GRIZZLY ADAMS

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT

EXT. LAST RESORT ALASKA - DAWN

We slowly zoom in on the village and then on a cabin in the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE A CABIN IN THE WOODS - DAWN

It's dark, but dawn is already breaking--it's a little after 3:00 a.m. Alaska Time.

BEN, a GRIZZLY BEAR, lumbers around in the yard of the cabin and roots around the front porch. The faint light of dawn illuminates the bare outline of bear and porch.

BEN
(mewling lowly, grunts)
Ben rears up, plants his forepaws on the cabin porch and

BEN (CONT'D)
(Bellows--loudly.)
RAMBLER, an ALASKA TIMBER WOLF, soars up onto the cabin porch and

RAMBLER
(Howls. Yips.)

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN - DAWN

JOHN "GRIZZLY" ADAMS, sits up in bed. He reaches over and turns on the bedside lamp but is still half asleep, as the cacophony continues.

BEN
(bellows)

RAMBLER
(barks)

(CONTINUED)

GRIZZLY ADAMS
OK, ok, ok, ok. I'm awake! I hear you!

Grizzly Adams rolls out of his blankets, sits up and contemplates the floor for a beat. The brief night is over and the long Alaska summer flying day begins.

GRIZZLY (V.O.)
I was born here. Ben and Rambler were born here too. We wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

He's dressed in a long john bottom and walks over and opens the door. He gives the gesture of "welcome in" and Ben and Rambler saunter in like they own the place. Here in Last Resort, Alaska, at the Grizzly Adams cabin, it is perfectly normal for a 450-pound grizzly bear and a timber wolf to enter the cabin. The pair would sleep inside too, but Grizzly draws the line there. Except when it's cold outside.

The animals plop down on the cabin floor. In a series of quick cuts, Grizzly gets efficiently about stoking the stove, making his coffee, and he rustles up some breakfast bacon and biscuits for himself, Ben and Rambler.

Grizzly feeds the animals, grabs a rucksack and the three of them head out the door. We see them meandering down a trail into the woods.

GRIZZLY (V.O.)
When I was a boy, I discovered that I had a way with animals. I could talk to them in my way, and they could talk to me--in their way. We talk, but we really communicate through action.

A WIDE SHOT of the incredible wildness of the densely-wooded land, the trees thick, right down to the shore of the Lisianski fjord, mountain peaks soaring above land and sea.

As Grizzly, Ben and Rambler amble along, a MAN is standing in the bushes, off the trail, out of sight of man and animals. He is WILL DAVIS, an early-50s African-American, and a bear biologist, from the University of Michigan.

WILL (V.O.)
I am here in the small village of Last Resort, Alaska, a beautiful unspoiled place, mostly untouched, to observe the Chicagof Island Grizzly bears.
(beat)
(MORE)

WILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There are more grizzly bears here than in any other place on earth. And this is home to one of the strangest grizzly bears anywhere on earth--that one--the one known as 'Ben'. Ben and Rambler spar and tussle as the trio continues along the trail, and other animals appear and disappear, a Martin, Porcupine, et al.
WILL (CONT'D)
Ben was born here on Chicagof Island. Grizzly Adams says he was orphaned as a cub, and that he found him alone in the woods and rescued him. They became best friends.
(beat)
Rambler was born here too. He's an Alaskan Timber Wolf. He doesn't like people or bears. But for some reason I'll never understand, all three of them, Grizzly Adams, Ben and Rambler, accepted each other. Now they're a family.

EXT. - WOODED TRAIL - DAY

Man and animals stroll through the woods. They move along at a leisurely pace, taking time to look at the quiet splendor and calm waters of the Lisianski Inlet. The mountain peaks are just reflecting the rising sun. They emerge from the woods into a clearing. It's an airstrip. Grizzly throws his arms around Ben and Rambler and looks out over the wilds.

GRIZZLY ADAMS (V.O.)
We live in the most beautiful unspoiled place on earth. And we don't ever want that to change. We don't want anything to change...

Next to the airstrip, in a lean-to hangar, sits Grizzly's Piper P-18-150 Super Cub. He pulls it out of the hangar, then walks around inspecting it, looking at the wings and tail and wheels. He moves the controls; checks the oil.

GRIZZLY
(to Ben and Rambler)
You two keep clear of the runway.
I'll be back soon.
He climbs in, fires up, and taxis the taildragger down the strip, bouncing along on its big tundra tires. At the end of the strip, he runs up the engine, checks it, scans the few guages and throttles up. In not more than a hundred feet, he's airborne.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - DAY

As Grizzly Adams whizzes by over the end of the strip near his hangar, Will Davis, is standing just inside the clearing next to the air strip on the village trail, observing the scene. He stays there, motionless for a few minutes, watching Ben and Rambler cavorting around in the weeds next to the airstrip. As Grizzly Adams flies over, Will waves at him and Grizzly rocks the Cub's wings. Will turns and strides back down the trail.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLEARWATERS ALASKA INLET LODGE - DAY

As Will Davis approaches the porch of the Clearwaters Lodge and Resort, the owner, NATE CLEARWATERS, late thirties Tlingit native, is standing on the porch at the entrance to the Lodge.

WILL
'Morning Nate.

NATE
Good morning. You're out early.

WILL
To observe the life of bears, sometimes you have to get an early start.

The men laugh and sit down in Adirondack chairs on the lodge porch.

NATE
Coffee?

WILL
Sure. Sure. Thanks.

Nate enters the lodge and swiftly emerges with two steaming cups.

NATE
See anything interesting?

WILL
Every time I see these animal friends of Grizzly Adams, believe me--I'm seeing something interesting.

NATE
They are amazing, I cannot disagree with you on that.

WILL
Nate, I've studied Ursus arctos, more less in the abstract, for more than twenty years, but nothing could have prepared me for what I was to discover observing Ben here.

NATE
(laughs)
I hear you. I've lived here all my life and never seen anything like it. Griz, Ben and Rambler. As unlikely a family as anyone ever saw.

WILL
Yes, don't forget Rambler, for sure.
(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)
(beat)
There again, I've studied the Alaskan Timber Wolf, with the funny scientific name of Canis lupus accidentalis, for just about those same number of years, and I have unable to shed light on a single scientific report of--of--even a peaceful encounter--let alone coexistence of an Alaska Brown Bear and an Alaska Timber Wolf, sharing habitat, shelter and resources.

NATE
Even us Indians are at a loss to explain that one.

WILL
When I first started observing them, I did not think that Ben and Rambler liked each other very much, but now I've come to see that they are inseparable. The two friends both shake their heads in awe of this notion, and ponder for a moment.

WILL (CONT'D)
(drains his cup)
Well--I've got notes to write for the U. Maybe if I get to it, it'll get written. Doubt it'll write itself.

NATE
OK. Well, good luck with that.

Will rises and enters the lodge.

CUT TO:

INT. WILL DAVIS'S LODGE HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Will sits at a small desk and labors over an academic report to his department at the University of Michigan.

WILL (V.O.)
The Admiralty-Baranof-Chicagof, or "ABC" Grizzly Bear, along with the Alaskan Timberwolf, who have been named "Ben" and "Rambler," respectively are always, inexplicably on their best behavior when in the company of their Homo Sapiens friend, John Adams. However, they bicker like an old married couple when by themselves. John Adams, who is known locally in Alaska as "Grizzly Adams", treats these wild, dangerous predatory animals as his friends and family, in defiance of everything known about the deadly history of human-grizzly bear and human-wolf encounters."

