

UNDERGROUND

Written by

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OVER BLACK.

**THE CRUST AND THE MANTLE OF PLANET EARTH EXTENDS DOWNWARD
OVER 415 MILES.**

OF THIS VAST EXPANSE, HUMANITY HAS EXPLORED LESS THAN 1%.

INT. DARK SUBWAY TUNNEL

The endlessly long tunnel disappears into the shadows.

There's movement in the dark. A rat.

But also, something BIGGER.

Its step is heavy. The creature CLACKS against the rock as it shifts its weight. The rat SQUEAKS as it is abruptly CRUSHED.

DOWN THE TUNNEL:

- Footsteps crunch against the gravel floor. Not one figure, but several. Dozens.

A MATCH STRIKES IN THE DARKNESS.

OFFICER MURDOC, grizzled and experienced, lights his cigarette. Peers down the tunnel.

NERVOUS COP (O.S.)
Murdoc, Captain said no smokes.

MURDOC
Captain says a lot of things and I don't plan on listening now.
Alright, boys, let's bring up the lights.

One by one, dozens of hand lamps turn on, revealing:

A squad of uniformed 1940's POLICEMEN. A car follows behind them - a 1942 CHEVY DELUXE, black and white. L.A.P.D.

MURDOC (CONT'D)
Alright, here's the refresher gents. We got a missing girl. A couple tramps. Some latins. All last seen near this track and all after that quake knocked our fillings loose last week.

NERVOUS COP

What do you think? Red Line ain't even done and we already got lookie-loos?

MURDOC

Well, it is LA. Who wants to wait?

GRUFF COP

Ten note says its Cohen's boys. Movin' gear through the tunnel.

MURDOC

All the more reason to have a smoke-

CLACK.

They all hear it. Murdoc tosses his cigarette. He and all the other cops lift their THOMPSON MACHINE GUNS.

Down the tunnel. Nothing but ROCKS. Gruff Cop steps forward... cautiously...

He throws the DEAD RAT at Nervous Cop, who flinches.

GRUFF COP

If ya' gunna flinch at a dead rat, whata'ya gunna do when a live one comes -

He SCREAMS as he's pulled into the dark.

NERVOUS COP

What - what the - did you seeEEEEEEE-

He's LIFTED OFF HIS FEET, his last words STRANGLED.

The police OPEN FIRE, spraying bullets WILDLY in all directions. Ricochets SPARK, muzzles FLASH -

Another officer GOES DOWN, dragged into the black.

MURDOC

There! He's right there by the rocks! He's...

- for a moment, he stops firing...

...his eyes GO WIDE with what he sees.

With a ROAR, Murdoc UNLOADS HIS TOMMY GUN.

As the sound becomes deafening with GUNFIRE, CLACKING, and SCREAMING MEN, we LIFT up, through the ceiling and dirt -

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, 1941 - DAY

Rising above the oldest buildings in LA, still young. As we reach the sky, the sounds of terror FADE as we...

TIMELAPSE TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, NOW - DAY

The morning sun hits the east side of Downtown LA's buildings, the skyscrapers lifting out of the basin like magic. A city of orange light and thick brown air.

Traffic on the downtown interchange is DEADLOCKED.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

What a terrible day to live in Los Angeles! Can't think of a place I'd want to be less.

EXT. MALIBU BEACHSIDE - DAY

The gentle, pleasant waves wash up over the untouched sand. But on Pacific Coast Highway, it's a parking lot.

RADIO HOST 2 (V.O.)

Absolute Carmageddon, Joe. Estimated speed limit today is exactly zero miles per hour.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD SIGN - DAY

Float over the world-famous Hollywood Sign - revealing that the traffic nightmare extends to the Valley.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

But this is the last day, folks! After a year of freeway shutdowns, mile-long construction, and our favorite, excuses from the Mayor's office, we'll see the final detonation in the Olympic Subway Tunnel Project -

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Looking west to the water, we rise over Downtown and see the entire city - a bustling sprawl of activity. This will also establish our GEOGRAPHY: Ocean to the east, Downtown to the West, with a Hollywood sprawl in-between.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)
 - Giving our fair city a straight-
 shot underground train from the
 towers of Downtown to the beautiful
 ocean waves of the Pacific.

INT. CALLOWAY'S APARTMENT - DAY

A MAP OF LOS ANGELES.

A mosaic of second-generation xerox and scotch tape. Strange
 lines and canyons. The whole county in fault lines.

THEODORE CALLOWAY (late 30's) stares at the map along his
 wall. He's already got his button-down shirt on - tie loose
 around his neck. He didn't sleep. Might be a habit.

Scrawled underneath the map:

OLYMPIC LINE - FIGUEROA STATION GEO-MAP.

RADIO HOST 2
 Can't remember the last time I went
 to the beach.

RADIO HOST
 I've seen your tiny red speedo,
 man, that's probably for the best!

Calloway studies the geo-map. One particular slice of earth,
 with a SUBWAY blueprint DRAWN over it in BLUE SHARPIE.
 Running through the ground.

And underneath... a DARK SHADOW. Like a CRACK in the earth.

RADIO HOST 2
 Better yet, don't even bother
 getting out of bed! Here's a little
 music to help you catch some z's.

Calloway's dog, TERA (a beautiful golden retriever), hits the
 clock radio - ceasing the feed. Calloway looks to her.

CALLOWAY
 I know. I shouldn't do this.

Tera looks back at him, blankly.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
 You'll still love me if I get
 fired, right girl?

She runs over to her food bowl and starts eating. His eyes go back to the map. Dismissed.

He takes a deep breath.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

Then I guess this better work.

Calloway peels the map off the wall in one fell swoop.

INT. WESTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

A heavy duty MAGLIGHT gets stuffed into a backpack. Some ROPE. A handful of CLIFF BARS. A nice camera with a fat flash goes around a young lady's neck.

Outside, the SCREECH of an incoming car.

Reveal MISTY HOLT (late 20's), turning her head towards the window. Short hair stuffed under a bandana, dirt under her fingernails, Misty couldn't care less what she looks like.

She runs to her window, pulling back a curtain. Light streams into the dark apartment - she squints to see:

Her LANDLORD in a cheap suit, getting out of his car.

LANDLORD

Misty! Misty, I know you're in there.

Misty closes the window quickly. Turning to the back of her apartment, she puts eyes on her patio.

A KNOCK on her door.

LANDLORD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Misty! Open the door!

She smiles and runs for the back door.

EXT. WESTSIDE APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Misty expertly scales up the side of her apartment; all that climbing gear isn't for show. With a few simple bounds she's on the roof, running along the top of the building until she reaches the front - which she quickly REPELS DOWN -

LANDLORD

Misty!!

In mid-repel, she sees her Landlord watching from below.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
 Misty! Goddamn it girl, I don't
 know why you make me hunt you down
 like this.

