

INTERSTATE JUGGERNAUT

by

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EXT. DESERT BADLANDS - DAY

The rocky sand-swept badlands barren and desolate, wind lightly rustling the bush bar sage.

JESS MCCORKELL, a hardy young woman, sitting on a rocky outcrop alone.

She lights what remains of a cigarette and savors the nicotine as she gazes around.

JESS (V.O.)

We were supposed to be the answer here, but now we're left for dead. If you've ever wondered how quickly the world can turn to madness, it's a lot quicker than you think.

EXT. CITY, STREET - DAY

Charred tree trunks stand silhouetted against burnt car shells, everything gray with ash.

JESS (V.O.)

It didn't go down like you think it would. People didn't run for the hills. They sat back and did what they always did and waited for someone to tell them what to do.

An armored personnel carrier creeps by, SOLDIERS scanning.

JESS (V.O.)

We followed it on the airwaves. The cities resources ran dry and desperation took over but the government locked the problem areas down fast.

EXT. HIGHWAY CHECKPOINT - DAY

SOLDIERS usher a FAMILY out of their car at gunpoint, their possessions crammed inside and spilling over the roof.

JESS (V.O.)

The army built a firewall around the city and left the rest of us to fend for ourselves. Like someone hit a big reset button, and took everybody back to the Wild West.

The CREW of a Black Hawk military helicopter relax around it. A soldier practices boxing with another.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM - DAY

Sand blows across old rusting farm machinery.

JESS (V.O.)

We always thought we'd be the ones to help. The perfect environment to grow crops for food and fuel. But, when the irrigation canals ran dry, it was clear something had happened upstream, and we had no purpose.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

A DEAD HITCHHIKER beside the highway, belongings ransacked.

JESS (V.O.)

Most fled, leaving behind this sour valley of ghosts, but many didn't make it in the heat.

EXT. DESERT BADLANDS - DAY

Jess scowls as she sucks the cigarette hard.

JESS (V.O.)

When we moved up to the springs, people said we couldn't make it work, but we did. This place is tough at the best of times, but it's something we can call home.

The cigarette burns down to the filter. She tosses it onto the rocks and sighs.

JESS (V.O.)

Now it favors two kinds of people, those skilled in looking after themselves. And those skilled in taking from others.

As she gazes into the sky, she spots a plume of smoke rising in the distance.

JESS (V.O.)

When you're looking for some sign of hope, you'll take any sign you can get.

Jess picks up an old hunting rifle and loads in a round.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

A road stretches endlessly ahead. A beat-up police cruiser races up and skids to a halt. Out steps an OLD COP, cautious and wary with his uniform tattered.

A car wrecked in the dirt, another cruiser at the scene.

The Old Cop creeps toward the wreck. He spots a pair of legs, reaches for his weapon, and works his way around to find --

A dead crash victim, thrown from the wreck, blood weeping into the dirt, a YOUNG COP squatted over the body, searching through the pockets.

The Old Cop spots a red toolbox and searches it.

Young Cop finds a knife on the body and admires it. He spots something reflected in the blade. Fresh foot prints leading into the foliage.

He follows the prints to bushes and peers into the darkness. Glowering eyes stare back and--

WILL MADINA, a rugged guy, bursts out and punches Young Cop in the jaw. It's one hell of a hit, but it's all Will has left. He's exhausted, and his right arm is so badly injured he can barely use it.

Old Cop discards the toolbox and stands up with a devious grin. He knows what's coming. Young Cop gets back up and beats Will to the ground with a series of sucker punches.

He's fast, strong, and cunning. AWHOOOOOOOOOOOO! The Old Cop lets out an animalistic howl in celebration.

Will lies coughing. Young Cop grabs him by the hair and exposes his jugular. He raises the knife and licks his lips.

BANG! Young Cop hits the ground. Old Cop snaps round, pulls his pistol, and FIRES! BANG! BANG! CLICK! He's out of ammo.

He flees, but BANG! He crashes to the ground in a cloud of dust.

Will lies in the searing sun, staring up at the empty blue sky. Crunching footsteps draw close, and Jess strolls by with a mean look on her face. She takes cigarettes and a lighter from the body of the Young Cop and lights one up.

She studies Will for a moment. He squints back. She grabs her rifle with both hands, grits her teeth, and knocks him clean out with the butt.

INT. FARM CABIN - DAY

Will stirs awake to find a .45 Magnum in his face and Jess staring down the sights, his wrists bound, and a table between them with his red toolbox on it.

JESS

I'm not going to beat around the bush with you, okay? You're only alive right now because I need your advice, and I don't have much time.

He leans in and looks her in the eye.

WILL

You want advice? Here's some advice. Next time you tie somebody up. Secure the feet.

She frowns. He bursts up, kicking the table into her and knocking the revolver out of her hand.

She pulls a knife, reflexes cat-like. His eyes bulge.

She swipes. He dodges and circles around her, his back to the wall.

She jabs but misses and stabs the wooden wall so hard she's unable to tug the knife back out. She looks back, worried.

SMACK! He head-butts her, knocking her down, and goes to grab the knife but--

She's up quick and punches him directly on his shoulder wound. He screams and smacks her into the wall.

He grabs the knife and lunges at her, pinning her back, his bound arms against her throat.

She chokes as he readies the knife, struggling with her twitching feet off the ground. She tugs at his arms and pounds on his torso. She just won't give in then--

She pauses, glares, and kicks for the crotch. He sees it coming and shimmies to one side. She kicks again and misses. He shakes his head disapproving and smiles.

She's not done yet. Her hand scavenges a bottle and smashes it against the wall. His eyes widen. She draws the broken bottle to his crotch and smiles back.

They stare in deadlock, him panting as she defiantly struggles her final breaths, and--

He backs away, unable to do it. She GASPS.

BURT MCCORKELL, an old tough guy, storms in with a rifle raised, ready to shoot.

BURT
Hold it right there, asshole!

WILL
I'm not looking for trouble.

BURT
Well, you sure seem to have found it, son. You thinking of using that on my daughter?

He drops the knife and holds up his palms.

WILL
Last time I saw you daughter, she killed two cops in cold blood.

Jess clutches her throat.

JESS
(choking)
Cold blood? I saved your life, you idiot.

WILL
You said, you were only keeping me alive for advice. That's what you said.

JESS
Because I was trying to scare you.

Will stares at Burt and Jess sincerely.

WILL
I'm just trying to get the hell away from all this chaos.

Burt can tell Will isn't a bad guy.

BURT

Well, I guess that means we have one thing in common.

JESS

I guess it does.

WILL

You guys want advice?

Will looks them both in the eyes.

WILL (CONT'D)

How about you lower the gun and just try asking?

Burt lowers his rifle and looks to Jess.

INT. FARM CABIN, BEDROOM - DAY

Will, Jess, and Burt stare down soberly at ERNIE JACKSON, an old, friendly-faced man lying on his back wheezing.

Jess carefully mops his brow. He's sweating like he has a serious fever.

JESS

He's diabetic. He needs insulin soon, or he'll slip into a coma. I want to make a run to a trade post. But I don't know where to go.

BURT

We're good people here. This guy is the only person who's passed through who hasn't tried to kill us or steal what little we have.

Barking, crowing, and braying. Will glances out the window to see various animals in pens.

WILL

Trade posts are dangerous places.

JESS

I'm not going to sit back and let a good man die. We need every one we can get, right now.

WILL

I know a place. Close as you can get to the city. There's medical supplies.

JESS

Where?

WILL

I'll show you if you take me with you. It's where I was headed.

She looks at his bound wrists and back at him.

JESS

That person who died in the crash. Were they a friend?

WILL

Just the last stranger who gave me a lift.

BURT

Gotta love this guy's honesty.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

An old pickup truck cruises down the empty highway.

INT. JESS'S PICKUP TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Will in the passenger seat, his wrists still bound. Jess takes out a cigarette and lights up.

WILL

You'll get a lot more out of those if you sell them rather than smoke them.

JESS

Yeah well, I'll be forced to quit soon anyway. At least until I kill another cop and steal a new pack.

WILL

I'm pretty sure that's a sign you're addicted.

She smirks and offers him a drag. He shakes his head.

JESS

You said you're trying to get away from the chaos. You from the city?

WILL

It's not a city anymore. It's a war zone.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

A dehydrated dog lies next to a dead hitchhiker, its lead still clutched in the corpse's hand. Will and Jess cross over from the pickup truck.

She releases the dog and picks it up. It's friendly.

WILL
What are you doing?

JESS
What?

WILL
You've freed it. Let it go.

She puts the dog in the truck bed and gives it some water.

WILL (CONT'D)
You show it too much love, and
it'll bond with you.

JESS
Good. I'm taking him home.

WILL
You're tying yourself down.

JESS
And I'm fine with that. I'm still a
person.

She looks him up and down.

WILL
Not a drifter.

INT. JESS'S PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Will and Jess slam the doors shut. She starts the engine.

JESS
Have you ever saved a life?

He reflects for a moment and nods.

JESS (CONT'D)
Did you feel you had a choice?

Will reflects as he stares at the truck keys swinging.

EXT. INTERSTATE - DAY - FLASHBACK

A bright sunny day. Traffic flows toward the gleaming skyscrapers of a huge city.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

A set of car keys swing. Will nods to rock music. A furious honking ruins the song. He checks his mirror to find someone tailgating him.

He lets them pass, watches them tailgate the next car, and shakes his head disapprovingly.

WILL

What's the big hurry, buddy?

The wail of howling sirens gets louder. He checks his mirror to find lights strobing and police cruisers approaching fast.

They dash by as he smirks to himself.

WILL (CONT'D)

That's what you get.

Gridlock ahead. He brings the car to a halt and watches the cruisers make their way through.

He sighs to himself, gets comfortable, and--

A car blasts by the other way, going hell for leather.

Cars in the traffic around him start honking. People shout back. Cars try to cut around the queue using the verge. Will watches incredulously.

Drivers gesture abuse. More cars race past the other way. A semi-truck thunders by at what must be triple figures, rocking the car. Will's eyes widen.

Motorists get out of their cars shouting.

Will gets out and gazes around bewildered, unable to make out what anybody is saying over the commotion, helicopters flying in and out of the city, and a mass of gridlock around him.

He stands on the doorsill and peers ahead.

WILL (CONT'D)

Woah!

A snarled queue as far as the eye can see. He looks back to find the tailback endless. Police cruisers trapped within it and Officers trying to clear a path.

CRASH! Screeching tires. Will snaps around to see two cars slide to a halt on the opposite carriageway. One quickly screeches away with no remorse or concern for the other.

Will stares alarmed at the stranded car, a FAMILY inside, the kids screaming.

WILL (CONT'D)

Shit!

He races to help and leaps the barrier as speeding cars glance by.

The Driver gets the stranded car going and limps it away, stopping for nothing.

Will freezes, stunned, and looks to a confused WOMAN IN CAR.

WOMAN IN CAR

What's happening? What's going on?

WILL

I don't know! This is crazy!

He spots a CROWD by a police cruiser and hurries over.

POLICE OFFICER

Everybody's gotta calm down!
There's no reason to panic!

CONCERNED MAN

I heard Washington! That's all I heard!

CONCERNED WOMAN

They said New York City! I swear they said New York City!

The rowdy group shout over one another.

MAN IN CAR

Listen! Listen! Listen! Shut up already!

He turns up his car radio. Everyone falls silent.

NEWSCASTER

(through car radio)

We'll be back with more reports from Washington as soon as we get them. We can now confirm that there have been significant explosions within the past few minutes in both Washington City and New York City. Evacuations of all major US cities are now in progress and citizens are being encouraged to remain calm as we're being told these are only precautionary measures and people are not to panic.

The crowd gasps.

CONCERNED MAN

We gotta get outta here!

Panic sets in and people flee back through the traffic away from the city. Drivers try to force vehicles back. The crowd spills over the barrier into speeding traffic.

Will sprints with them, negotiating the assault course of cars, still confused as to what's happening.

OFFICER IN ROAD

Everyone this way! C'mon you gotta move! This way! This way, now!

A pickup truck scrabbles along the embankment. People try to climb into the bed.

Will runs to exhaustion and has to rest and hears something.

TRAPPED GIRL (O.S.)

Help me! Please! I need help!

He crosses toward the pleading to find a TRAPPED GIRL pinned between a car and an SUV that have been pushed together in the commotion, writhing for her life.

WILL

I got you! I got you!

He grabs her arms and pulls.

GIRL

Argh! It hurts! Help!

WILL

Breath in!

He tries again but can't pull her free.

GIRL

Don't leave me! Please! Get me out!

A FLEEING MAN pauses, looks at them, and runs on. Will tries a car door but finds it locked. A SECURITY GUARD appears.

WILL

You! Grab her arms!

The Security Guard clambers onto the hood and grabs her arms.

WILL (CONT'D)

Now pull!

Will heaves against the SUV body as the Security Guard just manages to pull her out.

GIRL

Thank you! Thank you so much!

SECURITY GUARD

Follow me!

The Security Guard leads Will and the Girl through the maze of cars to a Security Van and bangs on the side. Locks clunk. A FEMALE SECURITY GUARD ushers them in.

WILL

Lady! We've got to get further away! We've got to get to safety!

