

The Hunger Games

By

C.M. Productions
DIRECTORS CUT
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Based on
Suzanne Collin's hit novel, The Hunger Games.

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MAIN STORY.

OPENING

KATNISS

(V.O.)

Winning means fame and fortune.
Losing means certain death. I guess
I wouldn't mind dying, but dying
means losing the ones I love.

INT. Cinna's workroom.- DAY.

The lights flicker on. KATNISS bats her eyes at the sudden light, trying to adjust her eyes to the bright lights, slightly startled. She is naked, except for a bra, underwear, and a tank top. CINNA circles her, examining her body like a piece of work.

DISTRICT 12

DAYS EARLIER

INT. Everdeen household- DAY.

Katniss stretches on her bed from the effects of just waking up. She finds the other side of her bed empty. She props herself on one elbow, finding PRIM curled up by her MOTHER on another bed, both asleep. BUTTERCUP, the cat, sits at the feet of Prim. Katniss gets up to get ready to hunt. Once ready, she takes goat cheese from the table. Katniss goes to Prim and kisses her on the forehead.

KATNISS

(whispered)

Thanks, Prim.

Katniss puts the cheese in her pocket as she steps outside. She proceeds to walk towards the edge of Seam. She leans towards the fence and listens. It's silent. She slips underneath the fence. She picks up her archery set and equips herself. She looks at a kid trying to retrieve an apple from a tree.

KATNISS

District Twelve. Where you can
starve to death in safety.

She climbs hills to join GALE. She sits beside him.

GALE

Hey, Catnip. Look what I shot.

(CONTINUED)

He holds up a loaf of bread with an arrow stuck through it for Katniss to see. She laughs. Katniss then takes the bread from Gale's hands and pulls out the arrow.

KATNISS

Still warm. What did it cost you?

GALE

Just a squirrel. Think the old man was feeling sentimental this morning. Even wished me luck.

KATNISS

Well, we all feel a little closer today, don't we? Prim left us a cheese.

Katniss takes the cheese out from her pocket.

GALE

Thank you, Prim. We'll have a real feast.

He rips a piece of the bread off.

GALE

I almost forgot.
(capitol accent)
Happy Hunger Games! And may the odds-

She finishes the phrase in a similar imitation.

KATNISS

(capitol accent)
-Be ever in your favor!

They laugh. They settle down and eat.

GALE

We could do it, you know.

KATNISS

Do what?

GALE

Leave the district. Run off. Live in the woods. You and I, we could make it... if we didn't have so many kids around to take care of.

KATNISS

I never want to have kids. Prim and my Mother are enough. How about you?

GALE

I might, if I didn't live here.

KATNISS

But you do.

GALE

Forget it.

Beat.

KATNISS

What do you want to do? I was thinking hunting, or fishing. Maybe gathering too.

GALE

Let's fish at the lake. We can leave out poles and gather in the woods. Get something nice for tonight.

They leave.

CUT TO:

TRADING

EXT. Lake, Forest at border of Seam- DAY.

Gale fishes. Katniss gathers. Gale glances at her.

GALE

Having fun there, Catnip?

Katniss smiles at Gale and they go back to work. He casts his line.

CUT TO:

They enter the Hob with seven fish, 4 salt water filled bottles, vegetables, a dozen strawberries, and a butchered paraffin.

EXT. The Hob, Seam- DAY.

They walk to GREASY SAE'S stall.

(CONTINUED)

GALE

So, we got six fish, two salt water bottles, 4 strawberries, and a few chunks of paraffin to spare. Wanna trade?

GREASY SAE

Whatever tickles your fancy. I'll give you twenty five for it.

GALE

Done.

They hand Greasy Sae the food. Greasy Sae gives them a stack of money.

GREASY SAE

There you are, folks. Twenty-five for your families.

KATNISS

Thanks, I'll stop by for some soup in a few days. Hey, what's the meat you put in there?

GREASY SAE

Variations. But once it's in the soup it's always beef.

Greasy Sae winks. Katniss raises her eyebrows. Gale yanks her away.

CUT TO:

GALE'S EQUALITY

EXT. Mayor's house, District 12- DAY.

They go to the mayor's back door to sell half of the strawberries to him. They knock on the door. After a few moments, the mayor's daughter, MADGE, opens the door.

GALE

Pretty dress.

MADGE

Well, if I end up going to the Capitol, I want to look nice, don't I?

(CONTINUED)

GALE

You won't be going to the Capitol.

He looks at the gold mockingjay pin she has on.

GALE

(cont'd)

What can you have? Five entries? I had six when I was just twelve years old.

KATNISS

Hey, Gale, that's not her fault. Be a little nicer.

GALE

It's just the way it is.

Madge hands money to Katniss.

MADGE

Good luck, Katniss.

Katniss gives the berries to Madge and puts the money in her pocket.

KATNISS

You, too.

Madge steps inside and closes the door. They split the food and money and carry their own rations home. Katniss and Gale walk in silence.

GALE

Katniss?

KATNISS

What?

GALE

This is stupid.

KATNISS

What's stupid?

GALE

This Hunger Games thing. Why would they kill people like this?

KATNISS

I know. We all hate it. But we have to face the truth that-

(CONTINUED)

GALE

What truth? Nothing is positive about this. *Nothing*. They're all idiots! Why would they do this to us? It's like they think they're the only ones that live! What ever happened to equality?

He mutters his curses at the capitol. Katniss rolls her eyes at the sight of Gale pouting.

KATNISS

See you in the square.

GALE

Wear something pretty.

They part in different directions.

CUT TO:

REAPING

INT. Everdeen household- DAY

Katniss enters her house to find that Prim and her Mother are ready to go to the reaping, tidied up and neat. Prim runs to Katniss, hugging her. She's breaking down.

PRIM

Katniss! Katniss, I don't want to go to the reaping. What if they pick me?

KATNISS

Shhhh, Prim. It's okay. You won't be picked. Trust me. The odds are one to hundreds for you. I'm sure you'll be safe.

PRIM

But... what if you get picked? You have so many entries...

KATNISS

I'm sure both of us are safe. I mean, look at Gale. He has 42. My entries don't come close to his.

PRIM

But he's a boy.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

It's just a comparison.

She kneels down in front of Prim until she's eye level.

KATNISS

Now, when I come back, I want to see a smile. Okay?

Prim nods.

KATNISS

Good.

She kisses Prim's cheek. Katniss leaves to get ready.

CUT TO:

INT. Bedroom, Everdeen household, Dist. 12- DAY.

Katniss walks out of the bathroom and into the bedroom with a towel wrapped on her head and another around her body. She already has a tank top, bra, and underwear on underneath. She sees her Mother's favorite dress laid out on the bed with matching shoes. Her mother walks into the room.

MOTHER

Go ahead and use those.

She gestures to the dress and shoes.

KATNISS

Mother... this is so unlike you. Are you sure?

MOTHER

Of course.

Her Mother sits on the bed. Katniss puts the dress on.

MOTHER

Let's put your hair up, too.

She pats the spot beside her. Katniss sits there and lets her Mother towel dry and braid her hair.

KATNISS

So?

MOTHER

See for yourself.

Katniss gets up and looks into the aged body mirror. Prim enters and stops in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

PRIM
You look beautiful.

Katniss turns away from the mirror and walks to Prim.

KATNISS
And nothing like myself.

They hug. Mother leaves. Katniss hears a sob come from Prim. She pulls away and looks at her. Katniss wipes a tear away from Prim's cheek.

KATNISS
Remember what I said? Only smiles
when I came back.

PRIM
But you didn't come back, I came
back.

Prim grins. Katniss laughs. Katniss notices Prim's blouse untucked in the back. Katniss smooths and tucks Prim's blouse for her.

KATNISS
Tuck your tail in, little duck.

PRIM
Quack.

KATNISS
Quack yourself. Come on, let's eat.

They leave.

CUT TO:

INT. Kitchen, Everdeen Household- DAY.

Katniss stirs a stew on the stove and chews on bread while Prim drinks a tall glass of milk. Prim looks at the clock.

PRIM
Katniss, it's almost one o'clock.

Katniss looks at the clock while stirring.

KATNISS
Oh, it is, isn't it.

Katniss sets the stirring spoon down and wipes her hand on a towel nearby. She grabs her mother's stuff.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

(cont'd)

Don't want the officials taking us
to prison, now.

PRIM

I'm scared.

KATNISS

Don't be. You'll be fine. I swear.

Katniss looks at the clock once more.

KATNISS

Mother! It's time to go!

CUT TO:

EXT. The square- DAY.

The whole town is there. Two of three chairs onstage are filled by the MAYOR and EFFIE. The town clock strikes two and the Mayor steps up to the podium.

MAYOR

Welcome, citizens of Panem. Welcome to District 12's reaping of the 74th annual Hunger Games. As you may know, disaster struck what used to be North America, and what rose from the ashes came the new land of Panem. Panem is the land we all stand on now. Panem was a shining capitol ringed by thirteen districts, each contributing to one type of work in the majority. That is, until the Dark Days. The districts began rebelling against the capitol which obviously resulted into the unfortunate event of a total civil war breaking out. And yet, the capitol predictably took the title of "winner" by taking total destruction seriously and erasing District 13's civilization forever. Now, the Hunger Games was the result of this happening and must go on. In the event of the uprising, each of the twelve districts must offer one boy and one girl tribute to participate in the Hunger Games, and must strictly be the ages of 12 through

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAYOR (cont'd)

18. The contestants will be put into an outdoor arena where they must survive all types of danger and fight to the death, or leave it up to nature. The last tribute standing wins. It is both a time for repentance and a time for thanks. In the past 73 Hunger Games, we have had only a few victors representing district twelve. A living victor representing district twelve is here today. Welcome, Haymitch Abernathy.

HAYMITCH stumbles onto the stage in a completely drunk manner. He shouts in gibberish. He slurs his words.

HAYMITCH

Puthabidtha Hoonga Gaims!

He stumbles into the third chair, startling Effie. He checks her out. Effie's wig tilts to the right.

HAYMITCH

(cont'd)

How you doin'?

MAYOR

Oh dear... Please welcome Effie Trinket of the Capitol!

Effie hurriedly attempts to fix her wig with no avail. Effie goes to the podium. Haymitch shrugs and walks off, falling off of the stage in the process. Effie Trinket, a representative of the capitol, speaks in the standard capitol accent.

EFFIE

Happy Hunger Games! And may the odds be ever in your favor!

In the audience, Gale and Katniss lock eyes from afar. They turn away as Effie crosses to the Girl's glass ball filled with the names and shakes it.

EFFIE

Ladies first!

Effie pulls out a name, and walks back to the podium, opens the slip up, and reads it in her head before saying it aloud.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE
Primrose Everdeen.

The crowd of district twelve citizens murmur unhappily. Katniss' eyes dart around to find Prim. Prim begins to walk toward the stage. Katniss runs towards her.

KATNISS
Prim! Prim!

Prim is about to step onto the stage when Katniss reaches the stage steps and pulls Prim back and stands in front of Prim.

KATNISS
I volunteer! I volunteer as
tribute!

EFFIE
That is lovely! But I believe
there's a small matter of
introducing the reaping winner and
then asking for volunteers, and
if one does not come forth we...
um...

MAYOR
What does it matter? What does it
matter, really? Let her come
forward.

PRIM
No, Katniss! No!

Prim wraps her arms around Katniss from behind.

PRIM
(cont'd)
You can't go!

KATNISS
Prim, let go.

Prim does not let go.

KATNISS
Let go!

Gale takes Prim from Katniss. Prim is thrashing in his arms and screaming for Katniss. Gale carries Prim to her Mother. Katniss walks onto the stage.

EFFIE

Well, bravo! That's the spirit of the Games! What's your name?

KATNISS

Katniss Everdeen.

EFFIE

I bet my buttons that was your sister. Don't want her to steal all the glory, do we? Come on, everybody! Let's give a big round of applause to our newest tribute!

No one claps. Haymitch staggers up to the stage yet again.

HAYMITCH

Look at her! Look at this one!

Haymitch walks to Katniss, burps, and puts an arm around Katniss.

HAYMITCH

I like her! Lots of... spunk!

He staggers to the edge of the stage and points at the audience.

HAYMITCH

(cont'd)

More than you!

Haymitch points at a camera filming the reaping.

HAYMITCH

(cont'd)

More than all of you! More than-

Haymitch falls off of the edge of the stage in mid-sentence, becoming unconscious.

EFFIE

What an exciting day! But more excitement to come! It's time to choose our boy tribute!

She takes the first slip out from the boy's raffle while trying to hide the fact she's fixing her wig. She reads it aloud hastily.

EFFIE

Peeta Mellark!

(CONTINUED)

Effie immediately goes to fixing her wig, and this time it works. PEETA walks up to the stage and stands beside Katniss.

EFFIE

Welcome, Peeta! Now, if anyone wishes to take is place, do speak up! Any volunteers? No? Okay, how about a round of applause for our new District 12 boy tribute, Peeta Mellark!

No one cheers but Effie.

EFFIE

Very well done, my friends. Now,...

As Katniss is looking at Peeta, she has a flash back.

CUT TO:

EXT. Town bakery, District twelve streets- DAY.

It is pouring rain. YOUNG KATNISS stumbles by the bakery. She checks the bakery's trash bin. There is nothing in it. The BAKER'S WIFE looks out and sees Katniss peering in the trash bin.

BAKER'S WIFE

HEY! Get a move on, scum! Lousy brats always pawing through our trash... Go on, walk away!

Katniss slides the lid back onto the trash bin. The Baker's wife walks back inside muttering profanities to herself. She drags herself away from the bakery. Katniss crumples beside a tree.

CUT TO:

INT. Bakery- DAY.

YOUNG PEETA brings two loaves of bread to his Mother.

BAKER'S WIFE

What is this?! I thought I said bakery bread, not burnt bread!

She slaps Peeta.

BAKER'S WIFE

Feed it to the pig, you stupid creature!

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

But-

BAKER'S WIFE

Why not? No one decent will buy
burnt bread! Stupid kid. What did I
just say? Go throw the worthless
bread out, you worthless boy!

Peeta exits the bakery with the bread.

CUT TO:

EXT. Bakery- DAY.

Peeta walks out of the bakery. He throws one loaf into the trash bin. He then walks up to Katniss and holds the bread out to her. Katniss hesitates. Peeta gently pushes it towards her. Katniss hesitates yet again, but this time checks if no one is watching. Then, with the conformation that no one is, she takes the loaves and stuffs it up her shirt and runs off. Peeta watches as she leaves, then returns to the bakery.

CUT TO:

The older, present Katniss returns from her flashback. The Mayor had been reciting the Treaty of Treason while she had been tuned out, and is about to finish. She finally looks away from Peeta.

MAYOR

... will represent District 12.
Please shake hands with each other
if you agree to these terms.

Katniss and Peeta shake hands.

MAYOR

Now for the anthem of Panem.

The anthem of Panem plays as Katniss and Peeta turn to face the audience. They are taken away by the PEACEKEEPERS. The Peacekeepers surround them in a circle as they walk. They march out of the town square.

