

SCENE 1 - EXT. ABANDONED ROAD - DAY

Hiked-up socks wrapped in orthopedic shoes crunch into dirt. An arm swings wearing a vintage watch and a finger dawns a gold wedding ring. A face is shaded by a tattered hat.

SAM, 28, walks down an abandoned, dusty road. He slows to a stop and somberly wipes his brow with a white, lace KERCHIEF.

SAM

I think this is the end of the road
for me.

He stares at his feet as they drag forward with hesitation.

SAM

(defensive)

I know I promised.

He uncomfortably plays with the kerchief as he reluctantly continues.

Something catches his eye ahead.

SAM

Claire?

CLAIRE, 26, stands in silence, staring wide-eyed through an opening at the end of the abandoned road with a GPS DEVICE in hand.

From behind a large tree, an old abandoned hotel comes into view.

CLAIRE

(in awe)

Sam. Look.

Sam holds out the white kerchief towards Claire. She continues to stare forward, entranced. The kerchief blocks Claire's view and dances in her face.

She snatches it out of Sam's hand.

Sam walks away.

CLAIRE
Leaving so soon?

Sam hesitates and stops.

SAM
I can't.

Claire playfully approaches and bats her eyelashes.

CLAIRE
C'mon! Do it for me.

Her eyes dart to the ruins and back to Sam.

CLAIRE (cont'd)
Hunny, Sinatra stayed here...
Si-na-traaaaa.

A twinkle in Sam's eye declares his surrender.

CLAIRE (cont'd)
You're gonna love it!

Claire bolts toward the hotel.

SAM
Yeah. I'm gonna love it.

SCENE 2 - INT. ABANDONED HOTEL - DAY

Claire is eagerly exploring as they walk through the expansive building.

CLAIRE
Amazing!

Sam touches a charred pillar.

SAM
...that it's still standing.

Claire whips out a GPS. It's beeping echoes in the emptiness. She spins around and playfully points.

CLAIRE

Thisaway!

She takes off into an adjacent room.

Sam stays, anxiously glancing around. Faded writing on a pillar catches his attention and he is drawn towards it. He squints to read it and reaches out to touch it.

Claire screams. Sam bolts toward the sound.

SAM

Claire!?

SCENE 3 - INT. ABANDONED ROOM - DAY

Sam rushes into the room and finds Claire standing by a pile of rubble, smiling, holding something small in her hands.

CLAIRE

(cheeky)

Found it.

Sam exhales sharply.

SAM

Was the blood curdling scream
necessary?

CLAIRE

Isn't it beautiful?

Claire hands Sam a small, sophisticated, hand carved, BOX.

SAM

You geocachers are stepping
up your game.

CLAIRE

Open it!

Sam reflexively tosses it back.

SAM

Nope.

Claire tilts the lid back and reveals an elegantly handwritten note on an ivory card. She reads it aloud.

CLAIRE

(Enthralled)

Welcome to the Hotel Candelerero.

We trust your stay will be unforgettable.

Sam uncomfortably stands in silence.

He nervously glances to his watch.

SAM

It's really getting late.

CLAIRE

Four-nineteen.

SAM

Yeah exactly. How'd you know?

Claire is intently examining a BRASS KEY.

CLAIRE

What? Oh, I mean the key. Room 419.

She scurries off.

Sam stands alone, frozen.

SAM

(troubled)

Claire, wait.

CLAIRE (OS)
Till death do us part!

SCENE 4 - INT. ABANDONED STAIRCASE - DAY

Claire prances up a crumbling staircase to a balcony and looks down at Sam.

CLAIRE
(Old English Accent)
A token of love for my prince on his
most treacherous journey!

She pulls out the white kerchief and tosses it to him.

Sam catches it and looks up at the balcony with a twinkle in his eye.

SCENE 5 - INT. ABANDONED HALLWAY - DAY

Sam and Claire turn down a crumbling hallway and something catches Claire's eye.

CLAIRE
There it is!

Claire sprints over to a PRISTINE DOOR in the midst of the crumbling ruins; "Room 419."

CLAIRE
Amazing.

SAM
(imitating)
Disturbing.

Claire excitedly inserts the key into the lock.

SAM
(disbelief)
Wow, okay. Just goin' for it, huh?

She gives Sam a cheeky smile and turns the key.

SAM

Alright. That just happened. This is happening. Make it happen.

Claire turns the knob and pushes the door open. They look at each other in disbelief and slowly enter the room.

SCENE 6 - INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

They enter a beautiful, unspoiled, candlelit, 1940's hotel room. 40's music floods the air and they are drawn in.

The door slowly closes behind them. The key locks itself from the outside.

Claire sprawls out on the silk spread BED, staring up at the woven wood ceiling.

Sam apprehensively walks around the room, trying to comprehend his surroundings. He pulls back a window curtain and peers out over a bustling 1940's hotel entrance four stories below.

SAM

Where are we?

Claire joins him at the window and marvels at the view.

CLAIRE

Amazing.

Sam doesn't respond.

He cautiously moves towards a wooden, hand-cranked, PHONOGRAPH.

