

HELL TO PAY

"Pilot"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF MISSISSIPPI - LATE NIGHT

A car is parked at the side of the road. Headlights on. Engine off. The car's interior is dark. We can barely make out the two figures in the front seat.

POV OF A CAR WINDSHIELD - NIGHT

Headlights shine on a battered road sign marking the intersection of ROUTES 61 and 49: Two lonesome ribbons of asphalt running between a sea of cornfields and nothingness.

Welcome to THE CROSSROADS.

DEREK (O.S.)
Want some?

EMILY (O.S.)
(hardly a whisper)
No.

A bottle of Bulleit Bourbon is plopped down on the dashboard.

INT. THE CAR - NIGHT

DEREK KNOX, 37, is behind the wheel. Sweating. Frazzled. Just the way he stares out at the road sign tells us that he has bigger demons than the bourbon.

His wife EMILY, 35, sits next to him, but she might as well be a million miles away. Detached. Ashen. She can't even bring herself to make eye contact with ...

DEREK
You'll have to do it.

Emily ignores him.

Derek takes another pull from the bourbon.

Emily nervously glances up into the rearview mirror.

DEREK (CONT'D)
 (matter of fact)
 You have to.

EMILY
 I heard you.

DEREK
 I know I said I cou --

EMILY (CONT'D)
 I never thought you could.

Derek lets out a heavy sigh. Lays his head on the steering wheel.

DEREK
 Thank you.

Emily nods. She looks at him for a moment, her face goes blank, and then ...

DEREK (CONT'D)
 I love yo --

-- BAM!

... Emily puts a bullet into her husband's head. Blood splatters against her face.

Emily GASPS LOUDLY. Looks down at her hand still gripping the pistol.

EMILY
 Oh God. I'm so sorry.

Looks into the rearview mirror ... then at her husband.

EMILY (CONT'D)
 I ... I thought I could ...

Without blinking, She lifts the gun to her head ...

EXT. THE CAR - NIGHT

BANG! A GUNSHOT RINGS out from inside the car and slowly fades away into the distance.

And then, things get really creepy.

The car's interior light clicks on --

-- As the rear passenger side door swings open --

And a LITTLE BOY in pajamas climbs out of the backseat.

CORNSTALKS RUSTLE in the breeze and INSECTS BUZZ as the little boy runs as far away from the scene as he possibly can.

IN THE CAR

The lifeless bodies of Derek and Emily are clearly visible through blood-splattered windows --

-- until, the car's interior light clicks back off.

VOICE (V.O.)

I was three years old when I first
learned about the Devil at the
Crossroads.

SMASH CUT TO:

"Walk On Water" by Creedence Clearwater Revival plays as three words burn onto the screen:

H E L L T O P A Y

END OF TEASER