CUT TO:

Peacekeepers push Katniss into a room.

CUT TO:

GOODBYE

INT. Katniss' "Goodbye" room, Justice Building of Seam- DAY.

She examines the room slightly, and decides to sit down. Prim and her Mother walk into the room after a few moments of silence had passed. Katniss reaches out to Prim. Prim climbs onto her lap. Her Mother sits beside Katniss and Prim and joins the embrace.

KATNISS

Prim, Mother, make sure to take care of yourselves. Prim, don't bother getting any tesseræ. You can get by with selling goat cheese and milk. Gale will bring you food and teach you how to gather. Try to trade him something in thanks for helping you out. Stay in school. Just survive, okay?

Prim nods. Katniss turns to her Mother and grips her arm.

KATNISS

Listen to me. You can't leave again.

MOTHER

I know. I wont. I couldn't help what-

KATNISS

Well, you have to help it this time. You can't clock out and leave Prim on her own. There's no me now to keep you both alive. It doesn't matter what happens, whatever you see on the screen. You have to promise me you'll fight through it!

Mother pulls her arm away harshly.

MOTHER

I was ill. I could have treated myself if I'd had the medicine I have now.

KATNISS

Then take it. And take care of her!

PRIM

I'll be alright, Katniss. But you have to take care, too. You're so fast and brave. Maybe you can win.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Maybe. Then we'd be rich as Haymitch.

PRIM

I don't care if we're rich. I just want you to come home. You will try, wont you? Really, really try?

KATNISS

Really, really try. I swear it.

A Peace keeper comes through the door.

PEACEKEEPER

Time is up. You two have to go now.

Prim begins to cry. She bear hugs Katniss. Mother joins.

PRIM

Katniss, I want you to come home!

KATNISS

I can't be too sure, Prim. But I swore, remember?

MOTHER

Oh, Katniss. I'm so sorry.

KATNISS

I love you both so, so much. Take care of yourselves, okay?

They nod. Prim lets go. Mother embraces Katniss one more time. She lets go.

MOTHER

You too, Katniss. Be careful. I love you.

She kisses Katniss on the cheek and Katniss hugs her, her eyes tearing up. The Peacekeeper clears his throat. They all look up.

KATNISS

Goodbye, Prim. Goodbye, Mother.

Mother holds Prim's hand.

MOTHER

Goodbye, Katniss. Come home soon.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

Prim?

PRIM

Bye, Katniss.

They leave. Once gone, Katniss holds a pillow to her chest and begins to silently cry. The BAKERY MAN, Peeta's Father, enters silently. She quickly wipes her tears away. The Baker seems to pay no attention as he sits down at the edge of a plush chair awkwardly. Beat. He takes a white paper package from his jacket and sets it next to Katniss. She looks at it momentarily, then to the baker, and picks it up. She opens it and finds cookies.

KATNISS

Thank you. I had some of your bread this morning. My friend Gale gave you a squirrel for it. Not your best trade...

The baker shrugs. Beat. A Peacekeeper walks in.

PEACEKEEPER

Your time is up.

As the baker rises, he clears his throat.

BAKERY MAN

I'll keep an eye on the little girl. Make sure she's eating.

He leaves along with the Peacekeeper. Madge enters.

MADGE

They let you wear one thing from your district in the arena. One thing to remind you of home. Will you wear this?

She holds out the mockingjay pin she wore to the reaping.

KATNISS

Your pin?

MADGE

Here, I'll put it on your dress. Alright?

She puts the pin onto Katniss' dress.

(CONTINUED)

MADGE

Promise you'll wear it into the arena, Katniss? Promise?

KATNISS

Yes.

Madge leaves with a thankful smile. Gale enters. Gale walks in with no words. He stops and opens his arms in the middle of the room. Katniss jumps into his arms. They hug emotionally.

GALE

Listen. Getting a knife should be pretty easy, but you gotta get your hands on a bow. That's your best chance.

KATNISS

They don't always have bows...

A quick flashback of the time the tributes only had spiked maces to bludgeon one another to death.

GALE

Then make one. Even a weak bow is better than no bow at all.

KATNISS

I don't know if there will be wood.

Flashback to the time the tributes' arena was only made of boulders, sand, and scruffy bushes and bitten by venomous snakes or gone insane from thirst.

GALE

There's almost always some wood. Since that year half of them died from cold. Not much entertainment from that...

Flashback to the time when the tributes were mostly frozen to death.

KATNISS

Yes. There's usually some.

GALE

Katniss, it's just hunting. You're the best hunter I know.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

It's not just hunting. They're armed and can think for themselves. Easily.

GALE

So do you. And You've had more practice. *Real* practice. You know how to kill.

KATNISS

Not people. It's completely different.

GALE

How different can it really be?

The Peacekeepers burst in suddenly and latch on Gale's arms to pull him out of the room. Katniss latches on Gale's arm. Katniss furrows her eyebrows and desperately says her last words to Gale.

KATNISS

(Panicked)

Don't let them starve!

GALE

I won't! You know I won't! Katniss, remember I-

The Peacekeepers yank Gale and Katniss apart. Gale and the Peacekeepers exit the room. Katniss watches the door with furrowed eyebrows, an open mouth, and wild hair, close to tears. She plants herself on the couch. Beat.

CUT TO:

I HOPE YOU WIN

EXT. Train Station

Many reporters with cameras swarm Katniss and Peeta. Katniss keeps a straight face while Peeta is red eyed and miserable-looking. Katniss and Peeta enter the train and it begins to move to its destination: the Capitol. Peeta walks off to another direction in the train with no words. A GUARD walks up to Katniss. He looks around to see if anyone is watching. He leans in, staring at a confused and wrecked Katniss intently.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD
(whispering)
I hope you win.

Effie Trinket approaches. The Guard quickly straightens up and tries to cover the evidence that he's been talking to the tribute.

EFFIE
Oh, did you need help showing
Katniss to her room?

GUARD
No. I was just showing her the way.
Come with me, Tribute. Goodbye, Ms.
Trinket.

The Guard takes Katniss to her room. Effie watches them walk away. Beat. The door to Katniss' room slams, heard from the distance. The Guard's footsteps slowly fade away.

EFFIE
Hm, Ms. Trinket. What a lovely
name... I think I may keep that for
future use.

She walks towards Katniss' room.

CUT TO:

SUPPER

INT. Katniss' room, Train to Capitol- DAY.

Katniss is zoned out while examining the mockingjay pin.
Effie Trinket enters the room.

EFFIE
Dear, it's time for supper.

KATNISS
(sigh)
What? Oh, Alright.

Katniss follows Effie out the door.

CUT TO:

Katniss and Effie walk into the dining room table where
Peeta is waiting.

INT. Dining Room, Train to the Capitol- DAY.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

Where's Haymitch?

PEETA

Last time I saw him, he said he was going to take a nap.

EFFIE

Well, it has been an exhausting day.

Katniss, Peeta, and Effie begin to eat. Effie notices their

EFFIE

At least you two have decent manners. The pair last year ate everything with their hands like a couple of savages. It upsetted my digestion.

Katniss narrows her eyes at Effie. She begins to eat the rest of her supper noisily chewing and with her hands. Effie gives Katniss an offended look, trying to eat while acting as if she had not noticed. Beat. Effie slams her hands down. Haymitch enters awkwardly.

EFFIE

Are you going to eat properly anymore?

KATNISS

Well, I was actually just leaving.

As Katniss stands up from her seat, she wipes her hands on the tablecloth in front of Effie. They watch as she leaves. All eyes go onto Peeta. Beat. He slowly rises and leaves. Once the door closes behind them, beat. Haymitch giggles.

CUT TO:

HAYMITCH NEEDS BEHAVIOR TRAINING

Peeta and Katniss go into another room to watch the reappings of other districts.

INT. TV Room, Train to Capitol- NIGHT.

Katniss and Peeta watch the program with straight, hard-as-rock expressions, examining their competition as closely as possible.

(CONTINUED)

The television shows FOXFACE being announced as a tribute back in district 5 by a CAPITOL REAPING ANNOUNCER that has been assigned to that district. Foxface has an expression similar to Katniss'.

Peeta frowns.

Effie enters the room. She picks up the remote and turns the T.V. off.

EFFIE

(disgruntled)

Your mentor has a *lot* to learn about presentation. And a lot about televised behavior.

Peeta unexpectedly laughs, slightly surprising Effie and Katniss.

PEETA

He was drunk. He's drunk every year.

KATNISS

More like every day.

Katniss and Peeta laugh in unison. As Effie begins to talk, their laughter fades into silence.

EFFIE

(Hissing)

Yes. How odd you two find it *amusing*. You know your mentor is your *lifeline* to the world in these Games. The one who advises you, lines up your sponsors, and dictates the presentation of *any gifts*. Haymitch can well be the difference between your life and your death!

Katniss and Peeta look at each other with a frown. Haymitch enters the room staggering and clutching a liquor bottle.

HAYMITCH

(slurring)

I miss supper?

Haymitch vomits all over the carpet and falls in his own mess.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

So laugh away, and we'll see who's
laughing after you die!

Effie hops out of the room, dodging any spots with
Haymitch's vomit on it.

Katniss and Peeta exchange a look.

KATNISS

Oh, Haymitch. Why do you do this to
yourself?

HAYMITCH

(muffled)

Do whu tu mah self?

Katniss and Peeta proceed to help Haymitch back up to his
feet. Haymitch falls down with a groan. Peeta throws him oer
his shoulder and hauls Haymitch into the bathtub and turn on
the shower. (ALT: Katniss grabs Haymitch from his legs,
Peeta grabs him from his arms and puts him in the bathtub.)

INT. Haymitch's Bathroom, Haymitch's room, Train to capitol-
DAY.

Haymitch sits there with a blank, lazy face. His clothes get
wet along with his hair, but he seems to pay no attention to
anything, much less that.

KATNISS

Come on Haymitch, you don't want
your clothes to get wet, do you?

Haymitch doesn't respond. He smacks his lips together. Beat.

Peeta turns to Katniss.

PEETA

It's okay. I'll take it from here.

KATNISS

All right. I can send one of the
Capitol people to help you.

PEETA

No, I don't want them to.

Katniss nods and heads back to her room.

CUT TO:

DANDELION SALAD

INT. Katniss' room

Katniss takes the cookies from the baker and throws them out the window. She sees them fall into a patch of dandelions and her eyes go wide with realization.

A flashback begins.

EXT. School Courtyard, 8 years ago- DAY.

Young Peeta (About 9 yrs old, same goes to Katniss.) watches as Young Katniss picks a dandelion from the ground. She runs over to where YOUNG PRIM (6 years old) was, on the other side of the courtyard. She grabs her hand and a nearby bucket and the two run off into the meadow, where they pick many dandelions and other flowers. Peeta watches Katniss and Prim have fun for a few moments. The school bell rings. Kids begin to run to class. Katniss and Prim don't. Peeta's friends, JOSHUA, ELLIOT, and RYAN run up to him. His friends had to pester him to go.

JOSHUA

C'mon, Peeta bread! Don't wanna be late.

ELLIOT

Dude, hurry up!

Peeta gets pulled away.

CUT TO:

EXT. Park of Seam- DAY.

Katniss and Prim are eating a salad from a bucket made of the dandelions, flowers, lemon juice, and whatever else they found.

PRIM

What else? What other food can we find?

KATNISS

All kinds of things. I just have to remember them.

PRIM

I feel a little... bad. You know, for skipping class.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Yeah. We should go. After school do you want to read the book I got?

PRIM

"Plants?"

KATNISS

Yeah! That one.

PRIM

Okay, we should get going, Katniss.

Katniss nods in agreement. They leave.

CUT TO:

WE HAVE A PAIR OF FIGHTERS THIS YEAR

INT. Katniss' room, Train to Capitol- DAY.

Present time, where Katniss is still looking out the train window. She collapses on the bed, letting her hair tumble out of her braid, sobbing.

FADE OUT:

INT. Katniss' room, Train to Capitol- DAY.

EFFIE

Up, up, up! It's going to be a big, big day!

Katniss sits up from her bed with a groan.

CUT TO:

INT. Dining room, Train to Capitol- DAY.

Katniss enters the dining car. Haymitch notices her at the door way and waves her over.

HAYMITCH

Come, sit down.

She hesitantly joins them. The moment Katniss settles down in her chair, chefs and workers burst into the room with tons of food, shocking the tributes. Effie claps, her face enlightened with delight. Haymitch chuckles. The chefs and workers serve tons of "fancy" dining food to everyone. Haymitch is poured red wine in a wine cup and a small bottle of either vodka or saki. Katniss and Peeta are given mugs of

(CONTINUED)

hot chocolate. Many plates of food are set in the middle of the table. Effie begins to eat in upper class manners while Haymitch is more focused on the glass of red liquid he keeps combining with a bottle filled with clear liquid. Katniss stares at the cup of the liquid she has never seen before—hot chocolate.

PEETA

They call it hot chocolate. It's good.

Katniss drinks it and looks very satisfied. The two begin to go through the enormous mound of food. After a bit, Katniss leans back and begins to speak.

KATNISS

(to Haymitch)

So, you're supposed to give us advice.

Haymitch drunkenly looks at her.

HAYMITCH

Here's some advice. Stay alive.

He burps. Haymitch bursts out laughing. Haymitch recovers and swirls his cup of wine in his hand. Peeta gets up.

PEETA

That's very funny.

Peeta knocks the glass of wine out of Haymitch's hand.

PEETA

Just not to us.

Pause as Haymitch takes this all in. Haymitch stands up, walks towards Peeta slowly until they're face to face, then proceeds to punch Peeta in the jaw, knocking him to the floor. Effie flees the room. Haymitch tries to reach back for the bottle of clear alcohol, but Katniss takes a knife and stabs it in the table between Haymitch's hand and the bottle with a glare at Haymitch. Haymitch smirks.

HAYMITCH

Well, well! What is this? Did I actually get a pair of fighters this year?

Peeta rises and tries to get a handful of ice, but Haymitch stops him.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

No, no. Let the bruise show. The audience will think that you've mixed it up with another tribute before we've even started.

PEETA

That's against the rules.

HAYMITCH

Only if you get caught. That bruise will say you fought, you weren't caught, even better.

Haymitch turns to Katniss. Effie peeks into the room. She sees the knife lodged into the table. She rushes to it.

EFFIE

What is this?! That table was first class! That is *mahogany*!

HAYMITCH

Can you hit anything with that knife besides a table?

EFFIE

Oh, you just don't understand.

Effie stomps out of the room.

HAYMITCH

So, can you?

Katniss yanks out the knife and throws it into the wall across the room, lodging into the seam of two panels.

HAYMITCH

Stand over here. Both of you.

Katniss and Peeta walk to the middle of the room and Haymitch checks them out.

HAYMITCH

Well, you're not entirely hopeless. You both seem fit. And once the stylists get hold of you, you'll be attractive enough.

KATNISS

I don't think I can trust you to help me win, Haymitch. You're always drunk.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

Alright, I'll make a deal with you. You don't interfere with my drinking, and I'll stay sober enough to help you. But you'll have to do exactly what I say.

