**Text and storyboard studies from A Good Man is Hard to Find**

**Goals:**

**Determine mood (helps with visual style)**

**Determine story message (helps focus scenes characters/panels etc.)**

**Text/Image (helps see fit with page limit and first draft story board).**

**Mood** – dark, sinister, quirky (grandma), disjointed

**Main character** – in third person, focus is on Grandma and her character’s ideals in everyone and a good man and ideal lady. She passes judgement and acts morally superior to what she perceives as a lack of good judgement in world. Racist, judgmental, shallow, materialistic.

**Other characters –** kids are “awful”, disrespectful, manipulative, self-centered. Parents seem “non existent”, especially the mother. Bailey tries to take charge but follows his mother. Misfit takes pleasure in meanness but realizes there is no pleasure in it.

**Message:** Everybody’s guilty of something, we all have sinned. Her moral superiority shows in her interactions but her crisis and “tricks” in her actions leading family to danger. The main Misfit’s moral code is consistent but hers is not. When she pleads for her life, she uses lady card but when a gun is pointed to her head, she sees is flawed like everyone else.

**Scenes by page:**

1. Scenes at home and start of trip – sets grandma’s character up with her ideals
2. Drive, detours and turn around – sets up her mistake
3. Accident, realization and encounter – realization of her mistake and consequence
4. Encounter – her ideals and banter with misfits
5. Kills – her pleading and last grace/realization

**PAGE 1 -** Scenes at home and start of trip – sets grandma’s character up with her ideals

**Panel 1:** long panel showing everyone

Thought: The Grandmother didn’t want to go to Florida, she wanted to go to Tennessee to visit her connections. She was seizing every change to change minds.

Text (left to right)

Grandma: “See here, this felon calls himself The Misfit, aloose and headed to Florida.” “I would take my children here, I couldn’t answer to my conscience.” “They have never been to Tennessee!”

John Wesley: “Why don’t you stay home?”

June Star: “She has to go everywhere we go!”

Grandma: “Allright miss!”

**Panel 2:** med size showing her decked out like a lady + hidden cat

Thought: The next day...she was the first one ready. Underneath her bag she hid the cat because she would miss her.

**Panel 3:** small size, no panel, bubbled? Showing cat asphyxiated on a burner

Thought: Even if her son didn’t like to arrive at a motel with a cat, she was afraid he might brush against the gas burner and asphyxiate himself.

**Panel 4:** long panel showing back of car with children and grandmother – backs of fronts?

Thought: She thought it was going to be a good day for driving and she cautioned and pointed out things…

Grandma: “The speed limit…patrolmen hid themselves behind things!” If I were a little boy, I would talk about my native state that way!” “In my time, children were more respectful!” “In my time, people did it right then”

John Wesley: “Tennessee is just a hillbilly dumping ground!”

June Star: “ You said it!”

**Panel 5:** long panel showing car, road and sign and cow shaped cloud. Speech bubbles going out of car.

Thought: To keep them quiet, she told them her courtship of Mr. Edgar Atkins Teagarden when she was a maiden lady. Then, they stopped at Red Sammy’s for barbequed sandwiches.

John Wesley: “What shape is the cloud?”

June Star: “A cow!”

John Wesley: “No, an automobile!”

“SLAP!”

OW!”

Grandma: “Keep quiet!”

**PAGE 2 - Drive, detours and turn around – sets up her mistake**

**Panel 1:** big panel with car and Red Sammy’s and/or close up to her mouth? His mouth?

Thought: Grandma and Red Sammy discuss all that isn’t right with the world today. The kids played outside and looked at the Monkey eating bugs in a tree.

Grandma: “People aren’t like they used to be!” “Did you hear about the Misfit, that’s escaped?” “Isn’t a soul in this green world of God’s you can trust”.

Red Sammy “A good man is hard to find”.

**Panel** 2: small close up her snoring

**Panel 3:** small wakes up to her snoring

**Panel 4:** big? Close up to her hand pointing

Thought: She remembered an old plantation they could visit nearby that she knew younger. She wanted to see it and lied about why she wanted to go

Grandma “…turn around, there was a secret panel in this house...with silver…never found!”

**Panel 5:** small kids mouths, showing yelling

Kids: “Let’s go!”

Bailey “No”

**Panel 6:** exclamation and two mouths overlapping

**Panel 7:** Alright! Screech.

**Panel 8:** car going into smaller road. Steam coming from drivers side?

**PAGE 3: Accident, realization and encounter – realization of her mistake and consequence**

**Panel 1:** small, car in windy and not paved road

**Panel 2:** small, close up on grandma’s eyes

Thought: Odd, the road doesn’t look like it’s been travelled on in months.

Grandma: “It’s not much farther”

**Panel 3:** small, close up on grandma’s eyes squinting

**Panel 4:** small, close up on eyes widening

**Panel 5:** small, her feel kicking the bag and newspaper topping covering the cat

**Panel 6:** small, cat on Bailey’s neck

**Panel 7:** Bonk, crash blam

**Panel 8:** Aah! Oohpf! Waah!

**Panel 9:** Big birds eye view, crash and everyone scattered.

**Panel 10:** v. small, car in distance

Thought, stretched across panels 10-13: The horrible thought she had was that house was in Georgia and not here in Tennessee.

**Panel 11:** v. small, car not seen in valley

**Panel 12:** v. small, car on top of hill

**Panel 13:** v. small, car on top, three guys can be seen

**PAGE 4 - Encounter – her ideals and banter with misfits**

**Panel 1:** Three men close up

**Panel 2:** Men getting closer

“We’ve had an accident!”

**Panel 3:** Big panel – three men and back of Grandma

Misfit: “Try their car”. “Ya’ll sit together!”

John Wesley: “What you got that gun for?”

June Star: “What you telling US what to do for?”

Grandma: “You’re the Misfit!”

**PAGE 5 - Kills – her pleading and last grace/realization**

**Panel 1:** Grandma, crying on knees, close up

Grandma: “You wouldn’t shoot a lady, would you?”

**Panel 2:** Grandma, crying on knees, close up, maybe different angle

Grandma: “I know you’re a good man!” I know you must come from nice people!”

**Panel 3:** Tall panel connected to Panel 6 and 9, all standing Misfit

Misfit (panel 3 speech) – “Finest people in the world!” “The boys…step back in them woods there with them?”

**Panel 4:** Grandma’s hat falls, boys and misfit men walking away

Grandma: “Bailey Boy!”

**Panel 5:** just text

Grandma: “I know you’re a good man!:” “You could settle down, nobody chasing you all the time.” “Do you ever pray”?”

**Panel 6:** tall panel cont. panel 3

Misfit cont (speech bubble): “Nome” “Yes’m” “Nome”

**Panel 7:** Bap bap! Pray, pray, pray pray…

**Panel 8:** Girls being taken away

Grandma: “Jesus, you ought not to shoot a lady. Ill give you all the money I’ve got!”

**Panel 9:** tall panel

Misfit cont. (panel 9 speech): “Never a body that gave the undertaker a tip”.

**Panel 10:** small Bap bap bap.

**Panel 11:** small close up in twisted Misfit fact

“Jesus was the only One that ever raised the dead”. “ If I had been there, I would have known if he did and I wouldn’t be like I am now.

**Panel 12:** Close up grandma

Grandma: “Why your one of my babies. Your one of my own children!”

**Panel 13:** small panel Grandma 3 times

**Panel 14:** med panel, zoomed into his arm and the cat

Misfit: “She would have been a good woman” “No pleasure in real life”