

YELLOW TOUCH RED  
You're Dead

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. - TATOO PARLOR - DAY

Latin music drowns out street noise. A commercial cuts in.

RADIO COMMERCIAL (V.O.)  
Siente la emoción. Awaken your  
feminine side...

A MAN works, stooped and shirtless, perspiration glistening on his bronze skin. He straightens and the light from the naked bulb above him falls on KIRA (18).

She watches his gun puncture her skin. The blood oozing to the surface excites her.

He flexes his shoulders, easing the stiffness, and examines the ghost of a winged snake pricked in black beneath her breasts.

MAN  
Lotta detail here, signorina.  
Better in two sessions.

KIRA  
Don't stop.

LATER

Kira fingers a small, bleached snake's skull hanging round her neck as she studies her reflection. The winged snake now entwines another. They're both striped yellow, red and black.

MAN  
Beautiful, this winged snake.

KIRA  
The snake husband?

She's dreamy as she remembers.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Beautiful. Yes. Like a fallen  
angel.

EXT. - BLUFF, COASTAL PARK - DAY

Dusk. An isolated bluff. A wide sky. BAHRI (25) stands at the edge, almost airborne. He sweeps the horizon with binoculars.

KIRA (V.O.)  
She wanted him so bad...

Behind him, a beat-up Dodge half ton and more sky. DENVER (22) sprawls on the bench seat, cap pulled down.

The drone of a plane drifts in on the breeze. Bahri listens. He knows the engine sound before he sees it.

BAHRI  
Hercules. Turboprop. It's them.

He looks over his shoulder. No reaction from Denver.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Yo!

Denver pulls his cap further down.

DENVER  
Ten outta ten, dude. Gotta hand it to you. You know your engines.

The plane comes into view. "California National Coast Guard" is painted on the wings.

BAHRI  
No. It's them. Last patrol for the day. Come on. Coast is clear.

He turns to leave but a movement in the cove catches his eye. He raises his binoculars.

EXT. - PIER (THROUGH BINOCULARS) - DAY

TYLER (18) rolls onto his side to face Kira.

EXT. - PIER, COVE - DAY

Kira stretches, cat-like. Watching Tyler from the corner of her eye, she slides a finger under the elastic of her bikini. He looks past her to the horizon, missing her cue.

TYLER  
Sun's nearly down. Let's go. Before they lock us out.

His shadow falls over her as he pulls her up. She throws her arms round his neck and kisses him.

KIRA  
We only just got here.

He fends her off playfully.

TYLER  
School rules. No fraternizing,  
remember? That means-

KIRA  
I know what it means.

She smiles invitingly.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Break the rules. For once. For me.

He picks her up so she's level with him and kisses her. She melts. Then, laughing, he throws her in the water and jumps in after her.

EXT. - SEA - DAY

Tyler circles slowly, waiting for Kira. She surfaces, but swims in the opposite direction. Away from him and the shore. Out to sea.

Tyler calls her back. Only seagulls answer.

He sets off after her. She quickens her pace. When he's nearly up to her, she dives underwater and comes up, teasing, in a different spot.

When he catches up to her down, she wraps her legs round him, exhilarated. He's not in the mood.

TYLER  
We could get in trouble.

KIRA  
No rules here.

She gestures to the wide expanse of sea and sky.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Anyway, I like trouble.

TYLER  
Not that kind of trouble. Real  
trouble. There are currents.

KIRA  
But you came to get me.

She kisses him.

TYLER

Be serious. "For once."

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, BEACH ROAD - DAY

Waves lap on the shore as Bahri and Denver take the beach road down from the bluff. Sky and sea are fuse crimson in the sunset.

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, PARKING LOT, SUMMER SCHOOL CAMP - DAY

Denver noses the Dodge past a sign on a gate - "Baja Wilderness Summer School Camp: Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders". He salutes and grins. Bahri doesn't share the joke.

BAHRI

We're in the open. You're attracting attention.

He points to a row of 'All American' school buses parked at an angle to the road.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

There it is.

INT. - BUS, PARKING LOT, SUMMER SCHOOL CAMP - DAY

Keeping watch in his wing mirror, Jeff (26) slides down in the driver's seat to take a call. He sees the Dodge approach.

JEFF

Get back to you.

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, PARKING LOT - DAY

Bahri and Denver check the surroundings before getting out. The school camp is behind them, the beach in front. The light is fading fast. Jeff approaches cautiously, hand outstretched.

JEFF

Bahri?

Bahri smiles, they shake. Denver hangs back, arms folded, almost hostile. Bahri tugs him forward.

BAHRI

Jeff, this is Denver.

Denver gives a cursory nod and throws a slim-jim in the air, drum-majorette style. Bahri snatches it and passes it to Jeff.

Twisting the slim-jim a quarter turn in an almost invisible seam, Jeff flips a panel open and reveals a cavity packed with crates.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Neat work.

Denver whistles.

DENVER

You drove the kids here with these motherfuckers on board? Where d'you put the lunch packs, dude?

The ice is broken. Jeff smiles and lifts one of the lids. The crate is full of Uzis. The guys high-five.

LATER

It's getting dark. Denver and Jeff shift crates from the hold to the bed of the pick-up. Denver makes a show of picking up four crates at a time, then waiting for Jeff to catch up.

JEFF

14

Don't let me hold you back.

14

They finish transferring the crates. Denver cranks a strap-winch tight round them and Jeff clips a tarpaulin to the tailgate.

Bahri locks the hold and boards the bus. He takes the lucky charm he wears round his neck and hangs it on the mirror. It's a small, bleached snake's skull threaded on a snakeskin.

Jeff waits for him with his hand on the external door button.

BAHRI

Leave it open. Might need to get back in quickly.

JEFF

Yeah. Us and anyone else.

Bahri looks at him, surprised. Denver clears his throat.

JEFF (CONT'D)

What? I'm responsible for this bus. It's just a button. It's not like there's a key or-

DENVER  
Leave it open, dude.

EXT. - PICKUP, BEACH - NIGHT

Shingle crunches as the pickup stops on the beach. Bahri tells Jeff to turn the engine off and listens.

There it is. BATABATABATA. Helicopter blades. Faint, but getting louder. He gets out and focuses his night goggles on two pinpricks of red light in the sky over the pier.

BAHRI  
HSL-60s. Jags. Night patrol. That's a damn pity.

DENVER  
What the fuck? They had to choose tonight?

JEFF  
You said the coast was clear. I already signalled them.

Bahri picks up a pebble and weighs it in his hand.

BAHRI  
As long as the boat's here by nine thirty, we'll be out by eleven. That's when they'll be back.

He skims the pebble towards the choppers and the pier. It splashes silver as it hops.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
We can still do it.

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, LAND END OF PIER - NIGHT

Inside the car on the ramp to the pier, waiting for Denver to remove a bollard blocking their way, Bahri grills Jeff.

BAHRI  
You carrying a gun?

JEFF  
Uh-uh. Strictly transport. Don't take sides.

Denver interrupts.

DENVER  
Dude, this thing's as tight as a-

BAHRI (O.S.)  
Not that one.

Once Denver has the right one, it slips out easily. He makes a suggestive gesture. Bahri suppresses a laugh.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
(to Jeff)  
Neutral. Good. Now your phone.

JEFF  
You never said-

Bahri holds his hand out. Jeff hands the phone over.

EXT. - SEA END OF PIER - NIGHT

Dry lightning crackles, illuminates the guys and their crates, stacked at the end of the pier like a spacer between sea and sky. Denver frets, checks his watch again. Nine thirty-five.

DENVER  
Where are they?

EXT. - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kira and Tyler cut through the parking lot towards the school. Lightning flashes light up a bus with open doors.

KIRA  
You see what I see?

EXT. - SEA - NIGHT (THROUGH NIGHT VISION GOGGLES)

The sky lights up again. A fishing boat heaves into sight.

BAHRI (O.S.)  
We're in business.

A mile out, the boat keels towards the pier, exposing a second boat behind it. The second boat drops anchor.

BAHRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Two boats?

He counts five CARTEL THUGS and their LEADER on board.

BAHRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
And six guns? What the heck?

Denver takes an Uzi from one of the crates. Bahri grips his arm and shakes it loose but Denver holds on.

DENVER  
Six of them, two of us.

BAHRI  
We don't need guns. We're smarter.

DENVER  
You, maybe. But what if they blow your brains out?

BAHRI  
I'm not about to-

Denver yanks the gun away from Bahri. Bahri looks over his shoulder. The boat is close. He lets Denver keep it.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira peers through the hollow eyes of the snake's skull, then flicks it from side to side. Who'd have a snake for a lucky charm? She sees Tyler pacing outside.

KIRA  
Come inside. Chill.

TYLER  
We need to get going. If we hurry we'll be locked out.

KIRA  
I'll get someone to open for us.

TYLER  
How?

She holds up her phone.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
You took your phone to the beach?

KIRA  
Uh-huh.

TYLER  
That's risky.

She laughs and joins him outside.

KIRA  
Live dangerously!

TYLER  
Who are you going to text?

KIRA  
Jonathan, I guess.

TYLER  
You gave Jonathan your number?

She detects a note of jealousy in his voice and smiles. He hastens to correct the impression.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
I mean, everyone knows he's a loser.

She shrugs.

KIRA  
He's not a loser. He's just a nice boy who'll do anything for me.

Tyler whispers in her ear.

TYLER  
My point exactly.

Stung, Kira writes a text to Jonathan and adds three rows of hearts to it.

KIRA  
"Send."

She watches Tyler's reaction from the corner of her eye.

EXT - PIER - NIGHT

The fishing boat cuts through rippled black water and bumps up against the pier. Its power block tilts behind like a broken spar. A rusty plate on the bow reads "Siloah".

The Cartel Leader and his thugs line the deck, tense.

MOMENTS LATER

Tangled fishing nets slip off a pallet of cocaine bricks. Bahri cuts one open and tests it.

BAHRI

Bueno.

The Leader responds with a little bow, then snaps his fingers at three thugs.

CARTEL LEADER

Check the guns.

LATER

Jeff keeps tally as he repacks bricks of cocaine he's removed from the pallet. He slides the last one back in place.

JEFF

Nine hundred. Good to go.

The Cartel Leader nods to the crane operator and the pallet swings out. Denver guides it over the pickup. As it plumps down into the bed, he loosens the hook and jumps out, but then he has second thoughts and climbs back in.

JEFF (CONT'D)

What's up?

Denver sizes up the pallet.

DENVER

It's short.

Jeff's annoyed.

JEFF

Bullshit. I counted. Twenty-two rows, thirty-five per row. Thirty bricks loose. Do the math.

Denver backs down. That's some heavy math. But Bahri's not that easily put off.

BAHRI

29

Wait. Denver's right. That's eight hundred, not nine.

29

Bahri quizzes the Cartel Leader. He's offhand.

CARTEL LEADER

Take it up with Siloah. I'm just the courier.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira dangles the phone to entice Tyler inside. He follows grudgingly.

TYLER

This is not a good idea.

She sits in the driver's seat and adjusts the mirror so she can see him. She's feeling wicked.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I shouldn't have let you-

She cuts him off with an imitation of a driver's voice.

KIRA

No standing in the aisles, sir.

TYLER

Give me the phone.

KIRA

Sir!

Tyler sighs and sits down. She keeps up the act.

KIRA (CONT'D)

This is an interstate bus. Next stop... State Of Arousal. Terminating at... STATE OF ECSTASY.

That makes him laugh. She's over the moon.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Eyes sparkling, Kira takes in all the buttons. Where to start? She hits the button marked 'Doors' To her surprise, the doors slam shut. Tyler jumps up in alarm.

TYLER

Jeez, Kira!

She hits the button again. As the doors open, there's a distant RATTLE OF GUNFIRE.

KIRA

What's that? Sounds like shooting.

He laughs at her.

TYLER

Life too dull for you, huh?

KIRA  
Well what then?

TYLER  
Fireworks.

She looks through the windscreen. Where?

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Inland. Sound travels.

He heads to the door.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Let's split. Maybe they haven't  
locked up yet.

She taps the 'Door' button again. The doors shut in his face.

KIRA  
Not yet.