Beat.

PEETA

Alright. Fine.

KATNISS

So help us. When we get to the arena, what's the best strategy at the Cornucopia for someone-

Haymitch wags his index finger at Katniss.

HAYMITCH

No, no, no, no, no. One thing at a time. You'll be put in the hands of your stylists. You're not going to like what they do to you, but no matter what it is, don't resist.

KATNISS

But-

HAYMITCH

No buts. Don't resist.

Haymitch takes the bottle of clear liquid and leaves the room. Katniss and Peeta exchange glances. The train is halting with a screeching sound. They both run to the window. Many people dressed oddly are waving excitedly at Katniss and Peeta. They've arrived at the capitol. Katniss steps back but Peeta waves and smiles nicely at them until the train station block their view. Peeta turns and sees Katniss behind him.

KATNISS

What're you trying to do?

PEETA

Get sponsors. Duh.

Katniss looks at him as if he's crazy.

PEETA

Who knows? One of them might be rich.

CUT TO:

GROOM ME

INT. Prep house- DAY.

VENIA, Katniss' assistant groomer from the capitol, is waxing Katniss' legs. Katniss is naked, except for underwear, a bra, and a tank top. Just as Effie, she speaks in the standard capitol accent.

VENIA
One, two, three.

Venia rips the fabric from Katniss' legs. Katniss grunts in pain.

VENIA
Sorry! You're just so hairy.

Katniss rolls her eyes.

VENIA
Good news, though. This is the last one. Ready?

Katniss nods, bracing herself. Venia puts the wax on Katniss' leg one last time.

VENIA
One, two, three!

Katniss grunts as Venia the fabric off. Venia goes to her table to prep more things. FLAVIUS and OCTAVIA enters.

FLAVIUS
You're doing very good. If there's one thing we hate, it's whiners. Octavia, grease her down.

Octavia take a liquidy lotion and rubs it onto Katniss. Katniss scrunches her face in pain, then relaxes. Venia turns to them with three tweezers in hand and gives one to each of them.

VENIA
If you find any stray hairs, pluck them.

They examine Katniss together and pluck a few stray hairs.

FLAVIUS
Perfect! Oh my god, what a peice of art.

(CONTINUED)

OCTAVIA

What a doll.

Katniss forces a smile.

KATNISS

Thanks.

VENIA

I guess this is goodbye for now,
Katniss. We'll call Cinna for you.
He's our lead prepper and designer.

OCTAVIA

Here's your robe.

Octavia hands Katniss a colorful silk robe. They walk into Cinna's office. Flavius peeks his head out a few moments later.

FLAVIUS

He's ready to see you.

The trio leave the office, into the room that Katniss occupies. They line up beside the door as Katniss enters the office.

VENIA

Good luck, little charmer!

Katniss closes the door behind her. Katniss turns to see CINNA standing with a warm smile.

INT. Cinna's workroom, Capitol Prep House- DAY.

Cinna is a young man from the far side of the capitol. He wears "normal" clothing- a black shirt, black pants. The only "capitol" trace of him is the light metallic gold eyeliner and the slight accent.

CINNA

Hello, Katniss. I'm your stylist,
Cinna. Is everything alright?

KATNISS

Well, yeah, but you look so-

CINNA

Different? Yeah, I get that alot.
That's why I'm a designer. I know
all the styles and how to work with
them. Plus, I don't see what's so
great about capitol fashion. It's a
little... what's the word?...

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Overdone?

CINNA

Oh, yes. Overdone. Can you take off that robe?

KATNISS

Oh, yeah, sure.

Katniss takes off the robe and Cinna takes it from her hands and sets it aside. Cinna circles her, examining the work that the prep team had done on her nearly-naked body.

CINNA

Who did your hair?

KATNISS

My Mother.

Cinna takes a closer look at the braid, touching it here and there.

CINNA

It's beautiful. Classic, really. And a nearly perfect balance with your profile. She has very clever fingers.

Cinna continues circling her to examine.

KATNISS

Um... Thank you. You're new, aren't you? I don't think I've seen you before.

CINNA

Yes, this is my first year in the Games.

KATNISS

So you were assigned District 12?

He stops in front of her, and hands her the robe.

CINNA

No, I asked for District 12. Why don't you put on your robe and we'll have a chat.

Katniss puts on the robe and follows Cinna to another room.

CUT TO"\":

DESPICABLE

INT. Dining room, Prep House- DAY.

The room is simple and to the point. It is small and encases a dining room table with a huge red button on the bottom corner and a few chairs surrounding the table. Cinna pulls a chair out for Katniss to sit on. Katniss takes a seat and Cinna takes his across from her side of the table. He presses the red button. A loud buzzer sound escapes from somewhere and a ton of people burst in and set up the food, putting a plate of food in front of both people and utensils, then rush out in an extremely small amount of time. Cinna acts as if nothing happened and begins to eat. Katniss hesitantly begins to eat. Cinna stops eating. Beat. Katniss looks up to see Cinna staring at her.

CINNA

How despicable we must seem to you.
No matter.

Cinna takes a bite of his food.

CINNA

So, Katniss, about your costume for the opening ceremonies. My partner, Portia, is the stylist for your fellow tribute, Peeta. And our current thought is to dress you in complementary costumes. As you may know, it's customary to reflect the flavor of the district you come from.

KATNISS

So I'll be in a coal miner outfit?

CINNA

Not exactly. You see, Portia and I think that coal miner thing is very overdone. No one will remember you in that. And we both see it as our job to take the District Twelve Tributes unforgettable. So rather than focus on the coal mining itself, we're going to focus on the coal. And what do you do with coal? We burn it. You're not afraid of fire, are you, Katniss?

CUT TO:

SHOW OFF YOUR CHARIOT

INT. Opening Ceremony buildings- NIGHT.

Katniss wears a plain black unitard with a fire-resembling cape and headband/tiara to match. They are to be in flames later. Many designers bustle about, adjusting the tributes' makeup or congratulating each other. Peeta wears a matching outfit. Peeta walks up to Katniss.

PEETA

Cinna told us to load into the chariot.

KATNISS

Where's the chariot?

Peeta points to a door. They leave through it and walk to their chariot, in the far back of the line of chariots. Behind the door is a huge docking room, where all the tributes' chariots are aligned in order. Each chariot is custom designed to resemble the district it's for. In front of the docking room is a street in which the chariots will ride through for the people to see. In the streets, you can hear the people cheering for the tributes. The show is starting soon. District 12's chariot is plain black with black horses. Other tributes begin to mount their chariots as well. They sit on their chariot. Beat.

KATNISS

So what do you think of this get up? Cinna says he's going to light it right before we go on stage.

PEETA

I'll rip yours off if you rip mine.

KATNISS

Deal. Hey, where's Haymitch? Isn't he supposed to be here?

PEETA

With all the alcohol in him, I don't think he was allowed near open flames.

They laugh. Music starts. The chariots are all ready to go. Claudius, the announcer, speaks from outside, the street/stage.

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIUS (cont'd)
And now, for our 74th annual Hunger
Games opening ceremonies, we give
you... the tributes!

Cheers from the audience.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District one!

The district one chariot rides out. More cheers. The rest of
the chariots move up in the line.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District two!

More cheers. District two rides out. They move up in line.

PEETA
I'm scared...

KATNISS
No kidding.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District three!

More cheers. District three rides out. They move up in line.
Cinna comes out from the prep building and jogs over to the
chariot.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District four!

More cheers. District four rides out. They move up in line.
Cinna reaches them. He must scream over the music.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District five!

CINNA
I'm gonna light you two up now!

PEETA
What?

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District six!

A capitol woman runs up and hands him a torch of fake fire.

KATNISS
Oh god, please help me.

CINNA
This wont hurt.

Cinna climbs the chariot to reach their height.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District seven!

PEETA
Are you sure about that?

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District eight!

Cinna takes Katniss' cape and lights it up. He does the same with her headdress. Peeta's cape and headdress are lighten up as well.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District nine!

CINNA
Splendid. It works. Now, remember, smile! You look perfect. They'll love you. They will not forget you two. Katniss, the girl on fire.

He climbs off of the chariot.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District ten!

KATNISS
Ohhhh, I'm shaking...

Peeta takes her hand.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
District eleven!

CINNA

That's a good one, Peeta! Keep it up! Remember, smile!

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

And last, but not least, district twelve!

Cinna gives them a thumbs up. Their chariot ride off into the street. It's loud, with blaring music- not to mention everyone's extreme cheering that'd be loudenough with just one of them. It's extravagant and very capitol-fashioned out there. Katniss and Peeta remain holding hands. Katniss looks around nervously. She looks at Peeta, noticing the fire. Katniss looks up at the big screen that has their faces on it. She smiles. She blows kisses out to the audience, waving, smiling, and totally selling it. The audience is loving it. They cheer out her name, with a "Peeta" here and there. A red rose is thrown to her. She catches it, and blows another kiss in the general direction of where it came from. They've almost reached the end of the road. Katniss giggles on last time, then looks down at Peet's hand. She pulls her hand away. Peeta grabs it almost instantaneously.

PEETA

No, don't. Please. Don't let go of me. I might fall out of this thing.

She nods, holding his hand yet again. Their chariot joins everyone else at the boarding dock yet again. The viewing has ended. Other tributes shoot dirty glances her way as they leave. Portia hurries to the tributes as they get out of the chariot. She extinguished the flames with some kind of spray from a can. Cinna walks by.

CINNA

Great job, you two. I'm sure you'll get many sponsors.

He walks away. PORTIA follows. They're still holding hands.

PEETA

Um, Katniss... my hand is kinda... suffocating.

She lets go.

KATNISS

Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

No, I thank you. I would've been shaken to death by my own nervousness without you there.

KATNISS

It didn't show. I'm sure no one noticed.

PEETA

I'm sure they didn't notice anything but you. You should wear flames more often. They suit you.

Katniss raises her eyebrows and rolls her eyes. She looks away.

KATNISS

(muttered)

Two can play at that game.

She looks back to him and grins widely. She speaks in an overly grateful and sarcastic tone.

KATNISS

Oh, it's nothing. Thank you sooooo much, Peeta.

She kisses his cheek.

CUT TO:

THE NERVES ARE GETTING TO ME

INT. District Twelve tribute home, Capitol- NIGHT.

Katniss walks into the dining room with a yawn.

EFFIE

Oh good! We were just about to wake you. Time for dinner, dear.

Haymitch burps.

HAYMITCH

Where the hell were you? I'm wasted as hell and I'm not even asleep!

He laughs and hiccups. He faints on his food. Effie sighs.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

Nevermind him. Would you like to eat?

KATNISS

I'll take a roll.

Katniss takes a bread roll and begins to eat it.

EFFIE

That's all?

KATNISS

For now.

EFFIE

Come, sit down.

Katniss sits at the table.

KATNISS

Where's Peeta?

EFFIE

Oh, he's just nervous. He's sleeping. Tomorrow's training tomorrow, you know. It's where you train to show the Gamemakers all you've got. It's the best way to get sponsors. Your score determines a big lot of your luck in these games.

KATNISS

Sounds like a big deal.

EFFIE

Oh, it is. Trust me.

Beat.

KATNISS

How many sponsors do you think I'll get?

EFFIE

Well, by my bet, a lot. Unfortunately, I'm not the one that seals your sponsor deals. Haymitch is the only one that can.

KATNISS

So much for sponsors.

EFFIE

Oh, don't be like that. Haymitch isn't all that bad, really. He was just like you before he won the Hunger Games. But don't worry, I'll hold him at gunpoint if I have to. I will make him seal every last deal.

Katniss smiles. Katniss continues eating her roll.

EFFIE

Where is my food? I ordered it two minutes ago!

An Avox girl walks in with her head hanging down. She holds a plate of food.

EFFIE

Ah, there it is!

The Avox girl hand Effie the food without making eye contact. Effie preps her food on the table.

KATNISS

That looks delicious! What is it-
Oh, I know you!

The Avox girl looks at Katniss in horror. She shakes her head, and scurries away. Katniss frowns. Effie stops eating. She turns to Katniss.

EFFIE

Don't be ridiculous, Katniss. You knowing an Avox? The very thought of it.

KATNISS

What's an Avox?

EFFIE

Someone who committed a crime. They cut their tongues so they can't speak. She's probably a traitor of some sort. Not likely that you know her. And even if you did, it's forbidden to talk to them unless it's to give an order. Of course, you don't really know her.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS
Well.. I guess not...

Effie nods with a smile and continues eating.

CUT TO:

SUICIDE-PROOF

Katniss sits in her bed, looking up.

KATNISS
This is ridiculous.

Peeta knocks the door. She sits up.

KATNISS
Come in!

Peeta walks in. He smiles at her. She smiles back.

KATNISS
Hey, Peeta.

PEETA
Hey. Do you wanna join me on the
roof?

She nods. She gets up and follows him out the door.

FADE TO:

They walk onto the roof.

KATNISS
How'd you find this place?

PEETA
Cinna showed me. It's pretty,
right?

KATNISS
Yeah. The wind's a bit loud,
though.

PEETA
So I asked Cinna why he showed me
this. I was wondering if any
tributes could escape or commit
suicide or be smart enough to
escape.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

What did he say?

PEETA

You can't.

He extends his arm to hang off the roof. There's an electrical zap and he jerks his hand back.

PEETA

An electrical field.

KATNISS

(annoyed sigh)

Safe and sound.

PEETA

You know what? This is ridiculous. President Snow just doesn't get it. He doesn't get it at all. We're not just pawns for their silly televised fight to the death.

KATNISS

I'm suprised anyone finds this entertaining. You sound alot like my friend back home.

PEETA

Well then, your friend is smart. I just wish I could think of a way to show the Capitol that we're not puppets. That they don't own me. That I'm more than just a piece of their game.

Beat.

KATNISS

Do you think they're watching us now?

PEETA

Maybe.

CUT TO:

TRAINING

INT. Elevator, Training Center- DAY.

Katniss, Haymitch, and Peeta all ride in an elevator, waiting for their floor.

HAYMITCH

Today, we'll negotiate what we need to keep clear. After, I'll send you to train with the other tributes.

The elevator opens. They step into a room with a banner that reads: District 12.

HAYMITCH

And otherwise, I'll be coaching you both seperately.

KATNISS

What? Why?

HAYMITCH

Say you had a secret skill that you'd like to keep secret.

PEETA

But I have no secret skill. Plus, I already know Katniss'. I've eaten enough traded squirrels, right?

KATNISS

You can coach us together.

HAYMITCH

Alright. So give me an idea of what you can do.

PEETA

I can't do anything special, unless you count baking bread.

HAYMITCH

Sorry, I don't. Katniss. I already know you're handy with a knife.

KATNISS

Not really. But I can hunt. With a bow and arrows.

HAYMITCH

And you're good?

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

She's excellent. My fatehr buys her squirrels all the time. She always hits them in the exact same spot: the eye. It's the same with the rabbits she sells the butcher. She can even bring down a deer. Easy.

KATNISS

(whispered)

What are you doing?

