

**BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD**

Written by

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**FINAL DRAFT**

Based on the stage play "Juicy and Delicious" by Lucy Alibar  
**EXT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DAWN**

An abandoned looking trailer sits on top of two 15-foot-tall oil drums. Distant thunder trembles through the peeling metal panels. The structure is in such disrepair, that surely no one lives here.

But then, a light goes on.

**INT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - MORNING**

A tiny hand sculpts the mud on top of a crawfish hole placed on the floor. We pan up to reveal a little girl examining a baby chicken that appears to be dead. This is HUSHPUPPY, an unkempt and seemingly uncared for six-year-old with a gaze

of

unmistakable wisdom.

queen

Hushpuppy places the chick on the crawfish hole, like a

on her throne and the chick twitches to life, cheeps twice. Hushpuppy's esoteric science experiment is interrupted by DISTANT THUNDER. Her eyes stand to attention.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

An eerie, harsh wind whips hay and dust through over a giant slumbering pot-belly pig.

wife-

Hushpuppy, donned in boys' underpants and a child-sized

beater, tip-toes behind the epic creature. She studies it, wonderful, is this the source of the thunder?

belly. With the utmost delicacy, she lays a hand on the pig's

We hear his HUGE BEATING HEART.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - VARIOUS**

A series of glimpses of Hushpuppy's scientific method. She chases geese, chickens, ducks, dogs around the property- a cross between an abandoned farm and salvage yard.

Hushpuppy grabs a baby chick and puts it to her ear. A TINY HEARTBEAT. She listens with focused wonder and intensity.

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**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

All the time, everywhere,  
everything's organs be beatin' and  
squirtin' and talkin' to each other  
in ways I can't understand. Mosta  
the time they probably just sayin'  
"I'm hungry," or "I gotta poop,"  
but sometimes they talkin' in  
codes.

Hushpuppy's eyes dart up as a MAN'S VOICE yells-

**MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)**

Get up, get out of here!

We hear a YOWL as a cat is flung across the room.

A window made from a gas station sign opens in a Robinson Crusoe style tree house patched together from storm debris and discarded appliances.

and A wild man with severe features, a frazz of unkempt hair,

brawler's scars opens a window made from a metal sign. This is WINDELL EMMETT DOUCET, known to all as WINK (39).

**WINK**

Get your pants on, man!

into Wink kills a beer and sends it out the hole in the wall

a basketball hoop attached to a fishing net that stretched

15 feet down to the ground. The net is overflowing with beer

cans.

**EXT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DAY**

Hushpuppy obediently climbs a series of increasingly bigger and bigger oil drums that function like a ladder, up to the door of her house.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

We now see Wink in his morning ritual. He opens a cooler with a butchered chicken inside it and tosses the bird on the grill.

He goes to the front porch and pours down a bag of dog food.

He pulls a clothesline that leads to Hushpuppy's trailer. A **BELL RINGS.**

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**WINK**

Feed up time! Feed up!

Hushpuppy, now wearing pants and a slightly more proper T-shirt, comes running down the oil barrels to her house. She echoes her Daddy.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Feed up time! Feed up!

**INT. ABANDONED BUS - DAY**

Hushpuppy devours the whole roast chicken with her hands, getting right in there like it was a candy apple. It looks really yummy.

Pigs, dogs, chickens, and cats are chowing down all around her.

A hatch opens above her and we realize we're in the bottom of the Shacko. Wink sticks his head through the hatch and throws corn to the chickens.

**WINK**

Share with the dogs.

Hushpuppy rips off a piece of chicken and flings it to a filthy chihuahua with no hair on the back half of its body. This is WINDELL, in spite of her circumstances, quite a handsome young pup.

**EXT. BATHTUB MARSH WATER - THE TURCK - EVENING**

WIDE, we see Hushpuppy and Wink drift through the marsh. They ride in a severed truck bed floating on top of oil drums. A motor is strapped to the back. A sign on the boat reads "The Turck", Hushpuppy's spelling of "Truck".

They look out to where the water goes all the way to a monolithic, 20 foot wall stretching infinitely into the distance. This levee, the first piece of modern construction we've seen, encloses the civilized world, protecting it from rising water. The Bathtub is on the wrong side of wall. Wink stares out at the distant factories behind the wall with a peaceful and confident disdain. Hushpuppy matches his relaxed defiant expression.

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**WINK**

Ain't that ugly over there?

He takes a long pull on his beer.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

We live in the prettiest place on earth.

Hushpuppy looks over the wall to the Dry Side. It's an endless sprawl of oil processing power plants without a tree or bird in sight. This is the engine that runs the Northern world.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Daddy says, up above the levee, on the dry side, they're afraid of the water like a bunch of babies. They built the wall that cuts us off.

**EXT. AERIAL BATHTUB - DAY**

We fly over marsh and water, coming upon a tiny crop of shanties on an island perched at the very bottom of the land.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

They think we all gonna drown down here. But we ain't goin' nowhere.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CAUSEWAY - PRE-FLOOD - DAY**

CLOSE ON Hushpuppy letting out a WARRIOR SCREAM in a mass of HOLLERING people.

They stand on a long and crumbling road surrounded on both sides by water. The rag tag band of revelers charge forward WHOOPING and SHOUTING.

Hushpuppy kisses her hand and smacks the town sign. "Isle de

Charles Doucet" is crossed out and someone has graffitied "The Bathtub." Each party-goer repeats Hushpuppy's kiss and smack in wild, ritualistic fashion.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

The Bathtub's got more holidays than the whole rest of the world.

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**EXT. LAFOURCHE ROAD - DAY**

The townspeople charge in a rousing parade. Everyone drags trails of beer cans, boat parts, anything they can tie to themselves that makes a lot of noise.

They are the hard faces of fishermen and their feisty wives,

downtrodden but with a sense of fortitude among them, a community of heart, spirit, passion, and reckless abandon.

We see none of the separations that we're used to in modern society. There is no evidence of politics, religion, class, race or any other divisive ideology. The Bathtub is a place of true and honest unity.

Cajun  
truck  
Megaphones sticking out a gutted mini-van broadcast the band playing inside. Fiddle, saw, guitar, and double-bass players struggle to hold onto their instruments and the truck bounces them down a dirt road.

They drive under a banner reading "Welcome to the Bathtub Storm Season!"

Wink and Hushpuppy rattle along on a float made from the front end of a pickup truck. Over the front cabin rears a giants sculpture of a horse-head made out of wooden spikes, metal plates, and heavy chains. Carnival-dressed maniacs clamber on top.

into  
the mouths of the crowd.  
Wink hollers and waves to people. He fires jets of beer

the  
thick of everything. No one is checking I.Ds Here.  
Hushpuppy dances on the back of the float. Though she's the tiniest member of this very adult parade, she's right in

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Daddy always saying, that up in the dry world, they got none of what we got.

**EXT. LAFOURCHE SQUARE - DAY**

The town dances around the band in a clearing in the woods. Everyone is bouncing to the music, smiling and joking with one another.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

They only got holidays once a year.

6

diaper,  
on  
are  
a  
Six babies, each with a racing number pinned to their are placed by their enthusiastic mammas at a starting-line a track marked by two adjacent crowds of onlookers. Bets are flying between the spectators as if they're about to watch a cock-fight.

**ANNOUNCER (V.O.)**

All babies to the race! Come up to the starting line! The baby race is about to begin.

of

Hushpuppy dances in the cheering crowd, swigging a bottle something she probably shouldn't have.

one

A STARTING GUN fires, and the babies make a crawl for it. Most of them are paralysed in tears or bewilderment, but brave soul toddles towards victory.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

They got fish stuck in plastic wrappers, they got their babies stuck in carriages, and chickens on sticks and all that kind of stuff.

Hushpuppy looks up at Wink who is dancing with his best friend WALRUS (60), a slack jawed, white haired, pinked nosed, handsome devil.

A baby crosses the finish line, ahead of the rest, victorious. The crowd goes wild.

**EXT. MARINA PAUPIER NET - NIGHT**

Wink opens his trawl net and dumps a massive catch into a picking pan. There's food to feed a hundred in the haul. No one is a bit fazed though, this is just your average night fishing in the Bathtub.

Shrimp, crabs, and small leaping fish struggle over one another for dear life.

Hushpuppy helps him sort the catch. Winks's hands move with virtuosic ease, separating the crabs from the shrimp. She studies Wink's every move and tries to measure up to her Dad's proficiency. He doesn't demonstrate or explain anything, but we sense there is a system of education in place here.

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Hushpuppy focuses in on a tiny fish, wriggling and sucking it's last breaths of air.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

One day, the storm's gonna blow,

the ground's gonna sink, and the  
water's gonna rise up so high,  
there ain't gonna be no Bathtub,  
just a whole bunch of water.

She pick up a crab, pets its belly. The DIN of the party  
fades down around her as she listens to its HEARTBEAT.

**EXT. LADY JO'S CYPRESS FOREST - NIGHT**

Explosions everywhere as Bathtubers rampage blasting  
fireworks down the street instead of into the air. Men  
dressed as women, women dressed as men, in some kind of  
reckless esoteric ritual.

The SCORE kicks in hard with a tinge of ominous forboding.  
We sense that in spite of the ecstatic energy, the  
unbridled

joy, that a cloud hangs over this community. The people are  
parting like it's there last day on earth, and we feel  
viscerally, that it could be.

Hushpuppy runs in the thick of it behind Wink waving a  
fountain sparkler. Wink trips and falls.

Wink lies on his back on the ground. He sees his daughter  
watching him, holding the huge sparkler, and they both  
laugh  
with sheer joy.

Hushpuppy stops over him and points a bottle rocket in his  
face, the fuse burning. He nods his approval. They watch  
the fuse burn down to the last moment. She turns it upward,  
and they watch her rocket join a sky filled with pluming  
mortars.

Hushpuppy looks at the light flickering across Wink's  
faces.

He's momentarily peaceful, admiring the spectacular  
display.

Hushpuppy smiles at him with pride. He doesn't see her.

They run off into the crowd, which is pulsating at the  
pinnacle of mayhem. The OMINOUS MUSIC shifts gears into a  
BLASTING PATRIOTIC HYMN of the Bathtub. Throw your fist in  
the air! These are the survivors, those who fight for their  
joy and their history to the last man.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

But me and my Daddy, we stay right here. We who the earth is for.

both  
out.  
Hushpuppy runs right at us with detonating fireworks in hands, engulfed by light. She swings them toward camera and the screen is engulfed in an inferno of sparks. A white Black letters slam down.

**BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD**

**INT. SCHOOLBOAT - MORNING**

MUSIC CUTS abruptly as a basket of crawfish is slammed in front of camera. The crawfish squirming and struggling for life engulfs the screen.

**WOMAN'S VOICE**

Meat.

A fearsome, uncompromising leader, sexy like a lady bullfighter, peeks at Hushpuppy over a mass of squirming crawfish. This is MISS BATHSHEBA (36).

She points to three students, pushing their heads with her finger, each time announcing:

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

**MEAT. MEAT. MEAT.**

holes-  
The twelve students follow her through a maze of creatures caged in mason jars, basins, and boxes with breathing her educational tools.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Every animal is made out of meat.  
I am meat, ya'll asses meat.  
Everything is part of the buffet of the universe.