EXT. - PIER - NIGHT

GUNFIRE RATTLES across the bow. The thug operating the power block crashes lifeless to the deck. The crane arm rears up. Its hook YAWS like a wrecking ball.

Bahri is floored. Who fired?

Denver clears the gap between the boat and the pier, raining bullets as he goes. He jackknifes to the Cartel Leader.

BAHRI  
Goddammit, Denver!

The remaining thugs spin round with their guns on Denver, but he already has his Uzi under the Leader's chin.

DENVER  
Drop your weapons, all of you.

Rifles clang noisily to the ground. Bahri rounds them up. A thug breeches his rifle behind Denver. Denver wheels the Leader round to face him.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
You too, dude. Throw it overboard.

The rifle splashes into the sea. The Leader screams to Bahri.

CARTEL LEADER  
Get your man under control.

Bahri takes stock. Five thugs disarmed. The Leader nailed. Why should he take orders?

BAHRI

Sure. Just hand over the rest of my consignment and we'll put this behind us.

CARTEL LEADER

You kill one of my men. I don't put that behind me. And I already told you. Take it up with Siloah.

BAHRI

That's your last word?

Bahri motions Jeff.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Put the guns back on the pickup.

The Leader folds his arms and shakes his head.

CARTEL LEADER

You think my other men don't hear the shots?

He indicates the second fishing boat. Bahri raises his night goggles.

EXT. - SEA - NIGHT (THROUGH NIGHT GOGGLES)

Eight thugs swarm over the edge of the second boat and abseil down to Aquos inflatable speedboats.

BAHRI (O.S.)

Yeah. They heard.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira snakes round Tyler, coaxing him to the back of the bus. He plays along, keeping one eye on the exit. She peels her top off. That gets his attention. Yes!

She goes further, wriggling out of her shorts and twerking. It's too far for Tyler. Panicking, he bundles her stuff up and hands it back to her.

TYLER

Don't be crazy. If they catch us like this...

She pouts and tosses the clothes over a seat. He manages to rescue the phone and checks for a message from Jonathan.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Crap. Still nothing.

EXT. - PIER - NIGHT

Bahri scans the sky with his goggles.

BAHRI  
(to himself)  
Nothing. Where are they?

He glances at his watch. Eleven. He's not panicking, but he's wondering if he got it wrong.

CARTEL LEADER (O.S.)  
You are wrong if you think you can pull this off.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler resigns himself. Ditching the phone, he lets Kira lead him to the back. She's ecstatic at first. But then he unbuckles his belt and guides her down on him.

KIRA  
That's not what I meant.

He kisses her neck.

TYLER  
I'll return the favour.

EXT. - PIER - NIGHT

Finally. Two green pinpricks appear on the horizon. Bahri lowers the goggles, nods in the affirmative. The Cartel Leader looks nervously over his shoulder. He sees the lights.

CARTEL LEADER  
This some kind of trick?

BAHRI  
No trick. US Coast Guard. Night patrol.

CARTEL LEADER  
US Coast Guard? Night patrol?  
Impossible. You're lying!

BAHRI  
Afraid not.

Bahri gestures to the speeding inflatables.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
I'd get rid of those rubber ducks.

Denver jumps off the boat onto the pier. Sputtering with rage, the Cartel Leader calls the Aguos off.

The speedboats circle in confusion, then head back to join the second boat.

CARTEL LEADER  
You'll pay for this. With interest.

He retreats. The 'Siloah' casts off.

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, PIER - NIGHT

The guys sprint to the pickup, vault inside. The planks of the pier pop like champagne corks as they hurtle down the rickety surface. Bahri checks the boat is on its way then rounds on Denver.

Never mind that Denver's driving. He rams the lock-pick sideways under his chin and presses him up against the window. The pickup swerves to the edge of the pier. Jeff's eyes start out of his head.

BAHRI  
You just killed a guy.

DENVER  
It was us or them.

BAHRI  
No. It was just you.

Bahri opens the window. Denver's head crunches backward.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
And don't talk back.

As Denver thrashes to get back up, Bahri opens the door and his body propels out and hits the pier.

Bahri jumps out after him, leaving Jeff scrabbling to stop the car going over the side.

He pulls Denver to his feet and slams him off the pier, into the sea.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Cool off.

INT./EXT. - PICKUP, BEACH ROAD - NIGHT

Denver catches up to the pickup. He's a sorry sight, like a drowned dog. Bahri takes pity on him and lets him in.

Jeff hardly notices. He's more interested in the boats steaming south.

JEFF

You guys are shark chum. No courier's gonna go back empty-handed. He can't.

DENVER

He'll have to catch us first.

JEFF

That won't be hard. He's got men everywhere. Just cut me loose before the feeding frenzy.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira and Tyler sleep on the back seat, curled up together like Babes In The Wood.

The pickup returns. The guys tumble out. Studs snap. Ropes whip loose.

Kira's eyes flicker open. Where is she? Oh yeah. The bus...

The guys pack the crates into the hold and fill up the spaces between the guns with cocaine bricks. Even so, the hold is full and there's still a half-load of cocaine in the pickup.

JEFF

What now, maestro?

BAHRI

Pack it on top. We'll fix it later. I know a good place.

Bahri drives the pickup away. Denver shuts the hold door.

Kira sits up. What was that? She peers outside.

KIRA

Isn't that our driver?

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. - BUS - DAY

Kira pins Tyler to the back seat and kisses him while a ring of kids count. They get past twenty-five and cheer.

The applause triggers something in Kira. She observes the onlookers. A blonde, innocent-looking girl attracts her attention. She pulls her close. Kisses her hard. The kids whoop. Tyler steps in quickly to separate them.

TYLER

Whoa. Don't get carried away.

Kira lets the girl go, blowing her a kiss. As she takes her seat again, she sees the driver watching her.

INT./EXT. - BUS - DAY

The kids tumble out of the bus with Kira in the rearguard. She looks back over her shoulder. The driver is following her.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff and Denver board. No! The kids throw themselves on the floor.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver and Jeff lob their backpacks onto the overhead rack.

Kira's on the aisle side. She sticks her neck out as far as she dares. Denver takes his jacket off, exposing a gun in his belt. He punches the air.

DENVER

We hit pay dirt!

JEFF

Pay dirt now. Pay back tomorrow.

DENVER

We'll be gone by tomorrow.

JEFF  
 (to himself)  
 I don't have that luxury.

Tyler whispers to Kira.

TYLER  
 What can you see?

KIRA  
 Just the driver and another guy.  
 One's got a gun.

TYLER  
 A gun? What are they saying?

KIRA  
 Can't hear. Shouldn't we tell them  
 we're here? Before they find us?

TYLER  
 You said he's got a gun. No. Lie  
 low till they leave.

Kira is about to pull back when Bahri appears. He startles her. He's so different to the others. She gawks.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 What is it?

She holds up three fingers.

KIRA  
 A third one's arrived.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff takes the driver's seat, checks his mirror. Funny. The angle is wrong. He adjusts it. At that moment, Kira shifts and Jeff sees the movement. He snaps the mirror back where it was, but Kira tucks herself in just in time.

Jeff hits the starter. The kids freak out.

TYLER  
 Holy crap. This changes everything.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD OUT OF COVE - NIGHT

Jeff inches the bus silently out of the parking lot and then floors it expertly up to the road above the cove.

Without lights. The bus clips branches and churns up loose stones as he takes the bends fast and wide.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Behind the seat, Kira and Tyler hang on to stop themselves being thrown around. Branches sweep past in the windows - all they can see from that angle.

Tyler pulls Kira to him. She leans back gratefully, then realizes he just needed to whisper something.

TYLER  
Where's your phone?

KIRA  
You took it.

TYLER  
Damn. I left it on the seat.

She peers down the aisle.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
See it?

KIRA  
No.

TYLER  
We're screwed.

KIRA  
I'll get it.

TYLER  
No. It's too dangerous. I'll do it.  
Let me past-

She's not listening. The guys are talking, looking the other way. She shuts her eyes, steels herself.

When she opens her eyes, Denver is halfway up the aisle. Whoa! She throws herself back behind the seat. That was close! She holds out her hands. She's trembling.

Denver reaches into a backpack for beers. He takes a swig from one, tosses another to Bahri. Bahri offers it to Jeff.

JEFF  
Uh-uh. I'm the driver.

Denver chokes.

DENVER

You're driving a bus full of guns  
and shit and you're worried about-

He cracks up. Bahri and Jeff share the joke.

At the back, Kira makes a second attempt while they're  
distracted. Tyler holds her back but she shakes him off.

KIRA

We've got no choice.

INT - BUS - NIGHT

One seat from where Tyler dropped the phone, an incoming  
message BEEPS. Kira lunges to silence it. Too late. The guys  
hear. They whip round. Jeff slams on anchors.

EXT. - BUS, ROAD OUT OF COVE - NIGHT

The bus fishtails.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Shrieking like a coyote, Denver goes for his gun, letting his  
beer bottle CRASH to the ground.

DENVER

Get your hands up, asshole!

Bahri pulls him back. He points to Kira's bare feet sticking  
out over the seat.

BAHRI

Shh!

Motioning Denver to find the others, Bahri tiptoes to Kira.  
She hears him, but daren't look. He prods her gingerly with  
his gun. She recoils like a hair trigger. He jumps back.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Whoa. Get up. Slowly.

She squeezes her eyes shut. This can't be happening.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

I said get up. Slow. Real. Slow.

Kira confronts him. He catches his breath. The girl from the  
pier.

Watching the scene in his mirror, Jeff remembers Kira.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver plucks Tyler gleefully from his hiding place.

DENVER

Look what I found. Frat boy!

He ruffles Tyler's hair and turns his collar up.

TYLER

This is a misunderstanding. If you'll just stop the bus-

BAHRI (O.S.)

Pat him down.

Kira wraps her arms round herself protectively. Pat him down? Is she next?

DENVER

He's clean. Want me to frisk her?

Denver snickers. Bahri shoots him a look and he scuttles to find Kira's clothes for her.

While she's dressing, Bahri reads the message from Jonathan.

BAHRI

"WHERE R U? GATE IS OPEN".

There's a screen full of heart emoticons at the end of it. Bahri looks from Tyler to Kira, confused.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Aren't you guys together? Who's Jonathan?

TYLER

He's a mutual friend. He's opening the gate for us.

BAHRI

Friend? You sure about that?

He shows Tyler the hearts. Tyler scoffs.

TYLER

That's just silly.

BAHRI

Silly?

He flashes the phone at Kira for her opinion and laughs as she squirms.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
 Why don't you two sit down. Make yourselves at home.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver bustles Bahri to the front.

DENVER  
 What did you say? Sit down? What the fuck are you playing at?

Bahri fishes out a tobacco pouch from the driver's shelf and rolls a joint while Denver accosts him.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
 They're from that school camp.  
 They're A.W.O.L. They'll be missed.  
 You need to set them down, dude.  
 A.S.A.P.

Bahri keeps his eyes on Kira as he answers.

BAHRI  
 It's complicated.

JEFF  
 Yeah. It's complicated. See, she knows me. I drove them down. I can't be linked. It would-

Bahri's gone.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
 (to himself)  
 -blow the cover. Mine. Yours.  
 Vegas.

He watches Kira.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri calls to Tyler while leaning possessively over the backrest of the seat in front of Kira.

BAHRI  
 Hey, buddy, what's your name?

Tyler snubs him, but to his annoyance, Kira answers in his place.

KIRA  
It's Tyler.

Bahri chortles.

BAHRI  
That figures. So, Tyler, what's up?

Opening his tobacco pouch, he offers Tyler the joint he rolled.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Good stuff.

TYLER  
We don't do drugs.

Bahri doesn't lose a beat.

BAHRI  
Me either. This is for friends.

He offers the joint to Kira and laughs at her disapproval.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Don't act so proper. What were you  
and Tyler doing on my bus?

She's taken aback. Did he really just ask her that?

KIRA  
We weren't doing anything on the  
bus. And it's not your bus. It's  
the school's. You stole it.

He laughs again.

BAHRI  
Touché. But no. You're wrong. I'm  
just borrowing it. I'll have this  
baby back at school tomorrow,  
before it's even missed.

