

LUNA  
by  
Troy Warren

FADE IN:

A prehistoric bird cleans itself in its perch high above a gorge. The bird closely resembles a modern vulture, but is much larger and uglier.

Something below startles the thing and it takes flight.

EXT. GORGE FLOOR - DAY (DUSK)

A strange light whirls, seeming to warp the space around it.

The light emits a PULSATING DRONE as it rapidly expands.

EXT. SKY/CAVE - DAY (DUSK)

The vulture has joined its flock. They circle the gorge before landing outside a cave.

The birds move menacingly toward the cave entrance, preparing to attack whatever is inside.

INT. CAVE - DAY (DUSK)

DAMP SCALES of a large creature. It senses something entering its den and rises from a nest of eggs.

The vultures burst into view, fierce beaks HOWLING. They lunge at the eggs, but are batted away by an enormous, clawed paw. Birds slam into the cave wall, dead on impact.

A vicious battle ensues. Then, when the moment is right, the creature raises up and fills the cave with a huge stream of fire. A dragon.

EXT. CAVE/SKY - DAY (DUSK)

The fire BLASTS from the cave, nipping at the hind legs of the lone, surviving vulture as it flies away.

The bird escapes with the egg in its claws, but quickly swerves to avoid what is now a THUNDERING VORTEX OF LIGHT rising from the gorge.

The egg falls from the bird's claws into the vortex.

EXT. NEW MEXICO MESA - NIGHT

The moon illuminates a desert landscape. Crickets chirp, then suddenly stop.

Silence.

A swirling light appears above the ground as the DRONE fills the silence.

The egg drops from mid-air onto the sandy earth.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - LUNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A young girl, LUNA CRUZ, 10, wakes from a noise outside. Still half asleep, she moves from her bed to peek out the window.

Luna sees the swirling light just as it dissolves into the darkness. She rubs her eyes and looks again, but the light is gone.

Luna plops down on her pillow and falls back asleep.

EXT. RURAL SCHOOL - DAY

A small school in the middle of the desert.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A boy holding an iguana finishes his show-and-tell presentation.

BOY

The last thing about Sam is he doesn't chew couches or shed hairs. He doesn't fetch either, but I still like him pretty much.

TEACHER

Thank you Carlos.

Carlos puts Sam in his cage and returns to his seat.

TEACHER (cont'd)

Next we have Luna Cruz. Luna?

There is an intelligent restlessness dancing behind the girl's eyes. But right now, she's just nervous. Luna moves to the front of the class.

LUNA  
So... um... this...

Luna pulls what looks to be a slender rock from her pocket and rolls it in her hands.

LUNA (cont'd)  
This is... I mean it could be... I found it in the cretaceous layer--

TEACHER  
Just tell the class what you've brought, Luna.

LUNA  
It's a fossil, I think. Maybe a dinosaur tooth?

There's no response at first, then one BOY LAUGHS. Soon the entire class is SNICKERING. Someone throws a paper ball.

Luna bites her lip and looks into her hands, then steadies herself and shoots the class a defiant look.

EXT. RURAL SCHOOL - DAY

Kids pile out the door toward a school bus. Luna is the last to leave. She decides she'll walk home today.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Gravel CRUNCHES beneath Luna's feet. She's surrounded by a beautiful, desolate New Mexico landscape.

As Luna walks, she twirls the "fossil" in her hands. Looks a lot like a rock. She suddenly stops and throws it into a bush.

Immediately, the girl regrets it. She runs to the bush, drops down and searches for her lost treasure.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Luna stands at the entrance to a tunnel running under a back roads highway. The tunnel is one of those corrugated metal tubes used for water runoff that's formed a sandy arroyo.

This is Luna's place. An old lawn chair sits inside the tunnel, which she's spray painted with a colorful mash of her favorite things: bright flowers, shooting stars, cartoonish dinosaurs.

Outside the tunnel, a cliff has formed long ago from high water. Luna's stuck marker flags in the dirt layers to indicate time periods and various discoveries she's made.

A collection of shovels, picks and strainers is organized next to the cliff. Luna grabs a small pick and gets to work.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY (DUSK)

Luna walks alone. Behind her, the sun has turned the New Mexico sky blood-orange.

As Luna passes a fenced in yard, three SNARLING pit bulls rush the fence. The beasts lunge and GROWL as Luna runs by.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - FRONT OF FREDY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Further on, Luna passes the chicken farm of her friend FREDERICA DINATTO (FREDY), 50's. An East-Coast transplant, Fredy's an Italian hippie with a checkered past. Beads adorn one ankle, a house arrest "bracelet" the other.

Fredy approaches to greet her friend, notices Luna's shaken.

FREDY

You all right?

LUNA

Just the Perez dogs again.

Fredy grimaces.

FREDY

I should've shot 'em all after they ate my chickens. Want a ride home?

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

Fredy's yellow truck pulls up to the old adobe house. The house sits alone, there's nothing around but desert.

Luna gives Fredy a fist bump before jumping out.

GRANDMA'S out front, shooing crows with a broom. Fredy waves before driving off, but Grandma's busy shouting.

(Note: Dialog in italics is spoken in Spanish with subtitles.)

GRANDMA  
*Filthy crows come in my kitchen,  
 I'll pluck you bald!*

Luna approaches, kisses Grandma's cheek.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
*Hello my sunshine.*

LUNA  
*So...? Did Guadalajara win today?*

Grandma raises her arms and does a little victory dance.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE

A very lived-in, traditional adobe.

Luna hoists up her little brother, NICO, 3 1/2, hugging him so they're eye level as they talk.

LUNA  
 How was school?

NICO  
 It's just pre-school and I pooped  
 in the potty and I didn't get a  
 jelly bean because Ms. Carmen says  
 I'm too old now.

INT. BATHROOM

Luna's older brother, ANGEL, 14, a teenage ladies man, primps his hair in the mirror. It's an impressive mane: longish, dense and curly.

Luna pokes her head in.

LUNA  
 How are your boobs coming in?

Angel seems unphased by the teasing, continues primping.

ANGEL  
 Just because you're a girl doesn't  
 mean I won't punch you.

LUNA  
 Well, since you punch like a girl  
 who can't punch--

Angel lunges, chasing his little sister down the hall.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Luna and Nico shuck corn at an old, wooden table.

NICO  
Is he a real bunny, or a man  
dressed like a bunny?

The family cat, Chewy, jumps on the table.

LUNA  
Chewy, down!  
(then to Nico)  
A real bunny.

Nico contemplates the Easter Bunny for a moment.

NICO  
If I was a coyote, I'd eat him  
because he's a bunny and he'd have  
all that candy.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The living room is dark now but for the light of the TV,  
which flicks over Grandma sleeping in her recliner.

Luna gently wakes the old woman and leads her off to bed.

INT. NICO'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nico's head rests in Luna's lap as she reads a bedtime book.  
The boy's room is tiny, really an oversized closet.

LUNA  
(reading softly)  
"Goodnight nobody, goodnight mush  
and goodnight to the old lady  
whispering hush... Goodnight  
stars... Goodnight air... Goodnight  
noises everywhere."

Luna closes the book, then kisses Nico's cheek.

NICO  
Te amo.

LUNA  
Te amo.

INT. LUNA AND ANGEL'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A sheet drapes from the ceiling, dividing the bedroom into Luna's side and Angel's side.

Luna rests her cheeks in her hands as she reads a dogeared dinosaur book. Her desk is covered with skeleton models, small jars of discoveries, and one framed PHOTOGRAPH.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH OF LUNA'S MOTHER

From behind the sheet, Angel whispers on the phone.

ANGEL (O.S.)  
 You're going to dream of me,  
 Maria... but I promise it won't be  
 as good as the real thing.

Luna moves her index fingers up to plug her ears.

EXT. MESA - NIGHT

Moonlight illuminates the mesa. Luna sits on the front stoop filling plastic eggs with the candy.

She heads into the mesa to hide the eggs, dropping one just inches away from the DRAGON EGG that fell from the sky.

We stay on the egg as Luna walks back to the house...

EXT. LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY - DAY (DAWN)

A sign breaks the desert landscape:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY

INT. LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY - DAY (DAWN)

A bored MAN sits behind his desk in a bland office. His BOSS enters looking at a computer printout that puzzles him.

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
 Mornin'? Any Easter plans?

BOSS  
 What?

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
 Any Easter plans?

BOSS  
Did you show these to me?

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
Yep.

BOSS  
What'd I say?

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
You ignored me.

BOSS  
You gotta show me this stuff.

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
I did.

BOSS  
They're weird, right?

LOS ALAMOS MAN  
I've never seen anything like it.

BOSS  
We better send them to DHS.

NICO (V.O.)  
I found an egg!

INT. LUNA'S BEDROOM - DAY (DAWN)

Nico literally drags his sister out of bed.

NICO  
Get up! The Easter bunny was here!

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - MESA - DAY

Luna, Fredy and Grandma watch screaming children stampede into the mesa with their Easter baskets.

NICO

darting from egg to egg, then trips over the biggest Easter egg he's ever seen. The boy hoists the egg into his basket. A smile overtakes his face.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

The family is finishing dinner. Nico pecks at his plate with a mouthful of food.

NICO  
(whines to Luna)  
Ish ish enough?

LUNA  
Don't talk with your mouth full.

Nico chokes down a mash of rice and beans.

NICO  
Enough?

LUNA  
One more bite.

The boy grimaces, forces down another forkful, then rushes his plate to the kitchen and tosses it in the sink.

Angel kisses his grandmother, and heads for the door.

GRANDMA  
¿A dónde vas?

ANGEL  
(leaving the house)  
Juliana's.

GRANDMA  
*What happened to Maria?*

Nico squirms, desperately wanting his candy.

NICO  
Luna!

Luna fetches the heavy Easter basket from the cupboard and carries it to the table. She clears more plates to the kitchen as Nico pulls eggs from the basket.

NICO  
I found a green one with stripes  
and a blue one with little  
stars and a dinosaur one for you  
and a yellow one with dots and...

LUNA  
(yells from the sink)  
Just pick three, Nico!

Luna returns to sit down next to her brother. At first, she doesn't notice the dragon egg on the table, then nearly leaps from her seat when she sees it.

LUNA (cont'd)

Nico!

Nico recoils, thinking he's in trouble.

NICO

What?!

LUNA

Where'd you get that?!

NICO

What?!

LUNA

(pointing at egg)

That!

NICO

The Easter bunny!

Luna rushes off with the egg. Nico waits until his sister is out of sight, then shoves handfuls of candy into his mouth.

INT. LUNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luna can't believe what she sees. This thing looks real. She sets the egg on her desk and begins an examination. Measures it. Knocks on it. Types into her computer.

Nico enters with chipmunk cheeks. Chocolate is smeared all over his face, hands, shirt, pants... in his hair.

LUNA

Oh, Nico!

Luna rushes her brother out of the room. We stay on the dragon egg. A subtle SCRATCHING SOUND is heard...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Luna cleans Nico's face with frustrated swipes of a rag.

NICO

(sheepishly)

Luna? I'm--

The rag runs over Nico's mouth. Luna finishes with his

face, then starts on his hair.

NICO (cont'd)  
Luna?

LUNA  
We have to clean it, Nico.

NICO  
No... I...

LUNA  
What?!

Nico looks sadly to the floor.

NICO  
I'm sorry.

Luna sighs, her anger dissipating.

LUNA  
It's okay, Nico. It's your candy.

Nico's long face says it's not the candy he's sorry about.

NICO  
I pooped in my pull-up.

LUNA  
Oh, Nico!

INT. LUNA'S BEDROOM

Luna rushes into her room, one hand holding a changing mat, the other dragging her little brother.

Neither of them notice the BROKEN EGG SHELLS on the desk.

NICO  
At school I used the potty.

Luna lifts Nico onto her bed. As she changes his diaper, a LUMP moves under the bed covers.

LUNA  
Chewy, down!

Luna swats and the lump moves out of reach.

LUNA (cont'd)  
When you feel it coming you just  
run to the bathroom, okay?

NICO  
Okay. I will.

Luna finishes the diaper change and lifts her brother off the bed. Nico darts out of the room, as Chewy enters and jumps on the bed.

LUNA  
Chewy!--

Luna steps back, realizing that whatever is under the covers isn't the family pet.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Chewy... Come here.

The cat obeys. Luna looks to her desk and sees the egg shells. She looks back to the lump, and slowly grabs a ruler from her desk. A tense beat.

Luna flings back the bed covers--

--And there it is. A small, scaly creature. Kind of cute, actually, but definitely not from this world.

Luna SCREAMS. The creature SCREAMS. Chewy HISSES. The creature jumps onto the open window sill and hops outside.

Nico runs into the room.

NICO  
What's happening!?

LUNA  
Nothing, Nico. I just saw a...  
bird. Just an old crow.

Luna grabs a flashlight from her desk drawer.

EXT. MESA - NIGHT

Luna scans the dark mesa with the flashlight. Nico points.

NICO  
There it is!

