



rain

PIKESVILLE SWEEP

Written by

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Six miners, covered in soot, work in close quarters.

A low budget mining operation.

Battered, rusted hand tools, beat-up helmets with built-in lamps.

As the men chip away with pickaxes, Zeke (30s) sets a quarter stick of dynamite in a seam.

ZEKE
(yells)
Placing charge!

The miners drop their pickaxes, step back.

ZEKE
Firing in 3... 2...

The dynamite bursts, a puny cough of an explosion. Quiet.

ZEKE
HOLD!

Zeke holds up his hand as smoke dissipates.

ZEKE
Okay, all cle-

A torrent of water BURSTS through the wall, pours in rapidly.

ZEKE
BREACH!! We've got a breach!

MINER #1
Can we plug it?

MINER #2
Plug it!? Get out now!

The men scramble. Lights flicker.

Another hole BURSTS open and more water rushes in, knocking Zeke over. CHAOS.

ZEKE
Help! HELP!!

Zeke is pinned, a large rock on his leg.

MINER #1
Gimme a hand!

Miner #2 turns to help as the rest of the men scramble out.

They try to muscle the rock off Zeke's leg, unsuccessfully.

Miner #1 grabs a pickaxe for leverage and dislodges the rock just as another hole BLASTS open and more water floods in.

2

EXT. MINE - DAY

2

An alarm blares.

Sasha, a weary late-20s, 8 months pregnant but still spindly, approaches the mine's chainlink, razor-wire gate.

She's dressed in a hand-sewn maternity dress and withered cardigan, her head wrapped in a scarf.

Inside the gate, fifty miners scramble in every direction.

Mine vehicles haphazardly parked, doors left open.

Sasha enters as Miner #1 & #2 emerge from the mine's entrance dragging Zeke. They set him down.

MINER #2

All out!

MINER #1

All clear!

MINERS

All clear! / Shut it down! /
Clear!

The alarm shuts off. Sasha rushes over to Zeke with great concern.

SASHA

What happened?

ZEKE

It's nothing. A scratch.
(coughs, catches breath)
I've been meaning to check on you.
Aria and I are so sorry about
Danny.

Sasha nods as a town car pulls up. Boss Pike, a sharp 60-year-old man, no less than 6 foot 5, steps out in a clean suit.

He's followed by a skinny, weasel-y looking man with slicked back hair, 50s, also in a suit, albeit a less tasteful one.

PIKE
Anyone dead?

The miners shake their head no.

PIKE
Then what are you sitting around
for? Plug that blast hole.

MINER #2
(quietly)
Plug your own fucking hole.

Boss Pike grabs the miner by the collar, easily handling him.

PIKE
What was that, Bobby?

Miner #2 doesn't flinch, stoic. Pike addresses the group.

PIKE
Back to work! All of you!

Pike turns to his sidekick as he dusts himself off.

PIKE
Keep 'em in line, Tommy.

Pike then turns to Sasha. His demeanor shifts, now charming.

PIKE
Sorry I'm late. Let's go to my
office.

3

INT. MINE OFFICE - DAY

3

Pike sits behind a desk inside a tastelessly decorated
construction site office trailer.

Sasha stands near the door.

PIKE
Sit, you're making me
uncomfortable.

Sasha sits.

PIKE
You know how sorry we are about
Danny. I still can't believe it.

SASHA

When will I get the insurance money?

PIKE

The insurance company has to investigate. Way it looks, being brutally honest, Danny was negligent. We have safety protocols for a reason and Danny didn't follow them. Once the insurers heard that, not much I can do.

SASHA

How could-
(pause)
What about the pension?

PIKE

Danny didn't tell you about this?
(exaggerated sigh)
The whole damn pension fund, well, the market fell apart and the whole thing just- pfft- dried up. It's long gone.

Sasha looks at her belly, puts a hand on it.

PIKE

This whole mess hurts me as much as it hurts you - we cared for Danny a great deal.

Sasha stands, seething but mostly keeping it bottled up.

SASHA

Oh, I'm sure.

PIKE

Look, Sasha-

She quickly leaves and slams the door behind her.

A photo of Pike falls from the wall with a light thud and shatters.

4

EXT. TRAFFIC LIGHT - DAY

4

Sasha stops at the central intersection in a small rural village.

She looks both ways, then takes a cautious step into the street.

A MASSIVE truck appears almost impossibly from nowhere, SCREAMING past at 100 miles an hour, just missing Sasha's pregnant stomach.

Sasha stumbles backwards onto her butt. She gathers herself, stands, dusts herself off.

She inches out again. Looks both ways. It looks safe.

Sasha SPRINTS across, this time safely.

5 INT. OFFICE BATHROOM - MORNING

5

Sasha squirts cleaning solution into a toilet, scrubs it with a brush, then flushes.

She steps to the sink and mirror, pulls off her yellow cleaning gloves.

She washes then dries her hands, inspects the bags under her eyes, adjusts her hair slightly.

6 INT. OFFICE KITCHEN - MORNING

6

Sasha pours a concerning amount of sugar into her coffee.

Mayor Yoder, 60s, enters. Ill-fitting suit and sneakers.

 YODER
 Is that for me?

 SASHA
 No.

 YODER
 I'll have a cup, I feel like shit.

Sasha gestures to the coffee pot as if to say "get your own fucking coffee."

With a sarcastic smile she walks away.

7 INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR - DAY

7

Sasha scrubs the floors in the corridor just outside the Mayor's office. She pauses to watch the mayor at work.

Through his open door, he sits at his perfectly clean desk, staring out the window, doing absolutely nothing.

Sasha drops her scrub brush and the mayor snaps out of it.

He stands and walks out to Sasha, who is on her hands and knees scrubbing.

YODER

I'm going to go do some campaigning in town.

SASHA

Campaigning?

YODER

Yeah, campaigning. The election's Thursday.

SASHA

Since when do you campaign?

YODER

The party tells me to run for reelection, I run for reelection. They give me a budget to campaign, I campaign.

The mayor walks out as Sasha scrubs away.

8 **INT. OFFICE UTILITY CLOSET - DAY**

8

Sasha empties a mop bucket, hangs up her yellow rubber gloves, and hangs an apron in the office's utility closet.

There are street signs, traffic cones, municipal bric-a-brac piled in the closet.

Sasha closes the closet, shuts off the lights, and locks up.

9 **EXT. STREETS - DAY**

9

Sasha walks down the main street of the village.

10 **EXT. CAFE - DAY**

10

Sasha approaches a small cafe. A dozen tables outside a small storefront with just a counter and one table inside.

Among the crowd, Sasha spots the mayor drinking with a few other men.

Katerina, the cafe owner, fifties, approaches the counter as Sasha approaches the small store front.

KATERINA

Sasha, dear, what can I get you?

As Sasha goes to order, another truck RUSHES through the nearby intersection, too loud for Sasha's order to be heard.

They wait for the truck to pass.

KATERINA

Just put the stop signs back, why do we have trucks going through our village at a hundred miles an hour?

They look at the mayor, drunk, holding court with pals.

SASHA

He's useless. He told me he was leaving the office to campaign for reelection.

KATERINA

I've called him twenty times about the signs, he won't do anything.

11

EXT. CAFE TABLE - DAY

11

Sasha sits with her food and eats, alone. Miner #2 approaches and sits down with her, carrying a beer, a little drunk.

MINER #2

How did it go with big shit Pike?

Sasha shrugs.

SASHA

Terrible.

MINER #2

I was thinking- let me take you out sometime. I need a woman to help with some things. You're single now. I don't care that you're pregnant.

SASHA

I'm not interested in miners.

MINER #2

You're in the wrong town then.

The miner winks at her.

SASHA

No kidding.

Sasha stands, intentionally bumping the table as she does, knocking over the miner's beer.

He scrambles to quickly save it but fails.

Sasha winks at him.

The mayor, gulps down the rest of a beer, yells something inaudible to the crowd at his table then falls out of his chair, drunk.

12

EXT. SASHA'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - SUNSET

12

Sasha passes a woman in her 70s, who is tending to her small vegetable garden. Sasha calls out.

SASHA
Morning farmer!

Wendy looks up, with a smile.

WENDY
Hang on, I have something for you.

Wendy walks across her garden and returns with a bowl of potatoes and beets. She hands them to Sasha.

SASHA
You don't have to give me so much,
Wendy.

WENDY
You're eating for two.

Sasha smiles. Wendy works in her garden as she talks.

SASHA
I saw Pike today-

WENDY
Ack. I don't even like to hear his
name.

SASHA
Do you still get Oscar's pension?

WENDY
Ha! When Oscar died I got nothing.
No insurance, no pension. Pike had
some excuse. I'm pretty self-
sufficient at this point but I'm
only one tiny mouth to feed. If
we'd had children...

WENDY

I don't know how we'd've gotten by.

SASHA

I have to get that money.

Wendy digs up some carrots and brushes some dirt off of them, then hands them to Sasha.

WENDY

Take these too.

SASHA

These look great.

13 INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

13

Sasha turns on a small portable cassette player.
 She plays "Traces de Toi" by Alain Chamfort.
 Sasha sings along to the song, singing to her baby.
 Sasha removes a baked potato from the oven.
 She seasons it with salt and butter.
 She sits and eats as the music plays.

14 INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

14

Sasha sits in the reception area of a lawyer's shabby, wood paneled office.
 A door in the back opens with the sound of a toilet flushing.
 A fat bald man in his 50s emerges, wiping his hands and adjusting his trousers.

LAWYER

Okay, come on back.

15 INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DESK - MORNING

15

Sasha sits before a desk covered in an outrageous amount of paperwork, a mess, at least a foot high.

LAWYER

I don't know what to tell you. I represent the mine.

SASHA

The mayor's office doesn't give me health care and I don't make enough to take care of a baby. Pike is robbing me by not paying me this insurance money.

LAWYER

The problem as I understand it is that your husband didn't follow safety protocol at the mine. It's pretty clear from a legal perspective.

SASHA

What protocol would have stopped the mine shaft from collapsing on him?

A long pause.

LAWYER

I like you Sasha and I wish I could help you but Pike, the mine, they're my clients. It's a conflict of interest.

SASHA

Can you recommend another lawyer?

LAWYER

Who? I don't see any other lawyers around here.

Sasha stands.

SASHA

Thanks for nothing.

16 **EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY**

16

Sasha narrowly escapes being hit by another SPEEDING truck.

17 **INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

17

Sasha walks into the office and hears a conversation coming from the mayor's office. She approaches quietly, eavesdropping.

MAYOR (O.S.)

He was very dumb. I'm sure it was his fault.

PIKE (O.S.)
They're all idiots. I barely knew
him. It's bad business to make
friends with them.

MAYOR (O.S.)
She'll be fine. She didn't finish
high school.

PIKE (O.S.)
Fine. Fine. Do it.

MAYOR
I'll tel--

Sasha passes the office and sees the Mayor with Boss Pike and
Pike's sidekick, Tommy. They immediately quiet.

