

BETH

TEASER

1

INT. CAR - NIGHT (N1)

1

A car races down Wilshire. No traffic this late. BETH (30) drives. Post workout. Her husband, MIKE, on speakerphone --

→
START
SC. 1

MIKE (ON SPEAKER)

Those videos of people leaning so hard into the wind they're nearly horizontal? That was me today. So glad to be out of Chicago, back in LA.

BETH

Missed you so much. Can't wait to get home -- hang on -- just need to bend the law a second --

She speeds up to run a yellow...

BETH (CONT'D)

So, you wanna get crazy tonight -- order pizza, do nothing--

JUST THEN... A CYCLIST appears in her path --

BETH (CONT'D)

Oh no!!

She cranks the wheel, skids, hits the sidewalk. Her husband can be heard as she careens, *Beth? Sweetheart?!*

Ahhhh! she yells out as she ends up taking out a guard fence, pitching over a beam, and into... SPLASH! A SMALL LAKE --

She comes to, looks out, sees a GIANT TUSKED ELEPHANT wading in the lake, another on shore, baby elephant beside it. WTF?

MIKE (ON SPEAKER)

... Beth! Are you okay?

As her car begins to sink.

BETH

Mike, I crashed...

She tries to open her door, can't. The windows won't open --

BETH (CONT'D)

I can't get out of the car!

SHE BANGS ON THE GLASS!!

~~TAR PIT BANKS. Cyclist runs over, freaking, dialing...~~

END

1/10

SCORPION #310

~~CONTINUED~~

START
SC. 2

TOBY

You're doing great, Beth. Staying calm.

BETH

Wait! Is the car moving? Am I sinking?

HAPPY

(watching the sonar)

It's just settling a little. You're ok.

TOBY

Remember. Short breaths. Conserve oxygen. Because everything is going to be hunky dory.

~~HAPPY~~

~~(whispers to Toby)~~

~~Not if she doesn't stop those leaks.~~

BETH

I found something in my gym bag. Rock tape, for my shoulder.

HAPPY

Perfect! Use it around all the windows and cover the AC vents!

TOBY

Beth, we're gonna get you outta there.

END

~~SILVESTER~~

~~(mutes the phone)~~

~~Any idea how? 35 minutes until she's out of air.~~

Walter, Captain Gentry, Cabe, Tim have assembled --

PAIGE

Can't you send down an air hose, like a big snorkel?

WALTER

It would need to be pressurized and pressurized air in her car would blow out the windows and drown her.

PAIGE

Scratch the air hose.

WALTER

Happy, can you build something onto the fire truck arm that could wrap a cable around the car?

2/110

ACT ONE

5 ~~EXT. TAR PIT - MOMENTS LATER (N1)~~ 5

~~A flurry of action. Paige is typing on her phone. Happy, Gabe and Tim are pulling equipment off the fire truck --~~

~~HAPPY~~

~~I want everything that's on the truck off the truck. I need to see my resources!~~

6 INT. COMMAND TENT - SAME TIME (N1) 6

Toby leans in to phone, talks to Beth.

TOBY

Beth, I want you to meet Walter O'Brien. He's going to come down there and get you out...

BETH

The fire chief said no one could do that--

TOBY

Walter can. He's going to get to you, wrap a cable around the car so it can be rocked free from the tar.

BETH

Mr. O'Brien. You've done this before?

WALTER

No.

BETH

But... you know what you're doing?

WALTER

I know science.

BETH

This'll work?

Walter shares a look with Toby. No answer. Then, MIKE races in with ND Police Officer.

ND POLICE OFFICER

Gentlemen. This is Michael. Beth's husband.

BETH

Michael!

START
SC. 3

→ 3/10

CONTINUED:

He turns, sees her on the screen, trapped in her car.

MIKE
Oh god! Beth!

BETH
Michael, I'm scared!

TOBY
It's ok to be scared... but trust us... we have a plan. A *solid* plan.