Will looks up from his writing, ponders this, raises his eyebrows and shakes his head.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Grizzly's POV, we see through the windscreen as the plane rises up off the airstrip and gains altitude. He looks down at the village and the Adams Aviation dock, where a DE HAVILLAND BEAVER bobs at its mooring. Grizzly Adams' father, Jack, is standing on the port float, checking oil.

Breathtaking scenery fills the windscreen. Lisianski Inlet, Permatite Mountain and Mineral Mountain, all peaks snowcapped, even though it's summertime. Grizzly levels off at about 1,000 feet and shoots through the pass over Marble Creek, heading for Idaho Inlet, in the hope that he can beat his father to Juneau (a/k/a "town").

TITLE CARD: GRIZZLY ADAMS

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK, LAST RESORT - DAY

JACK ADAMS prepares his De Havilland Beaver float plane for flight, jumps in, fires up and after a brief warm-up, points the nose out into Lisianski Inlet, throttles up and takes off.

Jack's Beaver is a little faster than Grizzly Adams'Super Cub, but climbs slower and he's a few minutes behind his son. The two will arrive in town at about the same time.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. FUNTER BAY, ALASKA - DAY

We see the Beaver and the Cub, flying neck-and-neck on the race to Juneau.

Grizzly Adams maneuvers toward the Juneau International Airport runway, as Jack heads for the "Pond," the seaplane base next to the main runway.

TITLE CARD: JUNEAU, ALASKA

DISSOLVE TO:

THE CUB ON THE TARMAC AT JUNEAU, AS ITS PROP FLIPS TO A STOP.

Grizzly Adams jumps out of the plane. He quickly ties it down, then heads for a PICKUP TRUCK parked nearby on the ramp. We see him driving around the airport perimeter, arriving shortly at the seaplane basin. A HELPER in a BOX TRUCK is already there, with Jack's load of cargo. Father, son and helper empty the contents of the truck and pack every last piece of cargo into the Beaver--everything from batteries and propane bottles to clothing, food, beer and liquor.

EXT. JUNEAU SEAPLANE BASE - DAY

MEN and WOMEN wearing foul-weather clothing, hats and "XTRA TUF" rubber boots bustle between trucks on the loading dock and airplanes moored in the water.

The Adams General Store and Mercantile truck is blasting its radio and no one is paying any attention to it, but...

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
...like to thank our friends out in Elfin Cove, for calling in a report that they are seeing 10-foot seas coming ashore around the horn of the George Islands and Beer, off the Gulf of Alaska. They report very low dense clouds, heavy snow and high winds.
(MORE)

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The NOAA has issued both a gale warning and an alert for unseasonal early snow...

We focus on Jack's De Havilland Beaver with "Adams Aviation" emblazoned on the side, and the enormous amount and variety of cargo that is packed into the back of the plane.

JACK
(winded)
Now that's a load.

GRIZZLY
(laughs)
You're about to sink your floats.

JACK
(laughs)
I'll have to fly home at 100 feet.
Can't climb much higher than that
with this load.

GRIZZLY
(laughing)
I'll be right behind you.

JACK
Heavy as I am, you may beat me.

Jack slaps his son on the back and climbs up to the cockpit door.

JACK (CONT'D)
See ya at home, Son!

Jack closes the pilot door, pulls his shoulder harness on and immediately cranks over the engine. He taxis away from the dock and into the pond and throttles up. The heavily-loaded Beaver splashes and lumbers ponderously and finally gets up on the step and after traveling most of the length of the pond, lifts off. We see the Beaver clear the poplar trees at the end of the water runway by a foot or two and then climb very slowly and head west into the blue.

CUT TO:

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

JACK
(On radio)
Juneau tower, Beaver One Alpha--
Alpha, over Outer Point for Funter
Pass.
JUNEAU TOWER (O.C.)
(cheerfully)
Beaver One Alpha Alpha, switch to
Advisory frequency. Good'ay.

EXT. OVER LYNN CANAL - DAY

WIDE AERIAL IMAGES of Lynn Canal, and Icy Straight beyond, pulling out to see the broad expanse of southeast Alaska, then IN ON the rain forest. The plane soars through Funter pass and out over the open water of Icy Straight, the snow-covered mountain tops that surround Glacier Bay in the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Jack scans for traffic, sees a WARD AIR Cessna Caravan floatplane coming the other way at his altitude. He rolls slightly to the right to avoid the other airplane and continues rubber-necking for others.

EXT. WIDE AERIAL SHOT - DAY

More broad expanse of the Lynn Canal fjord, and the massive Chilkat mountain range. Jack Adams maneuvers around Point Couverdan at the entrance to Icy Straight, and there, stretching across the horizon and north-south as far as he can see, is a massive wall of ice- and snow-filled cloud--an angry-looking gray-black snow squall.

JACK
(to himself)
God Almighty.
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
No way the heavily-loaded Beaver can climb above the clouds,
so Jack pushes the yoke forward and ducks down, trying to get
under the squall, just above the waters of the Straight.

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Upon entering the cloud bank, the airplane immediately begins to pitch and roll violently in the turbulence. A glaze of frost grows over the windscreen.

JACK
(Pulling some "Gs" and groaning
involuntarily from the pressure)
Uugghh!

EXT. AERIAL SHOT MUD BAY TIDAL FLAT - DAY

The Beaver flies a hundred feet above Icy Straight and then crosses the shoreline and is over wide desert-like flats of Mud Bay. Beyond Mud Bay, the terrain rises steeply.

THE LOW VISIBILITY OVER MUD BAY

The airplane enters a canyon between very high mountain peaks on either side. The terrain is rising too fast for the airplane to out-climb it.

JACK
No. No. No. No visibility. Let's turn around.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CANYON - DAY

It is enshrouded with fog and snow, dark.

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

A CLOSEUP Of Jack's face as he realizes that he has no forward visibility and must get out of there. He begins a steep turn to get out away from the mountainous terrain.

JACK
(Begging the plane to turn)
C'mon!

SMASH CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RAVINE SNOWSCAPE - DAY

In a grey hollow below a ridge and surrounded by towering mountain spires, upon a snowy bench, upside down, lies the remarkably-intact wreckage of a De Havilland Beaver, with just enough of the name "Adams Aviation" visible on the fuselage to reveal that this is Jack Adams' plane.

A CLOSE SHOT--The snow moves and a door of the airplane moves a few inches. Jack Adams is inside, alive, but injured and unable to move more than a hand.

In severe pain, Jack manages to unbuckle himself from his shoulder harness and seat belt and exit the Beaver.

He crawls away from it and as he does, he is surprised to bump into a large piece of wood, a sawn timber, beneath the snow--an odd thing to find in the midst of the Alaskan wilderness.

As he struggles further, he finds an iron rail and then what he recognizes as an ore cart.

With great difficulty, he moves toward tree-line in the shadow of the ridge and sees a dark opening in the rock wall. He is on the grounds of an abandoned mine. We can hear and feel his pain as he crawls toward the opening, the portal to the long-abandoned Spencer mine.

Jack pauses at the mine portal, exhausted.

FADE TO:

EXT. DOCK AT LAST RESORT, ALASKA - DAY

A storefront on a dock, flanked by signs "Adams Aviation" and "Adams General Store and Mercantile."

CUT TO:

INT. "ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE" - DAY

At the store counter, MARIAH ADAMS bags some purchases for a

CUSTOMER.

MARIAH
Nobody hunts and only a few fish. Everything is flown in from town now. From COSTCO! Jack is flying freight in from town now.