KIRA  
You borrowed a school bus? Why  
would anyone borrow a school bus?

Her frown pulls him up short. Has she guessed? He answers carefully.

BAHRI  
Just for kicks.

KIRA  
That's how you get your kicks?

BAHRI  
You mean breaking rules, taking risks?

He's serious.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
It's what I live for.

Kira is hooked.

EXT. - BUS, BLUFF - NIGHT

Jeff slows down for the bluff. The sea sweeps into view. Bahri and Denver join him up front. Bahri scans the horizon with the night goggles.

EXT. - SEA (THROUGH NIGHT GOGGLES) - NIGHT

The two fishing boats are silhouetted on the sea. Their nets trail behind them.

JEFF (O.S.)  
Coast Guard didn't bite, huh?

He hums the theme from Jaws.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

JEFF  
Love it when a plan comes apart.

BAHRI  
It's gonna take them two hours to mobilize.

DENVER  
We're in a bus, dude. They've got fast cars.

BAHRI  
Not fast enough. Not with a two-hour lead.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Plumping back into the seat in front of Kira, Bahri lights the joint and offers it to her.

KIRA  
You said you don't-

BAHRI  
Kira. That's your name, right?

KIRA  
How did you-

BAHRI  
"Dark mistress ruler".

KIRA  
You looked up the meaning?

He shows her an old message from Jonathan on her phone.

BAHRI  
Jonathan did. He's in love. He says  
your name is your destiny.

Agitated, Kira turns to see if Tyler's watching. He is.

BAHRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You believe him?

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

The road veers left. Tyler observes the sea shift to the back of the bus. Great. A thrill-junkie's hitting on his girlfriend and now they're going inland. It's too much.

TYLER  
This is enough. Stop the bus. Let  
us off. Now.

Bahri is sympathetic.

BAHRI  
I'd like to, Tyler. But the problem  
is, if I let you off now, you'll be  
back at school in time to raise the  
alarm. You'll put an end to my  
joyride. Besides-

He glances at Kira.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
I like your company.

Tyler starts out of his seat.

TYLER  
Hey!

Denver pushes him back down.

DENVER  
Okay, dude. Take it down a notch.

Tyler controls himself. No good getting riled.

TYLER  
I see your point, but what you  
don't realize is, if we're not back  
soon, there'll be alerts.

Denver unexpectedly backs him up.

DENVER  
(to Bahri)  
Alerts! You hear that? I told you!  
They're A.W.O.L. We don't need no  
fucking alerts.

BAHRI  
It's a summer school camp. Kids  
duck out all the time. No one's  
gonna call the National Guard. I'm  
not rushing this.

Denver switches sides again.

DENVER  
Nice try, college boy.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri finishes the joint and pulls down a backpack. He stirs  
inside and produces a bag of Nachos.

BAHRI  
(to Kira)  
You hungry?

Jeff can't believe it.

JEFF  
What is this? A shitting school  
picnic?

He eyes Bahri angrily in the mirror.

JEFF (CONT'D)

You ever stay at a school camp? You know how they run things? You can't take a piss without signing out. They'll be searching the grounds by now. They'll see there's a bus gone. We need to let them go.

BAHRI

Letting them go is risky too.

Bahri tilts his head to study Kira from another angle. Tyler can't believe this guy. He makes his mind up.

TYLER

(to himself)

The next distraction...

MOMENTS LATER

Tyler doesn't have long to wait. A magnificent owl pitches into their headlamps, white wings outstretched almost the width of the bus.

Bahri and Denver jump up. Jeff brakes.

DENVER

Whoa! Check it out!

Tyler seizes the moment. He throws himself at the window.

It's toughened glass. Nothing happens. Except he hurts his shoulder. Denver rushes him.

THWACK! Tyler flies backwards. His head CRUNCHES on a rail.

Grabbing him by the throat, Denver throttles him. Tyler's choking when Kira intervenes.

KIRA

Stop it!

Denver lets go. All eyes turn to her.

KIRA (CONT'D)

It's not true. What Tyler said.  
About us being missed.

Denver turns to Bahri. What's she getting at? Bahri's blank.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
I got my friends to cover for us.

Tyler scrambles to his feet.

TYLER  
What are you talking about?

KIRA  
(to Tyler)  
I never meant to go back, Tyler. I  
asked my friends to sign in for us.

TYLER  
No you didn't. Don't lie.

He faces the guys.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
She's making it up. Of course we'll  
be missed. We have counsellors.  
They monitor us day and night.  
They'll call the police.

KIRA  
No. My friends are signing the  
night sheet. The school will only  
see we're gone when they send the  
new sheet round tomorrow. At  
breakfast.

MOMENTS LATER

A second passes. It feels like minutes. Tyler explodes.

TYLER  
Whose side are you on?

He lowers his voice.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
This isn't a game.

Bahri jumps to her defence.

BAHRI  
Take it easy, buddy. She's on your  
side. She's just buying us all some  
time.

Bahri turns back to Kira.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Buying us time, right?

He searches her face. She meets his gaze. They connect.

Kira feels a rush of excitement. Bahri gets her. It's playing with fire, she knows, but she's a moth drawn to a flame.

Looking away, she catches Jeff's eye in the mirror. He's taking it all in.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

JEFF  
I'm not buying it. She's lying.

DENVER  
Me either. She's got you figured out, sucker.

BAHRI  
It doesn't matter.

Bahri takes Kira's phone out and types a reply to Jonathan.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
"CHANGE OF PLANS. STAYING OUT.  
COVER FOR ME."

He hits 'SEND', then removes the SIM and breaks it in half.

Kira feels Denver breathe down her neck.

DENVER  
Your plan backfired. No one's gonna miss you now. We've got all night.

KIRA  
All night? What do you mean?

He's said too much. He backs off.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira watches, apprehensive, as Denver picks on Tyler.

DENVER  
Stand up, preppie. Face the back.

He snaps his fingers in Tyler's face and rips off a length of duct tape.

TYLER

What are you doing? This was meant to be a joyride.

DENVER

Shut up.

TYLER

Don't be crazy. Tying us up makes it kidnapping.

Denver winds the tape round Tyler's hands.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You want to spend the rest of your life behind bars?

DENVER

You want your to have your mouth taped too?

Denver plants his knee in the small of Tyler's back and twists his arm till he's bent over level with the back rest.

TYLER

Aaaagh! My shoulder! You always have to resort to violence?

Denver swivels him round and squares him up. Next thing, Tyler feels his head slam back into the wall as Denver lands him another right hook. He touches his lip. It's bleeding.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I guess that's a 'yes'.

DENVER

Pretty much.

Finished with Tyler, Denver prances towards Kira, juggling the roll of duct tape in one hand and the knife in the other. She backs into the corner as far as she can. He's inches away when Bahri catches the knife.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Hey! What's the deal?

BAHRI

She's not trying to escape.

Denver frowns suspiciously.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Okay. I like her.

Denver leans over Kira.

DENVER

You're off the hook. For now.

He struts to his seat, a few rows down, and settles back with his cap pulled down.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Call me if you need me.

Relieved, Kira turns to Tyler. She smiles ruefully at him and makes a heart sign.

TYLER

(mouthing)

Me too.

EXT. - BUS, ROAD INLAND - NIGHT

A motion-tail of dust logs their route as the bus drives the length of the park.

Past the park boundary, pristine wilderness gives way to wasteland. Kira gazes out the window with increasing alarm.

Bahri stays up front, on the lookout for something. A derelict ranch with sheds appears, set back from the road.

BAHRI

Turn off there.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD TO DERELICT RANCH - NIGHT

The bus shudders over ruts and stops in front of the abandoned ranch house. Bahri and Denver collect their backpacks, head for the exit.

DENVER

Why don't we just leave them here?  
Before it's too late. We can always  
find another shed.

BAHRI

I know this place. I don't want to  
find another shed. I don't like  
surprises.

Jeff's about to open the door for them when Bahri whips Denver's gun out of his belt and tosses it to Jeff.

DENVER  
 (to Bahri)  
 Hey! That's my gun, dude.

Jeff acts like he'll catch something off it.

JEFF  
 Oh no. No thanks. I'm neutral,  
 remember?

BAHRI  
 It's a precaution. While we're  
 outside. In case the kids get  
 ideas.

Denver pulls Bahri aside.

DENVER  
 How d'you know he won't get ideas?  
 Take off, you know.

Bahri turns back to Jeff.

BAHRI  
 Because he left a forwarding  
 address, right, buddy?

DENVER  
 (to Jeff)  
 Don't get attached to it.

BAHRI  
 (to Jeff)  
 Don't let them out of your sight.

Jeff waits till the guys have left, then lines Kira up in the gun sights. Bahri suddenly reappears. He pats the barrel down, points to Jeff's eyes.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
 Sight, not sights.

He has a moment's misgiving. Has he misread this guy?

EXT. - BUS, DERELICT RANCH - NIGHT

Denver's torch lights up the hold. He and Bahri grab the leftover sacks of cocaine and crawl under the bus.

It's pitch dark there. No more moonlight. The beam of Denver's torch plays over axles and suspension springs, searching out the spare wheel. It's coiled, massive, flush with the undercarriage.

Denver's confused.

DENVER  
So where's the booty go?

Bahri takes his torch and shines it into the cavity above the wheel.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Grunting with the effort, Bahri and Denver heave on the wheel. It doesn't budge.

DENVER  
You forgot to mention it weighs two tons.

They open their shirts. Sweat glistens on their skin.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
This ain't gonna work.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Jeff squints down the barrel of the gun, then opens the chamber and counts the bullets.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Flat on the ground now, Bahri and Denver 'walk' the wheel down like a sideways acrobat on a balancing ball. The wheel turns, faster and faster.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Jeff spins the cylinder. It whirls round, then stops with a CLICK.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

The wheel hangs suspended on its vertical shaft, about a foot above the ground, with three rows of cocaine bricks packed on top. Bahri secures it all with elastic ties.

On their backs again, he and Denver reverse-walk the wheel back into its cavity.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff lines up the sights of the gun again.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Without any warning, the wheel crashes down. Denver is trapped.

DENVER

Aaaagh! Bitch! Whore! My leg!

Denver's got no leverage and Bahri can't take the weight alone. Bahri rolls out from under the bus.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri hammers on the side of the bus as he runs to get Jeff. Jeff fumbles with the gun.

BAHRI

Gimme a hand. Denver's trapped.

Jeff dithers.

JEFF

What about the kids?

BAHRI

Lock the door. Take the key.

JEFF

Buses don't have keys.

BAHRI

Fuck. That's right. Never mind.

Jeff wags the gun at Kira and Tyler.

JEFF

Make a move and-

Bahri relieves him of it.

BAHRI

Come on.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

As soon as Jeff is out the door, Kira runs to the window.

TYLER

What are they doing?

KIRA

I can't see. They must be under the bus. Are they fixing the engine?

TYLER

The engine's at the back. They're hiding something. Quick. Untie me.

Kira ignores him. She's staring at Jeff's vacated seat. Tyler reads her mind.

TYLER (CONT'D)

No, Kira. No. You can't drive a bus. No!

INTERCUT: INT. BUS/EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Under the bus, Bahri and Jeff inch the wheel up. Denver works his leg out, tests if it's still in one piece.

BAHRI

Okay?

He nods. Bahri ferrets for the hub that came loose.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Got it.

Above them, Kira creeps to the front of the bus.

Bahri clamps the torch between his teeth and feels for the slot. He teases the hub into it.

Kira slips into the driver's seat. Her hand trembles over the starter.

The guys spin the wheel back up. Bahri wipes his hands clean.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Back in business.

Kira's hand slams down on the button. The engine roars to life...

DENVER

What the-

JEFF

Shitting life!

...and jolts into motion. Slowly at first. Then at full speed. Backwards!

Jeff flings himself out just in time. Bahri and Denver press themselves flat as the spare wheel wings past.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

The bus hurtles towards the shed. Tyler holds his breath.

TYLER

No!

And shuts his eyes.

TYLER (CONT'D)

No, no, no.

Kira jerks the gear lever feverishly. Tyler opens his eyes.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Drive! Not reverse!

KIRA

I know! I know! But-

Finally she finds the release and the bus rams forward.

