

FLY - PILOT EPISODE

First 16 pages

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

JENNA (13) her haunting multicolored eyes, lids thickly lined in black, surveys the grounds. Fall colored trees shade middle and high school students milling about. Most stare at, and avoid, Jenna. Her brown and white vitiligo skin is framed by black hair, black clothes, and an ornate black choker.

A BOY (14) of medium build, but bigger than Jenna, is dared by his buddies. He carefully approaches her from behind where she sits on a picnic table. He reaches out and tries to touch her choker. His fingers get close. She freezes.

Jenna suddenly bolts up as her fisted arm swings sideways with full force at the boy's head. His face wobbles from the impact as he teeters.

BOY

Auh!

STUDENTS

Whoah!

The boy's friends LAUGH as he scurries away. Jenna is poised, her body tense, breathing heavily, ready to take anyone on. Everyone jeers at her, except ALICE (12), a sweet First Nations girl.

Alice looks with empathy at the ostracized Jenna. Alice seems to want to speak as the girls exchange a look, but Jenna turns away. Alice is sad. Jenna sits again, but immediately, bolts up. She SCREAMS a primal SCREAM of pain. She drops to the ground writhing, holding her backside.

ALICE

Jenna!

Alice runs to Jenna as a crowd gathers. Alice yells at them.

ALICE (CONT'D)

What did you do?!

BOY

Nothing!

No one moves. Jenna grasps onto Alice.

JENNA

Alice.

ALICE

What's wrong?

Jenna tries to get up then suddenly stops. Her eyes glaze over as she falls forward on her face.

SUPER - A YEAR EARLIER

INT. JENNA'S ROOM - MORNING

JENNA(12) sleeps, her face framed by chestnut hair, no makeup, dressed in a white nightgown. Under her arm is an old hand-stitched rag doll. Morning light creeps over her face. Her eyes open. Jenna turns toward the sun-filled window. Hovering there is a dragonfly. Jenna smiles. MUSIC begins.

SLOW MOTION:

The dragonfly approaches through floating sunlit dust particles suspended in the air. Jenna rises wearing a long white nightgown. The two meet in the center of the room.

The dragonfly's dual sets of wings beautifully maneuver it into a dance. Jenna raises her arms up and down mimicking it. They slowly spin around one another, glowing in the sun.

INT. BARN - MORNING

To the same music, MANDY (36), with vitiligo markings on her chest leading to her neck, twirls on an aerial silk hanging from the rafters. Her long, black hair swirls outward as the sun beams behind her, silhouetting her figure. Her movements are fluid. Beautiful. She is in her element.

JENNA'S ROOM - MORNING

Jenna puts out her hand. The dragonfly lights upon it.

END SLOW MOTION:

The MUSIC continues.

JENNA

Good morning.

The dragonfly lifts off and heads to the window sill. The MUSIC ends. A new SONG begins but it comes from outside.

Jenna looks out her window ledge at the surrounding mountains.

Ahead is a steep rock face with high cliff dwarfing a suspension bridge at its base, a river running under it.

The road crossing over the bridge runs into the valley around fields between the bridge and the house where, in the large front driveway, sits a truck and an old car. They are parked opposite the house under a large tree. Near its base is an old ice cellar with double wooden doors, chained shut.

A barn to the right, its doors open, is where the MUSIC comes from.

INT. JENNA'S ROOM - MORNING

Jenna leans her elbows on the sill. She watches Mandy until she sees JASON (38) tall, broad shouldered, with a kind face. He looks solemn though. He walks from the house to the barn. Jenna's face falls. She looks at the dragonfly.

JENNA

Here we go again.

INT. BARN - MORNING

The music stops. Mandy stops spinning and looks down. Jason holds the remote in one hand and holds up a pregnancy test with the other.

JASON

I thought you weren't going to take them for a while.

MANDY

I thought you were drafting an email.

JASON

I was till I took a bathroom break and saw this in the garbage.