PEETA

(whispered)

What are you doing? If he's going to help you, he has to know what you're capable of. Don't underrate yourself.

KATNISS

(whispered)

Well, what about you? I've seen you in the market. You can lift flour bags three times your weight. Tell him that. That's not nothing.

PEETA

(whispered)

Yes, because there'll be flour for me to chuck at people in the arena.

KATNISS

He can wrestle. He came in second last year in our school competition. His brother took first place.

PEETA

What use is that? How many times have you seen someone wrestle someone to death?

KATNISS

There's always hand-to-hand combat. All you need is to come up with a knife, and you'll at least stand a chance. If I get jumped, I'm dead!

PEETA

But you won't! You'll be living up in some tree eating raw squirrels and picking off people with arrows. You know what my mother said to me?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEETA (cont'd)

She says maybe District Twelve will finally have a winner. Then I realized, she didn't mean me, she meant you!

KATNISS

She meant you.

PEETA

She said, "She's a survivor, that one." She is. *She*.

KATNISS

But only because someone helped me...

PEETA

They'll be tripping over each other to sponsor you

KATNISS

No more than you.

PEETA

She has no idea of the effect she can have.

Beat.

HAYMITCH

Well, well, well. Katniss, there's guarantee there'll be bows and arrows in the arena, but during your private session with the Gamemakers, show them what you can do. Until then, steer clear of archery. Are you any good at trapping?

KATNISS

I know a few basic snares.

HAYMITCH

That may be significant in the terms of food. And, Peeta, she's right. Never underestimate strength in the arena. Very often, physical strength tilts the advantage to a player. In the main room of training center, they will have weights, but don't reveal how much you can lift in front of the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH (cont'd)
tributes. The plan's the same for
the both of you. You go to group
training. Spend time learning
something you don't know. Swing a
mace. Throw a spear. Tie a decent
knot. Save showing off for the
private session with the
Gamemakers. Are we clear?

Katniss and Peeta nod.

HAYMITCH
One last thing. You are to be at
eachother's side at all times.

Katniss and Peeta AD LIB: "But, I don't-"

Haymitch slams his hand on a table.

HAYMITCH
It is not open for discussion! You
promised you would do whatever I
said. You two are to stay at each
other's side and remain amiable to
each other. Now get out and get to
training. It's the thirteenth
level. It's the one above us.
You're already late, so you'd
better get going.

Beat.

HAYMITCH
What are you waiting for? Go!

They walk into the elevator. Haymitch stays behind in the
room.

HAYMITCH
(muttered)
Idiots.

INT. Thirteenth floor, Training center- DAY.

Katniss and Peeta walk out the elevator. The other tributes
are gathered around two trainers.

TRAINER 1
... and we expect you to be on your
best behavior. This is when you can
all train to *save your lives*. Maybe
you could all take advantage of
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TRAINER 1 (cont'd)
that. Now, there are different stations. You must train at whatever station you and your partner pick. Each station has a specific skill to train for. You can't stay there all day, though. The limit is 30 minutes per station.

TRAINER 2
And, after that incredibly long speech, this is where we let you train.

ANDREW
Finally!

TRAINER 2
Except for District twelve. We need to see you. Andrew, you're next.

Some of the other tributes snicker. They all unorderly walk off to their stations of choice. Trainer 1 and 2 motion to the district twelve tributes. Katniss and Peeta walk to them.

PEETA
Did we do something wrong?

TRAINER 1
Kinda.

TRAINER 2
No, it's not a "kinda". It's a yes. Why were you two so late? We started an hour ago.

KATNISS
Well, Haymitch-

TRAINER 1
No, no, stop there. That's a good enough explanation.

TRAINER 2
The speech started an hour ago, so we need to know all you heard since you walked in.

PEETA
We heard all about the stations.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

And best behavior. We walked in on best behavior.

TRAINER 2

Good. That's all you basically need to know. You're free to go.

They nod, and begin to walk off. Peeta walks back to them.

PEETA

Hey, do you have any idea if there is there a camouflage station?

Trainer 2 points at the camouflage station.

PEETA

Thanks.

TRAINER 2

No problem, kiddo.

He joins Katniss, who was waiting for him. They begin to walk towards the camouflage station.

KATNISS

What was that? Why'd you pick camouflage?

PEETA

It never hurts to learn new things. Plus, this is the only thing related to baking. Icing is mud. It's just the Hunger Games version of baking.

KATNISS

Uh... okay.

They reach the station. Peeta sits down and tries it out. Katniss attempts to keep focus on it, but can't help looking back. Rue is watching them sneakily.

PEETA

I think her name is Rue.

Katniss bites her lip.

KATNISS

What can we do about it? I don't want her here, in the Games. Not because of competition, but because she's just so young. She shouldn't be exposed to things like this.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

What can we do? At this rate,
nothing. We can only train. Or help
her train.

Katniss takes one last look at her.

FADE TO:

Katniss and Peeta are at the mini range. Thresh and Rue join
them. Katniss and Rue smile at each other.

FADE TO:

Katniss, Peeta, Thresh, and Rue are at the plant
identification class.

TRAINER 3

... So, class, what is this plant?
Tell me the effects as well.

The trainer points at an image of nightlock on the board.

RUE

Nightlock. The effects are deadly.
You can die instantly just by
swallowing a drop of it.

TRAINER 3

Very good, Rue. That's your 15th
correct answer. You are the first
I've seen like that in ages!

RUE

Thank you...

CUT TO:

ATTENTION SPAN

INT. Waiting room, Training Center- DAY.

Katniss is pacing back and forth. She is alone. Peeta walks
out of the Gamemaker judging room.

KATNISS

What happened?

PEETA

They payed no attention to me. At
all. Anyways, you're next, so good
luck.

(CONTINUED)

Peeta leaves the waiting room. She watches him walk off.

KATNISS

You can do this.

Katniss walks into the room that Peeta came out of- the Gamemakers judging room. Most of the gamemakers are paying no attention. The stations are set up the same exact way as in the training. The only thing different is the gamemakers watching and a food table to the side, which the majority of the gamemakers are occupied with. Katniss goes to the archery station. She picks up a bow and quiver full of arrows. She shoots an arrow at the target, but misses. She tries again. She hits the bullseye and without missing a beat, rolls to the side and shoots an arrow, hitting the bullseye again. She looks at the gamemakers. Only 3 gamemakers are smiling and nodding at her performance. The others are occupied with the extra food. She gets up from her stance, knocks an arrow, and shoots it straight through an apple on the table, pinning it to the wall. Every gamemaker becomes quiet and looks straight at her. Attention is all on her. She throws her bow, quiver, arm guard, and arrows to the side.

KATNISS

Thank you for your consideration.

She walks out.

CUT TO:

I FAILED

Katniss burts into her room crying.

INT. Katniss' room, Dist. 12 section of Tribute home- DAY.

She jumps under her covers, hugging a pillow.

KATNISS

I blew it. I did. I definitely did.

A few moments of sobbing. Effie taps on the door. Her muffled voice is heard from behind the door.

EFFIE

Katniss? Is that you?

KATNISS

Go away.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

Okay, well, it's time to eat. Come down if you're hungry. I'm sure you know where.

Effie walks off.

CUT TO:

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE

INT. Dining room- NIGHT.

Katniss walks into the dining room while Effie, Peeta, Haymitch, Cinna, and Portia are gathered around the table, eating and drinking, chatting with each other. She is puffy and red eyed. She sits down silently.

EFFIE

Oh, welcome, dear. I'm glad you joined us.

They continue their previous conversation. Peeta and Katniss lock eyes. Peeta raises his eyebrow. She replies with a nod.

PORTIA

So what was it?

HAYMITCH

A chimpanzee. In the *headquarters*.

Portia, Haymitch, Cinna, and Effie laugh.

EFFIE

So, how about you two? What did you think of the story?

PEETA

It was fine, I guess...

HAYMITCH

Let's just cut to the chase. How bad were you today?

PEETA

Well, I don't think that it mattered. By the time I showed up, no one even bothered to look at me. They were singing some kind of drinking song. I threw some weights around, but I still wasn't that good.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH
(To Katniss)
And you?

KATNISS
I shot an arrow at the Gamemakers.

EFFIE
You *what*?

KATNISS
I shot an arrow at them. Not exactly them. Just in their direction. It's like Peeta said, I was shooting and they were ignoring me and I just... I just lost my head. So, I shot an arrow through their stupid apple.

CINNA
And what did they say?

KATNISS
Nothing. Or... I don't know. I walked out after that.

EFFIE
Without being dismissed?

KATNISS
I dismissed myself.

HAYMITCH
Well, that's that.

KATNISS
Do you think they'll arrest me?

HAYMITCH
Doubt it. It'll be a pain to replace you at this stage.

KATNISS
What about my family? Will they punish them?

HAYMITCH
Don't think so. Wouldn't make much sense. They'd have to reveal what happened in the Training Center for it to have any worthwhile effect on the population. People wouldn't need to know what you did. But they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH (cont'd)
can't, since it's secret, so it'd
be a waste of effort. They'd just
make your life in the arena a
living hell.

PEETA
They've already promised to do that
to us, anyway.

HAYMITCH
Very true.

Haymitch grabs a roll of bread and chuckles.

HAYMITCH
What were their faces like?

KATNISS
Shocked. Terrified. Uh, ridiculous,
some of them. One of them even
tripped backwards.

Everyone but Effie laughs together.

EFFIE
Well, it serves them right. It's
their job to pay attention to you.
Both of you. And just because you
come from District twelve is no
excuse to ignore you. I'm sorry,
but that's what I think.

KATNISS
Thanks, Effie, but I don't think it
matters now. I'll get a bad score,
anyways.

PORTIA
Scores only matter if they're good.
No one pays attention to the bad or
mediocre ones. For all they know,
you could be hiding your talents to
get a low score on purpose. People
have used that strategy in the
past.

PEETA
I hope that's how people will
interpret the four I'm getting. I
mean, what's more impressive than
throwing a pilates ball around?
Everything. And I'm not even good

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEETA (cont'd)
at that, either. I almost stubbed
my toe. I'm sure we'll be alright,
in the end.

Katniss smiles at him. Effie looks at the clock. She jumps
up.

EFFIE
Oh! We're missing the score
showing!

Everyone gets up. Effie runs out of the dining room. They
follow.

CUT TO:

WHAT'S MY SCORE?

INT. T.V. room- NIGHT.

They file in. Katniss picks the remote and turns on the T.V.
They settle down.

EFFIE
Oh, Good. We haven't missed out on
your scores.

The T.V. shows the words: "District 11." Music plays in the
background. Then, Rue's picture and her score- seven. Then
Thresh- 10. "District 12"

HAYMITCH
Here we go.

Peeta- 8. Katniss- 11.

Effie squeals. They cheer. Katniss is stares at the screen,
slowly smiling. They congratulater her with claps on the
back and greetings. The cheering settles down.

CINNA
Katniss, the girl who was on fire.
Oh, wait until you see your
interview dress.

KATNISS
More flames?

CINNA
Of a sort.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

Oh, I'm so proud of you.

PORTIA

Excellent work, you two!

CUT TO:

CHANGE OF PLANS

INT. Katniss' bedroom- DAY.

Katniss is asleep. Effie knocks on the door.

EFFIE

Up, up, up! It's going to be a big day!

Katniss groans.

CUT TO:

INT. Hallway- DAY.

Katniss walks out of her room. Peeta, Haymitch, and Effie are talking in hushed, urgent voices in a corner a few doors down. Katniss walks there.

KATNISS

What's going on? I thought we were supposed to meet at the Training Center. You know, for the interview training?

They immediately stop talking and turn to her.

HAYMITCH

Well, there's been a change of plans.

KATNISS

Like what? New location?

HAYMITCH

About our current approach.

KATNISS

What's that?

HAYMITCH

Peeta has asked to be coached seperately.

(CONTINUED)

Beat.

KATNISS
What did you say?

HAYMITCH
You will be coached seperately.
Peeta has asked of it.

Katniss glares at Peeta, ignoring him thereon.

KATNISS
Well, good then. What's the
schedule?

HAYMITCH
Well, there's been *another* change
of plans as well.

KATNISS
Great. What now?

HAYMITCH
Well, it wasn't going to be a
private session in the first place,
and Peeta has something he wishes
to keep secret for the interviews,
and that's the only reason why were
to coach you both. Strategy.
Secrets. But as it seems, you have
no real strategy planned like we
asked you to, we've decided that
with the tight schedule, we'll keep
the private session for Peeta.
Peeta, you know where to meet me. 4
o'clock, sharp.

Peeta nods and walks away.

HAYMITCH
As for you, Katniss, you seem
readyenough, so we'll coach you
now. Effie will coach you first.

Effie smiles and walks off. Katniss follows.

CUT TO:

HAYMITCH'S TRAINING

INT. Haymitch's room- DAY.

Effie trots in with Katniss following behind. Haymitch is sipping on a drink.

EFFIE

After two hours of training, I've gotten her to get perfect posture, a winning smile, and more. You should be grateful.

Effie walks out with a smile.

HAYMITCH

Did she teach you that too?

Katniss nods.

HAYMITCH

Good. So, I've gotten Peeta's themes- easy. All that's hard to do is find your theme.

KATNISS

And why is that?

HAYMITCH

Peeta has a natural subtle and likeable humor. You... Well, it's not so easy to work with positivity and you.

KATNISS

That's not very nice.

HAYMITCH

Don't get me wrong, you're pretty incredible. I mean, you saved your sister's life, got the highest score possible, and Cinna made you unforgettable. No one knows who you are, but they are intrigued. This is where you will show them yourself. Where you get the most sponsors. All we need to work on is the hostility.

KATNISS

No, we do not.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

Everytime you open your lips, ice escapes.

KATNISS

Does not!

HAYMITCH

Uh huh. Sure.

KATNISS

I can be positive.

HAYMITCH

Please. Whoever that was in that chariot, she hasn't shown up ever since. I've neer seen her before that, either. I have no clue how you pulled that off.

KATNISS

(sarcastic tone)

Yes, because you've given me so many reasons to be cheery.

HAYMITCH

You don't have to please me, you have to please the audience. The sponsors. From everything I've done with you and from what Effie has reported to me, I've gathered a few things. Not only are you hostile, but I don't know anything about you. We've been around you for about two weeks, asked you about two hundred questions, and we still have no clue about who you really are. They want to know about you, Katniss.

KATNISS

I don't want them to! They're already taking my future, why should I let them take my past?!

HAYMITCH

Then lie! Make something up!

KATNISS

I'm not good at lying.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

Well, you better learn fast. You've got about as much charm as a dead slug. You know what? Just do whatever you want. I give up. I've pondered over everything, and none of them suit you enough. Improvise.

Katniss walks out of the room. Haymitch picks up his drink and sips it.

CUT TO:

I SHOULD'VE SAVED YOU

INT. Katniss' room- DAY.

Katniss sits on her bed. She is close to tears.

KATNISS

(muttered)

I hate this.

(extremely shouted)

I hate this!