PIKE
Sasha.

MAYOR
Morning.

Sasha walks to the maintenance closet. The mayor exits the
building with Tommy and Pike as Sasha puts on her apron.

18

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - BATHROOM

18

Sasha scrubs a toilet with the bathroom door open.

The mayor approaches.

SASHA
You need to use it?

The mayor nods.

SASHA
One minute.

Sasha scrubs. As she finishes up:

SASHA
I was talking to Katerina at the
cafe, and I've had a few close
calls myself. Why don't we put
stop signs back in the
intersection?

MAYOR
Pike needed them removed for his
shipping schedule.

SASHA
Why does he get to decide?

MAYOR
We don't tell Pike what to do.
Pike tells us what to do.

SASHA
Doesn't seem right.

Sasha flushes the toilet, and gets up.

SASHA
All clean for you Mr. Mayor.

19 **EXT. STREETS**

19

Sasha walks down a street in the village.

A horse stands in a field along the street.

Sasha walks over to it and pets the horse, holding her hand on its snout, making eye contact with it.

Sasha steps away to pick a few wildflowers.

She pets the horse once more.

SASHA
Goodbye handsome.

20 **EXT. CEMETERY**

20

Sasha approaches a grave in a small village cemetery.

The grass hasn't grown in, the grave's fresh dirt edges still visible.

Sasha sets the flowers down at Danny's headstone.

SASHA
We're mad at you for not following
protocol, Danny.
(pause)
We miss you.

Sasha sniffles, but resists breaking down.

21

EXT. CAFE

21

Sasha stops at the cafe and sits alone eating lunch. A man pulls up to the cafe on a sporty old touring motorcycle, loaded high with cases and equipment held down with criss-crossing bungee cords.

The man, mid-30s, is clean and well dressed.

Sasha keeps an eye on him as he goes inside to order and exits with a plate of food.

He carefully balances his lunch while juggling some of the equipment he pulled off his motorcycle and walks right over to Sasha.

JACK
May I join you?

Sasha looks around and sees that the other tables are full. She nods, invites him to sit.

Jack barely manages to set down the food safely before his cases tumble out of his arms.

JACK
Not bad for a first impression.

Jack gathers himself and his equipment, sits. He pulls out some documents, instruments, from the cases, that he fiddles with as he eats.

JACK
I'm Jack.

He extends a hand. Sasha shakes.

SASHA
Sasha.

JACK
Pleasure. I guess I've found the right place for lunch?

SASHA
The only place.

They both take bites of their food.

SASHA
Strange to see a man around here who isn't covered in soot.

JACK

Well-- I'm surveying. Have to calibrate my instruments.

Jack gestures to the equipment he has laid out.

JACK

I'm just passing through, I live in the capital.

SASHA

What's this surveying for?

JACK

Maps, I guess. I don't really deal with that end of things.

Sasha finishes off her food.

SASHA

Well, good luck with the project.

JACK

Say, I'm not in town for long, but I don't know anyone here. Can I take you to dinner?

Sasha stands, revealing her belly. She thinks it over.

SASHA

If you don't mind this, I guess I'd accept.

Jack is polite, gentlemanly.

JACK

Dinner for three would be great. I'm staying at the hotel. Shall we try the restaurant there at seven?

SASHA

Sure. The hotel restaurant at seven.

Sasha fights back a smile, playing it cool.

22

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

22

Sasha washes the windows behind the mayor's desk while the mayor sits at it.

The mayor sniffs a few times.

MAYOR YODER
You smell like a farm animal.

Sasha pauses.

MAYOR YODER
It's clean enough. Call it a day.

SASHA
It's only 2.

MAYOR YODER
I'm calling it a day. You're about to explode anyway what do you want to be here for?

SASHA
I'll finish this and then go.

The mayor gets up and leaves. Sasha remains behind.

She takes a few sniffs of herself, then sits in the mayor's chair.

She rubs her body over as much of the mayor's chair as she can, attempting to transfer the farm animal stink onto it.

23 INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 23

Sasha showers.

She scrubs her armpits intensely, sniffing them as she goes.

24 INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - DAY 24

Sasha gets dressed. She looks very nice.

She gives herself one last smell. Still unsure, she picks up an empty perfume bottle.

She unscrews the top and wipes the plastic stem of the sprayer mechanism against her armpits.

25 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - EVENING 25

Sasha enters the hotel lobby.

Jack is waiting for her, and rises to greet her. He's dressed well too, but is taken aback by how lovely Sasha looks.

JACK
I barely recognized you, you look wonderful.

SASHA
How did I look before?

Jack is embarrassed.

JACK
I'm so sorry. Just different, I wasn't expecting-

SASHA
It's okay. I'm a cleaning lady.

Sasha smiles wryly.

Jack exhales, relieved.

JACK
Shall we?

26

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

26

Their plates clean, Sasha and Jack sit and finish their drinks (just water for Sasha).

SASHA
And so now the mine won't pay the insurance or pension. I want to move to the capital with the baby so he doesn't get stuck shoveling coal, but I don't even have money for bus tickets, let alone a new apartment in the capital.

JACK
It's beautiful here, at least. Quiet. The capital can grate on the nerves after a while.

SASHA
Beautiful, maybe. It's not an easy place to live. The men here die. They work in the mine and they die. There's nothing else.

A waitress approaches and sets down the check. Jack takes it and looks it over, pulls out some cash.

WAITRESS

It's so nice having you eat at the hotel, Sasha. Did you like it?

SASHA

It's funny to eat here but it was nice.

JACK

What's funny?

Jack counts money.

SASHA

Only visiting dignitaries like you eat at the hotel.

JACK

Is that so?

WAITRESS

I never got a chance to say but I'm so sorry about Danny.

Jack goes to pay.

SASHA

Thanks, Emilia it's... we'll be okay.

(to Jack)

Wait, I have--

Sasha tries to pull out money, but Jack stops her.

JACK

Please don't. Work pays when I travel.

The waitress walks away.

SASHA

Are you sure?

JACK

I insist.

Sasha is embarrassed.

JACK

Should we take a walk?

SASHA

Let's see how far I can make it.

27 **EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - EVENING****27**

A small group performs balalaika music in the square. The locals dance, in a strangely choreographed and peculiar way. It's impressive but very odd.

JACK
I'm not familiar with this.

SASHA
Is this unusual?

JACK
It's amazing -- everyone together.
It's really beautiful. It's a
little unusual, I think.

SASHA
Do you want to join? It's not too
hard.

JACK
I think let's just watch.

They stand and watch the locals dance for a while. The song ends and they applaud. The group concludes their performance.

JACK
There anything else to do in town?

SASHA
Maybe one other thing I can show
you.

28 **EXT. HILLTOP - EVENING****28**

Sasha and Jack stand atop a hill, the highest around. The view overlooks the town and the mine entrance. It's a bit bleak, but the sunset is lovely.

SASHA
That's the mine, and that's the
hotel. My house is over there.

Sasha points with her hand, and stands close to Jack so the finger she points with can align with Jack's eye line.

JACK
Which one is yours?

Sasha guides him there.

SASHA
Way down there at the end of the
street.

JACK
A little hard to see.

SASHA
Everyone in town wants street
lights but the mayor doesn't seem
to be interested.

They sit on a bench as the sun goes down. Sasha surprises him with her little portable tape player, which she pulls out of her jacket. She turns it on.

"Revenir Avec Vous" by Alain Chamfort.

SASHA
Do you mind?

JACK
Do I mind? Not at all.

Sasha turns the music up.

She takes a deep breath and lets her guard down slightly.

She slumps her shoulder ever so slightly into Jack's shoulder. There is electricity in their contact.

Both look straight ahead, hiding smiles and stealing glances as the music plays and the sun sets.

29

EXT. SASHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

29

Jack walks Sasha home. They walk arm in arm.

JACK
This is it.

SASHA
How did you know?

JACK
You showed me from up there. I'm
the surveyor, remember?

SASHA
Quite impressive.

JACK
I'm very good.

They draw closer together.

Sasha's eyes dart around, coy.

Sasha suddenly plants a kiss on Jack's cheek. Jack is taken aback, smiling.

JACK

All the way out here who knew I'd meet someone like you.

SASHA

I've had a nice time.

JACK

Shame I'm just passing through.

Sasha tightens up a bit.

SASHA

Mhmm.

JACK

Perhaps I'll find you around town tomorrow?

SASHA

Perhaps you will, surveyor.

JACK

Well, goodnight, Sasha.

SASHA

Goodnight, Jack.

Jack heads out. Sasha, with a smile on her face that she cannot contain, stands and watches as he walks away.

She rewinds the cassette in her tape player and hits play, cueing up the same song, the volume low so only she hears.

She heads toward her house, sprinkling in a few dance steps from the community performance in the square earlier that night, this time in sync with her music.

Under a full moon she continues, half dancing, half walking, up the path to her front door.

FADE OUT.

Sasha scrubs the toilets in the office. The mayor approaches, with some papers in his hand.

MAYOR YODER

The election is coming up.

SASHA

Mhmm.

MAYOR YODER

They tell me I need an opponent or the election looks fake.

SASHA

Who says that?

MAYOR YODER

So anyway, you're going to be my opponent. Maybe you'll beat me and I can finally leave this job. But they chose you because you're a clear loser and will never beat me.

MAYOR YODER

Who is they?

MAYOR YODER

Them, the people who decide these things.

SASHA

I don't understand. If you want to quit then quit.

MAYOR YODER

You're not very smart, are you?

SASHA

I'm very stupid. That's why I clean the toilets and you're the mayor.

MAYOR YODER

Sign these and then you are officially running for mayor as the Reform Party candidate.

SASHA

Can I read them?

MAYOR YODER

I don't give a damn if you want to read them or not, probably incredibly boring, but be my guest. Just remember if you don't sign them then you won't have a job anymore.

SASHA

You got it, boss.

Sasha takes the forms from him and gets back to scrubbing.

31

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

31

The lawyer is in the bathroom again. Sasha waits. She looks at the clock. The lawyer flushes, emerges, wiping his hands and adjusting his trousers again.

LAWYER

You're back.

SASHA

The mayor is making me run against him.

The lawyer begins laughing, hysterically.

SASHA

What's funny?

LAWYER

A woman as mayor for one. The cleaning woman as mayor for another.

SASHA

It's very funny, isn't it?

Sasha pulls the papers from her bag. The lawyer finally stops laughing.

LAWYER

I'm sorry.

SASHA

They asked me to sign these and I don't understand them.

Sasha thrusts the documents at the lawyer. He puts his hands up, unwilling to take receipt of the documents.

LAWYER
Are you paying me for legal
counsel right now?

SASHA
I don't have any money.

LAWYER
I'm sorry, I can't advise you for
free.

Sasha huffs, frustrated. She turns to leave.

SASHA
I trust you won't tell anyone
about this.

