Up in the Air

Character: Ryan Bingham, "a suave, smartly dressed businessman"

Gender: Male

Age Range: 40's

Summary: With a job traveling around the country firing people, Ryan Bingham enjoys his life living out of a suitcase, but finds that lifestyle threatened by the presence of a new hire and a potential love interest.

RYAN: I was a late bloomer. *(back to story)* It was January and I had just gotten my driver's license. The lakes were frozen over, so we piled into my car and hit the ice to do donuts. When, out of nowhere, I hit a soft spot and the hood of my car tilted up and I'm sinking backwards into the water.
My door wouldn't budge and we literally started to drown. Within a few seconds, I black out. Then, I wake up in the sky. I'm in a helicopter, laying on a stretcher. This guy in a uniform is telling me I was minutes away from dying.

Right? *(relives it for a second)* So just as we're hovering over the hospital, I sit up. And from there, I could see the whole western horizon. Snowy rivers. Bridges with sparkling tail lights. *(a beat)* My parents had lied. They'd taught me we lived in the best place in the world, but now I could see that the world was really just one place and comparing didn't make much sense. *(catches himself)* We'd been flying twenty minutes. *Twenty minutes* to reach a city I'd thought of as remote, halfway across the state… a foreign capital. And I remember thinking – Don't tell me this isn't an age of miracles. Don't tell me we can't be everywhere at once.