

INVERTIGO

Written By

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Based on 'INVERTIGO' by Don Roff

Based on a story by Don Roff & Ethan Terra

BLACK.

Underneath we hear the sounds of an AMUSEMENT PARK.

People chatter and laugh while bells ring, carnivalesque music plays, and the roar of the rides fills the air.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK, LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY - DAY

A towering steel rollercoaster looms -- one of the world's tallest and fastest, named the G-KRAFT. Painted bold YELLOW AND BLACK, its signature HORSESHOE TOWER stretches 300 feet into the sky.

A track eases the coaster cars out of the loading bay, then BLASTS them upward with a hydraulic arm launch. Screams echo as riders shoot up the nearly vertical tower, crest the top, then plunge down the other side.

The coaster climbs again, slower this time, before whipping over another steep incline, a wild VERTICAL LOOP, and one final drop before gliding back to the loading bay.

SUPER: Lower Saxony, Germany

On the ground, HILDA (20) stares up at the coaster, uneasy. Beside her, KARL (20) grins, arm draped around her.

They speak in German, subtitled.

KARL

Whoa! That's insane!

(beat)

Let's get in line --

HILDA

Are you crazy? I'm not getting on that!

KARL

Come on Hilda, don't wimp out on me now!

HILDA

No way.

KARL

Suit yourself. Wait here for me?

Hilda reluctantly nods. Karl gives her a quick kiss and heads for the ride.

EXT. G-KRAFT LOADING BAY, GERMANY - DAY

Karl waits with anticipation in line, surrounded by other eager coaster goers.

Finally it's his turn to be loaded in. He leaps into the coaster car enthusiastically. A RIDE WORKER brings the safety harness down over his head.

CLOSE on the RIDE OPERATOR as he finishes securing everyone's harnesses. He then heads back to the CONTROL PANEL.

On the SCREEN he sees an IMAGE OF THE COASTER CAR LAYOUT from above. A GREEN DOT FOR EACH SEAT represents that everyone's harness is secure.

The RIDE OPERATOR hits the GREEN GO BUTTON. With a sharp shunt, the coaster heads off.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK/ G-KRAFT, GERMANY - DAY

On the ground, Hilda watches as the coaster makes its long, slow trek along the track towards the tower. On the coaster, the riders brace eagerly for the moment they pick up speed.

The hydraulic arm of the coaster engages, and then, with a mighty WHOOSH --

-- the coaster is launched along the track, going from 0 to 125 mph in mere seconds.

The coaster barrels up the vertical tower, the riders rocked by the G-force. Karl's face is blown back by the terrifying power of the wind, his face red, eyes bulging wildly.

The coaster reaches the top of the horse shoe tower, seems to pause there for an agonizing moment, and then --

-- the coaster shoots down the other side, Karl and the other riders screaming with gleeful terror.

EXT. G-KRAFT LOADING BAY, GERMANY - DAY

The Ride Operator continues to monitor the control panel. The GREEN DOTS, confirming all safety harnesses are secure, are still visible.

EXT. G-KRAFT, GERMANY - DAY

Karl holds onto the harness, smiling. The coaster hurtles up the final ascent, reaching the peak. Suddenly --

EXT. G-KRAFT LOADING BAY, GERMANY - DAY

An ALARM SOUNDS. The Ride Operator sees something chilling on the CONTROL PANEL --

-- one of the HARNESS DOTS has turned from GREEN to RED.

EXT. G-KRAFT, GERMANY - DAY

Just as the coaster hurtles to the top of the next peak, Karl's HARNESS suddenly SHOOTs UP.

His body FLIES UPWARDS as he's LAUNCHED INTO THE AIR.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK, GERMANY - DAY

A CROWD of horrified people start to gather near the coaster.

Hilda breaks into a run, pushes through the throng to see Karl's TWISTED, BROKEN BODY on the ground.

BLOOD pools around him as his eyes stare past Hilda, glassy and vacant. A moment of eerie silence as she takes this in, and then --

-- Hilda staggers back, eyes locked on the dead body of her boyfriend, mouth open in a scream that never comes.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUMPER CARS, FLORIDA - DAY

CLOSE on the gleeful shrieks of a CHILD spinning the wheel of an old-fashioned BUMPER CAR. His MOM laughs beside him, helps him steer as the car jolts forward, powered by a sparking overhead ELECTRIC POLE.

At the control booth, a sullen TEENAGER in an AMUSEMENT PARK UNIFORM stares off. A LONG SCAR peeks out from underneath her uniform.

This is CHLOE (18), and in this happy place, she's the only one not smiling.

EXT. RATTLEBOX GARDENS AMUSEMENT PARK, FLORIDA - DAY

We see a SIGN: 'RATTLEBOX GARDENS AMUSEMENT PARK - HILLSBOROUGH, FLORIDA. ESTABLISHED 1972.'

A quintessential American amusement park in the heart of Florida swamp country. It's a warm summer day, but the park is hardly crowded.

A group of ROWDY TEENS make their way through the park. AIDAN (18) is the ring leader, cool and low key in a POLO SHIRT and TORN JEANS.

He's followed by BRIANNA (18), athletic and impossibly toned in tight jeans, a tank top and hair extensions. In her hand is a LIP GLOSS she's constantly swiping on. Her face is overly made up with enormous FAKE EYELASHES.

YAEGER (19) is the roughest of the group in a battered leather jacket, a FLANNEL SHIRT wrapped around his waist and a glint of mischief in his eyes. DANNY (19), wearing a t-shirt that says JUST VIBES, looks like an eager puppy dog, just happy to be part of the group.

YAEGER

This place sucks. Why are we here?

AIDAN

To have fun! Don't you guys think this is fun?

YAEGER

Sure. If you're a toddler.

BRIANNA

Yaeger's right. Let's go to the beach.

Yaeger has a sudden realization.

YAEGER

(to Aidan)

Hang on! Doesn't that chick you dated work here?

AIDAN

(shrugs)

Maybe... and we didn't date. We just went out a few times.

Yaeger grins knowingly.

YAEGER

Say less.

Danny interjects, confused.

DANNY

Say less about what?

YAEGER
(rolls eyes)
Try to keep up, Danny.

The group suddenly stops walking, looks up. In front of them is an enormous rollercoaster with a HORSE SHOE SHAPED TOWER.

There's no one on the ride, an almost eerie silence to the structure as it lays dormant. A sign reads: *NEW Cheetah™ Ride! COMING THIS FALL.*

Next to the announcement is a cheesy painting of a Cheetah, teeth and fangs bared.

YAEGER
Holy shit! That thing looks crazy!

DANNY
(reads sign)
It says it's not open yet.

YAEGER
No shit, Sherlock.

Brianna looks at Aidan impatiently.

BRIANNA
Come on, Aidan. Let's just go.

Aidan's gaze drifts over to the BUMPER CARS. He sees Chloe watching as a new round of riders get in.

AIDAN
Let's do the bumper cars.

YAEGER
Bumper cars?? What am I, twelve?

Brianna sees Chloe, frowns as Aidan heads towards the ride.

DANNY
Awesome. I love bumper cars.

YAEGER
(shakes head)
You're so weird, Danny.

EXT. BUMPER CARS - DAY

Chloe sees the group approach, balks at the sight of Aidan.

The group gets in line. Aidan sees Chloe and gives her a small smile. Chloe quickly looks away.

On the bumper cars, a DAD is trying to get the seatbelt on his KID. He calls out to Chloe.

DAD
Hey! Can I get a hand with this?

CHLOE
Uh, yeah... sure.

She goes over to the bumper car and clips the kid in.

CHLOE
There you go. Safe and sound.

DAD
(under his breath)
It's about time.

Chloe smiles thinly and heads back to the CONTROL PANEL. She gives the riders a cursory glance over then hits the switch.

The bumper cars whirr to life as Aidan turns to the group.

AIDAN
Be right back.

He breaks away toward Chloe. Brianna looks on, uneasy.

She LEANS BACK, hangs UPSIDE DOWN on the railing with unexpected ease. Yaeger FLIPS a ZIPPO LIGHTER back and forth, the flame appearing and disappearing with each movement.

YAEGER
Yo Bri, just because you're an
acrobat or whatever the hell you
call it doesn't mean you have to
hang off everything.

BRIANNA
That's not what your Dad said.

YAEGER
(annoyed)
What the hell's wrong with you
today? You got your period or
something?

BRIANNA
Nope. Do you?

Over by the ride, Aidan leans over the gate as Chloe busies herself with the ride controls.

AIDAN

Hey.

CHLOE

Hey.

AIDAN

So... how have you been?

Chloe hesitates. Aidan jumps in.

AIDAN

Sorry. Dumb question.

Back in line, Yaeger keeps flicking his Zippo on and off as Brianna pulls herself back off the railing. She grabs the lighter from Yaeger, flicks it OPEN. A SMALL FLAME appears.

YAEGER

Yo, Bri, what the hell?

Brianna lifts the lighter to her open mouth, flame licking her tongue as she locks eyes with Yaeger.

YAEGER

You're crazy, you know that?

Brianna snaps the lighter shut, smirks, and tosses it to Yaeger. He catches it, eyeing her warily as Aidan keeps talking to Chloe.

AIDAN

Listen, Chloe, I'm really sorry about what happened... do you think we can talk about it...

While they talk, the kid in the bumper car manages to undo his seatbelt while his Dad isn't watching.

At this moment the amusement park owner, a cowboy-looking type named DAVE BREWSTER (50s), walks past the BUMPER CARS with a REPORTER in tow.

DAVE

The Cheetah is gonna be the best damn roller coaster Florida's seen in a long time. No one's gonna spend all that money to go to Disney World when they can come here and ride the Cheetah...

Meanwhile, the kid in the bumper car STANDS UP --

BAM! A bumper car HITS HIS CAR from the back.

The kid goes FLYING and HITS the floor. Another car speeds towards him when Chloe finally notices what's happened.

CHLOE

Oh shit!!

She SLAMS ON the EMERGENCY BRAKE. The cars SCREECH to a halt as the bumper car stops inches from the kid's face.

DAD

What the hell??

The Dad gets out of the car and scoops his kid up as Chloe rushes in. Dave notices the commotion.

DAVE

(to reporter)

Excuse me for just a second...

He rushes over just as Chloe is being berated by the Dad.

DAD

You didn't put his seat belt on properly!!

CHLOE

I did! I swear! He must have taken it off --

Dave arrives on the scene, unimpressed.

DAVE

What's going on here?

DAD

Your employee put my kid in danger! She was too busy talking to her friends!

DAVE

Is that right?

As they argue Aidan slinks back to the group, who watch the proceedings with amused expressions.

Someone else soon appears -- Chloe's manager, JAMES (25). He sees what's happening and swoops in.

JAMES

Sorry, Dave... let me take care of this.

Dave leans in and whispers angrily in James' ear.

DAVE
I can't have this sort of shit
happening right now.

JAMES
I know. I'll handle it.

James turns to Chloe with a stern expression.

JAMES
Office. Now.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE, RATTLEBOX GARDENS AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

James sits across from Chloe behind the manager's desk.

JAMES
Chloe, what the hell were you doing
out there? You've gotta pay more
attention. I know things are hard
right now, but you have to try --

CHLOE
I am trying!

JAMES
Are you? Because it feels like
you're a million miles away. I'm
worried about you. It's not just
work. You barely leave your room
anymore, you don't go out with
friends... Do you think this is
what Mom and Dad would have wanted?
They would have never wanted to see
you like this.

CHLOE
Well... they never will, will they?

Chloe's words hang heavy between them.

JAMES
I'm just asking you to make an
effort, okay? Can you do that for
me?

CHLOE
Can I go now?

Her brother sighs.

JAMES
Yes. You can go.

EXT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

As Chloe exits the office, Aidan suddenly appears.

AIDAN

Hey. Did you get in trouble?

Chloe doesn't say anything, not sure she wants to engage.

AIDAN

I saw the whole thing, you didn't do anything wrong...

CHLOE

I have to get back to work --

AIDAN

This will only take a minute.

(beat)

I just wanted to say I'm sorry. I know I sort of disappeared on you. To tell you the truth I was freaked out. I didn't really know what to say to you.

CHLOE

(laughs grimly)

You were freaked out?

AIDAN

It's a lame excuse, I know.

(beat)

Haven't seen you at school since it happened...

CHLOE

I dropped out. We only had a year left, anyway.

AIDAN

(beat)

I'm headed to college next week. I don't really wanna go, but my Dad's making me.

CHLOE

(deflates a little)

Oh.

Aidan looks down at the SCAR on Chloe's chest.

AIDAN

Does that hurt?

CHLOE
Not really. Not anymore.

AIDAN
Listen, I feel bad about what I
did. I really liked you, and I feel
like I messed everything up.
(beat)
Maybe we could do something before
I go?

CHLOE
Like what?

Aidan gestures towards the Cheetah.

AIDAN
I'm gonna be in college when it
opens. Maybe I can get a sneak
peek...

CHLOE
(surprised)
You wanna ride the Cheetah?
(off Aidan's grin)
I can't get you on that.

AIDAN
Yeah you can. You work here, right?

CHLOE
Yeah, but I work the kid's rides.

