

BURNOVER

FADE IN

EXT. STORM KING MOUNTAIN, COLORADO, SOUTH CANYON - DAY

Wind sweeps fire up the canyon.

1994 SOUTH CANYON FIRE, STORM KING MOUNTAIN

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO

Five female and six male firefighters struggle to outrun flames along a firebreak that forms a steep vertical line to the top of the ridge.

EXT. STORM KING MOUNTAIN, RIDGE EDGE ABOVE SOUTH CANYON - DAY

One male firefighter attempts rescue and runs downward into the flames toward eleven firefighters that struggle up the firebreak trying to get to the ridge top.

EXT. STORM KING MOUNTAIN, RIDGE TOP ABOVE SOUTH CANYON - DAY

Two helitack crew members try to outrun the flames back to their helicopter at the helispot.

EXT. STORM KING MOUNTAIN, SOUTH CANYON - DAY

Wind thrusts fire up the canyon and over the ridge consuming fourteen firefighters. A MAN (30' s) narrates.

MAN (V. O.)

The National Interagency Fire Center and the National Wildland Coordinating Group track wildland firefighter fatalities. Of the seventy five ways to die in wildland fires, firefighters fear only one, a phenomenon called burnover.

DEDICATED TO THE HEROES OF STORM KING MOUNTAIN.

EXT. NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON FOREST FIRE - DAY

Present Day. ANNA (20' s) and JOE (female 20' s) jump from a jeep driven by MIKE (30' s). Mike laughs as he spins the jeep tossing dirt on DILLON (20' s), who digs a firebreak.

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

PRESENT DAY

Dillon shouts as the jeep speeds off.

DILLON  
Hey thanks!

Dillon examines Anna and Joe with disgust.

DILLON  
Oh no.

ANNA  
Problem?

Dillon shrugs, returns to digging.

JOE  
She asked a question.

Dillon digs.

Anna and Joe unpack shovels from their gear.

ANNA  
I'm Anna, that's Joe.

JOE  
You got a name or is Retard  
basically it?

Anna laughs as she and Joe take shovels and widen the trench.

Dillon ignores the women, who tease him.

ANNA  
Cute butt, not too narrow, firm.

JOE  
Maybe his name's not Retard. Maybe  
it's Tight Ass.

Anna checks out Dillon's rear-end.

ANNA  
Sweet Cheeks.

Anna takes an even closer look at Dillon's rear.

ANNA  
Definitely Sweet Cheeks.

The women laugh as Dillon ignores them.

INT. COUNTY FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

LEO (40' s) slams down phone, shouts to BUCK (30' s).

LEO  
Wind's shifted from the north. Get  
those people out of there!

BUCK  
Got it.

EXT. RIDGE FACE OF FOREST FIRE - DAY

Buck speeds a jeep between the flames and smoke working his way up the side of a ridge.

EXT. FOREST FIRE - DAY

Buck slams the jeep to a stop, shouts at Dillon, Anna and Joe.

BUCK  
Wind's shifted. Get the hell in  
here!

Dillon jumps in the jeep.

Anna and Joe run for their gear.

DILLON  
Forget that! Come on!

Anna and Joe jump in the jeep.

EXT. RIDGE FACE OF FOREST FIRE - DAY

Buck speeds the jeep carrying Dillon, Anna and Joe through the flames that close behind them. Anna watches the flames shut off what was their only exit. Dillon sees Anna's face.

DILLON  
Seconds. Life or death in seconds.

JOE  
Shut up Smart Ass.

DILLON  
 Next time somebody shouts get the  
 hell in the jeep, get in the  
 frigging jeep.

INT. COUNTY FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

Four days later, Leo conducts a meeting. Dillon sits next to brother EDDY (30's), then Buck, CHIEF (20's), Mike, Anna and Joe, among others.

FOUR DAYS LATER

LEO  
 Six hundred fifty acres, one  
 residence, no loss of life.

The group interrupts, shouts, Leo quickly stops them.

LEO  
 We can do better.

The group gets quiet.

LEO  
 Buck, get wind speed faster.

BUCK  
 Sorry Leo.

LEO  
 Eddy, tanker was late.

EDDY  
 Next time Leo.

The men tease Eddy.

CHIEF, MIKE, DILLON AND BUCK  
 Eddy Gazzan the Fire Man!

Mike yells at Anna and Joe.

MIKE  
 Hey new guys, ask Eddy about his  
 wife.

Chief playfully shoves Mike out of his seat.

EDDY  
 Shut up.

Leo ignores the tease as a release from tension.

LEO

Chief, when I say defensible space around a structure, you got a idea what that means?

CHIEF

Thirty feet cleared of flammable vegetation all the way around.

Leo nods disgustedly, then turns to Anna and Joe.

LEO

Rookies cut no ice here. Follow orders. Pull your weight or pull your ticket.

Chief points to wall covered in bus tickets held on by tape.

LEO

Sunrise drill, back to basics. That's all.

Leo exits.

Everyone groans at the sunrise drill. They look at Chief.

CHIEF

I'm not the only one screwed up.

INT. BUS TICKET WALL IN RANGER STATION - DAY

Chief and Anna read tickets that cover the wall, Dillon joins them. Dillon points to ticket with Anna's name on it.

DILLON

That's you. Peel off, pack up and ship out.