INT. JENNA'S ROOM - MORNING

Jenna is suddenly on alert. The dragonfly takes flight. Jenna looks toward the cliff. Nothing. She calls out toward the barn...

JENNA

Incoming!

INT. BARN - MORNING

Mandy and Jason see Jenna disappear into her room. Mandy unravels down. She and Jason hurry outside.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

They look toward the cliff. Nothing.

JASON

Get ready. I'll keep him busy.

Mandy takes the test from Jason.

MANDY

I'm sorry. It's just last night was amazing. I wasn't thinking about getting pregnant at all and then/

JASON

/you thought it might have happened.

MANDY

I'll stop taking them.

JASON

You have a whole stash.

Mandy kisses him, then again, and again, till he responds.

MANDY

I love you.

He kisses her again.

JASON

You better go.

Mandy runs into the house. Jason looks toward the cliff as he opens the car door.

INT. JENNA'S ROOM - MORNING

Jenna, now dressed, quickly pulls her duvet over her bed and puts her pillow in place. On her night stand is a picture of a smiling Jenna, Mandy and Jason in hiking gear on top of the cliff. It overlooks a valley sprinkled with farms.

Jenna places the rag doll in front of her pillow.

JENNA

Don't worry. They still love each other.

She runs out her door past a wall plastered with a visual science report in the shape of a wheel with a centre. The outside has labeled pictures of TREES, INSECTS, FUNGUS, BLACK BEARS, COASTAL WOLVES, KILLER WHALES, SEALS, SEA LIONS, EAGLES, RACCOONS, STREAMS, RIVERS. The central picture is SALMON.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Jason moves equipment from the old car into the back of the truck then sees another truck emerge from the top of the road by the cliff. Jason grins and heads for the house.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Jenna grabs bag lunches as Jason enters.

JASON

You called it.

He winks at Jenna. She grins. Jason walks past the dining table to the adjoining office.

INT. HOME OFFICE - MORNING

The office has maps of the valley and surrounding area including a nearby town accessed via the road by the bridge going up the mountain.

Nearer the town is a reservoir and dam at the head of the river.

On the wall hangs 2 framed pictures of UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA degrees. One for DOCTOR JASON PARSON - PhD IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES and one for MANDY FIELDS PARSON-BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES.

There are binders on the shelf that read, URBAN PLANNING 2021-22, INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, FNFC, FLP, and SILVICULTURE INNOVATION PROGRAM, FOREST AND RANGE PRACTICES ACT, OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW, and more.

Jason quickly opens his computer. A mini totem pole with a Thunderbird on top is near it. Jason finds a drafted email. NOTICE OF LEASE INCREASE. He takes a breath and pushes SEND. Jenna, at the door, holding the lunches, watches with worry.

JASON
I'll handle the backlash.

JENNA
It's not you they'll be calling
"Indian giver."

His expression is resigned. Jenna looks out the window. The truck pulls in. She looks at her arms. Goosebumps. Jason heads out toward the entryway. Jenna follows.

JENNA (CONT'D)
I have a bad feeling about him.

JASON
We need a hydrologist and he needs
a good place to go.

JENNA
What's the problem with where he
was?

JASON
That's not our business. Just
remember, this valley's a refuge
and you're...

JASON/JENNA
...to guard it.

JENNA
But it's being taken over!
Shouldn't Parson Valley just have
Parsons in it? At least we're nice!

JASON
I'm working on it.

Jason pats her shoulder then enters the Master bedroom.
Jenna's face falls.

JENNA
Dad I didn't mean...
(to herself)
Jenna you're so stupid!

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Jason pops in as Mandy is in the bathroom.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - MORNING

Her fingers reach for a silver chain with a small native style silver salmon.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM/MASTER BATHROOM/INTERCUT - MORNING

He switches his shoes to hiking boots.

JASON

Ready?

MANDY (O.C.)

Almost. I still don't understand why you chose him.

She walks in wearing her robe.

MANDY (CONT'D)

He was so weird in university.

JASON

We needed someone stat and...I feel obligated.

