

## Hero's Journey Analysis – "Witness"

### Step 1- Ordinary World

Dark screen  
 Evocative soundtrack  
 Grain blowing in the wind

People who look like they are from 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Horse drawn cart  
 Dressed in black  
 Heading for a funeral  
 Alexander Gudonov among them  
 2:25

Church  
 People crying  
 Speaking in German (?)  
 Kelly McGillis, her son and her father, her husband's  
 father, Elijah (?)

Wake  
 4:15  
 Alexander Gudonov DANIEL  
 Approaches Kelly McGillis RACHEL  
 5:27  
 Says sorry about Jacob  
 Thank you Daniel  
 Clearly he wants to climb into Rachel's bed

6:26  
 Farming taking place with old fashioned implements

They head off to town in horse and buggy  
 7:16  
 A truck behind them  
 First time we've known that it's modern day  
 See the buggy sitting at traffic lights  
 Anachronistic

Daniel comes to the train station  
 First time to the big city  
 Gives him a horse carved out of wood  
 You'll come back soon  
 Obviously keen to get into her pants

CALL TO ADVENTURE  
 You be careful out there among the English  
 The father says to Rachel

Daniel shows off on the cart  
 As they go past in the train

Kid taking in the sites  
9:46

Cute little Amish boy

CALL TO ADVENTURE  
Train delayed 3 hours

Intrigued by water cooler

Sees a guy he thinks is one of his lot  
But it's a Rabbi

Intrigued by the sculpture of an archangel holding  
someone  
12:06

Still waiting

CALL TO ADVENTURE  
He goes to the toilet  
12:45

Guy in there  
Goes into a stall

Guy is nervous  
Danny Glover comes in  
And another guy  
They cut his throat  
The little boy sees it  
13:40

Danny Glover much cooler and calmer  
Hears something  
Draws his gun  
Checks the stalls  
Daniel locks the door

Then slides under the stalls  
Hat gets left behind  
Pulls it after him  
Stands on the toilet  
He's safe

16:01  
Harrison Ford (JOHN BOOK) comes in  
See him through the frosted glass

Talks to Samuel  
We'll get you on another train

The man who was killed was a policeman  
 He was like Book's offsider  
 Black but not stumpig

You have no right to keep us here  
 He's a material witness to a homicide  
 She says she wants nothing to do with you laws  
 I told him we didn't need to know anything about you

#### CONTRAST — ANTIPATHY

19:48

They go into a bar  
 Take a suspect outside  
 Belts the guy  
 Is this the guy  
 She wants no more to do with this  
 Honest mistakes

What are they going to do with them  
 Can't trust them at the hotel  
 Takes them to his sisters  
 21:06

Sister not happy  
 Moralises about her having "company"  
 Leaves  
 Rachel tells Samuel they are just staying for the night

22:23

Book takes her to the station  
 She doesn't like her son spending time around someone who  
 carries a gun and goes around whacking people

Samuel looks at the lineup  
 23:25  
 Guy isn't there

Café  
 Again typical of this phase  
 Book starts eating  
 They say Grace  
 Contrast  
 Looks awkward

Sister says you don't have a family  
 She thinks you ought to get married and have children of  
 your own rather than father hers  
 Thinks that he likes policing because he's the only one  
 who knows what's right  
 Daniel burps  
 Good appetite

Book laughs

Book takes him through more photos  
Gets a phone call from Carter

Woman detective lures him over  
Offers biscuit

Crook calls him over  
Handcuffed to chair

Allies and Enemies

Looks at photo in cabinet

Music comes in

He looks at Danny Glover in newspaper clipping  
Calls Book over  
And points  
Slow motion

Book pulls his hand down

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR (Shapeshifter)  
Book goes to his boss, PAUL  
Says McPhee is the guy  
Says it all fits  
Has he spoken about it  
McPhee is on holiday  
Maximum security  
Who else knows  
Just you and I  
Let's leave it that way

30:27

Book gets out of car  
Danny Glover coems at him  
Fires a gun  
That's our car  
Humour  
I know you, asshole

Blood on his drycleaning  
He's been wounded  
31:39

CROSSES THE FIRST THRESHOLD

Changing music

Book calls Carter

Get rid of all the paperwork on this job  
Tells Carter to watch his back  
Schafer is in this thing too

Pulls the sheets that have Samuel's address  
Runs into someone

McPhee, Schaffer come to Book's place  
Get into his car  
Finds blood

Departmental matter  
Schaffer says Book should hand himself in

They take Elaine's car  
Head to the Amish

Drops Rachel and Samuel off

He says he can't stay  
Drives off  
Hits the mailbox  
35:20

Will he be coming back to take Samuel to trial  
There isn't going to be any trial

