

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

Story by

Peter Sohn
Erik Benson
Meg LeFauve
Kelsey Mann
Bob Peterson

Screenplay by

Meg LeFauve

EXT. SPACE

An asteroid belt.

CARD: 65 MILLION YEARS AGO

An asteroid bumps another asteroid off course. Its new trajectory: Earth.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

A GROUP OF DINOSAURS peacefully eat in a field.

INTERCUT ASTEROID/DINOSAURS

The asteroid continues descending...

The dinosaurs continue chewing, unaware...

The asteroid is burning up in Earth's atmosphere...

The dinosaurs are still eating...

ZIP! The asteroid misses Earth!

A meteor streaks across the night sky. The dinosaurs go back to their business, saved from extinction...

FADE TO BLACK.

CARD: MILLIONS OF YEARS LATER

FADE IN:

EXT. WESTERN FRONTIER - DAY

Iconic widescreen "frontier" shots: big skies, majestic clouds, jagged peaks.

CARD: DISNEY PRESENTS

CARD: A PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS FILM

EXT. FARM - DAY

A flowing RIVER, next to it a frontier farm.

A pit-house and long neatly plowed fields beneath a MOUNTAIN RANGE WITH THREE DISTINCT PEAKS.

CARD: THE GOOD DINOSAUR

A breeze ripples crops.

Hay bales next to a fence surrounding the farmland.

The ground shakes. Four gigantic dinosaur feet walk by. The camera reveals a massive shadow, and then... an Apatosaurus, walking across his farm. This is HENRY.

BOOM! Henry uses his tail to knock down a tree. He adds it to a large pile. He digs his snout into the ground, plows long furrows into the tough dirt.

Alongside Henry is his hardworking Apatosaurus wife, IDA, carrying a yoke of seeds. She scatters them into the fresh furrows.

DISSOLVE TO:

Small sprouts grow in rows across the field.

Henry dips his head into the river, gets a mouthful of water. He turns back toward the crops, sprays the water through his teeth across the rows.

IDA (O.S.)

Henry!

Henry turns toward the cabin.

IDA

It's time!

Henry's face lights up.

INT. CABIN - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Henry and Ida stand over a nest with THREE EGGS; two are small, but the third one is huge!

HENRY

Which one did you say moved?

IDA

The one on the left.

A smaller egg starts to rock back and forth. The egg cracks open and a big, healthy Apatosaurus, LIBBY, pokes her head out of the top. A piece of shell rests on her forehead.

IDA/HENRY

Aw.

IDA
You're a poppa.

HENRY
You're a momma.

The top of the shell falls to the ground. Libby reaches for it, and her egg tips over, falling on top of her.

Poppa reaches down, lifts up the egg shell. But Libby's gone!

NEWBORN LIBBY (O.S.)
(squeaky roar)

She's on Momma's back. She slides down Momma's neck. Momma quickly grabs her by the tail before she lands on the ground.

MOMMA
You little sneak. Hello Libby.

POPPA
Libby.

The next small egg moves in the nest.

Momma and Poppa wait excitedly.

BAM. A leg punches out of the top, stretches around. BAM. BAM. BAM. Three more punch out.

The egg darts toward Poppa, crashing into a log post. It crumbles away and another big, healthy Apatosaurus, BUCK, shakes his head.

POPPA
Hello, Buck.

Buck picks up a nearby stick and starts happily bashing away at Poppa's leg.

POPPA
(to Momma)
He's got your eyes.

The final, giant egg begins to move. Momma and Poppa wait in excitement. And wait. Nothing.

Buck appears out of nowhere, starts hitting the egg with his stick.

POPPA
Get out of there, you little
prickle bush!

Poppa chases Buck off the nest.

ON THE LARGE EGG: A crack grows around the top...

POPPA
Alright, this is gonna be a big
one!

ON THE EGG: The top falls off... but no one is inside!

Worried, Poppa and Momma lean forward to look into the egg. A tiny Apatosaurus head rises up and peeks, fearful, over the edge of the egg shell.

POPPA
Hello Arlo.

Arlo looks up at his Poppa and Momma, then goes back down inside the shell.

Poppa smiles, tips the egg to see tiny Arlo, clinging in fear to the bottom of the shell.

POPPA
Come on out.

Arlo hesitantly steps out of the shell, like a cat stepping in water. He looks up at his parents: his head is too big for his body, his legs so wobbly.

MOMMA
Look at you.

Arlo steps forward, but the weight of his oversized head tips him over onto his nose.

Buck appears out of nowhere, starts beating Arlo with his stick.

POPPA
Buck!

Buck runs off, Libby chases after him.

Excited by his siblings, Arlo runs to join them, zigzagging back and forth, trying to get his balance.

EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Buck and Libby have stopped in the doorway, but Arlo can't stop, tumbles past them, rolling out onto the farm. He looks up, sees the THREE GIGANTIC MOUNTAIN PEAKS behind the cabin. Poppa joins Arlo.

POPPA
That's Clawtooth Mountain.

Poppa gestures to the fields.

POPPA
And this is our farm.

Libby, Buck, and Momma gather round, looking at the big world outside.

MOMMA
And we're all gonna take care of it together.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY (FIVE YEARS LATER)

Fully grown corn.

ON LIBBY: Now 5, watering a corn field.

Buck, also now 5, is nearby stacking logs.

Libby sees Buck coming toward her, gets an idea. She hides in the corn rows. As Buck walks by, Libby spits water at him.

YOUNG BUCK
What -- !

Angry, Buck turns around searching for the culprit. Libby pokes her head out.

YOUNG LIBBY
Gotcha!

YOUNG BUCK
Libby!

Buck reaches into the water well nearby, takes in a mouthful. Libby goads him by sticking her tongue out, then hides in the corn.

Buck spits water at her as she runs back and forth through the rows, taunting him. The whole field is soaked!

Libby runs out of the field, and Buck sprays her with the little water he has left.

YOUNG BUCK
Got you back!

Libby calls to Momma who is nearby.

YOUNG LIBBY
Momma! I'm done watering!

MOMMA
Good job Libby. Buck, get back to
your chores!

Buck fumes.

YOUNG BUCK
What?!

YOUNG LIBBY
Thanks Buck.

YOUNG BUCK
But -- I -- I --

He groans, rolling his head in frustration.

Arlo, also now 5, stands next to Momma by the field. She places freshly shucked corn into a BUCKET around his neck.

MOMMA
You're all set.

She gives him a loving nuzzle.

YOUNG ARLO
Can't I do somethin' else, Momma?

Momma nudges Arlo with her tail.

MOMMA
Get goin'.

YOUNG ARLO
Okay.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - CONTINUOUS

Arlo carries the bucket of feed toward the chicken pen.

He swallows. It's ominous. He's nervous, doesn't want to go in there.

He steps in cautiously, begins tossing the corn on the ground.

RUSTLE OF BUSHES.

YOUNG ARLO

Who is that?

RUSTLE OF BUSHES.

Arlo hides behind his bucket.

TWEET. TWEET. TWEET. A tiny, adorable, PREHISTORIC CHICK comes out of the grass.

YOUNG ARLO

Oh... hey Eustice.

Arlo notices a bit of clover tangled on Eustice's foot.

YOUNG ARLO

Oh -- you stuck little guy?

Arlo gently nibbles at the weeds.

YOUNG ARLO

Let me get that for you.

Eustice stays put.

YOUNG ARLO

You're free... Hello, move. Go find your poppa. And your...

BOOM. BOOM. Two ugly feet with giant talons step next to Arlo. HENRIETTA -- the chick's ugly, mean...

YOUNG ARLO

...momma.

Arlo freezes.

CUT TO:

The gate slams open, Arlo runs, screaming! Henrietta chasing Arlo out of the pen.

EXT. SILO - CONTINUOUS

Poppa at the silo, working. Momma, Buck, and Libby nearby.

Arlo runs past Poppa heading straight toward the river! Poppa stretches out his tail, grabs Arlo, curling him up close.

POPPA

Whoa! The river is not somethin' to mess around with there, Arlo. Be careful. What's the problem?

YOUNG ARLO

Poppa, Henrietta is the worst one
in the coop.

POPPA

Yesterday you said Footless Fran
was the worst.

YOUNG ARLO

She's only got one foot!

POPPA

You don't have to like 'em, Arlo.
You just have to feed 'em.

Poppa fills the silo with corn through a small opening. He
seals up the hole with a boulder.

POPPA

That should do it.

He turns to the family.

POPPA

Now this will keep them rotten
critters from stealin' our food,
because I made this silo one
hundred percent critter proof.

MOMMA

Put your mark on there, Henry. You
earned it.

YOUNG BUCK

Yeah Poppa, do it! Come on.

YOUNG LIBBY/YOUNG ARLO

Yeah!

Poppa smiles.

POPPA

Only if your momma does it first.
If anyone's earned a mark 'round
here, it's her.

Momma smiles. She puts her foot into the mud, and marks one
of the rocks. Poppa follows, putting his mark up too. They
stand back, looking at the marks, smiling.

MOMMA

Did you just put your mark higher
than mine?

POPPA

What? No! It's just the angle
you're looking at it.

MOMMA

The angle, huh?

Momma nudges Poppa playfully.

YOUNG BUCK

Ooo -- ooo -- ooo -- me too!
I want to put my mark on!

YOUNG LIBBY

Me -- me -- I-I wanna make my
mark!

YOUNG ARLO

Oh please, I wanna do it! My turn!

They all stomp their feet into the mud, run toward the silo.

POPPA

Now hold on, it's not that easy.

He stops them.

POPPA

You've gotta earn your mark. By
doin' somethin' big, for somethin'
bigger than yourself.

They consider it.

POPPA

Someday you'll all make your mark,
and I can't wait to see it.

ON ARLO: Smiling with determination, looking at Momma and
Poppa's marks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOODED FIELD - DAY (FIVE YEARS LATER)

Buck, 10, cracks his neck, getting himself ready. He leans
down and pulls up a massive tree! He throws it on a stack of
huge logs. He has cleared a whole new field. Poppa and Momma
stand proudly watching.

POPPA

That is how you clear a field.
Attaboy Buck.

Arlo, 10, runs by screaming, chased by CHICKENS.

Poppa chuckles. Momma looks at Poppa concerned.

POPPA

He'll figure it out. Be just fine.

EXT. SILO - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Buck, Momma, and Poppa at the silo.

POPPA

Go on Buck, you earned it.

Buck puts his mark up.

MOMMA

Good job son.

Behind them, Arlo looks at the mark, the bucket of corn feed around his neck. He sees how proud Momma and Poppa are.

