

## “THE THIRD LAW”

treatment by William C. Martell

EMMA SYKES' life changed the instant her husband was killed in a car accident. The stay-home mom of young FREDDY who filled in sometimes as a substitute teacher disappeared and a work-aholic full time high school science teacher took her place. Summer sessions, after school activities, any extra hours for extra pay. The more she worked to provide for her son, the less time they could spend together... the farther they drifted apart. Now that Freddy was thirteen, they seemed like strangers living under the same roof. Emma isn't sure that she's strong enough to raise a son on her own.

Emma goes over the final exams with her students - obviously she's every kid's favorite teacher - when the Principal interrupts with an urgent message... Freddy has been arrested again. She arrives at the Oakland police station to see her son in handcuffs, spies him flashing gang-signs to a heavily tattooed gang-banger being lead back to a holding cell.. Face bloody from a fight. Freddy says, "Shouldn't you be in school?" "Looks like we're both cutting class." Freddy was arrested for breaking store windows. "Kid's got a great pitching arm," the arresting officer tells her. He explains that Freddy is an "at risk kid" - he's going to get deeper into trouble unless she pulls him out. He's on the fringes of a gang now, by this time next year he'll be a full fledged gang-banger - probably cuffed for a drive-by - unless he gets his life turned around. Emma calculates her bank balance... she can afford to bail out her son and still make the mortgage. "Looks like summer school for both of us." Freddy accuses her of caring about her school kids more than she cares about him. She tries to explain that she's working the summer session for THEM - but Freddy says there is no "them"... she's never home.

A RENTED CATAMARAN OFF THE COAST OF MEXICO. Emma and Freddy work to trim the sail - though she's doing most of the work. She tries to turn the experience into a science lesson - explaining how Newton's Third Law and Brunelli's Law are used in sailing, how the pulleys increases the power, how fulcrums can add lifting power. Freddy doesn't seem to care - he's quiet, sullen, angry. This is not how he wanted to spend his summer vacation - sailing down the coast of Mexico in a rented boat. Newton's Third Law in action - the more Emma reaches out to him, the more he pulls away. When he fumbles with a piece of equipment and almost scratches the boat, Emma snaps at him to be more careful - they have to pay for any damage to the boat. Tension is thick.

They pull into port in the sleepy town of Malagua for lunch. An old man on the pier yells in Spanish that they can't dock in that berth, it belongs to a local family's fishing boat which is due back soon. Emma doesn't speak Spanish, thinks he's looking for a bribe, says "No habla Espanole". He keeps talking, she keeps saying "No habla Espanole." Finally she grabs a 20 peso note from her purse and shoves it in his hand to shut him up. He pockets the money, but keeps jabbering.

From the shadows of the fish-cleaning shack the dangerous-looking IGNACIO watches the altercation as he sharpens his knife on a whetstone. She must be a millionaire to own such a boat and throw around pesos like that. When Emma and Freddy head into town, he slides the glittering knife into his scabbard and follows them.

MALAGUA is a beautiful village on the edge of the jungle. A scattering of children in hand-me-downs beg for change or try to sell them crafts and trinkets. Emma shoos them away. On the edge of the street, clinging to the shadows, Ignacio follows them. It would be hard to lose them - they are the only Americans for miles. Dressed better than anyone in town. Emma and Freddy find a restaurant on a side street and disappear inside... Ignacio waits across the street.

The restaurant is filled with locals - men in mended jeans and well-worn cowboy hats. Everyone stares at them - they are outsiders. A waitress in a frayed skirt points to an empty table and the chalkboard menu. Emma and Freddy order... and Ignacio enters and sits at the counter/bar keeping an eye on Emma's purse. As they eat, the tension between mother and son builds, finally exploding into an argument. Freddy says that she doesn't meet him halfway. Emma says that she took time off from work to be with him... but Freddy snaps that this is what SHE wants. She never talked to him about it - never asked him if he wanted to spend his summer on a sailboat doing chores - there is no "them" - it's only her. First dad left (died) than she left (working). She abandoned Freddy when he needed her the most. She's a terrible mother. Emma loses her temper - he has no right to talk to her like that. She has given up her entire life for him. Would he rather be on his own? Supporting himself? Maybe begging for a living like the kids on the street? She storms out of the restaurant, pacing up and down the street until she calms down. She's supposed to be spending this summer connecting with him, instead she seems to be pushing him away. Maybe he's right...