AIDAN
I'm sure you can figure something
out.
(beat)
Come on. It'll be fun. You deserve
a little fun, right? After all
you've been through?

Chloe reflects, her brother's words also on her mind.

CHLOE
I'll see what I can do.

AIDAN
Awesome. Oh, and Chloe --
(beat)
-- can I bring some friends?

INT. MAINTENANCE SHED - DAY

CLOSE on the OPEN FRONT PANEL of a BUMPER CAR. A collection of ELECTRICAL WIRES are sticking out.

MIKE (20), the RIDES MAINTENANCE WORKER, works on the wires, his face fixed with concentration. Around him the maintenance shed is filled with TOOLS and RIDE CARS in various states of disrepair.

As he works Chloe enters. Mike looks up, clearly pleased to see her.

MIKE

Hey Chloe! What brings you in here?

CHLOE

Oh, you know me... I love the smell of soldering in the morning. How's it going?

MIKE

The usual. Shit breaks down around here faster than I can keep up with.

Chloe tries to sound casual.

CHLOE

How's the Cheetah looking?

MIKE

Good, I think. Dave's been up my ass all week. He's got a lot riding on this. If this place doesn't get its numbers up, who knows how long we'll all be in a job.

CHLOE

Are you doing another test run tonight?

MIKE

Absolutely. Dave wants us running her every night until she opens.

CHLOE

Do you think, maybe, I could ride her?

MIKE

(uncertain)

You mean before opening?

CHLOE
Yeah. I'm dying to see what it's
like --

MIKE
I don't think that's a good idea.

CHLOE
Why not?

MIKE
If we get caught, we could both be
in big trouble.

CHLOE
We won't get caught. No one will
know.

Mike becomes concerned.

MIKE
To be honest, and I hope you don't
mind me saying... I'm just not sure
you can handle it.

CHLOE
Maybe that's why I want to do it.
You know, to face my fears...

MIKE
Chloe, this ride, it goes from 0 to
125 miles in 12 seconds --

CHLOE
I know. It sounds amazing. Come on
Mike, please?

Chloe looks at him pleadingly. Mike is powerless to resist.

MIKE
(sighs)
Okay. Just one ride.

CHLOE
Yes!! Thank you Mike!

Chloe HUGS him. Mike stiffens a little, embarrassed. His
feelings for Chloe run deeper than he cares to admit.

MIKE
Okay, okay.
(beat)
But your brother cannot find out.

CHLOE
Understood. Oh, can I bring some friends?

MIKE
Chloe...

CHLOE
Please.

MIKE
I can't believe I'm doing this.
(beat)
Okay. But like I said -- just one ride.

Chloe smiles, is about to leave --

MIKE
Hey. Maybe next week you wanna go get some burgers or something?

Mike sees her hesitancy and loses his nerve.

MIKE
You know, like, during one of your lunch breaks?

CHLOE
Uh, yeah. Sure.

MIKE
Okay cool.

Chloe leaves, vaguely surprised. *Did he just ask her out?*

EXT. RATTLEBOX GARDENS AMUSEMENT PARK - DUSK

The sun sets over the park as the last guests head to the parking lot. A SECURITY GUARD locks the front gate, and the TICKET BOX lights go out.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Chloe, now in a tank top and jeans, stuffs her uniform into her LOCKER.

Inside, a PHOTO shows her with her parents and brother, all smiling in front of an OLD WOODEN ROLLERCOASTER. James wears his park uniform; their dad sports a 'Rattlebox Gardens' tee.

Chloe gazes at the photo, lost in thought, as James appears beside her.

JAMES

You okay?

Chloe turns away, quickly wipes her tears so James can't see.

CHLOE

Uh huh.

JAMES

Chloe, you can't keep blaming yourself. That guy came out of nowhere.

CHLOE

But if Dad had been driving, he would have known what to do. I begged him to let me drive us to the park.

JAMES

We've been over this a hundred times. It wasn't your fault.

Chloe says nothing. James changes the subject.

JAMES

Are you ready to go?

CHLOE

I'm going to stick around here for a bit. Mike's going to show me how to run the Cheetah.

JAMES

(surprised)

He is?

CHLOE

I mean, I don't want to be on the bumper cars for the rest of my life, do I?

James, happy to hear this, tries not to look too excited.

JAMES

Okay, cool. You want me to pick you up later?

CHLOE

It's okay. Mike'll drive me.

JAMES
Alright. Make sure he drives slow,
okay?

Chloe nods. James leaves, and her smile quickly fades.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

James waves goodnight to the SECURITY GUARD, CARL (50s) and heads for his car.

JAMES
Good night, Carl!

CARL
Night, James! Drive safe!

James gets in his car and drives away as the SECURITY LIGHTS on the park rides are ACTIVATED.

The CHEETAH lights up with FLOOD LIGHTING, bathing the monstrous structure in an unnerving glow.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Carl sits with his feet up reading a magazine. Mike enters.

MIKE
Hey Carl.

CARL
Hey Mike. What's news?

MIKE
I don't think we're going to run
her tonight. The weather's not
looking too good.

CARL
Does that mean --

MIKE
You're free to go.

CARL
God bless Florida weather!

Carl throws his magazine down, starts gathering his things.

MIKE
(awkwardly)
I'm actually gonna stay a little
later, finish up some of those
bumper cars. You go ahead, though.
I can close up.

CARL
You don't have to tell me twice.

Carl leaves with a grin. Mike sighs, anxious about what he's getting himself into.

He goes over to the CONTROL PANEL, finds the BACK GATE CAMERA. With the flick of a switch, he turns it off.

EXT. BENEATH THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe stands beneath the coaster, staring up anxiously. Mike joins her, likewise looks up.

MIKE
Camera's are off.
(beat)
Incredible, isn't she?

CHLOE
I didn't realize it was so high.

Mike senses Chloe's nervousness.

MIKE
We can call this off --

CHLOE
No, it's okay. I wanna do it.

The SKY suddenly rumbles, the SOUND of FARAWAY THUNDER.

MIKE
Your friends better get here soon.
There's a storm coming in.

Chloe looks towards the parking lot anxiously. *Where the hell are they?*

INT. AIDAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Aidan speeds down the road towards Rattlebox in his BMW. Brianna sits next to him, Yaeger and Danny in the back.

YAEGER

I can't believe you convinced her
to do this.

Brianna takes a new set of FAKE EYELASHES out of her purse,
GLUES THEM ON in the rear vision mirror.

BRIANNA

Yeah Aidan. You're quite the sweet
talker...

Aidan reaches over and slaps the mirror back towards him.

AIDAN

(annoyed)
I told you to stop messing around
in my car, Bri.

BRIANNA

(grins)
You call this messing around?

Brianna slides her body out of the OPEN WINDOW, HANGS OFF the
side of the car as Aidan drives.

AIDAN

Brianna, what the fuck??

Brianna laughs maniacally as Yaeger claps and cheers. Danny
watches, ashen-faced.

DANNY

Brianna, that's really dangerous!

AIDAN

I'm not kidding around, Bri! I will
slam you into a goddamn pole
'Hereditary' style if you don't get
your ass back in here!

Brianna slides back into the car, smiles coyly. Yaeger pulls
out a BROWN PAPER BAG with a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY inside and
waves it around.

YAEGER

Whiskey shots, anyone?

DANNY

(eager)
I'll try one!

Danny takes the bottle and drinks. He suddenly SPITS IT OUT
all over the back of Brianna's seat.

BRIANNA
What the fuck, Danny??

AIDAN
Danny, what are you doing?? You
just spat all over my car!!

Danny hands the bottle back to Yaeger, bewildered.

DANNY
What is that?

YAEGER
That is 190 proof, baby! Illegal in
17 states, including Florida.

BRIANNA
Really? Give me that.

Yaeger hands Brianna the bottle. She takes a huge gulp.

BRIANNA
(finishes)
Mmmm. Tasty.

The group exchange an impressed and intimidated look.

EXT. BACK GATE - NIGHT

Chloe waits anxiously. In the distance she hears the SOUND of
a car coming down the highway.

As the car approaches Chloe waves her arms. The BMW drives
through the back gates and parks. The occupants rowdily exit.

CHLOE
Sssshhh! Keep it down!

AIDAN
I thought you said there was no one
here?

CHLOE
Yeah, we just don't want to draw
any attention.

AIDAN
Got it.
(turns to the group)
Guys, just cool it, will you? You
all know Chloe...

Muted murmurs of "Hey Chloe" from Danny and Yaeger. Brianna doesn't say anything.

CHLOE

We have to hurry. There's a storm coming.

AIDAN

Lead on!

EXT. BENEATH THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group stands beneath the up-lit coaster, its towering structure looming like a skyscraper.

YAEGER

(to Chloe)

This thing's already been tested, right? It's not gonna, like, cut my dick off is it?

BRIANNA

Wouldn't you need to actually have a dick in order for it to be cut off?

YAEGER

I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

Brianna gives Yaeger the finger as Mike approaches.

MIKE

Hey. You must be Chloe's friends. I'm Mike.

AIDAN

Aidan. This is Bri, Danny, Yaeger Bomb...

(gestures to coaster)

You know how to work that thing?

MIKE

Yeah, but we have to get moving. There's a storm coming in.

YAEGER

I thought rollercoasters were meant to have lightning rods.

MIKE

We do, but it's not getting delivered until tomorrow.

AIDAN

Well then... what are we waiting?
Let's get this party started!

Mike glances at Chloe, looks unimpressed with her 'friends'.
Chloe gives him a small, apologetic shrug.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group noisily makes their way onto the loading dock.

DANNY

(nervous)

I don't know, guys. This looks
really high.

YAEGER

That's because it is, dumbass.

Mike goes over to a TABLE, picks up a PLASTIC TRAY and holds
it out to the group.

MIKE

Okay everyone. Empty your pockets.

YAEGER

What? Why?

MIKE

Safety hazard. But hey, if you
don't mind a cell phone lodging
itself in your face at 125 miles an
hour, feel free to hold onto it.

The group start to reluctantly empty their pockets, placing
PHONES, WALLETS and MAKE-UP in the TRAY.

Yaeger hands over a POCKET KNIFE. Mike looks at it with a
raised eyebrow, doesn't see Yaeger still has the BOTTLE OF
190 PROOF WHISKEY and ZIPPO LIGHTER concealed in his jacket.

Mike notices Aidan hasn't deposited anything into the tray
yet. He holds it out to him.

AIDAN

I'll hang on to mine thanks. It's
the Pro Max. Brand new.

MIKE

You're gonna lose it.

AIDAN

I'll take my chances.

Mike once again glances at Chloe. She gives him a pleading look. *Don't ruin this for me.*

MIKE
Suit yourself.

He puts the tray down and goes over to the CONTROL BOX, taps in his employee code and activation numbers on the ipad-like interface. The coaster purrs to life with a steady electrical hum as the group watch with anticipation.

Mike PRESSES a deep set rubber GREEN BUTTON. With a harsh grinding of gears and a raised hum, from somewhere overhead there is the geared mechanism noise of approaching cars.

FIVE LINKED CARS MOVE at a steady pace along the flat launch track. They reach the platform, smoothly slowing to a regulated stop.

Mike presses another button. The SAFETY HARNESSSES RISE UP, beckoning the riders in. Yaeger makes for the front car.

YAEGER
(excitedly)
Alright!!

Mike grabs him by the shoulder.

MIKE
Hey -- you're gonna need to ride in the middle car. It's for the weight distribution.

YAEGER
(tersely)
There sure are a lot of rules around here...

AIDAN
(to Yaeger)
You heard the man. Middle car!

Yaeger frowns but does as he's told. He gets into the MIDDLE CAR, Danny beside him. Aidan takes the seat behind them, looks at Chloe and taps next to him.

AIDAN
Come on.

Chloe hesitates. She glances at Brianna, who scowls.

BRIANNA
Guess I'll just sit back here.

She slides into the row behind Aidan, clearly annoyed. Chloe is about to sit beside Aidan when Mike calls her over.

MIKE

Chloe, you got a sec?

Chloe goes over to Mike.

MIKE

(speaks low)

Listen, Chloe -- I don't know who these people are, but you don't have to impress them, you know?

CHLOE

I'm not trying to impress anyone.
I'm just trying to live my life.
That's what everybody wants, right?
For me to move on? So lets do it then.

Mike nods solemnly. He sees there's no talking her out of it.

Chloe gets on the coaster and sits next to Aidan. Mike turns from the control panel to the group.

MIKE

Okay everyone - arms up!

Mike presses a button. With a HISSING SOUND almost like a snake, the harnesses all come down at once.

Mike checks the GREEN LIGHTS that indicate everyone has their safety harness secured. Everything looks good to go.

MIKE

Okay riders! Prepare to experience... the Cheetah!

He HITS THE GREEN GO BUTTON again. There's a LOUD BEEPING NOISE, then the cars start to smoothly move forward.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The cars glide along the flat track, making their way towards the TOWER. Chloe clings tightly to her harness, terrified.

In her mind's eye we see --

INT. CHLOE'S PARENT'S CAR - DAY

FLASHBACK. Chloe is driving her parents along the highway towards Rattlebox Park. Her Dad sits in the front seat next to her, her Mom in the back.

