Nurses take notice of his haggard appearance.

He approaches Laura's room where a distraught woman in her 20s exits.

She shields her face as she's been crying and hurries to the nearest elevator.

Zachary steps through the door of the room. He is met by the sound of BEEPS from the heart and brain monitors.

On the wall hangs two children's drawings. One is a picture of an opened book and on the pages are the words: *We love you Miss Foley*; another is a crayon message written in dark red and signed by Rick: *Get Well Soon*.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - LATER THAT MORNING

Zachary is drenched by the time he gets back to the house. He finds Ethan sitting in the passenger seat of the truck.

ZACHARY

Eth? What're ya doin'?

ETHAN

Waitin' for mom. She drives me to school.

ZACHARY

Mom's in the hospital.

ETHAN

Oh, right. Then I guess I'm waitin' for you.

ZACHARY

But I thought...maybe...you wanted to stay home.

ETHAN

Why? I go everyday.

ZACHARY

Right, well let me jump in the shower.

ETHAN

Okay, but you better use soap.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, HALLWAY - MORNING

Zachary and Ethan walk along the hallway and come to a classroom where they see teacher KRISTEN SANDS, 25.

Kristen is a confident woman with a calm demeanor. Her voice is gentle but firm when it needs to be. Her smile lights up a room.

Her class has a handful of students similar to Ethan. Some are in wheelchairs, others are more developmentally challenged.

Ethan busts into the room like he owns it. The students are in the middle of an art session, each of them sit in front of an easel.

ETHAN

Hi Kristen.

KRISTEN

Ethan. I'm surprised to see you.

ETHAN

Why? I'm not sick.

Ethan walks past Kristen and takes a seat by another student, 16 year old IVY who is in a wheelchair and talks with few words.

ETHAN

Hi Ivy.

IVY

Hi Eth-y.

Kristen finds herself with Zachary in the hallway; it's awkward.

KRISTEN

You sure it's okay he's here?

ZACHARY

It was his choice.

KRISTEN

I know, but -

ZACHARY

- I have to go.

Zachary begins to walk away.

ZACHARY

My mom says sometimes you drive him home after school.

KRISTEN

Yes. How is she?

ZACHARY

Do you mind doing that today?

KRISTEN

Sure.

ZACHARY

I might be workin' late.

Zachary dashes off.

KRISTEN

Zachary!

He turns, but keeps walking away from her.

KRISTEN

Did your mom mention that Ethan's been falling lately?

ZACHARY

No, she didn't. And I can't say I've noticed. So I'd keep an eye on that.

Kristen's unimpressed as she watches Zachary race out of the building.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Zachary is back on the field, cleaning up debris from the tornado.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Ethan sits at an easel and paints a football player, similar to the painting he did at the house. It's Zachary again, with jersey #30.

Ethan's frustrated. He digs out his note pad and flips through various notes: *Zach driving mom home. Mom in hospital.*

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Zachary builds the equipment shed. He hammers, he saws, and puts up walls.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Ethan destroys his painting of Zachary with a black X and suddenly knocks the easel over with one of his walking sticks.

IVY

Stop Eth-y!

Kristen jumps to action. The commotion causes a stir amongst the other students.

KRISTEN

Ethan, what's wrong?

ETHAN

I wanna see the library.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Zachary's cell rings. Kristen's name pops up. He ignores it, picks up a football and runs to the end zone.

INT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, COACH BROWN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Coach Brown sits behind his desk and watches a news story on the destruction of the Bethel Library. Bart Rover reports:

ON THE TV:

BART ROVER

The entire Bethel Library was flattened. Laura Foley was the only person in the building at the time.

A grief comes upon Coach Brown. His phone rings.

COACH BROWN

Yeah...

He looks out his window where he sees Zachary fooling around on the football field. The Coach sighs.

COACH BROWN

I'll tell'im.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary runs hard across the field when he sees Coach Brown coming toward him.

ZACHARY

Just stretching the legs Coach.

COACH BROWN

The janitorial staff needs you in the gym.

ZACHARY

Yes sir.

COACH BROWN

(sees equipment shed)

That shed is a one day job. You've stretched it to a week.

ZACHARY

I ran out of wood for the roof.

COACH BROWN

What're you doin' here Zach?

ZACHARY

W-What?

COACH BROWN  
Shouldn't you be with yer mom?

ZACHARY  
Not much I can do for her.

COACH BROWN  
How's Ethan?

ZACHARY  
He's good. We're good. I'm...I'm  
good to go.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - EVENING

Rows of shiny bottles are in perfect lines on shelves as if they were soldiers at attention.

Zachary stares, hands shaking, he reaches for a bottle.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary drives, the bottle lays beside him on the passenger seat. He passes the damaged house of the grieving couple. The husband digs through debris and throws junk in a pick-up truck.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

He sits in the truck outside the library.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Zachary's hands shake. The last rays of sun hit his face. He reaches for the bottle and twists it open.

Zachary hesitates, stares at the pile of rocks that was once the library. He looks down at the bottle and runs his finger along the rim.

His cell rings. He jumps, spilling some of the liquid on his lap. The Foley name appears on his cell. He answers.

ZACHARY  
Ethan?

ETHAN (V.O.)  
Where are you?

ZACHARY  
I'm coming home now Eth.

ETHAN (V.O.)  
Been waitin'. I'm alone.

ZACHARY

Tell me about your day.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Kristen took me to the library.

ZACHARY

She what?

ETHAN (V.O.)

We went to Bethel Library.

ZACHARY

Eth, there isn't much to see.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Really? I saw lots of rocks. Didn't you see them?

Zachary presses the cell against his chest as Ethan babbles. He whips the bottle out the truck window and it explodes against the rubble. He brings the cell back to his ear.

ETHAN (V.O.)

...Maybe you're goin' blind.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Zachary parks the Foley truck in the driveway and exits. A light is on in the 2nd floor bedroom above the garage.

Zachary climbs the porch steps then stops. On the ground at his feet is the burnt copy of *The Great Surrender*.

He snatches the book and leaps back into his truck.

Ethan pops his head out the bedroom window only to see the truck streak down the neighborhood street.

EXT. SELMA LYONS' HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Several cars are parked in Selma's driveway. Zachary parks on the street and storms out of the truck.

SINGING is heard inside. Zachary bangs on the front door, then bangs harder. Selma appears and she is fuming.

SELMA

What is wrong with you? We're having a service -

ZACHARY

- Is this your way of telling me I need to read this?

SELMA

Excuse me?

He shoves the book in her hands and flees.

ZACHARY

I don't care that this is my mother's favorite book. I don't want your help.

Selma is speechless as she takes in the book.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zachary sits in the dark on the couch and flips through channels blindly on the tv.

He comes across a shouting EVANGELIST.

EVANGELIST

When you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, surround yourself in scripture...

(shouts even louder)

*We live by faith, not by sight!*

Zachary shuts off the tv and closes his weary eyes.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MORNING

Ethan's unblinking as he fixates on a sleepy Zachary driving.

They pull into the Westwood parking lot where Kristen helps IVY's MOTHER get Ivy out of the back of a van.

ETHAN

Are you thinkin' of leaving me?

ZACHARY

What? No.

ETHAN

You left me last night.

ZACHARY

I came home.

ETHAN

Yeah, but yer thinkin' of leaving me.

ZACHARY

No I'm not.

ETHAN

Yes you are.



ZACHARY  
Stop it Ethan.

ETHAN  
You stop it! YOU STOP IT!

Ethan inexplicably punches Zachary in the shoulder. Kristen hears the shouts and looks over to them.

ZACHARY  
Hey! What's the matter with you?

Ethan quickly opens the passenger door.

EXT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

He jumps out of the truck and falls flat on his face.

ZACHARY  
Ethan!

Zachary hops out of the truck and Kristen runs to Ethan.

ZACHARY  
Are you okay?

ETHAN  
Forgot my sticks.

Ivy yells from across the parking lot.

IVY  
Hi Eth-y.

ETHAN  
Hi Ivy! Hi Ivy's mother!

Zachary grabs Ethan's walking sticks inside the truck as Kristen helps Ethan up. His lip is bleeding.

KRISTEN  
Careful buddy. You cut yourself.

ETHAN  
Zach's leaving me.

ZACHARY  
Just ignore him.

Zachary puts the sticks in Ethan's hands and wipes the blood from his lip. Ethan brushes Zachary aside and limps to Ivy.

KRISTEN  
I tried calling you yesterday.

ZACHARY

I was busy.

KRISTEN

So was I. But I still called you.

Ethan and Ivy converse as Kristen follows Zachary to the driver side.

KRISTEN

Ethan's angry at you.

ZACHARY

I wouldn't have guessed.

KRISTEN

I've got to know you got his back.

Ethan yells from across the parking lot.

ETHAN

HEY ZACH! I forgot...did you get the book?!

Zachary does a double take.

ETHAN

Found it at the library.

Ethan doesn't wait for a response and engages Ivy.

ZACHARY

You shouldn't have brought him.

KRISTEN

He thinks that library will be back to normal in a few days and your mom will return.

ZACHARY

He wrote it down that our mom is in the hospital. He's been to visit her.

KRISTEN

It doesn't matter. He knows something's wrong. His routine has changed. He struggles with his memory even when he writes things down. Lately, he's forgotten that he can't walk without his sticks.

ZACHARY

Whadya want me to do?

KRISTEN

Bring him to the hospital. He needs reminding. Otherwise he's going to expect her to walk back into his life and if she doesn't, just like his dad didn't, I'm not sure you'll be able to handle him.

This strikes fear in Zachary.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - EVENING

The elevator doors open. Ethan and Zachary exit, with Ethan walking ahead.

ZACHARY

Eth, you're going the wrong way.

Ethan promptly pivots on his sticks, quickly passes Zachary.

ZACHARY

Slow down. We're in a hospital.

ETHAN

Are only slow people in hospitals?

ZACHARY

Generally speaking, yes.

ETHAN

Then maybe you should check in.

He keeps walking ahead.

ETHAN

Are we taking mom home?

ZACHARY

I told you, she has to be here for awhile.

ETHAN

How long?

ZACHARY

I don't know.

Zachary reaches for Ethan just outside Laura's room.

ZACHARY

Now you're going to be strong. You won't cry.

ETHAN

I'm strong. Won't cry.

ZACHARY

You promise.

ETHAN

I promise?

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter. Ethan cries within seconds of seeing Laura.

ETHAN

Mom...

He flops down by Laura's bedside. His sticks fall and BANG to the ground. He reaches for her hand and weeps into it.

ZACHARY

It's okay Eth.

ETHAN

It is? Does mom know it's okay?

He's taken by the drawings on the wall. Cards and flowers sit on the window sill. He wipes his tears on the hospital bed sheets.

ZACHARY

Don't do that. Here.

Zachary hands him several tissues. Beside the tissue box on the nightstand is a beat up book opened to Chapter 1: *Pick a Verse*.

Zachary picks up the book. It is the singed copy of *The Great Surrender*. Ethan meanwhile quickly engages in conversation with Laura.

ETHAN

I like Ivy. She smells like you...like flowers. She can't talk much...wants to walk, but can barely stand.

ZACHARY

(holds up book)  
How did this get here?

ETHAN

Beats me.  
(back to Laura)  
Kristen's pretty...I like her too.

NURSE (O.S.)

Selma Lyons brought it.

Zachary looks over to the door where a NURSE appears.

NURSE

She thought maybe Laura would want that book beside her.

Ethan rests his head on Laura's opened palm.

ETHAN

When are you comin' home? Zach doesn't know. Maybe you can tell me?