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD

Mister! Right now, this is as safe as you're gonna get!

Will glances around at the big tires, the bullet-proof windows, and the thick slabbed sides. He climbs in.

INT. ARMORED SECURITY VAN - DAY

Will shuffles to the window and peers out at the swarming crowd. People shoving others, tripping, and getting trampled.

A bright light intensifies to the point it seers everything it casts over. It burns the screaming crowd and a rumbling grows to the point it's deafening.

Everyone in the van exchanges glances. It shudders violently.

Will continues to watch the devastation outside. People, cars, and a burning helicopter are hurled past.

The armored van itself skids along the highway.

BANG! A shockwave punches everything back and dust envelopes the area in darkness.

Pure white noise accompanies the shaking and eventually--

Silence. A long eerie silence as the van's emergency air system kicks into operation.

They sit panting, trying to take it all in.

The Security Guard pats the van relieved.

SECURITY GUARD
So glad I didn't take that mailman
job right now.

INT. JESS'S PICKUP TRUCK - MOVING - DAY - PRESENT

Will stares out the window at the dried-up shore of what was a large lake, the wooden docks derelict.

A burnt-out school bus sits abandoned in the highway ahead.

Jess peers at what looks like another body in the road. They look at each other worried.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Jess's Pickup squeaks to a halt. Will and Jess stare through the windshield.

On the hot asphalt lies BARONY IRK, a young goth girl, her eyes closed and limbs splayed out angelically, her long red hair fanning out, clearly not dead.

Jess gets out and tosses her cigarette. Will watches pensively.

JESS
(calling)
You're not fooling anybody, Barony.
I'm going to give you till the
count of three.
(aiming revolver)
And then I'm going to shoot you in
the freaking head. One...

Will watches Jess stare down the sights and click back the hammer. He doesn't like how this feels.

JESS (CONT'D)

Two...

Barony's eyes stay shut, but she draws a wry smile.

Will glances around and spots a face in one of the school bus windows. A musket raised.

JESS (CONT'D)

Thre-

Will pulls Jess inside. BANG! The windshield cracks.

An engine roars into life. Barony sits up and glares at Jess.

A Hot Rod lurches out from behind the bus. BUSTER and SAVAGE, two huge biker types, inside.

Barony leaps in, and they screech away in a cloud of tire smoke, vanishing into the distance.

Will and Jess sit pressed together. She shivers with nerves as the Hot Rod's engine echoes in the distance.

She looks at Will, eases off him, and sits staring.

WILL

You okay?

Her shaking wears off, and she nods. She takes out her knife, pulls across his hands, and cuts him free.

JESS

I guess that kinda makes us even.

He flexes his arms.

WILL

You know her?

She retrieves her cigarette from the ground and slams the door shut.

JESS

She was a friend. That's what happens out here in the desert; if people don't die, the heat makes them go crazy.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, PERIMETER - EVENING

A tall mesh security fence lines an abandoned fairground. Music pumps, and festoon lights glow in the dust.

Will and Jess step out of the Pickup Truck and look at the tall arched metal entrance, the word HOPE cut out of steel.

She carefully puts the dog inside the truck while Will takes out his red toolbox.

WILL

You not worried what it might do in there? He doesn't look well.

JESS

He looks just fine to some starving bastard. That's what worries me.

She goes to enter.

WILL

There's no weapons permitted inside.

He nods down to her holstered revolver.

WILL (CONT'D)

You can leave it at the gate.

No chance. She opens the door, hides the revolver, and slams it shut.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, SECURITY GATE - EVENING

Jess and Will get patted down. A GUARD hands Will his toolbox back after inspecting it.

EXT. HOPE MARKET - EVENING

They walk through the market that surrounds an overturned Ferris wheel, it's lights mostly still flashing.

Music echoes through the tannoy speakers. Illuminations dance patterns by games, rides, and stalls. The crowd mixed, with everything from GANGS to FAMILIES to OLD COUPLES.

Jess stops in her tracks.

JESS

Oh wow! Finally!

WILL

Medicine?

JESS

Liquor.

They cross to a stall lined with bottles.

JESS (CONT'D)
Is this all genuine?

The STALL LADY pours a tiny sample.

STALL LADY
You tell me.

Jess knocks it back and gasps, satisfied.

JESS
Close enough.

She fumbles through her pockets and pulls out cigarettes.

JESS (CONT'D)
Would you be willing to trade a
bottle for...

She pops open the packet to reveal just one smoke left.

JESS (CONT'D)
I need to cut down.

WILL
I hate to say I told you so.

JESS
I really need some decent liquor in
my life.

WILL
More than cigarettes, obviously,
and I've seen what you'll do for a
pack of those.

Will looks at a truck behind the stall.

WILL (CONT'D)
Say, is that your truck?

STALL LADY
You interested in my truck? I hope
you got a lot more smokes.

WILL
How does it run?

STALL LADY
Like a piece of crap! Find me
something out here that doesn't!

WILL

How about I tune it up and take a bottle?

STALL LADY

You a mechanic?

He holds up his toolbox.

STALL LADY (CONT'D)

I hear that thing running like a Swiss watch and you got yourself a deal.

Jess looks at Will, confused and surprised. He points across the market to a large tent

WILL

Medical tent's over there. It's Red Cross, so if they have it, it's free. I've upheld my side of the deal. It's up to you if you want to hang around later and share a drink with me.

JESS

Don't wait up.

She walks away smiling.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, LIQUOR STALL - EVENING

Will pops open the bonnet of the truck, clatters through tools, and begins wrenching. He's clearly competent.

Barony skulks in the shadows, watches him working for a few moments, and disappears.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, DANCE AREA - NIGHT

The atmosphere at the market now more party like with the crowd rowdy and music loud. Burning drums crackle flames and the neon lights illuminate clouds of stirred up dust.

Jess crosses from the medical tent, shoving boxes of insulin and needles into her pockets.

She pauses, stares at Will working on the truck, and slumps against a fence to light her last cigarette.

BARONY (O.S.)
 Jess hi! How's your dad and the
 family farm?

Jess turns to see it's Barony and seethes.

JESS
 We left the lowlands just like you
 did. So seriously, get lost, you
 little witch.

BARONY
 I just wanted to apologize for
 earlier. If I'd known it was you,
 that would never of happened. I
 like your boyfriend, by the way. A
 mechanic! Wow!

JESS
 He's not my boyfriend. Just stay
 out of my life, okay? Next time you
 pull a stunt like that, I won't
 count to three.

Barony rolls her eyes and giggles unafraid.

BARONY
 So defensive! Same old Jess, crying
 out for a man but nobody wants to
 deal with the attitude.

Barony leaves amused. Jess watches her glaring and spots Will
 crossing over. He raises a liquor bottle triumphantly. She
 forces a smile.

WILL
 Here, you get first dibs.

He hands over the bottle. She takes a swig, spills some down
 her chin, and smirks, embarrassed as she hands it back.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Take it easy. Plenty more where
 this came from. I can keep fixing
 cars all night.

As he takes a swig, she notices his bloody shoulder weeping
 into his shirt.

JESS
 Hey, let me take a look at that.

WILL
 It's nothing. It's fine now.

He lets her peel up the sleeve to find a nasty wound.

JESS
It's not fine at all. This could
get infected. Here-

She sits him down and pulls out a bandana. She folds up the fabric, pours alcohol onto it, and dabs at the wound.

WILL
Yikes. That is strong stuff.

JESS
Don't be such a baby.

He watches her as he swigs, trying to work her out.

WILL
You just can't help it, can you?

JESS
What?

WILL
Looking after people. It's in your
blood.

JESS
That's what a woman does, right?

WILL
Maybe, they don't usually have such
a strong right hook though.

She smiles warmly.

WILL (CONT'D)
Just maternal instinct, I guess?

Her smile fades. She focuses on his wound.

JESS
There a place for that anymore?

She wipes his wound clean and pulls his sleeve back down.

They sit drinking together, watching a DISABLED MAN in a wheelchair struggle by.

JESS (CONT'D)
Why are we fighting so hard just to
watch the world fall apart? Why
can't things just go back to how
they were.

WILL

That's not gonna happen. Not unless we fix the bigger problem. Maybe then we can start caring about all that family and community stuff again.

JESS

No, good grows outward from a community. It doesn't trickle down the system after you win a war. We can be so consumed with winning the fight we risk having nothing left worth fighting for.

WILL

Can I be honest?

JESS

Sure.

WILL

Don't take this the wrong way, but you're kinda weird. How can you kill two guys like it's nothing and then pick up a dying dog like it means the world to you? I just don't get that.

JESS

I didn't kill two guys. I saved one.

An uncomfortable silence broods.

JESS (CONT'D)

You want to know something genuinely weird? I've actually enjoyed tonight.

WILL

Because I got you some liquor?

She laughs, her smile bright in the moonlight.

JESS

I little bit of that sure. That and feeling like there's some light at the end of the tunnel.

She looks at him, hoping the feeling is mutual, as an acoustic guitar strums from the speakers.

JESS (CONT'D)

Come on, no more politics. Dance with me.

WILL

No more politics.

He stashes the liquor in his toolbox and lets her lead him into the dance area.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, DANCE AREA - NIGHT

Jess draws Will's arms around her and rests her hands around him. A female vocalist sings softly as they rock slowly, the colored lights glowing behind them.

She rests her head against his chest solemnly. He holds her tight. Her eyes glisten. A beat kicks in, and the female vocalist howls.

She fights her emotions back, but it's too much, and she breaks down in his arms.

He rubs her back as she clutches him tightly. He understands her pain.

They continue to slowly dance embraced, guitars echoing across the wasteland around the market.

He gazes down. She looks back up, wipes her eyes, and laughs, embarrassed.

JESS

Sorry, I just needed to let that out. You must think I'm crazy.

WILL

I don't. I think you're the sanest person I've found in a long time.

Their stare lingers, but then--

A horn blasts long and loud as people scream.

Will and Jess jolt and look across, startled at a huge yellow roaring fireball billowing into the sky.

People flee. Stall owners desperately pack away goods.

Gunshots ring out. Terrified people run to the fences and try to climb them.

CREW MEMBERS in military clothing run through the crowd, firing and beating people down. A person runs through screaming on fire.

Will and Jess spot Barony grinning at them and the Disabled Man struggling to escape in his wheelchair.

They run to him, grab his chair, and push him, but--

Crew Members swarm around and grab Jess. Will hurls himself into the mix and punches a few thuggish faces.

Jess wriggles free, and her jaw drops.

A BIKER GIRL raises a crossbow, aims right for the Disabled Man, and fires.

Jess runs toward him. A leg sweeps around and smacks her hard. She stumbles back to find Biker Girl ready to fight.

Biker Girl sweeps around another kick. Jess hunches and takes it. Biker Girl jabs in chops and elbow jabs.

BIKER GIRL

Stay down, bitch! Taekwondo, first dan!

Jess kicks her shin, smacks her with an uppercut, grabs her hair, and head-butts her to the ground.

JESS

Lacrosse, eighth grade! Bitch!

Will fights hard and knocks a few people out, but he's vastly outnumbered and eventually gets wrestled down to the ground

Jess runs to the Disabled Man to find blood pouring from his gut. She clutches at him. He groans in pain as he gazes back.

JESS (CONT'D)

No!

His hand goes limp in hers as he slips away.

JESS (CONT'D)

No! No!

She looks around for Will but finds him being dragged out of the market.

She runs toward the entrance arch that's now licking with fire, blows by burnt bodies everywhere, and ducks through the flames.

The silhouette of a huge object on the highway. A horn blasts as the Crew Members retreat to it.

A diesel engine roars into life, and smoke pours into the air.

Jess dashes to her Pickup Truck, opens the door, and pulls out her revolver. She runs back to the highway as the object roars into the darkness.

She sprints to exhaustion and stares hopelessly as the beast slips away.

She looks back and forth between the darkness ahead and the road home.

JESS (CONT'D)

Shit!

INT. JESS'S PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT

Jess slams her door shut and tries to compose herself. She checks the medicine is okay and fires up the engine.

EXT. HOPE MARKET, PERIMETER - NIGHT

Jess's Pickup pulls onto the highway and roars toward home.

An engine fires up. The Hot Rod creeps out and follows.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, BARRACKS - MOVING - NIGHT

Will awakens, gagged, and his wrists bound once again. An engine drones as he looks around the shuddering truck trailer converted into barracks.

Crew Members mill around, talking in hushed tones. Two other KIDNAP VICTIMS sit bound and gagged, staring scared.

The engine roar grows as HAYDEN, an old militant man, enters.

He mutters to Crew Members, one of whom raises the red tool box and points at Will.

Hayden rests his hands on Will's shoulders.

HAYDEN

You, you're a mechanic.

Will nods cautiously.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Looks it's your lucky day.

Hayden strolls down the trailer. Crew Members grab Will, force him up, and follow.

INT. JESS'S PICKUP TRUCK - MOVING - SUNRISE

Jess drives worried, the engine racing. The Hot Rod following in her mirror. She cuts the wheel hard and squeals across an intersection. The Hot Rod races after.