~~Paige rushes in, full speed..~~

~~PAIGE
3 blocks away. Buddy's Discount Dive Shop. We should be able to cobble together *something* for Walter to wear in the tar.~~

~~MIKE
Cobble together? That doesn't sound very solid to me.~~

~~WALTER
Believe me, we've been to space and back with less preparation.~~

7 **EXT. DOWNTOWN ST. - SAME TIME (N1)**

~~CLOSE-UP on Sylvester's ice cream cooler, wheeled to a spot on the sidewalk between two restaurants. It's being pulled by Veronica with Ralph in tow. They stop. Hipsters abound --~~

~~VERONICA
Right here. This is where our market lives and breathes.~~

~~Ralph eyes the hipster assholes walking around.~~

~~RALPH
Lumberjack mustaches. Rolled up jeans. My mom calls these people hipster doofuses.~~

~~VERONICA
Yup. And they'll love what we're selling. Put on the apron. It's cute.~~

~~She hands him an apron; props up a sign; he reads it--~~

~~RALPH
"Artisan organic Peruvian ice cream sandwiches - made to order." I don't see where Peru factors in.~~

CONT. HERE →

END

11

CONTINUED:

11

PAIGE
We better be.

HAPPY
You're soaped. Time to dive...

Walt looks at them. Now or never. He nods. Moves off. Paige
grabs his arm, stopping him...

PAIGE
Hey. Next movie night - sci-fi or
horror?

WALTER
Sci-fi.

PAIGE
Good. I'll see you there. Right?

Walter can't make any promises. He just nods. Moves off.

12

EXT. TAR PIT - MOMENTS LATER (N1)

12

Walter in his dry suit, with sponce helmet and SCUBA tank
walks on wood palates that lead from the shore onto the tar.

WALTER
Breathing apparatus is working
fine. On land, anyway.

He's also attached to a safety cable that leads to a tow
truck where Gabe/Tim work the controls, feeding him cable--

CRANE CONTROLS - Happy works the controls for the crane cable
hook, which she extends over the pit --

13

INT. COMMAND CENTER - INTERCUT (N1)

13

Toby/Sly/Paige monitor Walter via video chat - which is up on
his computer. Also on the computers is Walter's GoPro POV and
the sonar display of the car, watched by Sly. Blobs of tar
move past. Nearby Paige talks to Beth on video chat --

PAIGE
Beth, he's walking in now.

BETH
Please... let him know I think he's
very brave for doing this.

PAIGE
(smiles)
You can tell him yourself when
you're out of that muck.

~~Walter is at the final palate~~

START
SC.4



5/10

14

CONTINUED:

14

~~TOBY~~
~~Walt, think slippery thoughts.~~
~~Beth. Richard Nixon.~~

He continues his slow progress --

WALTER

When I go under a tar layer it's almost pitch black. Does Beth have a flashlight in her car?

CONT.
HERE

15

INT. SUNKEN CAR - SAME TIME (N1)

15

Beth reaches for the glove box, grabs a flashlight --

BETH

In the glove box --

HAPPY

Aim it out the drivers window.

She does. WALTER sees the flashing light about ten feet away.

MIKE

Right there! Up ahead! It's her!

Walt makes his way to the car --

WALTER

I'm close.

IN THE CAR: Walt comes to the window, eye contact with Beth --

BETH

I see him! He's here! Oh thank God!

TOBY

Shallow breaths, very calm. We have a ways to go.

HAPPY

Walt, get to work. Hook goes on the front axle, then bring the cable, over the hood, back underneath, under the drive train.

QUICK CUTS - Walter wraps the cable around the car like wrapping a string around your finger.

Sylvester looks at his watch, worried.

Walter fastens the crane hook on top of the car at the intersection of the cable loops.

→
6/10

→
CONT.
HERE

WALTER

It's fastened. Happy, start rocking the car.

PAIGE

Beth, get ready for some movement.

BETH

(scared as hell)

Okay...

HAPPY - begins working the winch on the crane. She moves it side to side, as gently as possible --

BETH (CONT'D)

It's pulling the car.

TOBY

Side to side, that's right.

ON THE SUNKEN CAR - rocking back and forth; car loosens...

WALTER

It's coming loose.

Then: A LOUD SCREECHING, tearing of metal...

BETH

What's happening?!

WALTER

Happy, stop!

Happy stops the crane rocking --

HAPPY

What do we got?

WALTER

Metal tearing. I can't see where.

