

**JONAH**

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BLACK

Night SFX. We hear the faint sound of a GUITAR frantically strumming a "Rafi" type folk song and the engine of a minivan.

FADE IN:

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. SIDE OF WOODED, WINDING RURAL ROAD.

The road and surrounding woods are very dark - silhouetted against a cloudy full moon sky. The guitar and engine noise grow louder as we see headlights appear. A porcupine scurries across the road. A minivan full of veggie kids passes by the camera, revealing the darkened woods once again.

INTERIOR - NIGHT. VEGGIE VAN.

JR. ASPARAGUS, PERCY, ANNIE and LAURA are sitting and singing in the second and third rows of the van. LAURA is holding a ticket. DAD ASPARAGUS is sitting in the front passenger seat and facing toward the kids - singing and "playing" the guitar. They are on their way to a "Twippo" concert and are all very excited except for BOB THE TOMATO - he's perturbed and not singing, driving and fumbling with a map.

KIDS AND DAD

*Now Billy Joe McGuffrey  
Was a really clumsy kid  
On the 1st day of 1st  
grade  
I'll tell you what he did*

*He tripped over a pencil  
box  
Flew up in the air  
Landed on a kangaroo  
Who pulled out all his  
hair*

*He needed  
1st aid (clap) in the 1st  
grade (clap)  
1st aid (clap) in the 1st  
grade (clap)  
1st aid (clap) in the 1st  
grade (clap)*

*You could a buy a zoo  
With all the doctor bills  
he paid!*

*Oh Billy Joe McGuffrey  
Was a really clumsy kid  
On the 2nd day of 2nd  
grade  
I'll tell you what he did*

*He slipped on a banana  
peel  
Flew up in the sky  
Landed on a chimpanzee  
Who poked him in the eye*

*He needed  
1st aid (clap) in the 2nd  
grade (2claps)  
1st aid (clap) in the 2nd  
grade (2claps)  
1st aid (clap) in the 2nd  
grade (2claps)  
You could a buy a zoo  
With all the doctor bills  
he paid!*

BOB  
(under breath)  
... Route 59?

BOB, while fumbling with the map, inadvertently hits the headlight switch - turning them off. NEAR BLACK. BOB startles.

BOB (CONT'D)  
AAAAH! LIGHTS! AAAAH!

DAD accidently smacks BOB in the back of the head with the neck of the guitar. As the kids are singing in near black, we hear Bob frantically trying to find the light switch - map rustling, tires squealing, engine revving, etc....

BOB (cont'd)  
(ad lib)  
Whoa... lights! Lights!  
Lights!

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. WINDING RURAL ROAD.

HEADLIGHTS back on. Camera street level as the van passes over it. We cut to a rear view to see the van driving on. A beam of moon light reveals a "porcupine crossing" hazard sign.

INTERIOR - NIGHT. VEGGIE VAN.

BOB gives DAD a stern glance. DAD remains happily "strumming" the guitar.

KIDS AND DAD

*Now Billy Joe McGuffrey  
Was a really clumsy kid  
On the 3rd day of 3rd  
grade  
I'll tell you what he did*

*He fell out of a fishing  
boat  
Splashed into the sea  
Landed on a moray eel  
Who bit him on the knee*

*He needed  
1st aid (clap) in the 3rd  
grade (3claps)  
1st aid (clap) in the 3rd  
grade (3claps)  
1st aid (clap) in the 3rd  
grade (3claps)  
You could a buy a zoo  
With all the doctor bills  
he paid!*

LAURA looks down at her ticket, smiling. It reads, "In Concert - Twippo! Backstage Pass"

LAURA

(reverently -  
with awe)

...I get to meet Twippo...

Laura picks the song right up again...

Song has been increasing in tempo and is now at a fevered pitch.

DAD

Twelfth grade!

KIDS AND DAD

*Now Billy Joe McGuffrey  
Was a really clumsy kid  
On the 12th day of 12th  
grade  
I'll tell you what he did*

*Walked into financial aid  
Fell and broke a bone  
Showed them all his bills  
and*

*Got a great big College  
Loan!*

*And he got  
1st aid(clap)in the 12th  
grade (12claps)  
1st aid(clap)in the 12th  
grade (12claps)  
1st aid(clap)in the 12th  
grade (12claps)  
You could a buy a zoo or  
two with all the doctor  
bills he paid!  
You could a buy a zoo or  
two with all the doctor  
bills he paid!*

Big Ending. KIDS CHEER and DAD STRUMS wildly at  
end of song.

KIDS

Hurray!!

KIDS comment:

PERCY

Let's do another Twippo  
song!  
ANNIE  
I love Twippo!

JR

Me too!

LAURA

(holding her  
'special'  
ticket aloft)  
But I'm the only one who  
gets to meet him,  
because I won the Twippo  
Sweepstakes!

LAURA'S ticket is proudly displayed in Junior's  
face as she delivers her line.

JR

Ya don't have to rub it  
in!

DAD

It's great that you won  
the contest, Laura, but  
let's try not to brag  
about it.  
(to Bob)

Nice one with the lights,  
Bob!

BOB, covered in map, receives DAD's sincere compliment sarcastically (with a forced smile and laugh). He then snaps angrily:

BOB  
My pleasure. For the next  
song, maybe I can drive  
into the river!

DAD startles at BOB's aggression.

KIDS  
(cheer, then  
singing)  
Yeah!  
*Drive into the river Bob!*  
*Oh! Drive into the river*  
*Bob!...*

BOB (cont'd  
over kid's)  
Or maybe... You could help  
me with the MAP!

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. WINDING RURAL ROAD.

DAD  
Oh... I'm Sorry.

We see DAD leaning over attempting to help BOB. Map rustles around, impairing BOB'S vision once again. Van swerves and squeals.

INTERIOR - NIGHT. VEGGIE VAN.

LAURA  
(to Junior -  
teasing and  
waving ticket  
in his face.)  
Is there anything you want  
me to tell Twippo, when  
I meet him?

Tires squeal as van swerves. Laura loses her balance and falls against the side of the van. The ticket flies out a side window.

DAD  
Laura!

LAURA  
(GASP!!!)

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. WINDING RURAL ROAD.

We watch the ticket fly out the window and past the camera.

INTERIOR. VAN - NIGHT

LAURA  
(screams)  
My ticket!!!!

Bob startles, accidentally turning the wheel and losing his grip on the map.

BOB  
Wha-?

Dad startles, whacking Bob again with his guitar, which only makes the situation worse.

DAD  
Huh? Wha... Quick! Get it!

EXT. WINDING ROAD -NIGHT

The vans tires squeal, as Bob tries to regain control.

BOB  
The map!!

Guitar boing off Bob's head.

DAD  
Sorry!

BOB  
AAAH!

LAURA  
(irate)  
My ticket!!!!

Guitar gets stuck in the steering wheel.

BOB  
Do you mind?

DAD  
I'm stuck. (Grunt)

Dad struggles to free the guitar. He is excited when he finally pulls it free, but both Dad and Bob are horrified as they realize that the

steering wheel is pulled off, still stuck to the guitar.

ALL

Aaaahhhh!

BOB

Get it on! Fix it! Put it back!

Much chaos.

Van out of control. We hear more yelling, guitar boinging, etc.... In the foreground, a family of porcupines - a momma and 2 kids, are crossing the road. The van is headed right at them! We cut to the momma porcupine's reaction. She's shocked and terrified! She looks to her babies. Cute, innocent and unaware of the danger, they look back at her with kinked heads and blink. Momma porcupine looks tenderly at her babies, then turns angrily toward the approaching van. Dramatically, she "winds-up".

INTERIOR - NIGHT. VEGGIE VAN.

We cut back to Bob as the map falls below his eyes. He reacts in terror to what he then sees: Momma porcupine has her quilled back toward the van with her head turned - looking right at him. The babies stand innocently and blink.

BOB

PORCUPINE!

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. WINDING RURAL ROAD.

Momma porcupine then "pitches" a swarm of quills at the front tires. We follow the flight of the quills on the "quill cam" as they punch into the tires. We hear a couple of explosions from the tires popping.

INTERIOR - NIGHT. VEGGIE VAN.

ALL

AAAHH!

EXTERIOR - NIGHT. WINDING RURAL ROAD.

The van performs some donuts as it continues forward. Much screams. Bob spins the wheel wildly, trying to regain control of the van. The porcupines watch in interest as the "screaming" van spins off the side of the road and heads down

a steep wooded hill that leads to a river! Bob steers wildly as the van heads through some brush... the kids in the back scream in terror.

In rapid succession, Bob must avoid a series of obstacles, which Dad calls out like a highly-caffeinated sports announcer.

DAD

Tree!!!!

Bob swerves wildly to miss a huge tree. Cut to kids in the back, bouncing up and down and screaming as if they were riding bikes down a flight of stairs.

DAD (cont'd)

Cabin!!!!

Bob swerves wildly to miss a small FISHERMAN'S CABIN. He avoids the obstacle, but heads right toward the fisherman's CLOTHESLINE, a sturdy, multi-line job strung with several items of clothing, most prominently, a large pair of POLKA-DOTTED BOXER SHORTS.

DAD (cont'd)

UNDERWEAR!!!!!!

Bob can't turn in time, and the van heads right through the clothesline, with the boxer shorts plastered across the windshield. The kids startle and scream as if an alien had just landed on the windshield. Amazingly, the 5 nylon cords of the clothesline hold tight, and slow the van to a stop like a small plane caught by cartoon power lines. With visible and audible tension, the stretched cords hold the van still at a 45 degree angle on the side of the hill, no more than 20 feet from the river.

KIDS

Aaaaaahhh!

INTERIOR VAN -NIGHT

All is still. Kids are silent, in shock. After a moment, Bob turns to look back and says...

BOB

Heh, heh... Well I'm glad that's over!

There is a loud "poing!" SFX. Bob snaps to Dad, who still hasn't moved.



BOB (cont'd)  
Did you say something?

Another "poing," and now we see what it is. The nylon cords of the clothesline are snapping, one by one.

BOB (cont'd)  
(eyes widening)  
Oh...

DAD  
(eyes widening)  
... dear...

Poing! Poing! Poing! The last 3 cords snap in rapid succession, and the van lurches toward the river. The kids' eyes widen and they all press back against their seats in unison, and everyone screams like mad!

ALL  
Aaaaaaaaah!!!!!!

EXT. HILL -NIGHT

As the van rolls perilously toward the river, a low-angle shot reveals a thick tree stump in its path, about bumper-height, unnoticed by the van's occupants. As they scream and roll ahead, suddenly the bumper meets the tree stump, and the van stops cold, no more than 6 feet from the river

INTERIOR. VAN - NIGHT

The tree stump stops the van cold, but also fires both front seat airbags, which inflate and completely engulf Bob and Dad's faces. The screaming dies out. Silence. The kids are afraid to blink. The airbags remain completely inflated, engulfing Bob and Dad who stare into them motionless... wondering if they are dead. After a pause, and not quite sure what has happened, Bob speaks.

BOB  
(sfx - talking  
in balloon)  
Am I in... heaven?

Beat. There is dust in the air from the airbags.

DAD  
(sniffs)  
Smells like... Wisconsin.

The kids finally let their breath out, and fall back into their seats.

KIDS  
(exhale / sigh)  
Phew!!!

EXT. RIVERSIDE -NIGHT

LS of the van at the bank of the river. After a pause, the sliding passenger side door opens and we see the veggie kids and dad peeking out into the moonlit night. Dust is settling. Bob pops through the crowd, looks around and exits the van. He looks around a little more.

BOB  
Well. Nobody got hurt!

We hear the flying quill SFX and a doink.

BOB (cont'd)  
AAAAHHHH!

BOB looks over his "shoulder" to find a small quill stuck in his behind. We hear high pitched laughing. Dad looks back up the hill and sees the three porcupines standing where the van left the road. This time one of the babies has his back to Bob - as if he were the one responsible for the "shot". His mother and sibling are laughing approvingly.

DAD  
Wow. What a shot!

BOB  
(in pain)  
Hrrrgrrr.

JR  
Hey! What's that?

Everyone directs their attention to that which Jr. has observed. It's an old rundown shack under a bridge along the bank of the river. The lights from the building glow eerily, dimly illuminating the surrounding landscape. A Red Neon sign reading "SEAF00" buzzes. There is a dock attached to the restaurant to which are tied a couple decrepid rowboats and a larger "pirate" type ship (see "The Pirates that Don't do Anything's" ship). A fog rises from the river which overflows onto the land. A FOG HORN sounds and a SHIP BELL rings. An occasional SEAGULL call fills the air. Eerie. Cut back to our group's reaction.

ALL  
(except BOB,)  
Ooooooh.

ANNIE  
What's "SEAFOO"?

PERCY  
... Maybe it's like...  
tofu.

DAD  
... Only saltier.

Cut back to the restaurant. A "D" on the end of the sign flickers a few times, revealing the real word, "SEAFOOD".

ALL  
AAAhhhhh.

FADE TO:BLACK

FADE IN:

INTERIOR -  
NIGHT. LOBBY  
OF SEAFOOD  
RESTAURANT

We hear Jr. teasing Laura and Bob scolding Dad as our group comes through the front door of the seafood restaurant. It's set up like a typical Red Lobster with a hostess station and waiting area in the lobby, bathrooms and telephones off to the side and a dining room beyond a clam and lobster montage arch. Jean Claude and Phillippe Pea are the hosts and are standing on the host podium. The walls are filled with every imaginable seacreature - both stuffed and painted. Fishing nets hang. A picture of Ahab and Moby Dick adorns the walls, as well. The atmosphere is very mysterious and "salty." The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything's theme in a "moody/nautical" style is playing over the audio system. Dialogue is occurring simultaneously:

BOB  
Oh yeah? Well, if it  
wasn't for you we wouldn't  
be in this mess!