EXT. FIELD OF FURROWS - DAY

Libby, 10, plows in the rain as Momma and Poppa cheer her on.

MOMMA

You got it, Libby! Just a little bit more!

Libby finishes, beaming.

POPPA

Beautiful.

MOMMA

You earned your mark sweetheart.

EXT. SILO - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

ON LIBBY: Making her mark. Momma and Poppa, next to Libby, so proud.

Arlo watches from afar, still with the bucket of corn feed.

BAWK. Arlo turns, sees the flock of chickens staring at him!

Arlo screams, running by Momma, Poppa, and Libby -- chased by the chickens. He bumps into Buck, who is stacking trees. Buck's whole pile gets knocked down.

BUCK

Arlo!

Poppa turns to Momma, this time less positive.

POPPA
He'll get there.

EXT. SILO - DAY

ON ARLO: Looking longingly at the family's marks on the silo. The rock next to Poppa's, waiting for his mark.

Arlo's determined.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Arlo marches into frame, the bucket of feed around his neck. He's in "Barney Fife" mode, full of false bravado.

Arlo marches across the field, opens the chicken pen gate. The chickens stick their heads up out of the bushes, clucking and scratching.

ARLO
Alright you cluckers, you're about
to get fed!

He stalks toward the flock.

BUCK
Arloooo...

Arlo sees Buck laying in the grass, hurt. So beat up he can barely speak.

BUCK
Come here...

ARLO
Buck! What happened?!

BUCK
I came to help you with your
chores. And then they attacked.

ARLO
You're gonna be okay.

BUCK
Tell Momma I love her. I see a
light!

His eyes close, his head rolls to the side -- he's dead!

ARLO
I-I'll go get help!

A shadow slowly rises behind Arlo. Arlo turns and sees a GIANT CHICKEN!

BUCK
Bawwwkkk! BAWK!

It attacks Arlo! Arlo screams! Until he realizes -- Buck is laughing!

BUCK
Oh, you should see your face.

Arlo whirls around, sees the giant chicken is BUCK'S TAIL DRESSED UP IN DISGUISE.

ARLO
I should've known!

Arlo, furious, whacks the disguise away. He starts pounding Buck in the chest, but Buck is unaffected by the hits.

ARLO
You always gotta mess me up!

Buck has had enough.

BUCK
Me?!

He casually kicks his leg, the force throws Arlo to the ground.

BUCK
You mess up your chores, and everyone else's!

Arlo struggles to get up. Buck feints going after him, Arlo flinches.

BUCK
You're such a coward.

POPPA (O.S.)
Buck!

Momma, Poppa, and Libby come up to the gate.

ARLO
I ain't a coward! And I'm gonna make my mark, just like you and Libby and everyone!

MOMMA

You will, darlin'. You just need a little more time.

That hurts. Arlo stares at the ground.

ARLO

Forget it. I didn't even want that dumb mark anyway.

Arlo stalks off. Momma looks to Poppa: "We gotta do something."

POPPA

I got an idea.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

The nighttime farm, peaceful.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

The family asleep in the cabin.

POPPA

Arlo. Arlo. Wake up.

Arlo opens his eyes, unsure in the dark. He sees Poppa standing over him.

POPPA

Come with me.

Poppa heads to the door.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

It's scary out here, NIGHTTIME SOUNDS, dark shadows. Arlo stays close to Poppa.

A HOWL goes up!

Arlo shudders, looks back, and sees how far they are from the cabin. The wilderness beyond the fence surrounding them. He can just make out the big Clawtooth Mountain peaks rising in the dark.

ARLO

Where're we goin'?

POPPA
You'll see.

They come to a field of high grass, pocketed with fog.

POPPA
Okay, now take a walk out there.

ARLO
By myself?

POPPA
Go on.

Arlo, scared but wanting to impress his father, cautiously moves out into the grass.

An UGLY BUG flies up out of the grass and lands on Arlo's nose. Arlo looks at it, frightened.

ARLO
Poppa. Poppa.

Poppa comes over. Arlo is frozen.

POPPA
Calm down. Breathe.

Poppa gently blows on the bug... It glows! Arlo's eyes go wide in awe... The firefly lifts off Arlo's nose, flies away into the night.

Poppa walks further out into the field. He looks to Arlo.

POPPA
Sometimes you gotta get through
your fear to see the beauty on the
other side.

Poppa swishes his tail in the grass and HUNDREDS OF FIREFLIES fly up into the air!

ARLO
Wow!

Poppa smiles, runs, whooping through the grass, fireflies lifting off all around him, like shimmering stars. Arlo loves it, follows.

Arlo and Poppa running through the field together, chasing fireflies, making the night dance.

Poppa jumps, BOOM! His big feet landing -- creating a circle of fireflies rippling out into the tall grass and up into the starry sky.

Poppa's tail comes around Arlo. And Arlo leans into his Poppa, content, safe. Poppa looks down at Arlo.

POPPA

I got a new job for you tomorrow.
That is, if you still wanna make
your mark.

Arlo smiles up at his father: he sure does!

INT. SILO - DAY

Poppa peers through a hole in the silo, corn at the top lays HALF EATEN.

POPPA

A dang wilderness critter's comin'
over the fence, eatin' our food,
and I've had it up to my snout.

EXT. SILO - CONTINUOUS

Angry, Poppa kicks the corn on the ground.

Arlo stands next to him at the silo, sees the rocks from the silo on the ground, the scattered half eaten corn cobs.

POPPA

If this keeps up, we won't have
enough food to survive the winter.

Arlo understands the seriousness of this.

POPPA

That's why YOU are gonna catch that
critter.

ON ARLO: Me?! Excited!

We now watch as Arlo and Poppa build a trap near the silo!

Arlo pulls a piece of rope around a tree stump.

Poppa pulls one end of rope, Arlo pulls the other. They tie rocks to the middle, creating a NET.

Arlo sets the trap, pulling the net high into the tree as Poppa sets bait under the net -- a pile of corn. Poppa places the trap's trigger, a stick, in the bait.

POPPA

Then, along comes a critter...

Poppa rolls a pumpkin onto the pile of corn, hitting the trigger. The rope snaps, the net falls down to the ground. A BUNDLE OF BRANCHES rattles loudly signifying the trap is set.

Poppa picks up a HUGE STICK.

POPPA

And this is how you're gonna finish the job.

He brings the stick down fast, smashing the pumpkin.

ON ARLO: Gulp!

Poppa sets the stick next to the silo.

POPPA

When that critter's takin' care of, you'll put your mark on the silo, right next to mine.

Arlo looks up, his eyes light up.

ARLO

I'll take care of the critter, Poppa. It won't stand a chance.

EXT. SILO - DAY (LATER)

Arlo marches in front of the silo, guarding it. He carries the giant stick Poppa left.

A BEETLE flies by and Arlo darts for it.

ARLO

What're you doing, you bug?! Get outta here...

Arlo chases it off.

A leaf falls nearby.

ARLO

Move along leaf! Move along!

The leaf floats off. Arlo is pleased with himself but then...

THE RATTLE OF THE TRAP SOUNDS.

ON ARLO: He freezes, turns slowly toward the trap.

Scary THRASHING SOUNDS come from the trap. Arlo prepares himself with his big stick, goes to investigate.

The horrible thrashing sounds grow louder with each step Arlo takes... getting closer... closer...

He lifts his head over the tall grass and finds an animal struggling in the trap. The critter is pissed off, screaming and fighting the trap.

Suddenly, the critter turns toward Arlo! Arlo ducks back down, hiding in the brush.

Beat.

The critter bites at the trap, pushing toward Arlo. Scared, Arlo moves back toward the silo.

But then Arlo swallows, gets determined. This is his job!

He raises the stick over his head preparing for the kill.

ARLO

Y-Y-You're dead critter.

Arlo notices the ropes are biting into the critter, hurting it. It is choking and close to death.

The critter looks up -- its gaze is penetrating -- connecting with Arlo.

Arlo can't do it, he lowers the branch.

Arlo moves to the side -- still well away from the critter -- and springs the trap. The ropes fall from the critter, and we now see it's a HUMAN BOY.

The boy, shocked, looks at the loosened ropes around his feet.

THUNDER in the distance, a storm is approaching.

ARLO

Okay... you're free.

The boy/critter sniffs toward Arlo.

ARLO

W-W-What are you doing? Jus-just leave! Flee!

But the boy/critter keeps coming. Arlo backs away.

ARLO
Stay back. Go!

BAM. Arlo trips over a rock. The boy/critter is almost on him!

It's too much, Arlo is terrified. He screams!

Arlo's yell startles the boy/critter, it takes off into the high grass, running on all fours.

POPPA
ARLO!

Poppa rushes up, sees the critter take off into the wilderness. Poppa can't believe it!

POPPA
Why'd you let it go?!

ARLO
It was was bitin', and comin' at me
and screechin'... and I --

POPPA
You had a job to do!

ON ARLO: He knows he failed.

Poppa is angry! We've never seen him like this, he's intense, intimidating.

POPPA
You gotta get over your fear, Arlo,
or you won't survive out here!

Poppa makes a decision.

POPPA
Come on.

Poppa marches Arlo across the farm, following the CRITTER'S TRACKS. He uses his tail to push Arlo forward.

POPPA
We're gonna finish your job right
now.

EXT. FARM FENCE - CONTINUOUS

They get to the fence, Arlo hesitates looking out at the scary wilderness. It's starting to rain.

ARLO
Out there?

Poppa turns.

POPPA
Get over.

Poppa uses his tail to help Arlo over the fence.

The rain picks up in earnest.

Poppa and Arlo move out into the wilderness, toward the mountain pass.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - CONTINUOUS

Arlo looks back at the farm as it vanishes in the distance. The wind is getting strong. Arlo looks up. Storm clouds swirl above. He stays very close to Poppa, trying to be tough.

ARLO
But Poppa, what if we get lost?

Poppa stays intent on his tracking, still frustrated with Arlo.

POPPA
As long as you can find the river,
you can find your way home.

Poppa pushes Arlo further along.

POPPA
What do you see?

Arlo is confused, afraid...

ARLO
Uh, uh t-t-tracks?

POPPA
And they're washin' out, we gotta
move.

Poppa is rushing, Arlo tries to keep up.

POPPA
We're losin' it!

Poppa pushes harder, running to keep the tracks in sight. Arlo tries to keep up, but is falling behind.

POPPA
Arlo, keep movin'!

BOOM. CRASH. A storm cell circles above them.

CRASH. Lightning flashes.

Arlo flinches and trips over a boulder. He tumbles to the ground, hurting his leg.

ARLO
Poppa, wait!

Poppa keeps pushing forward.