MISTY
 It's all about the chase with me,
 Serge!

She drops down to street level, pulling down her cable and
 wrapping it expertly around her shoulder.

LANDLORD
 Rent is due. From last month. I
 need it today -

MISTY
 Come on, Serge, where's your
 Carmagedeon spirit?

She RUNS off. The Landlord watches with exhausted eyes.

MISTY (CONT'D)
(shouting back)
 We could all be dead tomorrow!

INT. BING'S ROOM - DAY

Textbooks SPILL out of an open bookbag.

BING HUANG (16) pushes the books to the side and reaches
 under his bed. Starts filling the bag with spray paint cans.

On his walls, we can see STREET ART - stencils and Banksy-
 esque artifacts. We notice a motif: a distinct,
 characteristic Panda.

From downstairs:

MS. HUANG
Bing? Just pick a pair of shoes and
 get down here! You're gonna be
 late!

BING
 Yeah, Mom, coming, yeah!

He ZIPS up the bag.

INT. HUANG HOME - CONTINUOUS

A TODDLER takes a plastic spoonful of his oatmeal and gets it everywhere but his mouth. Behind him, a WAR MOVIE on the TV.

MRS. HUANG changes the channel as she moves around the room, packing lunches for her family.

On the TV now: LADOT COMMISSIONER DEVIN HESS, being interviewed on Good Morning LA.

DEVIN (ON TV)
 - far as the city's concerned, this is the final detonation. Now, the LADOT will be buying up the residential property along the line through Mid-Wilshire, that's true -

Mrs. Huang looks to the TV for a second. There's a letter in her hand with LADOT letterhead. BING HUANG (16) comes down the stairs, bag over his shoulder, shirt tucked in.

DEVIN (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 - but it's not for safety concerns, as some would have you believe. This line provides a chance for under-performing communities to develop and grow.

MS. HUANG
 You have all your books?

BING
 That's what the backpack's for.

MS. HUANG
 Lunch is on the counter.

BING
 Thanks, Mom, looks great.

Mrs. Huang sets the letter down on the counter with a sigh.

DEVIN (ON TV)
 At the end of the day, we're not just doing this so we can get to the beach a little easier.

Bing, unseen, puts a 3-LITER CONTAINER of WATER into his otherwise empty backpack. Then he runs out the door.

DEVIN (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 We're doing this for the *next generation*.

EXT. 405 UNDERPASS, CULVER CITY - MOMENTS LATER

Bing rips around a corner on his FIXED GEAR bicycle. Riding one-handed, he untucks his shirt.

Within moments, he's surrounded by four other kids: JAVI (16, Chilean) is Bing's best friend and always looks like a whipped puppy -

JAVI

Hey, man.

DEMO (17, black) might has well have been born on his bike.

DEMO

You bring the water?

BING

Enough to clog a tank engine.

EVARADO

Those train pendejos at City Hall
ain't gonna know what hit 'em.

In the lead is EVARADO (17, Mexican), long legs pumping his bike for two. Standing on the pegs behind him is YAMMI (15), his kid sister - she tucks some hair into her pink helmet.

YAMMI

Hey Bing.

BING

Hey Yammi. Nice helmet.

YAMMI

Fuck off, panda.

But she doesn't mean it - the two have an easy banter.

EVARADO

I said you could come Yamilet,
didn't say you could talk. We're
gonna be late.

She pulls a face at the back of his head. They ride towards their HIGH SCHOOL, just as the bell starts to RING...

They don't stop - hell, they don't even slow down.

INT. LAX BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

LAURA SILVERMAN (19) is not from around here. Garbage bag full of clothes in her hand, Laura lifts a duffle off the baggage conveyor and puts a phone to her ear.

LAURA

Hi. Noah. You said you'd be here to pick me up. But you're not. So...

Laura walks to a nearby PUBLIC TRANSIT MAP. It shows the RED LINE, Los Angeles' primary subway, which heads through Downtown & North Hollywood. LAX is literally across the map.

The OLYMPIC LINE is also on this map - with a little reminder: **COMING SOON!**

NOTE: The Olympic line runs from Downtown Los Angeles all the way to the sea, running directly under Olympic Blvd. With stops at Figueroa, La Brea, Sepulveda and turning around at Ocean (in Santa Monica). Near the airport.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Six hour flight and I'm getting on the bus. Good to know your daughter can count on you.

She hangs up and heads for a BUS: the 64 to CULVER CITY.

NOAH (PRE-LAP)

This is the day. I can feel it.

EXT. FRESHLY-DUG ACCESS TUNNEL - DAY

An old DUFFLE BAG sits on the cave floor: inside, a cell phone that vibrates with "ONE NEW MESSAGE".

NOAH SILVERMAN (50's, chillaxed) doesn't notice, glasses perched on his nose as he is entirely focused on a bundle of wires. Over his shoulder, a nervous ASSISTANT.

ASSISTANT

Sir?

NOAH

Every time we do one these, I check my gut. Do some yoga in the morning, really center my energy, and today, I felt it. Today's the day we find them.

ASSISTANT

Them?

Noah turns around. Takes off his glasses. Serious.

NOAH
The lizard people that live under
LA.

The assistant can't tell if he's joking.

NOAH (CONT'D)
They eat people. Sometimes they
wear our suits like skin so they
can infiltrate us.
(beat)
It's pretty radical.

Noah's radio suddenly CRACKLES.

POLICE OFFICER
(over radio)
Barricade looking for Silverman.
Noah Silverman, we have a situation
at the barricade.

Noah steps backward from his work. He pats the shocked
Assistant on the shoulder.

NOAH
I'm serious. Look it up.

Walking away, he SMIRKS. Gullible kid.

Behind, he leaves A NETWORK OF EXPLOSIVES rigged along a wall
of bedrock.

Noah walks out onto the DETONATION SITE.

EXT. SUBWAY DETONATION SITE - DAY

The planned location of the Olympic Line's Ocean Station sits
in the middle of an intersection.

A large dirt and concrete pit has been excavated, leading to
the ACCESS TUNNEL. Noah exits the tunnel, surveying the area.

ACROSS THE SITE:

A mass of Los Angelinos crowd against the police barricade,
camera-phones at the ready: they're here for the show. A
couple photographers have tripods. NEWS VANS report from the
wings.

Calloway is right at the front, his papers awkwardly bundled
in his arms. He faces off against an angry POLICE OFFICER.

CALLOWAY

No, you don't understand, this is
my site.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir, I'm not going to ask you
again.

CALLOWAY

Just, is Devin there, if I can just
get through -

NOAH (O.S.)

Calloway!

Noah arrives on the scene, gesturing for the Officer to let
the man through.

NOAH (CONT'D)

He has clearance.