Jess shakes her head, pissed off.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - SUNRISE

The Pickup screeches to a halt, and Jess leaps out, gun raised. The Hot Rod pulls up, and Barony ducks out, smiling.

BARONY
Hey Jess, where you goin'?

JESS
Back off and stop following me.

BARONY
(laughing)
Or what?

JESS
Or I blow your tiny messed up mind
out the back of your pretty little
skull, that's what.

A musket is offered out of the Hot-Rod. Barony hastily ushers it away and forces a smile to Jess.

BARONY
Just let me come see where the new
farm is, Jess. It'll be like old
times.

JESS
Barony, you've three seconds to
turn around and get out of here.

BARONY
Now Jess-

Jess FIRES! Barony stands frozen and looks down to find a mark in the asphalt. She glares back.

BARONY (CONT'D)
That wasn't three seconds!

JESS
Stay the hell away from me and my
family.

Jess goes to get back in her Pickup.

BARONY
See you around.

Jess gets in her Pickup and roars away.

Barony watches it disappearing and looks up at the Mountain
towering above the plains. She smiles slyly.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Will stands in a trailer converted into a Workshop, a buggy
towering over him. It's a real beast, a gunners seat at the
rear but no gun. SKOOTER, a grubby young woman, works on it.

HAYDEN
What you're looking at is the
highly prized Experimental Desert
Patrol Vehicle. Or, as we call it,
the Hammertail.
(he stands admiring it)
We're running this mean son of a
bitch right into the city. Once
it's tooled up with some firepower,
it's going to change the game
there. Now, I'm not gonna tear into
the detail, but it ain't running
too well, and that's where you come
in. We'd fix it ourselves, that is,
if our girl here knew how to, which
she don't.

He curls his burly arm around Skooter.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Ain't that right, Skooter?

Skooter winces and nods.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'm the man in charge round here.
You work for me now.

Hayden nods to WARD, a guard who cocks his pistol, and strolls to the door. He pauses and looks back at Will with a mean grin.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Welcome to the Juggernaut.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Jess's truck drives up the highway alone.

EXT. MOUNTAIN, TRACK - DAY

The Hot-Rod growls up a dirt trail, drifting round bends.

INT. HOT-ROD - MOVING - DAY

Barony grins manically as she wrestles with the wheel. Savage and Buster cling on in the back.

EXT. MOUNTAIN, PEAK - DAY

The Hot-Rod skids to a halt. Barony climbs out and draws a pair of binoculars to her eyes. She watches Jess's truck taking a backroad and pulling into the farm.

BARONY
So, this is where you've been
hiding.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Jess's Pickup Truck skids to a halt by Burt. She climbs out, and they hug tightly.

BURT
Good to see you back. I was gettin'
worried.

She leans back into the truck and lifts out the dog.

BURT (CONT'D)
Do you have to bring back a half-
dead animal every time you go out?

She glares back, cradling the dog defensively.

JESS
Maybe I do.

He spots the cracked windshield and her blood-stained hands.

BURT
What the hell happened?

JESS
I'm fine. I got the medicine.

He nods, relieved.

BURT
So, he honored his deal? He was a good man.

JESS
I guess he was.

She marches away angrily.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Will and Skooter work on the engine of the Hammertail, one of them on either side.

He searches his way through a mess of cables and finds a bundle of wires wrapped in electrical tape.

He unravels it to find a hidden connector separated. When he goes to connect it, Skooter puts his hand on his to stop him. He looks at her. She shakes her head, fear in her eyes.

Will leaves it disconnected and bundles the tape back up so the connector is hidden.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony watches the farm, her hair whipping in the wind.

BARONY
(into radio)
Barony to Juggernaut.

RADIO GUY
(through radio)
Yeah, go ahead.

BARONY
Put Hayden on.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden sitting slouched in the cab, surrounded by a RADIO GUY, NAVIGATOR, and DRIVER.

RADIO GUY
(offering mic)
It's that messed up goth girl for
you again.

HAYDEN
What does she want now?

Hayden snatches the mic from the Radio Guy.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
(into radio)
Yeah, this is Hayden.

INTERCUT BARONY AND HAYDEN

BARONY
(into radio)
How'd the mechanic work out?

HAYDEN
Well, we'll have to wait and see on
that one.

BARONY
What would you say if I told you
I'd found a farm?

HAYDEN
I'd say, why should I give a damn?

BARONY
Oh, you should give a damn about
this, crops, fuel, supplies...
fresh meat.

Barony draws a devious grin. Hayden thinks for a moment.

HAYDEN
You just plant your asses there,
and I'll get back to you.

Hayden hands back the mic.

RADIO GUY
What do ya think? I like the sound
of that fresh meat.

HAYDEN

I got a war to win. For all I care,
she can sit out there like a frog
on a log.

INT. CABIN, BEDROOM - DAY

A bottle of insulin glints. Jess tilts it from side to side. A needle spears through the snout and draws in units. Jess taps the needle.

Ern lies on the bed, wheezing. She kneels beside him. The needle pierces his flesh. She winces, takes a breath, and pushes down the plunger.

Burt stares worried from behind her.

BURT

You think it's gonna work?

JESS

All I know is it's our best shot.

She grabs a book on medicine and studies it.

BURT

You're doin' a great job. I'm
mighty proud of ya.

She smiles back, unconvinced.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut roars along. Painted all black, the tractor unit hauling three long trailers with protective fences lining the tops around junk piled under tarpaulins.

It thunders past a red "WARNING RESTRICTED AREA" sign.

A Black Hawk helicopter swoops out and takes chase.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Will, Skooter, and Ward glance up through a mesh window and watch the Black Hawk pass over.

INT. BLACK HAWK - DAY

The BLACK HAWK GUNNER scans along the Juggernaut. The Driver confidently gives them the finger from the cab window.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

The Driver turns to Hayden.

DRIVER

I was told not to expect much heat.

HAYDEN

These kids haven't got the balls
nor the resources to make a move.
Batten down and keep on truckin'.

They crest the hill, and Hayden's eyes light up.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Well, shut my mouth. Stop. Stop
right here.

The Juggernaut growls as the jake brake engages.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - DAY

Will and Skooter are thrown forward as the massive rig comes to a halt, and the airbrakes hiss.

EXT. ENFORCEMENT FACILITY - DAY

A COMBAT TEAM block the highway beside concrete barriers, a dozen of them out on point in a show of force.

The Juggernaut sits stationary, tarpaulins rustling in the breeze.

COLONEL BECKER strolls out from behind the barrier and into the highway with a loud hailer in hand.

INTERCUT HAYDEN, BECKER, AND WILL

Hayden watches, intrigued.

HAYDEN

Ever had that feeling that
somebody's been expecting you?

COLONEL BECKER

(through loud hailer)
This is Colonel Becker of the
Military Reserve. State your
identity.

HAYDEN

Well, if it isn't the goddamn National Guard. Someone's got too big for their britches. Switch on that P.A.

Speakers on the Juggernaut pop and squeal.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

(through P.A)

This is Colonel Hayden of the First Armored Division.

COLONEL BECKER

Well, well, well, if it ain't the infamous Hayden. We got word on you, boy. You're no Colonel anymore. You and your gang of reprobates are nothing but war criminals. You're scum.

Becker spits on the ground in disgust.

HAYDEN

Every dog should have a few fleas. Let me teach you a little lesson about scum.

Hayden slips out of the Cab and walks into the highway. He grins menacingly and looks back at the Juggernaut.

Crew Members emerge from everywhere, creeping into positions, gathering on the highway, and standing on the trailers. They cock firearms, draw knives, and pat bats spiked with nails.

SOLDIER #1

What are we waiting for? We can take these guys!

SOLDIER #2

Look! Above the prime mover!

Becker glances up. A BAZOOKA GUY squatted above the Juggernaut Cab with a rocket launcher on his shoulder.

SOLDIER #1

That's a goddamn AT4!

COLONEL BECKER

Get that Hawk outta here!

Becker's Soldiers take up defensive positions. The Black Hawk blades crackle as it flies away.

The door to the Juggernaut Workshop unlocks. Ward, pistol pointed, ushers Will and Skooter out and leads them into the highway among the Crew Members.

SOLDIER #2
(eyes wide)
Hostages!

The Two Kidnap Victims are pulled out of the Juggernaut, writhing and moaning through gags.

The Male Kidnap Victim is kicked along as he shuffles. The Female Kidnap Victim screams as she's dragged by the hair.

Will and Skooter watch, concerned, as the Two Kidnap Victims are lined up on their knees side by side.

HAYDEN
Yeah, let me tell you all about
scum, Colonel.

SOLDIER #1
We should do something!

COLONEL BECKER
What happens beyond this checkpoint
is not our concern!

SOLDIER #1
(punching ground)
Damn!

COLONEL BECKER
(into inhaler)
You're barking up the wrong tree,
Hayden. We won't negotiate over
hostages.

Hayden scoffs and grins back meanly.

HAYDEN
Hostage negotiation? Oh, hell no.
This is an initiation ceremony!

Hayden nods to a Crew Member. They pull away the Male Kidnap Victim's gag. He gasps, confused.

MALE KIDNAP VICTIM
Please! Do something!

Hayden leans into the Male Kidnap Victim.

HAYDEN
What's your name, son?

He holds the microphone to the Male Kidnap Victims mouth.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Tell them!

MALE KIDNAP VICTIM

Larry, umm, Larry... Miller.

HAYDEN

That's a good old American name.
Tell me, Larry, are you the scum
Colonel Becker here is so kindly
referring to?

Larry looks up at Hayden, unsure what to say.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Are you scum!

LARRY

No! No, I'm not!

HAYDEN

Then you're no use to me, boy.

Hayden nods to a Crew Member. They approach with a knife.

LARRY

No, please!

Will and Skooter go wide-eyed. Becker and his Soldiers watch
concerned and--

They cut the rope binding Larry's wrists.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Thank you! Thank you so much!

The Female Kidnap Victim stares and wriggles, her pleading
muffled.

Larry stands up and gazes around, but suddenly, a loop of
rope is thrown over his head and snapped tight. Will and
Skooter jolt.

Larry clutches at the rope as he staggers around, a Crew
Member holding it like a leash.

Hayden marches down the middle of the road and points at
Becker, his eyes wild.

HAYDEN

Now, the initiation begins!

Jingling catches everyone's attention. Will and Skooter glance around, and their mouths drop. Becker and his Soldiers peer ahead, their faces shocked.

ROACH, an enormous guy in an orange jumpsuit with his head shaved and face tattooed, is lead along in chains to Hayden.

The Female Kidnap Victim looks up as he passes by, her eyes bulging, Larry looks around, terrified.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Name!

ROACH

Roach!

HAYDEN

Are you scum, Roach!

ROACH

YES SIR!

Hayden paces back and forth, nodding delighted.

HAYDEN

Now we're cookin'.

Skooter looks at Will, concerned. He tenses and glances at Ward, sizing him up. Ward notices and cocks his pistol.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Tell everyone here just how much of a scumbag you are, Roach!

ROACH

Three accounts of rape, triple homicide, sir!

HAYDEN

Oh, you're scum alright.
(raising eyebrows)
Death row?

Roach smiles.

ROACH

Yes sir!

HAYDEN

Not anymore! Ain't war just grand!

The Crew Members cheer as Roach nods slowly at Hayden. Becker and his Soldiers look at each other disapprovingly.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 (glaring at Becker)
 Let me show how the world works out
 here now, Becker.

Hayden nods to his Crew Members. One runs in and cuts the chains on Roach as another hands him a box knife.

ROACH breathes deeply, grins, and stares at Larry.

A knife is offered to Larry. He glances around, confused.

LARRY
 No! Please!

HAYDEN
 Believe me when I say this, Larry.
 You want that knife in your hand
 right now.

Larry takes the knife in his quivering hand. Becker watches disgusted. Skooter clutches Will's arm.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Watch and learn, Becker! Let's see
 what happens when the weak and
 innocent who've been left behind
 meet the scum that's been
 persecuted their whole lives. Who's
 it going to be?
 (grinning)
 Good ol' Larry or Death Row Roach?

The Crew Members form half a ring, keeping Larry's rope tight. Roach circles, grinning. Larry staggers, glancing around helplessly.

The Juggernaut HORN BLASTS. The Female Kidnap Victim jolts.

Roach lunges at Larry and dances around him confidently. Larry stumbles and waves his knife around.

Skooter buries her face against Will's arm. Roach swings. Larry ducks. Crew Members goad and cheer for both of them.

Larry swipes at Roach. Roach sweeps to one side and grins. Larry swipes back frantically.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Seems Larry can be quite the
 tenacious little bastard when
 backed into a corner.

Becker shakes his head angry.

COLONEL BECKER

These guys are sick in the head.

Roach stares at Larry. Larry freezes. Roach lunges, smacks the knife from his hand, and dives on him.

Hayden stares down, smiling. Roach draws the knife to Larry's neck and--

A gargling scream. Skooter pushes her face into Will's arm. Will puts his arm around her, seething and glancing at Ward, wishing he could do something.

HAYDEN

Listen to this, Becker!

Hayden crouches down beside Larry and holds the mic to his mouth. Gargling crackles through the speakers.