Miss Bathsheba rolls up the leg of her skirt.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

This here, is an Aurochs.

battle  
Riding her thigh, is tattooed a scene much like a cave painting in Lascaux. In thick black ink, it depicts a

between early men wielding spears, and giant bull-like animals bearing down over them.

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**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

A fierce, mean creature that roamed the earth back when we all lived in caves. They would gobble the cave-babies down right in front of their cave-parents. And the cavemen couldn't do nothing about it, because they were too poor, too stupid, too small. Who here thinks the Cavemen were sitting around crying like a buncha pussies?

Children stare blankly, no one raises their hand.

to Hushpuppy watches a heroic crawfish crest the basket, fall the floor, and make a run for it.

Miss Bathsheba snatches up the rogue crawdad and flings it back into the vat.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Y'all better think about that. Cause any day now, the fabric of the universe is coming unraveled. The ice caps gonna melt, the water's gonna rise, and everything south of the levee's going under.

wrong "The She points to a map showing a ragged coastline. On the side of a giant line marked "levee" is an island labeled Bathtub."

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Ain't gonna be no Bathtub, just a whole bunch of water. Y'all better learn to survive.

A mysterious COLD WIND fills the air. Hushpuppy stares into a wall poster of an ice cliff reading: THE SOUTH POLE.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Way back in the day, the Aurochs was king of the world.

**EXT. ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF - DAY**

CRASH CUT to the PANORAMA of an ice cliff, but now it's  
real.

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We CUT CLOSER to overwhelming white light accompanied by  
intermittent FROZEN CRACKS that build in frequency and  
volume.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

If it wasn't for giant snowballs,  
and the iced age. I wouldn't even  
be Hushpuppy, I would just be  
breakfast.

The light dims in intensity to reveal, frozen deep inside  
the  
ice wall, barely visible- a fanged, hairy, bloated, stone  
aged creature, the same as on Miss Bathsheba's leg. This is  
an Aurochs.

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - EVENING**

Hushpuppy climbs a metal ladder made from a railing, up to  
Wink's shanty in the trees. Windell, her dirty Chihuahua,  
follows behind.

**HUSHPUDDY**

Daddy? Feed-up time. Feed-up?

Hushpuppy bangs on the door of the shacko.

**HUSHPUDDY (CONT'D)**

Daddy?

Nothing.

She goes inside.

The house is empty.

She checks the Shacko for food. Nothing.

**EXT. HUSHPUDDY'S HOUSE - EVENING**

Several hours later, Hushpuppy stands on a metal bin  
looking

into the distance.

**HUSHPUPPY**

**DADDY!?**

Like some sort of animal call, she SHRIEKS.

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**INT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy draws a picture of Wink on a foldout mattress...

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

Kids that got no Mamma, no Daddy  
and nobody. They got to live in  
the woods, and eat grass, and steal  
underpants.

Hushpuppy lays down next to her drawing of Wink.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - MORNING**

Windell, the Chihuahua and the potbelly pig awake to greet  
the day.

Hushpuppy peers into the ground floor of the shacko.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Daddy? Daddy?

No response.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.) (CONT'D)**

If Daddy don't get home soon, it's  
gonna be time for me to start  
eating my pets.

**EXT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Kids walk home with their parents after a day at the  
Schoolboat, which we now see is big a yellow houseboat  
floating on the bayou.

Hushpuppy waits alone, no one has come to get her.

Miss Bathsheba locks up the door and heads for her small  
motor boat tied off on the side of the school.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

You need a ride, boo?

**HUSHPUPPY**

My Daddy's coming to pick me up.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

How about food or something, you hungry?

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Hushpuppy shakes her head `no'.

Miss Bathsheba's doesn't totally believe her, but she's not the type to coddle either.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Alright, well suit yourself.

Miss Bathsheba motors away.

Hushpuppy waits until she's out of sight and starts walking.

**INT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Playing don't-touch-the-floor, Hushpuppy navigates her house.

The room has with holes in the walls blocked with old clothes and paper towels. Homemade toys fill every surface. This is the domain of a child at loose ends.

Hushpuppy leaps over her bed- a nook piled with clothes- and plugs in the Christmas lights.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O)**

Everything we still got from Mamma, we keep in my house.

We push in on a shrine to her mother:

A red basketball jersey. An apron. A sawed-off shotgun. A child's drawing of a beautiful lady.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.) (CONT'D)**

Daddy says, the first time she looked at me, it made her heart beat so big, that she thought it

would blow up. That's why she swam  
away.

in Hushpuppy takes the jersey down. She puts it over a chair  
the dining area.

Hushpuppy gets a can of cat food. A pot. Water in a bowl.  
Her actions have a sad sense of routine to them- she's been  
left alone before, and has her own self-invented system for  
feeding herself.

She opens a can of cat food, takes it out with her hand and  
throws it in a pot. She licks the remnants off her finger.

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**MARIETTA'S VOICE**

Hi my sweet baby.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Hi momma.

speaking MARIETTA, Hushpuppy's imaginary, invisible mamma, is  
an from the basketball jersey chair. Marietta functions like  
her. imaginary friend- Hushpuppy is the only one who can see  
Hushpuppy takes the pot, puts it on the stove.

**MARIETTA'S VOICE**

Hushpuppy what you doing there?  
You being good like I taught you?

**HUSHPUPPY**

Yes, mamma.

Hushpuppy turns on the gas.

a Hushpuppy goes through her safety precautions: oven mitts,  
helmet, she flips the table and hides behind it.

She aims the stove lighter: a flame thrower made from a  
cigarette lighter and a can of spray deodorant. A spray of  
flames ignites the stove in a FIREBALL.

**CUT TO:**

ties MOMENTS LATER. Hushpuppy behind the bubbling stove. She

her on an apron and sways to the music. She is dressing like  
mom.

Marietta's Voice sings to her.

**MARIETTA'S VOICE**

You're good, you make me happy /  
you're good, you make me happy.

**HUSHPUPPY**

That's pretty Mamma.

**MARIETTA'S VOICE**

You're pretty Hushpuppy.

frying Hushpuppy stares into the floating islands of cat food  
in fat, which in her POV is a surreal churning vision, like  
the bubbling lava at the center of the earth.

flung She's SHOCKED out of her vision by a YOWLING CAT being  
across the yard.

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**WINK (O.S)**

Get out of my way you fat animal!

Hushpuppy jumps down from the stove, grabs a bowl of water,  
and runs to greet Wink,

**EXT. WINK'S COMPOUND - MORNING**

She clambers down the oil drum ladder spilling her water  
everywhere in her excitement.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Daddy! Daddy, Daddy!

the Wink doesn't turn to acknowledge her as he trudges across  
field toward his Shacko. He's wearing a hospital patient's  
smock and no shoes, it seems he checked himself out.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

I learned lots of stuff while you  
gone. If I drink all this here I  
can burp like a man.

Hushpuppy gulps down water, all of it. Wink keeps walking. Hushpuppy BURPS like a man, but he doesn't turn around.

Hushpuppy stops to examine the situation. Something's not right here.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

How come you wearing a dress?

Hushpuppy tugs his patient's smock and he shrugs her off violently.

**WINK**

Leave me alone, Man.

She sees his hospital I.D bracelet still on.

**HUSHPUPPY**

You wearing a bracelet too?

**WINK**

Go in your house, you wouldn't understand.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I wanna come in your house.

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Hushpuppy whacks Wink's butt.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

**I WANNA COME IN YOUR HOUSE!**

Wink fakes like he's gonna smack her.

**WINK**

**GO AHEAD!**

Hushpuppy tears off.

Wink storms into the Shacko in the Backo.

**INT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DAY**

steam  
moment,  
Hushpuppy stomps inside. Her cat food is burning, with  
jetting up to the ceiling. She thinks about it for a  
and turns the burner up. Smoke billows.

jumps

Hushpuppy grabs her basketball jersey off the chair and over the breakfront counter. Behind her A MASSIVE GREASE **EXPLOSION**.

Hushpuppy ducks down, panicking. She check over the median. The stove is on engulfed in flames.

Hushpuppy scrambles under a cardboard box.

**INT./EXT. HUSHPUDDY'S BOX - DAY**

The walls of the box are decorated with years of her drawings. In here she feels a strange safety. The FLAMES and BREAKING WINDOWS feel distant and muffled.

She draws a hieroglyphic of herself sad and crying on an island with a sun and a palm tree.

She peeks out as Wink runs into the house, which is filled with black smoke, flickering flames.

**WINK (O.S.)**

(panicking from inside)  
Hushpuppy!? Boss lady!? Hushpuppy  
where you at!?

Hushpuppy drops the box closed. Smoke billows into the box, filling it up.

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**HUSHPUDDY (V.O)**

If Daddy kill me, I ain't gonna be forgotten, I'm recording my story for the scientists of the future.

Hushpuppy draws a bigger figure giving her a hug as Wink's panicked fury intensifies outside.

**WINK (O.S)**

HUSHPUDDY!? Where are you Boss!?

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O)**

In a million years, when kids go to school, they gonna know that once there was Hushpuppy and she lived with her Daddy in the Bathtub.

Wink pulls Hushpuppy's drawings off the walls, he flings

them

out the door to safety.

Hushpuppy coughs.

Wink has heard. He looks toward the box.

**WINK**

**BOSS LADY?**

Hushpuppy and makes a runs for it, flying out the door.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Don't you run away from me. I swear to GOD Hushpuppy!

**EXT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DAY**

on  
Hushpuppy runs out of Wink's compound into the woods, Wink her trail. In the background, the house is a towering inferno.

**EXT. TRAIL BEHIND WINK'S COMPOUND - DAY**

They run deeper into the swamp.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm tearing off!

**WINK**

You ain't tearing off nothin', I'll bust your ass!

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**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm tearing off just like my Momma.

**WINK**

Come on!

Wink tried to yank her toward home and Hushpuppy refuses. She digs her heels in.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

See what happens. See what happens to you!

Hushpuppy hooks her leg around a tree and holds on.

Wink slaps Hushpuppy and she falls face down.

He looks away, disgusted with himself.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

See what you making me do? You're killing me!

He reaches down and tries to pick her up.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Get up and now come on.

Hushpuppy jumps up on her own.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I hope you do die! And after you die, I come to your grave and eat birthday cake all by myself!

Hushpuppy punches Wink in the heart and suddenly EVERYTHING hushed.

All at once, we hear--

A HUMAN HEART, beating until there is a SONIC BOOM, an earsplitting CRACK of glacial ice.

Hushpuppy turns toward the sound. When she turns back Wink's face has transformed, wrenches with fear and pain.

Wink keels over clutching his arm.

Hushpuppy stares, her breath accelerating.

Wink's eyes roll back in his head, he begins to seizure.

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ANOTHER GLACIAL CRACK rings out. The SPLITTING builds to a DEAFENING ROAR. She covers her ears.

**EXT. ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF / WOODS - DAY**

Fissures appear like lightning through the massive ice cliff from the opening of the movie.

Hushpuppy runs from the sound, hands over her ears. We

INTERCUT with shots of falling glaciers. The universe is coming unravelled.

AVALANCHE,  
An ice shelf COLLAPSES into the ocean in a MASSIVE  
a wave rolls toward camera.

**EXT. GRAVEYARD BY THE WATER - DAY**

her  
The wave, now just a tiny ripple, hits Hushpuppy's feet. Suddenly, the water level rises around her. It overtakes  
knees and keeps going. Hushpuppy backs up to shore, terrified.