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, ETHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan switches on a flashlight, shines it on his note pad and the various reminders: *Don't leave basement. Zachary driving mom home. Mom in hospital.*

He flips to another page to the words, *The Great Surrender.*

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ethan comes to the end of the hallway and flashes the light on a door: Laura's Library. He enters.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, LAURA'S LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The room is full of shelving with tightly packed books. An assortment of Ethan's paintings and photos of the family hang on the wall.

One photo is of 9 year old Ethan in a wheelchair. His legs are in a cast. His head is wrapped and his eyes are glazed over. Laura kneels by his side.

Ethan shifts to the bookshelf where he eventually finds a copy of *The Great Surrender.*

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, ZACHARY'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Zachary awakes. He hears mumbling.

ETHAN (O.S.)

....Live....faith.....sight...

INT. FOLEY'S HOUSE, ETHAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan sits up in bed with his flashlight on his pad and *The Great Surrender* open.

ETHAN

We live by faith, not by sight. We live by faith, not by sight.

ZACHARY (O.S.)

Ethan?

Ethan flashes the light in Zachary's face. Zachary flips on the bedroom light.

ETHAN  
(holds book up)  
I'm picking a verse.

ZACHARY  
Where did you get that?

ETHAN  
Here. Says to pick a verse.  
(reads slowly)  
"Say it. Own it. Keep it close to  
your heart." That's what I'm doing.

Ethan shows him his pad with the verse written on it.

ETHAN  
*We live by faith, not by sight.*  
What's it mean Zach?

ZACHARY  
It means sometimes you have to believe  
everything will be okay even if it  
doesn't look so good.

A big smile grows on Ethan's face.

ZACHARY  
How did you pick that verse?

ETHAN  
Beats me. Dreamt it. Yeah, I dreamt  
it.  
(returns to book)  
"Chapter 2: *Rebuilding.*"

ZACHARY  
That's enough Ethan. Go to sleep.

Zachary takes the flashlight out of his hands and closes the book. Ethan spontaneously hugs him.

ETHAN  
Love you Zach.

ZACHARY  
Love you too.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, BASEMENT - MORNING

Ethan is dressed in his pjs. He sits behind his easel and paints up a storm.

ZACHARY (O.S.)

Ethan!

ETHAN

Down here!

Ethan is singularly focused on the painting. Zachary's hurried footsteps are heard descending the stairs.

ZACHARY

What're you doin' up so early?

Ethan lifts his canvas up and proudly shows Zachary his painting.

ETHAN

Rebuilding the library.

The painting is of Bethel Church and a newly restored library attached to it.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

Zachary works on the equipment room. He measures and cuts wood, climbs a ladder, lays the roof and hammers. Done.

He tosses a bag of footballs, pylons and drags a Lev Sled into the new equipment room.

Zachary rides the lawn mower. He is half-way through the football field when he stops and pulls out his cell. ON THE SCREEN: *We live by faith, not by sight.*

COACH BROWN (O.S.)

Shed looks good.

Zachary fumbles his cell, embarrassed. Coach Brown approaches.

ZACHARY

Sorry Coach, I was just -

Coach Brown waves a dismissive hand, doesn't want to hear it.

ZACHARY

Gotta finish this field for Friday's game. You know Coach, you have a good team this year. A lot of potential...like ours back in '09.

COACH BROWN

Maybe. You were the most intense player on that team.

ZACHARY

I wanted to win.

COACH BROWN

We all want to win Zach. But I'm not sure if you really wanted to be on that field.

ZACHARY

What're you sayin'?

COACH BROWN

Did you love the game as much as winning?

Zachary's taken aback. The Coach hits a nerve.

COACH BROWN

You're not doing me or yourself any favors if you don't wanna be here.  
(references the field)

ZACHARY

Coach -

COACH BROWN

- Decide what you really want, then go for it. Do it full out.

INT. STILLWATER STREETS - DAY

Zachary runs hard. He passes the house where the grieving couple does more clean up. A dump truck takes away a pile of debris.

The husband carries concrete bricks on his own. His pregnant wife watches.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Zachary stands in front of the library out of breath. A small gathering sadly takes in the destroyed building, many visibly shaken up. Children cling to the legs of parents.

RICK (O.S.)

God is love.

Zachary looks down and there Rick stands, holding the soiled plaque. The boy tries to smile through bloodshot eyes, tears running down his cheeks.

Zachary takes the plaque from him and looks over the library rubble. A look of steel determination grabs hold of him.



INT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

Pastor Evans, Selma and Board Members PETE and CAROL, both in their 50s, sit in the pews of the dilapidated sanctuary. They are in a heated discussion.

PETE

With all do respect Selma, welfare mothers who can't read and kids under 5 can't save this church.

SELMA

It's the people who make up the building. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for this church or that library.

PASTOR EVANS

We've sustained more damage than we realized.

SELMA

Maybe this is a wake up call.

PETE

There's no money Selma.

CAROL

We barely crack 30 people on a given Sunday.

PETE

We have to seriously ask ourselves if it's viable to keep this building open.

Selma is met with an uncomfortable silence. She looks to Pastor Evans who's resigned.

SELMA

You people aren't looking for a miracle.

CAROL

This is not the same place your grandfather built over 80 years ago. We have to face facts.

SELMA

You know Carol if I wasn't a Christian woman, you'd be facing my fist right about now.

Suddenly there's an uproar with everyone shouting over each other.

ZACHARY (O.S.)  
I'M REBUILDING THE LIBRARY!

His voice echoes in the sanctuary walls. It silences everyone. They turn to find Zachary in the aisle.

PASTOR EVANS  
Zachary, if this church re-opens,  
there won't be another library.  
Your mom would understand the jam  
we're in.

ZACHARY  
I meant what I said.

PETE  
Can we get back to the issue at hand?

PASTOR EVANS  
If you really want to help, the church  
requires major repairs.

ZACHARY  
The church isn't my concern.

PETE  
Son, do you know how much work that  
would involve?

ZACHARY  
Don't call me son.

PETE  
One man can't possibly -

ZACHARY  
- One man did.

Zachary glances over to Selma who looks on inspired.

ZACHARY  
I have all my father's equipment.  
He built a lot of the houses in this  
city and I helped him. I learned  
from the best.

PETE  
We're broke Zach! So stop wasting  
our time.

PASTOR EVANS  
Pete...

PETE  
The boy is out of his tree!

ZACHARY

I don't want your money. I'm going to do this, one way or another.

PASTOR EVANS

Selma, say something.

SELMA

(beat, smiles)

Amen.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ethan is in full panic mode as he rips apart his painting of the church and library. He takes a walking stick and whacks it against the easel before falling on his butt.

ZACHARY (O.S.)

Ethan!

Within seconds, Zachary rushes into the basement wearing only his boxer shorts.

ETHAN

Mom's never coming back! She doesn't need a library. You took her.

ZACHARY

It was a hurricane Ethan.

ETHAN

Yeah but you were suppos'd to pick her up!

(he throws his pad)

I wrote it down. That makes it true. You're a liar! You let her down.

ZACHARY

You're right, I did. And I'm sorry.

Ethan buries his face in his hands. Zachary consoles him, takes in the ripped painting.

ZACHARY

What happened? Did you have a bad dream?

ETHAN

(remembering...)

I was trapped in the car!

ZACHARY

It's okay, you're awake now.

ETHAN

It's not okay. I can't walk  
normal...head's busted.

ZACHARY

You're not in the car anymore.

ETHAN

Tell me again Zach. Tell me what  
happened.

Zachary holds Ethan close to him.

ZACHARY

We were coming home from my football  
game...I was in regional finals.  
And dad lost control of the car...

ETHAN

(remembering..)

An animal jumped out in the middle  
of the road.

ZACHARY

And we crashed and you got hurt.

ETHAN

I saw the tornado...it took the car  
and dad was in the car...

ZACHARY

It was a nightmare Ethan.

ETHAN

...And...and mom was flyin' in the  
air. The car took her to heaven to  
be with dad...

ZACHARY

No it didn't. She's still here.  
And you wanna know why?

Ethan gapes at him, wide-eyed.

ZACHARY

Because I'm rebuilding the Bethel  
Library.

Ethan looks down at his ripped painting.

ZACHARY

So you see, mom will have work to  
do.

Ethan scrambles for his note pad and reaches for a pencil.

ZACHARY

Eth?

ETHAN

(writing and speaking)

Mom coming back for new library.

ZACHARY

Let's get you to bed.

Zachary puts the walking sticks in Ethan's hands and hoists him up on his feet. Ethan is drawn to Zachary's boxers.

ETHAN

Are those animals?

ZACHARY

Teddy bears.

Ethan laughs as they make their way to the stairs.

ETHAN

What kind'a animal was it?

ZACHARY

What?

ETHAN

That caused the crash?

ZACHARY

...A deer.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MORNING

Zachary drives. Ethan sits beside him.

ZACHARY

Don't tell anyone about the library.

ETHAN

Whadya mean?

ZACHARY

That I'm rebuilding it.

ETHAN

You are?

ZACHARY

I told you last night.

ETHAN

Oh. Right.

ZACHARY

People don't need to know.

This baffles Ethan as he stares at Zachary.

ZACHARY

I don't wanna be asked questions.

ETHAN

About what?

ZACHARY

Forget it. It doesn't matter. Just don't say anything.

They pull into the Westwood parking lot. Kristen and Ivy are about to enter the school.

ZACHARY

Now take it easy getting out.

ETHAN

I will.

He doesn't. Ethan flies out of the passenger side and falls.

EXT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Zachary jumps out of his truck. Kristen runs over to Ethan.

ETHAN

Hi Kristen! Zach's rebuilding the library!

INT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, COACH BROWN'S OFFICE - DAY

ON THE TV:

BART ROVER

Who would you say is your top player this year?

COACH BROWN

Paul Marshall. He has a great feel for the ball, much like his brother.

ZACHARY (O.S.)

Where's Todd playin' these days?

Coach Brown turns from the tv and finds Zachary by the door.

COACH BROWN

Arizona Cardinals. Doing well.

Zachary sees on the tv, PAUL MARSHALL, 18, being interviewed by Bart.

ZACHARY

Will his little brother follow Todd's footsteps.

COACH BROWN

No doubt. Paul actually reminds me of you.

ZACHARY

That may not be a good thing.

Zachary nervously laughs, the Coach joins him.

ZACHARY

Coach...I'm....I'm gonna rebuild the Bethel Library.

Coach Brown takes in the news. He sits up straight in his swivel chair which squeaks and fills the silence. Zachary doesn't budge, the tension grips him.

ZACHARY

Whadya think of that?

COACH BROWN

I think it's totally irrelevant what I think. Do you wanna do it?

ZACHARY

Yes.

COACH BROWN

Then that's all that matters.

INT. BANK - DAY

BANKER

I can't help you.

A pompous BANKER with a cocky grin sits across from Zachary behind his fancy desk.

ZACHARY

Why not?

BANKER

Because the house is not in your name. I need your mother's signature.

ZACHARY

Come on. She's been doing business at this bank most of her life.

BANKER

You're talking about taking out a 2nd mortgage on a house you don't own. My hands are tied.

He leafs through the file in front of him.

BANKER

Your name is nowhere in the files. After your dad's passing, the house reverted to your mother 100%.

ZACHARY

Can I get any kind of loan?

BANKER

Not with your credit. Come on Zach, haven't you squandered enough of your mom's money on 2 years of college you flunked out on. Bethel Church has been operating in a deficit for years. Why would you want to invest your time and energy, let alone money, on a bankrupt property?