Becker and his Soldiers glower as Larry's final croaks echo.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

When the World turns to shit, it's
the scum that rises to the surface!
And I am here to make sure we rise
together! I shall walk this desert
recruiting, and I will destroy
those who do not join my cause!

Hayden marches down the highway, pointing venomously, his voice through the speakers becoming distorted.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

We will slaughter, we will pillage,
we will grow stronger, and I will
lead us back here, where we shall
roar like the Horns of Jericho, and
I will lead my crew into the city
where I will reign supreme over an
entire ARMY OF SCUM!

Hayden pauses and wipes drool from his mouth.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Who are we?

CREW MEMBERS

(punching air)

SCUM!

Hayden glares at Becker, his eyes wild.

HAYDEN

WHO ARE WE!

CREW MEMBERS
 (punching air)
 SCUM!

Becker and his Soldiers stare fearfully. Hayden strolls slowly backward.

HAYDEN
 Next!

Roach spins around, excited. Will glares at Ward, tensing his arms, ready to fight.

The Female Kidnap Victim gets up and manages to slip free.

She sprints away, wrists bound, eyes bulging, and legs pumping as she heads for the barriers and the safety of the Reserves.

Biker Girl creeps out of the crowd with a mean stare, slowly raises her crossbow and fires!

Skooter covers her mouth, shocked. The Female Kidnap Victim crashes down on the asphalt hard, an arrow through her skull.

Biker girl smirks. The Crew Members applaud as Hayden grins to himself. Becker and his Soldiers wince.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 I think I made my point. Show's over.

Hayden strolls to the Juggernaut as Crew Members hurry back onboard. Ward ushers Will and Skooter back into the Workshop.

The Juggernaut creeps along. The Soldiers take aim. It swings around in a lazy u-turn across the median.

The Soldiers look at each other angrily as the Juggernaut roars away, charging through gears, leaving the Kidnap Victim's dead bodies in the road.

SOLDIER #1
 We should have done something!

COLONEL BECKER
 (furious)
 Done what? Done what, with what?
 You see this line?

Becker drags his foot along the road between the barriers.

COLONEL BECKER (CONT'D)
 That's our official give a damn
 line. You know that! You know how
 low our resources are!

Soldier #1 and Becker lock glares.

COLONEL BECKER (CONT'D)
 We're the last stand between
 civilization and anarchy. That's
 tough titties for every poor soul
 out there in the desert, but it's
 the card fate has drawn for them.

Soldier #1 sighs and nods.

COLONEL BECKER (CONT'D)
 But believe this, if Hayden gets
 into the city, he'll bring a war.
 So, if he tries to cross this line,
 we'll unleash the wrath of god, and
 I don't care whose god it is
 either, because I'm pretty sure
 when it comes to this guy, they're
 all on our side.

He nods confidently at his troops.

COLONEL BECKER (CONT'D)
 HOOAH!

SOLDIERS
 HOOAH!

INT. CABIN, BEDROOM - DAY

Ern's eyes slowly open and look around. His confusion turns
 into a grin as he sees Jess looking over him, a beaming smile
 partly covered by her fingers.

ERN
 Hey.

JESS
 Hey you.

She gets up and starts fixing some food. Burt walks in.

BURT
 Hey, old man! Good to see you back!
 (crouching down)
 You feelin' okay?

ERN
(coughing)
I've been better, but don't count
me out just yet.

Burt pats Ern proudly and crosses to Jess.

BURT
(quietly concerned)
We've got a situation you need to
check out.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Burt leads Jess into the desert, hands her binoculars, and
points to the mountain.

BURT
(pointing)
Up there, on the peak of ol'
Coyote.

She peers at the peak to see three silhouettes and whipping
red hair glowing in the sun.

BURT (CONT'D)
Been sitting there for a while now.
Not sure how long. Hopefully,
they're just passing through.

JESS
(sighing)
They ain't.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut charges along the highway, kicking up the dust
settled on the asphalt.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden studies a map with his Navigator.

HAYDEN
They can't protect the whole damn
city. We just have to find their
weak points and catch them with
their pants down.

NAVIGATOR
 North's our best bet. South ain't
 nothing but mountains and Mexicans.

Hayden nods in agreement.

HAYDEN
 North it is, boys.

EXT. HIGHWAY OFF RAMP - DAY

The Juggernaut cruises off the highway and swings through an intersection, the signals still aimlessly cycling.

EXT. JUGGERNAUT, ROOF - MOVING - DAY

Sitting in the breeze, a SPOTTER sees something in the distance, downs his binoculars, and grabs his radio.

INT. JUGGERNAUT CAB - MOVING - DAY

The Radio Guy listens to the Spotter and turns to Hayden.

RADIO GUY
 We gotta bogey on our two-o'clock.

HAYDEN
 Check that out.

The Navigator grabs a pair of binoculars and spots a Box Truck racing along on a different road ahead.

NAVIGATOR
 Box truck. Fifty-three footer.

HAYDEN
 Any company?

NAVIGATOR
 That's a negative.

HAYDEN
 Well, ain't that a turn-up for the
 books? Time to live up to my word.
 Battle stations, men. Let's run
 this thing like we mean it.

The Driver shifts down and guns it while giving the horn three long blasts.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Will and Skooter glance up as Ward excitedly leaves.

SKOOTER

Things are gonna get bad.

Will looks curiously at Skooter. She points to a mesh panel in the ceiling.

SKOOTER (CONT'D)

Go see for yourself.

Will climbs up to the panel and crawls through.

EXT. JUGGERNAUT, ROOF - MOVING - DAY

Will crouches, hidden within a flapping tarpaulin cover, watching Crew Members preparing for attack. The Juggernaut's roaring exhausts pump out black smoke that trails down either side of the trailers.

The Spotter turns back to everyone.

SPOTTER

Brace yourselves!

They all cling on tight.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - TRUCK CHASE - DAY

The Juggernaut turns onto a desert road, tires scrubbing and the trailers leaning precariously as it corners hard and cuts across the desert, kicking up dust.

CREW MEMBER

Look! They don't stand a chance!

WARD

It's going to be one hell of a show!

They distribute weapons as they close in behind the Box Truck, flames spitting from the exhausts.

WARD (CONT'D)

These guys don't know what's coming!

SPOTTER

This is it!

They brace themselves.

The Juggernaut hits the asphalt just behind the Box Truck. It swings out and slowly passes.

Hayden and the others check the truck out as they draw alongside. The Navigator leans across with a rifle, then--

A MASKED GIRL swings out the Box Truck cab window with a pistol and fires. BANG! BANG! BANG!

HAYDEN

Well, there goes her chances of
being recruited.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The Navigator fires back and hits her in the chest. She hangs from the window.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Okay, board these sons of bitches.

The Juggernaut edges up to the Box Truck, slamming the trailers together.

The Spotter gives an up-and-over gesture to the Crew Members.

Three Crew Members leap across and hack a hole in the roof with a circular saw. They slither in as others cheer.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Let's see what we got for the
taking.

The Juggernaut drops back. The Box Truck trailer doors burst open. Crew Members inside. It's nearly empty.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Slim pickings, boys. Looks like
we're doing this for shits and
giggles. Bring up the Zippo.

The Driver gives the horn one long blast.

The Crew Members are electrified with excitement. They scabble along the roof and rush down ladders.

WARD

Zippo! Yes! They're going to use
the Zippo!

At the back of the third Juggernaut trailer, a ramp drops down to the road, creating a line of sparks, and a large black Pickup Truck backs out.

A BIKER GUY and Biker Girl run down the trailers, lift up tarpaulin covers, and get onto motocross bikes.

The Pickup races by the Juggernaut as the Bikes leap from the trailer. The Crew Members cheer.

A black Muscle Car backs down the ramp and storms after the Bikes.

A black Jeep creeps out and cruises alongside the Juggernaut.

The JEEP GUNNER gestures a fist to the Crew Members. They roar with applause and make fists back.

The Bikes race either side of the Box Truck. It swerves, trying to take them out. Biker Girl barely makes it by.

The Pickup and Muscle Car try the same, but the Box Truck snakes along the highway, blocking them, throwing the Crew Members inside the trailer around.

HAYDEN

I sure like it when they play hard
to get.

The Bikes dart back and forth, slowing it down. The Jeep skips across the dirt alongside, creeping past.

Hayden watches intently.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Come on, come on.

The Jeep squirms onto the road in front of the Box Truck.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Hoo-ah!

The Pickup and Muscle Car ease back. The Bikes swerve into the desert.

The Crew Members go silent.

The Jeep Gunner grins darkly at the Box Truck from behind the whipping flame of a flame thrower. He pulls the trigger. A huge flame roars from the Jeep, engulfing the Box Truck cab entirely and--

BOOM! One of the Box Truck's fuel tanks explodes. The Crew Members cheer, ecstatic.

Hayden grins, flames in his eyes.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Ain't that the berries?

Will watches deplored. The Box Truck races away, the cab on fire, the driver beating off flames, refusing to give in.

The Crew Members in the trailer look helplessly back.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Drive right up that truck's
asshole. I want at least something
out of this.

The Juggernaut races up to the trailer, bashing the long nose of the prime mover up against it. The Crew Members desperately gather what they can.

One sprints down the trailer, leaps onto the Juggernaut hood, and clambers down to the doorstep. Another follows suit and clambers down the other side.

Hayden watches concerned.

The last waddles down the trailer carrying too much, shorts the jump, and crashes onto the hood. He drops the items and clings onto the grill by the roaring engine.

Hayden and others wince, watching him struggle and staring back at them hopelessly.

He screams, slips, and crunches under the rusty bumper.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Make a note; we need to go back and
get whatever that fat son of a
bitch was carrying.

The burning Box Truck Driver expires and slumps over the wheel causing the Box Truck to lose track of the road, sending out a cloud of dust.

The Crew Members watch in anticipation and--

It crashes, and BOOM! The other fuel tank explodes.

Crew Members cheer and punch the air. Will watches shocked.

The Box Truck burns furiously by the side of the highway, the fire crackling within the twisted metal carcass.

INT. FARM CABIN, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ern walks gingerly through the cabin, still weak. He pours a glass of water and stares outside.

Jess in the distance, tending to a Bighorn Sheep. He frowns, concerned, and makes his way out.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

The huge Sheep chews at a bundle of grass in Jess's hands. She watches it solemnly, stroking its nose.

Footsteps. The Sheep bolts. She turns to find Ern standing there looking guilty. She wipes her eyes, hiding her tears.

ERN

Sorry, they only ever seem to be comfortable around you.

JESS

They're getting thinner, and it makes them anxious. I thought I told you to stay in bed.

ERN

Well, I guess I escaped.

They both chuckle as she crosses to him.

ERN (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

She shrugs.

ERN (CONT'D)

You run out of cigarettes?

She can't help but laugh.

JESS

Have you ever felt like life's just dangling what you want right above your head, just out of arm's reach? And all you can do is just keep on jumping, trying to grab it, until your too worn out to try anymore?

He says nothing and just listens.

JESS (CONT'D)

I saw a glimmer of hope last night.
I thought there was a chance things
can get better. But, as soon as I
started thinking that, it was
destroyed in seconds, like the
universe is toying with me.

She gazes around the farm at the animals.

JESS (CONT'D)

What have we created here? A false
promise of a future, a desperate
last clutch at civilization?

(looking at mountain)

It's only a matter of time before
someone tries to either take it all
or destroy what they can't have.
Without good leaders, we're just
destined to fight like dogs.

ERN

This isn't like you.

JESS

I've had a reality check. I've been
living in a fantasy world.

She stares at him, upset. He smiles warmly.

ERN

What's so bad about living in a
fantasy world?

She winces confused.

ERN (CONT'D)

The world needs dreamers, Jess.
More now than ever.

Jess smiles to herself, unsure.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The Juggernaut cruises through the darkness, trailers
crashing along as wolves howl in the distance.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - NIGHT

Will and Skooter work as Ward watches them tired. The door
opens, and TANK, a rotund beast of a man, climbs in with a
creepy smile.

TANK
 Okay, children, babysitter's here.

WARD
 Your shift already? How time flies
 when you're having fun.

Tank chuckles as Ward leaves.

Will and Skooter down tools and make their way to filthy blankets as Tank eases down and gets comfortable on the bare metal floor.

TANK
 No hanky-panky, you hear?

Tank switches on a boom box. Music echoes through the trailer. He puts on a pair of shades and sits back.

Skooter tries to get comfortable and looks across at Will staring at the floor consumed. He looks back. She smiles kindly.

WILL
 I've got to get off this thing.

SKOOTER
 Getting off's the easy part. The
 hard part is getting away. You'll
 need a plan.

WILL
 A plan I've got. What I need is an
 accomplice. You in?

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut roars across the foot of the mountains.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Tank snores as Skooter's tiny hand waves across his face.

Will and Skooter study him sleeping. Will raises a breaker bar like a golf club, swings it hard, and --

THWACK! Tank jolts awake and instinctively tackles Will to the floor with a BANG!

INT. JUGGERNAUT, BARRACKS - MOVING - DAY

Crew Members play cards. Ward checks the clock, reluctantly knocks back some coffee, and gets to his feet.

WARD

The grind never ends. I'm out.

Ward collects his winnings and crosses to the door with his coffee in hand.