Calloway steps through the police barricade, papers trailing
behind him. Noah makes a big show of putting his arm around
his shoulders, walking him away like everything is fine.

CALLOWAY

Thanks for that.

NOAH

Why did I just lie for you?

CALLOWAY

Because we have to stop the
detonation. Where's Devin?

NOAH

Probably with the Mayor. You're not
stopping the demo, Calloway, you're
not even supposed to be at here.

CALLOWAY

Too bad. I need Devin.

Calloway sees it: THE DETONATION PODIUM. Men in suits
congratulating each other. A microphone. He makes a beeline,
turning to Noah as he does.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

Don't set it off!

AT THE BACK OF THE CROWD:

Evarado, Demo and Javi stand on top of newspaper dispensers, getting a commanding view of the site. Other pedestrians look at them like hooligans, but they give zero fucks.

DEMO

Shit, 'Rado. I don't think we're getting in man.

EVARADO

I'll get through.

JAVI

Dude, those are cops.

Bing and Yammi push through the crowd, suddenly appearing at their feet. The advance recon force.

BING

Bad news man. The drill's not even here.

DEMO

What?

BING

The site is just a hole. The drill's probably inside. Deep. They must have run it from the other end, I'm sorry.

Evarado just squints his eyes, even more determined.

EXT. DETONATION PODIUM - CONTINUOUS

Cameras flash on a photo op - the MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES shares a handshake and a smile with CalTrans Commissioner DEVIN HESS (48, prick), who holds in his hand a small detonation box.

CALLOWAY

Devin! Devin, we have to talk!

Calloway pushes his way through the news cameras onto the podium. Devin, with clear savvy, cuts him off at the pass.

DEVIN

Hey, Calloway, glad you could make it! You know the Mayor.

CALLOWAY

(to the Mayor)

Sir, if I could have a moment of your -

DEVIN
(under his breath)
Shut up before I shut you up.

Devin hands the Mayor the detonator, flashing a smile.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
I'll be right back, Mr. Mayor.

He muscles Calloway to the side. Unwatched, Devin drops his public face. This guy's all business.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Are you serious right now?

CALLOWAY
Devin, I know I'm not supposed to be here, but you have to listen -

DEVIN
We have three minutes until I push that button and we get this thing over with. How about you just put a lid on it for -

CALLOWAY
No, Devin!

Calloway's shout silences the podium. Seriously, that was loud. Calloway pulls the papers and tries to speak calmly.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
I had imaging do a third thermal sweep of the plates beneath the station. Look at the readings, there, next to the results from the last two. You see that? There's a serious shift going on. A disruption, there?

DEVIN
We live in L.A., Ted. Fault activity is the cost of doing business.

CALLOWAY
Devin, if one of the charges strikes a methane pocket, you could be taking down the whole city, and who knows what's causing that crack in the sediment -

Devin's hand lands on Calloway's shoulder. Locks eyes. Speaks calmly and deliberately.

DEVIN

Hey. Ted. Stop. Just stop.

(beat)

This is going to happen.

Stepping back, Devin once again puts on his face smile -

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Thank you for that, great update.

Better find your seat, the show's almost on!

Still smiling, he gestures to SECURITY -

- who muscle Calloway off the podium.

Devin grabs a loudspeaker and shouts into the crowd -

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Alright, ladies and gentlemen, are you ready for some action?

The crowd pushes forward; Calloway falls further back. He finds himself in a forgotten alcove and sits. Dejected.

EVARADO

Yo, man! Mister! You one of them?

Calloway turns, sees the big kid talking to him.

CALLOWAY

You gotta get back, kid.

EVARADO

No, you gotta get them to put down the button!

Calloway gives the kid a quizzical look.

CALLOWAY

Yeah. I agree.

In the background, we can here Devin begin his speech:

DEVIN (O.S.)

In the 20th Century, Los Angeles became the city of the automobile. When the world thinks of our great city, they think of freeways, traffic, and smog.

Evarado holds up a worn photograph. It's a house.

EVARADO

Mister, this my Mom's house. I grew up in that house, feel me?

CALLOWAY

I can't do anything about that.

EVARADO

Thought you worked for them, asshole.

DEVIN (O.S.)

But in the 21st Century, this town will be known for something else. The time's come for a newer, future. The future we deserve.

Calloway looks at Evarado, trying to avoid the fight.

CALLOWAY

You know, I'm not really the person to talk to about this.

Evarado SNEERS.

EVARADO

Yeah. Ain't nobody got that job.

At the podium -

DEVIN

The Olympic Line, ladies and gentlemen. Now count it down with me! THREE!

DEEP IN THE CROWD:

Misty crouches in the crowd between protestors. Her eyes are on the construction zone in the distance.

DEVIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

TWO!

ACROSS THE SITE:

Noah looks on with anticipation.

INT. LAX BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

Laura picks her bag off the claim and turns to a COURTESY TELEVISION, playing local news. The detonation is live.

The headline: CONTROVERSIAL DETONATION BREAKS GROUND!

Devin smiles on camera.

DEVIN

ONE!

EXT. SUBWAY DETONATION SITE - CONTINUOUS

Calloway grimaces, covering his ears -

- and Devin PUSHES THE BUTTON.

BOOM. Kinda.

A small SHAKE - and a cloud of DUST from the tunnel - but it all sounds muffled.

Calloway's eyes slowly rise. Something is wrong.

Noah looks to Calloway, who looks to Devin. Confused.

Yammi turns to Bing.

YAMMI

(de sotto)

Is that it?

Suddenly:

With a running start, Misty SPRINTS through the police barrier as she heads STRAIGHT for the tunnel.

The cops aren't fast enough, but Calloway sees her. He RUNS -
- she's fast, but he's got enough to keep up.

CALLOWAY

Hey! Hey, you can't go in there!

And he grabs her, turning her around. Sees the goggles over her eyes, the carabiners on her belt.

She's gonna cave-dive the tunnel.

BACK AT THE POLICE LINE:

The kids watch the scene.

DEMO

So that's it, huh? That's my house,
down the drain.

JAVI
 Feel a little, I dunno,
 anticlimactic to anyone else -

Suddenly, the entire landscape is ROCKED by an ENORMOUS EARTHQUAKE. FULL and MIGHTY.

Calloway and Misty FALL TOGETHER; Noah STUMBLES trying to reach them.

The kids drop as the ground rips itself apart.

Calloway is dazed, but stops a POLICE OFFICER as he runs by -

CALLOWAY
 You... you have to clear the area.
 Right now, you have to -

With a massive LURCH, everyone still standing is THROWN to the ground. The sounds and tremors of a massive earthquake are everywhere - glass SHATTERS, people SCREAM.

IN THE CROWD:

People RUN in panic from the site as the earth shakes around them. The KIDS are caught in the swarm - Yammi and Bing trying to hold on to each-other against the current.