Zachary stands and drags himself out of the office.

BANKER

Is it true that when the tornado hit your mom was waiting for you at the library?

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Zachary's numb, sits beside his mother. He stares at her lifeless hand while listening to a message on his cell...

KRISTEN (V.O.)

I'm taking Ivy and Ethan to Boom Lake Park after school. If you're not too busy, come.

He slides his cell on the nightstand where it hits the burnt copy of *The Great Surrender*. The room has more drawings, cards and flowers.

Zachary takes it all in then focuses on his mother, willing her to speak. He glances to the book and flings it off the table. The book hits a wall and drops to an open page.

He gets up and retrieves the book which is opened to a new chapter: *The Temptation to Quit*.



INT. FOLEY TRUCK - DAY

Zachary drives by the couple's house damaged by the hurricane. The debris has been cleared and a new portion of the house and the foundation of a garage are in the works.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary picks up the *God is love* plaque that remains in the library rubble. The words are barely legible as cracks run through the plaque.

SELMA (O.S.)

That was their verse.

Zachary looks at Selma, too tired to care.

SELMA

Your parents had a rough go at the start of their marriage.

ZACHARY

(perks up)  
Really?

SELMA

Let's just say your father...had a wandering eye. They read *The Great Surrender* together. And the first chapter is *Pick a Verse*. That's what they picked.

Zachary studies the plaque in a different light.

SELMA

This library became a kind of repentant act for Dennis and a dream come true for Laura.

ZACHARY

I'm not going through with it Selma.

She is still and listens.

ZACHARY

The bank won't let me take out a 2nd mortgage. I've got zero collateral. It's a stupid idea. This church looks like it's ready to be bulldozed. Why would anyone even care about a dumb library?

SELMA

Your mother cared.

ZACHARY

Yeah well, she's practically dead.

SELMA

So it's game over before you even start.

ZACHARY

I only play if I know I'm gonna win.

SELMA

Is that why you quit football and everything else?

ZACHARY

Shut-up Selma! Just shut-up!

Zachary tosses the plaque on the ground and it cracks in half.

ZACHARY

Sorry.

He walks away annoyed, kicking at the debris in his path.

SELMA

I'll give you the money.

ZACHARY

(stops in his tracks)  
What?

SELMA

You're not the only one who doesn't like to lose.

ZACHARY

This library means that much to you?

SELMA

(swallows her pride)  
Zachary, when I was your age...I learned to read here.  
(takes in library)  
Your mother changed my life...many lives. She has a gift. Children adore her.

Zachary looks at Selma as if only now realizing something.

ZACHARY

You never had any kids Selma?

She shakes her head "no", regret stings her. A moment.

ZACHARY

Look, it's really generous, but I can't let you do this. Use the money to repair the church.

SELMA

I thought you wanted to win.

ZACHARY

Not like this.

SELMA

Let me tell you something: the boy I used to baby-sit marched into Bethel the other night and became a man before my very eyes. So please, for his sake and mine, don't betray him now.

EXT. BOOM LAKE PARK - DAY

Two children run along the lakefront and run into their mother's arms.

Zachary stands just outside his truck and watches this scene unfold.

On the same lakefront, Ivy sits in her wheelchair at the end of a pier. Ethan's beside her. He uses his walking stick to point something out over the rippling water.

Kristen sits nearby, taking in the orange sun. Zachary joins her, soaks in the picturesque view.

ZACHARY

It's beautiful here.

KRISTEN

(looks up)

Have you never been?

Ethan drops his sticks and falls. Zachary runs out to him -

KRISTEN

- Don't!

He stops. Ivy laughs and Ethan joins her. He struggles to stand with the help of his sticks.

KRISTEN

They seem to enjoy it. I have a feeling some of this is for attention.

Ethan is back on his feet. Zachary sits beside Kristen.

ZACHARY

Doc says there's not a chance he'll walk without them.

KRISTEN

They say Ivy will never leave her wheelchair. It doesn't stop her from trying.

They watch as Ethan leans over and kisses Ivy on the cheek. Zachary and Kristen glance at each other, hiding their smiles.

Ethan dips his walking stick into the lake and sprinkles water on her legs and head. Ivy speaks inaudible words to Ethan.

KRISTEN

She fights to talk...something else she lost.

Ivy is giddy, clearly enjoying the spray of water.

KRISTEN

So is it true...about the library?

He nods, half-heartedly.

KRISTEN

You don't seem convinced.

ZACHARY

Am I nuts?

KRISTEN

You do what you have to do.

Zachary smirks at her.

KRISTEN

What?

ZACHARY

You're so positive. Makes me kind'a sick.

They share a laugh.

KRISTEN

I like to see people happy. That's all that matters in my books. I've been lucky to have these kids in my life.

They watch as Ethan and Ivy are clearly enjoying each other's company.

ZACHARY

It must be a challenge. I only have  
Eth but he can test me.

KRISTEN

When I think of what some of them  
have been through, like Ivy - her's  
was a swimming accident - I can't  
complain.

(beat)

We're all rootin' for your mom Zach.

She reaches for his hand. The gesture surprises him.

KRISTEN

Some days can be really hard. That's  
when you brace yourself and do what  
you have to do.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

An excavator digs out all the junk. A dumpster quickly fills  
up.

Selma watches from the front door of the church. The full  
dumpster is taken away and replaced by another.

Zachary picks up junk and tosses it into the dumpster: ripped  
books, crushed shelves, smashed doors, children's art. He  
tosses the *God is love* plaque into the dumpster.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Coach Brown is on the field conducting various drills with  
his team. Bart Rover and a cameraman are on the field.

BART ROVER

The Stillwater Pioneers are a perfect  
5 and 0 after their convincing 23 -  
7 thrashing of the Deer Creek Antlers.  
They're going for win #6 next Friday  
against the Southmoore SaberCats.

Zachary sits in the bleachers and takes in the practice.  
Coach Brown looks up and gives Zachary a thumbs up.

Zachary watches balls thrown, fumbled and caught. He looks  
down at his hands - they tremble.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Kristen walks amongst a few students who paint. Ethan paints  
the word *live*. Ivy splashes the color blue on her canvas.

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Pastor Evans places a hand on Laura's head and prays. Zachary leans against the doorway, with a solemn expression.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Coach Brown drives by and sees Zachary working alone. Kim, Alison and their children watch from the front of the church.

The site is clear of debris. Cement blocks are in place. The new foundation is beginning to take shape.

COACH BROWN  
(shouts out window)  
Way to go Zach!

Zachary looks up as he moves a block. Coach Brown drives away.

EXT. BOOM LAKE PARK - DAY

Kristen and Ivy's Mother are on the pier. They lift Ivy from her wheelchair. Ivy's legs, arms and head tremble from the strain and effort.

Ethan stands by the wheelchair and watches. They set Ivy back into her wheelchair. She smiles big, utters incomprehensible words.

INT. SELMA LYONS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A small group of worshipers gather in Selma's living room. Pastor Evans leads in song.

Selma watches a mother stroke her son's hair. The boy waves at Selma.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Ethan paints the word *faith*. Ivy splashes more blue on a canvas.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary cuts wood, hammers two-by-fours, moves a wheelbarrow, and mixes cement. Wood trusses go up.

Three rough-looking men in their 20s pull up in a beat-up truck on the street across from the construction site. They watch Zachary work.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Ethan paints the word *sight*.

EXT. STILLWATER STREETS - DAY

Zachary jogs passed the damaged house where progress continues. The skeleton of the garage and part of the house is rebuilt with walls being put in place by the husband.

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Selma reads *The Great Surrender* by Laura's bedside while Ethan clings to his mother's hand.

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

Pastor Evans sits in a church pew, hands folded. He fervently prays and cries at the same time.

Selma enters the sanctuary. She quietly approaches.

SELMA

Pastor Evans?

He looks up, unashamed and wipes his face with a handkerchief.

SELMA

Can I join you?

He waves his hand to a pew next to him and she sits.

PASTOR EVANS

How long have you been the office manager at Bethel?

SELMA

25 years.

PASTOR EVANS

Right. And I've taken most of my cues from you because I trust you...but...

(stops, laughs)

I think I've lost my marbles this time around.

SELMA

Pastor Evans -

PASTOR EVANS

- I mean woman, look around you. We have a building falling apart. The bank is threatening to foreclose. How on earth is Zachary even financing his project?

Selma shifts in her seat, clears her throat. Pastor Evans catches on quick.

PASTOR EVANS

Selma Lyons you did not give that  
boy money, did you?

Selma can't hide her smile.

PASTOR EVANS

Are you certifiable my dear?

SELMA

I don't see you digging into your  
wallet Pastor Evans. Where's your  
desperation?

He lets out a defeated sigh and reflects...

PASTOR EVANS

Do you remember how badly you wanted  
kids? Then when Frank died, everyone  
told you to adopt. But you were  
just plain worn out from taking care  
of him. You didn't have it in you  
anymore.

She nods, the memory is painful. He eyes the cross that  
stands behind the podium.

PASTOR EVANS

When the people we love pass on,  
they take something with them.  
(slight pause)  
Veronica had that desperate attitude.  
And she was my rock.

Selma takes in a tired Pastor Evans. She reaches for his  
arm. Powerful looks are exchanged.

SELMA

Zach is trying to find his way...  
just like the rest of us.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kristen's classroom is empty except for Ethan who paints  
while Kristen helps Ivy back into her wheelchair. Ivy fights.

KRISTEN

Ivy, sit down.

IVY

No. NO! You-sit.

KRISTEN

Ivy please!



Ivy groans and refuses. She is wobbly as Kristen struggles to keep her up.

CLAPPING. A dirty Zachary from a long day of work, stands at the classroom door.

ZACHARY

That'a girl.

KRISTEN

Don't just stand there! Help me get her down.

Zachary hops to it and assists to get Ivy back into her wheelchair. Kristen is out of breath.

KRISTEN

Ivy, you have to listen to me.

She shakes her head, covers her ears. Kristen pulls Ivy's hands away from her ears.

KRISTEN

I don't want you to hurt yourself.  
Next time I tell you to sit down,  
don't fight me. Okay?

Ivy's frustrated and turns away from Kristen.

ETHAN

We painted stuff to hang in mom's room.

Zachary takes a look at Ivy's painting. Her work is crudely done, mostly different shades of blue and a dark spot in the middle. She points to the spot.

IVY

Rock!

ZACHARY

Masterpiece.

Ivy claps and laughs at the same time.

ETHAN

Come see mine!

Zachary walks around to Ethan's easel. Written in red paint: *We live by faith, not by sight.*

ETHAN

My verse.

ZACHARY

Mine too Eth.

ETHAN

Really?

Zachary nods.

ETHAN

Is the library done?

ZACHARY

Not yet.

ETHAN

Well hurry up. Mom's waitin'

Zachary and Kristen exchange weary looks.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Zachary walks with Ivy's and Ethan's paintings tucked under his arm. He approaches Laura's room and hears a voice inside:

COACH BROWN (O.S.)

...There was a lot of pressure...I  
might'a pushed him too much.

Zachary peeks into the room and sees a distraught Coach Brown. *The Great Surrender* sits in his lap as he talks to Laura.

COACH BROWN

...I feel I didn't do right by your  
boy....or husband...

Coach Brown sets the book down, reaches for Laura's hand and kisses it.

Zachary pulls away and finds a hallway to duck around.

COACH BROWN (O.S.)

Come back to us Laura.

Seconds later, Coach Brown exits. He lumbers down the hallway, emotionally spent.