Jeff scrambles to his feet, pounds the external button for the doors. They open. Kira bangs them shut again and presses the button to keep them shut. Jeff bangs the glass.

JEFF

Open the door! Bitch!

The road curves ahead. Kira's too busy with Jeff to notice. The bus continues straight, mounts the embankment, tilts dangerously. Jeff jumps clear.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Barrelling over rough ground, Kira loses control. Tyler tosses round like a shuttlecock, till he falls. With his hands tied behind his back, he slides helplessly up and down the aisle.

TYLER

Whoa!

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri rolls wide, leaps to his feet, yells to Denver.

BAHRI  
Go after the bus. I'll cut her off.

DENVER  
Her?

Kira's reflection flashes in the wing mirror.

BAHRI  
Tyler's tied up.

She looks Bahri in the eye and pulls away.

EXT. - DERELICT RANCH - NIGHT

Denver overtakes Jeff and charges after the bus. The gap narrows.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

BAM-BAM-BAM! Denver's steel-toed boot HAMMERS at the rear window.

TYLER  
Holy crap! Denver's at the back!

Kira spins round in alarm.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
It's safety glass. Should be okay.  
(to himself)  
I think...

Wriggling frantically to get free before Denver crashes through the glass, Tyler gets his hands over his legs and in front.

By the time he succeeds in pulling himself up, Denver has given up on the glass. He's nowhere to be seen, but a noise on the roof gives him away.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Jeez. A skylight!

Kira throws the bus into a zigzag. Denver loses his footing and slips over the edge. Next thing, he's thrashing at the window, trying to claw his way back.

TYLER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Do something!

Kira zigzags again but Denver pulls himself up and wedges himself between the rungs of the ladder. There's no shaking him off.

MOMENTS LATER

Denver throws the skylight wide.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira aims for a tree with low hanging branches. Denver sees the tree, sees what Kira's attempting.

She puts her foot flat.

KIRA  
Come on. Faster!

The tree towers. Fills her windscreen. She shaves under. Black branches whip the windows, shriek across the roof.

Denver jumps. The skylight cover catches the branch. It snaps off and spirals to the ground.

Kira breathes out.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Tyler? You okay?

She looks back to see Tyler biting through duct tape, finally getting his hands loose. Pleased with himself, he picks bits of tape off his mouth. But then...

TYLER  
Watch out!

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira whips back. Bahri is in the middle of the road.

White-knuckled, she presses on.

He stands his ground.

She blares the horn, flashes her lights.

He doesn't budge.

Like a tank, the bus roars on, it's wheels ripping up the distance. There's barely fifty yards between them.

KIRA  
Move! Move!

She blasts the horn again. He doesn't flinch.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Get out of my way!

She can see his face now. She falters.

TYLER (O.S.)  
Don't stop!

Kira can't do it. Cursing, she takes her foot off the gas and hikes up the handbrake. Squealing discs and wheezing air brakes kick in. The bus broadsides gracefully towards Bahri...

...and swerves out of his way at the last minute.

INT. - BUS - MOMENTS NIGHT

Bahri twists Tyler's arm between his shoulders and frogmarches him to the back of the bus. Tyler's feet scabble to touch the ground.

BAHRI  
(to Kira)  
Shut the door.

Kira hesitates, so Bahri drags Tyler back and hits the button himself.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Don't move. I'm coming back.

As soon as Bahri's back is turned, Kira scratches through the papers on Jeff's shelf. She turns up a pencil and stashes it in her pocket.

Checking on Bahri again, she sees him wrapping yards of duct tape round Tyler's hands. Securing them, not behind his back this time, but to the handrail on the seat in front.

She goes back to the shelf. Right at the back she finds a screwdriver and squirrels it away with the pencil. When Bahri returns for her, she's ready, hand in pocket, clutching it.

Bahri stoops over her. She tightens her grip. His face is close. She can feel his breath. He whispers.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
I wish you hadn't done this. Now I  
have to tie you up too.

Kira's grip relaxes.

The screwdriver slips right out of her hand as she lets Bahri guide her to the back and sit her down alongside Tyler. She watches his face as he tapes her hands to the rail.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri's at the wheel, looking for the ignition.

KIRA (O.S.)  
There's no key. Just hit the  
starter button.

BAHRI  
Ah.

He follows her instructions but the bus still doesn't start.

KIRA (O.S.)  
And switch off the "safe mode".

The engine finally turns over. Bahri smiles at her in the mirror. Tyler glowers.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

They drive towards the shed. Tyler tugs at his wrists.

TYLER  
I only just got the goddamn tape  
off. Why did you stop?

Kira is shocked.

KIRA  
I would have killed him.

TYLER  
Exactly. You think this is a  
paintball war?

KIRA  
Well, I-

TYLER

You think he won't kill you when he's done with you? Or the drug lords, when we get to the drop-off?

KIRA

Drug lords?

TYLER

You hadn't figured that out?

She realizes he's right.

KIRA

Oh God.

He piles it on.

TYLER

And before that? Telling him-

KIRA

He would have worked it out.

TYLER

What?

Her guard goes up.

KIRA

The starter?

TYLER

No. Not that. Telling them we wouldn't be missed.

KIRA

He was choking you!

Tyler looks into her eyes. He knows that's not the reason, but he can't pinpoint what she's up to.

TYLER

You've played right into his hands. That message... Now we really won't be missed.

KIRA

You're alive aren't you?

TYLER

Not after this. We're witnesses.

EXT. - RANCH - NIGHT

Jeff jabs Bahri in the chest.

JEFF

I have to get this bus back  
tomorrow. Look at it!

Denver holds the buckled skylight cover up and rotates it.

DENVER

Untitled. Metal on glass. One  
dollar bid. Do I have two?

Jeff is apoplectic. He raises his fist to hit Denver.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Yessiree! Two dollar bid. Now  
who'll give me three?

JEFF

It's not a joke.

BAHRI

Quit griping. We've lost our head  
start on Siloah. By the time they  
finish with us, you won't have a  
bus.

Bahri throws Denver his gun.

JEFF

What about the kids? It's different  
now. They must have guessed.

BAHRI

Priorities. Fix the bus. Let's get  
back on the road.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver twists the skylight more or less into shape and gives  
it to Jeff to hold while he scales the ladder to the roof.  
Jeff passes it up, then climbs up next to him.

JEFF

Why d'you let him treat you like  
his bitch?

Denver bristles.

DENVER

What are you saying?

JEFF

You know we can't allow witnesses.  
And that girl's nothing but  
trouble.

Denver ignores Jeff and wrangles the cover back in place.  
Jeff points through the opening at the kids inside.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Take them out. Now. You don't need  
to wait for his consent.

DENVER

That's not how we-

JEFF

It'd be more humane than letting  
the Syndicate do it.

Denver wonders if he heard right.

DENVER

Humane? They're not lab rats, dude.

JEFF

You're putting off the inevitable.

Denver is momentarily swayed. He toys with his gun, but then  
puts it back.

DENVER

Bahri will sort it.

He slams the skylight shut.

INT./EXT. - BUS, MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

The bus turns from the track onto the main road, picks up  
speed.

Tyler searches for a loose end, a thread, anything on the  
duct tape that will give him some purchase. Kira remembers  
something.

KIRA

Wait. I got us some weapons.

TYLER

You found weapons?

She nods, lowers her voice.

KIRA  
A screwdriver and-

TYLER  
A screwdriver? Where?

KIRA  
In my pocket.

He looks down at her pocket, at their taped hands.

TYLER  
Great!

KIRA  
And a pencil.

TYLER  
A pencil?! Better and better.

KIRA  
It's better than nothing.

TYLER  
Not better than you being free like  
you were before.

His rebuke hits home. Kira turns away.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I didn't mean that. It's  
just the-

KIRA  
-the stress. I know.

He kisses her.

TYLER  
Can still do that at least.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri sees Tyler kiss Kira just as Jeff slows for a  
crossroads.

JEFF  
Which way?

He's distracted.

BAHRI  
What?

JEFF

We've lost our head start. We should take the Mojave road. They won't suspect-

BAHRI

What? The Mojave? No. We ruled that out before. How do we explain an empty school bus? In the desert? In the middle of the night?

JEFF

Oh yeah. Forgot. Chronic traffic congestion there.

BAHRI

It only takes one cruising patrol car. No.

JEFF

What's your alternative, genius?

The bus reaches the crossroads, stops.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Unless you want to give Siloah back his guns? I could set it up...

BAHRI

Okay. Take the Mojave road.

INT./EXT. - BUS, HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The bus turns right. Wasteland morphs into clustered hillside developments. Their scattered lights glimmer invitingly.

TYLER

Million dollar homes.

KIRA

A million miles away.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

After the immersed-in-nature urban zone, they hit the outskirts of a small city. Illuminated road signs emerge from the darkness like portals to other worlds. Beyond them, the city glows.

Denver wakes up, sees the signs, joins Bahri up front.

DENVER  
No way round, huh?

BAHRI  
(to Jeff)  
Take the highway. Get through the  
built-up zone quick, but don't draw  
attention. I'm going to the back.

Jeff stops him.

JEFF  
No way round the other problem  
either.

His eyes flash to the kids in his mirror, linger on Kira.

BAHRI  
Not now.

JEFF  
We hit the Mojave right after this.  
Three hours later, max, we're in  
Vegas.

DENVER  
He's right. What's your plan, dude?

BAHRI  
Whiskey Pete's. You'll know my plan  
by the time we hit Whiskey Pete's.

JEFF  
No shitting way. Whiskey Pete's  
practically Vegas.

BAHRI  
Vegas starts at Golden Strike.  
That's the city limit. Not Whiskey  
Pete's.

Bahri leaves. The bus rides the ramp to the highway.

MOMENTS LATER

Tall light masts flood the bus from above. Street lamps and  
neon signs beckon to left and right. Kira and Tyler sit up.

KIRA  
Looks just like home.

TYLER

We couldn't wait to get away,  
remember?

She watches the highway bypass the houses. The suburbs smudge in the blur of her tears. She wipes her eyes.

Bahri's reflection materializes from the blur. He's looking at her. Their eyes lock.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

The highway ends. No more traffic. No houses. Just occasional shipwrecked structures in a desert sea.

TYLER

This is the Mojave. I came here  
with my folks once. Full of ghost  
mines.

KIRA

How far is it from Vegas? That's  
where we're going, right?

TYLER

Three hours I guess.

KIRA

So we'll be there before anyone  
sees we're missing.

TYLER

If we ever get to Vegas.

KIRA

Don't say that.

Tyler tries to be gentle.

TYLER

If we don't escape, these guys  
won't have a choice.

The air inside the bus is suddenly oppressive.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

The bus snakes across the desert, solitary and small.

Kira feels the weight of the emptiness press on her. She wishes she could open a window. Tyler nudges her.

TYLER

Don't give up. Look. Something's  
going on.

He nods to the front. Bahri and Denver have left their seats.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri and Denver crowd round Jeff. The temperature gauge is  
climbing.

JEFF

She hit something back there. This  
is all we need.

Jeff looks out at the parched scenery.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Couldn't have picked a better place  
to spring a leak.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff sees a clearing and slows down.

BAHRI

No.

He slows for a second clearing.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

No.

Kira sits up, frightened.

KIRA

What are they doing? Are they  
looking for a place to...

She can't bring herself to say the word.

TYLER

Get the screwdriver.

MOMENTS LATER

Kira bends so her pocket is next to the rail.

KIRA

Hurry.

Tyler works the screwdriver up. It's nearly halfway when a billboard looms in the windscreen. Jeff brakes to read it.  
"GAS - THREE MILES"

His braking sends Kira toppling forward. The screwdriver jerks out of Tyler's grasp, drops to the ground. Tyler nearly catches it with his foot but Jeff speeds up again just at that moment and the screwdriver rolls under the seat.

KIRA (CONT'D)

No!

They watch disconcerted as their weapon disappears out of reach. They don't see the sign.

Jeff slows down for the third time. Bahri nods in assent. With lights switched off, the bus turns on to a track and comes to a stop a quarter mile on.

Kira can hardly breathe.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri walks towards Kira and Bahri. He's holding a knife, making no attempt to conceal it. Kira struggles before he even touches her.