YAMMI
 Bing! What's happening?

EVARADO
 Just an earthquake, *miha*, come on!

Evarado swoops in, now they're running with the crowd.

INT. LAX BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

The ground shakes. Outside, cars SCREECH to a STOP.

But Laura doesn't fall - she doesn't even freeze up.

Racing to a doorway, she braces herself. Safe, she's able to observe the mild chaos - like a roller coaster, standing up. As it calms, she smiles.

Her first earthquake is almost fun.

EXT. SUBWAY DETONATION SITE - DAY

Misty WRESTLES her way away from Calloway and BOLTS.

CALLOWAY

Wait!

He CLAWS her backpack - which tears open and floods the air with colorful leaflets. Misty pulls herself away and runs into the crowd.

Calloway stops, watching her go. The earthquake settles.

Flyers are everywhere. Calloway picks one up. It's a gallery opening, all cheap paper and leaked ink.

BENEATH OUR FEET: AN EXHIBITION.

Noah runs up, helping Calloway to his feet.

NOAH

You alright, buddy?

CALLOWAY

I... Yeah.

(beat: sadly)

I was right.

Behind them, Devin RUNS toward the cavern.

DEVIN

What the hell just happened?!

Calloway runs to meet him, as does Noah.

CALLOWAY

I told you. I told you -

DEVIN

I was talking to Noah -

CALLOWAY

- and you didn't listen!

DEVIN

You want me to call security, Ted?
Or do you want to help me figure
out what happened?

A stand-off. Devin is commanding. Calloway's angry.

... but Calloway nods.

Devin leads them down toward the tunnel entrance. Noah hands them breathing masks and turns on a flashlight.

INT. DETONATED CAVERN - DAY

Dust. A dark cavern. Small... but clearly detonated.

The light shines on the BEDROCK that was to be destroyed -

- and it's still there. All except a MASSIVE FISSURE straight through the rock, heading DEEP. The dynamite is gone. All that is left is the Fissure.

DEVIN

Calloway. What the hell is this?

CALLOWAY

Remember that disruption I mentioned?

Devin turns to Calloway, who gestures to the crack.

Noah gets up close. Looks down.

NOAH

How far down do you think that goes?

CALLOWAY

My maps say miles. Maybe hundreds.

NOAH

... of miles? Really?

Calloway nods. A pause, then:

NOAH (CONT'D)

Twenty bucks says reptile city.

CALLOWAY

This is serious, Noah. We got lucky this time. If there was methane -

DEVIN

Enough with the methane.

CALLOWAY

You should've listened.

DEVIN

Well, how bad is it? Can I get through to our tunnel from here?

NOAH

I wouldn't bet on it, no.

DEVIN
Then you're fired.

CALLOWAY
Wait, what?

DEVIN
You're both fired. This didn't
happen. We'll re-demolish tomorrow
with Jameson in charge.

Devin walks away. Calloway RUNS after him, turning him around-

CALLOWAY
Devin, this is my -

DEVIN
This isn't "your" anything,
Calloway. Go home.
(to Noah)
My assistant'll cut you a check.

Calloway and Noah are both left in the tunnel, the massive
crack running between them.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. WESTSIDE STREET - DAY

FROM BLACK, we see the soul of a SHOE, stuck with gum.

MISTY (O.S.)
Awesome.

She does an awkward half shuffle to scrap the gum off.

Across from her, she notices a massive piece of street art,
the kind that defines LA: "YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT".

MISTY (CONT'D)
No shit.

She snaps a picture. We push into her LENS -

INT. WESTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

We pull out of a TUNNEL - which is in fact the keyhole of an
apartment. The door wiggles, shifts, doesn't release.

EXT. WESTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

Misty stands outside her apartment. Her key doesn't work. There's a BRAND NEW LOCK on the door.

On the window is an EVICTION NOTICE.

She KICKS the door -

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CALLOWAY CALLOWAY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Calloway's door SLAMS behind him. He leans against it, exhausted, as Tera runs to greet him.

She FLOPS face-first on his chest -

CALLOWAY

Hey, girl.

(beat)

Yeah. Hard day.

He moves her head away and she follows. Calloway walks across the room to the covered table, and removes the sheet.

He blinds the windows, and FLIPS A SWITCH:

Tiny lights ignite across the room. Calloway has a train set.

A TOY TRAIN clacks along the tracks, the red cars of the original L.A. mass transportation system. 1940's Los Angeles, recreated in loving and impressive detail. *Note: There's not a single tiny plastic person on the entire set. Just buildings, trees and trains.*

Calloway takes a moment to watch the cars. Calms his breathing. So much so that he begins to lean on the table -

CRACK. A small model house collapses under his hand.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

Damn...

Calloway inspects his hand for cuts. The track CLATTERS.

The train has derailed on impact with the rubble Calloway just caused. A tiny disaster. He can't take his eyes off it.

Tera walks away, towards her food bowl. Calloway is alone.

EXT. HUANG HOME - DAY

The kids roll through their neighborhood - in the heat, half the OLD TIMERS are out on their stoops. A radio BLARES -

NEWSCASTER

- Officials have been clear that this set-back, as they call it, will not spell doom for the entire Olympic Tunnel project, planning to proceed with another detonation in the near future -

OLD MAN

Evarado? How's that elbow?

EVARADO

I'll be good to play, Mr. Dom. You ready to watch?

OLD MAN

Only if you impress me.

DEMO

That's all my boy does!

As Demo makes a show of it, the old man waves them off .

MRS. PARK, a neighbor, is sweeping her front patio.

YAMMI

Hey, Mrs. Park! I will sit all over your babies.

MRS. PARK

Saturday night? Mr. Park may be a terrible lover, but he can *dance...*

The frumpy woman does a shimmy -

The kids grin, delightfully disgusted at the imagery. These kids are part of this neighborhood, the young bloods. They know everyone and everyone knows them.

INT. HUANG HOME - DAY

Start on the letter from the city, which remains unsigned on the Huang kitchen counter, weighted there by a pen.

Ms. Huang whips up a dinner as she watches the news, which shows footage of the botched explosion. The headline now: WEST-SIDE EXPLOSION: ANOTHER DEAD END?

As the kids enter the LIVING ROOM, Evarado's drops the smiling mask. They were all faking it for appearances.

EVARADO

Goddamn city can't even set off a bomb right.

YAMMI

'Rado, calm down.

EVARADO

Don't "'Rado" me, Yammi! This is important.

She shuts down.

YAMMI

Fine. Sorry.

Bing looks to her, then back to Evarado.

BING

Look, this doesn't have to be the end, man.

DEMO

Yeah? Cause your mom's got a letter out there same as mine.

Ms. Huang hears them from the kitchen.

BING

And she hasn't signed it yet. Means we have some time, right?

Evarado walks to the window, looking out. Listening.