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary sets the paintings down at the foot of the bed. He's drawn to the open book and walks over to the nightstand. The chapter title reads: *Come Clean*.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary is on scaffolding and works on the library roof. He is suspicious of the channel 7 truck parked in the Bethel parking lot. The truck sports the logo *Brat Rover: Everywhere*.

A HORN sounds. A van pulls off the main road. Kristen and Zachary emerge.

ZACHARY  
What're you guys doing here?

KRISTEN  
Ethan wanted to see how the library looks.

Zachary climbs down the scaffolding.

ETHAN  
It's takin' forever.

ZACHARY  
It's not a painting Eth.

ETHAN  
Can Kristen come over and watch the football game tomorrow night?

ZACHARY  
Sure.

ETHAN  
And Ivy too?

KRISTEN  
We'll have to ask her mom.

ZACHARY  
Is Ivy, like, your girlfriend?

Zachary chides him. Ethan's unabashed.

ETHAN  
Not officially, but we're working on it.

BART ROVER (O.S.)  
Zachary Foley, you have a minute?

Zachary looks in the direction of the church's front doors where Bart comes out with a CAMERAMAN in tow. Selma is not far behind.

Bart is a fast talker and moves briskly from topic to topic.

ETHAN  
You're the guy on tv. Everywhere!

BART ROVER  
That's right.  
(MORE)

BART ROVER (CONT'D)

We're doing a human interest story  
on Bethel, your ties to football  
Zach and rebuilding the library.  
(takes in construction)  
This is quite a feat.

ETHAN

Our mom's coming home!

ZACHARY

Eth...

BART ROVER

Has her condition changed?

ZACHARY

No...not yet.

BART ROVER

Let's talk a little football first.

ZACHARY

Look, I'm a little busy -

BART ROVER

- Do you think this current team has  
the stuff to go all the way, like  
your team did in '09?

ZACHARY

It wasn't my team.

BART ROVER

You were the captain.

ZACHARY

Coach Brown led the team.

BART ROVER

I understand your mom has tutored  
some of the boys on this year's squad.

ZACHARY

I-I didn't know that.

BART ROVER

Your dad played an instrumental part  
in your success.

ZACHARY

...Yes.

BART ROVER

But there are persistent rumors  
surrounding the final you played.  
Do you care to clear up any of them  
today?

ZACHARY

I'm sorry?

And just like that, the tone of the interview changes.  
Kristen sees Zachary boil over. Ethan looks on increasingly  
confused.

SELMA

Bart, maybe now is not a good time.

BART ROVER

I talked to some of your former  
teammates -

ZACHARY

- Shut the camera off.

SELMA

Ethan, do you want ice cream?

ETHAN

Yes!

SELMA

Come on, it's in the church.

Ethan hurries to the church entrance and Selma follows.  
Zachary exchanges looks with Bart - the tension rises.

ZACHARY

I really have nothing to say.

BART ROVER

I'm wondering if you think you had  
your best game?

KRISTEN

Mr. Rover -

Zachary suddenly lunges forward and pushes the cameraman off  
his feet.

KRISTEN

Zach!

Bart is shoved back. Zachary picks up a two-by-four. Kristen  
intervenes.

KRISTEN

Stop it!

ZACHARY

You best leave Bart or I'm liable to  
play baseball with your head.

Bart helps his cameraman to his feet and they make their way  
to the truck. Within seconds, they depart Bethel.

Zachary pulls away from Kristen, takes the two-by-four and  
repeatedly smacks it against the scaffolding until the wood  
snaps in half. He tosses the broken pieces and collapses to  
his knees from pure exhaustion.

KRISTEN

Do you feel better?

His hands shake uncontrollably.

ZACHARY

I could really use a drink.

KRISTEN

Do you wanna go for a ride?

ZACHARY

Yeah...and I know where.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Zachary and Kristen sit in the bleachers. They watch a team  
practice. Coach Brown sees Zachary but is busy putting his  
players through drills.

Kristen looks over to Zachary. It doesn't appear like he  
wants to speak.

KRISTEN

Are you okay?

Zachary stares at Coach Brown.

ZACHARY

Coach was right. I never really  
loved the game.

KRISTEN

Zachary, what happened back there?  
What was Bart talking about?

Zachary watches the field, but he goes someplace else. A  
chanting crowd overtakes his senses. It sounds like an  
echo...

CROWD (V.O.)

Let's go Eagles! Let's go Eagles!  
Let's go Eagles!

The chanting gets louder. Zachary's eyes widen... remembering...

COACH BROWN (V.O.)

They've got the pressure, not us!  
They've got home turf advantage, not  
us! They're gonna lose, not us!

Teenage boys SHOUT CHEERS.

FLASHBACK:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT, 6 YEARS AGO

Stillwater Pioneer players are riled up. 18 year old Zachary wrings his hands. Coach Brown paces. He's a different man with more edge.

The crowd outside chants: "Let's go Eagles! Let's go Eagles!"

Sitting next to Zachary is TODD MARSHALL, 18, Stillwater Pioneers co-captain. Todd brims with confidence and cocksureness.

COACH BROWN

...You can either sit on the sidelines  
and watch or you get in the game and  
win it! 2nd place is for bystanders  
and losers...

Zachary sweats profusely and zones out. Coach Brown rants on. Todd looks over to Zachary.

TODD

Hey, you ready for this?

Zachary looks down at his quivering hands. Shouts go up in the room. Zachary jolts as if waking up. Players smack each other on the back.

TODD

(in Zachary's face)  
LET'S DO IT!

INT. STADIUM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Coach Brown leads the way as they march toward the field.

Zachary walks side by side with Todd, then inexplicably takes a quick step aside and races back to the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary scrambles through his locker and reaches for his knapsack.

He pulls out a bottle of booze and takes several swigs. The drink seems to settle him. He takes another swig.

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

BAM! A Stillwater player tackles a Eisenhower player. Todd side-steps other players before he sees #30 - Zachary, in the end zone.

Todd lunges the ball. Zachary sticks out his hands, catches it. And just like that - TOUCHDOWN!

Zachary pounds the ball to the ground. There's anger in the gesture. His teammates surround him. Coach Brown shouts praises.

Zachary takes in the Eisenhower stands where most of the crowd BOO except the parents of the Pioneers which include Zachary's folks.

Dennis and Laura stand up and cheer with 9 year old Ethan jumping up and down like a monkey. Selma sits beside the Foleys.

Dennis points a knowing finger to Zachary and gushes with pride. Zachary gives his father a thumbs up.

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

TOUCHDOWN EAGLES!

The home crowd's cheers overwhelm. Zachary is incensed and loses it on his teammates. Coach Brown takes Zachary aside.

COACH BROWN

Take it easy Foley.

ZACHARY

Take it easy!? You told us not to be bystanders Coach! If we were coverin' our guys that play never should've happened!

Zachary storms off the field slamming through his own teammates.

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

SNAP!

Todd receives the ball. Eisenhower linebackers charge at him and butt heads with the Pioneer offense.

Zachary zigzags around players, looks for the pass. Todd spots him and just before he's tackled, he whips the ball. But Zachary changes direction and is tripped up.



The ball bounces off one player and is intercepted by an Eagle. He runs with it, leap-frogging over shocked Pioneer players, and carries it right to the end zone.

TOUCHDOWN EAGLES!

Zachary goes ballistic. Todd takes notice while the rest of the teammates stay clear of Zachary.

COMMENTER (V.O.)

It's half time folks and the Eagles lead 14 to 7. Does something seem off with Stillwater's Zachary Foley? I know he got their only touchdown but...

COMMENTER #2 (V.O.)

Can you blame him? That last play was a disaster and I'm sure Foley is kicking himself...  
(voice trails)

Dennis climbs down from the bleachers with young Ethan in tow. He comes up close to a disgruntled Zachary as the players exit the field.

DENNIS

Zachary!

Zachary waves a dismissive hand at his dad and follows his teammates into the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Pioneers sit, their heads mostly down.

COACH BROWN

Let's stay focused boys. We made a few errors, but nothing we can't fix...

Zachary has removed himself from the team, paces in a corner. Todd approaches him.

TODD

You okay?

Zachary's moody and keeps pacing, doesn't answer.

TODD

Thought you were going up the middle.

ZACHARY

Huh?

TODD

On their interception. Last second  
you switched directions.

ZACHARY

One of their guys was ridin' me.  
You blind Todd?

INT. STADIUM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Pioneers pump each other up as they march down the hallway  
with renewed energy.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary is alone and takes several swigs on the bottle. He  
can't get enough down.

TODD (O.S.)

What're ya doin'?

Zachary's startled. Standing before him is Todd who can't  
believe his eyes.

Zachary puts the cap back on the bottle and shoves it back  
in his locker. He tries to walk passed Todd when he SLAMS  
Zachary up against the locker.

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

An Eagle Player SLAMS the football down. TOUCHDOWN EAGLES!  
The home crowd dances in the bleachers.

COMMENTER (V.O.)

It's slipping away for the Pioneers.  
The Eagles extend their lead to 21-7  
with 9 minutes left.

Coach Brown is ticked off and yells at his players on the  
sideline. He directs a lot of his anger toward Zachary and  
Todd. Todd eyes Zachary with disdain. The tension is  
building...

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary steps onto the field. He catches his father's anxious  
looks.

Zachary puts his head down, glances over to Todd, then at  
the defensive Eagle linebacker in front of him.

The ball is snapped. Zachary breaks free and cuts to his  
side.

Todd sees him and is about to line the ball at Zachary when  
he switches gears and takes it out on his own.

Eagle players are caught off guard and dive for him. Pioneer players block anyone who comes in Todd's path.

Zachary is left watching Todd who hurdles around linebackers and tears up the field to the end zone.

TOUCHDOWN PIONEERS!

Todd smacks the football down - he's riled up. His teammates celebrate. Todd emerges, confronted by a bewildered Zachary.

ZACHARY

Why didn't you pass?

TODD

We got the touchdown Zach.

ZACHARY

Yeah, but I was in the open.

TODD

I saw my own opening so I took it.

Didn't you see it?

(smirks at him)

You blind Zach?

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

A SERIES OF QUICK PLAYS...

Tackles, passes, fumbles, misplays, turnovers, 1st downs, 2nd downs, field goals...

The time is ticking down with only 15 seconds on the clock. Scoreboard flashes: Eagles 26, Pioneers 21.

Pioneers are at the 15 yard line. The players huddle at the scrimmage line. Todd yells out directions.

The Pioneers set up. Zachary and Todd eye each other.

SNAP! Todd receives the ball, almost fumbles it. The Eagles push forward. Players butt heads. Fierce battle.

Zachary races hard to the end zone. Todd side-swipes a couple Eagle players. He sees Zachary free and ready to receive.

The clock winds down: 7, 6, 5, 4...

Todd lunges the ball toward Zachary.

The stadium goes silent as the ball seemingly flies in slow motion through the air and into Zachary's reaching hands.

And then, just like that, the ball slips through his fingers right into an Eagle's hands. Zachary is walloped from behind.

The crowd goes berserk. GAME OVER.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Zachary snaps back to the present watching a quarterback on the field toss a long ball.

KRISTEN

So you drank during the game. You made a mistake. Don't beat yourself up.

ZACHARY

I've made a lot of mistakes - including rebuilding a library.

KRISTEN

Why would you say that?

ZACHARY

Just ask my mom. Better I pack it in now, save everyone grief.

KRISTEN

Because you lost a football game 6 years ago?

ZACHARY

You think I'd be this upset over a stupid game?