Luna shines the light. A crow takes flight.

LUNA  
 (whispers)  
 Where'd you find the egg?

NICO  
 (whispers)  
 Over there.

They move off to inspect the area.

NICO (O.S.)  
 Luna, look! Another egg!

Luna shines the light, but Nico's just found another plastic Easter egg. Luna grabs Nico's hand and begins to walk back to the house when she sees REPTILIAN FOOTPRINTS.

They follow the tracks into a bramble of Chamisa bush.

NICO  
 What is it?

CREATURE'S POV - FROM INSIDE THE BUSH

Luna and Nico stand mesmerized.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - BAILEY'S OFFICE - DAY

AGENT SOPHIA BAILEY, 30's, sits at her computer. Bailey has kind, inquisitive eyes. Her boss, HANK GREEN, 50's, enters.

HANK  
 Up for a little road trip?

Hank holds a computer printout.

HANK (cont'd)  
 Los Alamos sent these over.

BAILEY  
 What is it?

HANK  
 (reads slowly)  
 "Exotic matter with negative energy density."

BAILEY  
 Sounds like the last guy I dated.

HANK

They said it's similar to what they found in sixty-one. DOD wants us to check it out.

BAILEY

I thought they didn't do that anymore.

HANK

They don't.

Hank hands the printout to Bailey. She reviews the documents, intrigued now.

BAILEY

Where's the site?

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

The Cruz house from the mesa. The school bus pulls up.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

LUNA

(whispers to Angel)

I'm staying home. Tell Mr. Garcia I'm sick.

ANGEL

Will you stop being such a geek and make some friends?

LUNA

Will you close your mouth before you get poop on the floor?

The bus HONKS. Angel just shakes his head as he and Nico leave.

Luna peeks into the living room to make sure Grandma has settled into her recliner, then darts to the kitchen and fills her backpack with food.

EXT. MESA - DAY

Luna kneels in front of the Chamisa bush and peers inside. Nothing. She grabs a block of cheese from her backpack, sets it in front of the bush, then slowly backs away and waits.

After a few moments, a RUSTLING. Luna's eyes grow wide as the baby creature takes a tentative step from the bush, snatches the cheese and scurries back.

Luna pulls more food from her backpack, this time making a food trail that ends a few feet from where she stands.

The creature steps out and carefully eats the first food pile. Before moving on to the next, it spots Luna, makes eye contact. The creature tilts its head and seems to study the girl, then decides it's safe enough to go for more food.

The hungry creature follows the food path, slowly moving closer to Luna, until the girl and the creature are face to face. The little thing looks fragile and scared.

LUNA

Hi... Hi there... It's okay.

Luna takes a piece of candy from a bag and holds it out. The creature moves slowly to Luna's hand... then LUNGES and snatches the entire bag, swallowing it whole.

Luna falls back on her bottom. The creature coughs, wheezes, HACKS loudly, then spits out the empty bag.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Grandma's drifting off in front of Mexican soccer commentary on TV. Luna peeks in, then she's back to the kitchen.

She fills her backpack with whatever she can find: peanut butter, carton of eggs, pickles, a jar of mayonnaise.

EXT. MESA - DAY

Food containers are strewn about. The creature's nose is deep inside the mayonnaise jar, needing that last lick.

LUNA

(laughing)

Gordo! (subtitle: Fatso)

The creature's new name.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The sounds of a Mexican soccer match BLARE from the TV.

Luna peeks into the living room. Grandma's on the edge of her seat, clutching a rosary, eyes glued to the match.

An announcer SCREAMS "GOOOOOOOOAL!" and Grandma leaps from her recliner. Luna takes the opportunity to dart by unseen.

Luna sneaks to the hallway closet. She grabs some blankets and an old Pack-N-Play in a duct-taped bag.

EXT. MESA - DAY

Luna drags the Pack-N-Play over the sandy terrain with the creature SQUAWKING at her heels.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Out of breath and sweating, Luna drops the Pack-N-Play and rips off her backpack.

She grabs her dinosaur book and flips through the pages, comparing various types to Gordo. No matches, then Luna comes upon something called a "Troodon Formosus." It's a squat, bird-like creature with tiny, little wings.

LUNA

(looks at Gordo)

Hm... Troodon? Could be. Sorry Gordo, means those stubby wings of yours are just for show.

Luna points to a layer in the cliff wall.

LUNA

You were born somewhere in here.

(thinks)

Well, actually, I guess you were just born yesterday.

Luna closes the book and begins to unfold the Pack-N-Play. She struggles with the clumsy contraption. When it finally snaps into place, it sends Luna to the dirt.

Luna dusts herself off, then drags the make-shift "nest" to the tunnel. Gordo follows close behind.

LUNA (cont'd)  
 Okay, Gordo... Hop in!

Yeah, right. The creature blinks. Only one way to do this.

Luna kneels down. She's nervous and her body language shows it. Luna winces as she scoops up the little creature... But Gordo rests his head on the girl's shoulder and his entire body relaxes. He starts to PURR.

Luna pulls Gordo close and gently rubs his back.

LUNA (cont'd)  
 I know you're lost and scared. You want your mom. I know.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY (DAWN)

Luna wakes to the SOUND OF A ROOSTER. She quietly crawls out of bed, careful not to wake Angel.

EXT. MESA - DAY (DAWN)

The sun has yet to rise over the distant mountains. The mesa is quiet except for Luna's FOOTSTEPS.

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY (DAWN)

Luna peeks into the Pack-N-Play. Gordo's sleeping, but senses the girl's presence and wakes. Luna scoops him from the nest. Gordo's noticeably larger.

LUNA  
 Jesus! You been eating rocks?

The creature relaxes for a moment, then SQUAWKS in Luna's face. Feed me!

Luna drops Gordo, and quickly fishes food from her backpack.

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - MOMENTS LATER

As Gordo finishes the last of the food, Luna stretches a tape measure over his back. He's doubled his size overnight.

The creature SQUAWKS. Still hungry.

LUNA  
More?! You've eaten it all.

INT. LUNA'S BEDROOM - DAY (MORNING)

Luna uses her desk chair to search the top shelf of her closet. She finds her change jar and hops down.

INT. KITCHEN

Grandma is mopping the kitchen floor as Luna rushes by.

GRANDMA  
*Walking to school today?*

Luna's out the door before she can give an answer.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Gordo jumps up and gets half his body out of the Pack-N-Play. He hangs there for a moment, wriggling, then falls out onto the ground.

The creature waddles away.

INT. RURAL STORE - DAY

One of those grubby, rural stores that has a bit of everything. Luna deposits armfuls of food onto the counter, then dumps out her change jar.

The CLERK smiles. She likes this kid.

CLERK  
Having a party, hija?

LUNA  
Yeah, you got any day-old or rotten stuff you're throwing away?

The Clerk raises her eyebrows.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Luna walks, weighted down by the groceries. The school bus passes her. A couple kids make faces from the window.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Grandma's making a snack, singing the Guadalajara fight song in Spanish as--

--Gordo passes behind her toward the open refrigerator.

Grandma senses something, stops singing, whirls around.

GRANDMA'S POV (OUT OF FOCUS) -- Something's squirming around in her refrigerator. Without her glasses, to Grandma it looks like a large crow.

GRANDMA  
(growling)  
*Filthy bird.*

Grandma pats around for her glasses, finds a broom instead.

Gordo's halfway inside a refrigerator drawer, GRUNTING with pleasure. Grandma appears from behind with the broom above her head.

BLAM!

She blasts him in the rear. Gordo SLAMS his head, then it's SQUAWKING CHAOS as Grandma chases him around the kitchen.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

On her walk back to the tunnel, Luna hears Grandma's SHOUTS from the house. Luna runs up to the sound of SMASHING GLASS.

LUNA  
Please tell me that's not--

Gordo scrambles out the door with Grandma on his tail.

GRANDMA  
*Come in again, bird, you'll go out  
in a garbage bag!*

Gordo runs off into the mesa.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Grandma sits at the kitchen table, mumbling to herself. Luna pours her a tall shot of tequila. Grandma downs it.

GRANDMA

*Dios mio. Either I'm getting smaller, or the crows are getting bigger.*

Grandma points to her shot glass. Another.

EXT. HIGHWAY I-25 - DAY

Agent Bailey's car drives down the desert Highway I-25.

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Gordo, face covered in food, peeks out nervously from behind the Pack-N-Play. His ears perk up when he sees Luna.

LUNA

Come here!

Ears go down. Gordo slinks over to Luna.

LUNA (cont'd)

You nearly gave my grandma a heart attack.

Luna's anger soon subsides. She pets Gordo. He nuzzles her.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

Gravel CRUNCHES underneath car tires. The car door opens to Agent Bailey.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

The morning tequila has Grandma passed out in her recliner. She doesn't wake to Bailey's KNOCKING at the front door.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

Bailey walks into the mesa to have a look around. Nothing out of the ordinary until she sees GORDO'S FOOTPRINTS.

Bailey follows the tracks to the Chamisa bush, inspects the ground where Luna fed Gordo. Something catches her eye...

Bailey picks up a SCALE and drops it into a baggy.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Angel opens the empty refrigerator. Luna tries to scurry past unnoticed, but Angel stops her.

ANGEL

Yo! Who ate all the food?!

LUNA

Filthy crow?

Grandma enters, nodding sadly. She finds food stamps in her purse to give to Angel. Luna watches with shame.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT (LATE NIGHT)

Luna sneaks through the dark house. She grabs a blanket from the hall closet, and a potato sack from the kitchen.

EXT. FREDY'S CHICKEN FARM - NIGHT (LATE NIGHT)

Luna's shadowed figure stands outside a chicken enclosure. The birds CLUCK nervously. Luna looks to Fredy's house, then quickly hops the fence. Chickens scatter.

Luna scrambles after one bird, but falls awkwardly as it darts away. This is going to be harder than it looks.

Luna gets down on all fours, creeps forward and throws the blanket at a bird. Success.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY (DAWN)

The night sky is lightening to gray. Luna walks with a potato sack full of CLUCKING CHICKENS.

EXT. MESA - DAY (DAWN)

Luna nervously holds a cleaver in her hand. She takes a deep breath... BANG. A chicken lets out its last BA-COCK!

INT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY (DAWN)

Luna struggles to lift Gordo from the Pack-N-Play. Again, he seems to have doubled in size.

Luna puts Gordo down and pushes his butt to the ground.

LUNA

Sit.

Gordo quickly pops up again. Luna pushes him back down. This time Gordo squats on his haunches, but doesn't quite sit.

LUNA (cont'd)

Close enough.

Gordo's awarded with a piece of chicken.

MONTAGE - LUNA TEACHES GORDO TRICKS:

-- Gordo shakes.

-- Gordo rolls over.

-- Gordo plays dead.

-- Luna rubs Gordo's belly. His hind leg twitches.

EXT. FREDY'S CHICKEN COUP - DAY

Fredy tosses feed to her chickens. She realizes some of her birds are missing.

FREDY

Damn dogs are back, Captain.

Fredy lifts Captain, an aging chicken, and hugs him close.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Fredy removes a board from the floor. She stands holding a SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN. Captain struts nervously.

FREDY

We're gonna kill us some dogs!

Captain BAWKS.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Luna, Angel and Nico clean up after dinner. Luna washes, Nico dries, Angel puts away.

ANGEL

(to Luna)

Mr. Garcia's hassling me about you cutting school.

LUNA  
Tell him I'm sick.

ANGEL  
You got all Spring Break next week.  
Why you gotta cut this week, too?

NICO  
Probably so she can stay home and  
play with her dinosaur egg.

ANGEL  
You gotta stop playing, Luna.

LUNA  
(quietly)  
I'm not playing. It's real.

Luna considers telling Angel. She hands a wet plate to Nico.

LUNA (cont'd)  
I found something, Angel. It's--

SMASH! Nico drops the plate and it shatters in hundreds of shimmering shards.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - BAILEY'S OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON SCALE, shimmering in the light. Bailey drops it in an envelope marked "LAB SAMPLE."

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY (MORNING)

Luna bounds into the tunnel, but peers into the Pack-N-Play and her cheer turns to panic.

Gordo is gone.

Luna hears a bird CAWING. Crows circle over something in the arroyo.

LUNA  
Gordo!

Luna rushes over to find Gordo on the ground, wet and panting. He's vomited a large pool of steaming liquid.

It takes all of Luna's strength to carry Gordo to the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Gordo lays on a bed of blankets in the shade. He's getting worse. His PANTING has accelerated. He MOANS out in pain.

LUNA  
It's going to be all right.

But Luna's not so sure. Suddenly, FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING...

ANGEL (O.S.)  
What the--

BLECH! The f-bomb is drowned out by Gordo's barfing sounds.

ANGEL  
--is that!

Angel picks up a shovel.

ANGEL  
Don't touch it Luna!

LUNA  
It's okay! He's mine.

Angel's confused, keeps the shovel raised.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Angel, please. It's okay. Trust me.