POPPA
Arlo what did I say about keep --

Poppa turns back, sees Arlo struggling, limping. Poppa realizes he's gone too far. He stops. Goes to Arlo.

POPPA
It's -- it's okay. It's okay Arlo.
I'm s -- I'm sorry. I just wanted
you to... get through your fear. I
know you have it in you.

ARLO
But I'm not like you.

POPPA
You're me and more.

Arlo looks up to Poppa.

CRACK. BOOM. THUNDER rolls over their heads, so close. Arlo flinches.

Poppa looks up at the storm, turns to Arlo.

POPPA
I think we went far enough today.

He lifts Arlo out of the mud.

POPPA
Storm's gettin' worse, let's get
you home.

They start to head back, Arlo still limping.

The GROUND STARTS TO SHAKE. Poppa looks up, alarmed. The RIVER IS RISING. Now Poppa is all urgency.

POPPA
Arlo, MOVE.

He pushes Arlo up the hill, away from the river. Arlo's feet slip on the wet rocks as Poppa pushes him.

CRASH. Poppa looks upriver. Something huge is barreling toward them, trees are falling!

POPPA
Run Arlo!

There is a ROAR.

Arlo looks ahead through the trees and sees, like a horrible monster, FLOOD WATER BANKING DOWN THE NARROW CANYON, ROARING TOWARD THEM.

Arlo freezes, too terrified to move. Poppa grabs Arlo, throws him up the bank. Arlo lands hard, looks back to his father.

ARLO
Poppa!

Poppa struggles to climb up the ledge. The flood water tumbling toward him.

ARLO
Poppa! Poppa! POPPA!

Poppa looks to Arlo just as the WALL OF WATER HITS.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

ON POPPA GRAVE MARKER: Fresh flowers.

Pan over to the farm. Crops once lush are going fallow. Poppa's death has brought very hard times for the family.

They are all out working hard, harvesting. Buck and Libby work a few rows away from Arlo and Momma.

Momma has a huge load of corn on her back. Clearly tired, she starts to walk, stumbles to the ground.

ARLO

Momma!

Arlo runs to her.

MOMMA

If we don't get this harvest in
before the first snow, we won't
have enough food for winter.

That sinks in.

MOMMA

I know it's hard without Poppa.
But I need you to do more Arlo.

He picks up some corn she dropped.

ARLO

Don't worry Momma. I won't let us
starve.

MOMMA

You're a good son.

EXT. SILO - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Arlo sees the footprints on the silo. He looks at Poppa's
mark, the blank stone next to it.

Beat as he feels the loss of his father. But he has to do his
job for Momma...

Arlo uses his mouth to pull a rock loose from the silo, sets
it on the ground. He takes a corn stalk from his back and
strips it against the rock. He throws the cob into the silo.
Arlo reaches for another stalk...

A corn cob flies out of the silo -- HALF EATEN. A second
eaten corn cob flies out. Arlo is shocked.

INT. SILO - CONTINUOUS

Arlo looks into the dark silo and sees the human boy eating
corn! The boy throws a corn cob over his back. It hits Arlo
in the face.

ARLO

You!

The boy turns, sees Arlo, spits out another corn cob.

ARLO

You've got some nerve comin'
here...

The boy stalks toward Arlo. But Arlo is angry, lunges at the critter. The boy dodges him.

EXT. SILO - CONTINUOUS

The boy is fast, jumps out of the way, down onto Arlo's back. The boy grabs a stalk of corn, leaps to the ground and runs.

ARLO

It's all your fault!

The boy moves swiftly on all fours. Arlo chases him, biting at him, trying to grab hold of the stalk.

ARLO

My poppa would still be alive if it
weren't for you!

Arlo gets ahold of the stalk of corn, but the boy doesn't let go. Instead the boy climbs on top of Arlo's face, freaking Arlo out!

Trying to get the critter off, Arlo twirls in circles, suddenly falling backward -- SPLASH: INTO THE RIVER!

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Arlo tumbles in the water, gasping for air!

He sees the farm receding.

ARLO

Help --

Arlo gets pulled under, he leaps for air.

ARLO

MOMMA! MOMMA!! MOMMA!!!

But he's already too far away, the current pulling him down the river.

Arlo struggles to keep afloat. The rapids pull him under, he spins in circles, resurfaces.

There's a giant boulder ahead. Arlo gets pulled under by the current. BAM. He hits his head, almost knocked out.

Arlo resurfaces, his vision fading. The last thing he sees are the looming jagged peaks of Clawtooth Mountain. Arlo passes out.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. SANDBAR - DAY

Arlo slowly comes to, his body beached on a small sandbar. He struggles to stand, in shock, dazed, his body aching.

He stumbles to the rocky beach. His feet and legs are scratched and bleeding. He feels a bruise on his head. Grimaces in pain.

He looks up, around the sandbar, trying to get his bearings. He's surrounded by cliff walls.

ARLO

Momma?

No reply.

ARLO

Momma!

Nothing.

Scared, Arlo tries to climb up the cliff wall, but his fear stops him, the loose dirt crumbling under his feet. He slips, and falls all the way back down to the rocky beach. He lays on the ground a moment, bruised and battered, catching his breath.

A HOWL goes up.

Startled, Arlo looks up and sees a figure at the top of the cliff. It's the same critter/boy from the farm! The boy looks down at Arlo, in what seems like curiosity. Arlo isn't curious -- he's pissed!

ARLO

You!

Furious, Arlo propels himself up the cliff to get at the boy!

ARLO

I -- I should have killed you...
the first time.

The boy just sits at the edge of the cliff, watching, as Arlo ineptly gets up the cliff.

Arlo lifts his head up over the ledge. He uses his neck to inch forward toward the boy.

ARLO
This is all your fault!

He bites at the boy, trying to get ahold of him. The boy quietly watches Arlo's struggle.

ARLO
Get over here! Get over here!

Suddenly, the boy tries to climb on Arlo's face again!

ARLO
Ah! Get away! Get AWAY! GET AWAY!
GET -- A -- WAY!!!

Arlo jerks his neck, tossing the boy back. The boy tumbles and then gets up, looks at Arlo, still unfazed. The boy turns and uses his hind legs to kick dirt in Arlo's face.

That's it! Arlo's had it! He rolls himself up the ledge ready to fight! But the boy is gone. Human hand and foot prints lead into the wilderness.

ARLO
That's right, you better run!

PSSHHHH. The SOUND OF A GEYSER echoes through the wilderness.

Arlo sees the geysers lining a far ridge. The highest point Arlo can see, which means the best place to see his surroundings.

EXT. RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Arlo climbs to the top of the ridge, the WIND WHISTLING around him and he sees... vast miles of unpopulated wilderness.

ARLO
Where am I?

Arlo turns in circles, his panic growing. On all sides, just more wilderness.

ARLO
Where's home?

He spots the river in the valley below him, going on for miles and miles... and Arlo realizes...

ARLO

As long as you can find the river,
you can find your way home.

Arlo starts his journey upriver.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DAY (LATER)

Arlo, tired, hungry, following the river through the woods. He seems very small in this big world. He looks for food, but finds nothing.

SQUISH. Arlo steps on berries scattered on the ground. He tastes the squashed fruit off his foot... it's pretty good. His stomach GROWLS. Arlo looks up the hillside, a BERRY TREE!

EXT. ROCKY SLOPE/BERRY TREE - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Arlo balances on a boulder, trying to reach the berries hanging high in a tree.

The boulder tilts down the small incline... Arlo almost loses his balance, but catches himself. His hunger is making him more daring. He stretches his neck forward, blowing on the berries to get them to swing closer to him. He tries to grab them with his teeth. Almost got them --

CRACK. The boulder gives way, tumbling down the slope. Arlo crashes to the ground! BAM... BAM.

Arlo lays there stunned, frustrated. He picks himself up -- BUT HIS FOOT IS CAUGHT. He pulls, but it's stuck fast between boulders. Arlo panics, pulling harder, but his foot won't budge.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROCKY SLOPE - NIGHT

It's dark now... and Arlo is still stuck.

We see Arlo's panicked track marks all around the boulder, evidence of his day-long struggle to pull himself free.

He curls up, cold, scared, alone. A scary animal ROARS from the deep woods... it's something big! What is out there?

It CRIES OUT again. Arlo is not safe out here. He curls up tighter, just the moon for company.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROCKY SLOPE - DAY

Arlo wakes up, not sure for a moment where he is. Then he remembers... looks at his foot... but it's free now, the earth dug out from under his foot. Arlo is stunned.

He sees human tracks in the dirt. The same tracks he saw around the silo and leading into the mountain pass...

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE/WOODLAND - DAY (LATER)

Arlo walking along the river through the wilderness. He limps, still bruised from his fall.

It starts to drizzle, SOFT THUNDER. Arlo keeps going -- but quickly he is cold and shivering.

WILDERNESS CRITTERS scurry across the ground. The drizzle turns into rain. Arlo's footprints become puddles. THUNDERCLAP.

Arlo collects sticks to build a makeshift shelter. But after only propping up three sticks, they tumble to the ground.

Nearby creatures are nestled in their dwellings, dry, safe. Arlo notices one FURRY CRITTER, sitting under an overhung rock, has taken particular interest in watching Arlo's efforts.

Arlo tries positioning larger branches, and has more success. He sits inside his shelter, proud, smiling at the critter under the rock. The critter keeps staring. Arlo sticks his tongue out at it. DRIP. DRIP. SPLASH. A puddle pours down onto Arlo's face.

The critter squeaks, as if laughing at Arlo. It goes away and comes back with TWO OTHER CRITTERS (implying "let's watch this"). They all squeak, staring at Arlo. Arlo groans, frustrated.

CUT TO:

Arlo resting under his makeshift shelter.

WILDERNESS SOUND.

Nearby shrubs RUSTLE, Arlo sits up -- something is coming toward him!

Arlo looks out into the wilderness -- whatever it is, it's getting closer.

The bushes in front of Arlo move and there is the boy. He carries a stunned LIZARD in his mouth.

ARLO
You again?!

The boy lays the lizard in front of Arlo.

ARLO
Get outta here!

The boy steps back a few paces, looks at Arlo. Arlo looks at the stunned lizard in front of him. What am I supposed to do with that? The boy looks at Arlo. Waits.

The lizard comes awake, runs off.

The boy growls at Arlo and leaves, rushing back into the brush.

CUT TO:

Arlo sleeping in his shelter. The rain is much lighter now.

The boy flies in on a BUG, over Arlo's head, landing in the brush. The boy comes out dragging the huge ugly bug toward Arlo. The boy flips the bug on its back and signals for Arlo to eat it.

