

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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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
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