ANGEL  
What is it?

LUNA  
A Troodon Formosus, I think. He's sick.

ANGEL  
A what?

LUNA  
A type of coelurosaur.

Angel doesn't take his eyes off Gordo.

ANGEL  
It's a bald wolf.

LUNA  
It's not a wolf, you moron.

ANGEL  
 (stepping closer)  
 Yeah, I've heard about this...

Gordo begins to HEAVE.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
 They get sick and--

Before Angel can get the words out, Gordo barfs a HUGE BALL OF FLAMES blowing Angel to the ground.

Gordo jumps to his feet and releases a stream of flame into the air. He SQUAWKS with pleasure, feeling great now.

ANGEL (O.S.)  
 (breathless, coughing)  
 It's... not a wolf.

INT. LUNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luna's at her computer.

LUNA  
 He's a dragon! Listen to this.  
 (reads slowly from computer)  
 There are glands near the second stomach that produce octane and methane. These structures are connected to the nervous system allowing it to release the hydrocarbons which mix with the oxidant agent to expel fire.  
 (stops reading)  
 I have no idea what that means, but it's from a Natural History textbook that says dragons existed.

ANGEL  
 I don't need a book. Look at me!

Angel's precious hair is singed off in large patches. He stands in front of the bedroom mirror with a razor and bowl of water, shaving his head.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
 You know how many girls are going to be devastated over this?

Luna's back to her computer screen.

LUNA

Gordo must be a Chinese Lung dragon. They can't fly.

ANGEL

Figures you got a lame one... How long have you had this thing?

LUNA

He hatched a week ago.

ANGEL

From an egg?

LUNA

No, from a cereal box, cue ball.

ANGEL

Shut it. And it's already that big?

LUNA

Yeah, he eats a lot. We need to get him more food.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT

Luna and Angel walk in the darkness with potato sacks and blankets over their shoulder.

ANGEL

This is a bad idea.

EXT. FREDY'S CHICKEN COUP - NIGHT

Luna and Angel jump the fence, and CLUCKING CHICKENS panic.

Luna gets down on all fours and crawls toward the birds with her blanket. Angel frowns, but follows her lead.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lit by the moonlight, Fredy slides a shotgun shell into a barrel and slips out the front door.

Fredy sees what looks to be prowling dogs in the chicken coup. She raises the shotgun and CLICKS back the hammer...

BWHOOM!

EXT. FREDY'S CHICKEN COUP - NIGHT

The blanket blasts out of Angel's hands.

FREDY  
(realizing)  
Oh my God!

Fredy drops the gun and runs to Angel and Luna.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

A tea kettle WHISTLES. Fredy drops a tea bag into a cup and fills it to the brim with bourbon, forgetting the water.

FREDY  
Thank God I'm a bad shot. Why  
didn't you tell me? You guys know  
I'm always here to help you.

ANGEL  
It's not what you think.

FREDY  
Then tell me what this is about.  
And what happened to your hair?

Angel's now completely bald.

ANGEL  
You won't believe it.

FREDY  
Please. You're talking to a woman  
who believes she was literally  
birthed by the moon--

LUNA  
I found a dragon.

Fredy takes a swig from her mug.

ANGEL  
Told you.

FREDY  
I'll admit, that's not what I was  
expecting you to say.

LUNA  
You don't believe me?

FREDY  
Describe exactly what you found.

LUNA  
A dragon.

FREDY  
Some sort of flying reptile?

LUNA  
He can't fly.

Angel points to his bald head.

ANGEL  
See this? That flightless  
reptile blew fire from its mouth  
and woof... I'm rollin' like  
Pitbull.

LUNA  
You wish.

FREDY  
Who's Pitbull?

ANGEL  
Bald rapper. Ladies love him.

Pitbull still doesn't register with Fredy.

FREDY  
Blew fire?

LUNA  
You want to meet him?

FREDY  
Pitbull?

LUNA  
The dragon.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - NIGHT

Three FLASHLIGHTS coming down into the arroyo.

LUNA  
(to Fredy)  
Maybe you should let me go first.  
Just so we don't scare him.

FREDY  
 (nervous)  
 Good idea.

Fredy waits as Luna and Angel walk down into the tunnel.

LUNA (O.S.)  
 (echoing from tunnel)  
 Hey boy.

Gordo greets the kids with a DEEP-THROATED HUFF.

FREDY  
 (terrified)  
 Ho my goodness.

LUNA (O.S.)  
 Okay, Fredy! You can come down now!

CLOSE ON FREDY. Scared stiff.

FREDY  
 Um, I don't know guys!

ANGEL (O.S.)  
 It's cool!

LUNA (O.S.)  
 Come down, Fredy! It's fine!

FREDY  
 You know, turns out this might be  
just outside my comfort zone.

ANGEL (O.S.)  
 Don't be such a chicken!

FREDY  
 Very funny.

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - NIGHT

Fredy stands at the entrance to the tunnel, BREATHING fast and shallow. She lifts her flashlight to the DRAGON'S FACE and practically falls over from the shock.

FREDY  
Whoa daddy!

Gordo wriggles like an puppy wanting to play, but this puppy's now about the size of a full grown Great Dane.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 What's he doing, Luna?! Does he  
 smell the chickens on me?!

LUNA  
 He's just excited to meet someone  
 new.

Luna rubs Gordo under the chin. The dragon PURRS THROATILY.

LUNA (cont'd)  
 Watch this. Gordo sit!

The dragon sits, and is rewarded with chicken.

ANGEL  
 Cool, huh?

FREDY  
 Yep. Let's go now.

LUNA  
 Come say hi to him.

FREDY  
 Not a chance.

LUNA  
 He'll be upset if you don't.

Fredy swallows hard.

FREDY  
 You're sure he's okay with  
 strangers?

LUNA  
 Come on.

FREDY  
 I don't want to rush him, you know?

LUNA  
 Fredy.

FREDY  
 Should he smell my hand first?

Luna becomes impatient. She runs over and grabs Fredy's arm.

LUNA  
 Just come on.

Luna drags Fredy to the Pack-N-Play, which is now way too small for Gordo.

FREDY

Whew! Not your average house pet.

LUNA

Pet him.

FREDY

I really don't think--

Luna lifts Fredy's hand to the dragon's nose. Gordo PURRS. Fredy relaxes a little as she strokes the dragon.

FREDY (cont'd)

Wow. He actually is sort of... beautiful.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Fredy paces. The experience has filled her with adrenaline.

FREDY

That was... that was. Just wow!

Luna couldn't be happier.

ANGEL

He's dope, huh?

FREDY

I have so many questions. A million questions. Where did you find him?

LUNA

In my room.

FREDY

You found that in your room?

LUNA

Well, his egg hatched in my room.

FREDY

Egg! Oh my God, where's his mother? Are there more of them?!

LUNA

Just Gordo.

FREDY  
 He's gotta have a mom, Luna.  
 (then)  
 Okay, tell me everything. Start at  
 the beginning.

LUNA  
 On Easter, Nico found the egg...

TIME DISSOLVE:

Angel is asleep, SNORING softly.

LUNA (O.S.)  
 And he just eats like crazy, I  
 didn't know what to do... Sorry  
 about your chickens.

FREDY  
 He's going to get bigger, Luna.

LUNA  
 I know.

FREDY  
 I mean really big. His closest  
 relative would be the bird. They  
 can grow twenty times their birth  
 size a few days after hatching.

Luna knows this.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 I just can't figure out how he got  
 here. You don't remember anything  
 else? Nothing strange happened  
 before Nico found the egg?

Luna suddenly remembers...

LUNA  
 The light.

FREDY  
 What light, Luna?

LUNA  
 I just remembered. I woke up from  
 this sound and looked out the  
 window and saw a... swirling light.

FREDY

Okay, this is important. Tell me everything about this light.

Fredy grabs a piece of paper and a pen.

FREDY (cont'd)

Draw it for me.

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DAY (MORNING)

Bailey stands with a LAB TECHNICIAN.

LAB TECHNICIAN

To be frank, I've never seen anything like it.

BAILEY

So you know what it's from?

LAB TECHNICIAN

Well... it doesn't seem to be from any living creature known to man.

Bailey raises her eyebrows.

LAB TECHNICIAN (cont'd)

Insane. I know. But I think this scale is prehistoric.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - DAY

FREDY (O.S.)

*Yes, Senora, they're fine. They're sleeping now.*

Luna is asleep on the couch. She begins to wake.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

Fredy hasn't slept a wink and it shows. She stares at Luna's drawing of the GLOWING VORTEX. Luna enters unnoticed.

LUNA

Hey.

Fredy knocks her tea to the floor.

FREDY  
Christ, you scared me!

LUNA  
Sorry.

Fredy rushes out to get a rag for the spill.

FREDY (O.S.)  
(yells from kitchen)  
Look at the computer!

On the screen is a graphic of the GLOWING VORTEX.

Fredy returns with a rag and kneels to the floor to clean up the spill.

FREDY  
That's the light right? That's what you saw that night?

LUNA  
Yeah... What is it?

FREDY  
They call it a time dilation event. Some wormhole, time warp thing. It's all very complicated, but it's gotta be how Gordo got here. And there's going to be another one.

Luna picks up papers Fredy has printed out, titled: "Society for the Exploration of Exotic Matter and Tachyons (SEEMAT)."

FREDY (cont'd)  
These guys are super science, Ivy League types, and they're meeting about this in New York this week. We gotta call, Luna. This is how you get Gordo home.

Luna's face is a mixture of confusion and distress. Angel enters, groggy from the long night.

ANGEL  
Fredy, you got any breakfast?

FREDY  
You mean lunch.

Luna looks at the clock and panics, not realizing the time. She starts to run out.

FREDY (cont'd)  
Luna, wait!

LUNA  
I gotta feed Gordo!

FREDY  
You don't have any food, remember?

INT. FREDY'S GARAGE - DAY

Fredy stuffs frozen chickens into a large bag.

FREDY  
This oughta stuff his belly.

LUNA  
Thanks, Fredy.

FREDY  
I'll bring more by later.  
(pause)  
We need to talk about New York.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - TECH ROOM - DAY

A male tech, PHILIP, late 20's, sits at his desk behind three large computer monitors. Bailey opens the door.

BAILEY  
Hey, Philip, were you able to get  
those phone numbers I asked for?

Philip hands Bailey a print out.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Luna runs with the large bag of food.

EXT. FENCED IN YARD - DAY

A dirty pit bull SNIFFS the air, then digs at a small hole under the fence, opening it just enough to slink underneath. Two more snarling dogs follow the first.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Luna slows, senses something, turns around. Nothing... Her cell phone RINGS.

LUNA  
Hello?

BAILEY (V.O.)  
Luna Cruz?

LUNA  
(suspicious)  
Who's asking?

BAILEY (V.O.)  
This is--

WHAM! Luna's knocked to the ground by a SNARLING PIT BULL. The dog rips at her pant leg, as the others go for the food. Luna screams and kicks, but the dog won't release her.

BAILEY (V.O.) (cont'd)  
(through phone on the ground)  
Luna!... Luna!

Luna covers her head, shrieking in fear, as the pit bull shakes its head violently, jaws locked on her pants, then...

A THUNDEROUS BEATING OF WINGS and a MONSTROUS ROAR followed by a frightened SQUEAL. The dog releases Luna. She looks up and sees...

A tail sticking out of Gordo's mouth. The dragon's become huge. He tilts his head back, gulps, then HACKS up a spiked dog collar.

YELPING dogs scatter.

Gordo blows a fire stream, then stretches HUGE WINGS from his body. With three powerful wing-beats, he lifts into the air and FLIES AWAY.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - BAILEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Agent Bailey listens to the CLICK of Luna hanging up. Bailey sits for a moment, stunned, then snatches her car keys.

EXT. RURAL BUS STOP - DAY

A PRETTY GIRL pretends to be disinterested as Angel spits his game.

ANGEL

Gina, ask yourself how it can be wrong when it feels so right?

Angel's flirtatious grin turns to stone as he sees Gordo FLYING IN THE SKY behind Gina. Angel runs off.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Angel reaches his sister, breathing hard and scared.

ANGEL

Luna! I just saw Gordo... flying!

Luna's pulsing with energy.

LUNA

I know, it was wild! The Perez dogs jumped me, and then I heard like this whoosh-whoosh-whoosh!

(starts to reenact the scene)

And I looked up and Gordo was like arrrgh! and then he snatched the pit bull and swallowed it whole!

ANGEL

This is bad, Luna.

LUNA

And I was like qué chingón!

ANGEL

Really bad.

LUNA

Then Gordo just went shoooom into the sky! He can fly! He's definitely not a traditional Lung dragon, he must be a winged Ying-Lung or something--

ANGEL

Luna! He's flying around eating live animals. We gotta find him. Fast!

EXT. HIGHWAY I-25 - DAY

Agent Bailey's car zooms down I-25.

EXT. TUNNEL/ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Gordo's tired and full. He tries to crawl into his Pack-N-Play nest, but he's now way too big. The dragon just manages to squish in his rear-end, then tips over awkwardly.