They're all laughing at some shared unheard joke when CHLOE'S FATHER sees a CAR SPEEDING on the other side of the freeway towards them.

CHLOE'S FATHER
Hey, watch out for this guy --

Suddenly the car on the other side of the freeway CAREENS OVER THE MIDDLE EMBANKMENT and barrels towards them.

CHLOE'S FATHER
CHLOE, TURN TURN!!!

Chloe doesn't react fast enough. The speeding car HITS THEM, sends their car flipping over and over again until it SMASHES into a tree, and everything is DEATHLY SILENT.

AIDAN (V.O.)
Hey...

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

BACK to Chloe sitting on the coaster as it approaches the tower. Aidan's looking at her intently.

AIDAN
Where'd you go?

CHLOE
(attempts a smile)
Nowhere. I'm okay.

Suddenly the coaster JOLTS to a VIOLENT STOP. The group are all THROWN FORWARD in their seats.

YAEGER
Yo, dude, what the fuck??

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike looks at the control panel. The message: SYSTEM STOP.

MIKE
Uh, that's not good...

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

On the coaster Yaeger yells back to the loading bay.

YAEGER
Hey, what gives??

Mike's voice floats back.

MIKE (O.S.)
Just sit tight, okay? Give me a second!

Aidan turns to Chloe.

AIDAN
You doing okay over there?

CHLOE
Yeah. Just a bit freaked out.

AIDAN
Don't be. It's gonna be amazing.

CHLOE
You're not nervous?

AIDAN
No way. I'm an adrenaline junkie. I love going fast.

Brianna pipes up from behind them.

BRIANNA
No shit. You drive like Fast & Furious on Red Bull.

Aidan shoots Brianna a glare.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike looks down at the control panel. There's a new button message flashing: RE-ENGAGE. He presses it.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The coaster suddenly SHUNTS FORWARD, causing the group to yelp in surprise.

It starts along the track once more, building up speed as it heads towards the tower.

DANNY
 (off the looming tower)
 Oh God...

YAEGER
 Don't worry, Danny. On average only
 four and a half people in America
 die on rollercoasters every year,
 so the odds are in your favor.

DANNY
 Four and a half? What happened to
 the other half??

Before Yaeger can respond, the HYDRAULIC ARM engages and sends the coaster racing along the track towards the TOWER.

Yaeger lets out a holler of excitement as the group are PINNED BACK against their seats by the sheer magnitude of the G-force. Their faces are BLOWN BACK, EYEBALLS BULGING as the coaster goes from 0 to 125 miles in mere seconds.

We see the VIEW DOWN THE TRACK from within the car as the coaster ascends violently, the track swiftly ascending up the GIANT HORSE SHOE TOWER.

Suddenly the whole world is FAR BELOW THEM. The group scream, hair in the wind, arms raised. It's a perfect moment of physical reaction to the forces of speed and momentum, and then --

-- the coaster cars PLUMMET down the other side of the tower.

The cars begin their fast ascent up the next incline, giving the riders barely a moment to catch their breath. Chloe holds on tight, her face pale when --

FLASH! The image of her parent's car being hit and flipping goes through her mind's eye, and then --

-- the coaster cars hurtle down the other side and enter the LOOP, the final heart-stopping portion of the track, the group going UPSIDE DOWN when --

FLASH! Chloe's parent's car flips over and over and over before careening into a tree, then back to --

The coaster car as it finishes the LOOP and heads back to the loading bay. Chloe loosens her grip on the harness, allows herself a small proud smile.

She did it. She actually did it.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The COASTER begins its slow approach towards the loading platform. Mike keeps one eye on the control panel as the group clap and hoot their excitement.

YAEGER
(yells out)
Yo, yo -- again, again!!

DANNY
No no no! I'm gonna puke!!

The coaster slows to a crawl and then stops. CLOSE on the CONTROL PANEL as the harnesses are automatically lifted, a message appearing on the screen that reads: HARNESSSES RELEASED.

The group DISEMBARKS. They chatter excitedly as they get their bearings.

YAEGER
That was insane!!

Brianna pulls with annoyance at her wind swept hair.

BRIANNA
Goddamn it. My extensions are completely screwed.

Mike checks in with Chloe.

MIKE
You okay?

CHLOE
(breathless)
Yeah!

MIKE
Are you sure?

CHLOE
Uh huh! That was awesome!

AIDAN
(interjects, to Chloe)
See? Told you you'd love it.

Mike shoots Aidan a weary look. He doesn't trust this guy, and doesn't like how much Chloe seems to like him.

Yaeger bounces around excitedly.

YAEGER
Let's go again!

DANNY
No way!

YAEGER
Come on, just once more!!

Aidan turns to Chloe expectantly.

AIDAN
What do you think?

Chloe looks at Mike, who shrugs. *Whatever you want.*

CHLOE
Sure. Let's go again.

YAEGER
Hell yeah, let's go!!

BRIANNA
Do we have to??

YAEGER
What's the matter? Worried you're gonna break a nail?

BRIANNA
Maybe I'll break your face instead!

AIDAN
(firmly)
Bri, just get on the ride, okay?

BRIANNA
(sulking)
Yes sir.

The group climbs back aboard. Mike turns back to the control panel just as Yaeger takes off his LEATHER JACKET and puts it at his feet in the coaster car. Mike doesn't notice.

Mike presses the HARNESS button again, and the harnesses automatically come down. He hears something -- the distant sound of THUNDER.

He looks up at the sky and feels a breeze starting to pick up. He starts to have second thoughts.

CHLOE
(yells out)
What are you waiting for?
Permission from your Mom?

The group all laugh. Mike frowns. Chloe quickly looks away, ashamed but a little pleased she's made everyone laugh.

MIKE
Okay then! Hands and feet inside
the coaster!

He checks once more that the harnesses are secure on the control panel. Confirming this, he pushes the GO BUTTON.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The coaster once again begins the suspenseful crawl towards the tower. Danny shakes his head in denial.

DANNY
This isn't happening, this isn't
happening...

YAEGER
Yes it is, baby! Welcome to hell!

Chloe smiles nervously, closes her eyes as the coaster prepares to launch. *This time, she's ready.*

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike once again hears the SOUND OF THUNDER. He looks up into the darkened sky, sees a FLASH OF LIGHTNING in the distance.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

We watch the cars as the hydraulic arm KICKS IN, sending the coaster hurtling along the track and UP THE TOWER.

We once again see the VIEW DOWN THE TRACK as the coaster cars go up the tower, when suddenly --

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

A RED LIGHT starts flashing on the CONTROL PANEL.

Mike sees a message that makes his heart stop:

SYSTEM FAILURE.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The coaster cars reach the top of the tower, PAUSING for a moment. The group yelps with delight, prepares for the coaster to make its raging descent down the other side, but then --

-- the coaster come to a COMPLETE STOP, the EMERGENCY BRAKES LOCKING, RIGHT ON THE APEX OF THE TOWER.

The group look around in disbelief.

YAEGER

What the fuck?

DANNY

Uhhhh, what's happening??

Then there's an alarming sound. It sounds like the ride POWERING DOWN. The lights of the track TURN OFF, plunging them into darkness.

YAEGER

(yells back at Chloe)

Yo, bumper car lady, what the fuck happened?

CHLOE

(panicked)

Uh, I don't know.

YAEGER

You don't know??

Brianna leans over, peers all the way down the 300 foot drop. She gets a manic glint in her eye, revels in the height.

BRIANNA

Awesome.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike looks at the control panel in a panic. There's a message that reads: EMERGENCY BRAKES ENGAGED.

MIKE

Uh, okay Mike... just stay calm...
you can figure this out...

He tries pressing the GO BUTTON again. Nothing happens.

MIKE

Umm, okay... shit.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The apex of the tower, 20 stories high in the air. The group are in a panic.

YAEGER
(to Chloe)
I thought you said this thing had
been tested??

CHLOE
It has!

YAEGER
Well then why are we stuck here??

CHLOE
I don't know! It looks like a power
failure --

YAEGER
A what??

DANNY
We've got no power??

CHLOE
(downplays it)
It's gonna be okay! This sort of
thing happens all the time! Mike
just needs to restore power.

DANNY
How long's that gonna take??

CHLOE
I don't know. Just, stay calm...

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike opens the MAIN CONTROL SCREEN, sees a button that reads:
RESET SYSTEM SETTINGS.

He looks up at the enormous tower, can barely even make out
the group perched all the way at the top.

He hesitates, but then, he hits the RESET BUTTON --

-- and nothing happens.

MIKE
Errrr...

He punches the screen again. Still nothing. He tries some other buttons, quickly realizes that the screen is FROZEN.

MIKE
Uhhh.... Fuck.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe tries to keep the group calm.

CHLOE
Listen, we're gonna be okay. We lose power on the bumper cars all the time...

YAEGER
This isn't exactly the bumper cars, is it??

Suddenly the WIND RISES, buffeting the cars violently. The group hold tight to their safety harnesses.

DANNY
I don't like this! I don't like this one little bit!

CHLOE
We just need to stay in our seats... whatever's happening, Mike will fix it...

YAEGER
You already said that!!

Brianna laughs wildly from the back car.

YAEGER
Oh you think this is funny Bri?

BRIANNA
God, Yaeger, chill out. You heard her. It's gonna be fine.

Danny suddenly starts to BREATHE HEAVILY.

YAEGER
What's wrong with you??

DANNY
I think... I'm having... an asthma... attack...

YAEGER
Oh, shit! Where's your puffer
thing??

DANNY
I put it... in... the tray!

YAEGER
(turns to Chloe)
Nice mess you and your friend have
gotten us into!

AIDAN
(interjects)
Hey -- it's not her fault! How the
hell was she meant to know this was
going to happen?

Danny's breathing gets worse. Yaeger looks down between his
legs, sees something on the floor of the coaster car.

He tries to lean forward in his harness, begins KICKING OUT
with his legs to reach it.

AIDAN
What are you doing??

Yaeger groans with exertion, manages to hook his feet around
whatever it is he's trying to pick up.

YAEGER
Come here you little...

He slides the object up his leg using one of his feet.
Finally it's close enough for him to reach with his fingers.

He grabs onto it.

YAEGER
Got it!

Aidan and Chloe peer over, see that Yaeger is holding his
LEATHER JACKET. Yaeger feels around in the pocket, pulls out
the BROWN PAPER BAG containing the BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

AIDAN
Yaeger, you dick! You weren't meant
to bring that on here!

YAEGER
I think we've got bigger problems
right now, don't you?

Yaeger takes the BOTTLE OF WHISKEY out of the PAPER BAG, quickly TOSSES his JACKET aside. The jacket lands on the FRONT OF THE COASTER as he hands the PAPER BAG over to Danny.

YAEGER

Here. Breathe into this.

Danny snatches the bag from Yaeger, puts it to his mouth. The bag inflates then deflates with each breath, then normalizes.

YAEGER

Is that better?

Danny nods. Chloe turns to Aidan.

CHLOE

We need to call for help. We can use your phone --

AIDAN

No way!

CHLOE

Why not?

AIDAN

Aren't we trespassing right now? We could get into a lot of trouble.

YAEGER

(interjects, panicked)
Yeah! And I've got priors!

BRIANNA

(sing song)
Yaeger's going to jaaaaaail...

YAEGER

Shut up, Bri! Crazy bitch!

AIDAN

(to Chloe)
Can't we just call your friend instead? Find out what the hell he's doing down there??

CHLOE

I don't know his number.

BRIANNA

Womp womp!

Yaeger loses patience with Brianna.

YAEGER

Bri, I swear to God, when we get off this thing, I am going to kill you!

AIDAN

Leave her alone, Yaeger!

YAEGER

Why are you sticking up for her?
You know she's nuts!!

Brianna wildly STICKS HER TONGUE OUT, Miley Cyrus style.
Aidan finally snaps.

AIDAN

Everyone, just stop it, okay!! I know we're freaked out, but yelling at each other isn't going to help. Chloe's friend knows what he's doing, right Chloe?

CHLOE

(unconvincing)
Right. Mike'll get us down. I promise.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike looks at the CONTROL PANEL, the SCREEN still FROZEN.

MIKE

Uhhh, okay...

He sees the POWER CORD running from the CONTROL PANEL to a wall, looks up at the coaster apprehensively and grapples with the decision.

A moment's hesitation, then --

-- he PULLS the POWER CORD out of the wall.

The CONTROL PANEL goes DARK.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The EMERGENCY BRAKE system suddenly UNLOCKS. The coaster SHUDDERS and GROANS.

AIDAN

What the hell was that?

The group FREEZE, waiting for something to happen. Then --
-- the coaster cars slowly INCH FORWARD.

DANNY
(excitedly)
We're moving, we're moving!!

YAEGER
We are??

The coaster goes a few inches, starts to approach the downhill incline, and then, unseen by the group --

-- Yaeger's JACKET that he discarded on the front of the coaster car slowly SLIDES DOWN the fiberglass nose and between the cars onto the COASTER TRACK.

Chloe pushes herself back against her seat, shouts instructions to the rest of the group.

CHLOE
Okay everyone, hold on! This is gonna be fast!

