

Promise to a Guardian

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *Promise to a Guardian*

by Ronald Freed and Karin A. Todd

Logline

Special Agent Rusty saves twin girls during his semi-retirement but eventually realizes there is more to his promise to the twins' guardian angel than he thought

Characters

Rusty "Sundance" (M) - A CIA agent who gets injured on a mission. He retires partially to his ranch and later learns that his love, Sonya, is dead. He eventually rescues twin girls who turn out to be his daughters. By coincidence, he marries Tanya, Sonya's sister, and gets his dream life.

Garth Tanner (M) - Early thirties. A retired CIA agent. Ranch caretaker.

Sandy (F) - Garth's wife, light brown, shoulder-length hair, pretty green eyes, and a warm smile.

Jim Tate (M) - Rusty's boss at the Polish embassy.

Sonya (F) - Rusty's fiancée. She's killed before her marriage to Rusty. She hides her pregnancy from Rusty and hands over the children to her sister Tanya.

Three Act Summary

Act One

- Rusty drives to California after his fishing trip. He begins to think about the possibilities facing him. He pulls over for a few minutes, and Officer Geri approaches him. She asks for his papers and questions his road activity. Officer Geri agrees to follow him to Doctor Brown's office for a quick checkup.
- The doctor examines Rusty in Geri's presence. After the examination, Rusty heads to his secluded ranch, where Garth and Sandy welcome him. A buzzer goes off, indicating an intruder on their property. The three of them get their gear ready to face the intruders.
- The next morning, Rusty thinks about his girlfriend, Sonya, during a hot shower. Flashbacks show how he'd met Sonya on an assignment in Poland as "Sundance." Rusty walks into the American Embassy in Poland to see Jim Tate. Jim gives him another assignment, postponing his vacation.
- Rusty and Jim get dressed for the assignment at an event after putting all their marines in place. Rusty and Jim arrive at the event to find 'The Baron.' While on the assignment, Jim introduces Rusty to Sonya. After completing his assignment, Rusty walks Sonya home. As she leaves his arms reluctantly, they schedule another date.
- The next morning, Rusty calls Smokey for more information on the Baron. Rusty meets up with Jim for further discussions. When Jim leaves, Rusty returns to his room to practice his stealth procedures. After preparing for his encounter with the Baron, he lays down thinking of Sonya.
- Sundance (Rusty) strolls out of the embassy to his car. He drives to a Tavern to wait for the Baron. When the Baron comes out, Sundance follows him and puts a poison dart from his gas pistol into his neck. Then Sundance walks to his car and disappears into the night.

- Rusty walks into the American Embassy to see Jim. Jim asks Rusty to check on his health. After visiting the doctor, Rusty calls Smokey to warn him about interrupting his vacation.
- Rusty sets his alarm and sleeps off. In the morning, he goes to Sonya's for a date. They discuss their childhood and visit interesting places. When they return, he tells her about his last operation, and she cleans his wound. Rusty and Sonya have an awesome month, and he proposes to her, but she turns him down because of her contract with the Polish government.
- Back to the present, Rusty goes to the dining room where breakfast is cooking. Garth and Sandy take Rusty on a stroll around the ranch. Rusty visualizes his life on the ranch with his future family. When Rusty returns to the house, there's a message from Smokey. Rusty sets off for an urgent assignment.
- In Smokey's office, Rusty learns of his new assignment. Jim calls him to tell him that Black Raven has killed Sonya. After the news, Rusty resigns and narrates his relationship with Sonya to Smokey. Smokey agrees to go with Rusty to Poland. Rusty gets his weapon ready for revenge before falling asleep dreaming of Sonya.

Act Two

- Smokey and Rusty fly to Poland in the morning, where Jim Tate meets them to help them settle in. The next day, Rusty attends Sonya's funeral. After the funeral, they return to the embassy. Rusty joins Jim and Smokey for breakfast, discussing handling the Wasp and the Black Raven. Rusty goes to his room to plot. Then he returns to ask Jim for details about the Raven.
- Later, Rusty goes in search of the Wasp alone. When he gets to the Wasp's location, he gathers everything and returns to the embassy. The next day, he hands over everything to Rusty and tries to study the information he'd gathered.