Anna chides Dillon.

ANNA

Fourth generation, swallow hard or puke all day. I'm here to stay.

Chief laughs.

CHIEF

She got you good Dillon.

DILLON  
Shut up Chief.

CHIEF  
My name's Billy.

Dillon walks away.

INT. ROWS OF CHAIRS AT FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

Eddy steps away from the chairs, shouts at Anna and Chief at the ticket wall. Eddy walks toward the ticket wall.

EDDY  
Ignore them Name's Eddy, wife,  
four kids.

INT. BUS TICKET WALL IN RANGER STATION - DAY

Eddy grabs Chief in front of Anna.

EDDY  
This magnificent warrior's Billy.  
We call him Chief and he loves it.  
Right Chief?

Chief shrugs, walks away but chides Eddy as he does.

CHIEF  
Get Eddy to tell you about his  
wife.

EDDY  
Hey man, she may be ugly but she  
sure can cook.

Anna laughs.

INT. FRONT DOOR COUNTY FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

Dillon stops in the front door, shouts to Eddy.

DILLON  
Eddy! You coming or not?

INT. NEAR BUS TICKET WALL, COUNTY FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

Eddy shouts good bye to Anna.

EDDY  
 You get a chance, come to Danny  
 Boy's, seven o'clock. Gotta go.

INT. FRONT DOOR, COUNTY FIRE RANGER STATION - DAY

Dillon teases Eddy as Eddy walks casually to the door.

DILLON  
 I love you man, you're my brother.  
 But sometimes you make it hard.

EDDY  
 Get over yourself.

The two men walk through the door, bumping shoulders in mock irritation, then laugh as they exit.

INT. DANNY BOY'S BAR - NIGHT

Anna and Joe enter. Dillon, Eddy, Chief, Mike and Buck play darts in the crowded bar. Anna and Joe work their way to the dart game.

ANNA  
 Mind if I play?

Dillon turns, sees Anna, puts down his darts and leaves.

BUCK  
 He likes women.

Everyone laughs but Anna and Joe.

BUCK  
 Really, he does, just not on the  
 fire line.

Everyone stops laughing.

INT. TABLE AT DANNY BOY'S BAR - NIGHT

Anna approaches Dillon who drinks beer with WINDY (20's).

ANNA  
 Mind if I join you?

WINDY  
 Have a seat. Name's Windy.



ANNA  
Anna. Thanks.

WINDY  
You part of the new helitack group?

ANNA  
No, hotshot crew.

Dillon shrugs.

DILLON  
Ridiculous. Helitack radio crew  
like Windy, fine. But in there on  
the line, you're a disaster.

ANNA  
You don't know that.

DILLON  
Yeah I do. You out there by  
yourself, burnover happens, you  
die, I don't care. But that's not  
the way it goes down. You drop you  
take a lot of good guys with you.

ANNA  
You're so full of crap. What  
happened? You lose a girl friend  
and now you think we're all gonna  
die? Is that it?

Dillon stands up, looks down sarcastically at Anna.

DILLON  
It's not crap Sweetheart. You  
weigh a hundred pounds of nothing.

Anna looks up at Dillon.

ANNA  
I carry my weight.

DILLON  
Your rear-end's wider than your  
shoulders. You think any of these  
men will let you die when you can't  
haul it up a ridge?

ANNA  
I've wanted this my whole life.  
Like I said, it's in the blood.  
Not you, not anybody's stopping me.

DILLON

When the moment comes, and it will,  
you'll take down every man within  
two hundred yards trying to save  
your selfish ass.

Dillon walks away.

EXT. PULMONARY HILL - DAY

Chief, Dillon, Eddy, Buck, Mike, Anna and Joe work their way up a hill carrying full loads of gear. Leo stops the jeep next to them and introduces NEWT (20's) and RACHEL (20's).

LEO

Hold up people.

Newt and Rachel collect their gear and get out of the jeep.

LEO

This is Newt.

NEWT

Hi.

LEO

And that's Rachel.

RACHEL

Nice to meet you.

Newt and Rachel smile.

Leo turns the jeep around, shouts as he drives off.

LEO

You know the drill, get to it.

Dillon nears Newt, Buck interrupts.

BUCK

Did he say your name's Newt?

Newt smiles, nods yes.

Dillon mutters sarcastically.

DILLON

Perfect.

BUCK  
I love that name. What do you  
lovely ladies do?

RACHEL  
Swampers.

Buck turns to Dillon.

BUCK  
See there, not everybody wants to  
be a hotshot.

NEWT  
Oh we're a part of the hotshot  
team.

RACHEL  
Yeah, just not on the fire line.

EDDY  
I'm Eddy, that's Dillon, you've met  
Buck, that's Chief, Mike, Anna and  
Joe. Okay guys, let's haul.

The group adjusts their packs, continues the hard climb up  
the hill.

EXT. NEAR THE TOP OF PULMONARY HILL - DAY

Dillon, Eddy, Buck, Mike, Joe and Rachel walk past Anna who  
stops to help Newt, who rests. Chief stops to help.

CHIEF  
You two okay?

ANNA  
Need a second that's all. Right  
Newt?

Newt's too exhausted to speak at first, then catches her  
breath.

NEWT  
Right.

Chief tells her to drink water.

CHIEF  
Take a drink, then move out.

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