Arlo looks at the bug in front of him. The head moving back and forth. Yuck.

The boy notices Arlo looking at the bug's pinchers and slithering tongue, so he rips the head off! Then steps back -- "Okay now eat it."

Repulsed, Arlo takes a branch, brushes the bug's body and head to the side.

The boy barks at Arlo, runs off again.

CUT TO:

BERRIES ON A STICK dropped on the ground. The boy runs off to the side, waits.

Arlo's so relieved! He takes a small bite.

ARLO
I told you to STAY... AWAY...
from... me...

He devours them. The boy keeps an eye on Arlo as he climbs up a nearby boulder, his face showing no emotion. It's just a fact, you have to eat.

The rain has stopped.

ARLO
I... am still... going to squeeze
the life out of you.

The berries are gone, just the empty stick left. Arlo turns to the boy.

ARLO
But before I do... can you find me
some more?

The boy just stares at him.

ARLO
Uh... here. More of these.

Arlo picks up the stick with his mouth. The boy still stares.

ARLO
You know... um... nom nom nom.

Arlo pretends to chew the stick.

The boy grabs the other end of the stick, starts pulling it. He's playing tug of war.

ARLO
No... no... Stop! What are you
doing?

Arlo lets go, the boy gnaws on the branch.

Suddenly, the boy takes off.

ARLO
H-Hey, wait!

Arlo gets up, sees the boy dashing away on all fours.

ARLO
Are you taking me to the berries?

Arlo checks to make sure the river is in sight, follows the boy.

EXT. CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

There's a cliff wall ahead. The boy jumps onto a nearby leaning tree, running across it like a squirrel. He jumps down to a ledge, scampers up the cliff. Arlo follows.

ARLO

Where are you going?

The ground beneath Arlo narrows, each step becoming more precarious as they make their way up the cliff. Arlo presses his body tightly against the wall. Rocks crumble beneath him, tumbling to the ground far below.

The boy stops. The ledge ends, with a huge gap to the other side. The boy thinks a moment.

ARLO

I-I knew it! I'm gonna die out here because of you!

The boy turns to Arlo, starts pushing Arlo's feet out from underneath him. Arlo stumbles, trying to keep his balance.

ARLO

Hey -- hey -- hey -- hey -- hey,
what are you doing? N-N-No, s-stop!

The boy gets behind Arlo and starts pushing him toward the gap!

ARLO

Hey... hey! NO! STOP!

The boy bites Arlo's leg! Arlo yelps, losing his balance and crashing forward... He barely catches himself with his teeth, clinging to the opposing cliff edge. He's stretched out across the gap, the tip of his tail holding the other side.

The boy scampers across him -- he's made Arlo into a bridge!

The boy climbs over Arlo's face, stepping on his eyes.

ARLO

Ow! OW!! Why you little... come back here!

The boy sniffs ahead. His body shivers, his foot taps. He's found something! The boy looks back at Arlo, happily panting. Now Arlo sees them too...

ARLO

Berries!

Arlo is suddenly full of energy. He drops his tail and propels himself up the opposing ledge. He runs toward the berry bush.

The boy starts to growl. Arlo walks past him, but the boy jumps between Arlo and the berries, growling fiercely.

ARLO

What's with you? Th-they're right here.

The boy just gets louder and louder. Arlo pushes him away with his foot.

ARLO

Crazy critter.

Arlo breaks off a branch with berries... and a SERPENT-LIKE CREATURE falls onto his face! Arlo yelps in surprise and falls off the ledge!

EXT. ASPEN TREE GROVE - CONTINUOUS

Arlo's fall is broken by a patch of aspen trees below. As he stands up, the snake rises up in front of him.

Suddenly the boy jumps between Arlo and the snake. The snake lunges at the boy, but the boy attacks it!

The two have a vicious fight, but the boy is tough, breaks free from the snake's coil and head-butts the beast... it squirms away into the nearby brush.

Arlo runs next to the boy for safety. The boy shifts from attack mode to happy canine, looking up at Arlo. Arlo smiles back but then...

VOICE (O.S.)

Hello.

Arlo turns, startled. He looks around.

ARLO

Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)

We've been watching you.

Arlo walks toward the voice, sees a COLLECTION OF CREATURES gathered on a tree. Was it the FURRY CRITTER talking?

VOICE (O.S.)

We thought you were going to die.

Was it the RED BIRD talking?

VOICE (O.S.)
But then you didn't.

Arlo focuses on the woods. Two eyes appear, staring at Arlo.

FORREST WOODBUSH THE PET COLLECTOR -- a Styracosaurus -- steps out of the woods. He's camouflaged so he blends into the aspen trees, his horns covered in various tiny FOREST ANIMALS.

Arlo backs up, intimidated.

The red bird on the Pet Collector tweets. He nods, then asks...

PET COLLECTOR
That creature protected you. Why?

He gestures to the boy, who is sniffing around the ground.

ARLO
I-I don't know -- I'm going home.
Do you know how far Clawtooth
Mountain is?

The bird tweets again.

PET COLLECTOR
Good idea... we want him.

ARLO
W-Why?

PET COLLECTOR
Cause it's terrifying out here. He
can protect me, like my friends.

He points to a small SLUG-LIKE CREATURE, resting on his horn.

PET COLLECTOR
This is Fury... he protects me from
the creatures that crawl in the
night.

He points to a bored FURRY CREATURE, who yawns.

PET COLLECTOR
This is Destructor... she protects
me from mosquitoes.

He points to a cuddly, cute BIG EYED CREATURE.

PET COLLECTOR

This is Dreamcrusher... he protects me from having unrealistic goals.

He points to the pretty, red bird.

PET COLLECTOR

And this is Debbie.

Beat.

Debbie tweets again.

PET COLLECTOR

Yes... we need him.

Arlo is completely weirded out.

PET COLLECTOR

What is his name?

The boy has wandered away, rooting around in some leaves.

ARLO

A name? I don't know.

PET COLLECTOR

Hmm... then I will meditate on this.

He closes his eyes, then quickly opens them.

PET COLLECTOR

Hmmmm... I name him, I keep him.

He closes his eyes, and starts to chant.

PET COLLECTOR

Mmmm... Killer!...

No response from the boy.

PET COLLECTOR

Mmmm... Beast!...

Still no response.

PET COLLECTOR

Mmmm... Murderer... mmmm...

Arlo doesn't want to be out here alone, he knows now that he needs the boy. So he starts trying names.

ARLO
Uh... Grubby!

The boy continues digging, looking for food.

PET COLLECTOR
Mmmm... Funeral Planner!... mmm...

ARLO
Uh... Cooty!

PET COLLECTOR
Mmmm... Hemorrhoid!...

ARLO
Uh... Squirt!

PET COLLECTOR
Uh... Fffffrank!...

ARLO
Stinky!

PET COLLECTOR
M-M-M-Maniac!

ARLO
F-Funky!

PET COLLECTOR
Violet!

ARLO
Spike!

PET COLLECTOR
Lunatic!

ARLO
Spot!

The boy turns and looks up at Arlo. Arlo smiles.

ARLO
Spot! C-C-Come here, Spot! Come here!

The boy runs over to him.

PET COLLECTOR
He is named. You clearly are connected. Good for you.
(MORE)

PET COLLECTOR (CONT'D)

On your path to Clawtooth Mountain,
that creature will keep you safe.
Don't ever lose him.

Arlo notes that.

The Pet Collector's bird starts tweeting, she's very upset,
desperate. She's going nuts.

PET COLLECTOR

No. N-No... no! You -- you can't
have him Debbie! No -- NO -- NO!
DEBBIE!

She flies at Arlo. Spot jumps at her. Arlo and Spot run!

PET COLLECTOR

Debbie! Stop! You're better than
this!

Arlo and Spot hide behind a boulder, escaping. Debbie flies
by, the Pet Collector chases after her.

PET COLLECTOR

No, no, NO! Come back! DEBBIE!!

Arlo and Spot laugh together as the Pet Collector rushes by.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

Arlo and Spot continue their journey upriver.

EXT. WOODED FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Spot smells something, follows the scent through the brush.
He stops, shivers, his leg taps the ground. He's found
something! He runs ahead.

ARLO

W-Where you going? I-I need to get
home.

Spot leads Arlo to a GOPHER-LIKE CRITTER hidden in a bush. He
chases after it, tries to jump on the gopher. It disappears
down into a hole in the ground.

Spot takes a deep breath and blows into the hole.

THOOP.

A gopher pops out of a different hole, Spot laughs. It's a
game!

Arlo smiles, gives it a go. He takes a deep breath, and blows into a hole.

THOO... A gopher comes up only halfway out of a hole, falls back down.

The boy blows into a different hole.

THOOP. THOOP. Two gophers fly into the air. He turns to Arlo, smiles.

Arlo tries again.

THOO... Three gophers, stacked on top of each other, push halfway out of a hole, fall back down.

The boy blows again.

THOOP. THOOP. THOOP. Three gophers fly out!

Arlo's jealous, takes a huge breath, blows as hard as he can.

THOOP. THOOP. THOOP. THOOP. THOOP. THOOOP. THOOOP. THOOP... !

DOZENS OF GOPHERS fly into the air! They rain down on Arlo and the boy, who is utterly delighted.

The gophers all turn and look at Arlo, angry. They come at him en mass, crawling up his legs! Arlo runs screaming -- stepping on the creatures as he goes.

Arlo looks back. The beasts sink back into their holes. Whew! That was close.

THOOP. A gopher appears in front of Arlo, bites him! Arlo stumbles backward, slipping into a small lake!

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Panicked in the water, he flails his body around, gasping for air.

Spot jumps in, joins him, doggy paddling in circles.

Arlo tries to imitate Spot, kicking his legs to get forward momentum. He's doing it! He's swimming! Spot leads him to the edge, jumps out of the water, shakes off.

Arlo steps out of the water, proud of himself... but is covered in LEECHES!

He screams and runs off.

EXT. FRUIT TREE - DAY

Fruit lies on the ground.

Arlo eats as much as he can, offers some to Spot.

Spot looks up to the fruit in the tree, then at the fruit on the ground. BUGS swarm around the half rotted berries.

Spot starts laughing, his eyes becoming slits. Arlo laughs too.

Spot's face starts to grow... what's happening? Arlo now has FIVE EYES. Their vision warps! What is in this fruit? They can't stop laughing! They leap into the air in a shared, happy hallucination.

FADE TO WHITE.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

Arlo and Spot recover from their fruit hangover. Spot's head hurts. Arlo's gotten his head wedged in a tree trunk.

EXT. MEADOW/OVERHANG - NIGHT

PREHISTORIC CRITTERS get comfortable together, nestling down in their nests for the night.