The group all press back in their seats, hold tight to their harnesses. The coaster continues to inch forward, but then appears to slow.

BRIANNA
(smirks)
Don't feel fast to me.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike looks up at the track, perplexed.

MIKE
Why is it going so slow??

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The coaster car lurches forward, tries to inch ahead. Yaeger's JACKET is caught between the wheels, gets pulled into the grinding mechanism as the cars struggle to move.

AIDAN
What's it doing??

CHLOE
I don't know!

AIDAN
You don't know??

Chloe leans over the side, inspects the wheels as much as she can with the safety harness holding her back.

CHLOE
The emergency brakes are
disengaged. I don't know why it's
going so slow.
(beat)
Yaeger, look on the track! Can you
see anything??

Yaeger tries to lean forward in his harness, sees a DARK LUMP
of something in front of the coaster cars.

YAEGER
Yeah! I think there's something on
the track!

AIDAN
What is it??

YAEGER
I don't know! I can't see!

The cars continue to inch forward, and then --
-- the coaster STOPS.

Yaeger leans forward even further against his safety harness,
struggles against it as he attempts to get a better look.

YAEGER
(off safety harness)
Goddamn this stupid thing --

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Suddenly, an ALARM SOUNDS on the CONTROL PANEL.

Mike looks down, sees that all the GREEN DOTS that indicate
the safety harnesses are engaged have suddenly turned an
alarming RED.

A NEW MESSAGE flashes on the screen: SAFETY HARNESSSES -
DEACTIVATED.

Mike looks up at the coaster in horror.

MIKE
Oh no --

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Just as Yaeger presses against his harness --

SSSSSHHHHHHHH!!!!

The SOUND of a BURST OF HYDRAULICS, then suddenly --

-- all the safety harnesses RELEASE.

Yaeger TOPPLES OVER the front of the coaster car. Danny REACHES OUT to try and grab him.

DANNY

Yaeger!!

Yaegar LANDS on the back of the car in front of him. His fingers SCRAMBLE to grip the slick, metallic surface.

He manages to get his fingers over the back panel, pulls himself UP and INTO the FIRST CAR.

YAEGER

I'm okay, everyone! I'm okay...

Danny quickly leans back in his seat, looks around wildly.

DANNY

Well, we're not!!

All the safety harnesses are now UP IN THE AIR, with nothing securing the group in their seats. The group freak out.

CHLOE

Everyone... just stay in your seats, and don't move...

BRIANNA

How many times are you gonna say that??

DANNY

I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die...

AIDAN

Danny! You have to get a grip!

Chloe casts a quick glance over the side at the loading bay.

CHLOE

(low, to self)

Mike, what are you doing??

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike is in an absolute panic, pacing back and forth.

MIKE
Shit shit shit...

Then he gets an idea. He goes over to the PLASTIC TRAY, riffles frantically through the contents.

He finds an iPhone with a PINK CASE that says BAD BITCH on it: Brianna's phone. He tries to open it but it needs a passcode.

MIKE
Goddamn it!

He throws the phone down and picks up another. It's a cheap old iPhone with no passcode lock on it and a CRACKED SCREEN: Yaeger's phone.

Mike opens it and scrolls through the CONTACTS. He's looking for AIDAN under "A", but the closest thing he can find is "ASSHOLE."

MIKE
Please let this be it...

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group suddenly hear the sound of BASEMENT JAXX singing "WHERE'S YOUR HEAD ATTTTTTTT...".

Brianna starts to dance in her seat.

BRIANNA
Alright! Party time!!

AIDAN
(realizes)
Oh shit, it's my phone!

Aidan slowly slides his hand into his pocket and carefully pulls his phone out. He looks at the screen in confusion.

YAEGER
Who is it?

AIDAN
(perplexed)
It's you.

CHLOE
(realizes)
It's Mike! It's Mike!

She snatches the phone from Aidan and answers it.

CHLOE
Mike??

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

INTERCUT between Chloe and Mike.

MIKE
Chloe! Is everyone okay??

CHLOE
Yeah! We're okay!

DANNY
(interjects, scared)
No we're not!!

MIKE
There was a computer failure... I
got you back online but the safety
harnesses failed and now you're not
even moving!

CHLOE
I know. We think there's something
caught in the wheels.

MIKE
What do you mean, there's something
in the wheels? What is it?

CHLOE
We don't know. We can't really see
it.

MIKE
What about the harnesses? Can you
pull them back down?

Chloe carefully reaches out, loops her hand around the
harness and gives it a swift tug.

The harness comes down, but once she lets go, it
automatically shoots up into the air once again.

CHLOE
It won't stay down.

MIKE

Listen, I'm gonna call somebody --

CHLOE

Okay.

AIDAN

What's he saying?

CHLOE

He's going to get help.

YAEGER

Don't let him do that! If the cops come we're all gonna be screwed!

BRIANNA

(sing sing voice)

Yaeger's got priooooors!!

YAEGER

You're gonna get in trouble too,
Bri! This is breaking and entering!
It's a felony!

BRIANNA

Get a grip. It's not breaking and entering!

(points at Chloe)

She let us in!

DANNY

(interjects)

Bri's right. It's more like trespassing.

YAEGER

You think the cops are gonna care about that? The cops are going to charge us with whatever the hell they want, and I don't know about you guys, but I really don't need this shit right now.

DANNY

And I don't need to be stuck at the top of a roller coaster! This is --
(struggles to find the right word)
-- fucked!

YAEGER

Danny, language!!
(to Brianna)
(MORE)

YAEGER (CONT'D)

What about your gymnastics
scholarship, Bri? You think you'll
still get to go to that fancy
school after you get arrested?

This gives Brianna pause. The group quietens.

BRIANNA

Maybe Yaeger's right.

MIKE

(on phone)

Chloe? Chloe?

CHLOE

I'm still here.

(beat)

Is there a way you can fix it?

MIKE

You mean without calling someone?
Chloe, that's a really bad idea --

CHLOE

Can you just try? Please?

(beat)

I don't want to have to talk to the
police again. After last time, I
don't think I can handle it.

Mike doesn't like this one bit, but finds it hard to say no
to Chloe.

MIKE

Okay. I'm going to turn the
emergency brake back on so you
don't move any further. If someone
can somehow get whatever's in your
way off the track, then maybe
that'll work.

CHLOE

Okay.

Mike presses the EMERGENCY BRAKES to ON. The emergency brakes
LOCK IN around the LEATHER JACKET, but the jacket gets caught
in the wheels and prevents the brake from fully engaging.

Chloe turns to the group.

CHLOE

He's going to set the emergency
brake, but we have to move
whatever's on the track --

DANNY
How the hell are we gonna do that?

Yaeger leaps up.

YAEGER
I'll do it!

DANNY
Are you crazy??

YAEGER
I'm not afraid of heights like the
rest of you pussies.

Chloe looks to Aidan.

AIDAN
Let him do it. The guy has nerves
of steel and shit for brains.

YAEGER
That's right!

Chloe has second thoughts.

CHLOE
This is really dangerous --

YAEGER
So is prison!! Let's just get this
done and get out of here!

Yaeger's eyes bore into her. Feeling the pressure, she comes
to a decision.

CHLOE
(to Mike, into phone)
Okay, Mike. We're going to give it
a shot.

MIKE
Okay. Stay on the phone, and for
God's sake be careful.

Chloe looks up at Yaeger apprehensively. He's taking a SHOT
from the BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

AIDAN
Yaeger, don't be an idiot!

YAEGER
What, you think I'm going to do
this sober??

Yaeger hands the bottle to Danny, who takes a tepid sip and grimaces as Yaeger punches the air.

YAEGER
It's go time! Lock in, boys!!

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

A SWEEPING VIEW of the Cheetah. The group looks like tiny dots at the very top, the wide expanse of the dark Florida skies dwarfing them.

The black clouds are getting closer. A few STREAKS of LIGHTNING illuminate the landscape, drawing nearer.

Yaeger peers over the front of the coaster car, not so cocky now. He takes in the track in front of them, the immense vertical drop on either side. He hesitates.

AIDAN
Yo Yaeger! What's taking so long?

YAEGER
Nothin'! Just sizin' up the sitch.
(to self)
Come on Yaeger. You can do this.

Yaeger leans gingerly over the side of the first coaster car.

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike hears something alarming -- the SOUND of a CAR.

He looks towards the BACK GATE, sees HEADLIGHTS. *Who the hell could that be?*

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe looks down, sees the headlights too.

CHLOE
(into phone)
Mike! Who is that?

Mike sees the approaching vehicle is a PICK UP TRUCK.

MIKE
(on phone)
It's Dave. I don't know what he's doing here.
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Lemme find out what he wants.

Yaeger looks at Chloe questioningly.

YAEGER

Yo! What's the deal?

CHLOE

Everyone just be quiet for a minute!

EXT. BACK GATE - NIGHT

Dave stops his truck next to Aidan's car, gets out and looks at the BMW questioningly as Mike approaches.

MIKE

Hey Dave! What are you doing here?

DAVE

(off BMW)

Whose car is this?

MIKE

That?

(beat)

Oh, that's mine.

DAVE

Since when do you drive a BMW?

MIKE

It's, uh, my girlfriend's. She's loaned it to me.

DAVE

Since when do you have a girlfriend?

Mike doesn't know what to say. Dave bursts out laughing.

DAVE

I'm just messin' around with ya.

(gestures to the Cheetah)

So... how's my girl? Any issues?

MIKE

Nope. She's all good.

DAVE

No problems or anything?

MIKE
(shrugs)
Nothing major.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

At the top of the coaster, the group watch over the side anxiously. They can hear Dave and Mike's voices floating up on the breeze, but can't make out what is being said.

EXT. BACK GATE - NIGHT

Dave and Mike continue to talk.

DAVE
So, Mike... there's something I
need to talk to you about. You got
a minute?

MIKE
Can we talk tomorrow? I should
really finish up the testing.

DAVE
This won't take long.

MIKE
Sorry Dave, I really need to wrap
this up --

DAVE
(insistent)
Mike. I'm not asking you.

Mike grapples with his decision. Dave's eyes bore into him.

MIKE
Sure. Of course.

DAVE
That's what I thought.

Dave turns to head towards the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. Mike flashes a look up at the top of the coaster, then follows.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group watch as the two figures below head inside.

BRIANNA
Where are they going??

CHLOE
It looks like they're going to
Dave's office.

BRIANNA
What for?

CHLOE
Mike's probably stalling him.

Dave and Mike head inside. Chloe turns to Yaeger.

CHLOE
We need to wait until he gets back.
Otherwise Dave will hear us.

YAEGER
Well he better hurry up.

Chloe looks anxiously back at the administration building.
What could they be talking about in there?

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Dave heads into his office and Mike follows. The place is a mess, with FILES, PAPERS and TRASH everywhere.

Dave gestures to a chair in front of his desk.

DAVE
Sit, sit.

Mike sits. Dave opens his desk drawer.

DAVE
You a tequila man?

MIKE
Uh, I'm not twenty-one yet.

DAVE
You are tonight.

Dave removes a TEQUILA BOTTLE and two SHOT GLASSES.

DAVE
Got this bottle in Mexico. You ever
been?

MIKE
Uh, no.

DAVE
It's a hell of a place. Anything
bad ever happened here, I'd move
there in a heartbeat.

MIKE
(curious)
Bad like what?

DAVE
(grins)
It's just an expression. If
anything, things are looking up
around here, and you're a big part
of it.

Mike doesn't know what Dave is driving at, but also doesn't
have time for it. He stands.

MIKE
I think I should really get back --

DAVE
(firm)
Something wrong, Mike?

MIKE
Uh, no?

DAVE
Then maybe you better sit your ass
back down.

Mike does as he's told.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Yaeger leans between the front and second coaster cars and
inspects the damage.

The wheel mechanism of the cars is partly obscured by the
ripped and ragged leather jacket, now tightly wrapped around
some of the wheels and gearing of the front car.

YAEGER
Holy shit.

AIDAN
What is it?

YAEGER
It's my jacket! It must have flown
out or something!

BRIANNA
You are such a fuck up.

YAEGER
(shoots back)
Looks who's talking!!

Yaeger continues to inspect the damage. The wheels are smoke damaged and half melted. Yaeger reels back from the smell.

YAEGER
The wheels are all messed up!
(beat)
Hang on!

Yaeger leans over even further and starts pulling at the leather jacket. Some of it gives way.

AIDAN
Yaeger, don't do that! We said we
were gonna wait!

A LARGE CHUNK that is ripped to shreds separates and falls. Yaeger watches the wind swirl it away.

He tries pulling out more of the jacket but it's wound so tightly around the wheels it's almost fused it to the metal.

He pulls himself back up into the coaster car.

YAEGER
I can't do it anyway. If that
asshole down there hadn't taken my
pocket knife I could've cut it
away...

Incensed, he starts climbing back into the second car, doesn't pay attention to where his feet are planted --

Yaeger's foot SLIPS.

He SLIDES down between the two cars, loses his balance.

Waving his arms helplessly in the air, he tries to get his bearings --

-- and TUMBLES OVER THE SIDE.

AIDAN
Yaeger!!