Hushpuppy calls out to a distant beacon flashing on the horizon.

**HUSHPUDDY**

Momma!? Momma!? MOMMA!? I think  
I broke something.

**EXT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Hushpuppy runs out of the woods toward school in a total panic.

In front of the school parents pile their children into a pickup trucks and vans.

**HUSHPUDDY**

Miss Bathsheba! Miss Bathsheba!  
My Daddy fell down!

catch  
Miss Bathsheba takes Hushpuppy's hands as she tries to  
her breath to speak. Clutched in her hand is the hospital bracelet that Wink had been wearing.

Bathsheba turns over the diagnostic bracelet and reads it, her eyes widen in recognition and alarm.

**INT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Hushpuppy watches Miss Bathsheba frantically pull herbs and roots from her containers of medicinal oddities and pack it into a large medicine jar.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

It's gonna be OK baby.

Bathsheba hands Hushpuppy the medicine jar.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Ok, Hushpuppy, here's what I need you to do. You take this medicine and run as fast as you can. Go!

**EXT. SWAMP CLEARING - DAY**

We see glimpses of nature protecting itself from the impending disaster. Flowers curl up, insects horde food underground, RUSTLING sounds fill the air. Black birds, and bats, and all manner of flying creatures fill the sky. They're all getting the hell out of dodge.

marsh

Hushpuppy, quaking with fear, runs through a menacing swamp clutching her medicine jar. The rising winds swirl the grass all around her.

Hushpuppy runs to the spot where Wink collapsed.

He's gone.

Hushpuppy looks around the swamp, unable to understand.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Daddy could have turned into a tree, or a bug. There wasn't any way to know.

hollow

the

Hushpuppy hides her medicine jar in her storage unit- a leather flap laid over the hollow of an oak tree. The is filled with trinkets and objects she's collected over years.

Hushpuppy flinches as a shrieking animal calls out.

caterpillars.

for

She looks up to see a leaf covered in writhing One of them has been skewered by a beetle and is fighting it's life.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

The whole universe depends on everything fitting together just right. If one piece busts, even the smallest piece, the entire universe will get busted.

**EXT. ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF - DAY**

Blocks of glaciers roll out of the avalanche and away from Antarctica like floating ice cubes. Embedded in each cube, is an Aurochs.

A single ice cube takes over the frame and the mammoth dead Aurochs' eye stares right at us. Its jaw wide, its fangs bared, the ferocious beast appears to have fossilized mid-pounce. THUNDER BOOMS.

We drift upwards into the cloud cover. As we rise above the white canopy, the spiral of a hurricane forms.

**EXT. LAFOURCHE ROAD - DAY**

little  
of  
STRINGS SWELL under HOWLING WINDS. We follow behind a boy running down the road with an alarm bell as the people of the Bathtub mobilize in a frenzied evacuation.

**BOY**

The storm's coming! The storm's coming!

**EXT. LADY JO'S BAR - DAY**

herself.  
Hushpuppy sulks out of the woods, feeling sorry for She looks up and freezes like she's seen a ghost.

Wink hobbles down the road, looking shell-shocked. The traffic on the road moves in one direction: out. Wink walks back into town in the opposite direction.

band  
In Hushpuppy's POV Wink arrives at Lady Jo's bar where a of drunken sweethearts are in their regular positions. They are watching the evacuation go by like it's a Veteran's Day parade. They giggle and hurl good-natured curses out to a family making their way to safety.

**LITTLE JO**

Look at these assholes running  
around all over the damn place.  
C'est la vie assholes!

**WINK**

I know y'all with me. Y'all doin'  
the storm.

**LITTLE JO**

Lady Jo's ain't never closed honey.

**WINK**

That's what I'm talking about.  
Walrus my big man, you staying?

**WALRUS**

Wrong number buddy. I'm outta here  
as soon as I finish my beer.

Wink dismisses him with a wave of his hand.

**WINK**

You ain't goin nowhere.

**WALRUS**

This ain't no sneeze comin' out the  
gulf. I'm gone brother.

**WINK**

I'll see you tomorrow Walrus.  
Lookit there, Winston's with me.

WINSTON is passed out on the stairs.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

What you doing about the storm  
Winston?

Without opening his eyes, Winston raises an umbrella over  
his head. Wink laughs.

**WALRUS**

Hey! It's Hushpuppy.

**EVERYBODY**

Hushpuppy! Hushpuppy's here.

They burst into a round of drunken applause.

22

**WINK**

Hushpuppy? Where you been?

**HUSHPUPPY**

What happened to y-

**WINK**

Shut-up!

He lifts her up by the britches and carries her away.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

You don't talk!

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - GROUND FLOOR - DAY**

Through the bus window, Hushpuppy watches Wink prepare for the storm as branches and debris fly by him. He RANTS to himself and drinks. He ties the Turck onto the house.

Hushpuppy looks to where her animals lurch and freeze, run around in circles, pant heavily. They feel it coming.

Rain drops start to spatter the window and Wink trips and falls trying to catch a fleeing chicken.

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - 2ND FLOOR - NIGHT**

Now, the full force of the storm HOWLS and CLATTERS the shutters. Rain screams against the corrugated metal roof.

Wink tapes padding over all sharp corners and plastic wraps the furniture. He's Hushpuppy-proofing everything.

He runs a piece of duct tape across the floor.

**WINK**

This side is still Wink's house.  
No toys, and no girl stuff over here.

Wink pushes charred toys from Hushpuppy's house across the line.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

So if I want to come over that side

and smack you in the face, that's against the rules. So there's a plus for you.

23

Hushpuppy is not able to see the bright side here.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Now come on down here and get in the boat, man.

He points to a trunk on the floor. Hushpuppy hops down and gets in. Wink sits on his air mattress.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

If the water get real high, we gonna float to the top and we gonna bust through the roof and we gonna ride away, okay?

Wink puts a pair of mismatching water wings on her.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

You never NEVER take these off. I'm your Daddy, and you do what I tell you to do, because it's my job to keep you from dying, ok? So sit back and just listen to me... Close your eyes and go to sleep.  
**CLOSE YOUR EYES!**

Hushpuppy watches Wink pretending to sleep. The THUNDER scares the bejesus out of him again.

She looks to the ceiling where water is starting to pour in steadily.

Looks back at Wink who is sneaking a sip from his liquor bottle. He resumes his phony sleep.

A strong gust of wind JOLTS the entire room and he springs out of bed.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Why you starin' at me like that? I can't sleep with you starin' at me like that.

Wink paces the floor.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Listen. You need to understand,  
you're a kid and I'm a man.

She doesn't understand.

**24**

**WINK (CONT'D)**

What, you scared?

Hushpuppy nods. THUNDER BOOMS and Wink is the one who  
flinches.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Don't be scared, no storm can't  
beat no Doucet. I'm gonna show  
you. You watch.

But he can see she's still scared.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

I'm'll show you! We Doucets we're  
not scared of no damn storm.

Wink grabs a bottle of moonshine and climbs down the hatch  
in  
the floor into the storm.

Hushpuppy runs to the window and peeks out.

OUTSIDE. The frenzy of the hurricane propels Wink at full  
sprint through the 100 MPH winds. He tears his clothes off  
and guzzles moonshine as branches fall all around him.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Look at me! Look at me Hushpuppy!  
Watch me kick butt.

Wink fires his shotgun at the heavens.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Hell yea! I'm right here! I'm  
right here I ain't going nowhere.  
**AHHHHH!!!**

A THUNDER CLAP shakes the house so hard a ceiling beam  
CRASHES down.

Hushpuppy runs to her bed as if it might keep her safe.

Windell, swinging from a basket tied to the ceiling, BARKS,  
panicking herself.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Mamma!? MAMMA!?

**CUT TO:  
25**

**EXT. PATAGONIAN COAST - NIGHT**

Still in the rainstorm, a glacial cube SHATTERS, flopping a mammoth body onto the shoreline.

It's chest heaves and a LOW SNORT is heard. The animal begins to roll over.

Her dinosaur size hoof plants in the mud as she lifts herself up. We stare over the muscular haunch of her body as she stares into the distance.

The massive creature turns, testing her limbs after thousands of years of sleep.

She looks up to the storm and lets loose a GURGLING ROAR.

We sit close on one of her black eyes. There is something dangerously sad in her cold gaze. Her head moves from the frame as she starts forward on her journey.

**EXT. AERIAL BATHTUB - DAY**

Silence. The storm has passed.

The camera flies high over the Bathtub. The tops of houses poke out from the massive water like lily-pads in a pond.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - FLOODED - MORNING**

A slab of metal stares at us, surrounded by water.

Something under the metal BANGS TWICE and an axe dislodges a roof panel. The axe twists and leverages off the slab.

Wink hefts Hushpuppy on top of the roof. Then Windell. Dishevelled and hung-over, he pulls himself up too.

The three survivors stare in stunned silence at their new

world.

**EXT. FLOODED LAFOURCHE ROAD - TURCK - MORNING**

Wink slowly navigates the Turck in through the flooded landscape where their town had once been. Neither he nor Hushpuppy can say a word. Everything is submerged. Every organism is dead or has fled. The quiet is overwhelming.

26

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

For every animal that didn't have a Dad to put it in a boat, the end of the world already happened. They're all down below, trying to breathe through water.

on They pass abandoned house, after abandoned house, the ones stilts have water up to the porches. Trees are bashed through roofs, walls are blown through, bathrooms exposed.

**EXT. WINSTON'S HOUSE - FLOODED - MORNING**

Wink uses a pole to open a door.

**WINK**

Yo Winston?

No one answers. They push off.

**EXT. EDISON'S HOUSE - FLOODED - THE TURCK - DAY**

Wink enters an intact house with water up to the porch.

**WINK (O.S.)**

Edison? Ow-Wee!

girl Wink leans against the door frame. From his POV we see Hushpuppy on the Turck. She picks a leaf and eats it. Wink shakes his head in dismay, realizing all too clearly his is not ready for survival.

**EXT. SWAMP - THE TURCK - DAY**

belly

The Turck passes through a net of Spanish moss into the  
of a swamp.

**WINK**

Some day when I'm gone, you gonna  
be the last man in the bathtub.  
You have to learn how to feed your  
house.

the

Wink goes to the edge of the turck and sticks his hand in  
water.

**27**

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Now, stick your left hand in this  
water, stick it in there.

Hushpuppy puts her right hand in the water.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Ok, what you do is you hold your  
hand steady and you just wait for  
your fish to come. You gotta ball  
your fist up, this is your punching  
hand. Ball your fist up in case  
you have to whack it when they come  
up.

Wink pulls a Catfish out with his bare hand.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

WHOOOOO YEA! Whooo lord, look what  
we got. I gotcha. Say "I gotcha!"

**HUSHPUPPY**

I gotcha!

Wink slams the fish down on the floor of the Turck and pins  
it.

**WINK**

Yea! Hold him down! Now, you hold  
it down like this, and whack him  
good with your fist.

Wink pins the fish and punches it in the face.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Go ahead whack him! You whack him

good. Hold him like that and whack  
him!

Hushpuppy pins the fish. She tries to whack it and it cuts  
her.

**HUSHPUPPY**

**OW!**

She hides her cut hand from Wink.

**WINK**

You OK? That's all a part of it.

**28**

Hushpuppy winces in pain.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

You wanna try it again?