Arlo and Spot walk along the river through a meadow.

A light flickers in front of Arlo, it's a FIREFLY!

ARLO
Spot, watch this!

Arlo brushes his tail through the tall grass. HUNDREDS OF FIREFLIES fly up into the night sky.

Spot's eyes go wide. He chases after the fireflies, jumping in the air trying to catch them in flight. Arlo joins him running through the meadow.

They come to a rock overhang at the river's edge. Spot catches a firefly with his hands, studies it.

Arlo gently blows on it, the firefly glows bright. Spot lets it go and they watch it fly up into the night sky. Arlo smiles. But then... his smile fades.

ARLO
I miss -- I miss my family.

Spot looks at him, doesn't understand.

ARLO

Family.

Spot doesn't get it.

Arlo uses sticks as effigies, placing one in the ground at his feet.

ARLO

That's me.

Arlo puts three more effigies down.

ARLO

There's Libby, and Buck, and Momma
...

Arlo stops. Considers, emotional. Then places the last effigy.

ARLO

And -- and Poppa.

He draws a circle around them in the sand.

ARLO

Family.

Spot approaches, sniffing, studying the group, curious but confused.

ARLO

You don't understand...

Arlo looks down.

ARLO

That's okay.

Arlo rests his head on the sand. Spot rushes off, rustling in a nearby bush.

He comes back... breaks twigs. He sets down three crude, human effigies, two large and, between them, a smaller one. Spot draws a circle around them.

ARLO

Yes. That's your family.

Spot looks at the effigies of his family, then lays down the two larger effigies -- his parents. Covers them with sand.

He looks at Arlo. Beat.

Arlo realizes they have died. He looks at his Poppa's effigy, considering. Then Arlo lays it down, covers it in sand. He rests his head against the small mound.

ARLO

I miss him.

He feels something -- looks over. Spot is there, nestled against Arlo, patting his leg in comfort.

Spot returns to his own effigies, puts his hand on his parents' mounds and howls.

Arlo watches Spot mourn the loss of his parents. Arlo looks down at Poppa's mound, rests his paw on it, joins Spot's howls.

They howl into the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OVERHANG - DAY

ON ARLO: Sleeping under the overhang.

Arlo wakes up and finds Spot curled in the nook of his arm, snoring. Spot starts running in his sleep, pouncing onto Arlo's nose, waking himself up. Arlo smiles.

Spot stretches, letting out a big yawn. He walks off, scratching the ground, sniffing.

Arlo stands up, greets the beautiful morning. He hears something, looks over at the boy. Spot is behind a rock, his back toward us -- a DRIZZLING NOISE coming from his direction. It stops. The boy turns and looks at Arlo.

Arlo realizes he's watching Spot relieve himself, and, embarrassed, turns away.

The drizzling noise starts again. Arlo sneaks a look back around, where did Spot go? He's further away, up the hill.

The WIND picks up. Arlo sees dark clouds moving in.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

Arlo and Spot walk along the river. The wind stirs up the dirt, making it hard to see.

Arlo follows Spot, but as debris begins to fly at them on the strong wind, Arlo gets nervous, slows down. Spot is tenacious, keeps pushing forward.

ARLO
We should stop!

Spot doesn't hear, pushes on.

BOOM. THUNDER crashes, Arlo flinches. Menacing storm clouds form overhead, lightning flashes!

ARLO
Stop!

BOOM! The thunder grows louder.

CRASH! Lightning flashes close by.

FLASHBACK - EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

That day with his father in the Clawtooth Mountain pass. The ground shaking, rain pouring on them, water rushing down the pass.

POPPA
Arlo, MOVE.

The flood water banks the corner.

POPPA
RUN ARLO!

The water roars down on them like a monster!

PRESENT DAY - EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - CONTINUOUS

CRASH! Lightning flash.

ON ARLO: Terrified.

Arlo rushes away from the storm into the woods, off the river.

Spot, concerned, follows.

EXT. WOODLAND - CONTINUOUS

Arlo running through the woods, scared, distracted, slapped by branches, the storm raging over him.

Arlo dodges in different directions -- scared, gets turned around.

BOOM. THUNDER.

Arlo trips over debris on the ground, sees a fallen tree, its huge ROOT BALL exposed. He crawls under the roots, presses himself into the earth, trying to feel safe again.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. GEYSER FIELD - DAY

The storm has passed. It's devastation -- trees knocked over everywhere.

Spot appears, sniffs Arlo. He moves a fallen fir branch and finds Arlo curled up under the root ball.

Arlo sees Spot, comes out of his shelter. He looks around... his panic growing as he realizes...

ARLO

W-Where's the river? I-I've lost
the river?!

He runs forward, looking, turning, looking.

ARLO

I'M NEVER GETTING HOME! I'm never
getting home.

He crumbles.

Suddenly a shadow passes over. Arlo looks up -- sees FIVE PTERODACTYLS flying in formation, like military search and rescue.

ARLO

Help!

Spot looks up and sees the Pterodactyls. Arlo runs after them.

ARLO

Help! HELP!

FROM PTERODACTYLS' POV ABOVE: Arlo is just a small green mark in a world of devastation.

WITH ARLO: The Pterodactyls bank and come back.

One lands on a hardened geyser pool in front of Arlo, THUNDERCLAP. He's tall, confident, on a mission. COLDFRONT and DOWNPOUR land behind him.

The others continue flying above, looking for something.

THUNDERCLAP

Aw -- say friend, are you wounded?

ARLO

No, I'm not hurt.

Thunderclap scans the grounds.

THUNDERCLAP

Oh good, thank goodness for that.
Uh, Coldfront, Downpour, keep
looking for wounded folk.

Coldfront and Downpour push into the rubble, searching.

ARLO

Wait, I need to get home, Clawtooth
Mountain.

THUNDERCLAP

Uh, Clawtooth Mountain?... Oh, you
mean the mountain range with uh,
the three points?

ARLO

Yes!

THUNDERCLAP

Yeah, oh yeah I've been there. Uh,
butcha know kid... you're not even
close. Still, I know the way.

Arlo smiles, relieved.

ARLO

My name's Arlo.

Thunderclap laughs, catching himself.

THUNDERCLAP

I'm sorry. I just -- I use to have
a name like that once. But that was
before I started following the
storm.

ARLO

The storm?

THUNDERCLAP

The storm swept me up... I was afraid for my life. But the storm gave me a revelation, and I wasn't scared anymore.

ARLO

You mean a revelation?

THUNDERCLAP

NO. A re-LE-VA-tion! OKAY? I was at a real low point, you know, and the storm swept me up to a real high point and then left me at a higher RELEVATION.

ARLO

Wow.

THUNDERCLAP

Yeah wow. That's when the storm gave me my new name. Because, what do we say?

Downpour lands nearby.

DOWNPOUR

The storm provides.

THUNDERCLAP

The storm provides. You can call me Thunderclap.

ARLO

Thunderclap. C-Can you help me get home?

THUNDERCLAP

Um yeah... well, uh maybe.

Thunderclap looks around the area.

THUNDERCLAP

Oh, but first we just need to check the area. There's plenty of folks in a very bad way after a storm like this, dontcha know.

COLDFRONT

Thunderclap! I found someone! Over here!

Downpour flies over to Coldfront. They try to lift up a leaning log stuck in the debris.

A LITTLE CRITTER PAW sticks out from the rubble, scratching to get out.

THUNDERCLAP

You know, we could use your help friend.

Arlo smiles nervously.

CUT TO:

Thunderclap, Coldfront, and Downpour pulling one end of the leaning log into the air.

WHACK. Arlo whips his tail against the log like an ax (like his Poppa did in Act One). WHACK. The log cracks in half. Arlo's proud of himself.

COLDFRONT

Whoa!

DOWNPOUR

Yeah!

THUNDERCLAP

Whoa... that is great!

Thunderclap reaches into the rubble, picks out a LITTLE FURRY CREATURE.

ARLO

It's a critter.

THUNDERCLAP

Ah -- a freed critter, thanks to you.

Thunderclap lifts it up high, looks as if he'll put it on the ground. But instead throws back his head and eats it.

ON ARLO: Horrified.

Arlo looks around -- sees Spot hiding under some debris, shaking. He's terrified of these folks.

THUNDERCLAP

You know, I just want to take a moment and thank the storm for this meal.

Downpour snaps at the fox-like tail hanging out of Thunderclap's mouth.

Thunderclap whirls at Downpour -- and suddenly the three are fighting like starving animals. It's violent, unnerving. Thunderclap gets an advantage on the other two, whirling around. He hisses!

THUNDERCLAP

You think you can mess with me?
I've seen the eye of the storm, and
I forgot what fear is... I'm not
afraid of anything.

Downpour and Coldfront back down.

DOWNPOUR

No, I-I-I didn't say you were,
Thunderclap.

ON ARLO: Terrified. He backs up, quietly heads toward Spot,
who trembles in his hiding place.

Thunderclap flies over, cuts Arlo off.

THUNDERCLAP

Hey, where you goin', friend?

Downpour and Coldfront land behind Arlo, he's trapped.

ARLO

I-I'm -- I need to get home.

THUNDERCLAP

And I said we would get you home.

Thunderclap leans into Arlo, sniffs him.

THUNDERCLAP

Friend, you have a critter of your
own.

COLDFRONT

I smell it. One of the juicy ones.

DOWNPOUR

Where is it?!

They tower over Arlo.

ARLO

H-He's hiding. Over there, b-by
that big rock.

Arlo points opposite where Spot is. Downpour scrabbles over
the debris. Coldfront follows. Thunderclap stays behind. He
doesn't buy it. He stares at Arlo, fierce, intimidating.

Beat.

Arlo, worried, quickly glances over at Spot. Thunderclap
follows his gaze and sees Spot.

THUNDERCLAP

The storm provides.

Thunderclap flies after Spot.

ARLO

No!

Spot runs -- slipping away from Thunderclap's violent grab.

ARLO

Spot!

Arlo runs to Spot, picks him up, and flees!

THUNDERCLAP

Get him!

The Pterodactyls chase them into the woods...

EXT. WOODED FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Arlo runs, Pterodactyls following, cackling in the chase.

THUNDERCLAP

Hey, slow down! There's no place to
hide, yellow-belly!

Spot on top of Arlo's back, holding on for dear life.

DOWNPOUR

Come back with that critter!

Arlo runs through the woods, and then, in the distance sees a
LONG NECKED DINOSAUR grazing.

ARLO

Oh... help!

EXT. HOT SPRINGS - CONTINUOUS

Arlo runs toward the long neck, the Pterodactyls getting
closer.