Yaeger lets out a cry of shock. As he descends his JEAN LEG CATCHES on the side of the track, TEARS THROUGH THE FABRIC --

The torn denim SNAGS TIGHT on the TRACK.

Yaeger dangles upside down by his pants leg, suspended in the air, arms flailing, blood rushing to his head.

DANNY

Yaeger??? What are you doing???

AIDAN

He's stuck!

CHLOE

Yaeger, don't move!

Yaeger twists, trying desperately to right himself.

The jeans RIP audibly. A thread POPS, then ANOTHER.

He reaches up toward the track, tries to grab something solid. His fingers graze metal, MISS. The fabric gives another TEAR.

Yaeger tries to swing his body up, can't reach. Brianna gets a sudden look of determination.

BRIANNA

Goddamn it!

She vaults over the coaster car that Aidan and Chloe are sitting in, turns back to them as she leans over the side.

BRIANNA

Grab my legs!!

AIDAN and CHLOE each lock their arms around BRIANNA's legs as she inches forward, dangling over the side of the car.

She stretches as far as she can, chest pressed against the cold steel. Her fingers tremble as she reaches out.

Yaeger's hand flails in the air. He misses her, tries again. Their fingertips GRAZE.

YAEGER

I can't do it!

BRIANNA

(straining)

Yeah you can!!

Aidan tightens his grip on Brianna's legs. Chloe leverages her body against the coaster car, face tense.

BRIANNA lunges just an inch more, and then --

-- her hand LOCKS onto Yaeger's.

BRIANNA
(breathless)
Okay... I've got you --

The JEAN FABRIC TEARS.

Yaeger screams. His other hand swings wildly out, grabs onto Brianna's arm. She lets out a cry of pain as his fingers dig deep into her, holding on.

YAEGER
(frantic)
Pull me up! PULL ME UP!!

Brianna grits her teeth, uses every muscle in her body to PULL HER ARM UP.

She makes a fist, lifts her arm like she's doing a BICEP CURL. Yaeger is lifted enough to SWING HIS LEG onto the track. His body DROPS onto it, heaving, shaking, terrified.

Chloe and Aidan LEAN OVER, help him back into the coaster car as Brianna collapses with exhaustion.

DANNY
(petrified)
You, uh, okay Yaeger?

Yaeger gives him an incredulous look before catching Brianna's gaze. He gives her a grateful smile.

YAEGER
Ten out of ten. No notes.

Brianna smiles back, a rare tender moment between the two of them. Chloe looks at the back of Yaeger and Danny's coaster car and sees something alarming -- a TRAIL OF BLOOD.

CHLOE
Yaeger, you're bleeding!

Yaeger looks down at his jeans. There's a BLOODY GASH on his leg where the fabric tore.

Danny takes in Yaeger's wound, starts to look woozy.

DANNY
I think I'm gonna faint.

YAEGER
Oh, you're gonna faint? I'm the one who's bleeding!

Brianna feels something in her pocket, pulls it out.

BRIANNA
Check this out!

DANNY
What is it?

BRIANNA
It's glue! Let's close the wound
with it...

DANNY
Why do you have glue in your
pocket?

BRIANNA
It's eyelash glue.

YAEGER
Eyelash glue?? You're not putting
that shit in my leg!

BRIANNA
I didn't go to all this trouble of
rescuing you so you could just
bleed out!

Chloe takes in the eyelash glue in Brianna's hand.

CHLOE
Do you think it's going to work?

BRIANNA
Are you kidding? This stuff is like
superglue! Look!
(bats her eyelashes)
I was just hanging off a freaking
rollercoaster, and they're still
attached!

YAEGER
Okay, Okay! Just get it over with!!

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

In the office, Dave has put MUSIC on. It's modern country,
something twangy and poignant like Jelly Roll.

Dave drinks tequila. Mike holds his shot glass but doesn't
drink, his anxiety rising by the second.

He glances towards the window anxiously.

DAVE
Something interesting out there?

MIKE
Hm? No.

DAVE
You sure are twitchy tonight, Mike.
Something on your mind?

MIKE
No. Just tired, I guess.

Dave puts his hand on a PILE OF REPORTS on his desk.

DAVE
Don't worry. This won't take long.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Brianna gestures to Danny.

BRIANNA
Okay, Danny, I'm gonna need you to
hold the wound together --

Danny shakes his head furiously.

DANNY
Nuh uh!! No way!!

BRIANNA
Danny --

DANNY
I said I can't do it, okay??

Chloe looks at Brianna.

CHLOE
I can do it. I've done this sort of
thing before.

BRIANNA
You have??

Chloe gestures to the SCAR peeking out from under her top.

BRIANNA
Oh. Right.

Chloe readies to get into Yaeger and Brianna's car.

AIDAN
You sure you can climb over?

CHLOE
Yeah. It's not that far.

BRIANNA
Hurry! He's makin' a mess!

YAEGER
(pained)
Well EXCUSE ME!!

Chloe swings her legs over the front of the coaster car, her feet finding the track as she tries not to look down.

She quickly pulls herself over the back of the coaster car, holds onto the lifted safety harnesses and slides between the two seats between Yaeger and Danny.

She crouches down on the floor of the car next to Brianna.

BRIANNA
You ready?

CHLOE
Almost --

Chloe grabs the BOTTLE OF WHISKEY, TIPS IT onto the wound to sterilize it. Yaeger SCREAMS.

CHLOE
(to Brianna)
Okay, now!

Chloe puts both hands on either side of Yaeger's leg, pushes the two sides together. BLOOD GURGLES out of the open wound as Yaeger screams in agony.

CHLOE
I know it hurts... you've just
gotta stay still, okay?

Brianna takes the EYELASH GLUE and FILLS THE GASH with it, using her finger to SPREAD IT AROUND.

YAEGER
(through gritted teeth)
I hate you Danny.

DANNY
What did I do??

Brianna finishes up.

BRIANNA
(to Chloe)
Okay. That's good. Now just hold
it...

Chloe holds the gash together. Brianna looks at the blood on her fingertips, marvels at what she just did.

CHLOE
We need to get him to a hospital.

DANNY
Yeah. I vote we deal with the
consequences.

AIDAN
Me too.

YAEGER
(groans)
Me three.

Suddenly, there's a CLAP OF THUNDER like a BOMB GOING OFF.

DANNY
What the hell was that??

CHLOE
It's the storm. It's getting
closer.

YAEGER
That's just great! We're all gonna
get fried!

AIDAN
Calm down, Yaeger - it's just rain!

YAEGER
There's no lightning rod, remember?
If lightning strikes this thing
we're all gonna get cooked!
(to Chloe)
What the hell is your friend doing
in there? Giving your boss a blow
job??

CHLOE
Maybe if we all shout they'll be
able to hear us!

Chloe leans over the side, cups her hands around her mouth.

CHLOE
MIKE! MIIIIIIIIKE!!!!!!!

GROUP
Mike! Yo, Mike!!! MIKEY BOY!!
HELLLPPP!!!!

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

In the office, Dave and Mike can't hear the screams of the group. Between the WIND and the MUSIC, the SOUND is DROWNED OUT. Mike listens uneasily as Dave pontificates.

DAVE
I've spent my whole life at this park. My Dad was the one who started it. Did you know that?

MIKE
Uh, I did. Yeah.

DAVE
Hell of a guy, my father. He was a hard guy too. Nothing was ever good enough for him. If he saw what's become of this place, he'd be rolling over in his grave...
(beat)
She's the key to it all. To getting back on top. The Cheetah. She's gonna make us a fortune.

MIKE
You, uh, said you wanted to talk to me about something?

Dave leans forward, picks up a PILE OF REPORTS from his desk.

DAVE
I've read the Test Logs you've done for the Cheetah. Saw that you mentioned there have been a few problems, small computer errors and what not.
(beat)
We're applying for our Certificate of Compliance this week, and I think it's best we don't mention those.

MIKE
Why not? It's a normal part of testing...

DAVE

For sure, for sure. But the thing is, we need to make sure the Cheetah opens. There's a lot riding on it, more than you know.

MIKE

I know the place is struggling --

DAVE

It's not just that.

MIKE

Then... what is it?

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group stop screaming for Mike, realize he's not coming.

CHLOE

He can't hear us.

DANNY

What are we gonna do?

Another THUNDER CLAP. There's a JAGGED LIGHTNING STRIKE in the distance, too close for comfort.

Danny starts to panic. His breathing once again becomes fast.

CHLOE

Danny, calm down -- you're gonna give yourself another asthma attack!

Danny can't calm down. His breathing becomes more frantic.

YAEGER

For Christ's sake Danny, chill out!!

Danny's eyes start to BULGE. His face reddens.

YAEGER

What are we gonna do??

CHLOE

Aidan -- call someone!

AIDAN

Who should I call??

BRIANNA
(smirking)
Why don't you call your Dad?

AIDAN
You know I can't do that! He'll
kill me!!

CHLOE
Call the police!!

AIDAN
But Yaeger's priors!!!

YAEGER
To hell with my priors! I'll cut a
deal!!

AIDAN
Okay okay!!!

Aidan frantically reaches for his phone in his pocket.

He finds it, but in his panic --

-- he FUMBLES it, the phone SLIPPING from his fingers.

He tries desperately to get it, but it plummets THROUGH THE
GAP on the floor of the coaster car. It skitters a little,
comes to rest ON THE TRACK between the two coaster cars.

AIDAN
Shit!!!

BRIANNA
What did you do??

AIDAN
I dropped it! It's right there on
the track, I can see it!

He leans forward, tries to reach through the gap.

AIDAN
I can't get it!

Danny continues to claw at his throat as Yaeger suddenly lets
out a cry of pain. Brianna looks at his leg, sees that the
wound has OPENED.

BRIANNA
Oh crap...

She grabs the EYELASH GLUE, pours the rest of it into the wound as Yaeger writhes around in agony.

BRIANNA
Stop squirming!!

Chloe watches in growing frustration as Aidan tries to reach the phone from his coaster car. It's obvious he has no intention of getting out of the car to get it himself.

Chloe can see the phone on the track.

CHLOE
I'll get it!

Aidan retracts his hand, looks both taken aback and also relieved. Chloe is about to once again slide between the two coaster seats when --

BRIANNA
No, I'll do it! You look after Yaeger!

CHLOE
Are you sure?

BRIANNA
Yeah. You're better at the nurse thing anyway.

Chloe doesn't argue. She gets back in the coaster car, swaps places with Brianna.

Yaeger grabs the WHISKEY BOTTLE, takes a large swig and accidentally sloshes it all over himself as Chloe continues to fill the wound with glue.

Brianna slides between the two coaster cars and crouches down, keeps one hand on the coaster car for support.

She REACHES OUT for the phone, which is sitting tantalizingly close far out on a support strut.

She holds on by her fingertips, STRETCHES ALL THE WAY OUT --

AIDAN
Bri, be careful!

Brianna's fingertips just brush it when --

-- another THUNDER CLAP causes her to FLINCH. The phone SLIDES OFF into the air.

Brianna is forced to turn and grab the side of the car with both hands. She turns back and sees the phone glinting on the way down before, after what seems an age, it hits one of the struts and SMASHES into hundreds of glass fragments.

The group fall silent, the only sound now Danny's gentle breathing as he breathes into the paper bag. Aidan looks at Brianna angrily.

AIDAN
Good one, Bri.

BRIANNA
Fuck you, Aidan! You were the one
who dropped it in the first place!

Suddenly they feel something -- SOFT RAIN DROPS.

YAEGER
(sarcastic)
Oh good. The rain's here. That
should help!

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Mike looks at Dave in disbelief.

MIKE
Do you know how serious it is to
forge reports like this? I could go
to jail.

DAVE
You won't be forging anything...

Dave hands Mike the PILE OF PAPERS from his desk. Mike looks them over, sees they are TEST LOGS for the Cheetah.

MIKE
I didn't write these reports.

DAVE
You didn't. I did. All you need to
do is sign them.
(as Mike grapples with
what to do)
I'm in to the Cheetah for a lot of
money. I had to get that money from
some people who are not very nice,
you understand? And then there's
what happened with the coaster back
in Germany...

MIKE
(confused)
Germany?

DAVE
(plays it down)
There was an accident. It wasn't a big deal, though they never could figure out if it was the computer or operator error.

MIKE
Was anyone hurt??

DAVE
(shrugs)
You could say that. Helped us, though. I got her for a steal...

MIKE
My God. You knew there was something wrong with it --

DAVE
What are you talking about? She's fine! There's just been a few hiccups...

MIKE
Dave, there's people stuck on the Cheetah right now!

Dave looks momentarily shocked, then, he LAUGHS.

DAVE
What the hell are you talking about?

MIKE
(frantic)
It's Chloe! She asked me if she could ride it, and the computer, it malfunctioned just like you're saying, and she's up there with a bunch of her friends --

Dave shoots up from his chair and races over to the window, looks out.

DAVE
Jesus Christ.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The rain gets heavier. CLOSE on the EMERGENCY BRAKE, only HALF ENGAGED around the wheels of the coaster car, obstructed by the leather jacket.