Gordo rights himself, comically walks around with the Pack-N-Play stuck to his behind, trying to shake it free. Gordo runs... jumps... twists... shakes and shimmies.. finally flings it off.

The dragon plops down on the ground, feet splayed, chin on the dirt. He's moved pretty far from the tunnel by this point. BELCH. A small fire ball shoots from the dragon's mouth. The flames singe the ground... IGNITING a small twig.

Gordo closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep.

EXT. TUNNEL - LUNA'S DIG SITE - DAY

Luna and Angel rush into the tunnel.

LUNA

The nest is gone!

ANGEL

Where else would he go, Luna?!

LUNA

The only other place he knows is our house.

They run off as the sun sinks behind the distant mountains.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

Grandma opens the front door to Bailey.

BAILEY

Hello, ma'am. My name's Sophia Bailey. I'm with Homeland Security.

The old woman's face fills with alarm.

ANGLE ON LUNA AND ANGEL hidden behind a Chamisa bush.

ANGEL  
 (whispering)  
 Who's that?

LUNA  
 Kinda looks like that Social  
 Services gringa.

ANGEL  
 Luna, you smell that?

SMOKE RISES from the arroyo.

LUNA (O.S.)  
 The tunnel!

BACK TO SCENE

BAILEY  
 No, ma'am. I just need to ask Luna  
 a few questions. Is she here?

GRANDMA  
 She go to Ms. Frederica.

EXT. FREDY'S HOUSE - FRONT DRIVE - DAY (DUSK)

Fredy loads frozen chickens into a cooler. Captain struts  
 around nervously.

FREDY  
 Relax, Captain. I don't kill  
 anything I've named.

Bailey's car pulls up. Fredy instantly recognizes law  
 enforcement.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 My proby told me no home visits.

BAILEY  
 (flashes badge)  
 I'm looking for Luna Cruz.

Fredy's face doesn't betray her total panic.

FREDY  
 Sure. Come on in.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

FREDY  
Have a seat.

Bailey glances at the threadbare sofa.

BAILEY  
I'm good.

FREDY  
Is this about Valentina? Her kids  
were born here, you know.

BAILEY  
I'm not immigration. I just need to  
talk to Luna.

FREDY  
She's doing some work for me out  
back. I'll go get her.

As Fredy exits, Bailey notices the ankle monitor.

EXT. FREDY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY (DUSK)

Fredy sneaks around to the front of the house. She quietly opens the door to her old, yellow truck, puts it in neutral, and pushes the truck down the drive.

INT. FREDY'S HOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

Bailey's getting impatient. She looks out the back window, moves to the front window. Fredy's truck is gone.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY (DUSK)

Dust flies as the truck barrels down the road.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT (DUSK)

TIRES ROLL INTO VIEW. It's getting dark. Bailey steps from the car with a flashlight in hand. She walks into the mesa, inspecting the ground with the flashlight.

FOOTPRINTS lead off toward the arroyo. Bailey follows the tracks, as SIRENS start up in the distance.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - NIGHT (DUSK)

The loud CRACKLE OF FIRE startles Gordo awake. The frightened dragon looks around at the flames, CRIES OUT.

LUNA (O.S.)

Gordo!

LUNA

Grabs a rope from her dig site and rushes to Gordo.

ANGEL

Uses his sweatshirt to swat desperately at the flames.

FREDY

Appears at the road, looks toward the HOWLING SIRENS, which are getting closer, then shouts down.

FREDY

Luna, up here!

LUNA

Tries to lead Gordo up to the road, but the dragon's terrified and bucks.

ANGEL

Gives up on the fire. It's out of control now, flames raging. He sees Luna struggle with Gordo, rushes to help.

EXT. MESA/ARROYO - NIGHT (DUSK)

Bailey runs toward the arroyo, reaches the cliff, shines her light down to...

AN ANGRY DRAGON FLAPPING ITS WINGS.

Bailey can't believe her eyes. She trips, sending the flashlight tumbling.

Bailey recovers, grabs the flashlight in time to see Luna and Angel pull Gordo up the embankment to the road.

BAILEY

Stop! Federal Agent!

Bailey pulls her gun, points in the air and FIRES.

Gordo really freaks now, but they're able to get him into the truck bed and throw a tarp over. Fredy revs the engine and SQUEALS away just as FIRE TRUCKS BLARE INTO THE SCENE.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Driving fast down a gravel road.

LUNA  
(scared to death)  
Where are we taking him, Fredy?

Fredy has no idea.

EXT. ARROYO - LUNA'S DIG SITE - NIGHT

Bailey quickly punches numbers on her cell.

BAILEY  
(yells into the phone)  
This is field agent Sophia Bailey!  
I need an immediate 99 to secure an  
area...  
(listens)  
Yellow truck. Unknown.  
(listens)  
No, we can't use local resources.  
Just our assets. And quickly! I  
need them now!

INT/EXT. FREDY'S TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Driving fast. Angel's up front with Fredy. Luna's still in the truck bed, trying to calm Gordo.

FREDY  
(yells back)  
How's he doing, Luna?!

LUNA  
(through cab's sliding window)  
Not great!

ANGEL  
(to Fredy)  
Can we hide him at your place?

FREDY  
They know my house. That agent came  
looking for Luna.

EXT. HELIPORT - NIGHT

Two black helicopters lift off the ground.

INT/EXT. FREDY'S TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

FREDY

There's an abandoned stable ahead.  
We can can hide Gordo there until  
morning.

Fredy accelerates up a slight hill.

ANGEL

Then where?

FREDY

I don't know yet.

LUNA

(through sliding window)  
New York.

FREDY

Luna, if I leave the county, we'll  
have the police after us, too.

At the crest of the hill, they see FLASHING POLICE LIGHTS.  
Road block.

EXT. POLICE ROAD BLOCK - NIGHT

TWO AGENTS in suits wave a car through. These guys are not  
policemen.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The PILOT views red blips on an infrared scanner, while the  
CO-PILOT operates a searchlight, sweeping the ground below.

INT. FREDY'S CAR - NIGHT

Fredy kills the headlights and wheels the truck around. The  
WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMP of the helicopters is heard overhead.

Fredy turns down a gravel road.

FREDY  
 Okay, Frederica... think, think,  
 think...

Fredy closes her eyes, then... She's got an idea.

EXT. RAIL YARD - NIGHT

Boxcars are lit by the moonlight. Fredy's truck pulls up slowly, headlights still off. She kills the engine.

FREDY  
 I hobo'd from Jersey to New Mexico.  
 This is a non-stop all the way to  
 Cleveland. We'll be there with a  
 bigger truck to take him to New  
 York.  
 (looks at her ankle monitor)  
 Not sure how, but I'll make it  
 happen.

Fredy grabs a crowbar from the backseat. Luna flips off the tarp and Gordo shakes himself like a dog.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 Get the chickens.

Angel slides a cooler from the truck bed and follows Fredy to an empty boxcar.

After a few hard yanks with the crowbar, Fredy breaks open the door.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 Okay. Get him up there.

Luna jumps in, then WHISTLES to Gordo. The dragon flaps up into the boxcar.

FREDY (cont'd)  
 Come on, Luna. Let's go.

Luna shakes her head "no."

FREDY (cont'd)  
 Luna, please.

LUNA  
 I'm not leaving him.

FREDY  
He'll be fine.

No way, no how, Luna gets off that train. She moves behind Gordo. The dragon's eyes meet Fredy's.

FREDY (cont'd)  
You don't scare me...  
(exhales)  
very much.

Angel hops in the boxcar.

ANGEL  
You go. I go.

LUNA  
Angel, you can't. You gotta stay  
for Nico... and Maria and Juliana  
and Gina.

Angel smiles.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Seriously, I'll be okay.

Angel hugs his little sister, then jumps down.

ANGEL  
Be careful, Luna.

Fredy's paces, then stops and takes off an old Army jacket she's wearing. She tosses the jacket to Luna.

FREDY  
(sternly)  
Under no circumstance do you get  
off this train. Understand?

Luna nods. Angel heaves the cooler into the boxcar.

FREDY (cont'd)  
There's only about twenty chickens  
in here, so ration.

Gordo SNIFFS the cooler. Hungry already.

FREDY (cont'd)  
And, Luna, don't use your cell  
phone unless it's an absolute  
emergency. That agent knows who you  
are. You turn on your phone,  
they'll trace you.

LUNA

Got it.

FREDY

(reassuring herself)

This is going to work out.

Angel and Fredy slide the rail door shut with a BANG.

INT. BOXCAR - NIGHT

Luna and Gordo sit quietly, listening to the sound of the truck drive into the distance until silence fills the darkness.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Helicopters swirl the night sky, the searchlights scanning the mesa below.

HELICOPTER PILOT

(through radio, filtered)

This is Black Bat Two. I've got a yellow truck. Going down.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT

One helicopter lands on the road in front of Fredy's truck. Another swoops down behind, blocking the way.

Angel runs through the dust cloud, fleeing into the night.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

The boy runs fast with the AGENTS in close pursuit. Angel SCREAMS as he's tackled hard to the ground.

HANK (V.O.)

We got 'em.

EXT. POLICE ROAD BLOCK - NIGHT

Bailey stands at the road block holding her phone.

HANK (V.O.)

But nothing like you described.  
Just a woman and a boy.

Bailey sighs frustration, wipes her brow.

HANK (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 I'll keep the choppers in the air.  
 If it's as big as you say it is,  
 it'll turn up.

BAILEY  
 Hank?

HANK (V.O.)  
 Yeah.

BAILEY  
 Thanks for believing me.

HANK (V.O.)  
 Who said I believe you?

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - NIGHT

Bailey and Hank stand in an empty viewing suite adjacent to an interrogation room.

HANK  
 The choppers searched for three hours and got nothing. No creature. No girl.

BAILEY  
 And Ms. DiNatto's not talking?

HANK  
 The hippie talks non-stop, she just won't tell us anything. But she's got a prior. We'll keep her in county for a while, maybe she'll soften up.  
 (points to window)  
 This guy on the other hand...

Hank and Bailey look through a one-way mirror. Angel's admiring himself on the other side.

HANK (cont'd)  
 I got nothing to hold him on.

BAILEY  
 Okay. Just give me five minutes.

Bailey opens a door and enters the

INTERROGATION ROOM

Bailey greets Angel with a smile.

ANGEL  
I want my lawyer, yo.

BAILEY  
You've watched too many cop shows.

ANGEL  
I know my rights.

BAILEY  
I doubt it.

Bailey takes a seat.

BAILEY (cont'd)  
Look, your little sister's in  
danger, and I want to help her.  
Where is she?

ANGEL  
I don't know. Summer camp?

BAILEY  
Is that the one where you bring  
your own giant, flying reptile?

Angel doesn't flinch. He puts on his sunglasses and crosses  
his arms.

BAILEY (cont'd)  
You want to protect Luna. I get it.  
But what you're not getting is what  
happens if you don't help me.  
(pause)  
Will you please take off the  
shades?

Angel doesn't.

INT. BOXCAR - NIGHT

Gordo looks to Luna with begging eyes.

LUNA  
Okay, but just one.

Luna opens the cooler and tosses a chicken to the dragon. Of  
course he wants more.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Sorry, we gotta ration.

Gordo sits with a disappointed SNORT, as the train starts to CHUG slowly out of the rail yard...

Luna finally closes her eyes for some much needed rest.

INT. AGENT BAILEY'S CAR - DAY (DAWN)

CLANGING BELLS AND FLASHING LIGHTS start up on the road ahead for a morning commuter train. Bailey stops her car and rubs her bloodshot eyes.

As the train WHOOSHES past, Bailey's eyes go wide with realization. She grabs her cell phone and quickly dials.

BAILEY  
Hank! The train.

INT. BOXCAR - DAY

Luna wakes to sunlight shining underneath the boxcar door. As she stretches, Luna notices Gordo licking chicken juice from his paws. The cooler is tipped over, empty.

LUNA  
Gordo!

The sheepish dragon's ears go down.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

The freight train rolls through the mountain landscape.

INT. BOXCAR - DAY

Gordo YAWNS from his meal. He stretches his front legs, and lays down for a nap.

LUNA  
Where's your self control?

The dragon closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep.

LUNA (cont'd)  
When you wake up starving, don't  
come whining to me.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

The train rounds a bend. Far behind in the sky, a HUGE MILITARY HELICOPTER comes into view, closing fast.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

An infrared scanner shows the thermal reading of each boxcar's contents. Nothing but cold, lifeless blue dots, until one car contains... a LARGE RED BLOB.

PILOT  
(through radio static)  
We got a hot spot.

INT. BOXCAR - DAY

Luna's looking through a crack in the boxcar door, watching the mountain landscape roll by when the train begins to slow... then stops with a JOLT.

INT. TRAIN ENGINEER'S CAR - DAY

The TRAIN ENGINEER'S bewildered as he watches the big military helicopter land on the tracks.