BING (CONT'D)

Look, the plan is still good. Water'll bog down that engine and shut down the drill no problem. That's just science-class shit. Without the drill, they can blast all they want, but they can't carve out the tunnel. Only problem is actually getting to the drill.

DEMO

Bing, that tunnel's just a tunnel. If there was a way down, we woulda found it weeks ago. That detonation was our last shot. Drill's down there, surrounded by miles of rock.

(MORE)

DEMO (CONT'D)

(beat)

That's it, man. Game over.

Suddenly, the door to the house SWINGS open with a BANG, and Javi SKIDS to a stop in the living room.

MRS. HUANG

Javier, is this a barn?

JAVI

Sorry, Ms. Bing, sorry -

He closes the door gently.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Guys. You know my *Tio* Frankie? With the store on Wilshire in K-Town?

DEMO

Hey, it's my favorite story about free Red Bull -

JAVI

Dude, this ain't about free Bull.

(beat)

You gotta come see this.

Off his look of total anticipation, we CUT TO -

EXT. VENICE BEACH BUNGALOW - DAY

We creep along the sands of Venice Beach. They shake slightly - a single small earthquake, making tiny waves on the beach. Reveal Noah's bungalow - We can hear Laura yelling.

LAURA (O.S.)

No, Noah, you don't understand!

INT. VENICE BEACH BUNGALOW - DAY

We FLOAT across the wall of a sunny, laid-back habitat.

LAURA

I get up early, cause you tell me you've got a big demo the next day.

OLD BOOKS. TINY DINOSAUR FIGURES. HAND-DRAWN LIZARD-PEOPLE.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I fly three thousand miles, I get to the damn airport and I see a big demo going on, but it's today!

On Laura and Noah, in the middle of a shouting match. She's pacing the dining room, while Noah sits across the space on a small deck-chair. He's obviously had a hell of a day.

So has Laura, and she is pissed.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Wow, they must be doing a lot of construction in LA, cause the Noah Silverman I know would never lie to his daughter, no. Or, I don't know, forget about her entirely? So I sit for an hour before I just suck it up and grab a cab, cause what the hell, I just graduated from high school, it's not like I'm hurting for cash!

NOAH

I'll pay for the cab.

LAURA

Not the point, Noah!

Noah stands, angry.

NOAH

Can you stop calling me that?

Laura SNAPS.

LAURA

You want me to call you **dad**?
Act like one.

The two stare. That cut Noah deeply, and Laura feels it.

Suddenly, there's a knock on the door. Noah turns. Laura doesn't break her stare.

THROUGH THE DOOR:

CALLOWAY

Noah, open up. **Noah!**

NOAH

Jesus...

He goes to the door and opens it swiftly.

It's Calloway, with a file folder of reports in front of him.

NOAH (CONT'D)
 Calloway, what the hell do you
 think you're doing here?

CALLOWAY
 Noah, I -

NOAH
 Maybe I should rephrase. Now's a
 bad time.

CALLOWAY
 We don't have any time. Your
 daughter's in town, right?

He peeks around Noah with familiarity. Calloway's got energy.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
 Hi, Laura!

She's not in the mood.

LAURA
 Hi, Mr. Calloway.

CALLOWAY
 (to Noah)
 Is she never gonna call me Theo?

NOAH
 Does anybody call you Theo?

Calloway pulls Noah outside and closes the door.

CALLOWAY
 I'll get to the point. I need my
 job. You need your job. And we can
 help each other. You just have to
 come with me to the site tonight.

NOAH
 Whoa, man, I already messed it up
 with Laura -

CALLOWAY
 Bring her. It's like bring your
 daughter to work day.

NOAH
 'cept it's nothing like that.

CALLOWAY
 It's a *little* like that.

Noah thinks a moment.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

That earthquake meant something. The charts, the faults. I've been living in the surveys and we're looking at something I've never seen. A perfect geological storm. If Devin keeps blasting... this could be the Big One. If we can prove to Devin that there's real danger here, maybe we can buy ourselves a few weeks...

NOAH

Stop talking before this becomes "conspiracy".

Noah turns to his daughter. Laura hasn't moved, arms crossed.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Honey, get my bomb bag.

LAURA

Oh good.

CALLOWAY

I'll drive. We got one more stop.

Calloway palms a flyer: Misty's art exhibition.

INT. SILVER LAKE GALLERY - DAY

The SCULPTURE is made of twisted metal and polished roots. Behind are a series of PHOTOS: a basement filled with roots.

MISTY (O.S.)

I didn't know you were funny.

ANOTHER SCULPTURE - shattered bottles and hunks of tin.

GALLERY OWNER (O.S.)

Misty, it's not a joke. They make people sad. They take up space. And no one is buying them.

A third SCULPTURE is a tree made of rebar and shattered cement. Around it are photos of a BUILDING DEMOLITION.

A stack of flyers indicates that this is indeed THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET: AN EXHIBITION. A MAN comes in the front.

Misty doesn't notice; she's standing in the back, arguing with the GALLERY OWNER, a middle-aged woman in flowing dress.

MISTY

Well, are you hustling it?

GALLERY OWNER

I hustled, Misty.

Misty backs out of her conversation, to show her how it's done. The Man is studying her root and steel sculpture.

MISTY

That work is one of my favorites.
You have a good eye for -

The man turns - it's Calloway. Misty recognizes him immediately.

MISTY (CONT'D)

You here to ticket me? I really don't have the time. Or the cash.

CALLOWAY

I need your help.

Misty looks at him sideways.

MISTY

Doing what, exactly?

CALLOWAY

Can we talk alone?

MISTY

So you can entrap me? No thanks.

CALLOWAY

I could be entrapping you here.
There's nothing to stop me.

MISTY

Not really a great answer, buddy.

Calloway collects himself. Smiles. And whispers.

CALLOWAY

I need you to break me into the Olympic.

MISTY

You want me to sneak you into your own tunnel?

CALLOWAY

It's not mine anymore. Not after that quake.

(beat)

I need a professional. Please.

Misty looks him over, really studies him.

MISTY

And you promise I'm not being entrapped?

CALLOWAY

I promise.

She hesitates.

MISTY

Here's the thing. I know every crack, crevice, connecting tunnel and collapsed basement in the city. That includes your shiny new tunnel. I can take you down there and keep you safe.

(beat)

But you're gonna buy my sculpture.

Calloway looks it over, not thrilled.

CALLOWAY

Did I mention I just got fired?

MISTY

Price of doing business, Mr...

CALLOWAY

Ted. I mean, Theo. Theo Calloway.

MISTY

Misty Holt.

They shake, then Calloway turns to the statue. Smiles.

CALLOWAY

I'll have to write a check.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BASEMENT - NIGHT

There's a small window set high in the basement - two short legs wiggle through - Yammi drops, sticking the landing.

