### **INTRO ANIMATION**

During the intro animation, a voiceover narrates a Cherokee story about two wolves: **Voiceover:**An old Cherokee teaches his grandson about life:

* Inside each of us, a battle rages – says the old Cherokee – a terrible fight between two wolves. The Dark Wolf embodies anger, envy, and sorrow. The Light Wolf carries joy, love, and hope. The Dark Wolf is no weaker than the Light one; from his anger comes fearlessness, from envy – perseverance, from sorrow – wisdom. All these qualities are as alien to the Light Wolf as compassion and care for others are to the Dark Wolf.
* Which wolf will win? – the grandson asks.

### **EXT. DESERT – EVENING**

A dead desert.
A cow skull. A snake slithers.
The camera follows the Hero riding across the desert on his bike.
The Hero stops, looks around – the camera focuses on him.
We see a road sign, then the Hero again.
**Hero:**I remember when she told me this story. Only now do I understand why. I've thought about it a lot – could things have turned out differently? Maybe I shouldn't have looked for someone to blame... But now none of that matters: in the end, one wolf always seeks to kill the other. This story can have only one ending.

The Hero continues his journey.
A lone coyote stands in the middle of the desert, looking around.

### **EXT. DESERT – NIGHT**

A dead desert (a foreshadowing of death), wolves, a snake.
Nighttime, cacti, crickets.
An Indian sits by a campfire.
The Hero stops three meters away, dismounts, approaches the fire, and sits down next to the Indian.
**Indian:**...She takes off her bra and sits on my lap. Man… those were some breasts you can't describe!
**Hero:**And then?
**Indian:**I woke up!
(The Indian laughs. The Hero looks into the Indian's eyes, finishes his cigarette. A brief pause hangs in the air.)
**Indian:**We were talking about something else, weren't we? You went off-topic. How did you even end up here?

### **INT. HERO’S HOUSE – DAY**

*Flashback begins.*Sounds of police sirens from a news report. The TV shows a report from the scene of the Girl's murder.
Shots of the Indian dancing on the grave.
*Flashback ends.*

### **EXT. DESERT – EVENING**

**Hero:**It's a long story, my friend, and it began the moment I promised myself that I would be here – right here, where I sit now.

### **EXT. DESERT – EVENING**

The Hero, sitting by the fire in the desert:
**Hero:**Imagine... Early morning... She just woke up...
*Flashback.* (Hero’s voice narrating off-screen):
At that moment, looking at her, I thought: "This is true happiness." It was her first day off in a week, and we went into nature, where time seemed to stop, leaving us alone together. How I wish I could go back to that morning and feel it all again.

### **EXT. A TENT IN THE MOUNTAINS – MORNING**

A scene in the forest – the Hero and the Girl are together, happy.
Various shots of the Hero and the Girl enjoying a day in the forest.

In the same forest, two coyotes are shown facing off. They are fighting over prey. A struggle ensues over a dead animal.

### **EXT. DESERT – NIGHT**

**Indian:**And why isn’t she with you? Where is she now?
**Hero:**We had a fight that day…

### **EXT. FOREST – DAY**

**Hero:**She told me she was pregnant. Two months already. She'd kept it a secret all this time, can you believe it? We weren’t in a position to have kids. We wanted to wait until I sorted out work! I tried to explain that we couldn’t afford it right now, but she wouldn’t listen. Her eyes were filled with hurt and anger. "How can you say that? This is our child!" she said. I was so angry, I just left her in tears.

A black coyote grabs a piece of meat from a white one, runs off, and begins eating it.

The Hero and the Girl argue.
The Hero walks away.
The Girl cries.

A shot of the wolves – they run off in different directions.

### **EXT. CITY STREETS – EVENING**

The Hero speeds through the city on his bike.
**Hero:**That day, I raced through the city like crazy. I just wanted to escape – to disappear, to sink into oblivion. I hoped the speed would at least drown out my thoughts. But they kept coming back, so I decided to stop.

At the entrance to an alley:
I needed to get my head straight.

**Hero:**

* I guess that’s life: even if you try your best, everything can fall apart in an instant. I could’ve had a family, but I lost it before I even realized it was gone.

The Hero notices a mother and daughter. He sees a happy family. He keeps watching them.
**Daughter:**

* It came untied again, Mom!
**Mother:**
* Never mind: this weekend, Dad will take you to the store – he’ll buy you a new jacket!
**Hero (after their lines):**They say you only appreciate what you’ve lost after it's gone. I became the living proof of this saying.

The white coyote watches as the black one eats. The white coyote attacks, trying to distract the black one from the prey.

### **EXT. STREET – MORNING**

A shot of a single-story neighborhood captured by a drone.
The Hero walks near the Girl’s house, tormented.
**Hero:**But back then, I thought there was still a chance to fix everything. I needed to apologize. At first, I called, but she wouldn’t answer. I thought she was just really upset. She wasn’t home, so I decided to wait for her to return. I loitered by her doorstep all day, but she never came back.

**Frames in the city.**A black coyote attacks a white one, causing the white coyote to whimper. The black coyote clearly emerges victorious.