TRAIN ENGINEER  
(into radio)  
What the hell's this?

STATION OPERATOR (V.O.)  
Inspection. Homeland Security wants  
to open a few cars.

The Engineer watches AGENTS jump out of the helicopter. They're heavily armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers.

TRAIN ENGINEER  
(into radio)  
What is it again we're hauling?

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The Agents make hand signals, then move down the train.

Suddenly, something BURSTS from the trees. In a flash, Agents are in kill positions, kneeling, firearms pulled--

A DEER bounds away, running alongside the train and disappearing around a bend. The Agents exchange a glance.

INT. BOXCAR - DAY

Gordo opens one eye, SNIFFS the air. The dragon lifts his head, following the scent of something.

LUNA  
Hungry already, eh?

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The deer runs by Luna and Gordo's boxcar...

INT. BOXCAR - DAY

Gordo lunges and BREAKS THROUGH THE BOXCAR DOOR, flying off after the frightened deer.

Luna watches, stunned, as first the deer, then Gordo, disappear over a hillside...

Luna jumps out and runs after them, struggling in the deep snow. After a moment, she also disappears over the hillside.

EXT. TRAIN - MOMENTS LATER

Two AGENTS slow their pace as they round the bend and approach Luna's boxcar. Agent #1 points: here?

Agent #2 nods, then drops and crawls underneath the train.

The Agent finds the broken boxcar door, then sees Luna's FOOTPRINTS in the snow.

AGENT #2  
(finger to earpiece)  
Black Bat, we need an aerial sweep.  
Target's on foot, heading East.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The helicopter takes off.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Luna's BREATHING HEAVY from her chase. She stops, scans the horizon for Gordo.

Luna hears a SNORT up ahead, and runs off toward the sound.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - MOMENTS LATER

Gordo SNIFFS the air, searching. He's lost the deer.

Luna appears several feet behind the dragon.

LUNA

Gordo! Come here! Now!

But the dragon stubbornly ignores Luna and walks into a cluster of trees. The rope, still hanging on Gordo's neck, drags along behind him. Luna grabs hold and pulls hard.

LUNA (cont'd)

Gordo!

Luna can't pull the dragon back, but she's able to pull herself forward until she reaches him. Luna wraps her arms around Gordo's neck, hugging the dragon tight.

LUNA (cont'd)

Don't ever do that again!

Luna closes her eyes, just as something BURSTS from a bush. Gordo lunges, then... TAKES FLIGHT WITH LUNA ON HIS BACK!

LUNA (cont'd)

Whooaa-ahhhhhhhh!

Luna holds on for dear life as Gordo SWOOPS DOWN to chase a small rabbit. The rabbit ducks and darts, then dives into a hole. Gordo flies on, his belly just above the tree line as he and Luna ZOOM UP A MOUNTAIN SIDE.

And just as they reach the peak...

VHOOM!

THE HELICOPTER SHOOTS OVERHEAD, missing Luna and Gordo by inches. The pilot never sees the girl and the dragon as they streak beneath the helicopter and soar into the sky...

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - HANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Hank rubs his eyes, frustrated. Bailey sits across from him.

HANK

I sent an entire Special Response Unit with heavy artillery to that train and all they found were cute little footprints disappearing in the snow.

Bailey's concerned.

BAILEY

Heavy artillery?

HANK

I thought it was appropriate given you said it was a giant, lizard monster thing.

BAILEY

I also said there was a ten-year-old girl. I know how these Response Agents like to solve problems. Besides, we don't even know if the creature is dangerous.

HANK

Look, we find it, we kill it. If some geek wants to do research on the thing, he can do it from a dissecting table.

BAILEY

I want to bring the little girl home safely.

HANK

Put her face on a milk carton. We're not Social Services.

BAILEY

Hank, you really need to get a dog or something.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Gordo's tied to a tree, watching Luna pace back and forth.

Luna stares at the cell phone in her hand as she walks. She's worried, but remembering Fredy's words: *Do not to use your cell phone unless it is an emergency.*

Luna looks around at the snow-capped mountains. She has no idea where they are, but it's undoubtedly the middle of nowhere. This pretty much qualifies as an emergency.

The wind picks up. It's getting cold. Luna stares at her phone.

We pull up, higher and higher above Luna, to reveal a vast mountain range. Nothing for miles.

The cold silence is broken by the DIALING OF A PHONE...

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

Angel holds a phone to his ear, rubbing his bald head nervously. He listens to the BEEP of Luna's phone voice mail.

ANGEL

(scared into phone)

Luna, I know you're not supposed to turn on your phone, but I'm freakin' out here. Fredy's in jail and her truck is impounded. I don't know what to do. Where are you? Are you on your way to SEEMAT?

INT. COUNTY JAIL - DAY

Fredy sits in jailhouse orange with a phone to her ear, talking to her PROBATION OFFICER through security glass.

FREDY

Why am I in here?

PROBATION OFFICER

Um, let's see. Fleeing from a Federal Agent?

FREDY

Fleeing? Was she arresting me? I simply left my house.

PROBATION OFFICER

Frederica, for some reason the Feds have taken an interest in you, and until they say you can leave, you ain't goin' nowhere.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Luna's face is pure determination. She has a plan. She stops pacing, and unties the rope from Gordo's neck.

LUNA  
Stand up, Gordo.

The dragon stands.

Luna loops the rope around Gordo's chest, just forward of the wings. She climbs up and lies down on his back, then secures herself by tying the rope around her waist.

Luna will fly laying flat with her head positioned just behind the dragon's ears. For the reigns, she slides the long end of the rope through Gordo's mouth.

Once secured to Gordo, Luna looks up at the sun.

LUNA (cont'd)  
No way we find Cleveland, but if we head East to the ocean and then go north along the coast, we'll hit New York. Once we're out of these mountains, we'll fly at night.

Luna strokes Gordo's neck.

LUNA (cont'd)  
You up for this?

The dragon SNORTS.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Then let's fly!

With three POWERFUL WING-BEATS, Gordo lifts off the ground and takes off.

MONTAGE - LUNA AND GORDO TAKE TO THE SKY:

- Flying above the snowy peaks.
- Dipping and banking along a beautiful, mountain river.
- Soaring over a glorious, green valley as the sun sets.
- Gliding under twinkling stars. Luna's having the time of her life.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - TECH ROOM - DAY (DAWN)

SOUND BARS ON A COMPUTER SCREEN show the recording of the message Angel left for Luna.

ANGEL (V.O.)  
(through computer speaker)  
...Where are you? Are you on your  
way to SEEMAT?

Philip stops the recording, looks to Bailey and Hank.

BAILEY  
All right... So, who's Matt?

PHILIP  
I researched every possible  
relationship. All I found was a guy  
Frederica DiNatto dated in college  
named Matt Swanski. Unfortunately,  
Mr. Swanski was stomped to death by  
wild llamas last fall while  
backpacking in Peru.

BAILEY  
Ew.

HANK  
I didn't know llamas were  
aggressive.

PHILIP  
They can be very territorial.

HANK  
(impressed)  
Hm.

BAILEY  
Okay, well. Could Seemat be a town?

PHILIP  
There's just one near Orlando.

BAILEY  
So they're going to Disney World?

PHILIP  
Or off to mourn at Swanski's grave.

HANK  
That poor bastard.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

Bailey's car pulls up. Grandma walks to the driveway to greet her, but is stopped by Angel.

ANGEL  
*It's okay Grandma.*

Angel meets Bailey, walks her out of Grandma's ear shot.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
Please don't upset her. She thinks  
Luna's at Fredy's for a few days.

BAILEY  
Luna got off the train somewhere in  
the mountains.

This frightens Angel, but he attempts a tough guy face.

BAILEY (cont'd)  
And we know about Matt.

A beat. Angel is confused.

BAILEY (cont'd)  
Come on, we're not idiots. We're  
Homeland Security. We tapped your  
phone.

ANGEL  
Okay...

BAILEY  
Angel, we heard you tell Luna to go  
see Matt.

Angel gets it now. He tries to stifle a laugh, but can't.

BAILEY (cont'd)  
You think this is a joke?

ANGEL  
No, It's just--

BAILEY  
You don't trust me. I understand.  
But right now I'm the only person  
who can get Luna home safely.

A beat. Angel's serious again.

ANGEL

It's the government I don't trust.

BAILEY

Okay. I get that, but ask yourself what's going to happen when the government finds them? You think they're just gonna throw the thing a steak and say "here boy?" It's gonna be guns blazing.

Angel's had enough encounters with law enforcement to understand. He rubs his bald head and decides he has no choice.

ANGEL

It's gotta be just you. I'm not talking to any pigs with coffee breath and buzz cuts.

BAILEY

You have my word. No coffee breath. No buzz cuts. Just one pig. Me... Now who's Matt?

EXT. BEACH - VIRGINIA COAST - DAY (DAWN)

A pristine stretch of beach. The only sounds are LAPPING WAVES. Gordo lands softly in the white sand.

Luna unties herself, hops off and takes a look around. Empty as far as the eye can see. Gordo sniffs for food, then eyes the ocean.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - DAY

Fredy picks up the jail phone and grimaces at Bailey, who's on the other side of security glass.

BAILEY

We're getting you out of here.

FREDY

I've nothing to say to you.

Bailey hands the phone to someone o.s.

ANGEL

She got off the train, Fredy.

FREDY  
Oh my God.

ANGEL  
We gotta find her.

EXT. EAST COAST BEACH - DAY (SUNSET)

The sun sets on the ocean. Gordo rests under a palm tree, while Luna grills a fish over a fire.

LUNA  
Get your rest. We have a long night ahead of us.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT APARTMENT - NIGHT

The SEEMAT meeting. MALE SCIENTISTS chat around the dining table of JENSON WHEELER, PhD, 50's, bearded, professorial.

WHEELER  
(shouts over talking)  
Everyone okay with their drinks?

DR. MAX THORNE, 50's, holds up an empty wine bottle. Dressed in disheveled black, Thorne's a rebel hero among these button downed scholars.

Wheeler disappears into the kitchen for replenishments.

THORNE  
So the dean's shouting at me...  
"That's the most un-scientific,  
chicken-feather voodoo nonsense  
ever published!"

INT. KITCHEN

Wheeler picks a bottle from his wine collection.

WHEELER  
Ah, yes. Chateau Margaux Grand Vin.

THORNED (O.S.)  
And I remind him--

SEEMAT MEMBER (O.S.)  
That you were short-listed for the Nobel?

THORNE (O.S.)  
No, that I'm tenured!

The men burst into LAUGHTER.

INT. DINING ROOM

Wheeler returns to the table and uncorks the wine.

WHEELER  
Okay, gentlemen. I'd like to get  
right to the matter of the entrance  
location.

The scientists come to attention. This is what they're here  
for. Glasses are adjusted, beards stroked.

WHEELER  
Dr. Sarfatti?

DR. EDWIN SARFATTI--30's, a skittish little man--is the  
soberest of the group. His face says he has bad news.

SARFATTI  
At the moment, all I know is that  
the time dilation event occurred  
somewhere in New Mexico.

Disappointed grumbling all around.

THORNE  
I thought your DHS friend was  
giving the specific location?

SARFATTI  
He was, but something's happened.  
He's become nervous.

THORNE  
Oh, blah, blah, Sarfi. We need the  
exact local of the entry event.  
(looks at a stop watch)  
We've less than two days until the  
exit wormhole appears.

Other SEEMAT Members are ready to join in the attack, but  
Wheeler raises his hands to regain control.

WHEELER  
Complaining is a waste of energy.  
Let's think.

Thorne gulps down the rest of his wine.

THORNE

That just makes my head hurt.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Luna and Gordo fly through the dark sky. The dragon soars down and is silhouetted by...

MANHATTAN'S MAJESTIC DOWNTOWN SKYLINE

They fly down further, pulling up just before the water.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - EAST RIVER - NIGHT

Gordo swims with Luna on his back. They move quietly through the dark water.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Two elderly CHINESE MEN sweep a dimly lit street. The men hear SPLASHING SOUNDS coming from the East River. They walk over to see a Luna and her dragon appear from the shadows.

The men show no sign of surprise. One pets the dragon on the nose, while the other pulls something from a paper bag and feeds it to Gordo. Whatever it is, Gordo's delighted.

CHINESE MAN #1

(Cantonese, subtitled)

*Dragons love Kung Pow Chicken.*

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - NIGHT

The SEEMAT meeting's over. Empty wine bottles are scattered. Men have gathered around listening to Thorne's stories.

Wheeler's phone RINGS.

EXT. CHINATOWN - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Gordo's disguised in a DRAGON COSTUME from Chinese New Year. Luna leads him down the street by the rope, following the Chinese Men, smiling at a few PASSERSBY who do double takes.

Chinese Man #1 holds a piece of paper with Wheeler's address. He says something in Cantonese to Chinese Man #2.

CHINESE MAN #2  
 (to Luna)  
 We need go cross town.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Gordo is led down a dark alley way. Chinese Man #1 stops, peaks out from the alley and points to a building.