The lawyer laughs again as Sasha departs.

LAWYER
Sasha for mayor! Hah!

32

EXT. STREET - DAY

32

Sasha exits the lawyer's office and walks past the doctor's
office, located next door.

As she does, a group of miners rush toward her carrying Zeke,
who looks bad, his head bloodied, crudely bandaged.

MINER #2
Open the door for us, Sasha!

Sasha holds open the door and sees who they are carrying.

SASHA
Oh, Zeke!

As the group passes by:

MINER #3
We had a loaded cart, the cable
snapped, knocked him over. He hit
his head hard.

MINER #1
Doctor!

Sasha watches through the doorway as a doctor and a nurse take
Zeke and load him onto a bed.

SASHA
Should I tell Aria?

MINER #3

She's already on her way.

SASHA

Let me know if there's anything I can do.

MINER #1

What can anyone do?

The door closes, Sasha is left alone on the street.

33

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - PHONE BOOTH - DAY

33

Jack makes a phone call from the phone booth in the lobby.

JACK

She's fine, she's fine. She'll be fine. Let them go ahead with it and it should play out the way we think from there.

(pause)

I mean- ya know- she's actually very kind. Seems quite smart. She's pregnant, but I guess that doesn't matter.

(pause)

All right, all right. We'll keep an eye on it from afar.

Jack hangs up the phone.

34

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

34

Sasha enters the hotel lobby and goes to the front desk.

She asks if she can speak to Jack, the surveyor from the capital.

The concierge calls for Jack over an intercom.

CONCIERGE

"Jack Fawcett, you have a visitor in the lobby."

Before the concierge finishes his announcement, Jack walks into the lobby.

JACK

Sasha, hi.

SASHA

Can I-

JACK
Just a minute.

Jack fishes in his pocket for a ticket. He hands it to the concierge.

JACK
Can you bring those up, please?
I'm on my way out.

CONCIERGE
No problem Mr. Fawcett.

JACK
How can I help you?

Sasha is slightly confused by the formality.

SASHA
I... sorry... are you leaving?

JACK
Looks that way. I was just called
back to the capital. Soon as they
bring my bags around actually.

SASHA
Oh.

Sasha is frozen by the news of Jack's sudden departure.

JACK
What was it you wanted to ask?

SASHA
Well- nevermind.

JACK
No, what is it?

SASHA
I wanted to ask your advice about
some documents-

Sasha pulls out the documents and holds them up, but Jack is distracted by his bags being brought around at that moment.

CONCIERGE
Mr. Fawcett.

JACK
Thanks very much.

Jack hands the concierge some cash, and looks at his watch.

JACK
Shoot, I'm cutting it close. I'm
so sorry but I've gotta run,
Sasha.

SASHA
Mhmm.

Jack picks up his items.

JACK
Mind giving me a hand with the
door?

SASHA
The door? Sure.

Sasha walks ahead and opens the door for Jack, who walks
through.

35

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

35

Jack begins to load his bags onto the back of his motorcycle,
parked just in front of the hotel.

SASHA
I thought we had a really nice
time. I have to confess I'm a bit
confused.

JACK
We did. We had a great time.

Jack's tone is patronizing. Sasha is clearly upset.

Jack notices, his attention focuses in, and he really speaks to
Sasha.

JACK
I'm so sorry to leave like this.
My job is complicated. It's hard,
always driving all over the place
at the drop of a hat.

SASHA
I've never known surveying to be
such urgent work.

JACK
One would never guess, I know. I
had no idea when I got into the
business.

SASHA
Will I ever see you again?

JACK
I can never predict where they'll
send me.

SASHA
I see.

JACK
But I hope so. I mean that.

Jack starts pulling on a pair of gloves.

SASHA
Me too I suppose.

JACK
Take care, Sasha.

SASHA
Goodbye Jack.

Sasha seems to be going for a hug when Jack glances at his watch again.

JACK
I really gotta go. Okay--

Jack pulls on a helmet and gives Sasha one last goodbye look.

JACK
Thanks for showing me around town.

SASHA
Have a nice life I guess.

Jack kicks his motorcycle into gear and rides off, leaving Sasha behind.

36

INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

She switches on her radio, it's "Revenir Avec Vous" by Alain Chamfort again - the song she listened to at sunset with Jack.

She fast forwards to the next song.

Sasha's sits and eats dinner. She looks through the documents.

Sasha looks sad. Lonely.

FADE OUT.

37 **EXT. INTERSECTION - MORNING****37**

Sasha stands at the intersection, preparing to cross. A truck whizzes past, it comes seemingly out of nowhere.

38 **INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY****38**

Sasha is mopping the mayor's office. The mayor slips and falls. He's fine but it's very funny. Sasha laughs.

MAYOR YODER

I don't think it's very funny! Put up one of those wet floor signs! I should fire you for this right now.

The mayor tries to get up and slips again.

Sasha laughs again and tries to help him up.

MAYOR YODER

Leave me- give me a second.

Sasha backs off. The mayor remains on his back as he speaks.

MAYOR YODER

You're trying to kill me so you can take my job now that we're opponents? Have you signed yet?

SASHA

I was looking through the papers and wanted to ask a few questions.

MAYOR YODER

You're not understanding how this works. Sign them. And hand them to me. That's it. There's no discussion. Or you're fired. And keep your mouth shut about this too. If anyone finds out I made you run it's big trouble for both of us.

Sasha sits down at the mayor's desk. Yoder picks up his head to look at Sasha at his desk.

MAYOR YODER

Excuse me.

SASHA

If I'm going to run for mayor I should make sure I am comfortable signing documents in the mayor's chair.

Sasha signs the documents as the mayor remains on the ground.

39

EXT. CAFE - EVENING

39

The cafe after hours is a little different than the lunch scene. The mayor is hammered, falling off his stool.

The balalaika band from Sasha's date plays at the cafe.

Sasha is simply walking by on her way home but is pulled into the cafe by the lawyer, also clearly drunk.

LAWYER

Sasha, let me buy you a drink.

SASHA

I'm pregnant, but thank you.

LAWYER

That's a myth, anyway.

The lawyer, also drunk, holds Sasha by the arm, putting her on display, inappropriately.

LAWYER

Sasha, ladies and gentleman, is running for mayor against the great Mayor Yoder.

The lawyer laughs, drunkenly.

A group of miners sit nearby, including Zeke, who wears a bandage on his head.

SASHA

I'm not going to be mayor. Please don't vote for me.

ZEKE

We love you, Sasha. You have our support.

SASHA

I don't want this job, Zeke.

LAWYER

This is why you'll never get out of the mines. You'll vote for a woman for mayor who hasn't finished high school.

SASHA

It's true. I didn't finish high school. I shouldn't be mayor. I'm going to go home now.

Sasha wrests herself free of the lawyer's hold.

ZEKE

You think she won't be better than this bum?

Zeke laughs, pointing to the current mayor, a slovenly fool slumped on the ground.

ZEKE

This man doesn't have a brain cell left. We would be lucky to have Sasha for mayor.

SASHA

Please don't vote for me.

LAWYER

We won't.

ZEKE

To Mayor Sasha!

MINERS

Mayor Sasha.

SASHA

Goodnight.

Sasha walks off.

40

EXT. INTERSECTION - EVENING

40

As she approaches the intersection near the cafe, she checks both directions.

She inches out, hears a truck coming, and stumbles back, somewhat comically.

Once the truck passes she peers out again and takes a step into the intersection.

Another truck screams through, forcing Sasha stumbling back again.

This process repeats itself once more until Sasha is finally able to cross after a third truck clears the intersection.

41 **EXT. SASHA'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

41

Sasha's neighbor is out in her garden.

SASHA
Hi Wendy.

WENDY
Sasha, wait.

Wendy brings Sasha a basket of fresh greens and radishes.

SASHA
I don't know what I'd do without you Wendy. Thank you.

WENDY
What's this I hear about you running for mayor?

SASHA
That spread fast. I guess I'm running for mayor. It wasn't my idea. I don't want to win. I don't want the job.

WENDY
Someone's pressuring you to run?

SASHA
I shouldn't talk about it.

WENDY
What's going on Sasha?

SASHA
Thanks for these. Goodnight Wendy.

42 **INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

42

Sasha enters her house and lights are on. She pauses in her living room.

She quietly tiptoes through the space, then hears a surprising sound from near the back door.

SASHA

Hello?

Sasha walks into the kitchen and sees her back door slightly ajar. Wind blows through the open door.

She closes the door and locks it, with some concern.

Sasha stands, quietly looking around the house and listening.

43 EXT. STREETS - MORNING 43

Sasha walks through town at sunrise.

44 INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MORNING 44

Sasha enters the voting booth and casts a vote for the incumbent Mayor Yoder.

45 INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY 45

Sasha mops the corridor of the office.

46 INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - EVENING 46

An election official counts ballots, the community center has just a few older people inside, nearly empty.

Pike stands with Tommy and Mayor Yoder.

Zeke and two other miners stand on the other side of the room.

Sasha sits in a corner, alone.

ELECTION OFFICIAL

And the winner of the mayoral
race... with 730 votes to 125...
Sasha Sullivan.

Shock. The few people in the room gasp.

Pike, Tommy, and Yoder can't believe it.

Zeke claps -- the only positive reaction in the room.

PIKE

(to Mayor)

There's nothing you can't screw
up, is there, Yoder?

The mayor has nothing to say. Sasha, meanwhile, is frozen. Her eyes dart across the room, from the miners to Pike.

47 **EXT. MOTEL - MORNING**

47

Jack exits his motel room, juggling his cases. He loads them onto his motorcycle just outside the room.

Jack walks over to the motel office to checkout.

Jack rings the bell for service at the office window. While he waits, he spots a newspaper, the headline reads:

“CLEANING WOMAN SWEEPS ELECTION”

The motel manager arrives at the desk.

JACK

Checking out of 6. Can I take a newspaper?

MOTEL MANAGER

Sure, comes with the room.

Jack slides some money across the counter. The attendant nods, and slides some change back.

Jack takes a second to read the cover of the paper, then looks back to the manager.

JACK

You got a phone?

MOTEL MANAGER

Payphone's 'round the side.

Jack walks to a payphone on the side of the building, drops in a coin, and makes a call.

JACK

It's Fawcett.

(pause)

I just saw.

(pause)

About a day out already.

(pause)

Sure. I'll check in soon.

48 **EXT. INTERSECTION - MORNING**

48

Sasha walks to work. She once again is nearly hit by a mine truck as she crosses the intersection.

After the near miss she is nearly hit again by another truck heading in the opposite direction.

She's spun around, stumbles backwards, and ends up on her ass.

Truly shaken up, Sasha catches her breath and places both hands over her belly.

49

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

49

Sasha goes through her normal routine - she scrubs the toilets, sweeps, mops, cleans the windows.

When she gets to the mayor's office itself, the former mayor arrives. He is in extremely high spirits.