DAD  
I said I was sorry... I'll  
do better next time!

BOB

There isn't gonna be a  
next time!!

ANNIE

Mr. Bob?... How are we  
gonna get to the Twippo  
concert?

PERCY

Ya! We're gonna miss the  
bald bunny song!

BOB

(very  
disgruntled)

I dunno!... I don't know  
about any bald...  
bunnies...

LAURA

Even if we make it to the  
concert - I can't get  
in! I lost my ticket!

JR.

Serves you right! It's  
your own fault for waving  
it around in my face!!

PERCY

(singing)

I'm a bald bunny, ain't  
got no fur I'm a  
bald bunny, brrr brrr  
brrr.

ANNIE

I have to go to the  
bathroom.

DAD

You know I'm usually not  
that clumsy in the  
car... Usually I'm quite  
dexterous.

BOB

Two flat tires. How in  
the world are we gonna  
change two flat  
tires?... Where's the  
phone?...

PERCY

(singing)



DAD

Maybe it's because I'm  
used to the ukulele... The  
neck is so much shorter...  
Yeah... that's why...  
Say... I need to call my  
wife... Do you have a  
phone?

JR

Laura was teasing me with  
her "special ticket," and  
then it flew right out the  
window and she screamed  
and made the van crash..

Jr turns to Laura

JR (cont'd)

and now none of us get to  
see Twippo!

ANNIE waits for everyone to finish shouting, then  
comments sweetly:

ANNIE

May I please use the  
bathroom?

JEAN CLAUDE and PHILLIPE look at each other then  
turn back to the crowd.

PHILLIPE

Down the hall, first door  
on the left.

ANNIE

Thank you.

ANNIE hops off toward the bathroom. There is a  
video game at the end of the hall, as well. PERCY  
looks on.

PERCY

Oooh! Captain Ahab's Moby  
Blaster! My favorite!

PERCY follows ANNIE down the hall.

JEAN CLAUDE

What do you want?

BOB

Well sirs... The Asparagus  
hit me in the head with a  
guitar and an angry mother

porcupine shot out our  
tires and one of her  
babies got me...

BOB turns his bottom toward peas

JEAN CLAUDE &  
PHILLIPE

oooh.

DAD  
... and I need to use your  
phone to call...

BOB  
(cutting off  
Dad)  
A tow truck.

DAD  
...My wife.

JEAN CLAUDE  
I see.

PHILLIPE  
(to Dad)  
Next to the Moby Blaster.

DAD  
Thanks.

DAD hops off toward the phone. BOB, JR. and LAURA  
remain.

JEAN CLAUDE  
... Well... In the  
meantime, would you like  
to have a seat? Maybe  
enjoy a nice... combo  
platter?...

Cheesy DRUMS starts up...

JEAN CLAUDE &  
PHILLIPE

(singing)

*Steak! Steak! Eat it! Eat  
it!  
Shrimp! Shrimp! Need it!  
Need it!  
Steak and Shrimp! Steak  
and Shrimp!  
Need to! Need to! Eat it!  
Eat it!*

JEAN CLAUDE and PHILLIPE do a little dance as they sing. DRUMS stop as abruptly as they started. BOB, LAURA and JR look at each other, concerned. BOB returns a cautious nod.

INTERIOR - NIGHT. DINING ROOM OF SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

BOB, LAURA and JR hop toward their table. They are led by JEAN CLAUDE (menus in hand) and followed by PHILLIPE. PHILLIPE takes note of the quill in BOB'S behind. THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING theme MUSIC plays over the sound system.

PHILLIPE

Do you prefer "poking" or  
"non-poking?"

BOB returns an annoyed, forced laugh to PHILLIP'S bad pun.

BOB

heh heh heh... non.

JEAN CLAUDE

Good one Phillipe! You  
are one clever pea, no?

PHILLIPE

(with his  
little French  
laugh)

Un huh huh!

PHILLIPE "yanks" the quill out. This can be implied with a sound effect ("doink") and then showing Phillipe holding the quill.

BOB

AAAH!

PHILLIPE stops hopping and stands there examining the quill as JEAN CLAUDE continues with the other three.

PHILLIPE

(looking at  
quill)

Whala! A skewer for zee  
scampi!

PHILLIPE hops back toward the kitchen, revealing (rack focus) three scraggly pirates in a booth. It's "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything": Pa Grape, Mr. Lunt and Larry. They join into the intercom music lazily singing like old high school



football players reminiscing about their glory days:

PIRATES

(Singing)

We are The Pirates Who  
Don't Do Anything! We  
just stay home and lie  
around!                   And if  
you ask us to do  
anything,  
We'll just tell  
you...  
We don't do anything!

Cut back to JEAN CLAUDE, BOB, JR and LAURA as they reach their booth. Coincidentally, it is right beside where the pirates are sitting. The booths are divided by a sheet of translucent Plexiglas. We hear the light, lazy banter of the pirates (having finished their little chorus) beyond the glass as background noise.

JEAN CLAUDE

Please make yourselves  
comfortable, I will be  
back to take your  
orders...

JEAN CLAUDE places menus on table and hops away.

BOB

Why don't you two wait  
here. I'm gonna go call a  
tow truck. Maybe we can  
still make it to the  
concert on time.

BOB hops off.

LAURA

(sadly)

Yeah... everyone but me...

JR

Hey, it's your own fault  
for teasing me! You're  
just getting what you  
deserve!

LAURA is frustrated and hurt. She looks to BOB hopping off. Jr. smiles, self-righteously.

LAURA

(frustrated  
noise)

Hrrrrrrrg... I'm coming  
with you Mr. Bob...

PIRATES

[add lib lazy comments]

LAURA hops off after BOB. JR remains at the table, gloating in the "divine justice" of Laura's plight. He looks around the restaurant, taking in the surroundings - which are slightly eerie once again. He can see the silhouettes of the pirates through the Plexiglas. They continue their banter. He realizes he is alone, and feels a little frightened.

We return to JR. at the table. He nervously looks around, then spots the menu in front of him. He opens it up and starts to read. We scan it as he reads...

<b>STEAK AND SHRIMP</b>	<b>... \$10.00</b>
<b>SCAMPI ON A SKEWER</b>	<b>... \$7.50</b>
<b>SCAMPI ON A CLEAN SKEWER</b>	<b>... \$10.00</b>
<b>COMPASSION PRICE</b>	<b>... MARKET PRICE</b>

This last item seems odd to JR. He raises an eyebrow. We hear a SLIDING SFX.

PA GRAPE

Excuse me!

JR is taken by surprise and startles. He drops his menu, revealing the pirates. They have slid back the translucent Plexiglas from between the booths and now seem quite close. They're all staring at JR.

JR

AAAAAH!

LARRY

How's it goin'?

MR. LUNT

Hey. What's up?

JR

(still scared)

Who are you?

PIRATES look around and behind themselves.

PA GRAPE

Who us?

JR thought the question was obvious.

JR

...Yeah...

PA GRAPE

Oh!... We are... "The  
Pirates Who Don't Do  
Anything!"...

MR. LUNT

Oh you know that's right.

LARRY

Nothin'.

MR. LUNT

Zilch.

LARRY

Nada.

PA GRAPE

... Didn'tcha hear our  
song?

JR

Well.. yeah... but...

PA GRAPE

Look... Sonny... Can I  
call you Sonny?

JR

Junior.

PA GRAPE

Hey! Pretty  
close! Look...  
Junior... We couldn't  
help but notice you were  
havin' a little thing with  
your friend over there.

MR. LUNT

Yeah. You weren't being  
very nice...

JR

Well, it's her own  
fault! She was teasing me  
and now she's getting what  
she deserves!

PA GRAPE

Right.

(pause)

Junior... we've seen these types of situations before.

MR. LUNT

Happens all the time.

PA GRAPE

What you need is a little compassion.

LARRY

...And maybe some scampi.

JR throws off LARRY'S comment and comments to PA;

JR

Hey... I saw that in the menu... What is that? What's compassion?

MR. LUNT

Ooh. That's a hard question.

LARRY

Mmmm Hmmm.

PA GRAPE

Well... Compassion is when ya see that someone needs help, and ya wanna help 'em!

JR looks confused.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

That's what I thought you'd say.

MR. LUNT

They all do.

LARRY

Yep.

PA GRAPE

We find it helpful to illustrate with a little story.

JR seems interested.

JR

A story?

PA GRAPE

Yep. You know, we call ourselves, "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything." But that's not entirely accurate...

MR. LUNT

Yeah! Remember when we did that one thing... with that one guy?

PA GRAPE

Oh do I ever...

LARRY

(dreamily)

I remember it like it was yesterday...

FADE TO:

EXT - DAY.  
MARKETPLACE OF  
SMALL, ISRAELI  
TOWN.

3 PIRATES approach MERCHANT'S BOOTH. MR. NEZZER is merchant. He eyes them suspiciously, but with mild amusement, like one eyes the town eccentric who insists on wearing his underpants on the outside.

NEZZER

Are you guys still doin' that 'pirate thing?'

LUNT

(resents  
statement)

Arrgh!! Watch yer tongue matey, or we'll hafta...

(to comrades  
after beat)

What will we do?

LARRY

We won't do anything. We're 'The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything', remember?

LUNT

(let down)  
Oh, that's right.  
(fierce again)  
Arrgh! Ya got off easy  
today!

Nezzer gives him a 'whatever' look and goes about  
his business.

LARRY  
We need more "Mister  
Twisty's Twisted Cheese  
Curls!"

PA GRAPE  
Ya! And root beer!

NEZZER  
I told you boys - no more  
cheese curls until you pay  
your tab! You still owe  
me from *last* week!

LUNT  
But, you'll take away out  
chance to win the "Mister  
Twisty's Twisted Cheese  
Curl Sweepstakes!"

NEZZER  
... Come again?

PA GRAPE  
Inside one of those bags  
of cheesy goodness is a  
golden ticket that'll  
change our lives forever!!

NEZZER  
(thinks)  
Well... you could work  
here for me... That way  
you could EARN more cheese  
curls...

PIRATES  
[Great! Okay! Sounds good!  
etc.]

NEZZER  
So, uh... Whadaya know how  
to do?

Pirates think.

PA GRAPE

Well... I'm pretty good at  
lawn darts...

LARRY  
Ping-pong! I can play  
ping-pong!

LUNT  
Croquet is my spe-ci-al-  
ity...

Nezzer just stares at them.

PA GRAPE  
When do we start?

Nezzer slams the gate down on his booth.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
Monday's good for me...

PA NARRATOR  
(V.O.)  
We were short on cash. It  
seems not doin' anything  
didn't pay very well.

LUNT  
So, what do we do now?

LARRY  
Mmm - nothing.

LUNT  
You are a genius!

Pirates exit, passing by booth where Man is buying  
fish from Ninevites. 2 Ninevites have a pile of  
old fish in front of them. Flies buzz around the  
pile.

MAN  
Are these fish fresh?

JEAN CLAUDE  
You bet!

PHILLIPE  
Oh, ya!

Man sniffs - fish are obviously rotten. He nearly  
faints, then turns and walks away indignantly.

MAN  
Oh!

JEAN CLAUDE  
What?!? They were fresh  
when we caught them...

PHILLIPE  
Zat's right...

JEAN CLAUDE  
...two weeks ago!!

JEAN CLAUDE &  
PHILLIPE  
Ha ha! Ha ha ha! Ha hee!

Other Ninevite laughs.

Cut to Larry - looking on.

LARRY  
(concerned/disg  
usted)  
Mm. Ninevites.

PA NARRATOR  
(VO)  
Beside the fact that we  
were low on funds, this  
was a memorable day  
because *heshowed* up!

Larry and others turn to look at a tall figure  
entering the market. It is JONAH (Archibald  
Asparagus), riding very regally on  
his CAMEL REGINALD. As Pa speaks, we watch Jonah  
ride into the market as well as the reactions of  
the crowd to the presence of a prophet. (SCORE -  
Theme 2B-271.)

PA  
NARRATOR (cont  
'd)

Jonah!  
(musical sting)  
Now Jonah was a prophet of  
God - which means he was  
one of the very special  
people God used to deliver  
messages to Israel. He  
was kind of like a  
mailman,  
except *his* letters  
came straight from God!!  
(Pa gets a  
little too  
excited on  
that line.)



Ahem. Anyway... Jonah  
loved helping his friends  
by bringing them God's  
messages. Sometimes the  
messages were good,  
sometimes they were not so  
good. But when a prophet  
talked, everybody listened  
!

NEZZER  
(yelling out)  
What's the word, Jonah?

TOWNSPEOPLE  
(various)  
(What's the word? Yeah,  
what's the word?)

Jonah looks around smartly, then pulls up his  
camel.

JONAH  
Stop right here, Reginald.

REGINALD  
Rpbbpbpbf!

Reginald snuffles and pulls up short. From his  
demeanor, it is obvious that he too, is  
British. Jonah glances around for a moment, then  
speaks. Music starts.

JONAH  
Dear people, I bring you a  
message from the Lord!

The crowd catches their breath and stiffens,  
fearing the worst.

CROWD  
Gasp!

JONAH  
Oh... it's a message of  
encouragement!

CROWD  
Phew! (Sigh?)

Crowd relaxes visibly.

JONAH  
(singing)  
Do not fight,  
Do not cheat,

Wash your hands before you  
eat,  
There is nothing quite as  
sweet - a message from the  
Lord!

