

EXT. THE PACIFIC COAST - DAY

SUPER: SIX WEEKS EARLIER

The sun shines brightly. The ocean is brilliant blue. Waves break on a rocky shoreline.

Expensive homes dot the coast. Pools sparkle like blue sapphires.

Gulls swoop over the beach, alternately climbing and diving in search of a meal.

A thin ribbon of blacktop snakes along the coast, winding around knobby outcrops.

A silver sedan navigates a curve.

EXT. THE HIGHWAY - DAY

A weathered green road sign stands at the side of the highway:

Santa Cruz	8
La Selva Beach	22
Pacific Cove	36

The silver sedan zips past and disappears around a bend.

THE SEDAN

NICHOLAS REID (5) looks out the window, watching the gulls. He's a blue-eyed blonde who looks like he stepped right out of a Dick and Jane book.

INT. THE SEDAN - DAY

Jay is driving, his wife REBECCA (32), an attractive strawberry-blonde, reads a book in the passenger seat.

JAY

Only thirty six miles, buddy.

NICHOLAS

Is that a long time, Dad? I'm thirsty.

Jay glances in his rearview mirror.

JAY

We'll be there before you know it Nicky. Be patient, OK bud?

NICHOLAS  
(Exasperated)

Ok.

EXT. PACIFIC COVE - DAY

The waters of the cove are calm. The surrounding landscape crowds the sheltered bay with steep, stony cliffs dropping to the water's edge.

SUPER: PACIFIC COVE, CALIFORNIA

A huge abandoned amusement park crowns one point of the cove, jutting over the Pacific on long timber legs.

The rollercoaster is rusted and silent. The rides are still, the midway empty.

INT. THE CAR - DAY

Nicholas presses both hands against the window, looking out at the park.

NICHOLAS  
Wow! Dad, look.

JAY  
Yeah, that's pretty cool huh, bud?

NICHOLAS  
Can we go there? And ride those... things?

REBECCA  
No honey, they're closed down now.  
But we'll go to the board walk in Santa Cruz and ride, OK?

Nicholas frowns and furrows his brow.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A modest stucco home of Spanish style. A shipping container, U-MOVE stenciled on the side in block letters, sits in the narrow concrete driveway.

The Reids arrive.

REBECCA  
Sweet, our stuff is here already.

JAY  
We're here, Nicky.

Nicholas bounds out of the back seat and the family

proceeds to

THE SIDE DOOR

Jay removes a keyring from his pocket, a single silver key with a yellow, plastic tag.

He unlocks the door and Nicholas sprints inside. Jay and Rebecca follow.

INT. THE REID HOME - DAY

Jay steps into the entry. A narrow stairway leads to the basement. The basement light is on.

NICHOLAS

Wow, Mom. Cool.

Nicholas skips into the hallway and leaps from a step into the

DINING ROOM

Jay tosses the key onto the counter. Rebecca admires the view of the backyard pool.

REBECCA

Oh, honey--

Jay wraps her in his arms and kisses her on the forehead.

JAY

No more apartments.

REBECCA

No more apartments.