Emma goes back inside to apologize... Freddy is gone. Only his coat, thrown over the back of the chair, remains. "Freddy? Freddy?" She asks the waitress where her son went, gets a shrug. Emma pushes open a door - it's the kitchen. Big guy with a knife chopping food - no sign of Freddy. Pushes open another door - it's the bathroom. Grungy, drippy, unclean - no sign of Freddy. She panics, grabs the waitress, "Where is my son? Where is he!" "No habla English." Emma grabs patron after patron, screaming at them. "Help me! Will somebody help me find my son?" Finally she gets to Ignacio, yanking him off his stool and screaming at him. He calmly replies, "No habla English." Smiles with golden teeth.

When Police Captain HERRERA arrives at the restaurant, Emma is screaming like a madwoman. He grabs her, calms her down... he's speaks English. "Just tell me what happened." She says her son disappeared - he was sitting right there one minute, and the next he was gone. Herrera asks the waitress something in Spanish, gets a reply. "She says you came in alone." "She's lying!" Herrera looks at the table - Freddy's dishes have been removed, leaving only Emma's dishes. "This is my son's coat - he was wearing it when we came in." More Spanish, "She says YOU were wearing the coat." Emma grabs the waitress - "Where did he go? Tell me! Please tell me the truth..."

Herrera pulls her off the waitress. Emma starts pounding on Herrera's chest, trying to get away. Herrera waits until she runs out of energy and collapses to the floor.

THE POLICE STATION: Emma on a bench in handcuffs... like son, like mother. Herrera unlocks the cuffs, asks her if she would like something to drink. Herrera is suave, handsome. Malagua's most eligible bachelor. He asks if it's possible that her son ran away - were they not arguing before he disappeared? Emma doesn't know where he would have gone. "Maybe he wasn't running to something, maybe he was just running away." Herrera asks if the boy's father is traveling with them. Emma explains that he died in a car accident. Now she has to be both mother and father to Freddy - and sometimes she's not sure she's strong enough to do both. "Sometimes it seems like the more I try to make things right, the more wrong things go." He asks if Freddy has ever been in trouble before, and when Emma hesitates, he says lots of people get into trouble. He was always in trouble as a boy, but his brother finally got him straightened out. "Without my brother I would be a criminal rather than a cop. That's what family is for - to put you back on track when you get off course." Emma admits the reason for the vacation is that Freddy was arrested. Herrera advises her to go back to her yacht and wait for Freddy to return - he couldn't run far in Malagua... the only place to go is the jungle. He will probably be back before dark fall. Emma thanks him, leaves.

Emma starts back to the yacht, surrounded by the street children, Freddy's coat in her hands... stops. Why would Freddy leave his coat behind?

In the shadows across from the restaurant, Emma (wearing Freddy's coat) watches the door as people leave. Fishermen, ranchers, laborers. When the waitress opens the door to leave, Emma steps from the shadows to confront her. A man grabs her, pulls her back into the shadows... Ignacio prods her with his knife!

"I can help you find your son," his English is as good as Herrera's. "Come with me." Ignacio leads her through the village to a soccer field on the edge of town. Mothers watch their sons (all Freddy's age) play, cheering them on. How many of Freddy's soccer games did she miss because she was at work? A father cheers his son's goal, then turns to Emma and Ignacio. He is EMILIO DARQUAY, charismatic leader of the rebel group that lives in the mountains. He explains that they have kidnaped her son, and for a mere \$100,000 she can have him back. This should be no problem for a wealthy American tourist like Emma - she can probably get that much money from selling her yacht. How do you call it? A Catamaran?

Emma lunges for him, stops when another man, ALFONSO, pulls a wicked looking crossbow from under his duster and aims it at her. Ignacio uses his knife to prod her back. When she is under the control of Ignacio's knife, Darquay continues, "Your son is already on his way into the mountains with my men. Just pay us the money and we will bring him back. He will have a great adventure to tell his little friends about. No need to involve the police or the military - this is just between us." Emma pleads that she does not have the money. Darquay shakes his head, "Your boat is worth more than your

son? What kind of mother are you?" "I 'm a school teacher, I make \$38,000 a year, the boat is rented..."

Darquay shakes his head, "Please don't try to bargain for your son's life. I say he is worth \$100,000. Pay or we will have to kill him." "Please don't hurt him. I'll get the money. It's going to take time..." "Mr. Ignacio will take you to the bank, they have Western Union if you need the money wired from America. But you don't have much time... the bank closes at 3."