Be a friend,  
Say your prayers,  
Heaven loves a heart that  
cares,  
That is why I've come to  
share a message from the  
Lord!

And if you follow God's  
commands -  
There will be peace  
throughout the land!  
You will live long and  
happy lives!  
With your sheep - your  
kids - your wives!!

JONAH (cont'd)  
(singing)  
Don't eat pigs,

Show MERCHANT selling pork products. He tries to  
look inconspicuous.

JONAH (cont'd)  
Don't eat bats.

MERCHANT #2 is selling "bat-on-a-sticks". He  
tries to look inconspicuous.

JONAH (cont'd)  
Don't eat beetles, flies  
or gnats.

MERCHANT #3 is selling, you guessed it, bug  
burgers. He too, tries to look inconspicuous.

JONAH (cont'd)  
Stay away from all of  
that! A message from the  
Lord!

3 merchants pull out new signs or flip tables  
over. All 3 are now selling bagels.

JONAH (cont'd)  
(singing)  
Do what's right,  
Don't provoke,

Jonah approaches MAN WEARING CLOAK.

JONAH (cont'd)  
(singing)  
Put four tassels on your  
cloak.

KID next to man cracks up.

JONAH (cont'd)  
(singing)  
Do not laugh, it's not a  
joke! A message from the  
Lord!

Townspeople start to pick up song. Jonah echoes  
each line with a "That's right! Now you've got  
it!" Etc.

TOWNSPEOPLE  
(singing)  
Do not fight,  
Do not cheat,

WOMAN #1  
Wash your hands before you  
eat,

MAN #1  
There is nothing quite as  
sweet -

WOMAN #2  
a message from the Lord!

JONAH  
All together now!

TOWNSPEOPLE  
(singing)  
Be a friend,  
Say your prayers,  
Heaven loves a heart that  
cares,  
That is why he came to  
share a message from the  
Lord!

Repeat stanza instrumentally. Tempo picks up -  
townspeople break into 'Oklahoma'-style dance  
around market. Townspeople resume singing at new  
tempo.

TOWNSPEOPLE (c  
ont'd)

And if we follow God's  
commands -

WOMEN IN CART  
Yodel-ah-ha-ah

TOWNSPEOPLE  
There will be peace  
throughout our land!

WOMEN IN CART  
Yodel-ah-ha-ah

TOWNSPEOPLE  
We will live long and  
happy lives!  
With our sheep - our kids  
- our wives!!

Do what's right,  
Don't provoke,  
Put four tassels on your  
cloak.  
Do not laugh, it's not a  
joke! A message from the  
Lord!

JONAH  
Don't do drugs!  
Stay in school!

COCKNEY  
TOWNSPERSON  
This is quite a lot of  
rules!

JONAH  
Follow them and you're no  
fool, a-

TOWNSPEOPLE  
Follow them and you're no  
fool, a-

JONAH  
Follow them and you're no  
fool,

ALL  
A message from the Lord!!

JONAH  
Follow them and you're no  
fool,

ALL

A message from the Lord!  
A message from the Lord!!

Crowd strikes a final pose - holds it for a few  
beats - then everyone goes back to their business.

JONAH  
Alright, good show  
everyone! Thank you very  
much!

PA NARRATOR  
(VO)  
That was pretty much  
Jonah's life! Town to  
town... bringing God's  
messages to his friends...  
not a bad gig, overall!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - NIGHT. OUTSIDE JONAH'S TENT.

Small, colorful tent set up on the edge of  
town. (Big enough to stand up in, but wouldn't  
hold more than 3 or 4 people.) Oil lamp is  
primary source of light, hanging near tent's small  
window.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - NIGHT. INSIDE JONAH'S TENT.

Jonah is ready for bed, praying. Either seated or  
standing, depending on acting logistics. There is  
a map of Israel on the wall, painted on a large  
piece of papyrus. The map extends just enough to  
show Nineveh in the far upper right corner.

PA NARRATOR  
So, every night before he  
went to sleep, Jonah would  
pray and ask God if there  
was a new message for him  
to deliver. And this  
night, there was a message  
that would change Jonah's  
life!

JONAH  
(eyes closed -  
'conversing'  
with God)

A new message... yes...  
what's that? People being  
unkind? Lying? Stealing?  
Oh, dear! Sounds like a  
standard "turn and repent"  
to me. Alright... name  
the town! I'll be on my  
way first thing in the  
morning! Where is  
it? Jericho? Damascus?  
(pause)  
What? Nineveh?

Jonah opens his eyes and scans his map.

JONAH (cont'd)  
(confused)  
I'm not aware of any  
Nineveh's in Israel... no,  
I don't think...  
(pause - eyes  
widen)  
Oh... you  
mean *that* Nineveh?

PA NARRATOR  
(Pan and zoom  
across map to  
Nineveh.)  
*That* Nineveh wasn't in  
Israel at all! It was the  
capital of Assyria and it  
was the biggest, meanest  
city around!  
(Show dark,  
scary city)  
Now, the people of Nineveh  
were particularly mean to  
Jonah's people - the  
Israelites. They  
lied! They stole! But  
worst of all, they slapped  
people with fishes!  
(Show Ninevites  
doing the  
above to  
several  
Israelites)

NINEVITE PEA  
Yes!!

PA NARRATOR  
They even slapped each  
other with fishes! They  
didn't know the difference

between right and  
wrong. The Ninevites were  
so mean, in fact, that  
most Israelites -  
including Jonah - wished  
God would just wipe  
Nineveh off the face of  
the Earth!

(Show fire from  
heaven  
consuming  
Nineveh -  
comically)

NINEVITE PEA

(yelling)

PA NARRATOR

Needless to say, Jonah  
was shocked that God would  
want him to deliver a  
message to his enemies

Back to Jonah.

JONAH

(confused)

You - you don't want me to  
go there.... You don't  
know what Nineveh is  
like! Perhaps you've  
never been there... Well,  
of course, you haven't! A  
god like you would never  
go to a place like  
Nineveh! For that matter,  
either would a prophet  
like me! Ha ha..

(nervous laugh  
- then singing  
)

*No, it cannot be...  
Your messages are meant  
for me... and my  
brothers.*

*We are you're chosen  
people - and Nineveh...  
well, they're not!*

*There must be some mistake  
- a big misunderstanding.  
It's really hard to take -  
how could you be so  
demanding?*

*For years I've been your  
messenger from Moresheth  
to Gath.  
But Nineveh should get no  
chance to turn - they've  
earned your wrath!*

*No, it cannot be...  
Your messages are meant  
for me... and my  
brothers.  
We are you're chosen  
people - and Nineveh...  
well, they're not!*

*(speaking)  
We're the good guys...  
they're the bad  
guys! Please, don't send  
me there with a message of  
your mercy!*

*(singing)  
Damascus or Jerusalem  
- I'll be there in a  
minute!  
Any town in Israel, just  
ask me! I'll be in it!*

*Shiloh, Gilgal, Jericho  
- just say the word!  
But Nineveh - that is just  
absurd!  
Joppa, Aphek, Jezreel -  
they're all just fine -  
But Nineveh...  
(thoughtful)  
oh, Nineveh...  
(resolute)  
No! Nineveh is where I  
draw the line!*

Jonah rips off section of map containing Nineveh  
on closing beat, cutting a clear line across map.

CUT TO:

EXT - NIGHT. JONAH'S TENT. NEAR GROUND ANGLE.

Glow in tent window is the only warm tone in an  
otherwise blue night scene. He's the only one  
awake in town. Jonah flings the crumpled up piece  
of map out the window. It bounces up near the  
camera.

CUT TO:



INT - JONAH'S TENT.

Jonah lies back on his mat, staring up thoughtfully.

JONAH  
(singing)  
*No, it cannot be...  
Your messages are meant  
for me.*

He turns away from the camera and the WIND picks up, blowing out his small OIL LAMP.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT - NIGHT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Besides Junior, a few more people have gathered around to hear the story, Laura included. They are entranced.

Laura is now sitting beside Junior, listening.

PA GRAPE  
Yup. It sounded like God  
wanted to offer mercy to  
Jonah's enemies.

Bob returns, sliding into the booth, oblivious to the story.

BOB  
The tow truck's on it's  
way. Ya know, Junior, I  
love your dad and all, but  
that's the last time I  
pick him for a copilot

Bob notices the pirates staring.

BOB (cont'd)  
Uh... what's going on?

Lunt slurps on his straw. Pa stares at him for a beat.

PA GRAPE  
Ahem... We're telling a  
little story. You should  
listen, too.

Bob glances around, then nods and smiles feebly.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

As I was saying, it sounded like God wanted to offer mercy to the Ninevites.

LAURA

What's 'mercy'?

LUNT

It's what this whole story is about!

JUNIOR

I thought it was about compassion... remember? The menu?

Mr. Lunt looks a little embarrassed.

LUNT

Uh, yeah. There's that, too.

PA GRAPE

Better check your menu again - we got TWO specials today... and they go hand in hand!

Junior picks up his menu, just in time to see "MERCY..... MARKET PRICE" fade in right beneath compassion.

LARRY

Compassion is when you want to help someone who needs help. Mercy is when you give someone a second chance... even if they don't deserve it! This story is about both of them!

PA GRAPE

That's right, my cucumber friend. Ya can't have mercy without compassion... but mercy is even more important! Jonah was afraid God was going to give Nineveh a second chance - that he was going to help them even though they didn't deserve it!

LAURA  
So what did he do?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - DAY. OUTSIDE JONAH'S TENT.

PA NARRATOR  
Well, never before had he  
gotten a message from God  
that he didn't want to  
deliver! He didn't know  
what to do!

Jonah backs out of tent, shutting the flap behind  
him. No sooner does he turn around, than he is  
greeted warmly by townspeople.

JERRY  
Good morning,  
Jonah! What's the word?

Jonah starts to panic.

JONAH  
What? Nothing! There is  
no word!

JERRY  
(surprised)  
Nothing at all?

JONAH  
No!! Nothing at  
all! Now, if you'll  
excuse me, I'm very busy!

Jonah hurries off, only to be greeted by another  
townsperson.

NEZZER  
Good morning  
Jonah! What's the word?

JONAH  
(very panicky)  
Stop it!! There is no  
word!! Nothing!!  
(to himself)  
I've got to get out of  
here!

Jonah starts to run. Nezzar looks after,  
confused.

JONAH (cont'd)

(running,  
looking over  
shoulders to  
make sure no  
one's  
following)  
There is no word... I  
have no new messages!!  
And above all, I am not...  
going... to... Nineveh!!

Jonah runs face first into giant map of middle  
east, posted next to a merchant's booth  
advertising cruise tickets.

CUT TO:

EXT - DAY. DOCKSIDE.

The merchant is SCOOTER. He has a small booth  
right at the edge of the dock. He sells tickets  
for cruises out of this small port. There are  
several ships docked behind him, one of which  
belongs to the Pirates.

SCOOTER  
Sorry, sir! I can't sell  
ya a ticket to Nineveh!

JONAH  
(confused)  
What?!? Who are you?!?

SCOOTER  
The name's Angus. I sell  
cruise tickets! There's  
nothing like a cruise on  
the Great Sea ta clean the  
sand outa yer wicket,  
aye? But ya can't sail ta  
Nineveh! It's  
landlocked! See?  
(gestures with  
a loud  
'thwack!' to  
map with  
pointer)  
Ya can't go by sea... ya  
gotta go by land!

JONAH  
(still  
confused)  
But I don't want to go to-

Jonah is interrupted by passing townspeople

WOMAN #1

Oh, hello Mr.  
Jonah! What's the word?

SCOOTER

Ah! He's goin' ta  
Nineveh!!

WOMAN #1

Oh, *really*?

JONAH

(erupts)

I am not going to  
Nineveh! Why on Earth  
would I want to go to  
Nineveh?!? In fact, I'm  
going in  
the *opposite* direction!  
(looks to map)  
What's the furthest thing  
in the world from Nineveh?

SCOOTER

Well if you have a few  
days, you could sail down  
to Egypt... it's lovely  
this time of year...

Something on the map has caught Jonah's eye. He  
isn't listening.

JONAH

There! I want to go  
there!

Camera follows Jonah's gaze to the far end of the  
map - to an area called "Tarshish."

SCOOTER

Wha-? Tarshish? Why,  
that would take  
weeks! It's the other end  
of the world!!

JONAH

Perfect! How much?

SCOOTER

Even if you had the money,  
no one around here has the  
time to sail all the way  
to Tarshish...

Scooter notices one of the Pirates lounging above deck in a recliner, listening to their theme song on a cheap, AM radio.

SCOOTER (cont'

d)

Then again...

Jonah notices Pirates as well.

CUT TO:

EXT - DAY. PIRATE SHIP - ABOVE DECK.

All 3 Pirates are lined up, explaining why they can't possibly sail to Tarshish.

PA GRAPE

(overlapping)

We couldn't possibly...  
we're very busy with...  
cargo... and stuff...

LUNT

You know, Pirates have to  
pillage and plunder and...  
uh, that really takes it  
out of you...

LARRY

... and Alf is on in a  
half-hour so I don't think  
we should... uh...

PA GRAPE

... and besides that, we  
don't really sail.

(beat)

At all.

(beat)

So the answer is 'no.'

JONAH

(after a pause)

Money is no object.

Pregnant pause. The Pirates are motionless. Then Pa Grape breaks the silence.

PA GRAPE

Next stop, Tarshish! I'll  
hoist the mainsail!

LARRY

I'll pop the popcorn!

LUNT

I'll get the moist  
towelettes! Where did we  
put them? Hey, Larry, have  
you seen the towelettes?