**“The next day, I came at six in the morning, hoping to find her, but I discovered the door was unlocked.”**The hero enters the house.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – NIGHT**A drone shot shows a timelapse of the city from day to night.
A shot of the window – the hero looks at it.
The hero is inside the Girl's house.
The hero walks through the kitchen, remembering the Girl.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING (MEMORIES)**The hero, in a flashback, is with the Girl, laughing together.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE - NIGHT**The hero stands alone in the kitchen.
A shot of the stairs.
The hero goes up the stairs.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – BEDROOM - MORNING (MEMORIES)**In a flashback, the Hero and the Girl have a pillow fight.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE - NEAR THE DOOR - NIGHT**The hero continues upstairs, approaching the bedroom door. Thunder rumbles outside the window.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – BEDROOM - MORNING (MEMORIES)**In a flashback, the hero carries the Girl over his shoulder.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – BEDROOM - NIGHT**The hero enters the bedroom.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – BEDROOM - MORNING (MEMORIES)**In a flashback, the Hero and the Girl lie on the couch.
In the flashback, the Girl twirls a necklace in her fingers.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE - NIGHT**The hero at the window, looking out.

The city. A black coyote chases the white one.
**Hero (VO):**

* I called again and again, but she still didn’t answer. I decided to call her relatives, her friends. I turned her entire circle upside down. But no one knew anything. Then I went out to search, nerves shaking me to my core. By evening, I came home empty-handed. I desperately hoped she or one of her family would call me back.

**INT. HERO'S HOUSE – NIGHT**The hero returns home, preparing to become the best father – reading an article about fatherhood.
**Hero (VO):**

* I decided to distract myself with some reading.

The hero hears a news report on the TV, glances up at the screen.
A shot of the TV – the news report reveals the Girl was murdered (the report lasts 16 seconds).

**REPORTER:**...According to the information received, the cause of death was a stab wound to the abdomen and massive blood loss. The Girl’s body was discovered in a forested area near a Native reservation, where she was presumably assisting in a community outreach project. Police have cordoned off the area and are conducting searches. Anyone with information about Maya Lane’s murder is asked to contact the number below...

The camera shows the dead body of the white coyote. The black coyote stands next to it, starting to eat a piece of meat. It finishes eating, licking its lips.

**EXT. DESERT – NIGHT**The hero cries, staring at the fire.

**Hero:**

* Imagine what it’s like to come to the gates of the cemetery every day and not have the strength to enter? You just stand there at the entrance...

**EXT. STREET - ENTRANCE OF THE CEMETERY - BAD WEATHER – EVENING**A drone shot of the cemetery. The drone captures the coyotes. The black coyote steps away from the white one briefly to wash itself. Then it returns to the white coyote, trying to wake it because it’s bored. It nudges the white one with its paw, but the white coyote doesn’t move.

**EXT. DESERT – NIGHT
Hero:**

* Since then, the day became as dark as the night. The light will never return to my life.

**EXT. STREET - ENTRANCE OF THE CEMETERY - BAD WEATHER – EVENING**A shot of the sky and palm tree tops.
The Hero is standing by the fence, laying his head on his hands on the stone barrier.
The Hero cries.
The Hero scratches the stone with his nails.
The Hero raises his head, slowly directing his gaze forward.

**Hero:**

* A dark night, the one where I met the killer...

A shot of the cemetery – a Native man dances on the Girl’s grave.
Another shot of the Hero’s gaze.
A shot of the amulet on the Girl’s chest.
A shot of the amulet on the Native man’s wrist as he sits by the fire.
A shot of the Hero’s face – he decides to kill.

**EXT. DESERT – NIGHT**A shot of the Native man sitting by the fire. He looks frightened.

**NATIVE MAN:**

* And what did you do to him?

A shot of the Hero’s hands – he draws a knife.

**Hero:**

* I told him... this story.

The Hero leaps at the Native man with the knife.
The Hero kills the Native man.

**EXT. FIELD – DAY (MEMORIES)**The Girl appears in bright tones in the Hero’s thoughts. The following scenes symbolize an entry into life after death.

The Hero and the Girl roll through dry grass, happy.

The white coyote opens its eyes and gets to its feet.

**INT. GIRL'S HOUSE – DAY (MEMORIES)**The hero kisses the Girl’s neck in the kitchen.
The Hero lies on the Girl’s lap as she strokes his hair.
The Hero and the Girl laugh together by the door.

**EXT. STREET - EVENING**The Girl walks toward her house.
She sees the Hero sitting at the gate and freezes.
The Hero notices her and gets to his feet.
The Girl cries.
The Hero and the Girl walk toward each other and embrace.

A shot of the Hero’s face (he tries to distance himself from his pain and feel the moment).

**EXT. DESERT – NIGHT**The Hero lies alone by the fire. There was never anyone around him: no one alive, no one dead.

**Hero:**

* And you know what, my friend? I found him! And I told him this story!

The camera shows the two coyotes fighting again.

**Grandson:**

* Which wolf will win?

**Old Man:**

* I cannot say. Don’t look for enemies, losers, or victors here. The wolves are your teachers. Only by learning the lessons of both will you find the wisdom to heal the rift in your soul.

The camera pulls back, showing the entire desert blooming around them.

**END.**