Walter moves to the passenger side of the car, half out of the lake bed now: a pole from the fence that Beth crashed through is jammed into the car body. As the car was rocked it tore a gash in the side of the car --

BETH - looks down at her feet. There's water pooling up.

BETH

It's coming in! Lots of it!

~~WALTER~~

~~A fence pole must have speared the car when she crashed. Rocking it tore a hole in the frame.~~

END

7/10

19

CONTINUED: (2)

19

SYLVESTER

She's out of oxygen in roughly...
(looks at watch, swallows)
3 minutes.

20

INT. TAR - CONTINUOUS (N1)

20

Walter pushes through the tar, fighting its viscosity.

21

INT. COMMAND TENT - INTERCUT (N1)

21

WALTER'S THERMAL CAM POV on the monitors. Everyone but Happy in the tent. Toby checks the data read from Beth's fitness tracker.

TOBY

Her vitals are holding.

Walter moves to the hole in the car door, removes the glove, inserts the atomizer tube.

WALTER

Tube's in. Hitting the plunger.

Walter releases the "smelling salts" into the car.

MIKE

C'mon Beth... wake up... please.

And a moment later we see Beth jolt awake. The salts worked!

TOBY

It worked!

~~CABE~~

~~All these toppings are good for.~~

Beth catches her breath, disoriented, panic rising as she remembers where she is. She sees Walter outside her window.

BETH

What's happening?!

WALTER

Don't worry, we have an idea for getting you out of there.

BETH

Ok... Will it work?

WALTER

Depends. How long can you hold your breath?

Off Beth, terrified-- what the hell is he talking about?

~~END OF ACT TWO~~

START
SC.5

8/10

ACT THREE

22

~~INT. CAR / INT. TAR DIRECT PICK UP (N1)~~

22

PICK UP on Beth, trying not to panic.

BETH

What are you talking about?! Why do I have to hold my breath?

~~Before waiter can answer~~

23

INT. COMMAND TENT - INTERCUT (N1)

23

~~Our team, hard at work, stressed~~

~~TOBY~~

~~(quiet)~~

~~Lack of better options.~~

~~PAIGE~~

~~We're pulling you out of the car.~~

~~You'll be on land in 20 seconds.~~

~~But we need your help.~~

TOBY

Beth, the rock tape you used to seal your windows, still have some left?

BETH

Yes.

TOBY

Use it to wrap your whole head - cover your ears, eyes, nose and mouth. You won't be able to breathe but it won't last long... The tape will stop the caustic acid in the tar from entering your body.

BETH

(terrified)

Okay... okay...

TOBY

Do you have anything else in your gym bag or that might help coat your skin? Hand lotion, sunscreen?

BETH

Spray tanner.

TOBY

Cover yourself. It'll help fight the viscoelasticity of the tar. And give you a healthy California glow.

CONT.
HERE →

→ 9/10

CONTINUED:

QUICK CUTS-- Beth pulls the Rock Tape and spray tanner from her gym bag, sprays her limbs and face, tears a couple pieces of tape, then hesitates--

BETH
I can't do this.

PAIGE
Yes you can.

SYLVESTER
You have no choice. You're out of air in 90 seconds...

She summons her courage, tapes her ears, eyes, nose... but stops before placing the tape over her mouth.

~~PAIGE
Just take a deep breath, then turn away from the window. In a few seconds this'll all be over.~~

END

Beth takes one last breath, covers her mouth with the tape...

~~SYLVESTER
Go, Walter! Now!~~

~~Walter grabs a pick connected to his belt. Rears back and smashes it into the glass. CRACK! The window shatters and tar rushes into the car.~~

~~Walter pulls Beth out through the window, hooks the cable to her belt.~~

~~WALTER
She's on the line. Pull us up!~~

24 EXT. TAR PITS - NIGHT (N1)

24

~~Happy shifts the levers, and the cable starts pulling...~~

25 INT. TAR - INTERCUT (N1)

25

~~Walter clutches Beth, the cable pulls, but they're not moving. And Walter SCREAMS in pain!!~~

~~TOBY
Happy! Stop! Stop now!~~

~~Happy shuts down the lever - cable stops pulling.~~

~~TOBY (CONT'D)
Walter, are you alright?~~

10/10

CONT. HERE