LARRY

I got it! I got it!

LUNT

No, those are baby wipes.  
They'll dry your skin out.

Pirates scurry around like crazy, imagining all  
the cheese curls their newfound wealth will  
buy. Jonah smiles - relieved - but then looks a  
bit concerned as he realizes he is now  
'officially' running away from God.

The Pirates prattle on as their ship moves away  
from the dock under full sail. Sailing  
erratically, they careen into the ship next to  
them as they head toward the open sea.

PA GRAPE (OS)

Sorry! My fault!!

PA NARRATOR

Even though we'd never  
sailed before, we took to  
it like a fish to water!

Cut to Larry standing dramatically in the crow's  
nest, spyglass to his eye. He scans the sea  
aggressively. He spots something.

LARRY

Thar she blows!

Cut to Lunt, staring up at him from the deck

LUNT

Where?

LARRY

(looking down  
at the deck)

Right there! Next to the  
grill!

We cut to Larry's POV through the telescope to  
show a ping-pong ball on the deck of the ship next  
to the BBQ grill. Lunt moves into shot. Cut to  
Lunt on deck.

LUNT

Got it!

Lunt takes the ball to the ping pong table. Pa is standing on the top of one side of the table with paddle. Jonah stands behind the opposite side, holding paddle lethargically.

PA GRAPE

6-0!

Pa serves the ball. It bounces right past Jonah, who makes no attempt to hit it. He's too depressed to try. He watches it bounce off the table and over toward the grill.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

7-0! That's a skunk! I win!

Jonah looks on dryly. Lunt and Larry cheer.

LUNT AND LARRY

Yeah! Yippee

PA GRAPE

Whadaya say, Jonah? 2 out of 3?

JONAH

Ahh... No. I'm done.

Jonah turns and listlessly walks away from the table.

PA GRAPE

Argh! When we get to Tarshish, Ho-ho's! On me!

LUNT AND LARRY

Yeah! Yippee

(cheering in unison!)

We winny at the ping pong!  
We get the ho-ho and the ding dong!  
Ding-dong!

Cut to shot from the bulkhead as Jonah listlessly walks toward stairs to go below deck.

PA NARRATOR

Once we finally got out to sea, Jonah went below deck to rest a bit.



CUT TO:

INT - DAY. SHIP'S HOLD.

Typical ship's hold. Dark and musty. Bags of grape leaves on floor, barrels of who-knows-what, etc. Two bunks hang off one wall - one over the other. Light comes from several oil lanterns, plus some natural light down ladder from above deck and through cracks in planking above. Jonah enters and looks around.

JONAH

(a little  
depressed)

Oh, what have I  
done? What have I done?

Jonah grabs bag of grape leaves and tosses it on bunk to use as a pillow. He drops onto the bunk on his back, with his head on the bag, unaware that there is a large worm in the bag he has chosen.

TAPE

(from bag)

You are powerful and  
attractive.

JONAH

(glances around  
nervously)

What? Who's there?

TAPE

You do not run from your  
problems, but confront  
them face-to-face.

JONAH

(jumping up)

Ah!! The bag! It speaks!

Throws bag against opposite wall.

KHALIL

(from pillow)

Ow! What did you do that  
for?

JONAH

Mr. Twisty? ... Who's  
there? Show yourself!

Worm crawls up on barrel or something. He is holding headphones, which he places back in the

bag of leaves. Jonah has never seen a worm exactly like this one.

KHALIL

Hello!

JONAH

What are you?

KHALIL

Who, me?... Oh, my name is Khalil. I am a caterpillar. Well, that's only half true. My mother was a caterpillar. My father was a worm. But I'm okay with that now.

JONAH

(can't  
pronounce)

Khalil?

KHALIL

Khalil. You've got to get your gut into it.

(pause)

I bet you're wondering why I'm here.

JONAH

(not really  
interested)

Aaah... you... tidy up around the ship?

KHALIL

Oh, no - I do not work on the ship.

(proudly)

I am a small business operator! A traveling salesman! I sell Persian rugs door to door! See?

JONAH

(still not  
interested)

Oh - lovely. A-

Jonah opens his mouth to speak, but Khalil cuts him off.

KHALIL

By the way, do you know where this ship is going?

JONAH

Yes, Tarshish.

KHALIL

(eyes widen)

Tarshish! What a trip!

(thinks)

You know, that may be just what I need! The Persian rug business has not been going very well around here...

(brightens)

But I still have a positive mental attitude... because of my motivational tapes!

Pulls headphones out of bag of leaves - tape is still playing. Jonah looks on curiously.

TAPE

You are a skilled metalworker.

Khalil smiles big.

KHALIL

I am a skilled metalworker!

(shrugs)

I did not know that!

Jonah stares, perplexed. Khalil puts headphones back in back - clicks off tape. Jonah turns to straighten his bunk.

JONAH

Yes... well, that's lovely, Carlyle, but if you don't mind, I think I'll just get some rest...

Khalil is staring intently at Jonah's profile. It looks very familiar. Suddenly, he realizes who he's looking at.

KHALIL

(excited)

Jonah!?!

Jonah startles.

JONAH

Huh - ?

KHALIL  
You're Jonah!!

JONAH  
You know me?

KHALIL  
Of course I do! You are  
the most famous prophet in  
the whole world!!

Jonah is flattered, tries to hide a smile.

JONAH  
Well, I don't know if I'd  
say -

KHALIL  
I sell your licensed  
merchandise! Look! I  
have the Jonah rugs...

Pulls out Persian rug with Jonah's profile on it.

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
... the Jonah plush toy...

Pulls out tiny plush Jonah.

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
... with sound chip!

Khalil gives the Jonah doll a few whacks to the  
belly.

PLUSH TOY  
(tinny - sound  
chip style)  
A message from the Lord!  
(whack)  
A message from the Lord!

JONAH  
Well, I'm... flattered...

KHALIL  
You are huge!! You are  
a celebrity!!

JONAH  
(modestly)  
Well... I...

KHALIL

From town to town -  
delivering God's  
messages! What a  
life! You are a big  
shot!!

JONAH  
(still hiding a  
smile)  
Oh, no... it's really...

KHALIL  
(not slowing  
down a bit)  
The man God can count on  
to deliver his messages!

This line nicks Jonah, and his fake modesty starts  
to fade.

JONAH  
(deflating)  
Yes... well...

KHALIL  
You and God are like peas  
in a pod! Like two humps  
on a camel - you always  
'sway the same way!'

Jonah is wilting.

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
Oh, that's a good  
one! You know, humor runs  
very deep in my  
family! My uncle was a  
big star back at a comedy  
club in Nineveh... the Taj  
Ma-Haha... Standing room  
only!  
(grows sober)  
Then he was hit with a  
fish. I'm telling you,  
those people don't know  
right from wrong.

JONAH  
Oh, Nineveh.

KHALIL  
Hmm? You are sad now, my  
friend? Something about

Nineveh makes you feel sad  
inside?

JONAH

I don't really want to  
talk about it... I just  
need some rest...

KHALIL

Oh, you do not have to  
tell me.

JONAH

Good.

KHALIL

Because I already know.

JONAH

(startles)

You do?

KHALIL

Oh, yes. There is a woman  
in Nineveh, is there  
not? A beautiful young  
asparagus! She is waiting  
there for you, no?

JONAH

Um, no.

KHALIL

(keeps right on  
going)

You were promised to be  
married - but your job is  
now in the way. The  
woman's father is the head  
of an international ring  
of camel thieves! This  
very day you set sail for  
Tarshish to deliver a  
message that will break  
the back of the camel  
thieves - but in the  
process will break the  
heart of the woman you  
love!

Jonah stares - unable to speak.

KHALIL

(CONT'D)

Insight runs very deep in  
my family. Do not worry,  
the first one is free.

JONAH

(beyond  
desperate)

Please, Carlyle... I just  
need to get some rest...

KHALIL

It's Khalil. But you can  
call me Carlyle if you  
want to! When we get to  
Tarshish, you can deliver  
the message, and I'll sell  
the plush toys! We can be  
a team!

Jonah stares at the wall and groans.

TOY

A message from... the  
Lord!

JONAH

Ugh...

KHALIL

Well, sweet dreams  
travelling buddy! We can  
make our plans to save  
those camels tomorrow!

Clearly depressed, Jonah closes his eyes. We hear  
the "click" of Khalil's tape recorder, as the  
motivational tape starts back up. The look on  
Jonah's face contrasts with the line from the  
tape.

TAPE

You are a go-getter.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT - DREAM SEQUENCE. CUT TO WHITE LIMBO.

Jonah over white limbo background. Jonah is  
walking. Passes Scooter, dressed as ticket  
merchant. Everything is mysterious.

JONAH

Yes - which way is  
Tarshish?

SCOOTER  
(kind of  
trance-like)  
Right this way... ya can't  
miss it!

JONAH  
Thank you!

Jonah continues - relieved to be heading for  
Tarshish. Suddenly GOD'S VOICE interrupts, which  
sounds suspiciously like Pa Grape.

GOD  
Jonah...

Jonah is surprised - looks around for source.

JONAH  
What? Who is it?

GOD  
Jonah... Where are you  
going?

JONAH  
Oh! It's you, Lord.  
(nervously)  
Um - I'm going to... I'm  
going...

GOD  
Jonah!

JONAH  
I'm sorry, I can't hear  
you!

Jonah starts to walk very quickly.

GOD  
Jonah!

Jonah starts to run.

JONAH  
I can't hear  
you! Lalalalalalalala...!

GOD  
Jonah!

Suddenly, running becomes difficult. Jonah looks  
down and sees that he is now running in water, and  
the water seems to be rising.



JONAH (O.S.)  
(struggling)  
I... can't... hear... you!

PA GRAPE  
(O.S.)  
Jonah!

Water splashes Jonah's face as he tries vainly to run against the rising tide.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - DAY. SHIP'S HOLD.

Dream transition back to Jonah, tossing in his bunk. The hold of the ship is flooding and water is splashing Jonah's face. Pa Grape is trying to wake him.

PA GRAPE  
Jonah! Jonah! Jonah!

JONAH  
(eyes closed)  
No! I- I can't hear you!

PA GRAPE  
Come on, wake up! We got trouble!

Jonah finally opens his eyes and sees his surroundings. Water sloshes around the hold as the ship is rocked by an IMMENSE STORM.

JONAH  
(groggy)  
What?  
(notices situation)  
What's happening?!?

PA GRAPE  
We're in a storm! Like I've never seen before! If we don't do something quick, we're gonna sink!!

We cut to the WORM with his mouth stuffed with grape leafs, bobbing around in a small pot while munching away and licking his fingers.

KHALIL

(speaking with  
his mouth  
full)  
We seem to have sprung a  
leak, traveling buddy!

PA GRAPE spots the worm and becomes angry.

PA GRAPE  
Huh?... Hey! What are you  
doin' here?

The WORM looks nervous.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
Didn't I tell you to get  
off my ship, ya lousy leaf  
eater?

The WORM nods timidly in affirmation.

KHALIL  
Well, yes... but you see,  
my new friend and I are  
going to Tarshish to break  
the back of the camel  
thieves!!

Pa glances curiously at Jonah, who gives him an  
"it's a long story" look.

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
Crime-fighting runs very  
deep in my family!

PA GRAPE  
... Why if it wasn't for  
this storm I'd make ya  
walk the plank!  
(turning his  
attention to  
Jonah)  
And you! How can you sleep  
at a time like this?

JONAH  
What's going on?

PA GRAPE  
I'll tell you what's going  
on! We're all gonna be  
fish food if I don't get  
some help!

JONAH and the WORM startle.

JONAH

(panic)

Well - what can we do?

PA GRAPE

Get up and pray to your  
god! Maybe he'll have  
mercy on us and spare our  
lives! ... Oy!

PA GRAPE turns to go above deck.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

Somebody "up there" must  
be really upset with  
somebody "down here!"

JONAH looks nervous, the WORM looks at JONAH. PA  
GRAPE then turns back and brightens, just having  
had a realization.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

...Wait a minute! That's  
it!... Alright you two,  
follow me!

The WORM and JONAH look curiously at each other.

EXTERIOR - DAY. PIRATE SHIP AT SEA

LARRY and MR LUNT are on deck at a small folding  
table, playing go fish with a deck of fish  
cards. MR LUNT has a big "handful" of  
cards. LARRY is holding only one card and has his  
"suits" laid out neatly in front of him. The ship  
is rocking violently and the two pirates and their  
table slide up and down the deck as they play.

LUNT

You got electric eel?

LARRY

Nope. Go Fish...  
(tauntingly)  
...one more card....

MR. LUNT

You are one cheatin'  
buccaneer.

LARRY

How'm I supposed to cheat  
at "go fish?"

MR LUNT thinks about the question.

MR. LUNT  
Uhhh... I don't know...

PA GRAPE  
(Off-screen)  
Alright ya Lazy's!

PA GRAPE, JONAH and the WORM approach.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
Game over! Shuffle 'em up  
and deal us in!

LARRY  
...but...

MR. LUNT  
(Mockingly)  
Hee Hee.

The other three gather around the table. MR LUNT  
gathers the cards and "shuffles" them. PA GRAPE  
lays the ground rules... We cut between  
character's reactions as he speaks.

PA GRAPE  
Okay! Here's the  
deal. The way I see it,  
there is a reason for this  
storm. Somebody "up  
there" is really upset  
with somebody "down here."  
And it's not gonna let up  
until we know who that  
"somebody" is. It could  
be any one of us...

MR LUNT deals the cards.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
...I have my suspicions...

PA GRAPE turns sharply toward the WORM, who reacts  
in terror.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)

But we won't know for sure  
until we figure it out  
scientifically.

