

THE SISTERHOOD

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EXT. MALIBU HILLS - DAY

A winding road. Scattered houses, expensive.

EXT. WINDING ROAD - DAY

Parked on the shoulder is a Porsche Carrera.

CLOSER

Standing beside the Porsche is a willowy BLONDE looking uphill through a pair of binoculars. She pauses to check her watch, then raises the binoculars again.

HER POV

Of a glass and redwood hilltop HOUSE. Wide eaves like the wings of an eagle at rest.

EXT. MALIBU HILLS HOUSE - DAY

As she watches, a tall, angular MAN exits. Cargo pants and a sweatshirt. All grace and sinew.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

He climbs into a mud-spattered pickup, sets off downhill.

EXT. WINDING ROAD - DAY

The woman puts her binoculars away, opens the front hood of her car.

HER POV VIEW UPHILL

The pickup truck rounds a bend, slows.

EXT. STALLED PORSCHE - DAY

Surveying her car battery is BETHANY DANILOVA, 29, body of a marathoner, eyes of an osprey.

The truck stops. SHEPP THORPE, 27, leans out the window.

Nothing is said for a moment as they take each other's measure, self-possessed. Intrigue happening. Eventually:

SHEPP

Battery?

BETHANY

I must have left the lights on.

SHEPP

I'll jump you.

Shepp moves his truck nose-to-nose with her car, retrieves a set of cables from the back, hooks them up.

SHEPP

When you get her going, keep her at 2000 rpm for a few moments, okay.

BETHANY

I can do that.

Bethany climbs into her Porsche, hits the starter, revs up.

EXT. PORSCHE - DAY

Shepp removes the cables. Bethany leans out, smiles.

BETHANY

I'm lucky you came along.

SHEPP

I live just up there.

BETHANY

(looking off)

You must have great views.

SHEPP

Almost to Hawaii.

She eases up on the accelerator.

BETHANY

Allow me to buy you a coffee.

SHEPP

Lead the way.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Shepp climbs into his truck, follows as the Porsche heads downhill.

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - MALIBU - DAY

Cappuccino for him, espresso for her. Tentative conversation.

BETHANY

You drive an old truck, but I perceive you to be an educated man.

SHEPP

If you mean I've spent a lot of time in school, you're right.

BETHANY

Maybe a professor.

SHEPP

Teaching never appealed. I'm a marine archeologist.

BETHANY

Do I detect a slight British accent?

SHEPP

Two years at Oxford.

BETHANY

Ah, a Rhodes Scholar.

SHEPP

You have a slight Russian accent.

BETHANY

Twenty years in Volgograd.

SHEPP

What brings you here?

BETHANY

On assignment. I'm a recruiter.