MAYOR YODER

You're the mayor now, what are you doing cleaning?

SASHA

I didn't know what else to do.

MAYOR YODER

Never seen a mayor wear rubber gloves before! Just here to pick up a few things and then you'll never see me again! Permanent vacation. I never thought I'd get out of this job. This is a gift from god, thank you Sasha.

SASHA

Well-

MAYOR YODER

Get used to sitting in that chair. You're a bureaucrat now. Don't get any ideas that you're a politician, idealist, whatever. Just sign the documents, put 'em in the mail, stay on Pike's good side, try not to piss anybody off, collect your salary. That's it, that's all there is to it.

SASHA

I might do things differently.

MAYOR YODER

Oh god!

The mayor heads toward the door, rambling as he heads out.

MAYOR YODER

I don't want to hear about it.
Don't tell me about any of your
plans. Don't care! I'm out of
here! Getting as far away as I
can. Good luck, godspeed, goodbye,
good riddance, au revoir, adios.

Sasha sits at the desk and puts her weight into the chair in a few different directions, getting a feel for it.

50 **INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY** 50

Sasha puts her gloves and apron away in the utility closet, and looks through the signs and cones in the closet.

51 **EXT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY** 51

Sasha pushes the signs and posts and shovel in a wheelbarrow down the street away from the office.

A motorcycle drives past, then slows down and loops back around. It's Jack. He stops his motorcycle and hops off, removing his gloves and helmet as he walks alongside Sasha.

Sasha doesn't stop walking as they talk.

JACK

What's the mayor doing pushing a wheelbarrow?

SASHA

Why are you here?

JACK

I sent in my reports- something was off with one of my instruments. I have to start the whole thing over.

SASHA

Sorry to hear that.

JACK

But I get to spend a little more time here. Maybe dinner again?

SASHA

I'm just starting this new job, I might be busy.

JACK

You can think about it.

SASHA

Sure.

JACK

Making big changes already?

SASHA

Small changes. Good changes.

JACK

I know how thick the capital's bureaucracy can be -- you already got approval for this?

SASHA

No. We just need stop signs. I have to go.

Jack speeds up and cuts in front of Sasha, forcing her to stop.

JACK

I'm sorry I had to run off so quickly, Sasha.

SASHA

I'm working right now, Jack.

JACK

I'll let you go but the invitation stands, I'd love to see you again. I'm sorry.

Sasha picks up the wheelbarrow and steers it around Jack, continuing on.

Jack watches Sasha as she walks away.

52

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

52

Sasha finishes installing the stop signs at the intersection.

She's done it all herself.

Zeke, Aria, and their two young kids approach the intersection. Zeke's head is still bandaged.

ZEKE

Mayor Sasha!

SASHA

Hi Zeke, hi Aria, hi kids. How's the head?

ZEKE

It's fine, I'll be fine. We're so happy for you, Sasha.

ARIA

Congratulations, Sasha.

ZEKE

Danny would be proud.

SASHA

That's nice, yeah, thanks.

ARIA

And finally fixing this intersection.

Sasha nods. She hangs a stop sign on the just installed post. They admire the sign.

ZEKE

Well done.

The family begins across the intersection.

ARIA

See you soon, Mayor.

Halfway across, a truck comes roaring up to the sign and screeches to a stop, barely short of hitting the family.

ZEKE

THERE'S A STOP SIGN!

TRUCK DRIVER

There wasn't three hours ago.

SASHA

There is now. Tell the other drivers.

TRUCK DRIVER

You know the shipping schedules Pike has us on. What do you want us to do?

ZEKE

Pike can take it up with the new mayor.

Sasha's expression of pride fades as she quickly picks up on the ramifications of these new signs.

Sasha sits at the mayor's desk. Bracing for what's to come.

PIKE (O.S.)

SASHA!

Sasha looks out her office door into the hallway.

Her stop signs, twisted out of shape, go flying down the hall past her door. They land with a loud clatter.

Pike and Tommy enter Sasha's office.

PIKE

Why are major infrastructure changes happening in my city, on my trucking routes, without anyone so much as calling me?

Tommy gets very close to Sasha, leaning over her.

SASHA

Can you please back up?

Tommy moves closer.

SASHA

Is he okay? Is he deaf?

PIKE

He only really listens to me.

SASHA

Can you ask him to get away from me, then?

PIKE

Tommy.

Tommy takes a step back.

SASHA

Thank you.

PIKE

My trucks, Sasha, weigh a hundred tons. They have 17 speed manual transmissions. For a truck like that to come to a dead stop-

Pike aggressively slams a fist into an open palm to demonstrate a "dead stop."

PIKE

A dead stop- and then shift from 1st to 2nd to 3rd to 4th all the way up to 17th- there's seventeen gears- to get back up to a normal speed, the cost to me in time and fuel, when you add it up, across hundreds of trucks per week, thousands of trucks per year, is enormous. The cost. Is. Enormous. And when I lose money, the town loses money. So now, because a few people are bad at looking both ways before crossing an intersection, we are taking this town's money, and lighting it on fire.

Sasha suppresses a laugh. Pike slams his hand on Sasha's desk.

PIKE

WHAT'S FUNNY SASHA?

Sasha turns serious.

SASHA

I feel like you're exaggerating the impact, if I'm being honest with you.

PIKE

She thinks I'm exaggerating, Tommy.

Tommy chuckles.

PIKE

That cost- in fuel, in maintenance, in time- is one miner's salary. Two miners' salaries. Maybe three miners' salaries. Are you telling me I should start firing people, taking away peoples' jobs, so you can have a stop sign? If that's what you want to do then I will gladly tell them when I fire them that it's entirely your fault.

SASHA

I feel like that's not the only solution.

PIKE

Doesn't "feel" like the only solution. Hear that Tommy it doesn't "feel" like the solution. She's a businesswoman now and she's got a feeling.

TOMMY

She's got a feeling.

Sasha rolls her eyes.

SASHA

I don't *think* that's the only solution.

PIKE

Yesterday you were scrubbing Yoder's shit out of the toilet, now you're thinking. Don't think.

SASHA

What do you want, Pike?

PIKE

I want you to understand that you don't do anything without talking to me first. You work for me. What town are we in, Tommy?

TOMMY

Pikesville, we're in Pikesville.

PIKE

What town are you the mayor of, Sasha?

SASHA

We are in Pikesville and I'm the mayor of Pikesville.

PIKE

And what's my name?

SASHA

Steve?

PIKE

Pike, Sasha. Last name's Pike. This is my town.

SASHA

If that's how it is, you know, I really didn't even want this job-

PIKE
You want to quit?

SASHA
Maybe. I might.

PIKE
Tommy's the chairman of the Reform Party, which is the party that supported your election bid. Tommy, what did the Reform Party spend on Sasha's campaign?

TOMMY
I think around, \$25,000, give or take.

PIKE
Great. \$25,000, Sasha. If you can repay the campaign funds, Tommy will be happy to see you step down, see you pursuing your dreams outside of politics.

SASHA
What are you talking about?

Tommy pulls out the documents Sasha signed and reads aloud to Sasha as he follows along for her with his index finger.

TOMMY
You signed these documents to "become a member in good standing of the Reform Party and to enter into an agreement that Sasha Sullivan would be responsible for reimbursing any and all campaign funds if she could no longer fulfill her duties as mayor."

PIKE
You can leave. It's totally fine, it's your choice. You'll just owe the party for the money they gave you for your campaign.

SASHA
I didn't take any money.

TOMMY
No but we spent it on your campaign. Did you read the contract? Pretty standard, really.

Sasha sighs, slumps into her seat. Tommy puts away the contract.

A moment passes.

PIKE

It's an easy job, Sasha. Do what I ask, show up where I need you to show up, shake hands, take photos, sign paperwork. That's it. And you're making twice as much money as you were before.

TOMMY

Sounds pretty good to me.

PIKE

It's not bad.

Sasha nods.

PIKE

Like I said, call me if you get anymore ideas. But don't get anymore ideas. We'll keep a close eye on you, don't worry.

Pike and Tommy head out. Sasha slumps further into her seat.

54 EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

54

On her way in, Sasha sees her face on the cover of multiple newspapers through the store's window. She continues into the store with her head down.

55 INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

55

Sasha shops for groceries.

People in the store stare and whisper. Sasha tries to go about her business.

An older woman approaches.

OLDER WOMAN

Sasha Sullivan!

SASHA

Hi Mary.

OLDER WOMAN

I don't want to bother you while you're shopping but, well, Yoder never answered, but, you know my Elliott works nights at the mine and the commute there at night, without street lights, well I just think I speak for everyone in town when I say that we should really see about getting street lights installed.

SASHA

Okay, sure. I'll see what I can do.

OLDER WOMAN

I knew you'd help us, Sasha, that's why I voted for you.

SASHA

Okay, Mary, thanks.

Sasha continues shopping. Another customer quickly approaches - an old retired miner who wheels an oxygen tank.

OLD MINER

Ms. Mayor I wanted to say congratulations, I was in the mine with your father for decades and even a few years with Danny - god bless him.

SASHA

I know you were Mr. Mitchell.

OLD MINER

Ms. Mayor, I-

SASHA

Just Sasha is fine, Mr. Mitchell.

OLD MINER

We have to see if there's any way to get Pike to extend benefits for the retired miners.

SASHA

I don't know if that's something the mayor can do anything about.

The man grows impatient.

OLD MINER

I'm not the only one in this town who has to drag around one of these oxygen tanks. This is a major priority and I-

Sasha cuts him off.

SASHA

I'll see what I can do Mr. Mitchell. If you don't mind, I'm sorry, but I've got to finish my shopping.

Another customer begins approaching Sasha, but she sees them coming and quickly heads to the register.

56

INT. GROCERY STORE - REGISTER

56

A teenage girl rings up Sasha's groceries.

GROCERY CLERK

Should we give the money to you now or does it go to Tommy?

SASHA

I'm sorry what?

GROCERY CLERK

The money for Mr. Pike, I have it here.

The clerk pulls an envelope full of cash out from under the register and extends it toward Sasha.

Sasha looks around.

Through the store's window she spots Tommy outside. He seems to be keeping an eye on Sasha.

SASHA

I don't think that's for me.

GROCERY CLERK

We always gave it to Mayor Yoder directly.

SASHA

And what is it?

The clerk, unsure how to explain, speaks hesitantly.

GROCERY CLERK

It's Mr. Pike's portion.

SASHA
I'll pay for my groceries and you
should keep that.

Sasha attempts to hand money to the clerk.

An awkward moment as both attempt to give the other money.

The clerk puts away the envelope and takes Sasha's money.

GROCERY CLERK
I voted for you for mayor.

SASHA
You're old enough to vote?

GROCERY CLERK
This was my first election. I'm
leaving for college in the fall
but my dad and my brothers work in
the mines and I know you'll make
the town better for them.

SASHA
Well good, good for you. That's
very good.

GROCERY CLERK
See you around, Mayor Sasha.