CUSTOMER
(off her)

SUBTITLES

...Yaa guwakaa·n Long ago, deer were shayadahei·nin ch'aa'kw, plentiful, before there were choo' l dlei't kaa' white men. ! ugoo'stee' ji...

MARIAH
She rings up a sale of $5.37, visible on the old-fashioned cash register.

CUSTOMER	SUBTITLE
Gwátgeen sá haadé kukgwatéen?	When is he coming back?

Mariah and the Customer banter soto voce in Tlingit. Both keep glancing and gesturing toward the window and the blizzard outside.

MARIAH ADAMS	SUBTITLE (CONT'D)
Aatlein gunalchÃ©esh!	Thank you very much!

The customer leaves. A BELL SOUNDS as the door is opened and a cloud of snow blows in off the inlet in the stiff wind.

Mariah walks to an enormous POT BELLIED STOVE in the middle of the main store, opens the door and puts in a long piece of firewood from the wood box, then goes to the window. Outside, snow is blowing sideways and the Inlet is covered in whitecaps.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK - DAY

Two large black RAVENS are standing under a wooden canopy in front of the store, trying to shelter themselves from the storm and yakking loudly at each other in Raven.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

MARIAH
(to no one)
Ha! A fine day for flying!
Even
Raven stays on the ground!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WINDBLOWN TARMAC AT GUSTAVUS, ALASKA - DAY

Grizzly works to get tie-down ropes affixed to the Super Cub's wings and tail, amid sideways-blowing clouds of snow. Once the plane is secured, he climbs back into the pilot's seat and closes the door against the wind and snow.

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - DAY

Beneath the airplane instrument panel are two RADIO SETS side-by-side. Grizzly turns on the first one, a standard aircraft VHF transceiver, picks up the microphone.

GRIZZLY
(into microphone)
Beaver One Alpha Alpha,
this is
Piper Two Alph Alpha.
Over.
(beat)
No Response. He tries again.

GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
Beaver One Alpha Alpha, Piper Two Alpha Alpha, over.

Nothing.

Then a CLOSE SHOT as he clicks the radio frequency tuning knob over to "121.5" The universal emergency frequency. He listens. Nothing.

He hangs up the mic and turns on the second radio--it's a Single Side Band transceiver that is capable of longer range communication than the VHF aircraft radio. The transceiver is set to the discreet frequency--123.9--that he and Jack use to communicate with the base transceiver at Adams Aviation.

GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Adams Aviation, Piper Two Alpha
Alpha, over.
(beat)

CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

Inside the store, Grizzly's radio call comes through loud and clear.

Mariah hurries to the radio station at the back of the store.

MARIAH
(into microphone)
Piper Two Alpha Alpha, Adams
Aviation, go ahead.
GRIZZLY (O.C.)
Is Dad there yet?

MARIAH (CONT'D)
No. Not yet. Weren't you flying together?

GRIZZLY (O.C.)
He took off ahead of me. I was still loading on the ramp at Juneau.

MARIAH
Where are you?

GRIZZLY (O.C.)
I'm in Gustavus. There's a snow squall on a line from Hoonah to Glacier Bay. Dad went on into it. I diverted to GUS.

A pause as this sinks in.

MARIAH
Have you called him on VHF?

GRIZZLY (O.C.)
Yes. No response. But I was on the ground by then.

MARIAH
I'll call you back as soon as he lands, but we're in the midst of a snow storm and gale winds off the inlet here.

GRIZZLY (O.C.)
He may have landed somewhere to wait it out.

MARIAH
(beat)
Mmm hmm. Most likely. It's odd he didn't call on the radio. I'll call you when he gets here or I hear from him.
They sign off.

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

In a DISSOLVE, the clock on the wall winds two hours, as Mariah paces back and forth between the storefront window and the radio station, eventually returning to the window, where the weather outside has calmed. Blue sky is visible between the clouds and the whitecaps have disappeared from the surface of the inlet.

Her impulse takes her back to the radio station, where she calls again:

MARIAH
(into microphone)
Beaver One Alpha-Alpha, Adams UNICOM, over.
(beat)
Nothing. Mariah, worried and resigned, reaches for the telephone, picks up the handset, hesitates, then dials.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C.)
Juneau Radio.

MARIAH
I...this Is Mariah Adams. I'm calling about Jack. He's overdue at Last Resort in Beaver On Alpha Alpha.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C.)
OK, Ma'am--that's Beaver On Alpha Alpha. Yes--I have the flight-plan that Jack opened when he departed Juneau this morning.

MARIAH
He's over due here, and we cannot raise him on VHF.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C.)
Standby.

A couple beats as he checks on the aircraft number.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Mrs. Adams, The flight plan lists one on board and fifty-five minutes planned flying time enroute to Last Resort.

MARIAH
That's right. He hasn't arrived. Grizzly Adams was following him but he had to divert to Gustavus because of the weather.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C.)
I'm not surprised about that. We've had a record storm with snow squalls and winds in excess of 60 knots in Icy Straight.
(beat)
We'll hope he put in somewhere out there to wait it out. But we'll get the process started. Be sure to have him call us if he arrives.

MARIAH
I will. Thank you.

JUNEAU RADIO OPERATOR (O.C)
Thanks for your call. I'll be hoping for the best.

Mariah replaces the radio telephone on its hook and looks again through the window to the wildly pitching whitecaps on the inlet.

She picks up the telephone again and dials, and we

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES WILSHIRE BOULEVARD OFFICE - DAY

A glass office tower, surrounded by swaying palm trees.

INT. BRIGHTLY-LIT OFFICE - DAY

JIM ADAMS, late thirties, Hollywood hustler, is standing behind an impressive desk, looking out on the palm-studded boulevard, and talking on a cell phone. Behind him, the desk phone buzzes. He punches a button on the phone.

SECRETARY
Line One--Mrs. Adams.

JIM
Thanks.

He picks up the receiver and punches the button.

JIM (CONT'D)
Ma! Surprised you called, I--

MARIAH
Jim, your father's gone missing.

JIM
Missing?

MARIAH
He was flying a supply trip to Juneau and he never made it back.

JIM
Are they searching for him?

MARIAH
Every search agency, Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol, volunteers. Your brother John. They're all searching for Jack's Beaver.

JIM
(beat)
I'm coming home, Ma.

MARIAH
There's no need for you to do that. They going to find him any time, or he will come flying in. He may have had to land to wait out the weather...

JIM
I'm coming. I'll be there tomorrow.

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: TWO DAYS LATER

EXT. ICY STRAIGHT - DAY

A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER flies over a COAST GUARD CUTTER. Both ships are part of the search for Jack Adams.

EXT. BRADY GLACIER - DAY

A CESSNA 206 flies low over the glacier, pilot and co-pilot both searching intently for any sign of Jack Adams' Beaver out the side windows.

EXT. IDAHO INLET - DAY

A DE HAVILLAND BEAVER in the livery of the Alaska Civil Air Patrol flies along the shore of Idaho Inlet, as part of the area-wide search for Jack's plane.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

Mariah is in the store, tending it, but mostly listening for any radio call from the search for Jack, when she hears the unmistakable sound of a radial-engine airplane. She goes to the window.

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK - DAY

A blue floatplane with "Alaska Gulf Air" on the side taxis slowly toward the dock. The propeller flips to a stop and the pilot climbs out onto the float to fend the sideways-drifting plane off the dock. Mariah exits the Mercantile and the pilot throws her his dock line.