Hushpuppy shakes her head no, trying not to cry.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Come on. One more time.

**INT. EDISON'S HOUSE - FLOODED - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy has enclosed herself under a table with a  
tablecloth on it. She's drawing on the floor with charcoal.

Something alive hits the roof and scurries across. We hear  
the entire house MOAN, or was it a distant ROAR?

**HUSHPUPPY**

Daddy?

Wink's hacking cough, which has gotten worse since last we  
heard it, fills the room. Hushpuppy tries to shake him  
awake.

Hushpuppy looks through the gap in his shirt.

web  
veins  
On Wink's chest, surrounding his heart, a corroded spider  
of purple bruises shows through the skin, like varicose  
covering his entire heart.

Hushpuppy's eyes go wide with horror.

**EXT. EDISON'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

The beacon pulses on the distant horizon.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Mamma? Is that you?

The beacon does not respond.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

I've broken everything.

**29**

**EXT. DESERT - DAY**

A cloud of dust circulates particles. The Haze is blinding.  
A distant RUMBLING grows.

Dark shapes tear through the haze in a deafening stampede.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

Strong animals, they know when your  
hearts are weak. That makes them  
hungry and they start coming.

We see one at first, then more join rank around it. The  
Aurochs are charging in a pack. They are a biblical terror;  
the horsemen of the apocalypse.

**EXT. LADY JO'S BAR - DAY**

The turck moves through the cypress forest, signs are  
strewn everywhere pointing to Lady Jo's bar. It appears abandoned.

Suddenly, the door SQUEAKS open. Walrus winces at the  
sunlight and pops a beer.

He steps out the door and SPLASHES into the water.

**WALRUS**

Holy bowlegged Sarah!

**WINK**

Hey partner! Hey Walrus!

Wink pulls in the Turck and paddles to rescue the thrashing  
drunkard.

They leverage Walrus aboard and lay him out on deck.

**WALRUS**

(gauging his surroundings)  
I musta passed out.

Wink starts chuckling silently. His chuckle builds to a laugh.

**INT. LADY JO'S BAR - FLOODED - DAY**

They enter the bar, empty bottles, half eaten crabs, and general party debris are littered everywhere.

**30**

Little Jo is sprawled on the floor under a table. Is she dead or just wasted?

**WINK**

Little Jo!

She awakes with a start and bangs her head on the table.

**LITTLE JO**

Wink!?

Wink and Walrus run to help her up.

**LITTLE JO (CONT'D)**

**(TO WALRUS)**

You don't touch me you filthy  
bastard!

**(TO WINK)**

Wink, you get me.

They both lift her.

**LITTLE JO (CONT'D)**

Goin' on all night `bout how  
tonight's the last night on earth  
we gotta make it count. Talkin'  
dirty right in front of Peter T.

**WALRUS**

Sorry Peter T.

Peter T enters from the Bathroom.

**WINK**

Peter T, my man! I knew you wasn't

gonna leave me man!

Peter T speaks in his polite, level-headed, soft sweet voice.

**PETER T**

Oh no, oh no.

**WALRUS**

(re: Peter T)  
That is one classic dude right there.

**WINK**

Peter T, you are a titan! Glad you stayed man! RHHAAAA!

**31**

Wink jiggles Peter T's ample belly. Peter T giggles with glee.

Wink puts one arm around Walrus and the other around Peter T.  
He smiles to Hushpuppy.

She laughs too, the first smile in quite some days.

**INT. LADY JO'S BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT**

The Bathtub crew are lolling in the later party stages. There is a rooster on the table looking like the most sober creature in the room by far.

**WALRUS**

If I had wings, I know I could have flown in that bad boy. But I would have probably bounced off a tree, or...

Hushpuppy lays on the table in pile of empty crab shells.

**WINK**

Hushpuppy! Did I ever tell you the story of your conception?

The bar crowd chuckles.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

When me and Hushpuppy's Mamma first met we was so shy, we used to sit

around, and drink beer, and smile  
at each other. One day we was so  
shy we just napped...

Wink's voice FADES DOWN as Hushpuppy's fantasy takes over.  
She closes her eyes.

**EXT. FANTASY HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DAY**

Wink, younger and prettier, naps in an uncharacteristically  
colorful lawn chair.

A LOW, GURGLING GROWL wakes him up.

There in the yard, crawling slow and lazy, is a massive 15-  
foot alligator, breathing the heavy, slutty way alligators  
breathe.

32

A topless woman steps in front. Sweat beading on her  
perfect shoulder blades, down her perfect, back ending in a pair of  
boys' underpants- just like Hushpuppy's.

Throughout Hushpuppy's vision, we never see Marietta's  
face, it's always covered, shot from the back, or out of frame.

Marietta cocks the shotgun with one hand, Terminator 2  
style.

Lowers it on the gator...

BLAM. Wink sits up in SLOW MOTION- her panties, and her  
long naked legs are covered with gator blood.

She turns to Wink, her head ABOVE FRAME.

CLOSE UP on her eye. She winks.

**INT. FANTASY HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

We follow behind Marietta's supple curves as she walks into  
the kitchen. Her white slip is almost see through...almost.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

Back when Daddy used to talk about  
Mamma, he'd say she was so pretty

she never even had to turn on the stove.

IGNITE

She runs her fingers along the counter and the burners one by one as she passes.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

She just walk into a room and water start to boil.

Water starts to bubbles like a spontaneous volcanic eruption.

ice- Marietta reaches into the frigidaire, and pulls out two cold beers.

Ice melts down the bottles.

She opens them on the counter, flawlessly.

She walks over to Wink. Stands there. A hot mess.

Wink's voice FADES UP.

**33**

**WINK (V.O.)**

Your Momma battered that gator up, and set it to fry.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. LADY JO'S BAR - NIGHT**

Wink tips his drink.

**WINK**

...and Hushpuppy popped into the universe maybe four minutes later.

He empties the glass, sufficiently drunk now.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

I got it under control.

Wink looks away, lost in his own fantasy.

**INT. FANTASY HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

strap Over Marietta's shoulder, beads of sweat form along the  
of her slip. Good Lord.

Wink looks, and meets her eyes. The gaze of a proud and  
smitten man.

water. Grits fall through the chimney vent, into the boiling  
Dancing like all the invisible particles of the universe.

**INT. LADY JO'S BAR - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy stares hard, her face locked in pride and  
determination. Filling with all the strength and heroism of  
her long-lost mother. She's ready to snap into action.

**EXT. FLOODED BATHTUB - THE TURCK - DAY**

ENERGETIC MUSIC drops and we move in a semi-montage through  
Hushpuppy's search for survivors.

endless Hushpuppy rows the Turck through the flooded Bathtub by  
herself. In the distance she sees a lone horse. It stands  
on an tiny island of land, the last high ground in an  
stretch of water.

**34**

The horse holds Hushpuppy's gaze. She hears it's strong,  
resilient HEARTBEAT. They are one and the same.

**EXT. SCHOOLBOAT - THE TURCK - DAY**

Hushpuppy approaches Schoolboat, which has weathered the  
storm relatively intact.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Miss Bathsheba!?

**INT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Hushpuppy opens the door.

We hear RUSTLING and WHISPERING inside school.

a  
It's three little girls left behind in the storm. JOY STRONG, a tall, wild-haired leader; LIZARD, a tiny thing in  
giant man's tee shirt, and T-LOU, the muscle of this girl gang, looking very meek in her desperate condition.

hungry,  
The girls are huddled against each other, terrified,  
and alone.

**EXT. LADY JO'S BAR - DAY**

boat  
Miss Bathsheba, shell-shocked but steadfast, steers the  
toward the bar, the four girls now safely in her care. From the inside we hear CAROUSING, TOASTING, and RAUCOUS CAJUN  
**MUSIC.**

**INT. LADY JO'S BAR - FLOODED - NIGHT**

communal  
Wink pours a mountain of crab and shrimp at a great  
table, assembled from many different tables.

**WINK**

Come on lets go! Time to eat!  
Come on children, feed up time!

He sends a feast sliding across the floor under the table, where Joy, T-Lou, and Lizard dig in.

of  
Wink has decorated the bar with all the waterlogged relics  
the Bathtub.

**35**

clothing.  
The room is a shrine of people's chairs, umbrellas,  
We're late in the game, and the party has descended into  
utter debauchery.

Jean raises a glass.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

To the last of the food!

**WALRUS**

To the last of the water!

**LITTLE JO**

You ain't drinkin' no water.

Miss Bathsheba pour shots and toasts.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Yea, tastes like more, alright!

Hushpuppy struggles to peel her shrimps, sitting on top of the table.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

For the ones we'd never find, we  
make a funeral the Bathtub way,  
with no crying allowed.

Drunken Wink is giving drunken Walrus a bath as he eats.

**WALRUS**

When the water goes down, I'm gonna  
French kiss the dirt!

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Water's not goin' down man.

**WINK**

Nah, that's my beautiful place  
under there.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Man you know they got plenty of  
salt coming into that water,  
everything beautiful is gone.  
Trees are gonna dies first, then  
the animals, then the fish.

**WINK**

I got it under control.

**36**

tries  
Hushpuppy picks up a crab. She tries to pound it open,  
yanking on a leg. She can't shell it.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Come on Hushpuppy, come over here  
lemme show you how.

Hushpuppy sits down next to Jean, a good pupil.

**JEAN BATTISTE (CONT'D)**

Here baby. You hold like this,  
then you turn it over like that.

Hushpuppy follows instruction in deep concentration, but a bit tentative.

We see Wink look away from Walrus and Jo's bawdy humor extravaganza and focus in on Hushpuppy. His disdain is palpable for this froufrou shelling technique.

**JEAN BATTISTE (CONT'D)**

Don't be scared of it now. Now,  
you take this knife, and you pop  
this off.

Jean holds Hushpuppy's hand and guides a knife to open the belly of the crab.

**JEAN BATTISTE (CONT'D)**

Atta girl.

**WINK**

NO! Hushpuppy--

Wink POUNDS the table. And the party falls suddenly silent.

Wink pushes the utensil away. He grabs a crab, opens it in three virtuosic hand motions.

Grease and spice explode everywhere and Wink sucks the face of the crab clean. It is beautiful to watch.

He slams a fresh crab in front of Hushpuppy.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Beast it!

Hushpuppy looks to Miss Bathsheba for guidance.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

You heard your Daddy. Beast it.

**37**

Hushpuppy pulls on the crab shell with all her might. She doesn't have the power.

**EVERYONE**

**(CLAPPING ALONG)**

**BEAST IT! BEAST IT! BEAST IT!**

The kids jump out from under the table and chant.

Hushpuppy is turning blue, her eyes bulge with effort...

**CRACK!**

Hushpuppy opens the crab claw and sucks down the meat.

Everyone goes wild with applause! The kids too!

Hushpuppy stands up, ascending to the top of the table. She lets loose a WARRIOR CRY and flexes her muscles, deadly triumphant.

Little Jo gets so excited she starts dancing on the table. She CACKLES and jitterbugs wildly.

Walrus gets up to join her. Jean gets up and dances too. All the kids get up.

Wink glows with pride. Miss Bathsheba smiles.

**WINK**

Yea! You see what kinda family we got?! We got feeling!