The jacket starts to slide further into the coaster wheels, aided by the slickness of the rain, pushing against the emergency brake system until suddenly --

-- the EMERGENCY BRAKES FULLY DISENGAGE.

The coaster cars start to move forward. The group looks around in a panic.

YAEGER

Uhh... are we moving??

Chloe looks over the front of the car, sees the wheels devouring up the leather jacket, the track slick with rain.

CHLOE

It's the emergency brake! It's deactivated! It's rolling over your jacket!

The coaster picks up speed as it devours Yaeger's jacket.

CHLOE

(shouts to the group)
Everyone pull your safety harnesses down, and hold on!!

The group does as Chloe tells them. The safety harnesses come down but still don't lock. The group has no choice but to try and hold them down by sheer force.

The coaster picks up even more speed, the wheels now have nothing to hold them back.

YAEGER

Hold on everybody! This is gonna be
FUUUUUCKED!!!

Everyone BRACES. A few more seconds of slowness, but then --

-- the Cheetah PLUNGES down the massive drop, gravity yanking them into FREE FALL.

Danny DANGLES, one hand still clutching the safety harness, the rest of his body flailing in the wind as the coaster hurtles downward.

The others hold onto their safety harnesses with everything they have as the wind screams past them, the G-force CRUSHING their chests.

Danny's arm stretches unnaturally, tendons straining, his eyes wide with terror --

-- but still he HOLDS ON.

The cars ramp up towards the SECOND ASCENT. Danny holds on tight, his body FLYING out the side, and scrambles to get back in the car.

EXT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Mike moves towards Dave's desk.

MIKE
I'm calling the cops!!

Dave grabs him.

DAVE
No! No cops! They'll shut us down!
Then, I'm done for!

MIKE
I'm not listening to this --

Mike DIVES for the phone on Dave's desk. Dave blocks him.

DAVE
Please -- don't do it Mike!

He grabs Mike with a desperate grip. Mike struggles, but Dave shoves him back, clumsy and wild.

They crash into the desk, grappling with each other as Mike tries desperately to reach for the phone.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The coaster rockets out of the drop, leveling just long enough for Danny to swing himself BACK into the coaster car.

He's stunned to be alive. A flicker of relief crosses his face as Yaeger yells triumphantly.

YAEGER
Hell yeah, Danny!!

A moment's reprieve. Then, the track curves sharply upwards as they enter --

-- the LOOP.

Danny's harness once again flings WIDE. He scrambles to grab it, holds tight...

... and is now dangling UPSIDE DOWN, swinging beneath the speeding car as it enters the CREST OF THE LOOP.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

MID LOOP. The coaster shudders to a halt, SUSPENDED dead center in the giant, steel arc.

Danny HANGS perilously from the coaster. Gravity holds the rest of the group in their seats, but just barely.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Dave clutches Mike tightly, his whole body trembling.

DAVE

Do you understand what these guys
are gonna do to me?? If I don't pay
them back, they're gonna kill me!!
They'll kill both of us!!

MIKE

I don't care! Just let me go!!
(screams loudly)
Chloe!!!

Mike tries to break free. Instinctively, Dave shoves Mike away. Mike stumbles back, arms flailing --

-- and SLAMS his head on the edge of the desk.

Mike crumples to the floor, unconscious. Dave stares at his body, frozen in horror. *What has he done?*

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Danny dangles in mid-air in the LOOP, legs flailing, the harness strap biting into his fingers.

CHLOE

Hold on Danny!

Danny glances down. It's a dizzying drop.

His knuckles whiten on the harness, but he's slipping, inch by inch...

DANNY
I can't... hold...

YAEGER
(yells desperately)
Danny, if you drop, I'm gonna kill you!!

Danny looks up. His eyes lock with Yaeger's, terrified.

Yaeger makes a sudden decision.

YAEGER
(to himself)
Shit!

He very slowly and carefully SLIDES himself over into Danny's seat, wraps himself around the OPEN SAFETY HARNESS.

AIDAN
Yaeger, what the fuck are you doing???

Yaeger shimmies down Danny's safety harness, tries to hold out his hand to Danny. He can't reach.

With great effort he TWISTS HIS BODY AROUND, EXTENDS HIS LEGS DOWNWARDS towards Danny.

YAEGER
Danny, grab my leg!!

DANNY
I can't!

YAEGER
You can!!

Danny's fingers tremble. *Can he really do this?*

His fingers twitch, then slip, one... by... one...

Danny LETS GO of the safety harness with one hand, and GRABS ON TO YAEGER'S JEANS. He LAUGHS with triumph.

DANNY
Yaeger!! I did it!!!

The rest of Yaeger's already damaged jeans leg TEARS.

Danny gives one last glance at his friend, and then --

-- the fabric TEARS AWAY COMPLETELY in Danny's hand.

Danny DROPS.

He falls for what feels like an eternity, hurtling towards the ground when --

WHAM. His body HITS THE TRACK BELOW, back bending with a sickening CRUNCH.

YAEGER
Dannnyyyy!!!!

The coaster CREAKS, the cars readying to begin their descent down the other side of the LOOP.

AIDAN
Yaeger, hold on!!!

Yaeger CLOSES HIS EYES, CLINGS TIGHTLY to the safety harness.

YAEGER
(to himself)
Oh God...

The coaster HURTLES down the OTHER SIDE OF THE LOOP.

Yaeger holds tight to the safety harness as it OPENS and CLOSES, FLIES OUT to the side as the cars FLIP AGAIN.

The track twists. The cars come to a complete stop on a flat incline --

-- and are now SIDEWAYS.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Dave looks over at Mike lying unconscious on the floor. A wave of guilt and regret washes over him.

Dave struggles with what to do next, decides there's only one thing left he can do. *He has to get out of there.*

He rushes over to a SAFE in the WALL, quickly punches in the code and opens it. Inside are PILES OF CASH, a PASSPORT and other assorted DOCUMENTS.

He grabs everything that's inside the safe, slams it closed.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Yaeger DANGLES out in mid air as the coaster arrives at a COMPLETE STOP. He SWINGS his safety harness back into the closed position, scrambles back into his sideways seat.

Chloe and Brianna are still seated, the safety harnesses having swung over their heads and keeping them pinned in their cars.

Aidan hasn't fared so well. His safety harness is in the FULLY OPEN position, and Aidan HANGS FROM IT, his legs DANGLING in the air.

He makes pained noises as he tries to SWING his safety harness back into the closed position. He swings his legs WILDLY, tries to hook his foot on the seat but keeps missing.

Chloe reaches out.

CHLOE

Aidan, grab my hand!!

Aidan swings again and reaches out, his fingers just brushing Chloe's as the safety harness swings back. He lets out a frustrated cry.

CHLOE

You can do it! Just try again!

Aidan takes a deep breath, swings with BOTH LEGS this time --
-- he extends his arm, and finds Chloe's hand.

Chloe pulls him in. Aidan closes the safety harness over his head, takes deep, shuddering breaths.

CHLOE

You're okay, Aidan. You're okay...

Aidan nods, dazed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A modest home in the suburbs of Florida. James sits on the sofa watching TV.

On the MANTLE are various photos of the family -- Chloe and James with their parents in happier times.

James looks at his watch. It's getting late. He picks up his cell phone, calls Chloe's number.

It rings but doesn't answer.

JAMES
Goddamn it, Chloe.

James sighs and gets up. He doesn't want to go for looking for his sister, but it looks like he's going to have to.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group, still trapped SIDEWAYS, try to get their bearings.

YAEGER
What are we gonna do now??

AIDAN
Should we climb down??

YAEGER
You think I can climb with this leg??

CHLOE
We can't stay like this! We need to push to the straight part of the track!

YAEGER
And fall like Danny?? Fuck that!

AIDAN
I don't know if I can move without falling out!

CHLOE
You don't have to. Me and Bri will do it. You okay, Bri?

BRIANNA
Yeah. I can do it.

CHLOE
Okay.

Chloe steels herself. She gingerly works her body through the safety harness, crawls through the middle of it.

Brianna does the same. They are now both ON TOP of the safety harnesses.

Chloe gestures to the back of the car. Brianna climbs over the safety harness and reaches the back, carefully brings her feet down on the SIDEWAYS TRACK.

She tries to PUSH the coaster car, winces from the exertion. The car doesn't budge.

BRIANNA
I can't move it!

CHLOE
Let me help! Just hold on!

Chloe CRAWLS OVER into Brianna's car. She positions herself next to Brianna, hangs on to the back of the car, and tries not to look down. Her feet reach the track.

CHLOE
Okay... on the count of three. One,
two, three!

They both PUSH. The coaster slowly starts to glide forward, helped by the rain.

YAEGER
It's working! It's working!

AIDAN
Keep it up!!

They keep pushing. Chloe suddenly loses her bearings, her shoes SLIPPING on the wet track --

BRIANNA
Chloe!!

Chloe GRABS onto the back of the coaster car, hangs there with her feet OFF the track. She quickly finds the track again, takes a moment to recover.

CHLOE
I'm okay, I'm okay... we're nearly
there!

Chloe and Brianna PUSH AGAIN. The coaster cars are slowly starting to RIGHT themselves as they make their way along the track and reach the FLAT AREA.

The coaster is soon completely HORIZONTAL. Chloe and Brianna climb back into the coaster car, exhausted and elated.

CHLOE
We did it.

BRIANNA
Yeah. Nice one.
(tense beat)
Now what?

Chloe looks down, sees the door of the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING swing open. Dave rushes out.

CHLOE
(to the group)
It's my boss! It's Dave!
(yells)
Dave!!! Up here!!!

Dave casts a glance up at the Cheetah, sees the group up there and hears their cries for help.

CHLOE
Dave!!! Up here!!! HELP US!!!

He hesitates, grapples with the decision. Finally he pulls out his phone, dials in the number 911, but then --

-- he sees something on the lower track. Danny's broken body.

Dave stares, the blood draining from his face. He looks up again at the group, looks down at the body. Panic sets in.

He turns and runs, heads straight for his truck as the group watches, stunned.

BRIANNA
What's he doing?

Dave gets in the truck, turns the engine on.

AIDAN
That motherfucker's leaving!!

CHLOE
DAVE!! DAVE, WE'RE UP HERE!!

Dave peels out of the park and drives away.

AIDAN
Where the hell's he going? And
where's the other guy?

Chloe's heart sinks. *Where is Mike?*

BRIANNA
He's probably split too.

CHLOE
Mike wouldn't do that.

AIDAN

How would you know, huh? You have
no idea what people are capable of,
do you Chloe??

Brianna gives Aidan a look of warning.

BRIANNA

Aidan...

Brianna shakes her head at him. *Don't*. Aidan quietens.

INT. JAMES' CAR - NIGHT

James drives down the highway in his car, looks annoyed.

He tries to call Chloe's phone again but it rings out.

JAMES

Goddamnit Chloe, you better have a
good explanation...

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The rain continues to fall as Yaeger's SOFT SOBBING fills the
night air. The rest of the group listen to him silently,
grappling with their own emotions.

Yaeger leans over the side of the car, stares back at Danny's
crumpled body on the tracks far below.

YAEGER

Danny... hey Danny, get up, man...

Aidan reaches over, puts a hand on Yaeger's shoulder.

AIDAN

Hey, Yaeger, be cool bro...

YAEGER

(explodes)

This is your fault!! You got Danny
killed! Why'd you bring us up here?
WHY??

Aidan looks stricken.

AIDAN

Yaeger...

YAEGER

I'm not staying here!

Yaeger STUMBLES to his feet, is now standing in the car.
Everyone FREAKS OUT.

AIDAN
Yo yo yo, sit back down, Yaeger!

CHLOE
Yaeger, please sit down!

Yaeger starts to TEAR HIS SHIRT OFF.

BRIANNA
What are you doing, you maniac??

He bends over, scoops something up that was lodged between the seats of the car. It's his BOTTLE OF 190 PROOF WHISKEY.

In a frenzy, he twists off the lid, causing more of the whiskey to splash on his tee shirt.

He picks up his FLANNEL SHIRT and STUFFS IT into the top of the WHISKEY BOTTLE. He then reaches into his pocket, pulls out his ZIPPO LIGHTER.

YAEGER
I can't take any more of this!
Someone will see this up here! 190
proof! Burn, baby, burn!

He FLICKS THE LIGHTER. A small FLAME appears, dances in the wind and the rain.

BRIANNA
Yaeger, don't be lame!!

AIDAN
You're being an idiot, Yaeger!!

Yaeger doesn't listen. He LIGHTS THE SHIRT sticking out of the bottle. It catches easily.

He holds the bottle up triumphantly.

YAEGER
Here goes nothin'!!

Suddenly, there's a GUST OF WIND.

The flames FLICKERS in the breeze, catching on Yaeger's tee shirt --

-- the same spot where he spilt whiskey all over himself.

YAEGER
(shocked)
Oh shit!!

The bottle SLIPS from Yaeger's hand and SMASHES on the floor of the coaster car.

Yaeger WAVES HIS ARMS, tries to get his tee shirt off as he's slowly engulfed in flames. In his panic he SLIPS and FALLS onto the floor of the coaster car, landing on the remains of the spilt whiskey.