Postbox is a house  
Comes crashing down  
36:01

#### TESTS, ALLIES & ENEMIES

No doctor  
Would have to make a report  
They would find him and the boy

They take Book from the car  
Onto cart

An elder comes to visit  
37:34  
Feels burning  
Bullet came in and went out  
He can't do anything  
Says he must go to the hospital  
She says he can't go  
If he's found the people will come get Samuel

Will have to speak to the Elders  
39:14

They drag the VW into the barn  
 Close the door  
 That's the closing of a chapter  
 Music starts in

She tends him  
 Reaches out and holds her hand  
 Delirious  
 I'll fuckin kill you, you asshole

She thinks he's dead  
 John!!!  
 Looks worried  
 Relieved when he rolls over

41:21  
 He wakes up and sees her  
 Disorientation

Schaffer says they can't find these people  
 About every third family is called Lapp  
 He talks with local law enforcement  
 Maybe you could do some phoning  
 But they don't have any phones

42:52  
 He wakes and looks up to see a bunch of Elders  
 He's been there 2 days  
 Drink his tea  
 Tell him his tea stinks  
 Disorientation

Very happy he lived  
 Didn't know what they were going to do with him if he  
 died

Samuel finds Book's gun  
 Book finds him  
 Don't move

45:08  
 Loaded gun  
 Very dangerous  
 Takes the bullets out  
 Disorientation for everyone

He can handle it while he's there  
 But then she comes in and is mortified  
 DIFFERENT RULES

While you are in our house I insist you respect our ways  
 She takes the gun away

## MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Samuel gets a lecture from Eli  
 We believe it is wrong to take life  
 There is never only one way

## FORESHADOWING here

I would only kill a bad man  
 And you know these bad men by sight?  
 He's seen bad  
 Having seen he's become one of them

He's reading mags  
 Learning a lot about manure  
 48:24

She has Amish clothes for him  
 His are bloodstained  
 And he would stand out in his clothes  
 Buttons are proud  
 Making fun of me?  
 Like the tourists

They seem to think we're quaint  
 Can't imagine why they think that

He wants to know where there's a phone  
 Needs a public phone  
 In Strasbourg

50:36  
 Book in his clothes  
 She laughs

My gun  
 I need my gun  
 She pulls it out the cupboard  
 The bullets – they are covered in flour  
 The contrast between their two worlds

Do I look Amish?  
 You look plain

They head off to town

Book makes phone call  
 52:39

Talks to Carter  
 Carter tells him not to come in  
 He couldn't get within a mile of Schaffer  
 What are they going to do?

FBI?  
 Investigative reporters?  
 Take care of yourself

He returns  
 53:57

Book gives her the bullets  
 Don't put them in the peaches

Samuel shows Book how the water wheel works

He looks at the corn silo  
 Foreshadowing

Tries to get his car started  
 55:24  
 Again foreshadowing

Book can't get the car started  
 Says he wants him to help him

4.30 in the morning  
 Has to help with the milking

Has trouble

Ringling of the bell

They have breakfast  
 56:50  
 Not used to eating in the middle of the night  
 Honey, that's great coffee. A commercial on TV

Daniel comes over  
 58:44  
 You are the Yankee they are talking about  
 He came to see Rachel  
 Sits on the swinging bench with her  
 Book approaches  
 Realises it's a courtship

He starts rebuilding the mailbox  
 1:00:16

She brings lemonade through to him  
 Trying to fix that birdhouse

He drinks lemonade  
 She watches

You know carpentry



Do you know anything else  
I'm hell at whacking

1:02:01  
Told Eli you're a carpenter  
You could come to the barn raising

Radio starts in the car  
Don't know much

He circles  
They dance  
Laugh  
But I do know that I love you

He looks at her  
Serious  
Then lightens it  
1:05:15

Eli comes  
Not happy  
The music  
Book gulps

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR  
What are you doing Rachel?  
I've committed no sin  
Not yet  
There has been talk of having you shunned

He can't sit with her  
Can't take food from her  
She's not listening

Schaffer with Carter  
1:06:15

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR  
He knows he's with the Amish  
I'd give anything to see him now  
Almost smiles at the thought  
We're like the Amish  
With our own rules

APPROACH  
The barn raising  
1:08:00

Daniel says it's good he's healed  
He can go home

(The Road Home)

As a team they raise the barn  
(This is important for the final scene)

Book proves himself  
He is a key player here  
Daniel passes the lemonade  
A sign of approval