CHINESE MAN #1  
 (to Luna)  
 There, but street busy. Maybe  
 dragon fly high, then land on roof.

Luna removes Gordo's costume and jumps onto her dragon.

LUNA  
 Thanks for your help.

The men bow. At Luna's command, Gordo flies straight up into the air and disappears into the night sky.

EXT. WHEELER'S ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Gordo lands softly. Luna dismounts and ties Gordo to a pipe.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - NIGHT

Thorne opens the front door to Luna. His face lights up.

THORNE  
 Excellent. You're just the person I  
 wanted to see.

Luna's taken a back. Thorne pulls out his wallet.

THORNE  
 I'll take two boxes of Thin Mints  
 and a box of Samoas.

LUNA  
 I'm looking for Dr. Wheeler.

Thorne glances at the girl suspiciously.

THORNE  
 I'm not sure he can afford any more  
 alimony.

LUNA  
Are you the time travel guys?

A beat.

THORNE  
We seek to discover exotic matter  
that would, in theory, allow for...

LUNA  
Time travel?

THORNE  
Well, yes... but it sounds so  
pathetic when you say it like that.

ANGLE ON WHEELER

Wheeler ends his call, perplexed. He pulls Sarfatti aside.

WHEELER  
I just spoke with an Agent Sophia  
Bailey from Homeland Security.

SARFATTI  
Don't know the name. What did she  
want?

WHEELER'S POV - LUNA AT THE FRONT DOOR

WHEELER (O.S.)  
She was asking about a girl.

Wheeler moves across the room to greet Luna.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - NIGHT

Luna takes in the study. Books are piled high. Walls are  
covered with science posters.

WHEELER  
You say you've come all the way  
from New Mexico?

Luna nods absently. One poster has caught her eye. A  
SWIRLING VORTEX OF LIGHT.

LUNA  
What's this?

WHEELER

A representation of a time dilation event... a wormhole.

This doesn't mean much to Luna.

WHEELER

Come. Let me show you.

Wheeler guides Luna to the computer.

WHEELER (cont'd)

I like to picture it as a toy, one of those little spinning tops.

Wheeler picks up a silver top and spins it on his desk.

INSERT COMPUTER GRAPHIC

On the screen, a digital "top" and its inversion spin on two sides of a plane, creating an hourglass image. The top of the plane reads: "Present Day." The bottom: "The Past."

WHEELER (O.S.)

But this top is special, because it spins on two sides of a table. One side is the present day, the other side is the past. When the tops start to spin, they touch, creating a wormhole, a portal in time.

LUNA (O.S.)

Connecting the past with the present?

WHEELER (O.S.)

Exactly, but only for a moment.

LUNA (O.S.)

And things can travel through it? Things from one time to another?

WHEELER (O.S.)

Potentially. But we've never been able to prove that.

The two spinning tops separate. One spins up, the other down, but following the same pattern.

WHEELER (O.S.)

As the toy's energy increases, the portal closes. But as the energy diminishes another one is created.

The tops spin so their bases touch once again, forming the hourglass image on the plane.

The wormhole graphic is replaced by numbers and math symbols spilling down the screen.

WHEELER (O.S.)

This is our model. Once a wormhole opens, we can predict where the toy will spin, so to speak, and how long its energy will last.

BACK TO SCENE

LUNA

So if one of these wormhole portal things did show up, you'd know when the second one would come?

WHEELER

We believe so.

LUNA

And where it would happen?

WHEELER

Yes, but only if we knew precisely where the first wormhole appeared.

Luna returns to the poster. She seems nervous.

WHEELER

Young lady, may I ask you a question?... Why are you here?

LUNA

You believe in crazy stuff, right?

WHEELER

I prefer the word interesting.

EXT. WHEELER'S ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON WHEELER'S FACE in utter amazement as he takes in the dragon. He simply can't believe what he's seeing. His expression turns from bewilderment to awe to absolute joy.

LUNA (O.S.)

His name is Gordo.

WHEELER

I now understand why Homeland  
Security is looking for you.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - HANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Hank's putting on his jacket, about to end his day, when Philip enters excited by something.

HANK

I was just going home. Can this  
wait?

MALE TECH

I found Matt.

Hank sits down.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - NIGHT

The SEEMAT meeting has turned into a full fledged party.  
Music BLARES. Men shout with inebriated animation.

Wheeler returns from the roof, bursting with adrenaline. He  
ushers Luna into his study, then finds Sarfatti.

Thorne watches from across the room.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - NIGHT

Luna's spinning the silver top when Wheeler and Sarfatti  
enter the office. As Wheeler swings the door shut behind  
him, it's stopped by Thorne's FOOT.

THORNE

(to Luna)

You know kid, we were never  
properly introduced. Where ya from?

LUNA

New Mexico.

THORNE

The Land of Enchantment.

Thorne sits down next to Luna.

THORNE

Seen any bright lights on the  
playground lately?

LUNA

No...

Luna looks up at the poster of the vortex.

LUNA

It was in my back yard.

INT. ALBUQUERQUE HOMELAND SECURITY - HANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

MALE TECH

I combed Frederica DiNatto's web searches. The night before the incident, she had a very interesting search history, then made a call to a Dr. Jensen Wheeler in New York. He's the Physics Chair at Columbia, and also the founder of... SEEMAT.

BAILEY

SEEMAT?

MALE TECH

(smiles)

It's a group of scientists that believe in time travel.

HANK

Just when I thought this couldn't get any weirder.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - NIGHT

Math symbols blink on a computer screen.

WHEELER (O.S.)

Damn, my system's frozen!

Thorne grabs a piece of paper and a pencil.

WHEELER

What are you doing?

THORNE

Have you men forgotten long division?

Thorne gets to work, scribbling away at a piece of paper.

TIME DISSOLVE:

Thorne scratches out the final result of the formula.

THORNE (cont'd)  
With the entry at 35°35'33" North,  
106°6'32" West, the exit will be at  
43°6'31" North, 88°29'49" West.

He looks up with not-so-humble satisfaction.

THORNE (cont'd)  
Bunga bunga.

Wheeler spins a globe, running his finger to the location.

WHEELER  
The exit wormhole will appear in...  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Thorne GROANS.

THORNE  
I was hoping for Vegas.

SARFATTI  
No, it's perfect. Easy access.  
Virtually zero population.

THORNE  
Let's go tell the boys.

Wheeler grabs Thorne's arm.

WHEELER  
Wait. There's plenty of time for  
that... Luna, is it okay?

Luna nods.

WHEELER (cont'd)  
Gentlemen, there's something on the  
roof I think you should see.

Thorne's thoroughly intrigued. Sarfatti's wary. Thorne  
pushes him out the door.

Wheeler and Luna sit in silence for a moment.

WHEELER (cont'd)  
It must have been a long journey  
for you. How are you doing?

Luna smiles weakly.

LUNA

I know Gordo will be better off if I can get him home.

WHEELER

Speaking of home. Do your parents know you're gone? I assume they didn't just let their daughter fly off on the back of her dragon?

LUNA

It's just my mom, but she's gone.

A tense silence before Luna continues.

LUNA (cont'd)

They stopped her for an expired registration and took her to a detention center in El Paso. They're taking her back to Guadalajara.

Wheeler doesn't know what to say. He sits down next to Luna.

WHEELER

I'm very sorry to hear that.

The tension is broken by Thorne SHOUTING GLEEFULLY from the hallway. He bursts into the office.

THORNE

HOLY--

WHEELER

SHHHHHH! Let's not alarm everyone.

THORNE

Of course they were real! From the beginning of time, every culture tells of dragons. Aztecs, Irish, Eskimos, Chinese, Native Americans. How could people who never came in contact with each other all describe the exact same creature?

WHEELER

(notices Thorne's alone)  
Where's Dr. Sarfatti?

THORNE

What?... Oh, he took one look at that thing, dropped like a sack of potatoes.

Wheeler rushes out to help Sarfatti, while Thorne turns his attention to Luna.

THORNE (cont'd)  
Un-be-lievable! How'd you get him here?

LUNA  
We flew.

THORNE  
Flew?! Fantastic!  
(thinks)  
How'd you navigate?

LUNA  
Just went East until I got to the ocean, then North until I got here.

THORNE  
Yes, I guess that would work.

Wheeler returns, holding Sarfatti by the shoulders. The man is white with fear. Sarfatti wipes saliva from his mouth.

SARFATTI  
I don't know what... whew... oh...

Sarfatti bends over as if he may vomit. Thorne flips him a handkerchief without taking his eyes off Luna.

THORNE  
And now you're trying to get him home?

LUNA  
Yeah.

THORNE  
I like it. That's bold.

BRUUUUUGH... Sarfatti hurls a night's worth of appetizers.

THORNE (cont'd)  
(steps over vomit)  
For God's sake, Sarfi.  
(to Luna)  
Let's go, Luna. We've work to do.  
Without proper instruments, you'll never find Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

INT. THORNE'S SCIENCE WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Thorne rummages through his workshop, tossing things this way and that: electrical gadgets, soldering gun, crossbow, hookah pipe, beer helmet...

THORNE  
What's your head size and lung  
capacity?

Of course Luna has no idea.

Thorne begins to cut up a black, neoprene wet suit to resize it for Luna. She studies a small GPS Box in her hands.

THORNE (cont'd)  
That's your navigation. Shows your  
location on an electronic map.

Thorne hands Luna a small Bluetooth-like device.

THORNE (cont'd)  
Your communications. In case we  
have to guide you in.

Luna positions the device over her ear.

Thorne pulls a hundred dollar bill and a digital timer from his pockets. He hands the money to Luna.

THORNE (cont'd)  
A little cash. Never know.  
(then hands her the watch)  
Forty-four hours, twenty minutes  
and ten seconds until go time.

INT. MILITARY HUMVEE - NIGHT

AGENTS prepares for a raid. Weapons are loaded. Gear is adjusted. Chests are slapped.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - NIGHT

Wheeler's system is back up. He inspects Thorne's work, types, then watches numbers tumble down the screen...

Wheeler grimaces. He's found an error.

INT. WHEELER'S STUDY - LATER

Thorne and Luna enter. Wheeler looks up, his face twisted with concern.

THORNE

What?

Wheeler's frown says this is big, and they'll need privacy.

Sarfatti, who's been sleeping on the couch, wakes and senses the men's worry.

SARFATTI

Oh God, did it eat someone?

Thorne scowls at Sarfatti. Wheeler tries to get rid of Luna.

WHEELER

Luna, you must be exhausted. Why don't you get some rest.

LUNA

That sounds great. Also, um... do you have a spare toothbrush I could use?

WHEELER

(smiles)

Of course.

INT. JOHN F. KENNEDY AIRPORT - NIGHT

Bailey, Fredy and Angel step off a plane, and are greeted by a pretty AIRLINE STEWARDESS.

AIRLINE STEWARDESS

Welcome to New York.

ANGEL

What's up? I'm new in town.

(smiles flirtatiously)

Can you give me directions to your apartment.

Fredy cuffs Angel on the ear.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - NIGHT

Wheeler returns after having shown Luna the guest bedroom.

THORNE

Okay, Wheels. What's going on?

WHEELER

Some of us need a refresher in long division.

Wheeler takes the men to his computer.

SARFATTI

(off computer screen)

I don't understand.

THORNE

I drank a bottle of Chateau Margaux Grand Vin.

SARFATTI

The topographical is blank.

The men are stricken, realizing now what they're seeing.

THORNE

Oh my God. Is that--?

WHEELER

Yes.

SARFATTI

The exit wormhole...

WHEELER

...will be impossible to enter.

SARFATTI

Bunga bunga.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Luna finishes washing up, then grabs a toothbrush.

EXT. WHEELER'S ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Luna pets Gordo's head as he laps water from a large bowl. Gordo finishes, and Luna places her hands on his cheeks. She looks deeply into the dragon's eyes.

LUNA

Gordo, we've spent a lot of time together these last few days, and there's something I've really been wanting to tell you...

Luna lifts up Gordo's lips.

LUNA (cont'd)

Your breath could peel paint.

She starts to brush the dragon's enormous teeth.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - HALLWAY OUTSIDE STUDY - NIGHT

Luna is returning to the bedroom, but is stopped by HUSHED TONES coming from the study.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - STUDY - SAME

The doctors huddle around Wheeler's computer.

SARFATTI

Are you absolutely sure?

WHEELER

Yes, it's right there.

SARFATTI

God, look at it.

WHEELER

Miles and miles of barren Nevada desert. All restricted space.

THORNE

The military calls it "The Box."

SARFATTI

I thought they called it "The Container."

WHEELER

Who cares what they call it. What do we tell Luna? We obviously can't let her fly into Groom Lake.

ANGLE ON LUNA

She moves back and steps on a NOISY PLANK in the floor.

The doctors look to the office door.

WHEELER (cont'd)

Luna?

The men move to the hallway, but Luna is gone.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Bailey's phone RINGS. Caller ID shows: Hank Green.