One of the soccer players runs up to Darquay, "Poppy, did you see me kick that goal?" Darquay lies, says that he was watching the game the entire time. He picks up the boy and walks to a Range Rover parked nearby. One of the soccer moms (LUNA ) and Alfonso climb into the Rover. Emma sees the man who has her son about to drive away.... She breaks free of Ignacio and runs to Darquay, "Please don't hurt him!" Darquay looks at her, "Get me the money, you'll get your son." The Rover speeds off in a cloud of dust.

IN THE BACK OF THE ROVER: Freddy is bound and gagged - watching as they speed away from where his mother stands... alone in the cloud of dust. Then the Rover turns a corner and his mother disappears from his field of vision.

Ignacio rubs the dust from his eyes, goes to grab Emma... she's gone!

Emma runs like hell through the streets of Malagua, turning down side streets - left, right - left, through alleys... knowing that Ignacio is right behind her. If she can lose him...

Ignacio gives chase, every once in a while catching a glimpse of Emma just before she rounds a corner. She's faster than he is, but he knows the terrain. But he loses her.

THE POLICE STATION: An out of breath Emma tells Herrera that bandits have kidnaped her son. He doesn't seem shocked by this. "It's hard to tell bandits from patriots. One robs a tourist for the money, the other robs a tourist for the money to feed his family and finance social change. The same act, but two different motives. One man thinks only of himself, the other would sacrifice his life for his family and his cause." "They have my son." "We police don't deal with the Rebels, the military does... and they have a reputation for being fast with the guns. Sometimes those they try to save get shot in the cross-fire. It is better just to pay the money. They get to be Patriots, and you get your son back unharmed." She explains that she doesn't have the money. Herrera shrugs, there's nothing he can do other than call in the military. He can't believe that she doesn't have the money. Can't believe that she would think the money is worth more than the life of her son. She storms out.

Emma starts down the street to the pier. A little kid tugs on her leg. "I don't have any money." The kid just smiles and says, "You shouldn't have gone to the police. He told you not to go to the police." Emma pulls away from the kid, running through the street.

She is surrounded by villagers - how many are rebels? How many are working with Darquay? They all look the same, she's the one who is different. A handful of kids begin chasing her. Grabbing for her. Dozens of little hands trying to grab her! One of the Cowboys from the restaurant steps into the street in front of her, she dives into an alley. Kids and the Cowboy keep chasing her.

When she blasts out of the alley, a taxi cab on the street. She dives inside, tells the taxi driver to take her to the pier. He pulls away just as the kids and Cowboy erupt from the alley. "You are an American, no?" Emma tries to stop the small-talk so that the taxi driver will focus on getting them to the pier before the mob catches up with them. The cab takes a couple of turns, seems to be moving AWAY from the ocean. "The pier is back there..." "This is a - how you say? - short cut." The taxi driver takes her back to the center of town, pulling to the side of the street. "Why are we stopping?" "This is where you go." Outside the cab, Ignacio grabs the door handle. Emma hits the door lock. Ignacio can't get the door open. The taxi driver hits the master switch on the dash panel - unlocking the door. "No! No" Ignacio opens the door, pulls her out. "Come on. We must hurry - the bank closes in half an hour." As soon as she's cleared the door the cab zooms off.

Ignacio gives Emma her purse and points to the bank with his glittering knife. "You get the money, I wait here." He shows her a satellite phone, "If you run again, I have to phone Darquay and tell him. He'll be very angry with you. Because you will not be there, he will have to use his anger on your son. He will not want to do this, you understand, but he will have no choice."

IN THE BANK: Emma pleads with the Bank Manager to help her. "We are here to help. Highest customer service rating in the district." Emma explains that her son has been kidnaped by rebels. "We have much experience with ransoms - how much do you need?" "I need your help." "Yes, do you want to wire the withdrawal from your bank or use the Western Union? We have a phone if you need to make arrangements. There will be a slight fee for its use, of course." Emma gives him her credit cards, asks how much cash she can get from them. The Bank Manager disappears, returns with a frown. "Only \$7,000 - do you have any other cards? A bank account?" Emma asks for one thousand in \$20s and the rest of the \$7,000 in \$1s. The Bank Manager returns from the vault with the money - they are prepared for ransom payments at this bank. She puts a \$20 on each side of a bundle of \$1s. Stuffs it all into a duffle bag supplied by the bank. Before she leaves the bank, she asks the bank manager for help: "Don't call tell them it's only \$7,000 - they'll kill my boy. It's all the money I have." The bank manager doesn't answer.