57

EXT. SASHA'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - EVENING

57

Sasha approaches Wendy's with her groceries.

WENDY
Can I give you a hand, Sasha?

SASHA
I'm fine I've got it.

WENDY
I've got some things for you
anyway.

Wendy has a bundle of cucumbers and tomatoes for Sasha, she
takes one of Sasha's grocery bags despite Sasha's resistance
and follows her toward her house.

They enter through the front door.

58 INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - EVENING

58

Sasha and Wendy enter and walk toward the kitchen.
They stop at the sound of an object falling to the floor.

SASHA
What was that?

Wendy shrugs. They proceed ahead to investigate.
A potato rolls across the kitchen floor. Nothing else amiss.
Sasha and Wendy set their groceries down.

SASHA
That's odd.

WENDY
Must have just fallen?

Sasha sets the potato back atop a bowl of potatoes on the counter.

As she does, a KNOCK at the front door. Sasha, surprised, goes to answer.

She opens the door to Jack on the other side, holding flowers.

JACK
I came, again, to apologize.

Sasha pauses. Wendy looks on from the kitchen.

JACK
These are for you.

Sasha takes the flowers, smells them.

SASHA
They're nice.

JACK
You have company, I'm sorry. I wanted to see if I could take you to dinner again.

SASHA
Oh-

WENDY
Not me, I'm just on my way out.

WENDY

Let me know if you need anything else Sasha, I've got some nice kohlrabi I just pulled too. You're okay though, right?

SASHA

Thanks Wendy. Goodnight. I'm fine, fine.

Wendy passes by Jack on her way out the door.

JACK

Goodnight.

Wendy heads out. Sasha and Jack remain at the doorway.

JACK

It was very rude how I left-

SASHA

Do you want to come in? I was just about to cook.

JACK

I'd like that very much.

Sasha and Jack head into the house.

59

INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

59

The flowers sit in a vase on the table.

Music plays through Sasha's portable radio, quietly.

"7 Amazonas" by Alain Chamfort.

Sasha pulls something from the oven, she sets it atop the stove to cool, then lights two candles on the kitchen table.

JACK

Let me help, you must need a break.

SASHA

No, I need the distraction. I've had enough of this new job after one day. It's almost ready, besides.

JACK

I can't believe you're the mayor, suddenly.

SASHA
I can't either.

Sasha shuffles around her kitchen alternating between stirring food on the stove and dancing to the music playing.

She's light on her feet. Impressive with her huge belly.

Jack watches, happily. Sasha is in the zone, blissful. They both seem very comfortable.

As the song winds down, Sasha plates some food.

60

INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

60

They've finished eating. Sitting at the kitchen table, the candles burned down much lower.

JACK
That was great, Sasha.

Sasha smiles. There's a long pause.

SASHA
You were this close to running away without saying goodbye at all.

JACK
I said goodbye!

SASHA
Because I showed up at the hotel looking for you.

JACK
Look, I-

SASHA
You have a job, it's not up to you. It's okay.

JACK
I'm glad I got to come back.

SASHA
Don't get stuck here like me.

JACK
You're not *really* stuck, you know.

SASHA
No, I am.

SASHA
 If I leave, Pike and little weasel
 Tommy will come after me for the
 \$25,000 they say I owe the Reform
 Party if I abdicate.

JACK
 You're kidding.

Sasha shakes her head.

JACK
 This is a small strange place,
 Sasha. People die here in strange
 ways and not a lot of people hear
 about it when they do.

SASHA
 You don't have to tell me.

JACK
 I hope that changes, but, well,
 just be careful.

SASHA
 Okay new guy.

JACK
 I don't mean to be patronizing. I
 know you can take care of
 yourself.

SASHA
 I'll be fine. I'm just the mayor
 of a small village. What can
 happen?

As the song playing from Sasha's radio changes, Sasha gets up
 to turn up the volume.

"J'Entends Tout" by Alain Chamfort.

SASHA
 Come on, this time you have to
 join me.

She pulls Jack up out of his chair to dance with him to the
 slow, romantic chanson.

Jack makes breakfast. Changes the water in the vase.

SASHA
You cooked!

JACK
It's nothing. Eggs & potatoes.

Sasha sits and eats.

SASHA
Thank you.

JACK
I have to run, I need to get my
equipment from the hotel and then
get to work.

SASHA
Okay. See you.

JACK
Have a nice day, Mayor Sasha.

Jack kisses Sasha on the forehead, and heads out the door.

Sasha replies with a mouthful of food.

SASHA
Bye!

62 EXT. STREETS - MORNING

62

Jack walks alone down an empty street.

Pike's town car suddenly pulls up alongside Jack.

Pike swings open the passenger door and pulls Jack into the
front bench seat, the three men squeezing in.

They speed off.

63 INT. TOWN CAR - MORNING

63

Jack laughs, gathering himself.

JACK
Jesus what is this a kidnapping?

PIKE
Welcome back. How is your
girlfriend doing?

JACK
I'm working, Pike. Just like you.

PIKE

But you like her? She's cute.

TOMMY

You like them pregnant, Jack? You a pervert of some sort?

PIKE

Just drive the car, Tommy!

TOMMY

I bet he's a pervert of some sort.

JACK

What do you want, Pike?

PIKE

I know you work for the big boss in the capital but this is my town. I don't want you hanging around here. Don't get friendly with my mayor. I own her, understand?

JACK

If I say I understand can I get out of the car?

PIKE

You're real smart, aren't you?

JACK

Not that smart.

PIKE

Tommy.

The car pulls to a stop.

Pike reaches across Jack's lap and opens the door then shoves him out.

Jack picks himself up, dusts himself off, then sticks his head back in the open window.

JACK

See you gentlemen soon?

Tommy speeds off while Jack is still leaning on the car.

64

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

64

Sasha walks to work. She sees the horse she likes, pets it.

A group of miners pass her as she's petting the horse, on their way to the mine.

MINER #3
Mayor Sasha!

The miners wave.

MINER #2
We love you!

Sasha waves back.

65

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

65

Sasha's sits at the desk. Zeke arrives at the office, knocks on the door. He has a slightly smaller bandage on his head.

SASHA
Zeke, come in.

ZEKE
Morning Ms. Mayor.

SASHA
Sasha is fine, Zeke. Sit. Sit.

Zeke sits. Sasha waits for him to speak.

SASHA
Can I help you?

ZEKE
Well, I hope so.

Sasha nods.

ZEKE
I guess to get right to it- we don't get paid enough and the mine is dangerous. We need better working conditions, we need better pay, we need healthcare. We need a lot. And we need someone to advocate for us.

Sasha lets out a very long sigh and spins in her chair.

ZEKE
You understand the situation better than most, Sasha. We voted for you because you're one of us. You know how hard it is.

SASHA

What can I do? I don't want to mess with Pike. I don't know anyone in the capital.

ZEKE

What about this surveyor guy?

Sasha shakes her head no.

SASHA

I don't know what he can do.

ZEKE

When Yoder was in office there was no way anything was getting done, but we have an opportunity now.

SASHA

I can't even get my insurance money from Pike. Even now, as mayor.

Sasha thinks.

SASHA

The only way anything will change is if all of the miners go up against Pike together.

Zeke nods.

ZEKE

I agree. If we organize I want your support.

SASHA

I don't think I have the power to do anything.

ZEKE

The fact you're sitting in that chair puts you at a pretty big advantage compared to the guys down in the mine.

Zeke stands to leave.

ZEKE

I got two kids. Look at me.

Zeke points at the bandage on his head.

ZEKE

I was an inch away from ending up
just like Danny. Somebody has to
do something.

Sasha nods, solemnly.

SASHA

I understand.

Zeke leaves.

66 INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

66

Sasha scrubs the toilets in the office. Mops the floors.

67 EXT. CAFE - DAY

67

Sasha sits at the cafe and eats lunch alone.

Zeke sits at another table with some miners. They spot Sasha.

MINER #2

The mayor of the people!

Sasha smiles, shy, she doesn't want the attention.

MINER #1

Zeke says you told him we should
form a union and go on strike.

SASHA

I don't know if I said that.

MINER #3

Why should Pike be so rich when we
have nothing? Because his
grandfather bought a cheap scrap
of land 150 years ago before
anyone even knew what coal was?

MINER #1

There's too many widows in this
town, too many young guys who have
to carry around oxygen tanks.

MINER #2

That's why we voted for you,
Sasha. You understand our
situation.

ZEKE

We knew you'd support us, Sasha.

Sasha quickly finishes her lunch and gets up, with a nod.

SASHA
Have to get back to the office.

ZEKE
See you soon.

MINERS
Goodbye. / Bye. / Thanks Sasha.

Sasha turns to leave and sees the Older Miner from the grocery store waiting to cross, dragging his oxygen tank behind him. A few trucks fly by as the man struggles to find an opportunity to cross.

Sasha turns back to the miners at the cafe.

SASHA
Whatever you guys decide to do you
have my support.

68

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY

68

Zeke stands at the center of a big crowd of miners.

ZEKE
We have the support of our new
mayor, but most of all we have
each other. Without us, Pike
doesn't have a mine. He has a hole
in the ground.

Zeke is fired up. The miners cheer.

ZEKE
If Pike doesn't want to listen, we
make him listen!

A bell rings from inside the mine.

Tommy breaks up the crowd.

TOMMY
Break it up, let's go. You wanna
get paid? You gotta work. Get to
work. Get to work.

The miners grumble as they trudge into the mine.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jack is on the phone in his hotel room.

JACK
I'm building trust.
(pause)
I think it'll happen soon.
(pause)
Okay.
(pause)
Okay.

A loud knock at Jack's door.

JACK
Someone's here-
(pause)
Okay. Yep. I gotta go. Goodbye.

Jack pulls a shirt over his undershirt and buttons a few buttons. Shirt untucked, in his socks.

Jack opens the door an inch but it is quickly forced open in his face, knocking him back. Pike and Tommy enter the room aggressively.

PIKE
What gives, Fawcett?

JACK
You got a rough way of having a conversation, Pike.

PIKE
We thought the big guy sent you down here to make sure things don't get out of hand with this election and this new mayor.

JACK
That's right and I'm having a hard time with that because I'm trying to do things my way but I keep getting shoved up against walls or pulled into moving cars.

PIKE
What's your way? Telling your girlfriend to encourage the miners to start a union?

Jack laughs.

JACK
Is that what they're doing?

Jack shakes his head, still laughing.

JACK
I didn't tell them to do that, but that's pretty good.

PIKE
I'll go to the capital. I'll talk to the boss if I have to.

JACK
You could save yourself a trip if you just pay your guys a little more. You give half to the state? What's the margin on your half? 95%? Maybe it wouldn't kill you to give them another 1, 2%. Maybe pay out *some* life insurance benefits. I'm not saying you still can't be hideously wealthy, just throw the workers a bone. Might be all it takes to calm them down.