BAHRI

Hold still.

Tyler protects Kira, but Bahri slaps him out of the way. He comes at him again, head-butting, but Bahri leans back, easily staying out of his reach.

TYLER

Leave her alone.

Bahri dismisses Tyler and flicks open the knife. Kira nearly faints.

TZZZING! The knife slices through the tape round her wrists and her hands slip limply from the rail. Bahri pulls her out of her seat and leads her to the front.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff plants himself in Bahri's path.

JEFF

What is this? True Romance?

Bahri pushes past. Kira looks back imploringly to Tyler.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Kira drags her heels.

KIRA

Where are we going?

The air is abrasive. She shivers. Bahri puts his arm tight round her and pulls her along.

EXT. - BUS, DESERT TRACK - NIGHT

Denver and Jeff lean against the bus, smoking.

JEFF

We're lemurs letting a lunatic lead us over a cliff.

DENVER

What?

JEFF

Never mind.

DENVER

You think Bahri's looney?

Jeff exhales. The smoke from his cigarette curls up into the night sky.

EXT. - GAS STATION - NIGHT

Insects billow round fluorescent tubes spotlighting two lone gas pumps. Kira sees a sign for the restrooms and remembers the pencil.

KIRA

I need the bathroom.

Bahri is suspicious.

KIRA (CONT'D)

No, really.

She doesn't wait for his permission.

INT. - RESTROOM, GAS STATION - NIGHT

Kira locks the toilet door and leans against it to get her breath. Bahri calls from outside.

BAHRI (O.S.)

Be quick.

She pulls herself together - no time to waste - and grabs the toilet roll...

...then promptly drops it.

It spills all over the floor. She gathers the tissue up and tears strips off.

As she writes, the paper shreds. It's useless. She feels in her pocket and finds a chewing-gum wrapper, but that's no good either.

KIRA

Too glossy.

What now? She spots the bin, turns it up. It's empty. Oh God. Give me a break. Please.

Then she sees... GRAFFITI. Of course!

EXT. - BUS, DESERT TRACK - NIGHT

Denver grinds his cigarette out in the sand and turns to go back to the bus.

DENVER

You don't know Bahri.

INT. - RESTROOM - NIGHT

Kira finds an empty spot of wall amidst the tangle of lurid messages scrawled on it. She starts to write. The pencil breaks. She drops to the floor to find the lead. Bahri RATTLES the door.

BAHRI (O.S.)

Come on.

Groping through the spilled toilet tissue, she eventually finds the lead behind the toilet. Her hands shake as she sticks it back in the shaft. It falls out again and won't stay put. She grips it with her fingernails instead.

BAHRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hurry up.

She writes furiously, but the plaster is much too rough for her fragment of lead.

She gets as far as "HELP. KIRA" when Bahri jams something metal into the lock and rattles it. The latch lifts. Kira gasps and drops the lead.

BAHRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I'm coming in.

She climbs hurriedly from the toilet to a high window, giving one last look at her message. It's lost amongst the rest.

KIRA  
(to herself)  
No one's gonna see that.

She wipes a teardrop off the end of her nose and squeezes through the window frame.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver pulls himself up on the handrail. Jeff drones on.

JEFF  
She's controlling him. It's like a cheap noir.

Denver nearly gets his chin in line with his hands. Not bad with his arms so far apart. He's pleased.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
It's time you opened your eyes.

He can't ignore Jeff anymore. He jumps down.

DENVER  
No. I don't need to open my eyes.  
You need to shut your mouth. We bought a bus and a driver, not a fucking psychoanalyst.

EXT. - RESTROOM - NIGHT

Easing herself feet-first out the window, Kira realizes, too late, that Bahri's waiting for her. She lands in his arms.

KIRA  
Put me down.

He puts her on her feet, but keeps his arms round her.

BAHRI  
Don't keep trying to escape.

KIRA

What do you expect me to do? You  
didn't steal the bus for kicks.  
You're drug dealers.

He wipes mascara from under her eyes, takes her hand and  
leads her round the back of the store.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

JEFF

I'm not the driver. I'm the  
contact. I set this deal up and I'm  
the first one that goes down if  
Siloah-

Tyler coughs. The guys stop, remembering him.

INT/EXT. - GAS STATION - NIGHT

Bahri and Kira approach the store from the Vegas side.

There's a light on inside and a sign saying "OPEN" but when  
Bahri tries the handle, it's locked. He knocks. Most of the  
insects from the fluorescent lights descend on them. He  
knocks again, louder. RAT-A-TAT-TAT.

The STOREKEEPER appears at the glass looking startled.

STOREKEEPER

Kinda late...

BAHRI

Cracked a hose a mile back. Truck's  
overheating.

He nods in the direction of Vegas. The storekeeper opens up.

STOREKEEPER

Water's on the back shelf.

Bahri chooses a five-gallon jerrycan, swings it onto the  
counter and slides the storekeeper a ten-dollar bill.

STOREKEEPER (CONT'D)

Lady's kinda tired, ain't she?

Bahri looks at Kira. She isn't tired. She's wiped out.

BAHRI

Long drive from Vegas. Right,  
honey?

He leans in to kiss her under the storekeeper's watchful gaze. She stiffens, purses her lips. The storekeeper picks up on it. Kira knows this is her moment.

Yet instead of resisting, she finds herself yielding. Worse. Playing along. Bahri kisses her again. She kisses him back. Her skin comes out in gooseflesh. He hugs her.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

You're cold.

She's glad he thinks it's that.

The till TRRRRRIIINGS. Bahri takes the water and escorts Kira out. The storekeeper follows, ready to lock up. Just before he shuts the door, Kira shakes loose.

KIRA

Wait.

Bahri steps protectively in front of her.

BAHRI

What is it, hun?

She speaks to the storekeeper from behind him.

KIRA

The toilet tissue's finished.

Bahri frowns, puzzled. The storekeeper humphs.

STOREKEEPER

What's new, lady?

He shuts the door.

EXT. - DESERT TRACK - NIGHT

Bahri and Kira walk in the direction of Vegas till Bahri hears the click of the lock and cuts behind the store.

She trails after him, gazing back at the road, the gas station, the restroom. Halfway to the bus, she digs her heels in, refuses to go on.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver leans over Tyler.

DENVER

Something bothering you?

Tyler clams up. Denver pries his mouth open.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
Let's hear.

TYLER  
Nothing.

DENVER  
C'mon.

TYLER  
It's just- I keep wondering. Can't  
we talk? Surely we can find some  
common ground?

EXT. - DESERT TRACK - NIGHT

Kira stands lonely and defiant on the endless plain.

KIRA  
Why are you keeping us? You could  
have let us go in the beginning.  
Back there. Before all this.

BAHRI  
I know.

KIRA  
Why didn't you?

BAHRI  
I want you.

She catches her breath.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
I've got a plan.

He pauses, studying her reaction.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Here's the deal. I'll let you go.  
Both of you. If you sleep with me.

Kira blinks stupidly. What did he say? "Here's the deal"? She  
backs away, her hands up, warding him off.

Her heart pounds. The sky throbs. She feels like she's been  
tasered.

Bahri doesn't let up.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Right here, see? Under the desert sky.

He takes a step forward.

She doesn't move.

MOMENTS LATER

Denver appears out of nowhere. Kira bolts. He draws his gun.

BAHRI

You don't need that. She's not going anywhere.

Denver collects the jerrycan and follows Bahri to the bus.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

On his own at the bus, Jeff sits on the step reading a phone message. Seeing Kira run towards him, he puts the phone away, rises, bows, invites her to board.

JEFF

Milady.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira stops when she sees Tyler. He's gagged. She's furious. Bahri appears at that moment. She turns on him.

KIRA

Who did this?

As she removes the tape, Tyler notices she's flushed and unable to look him in the eye. When Bahri leaves, Tyler calls him back.

TYLER

And her? Aren't you forgetting something?

Bahri tapes Kira up next to Tyler.

EXT. - BUS - CONTINUOUS

Denver unscrews the radiator cap, pours the water in.

JEFF

You went to speak to him?

DENVER

Yep.

He puts the jerrycan down, screws the cap back on.

JEFF

And?

DENVER

You're just gonna have to trust him. He knows what he's doing.

Jeff bangs the hood shut.

INT./EXT. - BUS, DESERT TRACK - NIGHT

The bus drives back along the track to the road.

BAHRI

(to Jeff)

Don't go all the way to the road.  
Cut behind the gas station.

JEFF

This is a school bus, not a tank.

BAHRI

I told the old man we came from Vegas. Can't risk him seeing us pass the other way.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler is angry.

TYLER

What the hell went on out there?

Kira stares at the floor.

KIRA

I wrote a note. Then the paper tore. The pencil broke. It took forever.

TYLER

No. Afterwards. You know what I mean. You and Bahri. You were alone. What happened?

KIRA

Nothing.

TYLER  
 Don't lie. You like him! You think  
 I can't see it?

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

The bus emerges from behind the gas station and turns left onto the Mojave road.

TYLER  
 Tell me what you two were doing.  
 I've got a right to know.

Kira carries on staring at the floor.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 Look at me.

She faces him, meets his eye.

KIRA  
 Nothing. I told you.

MOMENTS LATER

The scenery outside changes as the road passes through outcrops and piles of crusher run. Half-buried skeletons of mine machinery spill from the rock.

KIRA (O.S.)  
 Is this one of the Mojave mines?

TYLER  
 You're changing the subject.

KIRA  
 You're attacking me.

TYLER  
 Attacking? Oh no. I'm trying to  
 defend you. I thought maybe-

Kira is shocked.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 But evidently not. Nothing against  
 your will.

KIRA  
 Stop it. I didn't do anything.

Tyler's jealousy gets the better of him.

TYLER

What was it? A blow job?

She's stung.

KIRA

How can you say that? I would never-

TYLER

No? He's playing you, Kira. And you're falling for it. Like a stone.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Bahri suddenly sits bolt upright. He peers outside.

Something's up.

Denver joins him as he moves to the front. Jeff is also on guard.

Kira strains to see. What is it? She's perplexed. There are no other cars for miles.

Then she realizes the guys are watching the mirrors, not the road. And she finally sees what they see. Distant headlamps.

TYLER

Don't act innocent. You've been encouraging him.

KIRA

We're being followed.

TYLER

From the beginning. All that crap about buying us time. You think I'm stupid.

KIRA

Did you hear what I said?

TYLER

You're enjoying it. You want it.

INT/EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Bahri and Denver focus on the lights. They come and go with each dip and rise in the road. Jeff pushes the bus to its limit. The engine whines painfully.

DENVER  
It's Siloah, right?

His question hangs in the air. The lights get bigger in the mirrors, steadier.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
How far back are they?

JEFF  
Might be ten miles.

BAHRI  
Not for long.

DENVER  
How did they know we took the  
Mojave route?

He looks straight at Jeff.

JEFF  
You insinuating something?

BAHRI  
Cut it out. We need to find cover.

INT/EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Bahri surveys the road. Further on, the rippled flats stack up in rock folds and outcrops.

BAHRI  
Drive to that rise. Kill the  
lights. We'll be out of sight and  
you can pull off.

EXT. - CAR, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - CONTINUOUS

The lights of an SUV - the second vehicle - get steadily bigger and brighter. They blind, then rush past, leaving darkness behind.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

The bus vibrates, the engine screams. Tyler shouts.

TYLER  
What the hell's going on?

KIRA  
There's a car following us.

He pays attention at last.

TYLER  
Another drug gang? And we're tied  
to this bitch handrail?

Groaning, he tugs at the tape binding his hands.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
This is your fault. He would have  
let us go, but you had to have your  
adventure.

He kicks the seat in rage.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Give me the pencil.

KIRA  
The lead's broken.

TYLER  
Doesn't matter. Get it.

She contorts to bring her hip within his reach. He works the pencil out of her pocket and manipulates it in her direction.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Take it.

KIRA  
Me?

TYLER  
Yes. Stab.

He points with his nose.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
There. Close to the edge. Where  
it's frayed.

She does as he says.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
No. Stab it hard.

She stabs as hard as she can.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Harder. Harder than that. Make a  
fucking impression.

KIRA  
Swap! You're stronger.