KRISTEN

Then what Zachary? What?

His CELL RINGS. Zachary quickly answers it.

ZACHARY

Hello...

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Zachary's frantic, sprints through the hallway. Kristen tries to keep pace. Dr. Cooper approaches.

DR. COOPER

Zach -

ZACHARY

- What happened?

DR. COOPER

We were able to stabilize her.

They walk to Laura's room where two nurses attend to her.

DR. COOPER

But her brain waves and heart rate  
have become increasingly irregular.

ZACHARY

I don't understand.

DR. COOPER

Her organs are failing.

ZACHARY

What's wrong with your machines?

DR. COOPER

She's fighting to stay alive.  
Zachary, I don't know how much more  
time she has.

ZACHARY

Well that's just it, you don't know.  
You. Don't. Know.

DR. COOPER

If things don't improve at some point  
you're going to have to make some  
difficult decisions. I'm sorry.

ZACHARY

You wanna unplug the machines?

Zachary gets into Dr. Cooper's face. Kristen grabs his arm.

DR. COOPER

That's not what I'm saying.

KRISTEN

Zach -

ZACHARY

- There's a 15 year old boy who needs  
his mother to wake up. So you perform  
whatever miracle you have to to make  
that happen.

Dr. Cooper takes a step back from him and leaves.

Zachary and Kristen turn their attention to Laura. Zachary  
zeros in on Ethan's painting hanging on the wall: *We live  
by faith, not by sight.*

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ON TV:

Players from the Stillwater Pioneers celebrate a win. Bart Rover chases down a jubilant Coach Brown who runs with his teammates.

BART ROVER

How does it feel to go back to Regionals after 6 long years.

COACH BROWN

How do you think! Proud'a my boys!

BART ROVER

What do you think your chances are?

COACH BROWN

I don't believe in chances - just hard work.

Bart turns to the camera.

BART ROVER

The Pioneers have gone a perfect 8 and 0 and will face the Mustang Broncos next Friday in regional finals...

Zachary, Ethan, Kristen and a sleepy Ivy sit in the Foley living room watching tv.

ETHAN

We should go!

ZACHARY

If you want.

ETHAN

Kristen and Ivy too!

Kristen nods. Ivy snores. Ethan giggles.

ETHAN

She sounds like a whale.

ZACHARY

How do you know what a whale sounds like?

ETHAN

Sounds like Ivy snoring, that's how I know.

Zachary gives Kristen a dead-pan look. She laughs. Ethan points to the tv.

ETHAN

Look! Look! It's Selma and Pastor Evans.

Bart interviews them in Bethel Church.

ETHAN

That Bart Rover is everywhere!

ON THE TV:

BART ROVER

Many people question your wisdom, to allow this library to be re-built when the church may not re-open its doors.

PASTOR EVANS

Well...everyone has a right to their opinion.

Selma chimes in...

SELMA

Zachary Foley started this process and he will see it to the end, wherever that will take us.

The camera cuts to Bart approaching Zachary.

ETHAN

Zach, you're on tv!

ON THE TV:

BART ROVER

Many may remember Zachary Foley - one-time football star of the Stillwater Pioneers. We wanted to catch up with him on this extraordinary endeavor, but our interview was cut short when -

CLICK! Zachary shuts off the tv.

ETHAN

HEY! I was watching that!

ZACHARY

Time for bed Eth.

KRISTEN

We better go.

ZACHARY

I'll help you get Ivy in the van.

ETHAN

Me too!

Ethan jumps up, his legs give way and he falls. His head is about to collide with the corner of the coffee table.

ZACHARY

ETHAN!

Zachary leaps and shields Ethan away from the table. They roll on the ground with Ethan ending up on top of Zachary.

ETHAN

(laughs)

Nice tackle Foley!

ZACHARY

It's not funny Ethan.

Zachary lifts Ethan off him and settles him on the couch.

ZACHARY

You tryin' to kill yourself? How many times have I told you to be careful! Not everything's a joke!

Zachary is rattled. Ethan drops his smile. Tears well up and he has a sudden outburst.

ETHAN

When are you gonna finish the library?

ZACHARY

Eth-

ETHAN

- I want mom back. I HATE YOU!

Ethan buries his face in his hands. Kristen gestures to Zachary to console him. Zachary embraces Ethan.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary rolls a sleepy Ivy into Kristen's van. He makes sure she is secure inside and closes the van door.

ZACHARY

You sure you're okay?

KRISTEN

With what?

ZACHARY

I mean like...getting Ivy out and stuff 'cause like, I could come with you...if you need...help...



Kristen's smile grows into an amused chuckle.

ZACHARY

What?

KRISTEN

You know I've been doing this sort of thing for a few years now.

ZACHARY

Oh...right.

KRISTEN

But thanks anyway.

ZACHARY

Yeah...sure. Thanks for yesterday.

KRISTEN

Anytime. I mean it.

They walk slowly to the driver's side of the van.

KRISTEN

So...have a good weekend Zach.

ZACHARY

Kristen?

KRISTEN

Yeah?

ZACHARY

You...You have a good weekend too.

She nods, gets into the van and drives away. A longing grips Zachary as he watches the van disappear.

He turns back to the house. On the porch is a grinning Ethan in his pjs, clearly forgetting what just happened inside.

ETHAN

Why didn't you kiss her?

ZACHARY

Eth -

ETHAN

- That's what boys do. I gotta teach you everything.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

The wood trusses are in place and the framing of the library is complete with a large empty space for a front window.

Zachary sits on a concrete block, drinking water.

A truck with 3 men pulls up in front of Bethel. It's the same rough-looking men seen earlier.

CHARLIE

Zachary!

Zachary looks up, sees CHARLIE exit with his 2 buddies.

ZACHARY

Yeah?

CHARLIE

We saw you on the news the other night.

The men surround Zachary who remains seated on the block, afraid to move.

CHARLIE

That Bart Rover is a real jerk.

ZACHARY

Whadya boys want?

Charlie looks up at the library construction.

CHARLIE

Impressive work here.

ZACHARY

Yeah, thanks. Listen -

SELMA (O.S.)

- Charlie?

Charlie and his buddies turn. Selma approaches with an extra bounce to her step.

SELMA

Charlie Townson? Is that you?

CHARLIE

Hi Miss Lyons.

SELMA

Well, well, well. Look what the cat dragged in.

CHARLIE

How're you ma'am?

SELMA

(to Zachary)

This boy is dyslexic. Your mom taught him to read.

CHARLIE

It's true. She help'd unscramble my letters.

SELMA

And aren't you Danny Hayes? I taught you Sunday School.

DANNY

Yes ma'am.

SELMA

You were a terror.

DANNY

I still am in some circles.

SELMA

(looks at 3rd man)

You, I don't know.

MARK

It's Mark.

SELMA

You boy's fixin' to cause trouble here 'cause I'm warnin' you, I know karate.

They chuckle.

CHARLIE

We thought maybe Zach could use an extra hand.

SELMA

Really...

CHARLIE

Danny's ma saw the story on Zach and she hollered us over to come watch it with her. She told Danny to get off his butt and do some'n otherwise she'd whack'im with a broom.

DANNY

It's true.

SELMA  
 (looks at Charlie and  
 Mark)  
 So why're you two boys here?

CHARLIE  
 'Cause she was gonna whack us too.

SELMA  
 I always loved Jean.

MARK  
 Fact is, none of us are workin'. We  
 thought it was the charitable thing  
 to do. So can you use our help?

Selma looks over to Zachary. She's ecstatic.

MONTAGE:

EXT/INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary shows Charlie, Danny and Mark architectural plans of the library as he points out what needs to happen next.

Charlie and Danny drop off interior and exterior partitions. They build wall studs, reinforce the library structure.

Zachary and Mark climb scaffolding, work on the roof.

All four men attach the various partitions to the outside, then inside of the building.

They perform various duties: measuring of wood, sawing, hammering, drilling, putting up drywall, etc...

And in-between all the work, there's laughter among the men.

Mothers and their children stand in front of the Bethel Church watching the construction. Included in this group is Kim and her son Rick.

Rick runs towards Charlie with a water bottle and hands it to him.

MONTAGE ENDS.

EXT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Anxious football players drink from water bottles and splash water on their heads, getting ready to play the big game.

The National Anthem is sung as players from the Stillwater Pioneers and the Mustang Broncos stand, eager to start.

Coach Brown takes in the packed bleachers. He sees Zachary who sits with Ethan, Kristen and Ivy.

INT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER  
KICK OFF!

COMMENTER (V.O.)

It's Friday night and here we got a doozy of a game lined up for you.

FLASHES OF THE GAME:

The Pioneers QB makes a long pass and hits wide-receiver Paul Marshall. He runs it to the end zone. TOUCHDOWN PIONEERS!

The crowd goes nuts. Ethan stands without his sticks. Zachary holds him up and scolds him.

The ball is fumbled by the Pioneers and is caught by a Broncos player who runs it to the end zone. TOUCHDOWN BRONCOS!

A series of tackles, blocks, turnovers, interceptions and field goal attempts. Pioneer player Paul Marshall seems to be everywhere.

The score flashes: Pioneers 14, Broncos 17

TOUCHDOWN BRONCOS! The crowd BOOS.

TOUCHDOWN PIONEERS! The crowd CHEERS.

Ethan puts an arm around Ivy, wildly happy. He gives her a quick kiss.

Pioneers 21, Broncos 24

Broncos make a long pass. The crowd is on the edge of their seats.

Kristen is caught up in the moment, reaches for Zachary's hand. Ethan sees the gesture and nods knowingly at Zachary with a goofy grin.

TOUCHDOWN BRONCOS! Pioneers 24, Broncos 31

The crowd is anxious as the clock winds down. A series of different plays takes the Pioneers to the 10 yard line.

Coach Brown paces. His players huddle. They get into position. This is it.

The ball is snapped. The QB looks for an open receiver. Marshall runs hard. Frantic tackles everywhere. The pass is made...

The crowd holds its collective breath. The ball hurls to Marshall. He holds out his hands, but it's out of his reach. Time runs out. GAME OVER.

The crowd groans. Marshall is devastated. He whips his helmet off as the Broncos celebrate around him.

Zachary eyes Marshall.

INT. STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL, FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The crowd thins. Disappointed Stillwater players linger. Marshall sulks on a bench.

Zachary, Ethan, Kristen and Ivy head off the field.

Marshall's parents come up to him, but he can't be consoled. Zachary sees their interaction.

KRISTEN

You should go talk to him.

ZACHARY

What would I say?

KRISTEN

I think you know.

They keep walking, but Zachary cannot take his eyes off of Marshall.

ZACHARY

(to Kristen)

Go on ahead. Take Ivy home.

KRISTEN

(smiles)

Okay.

She pushes Ivy along in her wheelchair.

IVY

Bye Eth-y.

ETHAN

Bye Ivy.

ZACHARY

(to Ethan)

Wait here.

Zachary walks toward Marshall. Ethan follows. Zachary realizes.

ZACHARY

Ethan, what did I just tell you?

ETHAN

Oh. Sorry.

Ethan stands behind a fence. Zachary approaches Marshall.

Coach Brown is standing by the school entrance talking to players.

Bart Rover interviews disappointed players on the field.

ZACHARY

Hey Marshall!

The boy looks up; he's still pretty raw.

ZACHARY

You had a great game. Don't beat yourself up.

MARSHALL

What?

ZACHARY

You played great. Probably one of the best young wide receivers I've seen for some time.

MARSHALL

Is that right.

ZACHARY

For sure.

MARSHALL

You know we lost.