She starts trashing the room, yelling, crying, and ad libbing about how much she hates the capitol. The avox girl from the dining room walks in. Katniss pays no attention to her. The avox girl tries to clean up the mess, but is interrupted by Katniss before she could even pick something up.

KATNISS

Leave it! Just leave it!

Katniss sobs, collapsing to the ground. The avox girl kneels beside her. Katniss sobs for a few moments before recollecting herself. She struggles to hold in the tears.

KATNISS

(whispered)

I should have saved you.

The avox girl shakes her head.

KATNISS

No. It was wrong.

The avox girl replies with tapping her lips, then to Katniss' heart.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

If it is what you meant by that, I
wouldn't care if I became an avox.
I wouldn't care if I died. I
should've kept you and that boy
safe. It's all my fault.

The avox girl shakes her head.

KATNISS

It doesn't matter what you imply. I
know it was my fault.

The avox girl looks around her. She finds a napkin and a pen
on the floor. She writes: "I forgive you." She shows it to
Katniss. Then she adds: "If that matters at all." They smile
at each other. Katniss laughs.

KATNISS

Let's get this mess cleaned up.

With a smile, and a laugh, they begin cleaning the room.

CUT TO:

IT'S BEAUTIFUL

INT. Dressing Room, Interview Stage (backstage)- NIGHT.

Katniss stands in front of a body mirror, her eyes shut
tightly. Cinna stands behind her.

KATNISS

Can I open my eyes yet?

CINNA

Yes. Open them.

She opens her eyes to see herself in a stunning attire that
makes her look like she's glowing as if she's a fire. Her
dress represents fire itself. She gapes at the sight.

KATNISS

Oh, Cinna. Thank you.

CINNA

Twirl for me.

She spins, stopping in front of the prep team to face them.
The prep team glows with admiration and cheers. Cinna
motions to the rest of the prep team for dismissal. They
leave.

(CONTINUED)

CINNA

So, all ready for the interview, then?

KATNISS

I'm awful. Haymitch called me a dead slug. No matter what we tried, I couldn't do it. I just can't be one of those people he wants me to be.

CINNA

Why don't you just be yourself?

KATNISS

Myself? That's no good either. Haymitch called me sullen and hostile. He dismissed me with a "Do whatever you want. I give up."

CINNA

Well, then, do whatever you want. Just like he said. Plus, I don't find you the way he does. The prep team adores you as well. You've even won over the Gamemakers. As for the citizens of the Capitol, they just can't stop talking about you. No one can help but admire your spirit. Suppose that when you're answering the questions, imagine you're addressing your closest friend back home. Who's your best friend?

KATNISS

Gale. But it just makes no sense, Cinna. He wouldn't be asking. I would've already told him.

CINNA

What about me? Could you think of me as a friend?

KATNISS

I think so, but-

CINNA

I'll be sitting on the main platform. You'll be able to look at me and answer the questions as honestly as possible. Be completely honest.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Even if what I think is completely horrible?

CINNA

Especially if you think it's horrible. You'll at least try?

Katniss nods. Peeta, Haymitch, and Poria

CINNA

It's time, then. I think your turn is after District 11, which is almost finished.

HAYMITCH

Remember, you and Peeta are still a happy pair. So act like it.

The buzzer from onstage goes off.

CINNA

And that's your cue. You have 3 minutes of question time, starting the second you walk on stage.

Cinna reaches for the doorknob. Katniss stops him from opening it.

KATNISS

Cinna...

CINNA

Remember, they already love you. Just be honest. Be yourself.

Katniss hesitantly nods. Cinna opens the door. She takes one last reassuring glance from Cinna, and walks onstage.

INTERVIEWS

INT. Stage- NIGHT.

The moment she walks on, there's an eruption of cheers from the AUDIENCE. CAESAR, the interviewer, stands onstage, waiting for her. In front of the stage is an appropriate amount of audience. Katniss stares out at the audience, scanning them.

CAESAR

Ah, there she is. Everyone, please welcome Katniss Everdeen of district twelve one more time!

(CONTINUED)

Cheers from the audience. She goes center stage beside Caesar. He outstretches his hand. She shakes it. They go back to the interview.

CAESAR

So, Katniss, it's nice to finally meet you. The capitol must be quite a change from district twelve. What has impressed you the most since you came here?

KATNISS

The lamb stew.

Audience laughter.

CAESAR

The one with the dried plums? Oh, I eat it by the bucketful. It doesn't show, does it?

Shouts of reassurance from the audience.

CAESAR

Now, Katniss, when you came out in the opening ceremonies, my heart actually stopped. What did you think of that costume?

KATNISS

You mean after I got over the initial fear of being burned alive?

Laughter from audience as well as Caesar.

CAESAR

Yes.

KATNISS

I thought Cinna was brilliant. I couldn't believe I was wearing it. I can't believe I'm wearing this one either. I mean, look at it!

She twirls. The audience and Caesar stare in amazement.

CAESAR

Well, look at that. That is *stunning*.

Cheers from the audience. Clapping fades out as he talks.

(CONTINUED)

CAESAR

So, about that training score.
E-le-ven. Give us a hint about what
happened in there.

KATNISS

Um... all I can say is, I think it
was a first.

CAESAR

Oh, come on. You're killing us
here. Details, details!

KATNISS

(out to the audience)
I'm not supposed to say anything,
right?

A gamemaker from the audience replies with a shout.

GAMEMAKER

She's not!

KATNISS

Then that's that. My lips are
sealed.

CAESAR

Let's go back then, to the moment
your sister's name was called at
the reaping and you volunteered.
Can you tell us about her?

KATNISS

Her name's Prim and she's just
twelve. I love her more than
anything.

CAESAR

What did she say to you after the
reaping?

KATNISS

She asked me to try really hard to
win.

CAESAR

And what did you say?

KATNISS

I swore I would.

(CONTINUED)

CAESAR

I'm sorry.

The buzzer goes off. Dissapointment calls from the crowd.

CAESAR

And we're out of time. Best of luck to you, Katniss Everdeen. Now if you'd stand by that corner of the stage while your fellow district tribute gets his interview done, that'd be lovely.

Cheers from the audience. Katniss follows the instructions. Peeta walks onstage and greets Peeta with a handshake. Cheers from the audience.

CAESAR

It's nice to see you, Peeta. You seem like a fine young gentleman. What's your hometown like?

PEETA

I work in my family bakery. I'm obviously from district twelve. There's nothing much except for that.

CAESAR

Oh, come on. There must be a girl back home. Right?

Cheers from the audience. Peeta shakes his head hesitantly.

CAESAR

You've got to be kidding.

PEETA

Well, there is one girl. I've had a crush on her ever since I can remember. I'm pretty sure she didn't know I existed until the reaping.

Sympathy from the audience.

CAESAR

Does she have a fellow?

PEETA

I don't know, but a lot of boys like her.

(CONTINUED)

CAESAR

Here's what you do. You win, you go home. She can't turn you down then, eh?

PEETA

I don't think that's gonna work. Winning won't help in my case.

CAESAR

Why not?

PEETA

Because... she came here with me.

Awkward silence fills the room.

CAESAR

Oh. That's is a big piece of bad luck.

PEETA

It's not good.

CAESAR

I don't think any of us can blame you. It'd be hard not to fall for that young lady. She didn't know?

PEETA

Not until now.

CAESAR

Wouldn't you love to pull her back up here and ask for a response?

Shouts of agreement from the audience.

CAESAR

Sadly, rules are rules, and Katniss Everdeen's time has been spent. Well, best of luck to you, Peeta Mellark. I think I speak for all of Panem when I say our hearts go with yours.

Deafening roars of comfort from the audience.

CUT TO:

THANKS FOR THE HEADS UP

INT. Backstage- NIGHT.

Katniss follow Peeta into backstage. She grabs Peeta and pushes him down.

PEETA

What was that for?

KATNISS

You had no right! No right to say those things! Was this your stupid plan? Is *this* why we didn't train together?!

Effie, Haymitch, Cinna, and Portia rush walk in. Effie rushes to Peeta's side.

EFFIE

What happened? Did you fall?

Effie and Cinna help him up.

PEETA

After she shoved me.

HAYMITCH

Shoved him?

KATNISS

This was your idea, wasn't it? Turning me into some kind of fool in front of the entire country?

PEETA

It was my idea. Haymitch just helped me with it.

KATNISS

Yes. Haymitch is very helpful. To you!

HAYMITCH

You *are* a fool. Do you think he hrt you? That boy just gave you something you could never achieve on your own.

KATNISS

He made me look weak!

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

He made you look desirable! And let's face it, you can use all the help you can get in that department. You were about as romantic as dirt until he said he wanted you. Now they all do. You're all they're talking about. The star crossed lovers from district twelve. Can't you see it? Can't you see *anything*, slug?

KATNISS

Enough with the slugs! You're not so pretty either, you piece of crap! Why can't you be *nice*?

HAYMITCH

Who cares? It's all a big show. And I'm not the one that needs help, it's you. If you want to live, I suggest you get your act together and stop talking like that towards me. If anything, that boy gave you his own sponsors.

KATNISS

You should've at least told me so we could've sold it. I looked completely stupid.

PORTIA

No, you didn't. Your reaction was perfect. If you'd known, it wouldn't have been read as anymore real than it seemed.

PEETA

She's just worried about her boyfriend.

KATNISS

I don't have a boyfriend.

PEETA

Whatever. Besides, you didn't say you loved me. So, what does it matter anyway?

KATNISS

After he said he loved me, di it seem like I did too?

(CONTINUED)

PORTIA

To me, it did. The way you avoided
the cameras, the blushing.

CINNA

I agree. You sold it without even
knowing it.

HAYMITCH

See? You'd be forgettable without
that stunt we pulled. What are you
now? Unforgettable. You're golden,
sweetheart. You'll have sponsors
lined up by the block.

KATNISS

(to Peeta)

I'm sorry I shoved you.

PEETA

Doesn't matter, even though it's
technically illegal.

KATNISS

Are you okay?

PEETA

I'll be fine. It's not a big deal.

Beat.

HAYMITCH

Come on, let's eat.

They walk off.

CUT TO:

ADVICE

INT. Dining room- DAY.

Cinna, Portia, Effie, and Haymitch are eating. Katniss and
Peeta don't bother.

EFFIE

You aren't hungry, dear?

KATNISS

No.

(CONTINUED)

CINNA

What's the matter?

KATNISS

I'm sure you know.

HAYMITCH

Stop glowering over this. Out of all the days, you pick today to cry over it?

KATNISS

Shut up, Haymitch. Like you've ever heard me cry.

HAYMITCH

Oh really? Is that a challenge?

PEETA

Save it. The games are tomorrow morning.

HAYMITCH

You think I don't know that?

EFFIE

Haymitch, can you please be a bit kinder? It's giving me premature wrinkles.

HAYMITCH

(sarcastic)

We don't want that to happen.

KATNISS

We might die tomorrow, Haymitch. At least act like you like us. Do any of you have advice?

HAYMITCH

Don't die.

Haymitch sips on his drink.

PEETA

That's all?

HAYMITCH

Fine. I'll go into detail.

He puts down the drink.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

Once the timer hits zero, get the hell out of there. Do not, I repeat, do not risk it by jumping in the mess like morons. Just get out, put as much distance as you can between you and the others, and find a source of water. Got it?

KATNISS

And after that?

HAYMITCH

Stay alive.

He sips on his drink.

CUT TO:

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

INT. Underground- DAY.

Katniss and Cinna sit underneath the arena, getting ready.

CINNA

Katniss, I believe in you.

Cinna takes out the mockingjay pin.

KATNISS

Where did you get that?

Cinna pins the mockingjay pin on her jacket. He begins to adjusting her outfit, specially made for survival. He braids her hair.

CINNA

Off the outfit you wore on the train. It's your district token, right? It barely passed the review board. People thought it could be used at an unfair advantage as a weapon. They eliminated a ring from that district one girl, though. If you twisted the gemstone on it, spikes popped up. A poison one too. She claimed she didn't have any idea about it. Still got taken away anyways.

He steps back.

(CONTINUED)

CINNA

There. You're all set. Move around.
Make sure everything feels
comfortable.

She walks a few steps, jogs in place, and swings her arms.

KATNISS

Yes, it's fine. Fits perfectly.

CINNA

Then there's nothing to do but wait
for the call.

A few moments pass. Claudius Templesmith, the announcer, is heard.

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

Prepare for launch.

CINNA

Remember what Haymitch said. Run,
find water. The rest will follow.
Remember this, Katniss. If I were
allowed to bet, my money would be
on you.

KATNISS

Truly?

CINNA

Truly.

Cinna walks Katniss onto the platform that will raise up to the arena soon.

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

Platforms will raise in 3 seconds.

CINNA

Good luck, girl on fire.

The platform begins to rise. Cinna waves her off. She rises up and stops en she reaches ground level of the arena. All 24 tributes are in a circle, each on their platforms. In the middle of the large circle holds survival kits, weapons, and more.

EXT. Cornucopia, Arena- DAY.

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, let the
seventy-fourth annual Hunger Games
begin!

A loud sound indicates the start of the games. The tributes launch out. Katniss is a late start by a few seconds. It's a bloodbath in there, many people fighting to the death then and there. Katniss sprints, scooping up bread and a sheet of plastic. She sprints towards a bright orange backpack with unknown contents. Brendan follows. Katniss accidentally drops her bread. They pull at each side, trying to retrieve the backpack. Clove lodges a knife into the boy's back. He lets go, falling over and dying. Katniss is exposed. Clove tries to throw a knife at her, but Katniss blocks with the backpack, the knife getting stuck into it. She escapes into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. Woods, Arena- DAY.

It's late afternoon. Katniss slows her jog into a walk. She puts the plastic into her sleeve and pulls out the knife. She attaches it to her clothing. Eleven cannons go off. She slumps down next to a tree. She opens her backpack and checks its contents. A thin sleeping bag with plastic-like material, a pack of crackers, a pack of beef jerky, a bottle of iodine, a box of wooden matches, a small coil of wire, night glasses that look like sunglasses, and a bottle for liquids. She checks the bottle. Empty. She closes up the backpack and its contents, then heads out. She sets up a snare. She then climbs up the tree beside her, sets up and climbs into the sleeping bag, and takes her belt and wraps it around the tree branch and her waist. She falls asleep.

CUT TO:

THE MOB

EXT. Woods, Arena- NIGHT.

Katniss awakes to the sound of a campfire. A few moments pass. Katniss stays completely still. Karma, from district eight, has dozed off beside the campfire. She is slightly snoring. The sounds of a mob's footsteps are heard. They get closer and closer to them. They're right at the campfire. The mob consists of District one and two's tributes, Lacey (the district four tribute), and Peeta. They torture the girl until she's silent.

(CONTINUED)

MARVEL

Twelve down and eleven to go!

Shouts of agreement from the mob.

CATO

We'd better clear out before the
body starts to rot.

The mob unknowingly walks towards the tree that Katniss is
in. They walk a few yards pass, then stop.

CLOVE

Shouldn't we have heard a cannon by
now?