Ignacio grabs her the minute she walks out of the bank. He wants the money. Emma tells him the money isn't leaving her hands until she has her son. She'll trade, but she won't pay in advance. Ignacio asks to just look at the money. She opens the duffle bag, gives him a peek... Just as Herrera starts walking down the street towards them. Ignacio pokes her with his knife. "Smile at the policeman as if nothing is wrong." Emma closes the duffle bag, walks down the street toward Herrera - Ignacio's knife touching

her side. Herrera looks at her, the duffle bag, Ignacio walking so close to her they look like lovers. "Senora Sykes?" She smiles at him, "Captain Herrera." They pass each other. Herrera stops, watches as she and Ignacio get into a cab on the next street which zooms off.

The taxi cab drives towards the mountains, stops when it runs out of pavement at a wooden shack in the middle of nowhere. A rugged dirt road continues into the jungle... Ignacio and Emma will have to walk to the Rebel camp. Ignacio dials the satellite phone, speaks to Darquay. "She has the money. No problema. We're coming up. She's coming with me... wants to be part of the exchange." She snatches the phone from Ignacio, "Is my son okay? Let me speak to him."

AT THE REBEL CAMP: Darquay hands his phone to Freddy, "It's your mama." "Mom?" "Freddy? Are you..." Darquay snatches the phone away from Freddy, "You bring me the money, I give you your son. Nobody has to be killed. We are all happy." He clicks the phone off, pockets it, ruffles Freddy's hair. "Your mama is going to bring the money." Freddy seems to idolize the charismatic Darquay... the ultimate gang-banger. These rebels aren't like city gangs he's used to - these guys have machineguns and crossbows and aren't afraid to use them. They are willing to die for their cause, for their families. Freddy doesn't want to be rescued, he wants to join!

IN THE JUNGLE: Ignacio leads Emma through the jungle to the rebel camp... eyeing the duffle bag of money. If she lost the money and couldn't pay the ransom and Darquay had to kill her son, it would have no effect on Ignacio. Emma tries to find out where they are keeping Freddy, but Ignacio says, "You'll see when we get there."

They carefully walk through a swamp overgrown with cattails, several trails branch off in different directions, Ignacio leads the way. Though the swamp doesn't look deep, it's slithering with water snakes. "Very dangerous," Ignacio warns her. "Three step snakes. They bite you, you take three steps, then you die." Emma stays on the trail.

"I carry that if you want. I know how heavy money can be." "I've got it, thanks."

The jungle is beautiful, exotic, adventurous. The trail seems to end at a deep canyon... Emma is being prodded along by Ignacio and almost falls. She pulls back at the last second. The canyon is hundreds of feet deep - if she fell she would have died. Ignacio laughs. "You think you can jump across?" A steel cable stretches across the canyon. Ignacio pulls a camouflage blanket off a glide-wheel rig. "Only one wheel. We have to go one at a time. You go first, Senora. Don't think about running - there is no place to go." He tries to take the duffle bag from her, she slings it over her shoulders. She grabs the handles on the glide rig, looks down (all the way down) then pushes off with her feet - zooming over the canyon. Flying like a bird. She reaches the other side, landing hard. Ignacio's laugh echoes across the canyon. He pulls the wheel back... and Emma scrambles to her feet and starts running. She comes to a fork in the trail - which way to her son? Ignacio grabs the glide-wheel, pushes off, zips across the canyon. Emma hears him zooming towards her and scrambles for a place to hide. If she can follow

him to the rebel camp she can rescue Freddy and keep her \$7,000. Ignacio lands perfectly, using the residual momentum to run after Emma. "Come out, come out where ever you are!" He finds her right away, yanks her to her feet. "You want me to call Darquay and tell him you try to run away?" "No. Please don't. I'm sorry." He uses the knife to prod her down the left fork of the trail.

They pass more exotic terrain, moving deeper in to the jungle. They break through the tree-line at the bank of a river. "This is the only safe place to cross. Rapids up there, water fall back there." Emma can hear the roar of water from either side. They cross the river, water waist deep in places. When they reach the other side, Ignacio wants to make sure the money is still dry... Emma assures him it is.

"It's getting late. How much farther?" "We are almost there - it's just up ahead." "Good," Emma says before she swings the duffle bag at his face. He pulls his knife from the scabbard and slashes at her. They tangle, she knocks the knife from his hand. He dives for the knife, she kicks it away. He pulls out the satellite phone, hits the speed-dial button. Emma spins and kicks the phone from his hands. "Hello?" Darquay's voice. Both scramble for the phone, but Emma gets there first - stomps it into circuitry... then slams Ignacio in the face with the duffle bag and runs like hell. Speeding down the trail, knowing that Ignacio isn't far behind her. She breaks out of the jungle... at the base of a sheer cliff-wall rising a hundred feet in front of her. Trapped!