**EXT. SCHOOLBOAT - FLOODED - VARIOUS**

A DRIVING SCORE kicks in as we MONTAGE through the transformation of the Schoolboat into a ramshackle Ark.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

It wasn't no time to sit around crying like a bunch of pussies.

The survivors whittle sticks into spears, bend metal debris into spikes.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

We was gonna build a camp right on top of the Bathtub.

**38**

a  
Jean Battiste, cackling wildly, hauls a thrashing goat onto floating animal pen. Chicken coops, snake cages, a pig pen are stacking precariously.

**HUSHPUPPY**

We got enough animals to eat until the water goes down.

Rafts are lashed to the sides of the school. Every floating structure left in town is hauled in and added to the Ark.

Peter T ties on a floating vegetable garden.

In WIDE we see what looks like a small village of floating structures forming.

**INT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Miss Bathsheba puts Lizard's head in her lap, Lizard is playing as if she's unconscious after hyperventilating.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

(teaching a lesson)  
Come here, like this.

She takes Hushpuppy's hand and places it on Lizard's chest. She moves her hand in a circular motion.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Like this. Tee-Lou get some water.

Tee-Lou runs to get a handful of water.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

Quick little circles. Good for the heart. Joy Strong?

Joy turns her back. Miss Bathsheba shakes her head.

Tee-Lou returns and pours water on Lizard's head, cooling her.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

This is most important thing I can ever teach y'all. You got to take care of people that's smaller and sweeter than you are.

rubs  
Hushpuppy registers this advice, takes it to heart. She  
Lizard's chest with delicacy and affection.

Lizard's breathing returns to normal, and she sits up peacefully. Hushpuppy is awestruck. Bathsheba gets to her feet.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

That's better.

**INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy watches Wink sleeping. His breathing has gotten worse.

She tiptoes up with her red basketball jersey and lays it down on Wink, tucking him in just right.

A DISTANT RUMBLING is heard. Cutting off suddenly as we...

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. BRAZILIAN FAVELLAS - DAY**

power-  
A quiet town, not unlike the Bathtub, but with tangled  
lines, electrical towers, and layered hills.

A stone flies from behind a house and bounces down the street, denting the silence.

RUMBLING,  
Slowly, the peaceful morning transitions into MORE  
a distant CRACK.

smithereens  
Suddenly the house in the foreground explodes to  
and the head of an Aurochs drives through it.

trampling  
Without breaking step, Aurochs maraud the village,  
it into oblivion. We settle close on an Aurochs eye,  
emotionless and relentless in its calm.

**EXT. BATHTUB MARSH WATER - TURCK - MORNING**

through  
Wink, Hushpuppy, and the Bathtub crew pole the Turck

a lake blanketed with carcasses, pushing through the dead fish, dead porpoises, dead alligator garfish like they were lily pads. There is no wind, only dense wet heat searing on the faces of the characters. The once green foliage has

gone  
brown and thirsty.

**HUSHPUPPY V.O.**

Two weeks later, everything started to die.

**WINK**

(to the water)  
Come on fishes, where y'at?

Wink empties his net- nothing but a pile of carcasses. He tips it back into the water. Wink pulls himself to the edge and sticks his head under to look for fish.

Hushpuppy looks at him with an air of doubt for the first time. Wink looks ridiculous, a dead fish drifts off his head.

**HUSHPUPPY  
(WHISPERING)**

You wanna leave the Bathtub,  
Walrus?

**WALRUS  
(WITHOUT THOUGHT)**

Nah.

Wink pulls his head back up.

**WINK**

I heard that.

Hushpuppy fidgets guiltily.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Nobody's leaving the Bathtub! You don't know nothing!

Wink lowers his net back in the water.

**WINK (CONT'D)  
(TO WALRUS)**

This water gonna kill us here. We gotta do something `bout this. I ain't starvin' to death while them people go grocery shopping up there.

**INT. SCHOOLBOAT - FLOODED - MORNING**

The kids sleep on Miss Bathsheba in a big pile on the floor.

Hushpuppy wakes hearing SHIFTING and a SNAP behind her.

powder  
Peter T is uncapping a shotgun shell and pouring black  
into a small jar.

her  
She looks out the window where Jean Battiste is unhooking a  
propane container from Miss Bathsheba's burner. He opens  
chest freezer and hefts out a 12-foot garfish, dropping the  
container in the water.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Shit!

Wink sneaks up and whispers to Hushpuppy.

**WINK**

Boss, Daddy's gotta take care of  
something.

Hushpuppy is instantly concerned, she's heard this line  
before, and it always leads to trouble.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

I'm gonna fix everything back how  
it was.

**HUSHPUDDY**

Everything gonna go right back?

**WINK**

Hell yeah, we gonna win.

Wink pounds his chest in solidarity. Hushpuppy matches his  
pound, but without confidence.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Boss, anything go wrong, Walrus is  
Daddy.

Wink and Hushpuppy look Walrus-- the face of doddering  
drunken bewilderment. A goat licks him.

Hushpuppy is not comforted.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

You're gonna be the king of the  
Bathtub, I promise that.

Wink can see he's getting nowhere.

42

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Just sit here I'll be right back.

The DOOR CLOSING wakes Miss Bathsheba up. She scans the room, noticing the three missing people.

**WALRUS**

(an unconvincing lie)

I think they be gone. I-I really can't say where.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Walrus, don't make me slap your ass! They go to the levee!?

Walrus is intimidated into silence.

**MISS BATHSHEBA (CONT'D)**

You so much as piss on that wall, you know what them people gonna do? They gonna smoke us out and stick us in a damn shelter.

Hushpuppy watches Miss Bathsheba go for her boat keys.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Daddy says, brave men don't run from their home.

Hushpuppy scurries out the side window, escaping outside before Miss Bathsheba sees her.

**EXT. UNDER THE TURCK TARP - DAY**

Wink, Jean Battiste, and Peter T keep their heads above water as they float under the tarp behind the truck bed. Peter T is wearing a life jacket and still has his top hat on.

**WINK**

**(WHISPERING)**

Peter T, don't hold onto me, hold onto the boat. You gonna be fine.

Jean Battiste duct tapes fireworks around the bomb: a propane

black

tank with an igniter made from a battery and a pouch of powder.

He inserts the bomb into the stomach cavity of a giant garfish carcass.

**43**

Wink shoves two propane tanks inside the belly of the garfish.

He hands a rope attached to the igniter to Peter T.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Peter T, you hold the trip-line.

**PETER T**

(Soft and sweet)  
Ok then.

**WINK**

Just don't pull `til I say.

**PETER T**

Ok then.

**WINK**

You can do it. I have complete faith in you.

**PETER T**

Ok.

Jean Battiste is hesitant.

Wink gives Jean Battiste a confident nod.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Lock and load.

Jean Battiste carefully unravels the string that leads to the fuse. He shoves the igniter down the mouth of the garfish.

**EXT. LEVEE WALL, IN THE WATER - DAY**

The Turck pulls into an enclosed segment of the levee, Wink bobs out from under the Turck and latches a pre-made tether running out of the garfish to a handle on the wall. He bobs back under the boat.

**EXT. SCHOOLBOAT - DAY**

Hushpuppy dives under the fishing net on a motor boat just before Miss Bathsheba charges outside and keys the ignition.

Hushpuppy peeks out and the boat roars to life and rips across the water.

**44**

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

The entire universe depends on everything fitting together just right. If you can fix the broken piece, it can all go right back.

**INT. UNDER THE TURCK TARP/SANTA MARIA - DAY**

**WINK**

Peter T hand me the-

He looks, Peter T has both hands on the Turck.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Peter you didn't drop the trip-line?

**PETER T**

No I did not.

Peter T thinks a moment.

**PETER T (CONT'D)**

Oh, yes I did.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Oh, Peter T.

**PETER T**

I'm sorry.

Wink dunks under water.

**EXT. LEVEE - DAY**

Wink surfaces in front of the igniter rope.

As he grabs the rope, Bathsheba's snake catcher snares his hand and pulls his arm against the side of her Jon boat.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Here's how we do with wild animals.

**WINK**

AHH! Get off me woman! I'm trying to save the Bathtub

Hushpuppy watches the struggle in hiding.

**45**

Bathsheba wrenches the rope out of Wink's hand and chucks it.

The igniter rope lands in front of Hushpuppy under the net pile. She grabs it. She reels it in.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Get in the Boat! I'm hauling you're ass back home, little boy.

Jean Battiste swims out of hiding.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Wink!?

**WINK**

Jean Battiste, get the trip line!

Suddenly, Hushpuppy pops out from under the nets, holding the rope taught. She stumbles and almost sets it off by accident.

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

Hushpuppy!?

**JEAN BATTISTE**

She got it! Pull! Pull!

**WINK**

**NOW BOSS!**

**MISS BATHSHEBA**

No! Hushpuppy!

Hushpuppy, contemplates in an eerie peace.

The screaming chorus FADES and she is alone in her quiet,

eyes darting between Bathsheba and Wink. Courage and certainly clench inside her her. You listen to your Daddy. She pulls the rope.

**EXT. LEVEE WALL IN THE WATER - DAY**

The trip-line releases the detonator.

**EXT. LEVEE - NORTH SIDE - DAY**

The levee DETONATES. Shattered wood and cement fire towards camera.

46

Debris propels Hushpuppy backwards.

Her quiet resumes as she lands on the deck of the boat in slow motion. She watches in a daze as smoke, water, and flaming dust cycles above her. All the beauty of the universe.

**EXT. FLOODPLAIN - THE BATHTUB - DAY**

Water recedes in the Bathtub, revealing the tragic, mud-soaked remnants of their paradise.

Hushpuppy slogs through the muck, each step going two feet down into the stinking filth.

The crew trudges behind her in silence.

**EXT. ARK WRECKAGE - DAY**

The blow-up crew crests a hill and sees the remains of the ark sprawled across an open field.

state  
Wink's and Hushpuppy's eyes well up as they behold the  
of their island. The water has drained. Everything is dead.

surrounding  
More striking than the ripped-up houses, the land  
the island has disappeared. Trees are gone. Shards of marsh  
that had been attached float in the distance. What was a  
dense, green landscape is barren. The Bathtub is a scorched  
hell.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - POST-FLOOD - EVENING**

dryer  
Hushpuppy picks through the rubble of the Shacko in the Backo. She finds their grill, and a window made from a door and brings them to Wink.

The Shacko has crash landed under the stilts of a house that's been entirely washed away. Wink has done some work reassembling the walls and broken parts into a semi-functional enclosure.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - POST-FLOOD - LATER THAT NIGHT**

wall  
Hushpuppy find nails and brings them to Wink, who leans panels against the stilts from the previous house.

47

He hammers nails wearily. His strength is sapped. He HACKS out bile.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

It didn't matter that the water was gone. Sometimes, you can break something so bad, that it can't get put back together.

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - POST FLOOD - EVENING**

Hushpuppy climbs the stairs of the original house to get to the top of the Shacko.

She looks down through the hole in the floor.

shirt  
across  
In her POV Wink climbs into bed, he painfully takes his off. The bruise on his chest has extended all the way his stomach.

is  
Hushpuppy looks out on the water for some sign that Marietta's still with her. The light shining on the water off. She sees nothing but dead trees and a defunct oil rig.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Mamma!?

Nothing.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

Mamma where you at!?

As if in response, we hear a HELICOPTER LOUDSPEAKER.