MANDY

University's over, you don't have to look after the awkward boy anymore.

JASON

That's not why.

This surprises Mandy.

JASON (CONT'D)

I wanted to test him out first but...can we talk later?

MANDY

(curious)

Sure.

INT. ENTRYWAY - MORNING

Jenna peers through the curtain and watches HUNTER (38) ripped, good looking, and oddly stylish in his mountain gear emerge from the truck. He checks his image in the glass and smooths back his thick hair. Jason returns.

JASON

Well?

JENNA
It feels like he's...jealous.

JASON
Everyone's jealous of me.

JENNA
Why?

JASON
Have you seen your mother?

He winks again. Jenna smiles.

JASON (CONT'D)
Let's give him a proper Parson
welcome

EXT. FRONT PORCH/DRIVEWAY - MORNING (CONTINUOUS)

Jason emerges through the front screen door followed by Jenna. Jason is surprised at seeing Hunter.

JASON
Hunter?!

HUNTER
Hi.

JASON
What the heck man!

Jason gives Hunter a hug. The men are about the same height.

JASON (CONT'D)
You caught up to me!

HUNTER
Yeah, 25 hit and, boom, I got 3
more inches!

JASON
And how much more in your
circumference? He thumps his chest.

HUNTER
That took a few more years.
(becoming sombre)
Thanks for letting me come.

JASON
For sure.

Jason gives him a friendly pat on the shoulder and pulls his head close so their foreheads touch.

JASON (CONT'D)
(hushed)
I'm taking a risk on you. Be a good
Parson. Yuh?

Hunter nods. Jenna looks quizzical. Jason smiles at her.

JASON (CONT'D)
(to Jenna-lighter)
I'm lucky he didn't look like this
when I was dating your mother.

He winks. The SCREEN DOOR is heard opening and closing.

MANDY (V.O.)
I didn't marry you for your looks.

Mandy looks gorgeous in her simple jeans and button up shirt. Hunter catches his breath. Jason smiles with pride. Mandy approaches, a bit taken aback at seeing Hunter.

MANDY
Thanks for helping us out.

HUNTER
I'm glad I was free.

He stares. Mandy looks uncomfortable. Jenna scowls.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
Sorry, I'm just...It's been 13
years and you look exactly the same!

MANDY
Well, Jenna keeps me young.

Hunter puts out his hand to Jenna.

HUNTER
Hi. Hunter.

Jenna is reluctant, but shakes.

JENNA
Hi.

He winks at her, like Jason. Mandy and Jason notice and stifle a grin. Jenna pulls away, put off.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Dad can we check the water tables?
I want to know how higher rainfalls
could affect the capacities of the
dam.

JASON

Sure thing.

HUNTER

How old are you?

JENNA

(proud)

Twelve. Today.

HUNTER

Oh! Congratulations. You're coming?

Jenna looks at him like this is such a "Duh" thing to say.

JENNA

Yuh. It's our land. Who else is
going to take care of it?

Mandy gives her a discreet, but swift, kick of reproach.

MANDY

She comes with us all the time.

HUNTER

Oh, I thought you were phasing out

doing the field work...

MANDY

Not till the fall, and right now we

needs extra hands.

JASON

You'll enjoy working with Jenna.
She can do pretty much anything. We
always say with a daughter like her
who could ever...

He stops himself.

MANDY

...want for more children.

Jason discretely takes Mandy's hand and give her a comforting squeeze. Jenna watches this when in her eyes is a...

VISION:

Mandy in white. She smiles broadly while holding a baby in a white blanket.

END VISION:

Jenna's eyes widen and she smiles.

HUNTER

I see.

JASON

Just follow us.

Jenna heads for the truck with a spring in her step.

INT. BARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

BARRY (54) a portly and anxious looking fellow dials and puts his phone down as he rifles through papers.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

JENNA

(calling out an alert)

Barry!

Jason grabs his phone. BARRY. He swipes before it rings.

INT. BARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

JASON (O.S.)