He's rebuilding his life really  
Rachel looks up at Book at work

1:12:00  
Incredible scene of them all working on the house

Book looks down at her  
She looks up at him

Lunch  
1:12:28  
Grace

Rachel fills Book's glass first  
Incredible tension between them

Daniel looks down at Book  
RIVAL

They finish the barn

The women quilt  
Everyone has an idea about you and the Englishman  
Not charitable

The barn is done

You was hotshot  
It's their barn you built today

Singing

Heading home on the back of the cart

Lightning

Book sits out on the bench  
Looks at Rachel through the window  
She walks past and looks at him

She bathes  
1:15:56

Book comes to the door

She turns  
 Faces him topless  
 He looks  
 Looks down  
 Looks up  
 She turns away

It's raining outside  
 Book sits on his bed  
 Thinking

The next day  
 Book comes to the door  
 (note now that his trousers fit – she's let them down)

He says that if they'd made love  
 He'd have to stay  
 Or she'd have to leave  
 She goes to say something after he's left  
 1:18:13

Book comes to town  
 Tourists are there for the Amish  
 Lady, you take a picture of me with that,  
 I'm going to rip your brassiere off and strangle you with  
 it.

Book calls Carter  
 PR  
 Are you a member of the family  
 Sgt Carter is dead  
 Killed in the line of duty  
 Smashes the phone  
 See him from behind  
 Turns and now he's angry  
 Calls Schaffer  
 Schaffer  
 Schaffers' family outside  
 You lost the meaning, didn't you, Paul  
 We know where you are  
 No, you've got it wrong  
 I'm coming to get you

Tourists causing havoc  
 1:21:23  
 THE ROAD HOME

Eli says to do nothing  
 Puts icecream on Daniel's nose

They won't fight  
 It's not our way  
 But it's my way

Book walks towards them  
 Daniel says it's all right

Knocks Book's hat off  
 Book punches the crap out of him  
 And his mates  
 1:23:07

Nothing seen anything like it  
 He's from Ohio

Police car comes around  
 Guy reports that the guy was with Eli Lapp

The end must come now

Book gave him a present

Book puts up the mailbox

She sends Samuel to bed  
 1:24:49

He's leaving isn't he  
 Tomorrow  
 He's going back to his world where he belongs  
 He knows it and you know it too

ROAD HOME – on the precipice of the two worlds

REWARD  
 1:25:23  
 She looks at him  
 Takes her little cap off  
 She's coming into his world

He turns as she comes towards him  
 They hug and kiss  
 She cries

RESURRECTION

1:27:17  
 The next day  
 Car comes over the brow  
 And goes back  
 Schaffer, McPhee and another guy  
 Get guns

And head towards the house  
1:28:07

Break into the house  
It's all right  
We're police officers  
Not going to harm your boy  
It's Book we want

Book!!!, Eli yells

He gets whacked with the gun  
Book is in the shed  
Sends Samuel off to Daniel's place  
You don't have your gun  
Run Samuel run

Book tries to start car

Glover steps in manure

Car won't start

His way isn't working

Guy with mo comes after him  
Fires a gun

Samuel is running  
Stops when he hears the gunfire

Book runs down with the cattle

Guy comes after him  
He opens the silo door

Goes up the ladder on the outside of the silo

Guy looks straight up but can't see him  
It's black

He opens the silo door  
Book pushes some corn down  
Pulls the lever  
Corn begins falling on him  
1:34:15

Comes to the door but can't get out

Danny Glover comes in  
Cant' help his mate

McPhee says Schaffer better come on up  
But he goes back to the house

Samuel is there  
1:36:27

Schaffer takes Eli and Rachel out  
Tells Samuel to ring the bell

Book goes in and tries to grab the guy's gun  
1:37:35

Pulls it out  
McPhee comes running

Book kills him

Samuel rings the bell  
Schaffer says to stop him now  
Holds a gun to Rachel's head  
Book puts the gun down

They come over the hill  
Unarmed

Schaffer brings Book out under gun

It's all right  
I'm a police officer

1:39:00

What are you going to do, Paul?  
You going to shoot me  
Him  
The woman  
Me  
It's over  
Enough  
Takes the guns

Schaffer falls

Police come

Book has a cigarette  
1:41:25

Rachel looks out at him

Book is in his city clothes  
With Samuel

He's in his city clothes  
In the fields  
Master of two worlds

She comes to the door  
1:42:42

Nothing said  
She turns away  
He turns away  
They look back

He walks to his car  
Doesn't want to go  
You be careful out there among them English

He drives off  
Daniel comes across the fields  
1:44:35