A rope dangles from above... Emma starts climbing. Hand over hand. Using her feet for leverage on the side of the cliff. She gets halfway up the wall when Ignacio reaches the base. "Wait, Senora, I'm right behind you. You Americans are in such a hurry!" Emma climbs even faster. Ignacio grabs the rope and shakes it - almost knocking Emma off the face of the cliff. "You should not have hit me, that makes me think you don't like me." He shakes the rope harder - Emma hangs on for her life. "Even after paying the ransom, you're going to have to replace that phone." Emma plants her feet on the wall and pushes off to the left, yanking the rope out of his hands. She climbs within a foot of the top before Ignacio gets control of the rope again and shakes it. She almost falls... and it's a long way down. She gains control, scrambles over the top. Doesn't have long to catch her breath - Ignacio starts climbing the rope! Emma shakes the rope until she knocks him of... then pulls the rope up to the top of the cliff. Trapping Ignacio below. He yells something up at her, she says "I can't hear you" as she moves away from the edge of the cliff.

**AT THE REBEL CAMP:** The rebels eat dinner as the sun sets. Freddy listens with rapt attention as Darquay pontificates about how power belongs to the people, not the government. The people should rise up in revolution. "Your Thomas Jefferson believed there should be a revolution every fifty years to keep government from becoming corrupt and bureaucratic." Luna watches as Darquay performs for this American boy, while his own son eats alone. Darquay talks about family while he ignore his own. From the edge of the jungle, Emma watches her son hanging on every word. She realizes he wants to join this gang... Darquay is a father figure. The thing missing from Freddy's life. Her worst fears are realized - She really doesn't have what it takes to raise

him alone.

Then Ignacio bursts into camp from a side trail, yelling something to Darquay in Spanish. Darquay barks orders and rebels grab their guns. Alfonso grabs his wicked crossbow and organizes the others to search the jungle. Emma sees them coming towards her and takes off running. Trying to find a good place to hide. Darquay pats Freddy on the head... then snaps a collar around his neck. A chain leads from the collar to a post on the left side of camp - Freddy is tethered like a dog. His admiration for Darquay finds new limits.

Emma hides in the jungle as Alfonso searches nearby. He doesn't find her.

### MIDPOINT

NIGHT: Emma sneaks into the camp, past a sleeping guard, looking for Freddy. There are other kids in the camp, sleeping. She isn't sure which is Freddy... and every kid she gets close to might wake up and alert the guards. On the edge of camp, a boy sleeps... Freddy. As she approaches him, he wakes up. "Mom?" "Freddy." She reaches out to hold him, to touch him... But as soon as she touches him she is yanked away by Darquay. Emma stretches to maintain contact with her son, but his fingers pull away from hers. Darquay, Alfonso and Ignacio drag her to the opposite side of the camp and throw her on the ground. Alfonso rips the duffle bag from her back, tosses it to Darquay. "The ransom."

Darquay unzips the bag, looks inside at the money, laughs with pleasure. "Now I have your money and your son... and you." He pulls a bundle from the bag, flips through it without looking. Emma can see the 1s between the 20s. Darquay tells her she did the right thing - her son is worth more than \$100,000, right? He tosses the bundle back in the bag.

Emma asks if Darquay will honor his deal - will he release Freddy and let them go? Darquay nods. "In the morning you can go." "You have the money now, I want my son now. Release him." Darquay thinks about it for a second, nods, "You're right - I have your money," he pulls another bundle from the bag, "You should have your son." They start across the camp to Freddy. Alfonso pulls out the key to the neck shackle. Darquay flips through the bundle as they walk... spots the \$1 bills. Stops. Carefully flips through the bundle, then starts flipping through every bundle in the duffle bag. All \$1s! "What is this? Your son isn't worth the money? His LIFE isn't worth what I asked?" He slaps her face with a bundle of money so hard she is knocked to the ground. "That's all the money I have, I swear it. Seven thousand dollars. I'm just a school teacher. I told you that, but you wouldn't believe me. I spent everything I had to rent that boat, to pay for this vacation. If I had any more money I would give it to you." "Seven thousand dollars is not enough. We kill you both at dawn." They drag Emma away and snap a collar around her neck - chained to a post on the right side of camp.

Freddy watches - realizing that Darquay isn't about family and honor... he's about



money. Maybe gangs aren't so cool after all.