Flames quickly engulf the car, race up Yaeger's body and consume him in a fiery, hellish blaze.

Chloe and Brianna scream. Aidan stares in shock.

Yaeger FLAILS about, consumed IN FIRE. His skin turns BLACK. His hair DISAPPEARS as it curls and chars.

He reaches over desperately to Aidan, extends his arms for help. Aidan reels back in horror.

Yaeger grabs Aidan's LEG with a FIERY ARM. Aidan KICKS OUT, sends Yaeger REELING BACK into his own coaster car.

Yaeger's body CRUMPLES to the floor of the car which catches fire, the flames licking up the sides of the coaster.

Aidan grabs Chloe's hand.

AIDAN
Come on! We've gotta go!

He DRAGS her over to Brianna's coaster car, convinced that the rest of the coaster is going to CATCH FIRE. But instead the flames flicker around Yaeger's dead body, and start to be EXTINGUISHED by the hardening rain.

Chloe grasps Aidan tightly, buries her head in his shoulder. Brianna stares at the charred remains of Yaeger, devastated, as Aidan views his dead friend with a steely resolve.

INT. JAMES' CAR - NIGHT

James sees a pick up truck approaching on the other side of the highway, going at incredible speeds.

It's coming straight towards him.

JAMES
Hey, slow down asshole...

The pick up truck speeds by him in a blur. James recognizes the truck, catches sight of Dave behind the wheel.

JAMES

Dave??

INT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

The group sit in silence. Yaeger's body continues to smolder, not entirely extinguished by the light patter of the rain.

Aidan stares at him, stony-faced. Suddenly he stands.

CHLOE

What are you doing?

He goes over to Yaeger's body, grabs him by the legs.

CHLOE

Aidan, stop!

AIDAN

He can't stay here! He's dead weight!!

BRIANNA

Aidan, stop! You're losing it!!

Aidan rolls Yaeger onto the side of the coaster car, hoists him up and over the side --

He PUSHES Yaeger off. Yaeger's body PLUMMETS to the ground.

Chloe looks at him with incomprehension.

CHLOE

What is wrong with you, Aidan?? Why are we even up here?

Aidan looks at her blankly.

AIDAN

What?

CHLOE

You dump me after my parents die, and you disappear, and then suddenly you're back and asking me to hang out with you again, and I just wanna know why?? Why are we doing this??

Brianna stiffens. Aidan gives her a look that tells her to keep quiet.

AIDAN

Why are you asking me that?? I already told you!! I should have called you after your parents died. I shouldn't have ghosted you like that. I felt bad. You just seemed so different. You looked... broken. I just wanted you to have some fun again! I didn't know all this was going to happen! I mean, shit!! How the hell do I have so much bad luck, that something like this would happen right now??

CHLOE

What do you mean, bad luck?

Aidan goes quiet, looks like he's about to say something --

BRIANNA

(interjects)

Aidan... don't.

CHLOE

Don't what? Can one of you tell me what's going on??

AIDAN

I have to tell you something.

Brianna looks stricken.

BRIANNA

Aidan, don't you dare --

AIDAN

Stop it, Bri! I can't keep lying about this!

CHLOE

Lying about what?

AIDAN

I know what happened to your parents, Chloe. I know who did it...

CLOSE on Chloe's face as her heart shatters.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Mike starts to come to, winces as he drags himself up off the floor. He puts a hand to the back of his head, draws back a small spot of blood.

He looks around. Dave is long gone. He tries to get to his feet, but falls back down again, still dizzy.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe stares at Aidan as he struggles to find the words.

AIDAN

You've gotta understand, I never meant for this to happen. It's my Dad, he told me to keep quiet! He said if I didn't it would ruin the family...

Brianna cuts in, firm but desperate.

BRIANNA

Aidan, don't do this...

AIDAN

We can't keep this a secret anymore, Bri! We have to tell her!

Chloe looks from Aidan to Brianna, her heart racing.

CHLOE

'We'? What do you mean 'we'?

INT. JAMES' CAR - NIGHT

James speeds down the highway towards the park.

He passes a sign: RATTLEBOX GARDENS -- THE MOST THRILLING PLACE IN AMERICA. EXIT - 2 MILES.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Brianna looks at Aidan with fury in her eyes. Aidan can't stop now. It's like a faucet has been turned on.

AIDAN

I'm sorry Chloe. I know I was going too fast, but I didn't think it was a big deal. I mean, everyone speeds, don't they?

Chloe goes pale. She shakes her head.

CHLOE

No...

AIDAN

I wanted to tell you. I wanted to,
and I didn't want to...

CHLOE

I don't want to hear this...

BRIANNA

(interjects)

Did you hear her, Aidan?? She says
she doesn't want to know!!

AIDAN

Chloe, I'm so sorry...

CHLOE

Don't...

AIDAN

I promise you, if we get through
this, I'm going to turn myself
in...

BRIANNA

Aidan!

CHLOE

Both of you, just STOP!!

Aidan and Brianna go quiet. Chloe is filled with every
emotion, the devastating reality of what Aidan is saying
churning inside of her.

CHLOE

It was you. You were driving the
other car. You hit us. You killed
them. You killed my Mom and Dad!

AIDAN

I was driving, but I didn't kill
them...

(beat)

Bri did.

Brianna's face hardens. She stares at Chloe, daggers in her
eyes. Then --

-- she PUSHES Chloe, sending her REELING over the edge of the
rollercoaster car.

EXT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Mike stumbles out of the office, looks up at the coaster.

He sees the TINY FIGURES all the way at the top in the coaster car, and something shocking --

-- Chloe, holding onto the track as she hangs in mid-air.

MIKE

CHLOE!!!!

He starts to run towards the coaster. As he does a set of HEADLIGHTS swerve in through the back gate, James' car coming to a screeching stop.

He sees Mike running, calls out to him.

JAMES

Mike, what's happening??

MIKE

It's Chloe!! Call 911!!!

James runs after Mike, takes out his phone and dials.

JAMES

(into phone)

Yes, I'm calling from Rattlebox Gardens! This is an emergency!!

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe holds tight onto the side of the track. Her fingers slip on the wet railing as she frantically tries to pull herself up.

AIDAN

(to Brianna)

What are you doing??

BRIANNA

What am I doing?? What are you doing?? Do you want to go to jail??

AIDAN

Brianna, you're not thinking straight! What you did was wrong! You need help!!

Brianna stares at him, his words sinking in as we FLASH TO:

INT. CHLOE'S PARENT'S CAR - DAY

FLASHBACK. Chloe drives while her father sits beside her, her mother in the back seat.

CHLOE'S FATHER
(to Chloe)
Hey, you're getting pretty good at this.

CHLOE
Thanks Dad.

CHLOE'S FATHER
You'll be ready for your license in no time.

CHLOE
Hope so!

INT. AIDAN'S OTHER CAR - DAY

Aidan drives a different car to the BMW we have seen him in, though this car is just as expensive.

He speeds with the stereo playing loudly. Brianna is beside him, bare feet up on the dashboard as she taps time with the music.

AIDAN
Bri, can you sit back? I don't want your dirty feet all over my dash.

Brianna rolls her eyes, puts her feet down.

BRIANNA
Yes sir.

Aidan keeps driving, visibly annoyed. Brianna gives him a mischievous look, then --

-- she GRABS the steering wheel, sends the car swerving VIOLENTLY to the left.

AIDAN
Bri, what the fuck???

Aidan quickly rights the wheel, stares daggers at Brianna.

AIDAN
What the hell is wrong with you?
That shit isn't funny!

BRIANNA
God, you're so uptight!

Aidan broods. Brianna pouts, but then --

-- she GRABS THE STEERING WHEEL AGAIN, sends the car CAREENING towards the CENTER MEDIAN.

Aidan pulls her hand off the steering wheel.

AIDAN
I said cut it out!!

Brianna looks through the windscreen in alarm.

BRIANNA
Aidan!!

Aidan looks up just in time to see his car VEER onto the other side of the highway and CLIP Chloe's parent's car.

He turns the steering wheel sharply, the damage to his car minimal, and watches in the rear vision mirror as the car he has hit spins violently and CRASHES into a tree.

AIDAN
We have to stop!

BRIANNA
(freaking out)
No, don't stop! Keep going!!

Aidan hesitates, but then, he guns the engine and drives off.

CLOSE on Chloe's parents car, smashed against the tree in eerie silence, and Chloe and her parents inside, covered in blood and glass...

FLASH BACK TO:

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Brianna snaps back from the memory. She pleads with Aidan.

BRIANNA
You can't do this to me!
(beat)
You can't do this to your family!

Aidan's mind is made up. He leans over the side of the coaster car and tries to reach Chloe as Brianna continues her tirade against him.

BRIANNA
They'll never forgive you! You Dad
will never speak to you again!

Aidan ignores Brianna, extends his hand to Chloe.

AIDAN
Chloe -- grab my hand!!

CHLOE
I can't!!

EXT. LOADING BAY, THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Mike and Dave arrive at the loading bay. Dave looks up, sees his sister dangling from the track.

JAMES
Chloe...

He races towards the coaster as Mike watches helplessly.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe once again tries to grab Aidan's hand, once again falls short, her fingers brushing his.

AIDAN
Try swinging your legs up!!

Chloe makes an attempt. Her legs make it about halfway.

CHLOE
I can't!

AIDAN
You can! Come on, Chloe!!

Chloe tries again, uses every ounce of strength she has in her body. Miraculously, one of her trainers connects with the track, and she manages to loop one of her legs around it.

AIDAN
That's it! You're doing great! Now
the other one!

Chloe lets out a cry of frustration, feels her fingers slipping. She throws her leg up --

-- and it finds the track. She's now dangling, both her arms and her legs wrapped around the coaster track.

AIDAN
You did it!! Now, see if you can
get closer...

Chloe gingerly shuffles her way along the track, tries not to look down as she dangles 100 feet in the air.

AIDAN
That's it, you're almost there!

Chloe groans and grunts as she shuffles her way towards Aidan. CLOSE on Brianna's face, now filled with hatred.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe is still dangling upside down from the track, but is now mere feet from the coaster car. She hears James' voice float up from the ground.

JAMES (O.S.)
Chloe!!

CHLOE
(yells down)
James?? James!!

EXT. BENEATH THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

James yells up.

JAMES
Just hold on, okay?? We're coming!!

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe starts to cry in frustration. She feels her grip slipping from the coaster track.

CHLOE
I can't hold on...

AIDAN
You can!!

Aidan reaches over and holds out his hand.

AIDAN
Grab it!!

CHLOE
I can't...

AIDAN
You have to!!

Chloe takes a deep breath, reaches out --

-- and her fingers meet Aidan's. He breaks into a smile.

AIDAN
It's okay, Chloe. I've got you --

Brianna suddenly LEAPS on Aidan's back. His fingers slip from Chloe's, causing her to dangle with one arm.

Aidan tries to break free from Brianna as she wrestles him back and away from Chloe.

AIDAN
Bri -- what... are... you...
doing??

Brianna screams at him as they tussle.

BRIANNA
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!!!

AIDAN
Bri, STOP IT!

As Brianna and Aidan wrestle, Chloe manages to bring her hand up once again to cling to the coaster track.

She realizes it's now or never -- if she's going to live, she's going to have to summon all her strength to do it.

With a mighty exertion, she PULLS HERSELF UP and swivels her body UP AND OVER the track. She's now no longer dangling, but holding onto the track from above, clinging tightly.

The rain starts to fall HARDER. FLASHES OF LIGHTNING can be seen in the distance beyond the woods that surround the park.

Chloe pulls herself up onto the front of the coaster car, holds on tightly as Brianna and Aidan continue to wrestle. The rain HAMMERS DOWN, wetting the track even further.

As Aidan grapples with Brianna, the force of their fight along with the rain causes the coaster to MOVE FORWARD in SHORT, SHARP BURSTS. Chloe SCRAMBLES to hold onto the wet slickness of the front of the rollercoaster, her weight PULLING THE COASTER further along the track.

She looks behind her. The coaster has picked up some speed now, is SLOWLY MOVING towards the FINAL DROP of the track.

She turns back to Aidan and Brianna and screams desperately.

CHLOE
STOP!!! YOU'RE GONNA KILL US!

Brianna PUSHES Aidan. The force of the push sends the coaster car even further towards the edge of the drop. Chloe tries desperately to stop the coaster moving forward, tries to push it back but it has too much momentum.

Aidan spins around, sees the drop coming closer. He loses his balance, arms flailing. Brianna reaches out to grab him.

One last desperate look from Aidan as he fails to find his footing, and then --

-- he FALLS OVER THE SIDE OF THE COASTER.

CHLOE
AIDAN!!

Aidan HURTLES OFF THE SIDE OF THE CHEETAH, his body twisting, falling --

-- SMASH! He lands on a SAFETY PLATFORM flat on his back.

EXT. BENEATH THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

James and Mike see Aidan's body fall.

JAMES
(to Mike)
Somebody just fell!

MIKE
I'm on it!

Mike CLIMBS the LADDER that leads to the SAFETY PLATFORM. As James watches him climb, his gaze floats over to another spot on the ground beneath the coaster.