INT. JUGGERNAUT WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Tank tries to choke Will while Skooter smacks him over the head with a pair of bolt cutters until he's finally knocked unconscious.

WILL

(gasping)

Lock the door.

She grabs a set of keys from Tank and crosses to the door.

Ward steps out of the Barracks into the gust between the trailers.

Skooter frantically tries each key in the lock.

Ward crosses to the Workshop, reaches for the handle, and--

She locks it. The handle rattles. She leaps back.

Ward tries the handle again and bangs the door.

WARD

Tank, you asshole! Open up!

Skooter pours fuel into the Hammertail as Will unravels the bundle of tape and pushes the connectors together.

Ward unlocks the door and opens it to find Will firing up the Hammertail.

Ward freezes. Skooter smiles back sly.

Will guns the Hammertail. It flies backward, crashes into the workshop wall, and--

EXT. JUGGERNAUT WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

Ward is fired out the Workshop. His body smacks into the Barracks trailer, drops, and crunches under the wheels.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden frowns, confused, and looks around.

HAYDEN
You hear that?

He grabs the radio mic.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
(into radio)
Can someone tell me what the hell
that was?

CREW MEMBER
(through radio)
It's the mechanics! They've
barricaded themselves in the
workshop!

HAYDEN
(into radio)
Hold tight, I'm coming up.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, BARRACKS - MOVING - DAY

Crew Members gather weapons as Hayden marches through.

HAYDEN
Hand me that.

A shotgun's tossed across to Hayden. He casually catches it and pumps in a shell.

EXT. JUGGERNAUT, BARRACKS - MOVING - DAY

Hayden opens the door and climbs out to see the blood and coffee smeared up the trailer.

HAYDEN
Oh, you two are in a heap of
trouble now.

He clambers up onto the Workshop roof. Crew Members bang and shout through the grate--

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
Cut the damn roof!

CREW MEMBER
No tools!

HAYDEN

Well, where the hell are they?

INT./EXT. JUGGERNAUT, WORKSHOP - MOVING - DAY

A huge circular saw rasps into life. Will starts sawing supports out of the roof.

Skooter adjusts the roaring flame of a cutting torch and cuts along the other side.

Crew Members reel back through fear they'll get their hands cut off or fingers burned.

Hayden aims through the mesh grid, and BOOM!

Will flinches, shot glancing by. He tosses down the saw.

WILL

I'm done, are you?

SKOOTER

Almost!

She climbs onto the Hammertail and cuts across the roof just above it, hot metal showering onto the floor.

Will grabs a battery booster and clips it to the wall and the Hammertail roll cage. He climbs in and revs the engine.

HAYDEN

That vehicle does not leave!

Skooter nearly completes her cut.

SKOOTER

Ready?

WILL

Go for it!

She leaps back as half the roof folds down and crashes onto the floor, forming a ramp.

Crew Members fall through with it. She kicks over a fuel barrel and climbs into the Hammertail.

Hayden glowers down at the Hammertail below. Skooter wriggles into her harness and gives him the finger.

HAYDEN

You have got to be kidding me!

Hayden pumps in a round as Skooter's harness clicks.

Will floors it. The booster pack drops to the floor. Hayden aims the shotgun.

The Hammertail races up the collapsed roof. The booster pack sparks. Fuel floods toward it and--

BOOM! The Hammertail launches into the air as a huge fireball erupts behind. Knocking Hayden back before it crashes onto the roof of the Car Hauler.

Crew Members duck the flames. Will keeps his foot to the floor. Skooter winces and--

The Hammertail smashes through the gear and bikes on the top of the Car Hauler, ramps off the back off the Juggernaut, glides through the air, and hits the road hard before racing away in the opposite direction.

The ramp slams down. The Pickup backs out, and j-turns.

The Pickup Driver smiles deviously to herself as she watches the Hammertail swerve into the desert.

PICKUP DRIVER

I see you!

The Pickup roars toward the dust cloud as The Muscle Car backs down the ramp, spins around in a cloud of smoke, and joins the chase.

The Hammertail dives back onto the asphalt. The Pickup bursts out the bushes behind. The Muscle Car swoops in down the highway.

Skooter points to a sign for a mountain trail. Will sticks his thumb up.

The Hammertail swerves onto the trail. The Muscle Car screeches to a halt unable to follow. The Pickup dives after.

The Hammertail and Pickup race up rugged trail.

The Hammertail takes the rocks in its stride while the Pickup crashes after struggling, the Pickup driver wincing and fighting with the wheel.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)

Come on! Come on, baby!

The Pickup comes to a sudden grinding halt, beached on the rocks. She looks out at the spinning wheels unable to find traction and bashes the steering wheel, furious.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)
 Damn this rocky mountain bullshit!

The Hammertail scrabbles out of sight over the crest.

INT. FARM CABIN - DAY

The rescued dog rests in a basket. Jess eating by a window.

A radio base station scans through channels until the counter stops and garbled noise hisses.

BARONY
 (through base station)
 Barony to Hayden

Jess freezes and listens intently.

BARONY (CONT'D)
 (through base station)
 Barony to Hayden, come back.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony wrapped in a blanket, looking bored. Savage and Buster boiling a kettle over a campfire.

BARONY
 (into radio)
 Hellooooooo? Anybody out there?

Savage carefully pours some coffee into a tiny old flowery cup and offers it over.

BARONY (CONT'D)
 Awww, thank you.
 (stroking arm)
 So sweet.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut stationary while Crew Members rapidly repair it with hammers and welders.

Hayden storms up to the cab and snatches the radio mic.

HAYDEN
 (into radio)
 What now?

INTERCUT BARONY, JESS, AND HAYDEN

BARONY

We're getting bored here. Are you coming or not?

HAYDEN

Now you listen here, we got a situation. Your friend decided to bust out of my road train and take off with my damn Hammertail.

BARONY

Okay?

HAYDEN

So, unless you can pull a new one out of your heinie while we're shit-hammering things back together, our business here is done!

BARONY

Okay... so... are you interested in the farm or not?

Hayden tosses the mic to the ground in despair.

HAYDEN

(To Radio Guy)

This is what happens when you work with goths. From now on, it's professionals only.

BARONY

(into radio)

Hello?.. Hello?

Barony sits back forlorn and sips her coffee.

BARONY (CONT'D)

(sarcastically)

Well, that went well.

Jess smirks to herself and carries on eating.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

The Hammertail leaps over rough terrain, Will and Skooter jostling in the bucket seats. They grit their teeth as Will opens it up. The engine sings.

The Hammertail skips across the sand at high speed, a huge dust cloud curling behind it.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Hammertail screeches onto the asphalt and picks up even more speed as it heads through the mountains.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony petulantly punches her sleeping bag into a ruck sack.

She spots something, grabs her binoculars, and spies the Hammertail racing along the highway.

BARONY
Interesting.

INT. FARM, CABIN - DAY

Jess idly sowing clothes by the window.

BURT (O.S.)
(shouting)
Jess! We got company!

She glances up to see Burt running past the window. She dashes across the room, bursts through the door, and sprints after him.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Jess grabs her revolver and skids down behind an old tractor-trailer for cover.

Ern crouches behind a bush. Burt squats behind barrels. A roaring engine approaches.

Jess takes a deep breath and moves out, revolver raised.

Burt and Ern move out of position, weapons ready.

The Hammertail skids to a halt. The engine shuts off. Will shakes dust from his head and stares at Jess.

WILL
You're okay!

Jess covers her mouth with her trembling fingers. Her gun goes limp in her hand.

BURT
Will? That you?

WILL

Sure is.

Will, shakes the dust off him, tugs at his harness, and wriggles free. Burt downs his weapon and turns to Ern, smiling.

BURT

It's okay, he's a friend.

Will jumps down from the Hammertail. Jess runs to him and they embrace tightly.

Skooter shakes dust from herself and smiles shyly.

SKOOTER

Hey.

Will and Jess gaze into one another's eyes.

JESS

I thought you were done for.

Their gaze lingers. Cough. They look round to find Burt standing there, palms out, confused. Will and Jess release.

WILL

(re: Skooter)

This is Skooter. Skooter, this is Burt, Ern, and Jess.

ERN

(to Skooter)

Well, howdy, young lady.

Skooter smiles and goes to climb out. Ern offers a hand.

ERN (CONT'D)

Please, allow me.

Skooter holds Ern's hand, hops down, and dusts herself off.

Burt rests his hand on Will's shoulder proudly.

BURT

Ern, this is the guy who helped Jess get your medication. He's a good man! A good man!

Ern firmly shakes Will's hand.

ERN

Much obliged. Guess I owe you one.

Burt gazes up at the Hammertail.

BURT
This military?

WILL
Experimental. They call it a
Hammertail.

BURT
And would I be right in thinking
somebody might be looking for it.

WILL
We didn't exactly borrow it with
permission.

Jess's pupils flick back and forth.

JESS
Wait, the people you took this
from, is one of them called...
Hayden?

WILL
Yeah, how'd you know that asshole?

Jess shakes her head to herself, worried.

JESS
I don't believe this!

WILL
What?

BARONY
(through radio)
Err, Barony to Hayden. We just
found that mechanic again.

They all look back toward the Mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony watching through her binoculars.

BARONY
(into radio)
He's come back to the girl we found
him through.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

The Juggernaut roars along. Hayden snaps up the mic.

HAYDEN
 (into radio)
 Do tell me, I don't suppose this
 guy is in a vehicle perchance?

INTERCUT BARONY AND HAYDEN

BARONY
 Yeah, he's in a big buggy with some
 girl.

HAYDEN
 Where exactly are you, right now?

BARONY
 Coyote Mountain.

HAYDEN
 Coyote Mountain?

Hayden points at the Navigator, who rustles out maps.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Okay, you've done good, you've
 mended some fences. Hold your asses
 tight. Whatever you do, don't let
 that vehicle out of your sight.

Hayden tosses down the mic with a determined look.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 We got to flip-flop back South-
 bound like we mean it.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut brakes hard, turns around in an abandoned filling station, and roars back down the highway.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Will looks at Jess, pained with guilt.

JESS
 You brought them here.

WILL
How was I to know?

BURT
What's done is done. This ain't our
first rodeo, so lets start talking
about what we're gonna do about it.

Burt leads Ern and Skooter away toward the cabin.

WILL
(to Jess)
I'm sorry.

JESS
Don't be. The bigger problems can't
be fixed so this was inevitable
anyway, right?

She leaves him with those words and heads to the cabin.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut thunders along the highway, smoke pouring from the tall stacks. The tires howl and the cab leans as it negotiates curves.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden glowers ahead, rubbing his hands together.

HAYDEN
Believe me when I say it, we are
going to rain down fire from the
heavens on those two traitors, and
the same goes for anybody that
tries to protect them. We will
destroy them and everything they
hold dear. We will leave nothing
but scorched earth in our wake.

INT. FARM, CABIN - DAY

The bustle of a heated debate. Will and Burt pace around, animated, while Jess, Ern, and Skooter sit nervously.

BURT
We give them this Hammertail thing
back. That's what this is about.

WILL

We can't simply give them what they want back. I've seen how these guys operate. They'll take that vehicle, kill us, and take everything you have here too.

BURT

Then we make a deal! We talk with this Hayden. We have something he needs so we bargain with it. We reason like men.

WILL

This isn't a man you reason with.

Burt pauses, shaking his head, frustrated. Jess nods in agreement.

JESS

I saw what they did at the trade post. They showed no mercy.

SKOOTER

You're either part of his army, or you're one of the enemy.

ERN

So, we leave, and we get the hell away from here.

JESS

No! I'm not leaving the animals. You can go, but I won't leave them.

BURT

She ain't gonna leave, Ern, and, even if we did, then what? We get chased to our deaths in the desert?

WILL

Hayden's someone that's only going to get stronger and stronger until it's everybody's problem.

JESS

You're right. This isn't about surviving anymore.

WILL

It's about fighting back.

BURT

So, that's how it is?

Burt stares at Will and Jess intensely. They nod back.

BURT (CONT'D)

Yeah, well, if it's a fight he's looking for, he's picked the wrong farmer to mess with. I got something to show you.

INT. FARM, WORKSHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Burt sweeps a blanket off a partially assembled Browning M2A 50 caliber machine gun proudly sitting on a workbench.

Will, Jess, Ern, and Skooter gaze at it.

WILL

What the hell is this?

SKOOTER

Ma Deuce.

Burt nods, impressed.

BURT

You know your guns. Been working on this puppy for a while now. And to think people say I over prepare.

WILL

Does it fire?

BURT

It will, if we all muck in and do our part overnight.

SKOOTER

We're gonna stick it on the Hammertail, right?

BURT

I like you. You're gonna fit in here just fine.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The Juggernaut charges through the murky night, the headlamps piercing through the darkness.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - NIGHT

Hayden climbs into the Cab from the trailer behind and peers into the darkness ahead.

HAYDEN
What's our E.T.A?

NAVIGATOR
A few hours, give or take.

HAYDEN
Guys, we got to cook. I mean, put it on the back burner and cook. I don't want to be chasing that damn thing all the way into Mexico.

The Driver nods surely, grabs a lower gear, and floors it.