PILOT
(jumps onto dock)
Good morning Mrs. Adams. I've got Jim onboard here for you.

The cabin door opens and JIM ADAMS, a thirty-something in khakis, a polo and London Fog golf jacket, alights. He jumps onto the dock and rushes to his mother. They hug. Mariah tosses the dock line back to the pilot and the pilot shoves off, skips from the dock onto the float, climbs in, fires up and a moment later, we see the plane lift off to the northwest on the Inlet.

MARIAH
(hugs Jim)
Welcome home, Son.

JIM
(in amazement)
I can't believe I'm here.

MARIAH
It took these circumstances to bring you home.

JIM
(ignoring the guilting)
Any news this morning?

MARIAH
(a beat and then, shakes her head)
Nothing.

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

They enter through the front door of the store. Almost at the same time, from the back, Grizzly Adams enters.

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

GRIZZLY
(walking to toward his brother)
I was searching on the west side of Inian when I heard the Beaver call on approach. Stopped for fuel and to say 'hello'. Heading right back out there.
The brothers hug perfunctorily.
GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
Good to see you. I can't believe you were able to come all the way here.

JIM
(ignoring the guilting)
I want to go out on the search.

GRIZZLY
(a beat, thinking)
No. You stay here. Ma will want to see you and she can fill you in on everything.

JIM
But I--

GRIZZLY
(holding up a hand)
Next time maybe. If nobody sees anything out there today, then there's tomorrow.
Jim resignedly accepts his older brother's decision. He has never won an argument with him. He looks around the store, as if to change the subject.

JIM
...'place hasn't changed...

GRIZZLY
No. Except Dad's not here.

A note of resignation is in his voice. His mother quickly counters it.

MARIAH
I expect that any moment, that phone will ring, and there will be somebody on the other end telling us that Jack has been found.

Grizzly and Jim exchange looks. They each, in their different way, have a theory of the odds of their father being found.

GRIZZLY
I'm headin' back out.

He leaves.

TIME CUT TO:

A WIDE SHOT OF ICY STRAIGHT.

A COAST GUARD CUTTER is plowing resolutely through rough seas in Icy Straight. Airplanes and helicopters fly overhead. In a series of quick cuts, search aircraft head toward Chicagof Island in the distance to the southwest, and two COAST GUARD HELICOPTERS head toward the Brady Glacier and Mount Fairweather, visible to the northwest. The search is on.

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: FIVE DAYS LATER

EXT. JUNEAU AIRPORT - DAY

A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER slowly descends to touch down on the tarmac, next to an ALASKA CIVIL AIR PATROL DE HAVILLAND BEAVER. As the rotor winds down, COLONEL ROBERT B. MARSH, in the blue uniform of a Civil Air Patrol officer, emerges from the chopper and heads purposefully toward the air terminal.

CUT TO:

INT. SPARSE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The COLONEL enters.

CIVIL AIR PATROL AIRMAN (O.C.) TEN HUT!

Around a plain government-issue conference table, A DOZEN MEN AND WOMEN in Civil Air Patrol uniforms rise to their feet.

COLONEL MARSH
(motions)
At ease. Sit.
They do.
COLONEL MARSH (CONT'D)
I'm Col. Marsh. Most of you know
me. We can dispense with formalities. We're all tired. This
search has been non-stop since Mr.
(MORE)

COLONEL MARSH (CONT'D)
Jackson Adams disappeared while
flying the Adams Aviation Beaver.
Alaska CAP, along with the
Gastineau Channel Detachment of the
U.S. Coast Guard, and numerous
volunteer pilots, have covered
hundreds of thousands of square
miles of territory, from Lynn Canal
al the way to Cape Spencer to the
west, and from Angoon to Mount
Fairweather to the south and north.
(a sigh of resignation)
And nothing. No sign of the De
Havilland Beaver aircraft, or of
its pilot, Jack Adams. Most of you
knew Jack Adams, and it is hard to
imagine an aviator of his skill and
experience disappearing, but this
was without a doubt a weather-
related mishap.
Given the weather
conditions--a 100-year unseasonal
snow and ice storm, accompanied by
gale-force winds and a SIGMET for
severe turbulence and wind shear--I
think it's fair to say that, in all
(MORE)

COLONEL MARSH (CONT'D)
probability, no pilot or airplane could have stayed aloft for long in those conditions.
(beat)
I've consulted with my colleagues at the U.S. Coast Guard and we are hereby calling off the search.
The Civil Air Patrol pilots all look around at each other and we hear murmurs.
COLONEL MARSH (CONT'D)
Thank you for your efforts. That will be all.
He turns and abruptly leaves the room. And we...

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OF ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DUSK

Mariah Adams opens the door of the Adams home behind the store and exits/enters and we...

INT. ADAMS HOME BEHIND THE STORE - DUSK

Mariah moves silently like a wraith through the rooms and enters her kitchen. She strikes a wooden match and lights a WHALE OIL LAMP and the room is lustrous.

Grizzly Adams enters through the back door. Mariah turns to him hopefully.

GRIZZLY
(shaking his head)
Nothing.

MARIAH
He'll turn up.

GRIZZLY
Ma--

MARIAH
(raises her voice)
He's out there somewhere, John!

GRIZZLY ADAMS
(loud)
They called off the search.
(beat)
The Coast Guard and the CAP have called it off.

MARIAH
You'll still search.

A statement with an implicit question.

GRIZZLY
Yes. Yes I will. I'll search. I'll be able to cover a lot less territory than the Coasties and CAP, but I'll keep searching.

The tense exchange has aroused the attention of Jim, who was talking on his cell phone in another room. He enters.

JIM
(into cell phone)
...I'll have to call you back.
He looks back and forth between mother and brother.
JIM (CONT'D)
What's going on.

GRIZZLY
I just got back.

JIM
Any luck?

GRIZZLY
No. The search is called off.

MARIAH JIM
But... But...

GRIZZLY
(holding up his hand)
There's no 'but' because once the search agencies make up their mind and suspend the search, that's it. Unless something comes up like an ELT signal or some other clue.
He runs his hands over his face and through his hair, a clear look of defeat on his face.

MARIAH
Son...

GRIZZLY
Ma...We'll Keep looking.

JIM
We also need to face facts.
(paces)
And we need to figure out what to do--about Dad, the plane, the store...

GRIZZLY
Well Dad's not here...and the plane's gone too!

MARIAH
Your father. The Beaver. The store. Even the village. Are all intertwined. Last Resort wouldn't exist without your father and the flying business.

The three exchange looks, and there is fear in their eyes.

JIM
It's time for us to start accepting the reality of what has happened.

MARIAH
I know he's out there.

GRIZZLY
We still have my plane.

JIM
Look--we need a survival plan. The store can't survive without stock, and the Super Cub can only carry a fraction of the freight...

Camera PULLS BACK as the brothers argument fades into the background and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - DAY

Grizzly and Ellie Clearwaters are standing next to the Super Cub. Grizzly is teaching Ellie to fly.

GRIZZLY ADAMS
You've flown with me and Grandpa dozens of times, but from here on, it will be different. You get to handle the controls.

Ellie grimaces slightly—she's nervous.

ELLIE
You've let me fly before, Dad.

GRIZZLY
Yes, I know, but that was straight-and-level flying on the way to town. This is different—you'll be doing maneuvers and takeoffs and landings and…

ELLIE
I can do it.