Hey Bear what's up...

Barry jumps not expecting to hear a voice yet.

BARRY

For Pete's sake! Would you let it ring? It freaks me out every time!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Hunter watches with surprise.

JASON
(amused)
Sorry.

INT. BARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

BARRY
You on your way? I got a few more
sample requests from the government
for you. Gotta say though, it looks
more like it's for oil than
forestry.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

JASON
(grave)
Yeah, we're heading up there now.

Mandy sees Hunter's perplexed expression and interjects.

MANDY
Barry, from the office, he usually
calls at this time.

HUNTER
Oh.

JASON
(on the phone)
...Sure thing.

MANDY
We'll see you up there?

HUNTER
(heading for their truck)
I'll get your door.

MANDY
(stopping him)
No! Thanks. I've got it.

Hunter watches her as she makes her way. She opens the
passenger door. Jenna is in the middle seat, anxious to
speak. A thunderbird figure dangles from the rearview mirror.

JENNA
Mom...

MANDY
(under her breath)
Jenna would you stop doing that!

JENNA
What?

MANDY
The phone.

JENNA
Oh. Whatever. Mom, I saw/

MANDY
/We talked about this.

JENNA
Dad doesn't care.

MANDY
I care! If you're going to...

Mandy is diverted as she notices Hunter still watching her.
Jenna looks to see what Mandy is looking at.

JENNA
What's he doing?

Jason, still on the phone, notices Hunter. He hails his
attention.

JASON
Hunter, why don't you pull out this
way so we can get ahead of you.

HUNTER
Uh, sure.

Hunter gets in his truck and pulls out as instructed. He
watches Jason as he hangs up and he and Mandy get in the
truck.

INT. JASON'S TRUCK - MORNING

JENNA
Mom/

Jason gets in and CHUCKLES.

JASON
/Barry gets so mad when I don't let
it ring.

JENNA
Mom/

MANDY
(to Jason, not impressed)
/Maybe get in the habit.

JENNA
Mom/

JASON
/Oh. Right.

JENNA
(demanding attention)
Mom! You're going to have a baby!

MANDY
That's random.

JENNA
I just saw it!
(to Jason))
When you held Mom's hand.

JASON
Oh hun...

JENNA
It's true!

Mandy and Jason share a look of doubt.

JENNA (CONT'D)
You know when I see stuff it
happens! Mandy looks at Jason.

MANDY
Has she ever been wrong?
Jason smiles.

INT. HUNTER'S TRUCK - MORNING

Hunter sees Jason and Mandy kiss as they embrace Jenna.

INT. JASON'S TRUCK - MORNING

Jason and Mandy separate. Jenna turns to see Hunter watching them.

JENNA
He's weird.

Her parents stifle a LAUGH.

JENNA (CONT'D)
(to Jason)
He winked at me like you.

MANDY
He'd copy your dad all the time.

JASON
Be nice, it seems to have served
him well. He's come a long way. Mandy turns on the radio.
6:45am.

MANDY
Let's dance.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

MUSIC plays as Jason's truck pulls out. Jenna and Mandy bounce and SING. They turn onto the gravel road as NEIL, the radio announcer, speaks, a CHOPPER going in the background.

NEIL (O.C.)
It looks like a lovely day folks.

Roads are dry and clear. The chopper flies overhead as the trucks head out.

NEIL (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Parson Valley, your little bit of
heaven is still shining.

Jason and Mandy's arms poke out of the windows and wave.

JASON/JENNA/MANDY
Thanks Neil!

INT. HUNTER'S TRUCK - MORNING

Hunter pulls out right behind the Parsons and watches as Jason and Mandy wave. Jenna checks behind.

INT. JASON'S TRUCK - MORNING

Hunter looks right at Jenna. Goosebumps again.

JENNA
(whisper/mouthing to
herself)
You need to go.

Hunter's mouth responds.

HUNTER
No.

Jenna's eyes widen in surprise and she quickly turns around.

Hunter grins.