- Sundance (Rusty) goes in search of the Wasp and kills him. Black Raven intercepts Sundance, and they attack each other with weapons. Black Raven escapes, and Sundance is badly injured. Jim takes Sundance to a doctor. Eventually, Sundance is shipped back to the US for medical care.
- After two weeks, Rusty awakes from his coma to greet the Judge and Barbara. Rusty unplugs his catheter and gets a shower. After getting himself examined, Rusty is eager to leave. Smokey tells Rusty that he has to go into semi-retirement. Rusty gets his belongings and heads for his ranch. On his arrival, Sandy and Garth welcome him. Later, Garth and Sandy travel home, leaving Rusty at his ranch.
- Rusty is driving home to his ranch when he meets two little girls, Tracy and Stacy, stranded. He takes them to his ranch. Back at his ranch, Rusty helps the girls clean up and relax. He tries to find out how they got lost. Rusty calls the Judge about the girls, and they arrange for Rusty to have full guardianship of them. Rusty calls Smokey, and they make other arrangements.
- Later, Rusty notices the girls are down with fever and rushes them to the hospital. After getting the girls medical attention, two local policemen accuse Rusty of assault, but Rusty counters them. The girls' situation gets worse, and Rusty starts to pray for them. An angel appears to Rusty, making him promise to care for the girls until they are of age.
- When Barbara and the Judge come in, everyone learns that the girls have a guardian angel who's visiting. Rusty buys dolls for the girls and inserts tracking devices in them. He offers them to the girls as he waits for them to recover.
- Rusty wakes up to check on the twins and notices a nurse coming to inject Stacy. He knocks her down, and when the regular morning nurse shows up, they learn that a Russian operative had come to kill the twins. Rusty spreads the news of the assassination attempt to Barbara, Smokey, and the Judge.

- Rusty hears the girls scream and finds a woman kidnapping them. He stops the woman who claims to be a social worker and sends her away. Eventually, Rusty and the twins leave the hospital. When he gets a call from Jake, he hands over the twins to Barbara and gives Jake the address to the ranch. Rusty meets up with Barbara and the twins.
- When Rusty and the girls head home, they find Jake being held by the highway patrol officers, and Rusty introduces Jake to Geri. Geri, Sergeant Hagg, and Jake join Rusty and the girls at the ranch to ensure the perimeter is safe before they enter.
- Rusty gets everyone settled in and suggests that Geri stays with them on a special assignment. Rusty explains the house's security system to everyone staying with him, and they all retire for the night.
- Later, during the day, Rusty assigns duties to everyone responsible for caring for the girls. He gives the girls ground rules for their safety and makes a treehouse to protect them. While working on the tree house, he notices Jake and Geri getting closer.
- One time, everyone at Rusty's ranch goes out to dinner, and the girls get kidnapped. They attack the kidnappers, killing them while sustaining injuries too. After their dinner, they drive quietly back to the ranch.
- Rusty starts talking about finding the twins' mother. The next morning, Rusty and his friends place calls across to several hospitals to find the twins' mother. They get information from a small town about a woman. Rusty, Jake, Geri, and the twins travel to Gualala to find the woman they suspect to be the twins' mother.
- Back at the ranch, Garth and Sandy are attacked by intruders. After killing the attackers, they contact Smokey to clean up. Meanwhile, Rusty and his group head to the police station in Gualala. Rusty gets the police to cooperate with him, and they find the woman, Rose, with amnesia. The twin girls recognize the woman as their mother, but she doesn't recognize them.