CATO

I'd say yes. There's nothing to
prevent them from blowing the
cannon immediately.

LACEY

Unless she isn't dead.

GLIMMER

She's dead. I stuck her myself.

CLOVE

Then where's the cannon?

CATO

Someone should go back. Make sure
the job is done.

MARVEL

Yeah, we don't want to have track
her down twice.

GLIMMER

I said she's dead!

They break out into a loud argument. Peeta interrupts them.

PEETA

We're wasting time! I'll go finish
her and let's move on!

Katniss gasps, then slaps her hand over her mouth. The mob
doesn't notice.

CATO

Go on then, lover boy. See for
yourself.

(CONTINUED)

Peeta walks to the campfire and examines the body of Karma. The careers talk among each other in hushed, quick voices.

GLIMMER

Why don't we just kill him now and get it over with?

CATO

Let him tag along. What's the harm? He's handy with that knife. Besides, he's our best chance of us finding her.

GLIMMER

Why? Do you really think she bought into that sappy romance stuff?

CATO

She might have. She seemed pretty simple minded.

MARVEL

Every time I think about her spinning around in that dress, I want to puke.

LACEY

Wish we knew how she got that eleven.

CATO

Bet you lover boy knows.

Peeta returns to them.

CATO

Was she dead?

PEETA

No. But she is now.

The cannon fires.

PEETA

Ready to move on?

The mob runs off into the woods. Off in the distance, Cato is heard.

LACEY

Hey you guys, look! Someone set up a snare and caught a rabbit. Lucky day, right?

CUT TO:

WATER

INT. Woods, Arena- DAY.

Katniss puts all of her sleeping wear in the backpack and unbuckles the belt. She throws the backpack down on the floor below her. She jumps out of the tree. She puts the backpack on. She spots a berry bush. She strips it down of its berries until her hand is full. She hesitates. She then opens a berry up to see the insides. She puts them away. She begins walking in a different direction.

FADE TO:

She walks across the fields.

FADE TO:

It is night. Katniss slows her walk to a stop. She leans against a tree.

KATNISS

Water.

She stands up straight against the tree. She talks louder.

KATNISS

Water.

She slips down the side of the tree. She slumps. She then lays down. She notices she has laid in mud. Her eyes widen. She gets up frantically. She follows the mud path. She comes to a clearing- there's a pond there. She rushes over to it. She scoops the water from her hand frantically, gulping down as much as possible. She quickly takes the bottle from her backpack. She fills it with the water from the pond, then sits back. She sighs, smiling to herself. She notices the tree nearby. She climbs onto it, puts her backpack away, buckles herself to the tree, and goes to sleep.

CUT TO:

KATNISS, THE GIRL WHO WAS ON FIRE

It's nighttime. Katniss awakens to the crackle of fire and the smell of smoke. She looks underneath her. A fire is starting all around her, particularly underneath her. She fumbles, trying to unbuckle the belt around her and retrieve the backpack and sleeping bag. She falls to the ground with

(CONTINUED)

a grunt and recovers with a jump up and run through the smoke. She runs through the smoke, coughing and gagging, she falls down and pukes. She gets up slowly, and recovers yet again with a run in the same direction. She reaches the point where she fumbles out of the smoke and fire. That's when a fireball is hurdled at her. She dodges it. Another is hurdled. She dodges it again. Another fireball is hurdled, yet this time, she gets skimmed on the right calf. She screams out in pain. She limps to the side to take cover. She collapses to the ground, putting out the fire on her pants leg. She rips off the fabric and quickly examines the damage. She has an extreme second degree burn. Her hands have minor burns. She winces, tears filling her eyes and pooling over. She suppresses her sobs. She looks beside her and sees a cooling agent, mud and water. She crawls over to it and gingerly sets her leg into it. She follows that with her hands. Footsteps of the mob are heard. She gets up, limping to a tree, and climbs up it. She sits there as the mob confronts from under the tree.

KATNISS

How's everything with you?

CATO

Well enough. How about yourself?

KATNISS

It's a bit warm for my taste. The air's better up here. Why don't you climb up and join me?

CATO

I think I will.

GLIMMER

Here, take this, Cato.

Glimmer offers him an archery set. Cato pushes it away. He motions to his sword on his belt.

CATO

No, I'll do better with my sword.

Cato begins to climb it. He fails.

CATO

What the hell?

He attempts it again. He falls off. Glimmer pushes him aside and attempts.

(CONTINUED)

GLIMMER

Move over, idiot.

She climbs a few steps, but falls off. She tries to launch an arrow at Katniss' head, but it gets lodged in the tree. Katniss takes it out of the tree and mockingly waves it. The mob mutters curses and argue quietly

PEETA

Oh, just let her stay up there.
It's not like she's going anywhere.
We'll deal with her in the morning.

The mob mutter agreements. They go to sleep underneath the tree. Katniss keeps her backpack on and everything else away, except for belting herself onto the tree for security. She goes to sleep.

CUT TO:

TRACKER JACKERS

Katniss flutters her eyes open. It is very early morning. She looks at the tree next to her. Rue stares at her. Rue points to a branch. Katniss looks there, and right nearby her, she sees a tracker jacker nest. It emits a low hum of a sound, the tracker jackers buzzing around. She looks at Rue with wide eyes as she realizes what it is. Rue makes sawing motions with her hands. Katniss hesitates. She takes out the knife and begins sawing the branch. As she does, three tracker jackers sting her. She squeaks and winces, but keeps going. She pushes it off of the tree as hard as she can. The tracker jackers swarm the mob in their sleep. The mob members awaken. They jump up and run towards the lake. They shout cries of various types from "Tracker jackers!" to "The lake! To the lake!". Glimmer falls to the ground, covered in sting. She dies. Lacey does as well, but farther away than Glimmer is. Katniss pulls the stingers out of the stings she got. She then climbs down. Once she hits the floor, a tiny parachute carrying extreme relief burn ointment drops in front of her. She picks it up, opens it, and skims the top with her fingers.

KATNISS

(whispered)

Haymitch. Thank you.

She takes more, covering her hands and leg with it. She sighs with relief. Her burns are healing rapidly. She looks at Glimmer's corpse. She notices the archery set. She runs over to it. She kneels beside it, and tries to lift her off of the archery set underneath her. She successfully does and

(CONTINUED)

retrieves the archery set. She looks at the nest of the tracker jackers. Completely empty. Peeta appears. She fumbles with the bow and arrow, but it falls out of her hands. Peeta runs up to her. He helps her up, pushing her the other direction.

PEETA

What're you still doing here? Are you mad? Get up! Get up! Run!

Cato and the remaining careers run back towards them. Peeta gives her one last push.

PEETA

Go!

She takes off with run. She looks back. Peeta is trying to run from Cato as well, but he is slashed on the leg by Cato. He escapes anyways. Cato throws down his sword in frustration. Katniss runs off. Once out of sight, Katniss stumbles to the ground from the run.

KATNISS

What's happening to me...?

She blacks out on the dirt floor.

CUT TO:

RUE

Katniss wakes up from a nightmare. It's nearly sunset. She takes the water bottle from her backpack and drinks out of it. She stands up and stretches, putting away the water bottle. She puts the quiver of arrows on her back and picks up the bow. A rustle is heard. Rue hides. Katniss raises her bow with an arrow, ready to fire. She spots Rue. She puts her guard down.

KATNISS

You know, they're not the only ones that can form alliances.

Rue peeks out from behind.

RUE

You want me for an ally?

KATNISS

Why not? You saved me from those tracker jackers. You're smart enough to stay alive. And I can't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS (cont'd)
seem to shake you anyway. You
hungry? I can spare some food. You
know, if you're an ally.

Rue steps out in the open.

RUE
I can fix your stings.

KATNISS
Can you? How?

Rue pulls out a handful of leaves. She walks up to Katniss.

KATNISS
Where did you find those?

RUE
Just around. We all carry them when
we work in the orchards. They left
alot of nests there. There are alot
here, too.

KATNISS
Oh yeah, you live in district
eleven. Agriculture. Orchards, huh?
That must be how you can fly around
the trees like you got wings.

Rue smiles.

KATNISS
Well, come on, then. Are you gonna
fix me up?

RUE
Where are your stings?

KATNISS
There's one on my leg that's really
bothering me.

Katniss rolls up her pants leg to show her sting. Rue chews
the leaves. She then spits it on the sting. Katniss sighs.
Rue laughs at her reply to the treatment.

RUE
Lucky you had the sense to pull the
stingers out or you'd be alot
worse.

KATNISS

Do that to my other stings!

Rue treats the other stings. They smile at each other.
Katniss looks at the burn on Rue's arm.

KATNISS

I've got something for that.

She takes out the burn ointment. She spreads it on Rue's arm, then spreads some on her own burns.

RUE

You have good sponsors.

KATNISS

Have you gotten anything yet?

Rue shakes her head.

KATNISS

You will, though. Watch. The closer we get to the end, the more people will realize how clever you are.

RUE

You weren't joking about wanting me for an ally?

KATNISS

No, I mean it.

RUE

Okay. It's a deal.

They shake hands. Katniss takes out half of her crackers and beef jerky and gives it to Rue.

RUE

I haven't had this much to eat before.

KATNISS

Really? I'd think that since you live in the agriculture and farming district you'd get tons of food to eat.

RUE

Oh, no. We're not allowed to eat any of the crops. The mayor's very strict about that. But, sometimes, we get a small ration.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Like tessera?

Rue nods.

KATNISS

What happens if you eat the crops you grow?

RUE

They whip you and make the whole town watch.

KATNISS

Well, then, this is your lucky day. Take whatever you want. Now that I have my bow and arrows, I can hunt for virtually anything. Plus, I know how to set up snares. And I can gather. And fish. So, I think we're okay. I'm sure you're way better than me at gathering and harvesting. Maybe even growing plants, too. We're definitely good to go.

RUE

I hope you win, Katniss.

KATNISS

Why do you say that?

RUE

Well, just look at me. I'm lucky I'm still alive.

KATNISS

You know what I see? I see a survivor. I hope you win, Rue.

Rue smiles gratefully at Katniss. Katniss smiles back. Katniss shuffles through her backpack. Rue stops her when she sees the glasses.

RUE

Where did you get those?

KATNISS

They came with the pack. Why?

RUE

They let you see in complete darkness.

(CONTINUED)

Katniss takes it out of her backpack and examines it. She tries them on.

KATNISS

You're right. I wonder who else got a pair of these.

RUE

The Careers have two pairs. They've got everything down by the lake. They're so strong.

KATNISS

We're strong, too. Just in a different way.

RUE

You are. You can shoot. What can I do?

KATNISS

You can feed yourself. Can they?

RUE

They don't need to. They have all those supplies.

KATNISS

Say they didn't. Say the supplies were gone. How long would they last? I mean, it's the Hunger Games, right?

RUE

But, Katniss, they're not hungry.

KATNISS

No, they're not. That's the problem. I think we're going to have to fix that, Rue.

CUT TO:

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

Katniss and Rue are asleep. It is morning. The cannon goes off.

KATNISS

Who do you think that was?

(CONTINUED)

RUE

I don't know. It could have been anyone. I guess we'll find out tonight.

KATNISS

Who's left again?

RUE

The boy from district one, both from two, the boy from three, Thresh, me, Peeta, and you. That makes eight. Wait, nine. There's the boy from district ten, too.

KATNISS

Isn't there someone else?

RUE

I forgot who. Don't you wonder how the last one died?

KATNISS

There's no telling. But, it could be good for us. A death should hold the crowd for a bit. It'll be a while until the Gamemakers decide that there's not enough action. So, are you ready?

RUE

For what?

KATNISS

Today, we're taking out the career's food.

RUE

Really? How?

KATNISS

I have no idea. We'll figure out a plan.

They pack up and begin walking towards the careers.

RUE

I've spied on them.

KATNISS

Really?

RUE

Yes. The boy from district three is working with them. The food's out in the open as well.

KATNISS

Something's not quite right about that setup.

RUE

I know. But I couldn't tell what exactly. Katniss, even if you could get to the food, how would you get rid of it?

KATNISS

Burn it. Dump it in the lake. Soak it in fuel. Or, eat it. Don't worry, I'll think of something. Destroying things is much easier than making them.

RUE

We need a plan soon, Katniss. I have a few ideas. We could use the mockingjays to signal that we're okay. I'll whistle this tune-

Rue whistles her four note tune.

RUE

(cont'd)

-and that'll be carried on by the mockingjays and onto you. Then, you'd reply with another tune and it'd be carried to me. I'll make distractions and you'll get the job done.

Katniss nods.

KATNISS

I'll whistle this as a reply.

She whistles her own four note tune.

RUE

Okay.

KATNISS

So, we're set then. We'll meet here once the job is done, okay?

(CONTINUED)

Katniss begins walking in the direction of the careers' food stash.

RUE

Katniss?

Katniss turns around.

KATNISS

Yes?

RUE

Be careful.

KATNISS

You, too. Stay safe.

They go their separate ways.

CUT TO:

Katniss hides behind a cluster of bushes. She glares at the mob, consisting of only Cato, Marvel, Clove, and Andrew. Cato points at something in the sky. The mob runs to it. Katniss notices that they all jump in specific spots, as if to avoid something under their feet. On top of the stack of food, she sees an opened bag of apples. She knocks an arrow on her bow, aims carefully, and tries to shoot it at the apples. She barely misses. She tries again. So close, yet so far. One more try. The arrow knocks the apples over, all of them falling down and rolling in different places. A HUGE explosion. The food is blasted to nothing. Katniss is blown far back. Katniss gets up, wobbly and disoriented. She trips and falls many times. Her left ear is bleeding. She trips over one last time and blacks out.

CUT TO:

GOODBYE

Katniss awakens. She is disoriented. The blood on her ear has crusted up. She gets up. She leans against a tree. The mockingjays mimic Rue's four note tune. Rue is heard from afar.

RUE

Katniss!

Katniss doesn't register her voice. She knocks an arrow on her bow, looking around for the source of sound.

(CONTINUED)

RUE
Katniss!

KATNISS
Rue? Rue!

Katniss runs towards the source of sound.

RUE
Katniss! Help!

KATNISS
Rue! I'm coming!

Katniss reaches the area. Rue is in a rope net, lying on the floor. Rue reaches for Katniss. Rue is impaled with a spear thrown into her stomach by Marvel. Katniss screams. She shoots an arrow at his neck. He falls over to his death.

KATNISS
Are there more? Rue, are there more?

RUE
No...

Katniss rushes to Rue's side. She throws the bow to her side and drops to her knees beside Rue. She takes out her knife and cuts the rope out of the way so she can examine the wounds. The spear is dug deep into her stomach to the point of no return. Katniss' eyes well up with tears. Rue frequently winces in pain from the wounds and sobbing a lot.

RUE
Did you blow up the food?

KATNISS
Every last bit.

RUE
You have to win.

KATNISS
I'm going to. I will win for the both of us.

The cannon goes off. Katniss looks up. Rue takes her hand.

RUE
Don't go!

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS
I'm staying right here.

RUE
Sing.

Katniss hesitates. She begins her song.