PIKE
See this is the thing- some girl won an election, which never should have happened in the first place, and now I'm supposed to start giving my money to a bunch of morons who can barely use a shovel? Give them a little bit now then all of a sudden they're back asking for more, and more, and more.

Pike gets very close to Jack.

PIKE
Tell your girlfriend to be very careful about the ideas she's spreading around.

Pike grabs Jack by the collar and pushes him into a wall.

PIKE
Let me be very clear: If it comes to it I'll kill you both.

JACK
There I go getting shoved against a wall again.

Pike drops him and walks to the door. Tommy follows, but takes the opportunity to grab Jack by the collar and shove him against the wall on his way out.

JACK
That's a good sport, Tommy.

70

INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

70

Sasha sits in her kitchen. A knock at the door. Sasha rises to answer, slightly nervous.

SASHA
Who is it?

JACK (O.S.)
It's me. Jack.

Sasha throws on a sweater as she goes to the door. She opens it and invites Jack in.

SASHA
Wasn't expecting you.

JACK
I know it's late.

SASHA
Have you eaten?

Jack is unsettled, pacing a bit.

JACK
I'm not hungry. Thanks though.

SASHA
Is something wrong? Why don't you sit.

Jack sits.

JACK
I was thinking it might be a good idea if I get out of here. But maybe you come with me this time.

SASHA
Why? Where?

JACK
Back to the city.

SASHA

If I leave Pike will send Tommy after me, to collect on these "Reform Party" debts I'll owe them.

JACK

I think Pike's got bigger problems on his hands.

SASHA

What do you know about it, surveyor?

JACK

I just have a funny feeling and think it might be a good idea to get away for a while.

Sasha turns cold.

SASHA

If I ever make it to the capital I'll look you up. Thanks for visiting.

JACK

Guys like Pike know how fragile their little worlds are. Once people start talking about what I think they're talking about, they can get carried away pretty quickly. I'm not saying they're wrong, in fact I agree with what they're asking for, I'm just saying how it is. Pike sees what might be coming and he's getting scared and I don't think it's going to bring out the best side of him.

Sasha nods slowly, thinking about what Jack has said.

SASHA

So, when are you leaving?

JACK

I guess I'll stick around a few more days, I still have a little work to do. But if you change your mind, I bet we can still get you on the back of my bike even with that belly of yours. It rides pretty smooth.

Sasha isn't interested.

SASHA
It's pretty late. I think I'd better get to bed. A lot to do at the office tomorrow.

Jack stands and heads to the door.

JACK
Sure, right. Sorry to intrude.

SASHA
Goodnight, Jack.

JACK
Goodnight, Sasha.

An awkward moment at the door before Jack departs.

71

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

71

Sasha sits at her desk, opposite her is Zeke, Aria, and their children.

ZEKE
All I'm asking is that you speak to him one more time before we go ahead.

SASHA
I don't think you understand my role in this.

ZEKE
He won't speak to us. He won't discuss anything. You could be an intermediary.

SASHA
Then Pike will see me as your representative. I think all of this needs to come from you.

ZEKE
We're going to strike. It's imminent. Just talk to him one more time before we do. Tell him what we want and see if we can't avoid this.

Sasha pauses.

ARIA
Look at Zeke, Sasha.

Sasha looks at Zeke, his head still bandaged, the deep wrinkles in his face seem permanently filled with coal soot.

ARIA
If we go on strike the money stops. No one wants to do this. Help us try, before another miner's wife ends up in your position.

Sasha laughs.

SASHA
Mayor? No one should be subjected to this, you're right.

Aria and Zeke laugh.

ARIA
Not that position.

SASHA
I know you meant Danny.

ZEKE
We care about you, Sasha. This could help you too, if we can get Danny's insurance money out of this, somehow. And his pension.

Sasha nods.

SASHA
I'm overdue to talk to Pike about the insurance claim anyway. I'll talk to him, I'll bring this up.

ARIA
Thank you, Sasha.

ZEKE
Thank you. Thank you.

Zeke and Aria head for the door but stop before they leave, whispering something to one another.

ZEKE
Why don't you come over for dinner tonight?

ARIA
We'd love to have you. The kids
would love to see you.

SASHA
Sure, thanks for offering. That
sounds nice.

ARIA
Six thirty?

SASHA
Sounds great.

Zeke and Aria head out.

72 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

72

Jack makes a phone call.

JACK
She won't leave. The strike's
going to happen -- I need more
guys here. I've got to move.
(pause)
That's not soon enough.
(pause)
Sure. Sure I'll try talking to him
one more time but I really don't
think that's going to help.
(pause)
I just don't think he likes me too
much, that's all.

73 EXT. MINE - DAY

73

Sasha walks through the mine gate and towards Pike's office.
Some miners see her, and wave hello.

MINERS
Sasha! / Hi! / Mayor Sasha!

74 EXT. MINE OFFICE - DAY

74

Sasha knocks on the door of the office.

75 INT. MINE OFFICE - DAY

75

Pike opens the door and lets Sasha in.

PIKE
Mayor Sasha Sullivan!

SASHA
Boss. Can we talk?

PIKE
I always have time for the mayor.

Pike and Sasha sit.

SASHA
How's the insurance claim going?

PIKE
Am I talking to the Mayor or Danny
Sullivan's wife?

SASHA
You're talking to both.

PIKE
I guess I am.
(pause)
The claim is not looking good.
We've been through this, though.
You know that.

SASHA
I thought so.

PIKE
Is that it?

SASHA
That's it.

PIKE
Okay.

Pike stands to let Sasha out, though Sasha doesn't move.

SASHA
They're going to strike.

Pike sits back down. He thinks for a while before he responds.

PIKE
I suppose I could see about
removing Danny's protocol
violation from the insurance
claim, and probably force it
through.

PIKE

But I don't think I could do something like that unless my mayor publicly sided with mine ownership and opposed the strike effort. I might even be able to find some of our pension reserves for Danny.

SASHA

How strange, I thought that was impossible.

PIKE

Business and politics are pretty complicated. I know you didn't finish high school but I think you're more clever than you look. I bet you'll start to figure out how some of these things work.

SASHA

Keep your money.

PIKE

So what, you just came down here to threaten me with a fucking uprising?

SASHA

I'm not threatening anything I'm just telling you what's going on.

PIKE

That so?

SASHA

They are my constituents, they elected me, so I may have to support them. Give them use of the community center for meetings, next Mayors' Council apply for funding for labor organizing, et cetera.

PIKE

Now it sounds like you're threatening me.

Pike imposes his size on Sasha as he approaches her.

SASHA

Does it?

Sasha smirks. Pike wind pulls back and smacks Sasha in the face. Shockingly horrible and violent.

Sasha falls backward in her chair, to the ground.

PIKE

The thing about threats is at some point you have to back them up.

Sasha's lip quavers, she fights hard to hold back tears.

Pike again approaches her and imposes on her space with his enormous frame, making it impossible for her to stand.

PIKE

You still don't understand how this works, Sasha. You're a cleaning woman. I don't enjoy having hurt you, I'm sorry I did that. You just weren't really talking rationally.

Pike helps Sasha stand, pretending to be nice.

SASHA

Don't manipulate me.

Pike smacks her again, and Sasha stumbles backwards, knocking over a lamp. Pike is now irate.

PIKE

I tell you what to do. If you don't listen to me, I KILL you. It's simple!

A knock at the door.

JACK (O.S.)

Pike, it's Jack.

Pike smiles, derangedly.

PIKE

Come on in Jackie.

Pike's door suddenly opens, Pike still standing over Sasha. Jack enters, sees what's happening.

JACK

Take a step back, right now.

Jack steps towards Pike, and pulls him away from Sasha, pushes him into a wall.

Pike somewhat maniacally laughs at Jack, completely unintimidated.

PIKE

Just having a talk with the new mayor.

JACK

I think you might've gone too far this time Pike.

PIKE

I think you've gone a little far, too, with this bullshit bureaucrat spy mission. Sleeping with your mark? Might be a little out of bounds. The party sends you here to keep an eye on the new mayor, meanwhile I've got an uprising on my hands because you idiots can't rig an election properly.

Jack takes a swing at Pike. Pike dodges it with a boxer's grace and comes back with a quick jab, square in the eye. Jack falls into the wall and then to the ground, loudly knocking over a piece of furniture.

Sasha tries to pull herself to safety in a corner of the office.

The door busts open again, this time Tommy charges in with a pistol drawn at his side.

PIKE

All okay in here, Tommy.

Pike is calm, in control of the situation. Sasha stands and runs out of the office. Tommy pulls Jack back up onto his feet. Pike gives him a hook to the gut.

PIKE

Just get out of here. Do your fucking job.

JACK

I sure will.

Tommy tosses Jack out of the office.

76

EXT. MINE - DAY

76

Jack stumbles down the steps outside of Pike's office, and then spots Sasha running off.

JACK

Sasha!

Jack gathers himself and runs after Sasha.

77

EXT. STREETS - DAY

77

Jack catches up to Sasha.

JACK

I can explain, really.

SASHA

You're working with him? This is why you were trying to get me to leave? To stop the strike?

JACK

That's not it, Sasha.

SASHA

Well?

JACK

I can't exactly explain, but I'll be able to soon.

SASHA

You're not a surveyor.

JACK

I actually am a surveyor, but I do a few other things too.

SASHA

What's that exactly? Besides lying to me and meddling in our town's affairs?

JACK

It's really not-- I wish I could explain it but the point I'm at with this, I can't disclose anything.

SASHA

I may be inexperienced and uneducated but I'm not naive. Maybe you ought to head back to the capital.

Sasha runs off. Jack doesn't follow after.

78 **EXT. HILLTOP - SUNSET****78**

Sasha sits on the hilltop where she went on the date with Jack. The horse she sees around town trots up to her. Sasha wraps her arms around the horse's neck and nuzzles against it.

SASHA

Sweet friend. I'm so tired.

Sasha sheds a tear while continuing to embrace the horse.

79 **EXT. ZEKE'S HOUSE - EVENING****79**

Sasha walks along a street, past a house.

Zeke's head pops out of one of the house's windows.

ZEKE

Sasha? Where are you going?

SASHA

Oh my god I completely forgot about dinner.

ZEKE

We were waiting for you. Come in, food's just about ready.

80 **INT. ZEKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT****80**

Aria, with a baby on her arm, welcomes Sasha into the house.

It's a similar style but messier and more worn down than Sasha's, the cost of having two children.

ARIA

We were worried something happened.

SASHA

I'm sorry I'm so late, I just forgot completely. Lost track of the day.

Sasha says hello to the baby on Aria's arm.

SASHA

Hi you.

ARIA

Say hi, Archie. Hi.

Aria waves Archie's little hand at Sasha. Archie starts crying.

ARIA
That's no way to greet a friend,
Archie.

SASHA
Oh I scared him.

ARIA
No no no, it wasn't you. Archie's
in a crying phase. Constant.
Constant crying.