GRIZZLY
Yes. Yes, Ellie you can.
(beat)
OK, let's go through the Preflight Inspection.
(MORE)

GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
CAMERA PULLS BACK as they walk around the airplane, checking the oil, fuel, tires and wheels, and all the controls. When they're done they both climb in, Grizzly in the front seat and Ellie in back. They don David Clark headsets.
GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
(to Ben and Rambler)
You two get over in the woods and keep clear of the runway.
Ben and Rambler amble off. Grizzly fires up the engine and we hear him talking to Ellie in V.O. as they throttle up slightly and start to taxi.
GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
Ok now Ellie, put your heels on the brakes and I'll show you how…
Ellie jams on a brake and the airplane veers sharply to one side.

ELLIE
Whoa!

GRIZZLY
(adjusting power and brake)
Take it easy. It's OK. Don't do anything fast.
The Cub straightens out and proceeds in the direction of the end of the runway, zig-zagging somewhat.

ELLIE
I'm zig-zagging.

GRIZZLY
That's good—you have to.
(chuckles)
It's the only way you can see
what's ahead of you.

ELLIE
Ha! Ha!

They get to the end of the strip.

GRIZZLY
I'll make this first takeoff and talk you through it. Then we'll fly out over Sunnyside…

They roll down the runway, as Grizzly narrates the takeoff.

GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
As soon as you start rolling, push the stick forward slightly to raise the tail...then pull back and lift off. Always make small, smooth changes. Nothing big or abrupt. Keep a light touch on the stick, the brakes and rudder…

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - DAY

Angle from inside the airplane. We see Ben and Rambler looking up at the airplane as it flies over them.

INT. AIRCRAFT COCKPIT - DAY

The Super Cub climbs out and we see the village of Last Resort below.

The smile on Ellie's face is ear-to-ear.

They turn left, to the southwest, and continue climbing. We look down on the abandoned cannery, it's dormant building hulking over the waters of the Inlet.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABOVE AIRCRAFT – DAY

We see the Super Cub Flying straight and level and then here Grizzly instructing Ellie.

GRIZZLY (V.O.)
Now you take the controls. Keep the wings and nose level.

She does, and immediately the aircraft begins to pitch a little and roll slightly from the novice touch. But in a few beats, it smooths out.

GRIZZLY (V.O.)
See–already your settling down. Hold the stick with just your finger tips. It's all about feel. You've got the touch.
(beat)
Now let's make some level turns. Aileron controls roll with the stick. Side-to-side.
He demonstrates.
GRIZZLY (V.O.)
Elevator fore-and-aft. With the rudder, turn the nose into the turn. Feel it in the seat of your pants. Ok--you have the controls.
A few CUTS, where we see the progress of the new pilot, who is clearly something of a natural, climbing, descending, making smooth turns.
All the while, Grizzly Adams scans the lush green of the lowlands and the icy peaks for any sign of Jack-- always looking.
A few more turns, climbs and descents, and then...

GRIZZLY
OK, that's enough for today. Let's head back.

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - DAY

The Super Cub, drifts down between the trees on the approach to landing, and touches down. We stay with the airplane as it rolls out and then taxis to the hangar.

CLOSE ON ELLIE AS THE SUPER CUB PROP FLIPS TO A STOP.

GRIZZLY
Good.

ELLIE
I did it. I flew!

They sit for a moment as things wind down.

GRIZZLY
Uh, Ellie.
(beat)
Let's keep this to ourselves, OK?
Don't say anything to your mother.

ELLIE
What--? Why? I want to tell her!

GRIZZLY
Well, I think it would be best to keep quiet about it for now. You know how she is. There'll come a time...we'll wait for the right time.

He opens the clamshell door an clambers out, Ellie follows. Ben lumbers up to them, followed by Rambler. Ellie Hugs Ben, then Rambler, and gets a lick from both.

Out of sight, in the woods just behind the hangar, Jim Adams points his phone at the scene around the airplane, recording video.

CUT TO:

INT. MINE PORTAL - DUSK

Faint light enters the mine portal where Jack Adams has taken shelter. The sun is down outside and the light is fading, with only filtered light getting past the fallen timbers and brush at the opening of the shaft. Jack is gathering tiny bits of wood and dried brush on the portal floor.

As darkness overtakes his rock shelter, Jack manages to get a can of water-proof matches out of his pants pocket. He lights one, holds it to a small pile of TINDER, and as the tinder catches, the mine portal brightens. He adds tiny bits of wood to the nascent flame, and a FIRE slowly comes to life.

JACK
C'mon.
(blows gently on the tiny flame)
Exhausted from his efforts, Jack lays down by the little fire to rest, and then resumes the task of building his fire.

JACK (CONT'D)
Got to get back out to the plane...

He tries to sit up or stand and is cut down by pain. His leg or ankle (or both) may be broken--too early to tell and he begins an excruciating crawl back toward the mine entrance, crawling toward the wreckage of his Beaver, as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. MINE PORTAL - NIGHT

With his fire burning, Jack takes stock.

JACK
(Breath ragged from pain, looking around the mine adit)
Old old timbers. This could all come down...thought I would asphyxiate in here, but the smoke is drifting into the mine.
We see him checking his injuries. He is able to pull back his torn pants leg to asses his ankle and leg. He winces in pain.
JACK (CONT'D)
Uuuhh. Leg broken. Ankle not broken, thank God. I thought sure it was.
The fire illuminates the mine-portal.
Jack looks around and sees things he may be able to use: A mine pully and cable. Ore car on a track. Quite a bit of old timbers and scrap wood lying around.
In A SERIES OF DISSOLVES, we see him struggling to gather pieces of broken lumber, a discarded woven cargo strap. He
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
gathers this odd assortment of articles near his place by the fire.
Then, though we can see the pain on his white-as-a-ghost face and hear is tortured yell, he sets his own broken femur. This takes everything out of him and he collapses by the fire.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

Mariah, Jim and Grizzly gather in the Mercantile and inevitably, the subject comes up about the store and the flying service.

JIM
I've been doing a lot of thinking about what we need to do now that--

GRIZZLY
Don't start.

JIM
We have to talk about this.

GRIZZLY
We don't "have to" do anything. We're making do.

JIM
Look, John, Adams Aviation is carrying a tiny fraction of the freight and passengers that it did when Dad was alive...

CLOSE ON Mariah Adams who reacts to her son's declaration and is about to object when the bell rings and the door to the store opens. A CUSTOMER enters. She rises to attend.

MARIAH
Good morning, Neta.

The brothers exchange looks. Grizzly Adams looks disgusted.

GRIZZLY
For God's sake, don't say anything about Dad in front of her.

JIM
You'd better starting facing reality. This store can't survive either without the Beaver.

GRIZZLY
You know she doesn't believe...

JIM
Denial--not just the name of a river in Egypt.

Grizzly Adams just looks at his brother and shakes his head.

Mariah returns.

MARIAH
OK, Jim, do tell.

JIM
What? Really--you want to hear my plan?

MARIAH
Yes. Yes I do. I want to hear your idea.

CUT TO:

INT. LAST RESORT SEARHC ALASKA CLINIC - DAY

Dr. Leone Clearwaters is attending to an obese, shirtless patient on the examination table. She is listening to his heart with a stethoscope.

LEONE
K'uuxshoo, your heart beats fast and you are out of breath because of smoking. Drinking beer does not help either.

KUUXSHOO
I know. I'll quit.

LEONE
Promise me you will.

KUUXSHOO
I promise.

LEONE
You're only twenty-eight. You have a long life ahead, if you do that. And cut back on beers. Two or three a week at the most! Or none would be better.