EVERYONE looks at each other suspiciously.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

All right men -- Go  
fish!... loser takes a  
swim!

LIGHTNING flashes. EVERYONE startles.

We montage through an intense game of "go fish" as the storm continues to rage. We dissolve between different types of fish cards being flipped up, passed around, and set down on the table. We see character's faces as the game progresses - if they're holding a lot of cards, they look nervous, if not, they're relaxed. MR LUNT appears to be losing at one point, then the game shifts and the WORM is on the losing end. We cut away to a wide shot of the pirate ship and see it being tossed around by the waves. The worm starts to make a comeback. We hear reverby "go fishes" and various "aarghs" and "uh-ohs" throughout the game. Finally, only the WORM and JONAH are left with cards. They both look very nervous. MUSIC stops. The WORM asks timidly;

KHALIL

...You got any... trout?

JONAH'S face drops. He slides the WORM a card. The WORM picks the card up, then slowly lays down his last four cards face up - four whales! The WORM is out. JONAH is the loser. All eyes turn toward JONAH. PA GRAPE is confused.

KHALIL

(CONT'D)

Hmmm? What a goose I am!  
It's a match! I had it all  
along!

PA GRAPE

Huh??!! I thought for  
sure...

JONAH

Alright! I admit it. It's  
my fault! All my fault!  
I'm the one to blame!

Khalil looks at Jonah, confused.

PA GRAPE  
But... I... the worm...

JONAH  
(cutting PA  
off)  
I am a Hebrew, and I  
worship the Lord, the God  
of heaven, who made the  
sea and the land. And I'm  
running away from Him! He  
told me to go to Nineveh,  
but I didn't listen! You  
know, I don't like those  
people...

MR. LUNT  
(chiming in)  
Oooh. Fish slappers.

Cut back to Khalil, shaking his head in disbelief.

JONAH  
Yes... so I ran. I ran  
and I ended up here and  
now everyone's in terrible  
danger all because of me.  
I'm afraid the only thing  
left is to be thrown into  
the sea!

LARRY  
Awww... you don't have to  
do that... we gotta  
plank. You can just walk  
off...

JONAH, thinking himself noble for the offer, is a  
little surprised by LARRY'S comment and comments  
dryly...

JONAH  
...Yes... thank you.  
You're too kind.

LARRY smiles at the compliment.

PA GRAPE  
Well Jonah, ol' buddy. It  
was nice knowin' ya...  
Normally you'd be entitled  
to a refund, but under the  
circumstances - you know,  
with you dyin' and all ...

JONAH is again underwhelmed by his hosts' benevolence.

JONAH

... No... I  
don't suppose  
a refund would  
do me much  
good now,  
would it?...

PA GRAPE

Ah, thanks! You're a  
trooper.

(to LARRY)

Ain't he a trooper?

LARRY nods and smiles in agreement. JONAH looks down and catches Khalil's eye.

KHALIL

But... the camels...

JONAH

(looks down)

Oh...

Jonah shakes his head sadly, then looks pitifully toward the sea.

Suddenly, MR LUNT brightens up, then chimes in...

MR. LUNT

Hey! Wait a minute! I just  
remembered something!  
Maybe you don't have to  
walk the plank, after all!

ALL

Huh?!!

EXTERIOR - DAY. REAR OF PIRATE SHIP AT SEA

Our friends have all gathered around a big lump covered with a tarp at the back of the ship. The storm continues to rage.

MR. LUNT

Every winter, my cousin  
from Moose Lake asks me to  
take care of this...

MR LUNT peels off the tarp revealing a large gas powered outboard dual propeller boat motor.

ALL

Ooooooh.

LARRY

Cool.

PA GRAPE

What is it?

MR. LUNT

This my friends, is a  
Jupiter 1600 horsepower,  
high-octane, dual  
propeller, pull ignition,  
outboard motor... with the  
optional chrome trim  
package.

The chrome shimmers.

ALL

(in the same  
tone)

Ooooooh.

LARRY

(in the same  
tone)

Cool.

PA GRAPE

(in the same  
tone)

What is it?

MR. LUNT

It gets us back to Joppa.

PA GRAPE

Oh.

JONAH

Well... How does it work?

MR. LUNT

That I don't know.

Everyone stands there and stares at the  
engine. The WORM then speaks up.

KHALIL

Perhaps I could help.

(to Jonah)

You know, technical  
competency runs -



JONAH  
(interrupting)  
I know, very deep in your  
family.

The worm is surprised.

KHALIL  
Oh! Our reputation  
precedes us! Well then...  
it appears that one should  
pull the cord and then  
perhaps push this black  
bubbly thingy...

Everyone thinks that's as good of an idea as any  
other. They all ignorantly nod in agreement. The  
WORM does just that. He pulls the cord a couple  
of times and the engine turns over but does not  
start. He then squeezes the fuel line bubble a  
couple of times. Nothing happens. Everyone looks  
at the WORM, who becomes a little nervous that his  
plan did not work. He revises it:

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
Oh.. no... Maybe it's the  
other way around. Perhaps  
if one first pushes the  
black bubbly thingy  
and then pulls the cord...

Everyone again ignorantly nods. The WORM squeezes  
the fuel line bubble a couple of times then gives  
the cord a firm pull. The engine starts up  
immediately. The propellers start spinning.

ALL  
Aaah!

The WORM, proud of himself, adds:

KHALIL  
See?

ALL  
(Yelling)  
Ahhhhh!

Just then, the propellers catch the surface of the  
deck of the ship. Wood chips fly as the spinning  
blades propel the engine all the way across the  
deck - ripping a trail in the planks. Cut to shots  
of the propeller chasing characters through  
screen. They scream as the motor follows. It then  
crashes through the guard rail on the bow of the

ship and drops into the sea. Everyone stares in disbelief.

MR. LUNT

(after a pause)

Yep. That's how it works.

Everyone turns angrily to the worm, who is standing there dumbfounded. He notices the glares and becomes frightened.

KHALIL

It has been delightful,  
but I must go now...

The WORM runs away from the group and dives into an Art Bigotti bowling bag in the pirate's pile of leisure gear next to the card table. We cut to CU of JONAH who offers a resigned look as the camera pushes in to his eyes- this is his fate. He has no other choice but to...

EXTERIOR - DAY. THE PLANK OF PIRATE SHIP AT SEA

We pull out of JONAH'S face to reveal a different background. He's now standing on the "plank" of the ship and is wearing a little ducky flotation ring and a swim cap. The PIRATES stand at the base of the plank with their heads bowed and their eyes closed. The storm continues to rage.

PA GRAPE

(Praying)

Oh Lord, don't let us die  
for this man's sin. And  
don't hold us responsible  
for his death, because it  
isn't our fault. O Lord,  
you have sent this storm  
upon him for your own good  
reasons.

LARRY

And keep my ducky safe.

PIRATES

Amen.

The PIRATES look up from their prayer to JONAH. He looks at them, gulps, then turns toward the sea.

JONAH

Gulp!

We cut to the WORM poking his head out of the bowling bag - he looks sad for his friend. JONAH bounces a few times then jumps off the plank and splashes into the sea. Immediately, the winds begin to die down and the sea starts to calm. The clouds part and sun shines once again. In a matter of seconds, the sea and air are completely calm. JONAH bobs up and down softly in his little ducky ring. He looks around. The PIRATES, a little surprised that their plan actually worked, look over the side of the ship at JONAH.

PA GRAPE

That was easy.

EXTERIOR - DAY. UNDERWATER

We cut to a below the water looking up at JONAH shot. We hear the PIRATE'S voices through the water as OMINOUS "JAWS-LIKE" STRINGS sound.

MR. LUNT

Well.. Should we pull him  
back in?

BAAAA DUMMM

PA GRAPE

I don't see why not.

BAAAA DUMMM

EXTERIOR - DAY. PIRATE SHIP AT SEA

PIRATES looking at JONAH. LARRY acquires a lifesaver ring and tosses it out to JONAH. He misses by a mile.

JONAH is not sure what to make of the situation. He thinks for a moment and then opens his mouth to speak. Before he can say anything, something brushes up against him causing him to turn a few degrees. STRINGS back in. BAAAA DUMM. JONAH looks nervous. The PIRATES look nervous. STRINGS back in full. LARRY pulls the ring back in quickly and throws it out again. Not even close. JONAH looks over at the distant ring and gets pushed a few feet through the water as the music intensifies. JONAH is getting very scared.

JONAH

Something touched me!...  
There's something in the  
water!...

PA GRAPE and MR LUNT yell frantically as LARRY pulls the ring back in once again.

PA GRAPE  
Hurry up! Hurry!

MR. LUNT  
I'm hurrying!

PA GRAPE  
Hang on, Jonah!  
(to Lunt)  
Aim this time!

LUNT  
I was aiming!

PA GRAPE  
I can never tell where  
you're looking...

LUNT  
You should talk!

JONAH  
Hurry!

Lunt throws the ring... It misses again.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Fellows... please!

PA GRAPE  
Pull it back in. Hurry!

LUNT  
Okay, okay! I got it!

PA GRAPE  
Let me do that!

LUNT  
No, no! I'll throw it!

JONAH  
Fellows... Please!

PA GRAPE  
Com'on! Give it here!

LUNT  
I said I got it!

LARRY

Excuse me, gentlemen!  
Perhaps I can be of some  
assistance.

LARRY tosses the ring. This time it's headed right for JONAH! Slow motion. Very dramatic. Very Bay Watch. The ring lands perfectly around JONAH - just like the ring toss at the carnival! LARRY smiles - proud of his achievement. MUSIC relaxes slightly. LARRY begins to pull JONAH in. Just as JONAH begins to move toward the boat - looking a little more hopeful, we see a GIANT WHALE come to the surface behind JONAH and swallow him whole. The PIRATE'S expressions turn from relief to shock. LARRY reacts:

LARRY (CONT'D)

Oops.

One of the Pirates notice that the life-ring rope is sailing out very rapidly, as the whale swims away with the life-ring in it's mouth. They are attached to the whale.

PA GRAPE

Huh? (Gasp)

The rope reaches its full length, pulls taut, and then the metal cleat fastening it to the mast breaks loose, sailing toward the front of the ship. They are no longer attached to the whale!

PIRATES

(all relieved)

[sigh]

Back to the cleat, which sails towards the bow. It fails to clear the rail, however, and instead wedges firmly against the front rail. Back to the Pirates, whose faces fall as they realize they are one again attached to the whale.

PIRATES (cont'

d)

Hm?

Before they can speak, the boat jerks into motion. All three Pirates are knocked backwards off their feet, rolling head over heels all the way across the deck to the wall of the poop deck.

PIRATES (cont'

d)

Aaaaaaahhh!!!

The SHIP races through the water. PA GRAPE gets up and frantically looks around for a solution to the problem.

PA GRAPE  
Man the cannon!

MR LUNT  
Aye, aye cap'n!

Larry and Pa run up to the cannon at the bow. Mr. Lunt looks on concerned.

MR. LUNT  
(standing)  
We don't got no ammo!

LARRY looks around and spots the pile of leisure gear.

LARRY  
Oh yes we do!

The ship races through the water.

EXTERIOR - DAY. CANNON OF PIRATE SHIP.

Our brave buccaneer LARRY stuffs the cannon with various leisure items and fire them off. A TENNIS RACKET,

PA GRAPE  
Fire one!

MR LUNT pulls a string on the cannon. The TENNIS RACKET flies out, spins wildly out of control and splashes into the sea nowhere near the whale. LARRY then stuffs in two croquet mallets.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
Fire Two!

MR LUNT pulls the string on the cannon. Same result. LARRY then spots the ammo jackpot - the Art Bigotti bowling ball bag. He removes the ball and places in the cannon. Just before the ball sinks into the cannon, the worm pops his head out of the thumb-hole and says pathetically...

KHALIL  
Hello!?!?

The BALL drops in.

PA GRAPE

Fire three!

MR LUNT pulls the string. The Ball comes roaring out of the cannon. We follow it's flight as the worm pops his head out of the thumb hole again and screams in terror.

KHALIL  
AAAAAAAAIIIIIIII'm coming  
traveling buddy!

From the WORM'S POV, the camera flies to where the WHALE had been - but now it is nowhere in sight. Presumably it has gone deep below the surface. We cut back to the WORM, who looks confused. He calls out and whistles as if looking for a lost dog;

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
Traveling buddy?..  
(whistle) Where are you?

Suddenly, the WHALE leaps out of the water catching the bowling ball in his mouth like a dog catching a treat. Hanging in the air (ala Free Willy), he holds it in it his mouth and we hear a loud gulping noise. With that, the WHALE crashes back into the sea, releasing the life preserver as he disappears.

We see the life preserver pop out of the water. As it does, the PIRATE SHIP slows - they are no longer attached to the WHALE.

100 ft off the bow of the ship, The PIRATES stand and look out in relief toward sea as the ship comes to a stop. Pause as they reflect. Pa and Mr. Lunt remove their hats in respect.

PA GRAPE  
Now that boy really knows  
how to go fish.

The RUBBER DUCKY floatation ring pops out of the water in the foreground. Larry face lights up. He turns to the others, who do not share his joy. Self-consciously, he tries to match their somber looks.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. - WHALE.

The scene is quite dark, with JONAH forlornly sitting on a BARREL or some other indigestible object inside the whale. After a moment, the BOWLING BALL rolls up next to him.

JONAH

(dryly)

Oh, look... a bowling ball. If I could only find some pins...

The worm pops up out of the bowling ball like a girl jumping out of a cake.

KHALIL

You found better than that, travelling buddy! It's me!!