Emma and Freddy reach the ends of their chains trying to touch each other - can't. Emma breaks down, tells Freddy that she tried to do it alone. Tried to be both father and mother to Freddy... but she just wasn't strong enough. Wasn't good enough. Admits that she might have liked working extra hours because it was a good way to keep her mind off the death of Ross (husband) - but she HAD to work those extra hours whether she liked it or not. Freddy lost a father, she lost her husband... but she had to hold the family together. She didn't have time to grieve, she had to earn a living. Freddy apologizes, Emma apologizes. They want to hold each other and cry, but their chains aren't long enough.

Darquay tosses the duffle bag on the floor of his hut. Tells his wife there's only \$7,000 - they'll have to kill them in the morning. Luna argues against killing them - is it all about the money? When did it stop being for the people? Darquay says the money feeds the people. Luna says Emma gave her all of the money she had - killing her would be wrong. Darquay asks if he should let her go? Talk to the police, the army, the U.S. Embassy? Should he sacrifice all of the rebels just so this woman and her son can live? Luna has no answer to that. Besides, Darquay doesn't believe a wealthy American with a yacht has only \$7,000... Emma and Freddy will be killed at dawn.

DAWN: They come for Freddy and Emma. They decide to kill them away from camp - don't want to disturb any late sleepers. Alfonso unlocks each of them - but not where the chain is locked to their collars, he unlocks the chains from the posts... using them as leashes to control them as they walk through the jungle to the place they will die. When they reach a pit filled with garbage, Darquay tells them to stop. "Freddy, I love you." "Mom, I love you." This is where they will die - in the camp garbage.

Freddy spots a fallen branch and a stone... asks Darquay if he can pray before they kill him. Emma insists he let Freddy pray. Freddy gets down on his knees... and manages to move the branch and stone to create a fulcrum. Darquay pulls him to his feet, puts his gun to the back of Freddy's head, gets ready to squeeze the trigger... and Freddy STOMPS on the branch so hard it slams Darquay in the face. Emma spins, kicking Alfonso. Freddy grabs the branch and slams Darquay in the face before he can aim the gun again. Emma rips open Alfonso's pocket to pull out the chain key - loses it in the dirt. They have to keep fighting (using some weapons from the garbage pit like can lids and bottles) until Emma finds it - then they get Darquay and Alfonso to the ground and take off running... the chains dragging behind them. Darquay and Alfonso get to their feet and give chase, trying to step on the chains. Darquay stomps on Emma's chain, yanking her to the ground a hundred feet away. Freddy grabs the chain and YANKS, pulling it out from under Darquay's foot and slamming him to the ground. Emma and Freddy continue running... to the cliff!

Darquay realizes they're trapped, sounds the alarm. All of the rebels wake up, grab their guns, join the chase. Alfonso and Ignacio each leading a team.

At the edge of the cliff, Emma uses the key to remove their collars... hear the rebels approaching! She spins the rope over a branch, using it as a make-shift pulley, and hands the end to Freddy, telling him to jump. Freddy jumps off the cliff, the rope against the tree branch slowing his fall - belaying his weight. Emma realizes there won't be enough time to get the rope back up for her... so she uses the chains. She speeds down the side of the cliff, but the chain cuts into the tree branch, and she falls the last few feet, hurting her leg. The rebels get to the top of the cliff - Alfonso firing arrows at them. Other rebels shooting rifles. Emma and Freddy run. One rebel pulls the rope from the tree, grabs it, and jumps. Splat! To pulley to control his fall! The rebels end up climbing down the rope to give chase.

Emma does her best to run on her injured leg. Freddy helps her along. They are working as a team... as a family. But the rebels are right behind them... gaining!

Emma can't remember which trail she came in on, can't "see" the journey backwards. So she ends up taking the wrong trail and when they burst through the tree-line at the edge of the river, realizes they are at the rapids! Not the safe place to cross... and the rebels are right behind them! Emma and Freddy must cross the rapids, legs almost pulled out from under them several times. When Alfonso's team gets to the tree-line, they fire a volley of arrows at Emma and Freddy. Emma tries to avoid an arrow, loses her footing, and goes speeding down the river - out of control! Towards the raging water fall! Freddy sees his mother yanked away by the currents - heading toward the water fall! Arrows fly at him - should he keep going? Escape?

Emma grabs hold of a tree branch before she goes over the falls, holds on for her life. Freddy has to decide - save himself... or risk his life to save his mother? More arrows fly at him as the rebels start across the river towards him. Freddy looks away from his mother and continues across the river... then stops. They are a family - he carefully moves downriver to rescue Emma. Arrows flying everywhere. He almost loses his footing a couple of times - almost gets swept up by the currents and carried over the falls. He reaches Emma, grabs her hand... "Hang on! Just hang on to me!"