He sees a DARK LUMP in the shape of a body, slowly walks over to it. There's STEAM pouring off it, the heat extinguished by the rain.

James suddenly realizes what it is -- the BURNED CORPSE of Yaeger. His face fills with horror.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Brianna crouches over the side of the coaster car, crying.

BRIANNA

Aidan?? Aidan, can you hear me??

No response from Aidan. His eyes are closed, his body limp. A small TRICKLE OF BLOOD runs down the front of his face.

Brianna soon sees another figure -- Mike as he climbs the ladder to reach the safety platform. She sees him bend down over Aidan, start to PUMP HIS CHEST and administer CPR.

Chloe holds on to the front side of the car, looks nervously at Brianna. She tries to reason with her.

CHLOE

Brianna -- it's okay... it was an accident... you didn't do anything wrong...

Brianna looks at her dully. There is something terrifying in her lack of emotion, something deadly.

Brianna approaches Chloe as she clings to the front of the coaster, towers over her, a blank look on her face.

She looks down at Chloe's FINGERS on the front of the coaster. Then she sees something else -- SHARDS OF GLASS from Yaeger's BROKEN BOTTLE OF WHISKEY glimmering on the floor of the coaster car.

She picks up one of the GLASS SHARDS, a big, nasty piece.

CHLOE

Brianna --

Brianna approaches her, the GLASS SHARD in her hand.

CHLOE

Please, don't --

Brianna lets out a scream, then --

-- she BRINGS THE SHARD DOWN.

Chloe LETS GO and ducks down in front of the car. The shard misses her fingers by inches, SPARKS off the fibre glass.

Chloe stays crouched. Her feet are carefully positioned on the metal supports of the main two tubular tracks.

These support struts form a repeating series of triangular structures along the entire track. It's almost a ladder down.

Chloe looks at the track, her mind racing. Every 'step' of the ladder has a LARGE GAP between it, and there is nothing else on either side or below -- just a sheer drop.

Chloe comes to a realization. If she crawls along the track, goes to the edge of the next drop, maybe she can use the struts as a ladder to take herself down and away.

She once again tries to reason with Brianna.

CHLOE

Bri, please... we don't have to
fight... we can help each other...

BRIANNA

You're right. This isn't my fault --
it's yours.

Chloe stares at Brianna in terror, starts to inch BACKWARDS along the track. She shoots a look behind her, sees the edge of the steep drop, looks back at Brianna for some mercy.

Brianna stares at her, grips the GLASS SHARD so tightly in her hand that Chloe can see BLOOD DRIPPING FROM IT.

Chloe shuffles back again, her feet finding the track's 'steps'. She slides her hands, finds lower holds and then drops a foot down again, finding the next strut.

She pauses, feels the wind whipping around her, the rain beating down hard.

She looks down the track past her feet. The track starts to twist around as it passes by a giant pillar, one of the main supports of the whole rollercoaster.

The massive pillar is anchored in concrete far below on the ground. Where it intersects with the track, there is another SERVICE PLATFORM connected to a ladder on the pillar.

Chloe moves her foot down and finds the next strut. Then she moves her hands down, when suddenly her feet slip on the wet greasy metal.

Chloe slides wildly down the track, suddenly out of control, trying in a panic to get new handholds. She manages with her fingertips to get a handhold and literally HUGS the track.

Brianna sees her near miss and grins.

BRIANNA

(calls out)

I have to say, I love this for you!

Chloe's proximity to death hits home as she fights this terror. Her fingers go white from clinging on.

She is an inch from sliding off, and nothing can save her.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

James looks up, sees the figure of Chloe clinging to the side of the track. She's made her way down far enough that the track is almost VERTICAL.

JAMES
What is she doing???

He runs towards the coaster, waves his arms frantically.

JAMES
Chloe, stop!!

Chloe looks down, sees her brother.

CHLOE
James!!

James sees the SERVICE PLATFORM beneath her.

JAMES
Just, stay there!! I'm coming for you!

INT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Chloe is frozen. The track continues curving down below her to where it twists right around at a massive pillar, gantry and service ladder. But it's still a long way down.

As Brianna gleefully watches, the wind gusts in the hard rain. The coaster cars creak and groan in return, and then there is an audible metallic SNAP from the wheels.

The cars start to MOVE with a jerk and a judder. Brianna looks around, perplexed and panicked.

With a horrible grinding of gears, the cars are inching forward towards the drop.

EXT. SERVICE PLATFORM - NIGHT

James rushes up the ladder to the SERVICE PLATFORM. Chloe is still high above him, at least 20 feet.

Without hesitation, James starts to CLIMB THE COASTER TRACK.

JAMES

Chloe! I'm coming!!

Chloe holds tight as her brother scales the track, the wind and rain battering him. The thunder is deafening around them, the lightning strikes close and almost apocalyptic.

James breathes hard, uses all his strength to mount every strut, until finally, after what seems like an eternity, he reaches his sister.

CHLOE

James!!

James wraps an arm around Chloe.

JAMES

It's okay! I've got you now!

He starts his way back down the track, his sister clinging tightly to him.

EXT. THE CHEETAH - NIGHT

Above them, the howling wind continue to shake and buffet the coaster car, bringing it slowly and gradually towards the drop of the track. James and Chloe continue their descent.

JAMES

Hold tight, we're gonna be okay --

Suddenly, a BOLT OF LIGHTNING hits the ground beside them, barely missing the track.

Chloe and James look at each other in shock. *That was close.*

Up in the coaster car, Brianna whirls around, hysterical as the car reaches the edge of the drop.

James looks up above them and sees the coaster car peek out over the edge, knows they have to move fast.

JAMES

Chloe, just wrap your arms around me, and don't look down...

Chloe does as she's told. She holds onto her brother tightly as he rushes down the struts as fast as he can without slipping. She looks up, hears Brianna's frightened voice.

BRIANNA
Help!! What do I do??

James has a realization.

JAMES
(to self)
The manual brake...
(calls up)
There's a manual break on the
side!! Hit it!

Brianna leans over the edge of the ride, sees what James is talking about. There's a LEVER, low down by the wheels. She puts her hands around it and YANKS IT UP.

There's a groaning sound, the sense that the cars are stalling, but then --

-- the lever BREAKS OFF in her hand.

Suddenly, there's a terrifying SOUND. The hitch between the first and second cars is warped, the metal links BENT under the immense strain of the front car's weight on the slope.

James and Chloe look up in terror at the front car, now teetering on the edge and ready to fall at any moment.

JAMES
Chloe, I need you to hold the
track, okay?

Chloe does. Carefully, with one hand, James removes his BELT from around his jeans, wraps one end around the track and the other around his hand.

On the coaster, Brianna scrambles to get out of the first car and into the second, almost makes it except --

-- the metal hitch LINKING the cars pulls apart, the weight of the first car slowly tearing itself free from the other two stationary cars with a shriek of metal.

BRIANNA
NO!

Brianna reaches out her hand to try and grab onto the second car. It slips away from her.

The first car is now HALFWAY OVER THE EDGE, ready to fall.

JAMES

(to Chloe)

Listen, on the count of three, I
need you to hold onto me tight.
Just hold on, don't look down and
don't let go.

Chloe nods, buries her face in James' shoulder.

James looks up, sees the wheels of the coaster car coming
over the edge, Brianna's terrified expression as she tries to
hold on.

The count comes fast --

JAMES

Okay -- one, two, three!!

Chloe holds on tight as James KICKS THEM OFF the coaster
track and dangles them from the side, with nothing but the
BELT WRAPPED AROUND HIS WRIST to suspend them.

The coaster car PLUMMETS over the side, ROARS down the track
past them as Brianna's body is THROWN OUT.

Brianna goes into FREE FALL, stares back up at Chloe and
James with incomprehension as she falls through the air,
until --

Brianna's body CRASHES ON THE ROOF of a CONCESSION STAND.

Chloe looks away. James lets out a cry of frustration. His
wrist is SLIPPING from the belt. He tries to swing them back
to the track, but his leg won't connect.

JAMES

Come on... *come on...*

His fingers start to slip through the makeshift rope. They
inch down and down the leather of the belt.

With one final scream of despair, he lets go --

-- just as Chloe kicks out her legs desperately and SWINGS
THEM BACK onto the track.

Their bodies hit the side of the coaster track with a painful
thud. They grab onto the track, look at each other with a mix
of joy, sadness and relief.

CHLOE

It's okay... I've got you too.

James smiles. In the distance, the blessed SOUND OF SIRENS cuts through the rain, while beneath them, the coaster car GLIDES CASUALLY back into the loading bay.

EXT. BENEATH THE CHEETAH - LATER/DAWN

The area beneath the coaster is illuminated by powerful emergency lights and the flashing blinkers of POLICE VEHICLES, FIRE ENGINES and AMBULANCES.

The rain has largely stopped now, the ground and the coaster both glistening in the dawn. A cluster of POLICE and PARAMEDICS mill around beneath the Cheetah as they survey the extent of the human damage.

Nearby, Paramedics lift a STRETCHER on to the deck of an ambulance. On it is Aidan, pale, weak, hurt but alive.

Chloe walks over, a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. Aidan looks up at her, barely conscious.

AIDAN

I'm... sorry...

Chloe nods. Aidan gives her a small smile, then the doors of the ambulance shut. James and Mike come over and join Chloe.

JAMES

You okay?

CHLOE

Yeah. I'm okay.

JAMES

You know, you really saved our asses up there. Mom and Dad would be so proud of you.

Chloe smiles at her brother.

CHLOE

I think they would be too.

James looks at the coaster surrounded by first responders.

JAMES

Dave is gonna be so pissed.

MIKE

Yeah, about that --

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
(interjects)
Excuse me!

Before Mike can explain, a MAN IN OVERALLS approaches them.

He's holding what looks like a 12 INCH TALL ELECTRICAL POLE.
On his overalls is written: JONES LIGHTNING PROTECTION.

He holds the LIGHTNING ROD out to them.

JONES
Did you order this?

Chloe, James and Mike exchange a bemused look.

EXT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - DAY (DAYS LATER)

A modest private airfield. A SMALL TWIN ENGINE PLANE idles on the runway, ready to go.

Dave bursts into view, breathless, scanning the tarmac like a hunted man. His linen shirt flaps in the wind, a straw hat barely clinging to his head, SUITCASE in hand.

His eyes dart around. He spots the aircraft and the PILOT waiting, jogs over and forces a grin.

DAVE
Hola. Ready to go?

PILOT
Yes, sir.

The pilot swings open the cabin door. Dave bursts into a smile, so close to freedom now...

Inside, the smile drains from his face.

Two INTIMIDATING MEN sit facing him. They're dressed in SUITS, have stone cold stares. One of them cracks a grin that's anything but friendly. Dave freezes.

INTIMIDATING MAN
Hello, Dave. Why don't you sit down?
(beat)
We've got a lot to talk about.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLORIDA HIGHWAY - DAY

WEEKS LATER. A Toyota Corolla drives down the highway towards the ocean.

INT. CHLOE'S CAR - DAY

Inside the Toyota, Chloe drives. She looks transformed in a summer dress, smiles as she heads down the highway listening to music on the stereo.

EXT. SEASIDE AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

An old-fashioned carnival by the ocean. The boardwalk is filled with happy tourists and kids eating cotton candy. The mood is bright and happy, with a touch of innocence.

Chloe and Mike walk together along the boardwalk.

MIKE

Thanks for coming out with me today. I haven't seen you in a while.

CHLOE

Things have been really busy at school.

MIKE

How's it going?

CHLOE

Great. I'm getting ready to graduate.

MIKE

That's awesome.

CHLOE

How's the new job?

MIKE

Working on cars is definitely easier than working on coasters.

CHLOE

I bet.

(beat)

Listen, I wanted to say sorry for what happened. I shouldn't have asked you to do that.

MIKE
You don't have to apologize. I
could have said no.

CHLOE
Really?

They stop walking. Mike looks at Chloe tenderly.

MIKE
Well, maybe I find it a little hard
to say no to you.

Chloe blushes. Behind Mike an old wooden rollercoaster car
screams past.

CHLOE
Wanna ride?

Mike looks at the coaster with apprehension.

MIKE
Are you sure?

CHLOE
(nods)
My Dad would have loved this one.
He loved old wooden coasters.

MIKE
Then lets do it.

EXT. OLD WOODEN ROLLERCOASTER - DAY

Chloe and Mike sit beside each other as the old rickety
wooden coaster makes its ascent, Chloe looking a little
apprehensive.

As the coaster approaches the first ascent --

FLASH! An image in Chloe's mind's eye, but this time it's not
of the car accident. It's of her on a rollercoaster with her
parents, laughing and enjoying themselves -- a joyful memory.

Back in the present day, the coaster goes over the first
ascent, then, it barrels down the other side. The riders
scream. Mike laughs gleefully.

The coaster car screams down the rickety wooden track, a blur
of motion. Chloe's face fills with bliss, the trauma of her
past now behind her, as the coaster car goes round and round
and round.

The wooden frame groans, trembling under the furious weight of the speeding car...

...and then, deep within the trembling bones of the structure of the rollercoaster...

...a single screw twitches loose.

It wobbles.

It wriggles.

And then --

CLINK!

It falls.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.