**PILOT**

This is a mandatory evacuation area, you can no longer live here. Everyone in this area, has to leave. I repeat....

**EXT. DEAD FOREST - MORNING**

Hushpuppy wades through the muck in what used to be a lush forest, now reduced to toothpick trees and mud.

out She finds her storage unit in the tree hollow, and lifts the medicine jar.

**48**

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

When you're small, you gotta fix what you can.

**INT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - POST FLOOD - NIGHT**

not She pours the crushed up roots into Wink's mouth, careful to disturb him. Wink doesn't move.

Hushpuppy gently folds in the orange fungus. Quiet, quiet--

**WINK**

**GUUAAAHH!**

Wink spews up an explosive cloud of medicine.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

God damn!

Wink grabs her medicine jar and threatens her with it.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

What you doing!?

He smashes it against the wall.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

What the hell's wrong with you!

Hushpuppy is so upset she doesn't know what to do. She screams in anger.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Raaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!

on,  
pans,  
Raging, Hushpuppy breaks everything she can get her hands  
ruining everything Wink's reassembled, tipping shelves,  
walls. She grabs a fishing pole and starts bashing Wink's  
grill over and over.

**WINK**

You wanna throw things? Come on!  
I can do that too. You want to  
play that game? Let's throw stuff!

Wink joins in, breaking stuff too, channeling all his anger  
into the destruction.

a  
Wink throws himself into the wall. It breaks off and dumps  
series of shelves all over the floor.

**49**

Hushpuppy can't believe it.

each  
Suddenly it's cathartic, they start throwing objects at  
other and laughing.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Come on! Come on!

Wink pegs her in the face with a stuffed animal and she  
grins.

Hushpuppy throws a pillow!

**WINK (CONT'D)**

**AAAAH!!! COME ON! COME ON!**

Hushpuppy throws a shoe.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

**AAAAAHHHHH!!!! YEAH!! COME ON!**

Hushpuppy and Wink destroy everything in the house.

Something goes off in Wink chest. He grabs his heart and collapses on the floor.

life- Hushpuppy realizes something's not right. She throws a jacket at her father.

Wink continues to force a smile at her. Hushpuppy won't return the smile.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Man. You think I don't know.

Hushpuppy's bottom lip starts quivering.

Wink's smiles disappears.

**WINK**

Hey. No crying. Don't you cry man. Don't you cry!

He threatens her with a shoe. Hushpuppy hides behind an overturned chest.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

HEY! Don't cry damn it!

wall. Wink hangs his head and catches his breath against the

**50**

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Shit.

moonshine. He pull himself to his feet and grabs a bottle of

He sets up two cups on the table.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Come on get a drink.

Wink pours Hushpuppy a shot.

Hushpuppy sips. Winces. Looks suspiciously at her father. Sips again.

Wink takes one straight from the bottle.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

This counts as I'm sorry for a whole buncha things. Lord.

**HUSHPUPPY**

You gonna be gone?

**WINK**

What? No!

**HUSHPUPPY**

You gonna leave me alone?

**WINK**

I ain't gon' leave nothing.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Cause if you be gone, I be gone too.

**WINK**

Hushpuppy, that is not how it works.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I will. Sometimes in the bed I start shaking and can't stop. I got what you got.

**WINK**

No man. That's just a side effect of being a stupid little girl.

51

**HUSHPUPPY**

I ain't gonna be dead?

**WINK**

No. You? No! You gonna live a hundred years more. You know what, show me the guns.

Hushpuppy shoves Wink.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Show me them guns man.

Wink clears everything off the table with one sweep.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Show me the guns! Guns! guns! guns!  
guns! guns!

and Hushpuppy flexes her biceps. She begins to chant, fierce

**TRIUMPHANT--**

**HUSHPUPPY**

Guns! Guns! Guns! Guns!.....

**WINK**

**(OVERLAPPING)**

Guns man, give to me! Guns! Guns!

tandem Wink holds up his hand to arm-wrestle. They SCREAM in  
as Hushpuppy pins him hard.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Ooooo, Hushpuppy you the man. Who  
the man?

**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm the man.

**WINK**

Who the man!?

**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm the man!

**WINK**

**TELL ME LOUDER WHO THE MAN!!!!**

**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm THE MAN!!!!!!!!

**52**

**WINK**

**YOU THE MAN, RIGHT?!**

Wink is overcome with love. It's too much for him to bear.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Fuck this table!

In a violent euphoria, Wink grabs the table and hurls it  
across the room.

This scares Hushpuppy. She stares silently at her wild

animal father, longing for something more than rage.

then  
Wink takes a step toward like he's going to comfort her,  
stops, turning back.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

I gotta lay down hear? I gotta be strong. Don't be scared.

Wink lays down in the corner.

Hushpuppy doesn't go to bed, she just stands there.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

What?

Hushpuppy waits, not backing down.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

**(GIVING IN)**

Come here.

Hushpuppy goes to Wink.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Lay down.

Wink pats his heart for her to put her head down on it.

A long beat.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

Hey.

**HUSHPUDDY**

Yea?

**WINK**

You ain't the one who's sick.

**53**

She listens to his BIG HUGE HEART.

**EXT. WET SAND MUCK EXPANSE - DAY**

looking  
The Aurochs move into a desolate, barren, wasteland,  
exhausted and starved.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

Strong animals got no mercy.

going

Cold wind blows them backwards. An old Aurochs falls behind the pack. Its legs give out and it lays down. It's not

to make it.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

They the type of animals that eats their own Mommas and Daddies.

**CUT TO:**

The Aurochs cannibalize their fallen comrade, ripping skin and organs in a storm of flesh and gore.

another,

The CRIES of the screaming mother melt together with sound, more MECHANICAL...

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - POST FLOOD - MORNING**

The SOUND becomes recognizable as a HELICOPTER PROPELLER.

Hushpuppy opens her eyes, still tucked in Wink's arm. Through the wall she sees FOUR WELL-DRESSED men. They are out of place like aliens exiting their space ship.

Hushpuppy

She rouses Wink, he hears the FOREIGN SOUNDING VOICES and yanks Hushpuppy up. He instinctively pulls him and

to

behind the over-turned table and grabs a broken chair leg defend them with.

**EVACUATOR (O.S.)**

(from outside the door)

This is a mandatory evacuation area. Everyone in this region has to leave.

Wink hurls the chair leg at the intruders as they try to enter.

**54**

**WINK**

We ain't going nowhere!

Hushpuppy grabs a chair leg as well. It's a standoff.

**INT. LADY JO'S HOUSE - POST FLOOD - MORNING**

Three evacuation workers ram the door of Little Jo's house.

Little Jo greets the intruders brandishing a cutting knife and civil war era pistol.

**LITTLE JO**

You gonna have to shoot me cause I'm not going.

**EVACUATOR 2**

Ma'am we're not gonna shoot you.

**LITTLE JO**

I ain't never left here and I won't never will.

She spits. They get closer.

**LITTLE JO (CONT'D)**

Son, don't make me cancel your birth certificate.

slam

The Muscle grabs her by the weapons and in the struggle, her to the ground. It's horrible.

**EVACUATOR 2**

Relax, relax ma'am.

**LITTLE JO**

**YOU SON OF A BITCH!**

They drag Little Jo out of the house.

**INT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - MORNING**

out.

MATCH CUT to Wink and Hushpuppy pinned and being dragged

**WINK**

Get your hands off of her! I'm gonna kill you! Let her go!

55

**EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - DAY**

CRASH CUT TO an off-white monolithic community center surrounded by a cement parking lot. Stressed, amateur looking doctors from the real world move in and out of the glass doors.

A makeshift sign reads "Open Arms Processing Center."

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - COTS - DAY**

The interior of the refugee camp is violently, fluorescent-lit and painted white in an attempt to maintain a facade of sterility.

Hushpuppy stares at the strange and modern ceiling like they've descended from another planet.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

It didn't look like a prison, it looked like a fish tank with no water.

The Bathtub residents walk through the gymnasium which has been converted into a holding tank/hospital for refugees. Student doctors are examining, treating, feeding people.

The

abandoned souls, the sick, and the old are lined up waiting for assistance.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - KITCHEN - DAY**

Hushpuppy's A processed egg patty jiggles weirdly as it hits tray.

**WINK**

Don't eat that.

doctor DR. MALONEY, a clean-cut, over-extended handsome young hustles toward the lunch line.

**DR. MALONEY**

Mr. Doucet, can I have a word with you, we found something in your test. It's-

**WINK**

Whoa whoa whoa, not in front of my kid. Stay, Hushpuppy.

Wink pulls Maloney out of earshot.

**DR. MALONEY**

Mr. Doucet, there's no easy way to say this...

Hushpuppy struggles to hear more, only a couple words come through the din of refugees.

**DR. MALONEY (CONT'D)**

...require surgery immediately...you need to think about what you want for your daughter...you could die.

Wink's In Hushpuppy's POV: Maloney puts a sympathetic hand on shoulder and Wink pushes it off violently. Maloney puts up his hands in peace and Wink shoves him through one of the curtains and is assaulted by a flood of orderlies.

**WINK**

I don't need nothing from you! You keep your hands off her! I don't need nothing from y'all! Let me go!

Hushpuppy is snatched as she fights to come to his rescue.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Daddy!

They tackle Wink to the ground. He goes limp as he falls.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - COTS - DAY**

We TRACK with Wink as he comes to consciousness rolling through the cots. He is sedated and being pushed in a wheelchair.

He looks through an open door.

In Wink's POV- Joy, Tee-Lou, Lizard, and the rest of Bathsheba's original school class play in a room with a **BABYSITTER.**

She tickles Hushpuppy, who has been given new clothes and looks like a normal little girl for the first time. Her boots and boys underpants have been traded for a delicate

blue dress. The image is jarring.

57

**BABYSITTER**

Hushpuppy needs a hug.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I don't want your hug!

The Babysitter squeezes Hushpuppy. Hushpuppy tries to  
squirm  
away.

**BABYSITTER**

Hushpuppy, that's not how nice  
girls act. Say "I'm sorry ma'am."  
Hey! Say it. Say it or you're  
going to corner time.

Hushpuppy's eyes meet Wink's and she freezes at his  
horrifying appearance.

Wink grabs a sofa trying to stop the wheelchair as it rolls  
by. His fingers slips off, too weak to hold on. He tries to  
scream and nothing but a SEDATED MOAN comes out of his  
mouth.

He tries to pull the tubes out of his arm.

**ORDERLY**

(gently moving Wink's hand  
**AWAY)**

There there, sir.

Hushpuppy stares in shock as Wink is wheeled away.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - WINK'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy watches in hiding as a hand covered in a rubber  
glove changes the bandage on a surgical scar; it looks  
infected and mishandled.

The same hand puts pills in Wink's mouth.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - TERMINAL WARD - DAY**

Hushpuppy stands over an old man on an artificial  
respirator.  
She's creeps closer, examining him. She puts her head on  
his

chest. His heart is beating.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

When an animal gets sick here, they  
plug it into the wall.

She whispers in his ear.

58

**HUSHPUPPY**

They're coming for you.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - TERMINAL WARD - A DIFFERENT BED - DAY**

She repeats the process with another vegetable.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

Daddy says, if he ever got so old  
he couldn't drink beer, or catch  
catfish, that I had to put him in a  
boat, and set him on fire, so no  
one could come plug him into the  
wall.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - WINK'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Hushpuppy peeks through the curtains at another terminal  
bed.