Alfonso aims his crossbow at Freddy's chest. He takes a few steps deeper into the river - has a perfect shot. Gets ready to fire the crossbow and kill Freddy... But loses his footing - arrow missing the target - gets swept away in the currents! Alfonso sweeps past Freddy and Emma on his way down river - and over the water fall! Freddy uses the tree branch to pull them through the rapids, to the opposite shore.

Alfonso's team - without a leader - give chase across the rapids... but many of the rebels lose their footing and go shooting downriver. A couple go over the falls just as Alfonso did.

Emma and Freddy run through the jungle. Behind them the surviving team members give chase. Emma looks for landmarks - she knows that the canyon is ahead and needs to find the spot with the glide-wheel and wire. "This way! This way!" she thinks she's found the right trail. When they break out of the clearing they see the glide-wheel

and wire... as well as Ignacio and his team! Aiming their rifles at them... The survivors from Alfonso's team are right behind them. They are trapped!

Emma keeps running, pulling Freddy behind. Heading right at Ignacio and his team! Ignacio is confused - aren't they supposed to stop?

Freddy sees the glide-wheel, "There's only one wheel!"  
"I know, hold on to me, don't let go!"

Ignacio orders his team fire - but as Emma and Freddy get closer, the rifles are starting to converge on each other - they are firing on each other! Emma runs right past Ignacio, grabs the wheel handles and keeps going over the edge of the cliff... Freddy hanging on to her as the ground disappears beneath them! They glide across the canyon. Ignacio's men firing their rifles at them, survivors from Alfonso's team firing arrows at them. Darquay and Luna join them. "Shoot them! Shot them!" The arrows fall short, Emma and Freddy are moving too fast for the rifles to get a good bead on them. They are only a couple of feet from the other side when Ignacio notices the pull-back line (attached to the wheel so they can pull it back to the other side). "You want them back here?" Ignacio grabs the line, bringing the wheel to a dead stop. Ignacio stands at the edge of the canyon, ready to pull them back across the canyon to Darquay. "Here they come..."

Emma tells Freddy to hold tight. She swings her body back and forth as if she's on a swing, finally getting the momentum to glide the last couple of feet...

Pulling Ignacio over the edge of the cliff. He falls all the way down to the base of the canyon. Darquay grabs the line before it goes over and pulls the glide-wheel back. The rebels will have to get across the canyon one at a time.

When Emma landed, she further injured her leg... now she's limping. Freddy helps her - a human crutch - but it's slow going. They can't outrun the rebels. Zoom! Darquay glides over the canyon towards them. Freddy and Emma hobble as fast as they can.

When they get to the swamp, fog surrounds the cattails - it's almost impossible to see the trail. Freddy says that Emma is taking them down the wrong trail, she knows. They move deeper into the foggy swamp. "Come out, come out where ever you are!" Darquay yells. Emma finds a patch of ground surrounded by fog and cattails, sits down. Freddy starts to say something, Emma puts her finger to his lips. She tears open the leg of her jeans, examining her injury. It's worse than she thought - she's broken her leg.

At the edge of the swamp, Darquay talks to several rebels. "They are in the swamp somewhere. We must find them." They search the swamp, inching through the fog, weapons ready. Freddy and Emma hold each other close, trying to stay still and not make any noise as a rebel searches only inches away. When the rebel moves on, they hear Darquay searching on the other side. Again they stay still, huddled together. A snake slithers near Freddy - one of the 1-2-3 poisonous snakes. They hold still as it slithers over Freddy's leg. Darquay only a few feet away. Suspense builds. Will the

snake bite Freddy? To grab it and throw it would make noise - Darquay would hear and kill them. Freddy stays perfectly still as the snake crawls over his face... moves on.

Other rebels come, and Darquay has them join the search. A half dozen men are now searching the foggy swamp for them... kicking through the cattails. One of them is bitten by a snake. When the others go to help him, it's already too late - 1-2-3 he's dead! This creates panic in the other rebels - they are more concerned with accidentally finding a snake than finding Emma and Freddy - they don't search the dense groves of cattails. Another man is bitten... dies. Luna asks how many men Darquay plans on sacrificing for these two Americans? Darquay says she's right - they know where Freddy & Emma are going - why chase them? He calls his men back...

One of the rebels is heading right at Emma and Freddy! Emma takes a cattail, moves it through the other cattails like a snake. The rebel hears the noise, looks through the fog, sees the cattail (like a snake's head) and carefully steps around the snake's territory... around Freddy and Emma. Close call!