JONAH

(shudders as if he suddenly feels ill)

Oh, my...

KHALIL

So forget about Tarshish! All we need to do is get this whale to swim to Nineveh! You give the message - I sell the plush toys - we'll be right back on track!

JONAH

(interrupting)

Carlyle, please don't speak to me. I'm having a rather bad day.

Jonah stands and walks away from worm, depressed and annoyed.

KHALIL

Well you don't need to be so down about it - Mr. Grumpy-pants!

Jonah whirls back toward worm, irate.

JONAH

Look around you! We're inside a whale! We're going to be digested!! Do you know what that means?!?



KHALIL

Of course I do! Digestion  
runs very deep in my  
family. I'm just trying  
to have a positive  
outlook, you know!

(pause)

You know the difference  
between you and me is that  
you see the whale as half  
empty, but I see the whale  
as half full!

Jonah is dumbfounded.

JONAH

I don't know what that  
means.

KHALIL

(thinks for a  
moment)

Neither do I.

Worm loses energy - looks around. Jonah turns  
away and sits down forlornly.

JONAH

Oh, I might as well face  
it. God gave me a job to  
do and I disobeyed him. I  
ran the other way! I've  
done something terrible  
and now I'm getting what I  
deserve. [sigh.] I'm  
going to die here in this  
whale.

The worm looks back at Jonah sympathetically -  
opens his mouth to speak, but realizes he has no  
way to cheer up his travelling buddy. VOICES are  
heard from elsewhere in the whale.

SINGER 1 (OS)

Have you ever seen  
anything so pathetic?

SINGER 2 (OS)

Mmm mmm. This boy needs  
some help!

JONAH

(startles)

What? Who's there?

SINGER 3

Take it easy,  
Jonah! We're on your  
side!

JONAH  
How did you know my  
name? How did you get in  
here?!?

KHALIL  
(confused)  
Were you in the bowling  
ball, too?

SINGER 1  
Oh, no. That's not how we  
get around. No, we came  
straight from the big man  
himself!

JONAH  
You mean... ?

Jonah gestures up, knowingly.

SINGER 2  
Mmm Hmm! And just like  
you, we deliver his  
messages!

JONAH  
(brightens)  
So you're prophets, too?

SINGER 1  
Not exactly. Ya see, we  
work on a  
slightly *higher* level.

JONAH  
(confused)  
You do?

Angels nod.

SINGER 3  
(dramatically -  
leaning in)  
And Jonah - we've got a  
message for you!

Jonah looks around nervously. Music starts.

SINGER 1

You're feelin' pretty blue  
- you didn't do what God  
requested...

SINGER 2

Yeah, I'd be mopin' too,  
if I was gonna be  
digested!

SINGER 3

This ain't a pretty  
picture - no, it ain't a  
pretty sight.

SINGER 2

You ran from God this  
morning and you're...

ALL

...whale chow tonight!

(But) Hold up!

Hang on!

SINGER 1

Not so fast!  
Your life ain't over yet!

SINGER 3

We're here to tell you all  
about...

SINGER 2

...the forgiveness that...

ALL

...you can get!

Lights reveal FULL GOSPEL CHOIR in the  
background. Choir 'oohs' over next stanza, then  
claps over first chorus before joining in big on  
second chorus.

SINGER 1

(You see,) Our God's a god  
of mercy,

SINGER 2

...and our God's a god of  
love.

ALL

And right now, he gonna  
lend a helping hand from  
up above!

Tempo picks up - band kicks in - clappin' and  
swayin' commence!

ALL SINGERS

Praise the Lord! He's the  
God of second chances!  
You'll be floored! How  
his love, your life  
enhances!  
(You can) be restored -  
from your darkest  
circumstances!  
Our God is the God of  
second chances!

SINGER 3

Ain't it great to know a  
God who wants to give a  
second chance.

KHALIL

Why, that's enough to get  
a smile from Mr. Grumpy-  
pants!

SINGER 1

So if you say you're sorry  
for all the stuff you do,

SINGER 2

We know that he'll be  
ready with a second chance  
for you!

EVERYONE

Praise the Lord! He's the  
God of second chances!  
You'll be floored! How  
his love, your life  
enhances!  
(You can) be restored -  
from the darkest  
circumstances!  
Our God is the God of  
second chances!  
Our God is a god...

ALL SINGERS

If you - believe  
God's love - is true  
Then you - should know  
What you - should do!  
(Repeat several  
times,  
building)

If you - believe  
God's love - is true  
Then you - should know  
What you - should do!  
          (to chorus2)  
Second chances!  
Second chances!

Praise the Lord! He's the  
God of second chances!  
You'll be floored when His  
love your life enhances.  
You can be restored from  
your darkest  
circumstances!  
Our God is the God of  
second chances!

Chorus repeats.

CUT TO:

EXT. - EVENING. SURFACE OF SEA.

SCOOTER and GEORGE are fishing with POLES from  
a SMALL FISHING BOAT. We can faintly hear  
the MUSIC from the whale, filtering up through the  
water. Scooter notices.

Scooter looks puzzled, then leans over the edge of  
the boat and stares down into the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT. UNDERWATER.

As music continues, we see the whale swimming  
slowly away from the camera, every-so-slightly  
"dancing" to the music within him. As whale  
disappears into the darkness, we transition back  
to restaurant. Song ends big over transition.

WIPE TO:

INT - NIGHT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

All veggies are now present in booth, and  
listening with rapt attention.

PA GRAPE  
So from inside the whale,  
Jonah prayed and asked God  
to forgive him for not  
obeying. He told God that  
if he got another chance,

he *would* go to Nineveh,  
even though he didn't like  
those people very much.

BOB

(now very  
interested)

So did he get another  
chance?

PA GRAPE

(sly smile -  
amused that  
Bob is so  
interested)

Shouldn't you be lookin'  
our for yer tow truck?

BOB

(hurried)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. That  
can wait. Did Jonah get  
another chance?

PA GRAPE

Well, God saw that Jonah  
needed help, and he wanted  
to help him.

JUNIOR

That's compassion!

BOB

But did he give him a  
second chance even though  
he didn't deserve it? You  
know... mercy?

PA GRAPE

After three days, Jonah  
noticed something strange  
happening...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - WHALE.

Jonah and worm are sitting around inside  
whale. Suddenly the 'floor' of the whale starts  
undulating - and we here loud rumbling  
sounds. Jonah and worm are terrified as the  
'undulation' becomes increasingly violent!

-or-

This shot could be underwater exterior of whale - showing whale reacting to his 'upset' stomach. No interior needed.

CUT TO:

EXT DAY - SURFACE OF THE SEA

The sea is calm, but we can faintly hear the 'rumbling' sound. Suddenly there is a much louder sound - somewhere between a massive burp and a stomach rumble. Jonah is launched from the sea like a ballistic missile from a submarine - with the worm hanging on desperately to Jonah's bag. They land in a heap on a sandy beach. Jonah looks pretty weird. His skin is very pasty, his clothes are torn, and he is wrapped in seaweed - very Robinson Crusoe-ish.

JONAH

(moan)

He moans a bit, then rolls over and looks up - right into the face of his camel, Reginald!

JONAH (CONT'D)

(still on his  
back)

Oh! Reginald! Good to  
see you! Yes... well...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT DAY - ROAD TO NINEVEH

Lawrence of Arabia shot... endless desert. Jonah rides Reginald across barren countryside. Clip clop, clip clop. Worm is riding in Jonah's bag, peering out at the monotonous landscape, which grows more barren as they near Nineveh - as if the cruelty of the Ninevites has disrupted nature.

PA NARRATOR

So God told the whale to  
burp up Jonah - and Jonah  
got his second chance!

DISSOLVE TO:

Jonah and Khalil riding toward Nineveh.

PA

NARRATOR (cont  
'd)

And just like he promised,  
he headed straight for  
Nineveh!

Jonah passes signs... "Welcome to Nineveh - Home  
of the Mister Twisty's Twisted Cheese Curls!" ...  
Followed by "Visitors Welcome... To Leave!"

Jonah and Khalil look pretty nervous. They enter  
the canyon leading to Nineveh. Jonah looks around,  
uncomfortably. Then a noise ahead attracts his  
attention. A CRAZED MAN, possibly from Joppa, is  
running right at him... His eyes wide with terror.

CRAZED MAN  
(hysterical)  
Turn back!! Turn back!!  
Turn back!!!

The man runs right by Jonah, who turns to watch,  
eyes wide.

CRAZED  
MAN (cont'd)  
The slapping!

Whack! He runs right into an outcrop on the canyon  
wall... Bounces back, then keeps on going.

CRAZED  
MAN (cont'd)  
The slapping!

Jonah and Khalil stare after, eyes wide. We hear  
the crazed man's voice trail off in the distance.

CRAZED  
MAN (cont'd)  
Turn back! Turn back!

Jonah and Khalil look at each other, clearly  
frightened, then turn ahead and nervously continue  
their journey. They continue a bit, and then round  
a corner. Light from Nineveh fills Jonah's face  
and he pulls up Reginald in awe of the sight he  
sees. Just ahead, the canyon opens up and Nineveh  
spreads out in front of him, under a red, hazy  
sky. The sound of 'urban chatter' and distant fish  
slapping drifts up. Swallowing hard, Jonah urges  
Reginald on. (Maybe we should include a shot of  
Reginald looking back at Jonah reluctantly.)

Jonah approaches the gate of the great city, and  
two guards step out in from of him, blocking his  
path. They are pea Ninevite guards, with Cockney



accents. (rapid-fire exchange as guards interrupt  
Jonah.)

JONAH

(to himself)

Go in, give the message,  
get out...  
Go in, give the message,  
get out...

GUARD 1

Who goes 'ere?

JONAH

Ah, yes... My name is  
Jonah... And I'm a  
prophet... from -

GUARD 2

You're not from 'ere, are  
you?

JONAH

Um... No, you see, I'm  
from -

GUARD 1

That would make you  
a STRANGER, wouldn't it?

JONAH

Well, um, yes. I suppose  
so... But I -

GUARD 2

We don't like strangers.

JONAH

No... yes, I've heard  
that... But you see I have  
a -

GUARD 1

So why're you 'ere?!?

JONAH

Well - I have a message.

GUARD 1

A message? For who?

Jonah wasn't expecting this question.

JONAH

(thinking)

Well... For everyone! For  
the whole city!

The guards find this ludicrous.

GUARD 1  
You've got a message for  
the 'ole city?!?

GUARD 2  
... the 'ole city?!?

GUARD 1  
Oh, that's rich!!!

Guards start to laugh.

GUARD 2  
I'll alert the king!  
"You're honor! A Bleached  
asparagus has a message  
for us all!"

GUARD 1  
Most important!

They laugh themselves silly. Khalil pears around  
Jonah's shoulder.

KHALIL  
I do not think this is  
going very well.

JONAH  
Oh, let's just go home! I  
did what you said, I guess  
it just wasn't meant to  
be.

Jonah turns Reginald to leave during this line.  
Just as he starts to trot away, someone calls his  
name.

PA GRAPE  
(O.S.)  
Jonah?!?

Jonah spins around to see the Pirates standing in  
the entrance to the city, apparently on their way  
out. They look rather silly, as each wears what  
appears to be a large foam cheese curl on their  
head. (similar to Wisconsin's "cheddar heads.")

JONAH  
(confused)  
What?

The Pirates step out of the gate, with mouths agape. Jonah recognizes them, and slides off Reginald.

KHALIL

(excited)

It is our friends from the ship!

JONAH

(recognizing them)

What on earth... ? What are you doing here?

LARRY

What are you doing here?

LUNT

Ya! You were... you were...

PA GRAPE

...fish food!

The two parties meet off to the side of the gate. While they are talking, Jonah periodically glances up curiously at the Pirates headgear.

KHALIL

The whale spit us out like so much bad cous-cous, and here we are now! Delivering the message to Nineveh!

JONAH

But they wouldn't let us in, so I guess we're going home.

LUNT

Hey, I bet we could get him in...

Jonah pulls back, not expecting this. On his shoulder, Khalil smiles broadly.

JONAH

Huh?

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH GATE - MOMENTS LATER

CU on Guard 1, who snaps to attention as travelers approach.

Cut to his POV - the three pirates stand smiling in front of him, with Jonah behind them and Khalil peering from his shoulder. They look like they're posing for a family picture. (Though Jonah doesn't look like he wants to be part of the family.)

Guard 1 softens as he recognizes the celebrities

GUARD 1  
Hey, look! It's the cheese  
curls blokes!

The pirates smile.

GUARD  
1 (cont'd)  
(sweetly)  
Comin' back for a visit,  
are ya?  
(notices Jonah  
- hardens)  
Ahem - is this fella with  
you?

PA GRAPE  
Oh, yes! He's with us!

GUARD 1  
(to Jonah)  
You're with them, eh?

JONAH  
(trying to  
smile)  
Yes, indeed! Why, I sailed  
halfway across the world  
with these... fine...  
gentlemen.

Has to force out those last few words... His smile fading like he's feeling suddenly ill.

GUARD 1  
(eyeing Jonah  
suspiciously)  
Alright. You can come in.  
(pause as they  
pass)  
Enjoy your stay in  
Nineveh.

The group passes through the gate. Jonah and Khalil glance back nervously, to see Guard 1

continue to make strange, comically menacing, "eye on you" faces.

JONAH

What was that all about?  
How did you do that?

Pa snaps to, excited to tell his story.

PA GRAPE

Remember that money you  
gave us?

(suddenly  
concerned)

By the way, you aren't  
gonna want that refund,  
are ya?

JONAH

(considers)

Ah...