TYLER  
No. Keep on.

She goes at it again, stabbing so hard, she must be hurting him, but he doesn't react. Just cranes his neck to see if the car in pursuit is gaining or dropping back.

KIRA  
Oh God, I can't break through it.

She blinks back tears.

TYLER  
Don't cry.

KIRA  
What?

TYLER  
Don't waste time. Just keep on  
hitting the exact same spot.

INT./EXT. - BUS, DESERT - NIGHT

The bus reaches the rise. The SUV's headlamps disappear. The bus swerves off the road into blackness.

They hit the loose dirt. The back swings out and they skate fifty yards, then rock and straighten up.

BAHRI  
Stay parallel to the road.  
Accelerate.

Jeff's unsure.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Accelerate!

JEFF  
I can't see.

BAHRI  
There's nothing to see. Go!

The bus ploughs downhill through the uneven terrain, in line with the road.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Stop here. This is out of range of  
the lights.

The guys catapult towards the doors.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler watches the three of them leap up. He can't believe it.

TYLER  
You can't leave us here tied up!

He howls in frustration. Denver and Jeff wait as Bahri rounds on him.

BAHRI  
You wanna go, Tyler? I'll let you  
go. Both of you. Whenever you want.

TYLER  
What?

BAHRI  
I said "I'll let you go. Both of  
you. Whenever you want".

Tyler stares at him, dumbstruck, wondering what he's getting at. Kira butts in.

KIRA  
Don't!

BAHRI  
You didn't tell him?

TYLER  
Tell me what?

BAHRI  
That I'll let you both go if your  
girlfriend agrees to sleep with me.

MOMENTS LATER

Tyler reels.

Denver calls over his shoulder as the guys pour out of the bus.

DENVER  
Keep your heads down.

He doesn't need to say it for Tyler. He's slumped in his seat, head bowed, sobbing.

TYLER  
Bastard! Bastard! I knew it.

He tries to tear free. It's useless.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
And you. Behind my back... I can just imagine...

EXT. - BUS, DESERT - NIGHT

Bahri opens the door of the hold. Jeff pushes it shut again.

JEFF  
You're gonna let them go? Just need to screw the bitch first? Is that your plan?

He grabs Bahri's shirt.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Let's get something straight. We agreed. They've seen too much.

BAHRI  
Move.

Jeff stands his ground.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Move.

Denver's had enough. He tackles Jeff and sends him sprawling.

Bahri pries open the panel of the concealed compartment and takes semiautomatics for himself and Denver.

Jeff picks himself up and steps forward, hand outstretched.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
No. You're neutral. Just stay out of the way. Under the bus.

JEFF  
Fuck you.

Bahri throws the rifle to Denver.

BAHRI  
You too. Stay under the bus.

DENVER  
What about you?

Bahri looks around at the flat landscape.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
Not even a yucca for cover.

Bahri yanks the door of the hold.

BAHRI  
Help me get this off.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira pushes the pencil gently to Tyler.

KIRA  
Here. You can do it.

He takes it from her churlishly. Working it into the impression she created, he gets the tape to stretch, then finally tear.

EXT. - CAR, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

On the other side of the rise, the SUV switches its lights off and swerves off in the same direction as the bus.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Bahri waits at the road, half-covered under the door of the hold. Out of the blue, red tracer fire takes him off guard as it sears towards the bus. From behind!

BAHRI  
(to himself)  
How did that happen?

He swings round. The SUV turns its brights on. He blinks. They're lit up like Dallas Cowboys at the Super Bowl.

A stream of bullets zings through the air.

Squinting against the glare, Bahri fires off a round.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

The SUV's headlamps explode.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Bingo.

Now at least they're all in the dark.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler rips at the loose end just as the SUV's lights go out.

TYLER

Got it! It's the last chance.

He unravels the rest. Kira waits for him to free her, but he clambers to the back window instead.

KIRA

Tyler, cut me loose.

Her words make no impression. The gunfire resumes.

TYLER

This is it!

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Bahri and Denver pump the SUV full of bullets. The thugs fire back from behind their open doors.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira feels a sickening premonition as she watches Tyler jerk the emergency hammer from its clip. He's going to leave her behind. She knows it.

He hits the window. It breaks in a thousand pieces. He hurls himself out through the mist of shattered glass.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Bahri runs towards the SUV, feeling like the dummy in a moving target range. He holds the door to shield himself. Bullets rain down on it and pock the ground around him.

He sprints past the car, taking aim at the petrol cap. It ruptures. His next bullet burrows into the tank.

WHOOSH! BOOM!

The petrol tank explodes and the back of the SUV blows off.

The THUGS pour out like rats on a sinking ship. Bahri and Denver pick them off, one at a time.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Grimacing, Tyler picks himself up. Without a backward glance, he makes a dash for it.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

The guys survey the carnage. Burning black and red, the SUV contorts and collapses like a dead star.

DENVER  
(to himself)  
They had to have known.

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff traces bullet holes in the chassis.

JEFF  
Shitting life.

Shards of glass on the ground puzzle him. He looks up. That's strange. The back window's blown. He leans past the corner of the bus so he can see the SUV. No line of sight.

Then he sees blood on the ground and it all becomes clear.

JEFF (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
They've bailed!

He follows Tyler's trail.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
This way!

Bahri and Denver catch up, but something bothers Bahri. He circles the area, not convinced.

BAHRI  
There's only one set of prints. It doesn't make sense. She can't just disappear into thin air...

Unless...

He looks back at the bus.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira sits dead still, still tied to the rail.

BAHRI  
He left without you?

EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver gawks as Kira emerges from the bus at Bahri's side. She forces herself to walk tall. Inside she's dying. She catches sight of Jeff. He's sneering. Enjoying her humiliation.

BAHRI  
(to Denver)  
Follow him. I'll take the road.  
Don't shoot. Just bring him to me.

He calls Jeff back.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
(to Jeff)  
Take the bus. Cut him off if he  
heads back to the road.

Denver hovers, waiting till Jeff is out of earshot.

DENVER  
You keep entrusting him with this  
bus, dude. I don't trust him. How  
did Siloah's men know we were here?  
What if he takes off with the bus  
now instead of fetching Tyler?

BAHRI  
He'll never take off with Tyler at  
large.

INT./EXT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff looks back. Bahri and Denver are talking, looking in Tyler's direction. He opens a crate and removes a gun. Conceals it under the papers on his shelf.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Tyler runs through the brittlebush and creosote brush. Dragging his hurt leg, he stumbles and falls.

Denver studies his tracks.

DENVER  
Where's he going?

BAHRI  
Back to the garage. Just steering  
clear of the road so we don't  
outrun him with the bus.

DENVER  
Not such a dumb-ass. For a college  
boy.

BAHRI  
Follow him. We'll keep to the road.  
He'll cross at some stage. If he  
goes past the gas station, drive  
him down to me.

Bahri squeezes Kira's hand. She rallies and they run in  
unison.

EXT. - DESERT - NIGHT

Tyler sees the sign for the gas station. It's the same as the  
one they passed coming in. "GAS - THREE MILES" He checks the  
stretch between himself and the road and makes a dash for it.

Jeff appears from nowhere. Tyler veers and slews like a deer  
caught in headlamps. Sand plumes red in the taillights of the  
bus as Jeff follows him off-road.

137 Tyler only sees Denver at the last moment. He breaks to the  
right to escape him...

...into Bahri's path.

Bahri throws himself on Tyler. The two fall to the ground in  
slow, floodlit, primal motion. Bahri pulls Tyler up to hit  
him. Tyler falls to his knees. Bahri hits him again.

And again.

BAHRI  
You abandoned her.

EXT. - GHOST MINE - NIGHT

Mesmerized, Kira watches Bahri thrash Tyler. When Bahri looks  
to her for a signal to stop, she doesn't give it.

Out of the blue, Denver is at her side, reeling her in.

DENVER

Shame your boyfriend left you. But the boss will teach him not to do that again. He's old-fashioned that way.

He kisses her neck. She shudders.

BAM! Bahri thumps Denver. He lands spread-eagled. Not put out, he grins.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Hey, bro. What's up? Didn't Mom tell us to always share our toys?

Kira looks at Bahri in disbelief. What did Denver say? Mom? Us? Denver laughs.

DENVER (CONT'D)

He didn't tell you?

He picks himself up.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Yeah. He keeps it quiet. Calls himself Bahri. B-A-H-R-I. But his real name is Barton.

Bahri hits him again and walks away. Denver calls after him.

DENVER (CONT'D)

Place name. Just like mine!

Jeff watches from the sidelines.

EXT. - GHOST MINE - NIGHT

Bahri hoists Tyler onto his shoulders. Jeff stops him.

JEFF

You wanna finish the bitch? What's stopping you? Do it now. Then leave them here for the coyotes.

BAHRI

And lay a trail straight back to us?

JEFF

They'll think it was Siloah's men.

BAHRI

You're wasting time.

JEFF

What's the rush? Why don't we pass her round.

Bahri hits Jeff. Jeff's head jerks back. He nurses his jaw and laughs.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri dumps Tyler on a seat, then catches him as he slips further down.

BAHRI

Come on, buddy. Sit up.

He props Tyler up and tears off a length of duct tape.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

This is getting monotonous.

Kira stops him. He looks at her hand on his arm in surprise.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

That's the first time-

KIRA

-that I've touched you? Don't tie him up. He's no threat.

Bahri looks from her earnest expression to the smashed rear window. He's torn, but ultimately has to refuse her. He shakes his head sadly as he tapes Tyler up.

Kira holds her hands to be taped too. She can see it's difficult for him.

KIRA (CONT'D)

It's okay.

When he's gone, Tyler whispers weakly.

TYLER

Thank you. For trying. You're good-

KIRA

I didn't do it for you. You're no use to me tied up.

INT./EXT. - BUS, DESERT - NIGHT

Jeff pulls up at the site of the ambush. The SUV carcass still smolders.

Bahri collects the hold door and holds it up to the sky.  
Moonlight shines through bullet holes.

Inside the bus, Jeff lights a cigarette. Denver takes it out of his mouth.

JEFF

What?

DENVER

Your phone.

JEFF

Screw you.

DENVER

How did Siloah's men know we were  
on this road?

JEFF

Maybe they got tired of waiting on  
the Fifteen.

Denver snatches Jeff's phone out of his pocket and tosses it to Bahri as he comes back in.

DENVER

Check it.

There's nothing. Even so, Bahri doesn't give it back.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Kira fights tears as she watches the road. Dead straight. No turnoffs. No hope. Tyler calls her. His eyes are swollen, his voice is hoarse.

TYLER

I need help. My ribs...

He sucks in his breath.

TYLER (CONT'D)

...they're broken.

EXT. - ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

KIRA (V.O.)

No one's going to help you.

The road continues, straight, stark, the same. No other vehicles for miles ahead or behind...

EXT. - ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

...except one. A solitary police car on a routine patrol. It cruises past the gas station and then the abandoned mine. It accelerates up the incline.

At the crest of the rise, it stops. The carcass of an SUV lies smoldering to the left. Corpses lie round it like points on a compass.

The blue strobes of the patrol car's light-bar flicker on.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler calls Kira again.

TYLER

Can't you see I'm hurt?

KIRA

I'm hurting too. You left me. You left me tied up.

TYLER

There was no time. Like when you took the bus. You didn't free me.

KIRA (O.S.)

You were ON the bus. I didn't just run off.

EXT. - GAS STATION DOOR - NIGHT

A hand knocks on a glass pane. The door opens. A POLICE OFFICER tips his cap.

EXT. - RESTROOM - NIGHT

The officer takes notes as the storekeeper shuffles towards the ladies' restroom.

STOREKEEPER

They was the only folks I saw all night. She was kinda quiet.

He rattles the latch of the door.

STOREKEEPER (CONT'D)

"Toilet tissue's finished." Only thing she said. Seemed particular 'bout it, now I recall.

The door doesn't open. He pushes harder, then peers through the latch and frowns hard.

STOREKEEPER (CONT'D)  
Door's locked. From the inside.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

TYLER  
Don't lecture me. Not after what you did.

KIRA  
Why are we here if I did what you think?

He snorts.