BAILEY

(into phone)

Don't give me bad news.

HANK (V.O.)

We've confirmed their location and  
I have a team in position. They'll  
enter within ten minutes.

Bailey looks to Fredy and Angel like she's about to be sick.

BAILEY

(into phone)

Christ, Hank. Please tell them to  
use restraint.

HANK (V.O.)

Don't worry, they'll knock.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - NIGHT

A BATTERING RAM BASHES through the front door. AGENTS run in  
SCREAMING, guns waving.

AGENT

Everybody down! Now! Get down!

Drunken SEEMAT MEMBERS fall over each other in shock and  
fear.

Wheeler, Thorne and Sarfatti rush from the office. An AGENT  
throws Sarfatti into a paper room divider, then roars to  
Thorne.

AGENT

Where's the reptile!

THORNE

I'm looking at him!

OOMP. A shotgun barrel plunges into Thorne's belly.

EXT. WHEELER'S ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Agents prowl, weapons drawn. One turns to what looks like a LARGE SERPENT on the edge of the roof. A rocket launcher BLASTS a gargoyle to rubble.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Agents bust into the room. Luna appears to be huddled under blankets. They're ripped back to reveal a stack of pillows.

EXT. OHIO CORNFIELD - NIGHT

Gordo lands in a corn field that stretches forever into the Ohio night. Luna unties herself and jumps off.

She picks corn from a stalk and tries to feed it to Gordo, but the fussy dragon turns up his nose and HUFFS.

LUNA

I know you don't like corn, but  
that's kinda all they got around  
here.

Gordo continues to HUFF and PUFF his displeasure.

LUNA (cont'd)

All right, all right. I'll check.

Luna types into the GPS.

EXT. FAST-FOOD CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The only light for miles shines at this fast-food chicken spot. It's staffed by a GEEKY TEEN who's killing the boredom with a game on his phone.

Luna walks up to the drive-through in her black flying suit and homemade space helmet. The Teen slowly puts down his phone.

TEEN

Uh... can I help you?

LUNA

Yeah, I'll take a large coke and  
twenty-five Number Two's with white  
meat.

The Teen pokes his head out the window wondering how this little girl got here. He pokes his head back in.

TEEN

Regular or extra crunchy?

LUNA

Extra crunchy... and instead of the paper buckets, can you just throw it in a big plastic bag?

EXT. FAST FOOD CHICKEN RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Behind the restaurant, Luna hops on Gordo with two big bags of fried chicken. Just as she's about to fly off, the Teen appears--

TEEN

You forgot your--

PLUNK. He drops a paper carton on the ground at the sight of the dragon lifting into the air.

TEEN (cont'd)

(mouth agape)

...gravy.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY (DAWN)

Establishing. The sun breaks over the Manhattan skyline.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HOMELAND SECURITY - DAY (DAWN)

Bailey, Fredy and Angel sit across from the doctors.

THORNE

I'm not cooperating in any way with those cretins.

Sarfatti's wearing a neck brace.

SARFATTI

I'm suing.

BAILEY

Doctors, I'm sorry for what happened last night. I'm just trying to bring Luna home safely. Do you have any idea where she would've gone?

Wheeler looks to Thorne, unsure.

FREDY

You can trust her... Please. We have to find Luna before those goons do.

Thorne nods.

WHEELER

She must have overheard us talking about the exit wormhole. We realized it's in Groom Lake--

Bailey's stopped cold.

BAILEY

The Groom Lake?

The doctor's worried face gives Bailey her answer.

BAILEY (cont'd)

You know what those guys will do if Luna tries to enter that area?

ANGEL

Hold up. Who are those guys?

FREDY

And where the hell's Groom Lake?

EXT. SOUTHERN NEVADA - GROOM LAKE - NIGHT

We fly above the desert, down into a dry lake bed...

BAILEY (V.O.)

It's the epicenter of the most restricted land space on earth.

...moving up, out of the lake bed to a military installation teeming with armored fighting vehicles...

BAILEY (V.O.)

A military base so secret the government doesn't acknowledge its existence.

...then over a landing strip with a group of faceless D-6 Reaper Drones lined up like a sinister swarm of insects...

BAILEY (V.O.)

The CIA calls it Dreamland.

...and finally, above a fleet of secret "black aircraft," the X-29 Switchblades. Triangle-shaped fighter planes never seen by the public.

WHEELER (V.O.)  
Others call it Area 51.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN WYOMING - DAY (DAWN)

Luna and Gordo land in the rolling foothills. Luna jumps off and glances at the digital timer:

32:12:15

LUNA  
We gotta fly faster tomorrow. But  
now, we sleep.

The dragon seems to understand and plops down for some rest.

INT. WHEELER'S LOFT - DAY

Bailey addresses Fredy, Angel, Wheeler, Thorne, Sarfatti.

BAILEY  
I talked to my boss. It took some  
doing, but he got us face time with  
the Area 51 base commander. But  
only if I bring eyewitnesses.

FREDY  
What does that mean?

BAILEY  
That means we board a military  
transport plane in two hours.

SARFATTI  
Um, I don't fly.  
(off Bailey's look)  
No, really. I'd rather be arrested.

Bailey raises her eyebrows. Sarfatti's excused.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Flying fast. Luna looks down at her GPS.

The digital map of the U.S. shows their location: They've made it to Nevada.

Luna looks at the timer: 14:21:13.

A slow-moving freight train cuts the barren landscape below.

EXT. FREIGHT TRAIN - NIGHT - MOVING

Luna and Gordo have landed on the train, and are laying down looking up to the stars. Luna lifts her phone to her ear.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Nico and Grandma are snuggled in bed, sleeping, when the phone on the bedside table RINGS.

NICO  
(sleepy whisper)  
Hello?

LUNA  
Nico?

EXT. FREIGHT TRAIN - NIGHT - MOVING

A FULL MOON fills the sky. Luna speaks to Nico in her bedtime reading voice.

LUNA  
(into phone)  
Goodnight room... Goodnight moon...

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Nico's eyes are getting heavy, but he still holds a smile.

EXT. FREIGHT TRAIN - NIGHT - MOVING

The UNIVERSE OF STARS fills the sky.

LUNA  
(into phone)  
Goodnight stars... Goodnight air...  
Goodnight noises everywhere.

INT. CRUZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Nico has drifted off to sleep, phone still to his ear.

LUNA (V.O.)  
 (whispers)  
 Te amo Nico.

EXT. FREIGHT TRAIN - NIGHT - MOVING

Luna gently rests the phone on top of the boxcar, then slips onto Gordo.

We stay with the CELL PHONE as the girl and her dragon fly away, slowly disappearing into the night sky.

EXT. AREA 51 - MILITARY INSTALLATION - DAY (DAWN)

Establishing. The military installation seen previously.

INT. MILITARY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (DAWN)

A silver top spins on a table in a no-frills conference room. Fredy, Angel and Thorne sit quietly, watching Wheeler spin the toy.

INT. MUSGRAVE'S OFFICE - DAY (DAWN)

Bailey and Hank wait for INSTALLATION COMMANDER MUSGRAVE, a hard little man, to unwrap a jawbreaker candy. Musgrave pops it in his mouth and talks with a lump in his cheek.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 I talked to some of your Response Team boys. They said they've been deployed on one wild goose chase after another looking for this "thing" of yours.

Bailey hands Musgrave a stack of written statements.

BAILEY  
 We have five eyewitnesses. All interviewed independently. All descriptions identical.

Musgrave paces, sucks on the jawbreaker, thinking.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

So either you're part of a damn conspiracy, or this is the goofiest yarn I've heard in thirty years.

BAILEY

With all due respect, Commander, I doubt you believe in conspiracies.

INT. MILITARY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (DAWN)

All heads turn as Commander Musgrave, Hank and Bailey enter.

HANK

Everyone, this is Installation Commander William Musgrave.

Musgrave greets them with a nod and an unsettling SLURP.

BAILEY

(to Thorne, Wheeler)

Doctors, how much time do we have?

THORNE

The time dilation will occur in one hour, ten minutes.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

What the hell's timed elation?

THORNE

Something I did in the sixties with a stop watch and plate of brownies.

Musgrave's confused, but detects Thorne's insolence. Hank intervenes.

HANK

Commander, what the doctor's trying to say is that we don't have much time before the target enters your air space.

BAILEY

It's not a target, it's a little girl. And we believe she's flying to Groom Lake to enter what the doctor's describe as a wormhole.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

A worm hole? What's her air craft, a dragonfly?

ANGEL  
Just a regular 'ol dragon.

This is simply too much for the Commander.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Okay, that's all folks. Looney  
Tunes Show is over.

BAILEY  
Commander, I know the details sound  
odd--

But Musgrave's had enough.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Just...  
(waves his hands "stop")  
What exactly do you want me to do?

FREDY  
Protect our little girl.

Musgrave swallows, then walks purposefully to Fredy.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Ma'am, I protect three things...  
God, country, and Groom Lake.

EXT. NEVADA DESERT - DAY (DAWN)

The sun is about to break the horizon. Luna suits up. Sets her GPS. Thinks about the earpiece, decides to place it in her ear. She looks at the timer:

00:33:12

EXT. NEVADA DESERT - OUTSIDE AREA 51 - DAY (DAWN)

A razor wire fence surrounds Area 51. "Keep Out" signs of various kinds are placed everywhere.

EXT. SKY - DAY (DAWN)

CLOSE ON LUNA. The escalating SOUND OF WIND lets us know she's flying now. And fast.

INT. RADAR STATION - BALD MOUNTAIN - DAY (DAWN)

A crazy amount of technical equipment monitored by a RADAR TECHNICIAN. Something on a screen gets his attention.

RADAR TECHNICIAN

(into headset)

Base command, this is radar station zeta. I have a small, unidentified airborne, closing low-level five miles off perimeter. Moving steady at eighty six.

BASE COMMAND (O.S.)

Initiating contact with unidentified.

(pause)

Radar zeta. We have a fail to respond.

INT. MILITARY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A MILITARY AIDE rushes into the room.

MILITARY AIDE

(to Musgrave)

Sir! You're needed in the command room.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - DAY

Bailey and Hank stand behind Commander Musgrave. Musgrave moves to a tech's monitor station. He throws on a headset before popping another jawbreaker.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

Wadda we got?

TECHNICIAN

Unidentified airborne, three miles off perimeter.

Musgrave glances at Bailey before giving his order.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

(to Technician)

Initiate drone intercepts.

EXT. AREA 51 - MILITARY AIR STRIP - DAY

CLOSE ON THE BLACK METAL of a D-6 Reaper Drone. The engine's FIENDISH WHIR rises as the craft prepares for take off.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The security fence around the base is visible in the distance. Luna pulls on Gordo's reign and the dragon responds by slicing down toward the earth below.

Suddenly, Luna hears a SINISTER BUZZING. Out of nowhere a black drone appears right next to them. Luna turns and there's another. Drones on each flank. THE SOUND OF RAPID CAMERA SHUTTERS. The drones are taking photos.

At Luna's command, Gordo shoots up and hard left, momentarily losing the drones.

Luna's scared. *What were those?* She looks over her shoulder. Nothing. Then she sees them again, several hundred feet behind and closing fast.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Musgrave is a study of military concentration.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

Status.

TECHNICIAN

Target evaded. D-6s pursuing.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

Any drone shots?

The word "shots" gets Bailey's attention.

AGENT BAILEY

Commander what's going on?

Musgrave ignores Bailey as the technician types.

AGENT BAILEY (cont'd)

Commander!

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

(calm, without looking up)

I'm looking at photos of your girl's bird, Agent.

(off the photo's he seeing)

(MORE)

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (cont'd)  
I'll be damned.

TECHNICIAN  
Sir. D-6s back on target.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The drones are back. Luna yanks the reins and Gordo swoops down, then zags right but to no avail. The insect-like drones stay on their target.

Gordo blows a fire stream, but it just rolls over the drone's black metal without damage. Then Gordo takes matters into his own hands and...

TUCKS HIS WINGS AND SHOOTS DOWN, BARREL ROLLING TOWARD THE EARTH BELOW! The drones follow, noses pointed straight down. Everything screams toward the ground at incredible speed.

At the last possible moment, just before smashing into the earth, Gordo pulls up. The drones can't correct in time and EXPLODE INTO FLAMES with incredible impact.

Luna's terrified, but determined. A glance at the timer:

00:14:24

Still plenty of time. Luna directs Gordo toward Groom Lake.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Musgrave is furious. He's just realized two of his unmanned drones have been destroyed.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
They what?!

His expression turns ugly.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (cont'd)  
Shot down?

TECHNICIAN  
No, sir. Crashed on own accord.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
That's impossible.

The Commander CRUNCHES the jawbreaker and swallows hard. He's moving into war mode.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (cont'd)  
Launch a damn Switchblade.

EXT. AREA 51 - MILITARY AIR STRIP - DAY

The engine of an X-29 Switchblade ROARS to life as the wings slide out from the jet's triangular body.