PA GRAPE

(relieved)

Good. Cuz we spent it!!!  
Every last penny! On  
cheese curls!

Jonah stares.

JONAH

Cheese curls?

LUNT

Yup! 1458 bags of "Mister  
Twisty's Twisted Cheese  
Curls!"

LARRY

And you'll never guess  
what we found in bag  
497...

Jonah doesn't have a clue.

PA GRAPE

(leaning in -  
hushed tone)

The golden ticket!

Jonah doesn't get it.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

We won the "Mister  
Twisty's Twisted Cheese  
Curl Sweepstakes!"

JONAH

And the prize was... ?

Jonah glances back and forth at their hats. Pa  
looks up.

PA GRAPE

(nods)

Mmm hmm. But in addition  
to our enviably  
fashionable headgear, we  
also got a tour of Mister  
Twisty's factory - right  
here in Nineveh!

The group enters the crowded market area.  
Ninevites mill around... Assorted fish slapping in  
the background. Jonah and Khalil aren't wild about  
what they see.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

Which, despite its  
unseemly location, was a  
splendid experience!

LARRY

And, believe it or not,  
in this town we are  
famous!

LUNT

(noticing  
something)

Hey, look! Here comes a  
city official to greet  
us!!

Everyone looks to see a Ninevite and several  
guards walking aggressively toward them. They do  
not look happy.

PA GRAPE

(aloof)

Hello! We were in the  
neighborhood, so we  
thought we'd -

CITY OFFICIAL

(referring to  
Pirates)

These are the men! Arrest  
them at once!!

Everyone's in shock.

PA GRAPE

But...

JONAH

Excuse me. What have they  
done?

CITY OFFICIAL

Thievery! High theft  
against the Royal City of  
Nineveh!

LUNT

That's ridiculous!!

CITY OFFICIAL

Oh, is it?!?

He grabs Larry and spins him around. On his back  
is a small pack. The City Official pulls out a  
knife, and everyone gasps. He slits the bottom of  
Larry's pack, and 8-10 mini-sized bags of Mister  
Twisty's Cheese Curls fall to the floor.

LARRY

(panicked)

No! Wait! I thought they  
were free samples!!

CITY OFFICIAL

Take them away!!

JONAH

You can't do that!

The city official spins to Jonah.

CITY OFFICIAL

I'm sorry... are you with  
these men?

Jonah isn't sure how to answer.

JONAH

Well, um... yes, I  
suppose...

Jonah glances to the side to see a guard  
approaching him swiftly.

JONAH (cont'd)

Hello... What are you  
doing?

Jonah's POV - the guard rears back, his fish  
flashes through the air toward Jonah. SFX - SMACK!  
And simultaneous BLACKOUT.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH MARKET - LATER

Tight on Jonah's head - covered by a black bag.  
The bag is pulled off and Jonah blinks around in  
the sunlight.

Cut to Jonah's POV - a good sized crowd of  
Ninevites stands in a circle around him, staring  
intently at him.

JONAH  
(encouraged)  
Oh! Wonderful! It must be  
time for my speech!

Cut to bag coming off Pa Grape's head. He tries to  
move, but is tied tight.

PA GRAPE  
Hey! I can't move!

Cut to bag off Lunt's head. He pulls against  
ropes!

LUNT  
I can't move, either!!

Cut to Larry, who's bag is off and who also can't  
move.

Cut to Jonah, who looks down confused and realizes  
that he can't move either. He looks over to Pa in  
his confusion and sees that...

(LS Pa) Pa can't move because he's tied back-to-  
back with Lunt to the front of, beneath a huge,  
ominously hanging metal fish held up with a rope.  
This doesn't look good.

Cut to Jonah's face - his eyes widen and his mouth  
falls.

JONAH  
[Gasp!]



Cut back to LS pa on bulls-eye. Pa looks up and notices Jonah looking at him with panic on his face.

PA GRAPE

What? Have I got somethin'  
on my face?

Cut to Pa's face - he sees Jonah's situation.

Cut to LS Jonah (Pa's POV) - also, in the same situation.

Cut to Pa's face who echoes Jonah's reaction.

PA

GRAPE (cont'd)

[Gasp!]

Cut to Lund, who repeats this sequence by looking at Larry's situation.

LUNT

[Gasp!]

Cut to Larry, who repeats by looking at Lunt's situation.

LARRY

[Gasp!]

JONAH

This doesn't look good...

Cut to Larry, who feels responsible.

LARRY

(on the verge  
of tears)

I'm sorry guys! I thought  
they were free samples.  
They were right out there  
in the open... in a big  
bowl. Very misleading!

PA GRAPE

Oh, don't go blamin'  
yourself!

Lund is cranky with Pa.

LUNT

No... blame HIM!  
(gestures over  
shoulder to  
Pa)

"Let's put it all in  
cheese curls," he says.  
"No," I say, "We need a  
BALANCED portfolio!" A  
little stock, a little  
bonds... A little cash or  
cash equivalents... And  
THEN maybe some snacks.  
But no. "Put it all in  
cheese curls!" he says.  
(to Pa)  
Man, you gotta plan for  
the future!

PA GRAPE  
What? It got us here,  
didn't it?!?

Everyone stares at Pa, confused. Pa realizes what  
they are thinking.

PA  
GRAPE (cont'd)  
(gestures  
around)  
Not "here" literally...  
But...  
(looks off  
mistily)  
We were somebody! We were  
celebrities!

LUNT  
(outraged)  
We are going to die!

Lunt is interrupted by the City Official

CITY OFFICIAL  
People of Nineveh! These  
four men...  
(glances toward  
Khalil)  
... and that small...  
whatever-it-is...

KHALIL  
(indignant)  
I am a caterpillar!!  
(to self)  
Well, that is only half  
true...

CITY OFFICIAL

Have been found guilty of  
high thievery against the  
Royal City of Nineveh!

The crowd hisses.

CITY  
OFFICIAL (cont  
'd)

For their punishment...  
"The Slap of No Return!"

The crowd looks quizzically at the fish poles, no sure what to make of them. The pirates look up at them, not sure whether to be frightened or not. The City Official notices the lack of respect for his latest invention.

LARRY

What's so funny?

CITY OFFICIAL

Observe!

The Pirates and Jonah look on as the City Official places a large pumpkin on a small wooden platform in front of the fifth fish pole. There is a hush as he walks over to the rope, anchored to a stake in the ground, raises a curved sword high in the air, and brings it down, severing the rope

The fish falls, splattering the pumpkin to bits. Pumpkin hits Jonah's face. After a beat, the crowd starts cheering and the Pirates and Jonah start crying like little babies.

ALL

[No! Waaaaaaaaaah! Etc.]

Cut to Khalil, who is tied with string to the backside of Jonah. He can't see anything.

KHALIL

(confused)

What is happening that is  
making you all cry like  
little babies?!?

Jonah yells over the commotion

JONAH

Why on earth do you take  
snack food so SERIOUSLY?!?

The city official turns to answer, but it interrupted by a trumpet fanfare. He spins back to the crowd.

CITY OFFICIAL  
People of Nineveh! I give  
you... King Twistomer!!

More trumpet fanfare... Camera pans up the building facing the "condemned" to a balcony several stories overhead. 2 attendants stand on either end of the balcony. From the shadows between them emerges King Twistomer (the giant gourd from "Hi Silk Hat" - with Goliath's voice) a very large, grumpy-looking gourd, with more than a passing resemblance to the more chipper, slimmer pitchman Jonah has seen on several snack bags and billboards. The Pirates' jaws drop.

PA GRAPE  
It's "Mister Twisty"

JONAH  
Well, that explains it!

Lunt and Larry squint up at the gourd.

LARRY  
He looks happier on the  
bag.

CITY OFFICIAL  
(to King)  
Your royal gourdliness...  
These are the perpetrators  
of the heinous act against  
your curls of cheese!

King Twistomer scowls.

CITY  
OFFICIAL (cont  
'd)  
For their punishment...  
"The Slap of No Return!"

A rise from the crowd. King Twistomer smiles.

KING TWISTOMER  
Proceed.

The city official spins with his sword. Jonah's eyes widen.

JONAH  
Wait!

(to King)  
Won't you at least give  
the guilty parties the  
chance to speak in their  
own defense?!?

The City Official looks up to the king, who  
ponders.

KING TWISTOMER  
You may speak.

The sword is lowered. Jonah relaxes a bit.

JONAH  
Well... As I understand  
it, the snacks in question  
were right out in the  
open... In a large bowl!!  
(pleading to  
crowd)  
I think we'll all agree  
this was somewhat  
misleading...  
(looks for  
support)  
Don't you think?

The city official glances to the king. The king  
ponders... softening... nodding... then looks down  
to the city official.

KING TWISTOMER  
Slap them.

Again the sword flashes high in the air. Jonah  
panics! The Pirates start whimpering loudly. Jonah  
no desperately appeals directly to the City  
Official.

JONAH  
No! You don't understand!  
I'm not REALLY with  
them... I mean... How  
could I be? While they  
were taking the tour, I  
was in the belly of a  
whale!!

The City Official freezes - the sword jerking in  
his hand. The crowd around them hushes down some.  
The Official looks up to Jonah quizzically.

CITY OFFICIAL  
What... did you... say?

JONAH

(not really  
noticing the  
reaction)

I said while they were on  
the tour... I was in the  
belly of a whale!!

The crowd GASPS. The Official steps back - clearly  
shaken.

CITY OFFICIAL

(shocked)

But... You are not dead!

JONAH

No! That's just it! I was  
in the whale for 3 days  
and nights! Then I prayed  
to my God, and the great  
monster spit me up onto  
the shore... So that I  
could bring you all a  
message.

The official is shaken... The crowd whispers among  
themselves. The king's eyes widen - then narrow.  
He approaches the edge of the balcony.

KING TWISTOMER

Hmm... Asparagus... Here  
in Nineveh we bow to the  
Great Fish... We celebrate  
the Great Fish in our  
art...

Jonah looks around at the whale images on  
buildings and the large metal fish hanging over  
his head.

JONAH

Yes, I noticed...

KING TWISTOMER

If what you are saying is  
true...

The King ponders for a moment. The Official steps  
up and responds...

CITY OFFICIAL

Yes... How do we know if  
he is telling the truth,  
sire?

KING TWISTOMER

(to Official)  
Smell him.

CITY OFFICIAL  
(confused)  
Y-your highness?

KING TWISTOMER  
Smell him.

The Official awkwardly approaches Jonah, and takes a big whiff. Jonah smells TERRIBLE. He staggers back, reeling... Barely able to stay on his feet.

JONAH  
(apologetic)  
I'm... terribly sorry...  
I've been meaning to  
shower...

The King's eyes widen.

KING TWISTOMER  
He has been in the Great  
Fish. We must hear the  
message.

This is so unexpected that Jonah isn't sure what to do next.

JONAH  
What? Oh...the message...  
Yes...

Jonah thinks - but it has been so long he has a hard time remembering what he was supposed to say. As he stammers, Khalil shakes his head in disbelief.

JONAH (cont'd)  
...the message... What was  
the message?

KHALIL  
Com'on!

JONAH  
(to King)  
It's been so long... I...  
(to himself)  
Oh! Yes Ahem...  
(collects  
himself)  
Stop it!!

The crowd gasps and recoils. The King's eyes widen.

JONAH

Stop cheating! Stop lying!  
And especially, stop  
slapping people with  
fishes!! Or this entire  
city will be destroyed!!

Jonah looks around dramatically. The crowd shudders... The King looks concerned. Back to Jonah who is smiling contentedly.

JONAH (cont'd)

A message from the Lord!

PA NARRATOR

Well, the King was very  
upset! He had no idea they  
weren't suppose to do that  
stuff! No one had ever  
told him that before!

A decree is handed to the city official.

CITY OFFICIAL

A decree from the King!  
Let everyone call urgently  
to God. Let them give up  
their evil ways and their  
violence. Perhaps the God  
that brought this man out  
of the Great Fish, will  
give us... a second  
chance!

Score swells... Crowd erupts... Everyone smiles. Jonah looks around, tugging against his ropes.

KING TWISTOMER

And let the asparagus and  
his friends go free!

They are all untied and congratulated by the crowd. Happy, happy.

EXTERIOR - DAY. NINEVEH

Wide shot of NINEVEH. The clouds have completely moved away and it's a perfectly sunny day. SCORE is triumphant. Birds sing. Flower bouquets fly like graduation caps.



PA NARRATOR

So the king and the people  
of Nineveh said they were  
sorry, stopped the fish-  
slapping and started being  
nice to people...

CUT TO:

INTERIOR NIGHT  
- SEAFOOD  
RESTAURANT

LAURA

Wow! That's great!

JUNIOR

Yeah! Everyone musta been  
really happy, right?

PA NARRATOR

Well, almost everyone.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAY - NINEVEH

Jonah and worm are being warmly thanked by  
Ninevites. Worm is eating it up, but Jonah is  
just nodding along. Several Ninevite kids run  
happily away from Jonah and the worm, clutching  
Jonah plush toys to their chests.

JONAH

(ad lib)

Yes, thank you! Farewell!  
Goodbye, thank you!

KHALIL

(ad lib)

Goodbye all you lovely  
people!

PA NARRATOR

You see, Jonah figured God  
wouldn't really forgive  
the Ninevites. I mean,  
they had done some  
terrible stuff. No! He  
figured God had something  
else in mind.

JONAH

Sigh...

Jonah sits in the sand, silently, staring at Nineveh. The worm is a bit confused.

KHALIL

What are we doing?

JONAH

Oh, it's time to watch the fun!

KHALIL

Aaaand what fun would that be?