She sees two orderlies force pills into Wink's mouth. He's  
regaining his strength and is able to hold them off  
momentarily before submitting, and going limp.

Hushpuppy bolts, unable to take it.

We stay in the room as the orderlies walk away.

Wink peeks to make sure they're gone, then spits his pills  
on  
the floor.

Wink stares at the ceiling for a long beat. Then, with a  
burst of energy he grabs his morphine drip and topples  
himself onto the floor. He pulls his wires out.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - KID'S ROOM - MORNING**

Hushpuppy lies asleep in a pile with Tee-Lou, Lizard, and

Joy. Wink enters and jostles her awake.

**WINK**

Boss. Let's go.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Where we goin'?

**59**

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Wink and the girls hustle to the entrance of the Refugee center.

Walrus comes running down the hall, pushing Peter T on a gurney.

Wink looks bewildered, the rest of the team seems to have their own plan afoot.

**INT. REFUGEE CAMP - COTS - MORNING**

Jean Battiste and Little Jo charge through the cots riling refugees into revolt as the orderlies chase them trying to maintain decorum.

**JEAN BATTISTE**

Go home! Everybody get up! Don't you want to go home? Lets go! These people don't care about you!

Little Jo fights off an orderly with a syringe.

**LITTLE JO**

You live in this hell hole!

**INT/EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - EVACUATION BUS - DAY**

Wink runs the kids toward the bus, they pass two busses labeled for Salt Lake City, Des Moines.

Wink helps Joy, Tee-Lou, and Lizard get on. Then Hushpuppy.

Suddenly Wink's hand slips out of Hushpuppy's. He steps

away

from the evacuating bus. Hushpuppy turns and the bus door slams between them.

**WINK**

(from outside the door)  
Make sure you put her somewhere  
good ok?

Wink sags. He's giving her away. He turns to leave..

**HUSHPUPPY**

(banging on the door)  
NO! I ain't running! No!

**60**

Wink walks away from the bus, his chest heaving, his face  
clutched in the horror of what he's done.

Behind him, the bus pulls forward, then veers violently.

Hushpuppy charges the driver clawing at her face, punching  
and kicking.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

Let me go!

The driver pulls the break and Hushpuppy bangs the doors  
open.

She charges Wink from behind, gives him a diving shove.

He topples over.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

You trying to get rid of me! You  
trying to get rid of me!

**WINK**

No!

**HUSHPUPPY**

Why you trying to get rid of me?

**WINK**

I ain't trying to get rid of you.

**HUSHPUPPY**

You is.

**WINK**

No. Hushpuppy... I can't take care  
of you no more.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Yes you can.

Hushpuppy stares him down, accusing.

**WINK**

Daddy's dying!

Hushpuppy's chest heaves up and down.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

My blood is eating itself. You know what that means?

**61**

**HUSHPUPPY**

Don't be sayin' about dying.

**WINK**

Everybody's Daddy dies.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Not my Daddy.

**WINK**

Yes, your Daddy!

in. Her defiance is broken and the information starts to sink

It hurts Wink as much as it hurts her.

**WINK (CONT'D)**

I didn't want you to watch that, ok? You understand?

Wink doubles over hacking. He COUGHS horribly.

Hushpuppy looks down and sees blood spotting the grass, dripping from his mouth.

The Bathtub gangs charges out the door!

coming Across the parking lot they go in a spree of euphoria,  
to a halt around Wink.

parking Hushpuppy is trying to drag his limp body across the  
lot.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Come on! Come on!

Little Jo hold Hushpuppy away from him.

**WINK**

Walrus, get me home.

**EXT. LAFOURCHE ROAD - DAY**

able  
The Bathtub crew carries Wink through the entrance to town.  
His arms slug over Walrus and Jean Battiste, he's barely  
to help walk.

been  
We sense from the weary faces and silent eyes that it's  
a long journey home.

62

**INT./EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

door  
They drag Wink through the Shacko entrance.  
Everyone goes in except Hushpuppy who stops outside the  
as they lay him down in convulsions. She stays and tries to  
watch.

Wink tries to say something to Walrus and can't. Blood  
bubbles out of his mouth. Wink catches Hushpuppy's eye then  
looks away as fast as he can.

Reeling, but steady, Hushpuppy backs out the door.

**EXT. LAFOURCHE ROAD - DAY**

Hushpuppy walks down the road in an almost eerie state of  
calm. She takes in the remnants of rusting houses and  
flipped boats, her lifeless ghost town.

**HUSHPUDDY (V.O.)**

Everybody looses the thing that  
made them, it's even how it's  
supposed to be in nature.

**EXT. LAVA RIDGE - DAY**

Something  
Now with her three friends, she tip-toes past several  
humongous footprints up to a gruesome fox carcass.

gigantic has ripped open its stomach and gutted it.

She leans over, unafraid, trying to understand it's  
meaning.

Flies swarm and nibble, their movement almost elegant. Seen  
in close up, the gory mess has a strange beauty to it.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

The brave men stay and watch it  
happen. They don't run.

A SONIC BOOM springs her upright, she looks around for the  
source of the sound. Is it an Aurochs?

She looks towards the muddy bayou. The SONIC BOOM sounds  
again and the entire body of water quivers with the impact.

**EXT. DARDAR RIDGE - EVENING**

The beacon blinks out on the water.

**63**

Hushpuppy stares towards it. The children are gathered  
behind her.

Something has changed in her eyes. The eerie calm has given  
way to a hardened determination. Though unclear to us, her  
internal path of action is certain.

She takes a deep breath, and lets out a WARRIOR CRY. She  
runs straight into the water with her girl gang charging  
behind her.

**EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - EVENING**

Joy, Tee-Lou, Lizard, and Hushpuppy swim through open  
water,  
pulling each other forward. They head in the direction of  
the beacon.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Come on! Keep going!

They try to kick toward the light but are getting nowhere,  
the current pulls them backwards.

We hear a BOAT HORN and they look to where an ANCIENT TUG  
BOAT with a cabin that towers into the sky like a giraffe  
head, appears through the mist.

**EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - SERGEANT MAJOR'S BOAT - EVENING**

The girls climb aboard, lifting each other onto the deck.

They look up to the sound of FOOTSTEPS on the upper deck.

Hushpuppy looks up to see SERGEANT MAJOR (60) -

A big, timeless looking man with a salt and pepper  
moustache,

saunters up to the rail. He stares down, examining these  
runts with an air of suspicion.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I'm going by my Mamma.

He smiles broadly, as if this was the secret password. Him  
and Hushpuppy stare at each other and immediately there is  
understanding. Two lost souls in the wilderness.

**SERGEANT MAJOR**

That's a good place to go.

**64**

**EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - SERGEANT MAJOR'S BOAT - EVENING**

Hushpuppy sits adjacent to the Sergeant in the tug's  
elevated

wheelhouse. They are two stories up, and the white walls  
create a glow that makes us feel like we're almost in

another

dimension.

**HUSHPUPPY**

Which way are we going?

**SERGEANT MAJOR**

Don't matter baby, this boat'll  
take you exactly where you need to  
be. It's just that type of boat.

Hushpuppy and Sergeant Major share an ease unlike anyone  
else

we've seen Hushpuppy interacted with. They speak like an old  
teacher with his favorite disciple. They let their silences  
last.

**SERGEANT MAJOR (CONT'D)**

You want a chicken biscuit?

Hushpuppy shakes her head `no'.

**SERGEANT MAJOR (CONT'D)**

They're good for you.

A deep, far away melancholy settles over him. He munches on a chicken biscuit, then tosses the wrapper on the floor.

The

wheelhouse is wall to wall with chicken biscuit wrappers.

**SERGEANT MAJOR (CONT'D)**

I been eating these all my life. I keep the wrappers in the boat, `cause they remind me who I was when I ate each one. The smell make me feel cohesive.

**HUSHPUDDY**

I wanna be cohesive.

**SERGEANT MAJOR**

Oh you will be, I got no doubt in my mind.

swivel

They let this thought settle, then Hushpuppy turns her chair back toward the water

**65**

The beacon appears through the mist. Hushpuppy's eyes go wide.

As they approach, another boat comes into view. A half-sunken barge that looks as though its been rusting in the same position for a century. As we move in we see a lit up sign: "Elysian Fields Floating Catfish Shack **GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS.**"

**EXT./INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - ENTRANCE - EVENING**

barge

Hushpuppy, Joy, Tee-Lou, and Lizard disembark onto the barge with Sergeant Major following behind. They circle around a hatch in the floor with light pulsing out of it. Far-away JAZZ echoes up from the bowels of the ship. They look to each other in wonder.

**INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT**

at Hushpuppy descends a ladder into a glimmering wonderland. Christmas lights swallow the ceiling, and a light smoke facade encompasses everything. We feel like we're looking

a portal into the past, a Belloq-esque turned New Orleans Jazz parlor. The regulars are all oil-workers wooing their ladies of the night.

along There is a stage with a DJ and two singers, karaokeing with "Until the Real Thing Comes Along" by Fats Waller.

The hyperactive MISS FRANKIE, the matriarch of this establishment, comes a'hoppin'.

**MISS FRANKIE**

Holy crap you have toddlers!

**SERGEANT MAJOR**

Good afternoon, Miss Frankie.

**MISS FRANKIE**

Well butter my butt and call me a biscuit! How you, Sergeant Major? You need some grits?

**SERGEANT MAJOR**

Yes ma'am.

66

**MISS FRANKIE**

Holy Sugar, they are so precious! Y'all just as cute as a tub of puppies!

do Women descend on the kids who recoil, not knowing what to do with all this affection. Joy Strong puts up her fists.

Hushpuppy pushes through the crowd nonplussed by the flurry of doting ladies. They are not who she is looking for. They are not who she is looking for.

She scans pictures of strippers through the ages pasted up all over the ceiling, each of them with a bra hung on it, none of them right.

Bar patrons nod and tip their glasses to her as she passes, ladies smile and return to their drinks, drunk flirtatious dancers giggle at her, but she remains unfazed.

She reaches two swinging doors that lead to the kitchen.

Hushpuppy stops. Sniffs. Heaven.

SLOW MOTION: in Hushpuppy's POV, smoke curls through the swinging doors, the light illuminating the dust particles. It's a magic kitchen. Her POV tilts down to the floor where a pair of well-pedicured feet in flip-flops walks towards

the

swinging doors. They open.

Hushpuppy holds her breath.

A gorgeous COOK (35) wearing a baseball cap and an apron comes out the double doors. She wipes some sweat off her brow. She watches the band and kills a bottle of ice-cold beer.

The Cook looks down. Sees Hushpuppy.

**COOK**

You need something baby?

Hushpuppy nods, holding her breath. She still can't speak.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Well whatchu want? You alone?

Hushpuppy shrugs.

She's too stunned, too shy to speak.

**67**

The Cook takes stock of the helpless creature in front of her. Like a butcher shop owner with a pesky hungry puppy, she submits to Hushpuppy's longing gaze.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Get in here, I'm'll show you a magic trick.

Hushpuppy follows her into the magic kitchen, knocking her head against the swinging doors on her way in.

**INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - KITCHEN**

With the smooth fanfare of a circus performer, The Cook

lifts

at an egg, opens a beer bottle with her teeth, SPITS the cap  
the egg and it cracks over the grits.