Zeke off in the kitchen preparing food, calls out.

ZEKE
Welcome, come in, come in.

ARIA
Let me put him down but go on in.

81

INT. ZEKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

81

ZEKE
We are almost ready.

SASHA
It smells amazing.

Zeke notices Sasha gingerly setting herself and her belly into a chair.

ZEKE
How far along are you?

Aria comes back into the kitchen. She begins setting dinner on the table.

SASHA
8 very long months.

ZEKE
Incredible.

ARIA
Are you ready?

The table is set and they settle in to eat.

SASHA
To have a baby here? I don't know.
Before the election I was ready to
get on a bus to the city and never
look back.

SASHA

I don't want the baby spending his life in the mines.

ARIA

If we could leave, we'd leave. But we don't have the money to move. Don't know what we'd do anywhere else anyway. With two kids the bills add up fast. It'll be nice for you to have that mayor's salary when yours comes.

ZEKE

We're going to change things here. We're going to get good pay for the miners. We'll be able to live a decent life.

ARIA

You keep saying that...

SASHA

Would you ever work, Aria?

ARIA

I don't know how I could with the kids.

SASHA

I need someone to take over my old job at the mayor's office. I like doing all of the cleaning myself still, but the job is paid for in the budget. There just wouldn't be much work. It'll be easy.

ARIA

I'd have to hire a sitter, it would probably cost me more to have the job.

SASHA

Bring the kids to the office. It's just me in there.

ARIA

I... guess that would work.

SASHA

It would be nice to have friends in the office. Especially cute ones like Archie & Annie.

ZEKE

Sasha you don't have to-

SASHA

It's nothing. It's done. You're hired.

Aria is so grateful. Tears of joy well up.

ARIA

You're too generous, Sasha.

SASHA

I'm not.

ZEKE

This kind of thing is why we voted for you, Sasha. We knew this town would be better if you were mayor.

SASHA

It makes me very happy to help.

ZEKE

This already on top of what you're doing to help the union is more than we could've asked for.

SASHA

I'm not sure about the union, as far as my role. I don't know that you need me, so formally, at least.

ZEKE

It's about collective power, Sasha. We need everyone to stand up against Pike, together.

SASHA

I went and spoke to him today.

ZEKE

What did he say, how did it go?

SASHA

To be honest, it didn't go well at all. I tried to push him but Pike can be very forceful.

ZEKE

That's the whole point.

ZEKE

If everyone is organized against him, he no longer has the means to be forceful.

SASHA

With a baby on the way, all on my own, I don't know if I can be the face of this. Now that Aria has a job, it might make sense if you stepped back and let someone else step up. Someone with less to lose.

ZEKE

That's not how this works, Sasha.
(pause)
You can keep the job. Aria doesn't want it.

ARIA

I can speak for myself, Zeke.

ZEKE

Just because one person got a new job doesn't mean a thing to the hundreds of guys putting their lives on the line for next to nothing everyday. Everyone's got kids to feed, everyone's got needs. This isn't about finding a way for a few of us to improve our situations, it's about finding a way to improve things for everyone.

SASHA

I understand what you're saying, Zeke, but there's a lot to it. It's complicated and difficult and dangerous, frankly.

ZEKE

Easy to say when you're collecting a mayor's salary and sitting behind a desk in a comfortable office. We're striking tomorrow. If you're not with us, you're against us.

Sasha shuffles home from Zeke's.

She watches a mine truck FLY through the intersection from a distance, headlights on the horizon.

A roaring sound in the otherwise still village night.

83

EXT. SASHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

83

Sasha approaches her house and sees Jack sitting on her front step waiting for her.

Jack has a black eye from the scuffle with Pike.

Sasha rolls her eyes. Takes a deep breath to prepare herself.

She approaches. Jack sees her and rises.

JACK

Evening.

SASHA

It's a bit late.

JACK

I wanted to explain a few things,
try to apologize.

Sasha stands at a distance, arms crossed, waiting for him to speak. He doesn't.

SASHA

Okay, go ahead.

JACK

I--

Jack thinks for a second, then begins.

JACK

I do work for the government. I am a surveyor, but sometimes they ask me to do other things. In this case, they asked me to keep an eye on Pike. I think they might be building a case against him. The state co-owns the mine with Pike and I think they've had suspicions about him for a long time. Embezzlement, fraud, running a protection racket, a whole list of things. So I guess I'm here to figure out what's going on and try to keep things status quo until we figure it out.

JACK

Thing is, the state wanted Yoder to stay in as mayor, and Pike did too. And they all tried to rig the election, but they picked the wrong person to run against him. Everyone in this town loves you. So they sent me back to make sure you didn't get into any trouble and make sure Pike didn't exploit the situation.

SASHA

I don't need a babysitter.

JACK

I know you don't.

(thinking)

I'm not supposed to talk about any of this. I'd hate to blow the case after a lot of time putting it together.

SASHA

Then why are you telling me?

JACK

I don't know. Maybe I'm hoping I could get you to trust me again.

(pause)

To be totally honest, I like you, Sasha. I don't know about you but that's not something that happens to me often, meeting someone I care about, who might feel the same way.

A long pause. Sasha thinks. Jack does too.

JACK

There are some guys from the capital coming to town tomorrow. I think they're going to arrest Pike, if they can pull it together. After that I'll be out of your hair.

SASHA

But they're striking tomorrow.

JACK

I think they want to be ahead of the strike.

JACK

I just wanted to tell you all of this and say that my offer stands, if you wanted to come back to the city with me.

Sasha laughs.

SASHA

Are you insane?

JACK

I thought you might say that.

Sasha scoffs and walks past Jack to get to her front door.

JACK

You should still be careful. Try not to get too mixed up in the organizing effort if you can avoid it.

SASHA

Can't really avoid it. They need the support of everyone, especially the mayor. Unless your investigation leads to an arrest, there's only one way to deal with the situation here.

JACK

I understand.

SASHA

Good night, Jack.

Sasha heads inside.

FADE OUT.

84 INT. SASHA'S HOUSE - MORNING

84

Sasha wakes to the sun rising through her window and the sound of a small group of miners marching past her house. She rises and goes to her window to see.

85 EXT. STREETS - MORNING

85

Sasha follows a crowd of miners headed to the mine. She walks alongside Zeke.

The miners chant as they walk:

MINERS

-Union power on the rise
 -Now's the time to organize!
 -No more bosses' tricks and lies
 -Now's the time to organize!
 -Give our children better lives
 -Now's the time to organize!

A hand on Sasha's shoulder. She turns around, it's Jack.

JACK

I need you to come with me,
 something's happening.

SASHA

We're busy!

JACK

This is important, it'll be fast.

Jack checks his watch.

JACK

They ought to be arriving at the
 hotel now. The mayor should be in
 the loop on this.

Sasha gives in.

SASHA

Okay.
 (to Zeke)
 I'll catch up. Don't worry, I'm
 still with you.

ZEKE

But Sasha-

Sasha and Jack run off.

86

INT. HOTEL - MORNING

86

Jack pulls Sasha into the lobby of the hotel where a group of
 men wait, clearly not miners.

JACK

You made it.

AGENTS

Hello. / Morning. / Jack.

JACK

This is Sasha Sullivan, she's the new mayor here in Pikesville.

The agents nod to Sasha.

JACK

What's the plan? I don't want this to get messy.

AGENT #1

We don't either. There's only one real course of action and it's to make sure the protests don't turn violent. We need to convince the labor group to back off.

SASHA

To back off?

JACK

I thought we were making an arrest?!

AGENT #2

The case against Pike, it's not as clean as we'd like it to be. There's not enough to make an arrest.

AGENT #1

The state is concerned about shutting off the valve here in Pikesville. A lot of coal comes out of this village.

AGENT #3

It's not a good time, politically, economically, to destabilize the energy markets. One mine shuts down, maybe another, maybe another, suddenly our export margins are blown to shit, commodity prices are fucked across the board.

JACK

So you're here to protect Pike?!

AGENT #2

We're here to protect the entire country, Fawcett.

JACK

Don't give me that shit.

AGENT #1
 (to Sasha)
 Who's the labor boss? Are you friendly with them? As a member of the Reform Party, we expect you to work with us on shutting down the strike effort.

Sasha shakes her head.

SASHA
 (to Jack)
 Thanks a lot, Jack.

JACK
 I swear I had no idea. We have a good case against Pike. This is ridiculous.

AGENT #2
 It wasn't that good, Jack.

SASHA
 I have to go back to the workers.

Sasha begins to leave.

AGENT #1
 You can't go down there, Sasha. We don't want you getting these people all riled up.

Sasha pauses.

SASHA
 You don't know anything about "these people."

Sasha continues on her way out.

JACK
 Sasha!

Jack follows after.

AGENT #1
 Fawcett!

87

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY

87

The miners block the gate to the mine, a giant picket line. The crowd is quite large -- it's the village against Pike.

The miners chant in unison:

MINERS

-What do we want?
-Safety!
-When do we want it?
-Now!
-What do we want?
-Fair pay!
-When do we want it?
-Now!

Sasha watches as Zeke ascends a makeshift pulpit, and speaks into a megaphone.

ZEKE

Brothers and sisters!

The crowd quiets.

ZEKE

I couldn't be prouder to see all of you here with us this morning. For generations, the people of this community have been unfairly oppressed by the Pike family and their immoral greed.

The crowd cheers.

ZEKE

Today we unite, as workers, as a family. And ask for - no - *demand* fair working conditions. We've seen too many brothers die from disaster inside the mine, from its effects on our health outside the mine, and from the tiresome burden of poverty. Our boss lives a good life off of this mine's profits. People in the capital live good lives, in part thanks to our cheap coal. For years we've sacrificed so that others can be comfortable while we suffer. That ends now. We stand together as one united front of workers, in solidarity, until we get what we rightly deserve.

The crowd cheers again.

Zeke catches sight of Sasha as she arrives.

ZEKE

I'd like to introduce someone I've been inspired by recently, someone we've rallied around as workers, someone who knows our pain as well as anyone, someone who every day wakes up and courageously faces the avoidable tragedy that her husband, our brother Danny Sullivan, suffered at the hands of this mine's ownership. Mayor Sasha Sullivan, will you come up here and say a few words?

The crowd cheers and whoops for Sasha.

Sasha hesitates, but given the crowd's enthusiasm, has no choice but to take the stage.

She takes a moment to catch her breath as the applause fades.

SASHA

I miss Danny everyday. Everyday I think about the fact that my baby won't get to meet his father. And I think about why, in this, a civilized village, in a civilized country, our best young men have no choice but to break their backs and risk their lives digging up truckload upon truckload of coal, so the Pikes can build greater and greater wealth, and people in the capital get rich, while the worker, here in Pikesville, gets paid pennies, gets his insurance claims denied, gets his pension taken away, gets longer and longer work days, and gets denied the most basic of human rights.

The crowd cheers. Sasha locks eye with Jack, who applauds and cheers as well.