JONAH

Well, I did what I was supposed to do... I warned them that they were going to get in big trouble! So now that they've had their warning, it's time to watch God wipe them off the face of the Earth! Aha!

Worm looks at Jonah quizzically. Jonah doesn't notice.

JONAH (cont'd)

I picked a safe distance so we won't get singed.

Jonah sits back to watch the destruction. The worm looks at Jonah, then looks at Nineveh.

Time goes by. The hot sun beats down. Nothing happens. Jonah is sweating, but still smiling.

JONAH (cont'd)

This is going to be great! The bad guys! Finally getting what they deserve!

More time goes by. The sun is intense. Jonah is wilting.

PA NARRATOR

So Jonah waited for God to destroy Nineveh. Even now, God was compassionate towards Jonah and caused a plant to grow that shaded him from the hot sun.

Jonah looks up and sees LARGE WEED hanging overhead like an umbrella.

JONAH

Hmm? Oh! Yes! Very nice! Thank you! Very nice!

He settles in to watch some more. The worm looks back and forth between Jonah and Nineveh. Then he notices the weed and looks - suddenly - hungry.

PA NARRATOR

Jonah kept waiting. But it didn't seem like anything was happening! He wondered if maybe God was forgetting something.

Jonah stands and looks up toward heaven, then back to Nineveh.

JONAH

Alright! I did my job! So... fire! Brimstone! Whatever! You pick! Right over there!  
(pause)  
I'll just... sit here under my weed... and wait.

Jonah sits back down and forces a smile, leaning up against the weed. Without warning, the weed and Jonah crash to the ground. Jonah sits up quickly and looks around.

JONAH (cont'd)

What? - What happened?

Jonah spies worm, happily munching a mouthful of weed, and sees the partially chewed weed stump.

JONAH (cont'd)

What? How *could* you?!?

KHALIL

(surprised)

Hmm? All your whining made me hungry! It was just a weed...

JONAH

(suddenly  
despondent)  
Just a weed?!? It - it  
was my shade! It was my  
friend!  
(melodramatic)  
Oh, dear Lord, how could  
you let this happen?!?

Jonah mourns for the weed like a fallen  
comrade. The worm can take it no more.

KHALIL  
Would you look at  
yourself?!?

Jonah looks up - startled by the worm's intensity.

KHALIL (cont'd  
)  
You care more about that  
weed than about all the  
people in Nineveh!!

JONAH  
Well... I...

KHALIL  
Why are you here  
now? Instead of back in  
the belly of that whale?

Jonah opens his mouth, but doesn't have an answer.

KHALIL  
(CONT'D)  
Because God is  
compassionate! He wanted  
to help you! And because  
he is merciful! He gave  
you a second chance!

JONAH  
(chipper)  
Oh, yes - and  
I'm very grateful-

KHALIL  
Has it ever occurred to  
you that maybe God loves  
everybody! Not just  
you! That maybe he wants  
to give everyone a second  
chance!

JONAH

Uh - well...

KHALIL

He saw that those people  
needed help - that they  
didn't know right from  
wrong - and he wanted to  
help them! And that is  
why he sent you!

JONAH

Ah-

KHALIL

And when you told them  
what they were doing wrong  
they said they were sorry  
- they put down their  
mackerels and their  
halibuts - and they asked  
God for a second  
chance. And by golly, he  
gave them one!!

(Jonah ponders)

Don't you see? God wants  
to give everyone a second  
chance! And so should we!

Jonah is initially moved by this truth, but then  
becomes theatrically pouty - like the spoiled rich  
kid who isn't getting his way.

JONAH

Well, if they get a second  
chance - those fish-  
slappers - well, then...  
it would be better if I  
were dead!

(flops onto the  
ground)

Oh, I wish I were back in  
that whale!

Jonah is a basket case. The worm looks at him in  
disbelief.

KHALIL

You are pathetic.

(pause)

You know, patience runs  
very deep in my family...  
but not that deep. I'm  
out of here!

Khalil starts to walk off.

JONAH

What? What are you doing?

KHALIL

(turning back)

I wanted to be big and important... just like you! But the world doesn't need more people who are "big and important," the world needs more people who are nice. And compassionate. And merciful.

(pause)

That's what I want to be.

(pause)

You can find yourself a new traveling buddy. Goodbye.

JONAH

You can't just leave!

KHALIL

Can and am!

JONAH

But... who will I talk to? You can't just leave me here all alone?

(pause)

Hello?

Reginald? Carlisle?

Khowleel? Carleel? Howie?

(etc... ad lib)

Jonah tries to call the worm's name - but can't get the pronunciation right. He tries several times with comical results as the camera cranes higher above him, revealing the worm walking further and further away and Jonah looking smaller and more alone.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT - SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Abrupt cut to shot of Pirates peering over booth.

PA GRAPE

(after a beat)

The end!

Immediately, the Pirates slide the Plexiglas divider shut between the two booths. It shuts

with a loud whack, startling the listeners in the next booth who continue staring in disbelief.

BOB  
(confused)  
Wait a minute... its's  
over?

PA GRAPE (OS)  
Yup!

BOB  
That's how it ends?!?

PA GRAPE  
Yup!

JUNIOR  
But what did Jonah learn?

Lunt opens screen again.

LUNT  
(looking at  
Junior)  
The question, my friends,  
is not "what  
did *Jonah* learn." The  
question is - what  
did *you* learn?

JUNIOR  
(thinking)  
Well, I learned that we  
need to help people who  
need help...  
(pause)  
And we need to give 2nd  
chances. Even if they  
don't deserve them.  
(looks up)  
But what's that got to do  
with us?

Pa turns and looks directly at Bob, who startles.

PA GRAPE  
Hey... tomato...

BOB  
Eh?

PA GRAPE  
Your friend there... the  
big asparagus. If I'm not  
mistaken, he didn't do

such a good job helping  
you with the map.

BOB

Oh, it was a disaster! He  
said he was sorry and that  
he'd do better next time,  
but no way! Uh uh!

(Bob realizes  
what he's said  
and looks  
down)

Mercy. I  
guess *everyone* deserves a  
second chance.

Dad Asparagus smiles.

PA GRAPE

Yup! Now get outa here  
before my crab legs get  
cold!

Pirates shut window once more. Veggies smile,  
then Dad snaps out of the "feel good" moment.

DAD

You know, that still  
wasn't a very good way to  
end a story!

Others agree. From across the barrier, Pa yells  
out...

PA GRAPE (OS)

Well, whadya want? A big  
musical number?!?

Everyone looks at each other and agrees that sound  
pretty good.

DAD

Well... yeah!

Pa turns to Larry.

PA GRAPE

Who do they think I am...  
Twippo?

A male voice from the lobby.

VOICE (O.S.)

Yes?



Several veggies look up, as they recognize the voice. They turn in their seats and peer over the booth to the entry-way, where they see none other than Twippo himself! (Archibald Asparagus, dressed in an Elvis-y sort of outfit.)

VEGGIES

Twippo!!!

Twippo smiles - a little apprehensively. Veggies rush him - Bob in front.

VEGGIES (cont'  
d)

Yeah... (etc., ad lib)

BOB

What are you doing here?!?

TWIPPO

Well, I've got a concert tonight, but I'm running late! Can't find Route 59 to save my life! So I stopped here for directions.

JR.

We're going to your concert tonight!

(pause - looks  
down)

At least we were...

BOB

(downcast)

And then... porcupines!!

DAD

... and underwear!!

ANNIE

... and pirates!!

BOB

... and now it looks like we aren't going to make it at all.

TWIPPO

Good heavens! Well, if it's a ride you need, I've got plenty of room in my bus... you can all come with me!

Veggies eyes widen - big smiles!

VEGGIES

[That's be  
great! Wow! etc.]

Laura looks down - she can't come.

LAURA

...yeah. Everyone but me.

Junior notices... Thinks...camera pushes in slowly  
as Junior makes his big decision. Touching score.  
Junior smiles and offers Laura his ticket.

JR

Laura... You can have my  
ticket.

Pause on Laura. She is surprised and touched.

LAURA

But Junior, it was my  
fault.

Junior simply smiles and lifts the ticket up to  
her once again. Laura looks tenderly at Junior and  
smiles.

Everyone smiles - amazed. Score swells.

Twippo is impressed.

TWIPPO

Why, that was a very  
compassionate thing to do!

BOB

And merciful!

TWIPPO

Tell you what... I'll give  
you all a ride to the  
concert, and I'll make  
sure you ALL get have  
backstage passes!

Veggies erupt in celebration. Happy, happy!

VEGGIES

(celebration!)  
Hurray! (ad lib)

TWIPPO

Speaking of mercy, have  
any of you heard the story  
of a man named... Jonah?

Veggies freeze, not sure what to say, then all  
respond at once.

VEGGIES

Yes.

Twippo is taken aback.

TWIPPO

Oh. Well... uh, would you  
like to hear a song about  
it?

PERCY

Is it like the bald bunny  
song?

TWIPPO

Not really... it's more of  
a 'big musical number.'

DAD

Perfect!

WIPE TO:

Twippo on stage at Seafood Restaurant. Theatrical  
lights on him. He's holding his guitar, ready to  
play.

TWIPPO

(singing -  
ballad-like)

When I was a boy I went to  
church back home in  
Arizona  
And that was where I heard  
the tale of a man whose  
name was Jonah!  
Now Jonah was a prophet,  
but that's not why he's  
remembered.  
We tell the tale, 'cuz in  
a whale he nearly was  
dismembered!

Horns and drums jump in - big band feel. Either  
curtain behind Twippo or wall itself pulls back to  
reveal Broadway musical-ish set with fake, 2D  
pirate ship rocking to beat on fake, 2D  
waves. Actual pirates are perched atop fake ship.

PIRATES  
(singing)  
Jonah was a prophet!

TWIPPO  
Ooh, ooh!

PIRATES  
But he really never got  
it!

TWIPPO  
Sad, but true!

PIRATES  
If you've been watching  
you can spot it!

TWIPPO  
Doodle-ee-doo!

PIRATES  
He did not get the point!

TWIPPO  
Compassion and mercy!  
From me to you and you to  
me!  
Exactly what God wants to  
see!  
And yes, that is the  
point!

PIRATES  
(singing)  
Jonah was a prophet!

TWIPPO  
Ooh, ooh!

PIRATES  
But he really never got  
it!

TWIPPO  
Sad, but true!

PIRATES  
If you've been watching  
you can spot it!

TWIPPO  
Doodle-ee-doo!

PIRATES  
He did not get the point!

Twippo, now playing the role of Jonah, jumps up on the pirate ship cutout.

TWIPPO

Now Jonah set sail  
On a pirate ship in a  
dreadful gale

Wind blows, fake lighting. Pirates takeover narrative as Twippo either falls or flies on a line into the mouth of a fake whale cutout that has been wheeled on stage.

PIRATES

Got eaten up by a giant  
whale  
But managed not to be  
dead.

Twippo sticks his head out of the top of the whale, (blowhole region) to prove he's still alive. Smiles big.

PIRATES

(CONT'D)

You'd think he would learn  
a lot  
From being saved from a  
awful spot  
But the second chance that  
he had got  
He didn't want to be  
spread!

Whale cutout leaves - maybe pull in Nineveh cutout, or string of Ninevites for Twippo to scowl at. Musical break - little dance time - then set changes to Jonah on hill, under cutout weed. Pirates get melodramatically sorrowful.

PIRATES (cont'  
d)

(weepy)

So poor old Jonah -  
Now he's all alone-a!

Pirates raise energy as giant megaphone cutout lowers from above, letting them yell at Jonah on hill.

PIRATES (cont'  
d)

Gotta use a megaphone-a!  
To get it through to his  
head!

(shouted  
through  
megaphone)  
Hey!!!

Hill and weed "blow away" from force of shouted  
'hey.' Twippo stands and comes forward on stage,  
no longer playing Jonah.

PIRATES  
(CONT'D)  
(singing)  
Jonah was a prophet!

TWIPPO  
Ooh, ooh!

PIRATES  
But he really never got  
it!

TWIPPO  
Sad, but true!

PIRATES  
If you've been watching  
you can spot it!

TWIPPO  
Doodle-ee-doo!

PIRATES  
He did not get the point!

Musical break - segue ways into more intimate  
spoken part.

TWIPPO  
(spoken)  
Now, true, in your life  
you probably don't ride on  
a camel  
And you probably won't  
wake up inside a large,  
aquatic mammal.  
But all the same, like  
Jonah, there is something  
you can do -  
Everyone deserves to get a  
second chance from you!

Big horn sting, then all sing together...

ALL  
Compassion and mercy!

From me to you and you to  
me!  
Exactly what God wants to  
see!  
And yes, that is the  
point!

Start "bringing it down." Maybe Twippo starts  
pulling pirate ship across stage, faking an  
'exit.'

PIRATES  
(softer)  
Jonah was a prophet!

TWIPPO  
(softer)  
Ooh, ooh!

PIRATES  
But he really never got  
it!

TWIPPO  
Sad, but true!

PIRATES  
(even softer)  
Jonah was a prophet!

TWIPPO  
Ooh, ooh!

PIRATES  
But he really never got  
it!

TWIPPO  
Sad, but true!

Stop exit at center-stage - turn and strike a  
pose.

PIRATES  
(loud)  
Jonah was a prophet!

Big chord - end of song. Crowd goes wild. Voice  
heard from the foyer...

KHALIL  
I beg your pardon. I hate  
to break up the party, but  
who needed a tow?

Everyone looks at Khalil.

TWIPPO

Ah... Have we met?

Khalil smiles at camera - cut to black

THE END