Hushpuppy's face is joy beyond all measure. She watches the Cook's flying hands, she prepares everything in a single motion, it's like a dance. She slaps a fresh alligator tail on the table and begins sawing through the scales.

**COOK**

Lemme tell you somethin', when you're a child people tell you that everything's gonna be all hunky-dory and all that bullshit, but I'm here to tell you that it's not. So get that out your head right now.

Hushpuppy She removes the knife from the gator and aims it at  
like its a pointer.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Life's some big old feast, yeah, but you? You ain't nothin' but a stupid little waitress.

She scales a gator, strips the bones, dredges, fries.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Everything you got on your platter gonna fall on the floor and ain't nobody gonna be there to pick it up for you. Someday it's all gonna be on you.

**68**

She stirs the grits. Grits on plate. Gator on plate. Plate in front of Hushpuppy. Lemon is squeezed all over everything.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

So smile, girl.

to Hushpuppy tries to crack a grin. She barely remembers how  
smile and it comes out all wrong. The Cook shakes her head, opens another beer on her teeth, and heads for the pantry.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Nobody likes a pity-party-having-ass-woman.

of Hushpuppy stays behind staring into the floating particles  
dust in the incandescent light-- stars of the universe. The  
golden bubbling fry pot-- lava of the molten core.

**INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Four perfect gator nuggets are placed next to a sumptuous  
dollop of grits.

**COOK**

The gator's magic.

Hushpuppy looks up from her food-hypnosis.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

(encouraging a smile)  
Awwwwwwwww.

A real smile emerges across Hushpuppy's face.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

Mmm-hmm.

**INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT**

Magic soars as the couples rock back and forth on the dance  
floor. Strippers cradle their dates. It's all very sweet  
and tender. This seems to be the M.O of this strip club,  
slow-dance not pole-dance.

love. The kids are each dancing with a stripper, glowing with  
They are orphans in a heaven of mothers.

**69**

We float back to Hushpuppy, the camera dances with her and  
the Cook.

The Cook squeezes Hushpuppy and spins her. Each time we  
catch their face their eyes are wetter and wetter.

**HUSHPUPPY**

You can take care of me. Me and  
Daddy.

After a long beat.

The Cook shakes her head `no.'

**COOK**

I don't know nothing bout your  
Daddy, I can't take care of nobody  
but myself.

This sinks into Hushpuppy.

**COOK (CONT'D)**

You can stay if you want.

Hushpuppy considers this for a moment, squeezes the Cook.

**HUSHPUPPY**

This is my favorite thing.

**COOK**

I know.

A far-away look has come over her. Her mind is somewhere  
else.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

I can count all the time I've been  
lifted.

**INT. HUSHPUPPY'S HOUSE - DIMLY LIT ROOM - DAY**

We look up at a face that's slowly coming into focus- it's  
Wink, younger and healthier.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

I can count all the times I've been  
lifted on two fingers.

**70**

He is the first sight of the slimy newborn baby girl tucked  
in his arm. Baby Hushpuppy stares up at him as he carries  
her.

**WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)**

Wink! Bring my baby here! They  
need to wash her off.

**WINK**

Naw, that waits.

Baby Hushpuppy's huge-eyed, warped facial expression ogles  
Wink. She coos.

**WINK (CONT'D)  
(TO HUSHPUPPY)**

Alright fatso, breathe some air.

They pass through a doorway and sun washes over Baby Hushpuppy. She smiles and smiles at the world.

**INT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DANCEFLOOR - NIGHT**

Back in reality Hushpuppy gathers herself. She's suddenly not hugging back, just being held.

**HUSHPUPPY**

I need to go home.

**COOK  
(WHISPERED)**

No.

Hushpuppy cups her hand to the Cook's ear and whispers something inaudible.

adopting The Cook squeezes her tight, seeming on the verge of her. But she can't. She spins Hushpuppy around and around, then puts her down without meeting her gaze.

Hushpuppy watches her disappear into the crowd of swaying couples.

of All goes quiet, and we sit behind Hushpuppy's head, a sea light like a crown around her.

MUSIC SWELLS. Decisively, with the force of a charging general, Hushpuppy turns and runs toward camera.

**71**

**EXT. DEAD OAK RIDGE - DAY**

to MATCH CUT to Hushpuppy leading Joy, Tee-Lou, and Lizard across a ridge dotted with Dead Oak trees, she's come back to the Bathtub.

**EXT. DEAD OAK RIDGE - WATER - DAY**

The camera moves over the water, past the dead oaks.

the We turn the corner past a stretch of marsh, and come upon Aurochs, four of them, now suddenly and viscerally in the landscape of the Bathtub, swimming steadily toward solid land.

**INT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

The Bathtub crew sits by Wink's bed. His eyes are open, but everyone is silently waiting for the inevitable.

**EXT. ARK WRECKAGE - DAY**

The children crest the ridge.

The RUMBLE of Aurochs hoofs is suddenly and violently audible.

massive Hushpuppy turns. She catches a glimpses of something moving behind the distant oaks.

The kids turn and hustle down the ridge.

Hushpuppy, Joy, Tee-Lou, and Lizard hustle down hill with increased urgency. The DISTANT TRAMPLING is growing louder.

Behind Hushpuppy the dark shapes of the Aurochs crest the ridge in a deafening STAMPEDE. Joy, Tee-Lou, and Lizard scream and sprint out in front of Hushpuppy.

Hushpuppy walks steadily forward, refusing to run. Her face locked with determination, she is unafraid. Her eyes shoot toward the shacko.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

Wink, with all his strength looks toward Hushpuppy, their eyes meet.

72

In Wink's POV, Hushpuppy stops dead on the bridge, waiting for her fate, staring toward her father.

**EXT. ARK WRECKAGE - DAY**

large,  
The Aurochs bear down on Hushpuppy from behind, their footsteps rattling the frame. They grow inconceivably the camera has to tilt to hold the frame.

Hushpuppy balls her fists and stands her ground. Suddenly, she turns.

The Aurochs ROARS. Then, inches away from Hushpuppy, she stops. She SNORTS, blowing Hushpuppy's hair back. Hushpuppy doesn't flinch.

The Aurochs stares face to face with Hushpuppy. Sniffs.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

Wink is frozen in wonder, unable to believe his eyes.

**EXT. ARK WRECKAGE - DAY**

Hushpuppy raises her chin in confident defiance.

Now in full profile, we see the Aurochs towering 15-feet tall, she takes a step forwards, sniffs again. A low SNORT, or is it a purr?

The Aurochs lowers her head with respect.

Her eyes well with emotion, recognizing one of her own. A ferocious warrior.

The Aurochs steps back, takes a knee, and with a BELLY FLOP that rattles the very earth, she lays down. Her three companions follow suit, their fat tummies settling into an almost joyful, lazy, repass.

A strange calm has settled over Hushpuppy. Almost a smile, but more of a peace and an affection for her equal. They're both children in their way.

**HUSHPUPPY**

You're my friend, kind of.

**73**

Mother Aurochs grunts, a sentence only Hushpuppy can understand.

**HUSHPUPPY (CONT'D)**

I gotta take care of mine.

With weary and clumsy steps, the Aurochs stand and retreat.

**EXT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

Hushpuppy approaches the shacko. It's like walking the plank, but she's unafraid, at one with her destiny.

The Bathtub crew look on her in awe. They part ways to let her pass.

She reaches the door, steeling her reserve.

Hushpuppy opens the door.

**INT. SHACKO IN THE BACKO - DAY**

Wink is curled up on Hushpuppy's bed-- very, very thin. His eyes are closed. His chest heaves up and down in short violent breaths. Hushpuppy stands and stares.

last  
Wink looks at Hushpuppy in reverence. He knows it's the time.

Wink motions for her to come closer.

Hushpuppy inches toward him. It takes all of her might. She sits on his bed.

dips  
Hushpuppy takes her to-go container from Elysian Fields out of a paper bag and pops it. She unwraps a gator nugget, it in hot sauce, and holds it out for Wink to take a bite.

Hushpuppy watches as Wink chews weakly. She eats one herself.

and  
Wink and Hushpuppy draw it out. They don't want it to end. It takes a full minute for him to swallow the first bite, she paces herself to finish when he does.

**WINK**  
**(BARELY AUDIBLE)**

Real good.

**74**

Wink's chest heaves up and down, harder and harder. A tear

rolls down his face.

**WINK (CONT'D)**  
**(CHOKING UP)**

No crying, you hear?

She holds them back, being tough for her Daddy.

**HUSHPUPPY**

No crying.

see  
there.  
Hushpuppy's face hardens, and even as the tears fall, we  
a strength and composure that only Wink could have put

She falls into his arms and he embraces her.

Hushpuppy squeezes Wink. She does not let go. She stays strong.

Wink's hand trembles on her back.

and  
She holds him as his deep, warm, heartbeat slows, slows,  
stops. His weight slumps over her. She keeps on holding  
him, but she knows.

**EXT. GRAVEYARD BY THE WATER - DAY**

Steadfast, Hushpuppy holds a torch on the edge of the  
Bathtub. The Turck, piled with branches, floats in front of  
her.

body  
covering  
She lowers the flame and lights a cloth covering Wink's  
aflame. She pushes the funeral pyre out into the current.  
We watch the boat flames drift into the foreground,

Hushpuppy face with flames. She looks into them in all her  
grief and wisdom.

The group begins a funeral prayer, playing quiet in the  
background as Hushpuppy contemplates the pyre.

**PETER T**

As I stand by the bayou,

Everyone else joins him.

**EVERYONE**

A ship at my side starts her motors  
and sails for the gulf. I watch  
her until she disappears. "There!

**(MORE)**

75

**EVERYONE (CONT'D)**

She's gone!" Gone where? Gone  
from my eyes, that's all. She's  
just as big as when she left me.  
And somewhere else, other voices  
are calling out, "Here she comes!"  
And that is dying.

They raise their drinks to the sky and shout in unison.

**EVERYONE (CONT'D)**

**HERE! SHE! COMES!**

Hushpuppy gazes into the sparks leaping off the top of the  
fire are foregrounded in front of Hushpuppy, particles of  
Wink jumping into the sky. HORNS ENTER, droning low, and  
building into an funeral dirge.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

When I relax behind my eyes I see  
everything that made me flying  
around in invisible pieces. When I  
look too hard it goes away, but  
when it all goes quiet, I see they  
are right here.

take

The Turck almost disappears over the horizon. The HORNS

a hopeful turn, the melancholy of the dirge mixing with the  
anthem of the Bathtub.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

I see that I'm a little piece of a  
big, big universe, and that makes  
things right.

Hushpuppy stands tiny on the ledge of the Earth, framed in  
front of an expanse of endless water.

**EXT. CAUSEWAY - POST-FLOOD - DAY**

The Bathtub gang marches across the marsh road. Hands touch  
the town sign, saying goodbye.

**HUSHPUPPY (V.O.)**

When I die, the scientists of the future, they gonna find it all. They gonna know, once there was a Hushpuppy, and she lived with her Daddy in the Bathtub.

**76**

We CUT WIDE to reveal that the water is rising and washing over the road. Our heroes are marching on the final sliver of land. The camera flies backwards, and our view of the road disappears into mist and churning waves. They appear

to

be walking on water.

Hushpuppy leads them forward, into the future.

**CUT TO BLACK.**