KUUXSHOO
Ok Doc.

LEONE
And walk out the road and back a couple times a day. Make ten thousand steps.

Dr. Clearwaters hangs up her stethoscope and picks up a clipboard.

LEONE (CONT'D)
Come back in two months after you've done all that, OK?
(smiles)

KUUXSHOO
You got it, Doc.

He gets down off the exam table and pulls on his shirt.

A bell rings as the door to the clinic opens and Ellie Clearwaters enters.

Dr. Clearwaters rummages in an exam-room cabinet and takes out a pill bottle.

LEONE
I want you to take one of these every day. They will help to reduce cigarette cravings.

KUUXSHOO
Thank you, Dr. Leone. I'm throwing them away.

LEONE
The pills?

KUUXSHOO
No--cigarettes!

They laugh and K'uuxshoo departs.

INT. CLINIC RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Dr. Clearwaters and her daughter Ellie are alone in the clinic waiting room. Ellie seems unusually happy. Giddy, even.

LEONE
What's up?

ELLIE
Oh nothing, I just thought I'd stop in and say 'Hi'.

LEONE
(warily)
Dooo...you need anything?

ELLIE
Oh no. No. Do you?

Red flags and bells are going off in Dr. Leone Clearwaters' quick mind. She has a teenage daughter who is normally the picture of calm and collected. More often too serious--even stoic. This is different.

LEONE
Well...there's something...

ELLIE
(interrupting)
NO! No--there isn't!
Ellie is not accustomed to keeping secrets, and the urge to tell is almost overwhelming. But she doesn't.

LEONE
...fishy.

Ellie turns to the door.

ELLIE
See ya!

And she is gone, leaving her mother standing alone in her clinic, mulling over the possibilities.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT - DAY

A SERIES OF SHOTS of Grizzly Adams, Ben and Rambler, playing around the cabin, in the woods, by the shore, swimming in the Inlet, with the village of Last Resort in the background. Jim Adams is seen always lurking in the deep background, recording video.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - DAY

Ellie Clearwaters and Grizzly Adams are standing in front of the open hangar with the Super Cub in BG, a cheshire grin is on Ellie's face.

GRIZZLY
What's so funny, Missy?

ELLIE
Oh, just...thinking about how I never thought there would come a day when you would become an Instagram Influencer.

She shakes her head in mock amazement.

GRIZZLY ADAMS
What do you mean, 'Instagram'?

ELLIE
You're trending over Instagram!

GRIZZLY ADAMS
Trending?

He stops what he's doing and his face acquires a "better start explaining" look.

ELLIE
(Shows him her phone)
See? You have an Instagram account.

GRIZZLY
(agitated)
What the--?
(MORE)

GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
Ben and Rambler look at each other. Ben gives a low grunt and the animals head for the timberline.

ELLIE
(laughing)
You, Ben and Rambler have more than 100,000 Followers!
In one beat, Grizzly Adams gets what he's hearing and starts off at a fast walk toward the trail, leaving Ellie doubled over with laughter.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

Mariah and Jim are sitting at the table together; Jim is holding forth as his mother listens intently.

JIM
...so to generate revenue, we need to leverage and maximize resources. It's time for the Adams enterprises to stop relying so heavily on aviation...

Grizzly Adams barges through the front door of the store.

JIM (CONT'D)
...And speak of the Devil--we have the perfect resource right here-- the legendary GRIZZLY ADAMS!

Grizzly Adams rushes toward his brother, about to blow.

JIM (CONT'D)
The possibilities are virtually unlimited: Internet video, TV, film, collateral merchandising, tourists coming to see 'Grizzly Adams and His Animals' right here in Last Resort!

GRIZZLY
(growling)
Spoken like a true Hollywood huckster.

JIM
(hurt, sniffs)
That was below the belt. You're not seeing the big picture.

GRIZZLY
(loud)
'Instagram Influencer'?! WE'RE NOT

DOING THIS...

MARIAH
John, stop it. We said we'd hear Jim out.

GRIZZLY
I didn't agree to that! Ellie showed me the videos you've taken of Ben, Rambler and me!

MARIAH
Never mind. Jim--

JIM
So we go with multiple campaigns at the same time--an array of things. We go with video of Grizzly Adams with Ben and Rambler and--and--that bird.

MARIAH
Raven. Yéil.

JIM
Yeah. That one. Raven. The videos are viral. Overnight, everyone knows who Grizzly Adams is--Ben is an online sensation! There's no doubt about it. Everyone is seeing the Grizzly Adams show online. They want more. Grizzly Adams is shaking his head. Jim is winding up.

JIM (CONT'D)
(sanding and pacing)
They're gonna want more. They're gonna want more. They're gonna want 'Grizzly Adams' T-shirts; 'Grizzly Adams' coffee mugs; 'Grizzly Adams' wool shirts; 'Grizzly Adams' "Hemlock Aftershave". Hell--even 'Grizzly Adams' masks for Halloween! 'Grizzly Adams' Alaskan Spruce-tip Ale!

GRIZZLY
Dammit! Quit!

JIM
It worked for Ernest Hemingway.

GRIZZLY
(louder)
Never mind. I'm not doing it.

MARIAH
John!

The radio crackles to life.

PILOT (O.S.)
Adams Unicom, Gulf Air Otter three-four Whiskey Mike approaching the seaplane basin.

Grizzly Adams goes to the radio rack and answers.

GRIZZLY
Three-Four Whiskey Mike, go ahead.

PILOT (O.S.)
Yeah, Adams, about four minutes out. We've got a large freight shipment for ya. Could use some help at the dock.

GRIZZLY
(to himself)
What the...?
(beat)
GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
Roger Three-Four Whisky Mike. Wind is two-eight-zero at twelve. No traffic. Will help you unload.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK, LAST RESORT - DAY

Mariah, Jim and Grizzly Adams are outside on the dock.

A big De Havilland Otter appears out of the blue, touching down on the Inlet. The aircraft slows and heavily-laden, squats low in the water and water-taxis toward the Adams dock. The PILOT kills the engine and expertly sets the airplane adrift toward the dock, exits out the pilot door and onto the float. He grabs a dock line from the wing strut and tosses it to Grizzly Adams, who whips it over a dock cleat as the pilot jumps ashore.

GRIZZLY
(jovially)
Captain Larry.

LARRY
Griz.

Larry secures the plane to the dock with a stern line and joins the Adams' on the dock.

GRIZZLY
What brings you to our remote outpost?

LARRY
(laughing)
About a thousand pounds of freight.

GRIZZLY
Hmmm.

He looks around at his mother and brother, and they exchange looks.

CLOSE ON JIM.

JIM
Well, let's get to work.

GRIZZLY
(off him)
Yes, let's do.
The men unload several dozen unlabeled boxes from the Otter,
and Mariah trundles a hand dolly out from it's place next to
the store building. When all the boxes are on the dock,
Grizzly Adams waves to Larry, who unties his aft dock line
and jumps onto the float.

LARRY
Thanks much. We'll see you next trip.

GRIZZLY
(grinning)
If there is one.

LARRY
Ha!

And with that, Larry pulls a "Grizzly Adams" logo baseball cap out of his back pocket, pulls it on, and shoves the Otter away from the dock with a boat pole, climbs into the cockpit and fires up, turning the Otter toward the open inlet. In a moment, he's gone. Grizzly Adams is livid.

CUT TO:

A WIDE ARIAL SHOT of the dock and the enormous stack of boxes.