Pike's town car arrives, at quite a distance from the protestors.

Pike and Tommy step out of the car and direct their attention towards Sasha.

The agents from the hotel follow, not far behind Pike.

As Sasha speaks, she observes Pike, Tommy, and Jack.

SASHA

We will no longer hand over the resources of our community at a steep discount. We do not have to load these trucks so they can speed out of here at top speed without regard for our safety. We do not have to let Pike continue to exploit us and steal from us. Today we stand united against years of injustice and exploitation. If he were still here today, Danny would be at the front of this group, standing in solidarity with all of you. As your sister and as your mayor, I will continue to stand with you to the very end, 'til every single person in this village has a shot at a decent life.

They applaud Sasha, as she steps down.

She shakes hands with miners and waves on her way out.

Jack spots Tommy and Pike, who are quickly approaching him.

PIKE

Your girlfriend's going way too far, Jack.

JACK

You're outnumbered, Pike. You can still end this, and pretty quickly. They're not asking for a lot.

PIKE

I think I will end it, but not the way you want me to end it. Tommy's looking for Sasha now to have a talk with her.

Jack turns to look for Sasha. Just as he spots her, Pike takes a fast step towards Jack and slams his forearm hard into his back, knocking him to the ground.

Zeke again approaches the stage. As he does, the agents gather around and quickly pull him away. The crowd yells out.

MINERS

Zeke! / Stop them!

One of the agents steps to the stage, holds up his badge and speaks.

AGENT #3

This is an unauthorized demonstration. Please disperse-

Sasha attempts to chase after Zeke but she's cut off by Tommy and sees the gun drawn at his side.

The miners quickly chase after Zeke and begin pulling the agents off of him, majorly outnumbering them.

AGENT #1

Let's get out of here!

The agents scramble and flee, some of the miners chase after.

Tommy heads straight toward Sasha. She turns and begins to run, through the crowd. Tommy chases after.

Pike slips into his town car and drives away from the scene.

Jack struggles to get up from inside the now very unruly crowd.

88 **EXT. STREETS - DAY**

88

Clear from the crowds, Sasha hurriedly continues away. Tommy, following Sasha at a distance, walks quickly to keep up.

Sasha takes a turn and heads toward the hilltop as she picks up the pace.

89 **EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY**

89

Chaos at the mine. The miners have rushed the stage.

Jack picks himself up off the ground and takes off in the direction he thinks he saw Sasha go.

90 **EXT. STREETS - DAY**

90

Jack runs through town. He stops near the hotel and climbs atop an idling mine truck to get a better vantage. He spots Tommy turning a corner a ways off, hops down, and chases after.

91 **EXT. HILLTOP - DAY**

91

Sasha finds herself at the hilltop, and looks down the path she just ascended.

Tommy isn't far behind.

Sasha spots Jack following behind Tommy.

She spins around, tries to figure out which way to go, and sees her horse trotting along the hillside, into a wooded area that leads back down to the village.

She follows in the direction of the horse.

92

EXT. CAFE - DAY

92

Sasha weaves around the cafe, tucks herself behind a wall.

She glances around the corner to see if she's lost Tommy.

She thinks she's clear. She glances a few more times.

Katerina pokes her head out of the window of the cafe.

KATERINA

Sasha?

Sasha puts her index finger over her mouth and shakes her head.

Immediate concern shows on Katerina's face.

Katerina shuts the cafe window and steps out to go speak to Sasha.

By the time she steps out, however, Sasha has disappeared.

93

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

93

Sasha stands at the intersection, Tommy not far behind.

Sasha waits to cross the intersection, as a truck whizzes past.

She dashes across safely then quickly slides into a ravine across the road.

She spins around and peers backward, watching Tommy approach the intersection with his gun drawn.

Sasha spots Jack approaching behind Tommy.

Jack sees Tommy with his gun drawn stepping into the road, but hears a truck rumbling down the road.

Jack calls out--

JACK

Tommy!

Tommy spins around with the gun extended, only to slip and stumble slightly backwards, just as the truck blasts through the intersection.

The truck SMASHES into Tommy.

Tommy's gun discharges.

Tommy goes soaring into the air, fifteen feet off the ground.

Tommy lands with a thud, in a cloud of dust, limp on the ground.

Sasha climbs up out of the ravine, checks to make sure no more trucks are coming.

Tommy is barely moving. Sasha drags him out of the road quickly.

After she does, Sasha notices Jack stumbling towards her.

Jack holds his hand over his abdomen, blood seeping through his white shirt around his hand.

SASHA

Jack!

JACK

Did he get me?

SASHA

Come on, come on.

Sasha pulls Jack's arm over her shoulder and drags him down the street.

Katerina arrives and races over to help.

Sasha clutches at her stomach, wincing slightly.

SASHA

We have to get him to the doctor.

KATERINA

Are you okay?

Sasha nods.

Katerina presses a dishcloth against Jack's wound and takes Jack's other arm over her shoulder.

Jack looks at Sasha.

JACK
I thought they were here to arrest
Pike, not protect him. Really.

SASHA
I know, Jack, let's get you to the
doctor.

JACK
I do love you.

SASHA
I know, Jack.

94 **INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

94

Sasha and Katerina push open the doctor's door.

The doctor sits, reading a newspaper at a desk. He does not
look away from his newspaper.

DOCTOR
Just a minute.

JACK
Doctor-

Jack collapses.

The doctor finally looks up and sees the situation. He springs
up from his desk.

DOCTOR
Nurse!

A nurse emerges from a back room.

Sasha winces again, clutching her stomach. She falls back
against the wall and slumps down.

KATERINA
Sasha?

DOCTOR
She's in labor.

The doctor points to a puddle of water on the ground, Sasha's
water having just broken. He speaks to Katerina.

DOCTOR
Stay with her. Him first.

The nurse and the doctor pull Jack onto a hospital bed, and
wheel him into a back room.

KATERINA

You're okay, Sasha. You're okay.

Sasha takes a few deep breaths in and out, and shuts her eyes.

95 **EXT. ROAD - DAY**

95

A road block formed by two enormous mine trucks. Miners stand outside the vehicles.

Pike's town car pulls up to the vehicles and skids to a stop.

He attempts to spin the car around, but, trailed by another mine truck, is trapped.

Pike spins the car off the road and tries to get away through the brush but the car gets stuck. Pike gets out and begins running away on foot. No one chases after.

The agents pull up behind the mine truck in a car of their own. One of the agents partially steps out of the vehicle.

AGENT #1

We just want to pass. This strike
is a provincial concern, not
federal. We'd just like to pass.

The miners signal for the trucks to part and let the agents pass.

96 **INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

96

Sasha wakes up in a hospital bed, her baby sleeping on her chest.

She is still in a hazy state, the sun beaming in through the window.

She inspects her baby's head, smells it, kisses it.

Sasha's eyes flutter open and shut, barely awake, like a dream.

Across the room, Jack lays in a hospital bed. Sasha can barely make him out, his heart monitor chirps.

Sasha falls asleep, her hand wrapped delicately around her baby's head.

97 **EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY****97**

Zeke guides a few workers as they hoist a new, crudely painted sign over the mine entrance.

The sign reads:

Pikesville Co-Operative Mine
Worker Owned & Operated

98 **INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY****98**

Sasha is upright in her bed. She holds her newborn.

Zeke and Aria enter with Annie and Archie and flowers for Sasha.

ARIA
Sweet Sasha.

ZEKE
You look beautiful.

Sasha smiles.

SASHA
Jack's in a coma.

ZEKE
I heard.

ARIA
And Pike disappeared.

SASHA
No one has seen him?

Zeke shakes his head.

ZEKE
Hopefully he's got enough stashed away that he never comes back. We took over the mine when he fled. He won't get it back without a fight. Things are looking pretty good, Sasha.

SASHA
(to Aria)
How's the office?

ARIA
I'm taking great care of it for
you. Archie and Annie are helping
me clean.

ZEKE
(referring to the newborn)
Does he have a name?

SASHA
We'll call him Danny, I think.

99 **EXT. SASHA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

99

Sasha carries Danny to her mailbox.
Wendy is tending to her garden.

SASHA
Morning Wendy.

WENDY
Morning Sasha, morning Danny.

Sasha removes a few envelopes and walks back inside.

100 **INT. SASHA'S KITCHEN - DAY**

100

Sasha flicks on her radio.

"Traces De Toi" by Alain Chamfort.

Sasha opens the mail she just received, one is a check from the
insurance company.

SASHA
Look at that Danny. Do you want to
go to college one day?

Sasha picks Danny up and dances with him, singing along to the
chanson, which keeps playing as we dissolve to...

101 **EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY**

101

Sasha walks across the intersection.

A truck stops, quite normally, at a stop sign, allowing Sasha
and little Danny to cross with ease.

102 **INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY****102**

Sasha arrives to the office with little Danny.

Aria, Archie, and Annie clap for Sasha. Aria speaks in a voice appropriate for the children, encouraging them to clap.

ARIA

Sasha! She's back! Mayor Sasha!

Sasha smiles ear to ear, very happy.

SASHA

We missed you guys. And the office, it's so clean!

ARIA

Welcome back boss.

Katerina shows up at the office.

KATERINA

Sasha, hi.

SASHA

Hey Katerina, what's up?

KATERINA

There's something with the new street signs, I think you need to come see.

SASHA

I'm just getting to the office, is it urgent?

KATERINA

You should come now, I think.

ARIA

Go ahead, go.

Sasha hands Danny to Aria.

SASHA

I'll be back fast.

103 **EXT. CAFE - DAY****103**

Sasha and Katerina approach the cafe. Aria and the three kids follow not far behind.

Outside the cafe, another banner hangs:

Welcome Home Danny + Sasha
with love, from the Pikesville Co-Operative Miners Assoc.

The miners are all there. Zeke and the rest.

The doctor wheels Jack, in a wheelchair, to the front.

Sasha gasps, shocked to see Jack.

She cries, happily.

SASHA
You're awake!

JACK
As of yesterday.

SASHA
Why didn't you call me?

JACK
I guess I was technically awake
but mostly pretty much
unconscious.

SASHA
Can I hug you?

JACK
I'd be disappointed if you didn't.

Sasha wraps her arms around him and kisses him on the forehead.

JACK
Can you forgive me?

Sniffling, still crying, laughing.

SASHA
I'll think about it.

The miners cheer for Sasha.

ZEKE
Speech! Speech!

SASHA
No speech. Just-- thank you. I
love you all so much.

Far in the background, the lawyer comes out of a portable
toilet, adjusting his trousers.

MINERS

No, thank you! / Thank you,
Sasha. / We love you.

The band that performed on Sasha and Jack's date kicks off a similar tune.

The miners begin dancing in the same style we saw before.

Sasha takes Danny from Aria and joins in while Jack watches.

The camera pulls up, overhead, the entire village coming into view, one tiny hamlet in a vast expanse.

THE END