INT. FARM, WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Burt toils away at the Ma Deuce with Skooter helping. Ern searches for ammo among old boxes while Will walks out carrying an engine intake.

EXT. FARM, WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Will finds Jess standing against the wall outside.

WILL
You okay?

JESS
Did you have to prove your point or something? Is that why you came back?

WILL
You think I wanted this to happen?

JESS
Why did you come here? You could have gone anywhere in that thing, put as much distance on this Hayden as possible.

WILL
I wanted to make sure your friend got his medication.

JESS

You told me you don't get attached to things, that doing so ties you down. Yet here you are, defending the very thing you told me I was crazy to care about protecting.

WILL

It's like I told you, I'll fight for what's right.

JESS

Until there's nothing left to fight for?

He doesn't have an answer for that. She leaves frustrated.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Barony watching the farm, the campfire crackling beside her. Buster and Savage skinning an animal carcass.

BARONY

Oh, just kiss already! This soap opera is just one big tease! Make the most of your last night alive.

Buster hands Barony some meat on a stick.

BARONY (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, these guys aren't going to know what's hit them.

(raising hand)

Dibs on new girl!

Barony bites into the meat and growls as she stares darkly.

INT. CABIN, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jess pours herself a glass of water. Skooter enters and pauses awkwardly before going to leave.

SKOOTER

Oh, it's okay.

JESS

No, it's fine.

SKOOTER

I just-

JESS
You want some water?

Skooter nods. Jess hurriedly pours a glass of water.

JESS (CONT'D)
It's crazy hot, tonight.

She hands the glass across. They drink in awkward silence.

SKOOTER
Nice water.

JESS
Well, it's from the spring, so
we're grateful for it.

They wince, small talk failing.

SKOOTER
Look, I'm telling you this girl-to-
girl, okay? There's definitely
something there. So, don't give in.
Just give it a chance.

Skooter hands the glass back to Jess and leaves.

SKOOTER (CONT'D)
Thanks for the water.

Jess smiles to herself.

INT. FARM, WORKSHOP - DAY

Skooter slots an ammo belt into the Ma Deuce. Burt and her heave it up off the workbench to carry it out.

EXT. FARM, WORKSHOP - DAY

Burt and Skooter shuffle out of the Workshop and lay the Ma Deuce on the ground. Will, Jess, and Ern gather around.

WILL
Is it working?

Burt sits behind the Ma Deuce, cocks it, and leans back.

BURT
Son, that's what we're about to
find out.

Burt squints down the sights and fires.

BOOM! A round thunders toward the mountain, and--

EXT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

BANG! Barony, Savage, and Buster jolt awake, the round decimating their campfire. BANG! BANG! BANG! More shots reign in. They scabble away behind a huge rock.

The shooting stops the area falls silent.

BARONY
This complicates matters.

EXT. FARM, WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Smoke creeps from the Ma Deuce barrel. Burt gets up and high-fives Skooter.

SKOOTER
That'll do the job.

Will, Jess, and Ern stare, astonished.

ERN
You don't say.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Wind whistles through bushes, carrying sand across the desert in a thick grey cloud. The Juggernaut bursts through, lights ablaze and engine roaring.

The Juggernaut pulls in to a dirt area, and Crew Members quickly leap out.

The Car Hauler ramp slams down. The Muscle Car's engine thunders from inside. Hayden hops down from the cab.

RADIO GUY
Once we got these vehicles
unloaded, we're pretty much good to
go. How do you wanna do this?

HAYDEN
I wanna know the lay of the land.
Let me speak to the goth.

Radio Guy pulls out the radio mic and hands it over.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony and Savage peer over the huge rock at the radio lying within the destroyed camping gear.

BARONY
 (through radio)
 Hayden to Barony, come back.
 (beat)
 You out there?

Buster crawls wary toward the radio, he looks back worried. Barony smiles and gestures for him to hurry up.

He crawls to the radio, grabs it, runs back, and hands it over to her.

BARONY (CONT'D)
 (into radio)
 This is she.

INT. FARM, WORKSHOP - DAY

Jess sharpens a knife while Burt and Skooter calibrate the Ma Deuce and Will and Ern work on a car part.

The radio crackles and picks up voices.

BURT
 Listen.

The room falls silent.

HAYDEN
 (through radio)
 Yeah, we just rolled in a few miles from your location. We're getting comfortable now.

BARONY
 (through radio)
 When do we attack?

HAYDEN
 (through radio)
 Soon enough, eager beaver, and it's going to be spectacular. Nobody shall be spared.

They all glance at each other nervously.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 (through radio)
 You just hang tight. Let us know if
 they make a move first.

ERN
 How's this for a first move?

Ern holds a boombox up the radio and presses play.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

KING OF THE ROAD plays through Barony's radio. She reels and rattles it, confused.

BARONY
 (into radio)
 Hellooooo?

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Hayden stares, puzzled, at the Radio Guy as *KING OF THE ROAD* plays loudly from their radio too.

HAYDEN
 (concerned)
 Well, that sure ain't no kid's
 pirate radio station. Listen in and
 keep a lookout.

Hayden hands him the radio and marches around his Crew Members inspecting them setting up.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony nods along to the music.

BARONY
 I miss this song.

She sings along badly as Buster and Savage wince.

EXT. FARM - DAY

The Hammertail and a Cop Car parked side by side.

Will and Burt lower the Ma Deuce down onto a mount on the Hammertail. Skooter cocks the charging handle, ready to fight.

Will drops into the driver's seat beside Jess and fires the engine up. She snaps the cylinder back in her revolver.

Burt gets into the Cop Car passenger seat beside Ern. He cocks his rifle and smiles back at Will.

BURT
Sure is a beautiful day for a
fight, ain't it?

WILL
If anybody wants to back out now,
feel free.

Burt leans out, carefully aims his gun, and BANG! A speed limit sign pings.

BURT
Does that answer your question?

Will turns to Jess. She aims. BANG! The sign dents. She smiles back.

BOOM! The sign shatters into nothing. They look up. Skooter stares ahead, vengefully, the Ma Deuce smoking.

WILL
Okay, hold on tight.

Will slams the Hammertail into gear and floors it. It squats down and launches. Jess is pressed back into her seat, shocked. Skooter hangs on to the Ma Deuce.

The Cop Car slithers onto the asphalt, chasing.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Barony throws down her binoculars, runs to the Hot Rod in which Savage and Buster are waiting with the engine running, and leaps through the roof.

The Hot Rod growls away down the track.

She cackles in the back seat as she prepares her musket.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - CAR CHASE - DAY

Skooter spots the Hot Rod approaching and tries to swing the Ma Deuce around, but it won't rotate far enough.

She alerts Jess, Burt, and Ern. They take position.

The Hot Rod roars alongside the highway on a dirt road.

Barony pounds on Buster's shoulder.

BARONY
Faster! Faster!

The Hot Rod swerves behind the Cop Car. Barony perches on the roof above the rear window and aims.

BOOM! The Cop Car trunk lid takes a hit.

Burt FIRES back. Barony doesn't even flinch as the round whistles past. She carefully reloads.

Burt aims again. BANG! SMASH! The back window of the Hot Rod explodes. Barony cackles and aims her musket.

BOOM! Burt slides back inside.

BURT
That crazy bitch is shooting at us
with a goddamn powder rifle!

ERN
Powder, I'll powder her face!

The Cop Car puts two wheels in the dirt, sending out a dust cloud. Barony chokes and flails her arms.

On top of the Juggernaut, the Spotter stares, alarmed, as they see the chase approaching.

SPOTTER
We got company!

Commotion spreads. Hayden leaps out to see the Hammertail growl across the dirt with the Hot Rod following. The Cop Car roars past down the highway.

HAYDEN
Move! Move! Move! What are you
idiots waiting for? Parental
permission?

Skooter fires off a few rounds. CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA!
Hayden ducks as rounds fly by.

Barony laughs as she's thrown around over the rough ground. She loses her balance, squeals, and falls off the Hot Rod onto the dirt.

The Pickup roars away. The Jeep scrabbles after.

The Spotter gets into the Muscle Car, slams the door shut, and shakes a rifle.

SPOTTER
 (to driver)
 Rubbin's racing, boy! Give it the bejesus!

The Muscle Car screams onto the asphalt.

Hayden stares up at the huge 50 caliber bullet holes in the Juggernaut.

HAYDEN
 Goddamn Ma Deuce.

He looks round to see Barony running to the Hot Rod and dropping her radio in the process.

He shakes his head and marches to the Cab of the Juggernaut.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Get up on that radio! They got a damn fifty cal on that thing! I don't want anybody going near it until I say so!

The Hammertail weaves back onto the Highway, the Pickup and Jeep chasing.

The Muscle car screams up and closes in on the Cop Car.

Inside the Cop Car, the roar of the engine fills the cabin, the radio barely audible.

RADIO GUY
 (through radio)
 Stay back from the Hammertail until instructed otherwise. Repeat. Stay back from the Hammertail!

The Pickup Driver watches Muscle Car racing ahead.

PICKUP DRIVER
 Stay your asses back, you damn fools!

Burt fires at the Muscle Car as it passes but misses.

BURT
 Damn!

Jess aims back with her revolver, and BANG! A headlamp on the Muscle Car smashes.

SPOTTER

Get in front of it, boy! This ends
here!

The Spotter leans out the Muscle Car with the rifle.

The Muscle Car swoops in front of the Hammertail and--

CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA! Skooter tears it to bloody shreds
with the Ma Deuce.

It loses control, slides across the road, leaving thick black
stripes, and flips into the dirt in a fireball.

The Pickup blasts through the dust cloud.

PICKUP DRIVER

Stupid ass rednecks. Listen to your
damn radio!

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

The Hammertail and Cop Car swing into a clearing and skid
around to a halt.

Skooter fires back at the highway.

The Pickup Truck and Jeep screech up as bullets reign in.
Crew Members leap out and take up defensive positions.

CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA! Skooter relentlessly chops Crew
Members to pieces.

Burt leans out the Cop Car window, firing. BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Hot Rod races up. Barony leaps out.

The Juggernaut snarls to a halt.

Hayden peers out of the cab ahead to see his Crew Members
pinned in.

HAYDEN

Flank them!

Radio Guy grabs a rifle, leaps out, and sprints through
bushes, the Ma Deuce cackling in the background.

CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA! Skooter grins as bullets stream
toward Crew Members.

Radio Guy aims. Skooter right in his sights. He fires. BANG!

Skooter jolts. Will and Jess flinch. Jess looks at blood splattered over her and looks back up, worried.

Skooter's down but not out. She continues. CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA!

Radio Guy re-aims, and BANG!

Skooter whips to one side, but she won't give in.

Radio Guy shakes his head, cocks the rifle bolt, and--

BANG! The gunshot echoes through the desert.

Jess looks up at Skooter to see blood pouring from her nose and mouth.

JESS

No!

Hayden tilts his head forward, grinning meanly.

Burt desperately tries to pick off advancing Crew Members.

Jess hands her revolver to Will.

WILL

What are you doing?

Jess wriggles out her harness and climbs out of her seat.

WILL (CONT'D)

Jess no!

A shot pings by her. Will fires and takes out a Crew Member.

WILL (CONT'D)

Jess, come down!

Jess tends to Skooter. Will glances around. They are getting swarmed, and he can't hold them back.

Radio Guy, now with Jess in his sights, grins and fires.

BANG! A bullet glances by Jess. She slips and falls.

WILL (CONT'D)

Jess!

Jess thuds to the ground. Burt spots Radio Guy in the bushes.

BURT

(pointing)

Over there!

Ern floors it. The Cop Car races across the dirt.

Will is out of bullets. Crew Members approach from everywhere. Jess rubs her head.

WILL
Get in! Quick!

She looks around, dazed. BANG! A shot pings. Will flinches.

The Cop Car skids around by the bushes. Burt aims. BANG!
BANG! BANG! Radio Guy flees.

Will leaps out of the Hammertail and grabs Jess but Crew Members swarm in and pull them apart.

JESS
Get off me!

WILL
No! Jess!

Jess is dragged away. Crew Members grab Will and carry him away on his side, writhing and shouting.

Hayden narrows his eyes and smiles.

Burt aims, but he can't fire without endangering Jess.

BURT
They've got both of them!

ERN
(getting an idea)
Hold on!

The Cop Car races toward the Crew Members carrying Will and slews sideways, knocking them down. Will flies out of their grasp and crashes to the dirt.

Will watches Jess being carried away. BANG! A shot whizzes past him.

He runs to the Cop Car and leaps in as shots ping against it.

It scrabbles away to a safe distance.

Will, Burt, and Ern watch Jess being carried toward the Juggernaut, nothing they can do to stop it.

Burt desperately aims his rifle.

BURT
 Damn it! I can't get a clean shot!
 Come on, please! Come on!

Will tries to open his door but can't from the inside. He tears the handle clean off.

WILL
 No! No! No!

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - DAY

Hayden watches Jess looking around, terrified, as she's held up proudly, weapons being raised, an execution immanent.

HAYDEN
 (into P.A system)
 Woah... hold up now.

INT. COP CAR - DAY

Will rattles the mesh divide between the seats.

WILL
 Let me out! Let me out now!