Evarado is already inside, scanning the room. The cramped space is filled with cluttered shelves.

Javi emerges from around a corner, flashlight in hand.

JAVI
Watch out, alright?

EVARADO
Yeah, this place is *real* organized.

JAVI
Listen, I've worked for *Tio* Frankie almost two years. Pick up the garbage, mop the throw up, stack the shelves. While you *putas* were off robbing old ladies, I've been here picking up after the shakes.

Demo squeezes through the window, dropping down.

DEMO
And smoking reef.

JAVI
Point is, everything is exactly where it's supposed to be.
(beat)
Everything but this.

A SHELF lays on its back against the wall, contents scattered. Javi tosses Yammi the light and - moving to one end - he and Evarado FLIP the unit out of the way.

At the window, Bing is the last one to drop. His jacket gets caught, causing him to lose his balance as he lands -

Demo catches him. Dusts off the younger boy's shoulder.

A FISSURE in the floor, once hidden by the shelf. Yammi hits it with the flashlight... blackness. Yammi's eyes go wide.

DEMO
Fucking yes.

YAMMI
How deep is it?

As if by magic, Javi pulls a joint from his greasy hair.

JAVI
Do I look like a spelunker? You can see, it goes deep.

EVARADO
It's heading in the right direction.

JAVI

For what?

DEMO

Rado, please tell me we're synched.

JAVI

What? What am I missing.

BING

Problem is, we don't know where this goes. Sure, this part is the right direction. But what if it turns? What if we get lost -

YAMMI

Bing, we won't get lost.

EVARADO

We'll need supplies.

JAVI

Oh shit. We can go down the tunnel and sabotage the fucking fucks.

Good job, Javi. Now you're caught up.

EVARADO

We'll need supplies. Can you distract your *tio*?

JAVI

Pendejo doesn't pay me enough anyway.

BING

The chances of this going where we want are crazy small -

EVARADO

Small like your balls, BingBong.

(explaining)

We go in the hole. It's just a pit, fine, we'll come back up and go break some windows. We find the drill, we save our families. Anything in between?

DEMO

... the unknown.

Demo's grin couldn't be any wider.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Javi cracks open the door to the basement, slinking out.

His TIO FRANKIE stands on a rickety footstool behind the bullet proof glass counter, arranging liquor bottles to the *tejano* music playing from the radio. He doesn't turn.

TIO FRANKIE

Javi, you better be on fire.

Javi catches himself, smoothly extinguishing his joint with his tongue before disappearing it into his hair.

JAVI

You feel the heat from my cleaning?

TIO FRANKIE

I feel the heat from your mother, knowing that her little boy is burning out.

Javi gestures behind his back for the others to move.

JAVI

I'm in the family business. 30 more years and this place is mine.

Demo slips through the store, stealing junk food as he passes... but stopping when he sees the LIGHTER FLUID.

TIO FRANKIE (O.S.)

30? You wish. I might never die. But if I do, I'm going to burn this place to the ground, like a viking funeral. I built this store, damned if I'm going to pass it along to some no good kid.

Yammi stuffs a jug of water under her shirt like a baby.

JAVI (O.S.)

I thought vikings were supposed to be strong and white and crazy. You only got one of three.

Evarado finds what he was really looking for - ROPE, and an industrial flashlight. He gathers an armload.

TIO FRANKIE (O.S.)

What're they teaching you in school, you've never heard of chicano vikings?

JAVI (O.S.)
I never heard of this 'school'
place either, so who can say?

Meanwhile, Bing has been loitering in the corner, quietly awkward. But near the cords of wood, he sees it...

A age-old WILDERNESS FLARE KIT, with a plastic firing pistol; this is the first thing he's stolen in his life.

One by one, they silently make for the basement door...

Frankie decides he can't reach the bottles on the counter, and starts to turn around. They FREEZE -

JAVI (CONT'D)
-I got you, *Tio* -

And he knocks the bottle to the floor with a SHATTER.

TIO FRANKIE
Javi, you're as bad as the quake.

Frankie goes for his broom closet. A long beat.

As soon as the man's out of sight, they all RUN.

INT. CALLOWAY'S CAR - NIGHT

He pulls to a stop, the gates of the Ocean Station site just outside. Misty sits next to him, Noah and Laura in the back.

LAURA
So this is the awesome LA
nightlife.

MISTY
Kid, we're doing you a favor. The
men in this town are much less
interesting than what we're going
to find.

LAURA
Aren't we just looking at rocks?

NOAH
Honey, nothing's just rocks.

LAURA
If you start one more time with
your stupid story about the lizards-

MISTY
Oh, you're a *reptilian theorist*?

NOAH
Yeah, you on the boards?

MISTY
No, you guys are nuts.

She leaves him in the dust. Laura can't help but smile.

EXT. SUBWAY DETONATION SITE, FENCE - MOMENTS LATER

The four climb out of the car.

Along with her duffel of gear, Misty throws a BOLT CUTTER over her shoulder. Calloway looks at it like a third arm.

CALLOWAY
We won't be needing that.

He lifts his fat KEY RING - the site is PADLOCKED.

NOAH
Not used to having a key?

Noah's throwing some attitude at the rule breaker.

MISTY
I like having options.

EXT. SUBWAY DETONATION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

As Calloway leads the others through the site, he sees a light up ahead - a SECURITY GUARD.

The guard's light gets closer... Misty PULLS him into the shadows. Before he can speak -

She covers his mouth.

MISTY
(quietly)
Shut your mouth. You didn't bring me here because you like my art. Do you want to explain up the ladder what you're doing here? More important, do you want to explain who you're here with? A watchlist trespasser and an underage girl?

LAURA
 (whispers)
 You're on the watchlist?

That's kind of cool.

Calloway's look says he takes her point. She releases him.

They duck into the darkness, avoiding the guard.

CALLOWAY
 The tunnel is up ahead. I'm just
 looking for answers.

LAURA
 And then we go home?

NOAH
 Absolutely.

For Calloway and Misty, "home" is the last thing on their minds.

INT. BASEMENT TUNNEL - NIGHT

A long tunnel, completely black, running underneath Tio Franke's shop. Five flashlight beams play over the rocks.

Weaving in and out of the stone: a network of PIPES, the electrical and water of the neighborhood over their heads.

Bing, bringing up the rear, looks back. No more light.

EVARADO (O.S.)
Chingado madre.

Bing catches up to the others...

They've gathered around a HOLE. The slope of their path ends abruptly, a four-foot wide CHIMNEY dropping into the black.

Demo kicks a ROCK...

... it clatters down the sides, but doesn't hit a bottom.

DEMO
 Epic.

YAMMI
 Well, the tunnel ends in a
 bottomless pit, guess its time to
 go find some windows to break.

BING

There's no such thing as a
bottomless pit.