ZACHARY

It's not always about winning.

MARSHALL

Isn't it?

ZACHARY

No.

MARSHALL

Well I guess you would know. You're Zachary Foley.

Zachary nods, but feels shame in it.

MARSHALL

My brother was on your team back in '09.

They stare. Zachary grows uncomfortable.

MARSHALL

He said you choked at regionals,  
couldn't handle the pressure.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Zach!

Zachary turns. Ethan comes his way.

MARSHALL

Everyone around here knows you blew  
that game dude, but because yer dad's  
dead, no one says nothin'. They all  
feel sorry for you.

ZACHARY

I meant what I said...about how you  
played.

Zachary tries to walk away.

MARSHALL

You're just some washed up jock who  
cuts lawns at his old high school  
and is building a glorified doll  
house for his comatose mama.

Coach Brown sees the interaction and makes his way toward  
them.

Ethan approaches. Zachary directs him off the field.

ZACHARY

Come on Eth, let's go.

MARSHALL

You're a piece of work Foley. Todd  
thinks you're the reason yer dad's  
dead.

Zachary stops in his path. Ethan stares at Zachary.

ETHAN

What's he sayin' Zach?

ZACHARY

You know Marshall I think losing was  
the best thing that could ever happen  
to you because if you're this arrogant  
now, I can't imagine what an  
impossible snot you'd be if you won.

MARSHALL

What stories are you feedin' your  
bro? Probably the same lies you  
tell everyone.



ZACHARY

You need to shut-up now.

ETHAN

What lies?

MARSHALL

Todd has a buddy whose dad was a cop and it so happens he was there the night of the accident. Said it was suspicious. He had his doubts it went down like you said. Yer dad may have lost control, but it wasn't on account of some dumb animal.

ETHAN

Animal's aren't dumb. They stink.

MARSHALL

Wouldn't surprise me if you made yer brother into a crippled idiot.

Zachary pounces and tackles Marshall to the ground. Fists fly.

Bart Rover sees the fight and runs over with his cameraman.

Marshall ends up on top of Zachary and sucker-punches him.

ETHAN

Leave'im alone! YER HURTIN' HIM!

Ethan winds up and whacks Marshall in the shoulder with one of his sticks.

MARSHALL

AHHHHHHH!

Marshall falls off of Zachary. Ethan ends up flat on his back.

Coach Brown and a couple other players run over to break up the scuffle. Bart's cameraman gets right in on the action. Zachary hops to his feet, his lip bleeds.

MARSHALL

You're nuts you know that!

COACH BROWN

Knock it off Marshall!

Coach Brown holds back a fuming Marshall. Zachary spits blood out of his mouth. He grabs Ethan's sticks, scoops him up and they scurry off.

MARSHALL

Does your handicapped little bro  
fight all your battles!

COACH BROWN

Enough!

MARSHALL

(to Coach Brown, Bart)

Let go of me and get that camera  
outta my face!

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Blood trickles from Zachary's mouth as he drives.

ETHAN

What was he sayin' Zach?

Zachary stays focused on the road ahead, now possessed.

ETHAN

That boy was mean...said some'n about  
lies...some'n about our accident. I  
heard'im.

ZACHARY

Stop talkin' Ethan!

ETHAN

...And a...a dumb animal.

ZACHARY

- Just shut-up!

ETHAN

No! I won't!

Blood trickles down Zachary's chin. Ethan stares.

ETHAN

Yer bleedin'.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary barrels into the driveway.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Zachary leans over Ethan and opens the passenger door.

ZACHARY

Go inside.

ETHAN

Are you comin' too?

ZACHARY

Not now.

ETHAN

But where're you goin'?

ZACHARY

And don't forget these. Don't fall.

He forces the walking sticks into Ethan's hands.

ETHAN

I wanna come.

ZACHARY

Go inside and go to bed.

ETHAN

Yer leavin' me?

ZACHARY

Go. Now.

Ethan tosses the sticks out the door, defiant. Zachary hops out of the truck.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He runs around to the passenger door and picks up the sticks.

ETHAN

That boy made you bleed.

Zachary grabs hold of him, but Ethan grasps the steering wheel.

ZACHARY

Let go Ethan!

ETHAN

What did he say!

Zachary reaches for Ethan's hands on the steering wheel. Ethan bites him.

ZACHARY

AHHHHHHH!

He unhinges Ethan from the steering wheel and carries a screaming Ethan over his shoulder to the house.

Porch lights go on as surrounding neighbors look out.

ETHAN

ZACH - STOP!

Zachary unlocks the front door and sets Ethan down inside.

ETHAN

Don't leave me!

He drops the sticks by Ethan's body, then slams the front door shut. Zachary races to the truck.

A frightened Ethan looks out the screen door. Zachary boots it out of the driveway.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - SAME NIGHT

Zachary grabs a bottle of whiskey off the shelf.

INT. SELMA LYONS' HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Selma flips through channels on the tv. She catches a glimpse of Zachary.

ON THE TV:

POV of camera: It rocks up and down, racing toward the scuffle between Zachary and Paul on the field.

BART ROVER (V.O.)

...A fight broke out after the game between current Stillwater's star Paul Marshall and former player Zachary Foley...

Selma leans forward, purses her lips.

INT. KRISTEN'S APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

Kristen sits in her pjs on the couch, sipping a drink. She has her laptop open and watches the same story. Bart appears before the camera.

BART ROVER

This is the second altercation in a week that Zachary Foley has been involved in...

Kristen picks up her cell.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Zachary looks down at his cell, sees Kristen's name pop up. He tosses the cell aside and drinks from the bottle. He sits up against the truck, yells out at the sky.

ZACHARY

You should've blown me away!

He takes another swig. It spills out of his mouth. His cut lip bleeds. He's a wreck.

Zachary drops the nearly empty bottle and boots it away from him.

A car pulls up. It's headlights illuminate Zachary's face. A shadowy figure emerges from a shaft of light. It's Selma.

ZACHARY

Selma Lyons. Whadya want?

Selma crosses her arms, clearly not impressed.

ZACHARY

(points to library)

...All this was a colossal waste of time.

(holds up shaky hands)

These hands are no good.

SELMA

It seems they did some good here.

ZACHARY

I quit.

SELMA

So you really do like to lose.

ZACHARY

Ya must'a seen it comin' given my stellar record.

SELMA

What happened at the high school tonight?

ZACHARY

Wouldn't you like to know...or maybe you already do...you and Bart and Marshall and...and...

(trails off, beat)

I'm not who I say I am.

SELMA

Who is? Thank God for Jesus or we'd all be condemned.

ZACHARY

We are condemned. I don't believe in miracles. And anyone who does is a fool.

Selma kneels down to Zachary, firmly lifts his chin up forcing him to look into her eyes.

SELMA

Now you listen to me Zachary Foley.  
When people stop believing, things  
die. When are you going to start  
living? Mmmm? When it's too late?

INT. SELMA LYONS' CAR - SAME NIGHT

Selma drives. Zachary leans against the passenger window,  
sad and withdrawn.

SELMA (V.O.)

You've got but one life on this earth.  
Make it count. Stop feeling sorry  
for yourself.

EXT. FOLEY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Selma pulls into the Foley driveway and gets out to help a  
wobbly Zachary. Ethan appears at his bedroom window on the  
2nd floor.

SELMA (V.O.)

And stop acting like the lone ranger.  
You are not alone.

With Selma's help, Zachary stumbles but climbs the porch  
steps.

SELMA (V.O.)

You wanna walk away because it's  
easy. Too bad. This is the time to  
step up and run the hardest you've  
ever run before.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Selma guides Zachary onto the couch and lays him down.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Selma?

Selma turns to Ethan who stands at the top of the staircase  
in his pjs.

SELMA

Shhhhh! I'll be up in a minute.

Selma glances at the coffee table where a copy of the book  
*The Great Surrender* sits.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Zachary's eyes peel open and he struggles to sit up. On the  
coffee table the book is opened to a chapter: *Stay the  
Course*.

A shot of adrenaline surges through Zachary's hung-over body.

INT. STILLWATER STREETS - MORNING

Zachary runs through the streets of Stillwater. His steps are heavy. His breath is short. The pain on his face is evident. He starts slow, gradually picks up steam.

He comes upon the house that has been reconstructed following the hurricane damage. The progress is remarkable. The house has been fully repaired. The husband stands in front of his new garage, painting the door.

Zachary slows down, keels over from fatigue and retches. He struggles to stand up straight and take in the newly renovated house. The husband sees him. Zachary waves a tired hand.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Zachary is alone and is barely able to stand in front of the Bethel Library. There is still much work to be done, but for a split-second, he allows himself to smile.

INT. FOLEY HOUSE - THAT MORNING

Zachary enters, depleted of all strength and soaked from head to toe. He finds Ethan on the couch reading *The Great Surrender*.

ETHAN

What's "stay the course" mean?

Zachary stumbles into the living room and collapses on the ground. He can't talk.

ETHAN

Zach?

ZACHARY

To...uh...keep doing...what you're doing.

ETHAN

But how do you know if you're doing something good or bad?

ZACHARY

You don't....always.....But I guess it's good.....when it makes people happy.

Ethan processes. Zachary pulls himself up and sits at Ethan's feet.

ZACHARY

Eth....sorry about last night.

ETHAN  
What happened last night?

ZACHARY  
At the game.

ETHAN  
Oh!

He scrambles for his note pad and flips to a page.

ETHAN  
Why'd that football boy call you a  
liar?

ZACHARY  
Let's talk about that another time.

ETHAN  
(reading note aloud)  
"Zachary is a liar." Why not talk  
now?

Zachary averts his eyes to the book and sees the words "stay  
the course".

ZACHARY  
Because I have work to do.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS:

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

With the help of his new-found workers, Charlie, Danny and  
Mark, Zachary is back at work.

Charlie and Danny complete putting walls up to the library.  
A large window is installed. Stacks of bricks await.

Selma emerges from the church. Zachary sees her as he and  
Mark mix mortar. She gives him a bright smile.

INT. WESTWOOD SCHOOL - DAY

Ethan sits in front of a canvas and paints. Ivy has a temper-  
tantrum while struggling to speak to Kristen.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)  
I've lived with my fair share of  
crippling doubt...

Ethan paints the words *God is love*.



EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

Pastor Evans speaks with Bart Rover while Zachary and the men work on finishing the roof of the library.

PASTOR EVANS

...If I was being honest, I didn't think this church, let alone the library, would ever see the light of day again.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary and the men do brick work on the library's exterior.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

We have gone through one of the toughest times in Bethel's history.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Zachary, Selma and Kristen paint the walls of the library while Ethan sits with Ivy and watches.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

And lately, I've had to ask myself - have we forgotten that community brings healing?

Zachary playfully takes his brush and slaps paint on Kristen's chin. She responds with a paintbrush across Zachary's chest.

They playfully approach Selma who holds out her paintbrush as if it were a sword.

Ivy lets out a squeal of laughter. Ethan leans over to Ivy and kisses her on the cheek.

Zachary sees this and repeats this gesture to Kristen, planting a kiss on her cheek.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Charlie, Danny and Mark install the new *Bethel Library* signage outside the building.

Kim, Alison and several other mothers and their children cheer as the new sign goes up.

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

More men and women have joined the cause.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

The work of a few has inspired others...

One group of 4 evolves into 8, now 12, all deployed throughout the church doing various jobs:

- shattered windows cleared and replaced
- broken doors removed, brand new ones installed
- cracked walls repaired
- walls torn down and rebuilt
- sanctuary ceiling and walls reinforced
- sanctuary stage made over
- damaged pews restored

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

It is only by the grace of God we are still standing. I am amazed.