HAYDEN (O.S.)
 (through P.A system)
 Just wait there! Don't go laying a hand on her pretty little head.

They all look at each other.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

The Crew Members back off and hold Jess down as she writhes and fights back.

Hayden drops out of the Juggernaut Cab. The area falls silent. He marches across as birds of prey shriek overhead.

Will, Burt, and Ern watch intently.

BURT
 If he so much as touches her.

WILL
 You after me.

ERN
 Get in line. I owe her my life.

Hayden strolls up to her. She glares back defiantly but her energy expired.

HAYDEN

Now, would you just look at such a pretty little thing.

He looks her up and down and strokes his jaw thinking.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Haul out! She comes with us for the next initiation ceremony!

The Crew Members cheer and drag her to the Juggernaut.

ERN

Initiation ceremony?

BURT

That mean anything to you, Will?

WILL

But it this way, they're lucky I'm trapped in this cage right now.

Burt rubs his neck, the stress killing him as they watch the Crew Members return to their vehicles.

Jess is shoved onto the Juggernaut.

The Navigator, Radio Guy, and a Crew Member drag Skooter's body out of the Hammertail and get in.

Hayden points to Barony, Buster, and Savage.

HAYDEN

You, tag team, wait here. You keep your beady eyes on them.

Barony looks over at the Cop Car and nods obediently.

BARONY

You gonna take us into the city?

HAYDEN

Just make sure they don't go thinking they can follow us okay?

Barony narrows her eyes and nods.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

We'll rendezvous with you on the Interstate. One hour.

Hayden climbs aboard the Juggernaut. The vehicles roar away into the distance, engines echoing on the wind.

Barony glares across at the Cop Car.

Will, Burt, and Ern cringe as they watch the vehicles leaving, unable to do a thing.

Barony stands guard with Savage and Buster. Burt smacks the dashboard.

BURT

Damn!

Will stares meanly through the cage divide, trying to come up with a plan.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, BARRACKS - MOVING - DAY

Jess sitting on a chair as Roach binds her wrists and feet.

Hayden smiles down at her. She stares back blankly.

HAYDEN

All you and you're backward-ass country bumpkin posse have done is fast forward my plans. Now, I don't need to comb this desert for new recruits no more. I got hardware now, serious hardware.

He leans into her, deadly serious.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

So, I'm going straight into the city with firepower I could only dream of. I'm going to be a king and it's all thanks to you.

She continues her blank stare.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

(to Roach, Bazooka Guy)
You two, batten down the hatches.
She goes nowhere.

He opens the door and grins back at Jess.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

See you when we get into the city, and we make our message clear to everyone. You're going to be the star of the show.

He leaves and slams the door behind him.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden slouches down by the Driver and grabs the radio.

HAYDEN
 (into radio)
 Now, y'all listen up. We're going
 to run this thing as hard as we can
 and revisit our friends the
 National Guard. Becker and his girl
 scouts won't know what's hit them.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Will, Burt, and Ern listen to Hayden on the radio.

CREW MEMBER
 (through radio)
 Sir, what about the rendezvous with
 the goth girl?

HAYDEN
 (through radio)
 Rendezvous? Oh there ain't gonna be
 no rendezvous, boy.

They watch Barony, Buster, and Savage standing there,
 oblivious to the betrayal that's taking place.

WILL
 (pointing at dashboard)
 Quick, the PA system.

Burt searches and switches on the Cop Car's PA system. The
 speaker squeals.

HAYDEN
 (through speaker)
 She can sit rotting on the
 interstate waiting for us. She'll
 give the vultures something circle.

Barony glances around, confused.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
 (through speaker)
 That crazy little goth bitch would
 likely cause us more problems than
 she solves.

Barony narrows her eyes.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

(through speaker)

This will be a good way to shake her off our tail. She's starting to chap my ass anyhow. The girl's a bad headline waiting to be written. Screw her, and those pair of mute inbreds she hangs around with.

INT. JUGGERNAUT, CAB - MOVING - DAY

Hayden chuckles to himself as he tosses down the mic.

HAYDEN

Last thing a king needs is a pauper who thinks she's a princess.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

The Juggernaut thunders toward the city with the Hammertail ahead, the Pickup flanking the side, and the Jeep bringing up the rear.

EXT. BADLANDS

Barony glares down the highway and shrieks like a banshee.

She gets in the Hot Rod. Buster and Savage climb in after her. She fires it up glaring.

The Hot Rod peels out and roars down the highway.

The Cop Car races over to Skooter. Burt and Ern rush out.

Burt opens Will's door and they crouch over her body.

BURT

Damn!

ERN

She helped us! She worked so hard!

Will stares at Skooter dead in the dirt.

WILL

Then let's make it count.

He crosses to the Cop Car.

WILL (CONT'D)

I'm going after Jess. Don't try and stop me!

BURT

Stop you?

Burt shakes his rifle with a mean grin.

BURT (CONT'D)

Buddy, you got company.

ERN

I think it's fair to say, this is a suicide mission, right?

Will looks back darkly.

WILL

If we don't fight back now, we risk having nothing left worth ever fighting for.

EXT. BADLANDS - MOMENTS LATER

The Cop Car roars away, kicking up rooster tails of dirt, and screeches onto the highway.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY, CAR CHASE - DAY

The Hot Rod howls with Barony vengeful behind the wheel.

The Pickup Driver spots them in her mirror and grabs her radio.

PICKUP DRIVER

(into radio)

I got that goth girl coming up fast on our six o' clock, and she doesn't look happy.

Hayden shakes his head and sighs.

HAYDEN

(into radio)

Kill the crazy little bitch.

The Jeep Gunner sweeps fire across the highway. The Hot Rod races over it and swerves around the Pickup.

As it passes, Biker Guy leans out the Pickup Truck with a shotgun.

Buster stands up in the Hot Rod and forces the shotgun up.

BOOM! It fires into the sky. He grabs Biker Guy and pulls him out of the window.

Biker Girl screams and grabs at his flailing legs, but Buster pulls him clean out.

Biker Guy clings to the side of the Hot Rod, his legs dragging on the highway.

Savage snatches the shotgun and smacks him in the face with the butt. However, Biker Guy hangs on, his face bloodied.

Savage flips the shotgun round and blasts Biker Guy's head clean off, but--

His body still clings on. Buster sighs and prizes the fingers away until the body flops into the highway.

The Hot Rod roars ahead. Savage carefully aims for the Juggernaut and shoots the chain holding up the Car Hauler tailer ramp.

BANG! The ramp slams down, sparking on the road.

The Hot Rod aims for it.

Biker Girl leans out of the Pickup with her crossbow and FIRES!

THWACK! An arrow spears into the Hot Rod body as it roars away up the ramp into the Car Hauler.

Barony, Buster, and Savage get out. They run to a door but find it locked.

They climb the ladder to the roof and--

Buster gets the shotgun kicked out of his hands.

A Crew Member swings a sledgehammer. Buster grabs it, pulls himself up, and fights back.

Savage races up to find a Crew Member waiting with a baseball bat. Savage takes the blow and tackles him.

Barony clambers up. She looks at Savage and Buster fighting, stares down the length of the Juggernaut, and grins vengefully.

Jess writhes in the chair. She spots a box knife on a table to her side.

She looks at Roach and Bazooka Guy watching her smiling.
The Cop Car's engine sings as it draws in on the convoy fast.
Burt pops up from behind the dash.

BURT
Damn it!

WILL
What?

BURT
I'm almost out of ammo.
(turning to Will)
I got one shot.

Will and Ern look back, concerned.

The Cop Car lights flick on, and the siren wails.

Ern smiles back at Will and Burt.

ERN
I always wanted to do that!

They pass the Pickup. Biker Girl fires and misses.

The Pickup swerves into the Cop Car, trying to pit it.

The Cop Car fishtails as Ern paddles frantically at the wheel.

ERN (CONT'D)
I got it! I got it!

The Cop Car gets back under control.

Will stares at the ramp sparking on the highway.

WILL
Get up by the ramp.

BURT
Rather you than me.

Will tries the window switch but finds it disabled.

WILL
Get my window down!

ERN
Hang on!

Ern fumbles with the buttons on his door.

BURT

No! You gotta use the window over-ride switches!

ERN

These?

The side mirrors whirr and adjust.

BURT

No, old man! The window switches!

SMASH! The back window of the Cop Car shatters into the road.

Ern glances back to find Will lying on the back seat, his feet through the window. Ern looks back ahead.

ERN

He got it.

Will climbs out as the Cop Car eases up to the ramp.

The Jeep looms out from behind the Juggernaut. The Jeep Gunner leans out and prepares to fire the flamethrower.

BURT

Oh no, you don't!

Burt leans out and aims. The Jeep Gunner hoses the ramp with fire, and the Jeep ducks back behind the Juggernaut.

Burt slides back into the car and grins at Ern.

BURT (CONT'D)

I may only have one round left, but that sucker's gonna count!

Will balances as he prepares to jump, then--

BANG! The Cop Car smashes against the ramp.

Will slips and hangs from the light bar. He scrabbles back up and looks round to find The Pickup towering alongside.

PICKUP DRIVER

Looks like we got ourseves a pork sandwich! And boys, I like mine with extra stuffing!

She cuts the wheel hard. BANG! BANG! BANG! The Pickup slams into the Cop Car over and over.

Will watches the gap to the ramp widening and narrowing below him.

He spots Biker Girl aiming for him. He leaps, and--

Crashes onto the ramp, flames around him. Biker Girl FIRES!
He freezes as the arrow hits right by him.

He crawls up the ramp, runs inside, and tries the door. He finds it locked and climbs the ladder.

The Pickup passes the Cop Car on the dirt.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)

Take care of that shit, girl!

BIKER GIRL

Here comes cupid!

Biker Girl shuffles to the window and leans right out with her trusty crossbow. She aims at the Cop Car and FIRES!

THWACK! Ern flinches. The arrow wedged in the windshield by his face.

Will gets to the top of the ladder to find Savage and Buster still fighting the two Crew Members.

Buster throws his opponent into the junk. The Crew Member grabs some metal and smacks him back.

Buster stumbles to the edge and--

The Crew Member kicks him in the back. Buster falls from the side but hangs on.

Savage releases his opponent and runs to help Buster. He grabs his arm and holds him from falling.

The Crew Members kick Buster in the back.

He slips from the side, pulling Savage with him. Savage manages to grab a Crew Member and they fall into the Highway, tumbling along the asphalt.

The remaining Crew Member looks back with no remorse.

He spits blood and turns back to find Will coiled, ready to fight. The Crew Member chuckles and picks up some metal.

CREW MEMBER

End of the line, asshole! Time to
throw you off this train!

Burt climbs out the Cop Car window and aims at Biker Girl.
She FIRES! He flinches, aims carefully, and FIRES!
BANG! She falls partway out the window and hangs by her feet.
Burt finds an arrow wedged in the side mirror by his crotch.
He looks up to the sky and mouths a "thank you".
Biker Girl screams, her head scuffing on the asphalt.
The Pickup Driver grabs Biker Girl's boot.

PICKUP DRIVER
Don't worry, girl! I got you!

Biker Girl's long hair unravels from its tight bun as she reaches for the window.

BIKER GIRL
I got this!

She pulls her body up but her long hair dances on the road and snatches under the Pickup Truck rear wheel, snapping her under the tire and pulling her into the road.

The Pickup Truck Driver holds Biker Girl's empty boot, shocked.

Will and the Crew Member circle one another.

Will ducks a swing and punches back. He ducks another swing and punches hard. The Crew Member stumbles.

Will lands a hard blow, and the Crew Member crashes down.

Will grimaces as he clenches his aching fingers.

He gazes up the length of the three Juggernaut trailers, takes a deep breath, and sprints.

He leaps to the Workshop Trailer and runs along it, but then--

A huge flame roars up the side. He dives for cover.

The Jeep races alongside, Jeep Gunner firing up at Will.

Jess winces, trying to shuffle her chair toward the knife. Roach's tattooed face draws a creepy leer, enjoying the struggle

Hayden peers down the highway ahead and grabs the radio.

HAYDEN

Get that AT4 ready on the roof!

Bazooka Guy leaves the workshop. Roach licks his lips and slowly approaches Jess as she writhes desperately.

Bazooka Guy climbs up onto the roof, rocket launcher in arms, and makes his way along the trailer toward the front.

Hayden spots red trickling down the windshield. He gawks, confused. Barony's glaring face appears upside down.

Barony lies over the roof of the cab, peering in.

Hayden grabs his pistol, but she's gone. The body of the Spotter is hurled onto the hood.

Hayden looks at The Driver confused, then--

SMASH! Barony grabs The Driver through his side window.

The Juggernaut swerves violently.

Jess's chair slides and crashes against the table.

Roach falls over. She grabs the knife and fumbles with it.

Will clings on. Bazooka Guy drops the rocket launcher and tumbles over the side, hanging upside down by one leg.

Hayden tries to aim at Barony as she scratches at the screaming Driver's face.

The Juggernaut swings the other way, the trailers rippling behind like a huge metal snake.

Jess slides away from the table and slams against the other wall, causing the knife to slip out of her fingers.

Roach rolls around on the floor, trying to get up.

Bazooka Guy falls and hits the asphalt face-first.