ARLO

HELP!

The long necked dinosaur puts its head up -- and we realize
this is not a long neck -- it's TWO dinosaurs and they are
TYRANNOSAURUS REXES!

They ROAR and come right at Arlo. Arlo turns and instinctively runs away from them -- RIGHT BACK TOWARD THE PTERODACTYLS!

Thunderclap swoops around, grabs ahold of Arlo. Arlo falls into a ball, protecting Spot.

ROAR! T. rexes RAMSEY and NASH fight the Pterodactyls, to get them off Arlo and Spot.

Ramsey jumps after Thunderclap and takes one last shot, throwing him to the ground.

The Pterodactyls take off, the T. rexes ROARING behind them.

The T. rexes walk back toward Arlo.

FROM ARLO'S POV: The T. rexes above him. He's frozen in fear. Ramsey leans down with her big mouth open... but instead of eating him, she reaches out her tiny arm to help him up.

NASH
Hey, you okay, kid?

ARLO
Y-Y-Yes.

RAMSEY
I hate those kind. Lyin' sons of
crawdads, pickin' on a kid!

Spot is at Ramsey's big feet. He smiles up at her, leans against her leg.

RAMSEY
Well, ain't you just the cutest
thing.

She puts her hand down for Spot to sniff, scratches under his chin. Spot leans into the scratch, enjoys it.

ARLO
Hm, he likes you.

Nash leans in close to her.

NASH
Imagine that, Ramsey! Even with
your stinky face.

She backs him up, waving her arms in front of her.

RAMSEY

Nash! Boundaries! This is my personal bubble.

NASH

Naw. That ain't your bubble. This is your bubble.

He jumps up on top of her, and they start wrestling.

BOOM! A huge T. rex foot smacks down. It's a larger third T. rex, BUTCH.

BUTCH

Nash! Get out of your sister's bubble.

Ramsey and Nash immediately stop wrestling -- though Nash gives her one last push.

Arlo, nervous, looks up at Butch, notes the giant T. rex has an UGLY SCAR ACROSS HIS FACE -- this is one mean-looking guy. Butch looks down at Arlo.

BUTCH

You got no business bein' out here.

ARLO

Yes sir, I don't. I'm tryin' to get home, but I lost the river. Please, my Momma needs me!

RAMSEY

Take it easy, kid.

ARLO

Do you know where the river is?

BUTCH

What river? There's tons of rivers around these parts.

ARLO

B-By Clawtooth Mountain? I-It has three points?

NASH

Don't know that one.

RAMSEY

We're headin' south to a waterin' hole. Come with us, someone there might help you.

BUTCH

We ain't got time for babysittin'.
We got longhorns to round up!

Butch and Nash go back to their search. Ramsey leans down to whisper to Arlo.

RAMSEY

My genius brother lost our whole
herd in one day.

NASH

I did not lose 'em, Ramsey! How
many times I gotta tell you this?
They just, hm -- they just wandered
off!

BUTCH

And we still gotta find 'em. We
can't help ya kid.

Butch starts to move off.

ARLO

Wait -- but -- what if we can help
YOU?

Butch slows...

ARLO

Spot can sniff out anything! I seen
him do it!

Butch turns.

ARLO

He can find your longhorns.

Ramsey snatches the FUR PELT out of Nash's hands.

NASH

Hey!

Ramsey leans down, lets Spot sniff it.

ARLO

Come on, Spot. Sniff it out boy.

Spot quickly moves off into the canyon ahead.

ARLO

Good boy, Spot!

The trio follows after Arlo and Spot. Butch doesn't like it.

EXT. CANYON - DAY (LATER)

The search party makes their way through the open range, the giant T. rexes following tiny Spot.

Suddenly Spot shivers, his leg taps the ground. Arlo knows what that means...

ARLO
He's got something!

Spot lunges to the ground, grabbing a BUG. Eats it.

RAMSEY
Ah, dang.

Butch towers over Arlo.

BUTCH
Hey kid. If you're pullin' my leg,
I'm gonna eat yours.

Suddenly Spot races around excitedly, barking. The group moves to where Spot is -- and see DOZENS OF LONGHORN TRACKS going through the reeds.

RAMSEY
He found the herd!

NASH
Whooooeee! We got 'em!

Arlo notices a BLUE FEATHER caught in some brush.

ARLO
Wait. Do longhorns have feathers?

Butch leans over, sees the feather.

BUTCH
Rustlers.

Arlo doesn't like the sound of that...

ARLO
Rustlers?

Butch spots a DEAD LONGHORN in the tumbleweed.

BUTCH
We gotta move. Hya!

NASH/RAMSEY
Hya!

The T. rexes take off, their legs like galloping horses -- their top halves calm and concentrated on following the tracks of their herd.

ON ARLO: Gulp.

He scoops up Spot, chases after the T. rexes.

EXT. BIG SKY COUNTRY - CONTINUOUS

The tracks have disappeared over a rise. The T. rexes stop, get on their bellies. Arlo joins them belly crawling to the edge of the rise.

There below them, out in Big Sky Country, is the HERD OF LONGHORNS.

No sign of any other dinosaurs.

ARLO
I don't see any rustlers.

BUTCH
They're out there.

The T. rexes move forward down the rise. Arlo follows.

ARLO
So... how far did you say that watering hole was?

BUTCH
I got a job for you.

ARLO
I'm not really good at jobs --

Butch gestures to the right flank of the herd.

BUTCH
I need you to keep on the dodge and sidle up the lob lolly past them hornheads, just hootin' and hollerin' to score off them rustlers. We'll cut dirt and get the bulge on 'em.

ARLO
What?

RAMSEY
He just wants you to get on that rock and scream.

She gestures to a BOULDER, TILTING IN THE CENTER OF THE FIELD. Longhorns all around it.

ARLO

Uh... but, who's out there?

BUTCH

They'll come right at you. You hold your ground. Don't move.

ARLO

Don't move? What if they have claws and big teeth?

BUTCH

Don't over think it.

He pushes Arlo out into the field!

Arlo, with Spot on his back, goes a few steps, but does not want to do this. He glances back at the T. rexes. Butch nods -
- "Go!"

Arlo steels himself (does a "get over my fear" face), and moves toward the herd. He creeps through the grass, looking back again. The T. rexes are now gone! Arlo continues.

Arlo and Spot make it to the rock. Arlo does his "get over my fear" face again, and climbs on top.

He opens his mouth to roar... NOTHING COMES OUT! Just a strangled whisper.

Spot watches Arlo try again -- still nothing!

Spot BITES Arlo, HE SCREAMS!

Suddenly Arlo sees something in the tall grass moving toward him... first one... then another... RUSTLERS COMING RIGHT AT HIM!

Arlo turns around -- BUBBHA, a mean-looking Velociraptor, stares at him... NOSE TO NOSE.

BUBBHA

Howdy!

Another rustler lunges out, LURLEANE. She seems rabid, gnashing her teeth and grunting.

A third rustler, PERVIS, pops out of the tall grass nearby.

BUBBHA

What are you up to, boy?

ARLO
N-N-N-Nothin'.

LURLEANE
Nothin'? Awe -- what's your name?

ARLO
Uh... A-Ar-Arl-Arlo.

BUBBHA
Well Ah-Ah-Ah-Arlo, you don't look like you're doin' nothing. What's he look like he's doin' to you Lurleane?

PERVIS
Oh come on, Bubbha, ask me! Ask me what I think they're doin'.

BUBBHA
Pervis, shut your mouth!

LURLEANE
Looks like he's trespassin'.

BUBBHA
And what do we do with trespassers? Tell 'em Earl.

Something crawls up Arlo's rock FROM BEHIND!

EARL
We kill 'em!

Arlo turns, sees Earl lunging at him! Arlo closes his eyes, sure he's a goner when...

Butch leaps out of the grass and grabs Earl in midair.

The other three Raptors leap into the air at Arlo, but Nash is there, swipes them down.

Arlo is stunned. It's like being in the middle of a bar fight.

Pervis lands on the rock, jumps at Arlo.

PERVIS
I GOTCHA!!!

BOOM. Pervis is cut off by Butch head-butting him into the herd.

Pervis lands hard stirring up the longhorns. The herd STAMPEDES -- running over Pervis -- RIGHT TOWARD ARLO!

Arlo freezes with fear. Spot sees this, jumps on Arlo, barks at him, snapping him out of it.

Arlo takes off, running with Spot on his back.

Nash keeps fighting off the other Raptors.

Ramsey sees the longhorns are stampeding.

RAMSEY

Nash! The herd! Hya! Hya!

Ramsey and Nash go after the herd, leaving Arlo behind.

NASH

Hya! Giddyup! Come on now! Giddyup!
Hya!

RAMSEY

Let's go!

Ramsey sees a Raptor, Bubbha, ready to attack Nash from on top of a longhorn.

RAMSEY

Watch out!

Bubbha jumps on Nash -- they brawl.

NASH

Nobody steals our longhorns!

Bubbha smiles.

BUBBHA

Finders keepers!

Bubbha has Nash in a bad position -- takes his talons back for a blow.

Ramsey charges into the fight -- kicking Bubbha's butt with an impressive tail whip: CRACK! Bubbha goes flying back. He stands, now even more energized in the fight.

BUBBHA

Yeehaw!!!

Bubbha runs at Ramsey and Nash.

WITH ARLO AND SPOT: They run from the herd, getting tossed around. Spot's agitated, he barks at the longhorns as they pass.

Arlo runs to safety behind a boulder, watches the action with Spot from the middle of the herd.

Nash runs by, Earl on his back... Ramsey chases after them.

Lurleane lands on the boulder. Arlo ducks down for cover.

LURLEANE

Come on out, Momma wants to play
with you...

Spot growls. Arlo grabs him so he doesn't give their hiding place away.

LURLEANE

I know you're there. I can smell
ya.

Butch charges in with Pervis on his back. Lurleane jumps from the rock, onto Butch. Arlo tries to get out of the way, but gets whacked by Butch's tail.

The Raptors pin Butch to the ground in front of Arlo!

Arlo freezes with fear, but seeing Butch struggling snaps Arlo out of it. Determined, Arlo runs straight toward Lurleane, HEAD-BUTTING HER ACROSS THE FIELD!

Pervis is on top of Butch -- WHACK! Arlo whips him across the face with his tail.

Arlo can't believe it, he did it!

Pervis stands, realizes his lip is bleeding.

PERVIS

Aw shoot! That's my favorite tooth!

He pulls out his tooth. Pervis and Lurleane turn to Arlo.

LURLEANE

I'm gonna love ending you.

Arlo's smile quickly fades as Lurleane and Pervis lunge at him!