KATNISS
*Deep in the meadow, under the
willow. A bit of grass, a soft
green pillow. Lay down your head
and close your sleepy eyes. And
when again they open, the sun will
rise.*

*Here it's safe, here it's warm.
Here the daisies guard you from
every harm. Here your dreams are
sweet and tomorrow brings them
true. Here's the place where I love
you.*

Rue becomes unconscious, her sobs dying down.

*Deep in the meadow, hidden far
away. A cloak of leaves, a moonbeam
ray. Forget your woes and let your
troubles lay, and when again it's
morning they'll wash away.*

*Here it's safe, here it's warm.
here the daisies guard you from
every harm. Here your dreams are
sweet, and tomorrow brings them
true. Here's the place where I love
you.*

Katniss gently lays Rue's head back on the ground as she gets up. Katniss gathers wildflowers and brings them back to Rue's body. She keels beside her and dresses Rue's body with flowers. She covers her wounds, covers her hair in flowers, and surrounds her body with flowers. She puts the last flower down. She kisses her hand in the Panem salute sign, 3 fingers outstretched and her 2 outside fingers folded down, and outstretches it to Rue's corpse.

KATNISS
Goodbye, Rue.

She gets up, picks up her bow, and leaves.

BLACK OUT

The cannon fires.

(CONTINUED)

FADE TO:

A SEARCH FOR LIFE

Katniss sits in a tree, hugging her knees.

KATNISS

Rue...

A few moments pass. She sobs. She buries her head into her knees. Just then, Claudius' voice booms from overhead.

CLAUDIUS

(V.O.)

Congratulations to our last 6 contenders! There has been a change in rules. Both tributes from the same district may be declared victors if they are the last two alive. Good luck to all!

Katniss' eyes widen.

KATNISS

Peeta!

She jumps out of the tree with her things in hand. She runs.

KATNISS

Peeta!

CUT TO:

Katniss is looking around. She is walking along the creek.

KATNISS

(whispering)

Peeta? Where are you?

PEETA

You here to finish me off, sweetheart?

She shoots her glance to the left.

KATNISS

Is that you?

PEETA

Well, don't step on me.

She jumps back, gasps, and looks down. Peeta is completely camouflaged. He smiles at her.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Close your eyes again.

He does so. Katniss kneels beside him again. Peeta opens his eyes.

KATNISS

I guess all those hours decorating cakes paid off.

PEETA

Yes. Frosting, the final defense of dying.

KATNISS

You're not going to die.

PEETA

Says who?

KATNISS

Says me. We're on the same team now, you know.

PEETA

So I heard. Nice of you to find what's left of me.

KATNISS

Did Cato cut you?

PEETA

Left leg. Up high.

KATNISS

Let's get you washed off so I can see what I'm dealing with.

PEETA

Let me tell you something first.

He leans close to her ear.

PEETA

(hushed)

Remember, we're madly in love, so you can kiss me whenever you feel like.

KATNISS

(laugh)

Thanks, I'll keep that in mind. Let's get you cleaned up.

(CONTINUED)

Katniss attempts to move Peeta into the stream. Peeta cries out in pain.

KATNISS

I'm going to roll you into the stream. It's really shallow there, so don't worry, okay? On the count of three. One, two, three!

She rolls him up to the edge of the bank. He screams out in pain.

KATNISS

Okay, change of plans.

PEETA

No more rolling?

KATNISS

That's all done. Keep an eye on the woods for me, okay?

She takes her water bottles out, fills it with water, and begins dowsing him down, washing off everything on his upper body. She treats his burns, minor cuts, bruises, and stings.

KATNISS

You must be hungry.

PEETA

Not really. It's funny, actually. I haven't been hungry for days.

KATNISS

Peeta, we need to get some food in you. You're already in really bad condition, there's no need to make it worse.

PEETA

It'll just come right back up. Can I sleep now?

KATNISS

Soon. After you eat, and after I check your leg.

She looks at the leg wound. She pours water over it, and sees the damage.

KATNISS

Eugh...

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

Pretty awful, huh?

KATNISS

I'm not sure. My mother and Prim can withstand worse than this with flying colors. Watching them, I really don't know what to think about this. Here, eat this while I... um...

PEETA

Dress the wound?

KATNISS

Yeah. Dress the wound...

Katniss hands him some food. She begins dressing the wound with ointments and bandages it up.

PEETA

So, how about that kiss?

Katniss laughs.

PEETA

Something wrong?

KATNISS

Sorry. I'm just no good at this. I'm not my mother. I have no idea what I'm doing and I hate pus.

PEETA

How about your hunting?

KATNISS

Trust me, killing things is a lot easier than this. For all I know, I may be killing you.

PEETA

Can you speed it up a little?

KATNISS

Shut up and eat your pears.

PEETA

You know, you're kind of squeamish for being such a lethal person. I wish I'd let you bathe Haymitch after all. Did you get anything from him?

KATNISS
Burn medicine and bread. You?

PEETA
Nothing. I always knew he was your
favorite.

KATNISS
Please, he can't stand being in the
same room as me.

PEETA
(muttered)
Because you're so alike.

Katniss rolls her eyes.

KATNISS
We have to go now.

PEETA
Where?

KATNISS
Away from here. Downstream, maybe.
Somewhere we can hide you until
you're stronger.

She props him up and has him lean on her. She begins to move forward, but he's not able to.

KATNISS
Come on, you can do this.

Peeta limps with Katniss as she guides him.

CUT TO:

IF ALL GOES WRONG

Katniss and Peeta arrive at a cave. She helps him sit down on the floor. She takes out her sleeping bag and helps him in it. She feeds him.

PEETA
Katniss. Thank you for finding me.

KATNISS
You would have found me if you
could.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

Look, if I don't make it back-

KATNISS

Don't talk like that. I didn't bring you here for nothing.

PEETA

I know. But just in case I don't-

KATNISS

No, Peeta. I don't even want to discuss it.

PEETA

But I-

Katniss interrupts him with a kiss.

KATNISS

You're not going to die. I forbid it. Alright?

PEETA

(whispered)

All right.

Peeta falls asleep. A mini parachute falls in front of her. It holds a pot of broth and a tiny spoon.

HAYMITCH

(V.O. surreal)

One kiss equals one pot of broth. You're supposed to be in love, sweetheart. The boy is dying. Give me something to work with.

Katniss shakes Peeta awake.

KATNISS

Peeta! Look at what Haymitch sent you!

FADE TO:

DRASTIC MEASURES

Katniss walks towards the cave. Peeta sits up as she joins him.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

I woke up and you were gone. I was worried about you.

KATNISS

You were worried about me? Have you looked at yourself lately?

Peeta laughs.

PEETA

Thanks for the broth. It made me feel a lot better.

KATNISS

Thank Haymitch.

PEETA

You know, I thought Cato and Clove might have found you. They like to hunt at night.

KATNISS

Clove? Which one is that?

PEETA

The girl from district two. She's alive, right?

KATNISS

There's just them and us and Hresh and Foxface. That's what I nicknamed the girl from district five. Well, we should work on your leg.

PEETA

Aren't you tired?

KATNISS

Not too much.

PEETA

Go to sleep. I'll take watch.

KATNISS

No. I insist. We need to get working anyways. *Then* I can sleep.

She undresses the wound. She grimaces at the sight.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Well, there's more swelling, but
the pus is gone...

PEETA

I know what blood poisoning is,
Katniss. Even if my mother isn't a
healer.

KATNISS

You're just going to have to
outlast the others, Peeta. They'll
cure it back at the capitol when we
win.

Trumpets blare. Katniss jumps. It's an announcement from
Claudius.

CLAUDIUS

Hello, my goodhearted tributes! In
celebration of coming this far,
we've organized a feast! Now, hold
on. Some of you may be declining my
invitation already, but this is no
ordinary feast. Each of you needs
something desperately. Each of you
will find that something in a
backpack marked with your district
number at the cornuopia at dawn.
Think hard about whether or not
you'll show up. For some of you,
this will be your last chance.

Katniss begins to get up. Peeta stops her.

PEETA

You're not risking your life for
me.

KATNISS

Who said I was?

PEETA

So, you're not going?

KATNISS

Of course I'm not going. Give me
some credit. Do you really think
I'm running straight into some
free-for-all against Cato and Clove
and Thresh? Don't be stupid.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

You're such a bad liar. Never gamble at cards. You'll lose your last coin.

KATNISS

Alright, I'm going, and you can't stop me!

PEETA

I can follow you.

KATNISS

Please. You won't get a hundred yards on that leg.

PEETA

Then I'll drag myself. You go and I go too.

KATNISS

What am I supposed to do? Sit here and watch you do?

PEETA

I won't die. I promise. Only if you promise not to go.

KATNISS

I'm sorry, Peeta, but I may have to gamble. I don't want to lose you. I may die, but this is a better bet than leaving you like this.

Katniss gets up and leaves the cave. A tiny parachute lands in front of her. It holds sleep medicine. She takes berries out of her pocket, douses them with the medicine, and heads back to the cave.

PEETA

Changed your mind?

KATNISS

I wasn't sure. I'm sorry, Peeta.

PEETA

It's alright. What do you have there?

KATNISS

I got these for you, but forgot to give them to you until now. Here. Eat it.

(CONTINUED)

She hands him the berries. He eats it.

PEETA

They're very sweet.

KATNISS

They're sugar berries. My mother makes jam with it. Haven't you had them before?

PEETA

No, but they taste familiar. Sugar berries?

KATNISS

Well, you can't get them much on the market. They grow wild.

PEETA

They're sweet as syrup. Syrup...?

His eyes widen. He falls asleep. Katniss gets up.

KATNISS

Who can't lie, Peeta?

She puts on the night glasses, takes her bow and arrows, and walks out of the cave.

CUT TO:

Katniss scopes the arena from behind a bush. The table in the middle of the cornucopia holds two large backpacks, one marked with an 11 and the other labeled 2. There's a medium sized backpack with a 5 on it. The last one is a miniature backpack, small enough to fit in someone's hand, labeled 12. Foxface darts to the table, takes the one labeled 5, and leaves. Katniss grunts. She runs towards the table. Clove throws a knife at Katniss. She blocks it. Katniss shoots an arrow into Clove's upper left arm. Clove rips out the arrow with a grunt. Clove charges at Katniss, knocking her down. Clove pins her down.

CLOVE

Where's your boyfriend, district twelve? Still hanging on?

KATNISS

He's out there right now. Hunting Cato. Peeta!

Clove clamps her hand over Katniss' mouth. Clove looks around her.

(CONTINUED)

CLOVE

Liar. He's nearly dead. Cato knows where he cut him. You've probably got him strapped up in some tree while you try to keep his heartbeat going. What's in the pretty little backpack? Medicine for lover boy? Too bad he'll never get it.

(she takes out a knife)

I promised Cato that if he let me have you, I'd give everyone a show.

(Katniss struggles)

Forget it, district twelve. We're going to kill you. Just like we did your pathetic, useless little ally. What's her name? Rue? Well, first Rue, then you, and I think we'll let nature take care of little lover boy of yours. Sounds good? Good. Now, where to start? I think you won't have any use of your lips anymore. Want to blow one last kiss to lover boy?

(Katniss spits in Clove's face. Clove wipes it off.)

All right then. Let's get started.

Clove is thrown back by Thresh. Katniss sits up to see what's going on. Thresh pins Clove to the ground.

THRESH

What did you do to that little girl? You killed her?

CLOVE

No! No, it wasn't me!

THRESH

You said her name. I heard you. You killed her! You cut her up like you were gonna do this girl?

CLOVE

No! No, I- I- Cato! Cato!

Thresh slams the rock into the side of Clove's head. Cato begins running towards Clove.

CATO

(from afar)

Clove!

Thresh gets up. He faces Katniss.

(CONTINUED)

THRESH

What did she mean about Rue being your ally?

KATNISS

We teamed up. Blew up the supplies. I tried to save her, I really did. But then, district one came along.

CATO

(closer, still far)
Clove!

THRESH

And you killed him?

KATNISS

Yes. I killed him. I buried her in flowers and sang her to sleep.

THRESH

To sleep?

KATNISS

To death. I sang until she died. Your district... they sent me bread. You know what? Just- just do it fast, okay, Thresh?

THRESH

This one time. Just this one time, I'll let you go.

CATO

(closer)
Clove!

THRESH

You better go, fire girl.

Katniss takes the backpack from Clove's corpse and runs off. The cannon fires. She hesitates, looks back, and sees Cato kneeled over Clove's body, begging her to stay alive. Cato gets up and runs towards Thresh full speed. She turns away and runs towards the cave. The cannon fires.

CUT TO:

It is night. Katniss jogs into the cave. She collapses beside Peeta, who is sleeping. Her eyebrow is bleeding very badly. Katniss rips open the backpack. She finds a syringe with medicine in it. She plunges the needle into Peeta and inserts the medicine. She takes it out, puts it to the side, and falls asleep.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK OUT.

FADE TO:

THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR, SWEETHEART.

It is morning. It's raining. Peeta shakes Katniss awake.

PEETA

Katniss? Katniss, can you hear me?

She opens her eyes.

PEETA

Hey. Good to see your eyes again.

Katniss sits up.

KATNISS

How long have I been out?

PEETA

Not sure. I woke up yesterday evening and you were lying in a pool of blood. I think the bleeding finally stopped, but I wouldn't sit up if I were you.

KATNISS

Did you bandage my head?

PEETA

Of course.

KATNISS

You seem better.

PEETA

Much better. Whatever you gave me did the trick. By this morning, almost all the swelling went down.

KATNISS

Did you eat?

PEETA

I'm sorry to say I gobbled down three pieces of groosling before I realized it might have to last a while. Don't worry, I'm back on a strict diet.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

No, that's good. You need to eat.
I'll go hunting soon.

PEETA

Not to soon, all right? You just
let me take care of you for a
while.

Thunder clap.

PEETA

I wonder what's going on with the
weather. I mean, who's the target?

KATNISS

Cato and Thresh. Foxface would be
hiding, and Clove...

PEETA

I know Clove is dead. I saw it in
the sky last night. Did you kill
her?

KATNISS

Thresh bashed her skull in with a
rock.

PEETA

Lucky he didn't catch you, too.

KATNISS

He did, but he let me go.

PEETA

He let you go?

KATNISS

Yes. I don't expect you to
understand it. If you lived in the
Seam, I might have considered it.

PEETA

Obviously, I'm too dim to get it.

KATNISS

Too bad. See, it's like the bread.
I can never get over owing you for
that.

PEETA

The bread? What, from when when we
were kids? I think we can let that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEETA (cont'd)

go. I mean, you did just resurrect me from the dead.

KATNISS

But you didn't know me. We'd never even spoken back then. Besides, it's the first gift that's always the hardest to pay back. I wouldn't have even been alive if you hadn't helped me then. Why did you, anyways?

PEETA

Why? You know why.

KATNISS

I don't.

PEETA

Haymitch said you would take a lot of convincing.

KATNISS

Haymitch? What's he got to do with it?