- As they try to rescue Rose, Rusty and his group are attacked. The police officers stop the attack, and Rusty leaves the place with his crew. On their way back to the ranch, they try to get information from Rose, but she doesn't know much. Back at the ranch, as they all settle in, Rusty tries to figure out how to get more information about the happenings.
- Rusty goes into his bedroom and discovers that the twins are still awake, crying because their mother doesn't recognize them. He tries to comfort them, and they say a prayer for their mother.
- The next day, Rusty and Jake work on the ranch, and Robert and Paul show up. While they catch up, Rusty tells everyone that Robert and Paul suspect they've been followed. Rose tries to fit into the ranch activities and help out with the twins so she can get her memory back.
- Rusty talks with Smokey about the earlier suspicions and gets the girls into bed. Later, Sergeant Hagg visits the ranch; just as he's about to leave, they hear the alarm go off, signifying the presence of more intruders. Everyone jumps into action to protect the twins. With joint effort, they send the intruders away and clean up the house.
- During breakfast, they discuss the plans for the day, and everyone takes their position. When Jake and Garth move out with the motorcade, they notice two people following them. They try to confront them, and Garth eventually tosses a grenade at the stalkers.
- Garth and Jake eventually arrive at the airstrip where Geri meets them. As they all head back to the ranch, Jake sends Geri off so he can narrate his experience to Rusty.
- The ranch experiences a few weeks of quietness until Rose collapses one afternoon. When Rusty, Garth, Sandy, Jake, and Geri come to check on her, she yells at them, saying her name is Tanya. Since Rose's memory is back, they try to help her adjust to reality. Sandy tries to engage Rusty about the girls' custody when their mother's memory fully returns.

Act Three

- Tanya (Rose) expresses gratitude to Rusty for caring for her children and tries to feel comfortable in the house. Later, Tanya starts to share the little things she can remember. The description she gives matches an assassin in the secret service.
- At night, the twins snuggle up to Rusty. Tanya comes to Rusty's room to announce that they're missing. When she realizes the kids are there, she joins them in Rusty's bed. The next day the twins announce to everyone at the ranch that they all slept in Rusty's bed. Tanya comes in search of Rusty to hide her embarrassment.
- Later, when everyone is settled, Tanya and the twins head to the tree house, but the alarm goes off suddenly. Rusty mobilizes Sandy, Garth, and Jake to attend to the intruders. They find several teens at their gate and realize there's no trouble. After the intruder scare, Rusty takes the twins and Tanya to the lake to fish.
- At the ranch, Sandy and Garth try to make Rusty realize that Tanya's falling for him. When Rusty goes to tuck the kids and Tanya in, he shares a passionate kiss with Tanya. Tanya comes to his bedroom, and they spend time for a while before she leaves to go to hers.
- Rusty and Tanya's love becomes clearer. The twins find an old bible from her husband, and they all find out her husband's name was Don Lewis. After examining the bible, Rusty and Garth decide to give the name to Smokey. While they wait for Smokey to confirm the name, Tanya reassures Rusty of her love for him.
- Tanya and Rusty go out for a stroll, and an earthquake happens. They rush home to check on the girls, and Rusty has a private conversation with Smokey. Smokey tells Rusty all about Tanya's husband. They all learn that the bible Tanya had been carrying contains valuable information. After learning of her husband's death, Tanya breaks down in tears.

- Rusty mobilizes his team, and they leave the ranch to deliver the formula in Tanya's bible to Smokey. On their way, they encounter Black Raven and Iceman. The altercation leads to the death of Black Raven and Iceman. Just then, the head nurse from the hospital where the twins were treated confronts Rusty and Jake, asking for the formula. While Rusty pretends to release it, Jake kills the nurse.
- They return to the ranch to welcome hugs and kisses. Rusty narrates the events to everyone as Geri announces that her job at the ranch is over. Later, when Garth and Sandy return to the ranch, Geri and Jake announce that they're getting married. Rusty also shares that he's marrying Tanya. They decide to have a double wedding and make preparations for it. They have the wedding and jet off for their honeymoon.
- Rusty and Tanya go to Poland, where Rusty introduces Tanya to Jim. Eventually, he learns that Tanya is Sonya's sister and the twins are his daughters from Sonya's secret pregnancy. Rusty ends up having a wonderful time, with Tanya, in Poland on their honeymoon.