Barony cackles as The Driver fights with her.

The Juggernaut lurches across the highway.

Jess crashes over on the chair and winces. She spots the knife on the floor and writhes, trying to move toward it.

Will spots a gap in the damaged roof.

The Driver smacks Barony over and over with his elbow, and The Juggernaut straightens up.

Jess slides on her side, gritting her teeth. She grabs the knife as she passes and looks up. The table approaching fast. She ducks and smashes into it.

Roach slowly staggers up as she hacks at the rope binding her to the chair.

The Driver elbows Barony's face until she drops from the window. He wipes his bloody cheek.

DRIVER

Screw you, fire crotch!

Will slithers into the gap in the roof and crashes to the Workshop floor.

He runs to the door and reels, clutching his hand, the handle red hot.

He looks around, the sound of roaring flames sweeping across the wall outside.

The Jeep Gunner soaks the workshop with fire.

Hayden stares at a side mirror, concerned.

HAYDEN

(into radio)

Move on back to the Zippo, and see what's happening. I don't like what I'm seeing in these mirrors.

The Hammertail drops back. The Jeep Gunner continues to spray fire at the workshop while looking for Will.

JEEP GUNNER

Come out, little piggy, or I'll burn your house down!

Roach creeps toward Jess. She leaps up and raises the box knife, glaring.

Roach smiles and slides out a machete.

She backs away, glances around desperately, and--

Leaps onto the table. She grabs a fluorescent light tube, tears it from the ceiling, crashes down, and smashes the end against the wall. Sparks shower from the fitting above her.

She whips her hair out of her face, teeth gritted.

He raises his eyebrows, impressed, and approaches.

The Cop Car races up behind the Jeep.

Ern grins menacingly and clutches the wheel.

ERN

I always wanted to try this too.

The Cop Car clips the Jeep's rear corner, sending it into a fishtail.

The Jeep Gunner drops the flame thrower. The canopy above him catches fire.

The Jeep Driver fights with the wheel but--

The Jeep slams into the Juggernaut and pins under the workshop trailer.

The Jeep driver screams, trapped as he beats away flames.

The screeching tires of the Jeep bellow smoke. The Jeep Gunner flails on fire until--

The Jeep explodes, setting fire to the side of the Juggernaut and the hood of the Cop Car.

Burt and Ern stare alarmed at the burning hood.

The Jeep's tires pop. The wreck detaches, just missing the Cop Car, passing the back of the Juggernaut and--

SMASH! The snarling Hammertail crashes through it. It races up fast and rams the Cop Car hard.

The Cop Car serves into a violent fishtail.

Ern paddles at the wheel.

ERN (CONT'D)

I don't got this! I don't got this!

The Cop Car spins out into the desert in a cloud of dust.

NAVIGATOR

(banging Hammertail)

Go! Go! Go!

The Hammertail races along the Juggernaut. Navigator and Radio Guy searching eagerly for Will.

Will tries the handle and opens the door to find the Navigator swinging the Ma Deuce around to aim at him.

He runs back inside, jumps into a pile of junk, and--

The Navigator let's rip. CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA!

Rounds chop straight through the Juggernaut and burst out the other side in front of the Pickup Truck.

PICKUP DRIVER

Oh, we getting serious now!

Will lies cornered on the floor, staring at The Hammertail through the bullet holes in the wall.

Jess swipes at Roach with the glass tube. He ducks and jabs back. She screams, her waist cut.

He swings, and she blocks. They circle interlocked.

Bullets soar over Will. He spots his burnt red toolbox, opens it, and smiles.

WILL

Oh baby, am I pleased to see you!

The Navigator laughs manically as he continues to fire in a line across the trailer. CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA CHA!

The Pick Up driver's eyes bulge, bullets exiting toward her.

PICKUP DRIVER

Oh, hell no!

Bullets chop into the Pick Up, and blood explodes across the windshield.

It smashes against the Juggernaut and crashes into the badlands.

Roach shoves Jess against the wall. She pushes back, clutching the glass tube as it crackles and splinters.

She looks up at him and grits her teeth. She kicks him hard in the crotch. He staggers back. She swipes him with the glass tube, shattering a section off.

He falls back. She swipes again, blood spraying across the wall. She raises the tube furious and thrusts it down.

Will smiles, stands up, and raises the liquor bottle in his hand.

He hurls it at the flaming wall and--

Flaming liquor soaks the Navigator in the Hammertail. He flails on fire.

Will rushes to the door and leaps across the gap to the Barracks trailer.

Will rushes in and freezes.

Roach on the floor, dead, the glass tube speared into his torso with Jess standing over him. She looks back, panting.

JESS

About time you showed up.

Will looks Jess in the eye. He grabs her and, to her surprise, kisses her passionately, with sparks erupting from the broken light fitting above them. Time stops until--

Clunk. The door at the other end of the trailer slowly shuts.

They snap around to find Hayden standing in the shadows, glowering with a gun aimed

He chuckles as he slowly shakes his head.

HAYDEN

You love birds think you've achieved anything? Let me tell you, you've accomplished nothing! Those grunts you've taken out, expendable. There's plenty more where they came from.

Will and Jess stare angrily.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

You've given me all I need. I will recruit hundreds, and they will bring me thousands. And you two can stay onboard and watch it all happen, knowing you played a part.

Hayden backs out the door,

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

Next stop! The city!

Hayden leaves. The door lock clunks shut and locks.

Back in the cab, Hayden slouches into his seat confidently and peers ahead as the red "WARNING RESTRICTED AREA" sign blows by.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

(into radio)

Bring that Hammertail up front, now!

The Hammertail pulls ahead. The passenger heaves the burning Navigator out from behind the gun, throws him into the road, and climbs into the seat.

Will and Jess climb onto the roof, look ahead, and look back at each other.

WILL

He's not gonna give up!

JESS

We gotta get off this thing!

Jess goes to run back down the trailers, but Will spots something in all the junk.

WILL

Wait! Let's leave a parting gift!

Hayden stares ahead at the Hammertail storming down the highway. He grins darkly, then suddenly.

A SOARING SHRIEK! He goes wide-eyed.

A streak of smoke heads toward the Hammertail. BOOM!

It explodes, parts flying everywhere. His jaw drops.

Will crouched on top of the Juggernaut Barracks trailer beside Jess, the smoking rocket launcher on his shoulder.

He stands up and throws the launcher forward over the cab.

The rocket launcher crashes onto the hood. Hayden and the Driver jolt.

The Juggernaut smashes through the Hammertail carcass.

Will and Jess run down the Juggernaut, looking for a way off.

Hanging from the side of the cab, Barony comes to, asphalt streaming past her head.

She grits her teeth and pulls herself up.

Hayden stares ahead vacantly for a few moments and points to a small gap in the National Guard Barricade ahead.

HAYDEN

The gap! We'll crash our way through!

DRIVER

We'll never make it!

Hayden gets in the Driver's face, his veins bulging.

HAYDEN
AIM FOR IT!

The Driver looks at Hayden, shakes his head, opens his door, and throws himself out.

Hayden gets behind the wheel and floors the throttle, grinning manically.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)
You need a job doing, do it
yourself!

Will and Jess stand at the rear of the Car Hauler and spot The Enforcement Facility approaching.

They look at each other hopelessly.

Colonel Becker's squad poised ready with The Black Hawk hovering overhead. The Juggernaut crests the hill into view.

The squad takes aim.

The Juggernaut thunders down the highway.

The Cop Car roars after it, hood still licking with flames.

Burt and Ern stare ahead, determined. Burt points.

BURT
Look! There they are!

Will and Jess turn to cross to the ladder down into the car hauler trailer but find Barony standing by it, seething.

They freeze. Barony starts climbing down the ladder, laughing manically to herself.

JESS
Nothing's changed, has it? It never
will! If it isn't this war machine,
then it will just be her, and
people like her!

WILL
Just look at what these people do
to themselves and each other.
They're their own worst enemy. All
we've got to do is get off this
thing.

JESS

How?

Barony drops from the ladder into the car hauler trailer and something catches her eye.

A tarpaulin sheet drops from the back of the Juggernaut.

Will hangs from the sheet, lowering himself down.

Jess watches pensively. She glances down to see the tarpaulin ripping from some of its fixings.

Will falls into the road, rolls down the tarpaulin, and grabs the end, dragging along behind it on the asphalt.

Jess covers her mouth. An engine roars into life.

She looks down through a mesh grate to find Barony cackling as she revs the Hot Rod.

Jess spots a barrel of oil on the roof and kicks it over.

It pours through the mesh grate, trickles down, and pools on the metal floor by the Hot Rod.

Burt and Ern watch Will worried from the Cop Car.

Will clutches at the tarpaulin and pulls himself onto it.

Barony puts the Hot Rod in reverse and floors it.

The Hot Rod lurches back but hits the oil, and the back wheels spin, shrieking against the slippery metal.

Barony sits confused, flooring the engine harder.

Will waves to Jess to slide down to him.

Barony looks out her window and watches the tires spinning and smoking, unable to find any traction.

Jess looks down, terrified, the tarpaulin like a slip and slide to hell.

She pauses and looks over her shoulder, the barriers and National Guard right ahead.

Becker turns to his soldiers and raises his hand.

COLONEL BECKER

When these guys get to hell, I want
the devil himself to reel at the
smell of hot lead in the air!

Jess looks closes her eyes and--

She leaps from the Juggernaut and zips down the tarpaulin.

Will catches her, and they lie embraced.

Barony stares angrily at them as the Hot Rod engine howls on the limiter.

The Cop Car draws up. Burt leans out the window and--

Jess grabs his hands and climbs through the rear window.

Becker drops his arm.

The squad opens up. The M60 on the Black Hawk cackles overhead.

RATATATATATATATATATATATA!

Hayden stares on defiantly and grips the wheel tight.

Barony braces herself as gunfire strikes metal.

Burt and Jess reach to Will. He grabs their hands and pulls himself up through the rear window.

Barony lets out a furious blood-curdling scream.

The Cop Car brakes hard, tires smoking. Hayden glares, aiming the Juggernaut for the gap. Will, Jess, Burt, and Ern stare on.

Hayden winces as the shattering windshield spits glass in his face, rounds punching through it.

The Juggernaut thunders down the hill, body sparking with pinging bullets. Then suddenly, one of the front tires explodes, causing the wheels to cut hard.

Hayden tries to wrestle it back, fear in his eyes.

The Juggernaut swerves. Soldiers flee. Hayden clenches his eyes shut, terrified.

HAYDEN

No!

The Juggernaut hits the concrete barricade at full speed. The trailers concertina. The whole wreck heaves and compresses. The Barracks punch through the cab.

The wreck eventually creaks to a halt, with Hayden hanging through the windshield. He looks at the city and then--

BOOM! The Juggernaut explodes, tearing apart into huge pieces that soar through the air.

The Black Hawk is blown from its position. Soldiers are thrown to the ground.

Becker cranes his neck back, a smile on his face and his sunglasses reflecting a huge boiling fireball towering above him into the sky.

Will, Jess, Burt, and Ern get out of the Cop Car and watch the fireball slowly growing, gradually turning to smoke, fading to gray and blowing into the wind in a long trail.

BURT

Yeah! That's what you get! That's what you get for messing with us! Just another day on the farm, you dumb bastards!

ERN

Would you look at that mess! Would you just look at that mess!

Jess and Will hug each other tight. Burt and Ern punch the air, scowl, and gesticulate. Jess rests her head against Will and stares solemnly down the highway.

JESS

Is that what you would call fixing the bigger problem?

WILL

Maybe. You ready to start a community?

JESS

(coily)

I'd rather start a family.

He nods in agreement as the Juggernaut burns in the distance, the plume of smoke swirling under the downdraft of the Black Hawk. Burt and Ern hug and pat each other.

JESS (V.O.)

Whatever the scenario, there's that moment when loss hits you, and it always hurts your heart. For a few brief moments, you couldn't hate the world more. You curse whatever force dictates the rules and beat yourself up for what you could have done to prevent it.

They walk back to the Cop Car, get in, and head home.

JESS (V.O.)

But, this time, despite all those times before, I felt something different, something in processing the grief, something that followed the despair with hope rather than emptiness.

EXT. FARM - DAY

A dirt clearing, a mound of earth surrounded by carefully placed stones. Will, Jess, Burt, and Ern standing over it and paying their respects to Skooter.

JESS (V.O.)

Skooter died a hero, not simply because she was fighting, but because she believed so strongly in defeating something that was genuinely evil.

Jess delicately places down a lovingly arranged collection of flowers. She crosses back to Will. He wraps his arms around her waist as she wipes her eyes.

Ern stands solemnly. Burt leans proudly on a shovel. Jess stares at the flowers twitching in the breeze.

JESS (V.O.)

And it made me realize something.

Will clutches Jess's waist as she looks back up at him. She smiles. He smiles back.

JESS (V.O.)

Fighting by itself isn't the answer, that I was right about, but I was wrong to think just dreaming was the answer too. Fighting for a dream however? A dream that's worth fighting for?

They all look up, standing by the grave, surrounded by animals, on the desert farm, hidden within the mountainous valley.

JESS (V.O.)

That's all the hope we need to survive.

THE END