CUT TO:

INT. LAST RESORT SEARHC ALASKA CLINIC - DAY

A NATIVE MAN, mid-thirties, lean and muscled, sits on the exam table as Dr. Leone Clearwaters examines his foot.

LEONE
When did this happen Gene?

GENE
Two-three weeks ago. Stepped on a piece of rusty sheet metal in the old cannery.

He's woozy and in-and-out of focus.

LEONE
Why didn't you come right in here then?

GENE
(in Tlingit)
Aa`s daa`k'oo'x'u ayaa`
ach wusnee`x yaa' ax
x'oo`s,
tee·l tlen`.
Subtitle: "Tree Pitch
healed my foot--a large
wound."

LEONE
It may have healed the outer wound some, but now you have blood poisoning, and I am concerned about Tetanus. I don't see a record of a Tetanus shot in your file.

GENE
x" áax" lingít x" áax" i!

Subtitle: "Crabapples!

LEONE
I don't have the right medicine here for Tetanus. To be safe, I am going to call Grizzly Adams to take you into town. Bartlett Hospital is the best place to treat you now.

Gene pounds the exam table with his fist. Bartlett General Hospital is the last place in the world he wants to go.

Leone goes to the phone and calls the Adams Mercantile. Mariah answers.

MARIAH
Adams Mercantile.

LEONE
Hi Mariah. Is John there?

MARIAH
Hold on.

John "Grizzly Adams" is just coming through the front door of the store with a dolly-load of boxes.

MARIAH (CONT'D)
(holds out phone)
John.
He takes the handset.

GRIZZLY
Hello.

LEONE
I need you to fly Gene Williams to town to the hospital. I'll call ahead and have the SEARHC van pick him up.

GRIZZLY
OK, when?

LEONE
Now. And can you come get him? He has blood poisoning in his foot and shouldn't be walking.

GRIZZLY
OK. Anything else?

LEONE
(beat)
Well...yes, actually there is. We
can talk when you get over here.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT SEARHC CLINIC ENTRANCE - DAY

Grizzly Adams approaches the Clinic and Dr. Leone is waiting for him.

GRIZZLY
Hi. You wanted to--

LEONE
(interrupts)
Yes. I do. Something's going on
with Ellie. She's acting--

GRIZZLY
Like a teenage girl?

LEONE
Uh--more like a teenage girl who is up to something her parents wouldn't approve of.

GRIZZLY
(innocently)
Oh? Like what?

LEONE
Like--I don't know what. Do you? Do you have any idea?
(beat)

GRIZZLY
Well--

LEONE
C'mon. Out with it Grizzly Adams.

GRIZZLY
Well...I'm sure it's not a boy or discovering alcohol or marijuana, or anything...

LEONE
How do you know?

GRIZZLY
Uh..m, well--

LEONE
John! Tell me what you know!

There's no escape here for Grizzly Adams. He's cornered.

GRIZZLY
(blurts it)
She's flying. I'm teaching her to fly.
Leone looks at the sky as her steam builds.
GRIZZLY (CONT'D)
She begged me to. It's what she wants to do, and I could see no harm in it.

LEONE
No harm? John--look what happened to your dad!
(beat)
(MORE)

LEONE (CONT'D)
I-I'm sorry. I know what happened to Jack wasn't his fault and--

GRIZZLY
Wasn't his fault, PLUS, he had been flying since he was Ellie's age. Day in and day out, with never a mishap, incident or crash.

LEONE
I know. I know--it's just--I worry about her. I was hoping she would want to do something different.

GRIZZLY
Like become a doctor like her mother?

LEONE
(resigned)
No. No--she's more like her father than her mother. There's no getting around that.
Grizzly breaths a sigh of relief--he's off the hook. He smiles.

GRIZZLY
She could do a lot worse than following in the footsteps of her mother. But as her father, I'm proud that she has the dream and the seriousness--especially at her age--to become a pilot. She's really good at it too, Leone. A natural. She flew as well as her dad on her first lesson.

Grizzly moves closer to Leone and there is a moment--a moment spent in sharing the pride of a daughter growing up. Then it was gone.

LEONE
You need to get Gene to town. He's got blood poisoning. He may have Tetanus.

Grizzly Adams remains standing there as Dr. Leone Clearwaters opens the door of the Clinic.

LEONE (CONT'D)
Come on Gene. Grizzly's flying you to town.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SPENCER MINE ADIT - DAY

The mine adit where Jack Adams struggles to survive is smoky and gloomy. His fire has died almost completely while he was passed out from the pain and sheer effort of setting his broken leg. He awakes and puts some of the wood scraps he gathered onto the coals. He sits up, gathers himself, and begins his next near-impossible task--going back out to the crashed Beaver.

JACK
(groaning with effort and pain)
One inch. One foot. One yard.
He collapses with the effort and relaxes. He's tempted to sleep again.
JACK (CONT'D)
Gotta do it.
He drags himself along the rocky floor of the mine adit toward the portal.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPENCER MINE PORTAL - DAY

Jack emerges slowly out of the portal into the open air. He crawls slowly, but eventually reaches the wreckage. He now discovers that he as caught a break--the impact opened up the aft fuselage where his cargo was and spilled a lot of it out onto the ground. He inches closer, and finally reaches the assorted boxes, bags, pallets and spilled items strewn around the wreck.

He knows there's a First Aid kit somewhere in the wreckage. There's also food, blankets, candy, fruit, vegetables and beer. He scoots around, gathering up items, and figures out a way to get them inside the mine--the U.S. Mail bags. He empties a bag and stuffs it with provisions.

CUT TO:

An OVERHEAD SHOT of Jack returning to the portal, dragging the bag.

Jack's struggle is epic, but he makes it back into the mine adit, where his fire has re-ignited, and another painful challenge is overcome. He is back by the fire.

JACK
Tylenol. Thank God.

He pulls a bottle of the pain reliever out of his mail sack.

He withdraws a plastic pack of ten cans of Sardines and a loaf of bread.

JACK (CONT'D)
(hopefully)
I made some big tracks. Maybe someone will see them.
Beaver's covered with brush and snow.
Jack fights his knife out of his pocket and opens the plastic pack of sardines. He tears into the bread loaf package. He's exhausted and deeply stressed by pain, but he's having a meal by the fire. He's tough. We see his steel resolve. He's a survivor.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPENCER MINE PORTAL - DAY

Though only a short time since Jack was moving between wreckage and mine, snow has started falling and has already covered hi tracks.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE CARD: TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. SPENCER MINE ADIT - DAY

Inside the Spencer Adit, Jack Adams has fashioned a set of crude crutches out of abandoned mine lumber and is struggling to get on his feet. He fails once, twice, falling down, but pushing himself to get up to try again, and on the third try, stands, wobbly, woozy from the effort, and contemplates negotiating the rough rocky floor of the mine.

He jerkily moves across the uneven floor, nearly losing it a couple of times, but he makes to the portal door. There, he does lose it and falls.

JACK
Aaarrrgh! Darn kids! Throwin' toys and banana peels all over...

He's lucky--no harm done--no loss. He laughs off the fall, and regains the vertical. But the upset and his dramatic loss of weight has caused his wedding band to fall off and onto the rocks at the portal opening.

EXT. SPENCER MINE - DAY

Jack works his way over the rough terrain and out to the Beaver.