Zachary and his men work with the new volunteers as they reconstruct the connection of the new library to the lobby of the church.

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - DAY

Pastor Evans strolls alone down the aisle of the church in pensive prayer.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

We hope when Bethel re-opens its doors, people come...

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Selma sweeps the newly installed floors. She looks around and admires the brand new shelving.

PASTOR EVANS (V.O.)

Please bring a book. We need to fill our new library.

EXT. STILLWATER STREETS - DAY

Selma, along with Kim and Alison and other volunteers, hand out postcards to strangers.

They hang posters on downtown walls and coffee shops:  
*Bethel Church Re-opens This Sunday. Bring a book for our new Library.*

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - DAY

Bart Rover interviews Zachary in front of the library. Zachary appears weary talking to him but both men seem to be on their best behavior.

BART ROVER

Did you build this library for your mother or was there something else that motivated you?

ZACHARY

Of course she was always on my mind.

He looks over to see Kristen, Ethan and Selma watching the interview.

ZACHARY

I did it for a lot of people.

EXT. BETHEL LIBRARY - SUNSET

Zachary stands alone in front of the newly built library. The work is complete.

ZACHARY (V.O.)

It's the first time in my life I  
stuck with something.

A most satisfied smile fills Zachary's face.

END OF MONTAGE.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MORNING

The time is 6:30. Zachary and Ethan are dressed in their Sunday best.

Zachary's preoccupied as he drives. Ethan is unblinking, solely fixated on Zachary.

In the back seat, Ethan's painting *God is love* is mounted against a panel.

EXT. STILLWATER STREETS - MORNING

They drive through the downtown core and pull up to a stoplight.

Zachary looks out the driver's window, sees a poster for Bethel barely sticking to a pole. It flutters in the wind.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK, NEAR BETHEL CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

They drive up to the 3 Mile Road Sign directing traffic to Bethel Church. Stuck to the sign is another of Ethan's colorful paintings:

*Bethel Reopens Sunday! Bring a book.*

ETHAN

Are you a liar?

Zachary looks over to Ethan who has his note pad open. He remains focused on Zachary.

ETHAN

Is that football boy a liar for calling you a liar?

ZACHARY

Ethan, we're heading to Bethel.

ETHAN

You said you had work to do. See...

He shoves the pad in front of Zachary's face. The words read: *Zach has work to do.* Zachary waves the pad away from his face.

ZACHARY

Eth, I'm trying to drive.

ETHAN

You said we'd talk another time 'cause you had work to do. Well your work is done. So the time is now.

ZACHARY

Eth -

ETHAN

- RIGHT NOW!

Zachary dramatically pulls over to the side of the road, leaving the engine on. He is seething at Ethan's tantrum.

ZACHARY

What do you want to know?

ETHAN

The truth. And if I already know the truth, then let's go to Bethel.

Zachary looks forward at the road ahead. He slowly turns the ignition and the engine shuts off. Ethan's glued on him. Zachary lets out a weary sigh.

ZACHARY

We had just lost the championship final.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. EISENHOWER FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT, 6 YEARS AGO

Dennis, Ethan and a not-so-happy Zachary stand for pictures. Laura is ready to snap a photo. Selma is a quiet observer.

ZACHARY (V.O.)

Mom was taking pictures after the game. It was brutal.

LAURA  
Come on Zach. It's not always about  
winning.

But Zachary doesn't smile. Laura re-focuses.

LAURA  
Zach -

ZACHARY  
- Would you just snap the picture  
mom.

DENNIS  
Laura, the boy's done.

CLICK - she takes it. This is the same photo that sits beside  
Ethan's bed at the house.

LAURA  
I have an idea. Me and Ethan can  
drive home with Selma, give you men  
some time to yourselves.

ETHAN  
I wanna go with Zach.

DENNIS  
Your mom's right. Ride with her.

ETHAN  
I don't wanna go with the girls.

ZACHARY  
Can we just go!

LAURA  
Honey, it's a 2 hour drive. You're  
going to sleep most of the way.

ETHAN  
Will not!

INT. DENNIS FOLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Ethan snores loudly in the back seat.

In the front seat, Dennis drives and Zachary sits in the  
passenger seat. The night is dark and they drive alone on  
this stretch of the highway.

Dennis looks over to Zachary, treads cautiously.

DENNIS  
You didn't seem yourself.

Zachary gazes out the window, odd highway lights pass. Tense silence.

DENNIS

You're not going to sit there and sulk all the way home.

Zachary shifts in his seat. Dennis calmly looks over to him.

DENNIS

Zachary?

ZACHARY

We lost. Nothing to say.

DENNIS

I don't care about the game.

ZACHARY

Really? News to me.

DENNIS

What's that supposed to mean?

ZACHARY

You expect a lot out of me dad.

DENNIS

Because I know you can handle it.

ZACHARY

I say you misjudged.

DENNIS

Why? What happened tonight?

Zachary digs into his knapsack and pulls out a bottle. He drinks with defiance right in front of his dad.

CUT TO:

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MORNING, PRESENT

ETHAN

Were you drunk during the game?

ZACHARY

No.

ETHAN

But why -

(stops, thinks)

...I...I don't understand Zach.

ZACHARY  
I didn't think I had it in me.

ETHAN  
Had what?

ZACHARY  
...The will to win.

A moment. Ethan processes.

ETHAN  
Your breath must've reeked.

Zachary lets out a tired laugh.

ETHAN  
So you lost the game 'cause you were drunk.

ZACHARY  
I wasn't drunk Ethan.

ETHAN  
But you weren't **you** either. Were you?

Ethan's words hang in the air. Zachary looks ahead, a sadness grips him.

INT. DENNIS FOLEY'S CAR - NIGHT, 6 YEARS AGO

Dennis watches Zachary guzzle from the bottle. This is a crushing blow to Dennis.

DENNIS  
Why do you keep screwing up your life?

ZACHARY  
Maybe I don't wanna play football.

DENNIS  
Put the bottle down.

He doesn't.

DENNIS  
Zach, there's going to be pressure no matter what you do. But you don't intentionally set yourself up for failure. That's what cowards do.

Zachary keeps drinking. Dennis tries to snatch the bottle. Zachary pulls away.

Tires skid, the car jolts and Dennis regains control. Ethan remains asleep in the back seat.

Dennis sees an overpass with large trees overhanging. City lights glow in the horizon as the car climbs uphill.

DENNIS

It's like you were born with this chip on your shoulder and you keep going back to it. Aren't you tired?

Zachary's eyes fill with tears as he takes another quick swig.

DENNIS

You're good with your hands. You've helped me build houses. But you refuse to commit to anything. Do you know how much you cost us?

ZACHARY

Is that all I am to you? A dollar sign?

DENNIS

I'm trying to help you Zach.

ZACHARY

With psychiatrists and special tutors?  
Or medications for depression, ADHD?  
You even thought I was autistic.  
Aren't you tired dad?

A moment. Dennis is tired, he rubs his eyes.

DENNIS

Pastor Evans says that maybe you-

ZACHARY

- Pastor Evans?  
(laughs, drinks)  
Give me a break.

Dennis has had enough. He yanks the bottle out of Zachary's hand and tosses it out the driver's window. Zachary impulsively opens the passenger door and jumps out.

DENNIS

ZACHARY!

Dennis breaks hard, tries to reach Zachary and the car skids out of control.

EXT. OVERPASS - CONTINUOUS

Zachary covers his head and rolls several times over.



The car screeches across the overpass and careens into a tree. Windows smash, the tree snaps and crashes down crushing the vehicle roof. The car comes to a grinding halt, perilously teetering at the edge of the overpass.

Zachary is on his stomach. He struggles to get up and hobbles across the overpass to the car.

Ethan is unconscious with a tree branch pressed in on his legs. His head is smashed through the car window.

The front of the car is an accordion. Dennis is conscious, but pressed up against the steering wheel with another tree branch rammed through the windshield of the car.

Zachary looks below the overpass to a ravine. Zachary tries to open the passenger door, but it's jammed shut.

DENNIS

Stop! STOP! Get your brother out.

ZACHARY

But -

DENNIS

- Just do it Zach!

Zachary tries the back door and it opens.

INT. DENNIS FOLEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Zachary crawls in. A branch pins Ethan down. He tries to move the thick branch which remains attached to a tree.

ZACHARY

He's stuck dad. I can't!

DENNIS

You...have to...try.

Zachary puts his back under the thick branch and with herculean strength, lifts the branch up off of Ethan's body. The car rocks.

Zachary's body shakes as he somehow reaches underneath the branch and pulls Ethan out.

DENNIS

(cries)

Good for you Zach.

Ethan is badly banged up and his body contorted. The car hangs in the balance perilously tipping.

EXT. OVERPASS - CONTINUOUS

Zachary drags an unconscious Ethan to safety then crawls back into the back seat of the unsteady car.

INT. DENNIS FOLEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He reaches for his father in the front seat.

DENNIS  
I'm sorry son.

ZACHARY  
Give me your hand dad.

DENNIS  
I just wanted the best...You have it  
in you.

The car dangerously seesaws, dislodges more. Grinding metal twists and makes a high-pitched squeal.

DENNIS  
Get out Zachary. Get out!

ZACHARY  
Give me your hand!

DENNIS  
I can't!

ZACHARY  
Dad!

DENNIS  
GET OUT!

Zachary pulls out in the nick of time.

EXT. OVERPASS - CONTINUOUS

The car topples over and falls into the rocky ravine below. EXPLOSION. Zachary shields Ethan from the blast.

ZACHARY  
DAD!!

FLASHBACK ENDS.

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - MORNING

Screams echo from the past. Zachary turns to Ethan who is riveted.

ZACHARY

It was my fault Ethan. I did lie.  
There was no animal.

Ethan's face is blank except for a few stinging tears.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - MORNING

Ethan stands alone, looking out the large library window.

Meanwhile, Zachary stands on a ladder adjusting the *God is love* panel that hangs above the library door. Selma helps, standing a few feet back.

SELMA

A little to the left...Perfect!

IVY (O.S.)

Eth-y?

Ethan turns to see Ivy and Kristen enter the library.

ETHAN

Hi Ivy.

Ethan turns back out the window without much expression. Ivy wheels over to him. She looks up at Ethan, senses something is wrong.

Kristen walks to the middle of the room and takes it all in with a big smile.

SELMA

What do you think?

KRISTEN

It's wonderful.  
(sees sign)  
Ethan, your painting looks great.  
Your mom would be so proud.

Ethan turns and sees the verse above the door.

SELMA

Those words meant a great deal to  
her Ethan.

ETHAN

Isn't she suppos'd to be here by  
now? Isn't that what you said Zach?  
Once the library is finished, she'd  
be here? Or did you lie about that  
too?

Ethan's words cut. He turns back out the window. Ivy tries to take his hand.

Kristen and Selma look up at Zachary for an explanation. He climbs down the ladder, mouthing the words "Don't ask".

KRISTEN

Come on Ivy. Let's take a look at the rest of the church.

Kristen wheels Ivy out of the library.

IVY

Bye Eth-y.

Ethan doesn't respond. Selma approaches Ethan and stands beside him.

ETHAN

You smell pretty Selma.

SELMA

Thanks sweetie.

ETHAN

You smell like flowers...like Ivy... and mom...Wish she was here.

Selma squeezes Ethan closer to her, then takes him away from the window to the middle of the room. Zachary watches, wrapped with guilt.