While Darquay organizes his troops, Emma and Freddy crawl through the swamp to the other side... then hear Darquay and the rebels on the trail right behind them! They move to their feet and hobble down the hill to the old shack at the end of the road.

Darquay, Luna, and a half dozen rebels come down the hill behind them. Freddy and Emma are trapped. There is no place to hide, and Emma's injury prevents them from running. Darquay and his men aim their weapons. This is where Emma and Freddy will die - on the edge of town only a few miles from their rented yacht.

But maybe not. Officer Herrera's motorcycle is parked on the road. He climbs off the cycle, rifle in his hands like a south of the border Clint Eastwood, looks across the clearing at Darquay and his rebels. Emma and Freddy realize they've been saved. They hobble up to Herrera, pleading with him to help them, identifying Darquay as the leader of the rebels - the bandito who kidnaped her son.

Darquay laughs. "He knows who I am... he is my brother. When we were kids he was always getting into trouble and I had to help him out. He became a policeman, and I became a patriot." Emma and Freddy stop. Instead of being rescued, they are surrounded. Herrera blocks the only way out.

Darquay is glad Herrera was here - this way they don't have to kill Emma and Freddy in the village. They can do it in private. Also, Herrera can help them steal and sell the yacht and loot Emma's bank accounts. "She already gave you all of her money," Herrera says. "Seven thousand dollars? An American woman who lives on a yacht?" Herrera says he talked with the bank manager - she cleaned out her accounts and maxed her credit cards to get the \$7,000. The yacht is rented. "She doesn't have any money. Let her go." Herrera raises his gun... at Darquay. Emma and Freddy are now trapped between two angry brothers pointing guns at each other.

Darquay and Herrera face off against each other. "You would kill your own brother?" "The revolution is more important than one man's life." "More important than you?" "I am the revolution. Without me, who would lead these people?" Emma and Freddy ease behind Herrera as the two brothers aim at each other and talk of family and patriotism and greed and selfishness. Finally Herrera lowers his rifle, "I'm taking them to their boat. You have all of her money, let them have their lives." Darquay lowers his rifle, thinks about it. "You would chose these outsiders over your own brother? When did you turn against me?" Then Darquay suddenly draws his gun. Herrera swings his rifle up. A quick-draw contest... Bang! Bang! Darquay clutches his chest, falls to his knees... weeping. Because he's just killed his brother. Herrera is dead.

Emma holds Herrera as he dies... then realizes Darquay is no longer crying. "Mom! Mom!" Freddy is at the motorcycle. Emma finds Herrera's keys, tosses them to Freddy, starts running to the motorcycle. Darquay yells after them, "The village is a minefield! You don't know who will help you, and who will help ME!" Freddy and Emma roar off on the motorcycle - Freddy driving. He may not have much experience, but how fast do you have to ride when you're being chased by people on foot?

Luna is attending to Herrera's corpse - shocked by the murder. Darquay and the remaining rebels walk to the old shack, disappear inside, blast out in the Range Rover. Darquay throws open the passenger door, yells at Luna to hop in. "Come on! Come on!" Luna reluctantly enters the Rover, then it speeds away... giving chase.

Emma holds on to her son as he guides the motorcycle through the back alleys to town. Freddy is driving, and she has to trust his abilities. Meet him halfway. Not be the boss of the family but be a partner in the family. Darquay's Rover is right on their tail, but Freddy does some clever driving - through narrow alleys, off roads, between buildings, and they lose the Rover.

But when they get to the pier, they have to get off the motorcycle to get over the barricade... now surrounded by townspeople. Darquay's townspeople? They walk through the crowd, kids grabbing hold of them. Because neither Emma nor Freddy ask anyone for help, they make it almost all the way to the boat before...

Darquay parks the Rover next to the cycle and steps out, aiming his rifle at Emma and Freddy. The villagers give the two Americans some room. "None of these people will help you, why not just give up?" "I don't need their help, you do." Emma and Freddy start walking to the boat. Luna leads with Darquay, "Let them go. They've given you everything they have," "Stop!" Darquay aims his rifle. "Why? So you can kill us like you killed Herrera?" The villagers seem to change sides - they allow Freddy and Emma to pass. The villagers are now facing off against Darquay. "Is this true? You killed your own brother? Over what? Money?" Darquay lowers his gun as the villagers move closer. "You're not one of us." "Not one of us," a few villagers chant.

Emma and Freddy get on their rented catamaran, cast off, and sail out of port... as the crowd of villagers deal with Darquay.

END.