He nervously raises the sharp, gleaming needle, abruptly stopping the music.

RIIIIIING! They both jerk up in surprise.

Sam and Claire stare at the blaring phone.

CLAIRE

(forcefully)

Pick it up!

Sam doesn't move.

CLAIRE

Sam!

Sam snaps out of it and reflexively picks up the receiver. He brings it close to, but careful not to touch, his ear.

He listens, captivated.

Panic flashes across his face and he slams the receiver down.

Sam urgently makes for the door.

CLAIRE

Sam! What's wrong?

He grips the knob - it's locked.

He panic-hammers the iron-like door with his fist.

Sam's jack-hammering fist stops and drops. He plants his face into the door.

Claire's hand gently comes to rest on Sam's shoulder.

CLAIRE

(strangely calm)

What's going on, Sam?

CLAIRE

Look at me.

He slowly turns.

They lock eyes.

CLAIRE
We'll find a way out.

The lock clicks.

Sam throws open the door and launches himself into the hallway.

SCENE 7 - INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam is taken back by a sparkling, spotless, hallway.

The door slams and locks Claire inside.

The key is gone.

Sam leaps forward and frantically jiggles the knob and throws his shoulder against the door.

SAM
Claire!? Claire!?

Claire's response is muffled and inaudible.

Sam puts his ear against the door. No help.

He pulls back.

SAM
Hold tight!

He backs away and then scurries down the hall, glancing back.

SCENE 8 - INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hallways and doors flood Sam's vision.

Sam panics.

He sees a way out at the end of the hall and bolts towards it.

SCENE 9 - INT. HOTEL ALCOVE - NIGHT

A TELEPHONE violently rings, shaking the receiver.

Sam is stopped in his tracks. He approaches the phone.

He raises the receiver to his ear.

A MALE voice, 40's, is on the other end.

MALE VOICE (OS)

Hello, Sam Rodgers?

Sam pulls the handset away from his ear and stares at it, pondering.

He slowly presses it firmly against his ear.

SAM

(somberly)

Yes.

MALE VOICE (OS)

Sam, this is Marshall James Perry from
the North County Fire Department. (beat)
I have some unfortunate news.

Sam's lip quivers. As he continues listening to what we cannot hear, his eyes fill with tears and he drops the phone to his side.

Sam stands wide-eyed and shaking.

A fire alarm snaps Sam back into reality.

He rockets back towards the room.

SCENE 10 - INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

As smoke fills the hallway, wood and concrete crumble away.

Echoing and distorted music - He shields his mouth with his arm, as he sprints.

He reaches room 419. The door is still locked. He violently pounds on the door and jiggles the handle.

Smoke pours out from beneath the door.

SAM
Claire!? Claire!?

Sam winds up, violently kicks the door open, and runs into the inferno.

SCENE 11 - INT. ABANDONED HOTEL ROOM - DAY

The smoke clears and Sam remains, standing in silence amongst the hotel room ruins.

He collapses to the ground.

Amidst the dark ash and rubble, Sam sees ivory. He brushes away it's surroundings and lifts a burnt notecard into view.

A tear drop hits the note and smears it's familiar words.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

SCENE 12 - INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (1940's)

Sam holds the pristine note card in hand.

He is proudly clothed in formal military attire.

SAM
(playful)
Welcome to the Hotel Candelero! We trust
your stay will be unforgettable.

Claire, wearing a beautiful wedding dress, sprawls out on the bed.

Sam walks around the room, trying to comprehend his surroundings. He pulls back a window curtain and marvels at a bustling hotel entrance four stories below.

SAM
(excitedly)
I heard Sinatra stayed here.

Sam gives Claire a playful wink and a spin as he crosses the room.

Claire blushes.

He approaches the PHONOGRAPH and places the needle.

Sam strikes a match and lights a candle.

He walks to Claire and offers his hand.

They embrace and share a slow dance, swaying to and fro amidst the candle-lit room.

SAM
(in awe)
Amazing.

END FLASHBACK.

SCENE 11 (cont'd) - INT. ABANDONED HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sam is alone. He makes for the gaping hole in the wall that was once the hotel room window.

He steps up onto the sill. His toes hang over the edge. A gust of wind pushes him off balance.

A hand gently rests on his Sam's shoulder. A tear runs down his cheek.

CLAIRE (OS)
Why Sam? Who are you doing this for?

SAM
For you.

CLAIRE

If you want to do something for me,
say goodbye and leave.

(beat)

Sam...It wasn't your fault.

Sam looks down, pondering his options.

He holds Claire's white kerchief close to his heart, uses it to wipe his tears, and releases it.

He turns back to an empty room.

Sam exhales a deep sigh of long-overdue relief.

SCENE 13 - EXT. ABANDONED ROAD - DAY

Hiked-up socks wrapped in orthopedic shoes stride down a dusty road. An arm swings wearing a vintage watch and a finger dawns a gold wedding ring. A weathered face is shaded by a tattered hat.

82 year-old Sam treads the same long road he arrived on.

CUT TO BLACK