She looks at him like he's crazy. Bing's curious.

Evarado and Demo start tieing ROPES to the pipes -
rudimentary descenders and harnesses.

YAMMI

Okay, the early point about coming
down here, not so crazy. This
though...

EVARADO

Then go home, Yamilet.

That was mean. Javi breaks the ice:

JAVI

Yo. What if this is like... the
entrance to the Lizard city?

EVARADO

Shut the fuck up. Lizard city.

JAVI

No, man, it was in the LA Times.
There was a map *cabrone*. A city
made of gold -

DEMO

I love that you read that shit.
Golden lizard city is my jam.

EVARADO

A city made of gold, just waiting
for some hoodrats to find. It's
fuckin' Disneyland Titty Bar down
here, didn't you hear?

JAVI

... It's just a theory, no need to
be a dick.

Finally, Demo finishes tying a fairly complicated and well
put together knot. Yammi looks at him, his skill a surprise -

DEMO

I dated a girl scout.

Demo **THROWS** the rope into the unknown. Bing steps forward.

BING
 I'll go first.
 (beat)
 I'm the lightest, it makes sense.

Evarado steps forward, wrapping the rope around his waist.

EVARADO
 I'll go first.

BING
 Do I look scared?

'Rado's answered is a smirk as he steps over the lip into:

INT. DARK CHIMNEY - CONTINUOUS

Alone in the dark, Evarado kicks his way off the chimney wall, sliding deeper into the earth frantically.

Suddenly, he misses his step with a YELP. The tunnel opens up into a larger cavern.

YAMMI (O.S.)
 'rado?

EVARADO
 Just, hold up - the cavern opens
 up!

BING (O.S.)
 Into what?

Evarado keeps sliding down, when his foot hits something -
 It PULLS at him. For a moment, he STRUGGLES in the dark -

EVARADO
 What the fuck?
 (shouting)
 Someone throw me a flashlight.

ABOVE: Demo drops it - the chimney is at least 90 feet deep -
 - and the light LANDS with a PLORP next to Evarado,
 illuminating the area around him.

Turns out, the bottom of this chimney opens into a chamber -
 and all along the base of the chamber?

TAR. The entire room.

Evarado takes it in - while the ooze absorbs the light, the cavern above itself is covered with obsidian deposits. Each catches the light, sparkling - a million hidden stars.

Evarado can't help but smile. This place is cool.

INT. ACCESS TUNNEL - NIGHT

They can still see the entrance behind them as they move into the tunnel, stepping over rubble from the blast.

Calloway leads with Misty, Noah and Laura behind.

CALLOWAY

So, this detonation was meant to cut from the station to the new tunnel but unfortunately, there was this wall of bedrock, pretty much cutting the two off -

MISTY

- Yeah, I've been casing this site for weeks. My question is why your surveys didn't catch something as obvious as a quarter mile spur of granite in the middle of your path?

CALLOWAY

They did.
(beat)
I did.

MISTY

And you didn't say anything why?

CALLOWAY

I tried. My boss didn't listen.

MISTY

You mean you didn't make him listen.

BEHIND THEM:

Noah hesitates, turns to Laura.

NOAH

Laura, maybe it's good if you wait here. Stay safe.

LAURA

I don't have any cell service.

NOAH

Well, yeah.

(wrong answer)

We're only going to be a few minutes. Then... have you ever been up Mulholland?

(beat)

Of course you haven't. I know this all night diner, we're gonna get some fancy grilled cheeses and head up to the top of the hills. I swear, LA lays out in front of you like... like...

His daughter just stares at him like an alien creature.

NOAH (CONT'D)

You still like grilled cheese?

LAURA

I'm a teenager, not a robot.

And she plugs her dangling ear buds in, dismissing him.

CALLOWAY

Noah? This is for you.

Noah hustles forward into:

INT. DETONATED CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The Fissure still cuts the rock in two.

Stepping right up to the fissure, Misty shines her light. The fissure is about thirty feet long and immeasurably deep -

NOAH

Stop. Don't move.

Misty starts to turn, but Noah stops her. He slowly crouches down to her feet. She's standing on a wire -

CALLOWAY

Detonation cable.

Noah presses down on the wire so she can step away. One end is stuck under rubble, but the other drops into the fissure.

NOAH

Whoa. Hold up. This is binary, alkali granitoid. By all right this should have shattered like a china vase. Instead...

He's been slowly pulling up the cabling. First he draws up one stick of explosive, then another. Soon, he has three... the end of the cable has been SEVERED.

MISTY

Sabotage?

NOAH

What, after the detonation? No.
Lines break. Payload still should
have been enough to turn this rock
face to rubble.

This gets stranger and stranger.

Calloway looks into the dark crack in the stone. The only way they'll find answers...

CALLOWAY

Then I guess we're going deeper.
Misty, if you'd be so kind?

MISTY

I thought you'd never ask.

She spins a tricam like a six gun - she's ready to play.

INT. BLACK CAVES - THE DARK

Back with the kids. We're much further down the cavern now - nowhere near Tio Franke's convenience store.

Light SHINES off slick tar like black steel. Evarado leads the other four kids, his flashlight cutting the dark.

They all hug the wall, moving forward single file. Bing shines his light into the darkness around them: Thick vapor is visible in the light. Suddenly -

Evarado holds up his hand for quiet.

They all hear it.

A CLACKING, like heavy rocks tapping against each other. Small tremors fill the cave.

The kids go quiet - is the cave collapsing? As the world seems to TREMBLE around them, Yammi CLOSES her eyes in fright-

And the ominous sound stops. Yammi slowly opens her eyes.

Bing smiles at her.

BING

Yam, you still have that water?

She does. Bing pulls a bandana from his pocket - he wears it for tagging - and soaks it with the water. Handing it over, Yammi lifts it to her mouth and takes a clean breath.

YAMMI

Wow. That's some good shit.

They both grin. Javi turns to see -

- and SWATS his head against an outcropping, stumbling with a YELP into the TAR.

He's up to his ankle in tar before he knows it. Shit.

BING

Javi, don't move.

DEMO

Oh, man. You're fucked.

YAMMI

Somebody grab him-

EVARADO

- fucking A.

Evarado uses his long reach to snatch Javi - and with a FIERCE PULL yanks the boy to safety.

Javi starts cracking up.

JAVI

Hah. Whoa, man. That was crazy. I just looked death in the face.

A joint and lighter appear in his hand - Yammi stops him.

YAMMI

Hey, unless you wanna take us all with you, I'd say no fire.

Tar everywhere. Right. Good point.

DEMO

Guys?

In front of them, the tunnel grows tighter. Like a dog door.

DEMO (CONT'D)

Looks like a squeeze.

Bing pulls a compass. After a minute -

BING
It *is* the right direction.