TYLER  
Because something stopped you. And it wasn't your conscience. Anyway, I couldn't wait. I had to go before they came back. Get help.

KIRA  
Then why didn't you say so? Why didn't you say "I'm going to fetch help, but I'll be back for you."

TYLER  
I told you. There was no-

KIRA  
Tell the truth. I would have slowed you down. Say it!

TYLER  
Yes. You would have slowed me down. What good would that have been? Better one of us escaping than neither of us.

KIRA  
I knew it was that. I just wanted to hear it from you.

Her eyes fill with tears.

INT. - RESTROOM - NIGHT

The officer jimmies the toilet door open. The storekeeper peers in. He starts when he sees the unravelled toilet paper.

STOREKEEPER  
Enough tissue for a Texan  
whorehouse!

The police officer glances up at the open window.

POLICE OFFICER  
That's how she got out without  
opening the door.

Running the tissue through his hands, searching for a meaning, he notices faint pencil marks.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
She tried to write on this.

He steps back to survey the room, taking in everything, including the graffiti. The storekeeper sees it first.

STOREKEEPER  
This one's new.

He points to Kira's scratched message. "Help. Kira"

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Kira's nerves are stretched to breaking point as she tries to block out the whine of the engine and Tyler's whimpering. She's shocked when the board for the California-Nevada border flares up in the headlamps. Can it be? They're here already?

She cranes her neck. The sign gets smaller and smaller then melts into the road.

INT./EXT. - POLICE CAR - NIGHT

The officer crosses the road to his car. He leans in and switches on his radio. It crackles. He talks into the mike.

POLICE OFFICER  
Partial name and description...

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD THROUGH MOJAVE - NIGHT

Kira feels a band of panic tighten round her chest as the first Vegas billboards crop up. She shivers.

Tyler is crying. She can't stay angry with him. She nuzzles up to him and offers him her shoulder.

KIRA  
 Something will turn up.

INT./EXT. - BUS, WHISKEY PETE'S - NIGHT

Suddenly a carousel of strip lights cancans across the sky. A huge, blinking billboard for Whiskey Pete's huzzas above the rooftops.

Denver jumps out of his seat and slugs a panel.

DENVER (O.S.)  
 Whiskey Pete's! What are you  
 waiting for? Your name in neon  
 lights?

Tyler and Kira are frightened.

TYLER  
 Jesus. This is the end of the  
 Mojave. It's the end of the road.

He pauses.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 You need to accept Bahri's offer.

Kira is speechless. She feels she must be dreaming. Is Tyler offering her up?

KIRA  
 Tell me you don't mean it. First  
 you abandon me. Now you're ready to  
 trade me in?

TYLER  
 Who got us into this situation?  
 There's no other solution. Tell him  
 you'll do it!

Kira stares at Tyler in disbelief.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

There's a wide bend ahead as the road follows the contours of a rocky hillock. A blue haze radiates from behind the it. Bahri spots it first.

BAHRI  
 Uh-oh. Trouble.

JEFF  
More trouble?

BAHRI  
Switch the lights off. Keep them  
off till we find a way round that.

He points. As they take the bend, Kira understands. Police. Three or four patrol cars blocking the road about a mile up, their blue lights flashing. Her heart races.

Tyler sees them too.

TYLER  
You think the storekeeper-

KIRA  
Shh. Don't say it.

Her eyes glisten.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Jeff peers into the darkness, looking for a side street.

DENVER  
What the fuck are they doing out in  
force in the middle of fucking  
nowhere?

JEFF  
The bitch shopped us. At the gas  
station.

BAHRI  
She didn't.

JEFF  
How do you know?

BAHRI  
I was with her.

JEFF  
Every minute? You were gone a long  
time.

BAHRI  
We wasted five goons and  
incinerated their car. Couldn't be  
related to that, could it?

Kira feels her cheeks burn. Bahri's lying to protect her. She looks down quickly, before anyone sees.

INT./EXT. - BUS, TRADING POST ROAD - NIGHT

They're uncomfortably close to the roadblock and the only street sign they can see is right under the nose of the cops.

BAHRI

We'll just have to be bold.

JEFF

It's spitting distance! Why not go on over and introduce ourselves? Fess up, while we're at it.

BAHRI

Turn your lights on. Don't wanna look like we're hiding something.

Jeff wonders if Bahri's for real. Kira shuts her eyes and prays for a miracle as they brazen it out.

INT./EXT. - BUS, TRADING POST ROAD - NIGHT

They cross the road without drawing attention. Kira slumps, her hopes dashed.

The side street skirts the trading post and soon they're safely past the roadblock. Denver gives a thumbs up.

JEFF

Don't bet on it. We still have to get back to the main road.

As he speaks, the main road comes into view on their right. There's just a narrow strip of wasteland between them. Denver grins. Even Jeff manages a smile.

MOMENTS LATER

The road peters out unexpectedly and the strip of wasteland widens. Shrubs appear. Jeff flicks his lights briefly to bright. The road surface looks worse and the vegetation is thicker.

JEFF

I'm crossing over.

INT./EXT. - BUS, WASTELAND - NIGHT

The bus lurches and dips through the rough terrain. Thorny branches scratch at the windows. Each jolt has Tyler doubled up and screaming. Denver loses it.

DENVER  
Make him shut up!

Ten yards short of the asphalt, Jeff stops again. There's a culvert running alongside the road, cutting them off.

A car passes. Its lights probe deep inside the bus. The guys duck. For the first time, Bahri looks concerned.

A second car passes. They duck again.

BAHRI  
(to Jeff)  
Get us across.

INT./EXT. - BUS, WASTELAND - NIGHT

Scraping over the rim of the culvert, the bus bottoms out so hard it sounds like the undercarriage has snapped. Tyler is delirious with pain.

Jeff accelerates up the other side. The bus slips back, unable to get traction on the smooth concrete. Jeff keeps his foot flat. The rev counter trembles in the red and the bus pitches over the top onto the road.

Racked with pain, Tyler shrieks hysterically.

TYLER  
Do it! Bitch! Do it!

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri hears Tyler. They all do. He flicks open his knife. Dragging Tyler to his feet with one hand, he cuts through Kira's tape with the other, then presses the knife into Tyler's neck.

BAHRI  
(to Kira)  
Go to the back.

She slips away. Tyler laughs, crazed.

TYLER  
What's stopping you? Look at her!

He watches Kira heading for the back.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
She's begging for it! Her rape  
fantasy come true!

His laughter turns to sobs.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Take her. Fuck her. Then you can  
finally let us off this bus.

Bahri presses the knife deeper into Tyler's neck. Blood  
trickles from his skin.

Suddenly KLAXONS BLARE. The guys are thrown into confusion,  
till Denver realizes the noise is coming from inside, from  
their phones.

DENVER  
FUCK! Amber alert!

Screaming, he points his gun at Kira.

DENVER (CONT'D)  
You said we were safe till morning!

Bahri knocks the gun out of his hand.

PTAFF! It goes off.

Tyler howls as the bullet tears into his knee.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri slams his fist into Denver's jaw, sending him sprawling  
to the front. He pushes his phone into his face.

BAHRI  
See that? It's not them!

He rips off a length of duct tape and sticks it on the floor,  
across the aisle.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Don't step over that line.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Tyler is deathly grey. His breathing is laboured. Bahri  
examines his wound.

BAHRI

It looks worse than it is.

Tyler doesn't react. He's unconscious.

Bahri removes his shirt and tears a strip to bind Tyler's leg. Kira watches him tend to Tyler from the back. She pulls her top slowly over her head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Bahri lies Kira down out of sight of the others and kisses her. She closes her eyes.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

JEFF

You should have told me you were brothers. Now I get it...

Denver bristles.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Why don't you stand up to him?  
Everything's on his terms.

Denver takes his gun out.

DENVER

I told you before. I don't need the services of a shrink, cocksucker.

Jeff glances to his shelf. The tip of Denver's Uzi is just visible. He's tempted. But Denver's gun is pointing right at his head.

MOMENTS LATER

Kira opens her eyes, checks Bahri isn't watching and gropes under the seat for the screwdriver.

While her hands explore under the seat, his explore her body. Her back arches. She moans. He slips an arm under her, lifts her to him. She works the screwdriver into the right position.

Aiming for his neck, Kira brings the screwdriver down as hard as she can. Bahri sees the glint of steel from the corner of his eye. He rolls aside just in time. She grazes his shoulder.

Stifling a cry of pain, he squeezes her clenched fist till she drops the screwdriver.

BAHRI

What are you doing? I said I'd set you free.

KIRA

I know.

She kisses his cut tenderly. He wipes the blood off her lips.

Meanwhile, with his other hand, he reaches for his gun.

Kira gasps. Oh God. She asked for this.

But Bahri doesn't shoot her. Instead, he puts the gun down on the seat, within her reach and turns the grip in her direction.

BAHRI

It's yours.

She takes the gun, but she can't turn it on him. She lets it fall and he takes her.

She kisses him hungrily. Their bodies fuse. Sensuous, serpentine. He transports her to another plane, somewhere she's never been. She surrenders all of herself to him.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Jeff watches the rearview mirror.

DENVER

He's gonna want a car next.

JEFF

You think he's bought her silence.

DENVER

You still don't know him, do you?

JEFF

Even if he has. What about him?

He nods at Tyler. Denver thinks about it. He's stumped.

MOMENTS LATER

Bahri appears at Denver's side, turns to Jeff.

BAHRI

I need a car.

Denver and Jeff smile knowingly.

Bahri points to lights about a mile ahead.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

That's Jean airport. There'll be cars there.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira adjusts her top.

EXT. - BUS, JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

The airport is deserted.

BAHRI

Pull up next to the Corvette.

MOMENTS LATER

Shielded from view, Bahri slips the slim-jim in the door of the Corvette, wires the ignition and leaves the engine running as he returns for Kira.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira sweeps to the front, stepping over Tyler's blood. The doors fling open at her approach. Before exiting, she stops at Bahri's lucky charm, hanging from the mirror.

BAHRI

You want my little coral snake?

She nods. He smiles affectionately.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Little jinx nearly fooled me. Pretending to be a harmless milk snake.

KIRA

You killed her?

BAHRI

It was her or me.

He laughs as he unhooks the bleached snake's head and fastens it round her neck.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Black touch red, go right ahead.  
That's the milk snake. Yellow touch  
red, you're-

He interrupts himself.

BAHRI (CONT'D)

Hope this isn't an omen.

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Denver shakes Tyler.

DENVER

Your girlfriend made the sacrifice.

Tyler comes to, groggy.

DENVER (CONT'D)

You're free to go.

Kira hears him. She turns.

KIRA

No. I'm going alone.

TYLER

What are you talking about?

INT. - BUS - NIGHT

Kira leans over Tyler. Her voice is warm honey.

KIRA

Look at you, Tyler. You would slow  
me down. What good would that be?  
Better one of us making it than  
neither of us.

Tyler's jaw drops. She turns on her heel.

TYLER

Wait, Kira. Don't leave me here.

She's halfway down the aisle already. He gets up to follow but his leg collapses under him.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
They'll kill me without you!

Kira doesn't look back.

INT./EXT. - BUS, JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

Denver crows.

DENVER  
(to Jeff)  
Told you he had Tyler sorted.

JEFF  
There's no way he could have predicted this.

Denver laughs.

DENVER  
He set it up.

As Denver exits, Jeff looks in his wing mirror at Bahri opening the car door for Kira.

JEFF  
(to himself)  
He can't predict everything...

MOMENTS LATER

Jeff reaches under the papers of his shelf and pulls out Denver's Uzi. He swings out from the driver's seat and makes for Tyler.

Tyler's eyes open wide as he takes in the gun. Jeff yanks him to his feet, points the gun at him, but then has second thoughts.

JEFF  
Your lucky day.

He glances in the direction of Bahri and Denver.

JEFF (CONT'D)  
Don't want the noise to spoil the surprise.

He lowers the gun and hits Tyler with the butt instead.

EXT. - BUS, JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

Kira runs a hand over the hood of the car. Bahri remembers something. He reaches in his belt and gives her his gun.

BAHRI  
You never know...

She takes it and points it at him.

KIRA  
How do you know...?

Denver's not taking chances. He takes aim.