SELMA

You know what honey, she is here.

Selma directs him to look around the newly formed library: the bookshelves, the round tables, the new pieces of children's art hanging in a corner and the verse above the door.

SELMA

She's right here.

A moment...Ethan nods, chokes back tears.

And then, a CAR HORN is heard.

Zachary hurries to the window as Selma comforts Ethan.

SELMA

It seems too early for people to arrive. Who is it?

Zachary does not say anything as he stares out the window.

SELMA

Zachary?

ZACHARY

Come here.

Selma and Ethan walk to the window.

Outside, a single car pulls off the main road into Bethel. And then a second and third car follow. But it's beyond the parking lot that gets their attention.

ZACHARY

Look...

Zachary points in the horizon where a row of car headlights shine. All of them trailing toward the church.

SELMA

Oh sweet Jesus.

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - LATER ON

As the sun rises on the cross in the front lawns of Bethel, the parking lot fills until cars are forced to park on the road.

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

All walks of life, people young and old, rich, poor and sick enter the restored church. But they have one thing in common: they all carry a book.

INT. BETHEL LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The crowd files their way to the library through the church lobby where they greet Zachary.

Books pile up in the library. Selma runs out of room, overwhelmed by people's generosity.

Book topics range from grace, forgiveness, the cross, etc... Many classic novels are in the piles: *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Lord Of The Rings*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Grammar books of all kinds cover the round tables as more and more are dropped off.

Charlie, Danny, Mark and other volunteers are among the people who donate a book.

The husband and wife who renovated their damaged house greet Zachary with a book and hug. The wife holds a newborn baby.

Zachary looks across the crowded room and sees a withdrawn Ethan leaning against a wall beside a pile of books.

Zachary attempts to make his way to him. Several people cross his path. He gets to the middle of the room and Ethan is gone, nowhere in sight.

Zachary stops, alone and sad. He is seemingly removed from the jubilation around him.

He feels a tug at his leg and looks down. A child kisses and hugs his leg. It's Rick. He looks up at Zachary, bright-eyed.

RICK

That's what that means.

Rick points to the sign above the door: *God is love.*

Zachary kneels down to the child.

ZACHARY

Do you wanna toss a ball?

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Cars are jammed packed on the streets and streams of people continue to flood Bethel Church.

On the grounds, Zachary plays football with a group of boys and girls. Rick tries to pass the ball. Zachary retrieves it and the children swarm him. They attach onto his arms and legs. Rick runs at Zachary as well.

ZACHARY

Rick, you're on my team!

RICK

Oops!

The laughter is infectious among the children. They topple Zachary to the ground and crawl all over him like ants on a hill.

Kristen watches a few feet away. Zachary crawls out from under the children, clutching the ball. He jogs toward Kristen.

KRISTEN

I thought you didn't like the game?

Zachary leans in and kisses Kristen on the lips. The children laugh and scream as they come from behind and tackle Zachary again.

Kim and other parents call out to their children from the front entrance of the church:

KIM

Rick honey, come on! Service is about to start.

RICK

Bye Zach!

Zachary holds up his hand and Rick, as well as the other children, give him high-fives. They race toward their parents.

COACH BROWN (O.S.)

Zachary!

Zachary turns. Coach Brown comes up the walkway holding a book.

KRISTEN

I'll see you inside.

She kisses Zachary on the cheek and enters Bethel.

COACH BROWN

For the library.

Coach Brown hands Zachary a brand new copy of *The Great Surrender*.

COACH BROWN

Your mom gave me that book after we lost in '09.

ZACHARY

You may wanna read it again after last week's loss.

They share a laugh. Coach Brown puts an affectionate arm around Zachary. They take in the new library.

COACH BROWN

You went full out Zach. No excuses. This, my friend, is a labor of love.

ZACHARY

This is winning Coach - right here. When you're loved and when you give love.

Coach Brown gives Zachary a hearty hug and walks away.

From inside Bethel, a trio of singers are heard:

SINGERS (V.O.)

*All to Jesus, I surrender, all to Him I freely give.*

(MORE)

SINGERS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
*I will ever love and trust Him. In  
 His presence daily live...*

ZACHARY  
 Hey Coach!

Coach Brown turns.

ZACHARY  
 I just want you to know it's on me.

He doesn't follow.

ZACHARY  
 What happened back in '09 - the game,  
 the accident, it's on me.

The Coach lets out a relieved sigh as if a burden has been lifted.

SINGERS (V.O.)  
*I surrender all. I surrender all.  
 All to Thee, my blessed Savior. I  
 surrender all...*

He enters the church and greets Ethan on his way in. Ethan stands just outside Bethel's front doors, watching Zachary. The two brothers stare over the singing...

INT. BETHEL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

THREE SINGERS are on stage. Pastor Evans worships with them.

SINGERS  
*All to Jesus, I surrender, Lord I  
 give myself to Thee. Fill me with  
 thy love and power. Let thy blessing  
 fall on me...*

The church is packed, overflowing outside. People are in full worship. Hands are raised and shouts of AMEN and HALLELUJAH ring throughout.

Selma stands beside Zachary and Kristen in the crowded front pew while Ethan sits beside Ivy who is in her wheelchair.

Ushers are overwhelmed collecting offerings. They stand off to the sides. Person after person weaves their way to them and drops money into their overflowing buckets.

SINGERS  
*I surrender all. I surrender all.  
 All to Thee my blessed Savior. I  
 surrender all...*



The ushers place the buckets on the platform where still more people come to drop money onto the stage.

Pastor Evans hugs Charlie, Danny and Mark and the rest of the volunteers.

The front of the sanctuary has turned into an altar call where people come forward. Many have dropped to their knees.

SINGERS

*All to Jesus, I surrender. Humbly  
at His feet I bow. Worldly pleasures  
all forsaken. Take me Jesus, take  
me now...*

Pastor Evans sees the money growing on the stage and weeps. He glances to Selma in the front row.

Selma makes her way to the stage and joins Board Members Pete and Carol for an impromptu prayer with Pastor Evans.

Pete and Carol look at Selma. Their faces say it all. Humbled and apologetic - they hug Selma before they lay hands on Pastor Evans and pray.

The singing and euphoric praises surround them. Pete leads the prayer. Pastor Evans leans over to Selma and speaks into her ear.

PASTOR EVANS

Even I, Selma Lyons, every once and awhile need a good push. Thank you my friend, for not giving up.

SINGERS

*I surrender all. I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior. I  
surrender all...*

Selma sees two children dance their way to their mother who worships at the altar. The children hug her from behind.

A sting of pain needles Selma amongst the incredible joy.

Zachary is in awe of how many people are in the church. Ivy reaches for Ethan's hand. Kristen smiles, eyes closed, filled with the joyous sounds around her.

Selma returns to the front pew and leans over to Zachary.

SELMA

This is how it used to be Zachary!

ZACHARY

You did this Selma. This couldn't have happened without you.

SELMA

No Zach, it's not me. You cannot  
stop God, once He starts something.

Several people fall on their knees at the foot of the altar.  
Shouts of praise reverberate.

Pastor Evans speaks over the crowd and music:

PASTOR EVANS

Thank you for being with us! In  
those times that we struggle, when  
we lose our vision and want to give  
up, I'm reminded of the scripture in  
2 Corinthians where it says: *We  
live by faith, not by sight.*

Zachary's eyes widen. Ethan flies out of his seat without  
his walking sticks. He drops to the ground. Zachary quickly  
kneels down to him.

IVY

Eth-y!

ZACHARY

Are you okay?

ETHAN

It's our verse Zach! Mine and yours!

ZACHARY

I know.

ETHAN

But how did the Pastor know. Did  
you tell'im?

ZACHARY

No.

ETHAN

Then he must be real smart.

ZACHARY

Ethan, listen to me...

ETHAN

People are happy Zach. That means  
you did a good thing.

ZACHARY

I'm sorry. I never wanted to hurt  
you.

(breaks down)

Please Eth...I need you in my life.

Ethan is taken aback by Zachary's show of emotion. He hugs Zachary on the ground. Selma, Kristen and Ivy watch this unfold. The music plays around them.

ETHAN

(while hugging)

I hate what you told me... 'bout the accident... but I can't not love you.

ZACHARY

I love you too and I want us to stay close.

ETHAN

We're hugging Zach. How much closer can we be?

Zachary laughs and lifts Ethan up. He sets him on the pew, next to Ivy. Kristen retrieves his walking sticks.

PASTOR EVANS

If anyone is here and is lacking faith or is in need of a special touch, get out of your seat and come to the altar. For the Lord wants to meet all of our needs.

SINGERS

*All to Jesus, I surrender. Lord I give myself to Thee. Fill me with thy love and power. Let thy blessing fall on me...*

Tears stream down Selma's face. She makes her way to the altar, raises her hands and lets it all go.

Ethan and Ivy see Selma and are moved by her show of emotion. Ethan looks over to Ivy and she to him and an unspoken action is set in motion.

Ethan grabs hold of the handles of Ivy's wheelchair and lifts himself up.

KRISTEN

Ethan, don't forget -

...And he pushes Ivy forward taking tiny steps with the wheelchair and without his walking sticks.

ZACHARY

Ethan!

SHOUTS OF HALLELUJAH are heard. People take notice and part ways for them. Zachary and Kristen watch in stunned silence.

Ethan parks Ivy's wheelchair beside Selma. Ivy reaches for Selma and hugs her waist.

Ethan lets go of the wheelchair handles and fights to walk on his own behind Selma to the other side of her. He rests his hand on her shoulder and hugs her.

Rick and another child, and another child, and another, and another, run to Selma and hug her from all sides. Selma looks around and is blown away. She embraces the children.

Then a voice, like an angel from on high, cuts through in searing clarity:

IVY

(singing)

*I surrender all. I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior. I  
surrender all...*

Silent reverence hushes the congregation followed by great rejoicing.

A team of people huddle around Ivy, Ethan and Selma and pray. Kristen weeps with joy, turning to Zachary.

KRISTEN

Come on.

She goes to the front, but he is overwhelmed. Zachary steps back, away from the altar. He stumbles as if drunk down the aisle through the crowd into the jammed lobby.

EXT. BETHEL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Shouts of praise and singing filter outside. The church rocks with life.

Zachary exits and faces the large cross in the front lawns of Bethel. There are cars everywhere the eye can see.

He glances over to the library. The view through the window is blocked by stacks and stacks of books.

Zachary is filled with gratitude. The whole congregation now joins in singing...

CONGREGATION (V.O.)

*I surrender all. I surrender all...*

INT. FOLEY TRUCK - DAY

Zachary drives.

CONGREGATION (V.O.)  
*All to Thee my blessed Savior. I  
surrender all.*

INT. LAURA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Zachary stands beside Laura's bed. He listens to the machines she is hooked up to.

He glances to Ethan's painted verse and Ivy's picture of a rock and shades of blue.

Zachary's hands shake. He sits by Laura. On the nightstand remains the burnt copy of *The Great Surrender*.

He looks down at his mother's hand and for the first time since she's entered the hospital, Zachary reaches for it.

Silence - except for the BEEPS from the machines. He bows his head and closes his eyes.

DENNIS (V.O.)  
She never stopped believing in you.

Zachary's jarred. He looks up. His father stands by the opened door. He wears his Stillwater Pioneer jersey. Dennis smiles.

ZACHARY  
How...How do you know?

In a blink of an eye, his father is gone.

And then...Laura gently squeezes her son's hand. Zachary shivers and looks down. His mother clenches his hand.

A tear rolls down Zachary Foley's cheek.

THE END