They suddenly are picked up in the air. It's Butch -- he's got them by the tail! Butch throws them far into the distance.

Nash and Ramsey chase off Earl and Bubbha. Butch snaps at Earl's tail as he runs by, gets a mouth full of feathers.

Ramsey and Nash come up next to Butch and Arlo. The T. rexes ROAR! Ramsey looks over, nudges Arlo to roar too. He roars as loud as he can!

Nash turns to Arlo.

NASH

Come on, we gotta drive this herd
outta here.

He nips at a longhorn.

NASH

Hya! Come on now!

Arlo and Spot chase after the T. rexes and the herd.

EXT. BIG SKY COUNTRY - DAY (LATER)

Arlo and Spot herd the longhorns onward with Butch, Ramsey, and Nash.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Over wide shot of the campfire, we hear...

A HARMONICA PLAYING...

We see it's Nash playing a BUG HARMONICA. He, Butch, Ramsey, Arlo, and Spot are gathered around the fire, sitting on giant logs.

Ramsey uses a stick to play with Spot. Spot pulls on the stick, growling. Ramsey loves it.

RAMSEY

Aren't you the cutest?!

BUTCH

You and that critter showed real
grit today.

Arlo smiles. Nash stops playing.

NASH

We could use that critter. How
about we trade? I'll give you my
harmonica for 'im?

He holds out his bug.

ARLO
Thanks, but Spot ain't for tradin'.
Come here, Spot. Come here.

Spot lets go of Ramsey's stick, runs over to Arlo.

NASH
Your loss.

Nash tosses the bug in his mouth.

Spot licks his wounds. Arlo sees a small bruise and cut on his own forearm. Ramsey notices it too.

RAMSEY
That's a good one. Gonna scar up
real good.

NASH
That's nothin'! Look at this!

He holds up his leg with an ugly scar up his calf.

NASH
I run into fifteen outlaw Steggos.
They're all bigger 'n me. An'
meaner than me.

ARLO
What happened?

NASH
Fought 'em off of course! Was
winnin' too, then one gets his dang
spiky tail stuck in my foot, and
PULLS.

ARLO
Woah.

Nash puts his foot in the fire, feels nothing.

NASH
Still can't feel my toes.

Nash blows his foot out, the smoke billows into Arlo's face.

RAMSEY
Which comes in handy when you're
kickin' piles of bull --

NASH
Shhee's jealous!

RAMSEY
Jealous? Ha!

Ramsey leans in to tell her story.

RAMSEY
Once, a stampede of longhorns was
comin' right at me. But my tail was
stuck between a rock and a hard
place. I was dead for sure.

She pulls her tail around -- it's just a nub!

RAMSEY
So I chewed the dang thing off!

Butch, Nash, and Ramsey laugh.

NASH
Who does that? Nobody does that.

Ramsey's chewed tail is right in front of Arlo. He pretends
to laugh, pushes it aside.

RAMSEY
That was a good one.

NASH
You're crazy! I'm surprised you
don't have one right across your
face.

Butch turns his head, and we see again the HUGE SCAR up the
side of his face.

ARLO
Butch, how'd you get your scar?

BUTCH
I don't know if you are ready for
that story.

ARLO
I can take it.

NASH
Oohh yeah, you got to tell him Pa!

RAMSEY
That's a good one!

Butch clears his throat.

BUTCH

It was a hundred degrees in the shade. I walked for five days with no water. Then I saw it. A pretty pond. I bent down to take a drink, when these crocs launched outta the water. One croc bit me on the face. Ain't no way I wasn't its supper, except for one thing. I watn't ready for dyin' that day. I bit one croc in half, tail whipped the other and the last one, well... I drowned that croc in my own blood.

ARLO

Woah.

RAMSEY/NASH

DANG!

Nash's little arms twitch.

NASH

Look, look -- gives me lil' goosies every time.

RAMSEY

I love that story.

She gets excited.

RAMSEY

Show him your souvenir!

Butch pulls his cheek back and we see a CROC TOOTH lodged up in Butch's jaw. He wiggles it back and forth with his tongue.

Nash and Ramsey love it. Ramsey leans over to Arlo.

RAMSEY

Ain't that just too good?!

Arlo nods, in awe... slightly overwhelmed.

Nash leans toward Butch.

NASH

Can I touch it this time?!

BUTCH

No.

ARLO
You guys would've liked my Poppa.
He wasn't scared of anything.

Arlo thinking of his father -- Butch clocks this moment,
waits.

ARLO
I'm done being scared.

BUTCH
Who said I'm not scared?

That surprises Arlo.

ARLO
But you took on a croc.

BUTCH
And I was scared doin' it -- if you
ain't scared of a croc bitin' ya on
the face, you ain't alive.

Arlo considers that...

BUTCH
Listen kid, you can't get rid of
fear. It's like Mother Nature. You
can't beat her or outrun her. But
you can get through it. You can
find out what you're made of.

That hits Arlo.

Something drifts down in front of Arlo in the firelight. He
looks -- sees more SMALL FLAKES drifting down.

ARLO
The first snow.

RAMSEY
It's early this year.

ARLO
And I gotta get home to Momma.

NASH
We'll get you to that waterin'
hole.

BUTCH
A deal's a deal. At first light, we
ride.

EXT. BIG SKY COUNTRY - DAY

The T. rexes herd the longhorns onward.

RAMSEY

Let's go!

NASH

Hya!

Arlo and Spot pick up the rear.

Butch spots the herd splitting off on one side. Calls over to Arlo.

BUTCH

Hey kid, head 'em off before those
longhorns split!

Arlo looks back to Spot: "We can do this."

Arlo and Spot run alongside the longhorns breaking away. Up ahead is a ROCKY RIDGE that'll cut the loose longhorns from the herd!

Arlo roars at them, but the longhorns don't shift course, keep heading away.

Arlo turns into them, WHACK -- HE WHIPS HIS TAIL! It startles the loose longhorns. They curve back into the main herd just in time, missing the ridge! Arlo keeps roaring and whipping the herd onward.

Arlo smiles back to Spot, they did it! They pass Butch, he's impressed.

BUTCH

Hya!

The group comes up over a slope. Through the distant ridge Arlo sees...

ARLO

There it is... Clawtooth Mountain,
there's home!

RAMSEY/NASH

Whoeeee!

NASH

We gotta drive this herd down
south.

RAMSEY

You hurry on back to your Momma,
and don't stop for nothin'.

ARLO

Thanks. I sure appreciate you
lookin' out for me.

Arlo and Spot take off for the mountain pass.

BUTCH

You'll be alright. You're one tough
kid.

Arlo smiles. This is a lot coming from Butch.

The T. rexes drive the herd. Arlo and Spot continue toward
the pass.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE/FIELD - DAY

Arlo and Spot, back on the river, Clawtooth Mountain in the
distance! They're headed home...

Spot jumps onto Arlo's back, climbs up to the top of his
head, enjoying the ride.

They run into a MUSTERING OF WADING BIRDS. Without
hesitation, Arlo runs straight toward the flock. He and Spot
roar!

Birds flying on either side of them, Spot howls. Arlo howls
back. Spot loves it.

EXT. RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Arlo leaps up the rocky terrain. He tosses Spot up into the
clouds.

Spot flies so high, he goes above the cloud cover and sees
glimpses of the sun, then falls back to Arlo.

Spot signals upward, asks Arlo to do it again. Arlo throws
him up, catches him again.

Spot signals for them to climb the peak, he wants to show
Arlo.

Arlo peeks his head through the clouds. They watch the sun
beginning to set behind the peaks of Clawtooth Mountain. A
wondrous sight to share. They look to each other, smile.

ARLO

Wow.

EXT. ROLLING HILLS - DAY (LATER)

Spot and Arlo running -- the wind kicks up.

Far away, a RUMBLE OF THUNDER...

They come up over a hill line and see the base of Clawtooth Mountain, home's just on the other side!

ARLO

It's so close... we're almost there, Spot.

Arlo howls in excitement! Spot gets caught up in the energy, howls too!

ANOTHER HOWL RESPONDS.

Arlo slows down, Spot goes on alert -- looking all around. Spot howls again.

Now he and Arlo see... a FIGURE on a ridge ahead. The figure returns their calls.

Spot jumps from Arlo's back and cautiously makes his way forward.

ON A RIDGE: The silhouette of a HUMAN.

Arlo is riveted, watching as Spot moves away, toward the human.

The human figure moves forward. Spot sniffs forward, moving further away from Arlo...

ON ARLO: Concerned, seeing that Spot might leave him.

The human moves down the ridge...

Spot walks closer.

Worried, Arlo scoops Spot up onto his back.

ARLO

We need to get home.

Arlo leaves the tree line, heading upriver.

Spot looks back to the human one last time, then turns back toward Arlo.

Arlo looks back, the human is out of sight.

BOOM... BOOM.

EXT. STEEP RIVER PASS - DAY (LATER)

Arlo and Spot hurrying along toward Clawtooth Mountain.

ARLO

You're gonna love it, Spot. You'll have a warm place to sleep, right next to me. And all the corn you can eat. There's lots of space to run around... It'll be your farm too.

WIND picks up...

ARLO

We'll all look after it together...

It's starting to rain.

Arlo sees storm clouds cover the mountain pass. The ground is wet. It is very similar to the day he and his father walked into the pass.

Lightning flashes, Arlo flinches.

ARLO

I can't.

Nervous, he backs away. But then he sees something that makes him stop...

What looks like a shark fin, cutting through the clouds above him. First one, then another... there are five of them, circling!

CRACK. Lightning flash. We see the silhouettes of Pterodactyls above the clouds.

ON ARLO: Oh no...

Cackles echo across the pass.

It all happens very fast. The Pterodactyls dive down out of the clouds, straight at Arlo. They scratch his side, driving him up the ridge to a MASSIVE CLIFF! Arlo is trapped -- far below a giant BRIAR BUSH.

Like a shark attack, the Pterodactyls dive and beat at Arlo, talons and wings in his face. They are hurting him, drawing blood. Arlo spins, frightened, unable to fight.

WHOOSH! Thunderclap swoops down, grabs ahold of Spot!

Arlo quickly grabs onto Spot's arm, tugging the other way.

ARLO

NO!

Spot reaches for Arlo, fights, but can't get himself free.

ARLO

SPOT!!

Thunderclap growls into Arlo's face, spooking him. Arlo loses his grip, and Spot is gone!

ARLO

S-Spot!!

The other Pterodactyls snap at Arlo. He stumbles, sliding off the ridge and falling down into the brambles below.

EXT. BRAMBLE PATCH - CONTINUOUS

The brambles wrap tightly around Arlo as he tumbles to the ground.