The earth shakes as the jet thunders off into the sky.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Groom Lake is visible in the distance when Luna HEARS the JET. She looks over her shoulder, and out of nowhere it's there. The Switchblade is so close Luna can see the pilot's bewildered expression.

PILOT'S POV - He's flying next to a small, uniformed person flying on the back of a DRAGON!

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA PILOT  
Uh, base.. you're not going to believe this.

BASE (V.O)  
(through Pilot's headset)  
Switchblade Alpha, see if you can make contact.

The Pilot points to his ear, signaling Luna to turn on her radio communications.

Luna holds the Pilot's stare for a moment, then Gordo cuts hard, streaking underneath the fighter jet, and disappears into a cloud bank. A brilliant maneuver.

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA PILOT  
Jesus Mother of...  
(collecting himself)  
Target fled. Moving toward central installation. I'm in pursuit.  
Requesting support.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON LUNA. She's shaken. Glances at the timer:

00:11:11

Very little time, but they need to regroup.

LUNA  
 (to Gordo)  
 Fly down, boy. Down!

EXT. DESERT - AREA 51 - DAY

Gordo glides down and lands. Luna removes her helmet and looks into the sky. Clear, for the moment. Luna adjusts her communication device and STATIC fills her ear.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Commander Musgrave's in full battle mode now. He shouts orders at various military personnel.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 (to Technician)  
 Launch all Switchblades! Now!  
 (to Aide)  
 Ready F-Cat Anti-Aircraft!  
 (to another Aide)  
 How long until we have full ground support?

MILITARY AIDE  
 One minute, sir.

Bailey grabs Musgrave's arm.

BAILEY  
 What are you doing?!

The Commander jerks away.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 My job! I have a flying object that's entered the most restricted air space in the world, refused to accept contact, destroyed two UAVs, and evaded my top fighter pilot.

BAILEY  
 It's a little girl, for God's sake, on the back of a...a...bird!

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 I don't care if it's my grandmother in a hot air balloon, if it doesn't land on command, we will land it.

RADAR TECHNICIAN  
Sir! We have a radio signal!

EXT. DESERT - AREA 51 - DAY

Luna is frightened. Gordo's panting hard. A voice comes through the static in Luna's earpiece.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (V.O.)  
(through Luna's headset)  
This is Commander William Musgrave.  
Acknowledge.

Luna sees DUST RISING in the distance. A fleet of military vehicles approaches fast.

Luna hears JET ENGINES. The team of Switchblade fighters appear in the sky.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (V.O.)  
(through Luna's headset)  
If you value your life, young lady,  
you'll acknowledge!

Luna looks at the timer:

00:06:56

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (V.O.)  
(through Luna's headset)  
Damn it! Acknowledge now!

LUNA  
(whispers to Gordo)  
What do you want to do, boy?

The dragon looks to the sky and stamps his feet angrily.

LUNA (cont'd)  
Me, too!

Luna slaps Gordo's neck and with three POWERFUL WING-BEATS, Gordo launches into the air toward the fighter planes.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

RADAR TECHNICIAN  
Commander, target is airborne,  
flying toward the squadron.

Commander Musgrave's face has turned a deep shade of red.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
(eerily calm, into headset)  
Switchblade Alpha. Move squadron to  
spider attack formation. Destroy  
target. Fire at will.

BAILEY  
Commander wait! Please!

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
She's giving us no choice.

BAILEY  
Let her talk to people she knows.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Luna and her dragon fly fast toward the Switchblades.

Two fighter jets split off left, two right, circling around  
into a rear attack formation.

INT. SWITCHBLADE FIGHTER COCKPIT - DAY

A blinking object moves into the electronic cross hairs of a  
radar scope. Switchblade Alpha has locked on to Gordo.

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (O.S.)  
Bogey engaged. Permission to fire.  
(a beat)  
Repeat. Bogey engaged. Permission  
to fire.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Commander Musgrave closes his eyes, decides...

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Hold fire.

Musgrave pulls down his headset, looks to Fredy and Angel,  
who are now in the room.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (cont'd)  
You got thirty seconds.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Luna sees the Switchblade behind her. She jerks on Gordo's reigns. The dragon cuts hard, slicing through the clouds.

FREDY (V.O.)  
 (voice quivers)  
 Luna, sweetie. It's Fredy.

ANGEL (V.O.)  
 They're gonna shoot you down, Luna!

FREDY (V.O.)  
 Luna, please. You can't do this.

A beat.

LUNA  
 Angel?... Fredy?

ANGEL (V.O.)  
Yes! Luna!

FREDY (V.O.)  
 It's us, honey! Please land.

Luna emerges through the clouds to see four Switchblades approaching fast from different directions.

INSERT TIMER - 00:00:42

...and counting.

LUNA  
 (soft, defeated)  
 Okay.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Fredy's practically crying from the release of stress. Bailey stands behind her, hugging her shoulders.

Commander Musgrave moves into rescue mode.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 Switchblade Alpha, target has agreed to land. Take lasso formation and guide to landing strip one.  
 (to Luna)  
 Young lady? This is Commander Musgrave. Can you hear me?

LUNA (V.O.)

Yes.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

You almost got yourself killed. Now you listen, and listen good. My jets are going to surround your bird and guide you to a landing strip. You follow the lead plane. It'll be slow and steady. Do you understand?

(waits for reply)

I need you to say you understand.

LUNA (V.O.)

I understand.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Switchblades surround Gordo. The dragon soars behind the lead fighter. The group makes a wide circle away from Groom Lake.

INSERT TIMER - 00:00:23

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Everyone is rubbing eyes and wiping brows. The relief of stress after near catastrophe hangs in the air.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Tears begin to fill Luna's eyes.

LUNA

I'm so sorry Gordo.

INSERT TIMER - 00:00:17...00:00:0016...00:00:15... then...

Luna grits her teeth and decides--

LUNA (cont'd)

No!

She jerks the reigns and Gordo flaps his wings back hard, slamming on the breaks, they DIVE BACKWARD AND FLY BELLY UP UNDERNEATH THE REAR FIGHTER JET!

SWITCHBLADE PILOT #1 (V.O.)  
 (through headset)  
 Target's broke formation! Target's  
 on the move!

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Mayhem unleashes in the Command Center. Commander Musgrave flings on his headset.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 What the hell's going on?!

EXT. SKY - DAY

Switchblade Alpha rolls hard after the dragon, the jet's wings sliding into "attack" position.

SWITCHBLADE PILOT #1 (V.O.)  
 Bandit at five o'clock.

SWITCHBLADE PILOT #2 (V.O.)  
 I've have radar. In pursuit.

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (V.O.)  
 No, I got him. Locking now...

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (V.O.)  
 Bogey engaged. Permission to fire!

Musgrave's eyes are steel.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
 Take it down.

EXT. SKY - DAY

A MISSILE BLASTS from Switchblade Alpha's jet and streaks toward the dragon. Gordo tucks his wings and spirals, but is HIT AND BEGINS TO TUMBLE...

Luna SCREAMS.

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (V.O.)  
 Target hit. Going down.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE (V.O.)  
Move in ground team and GCVs.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Fredy rushes the Commander and is restrained by Military Personnel. She kicks and SCREAMS. Angel leaps to protect her, but is forearmed by a LARGE SOLDIER and slams to the floor.

BAILEY  
(to Commander Musgrave)  
What have you done?

INSERT TIMER - 00:00:02...00:00:01...00:00:00.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The sky is turning dark, except for a patch above the lake bed. The wormhole is forming, creating a strange glow in the clouds. A TWISTER begins to take shape.

Luna holds on for dear life as Gordo spirals down in the sky. Luna looks up and sees the wormhole forming.

LUNA  
Gordo! There it is!

The vortex is growing at an incredible rate.

LUNA (cont'd)  
You can do this!

Gordo struggles to flap his injured wing. The dragon is hurt badly, but manages to steer his way toward the vortex.

MISSILES BLAST from the other jets. The heat-seeking killers zero in fast, streaking through the air, closer and closer, practically touching the dragon's hind feet, reaching Gordo--

--the exact moment he disappears into the vortex.

But as the missiles hit the vortex, they spin this way and that, fanning out into the sky. The strange energy of the wormhole has caused them to go haywire.

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (V.O.)  
What the...?

PILOT'S POV - A SPIRALING MISSILE COMING BACK AT HIM!

SWITCHBLADE ALPHA (V.O.)  
Break it! Break it!

He swerves his jet just in time.

Missiles hit the ground, exploding with a DEAFENING BLAST.

INT. WORMHOLE - DAY

...then ABSOLUTE SILENCE. Everything in this space is still.

Gordo lands in front of a beautiful, glowing tunnel. Luna jumps off Gordo and carefully checks the dragon's wing. He's injured but okay.

Luna hugs Gordo tightly.

LUNA  
(softly)  
You did it.

A form takes shape on the other side of tunnel. Through blurred light, another DRAGON... It's Gordo's mother on the other side of 150 million years.

Gordo takes a step forward, looks back to Luna. The dragon bends down and nudges her, trying to get Luna on his back.

LUNA  
I can't, Gordo. That's your  
world... Go.

Luna places her hands on Gordo's face. The girl and her dragon lock eyes. A final moment between them.

LUNA  
I love you, Gordo.

Gordo takes another step forward, but hesitates.

LUNA (cont'd)  
It's okay, boy... Go!

Gordo HUFFS and with a gentle wing-beat, takes flight and soars into the tunnel. His image becomes more and more blurred until eventually the dragon is indistinguishable from the BEAUTIFUL SWIRLS OF LIGHT.

EXT. GROOM LAKE - DAY

Outside the vortex, dust and debris swirl in the barely visible chaos. Military personnel SHOUT COMMANDS through a FIERCE WIND STORM. The storm's intensity increases to an incredible volume, then suddenly STOPS like God just turned off the vacuum.

Dust settles, visibility gradually returns. Armed vehicles and tanks have formed a complete circle around the vortex. All guns are raised. Everyone on edge, ready to fire.

In the center of it all, something takes shape...

The figure of a YOUNG GIRL, STANDING ALONE.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Military personnel are running in every direction.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Get that kid in here! Now!

ANGEL  
My sister won't tell you anything.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
This ain't the principal's office.  
Believe me, she's gonna talk.

FREDY  
Or else?

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Or else she'll face the justice of  
the United States Military. I don't  
care how old she is.

WHEELER  
With all due respect, Commander,  
what are you going to say when  
asked how you let a ten-year-old  
girl, unarmed and alone, walk into  
one of the most restricted areas in  
the world?

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE  
Walk in?

WHEELER

You have no physical evidence.

FREDY

(getting an idea)

...Yes, and no civilian witnesses.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

Come again?

FREDY

We'll deny everything.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

We have photos.

THORNE

Photoshop.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

We've got signed statements.

FREDY

I was forced to sign.

ANGEL

(points to swollen eye)

I was beaten until I signed!

THORNE

I was violated in unspeakable ways.

The color drains from the Commander's face.

COMMANDER MUSGRAVE

You people really are crazy.

Musgrave collects himself. He unwraps a jawbreaker, rolls it in his hand, tosses it in his mouth, and leaves the room.

EXT. HIGHWAY I-25 - DAY

The dawn sky brightens as Bailey's car moves down I-25.

EXT. CRUZ HOUSE - DAY

A woman's arms are draped over Luna's shoulders. We recognize the woman as VALENTINA CRUZ, Luna's mother from the photograph. They watch Bailey's car pull into the drive.

Bailey gets out and approaches with a warm smile.

VALENTINA

Thank you... For everything.

The women embrace.

A beat. Bailey looks to Luna.

BAILEY

Can I give you a ride to school?

INT. AGENT BAILEY'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

BAILEY

I thought you might want this.

Bailey hands Luna the plastic baggy with Gordo's scale. Luna stares at the scale for a long moment as they drive.

They reach Luna's school. Bailey stops the car, and opens her brief case.

BAILEY (cont'd)

These are for you, too.

She gives Luna a file folder. Luna opens it, flips through the contents, then looks up to Bailey with a big smile.

Luna gets out of the car. Bailey watches Luna walk away until the girl disappears through the school doors.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Luna stands for show-and-tell. She hands Mr. Garcia the folder. The teacher passes it to a student in the front row.

Luna holds up the baggy and presents the scale to the class.

LUNA

This scale is the only one of its kind. At least in our time.

Several kids in the class start to giggle.

LUNA (cont'd)

It's from a rare dinosaur...

BOY IN CLASS

Oh God.

LUNA  
...named the Gordosaurus.

As kids open the folder and take a photograph, jaws drop.

INSERT PHOTO - Luna flying through the air on Gordo's back.  
Luna's face is one of pure joy.

LUNA (O.S.)  
The Gordosaurus is the most  
incredible creature to ever live. I  
know.

The static photo becomes LIVE ACTION and...

EXT. SKY - DAY

Luna flies through the sky on the back of her dragon.

LUNA  
*Whooooooooooooo-hooooooooo!*

FADE OUT.