PEETA

Nothing. So, Cato and Thresh, huh? I guess I'd be spouting too much hope if I believed that they'd simultaneously destroy eachother.

KATNISS

I think you'd like Thresh. He'd probably be a good friend if he lived in district twelve.

PEETA

Let's hope Cato kills him so we don't have to. What is it? Are you in pain?

KATNISS

I want to go home.

PEETA

You will. I promise.

He kisses her forehead.

KATNISS

I hope Thresh is still alive.

PEETA

Hey, Katniss? I'm sorry I didn't tell you, but Thresh died.

KATNISS

... What?

PEETA

His face was shown after Clove's. I'm sorry.

KATNISS

No, it's alright. I'm just glad he doesn't have to go through this nonsense anymore. In a way, I wish it were me. But I'm not going to give up. Not at this rate.

PEETA

I guess I agree. I'm glad we can stay together if we stick this through.

KATNISS

Hey, Peeta? In the interviews you said you had a crush on me forever. When did forever start?

PEETA

Oh, let's see... I guess the first day of school. We were five. You had two braids and a red plaid dress. My father pointed you out while we were waiting in line.

KATNISS

Me? Why?

PEETA

He said, 'See that little girl? I wanted to marry her mother but she ran off with a coal miner.'

KATNISS

What? You're making that up!

PEETA

No, true story. I said, 'A coal miner? Why did she want a coal miner if she could've had you?' He

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEETA (cont'd)
said, 'Because when he sings, even
the birds stop to listen.'

KATNISS
That's true. They do. I mean, they
did.

PEETA
So that day, in the music assembly,
the teacher asked who knew the
valley song. Your hand shot up in
the air. She stood you up on a
stool and had you sing it for us. I
swear, every bird outside the
windows fell silent.

KATNISS
Oh, please.

PEETA
No, it happened. And when your song
ended, I knew -just like your
mother- I was a goner. Then for teh
next elevn years, I tried to work
up the nerve to talk to you.

KATNISS
Without success.

PEETA
Without success. So, in a way, my
name being drawn in the reaping was
a real piece of luck.

KATNISS
You have a remarkable memory.

PEETA
I remember everything about you.
You're the one who wasn't paying
attention.

KATNISS
I am now.

PEETA
Well, I don't have much competition
for you here.

KATNISS
You don't have competition
anywhere.

They are about to kiss when a metallic plunk sound comes from outside. Peeta gets up to check it up. He yells out in delight. Katniss gets up to see what was. Another miniature parachute has dropped down, holding a big meal for the both of them. Katniss drops down and examines it. Peeta follows.

PEETA

I guess Haymitch got tired of watching us starve.

KATNISS

I guess so.

CUT TO:

FOXFACE'S DEATH

It is day. Katniss walks through the forest.

KATNISS

(V.O.)

20 down, two to go. That was my motivation. Stick it through, with Peeta. I'd been hunting for practically a day. I didn't realize that Peeta didn't whistle back.

The cannon goes off. Katniss' eyes widen. She runs around the forest, her bow drawn back. She stops in an area with berries in a pile next to the orange backpack, frantically looking around.

KATNISS

(V.O.)

This is where we were supposed to meet.

KATNISS

Peeta! Peeta! Where are you?!

PEETA

Oh, hey Katniss! I found some berries!

Peeta walks out from behind a bush.

KATNISS

What are you doing? You were supposed to meet me over here, not running around the woods!

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

I found some berries down by the stream.

KATNISS

Why didn't you whistle? I said to whistle every 5 minutes! You didn't whistle for an hour! I thought Cato killed you!

PEETA

No, I'm fine. Are you okay?

KATNISS

When two people agree on a signal, they stay in range. If one of them doesn't answer, it means they're in trouble, all right?!

PEETA

All right!

KATNISS

Don't ever do that to me again! That's what happened to Rue! I was careless! We were careless! I watched her die! And you probably ate without me, too! Where's the food?

PEETA

It was right there where I left it.

KATNISS

Oh, and I suppose the apples ate the cheese, then the apples ate themselves.

PEETA

I don't know what ate the food, but it wasn't me. I've been down by the stream collecting berries. Would you care for some?

Peeta holds out nightlock. She takes it, suspiciously examining it.

FADE TO:

Foxface runs by the stash of Peeta and Katniss' food. She stops, puts berries in her pocket, then takes their meal from the sponsors, and runs. She puts a handful of the nightlock in her mouth and chews it while running. She slows, collapses to the ground, and dies.

(CONTINUED)

FADE TO:

KATNISS

Peeta. Did you hear that cannon fire before? I think... I think that may have been Foxface.

PEETA

Wait... what? Quick, climb up the tree. We'll stand a better chance against him above ground.

KATNISS

No, Peeta. She's you kill, not Cato's.

PEETA

What? I haven't even seen her since the first day. How could I have killed her?

KATNISS

Think about it. She's clever. She took something we were preparing to eat for ourselves. You picked the berries, so you killed her. She took the berries and our meals.

PEETA

I don't get it. They're just berries.

KATNISS

They're nightlock. They kill you instantly.

PEETA

It feel like I cheated. If she didn't eat them first, I probably would've died. I was going to eat some myself until you arrived. I'm sorry, Katniss. I really thought they were the same ones you'd gathered.

KATNISS

Don't apologize. It just means we're one step closer to home, right?

PEETA

I'll get rid of the rest.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

Wait! If they fooled Foxface, maybe they can fool Cato as well. If he's chasing us or something, we can act like we accidently drop a pouch of it, and if he eats them-

PEETA

Hello, district twelve.

KATNISS

Well, there's no hiding now. Let's face him. To the lake?

PEETA

To the lake.

Katniss and Peeta gather their things and leave.

CUT TO:

MUTATIONS

EXT. Lake- DAY. Sunset.

Katniss and Peeta sit beside the lake. The mockingjays chirp. Katniss whistles Rue's four note tune. The mockingjays stop to listen. She whistles it again. The mockingjays repeat. She closes her eyes, listening. She smiles.

PEETA

Just like your father.

KATNISS

That's Rue's signal whistle. I think they'll remember it.

Cato runs full speed out from behind them. Katniss and Peeta ready their weapons. Cato runs right past them. Katniss and Peeta stand their, dumbfounded. Huge wolves, each resembling a different tribute that has died -mutations- jump out from the woods. Katniss grabs Peeta and runs in the same direction as Cato. They run towards the cornucopia. Cato seems to be attempting to climb a tree. Katniss climbs up a tree. Katniss helps Peeta up. The wolves break into the clearing. Cato climbs up the tree beside them as well. The wolves begin to run towards the remaining tributes.

KATNISS

It's them. The others. Rue and Foxface and... all of them.

(CONTINUED)

Peeta yells out. A muttation had slashed Peeta. Katniss draws back her bow and drives an arrow through the muttation. She looks back to see that Cato has snatched Peeta away, holding him hostage. She draws back her bow and aims it at his head.

CATO

I go down, he goes down.

Peeta raises his arm and draws an X on Cato's arm. Katniss shoots her second to last arrow where Peeta drew the X. Cato lets go of Peeta and falls into the huge crowd of muttations. Peeta catches himself on the tree. Katniss jumps to the other tree where Peeta is. Cries of pain from Cato. Katniss turns her attention to Peeta's leg. It's badly cut. Blood is spouting out of his leg. Katniss takes her belt and tightly ties it around his leg, cutting off circulation. The muttations walk away, leaving Cato's shredded, gruesome body in shreds.

KATNISS

Don't go to sleep.

PEETA

Katniss, can you shoot him?

Katniss nods, drawing back her bow.

PEETA

Make it count.

Katniss aims at Cato's skull.

CATO

(squeaked)

Please.

Katniss looks away and shoots.

KATNISS

(whispered)

I'm sorry.

PEETA

Did you get him?

The cannon fires.

PEETA

We won, Katniss.

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS
(dull)
Hurray for us.

They wait. Nothing happens.

KATNISS
(shouted)
Hey! What's going on?

PEETA
Maybe it's the body. We should
distance ourselves from it. Was
that in the other Games?

KATNISS
Not sure. Do you think you could
make it far enough?

PEETA
I think I'd better try.

Katniss helps him out of the tree.

CUT TO:

WE HAVE OUR VICTORS

Katniss and Peeta arrive at a clearing. They wait.

PEETA
What are they waiting for?

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
Greetings to the final contestants
of the seventy-fourth Hunger Games.
The earlier revision has been
revoked. Closer examination of the
rule book has disclosed that only
one winner may be allowed. Good
luck and may the odds be ever in
your favor.

Peeta hands Katniss the knife. He backs up.

PEETA
Do it.

KATNISS
I can't.

(CONTINUED)

PEETA

Just do it. I don't want to die
like Cato.

Katniss throws the knife to the ground beside Peeta's feet.

KATNISS

Then you kill me! You try to live
with it!

PEETA

You know I can't.

He picks up the knife and throws it far away.

KATNISS

Stop being a coward. We both know
this is it.

PEETA

Fine. I'll die first anyways.

He untightens the belt that it cutting his circulation off.
Katniss stops him. She tightens it once again.

KATNISS

No. You can't kill yourself. If you
kill yourself, I will too.

PEETA

Katniss, this is what I want.

KATNISS

Well, it's not what I want. You're
staying with me.

PEETA

Please. Do it for me. They need one
victor. I want it to be you.

KATNISS

You're right. They do need one
victor.

Katniss retrieves the nightlock.

PEETA

What're you doing?

KATNISS

Like I said: you die, I do too.

Katniss hands him half of the berries.

KATNISS
On the count of three?

He nods. He kisses her one last time.

KATNISS
One,

PEETA
Two,

KATNISS
Three.

They throw the berries into their mouths in unison.

CLAUDIUS
(V.O.)
Stop! Stop! Ladies and Gentlemen, I
present the victors of the
seventy-fourth Hunger Games,
Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark,
tributes of disrict twelve!

Katniss and Peeta spit out the berries.

CUT TO:

I DIDN'T BREAK MY PROMISE

INT. Hospital- DAY.

Katniss paces back and forth. She is cleaned to pefection,
wearing her hair down and a simple outfit. An avox girl
comes out from the room.

KATNISS
Did he make it?

The avox nods, then scurries away. Haymitch walks up to
Katniss.

HAYMITCH
You know, Peeta isn't in there.
He's getting ready for the
interviews.

KATNISS
Oh.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH
Are you ready?

Katniss nods.

HAYMITCH
Hug for good luck?

Katniss shrugs and is pulled into a hug by Haymitch.

HAYMITCH
(whispered)
Listen up. You're in trouble. Word
is the capitol's furious about you
shwoing them up in the arena. The
one thing they can't stand is being
laughed at and now they're the joke
of Panem.

Katniss laughs. They pull away.

KATNISS
So what? I didn't break my promise
to Prim. It's all that matters to
me. Screw the capitol.

HAYMITCH
That was very out of character for
you, Katniss. You really shouldn't
have said that out loud.
(leans in, whispering)
You're only defense is that you're
madly in love. Got it?

KATNISS
Got it.

CUT TO:

A LEG FOR A LIFE

INT. Stage- DAY.

Caesar sits onstage.

CAESAR
Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to
you our victors!

Peeta and Katniss enter on opposite sides of the stages.
Katniss runs to him and flings herself in his arms. They
kiss. Caesar taps Peeta on the shoulder. Peeta shoos him
away. The crowd goes wild.

(CONTINUED)

CAESAR

Please, if we could go on with the show, my friends.

They take their seats.

CAESAR

Congratulations, Katniss. Peeta. How are you two feeling?

PEETA

Great.

KATNISS

I agree. Nothing could be better than this.

She kisses his cheek. Crowd goes wild.

CAESAR

All right, all right, settle down. So, Peeta, we know from your five or so days in the cave that it was love at first sight. You were in love since you were five?

PEETA

From the moment I laid eyes on her.

CAESAR

But, Katniss, what a ride for you. I think the real excitement for the audience was watching you fall for him. When did you realize you were in love with him?

KATNISS

Oh, well, that's a hard one...

CAESAR

I think I know when it hit me. That night when you shouted out his name from the tree.

KATNISS

Yes, I guess that was it. I mean, until that point, I didn't think about my feelings because it made it confusing and all the worse. But up in that tree, everything changed.

CAESAR

Why is that?

KATNISS

Because for the first time... for the first time, there was a chance I could keep him.

Sighs from the audience.

PEETA

So now that you've got me, what'll you do?

KATNISS

Put you somewhere safe.

CAESAR

You two are a true match made in heaven. So, Peeta, things got really rough with you and your leg. How's your new leg working?

KATNISS

New leg?

Katniss knocks on Peeta's left leg, giving off a metallic sound.

CAESAR

No one told you?

PEETA

I haven't had the chance.

KATNISS

It's my fault.

PEETA

Yes, it's your fault I'm alive.

CAESAR

He's right. He would've bled to death without you. So, Katniss, I want to know what went on in your mind when you took those berries out. I'm sure all of Panem does, too. Care to tell?

KATNISS

Well, I don't know. I just... couldn't bear the thought of being without him.

(CONTINUED)

CAESAR

Peeta? Anything to add?

PEETA

No. I think that's about it.

CAESAR

Well, then, that's that.
Congratulations to both of you. I
wish you both the best. Citizens of
Panem, I am your host, Caesar
Flickerman, and I'll see you next
year at the third quarter quell.
Goodbye.

CUT TO:

HOME SWEET HOME

INT. Train- DAY.

Peeta and Katniss walk hand in hand through the hall
together. Haymitch walks past.

HAYMITCH

Great job, guys. Just keep it up
until the camera's are gone. We
should be okay.

They stop walking.

PEETA

What's he mean?

KATNISS

It's the capitol. They didn't like
our stunt with the berries.

PEETA

What? What are you talking about?

KATNISS

It seemed too rebellious. So,
Haymitch has been coaching me
through the last few days so I
wouldn't make it worse.

PEETA

Coaching you, but not me?

(CONTINUED)

KATNISS

He knew you were smart enough to get it right.

PEETA

I didn't know there was anything to get right. So, what you're saying is that those last few days in the arena... that was just a strategy you two worked out?

KATNISS

No. I couldn't even talk to him in the arena, could I?

PEETA

But you knew what he wanted you to do, huh, Katniss?

He drops her hand out of his.

PEETA

(cont'd)

It was all for the Games. The way you acted.

KATNISS

Not all of it.

PEETA

Then how much? No, forget that. The real question is, what love will be left when we get back home?

KATNISS

I don't know. The closer we get to district twelve, the more confused I get.

PEETA

Well, let me know when you figure it out.

He walks off, leaving Katniss dumbfounded.

CUT TO:

INT. Katniss' room, Train- DAY.

Haymitch walks in.

(CONTINUED)

HAYMITCH

It's time.

Katniss follows him out.

CUT TO:

Peeta and Katniss face the door of the train. Peeta extends his hand out to Katniss.

PEETA

One last time for the audience?

Katniss nods, taking his hand and grasping it tightly. The doors open. They walk out, cheers erupting from outside.

CUT TO:

Credits. Music plays.

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and so on.