The Pterodactyls can't get to him... he's deep in the vines. They leave, chasing after Thunderclap, who is carrying Spot into the mountain pass.

Arlo struggles in the brambles, trying to keep sight of Spot.

ARLO

SPOT!

But the brambles tangle his feet, hold him fast.

Arlo's struggle lessens, the brambles overtaking him. A large bramble around his neck tightens.

Spot howls for Arlo, his cry echoes across the pass!

Arlo sees the Pterodactyls taking Spot into Clawtooth Mountain. They disappear into the clouds. Spot is gone.

ARLO

No! SPOT!!

Arlo gives one last pull against the brambles. A piece of rock is pulled loose, hits Arlo in the head.

Arlo's vision blurs, his hearing RINGING.

BOOM. BOOM.

Something is moving toward him. And it's very large.

CRACK. CRACK.

Brambles are broken away...

And there is Poppa.

Arlo is shocked.

ARLO

Poppa?

Poppa's energy is fatherly, protective, as we saw him last...

ARLO

Poppa?

Arlo still processing, this can't be real. Poppa helps him stand.

ARLO

You're alive?! I-I can't -- I can't believe it, it's you!

Poppa puts his tail around Arlo, hurries him along, away from the storm. Arlo leans into his Poppa, content, safe.

BOOM. BOOM. CRACK. Arlo looks up at the storm, realizes...

ARLO

But my friend, Spot --

Poppa keeps walking.

ARLO

H-He helped me and now he's in trouble. We have to go back!

Poppa keeps walking, his tail around Arlo.

ARLO

Poppa, stop.

Poppa doesn't stop.

ARLO

Stop!

He doesn't respond. Arlo slows down, Poppa's tail slides from around him... Arlo stops.

ARLO

Poppa?

Beat.

Arlo realizes that Poppa isn't leaving footprints.

ARLO

You're not here.

Poppa stops.

ARLO

I'm scared... but Spot needs me. I blamed him for what happened to you, but -- it wasn't his fault.

Poppa turns to Arlo.

ARLO

So I gotta go help him. Because... I love him.

Poppa goes to Arlo.

POPPA

I knew you had it in you. You're me and more.

Arlo smiles.

POPPA

Now go take care of that critter.

Poppa smiles, fades into the rain.

CUT TO:

ARLO WAKES UP. He's still trapped in the brambles. Arlo pulls against them, determined to break free.

SNAP. A bramble breaks. SNAP another and another. The last of the brambles SNAP away.

Arlo pushes through and is off to rescue Spot!

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - CONTINUOUS

The storm is raging, the sky dark. A storm cell circles around the mountain peaks.

Arlo runs up the mountain, howling as loud as he can.

Lightning strikes the ground around him. A bolt hits a tree ahead, Arlo dodges it just in time.

Arlo climbs a massive boulder, looks around searching for Spot. He howls again.

Waits...

Spot returns his call!

Arlo runs toward him.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS/RIVER VALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Arlo finds the Pterodactyls at the river, around a DEAD TREE TRUNK. Spot is inside the tree, clearly hurt, trying to protect himself but vulnerable.

PTERODACTYLS

I'm hungry! He's mine! I want him!
Back off! I got him first! Let me
through! Quit hoggin'! No! Don't be
greedy! Let's eat! Stop your
fightin'!

The Pterodactyls smash into the tree, over and over again, knocking Spot back and forth. He howls, calling for Arlo.

Arlo charges them, running down the steep slope. He head-butts two Pterodactyls into the river! They are swept away by the current.

The remaining three Pterodactyls -- Thunderclap, Downpour, and Coldfront -- turn toward Arlo.

THUNDERCLAP

Well, look who got relevelated.

Downpour flies at Arlo. Arlo charges right at her, full speed, but just as they are about to collide, Downpour flies to the side. Arlo skids in the mud.

Spot cries out.

THUNDERCLAP
(to Downpour and
Coldfront)
Go get him!

Coldfront and Downpour fly at Arlo -- using their beaks and wings to beat at him. They lift him in the air, dragging him away from Spot! But Arlo is not giving up...

ARLO
Spot!

Thunderclap dives for Spot in the trunk, determined. He WILL have this meal.

ARLO
Spot!

Thunderclap snaps at Spot with his beak.

The RIVER IS RISING around the tree, fast! Arlo fights against the grips of Downpour and Coldfront, reaches for Spot.

Thunderclap claws at Spot, forcing him deeper into the tree, but water is gushing into the trunk!

Arlo strains against the Pterodactyls' grips, they've pulled him midair. Arlo turns and sees they've flown near a fir tree. He spins around in the Pterodactyls' grips, uses his tail to whack into the trunk. CRACK! The tree snaps in half. Downpour and Coldfront lose their grip, dropping Arlo. They are smashed by the tree, falling into the river's rushing waters! They are swept away.

Spot cries out.

Arlo looks to Spot. The tree trunk is nearly submerged -- Spot is defenseless, forced to the top of the tree by the water. THUNDERCLAP IS ABOUT TO REACH SPOT!

THUNDERCLAP
The storm provides.

Arlo ROARS, his voice deep and demanding!

Thunderclap is caught off guard by Arlo's roar. Spot seizes the moment, bites him in the wing, ripping out a chunk! Thunderclap looks at his wing, sees the giant hole Spot ripped out -- he screams! Thunderclap flies off, furiously defeated.

Arlo picks up a broken tree branch, chucks it at Thunderclap, knocking him into the water.

The ground begins to shake, Arlo turns upriver: A MASSIVE LANDSLIDE CRUMBLES DOWN INTO THE RIVER VALLEY, WATER CRASHES DOWN THE PASS -- A FLASH FLOOD IS ROARING TOWARD THEM!

The river's raging water pushes a wall of debris, trees are knocked down in its path.

Arlo looks to Spot holding on to the tree -- right in the center of the flood's path! Spot reaches for Arlo, but Arlo is too far downriver.

Arlo must get to Spot now! Arlo runs up the bank, toward the rushing flood water, the storm blowing against him.

ARLO

Spot!

Arlo runs, trying to outpace the flood.

ARLO

SPOT!!

ON SPOT: The debris is barreling toward him, he lowers down into the tree trunk for protection.

ON ARLO: HE LEAPS BETWEEN SPOT AND THE WALL OF WATER!

BAM! The flood water hits Arlo midair, he's knocked into the water by the debris.

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Arlo struggles to swim in the current. Debris cuts into his skin.

He resurfaces, searches for Spot.

ARLO

Spot!

The current pulls him back under, he resurfaces, gasping for air and sees...

SPOT! Unconscious, floating in the tree.

Arlo hears the ROAR OF A WATERFALL, trees crashing over the edge. Arlo swims toward Spot!

Spot's eyes start to open...

Arlo fights the current. A massive tree is headed toward him, its limbs sticking out like spikes.

Arlo dives down, swims beneath it, the branches cutting into him. He doesn't flinch, determined to reach Spot. He resurfaces...

Arlo is almost to Spot... but they are quickly approaching the waterfall!

Spot's tree submerges. He jumps -- swims toward Arlo.

Arlo stretches his neck out, trying to reach Spot.

The falls approach -- they are almost to one another... As they go over the falls, Arlo makes one last push and is able to get Spot cradled in an embrace. And they are gone.

Beat.

Arlo resurfaces carrying an unconscious Spot. Arlo paddles to shore.

He crumbles to the ground, gently laying Spot on his leg. Arlo nudges Spot, trying to wake him.

Spot doesn't move. Beat.

Arlo gently blows on Spot.

Spot coughs, opens his eyes.

They look to each other, smile. "We're okay." Arlo lays his head down, closes his eyes in exhaustion.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CREST - DAY

No more rain.

Spot on Arlo's back -- they climb the incline toward home -- Arlo strong, confident.

They crest the ridge -- there below them is Arlo's farm. We feel how relieved and happy Arlo is, they smile at each other.

ARLO
We're home, Spot.

A HOWL GOES UP.

Arlo and Spot turn and see the same human figure in the distance. Then, more figures surround him -- a MOTHER, and TWO CHILDREN. It's a HUMAN FAMILY.

Arlo looks down at Spot -- sees he's captivated.

The father comes forward.

Spot jumps off Arlo, goes to investigate.

The father comes closer to Spot, sniffing. Spot backs up...

ON ARLO: Watching this.

Spot sniffs the father.

The family gathers around Spot. The mother steps forward. She leans down, looks into Spot's eyes. She reaches her hand out to his cheek. He smiles, falling into her palm. Their foreheads meet.

The mother looks to her children, gestures them forward. They run to Spot, press their foreheads against his.

ON ARLO: Smiling, so much affection.

The father lifts Spot, gently presses his forehead against Spot's. Excited, Spot jumps, rubbing his head into the father's.

Watching this, Arlo knows what he has to do. He stands.

Spot looks at Arlo, runs to him, climbs up onto Arlo's back. He smiles up at Arlo.

Arlo lowers down, gently slides Spot off.

Spot doesn't understand.

Arlo pushes Spot over to the family.

Spot turns to the family, then back to Arlo.

Beat.

Spot runs to Arlo.

Arlo pushes him again to the family. He draws a circle around them.

Spot looks back to the family, to the circle, then to Arlo. He understands...

Spot hugs Arlo good-bye, both have tears in their eyes.

Spot scampers back toward the family. He looks at the circle's edge and steps inside. The father sticks out his hand, Spot grabs it, and stands on TWO FEET. The mother comes to take Spot's other hand and Arlo watches as this new family walks off into the distance.

Spot looks back at his friend one last time. He howls. Arlo returns his call.

A tear runs down Arlo's cheek. He watches as they walk away.

EXT. FARM FENCE - DAY

Arlo walks the last part of his journey alone. His giant shadow sweeps across the landscape.

Arlo steps over the fence onto the farm.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The farm is struggling, fields still dying, piled-up harvest not yet stored.

WITH MOMMA: She's harvesting in the fields. She looks up from her work -- sees a strong, confident dinosaur in the shadows near the cabin. For one moment...

MOMMA

Henry?

But then the dinosaur steps into the light...

MOMMA

Arlo?

She runs to him.

MOMMA

ARLO!!!

She grabs him. Libby and Buck run in from the fields. The family finds each other.

EXT. SILO - DAY

The family gathers around the silo. Momma, Buck, and Libby stand proudly behind Arlo. Momma gestures him forward.

Arlo stomps his foot in the mud, places his mark on the silo.

ON ARLO: Proud, looking at the family's footprints.

ON THE SILO: Arlo's mark, right next to Poppa's.

He's home.

FADE TO BLACK.