TIME CUT TO:

A WIDE SHOT, Jack going back and forth, from wreckage to mine, carrying, dragging and cable-winching the contents of the Beaver until we

CUT TO:

EXT. SPENCER MINE PORTAL - DAY

Jack has tunnel vision from the pain, and he's too busy to notice a RAVEN circling over him and the mine portal. The raven spots a shiny object lying in the sun on the rocky ground in front of the portal, swoops down, and picks up Jack Adam's dropped wedding ring.

CUT TO:

INT. SPENCER MINE ADIT - DUSK

Everything that was in the plane is now stacked inside. There probably aren't a dozen men left in Alaska that could do that with the injuries that Jack has, but...

The fire is going. Jack starts planning his next move.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN ON:

The wheelhouse of the MV LeComte, an Alaska-class ship of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Her bow rises and dips majestically in five-foot seas against a freshening westerly as she nears the opening of Cross Sound, where the Inland Passage opens into the Gulf of Alaska. In the distance, Mount Fairweather rises 15,325 feet above sea level.

Abeam Column Point, her skipper begins a turn to port to enter the Lisianski Inlet.

CAPTAIN
Coming around to heading 122 degrees.

We see amazing Alaska marine scenery as the ship rounds the point and enters the Inlet. She plows on straight ahead and the Captain slows down, approaching Last Resort.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - DAY

All is quiet inside the Mercantile. The radio comes alive, but no one is there to answer it.

RADIO OPERATOR MV LECOMTE
Last Resort dock, Marine Channel 16, MV LeComte, Alaska State Ferry. Over.

The radioman waits.

RADIO OPERATOR MV LECOMTE (CONT'D)
Last Resort Dock, MV LeComte calling on Marine Channel 16. How do your read? Over.

CUT TO:

INT. WHEELHOUSE--MV LECOMTE - DAY

RADIO OPERATOR MV LECOMTE
No answer on 16 skipper.

CAPTAIN
All ahead one-third.

HELMSMAN
All ahead one-third.

The MV LeComte eases forward and comes into clear sight of the Adams dock, and the Captain can see that the dock was not designed for a 253-foot long ocean-going ship, so he decides to err on the side of caution and not dock there.

CAPTAIN
We'll drop anchor and take people ashore in the lighters.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAST RESORT AIRSTRIP - MIDDAY

Grizzly Adams' Super Cub approaches and touches down on the village strip. He's been in town all morning and is just returning.

Once shut down, he clambers out of the airplane and pushes it tail-first into the open hangar. But before he can finish gathering his gear, he is startled by, (O.C.), the deep, thunderous fog horn of the MV Lecomte. He rushes for the trail to the village.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK, LAST RESORT

A LONG SHOT as Grizzly Adams emerges from the woods on the trail and walks down the boardwalk of the village toward the dock, looks up, double-takes, as he sees the MV LeComte disgorging passengers into its lighters and a line of three ship's lighters approaching the dock, all of them full of people.

GRIZZLY
What the--

He dashes down the dock and into the Mercantile.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE -DAY

Mariah and Jim Adams are standing near the cash register as Grizzly Adams enters.

GRIZZLY
What the hell is going on?

He looks around, and sees that the store shelves have changed--they are now laden with "Grizzly Adams" merchandise. His face registers astonished pique. He glares at Mariah and Jim, but before he can say anything, the door bursts open and people from the ship begin streaming in by the dozen.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN

EXT. WOODED PATH OUTSIDE LAST RESORT - DAY

CLOSE on Mariah Adams as she walks along a path into the woods and emerges into a clearing. An uneven dome-shaped structure sits near the edge of the clearing. A plume of smoke curls from the top of the dome.

From Mariah's POV.

MARIAH (V.O.)
The day and hour for the sweat lodge has arrived. I'm the first one here, but the others will arrive soon.

EXT. SWEAT LODGE - DAY

A MAN, Jerry Hogan, a Tlingit Shaman, emerges out of the opening of the lodge dome. He's making preparations. As Mariah approaches, he sees her and speaks—rather formally, despite the long friendship between them. He is in character as both village shaman and lodge runner.

SHAMAN
Mariah.

MARIAH
Good afternoon.

SHAMAN
Everything is almost ready.

He senses her anxiousness.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)
Now remember--this lodge is for you and your people. Do not be nervous or afraid.

MARIAH
(nods)
The others will be along soon.
TWO YOUNG TLINGIT NATIVES emerge from the woods.

SHAMAN
Ted. Rick. Thanks for coming.
(to Mariah)
Ted and Rick will be fire-keepers.
They nod, reservedly mute before the shaman exercising his tribal duties.
SHAMAN (CONT'D)
(to the fire-keepers)
At the opening, I will ask you to bring in four grandfathers.
Mariah moves away from the lodge to be alone with her own thoughts for a moment. She mummers a prayer.

MARIAH
Creator, please be with us and hear us and help us.

Nate Clearwaters and Dr. Leone, along with more villagers arrive.

WIDE ANGLE OVERHEAD

The Sweat Lodge and the people gathered around it. Smoke is rising from fires inside and outside.

ANGLE SHAMN AT LODGE ENTRANCE

He motions people into the lodge. Women enter first and then men.

INT. SWEAT LODGE - NIGHT

The inside of the Lodge is very dark. Firelight is the only illumination. Woman are seated on one side, men on the other. The SHAMAN enters and begins the ceremony. He lights a ceremonial tobacco pipe.

SHAMAN
(to fire keepers, in Tlingit)
Bring in four grandfathers
The fire keepers bring the rocks in and they are arranged at the four directional points, North, South, East, West.
SHAMAN (CONT'D)
(smokes pipe)
Creator, we pray for our friend and father Jackson Adams, who is lost in the great wilderness. We do not know what has happened to him.
The Shaman passes the tobacco pipe and each person takes and it and prays, as the Shaman continues to dash water onto the rocks.
SHAMAN (CONT'D)
He was never found.
He shakes a THURIBLE OF SAGE over the fire and sage fills the lodge.
SHAMAN (CONT'D)
Spirits--tell us. Or show us where our brother has landed.
A SERIES OF DISSOLVES of the scene as time passes, more grandfathers are added to the circle and they glow in the darkness around the fire. The Shaman splashes water onto the grandfathers and the lodge becomes dense with steam and darker. He sprinkles other herbs into the fire.

MARIAH
(softly, barely audible)
Spirits please show me any sign
that may help me know what has
happened to Jack Adams.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEAT LODGE - LATE AFTERNOON

CLOSE on TWO RAVENS as they repeatedly circle the lodge.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEAT LODGE - NIGHT

There is Chanting and drums accompany the solo prayers and occasional crying and wailing. The ceremony continues through FOUR ROUNDS and several hours.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. SWEAT LODGE - DUSK

It is late evening, but the light is still faintly visible in the western sky.

SHAMAN (V.O.)
Mitakuye Oyasin!

SUBTITLE: "All My Relations"

The Shaman is ending the sweat. The participants repeat the refrain. They begin leaving the lodge, one by one.

They circle the lodge east-to-south-to-west and back toward the opening, then walk toward the trailhead that will take them to the village.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. ADAMS GENERAL STORE AND MERCANTILE - EARLY MORNING

Mariah is preparing the store for the day's trade. She's feeling pensive after last night's sweat lodge. Through the front window she sees a raven alight on the dock. The raven's caws pierce the early-morning quiet. This is unusual Maria goes out the door.

EXT. ADAMS AVIATION DOCK, LAST RESORT - EARLY MORNING

MARIAH
Yéil! What are you so excited about this morning?

The raven comes right to her and drops something on the dock. Mariah picks it up. It is her husband's wedding ring.

FADE TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED