

APRÉS CHRISTMAS

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Stark, sheer, snow-capped mountains stagger across the horizon. OPENING TITLES as we soar through the bright blue skies that contrast sharply against the pure white snow and scraggly rock faces. Here, we're high above the tree line and no vegetation grows. The mountains are drastically desolate.

Amongst this sea of white, CHAMONIX (30s) stands out in her red bib. But it's not just the color, she always stands out. She sends a snowmobile down a slope caked in powder.

As she clips in to her skis, she looks over to RICK (30s) who's following her lead, like always. They slowly inch their skis up the remainder of the slope. It's an absolutely epic blue bird. There's not a single track for miles, except for the four lines being left behind as they climb to the summit.

Finally, they reach the top of a rather scraggily chute. It's still early in the season, and honestly, it's a little sketchy. Chamonix unclips and peels off the skins from the bottom of her skis before stepping back into them.

CHAMONIX

First tracks?

Rick hesitates - rookie mistake.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

YEW!

She jumps in and shreds down.

CUT TO:

Traffic slowly beeps along through a corridor of skyscrapers. TRAVIS (30s) stares out the window. He always wants to be somewhere else, even though "somewhere else" rarely lives up to his expectations.

Beside him, KASI (late 20s) neurotically refreshes her feed of wedding dresses and cakes - hunting for something. A proposal pic pops up. Her head falls from the clouds.

KASI

Oh, uh, Sandra got engaged! That's, that's sooo, awesome! Oh, and they already set a date. May 17th, at the St. Regis, in Aspen... I mean May in Aspen kind of sucks, I would've gone for August...

(MORE)

KASI (CONT'D)
 What do you think? August,
 Aspen...? Travis!? Hello!

TRAVIS
 August?! Why wait? I'll reserve a
 suite for the second weekend in
 January.

He squeezes her knee. He did good. Right?

KASI
 You want to book a room?

TRAVIS
 Book a... suite? I mean, I think
 we'll deserve a little one-on-one
 time after spending Christmas
 weekend with my entire family,
 don't you? Besides I love Snowmass
 and, who knows where either of us
 will be in August.

KASI
 Are you, are you saying we won't be
 together?

He hesitates - rookie mistake.

KASI (CONT'D)
 (to the driver)
 Stop the car!

Kasi gets out and takes her never-before-used Patagonia
 backpack with her.

TRAVIS
 Kasi, you're not serious!

She slams the door in his face. The DRIVER rushes out after
 her. He pulls a Louis Vuitton wheellie bag out from the trunk
 and leans up a brand new, Burton snowboard bag against it.
 Kasi drapes a giant, poofy coat over the handle of her Louis.

Travis bites. He rolls his window down causing a candy cane
 antler to slip towards the cement. He saves it, mid-fall.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
 Kasi, don't do this. Comeeee onnnn.
 My mom'll be devastated -

The driver hops back into his position behind the wheel, as
 if he already knows where this is going.

KASI

Well I'm pretty devastated that you don't see us having a future together.

TRAVIS

You know that's not what I meant.

KASI

So you do see us getting married?

TRAVIS

It's been like three months!

KASI

Three and a half!

TRAVIS

You really want to do this? It's almost Christmas...

KASI

I know the date Travis! But you, you either know, or you don't.

Silence.

KASI (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Happy holidays.

Kasi wheels her luggage down the street, slowly. Travis rolls up the window. The antler wedges crookedly in the seal of the car - a battle scar.

TRAVIS

(to driver)

I still have to be at the airport, so...

Right. They pull back onto the bumper to bumper boulevard. The driver can't help but stare into his rearview mirror. He's gotta say something, doesn't he?

DRIVER

Long flight ahead of ya?

TRAVIS

(with a zen exhale)

It'll be shorter now.

The car slowly rolls passed Kasi. SPLAT! A jar of moisturizer shatters against the back windshield. Travis looks behind him - Kasi's chasing them, chucking her cosmetics.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
I'll pay for that.

WHACK! A furry boot bounces off the bumper.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
And that.

3 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - EARLY AFTERNOON

3

Chamonix bombs the bottom of her run. She slides in just beside the snowmobile and plops, like she's jumping on a freshly fluffed comforter. Rick boards up to her, but he's got more than pillow talk on his mind...

CHAMONIX
Epic epicness!!!!

RICK
Chamonix, we need to talk. This, this isn't working for me.

She stretches wide, completely at peace.

CHAMONIX
Alright, alright, you can send it first on the next run. Consider it an early Christmas gift.

RICK
I don't want a "next run".

CHAMONIX
What are you talking about? It's the first real powder day of the season. For December? This is all time!

RICK
No. It's not. Not for us. This, isn't working. I can't keep chasing you. It's exhausting...

CHAMONIX
You're dumping me?

She pulls herself up, like always.

RICK
If I wait until after Christmas then it's New Years and then Valentine's... I just -

CHAMONIX
Don't want me anymore?

RICK
Let's get back to town and -

CHAMONIX
Ya, I think I'll do another run.

She pastes her skins on her skis.

RICK
Chamonix. Chamonix! I'm not going
just to leave you out here!

Rick climbs on and slowly snowmobiles beside Chamonix.

CHAMONIX
You already have.

She skates away from him. FINE - he speeds past her, she
hesitates - rookie mistake.

As the snowmobile cruises into the distance, Chamonix stops
in her tracks. She pulls off her helmet and wipes the teary
make-up from her eye bags. She rubs her runny nose on the
back of her mitten. For a moment she sighs, relieved. But as
the snowmobile gets farther and farther away she realizes
that she's utterly and completely alone in this white
wasteland with nothing but a long, lonely walk ahead of her.
One ski after the other.

CUT TO:

6 INT. TAXI - LONE SKY - NIGHT 6

Travis stares out the window at the picturesque ski town. It
sparkles under the glow of golden Christmas lights. Snow
cakes the rooftops like icing on a gingerbread house.
Shooting star Christmas signs hang from lamp posts.

The town's only, 1980s, yellow cab slows to a stop at a red
traffic signal. Travis thunks his head against the window. As
he waits for the colors to change, a poorly lit neon sign
flickers to read "Badwater Basin". In the window, beside
their faux-snow-sprayed glass, a light-up mug flashes: "We've
Got Beer", and he could use a drink.

7 INT. BADWATER BASIN - JUST AFTER 7

Travis walks through the dive bar with his duffle bag draped
over his shoulder. Locals turn their heads.

He's certainly no regular and even without the suitcase it's no secret that he's not from anywhere around here.

He walks beneath a ceiling that's covered in cringingly bright LED, rainbow Christmas lights. They're strung in every direction with no rhyme and less reason.

He pulls out a stool. JENNY (30s) smiles at him over a scotch glass that she's shining dry. She'd never let a friend drink alone, or a stranger for that matter. It's an awful, yet powerful curse for the owner of a bar.

JENNY

What are we drinking?

TRAVIS

Tequila. Anything silver.

How LA... Jenny grabs a bottle from the back of the bar, she practically blows the dust off of it.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Make it a double. With like, a shit ton of limes.

She's heard weirder and regardless, she stills pours generously.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Isn't this the part where you say "rough day?"

Cute, but she's got bigger fish to fry, like the lumberjack who just kicked his snow boots up on her two-top.

JENNY

Dam it Joe! Get your boots the hell back on the ground. This ain't Pop's shop no more. It's a new era.

Then to Travis -

JENNY (CONT'D)

We do catering now.

She slides a business card across the bar: "For a Good Time, Call Jenny... she caters".

JENNY (CONT'D)

In case you like to party.

He smirks at the card.

TRAVIS
Very... tasteful.

She slams a cocktail glass down in front of him. It's completely rimmed in lime wedges. Slowly he starts plucking, squeezing and dropping them in.

JENNY
I got "Real Lime", if it's easier.

She shakes the plastic lime-shaped lime mixer in the air.

TRAVIS
Tastes better when you do it yourself.

He slides a twenty towards her. Before Jenny can even pretend to offer him change - WHOOSH! The door swings open and in storms Chamonix, skis strapped to her pack, boots shedding snow with each stomp. She's turned nearly every head in the place, including Travis's.

JENNY
Rough day?

Hey! That was his "rough day". Chamonix shimmies out of her pack, and rolls her shoulders back in relief, ahhh, finally. She drops it, cavalierly, on the floor, besides the duffle.

CHAMONIX
I was all the way out by Buckskin Gultch, that's when he drops this bomb: "I just can't keep chasing after you any more?!" I mean what is that!

JENNY
Chamonix! Kitchen. Now.

CHAMONIX
Why?

Jenny points to Travis with her eyes. Chamonix rolls hers and stomps back behind the bar, through the saloon doors.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

The kitchen of the Badwater Basin looks more like a locker room at the mountain. It's got more snowboards than pots.

CHAMONIX

I can't believe I have to talk to my best friend in her own bar in the kitchen!

JENNY

There's a tourist here! I'm trying to make a good impression! This isn't some dive bar... any more.

CHAMONIX

You and your good impressions. I feel like we're fifteen again, hiding from whatever chore Pops -

JENNY

You know I'd give anything to be getting chores from Pops again.

CHAMONIX

I know. I'm sorry, I'm just out of it. Rick dumped me all the way out at Buckskin Gulch. My legs are so burnt, I almost crawled here.

JENNY

You know you can crawl here all you like, just don't crawl back to him this time.

CHAMONIX

Are you joking? I don't ever want to see him again.

JENNY

You always say that!

CHAMONIX

This time I really mean it!

Chamonix snuffles. Jenny hugs her.

JENNY

Well, y'all just booked a snow shoe expedition, 10am tomorrow boo. Don't look at me like that, if you want to screen clients, handle your own dam website.

CHAMONIX

You've gotta cancel. Say, a storm's coming.

JENNY

The *McKlintov's* booked it. You know the family that just bought the mountain. The ones who own like half of the Rockies...

CHAMONIX

I don't care! I'm not going!

JENNY

Chamonix! My lease's already been bought and I was barely making it before. What's gonna stop 'em from putting a Micky D's right here in pops spot? Or from starting their own back country service, huh? I'll tell ya, first impressions... and my secret weapon.

Jenny pulls out a stack of business cards from her back pocket. She hands them to Chamonix. The weight of the wanna-be card-stock and Times New Roman is not lost on her.

CHAMONIX

You know this makes you sound like-

JENNY

Tell them I'm expensive.

CUT TO:

INT. BADWATER BASIN

Chamonix and Jenny snicker as they push out through the saloon doors. Chamonix peels off her jacket, and the layer underneath it.

JENNY

So... tequila?

CHAMONIX

Tequila!? What is this? Spring Break?

Jenny points to Travis, with her eyes.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

(inaudibly mouthing)

The tourist?

Jenny shrugs and then slides a something silver, rimmed to death in lime wedges, in front of the stool next to him.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

What the hell am I supposed to do with this?

TRAVIS

Think of it like a fresh-squeezed margarita.

JENNY

Oh, Chamonix loves margaritas!

Chamonix grimaces. She plucks the limes and reluctantly pinches them into the drink.

TRAVIS

Is that so?

CHAMONIX

Oh, ya. The sticky blenders and salty lips, mmm! My favorite!

Chamonix sips from the shot glass and gags. Travis smiles.

TRAVIS

Want to sit? Those boots don't look very comfortable.

Jenny raises her eyebrows at Chamonix and pushes back into the kitchen.

CHAMONIX

I'm used to walking in ski boots. I'm a backcountry guide.

TRAVIS

I like the backcountry.

CHAMONIX

Who doesn't?

Travis nods at the stool again. Chamonix takes a seat.

TRAVIS

My last girlfriend wasn't, well she well she preferred a nice groomer, maybe an occasional F-box.

CHAMONIX

I've never been into all that park stuff, I like my shoulders.

She windmills her arms to illustrate. Travis sips, silently.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
You up here for the holiday?

TRAVIS
Ya, 'til after Christmas.

CHAMONIX
Nice... First time?

TRAVIS
Uh, ya, well I heard they just sold the mountain. Thought I'd check it out before, well, there's gonna be a lot of changes no doubt, but, I don't know, sometimes change is good.

CHAMONIX
Ya. And sometimes change tears out everything your friends have built, and turns the place you love into a "resort" where you can't even afford to buy a cup of coffee.

TRAVIS
Look I've had a long day, I wasn't trying to get into this, with a, stranger...

CHAMONIX
Well, "stranger", let me ask you this: you drink whisky?

Chamonix helps herself to a handle of Jack behind the bar.

TRAVIS
Not after tequila.

CHAMONIX
Tonight you do! Change is good, right? Besides, I just got dumped and am in desperate need of a real drink.

She douses the two glasses. He holds his up, still full of lime rinds. EW.

TRAVIS
Alright, here's to, getting dumped.

CHAMONIX
I'm not drinking to him.

TRAVIS

Who said I was talking about him?
Or you.

CHAMONIX

Was it bad? Did she set your stuff
on fire? Smash your Xbox to pieces?
I only ask for, research purposes.

TRAVIS

Throwing things seemed very
therapeutic for her.

CHAMONIX

Alright. Here's to: dodging
bullets.

TRAVIS

Moisturizers...

CHAMONIX

Moisturizers? No... here's to,
honestly, here's to being newly
single and making it through
fricken Christmas.

TRAVIS

To after Christmas. When
everything's not so magical and
cheery, and...

CHAMONIX

Lonely?

TRAVIS

To after Christmas.

SMASH TO:

8

INT. BADWATER BASIN - LATER

8

Several sips, and a few shots later...

CHAMONIX

I thought he was different. But,
he's just like every other guy, too
scared and too slow.

TRAVIS

Why do you women always wanna go so
fast? Just pump the breaks!

CHAMONIX

See, that's the problem with men.
Y'all think you can keep up, y'all
think you want this woman who lives
fast, but you don't.

TRAVIS

Kasi wasn't your kind of fast.

CHAMONIX

Neither was Rick. I donno, maybe I
do need to pump the breaks. What?

TRAVIS

Nothing. It's just, don't make it
too easy for him. You're the kind
of person that's worth chasing.

They lean closer...

CHAMONIX

People get tired of running.

TRAVIS

Then they're not the ones who
deserve to catch you.

He pulls himself back, and stands up, off his stool. He drops
a hundred on the bar. Chamonix stares at him.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I should get going.

CHAMONIX

Don't leave.

She shoots out her unbuckled ski boot, blocking him in.

TRAVIS

Is that gonna stop me?

She stands up into the stand off, into their stare down.

CHAMONIX

No. But you don't get to just say
all that and walk outta here...

There's the beat of a lifetime, until they lunge toward each
other, sharing the kiss of a lifetime.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAMONIX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chamonix pushes open the door, Travis stumbles in just behind her. She shimmies out of her pack and he drops his duffle. She unzips his jacket and he unzips hers. They kiss passionately.

They move to her sofa. She kicks up her ski boots and he struggles to help pull them off. They laugh hysterically unable to keep straight faces or their hands off each other.

Chamonix slips off her bib, revealing layers upon layers underneath it - like a snow bunny onion. Travis pulls them off one by one. Comedically at first and then more and more sensually. When he gets to her base layer, she stops him and pulls off his shirt, then he pulls off hers revealing her very unsexy sports bra. She's clearly embarrassed and he laughs, before pulling it off very slowly, intimately as we-

Fade to black.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAMONIX'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Travis rolls over. He checks his phone. It's dead. He stretches over to Chamonix and kisses her forehead.

TRAVIS

Good morning.

CHAMONIX

Is it morning yet?

TRAVIS

Barely. But, I have to go, my family's expecting me and if I don't turn up soon, they'll send a search party.

Chamonix rolls over on top of him.

CHAMONIX

You can't stay just a little longer? I'm so comfortable.

TRAVIS

Me too.

He runs his fingers over the back of her head, along her hair

CHAMONIX

Just for five more minutes...

TRAVIS
Are you free tonight?

CHAMONIX
I have to check with my assistant.

TRAVIS
Oh, ok. Let me know what they say.

He reaches over and grabs the pen from beside the notepad resting on her nightstand. Scribbled on it are incoherent ideas like "ramen burrito" and "three turns down Loveland". He giggles at it before rolling back over and writing his number on her hand.

CHAMONIX
Mmm. I'll text you.

TRAVIS
You better.

He climbs out of bed and pulls on his pants. Chamonix smiles at him sleepily. He stares back at her.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Ok, maybe just five more minutes.

He jumps back into the bed and Chamonix curls into his chest.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOWY STREET - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Travis skips down the street. A black SUV rolls up and rolls it's window halfway down. Travis's little brother, PETE (late 20s) is behind the wheel. He's always looking for some fun, and this morning's no exception.

PETE
Bro? Bro! Where the hell have you
been! You don't answer your phone?

The SUV stops dead beneath the Main Street Christmas lights now just skeletons of what they were the night before.

TRAVIS
Pete! Dude, I just had the most...

PETE
I wanna hear all about it, but in
the car. It's fricken freezing out.
Hop in the back!

Travis climbs in.

10

INT. BLACK SUV

10

TRAVIS
(exaggerating)
Dude, I think I'm in love -

KASI (O.S.)
Hi Travis.

An entire dream, an alternate reality shattered in two words.
Kasi's riding shotgun.

TRAVIS
Kasi?! What, what are you doing
here? Pete? What is she doing here?

PETE
Bro, where have you been? Mom's
been calling you like, non-stop.

TRAVIS
I, just, um, well I had one too
many whiskies, and just couldn't
face everyone last night...

KASI
Awww, you must've had such a hard
night processing the break up!

TRAVIS
Ya, and, uh, I just, I decided to
grab a room and check out the Inn.
The cabs in this town...

PETE
Bro, I know! Can you believe
there's only one? And it's like
from 1982. That's why I came to
pick up Kasi from the airport.

KASI
We're so lucky you've got such a
great family! See your mom called
my dad or my dad called your mom
and, anyways, we wanted to surprise
you, and since you were out
drinking away your sorrows,
sulking, not answering you phone,
it actually happened! I was like so
worried - but, it doesn't even
matter, we're back together now!

THEY'RE WHAT?!?!?!

11 INT. MCKKLINTOV MANSION - AFTER 20 MIN OF CONFUSION 11

Travis storms in and slams the thick wood door behind him, leaving Kasi and Pete to open it for themselves, even with their arms full of Kasi's luggage.

TRAVIS

DAD! DAD?

He stares up, and stumbles awkwardly through the mansion maze. It may be the remnants of the tequila, or the whisky, or the fact that he's never been here, but he can't seem to find his way... He opens doors into closets stuffed with never-worn Northface fleeces and mudrooms filled with L.L. Bean boots until -

12 INT. MARGOT'S BEDROOM 12

He trips into his older sister's room. MARGOT (late 30s), is the only one who can ever get through to him. It's dead silent and audibly Zen, except for the cackling of a fire.

She sticks her finger up against her lips as she tries to preserve a peace that she already knows will be broken. But, she's never afraid to try.

And that's when he realizes it: his beautiful nephew sleeps on her chest. He crouches by the bedside and kisses Margot's cheek. He strokes the back of the baby's head.

TRAVIS

I don't know how you made such a beautiful baby, you're so weird looking.

MARGOT

Shut up. You're gonna wake him.

Margot's wife, CARA (30s) walks out of the bathroom rubbing hand cream on her knuckles. She's rough around the edges.

TRAVIS

Hey Cara.

CARA

Hey yourself.

She climbs in bed and starts reading on her iPad.

TRAVIS
It's good to see you.

MARGOT
Come see me in an hour. I'm a
cranky old mom now. I need my slow
mornings, or
(imitating the Hulk)
You won't like me when I'm angry!

TRAVIS
Have you seen dad?

MARGOT
Since I've been half-asleep in my
bed? No. Try the kitchen.

TRAVIS
Genius.

He smooches her forehead.

MARGOT
You smell like a distillery.

He kisses the baby, but awakens a screeching monster.

CARA
OUT TRAVIS!

13 INT. MCKKLINTOV KITCHEN

13

Travis marches into the kitchen, where GREG (60s) sits
crunching a bowl of cereal with his perpetual sweet tooth. He
walks up behind him and gives him a squeeze.

GREG
Trav! You made it. Bring any whisky
back for your old man or you just
bathe yourself in it?

Travis grabs the spoon and steals a bite of cereal.

GREG (CONT'D)
Take it. I'm done.

He speaks with his mouth half-full -

TRAVIS
House is nice.

GREG

They always are. Team flipped it round pretty fast. Closed escrow Monday, by Thursday they had my Christmas Crunch in the cupboard and mom's holy water in the freezer. Suppose they even had time to decorate in between all that.

TRAVIS

Between Tito and Bam Bam?

Travis glances around at all the homey touches, the Christmas décor. He pulls the lid off a Santa cookie jar.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

New family heirloom?

GREG

That depends, are there any cookies in there?

He hands him a ginger snap. Cheers. They dunk it in the milk.

TRAVIS

Dad, what the hell is going on?

GREG

If your mother and I split every time there was a shampoo bottle thrown at my head, you kids wouldn't be here. I like Kasi. She's a good girl. More importantly, your mom likes Kasi. And more importantly, more importantly, she wants to talk to you.

TRAVIS

You can't seriously be forcing me to get back together with her.

GREG

I'm not, but... she is. And I'm on her team pal. Whether we're batting at little league or the World Series, and your mother, boy, she never strikes out. So, I suggest you take the bowl with you. Crunching buys thinking time and Christmas Crunch will mask the smell of... your new cologne.

Greg picks up the bowl and offers it up.

CUT TO:

15 INT. MCKKLINTOV OFFICE

15

VIOLA (60s) sits behind a desk. She doesn't mess with Christmas Crunch, she eats bankers for breakfast and takes everything on the rocks. She's reviewing financial statements in her Prada readers. Travis crunches his way in.

VIOLA
Trav! About time...

TRAVIS
Hey ma'.

They hug across the desk's scratch-less stain.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Office looks nice. It's got all the essentials. How are the numbers?

VIOLA
I've seen worse. I've also seen better.

He sets the bowl down on the mahogany. He really should use a coaster, Viola adjusts it.

VIOLA (CONT'D)
You gonna ask me about the weather too?

Viola antes up. A red ring box slides into the center of the desk, it's not his grandmother's, but it is Cartier.

VIOLA (CONT'D)
I had Melissa pick up the ring before we took off.

He opens it and looks inside.

TRAVIS
You're assistant's got excellent taste. And timing. I met a local last night, I'll admit, it's a bit soon, but, she's incredible.

VIOLA

Dam it Travis! This is serious! Kasi's back because I told her father that you were planning to propose over the holiday. You're having an engagement party, Christmas Eve. Something small, intimate. Just thirty or forty people who feel like flying in for the night. The hotel's obviously not yet been refurbished...

TRAVIS

You're insane! I'm not going to marry her, and I'm certainly not throwing a party where the guest list consists of whomever's private plane's free for the evening.

VIOLA

The hell you are Travis!

TRAVIS

Just wait until Margot -

VIOLA

You think Cara's just some floozy Margot met at a Soul Cycle? Before Cara became our CFO she was the largest female hedge fund manager on the West Coast! I gifted her a membership after she tripled our portfolio in a quarter! Sweetie, there's more to marriage than love.

TRAVIS

How can you say that? You and dad-

VIOLA

Got lucky! We got lucky. Is that what you want to hear? We got it all and we built all this, and it was hard. Harder than you will ever... Kasi is a catch! She comes from a good family, a well-connected family. Not to mention her own status as a public figure... and you're going to what? Just throw it all away?

TRAVIS

She is special.

VIOLA

I know.

TRAVIS

I was talking about -

VIOLA

This town is dying Travis. It needs cash dripping in through an IV. And if it doesn't get it? You'll have to resuscitate by putting a Nobu where your local girl's favorite burger hole used to be. And she'll hate you for it.

TRAVIS

You don't even know her.

VIOLA

Of course I do! They're all the same. Just wait until you raise pass prices. You're everything she's against. But she must have told you that, when you introduced yourself?

Travis looks shyly away.

VIOLA (CONT'D)

You didn't even tell her who you were did you?

She slides the ring box back.

VIOLA (CONT'D)

You are a lot of things Travis McKlintov, but you are not a coward and you are certainly not a fool. You knew what you were doing last night. Now, Kasi loves you for who you really are. And just think of all the press this place will get, think of what it will do to the town if this where Travis McKlintov and Kasi Foster get engaged. If this is where all their friends fly in for their spontaneous Christmas Eve engagement party. You do this and you save that special girl's, special place.

TRAVIS

At least let me chose the caterer.

Viola smiles. Travis picks up the ring, heavily. Viola picks up her phone and shoves her readers back on.

VIOLA

Oh and Trav, put a bow on it. It's the least you can do.

19 INT. CHAMONIX'S APARTMENT 19

EHHH. EHH. EHHH.

A garbled iPhone alarm awfully awakens Chamonix, who's still in bed under the spell of the night before. She see's the time and springs up into a panic tornado.

CUT TO:

18 INT. MCKKLINTOV KITCHEN - MORNING 18

POP! Champagne is splashed into coups with candy-cane charms.

VIOLA

To new beginnings and second chances. May Lone Sky become everything we've ever hoped it could be.

PETE

With as many drinks too.

VIOLA

Anything to add Travis?

Beat.

VIOLA (CONT'D)

Well, salute!

Kasi stories the cheers. Travis grimaces at the coup, and sets it down without taking a sip. Margot catches him.

MARGOT

You know, it's bad luck to not drink to your own toast, Mr. New Beginnings. No matter how awful the hangover.

He can't look at her, she'll see right through him.

TRAVIS

Can't afford any more luck.

He downs the drink. Margot spins away. Viola walks up to him.

VIOLA
(through her teeth)
Do it today darling.

TRAVIS
Don't want me to lose my nerve?

GREG
(announcement style)
Ok! Everybody get dressed we have
to be at the trail in twenty
minutes! Hustle your bustles!

TRAVIS
I, uh, think I'll sit this one out.

GREG
Absolutely not! You're our liaison!

20

INT. PICK UP TRUCK

20

Chamonix hits every red light as she re-braids her braids. They are just not cooperating. She rubs on her car deodorant and dials back one of Jenny's 4 missed calls, on speaker.

CHAMONIX
I know, I know. I overslept. But
last night. Oh my God!

JENNY (V.O.)
No, me first! You're never going to
believe it. I did it. Christmas Eve
catering gig - guess who!

CHAMONIX
Jenny do you even know how to cook?
I've literally seen you fail at
boxed mac n' cheese.

She drives with her knee as she pulls up to the mountain still messing with her hair, until finally - forget it. She shakes it free and sticks a beanie on.

JENNY (V.O.)
Details boo! And speaking of, I
think we should dress like elves...

CHAMONIX
Elvis? Jen, I think you should
focus on the food part before -

She pulls into a parking spot, see's Rick's car and remembers reality. Chamonix drops the phone.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Rick. Oh my God!

She flips down her visor, scrounges for the crumbs of a mascara tube and the last droplets of a lip gloss squeezer that currently resides on her floor mat.

JENNY (V.O.)

Cham! Chamonix! Call me after!

She pulls the beanie off flips her hair, one, two, three times. Ow. Her head. But actually, not bad. She can work with this.

21 EXT. SNOWSHOE TRAILHEAD - JUST AFTER

21

Chamonix walks up to Rick standing at the base of the trail. He's got pairs of snow shoes lined up, one after the other.

CHAMONIX

I know, I'm late - let's not start.

RICK

Peppermint latte peace offering?
Come on. We got a long day to get through.

CHAMONIX

I'm only accepting this because I could really, really use it.

RICK

Rough night?

CHAMONIX

Why do you care?

RICK

Cause you didn't even have the decency to show up -

CHAMONIX

I'm sorry that I was late, I am.
But I did have a long night. I got dumped by my loser boyfriend -

The black SUV pulls up. It's go time.

RICK

Get over yourself. Shouldn't be
that hard, I'm already over you.

The burn sizzles as the McKlintov's pile out of the car.

GREG

Black ice! Black ice! Watch for
ice!

Margot leans into the driver's window - Cara's at the wheel.

MARGOT

You sure you're ok to stay back
with Tommy?

CARA

You kidding? This is the only time
that that baby actually sleeps. I
got whole seasons of shows to
stream.

MARGOT

Love you.

CARA

Times infinity. Have fun!

The McKlintov's look like they could take their ski clothes
straight from the cat track to the cat walk.

VIOLA

Good morning! Sorry we're a little
late -

Chamonix's taken aback by her.

CHAMONIX

You're right on time.

VIOLA

No need to stretch the truth dear.
We've had ourselves a morning,
toasting to our new home away from
home. And to my one-day future
daughter-in-law and son, Travis,
rekindling...

Chamonix takes a chug of her latte. Anything to ease this
pain. As she looks up from the lid, her eyes hit Travis's.

SPIT! SPRAY. She shoots coffee out from her lips all over
Rick. OW! He rubs his peppermint eyes and steps back.

Chamonix can't stop starrng at Travis. But, she has to stop. Staring. She has to stop staring.

Travis stares back at her, his enamorment quickly dissolving into empathy as she pieces it all together.

GREG

Should we strap in?

CHAMONIX

Sorry! Uhhmm...

She snaps into tour guide mode.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Good morning McKlintovs! As you can see we're off to a real interesting start, never a dull moment with Lucky Backcountry Guides... where, you always get lucky. Uh, no, not always, well yes on the mountain. The slogan's a work in progress.

PETE

We always get lucky when we're two bottles of champagne deep, right fam? Me especially though...

VIOLA

Peter!

CHAMONIX

What a perfectly safe way to begin an adventure into avalanche country. My name's Chamonix and I'll be your guide for today.

MARGOT

Chamonix, Parlez-Frances?

CHAMONIX

Parlez- my parents hooked up in a French ski town, mom named me after it. Sorry to disappoint, uhh, anyways welcome to Lone Sky, we're going to take a hike up to Topaz Lake, situated just over two miles into in the Pine Mountain Range. Now you all know him as your guide that's currently soaked in peppermint latte but, uhh, that's Rick, say "hey" Rick!

RICK

Howdy. As you might know, snowshoes really should be called snow baskets, they clip right on top of your boots. Your poles are -

VIOLA

We may have done this once or twice before. Skip ahead.

PETE

We own three resorts in the Rockies.

Rick bites his tongue. But this is Chamonix's mountain, and she won't be pushed around.

CHAMONIX

Ever heard of Sierra Cement?

PETE

(unconfidently)
Of course...

CHAMONIX

Well, here we Pine for powder. It's what's so special about our little pocket. I mean you ever seen cushion this deep at your other resorts? It's December 22nd. We're not blanketed, we're not dusted, we're Yeti huntin'. And unlike the Rockies, we don't have three resorts. We've got miles and miles of untouched backcountry. This is the wild west, make no mistake.

GREG

You gotta lot of nerve... You know you remind me of -

VIOLA

Can we move things along? I'm on a schedule...

TRAVIS

Mom, let her do her thing.

She's noticed him again. This time she definitely might not be able to stop, noticing. But now she's not alone. Rick also can't help but notice her, notice him. They're electric.

GREG

That's our "liaison to the locals".

CHAMONIX

Oh? How does that work exactly?
Liaison-ing?

TRAVIS

Very well. You were saying -

CHAMONIX

Right, so with Pine Powder comes a real risk for avis. All of you will get an avalanche beacon that you'll be required to keep either under your bib or around your waist for the duration of the excursion. No it cannot go in your backpack. No it cannot go in your jacket. It goes under your pants because your pants shouldn't - won't, will not come off at any point while we're on the mountain. Is that clear?

MARGOT

She's talking to you Pete.

CHAMONIX

If you do see snow starting to slide remember your M-GABS. M - move to the side, G - grab on to something sturdy like a rock or tree. A - arm up so if you do get buried we can find you. B - breathe and create room to breathe and finally, if you're in it, Swim. M-GABS.

PETE

(sarcastically)

Oh, that's real easy to remember.

CHAMONIX

Good. It could save your life. Now, who's ready to start shoein'!?

Chamonix and Rick move around and help the family step into their baskets. Chamonix buckles in Kasi.

KASI

Thank you so much, I can never get these latches with my gloves on and once my fingers get cold...

God, she's hard to hate. Chamonix adjusts the buckle.

CHAMONIX

I've got some hand-warmers, if you need them. How's this? Comfortable? Awesome.

Kasi smiles gratefully and Chamonix moves on to Travis.

TRAVIS

I got it.

CHAMONIX

Mr. McClinton, I insist. We're a full service operation, or didn't you already know that?

She clamps down.

TRAVIS

OW. That's a little painful.

CHAMONIX

For me too.

(then to the group)

Alright everyone, follow me! Rick will take up the rear.

They start their trek. Pete walks up to Travis.

PETE

Bro you think I gotta chance with our spicy guide?

KASI

Pete, you're not serious... Her? She's sooo not your type. I mean she's stunning, just like a bit too... granola? For you.

PETE

I can do granola.

Rick herds in the stragglers.

RICK

Come on. There's miles for talkin'. Time to start trekking.

DISSOLVE TO:

The group snowshoes through gorgeous alpine scenery with nothing but towering peaks and blankets of snow for miles.

As they trek, Viola periodically answers a phone call and Kasi films an Instagram story. Eventually Greg yells back -

GREG
Up here Trav.

Travis cuts to the middle of the line, beside his dad.

GREG (CONT'D)
I want you to get to know Chamonix,
pick her brain about The Pines. We
need insight into the backcountry.

TRAVIS
Uh, with Kasi back, I, just, I
think she needs some extra
attention -

Greg looks back to Kasi and Pete laughing.

GREG
She looks fine to me. Now scoot.

TRAVIS
Dad, I -

Greg pieces it together.

GREG
Oh, well, if you don't want to, I
can always send Petey in after her.

TRAVIS
No! You're right. I'm a
professional. This is business.

Travis trudges ahead, chasing after Chamonix who's well in front of the group.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Hi. Um, I'm - she surprised me,
this morning, and we -

CHAMONIX
Ya, no, it's good you worked it
out. She's, she seems nice. It was
just, I *actually* got dumped
yesterday, so I was just,
rebounding.

TRAVIS
Right. Me too.

CHAMONIX

Glad we sorted that, *Mr. McKlintov*.

TRAVIS

I should've told you.

CHAMONIX

Ya.

TRAVIS

I'm sorry. I just, I wanted you to like me.

CHAMONIX

You wanted to me to hook up with you.

TRAVIS

No! I mean, yes? I didn't think we would... but, for the record, usually, when a girl finds out I'm a McKlintov... you know, it helps. Not that I do that with lots of girls, what I'm trying to say is, Chamonix it wasn't some master plot, me not telling you. I just, I got caught up with being an ordinary guy, in an ordinary bar, with a very, extraordinary girl.

CHAMONIX

Oh, come on Travis.

TRAVIS

No, I swear, it's not a line. I wasn't trying to - I'm the one that wanted to leave early, remember?

CHAMONIX

Ugh...I guess I get it. I mean, Jenny would've never left you alone if she knew so...

TRAVIS

So, we're good? Because I'd really love to get a backcountry day in tomorrow and I hear you're the best guide in town. We want to see about possibly expanding and I was hoping...

CHAMONIX

Eh, thanks but, I'd like to keep the country, the country.

TRAVIS
Look, I need you.

That hits.

CHAMONIX
Alright, no more lines, no bull,
what do you want? Really?

TRAVIS
I want you - I want you to be cool
with me.

CHAMONIX
We're cool.

TRAVIS
So... you'll take me?

CHAMONIX
That depends where you want to go.

TRAVIS
Apparently our new property has
like acres and acres of untracked
backcountry trails connected to it.

CHAMONIX
Well, you kinda bought an entire
town. And resort, and mountain...

TRAVIS
No, I mean our new house.

Chamonix stops in her tracks.

CHAMONIX
You bought the Adamson estate? Of
course you did.

She moves on.

TRAVIS
You know it?

CHAMONIX
Uh, let's just say, ha, let's just
say old man Adamson used to deter
teenagers from sneaking on his
property with his Smith & Wesson. I
was chased off with one too many
close buckshots for comfort.

TRAVIS
So you know the trails?

CHAMONIX
I wouldn't say that. But I'd like
to get to know them.

Behind them, Margot and Viola compare notes.

VIOLA
First impressions?

MARGOT
Cute.

VIOLA
Exactly. What more do you want in a
ski village?

MARGOT
Apparently her.

Viola eyes Travis and Chamonix - she puts it all together.

VIOLA
Pete!

In the back of the line, Kasi and Pete can't stop giggling...

PETE
You're kidding me!

KASI
No! He was so desperate to be
TikTok famous that he shaved his
eyebrows off.

VIOLA (O.S.)
Pete!

PETE
I thought people were faking that
trend.

KASI
Not him!

VIOLA (O.S.)
PETER!

Pete runs up beside his mom.

PETE
What's up?

VIOLA

Make it your mission to get our guide... on your good side. You can do that, right honey?

PETE

I'm already on it.

VIOLA

Course you are.

Pete races to get in front of his brother.

MARGOT

Sometimes I'm glad I'm not your son.

VIOLA

Just sometimes? Being a man is vastly overrated. But I wouldn't count your chickens just yet, I may be sending you in after her next.

MARGOT

I'm married, with a baby.

VIOLA

She doesn't know that.

MARGOT

Mom!

VIOLA

We just need to distract her until after Christmas, so that everything keeps moving in the, *right* direction.

MARGOT

Even freight trains get derailed sometimes.

VIOLA

Not on my side of the tracks.

Pete shoves his way in front of Travis.

PETE

So, Chamonix, you gonna take us to some secret chutes while we're here, you know shred some gnar.

CHAMONIX

Your brother was literally just asking me about that! We're thinking of going tomorrow...

Travis pushes ahead, competing for position.

TRAVIS

Bro, you hate hiking...

PETE

No. Not since, the Dolomites.

They settle side by side.

TRAVIS

You spent the entire time whining about your feet being cold!

PETE

Not the whole time...

CHAMONIX

Look boys, to be honest, I'm not sure either of you could handle it.

PETE

Oh I could handle it.

Just like that, Topaz Lake appears, sparkling in the snow. The entire family gathers around and awes at the view.

TRAVIS

It's beautiful.

For the first time since last night, Chamonix sees her Travis. Until Pete pulls her from her trance.

PETE

Ya, you are.

CHAMONIX

Cool your jets Romeo.

RICK

Chamonix telling someone to slow down? Can't be.

CHAMONIX

Don't mind him, he just lost his dream girl.

TRAVIS

I know the feeling.

Kasi awes, and Chamonix descends down the hill.

23 EXT. TOPAZ LAKE - A BIT LATER

23

Rick lays a plaid blanket over a tree stump and unpacks a platter of Christmas cookies. Chamonix passes out mugs and offers a pour from a thermos. Kasi iPhone films the scene.

CHAMONIX

Hot coco?

She fills Margot's mug, then Viola's and then Greg's.

GREG

Got any whisky?

MARGOT

Dad it's barely noon!

GREG

Blame your mother, champagne gives me a headache.

Chamonix sets the thermos in the snow. From her inside jacket flap she pulls out a flask.

CHAMONIX

For our VIP clients: Fireball?
Taste's like heaven...

GREG

Burns like hell.

He takes it, and pours some in with his hot coco.

GREG (CONT'D)

I may have had one or two rough nights with this back in the day.

CHAMONIX

I don't buy it, sir.

GREG

Viola and I were ski bums once.

VIOLA

Speak for yourself. I was never a bum.

Margot moseys off. Chamonix starts to follow...

VIOLA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

CHAMONIX

Oh, I, just thought you'd like some, privacy.

VIOLA

We've been together nearly everyday for the last 40 years. We don't need any more privacy. Besides I'm sure you have questions for us... about the future of your mountain. Girl like you, might be desperate to maintain a certain, quality of life.

CHAMONIX

I don't ask questions that I don't want to know the answers too, m'am. Your reputation proceeds you.

VIOLA

As it should. But, we don't know this place like y'all do.

CHAMONIX

With all do respect, "y'all" don't know this place at all, m'am.

VIOLA

It's fascinating, how much you think you know.

Greg cuts the tension.

GREG

The first place we invested in, this small town way up in the Sierra's. I grew up going there every weekend. It's where we met. But the mountain was dying. No money came in because it wasn't anything, "special".

VIOLA

That's not true! It was plenty special.

GREG

Well, they were gonna shut 'er down. So you know what we did? We went down to my dad's country club, what was it, Mesa Gate?

VIOLA

Rancho Riviera.

GREG

That's right. Viola drank every banker, lawyer, and stock broker under the table. Told em all about winter in the Sierras. About new peaks, uncharted territories, expanding the map. What was it, what was your line Vi?

VIOLA

I'm not doing this with you Greg.

GREG

Oh come on. Tell her your line.

She can't resist him.

VIOLA

I told them that I had a dream of getting, him, my city slickin', hike-hatin', winter-crush to the top of the mountain. Without the seven hour hike. Snowmobiles were expensive then.

GREG

They're expensive now. We just have money.

VIOLA

Right. Well, I told them that if they could look me in the eye and tell me that they hadn't dreamed about reaching the summit, that they hadn't at least thought about skiing those shoots with their kids or their buddies or before their wives had breakfast on the table, then I would know for a fact that they not only lacked ambition and imagination...

GREG

But...

VIOLA

But that they were liars too.

GREG

And for some stupid reason they gave us the money for a new lift. The Summit Express. We couldn't believe it. We were just outta high school, but we did it.

(MORE)

GREG (CONT'D)

It was the first of it's kind, on the West Coast. But it put everything in reach. Hell, Viola was the first one up and the first one down.

CHAMONIX

Would've loved to have seen that.

VIOLA

In my eighties neon jumpsuit with my Ferra Faucet curls bouncing in the wind? I've destroyed all evidence.

GREG

I've got tapes. I used to love watching her ski. It was like she was dancing.

VIOLA

You do not have tapes. Do you?

GREG

You know, people came from all over the world after that. "The mountain where steeps were in reach." Turned the whole town around. Locals loved us, investors asked if we could do it again.

VIOLA

And we did.

She grabs Greg's hand, he melts a little.

GREG

Now Chamonix, if there's anything you need, anything that you think would make a difference, or that we could fix, don't be shy.

CHAMONIX

I'm not sure anything's broken.

Chamonix walks away, when she remembers -

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

You know my friend Jenny, she runs a bar in town, but uh, she just started a catering business -

GREG

The "For a good time call Jenny",
Jenny? Trav gave me her card this
morning. She's catering Travis's
Christmas Eve party.

VIOLA

His Christmas Eve *engagement* party.
But shh! Kasi, doesn't know yet.

Chamonix sinks. She puts on a brave face.

CHAMONIX

Congratulations. You must be
thrilled.

Greg smiles, sympathetically.

VIOLA

I hope we're not making a mistake.
We're taking a big risk with "good
time" Jenny...

CHAMONIX

"Without a little risk there's no
adventure." Isn't that right?
Excuse me.

Chamonix walks away, Viola's stunned.

GREG

I like her.

VIOLA

Of course you do. She just quoted
me, just now. Did you hear that?
That's from my Forbes interview in
2019.

GREG

Then it seems that you may have
underestimated her. Girl reads
Forbes.

VIOLA

That *woman* does her research. And
it's no mistake that she picked
Travis out of that bar.

Chamonix walks over to the lake, she pulls off her glove and
rubs Travis's number off her hand. As she does, Travis walks
over to her. He sits, slightly stung as he's wiped away.

TRAVIS

For what it's worth, I really am sorry.

CHAMONIX

Ya well, for what it's worth, you really don't have anything to be sorry about. I'm just some stranger you met in a bar. You don't owe me anything.

From across the meadow, Greg scoffs.

GREG

You're really going to try and stop this?

VIOLA

Who said anything about "try".

GREG

Well, have you ever seen him look at her, like that?

VIOLA

No. PETE!

GREG

You're not worried about the classless skier sinking her teeth into your youngest?

VIOLA

Oh please, you know that boys got the attention span of a goldfish.
PETE!

Pete's got a mouth full of Christmas cookies.

PETE

What?

Viola cocks her head in their direction. Pete rolls his eyes. He strides over to them, but Kasi's already half way there. Along the way, she falls into a powder bank, and gets a face full of fluff.

Chamonix runs to her rescue. Travis stands by, shocked.

CHAMONIX

You alright?

Kasi surfaces hysterically laughing.

KASI
Fine. Just a little embarrassed.

CHAMONIX
Don't be. Happens all the time.

Pete rushes over, eager to be a hero. He films her on his phone.

PETE
I'll give you and 8 out of 10.
Landing was a bit rough, but you've got style.

KASI
Ya I do!

Kasi sprawls out and strikes a pose. Pete giggles. He offers her a hand and she pulls him into the snow. Travis and Chamonix help them up, sobering their moment.

PETE
So Chamonix I was thinking,
tomorrow -

KASI
What's tomorrow?

PETE
We're hittin' the backcountry. Want
to come?

Pete wraps his arm around Chamonix. She shrugs it off.

KASI
Oh, I'm kinda a chairlift girl.

CHAMONIX
Don't let that stop you! It's fun.
And we use snowmobiles, so it's not
much more hiking than this.

KASI
Ahh, I don't know. Trav? Is it,
cool if I come?

TRAVIS
Ya, but you know, if you just want
to like hang at the house, just the
two of them can go.

PETE
Like a date.

CHAMONIX
You always pay for your dates?

PETE
I'm a gentleman.

He steps closer, Rick instinctively swoops in.

RICK
It's time.

CHAMONIX
Hope you've got enough space on
your tab for him too. He takes a
cut.

Rick glares at her. She slips back into tour guide mode.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
Alright McKlintovs! Y'all about
ready to head back? Before we do,
which of you brave volunteers will
take us all back through our M-
GABS?

PETE
Step aside fam, I go this!

CHAMONIX
Well just to keep it interesting,
if you miss...

She packs a fluffy snowball between her Hestra mittens.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
You get snowballed.

PETE
And what if I knock em all out?

CHAMONIX
I get snowballed.

PETE
M, move. G, go fast.

CHAMONIX
EHHH!

She pegs his head.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Who's next? Come on, I didn't take the McKlintov's to be a bunch of chickens. Bak-bak! Bak-bak!

MARGOT

M, move to the side, G, grab on to something, A... avalanche... AHHH!

PLOUSH! Pelted to the face.

CHAMONIX

Who's next?

VIOLA

Me. Move to the side, grab on to something, arm up, breathe and, shit.

PETE

Breathe and shit sounds like exactly what I'll be doing if I get caught in an avalanche.

CHAMONIX

Anyone care to save Ms. McKlintov and receive her snowball pelting?

VIOLA

I always pay my debts.

Her full face of make up practically imprints on the snowball. She spits snow out from her Botoxed lips.

VIOLA (CONT'D)

But, what you don't get is that in this family, we fight back.

It's a direct hit that launches a full on snowball war. Chamonix's ambushed from every angle. Kasi phone-films it.

CHAMONIX

I surrender! I surrender!

She stands up and brushes herself off.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Y'all are not who I thought you were going to be.

VIOLA

People rarely are.

TRAVIS

M-GABS: Move to the side, grab on to something, arm up, make room to breathe, and swim. I listen.

She takes off her beanie and assumes a pelting position.

CHAMONIX

Do your worst.

He packs a snowball. It's a stand off. She scrunches up her eyes and he stares back at her across the clearing until, he drops it.

TRAVIS

Consider it a Christmas gift.

CHAMONIX

You don't have to go easy on me.

TRAVIS

I'd never. But you've had enough today, I'll save the snowball, for, when you least expect it.

CHAMONIX

I don't know if I can take anymore surprises, but, uh, in that case, buckle back up y'all, let's hit it.

VIOLA

Wait! Travis, don't you, have, an announcement?

TRAVIS

Mmm. No. Nope.

VIOLA

Nothing you'd like to ask anyone?

TRAVIS

No. Uh-uh. Not here.

VIOLA

It's the perfect place. With the perfect view. And perfect company.

Travis purses his lips, silent as ever. Viola steams.

RICK
 Alright y'all, we got two miles
 ahead of us. Let's hit it!

DISSOLVE TO:

24

EXT. SNOWSHOE TRAIL - LATER

24

As the trail winds back towards the start the group trudges on, finally calm, finally taking in the stunning scenery.

TRAVIS
 It's gorgeous here, isn't it?

But Kasi's not really listening, she's staring up at Pete flirting his way back with Chamonix.

KASI
 Couldn't have asked for a better
 first day back together!

TRAVIS
 I'm so happy you're happy.

KASI
 So tomorrow, are we... are we like
 actually, we're gonna do this?

TRAVIS
 You don't have to. I don't want to
 push you out of your comfort zone.
 We can just stay in and sit by the
 fire. Pete can go without me.

KASI
 No, that sucks! Let's go. It'll be
 fun, right?

Before Travis has to answer they arrive back at the trailhead.

RICK
 If everyone would just unclip your
 baskets and leave your poles on the
 side, we'll take care of the rest.

Chamonix unclips Margot.

GREG
 You run a hell of a tour, snowball
 battle was a nice touch.

He slips her two hundreds.

CHAMONIX
Thank you sir but -

GREG
Merry Christmas.

She sticks both bills in her pocket.

CHAMONIX
You know, there's the Santa Ski
tonight, and a party, at the Lodge.
It's a local tradition. You might
want to come so you can throw one
again next year, when it's your
lodge. I mean, I know it's your -

GREG
We'll see you there.

She turns and sees Travis standing right beside her.

TRAVIS
So, tomorrow? You don't have to
check with your assistant do you?
She's still never got back to me
about tonight.

CHAMONIX
Well, she got the memo that you're
no longer available.

TRAVIS
Look, if you didn't mean it about
Kasi coming...

CHAMONIX
Of course I did. Lucky Backcountry
Guides charges by the person.

Rick walks over to her, she hands him a hundred.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
Your share of the tip.

RICK
I'm surprised you didn't just keep
it all.

Travis's hackles rise.

CHAMONIX

Even after all this time? Wow, it's like you never even knew me.

RICK

Look, maybe we should go grab a coffee, talk about things. Us. It can be cinnamon this time, you know in case you have another urge to spit in my face.

Rick steps in and Travis steps back. He should leave, but he can't quite walk away and leave her, especially not with him.

CHAMONIX

Uh, I'm good. We'll see you tomorrow Travis.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BADWATER BASIN - LATER 25

Chamonix missions through the scattered day drinkers.

CHAMONIX

Jenny in the back?

She doesn't wait for the man behind the bar to answer. She pushes her way into the kitchen...

26 INT. BADWATER BASIN - KITCHEN 26

Where Jenny dumps a whole tub of paprika into a pot.

CHAMONIX

Guess who's back together with their girlfriend and is about to be engaged!

JENNY

Nooooo! Chamonix! I thought you were done with Rick.

CHAMONIX

I'm talking about Travis flippin McKlintov.

JENNY

Why do you care about Travis flippin McKlintov?

CHAMONIX

Because I hooked up with him last night!

JENNY

THAT WAS TRAVIS FLIPPIN' MCKLINTOV?!? You know, I thought he looked familiar!

CHAMONIX

Ya? Well this morning I found out he's about to be engaged to the most perfect, plastic, sweethearted...

JENNY

Oh my God. I totally follow her on Insta! She's amazing.

CHAMONIX

JENNY!

JENNY

What? She is! Don't look at me like that. It was just one night. Get over it.

CHAMONIX

That's the thing, I don't know if I can. He wants me to guide them tomorrow. There's no way. No way!

JENNY

You have to go. You need the money. Taste this.

She passes her a wooden spoon. Chamonix sips it in and forces it down.

CHAMONIX

Jenny, I say this with love, there's a reason why you and Pops used this kitchen to store boards.

JENNY

Oh, well you must've instilled a lot of confidence in me today, because Viola, ya *the* Viola called, and asked if I'd cater an after ski snack for the family tomorrow. So, now I gotta learn to make chili!

CHAMONIX

After ski, or "après ski"?

JENNY

Aprés.

CHAMONIX

Oh, Jen. That's this French tradition that they do at bougie lodges sometimes. Like, unwinding after the madness. Usually with fondue and hot toddies, not chili.

JENNY

Fondue? I can melt cheese.

CHAMONIX

Jenny, help me! I don't know what to do! I can't be around him any more!

JENNY

You don't have a choice!

CHAMONIX

Well, I certainly can't go to his Christmas Eve party - sorry his Christmas Eve *engagement* party.

JENNY

I already bought your elf costume! Don't worry - it's tasteful. We're not home-wreckers, right?

CHAMONIX

I can't even think around him.

JENNY

Maybe that's because you're not thinking, you're feeling. You just gotta, you know, keep your feelings to yourself. He's a McKlintov and you're... Chamonix. Just get through Christmas.

CHAMONIX

You're right. After Christmas, he'll leave and I can forget all about him. It's only 3 more days.

JENNY

Yes! Then it's just après Christmas boo!

DISSOLVE TO:

27

EXT. MAIN LODGE - EVENING

27

The lodge bumps Christmas music. The skiers and snowboarders wear Santa overcoats. The McKlintovs step out of the Gondola and stick out in their Gucci.

CARA

Cool, I brought my baby to a rave.

PETE

Loosen up, it's not a rave. It's a rager!

MARGOT

Oh like that's so much better!

Chamonix slides up on her skis. Only they don't quite know it's her, because she's bearded, in a full Santa suit.

CHAMONIX

McKlintovs! You made it!

GREG

You know I can't put my finger on it, but I feel like there's something different about you Santa...

She grabs her pillow-stuffed belly.

CHAMONIX

(in a Santa voice)

I may have snuck a few cookies since breakfast, ho, ho, ho!

TRAVIS

I think you look great.

PETE

Ya, very... debonair.

CHAMONIX

It's the beard. Makes me seem, distinguished.

VIOLA

Well it's... this is...

CHAMONIX

Fun?

The ultimate ice breaker, Santa Jenny sprays the family with her snowboard trail. She's chattering. Kasi snaps a photo.

JENNY

Mr. McKlintov, Mrs... I'm Jenny.

GREG

For a good time Jenny, we've heard a lot about you. Mainly that you're a good time.

The conversation dies, a slow, painful awkward death.

CHAMONIX

Well what are we still doing down here? You got your gear, lets go hit a few runs.

CARA

Absolutely not! Margot just gave birth!

GREG

And with my knee? I think I'll sit out with my daughters. I can grab a bottle of wine. Or two?

Cara nods and pulls Margot and Tommy to the side.

VIOLA

I'll come with -

Chamonix sticks her arm out to stop her.

CHAMONIX

Viola, sorry Ms. McKlintov -

Chamonix retracts. Greg nudges Viola.

VIOLA

(reluctantly)
Viola's fine.

CHAMONIX

Well, um, you can't tell someone you can shred in Ferra Faucet curls and not show that off. Come do a run with us.

JENNY

You already bought the cow. Might as well have a milkshake.

GREG

Go with them Vi. You lived for this stuff.

VIOLA

Oh, what the hell. I haven't had a
milkshake since '84.

28 EXT. CHAIR LIFT - JUST AFTER

28

As they cruise up the chair lift, Viola is sandwiched between
the two Santas. She looks around... and, she looks down.

VIOLA

Let's lower the bar.

She's pulls down the safety bar.

CHAMONIX

Been awhile?

VIOLA

I've actually never skied at night.

JENNY

Never? You stoking right now?

VIOLA

That's one way to phrase it.

29 EXT. SLOPE

29

As Jenny, Travis, Pete and Kasi strap in to their snowboards,
Viola stares down at the run.

CHAMONIX

After you.

VIOLA

I insist.

Chamonix nods, and takes off down the mountain, carving hard
against the corduroy groomer. She makes it half way and stops
off to the side. Jenny bombs straight passed her. Pete flies
down next, Kasi just after him. Travis slides up besides her.

TRAVIS

You waiting for someone?

Down flies Viola, Chamonix stares in awe.

CHAMONIX

Just watching.

She tries to cover up her infatuation.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Kasi was actually pretty good.
We're gonna have fun tomorrow.

TRAVIS

I hope so.

Chamonix nods at him and Travis sends it down. Chamonix takes another moment, then skis down after him.

30 EXT. LIFT LINE 30

At the bottom, she looks around, but she's lost everyone. She hops in the singles line for one more run.

31 EXT. MAIN LODGE 31

Viola, Jenny and Kasi are all racking up their gear.

VIOLA

Well, that felt good.

TRAVIS

Another?

VIOLA

Not tonight.

TRAVIS

I'm gonna sneak one more.

He pecks Kasi on the cheek and pushes off to the lift line.

JENNY

You rip Ms. McKlintov. It's an honor to ride with you, Chamonix's told me so much and -

VIOLA

Enough with the flattery. What'd ya say good time Jenny, should we get a drink?

JENNY

Umm, ya, sure... I think your husband has some wine...

VIOLA

I'm not drinking house Cab at a ski lodge in Lone Sky. Let's get ourselves a Merry Mule.

She turns and heads towards the lodge. Jenny looks at Kasi.

JENNY

Wow your mother-in-law is a BOSS!

32 EXT. LIFT LINE

32

LIFT OPERATOR

Two, two singles.

He directs Chamonix out from the left of the line and Travis out from the right. They push up, both in their own world dreaming about, and yet completely oblivious, to the other.

33 EXT. CHAIR LIFT

33

As they're hoisted into the sky, Chamonix looks to her right. Even beneath her wind burn and Santa beard you can tell she's blushing. Then he notices her, noticing him.

TRAVIS

Are you following me Santa?

CHAMONIX

(in her Santa voice)

Of course, how else would I know if you've been bad or good, or you're being good, for goodness sake!

He pulls down her beard, so he can see her smile.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

It's getting cold.

The chemistry's steaming in the snow, she needs some ice.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Congratulations, on the engagement. Your mom told me.

TRAVIS

Oh, ya, thanks. It's not official yet, but, well,, it's...

CHAMONIX

It's great. I'm not getting you a wedding present, but...

TRAVIS

Santa's stiffing me. Ouch. I must've been naughty. Not naughty, naughty, but...

She looks down at her skis, almost considers jumping to avoid this awkwardness. Not really, but really.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

There was a minute there when,
well, it could've been different.

CHAMONIX

Ya, but hey, we still got to meet
up tonight, and Kasi's actually
like really lovely. You'd be a fool
not to marry her.

That hits. Travis thinks it over. Chamonix looks ahead.

TRAVIS

Look, I know tomorrow's not going
to be easy for you, with Rick -

CHAMONIX

Are you kidding? I've dreamed about
skiing ole man Adamson's chutes
since I was like 7. I can't wait.
Not even Rick could ruin it for me.

TRAVIS

Well, it's our property, and as far
as I'm concerned now it's a
development scout. So, I'd be happy
to double your rate.

CHAMONIX

Oh, you don't have to -

TRAVIS

I want to.

CHAMONIX

You can't buy me Travis.

TRAVIS

I'd never try. You're obviously
priceless.

CHAMONIX

Kasi like these lines?

TRAVIS

I wouldn't know.

The chairlift reaches the peak of the mountain. Chamonix
lifts her poles out from under her leg.

CHAMONIX

Don't stay up too late, I'll be
over bright and early.

TRAVIS

You don't want to do a run?

Chamonix pulls up her beard.

CHAMONIX

If we start, I, might not be able
to stop.

She skates off into the crowd of other skiing Santas. Travis
watches her go.

CUT TO:

35 INT. TRAVIS'S ROOM - NIGHT

35

Travis plops on his bed. He opens Instagram. Kasi's reel of
the day plays, it already has a couple million views. He's
snowshoeing beside Chamonix. He's glowing and so is she. He
pauses the video, and scrolls through the comments. Most read
like:

"STUNNING!" "@chaseychase let's do this for our anniversary!"
"OMG WHERE IS THIS??" "dreamsssss"

But there are a few that look like:

"Who is that with Travis?????" "Kasi better watch out, her
man's being preyed on" and "Is anyone else getting *fire
emoji* from Travis and that girl?!?"

Travis doesn't think much of it. He tosses his phone to the
side, and exhales, deeply.

DISSOLVE TO:

36 INT. MCKLINTOV KITCHEN - MORNING

36

A pot of coffee percolates. Viola's fuzzy robe's tied round
her waist. She stares at Travis as he stares at the coffee
drip, drip, drip... he scrolls on his phone. Travel &
Leisure's: "Top 10 Hidden Gems to Ski This Winter." Lone
Sky's Number 8. He smiles, impressed.

VIOLA

A watched pot doesn't brew faster.

She grabs it, mid-drip and pours herself a cup.

TRAVIS

I knew I was missing something.

He smiles at her, but there's a tinge of sadness in his eyes.

VIOLA

Don't give me that. She's a nice girl alright? She really is. But you've made your bed, and she's not the one in it. She's not the one you make a proper life with.

TRAVIS

I can't marry Kasi.

VIOLA

You can and you will. Because you have to. Because this whole town is depending on you, depending on us to figure out a way to keep this mountain open. The wedding, the press... it'll help. It's a remedy. Now, it's ok to be scared, but remember, you're no coward, Travis McKlintov. Now do the right thing.

CUT TO:

38 INT. MCKKLINTOV HALLWAY - MORNING

38

Kasi tiptoes back to her room in her silk short set. She passes Pete who rubs sleep from the corner of his eyes.

PETE

Morning.

He's shirtless and his PJ pants have cartoons on them.

KASI

Cute jammies.

PETE

Cute jammies yourself.

Ooooo... he noticed.

PETE (CONT'D)

Hey Kas... you got any toothpaste?

She digs into her pink plastic toiletry bag.

KASI
Don't lose the lid, like you did at
Thanksgiving.

PETE
You're my life saver.

She skips away and he skips a beat watching her go.

39 EXT. MCKKLINTOV MANSION

39

As Greg returns from his morning walk, he sees Chamonix unloading her truck.

GREG
Santa, you're revealing your secret
identity!

CHAMONIX
Morning Mr. McKlintov.

GREG
Please, call me Greg.

She continues unloading.

GREG (CONT'D)
You know it just dawned on me that,
well, I can't imagine your parent's
are very happy you're out here
giving us all your attention two
days before Christmas.

CHAMONIX
Hanukah came early this year.

GREG
Mazel, Claus.

Rick pulls up, towing a trailer with two snowmobiles.

GREG (CONT'D)
I'll let you get to it.

Chamonix helps Rick undo it all, one ratcheting strap at a time.

CHAMONIX
What no peppermint latte mace
today? I thought that was funny.

RICK

Look Chamonix I get it. I get that I dumped you and somehow I'm the one that's screwed up over it. You've got the McKlintov brothers both tripping over themselves to get you -

CHAMONIX

It's not like that.

RICK

Look, the Chamonix lust doesn't last forever. And then what are you going to have?

CHAMONIX

I just want to have a backcountry business under the new regime.

RICK

You know that guy's gonna get engaged right? It's all over Instagram. And the brother, come on. Bottle service and... it's not you dude.

CHAMONIX

Like I said, it's just business, dude.

RICK

Ya, well, I've been thinking about it. After Christmas, we gotta split the business. I'll take Rick's Snowmobiles, you keep the backcountry services, Scott already said he'd be down to guide with you

CHAMONIX

Ok, if that's what you want.

RICK

I just can't do this anymore.

CHAMONIX

Makes sense with the whole, you leaving me and everything.

Chamonix smiles in her tears, she turns to wipe her eyes -

TRAVIS

Now those look like fun.

Seeing her wipe tears wipes the snowmobile induced smile from his face. She mouth's "Don't". But, he can't help himself. He locks on to Rick. His hackles rise.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Everything alright?

Pete and Kasi walk out, diffusing.

PETE
Now this is what I'm talking about.
How fast do these things go?

RICK
A buck ten.

PETE
MILES PER HOUR?

Chamonix wipes her cheeks and gets to work handing out the avi beacons. When Travis takes his, he holds her hand for just a beat. Just long enough to dry her tears.

CHAMONIX
Keep it in your pants, the beacon.
Or under your bib.

PETE
I can try.

CHAMONIX
Let's go over these backcountry packs, shall we? Inside there's some basic survival gear: lighter, knife, metal bottle. You also have a shovel, a probe and built in to this pocket is an airbag. Should you get into a heavy slide, you pull the tabs here on your pack and WOOSH. A balloon will inflate behind your head, and keep your neck and shoulders up. If you do get buried, it's important to remain calm. You'll only have enough oxygen for 20, maybe 30 minutes if you're lucky. I know that sounds like a lot of time but, you'll cut in half if you're panicking. Slowly, swim yourself out and breathe conservatively.

Kasi looks horrified.

RICK

But you don't have to worry about that, because snowmobiles can outrun avalanches. Not always but, if we're aware of our surroundings, like we always are, we gonna be fine. Now, if a slide does happen, turn down, aim to the side, and gas it like hell. You can outrun it, but you gotta go fast.

CHAMONIX

And, now that we've fully terrified you, let's get out there! Rick and I will both hop on the back and let you boys drive us out into the flats, once we get into the more technical terrain, we'll swap.

PETE

Get on Chamonix, I'm gonna take you for a ride.

She climbs on and they take off.

DISSOLVE TO:

40

EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - MID MORNING

40

Chamonix rides casually, with one arm holding the bar by her side and the other wrapped around Pete. Occasionally she reaches forward and adjusts the handles, back-seat driving.

Kasi has a death grip wrapped around Rick. She seems completely uncomfortable, much like Travis and Rick who seemingly refuse to touch each other. Rick can't stop staring at Chamonix, that is until he realizes that Travis can't either.

RICK

Stings, doesn't it?

TRAVIS

What?

RICK

Ya, ok. Eyes on the snow.

They come to a river crossing. They slow.

RICK (CONT'D)

Let's follow the creek up the mountain, see if it's snowed over in higher elevations.

CHAMONIX

(to Pete)

Scoot.

PETE

Alright, alright. Unlike these fools I don't mind having a woman in control.

Chamonix and Rick take over. Kasi snuggles into Travis's back. They head up the mountain and find a bit where the creek's covered.

CHAMONIX

Well Rick?

He looks down at his hand-held GPS.

RICK

I think this is a safe enough crossing. Worst case, town is about two miles down to the left of us.

CHAMONIX

I don't entertain "worst case" in the country. I say we turn back.

RICK

You just can't ever trust me.

CHAMONIX

Not when there's an ego and lives at stake.

RICK

You always do this!

CHAMONIX

Rick, I'm not -

RICK

Well I say it's plenty safe.

Chamonix takes it in. She's hesitant.

RICK (CONT'D)

It's just because it's me saying it.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

If it were either of these two
you'd already be half way to the
other side of the mountain.

CHAMONIX

That's not true!

RICK

Save it.

Rick guns it across. Makes it.

Chamonix doesn't hesitate another second, she cruises
straight over and doesn't stop to wait for the "I told you
so" on the other side.

They cruise a bit further. It stings Chamonix to watch Kasi
hold on to Travis so she makes sure to pull ahead of them.
Finally, they arrive to a perfect chute. They get off their
snowmobiles and send them down the slope, one by one.

Chamonix takes inhales everything around her.

CHAMONIX

Go on Rick.

RICK

How kind of you.

CHAMONIX

If the mountain gives way, I'd
rather it be you down there.

Rick shreds down.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Alright, who wants the next go?

PETE

It's all me bro.

Pete carves across the entire slope, selfishly.

CHAMONIX

Hit it Kasi. You got this.

Kasi boards down the mountain. It's not perfect but it's dam
good. She let's out a holler at the bottom. Everyone hollers
back, stoked for her.

TRAVIS

After you.

CHAMONIX
As your guide, I insist.

Travis bombs down next. Then, they all look up at her. Pete pulls out his phone.

PETE
SEND IT! That has to be the coolest
girl in the world.

From the looks on their faces, both Travis and Rick agree. Chamonix slides up beside them.

CHAMONIX
Who wants to go again?

DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - TOP OF RUN - EARLY AFTERNOON 41

The once pristine powder's now covered in tracks. And there's big smiles to show for it.

CHAMONIX
Aight, last run.

PETE
Already?

CHAMONIX
Sun's coming up, we don't want that
river crossing to get any softer.
Kasi, will you do the honors?

Kasi sends it down.

PETE
Bro, she's pretty good.

Pete throws his arms up at her in victory, she puts her arms up in similarly victorious response.

PETE (CONT'D)
I'm goin FULL SEND! YEW!

Pete charges down the run, straight towards a rock. He airs off it, like a jump, only he doesn't land it. His gear flies everywhere as he tumbles down.

RICK
YARD SALE!

Chamonix takes off after him. What took him five turns takes her one. She unclips and rushes to his rescue.

PETE

Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow.

CHAMONIX

Nice air.

PETE

Flying's easy, it's the comin' down that trips me up.

CHAMONIX

Gimme your hand.

PETE

Ow, ow, oww. I can't lift my arm. I can't lift my arm. Chamonix!

Chamonix crouches up beside him. Travis skids up, flustered.

TRAVIS

Is he alright? Bro, you ok?
Chamonix is he alright?

From the bottom of the run Kasi yells up.

KASI

IS HE OK?!

CHAMONIX

He's fine. You're fine. I think you've just dislocated your shoulder. Has this happened before?
RICK!

Rick's on it. He drives a snowmobile up towards them. Kasi drives the other one up besides him.

PETE

OWWWW.

RICK

Ok, easy does it.

Rick and Chamonix lift him up, she takes a roll of duct tape out from her pack and starts taping his arm onto his body. A mountain sling, of sorts.

CHAMONIX

Good news: you're going to be totally fine.

(MORE)

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Bad news: we've got to get you back, and the bumps are gonna hurt. Kasi, since you're lighter than Travis, can you get on the back and help secure Pete? We'll be able to go faster that way.

Kasi nods. Chamonix gets Pete up on to the snowmobile behind Rick and squeezes Kasi on behind him.

They cruise back easily, until they reach the river crossing. They stop to eyeball it. Chamonix gets off and really looks hard at it.

RICK

What'd ya think?

CHAMONIX

It looks soft.

RICK

1, 2, 3 -

Rick pins the throttle and as he crosses to the other side, the snow falls away and exposes a rushing river.

RICK (CONT'D)

Just cross further uphill.

CHAMONIX

It's too soft. Avi danger's up.

RICK

I don't need the "I told you so". Head back to town and mark where you leave the sled. I'll have Tim come grab it on his way home.

He throws his GPS across the river. Chamonix catches it. She walks back to Travis and climbs on behind him.

CHAMONIX

You drive.

TRAVIS

Which way?

As she wraps her arms around him so he can see the GPS. Her head rests on his back.

CHAMONIX

You can go faster if you want.

Beat.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
 He's going to be totally fine you
 know?

TRAVIS
 I know. I just hate leaving him.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - LATER

42

Chamonix taps Travis's back and points to the left. They pull
 out of the mountains and abandon the snowmobile.

TRAVIS
 Now what?

CHAMONIX
 We start walking.

She picks up her pack and starts moseying.

TRAVIS
 From here? That's a long walk.

CHAMONIX
 Then we better start.

Travis tries dialing a number.

TRAVIS
 There's no service.

CHAMONIX
 Didn't think there was.

TRAVIS
 Can't we keep going on the
 snowmobile?

CHAMONIX
 It'll be faster if we cut through
 the trees. Shaves off about five
 miles.

No arguing there.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TREE LINED TRAIL

Chamonix and Travis slowly walk beside each other, down a narrow corridor amongst the towering pine trees.

TRAVIS

So, what are you doing for Christmas?

CHAMONIX

Skiing the backcountry.

TRAVIS

Obviously.

CHAMONIX

I always buy myself a new pair of skis for Christmas and Christmas Day's the first time I take 'em for a spin.

TRAVIS

That's a nice treat.

CHAMONIX

Ya, well, I buy 'em in the summer when they go on sale. We're Jewish and I'm an only child. So, Christmas is the one day where I, just spoil myself. This year, Ima wake up early, like 3, 4AM and hike all the way out to Loveland Pass, no snowmobiles just me and the mountains. Ima ski until I can't feel my legs then go down to Bill's Burgers get myself a holiday pie, watch Home Alone -

TRAVIS

Home alone?

CHAMONIX

Alright, well usually Rick comes. But this year... what about y'all?

TRAVIS

Uhhh, we're going to open presents and my dad's gonna make us all something super sugary for breakfast, and then we all pretend that Margot can cook dinner, until she burns it to a crisp, and Cara'll talk her off the ledge so my mom can make her speciality.

CHAMONIX

Oh ya? What's that?

TRAVIS

A phone call to the nearest Chinese restaurant.

CHAMONIX

China Palace is two towns over.

The trail winds along a stream. There's a snap of a twig, and suddenly Chamonix freezes in her tracks.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Do not make any sudden moves, it could be a Grizzly. I mean, it's probably not, but, it's still early in the season. Food supply's not what it used to be.

There's another large crack. She stretches her arm out, as if to push Travis behind her, but he instinctively steps in front. She hold his arm.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

(calm, collected)

Hey bear. Heyyyy bearrrr...

She slowly starts moving sideways. Travis follows.

TRAVIS

Should we run?

CHAMONIX

An adult grizzly can run 35 miles an hour. Just remain calm.

TRAVIS

How am I supposed to remain calm with a factoid like that?

Chamonix widens her stance, she puts her right arm up to the sky.

CHAMONIX

Look big. Put your arm up.

He copies her body language.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Heyyyy bear. Heyyyy bear.

They're on full alert staring off into the trees. Suddenly a huge, stoic wolf peers steps into a clearing, unthreatened by them. Chamonix doesn't hesitate. She let's out a deep war-cry.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
LEAVE WOLF! LEAVE WOLF! LEAVE!

The wolf perks it's head.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
SCREAM IT WITH ME TRAVIS! LEAVE!

The wolf slowly backs up.

BOTH
LEAVE! GET OUT OF HERE! GO!

The wolf runs off, but they both keep screaming for a beat.

BOTH (CONT'D)
LEAVE! GO!

After a moment, they exhale. Chamonix laughs, nervously and hugs Travis.

CHAMONIX
Oh my God!

He hugs her back. As the adrenaline settles, they jump away from each other.

TRAVIS
That was, holy shit!

CHAMONIX
I know! Jesus! That was a grey wolf! You know how rare...

TRAVIS
Have you ever seen one of those before?

CHAMONIX
Just once. And not this close to town.

TRAVIS
I'm sorry, did you say "close to town"? I mean, come on... We're still way the hell out here, in wolf territory!

CHAMONIX

Then we better keep moving. I
wouldn't want to run back into her
after dark.

Travis gulps. Chamonix treks ahead. She scourers her
surroundings feeling out of her element for the first time.
She walks on, focused...

TRAVIS (O.S.)

Chamonix!

Chamonix spins around on full alert and Travis pelts her with
a snowball.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I owed you that one.

CHAMONIX

Very funny! Get a girl while she's
fearing for her life.

TRAVIS

Well, I'm not really buying the
whole "close to town" thing, so...
I had to lighten the mood.

CHAMONIX

So I just saved your life and
you're gonna say that you don't
trust me?! Really? We're
practically back!

TRAVIS

How can you possibly know that!

They walk just a bit further until they arrive at a
sparkling, steaming pool.

CHAMONIX

Because... this is where the hot
springs are.

TRAVIS

Those are hot springs? Real ones?

CHAMONIX

Ya, I wasn't gonna say anything,
they're kind of a secret. So, don't
tell anybody, like a certain family
that owns the mountain and could
put a spa here.

TRAVIS

Your secret's safe with me.

He takes in the view and takes off his jacket.

CHAMONIX

What are you doing?

TRAVIS

Going in. Come on. Baby Pete's got
a house full of concerned
McKlintovs tending to his every
need. We've got time for a quick
soak.

He gets down to his boxers and slips in to the spring.

She pulls off her long-sleeve to reveal a brightly colored
sports bra that's certainly not what she had on the other
night. Travis's eyes widen.

CHAMONIX

Hey! Don't look.

Travis closes his wide eyes. Chamonix slides in at the
opposite end. There's a whole pool between them, steaming.

Travis opens his eyes, it's electric. They break eye contact.
Until Chamonix takes a deep breath and works up the courage
to look at him again.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

So, are you going to propose? To
her?

TRAVIS

I think I have to.

CHAMONIX

Can I just ask, how did you get
from having that night, with me,
to... am I just as awful as he says
I am?

TRAVIS

Is that what you think? Chamonix,
I, haven't stopped thinking about
you for more than a second since
that night. Meeting you was, it was
magic...

CHAMONIX

Why would you say that? What do you
expect me to say to that?

TRAVIS

I just couldn't let you think that
it was any other way.

CHAMONIX

You're about to be ENGAGED!

TRAVIS

I've only known her for three
months.

CHAMONIX

You've only known me for three
seconds!

TRAVIS

It's different. With you I, I know.

CHAMONIX

Don't worry, you'll forget all
about me after Christmas.

TRAVIS

What if I didn't leave, after
Christmas?

CHAMONIX

I, uh, we should go.

TRAVIS

Five more minutes.

Travis swims over to her side of the pool. Chamonix can
hardly stand to look at him now.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Chamonix, I've been all over the
world, but out of everyplace I've
ever been, I think I'm falling in
love with Lone Sky. And I think I
know why...

She splashes towards him and throws her arms around him. He
kisses her, it's everything it was the first time and more.
She pulls back...

CHAMONIX

I'm sorry. I'm -

TRAVIS

No, God. Please...

Beat as they cling to each other and the moment.

CHAMONIX

You should be with me. You should be with me.

He brushes her cheek.

TRAVIS

I know. But, in my family, there's more to marriage than love.

Chamonix pulls back.

CHAMONIX

What more is there?

Beat.

TRAVIS

If I don't go through with this, the town - it's already helping so much. The socials and... Lone Sky already ranked as one of Travel & Leisure's best hidden gems to ski this winter. The image we're creating.

CHAMONIX

Wait, are you telling me, it's all fake? This, you and me, this is the realest thing I have ever felt and you're giving it up for, nothing? Some image? God! How could I be so stupid? You're not who I thought you were! Of course you're not. You're Travis flippin' McKlintov. And, I guess you're exactly who I always knew you were.

Chamonix gets out of the pool. Travis follows.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

Take off your wet clothes. You won't want to wear them under your layers, hypothermia and everything.

TRAVIS

Chamonix -

CHAMONIX

Don't look at me.

They spin around and Chamonix sniffles in tears. They change and without warning Chamonix starts walking. Travis hangs back just behind unsure how to comfort her.

But there's no way to comfort her. They move silently down the trail. It feels endless... And empty.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MCKKLINTOV MANSION

As they finally arrive, Chamonix's determined to get straight in her car and leave. She keeps her distance as they walk up the driveway.

CHAMONIX

Tell Pete I hope he's ok.

Suddenly the front door swings open. Pete and Kasi hang out of the wooden frame and catch Chamonix just before she opens her car door.

PETE

Took you two long enough!

TRAVIS

It was a long walk.

CHAMONIX

How's your shoulder?

PETE

Hanging in there. Literally.

Kasi cackles. It wasn't that funny.

CHAMONIX

I should get going.

KASI

Are you kidding? You must be freezing! Come join us for a little après Ski. There's fondue on the patio, it's really good. Your friend Jenny is incredible!

CHAMONIX

She is?

PETE

You have to stay, bro tell her she's got to.

Swallows, a forced smile that's somehow also sincere.

TRAVIS

You should stay.

She responds with equal force, and a "I shouldn't" smile.

CHAMONIX

I'm tired.

KASI

It's four in the afternoon! Get in here grandma!

46

EXT. MCKKLINTOV BACK TERRACE

46

As they walk out onto the back terrace, the whole family sits beneath heat lamps as they dip skewers into bubbling cheese.

VIOLA

There you two are. You know I was beginning to worry Travis.

Viola eyes them suspiciously.

CHAMONIX

I'm so sorry. It's my fault, I knew the river crossing wouldn't hold I should've been more adamant...

TRAVIS

You were.

GREG

As far as I'm concerned, everyone's home safe and Pete here needs to work on his landings. Please sit.

VIOLA

Chamonix's joining us?

PETE

I invited her.

She sits beside Pete, he smiles at her.

PETE (CONT'D)

Can you skewer me one of those shrimps? Come on, like you mean it!

CHAMONIX

I'm trying!

PETE

It's not alive Chams...

CHAMONIX

It's slippery!

As they flirt Travis stares from across the table. He can't take it... but neither can Kasi.

KASI

Why don't we switch seats? It's just, I've already eaten, so I can help Pete, and you can warm up.

They musical chairs across the table.

Jenny walks out with another pot of fondue and a tray of meats.

JENNY

So this is my signature formage fondue - oh, hey girl. This is actually Chamonix's favorite of my fondues.

Jenny sets it all down on the table. Chamonix plays along.

CHAMONIX

Oh, ya. It's my fave alright.

She dunks a pepperoni in. All eyes stare at her and she stares suspiciously at Jenny. Kasi stories it.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

(chewing, sipping in air)
Hot. But so good.

Viola inspects the rubbery cheese.

JENNY

If that's everything I've got a lot to finish prepping.

GREG

It was fabulous Jenny. We're looking forward to a good time tomorrow.

JENNY

Thank you! Good night.

Jenny eyes Chamonix like "I need you" Chamonix gives her a "wait" hand signal. Viola skewers something and tosses it in the pot.

VIOLA

How was everyone else's day?

MARGOT

We stumbled into the cutest
Christmas market in town today.

CARA

It was incredible. Impeccably
decorated candy apples, hand carved
nutcrackers... look at this
margarita ornament I mean come on.

She dangles a very kitchy ornament from it's string.

TRAVIS

Oh, Chamonix's other favorite!

Chamonix looks down, disgusted with the reference. Travis
sinks, like his futile attempt at an olive branch.

MARGOT

Cara actually had this amazing idea

CARA

It was all yours babe...

MARGOT

Well, we were thinking it'd be so
great to commission a new ornament
from the artist every year. We can
sell it at the lodge, make it a
collectable.

GREG

Love that!

KASI

When did you two have margaritas?

TRAVIS

Oh, I meant, ornaments.

All of a sudden Chamonix feels even dirtier, she wipes her
mouth. The table falls silent, no one buys it. Greg changes
the subject.

GREG

You know your mom and I had our
first kiss at a Christmas Market.
Member that Vi? We were just in
high school and her dad was working
the hot chocolate booth, I thought
he was going to pull out his 12
gage right there and end it all
with one buckshot. His daughter
with a tourist.

KASI

Is that how you two met? You lived in the mountains Ms. Mcklintov?

There's a tense pause. It's clearly a touchy subject.

VIOLA

That's right. Greg's mother was completely enamored with me and his father prayed that I was a fling that'd burn out as soon as he started at Princeton.

GREG

Only I never went to Princeton. It was the most disappointed my father's ever been with me. Second only to our wedding day.

CHAMONIX

He never warmed up to you?

VIOLA

Never.

GREG

That's cause Vi's not as much of a charmer as me. I got her Papa to come around.

VIOLA

You had a lot of money.

KASI

So, Greg, what was the future Mrs. McKlintov like in high school? How did you know all the way back then?

GREG

She, was unlike any other woman I ever met. Extraordinary. Absolutely took my breath away. From the moment I saw her, I just knew. And I didn't care what anyone else thought. I didn't care about the consequences, even when my parents threatened to cut me off. I knew we'd find a way. And we built our Summit Express. Took over the ski resort, everything just snowballed from there.

TRAVIS

I didn't know that.

GREG

Oh, ya. See the thing is it pays to have rich friends almost as much as rich family. Vi and I spent that first winter living in a Winnebago though. It was the coldest I've ever been. The hot springs were the only bit that made it tolerable. We could just lay in them and soak for hours after a long day on the mountain. Put all our layers back on just to climb into bed. Come to think of it, is it just me or do you smell sulfur?

Travis smells his shoulder. It's definitely them.

CARA

Is it the cheese?

CHAMONIX

(reluctantly covering)

You know, there's actually a few hot springs nearby, maybe you're getting a whiff. I showed Travis where the trailhead is on our walk back. He could take y'all sometime. You can relive the glory days, sin Winnebago.

MARGOT

Oh he better take us!

CARA

We'll have to put those in the new brochure add a whole spa element...

TRAVIS

Or, we leave them, au natural.

VIOLA

"Au natural"? Really? Since when don't you want to make more money?

TRAVIS

It was just an idea.

CHAMONIX

If y'all can excuse me, I've got to help Jenny pick up a few special order items for the party tomorrow.

Chamonix stands. Travis does too.

VIOLA
Going somewhere Travis?

TRAVIS
Just, seeing Chamonix out.

CHAMONIX
I can make it on my own. Feel
better Pete. Thank you McKlintovs
for the après ski, and everything.

GREG
You're very welcome.

Travis sits back down. Everyone stares at her, she feels like
she's got to say something else...

CHAMONIX
Enjoy your cheese dip.

Not that...

VIOLA
Cheese dip is for nachos, this is
fondue.

CHAMONIX
Right, fondue. That's what I meant.

Chamonix leaves.

GREG
I think she's endearing.

VIOLA
You would.

Viola drops her utensils with a loud clang.

VIOLA (CONT'D)
Travis, anything you'd like to,
ask, anyone? Kasi?

TRAVIS
(grimacing)
Nope.

Viola picks up her fork and knife back up.

VIOLA
Of course not.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PICK UP TRUCK - EVENING

Chamonix pulls away from the McKlintov mansion. She tunes the radio in her car. The chorus of "All I Want For Christmas" blares through the speaker. She slams the power button and let's out a deep scream.

CHAMONIX
AHHHHHHH!!!!

48

INT. TRAVIS'S ROOM - EVENING

48

Travis plops onto his bed, still in all his clothes, it's barely dark outside. He scrolls through Instagram.

He sees Pete's video of Chamonix skiing in the backcountry. The comments praise her: "YEWV!" "Someone better wife her up!" "Where is this?" "@winterlov3r let's go!" "BAD ASS!"

He keeps scrolling and sees a photo of Chamonix in a Santa suit. He double taps it.

Then, he sees Kasi's almost realtime footage of the fondue. The comments are, harsh: "who's melting more Travis or the cheese?" "Y isn't he sitting with Kasi??" "WTF IS SHE DOING THERE." "i'm sensing MAJOR red flags." "Kasi's not getting a ring! That chick is..."

He locks his phone, and rolls over, he screams into his pillow.

TRAVIS
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

CUT TO:

INT. VIOLA'S ROOM

Viola and Greg lay beside each other - she typing on her laptop and he, reading a paperback novel.

They hear Travis's scream through the wall behind them.

Viola stops typing. Greg looks over to her. Viola meets his gaze. She exhales and continues typing at a million words per minute, like it never happened.

CUT TO:

55

INT. BADWATER BASIN - KITCHEN - EVENING

55

Chamonix pushes through the swinging doors.

CHAMONIX

Jenny! I'm sorry but -

Jenny's on the floor, back against the stove, piled high with pans, bubbled over with burnt cheese.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

What's going on?

She's crying, hard.

JENNY

I'm going to lose it. I'm gonna lose the only thing he left me. I can't afford the rent, and I can't do anything about it. Who was I kidding?

Chamonix holds her arm out.

CHAMONIX

Get up. Get. Up.

JENNY

There's no point. I can't even boil cheese! I can't even make toast!

CHAMONIX

Well, we're going to learn. Get up.

JENNY

I spent all day, all day making après ski for like five people and I used un-toasted bread and canned nacho cheese dip. I can't cater a fifty person party. Certainly not one for them. I'm no chic businesswoman. I'm no Viola McKlintov.

She grabs her hand and Chamonix pulls her up.

CHAMONIX

You know why you're not Viola McKlintov? Because you're still in her Viola Conrad phase. And that's where the magic happens. Now, download Pinterest.

(MORE)

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

We've got an engagement party to cater, and we'll stay up all night if we have to.

They pull their hair back and get to work in double time: gluing glitter onto champagne flutes, poofing powdered sugar into the air. They plate up parfaits with sliced strawberries and whipped cream and dust it all with candy cane crumbs. They take cardboard boxes and turn them into a "gingerbread house". Yawning, they both slowly mosey out of the kitchen in real time as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. MCKLINTOV MANSION

A Christmas tree's positioned in the middle of the terrace. Garland's strung between the branches. Viola directs groups of movers loading in velvet sofas and extra large ornament art installations. Lights are strung perfectly along the awning and mistletoe's hung over the door.

Travis watches as it all comes together. He pulls the ring box out of his pocket and places it in the middle of a perfectly set cocktail table. He pushes the red box round and round and round and round.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BADWATER BASIN - KITCHEN - MORNING

Chamonix and Jenny walk in with a fresh change of clothes, large coffees, bags of groceries and some pep in their double-time step.

They poke tomatoes on toothpicks and layer in basil and mozzarella. They cut pita bread into Christmas trees and paste on pesto. They fold canned crescent rolls into a wreath shapes and fill pitchers with peppermint hot chocolate.

And as they "cook", their friends doubling as other servers trickle in, already dressed in their elf costumes. They too work in hyper-speed, until...

JENNY

Oh my God! Did we do it?

CHAMONIX

We gotta get everything in the car.

JENNY

We gotta get changed!

56

EXT. MCKKLINTOV BACK TERRACE - NIGHT

56

As the platters are set out and the hot chocolates are poured into the martini glasses, it undeniably looks legit.

Chamonix sees Travis and Kasi trotting over towards the main catering station. She grabs her tray and heads off into the party. Kasi squeals up to Jenny and gives her a big hug.

KASI

OHHH!! IT'S SOOOOO CUTE!

TRAVIS

It really looks amazing. You had us sweating, but it's true what they say...

JENNY

What's that?

TRAVIS

For a good time, call Jenny.

JENNY

Ya well, don't eat the gingerbread house. It's made out of cardboard and caulk.

Kasi wide eyes the catering station.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Caprese salad skewer?

KASI

Oooo. Love the costume by the way. So do you do weddings too? Not as elves obviously. But Trav wouldn't these be perfect at our wedding?

An older couple walks up, Kasi hugs them.

KASI (CONT'D)

Oh my God! Hi! Thank you for coming!

Jenny serves them.

JENNY

Caprese salad skewer?

Across the party Chamonix serves Pete.

CHAMONIX

Pita-"tree" with pesto?

PETE
Mmm. Thanks.

CHAMONIX
How's the shoulder?

PETE
Still hurts.

Travis and Kasi make their way over, greeting guests as they do.

CHAMONIX
I should go, more pita to pass.

PETE
Come back and hang, when you can.
Or, what are you doing after this?
We should get a drink.

CHAMONIX
We don't need to pretend we're both
available, when we're not.

PETE
What's that supposed to mean?

CHAMONIX
Takes one to know one.

She walks off.

KASI
Ugh! Now where'd she go? I'm dying
to try that pesto! How was it?

PETE
Spicy...

He hands her the last bite. Kasi eats it and talks with her mouth half-full.

KASI
Do you think it was my Santa post
of her? I mean she got like a
million likes, literally, but it
wasn't her most flattering angle. I
should apologize -

TRAVIS
I don't think it's you.

PETE

Why do you say that? Did something happen? Oh my God. Something happened!

TRAVIS

No. No. Nothing "happened"...

KASI

Why do you make it so hard for me to believe you?

Kasi storms off, rightfully.

PETE

She's got a point bro. Insta's blowin' up...

57

INT. OFFICE

57

Chamonix walks into the office with her tray of pita. She shuts the door behind her.

VIOLA (O.S.)

Can I help you?

Chamonix turns and sees Viola, sitting behind her desk.

CHAMONIX

No, no m'am. Sorry I was -

VIOLA

It's a bit much, a party like this. I know, believe me I know. And they don't get any easier. So, trust me when I say, it's for the best, really, if you just let it go.

CHAMONIX

I don't know what you're -

VIOLA

He's getting engaged to a great girl. A great girl. And you're not a home-wrecker. You're an opportunist. And I can make you very, very rich Chamonix. All you gotta do is let it go.

CHAMONIX

Are you trying to buy me?

VIOLA

I'm simply making you an offer.
Imagine what a big investment could
do for Lucky Back Country Guides,
or... The Badwater Basin?

CHAMONIX

That's all you people care about,
money? Image?

VIOLA

Honey, that's all anybody cares
about.

Chamonix grabs her tray.

CHAMONIX

You know I used to look up to you.
Viola Conrad. Ya, I know who you
are. I pieced it together as soon
as I heard your voice.

VIOLA

How?

CHAMONIX

I had all your ski films on VHS. My
mom was a big fan. You were a
pioneer.

VIOLA

It wasn't Forbes, you were quoting
"A Winter to Remember".

CHAMONIX

If you told me, when I was thirteen
that I'd have a one-on-one
conversation with Viola Conrad, I
would've dreamed about all the
things we'd talk about. But I would
have never thought that she'd be
sitting across from me, begging me
to sell out.

VIOLA

Begging? Oh, attack my ethics, say
what you want, but know this, I
don't beg. I take what I want. And
a local girl doesn't scare me.

CHAMONIX

Oh ya? What about the one looking
back at you in the mirror?

VIOLA

Chamonix, I don't want a war. I just want to get through Christmas. Now, I know you, I know you so well, because I was just like you. And my son, is too good for you. It's nothing personal, it's just a fact. So stay away from him, and my little holiday gift to you will be letting your friend keep daddy's old watering hole.

CHAMONIX

Seems like you found my price. But you should know, you're bad at negotiating. I would've given him up for free.

CUT TO:

58

EXT. MCKKLINTOV BACK TERRACE

58

Margot noshes on a crescent roll wreath.

CARA

So what'd you ask Santa for?

MARGOT

A baby girl.

CARA

Well thank God the stork doesn't outsource. One infant at time you crazy.

Travis runs by them.

TRAVIS

Have you seen Kasi?

CARA

You sure you're not looking for Chamonix?

TRAVIS

(defensive)

What's that supposed to mean?

MARGOT

Cara!

TRAVIS

No, I want to hear this.

CARA

The entire internet's a buzz with rumors.

Travis seems surprised and guilty. Like a five-year-old that's been caught reaching into a cookie jar before dinner.

MARGOT

You have to have noticed.

TRAVIS

I haven't been online much...

CARA

Oh, Lone Sky's made every gossip column headline. No one can seem to figure out who that skier-ella is that keeps turning Travis McKlintov's head. Our PR team loves it. You know how hard it is to manufacture a scandal like this?

TRAVIS

There's no scandal!

MARGOT

Ok... well, Kasi's really hurting right now. Because whether it's true... or not... she's being publicly humiliated in front of her thirty richest friends and three million followers! Thank God Cara told to her dad not to fly in!

CARA

I get paid to predict these things. You're welcome, by the way.

MARGOT

You gotta fix this.

TRAVIS

How?

MARGOT

By being real. Let her survive with some dignity intact.

Travis absorbs the advice.

CARA

Post at least one more gram before you do though!

59

INT. MCKKLINTOV KITCHEN

59

Chamonix binge eats a parfait as Travis walks in.

TRAVIS

Hi.

CHAMONIX

(mouth half full)

Sorry I can't really talk right now. Parfaits are a time sensitive dessert. I don't know if you know that.

TRAVIS

Chamonix I -

CHAMONIX

I gotta go. They're melting.

She pushes her way past him, to the door. He stops her.

TRAVIS

I'm gonna call off the wedding. For you. I'm going to call off the wedding for you. I know we just met, but I like you, a lot. I never believed in love at first sight, but I'm never going to forget seeing you stomp through that bar. And I never want to. You're the most extraordinary person I've ever met. You take my breath away.

CHAMONIX

Are you hearing yourself? May I remind you that it's been three days! And in those three days, you got dumped and are about to get engaged and neither of those things happened with me. This doesn't work. I'm not like you, I don't fit.

TRAVIS

I don't want you to.

CHAMONIX

You're supposed to marry her.

TRAVIS

No. I was supposed to find you. The only mistake I made was leaving.

(MORE)

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

But I don't want to leave you again. Not tonight, not tomorrow, not after Christmas. We can -

CHAMONIX

Do nothing. After Christmas life goes back to normal and I'll just be some local chick you met at the mountain that blew up your perfect engagement. And I refuse to be her.

TRAVIS

That's not what this is.

CHAMONIX

Oh ya? What is it then?

TRAVIS

It's real. What else do you need to convince you? There's even mistletoe.

She looks up, snatches the garland and throws it in his face.

CHAMONIX

Save your Christmas miracles for someone who believes in them.

She jingles out, parfaits, elf costume and all.

60

EXT. MCKKLINTOV BACK TERRACE - CATERING STATION

60

Chamonix runs up to Jenny, tears streaming down her face.

CHAMONIX

I have to get out of here.

JENNY

I have to stay.

CHAMONIX

I know. Jenny, you should be so, so proud. He would be so proud...

Chamonix grabs her, and squeezes her tight.

JENNY

Get outta here before you make me cry too.

61 INT. MCKKLINTOV LIVING ROOM

61

Travis meanders into the living room. Kasi fiddles with a Christmas village figurine set, like she's playing dolls.

KASI

It always looks so perfect from up here.

TRAVIS

That's because it is.

KASI

Cause there aren't any cute skiers.

TRAVIS

We've only been dating for three months.

KASI

Ya, how long have you known her?

TRAVIS

It's not about her.

KASI

The least you can do is not lie. Not now. Not anymore.

TRAVIS

Kasi, when you got out of that car, I felt relieved. And I know a bit of you did too. That's not how you should feel when the person you're supposed to marry walks out.

KASI

I really thought I loved you.

She chokes up and looks away.

TRAVIS

Thought?

KASI

Well, I've been thinking... a lot. I mean there's like five hundred thousand comments helping me think, so... You obviously have something with her. If I hadn't been so concerned with getting a ring, I would've seen it.

TRAVIS
We hooked up, that night.

KASI
Then why did you get back with me?

TRAVIS
My family -

KASI
I knew it wasn't real! And you, you just listened to them?

TRAVIS
It's not that simple!

KASI
Tell me about. You know, I really thought that I loved you. That we had it all, but it turns out, that every moment I thought was special for us, Thanksgiving in the Rockies? Dinner at Gigi's, wine tasting in Santa Barbara... the night we met... it was never you that was, *really* with me.

Travis thinks back...

TRAVIS
Pete was there, for all of it. It was him. He's the guy you walked up to at that art gallery. It wasn't me you wanted to meet. It was him. It was always him. I've just been in your way.

KASI
I am so sorry! You're amazing it's just - I feel like you don't really like me... and he, him and I, we...

She breaks down, he wraps his arms around her.

TRAVIS
You're perfect together.

KASI
I wish it was different.

TRAVIS
No. No. It's exactly right.

KASI
Everyone's talking...

TRAVIS
We're going to get through this.
The three of us. This is our story,
and we get to decide how it ends.

KASI
Ahh, "let's spend Christmas in Lone
Sky" he said, "it'll be relaxing",
he said.

TRAVIS
Pete's a lucky, lucky man. I mean
that.

The first real moment they've had, and Pete interrupts them.

PETE
I know that, you know that, whole
world knows that.

He sees Kasi crying, he runs to her rescue.

PETE (CONT'D)
Kasi. Bro what'd you do?

TRAVIS
You wanna tell him?

She shakes her head.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Bro, Kasi and I, called off the
engagement? There's no hard
feelings... she's just in love with
someone else. And so am I.

PETE
Bro what are you thinking? I mean,
you'll never do better than her.
She's sweet, and funny, and -

TRAVIS
She is, but, she, loves someone
else. And, she wants to know if he
feels the same.

Beat, as our dense bro puts it all together.

PETE
Wait, for real Kas?

She nods.

KASI
For real.

PETE
That's awesome.

They kiss. Travis takes a photo.

PETE (CONT'D)
Sorry bro. Is it weird?

TRAVIS
A little.

PETE
You'll get used to it.

They kiss again.

TRAVIS
Hey, Kasi, can you help me post
something real quick?

KASI
You never post!

63 EXT. MCKKLINTOV BACK TERRACE

63

Viola clinks glasses with a guest when she notices everyone starrng at their phones. Cara runs over to her and shows her a screen.

VIOLA
WHAT?

Viola marches over to Travis, Pete and Kasi who are making their way towards the exit. She intercepts. Cara's in tow.

Greg spots them and rushes over from across the way.

VIOLA (CONT'D)
How could you do this? We have to
issue a statement. This is a
DISASTER! "She traded me in for a
younger model?" TRAVIS!

GREG
What's going on?!

TRAVIS

Kasi and I are better as friends,
she loves Pete, Pete loves her,
we'll all get used to it.

GREG

I can't believe I never saw that.

Greg smiles warmly, Kasi beams, blushing.

VIOLA

You posted it on Instagram! While
the engagement party was happening!

The whole party goes silent for a moment. Viola catches herself and lowers her voice.

VIOLA (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you three? Huh?

TRAVIS

Cara told me to post one more gram.
I thought I'd make it count.

CARA

Don't put this back on me!

VIOLA

It's a scandal. It's a disgrace.
You come off like -

Kasi stands up. She's the influencer. This is her arena.

KASI

Like a woman who knows what she
wants. And tomorrow when I post a
story of the four of us hanging
out, on Christmas morning, the
majority of North America is going
to see the words Lone Sky. I
control this narrative and I intend
on using it to our advantage.

PETE

You are such a bad ass!

CARA

She's doing something right.
Occupancy rates have already
tripled, and since we haven't begun
our renovations or ad campaigns,
it's undeniably all her...

PETE

So what you're saying is the town's gonna be hoppin? She did all your jobs!

VIOLA

Our family reputation is destroyed because of you Travis!

TRAVIS

Because of me!?

GREG

Ok, kids. Let's give these two some space.

Greg ushers Cara, Kasi and Pete over to the hot chocolate stand. They sip coco and stare at them, pretending not to. Viola pulls Travis further towards the side.

VIOLA

Just tell me, why her? Out every woman on the planet, why her?

TRAVIS

Are you serious? Why are you, of all people, so against Chamonix?

VIOLA

Because I, of all people, know what it's like to be whispered about at every country club. To have to work twice as hard at every -

TRAVIS

That's what this is about to you? Country Clubs? Do you really think I give a -

VIOLA

I don't care what you give. That's who you are. That's your world Travis, and she doesn't fit.

TRAVIS

You don't get to make that decision for me.

Travis walks towards the door.

VIOLA

You're going to regret this. It will never work. It's going to wear her down until -

TRAVIS

Until what? Until she's standing across from her son telling him that he can't date the woman he's falling for because she's from a small town, in the middle of the mountains. You know you're starting to sound a lot like Grandpa McKlintov.

VIOLA

I never would have accepted a bribe from Grandpa McKlintov.

TRAVIS

What could you have possibly offered - Jenny's business. No wonder she left. You should be ashamed! Jenny worked so hard for this party, and she killed it. And you're going to what? Just take it all away from her? Because you can? You're pathetic.

VIOLA

I am never going to approve of her.

TRAVIS

I don't want your approval.

Travis turns to the door.

VIOLA

Travis - it's because I love you.

He turns back.

TRAVIS

I love you too. But you can't decide who else I love.

Beat.

VIOLA

I won't accept it... her.

TRAVIS

Then I guess we'll just both have to live with something we can't change.

Travis runs off.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAMONIX'S APARTMENT

Travis knocks on the door. There's no answer.

TRAVIS
Chamonix! Are you there? Chamonix!

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)
CAN IT!

Travis slouches down and sits by her door. He Googles "Lucky Backcountry guides", he dials the number - it displays as a contact: "Jenny's Good Time Catering". He abruptly hangs up and sends an email inquiry.

He waits for a response and neurotically refreshes his inbox. Eventually, he dozes off, but wakes himself up as his head falls. He checks his phone again: 3:15 AM, DECEMBER 25th.
LIGHT BULB.

CUT TO:

EXT. RICK'S SNOWMOBILE SHOP

Travis bangs on the door. Rick, half asleep walks to the front door.

RICK
What!

TRAVIS
Rick man, I'm sure I'm crossing every line, but I gotta talk to Chamonix.

RICK
Dude, what time is it? It's Christmas morning, you gotta go. Chamonix's not here.

TRAVIS
I know. I gotta rent a snowmobile.

RICK
We're closed.

TRAVIS
It's an emergency.

RICK
We're still closed.

TRAVIS
It's Christmas.

RICK
A grand. A grand and I'll hook you
up with gear and a snowmobile.

TRAVIS
That seems steep.

RICK
Consider it a Christmas bonus.

TRAVIS
How do I get to Loveland Pass?

RICK
That'll cost you another five
hundred.

84 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - DAWN

84

Travis races on his snowmobile through the mountains. He speeds into the rising sun through an endless landscape of snowy peaks and deep snow.

CUT TO:

85 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - SUNRISE

85

Chamonix inches her way up the mountain, skis strapped to her pack. She stares off at the sunrise over the expansive wilderness. She pulls her headlamp off and stuffs it in her pocket. For a moment, she wonders how she'll ever move forward, move on from here. But she does. One foot at a time.

She continues climbing towards the top as the sun rises higher and higher, until she stops, just short of where she wants to be. But this is good enough. She pulls her cleats off of her boots and her skis off of her pack. She steps into them. She takes a deep exhale, before shredding down the mountain. It's fun and fast and exciting and victorious. A celebration, though no one's sure what she's celebrating.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS - SNOW MOBILE

Travis snowmobiles higher and higher into the mountains. Even amongst the endless white, he still can't seem to find Chamonix. He checks his hand-held GPS. He keeps going deeper into the wilderness.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS

Mid-way down the chute, Chamonix slides to a stop, suddenly. The snow continues to trickle down all around her. She stares up at the mountain. That's when she hears it: the whirring of the snowmobile. She looks around and sees Travis mobbing towards her.

CHAMONIX

Who is this idiot? Oh my God!

She skis down even further to the side, but again stops suddenly in her tracks. The snow continues to softly fall all around her. She waves her arms in the air frantically -

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

HEY! NO! NOOOO!!

And that's when Travis see's Chamonix, her red bib sticking out from between two rocky crags. He guns it towards her. She keeps waving him off, but Travis isn't getting it, he starts waving back...

TRAVIS

CHAMONIX!!!

CHAMONIX

DON'T COME OVER HERE.

Too late. He's already half way there. He's getting closer and closer. And as the engine whirs, the mountain shakes subtly. He almost catches up to her, when Chamonix turns and ski's toward him.

TRAVIS

Chamonix, I -

She unclips and hops on the back, leaving her skis in the snow.

CHAMONIX

Go! Go!

TRAVIS
Your skis!

CHAMONIX
GO DOWN!

She reaches around him and grabs the handle bars from behind him. She grips the throttle, pinning it as she turns the snowmobile down and to the side. Just as she does, there's a thunderous RUMBLE and then, AVALANCHE. A slab of snow breaks at the peak.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
Drive! Travis! Drive!

Travis grabs the handle bar and resumes control. Chamonix lets go and looks over her shoulder. The wall of white's swallowed her skis. It's gaining on them.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)
FASTER! FASTER!

TRAVIS
THAT'S EVERYTHING!

The wave of snow's at their backs. Chamonix takes a deep breathe. She leans forward and whispers into Travis's ear -

CHAMONIX
Arms up, breathe, and swim.

She pulls the tabs on his pack - his avi air bag inflates and they're both swallowed by the snow.

86 INT. MCKKLINTOV LIVING ROOM

86

The family sits around their Christmas tree and sips coffee and coco from mugs. A phone rings. Greg pulls his out from the pocket of his fuzzy robe. He answers.

GREG
(into phone)
Yello! What?! What's happened?!

His eyes widen, his heart sinks. He drops his mug, it shatters.

87 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS

87

The wave of snow eventually rolls to a stop. There's no sign of either of them from the surface.

It's an absolute white wasteland, until, finally, one of Chamonix's glove pokes through the snow.

She claws her way out from underneath the surface, her red avalanche airbag inflated behind her head. She pulls and pulls with her hands until finally, she pulls herself free, crawling her way out from her snowy grave.

As she surfaces she takes a few deep breaths. She sets a timer on her watch: 15 minutes. She scans the surface for Travis. The snow seems endlessly white until she spots it. A glove. A potential "arm up." She runs down the mountain, tripping in the deep snow as she charges towards it. Her airbag's still inflated but she doesn't let it slow her down at all. She pulls her shovel out from the side of her pack and starts digging, frantically.

She digs at the glove, but quickly discovers that it's just that, a lose glove. She digs harder and wider now.

CHAMONIX

Come on Travis! Come on! Be here.
Be here...

Chamonix ferociously digs at the snow, searching desperately, digging all around her. Her watch beeps. The timer's done.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

TRAVIS! TRAVIS!

Chamonix rips off her helmet. Tears stream down her face. She digs as fast as she can, then collapses into the snow. She let's out a deep sob, hugging the ground. She musters all her strength to collect herself, slowing her breath just enough to really listen. That's when she hears it.

His avalanche beacon beeps. Beep. Beep. Beep. He's here. Reinvigorated, Chamonix claws with her mittens now, digging deeper and deeper until she sees his head poking up.

CHAMONIX (CONT'D)

TRAVIS!

She grabs her shovel and digs out his shoulders and he begins to free himself. Chamonix stares at him, in shock.

TRAVIS

Chamonix, I -

CHAMONIX

Oh my god! I thought I lost you!

She digs around his body, as fast as she can.

TRAVIS
I don't give up that easily.

CHAMONIX
We've got to get you out.

CUT TO:

91 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS

91

A helicopter flies through the mountain range. In it, Viola and Greg sit with a Search and Rescue team. They wear headsets with microphones.

VIOLA
This is all my fault, if I just hadn't - my son would be here.

GREG
He's going to be ok Vi. He's a smart boy, and Chamonix's a professional. They're going to be just fine.

Viola sheds a tear. Greg squeezes her hand.

GREG (CONT'D)
But you have to be there for him, for them, the both of them, when they are. Ok? Promise me.

Viola barely holds herself together. She looks up and away offering the slightest head nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAINS

95

Chamonix has Travis almost completely uncovered now. She helps him up. The two stand in the middle of the white wasteland, the only specks of color for miles. Chamonix brushes the last bit of snow off of his shoulder.

TRAVIS
(panting)
Holy shit! I thought that was it.

Travis catches his breath.

CHAMONIX
Me too. Ha!

TRAVIS

Thank you.

The adrenaline settles as Chamonix and Travis lock eyes.

CHAMONIX

What the hell were you thinking!?

TRAVIS

I just had to talk to you.

CHAMONIX

We almost just died! You couldn't text me?

TRAVIS

Your number's not on your website!

CHAMONIX

What do you want Travis!?

TRAVIS

You. I just want you.

CHAMONIX

We don't work...

TRAVIS

We're not supposed to, but we, do...

CHAMONIX

Are you kidding? You're Travis McKlintov, and I'm just, some girl from the woods. You spend your Christmas's jet setting around the world, and I spend them alone, in the middle of nowhere. I drink whisky, you drink tequila. Your mom's right about us.

TRAVIS

No, my mom *thinks* she's right about us. But this isn't about thinking.

Chamonix meets his gaze again.

CHAMONIX

I've never been so scared. You and me... it's such a big risk.

TRAVIS

"Without risk there's no adventure".

Chamonix and Travis run towards each other. They kiss and it's everything it ever was. She pulls away for just a moment to say -

CHAMONIX

You owe me a new pair of skis.

He smiles and kisses her again. In the distance the helicopter rotors roar louder as it gets closer and closer to their rescue. They just keep kissing.

THE END.