DENVER  
Put it down.

She turns to face him, wondering if she has to take orders from him. Behind him, she sees Jeff framed in the door of the bus. She frowns. Something's not right.

Denver registers Kira's confusion and spins round.

Jeff is pointing his Uzi at Bahri.

He knows he's too late. So he does the only thing he can. Throws himself in Jeff's line of fire, protecting his brother.

Jeff lets fly.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT.

Time stands still as Denver's body fields the bullets meant for Bahri. His gun flies out of his hand as he jerks spasmodically. Bahri yells to Kira.

BAHRI  
Go!

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

With tires squealing, Kira spins the Corvette past the front of the bus and streaks back to the main road.

EXT. - JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

Bahri cushions Denver, rocking him, even as he feels the life slip out of him. He blinks away tears.

A round of gunfire from Jeff forces him to roll out the way. Jeff leaps on the bus. The motor THROBS to life and the bus pulls off.

INT./EXT. - BUS, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Jeff hurls the bus round to face the exit.

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, JEAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

Kira gets back to the main road. She pitches the car left towards Los Angeles. A car flashes her. The DRIVER screams.

DRIVER

Watch where you're going, bitch!

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, ROAD TO LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Kira checks her mirror. The bus is at the main road. It swings out, turns left after her. She pulls Bahri's gun closer.

197 The bus stays on her tail, dropping back, but not giving up 197

She drives the length of the main road, almost back to the trading post. It's only when the flashing strobes of the road block appear that the lights of the bus finally vanish.

Pulling the mirror round so she can see herself, Kira stares at her reflection. She breathes deeply.

KIRA

(to herself)

One... Two... Three.

Swinging the mirror back into position, she bundles the gun under papers in the glove compartment and puts her foot flat.

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, TRADING POST - NIGHT

The light of an officer's torch blinds Kira. The officer bends close. She shields her eyes, glad of an excuse to conceal her face.

POLICE OFFICER

We're looking for a missing girl,  
ma'am. Do you have some  
identification?

He stares hard at her and shines his torch in the back.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
The girl fits your description.

KIRA  
I'm not missing, officer.

She smiles playfully.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
And I'm definitely not a "girl".

POLICE OFFICER  
This girl's in trouble.

He leans in, speaks confidentially.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
She left her name in a message.  
"Kira". That name mean anything to  
you, ma'am?

Kira has to exercise all her self-control not to betray her shock. So the storekeeper did find her message!

The officer looks at her enquiringly, waiting.

KIRA  
Kira, you say? Doesn't mean  
anything to me, officer. My name's  
Coral.

He lowers his voice to a whisper.

POLICE OFFICER  
You in any kind of trouble, ma'am?  
Need help?

She looks at him through lashes while fumbling in the glove compartment for the car's papers.

KIRA  
I'm a big girl, officer. I don't  
need help.

She offers the papers. He hesitates. Something's not right. Another car pulls up. He sighs and waves her on.

EXT. - CORVETTE, TRADING POST ROAD - NIGHT

The police cars part to let her through, then close ranks behind her. Taking a sharp right, Kira heads back on the road the bus took earlier.

EXT. - CORVETTE, TRADING POST ROAD - NIGHT

Stopped where the bus crossed, Kira looks round. No one following. Suddenly she hears birdsong. She listens. It's so quiet and peaceful.

KIRA

Am I crazy?

A car passes on the road beyond the fence. She remembers her mission.

MOMENTS LATER

Kira manhandles the car over the rough terrain to the culvert at the end.

MOMENTS LATER

Sparks fly from the undercarriage as Kira whips the Corvette over the concrete and back up the ridge on the other side.

Speeding down the open road, she soon overtakes the car that drove by earlier. She opens the glove compartment and retrieves the gun. The speedometer edges into the red.

EXT. - CORVETTE, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Kira slows down as she nears Jean airport. Holding the gun close to her thigh, she surveys the parking and the road leading up to it. It's dead quiet. No sign of the bus. She pulls away.

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Kira hits the gas. The needle of the speedometer climbs. Ahead of her, reflectors shine in her headlamps.

KIRA

Gotcha.

INT. - BUS, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Jeff sees the lights of a car catching up to him. He knows it's her. He looks over his shoulder. Tyler's bunched in a heap, half off, half on the seat, practically lifeless. He smiles contemptuously.

JEFF

Assholes. They deserve each other.

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

With her gun aimed in Jeff's direction, Kira overtakes the bus. She just needs to get level.

Jeff watches in his wing mirror and swings the bus out at the last moment. She brakes. Swerves. He moves into her slot so she can't get back.

She overtakes again, on the verge.

An oncoming lorry flashes. Its horn blares. Jeff moves back. The truck slices between them.

By the time she's clear of the truck, Jeff has peeled off to the right...

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, BUS DEPOT - NIGHT

Kira reverses, searching for Jeff. He's nowhere to be seen. She spies an open gate on his side of the road and notices dust settling. That's where he must be. She edges closer. Peers in.

A melee of steel sheds and silos straddle the enclosure.

KIRA

(to herself)

A cement plant? Oh God.

Coming out of nowhere, Jeff slams the bus into the back of her. WHAM! The airbags inflate. As she thrashes to free herself, she hears him revving up to ram her again.

She scrabbles to start the car. The engine turns flatly, refuses to catch.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Please, not now.

At the last moment, it sputters to life and she limps away.

Jeff catches up. He comes at her from behind again and pushes her ahead of him.

INT./EXT. - CORVETTE, CEMENT PLANT - NIGHT

The Corvette slides, powerless, as Jeff bulldozes it towards the quarry.

Kira rattles her door. It won't open. She punches out the shattered glass of her window.

Too late. Jeff nudges the Corvette over the edge.

KIRA

Oh God!

A conveyor belt glides past her window at a crazy angle as the car dips. She pitches forward, hits the dashboard.

The car slews downward, picks up speed, till it catches on a ridge and topples. Kira bangs from side to side. Dislodged stones pelt her through the window. Dust chokes her.

The car settles. She coughs and wipes her eyes.

Her safety belt is jammed and she has to wriggle out of it, then claw her way out of the window.

Jeff is waiting for her. Bullets zing and ricochet as she falls to the ground. She scuttles under the car to the passenger side.

The gunfire eases up. In the silence, she hears the SCRUNCH of footsteps.

She pats her pockets.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Oh no. Where is it?

She tries the door on the passenger side, but it's locked. Jeff's footsteps get louder. She hits the window. She makes no impression.

She's got no choice. Keeping low as she can, she scrambles back to the driver's side.

Jeff responds with a new hail of bullets. She dives back.

Suddenly, sirens pierce the night. Jeff stops in his tracks, then hurries back to the bus. Kira grabs the gun and scrambles after him.

EXT. - CEMENT PLANT - NIGHT

When Kira gets to the top of the quarry, Jeff is nearly at the gate. Kira raises the gun.

That's when she sees Bahri arrive from the other side. Bent low, he runs after the bus and throws himself at the smashed rear window.

Astonished, she drops the gun.

INT. - BUS, ROAD TO VEGAS - NIGHT

Bahri climbs over the window ledge and steals under the seats. When he reaches Tyler, he nudges him. Tyler shrinks back.

BAHRI

You're alive? Good. Stay down.  
Don't make a sound.

EXT. - SILO, CEMENT PLANT - DAY

Concealed between two silos, Kira waits for the bus to come back, as she knows it will. She watches the blush of dawn tint the sky. He'll come back. She knows it.

LATER

The bus returns.

KIRA

I was right.

Kira peers out cautiously. The sun is rising. It's day.

The bus stops at the edge of the quarry. From the silo, she can't see the doors, but she hears them open and hears the crunch of gravel underfoot.

She cocks the safety on her gun and runs.

INT. - BUS - DAY

Tyler is awake.

TYLER

You're alive!

She's more interested in Jeff. He's lying at an awkward angle, his neck twisted unnaturally.

KIRA  
What happened?

TYLER  
Bahri surprised him.

She rolls Jeff over and takes the Uzi.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

KIRA  
Get up.

TYLER  
I can't.

KIRA  
You have to. I need you. Put your  
arm round my shoulder.

She hoists Tyler up and leans him against her, then thrusts Bahri's gun at him.

TYLER  
What? No!

She wraps his fingers round the grip.

KIRA  
Don't argue. If you do as I say,  
we'll be free.

EXT. - CEMENT PLANT - DAY

Bahri clammers up from the quarry and surveys the area.

BAHRI  
Where is she?

He climbs a limestone stockpile for a better vantage point.

TYLER (O.S.)  
He's looking for you.

KIRA (O.S.)  
I know.

TYLER (O.S.)  
Not to kill you. Nothing like that.  
I think he-

KIRA (O.S.)  
I know.

INT. - BUS - DAY

Bahri returns to the bus. He's surprised to see Tyler standing.

BAHRI  
You're up?

Tyler doesn't answer.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
What's going on?

Bahri sees the gun and frowns. Then he notices it's his.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Where did you get that? It's mine.

Kira reveals herself. He's taken completely off guard.

BAHRI (CONT'D)  
Kira!

His impulse is to run to her. Pick her up. Hold her in his arms. But there's something weird about the way she's looking at him.

He checks over his shoulder. Has Jeff come back to life? Nope. Jeff's still on his back, as dead as Detroit. He ventures forward warily.

KIRA  
Hold it.

She brandishes Denver's Uzi at him. He can't understand her tone.

He looks hard at her.

Tears stream down her face. She wipes them away roughly.

Tyler jabbars in the background...

TYLER  
What are you doing? Why?

His voice is faraway as she talks softly to Bahri.

KIRA  
I came back. I've got a plan.

Tyler makes himself heard.

TYLER  
What are you talking about? What plan?

She turns to him.

KIRA  
A plan to set you free.

She pauses to wipe away new tears.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Here's the deal. You kill Bahri,  
and I'll let you go.

Tyler is bewildered. What's she talking about?

TYLER  
You're crazy.

Her voice cracks.

KIRA  
(to Bahri)  
Right here, see? Under the desert  
sky.

Bahri looks at her struggling to contain her emotions. She's sad and brave and angry. He longs to go to her.

TYLER  
I'm not killing someone in cold  
blood. He hasn't even got a weapon.

Kira pokes the Uzi in Tyler's back.

KIRA  
I'm afraid that's a little  
sacrifice you're going to have to  
make for me.

TYLER  
Why? He let you go. Why d'you have  
to do this?

She looks directly at Bahri and pushes the Uzi harder into Tyler's back. He winces.

KIRA  
It's you or him.

Tyler cries. Kira points the rifle at his temple.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Pull yourself together, Tyler. It's  
not hard. Just raise your arm and  
squeeze the trigger. Like this...

She pulls the trigger of the Uzi half back. Tyler trembles.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
I'll count to three.

She starts.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
One.

Tyler freezes. She slides the rifle lovingly down his cheek.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Two.

He's still frozen. She pokes the barrel into his mouth.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Aim, Tyler!

He raises his arm. It shakes so badly he can hardly control  
it. She starts to say three, but Tyler shoots first.

Bahri drops. Blood flows from his neck.

INT. - BUS - DAY

Kira cradles Bahri's head, caresses his cheek, stares into  
his lifeless eyes. Sobs engulf her body. She holds him tight  
for an eternity.

INT. - BUS - DAY

Kira straightens up and wipes her eyes. Tossing the Uzi to  
Tyler, she walks to the driver's seat.

KIRA  
Take it, Tyler. You'll need it  
where we're going.

TYLER  
You can't do this.

KIRA  
Look out for the road south for me.

TYLER  
You're insane. Turn round.

KIRA  
What did they say his name was?  
Siloah?

She smiles.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
What would he give for his guns  
back?

EXT. - BUS, ROAD SOUTH - DAY

The sun dazzles as the bus follows road signs to the border.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - TATTOO PARLOR - DAY

The red, yellow and black stripes of the tattooed snakes shimmer.

KIRA (V.O.)  
The snake husband shed his skin.  
She saw who he was and still she  
wanted him.

Back in the present, Kira smiles enigmatically.

KIRA  
She took him into her and he made  
her like him.

FADE TO BLACK.

KIRA (V.O.)  
"Yellow touch red, you're dead."