YAMMI
This seems really dumb guys.
Hanging out and skipping school is
supposed to be fun. How is this
fun, exactly?

Evarado bends down to the crack, shining his light inside.

EVARADO
Yam, this isn't tagging a club,
this isn't about messin' up some
jerk kids. This is about home,
hermanita, and I smell fresh air.

Bing zips up his jacket.

BING
This time, let me go first.

INT. SMALL BLACK PASSAGE - LATER

Bing squeezes through the tight space, dirty and determined.

Evarado crawls behind him, keeping silent. Much bigger than
the smaller boy, 'Rado can't move nearly as easily.

Javi follows, completely in the zone. Behind him, Demo. Not
so much in the zone.

DEMO (O.S.)
This is officially the stupidest
idea we have ever had. This is
stupider than that time I tried to
fight Mr. Peterson.

Yammi brings up the rear.

YAMMI
That's what I'm saying.

Suddenly, a SNAP from in front of them. Javi looks forward:
NOTHING. Bing is gone.

JAVI (O.S.)
Whoa, where's Bing?

EVARADO (O.S.)
Down here! I'm going next!

Evarado moves to the end of the tunnel - and disappears.

YAMMI

Guys?

She can just make out Javi up ahead.

And suddenly, he's GONE too. WHAT THE FUCK.

The dark is creeping in...

YAMMI (CONT'D)

Demo? What's going on?

He turns back, his eyes wide like he's telling a ghost story.

DEMO

Only a leap from the lion's head
will prove his worth.

And he too, disappears. But this time she sees it: they're tumbling into some kind of opening.

Terrified, Yammi approaches the hole.

YAMMI

Demo, I know you *did not* just
'Indiana Jones' me!

No response.

YAMMI (CONT'D)

Demo??

Nothing. Shaking off her fear, she crosses her arms -

YAMMI (CONT'D)

Note to self: stop hanging out with
boys.

INT. WATER CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

And Yammi drops out of a crevice, falling through the air -

Into an UNDERGROUND LAKE.

Deep and blue, it shimmers in a thousand colors - the water literally GLOWS, a product of refraction. Yammi SPLASHES into the water, surrounded by her friends - each of whom are safe.

While the others swim to shore, Bing looks around the cave with awe in his eyes.

Yammi splashes Demo, then everyone else as they all let loose. This is what an adventure is all about.

DEMO

I ain't never been in water so clean.

Bing just floats, in awe.

BING

Why do you think it glows?

EVARADO

Why why why. Learn a new letter, man.

Yammi splashes her brother. He splashes her back, nonchalant.

They all start splashing at each-other. Kids having fun.

PRE-LAP the sound of a spray can RATTLING -

INT. WATER CAVERN - LATER

- as Bing SPRAY PAINTS on the cave floor.

Evarado, Demo and Yammi all paint nearby. Evarado's tagging his name. Demo's playing around with a design. Yammi's trying to figure out what to paint.

But Bing's painting is a **MAP OF THE CAVES**.

At the top: FRANKIE'S STORE - below that, the BASEMENT TUNNEL - feeding into the DARK CHIMNEY - then the BLACK CAVES filled with tar, which narrow until the drop - into the WATER CAVERN. A straight shot into the Earth.

BING

Okay. From the tunnel, we dropped down into the tar caves, then squeezed through that fuckin' hole, and now we're here.

(beat)

I've been checking the compass as we've been moving and we're still dead on-target, meaning the Olympic Tunnel should be not too far from here if we can find a way to access it. We might have dropped a little low, but if we keep moving *that way*-

- He gestures to the dark corner of the cavern -

BING (CONT'D)
 - we should hit the main tunnel.
 Guys, I can't believe it but... I
 think this is gonna work.

ACROSS THE LAKE:

Javi's tar-covered foot sticks to the ground.

Pulling his waterlogged joint, he tries to dry it with his lighter, but it only SPARKS.

EVARADO
(calling across)
 Hear that Javi? You see anything
 over there, tunnel or some shit?

JAVI
 Yeah. Maybe...

Those sparks are enough - he sees something out of the corner of his eye. He peers into the dark, hears something.

Almost... a clacking.

Getting closer, he sees a JAGGED PATH, carved in the rock.

Another CLACKING from the dark to the right. He pockets the joint and creeps forward to find:

A CIRCULAR TUNNEL. Like a secret entrance.

Grinning, Javi moves closer, investigating the hole... and part of the rock MOVES.

BACK AT THE GRAFFITI MAP:

The four turn around when they hear Javi's SCREAM.

BING
 Javi!?!

They race over. Bing pulls the flashlight out of a ziploc bag (to keep it dry). Turns it on, shines the light -

Javi isn't there.

What they do see: the Jagged Path, leading out of the cavern.

DEMO
Javier?

- he yells into the thin opening.

EVARADO
Shit, he was just here. Must have
went ahead. Stoner.

BING
We shouldn't split up.

EVARADO
You got a better idea?

Evarado shakes his flashlight until it LIGHTS UP.

EVARADO (CONT'D)
Come on. Guess we gotta catch up.

And he heads into the opening, the other three following.
Darkness fills the large cavern, their light growing small.
Behind them, Javi's tar covered shoe sticks to the floor...
beneath the unseen circular tunnel.

INT. ACCESS TUNNEL - NIGHT

Laura sits alone, the music in her earbuds drowning out all
other sounds.

She doesn't hear the tremor, she feels it. Pauses her
music... waits...

... and feels it again.

She shoots to her feet, rushing into:

INT. DETONATED CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Noah and Calloway are hurriedly packing up the remaining
explosives when she comes around the corner. Misty has
disappeared into the fissure.

LAURA
Did you feel it?

Her father just nods. Lifting his duffel, he takes her arm -

Suddenly: the ground shifts beneath their feet. Between them
and the tunnel exit, gravel DROPS from the ceiling.

The quake is getting STRONGER.

CALLOWAY

The ceiling's coming down! We have
to get out of -

Which is when a DUST CLOUD hits them. The only sound is the
tunnel's entrance COLLAPSING, LOCKING them inside.

Noah doesn't stop moving - pulling his daughter into the
FISSURE. They hold onto Misty's rope for dear life.

When she realizes where they are, she panics -

NOAH

Right, now, listen. Keep hold of
this guide rope. Don't let go.
Don't look down. I'll be right
behind you.

LAURA

What's happeni -

NOAH

- The tunnel is collapsing. Keep
moving forward. You can do it.

His calm helps her lock it down. She heads into the crack -

INT. THE FISSURE - CONTINUOUS

Misty HOLDS ON as the earth shakes. Below her: one hell of a
drop.

The rocks around Misty suddenly PINCH, almost crushing her -
so she lunges THROUGH a gap, into the dark beyond.

Laura and Noah move past a moment later, gripping the rope
for their lives -

Which leaves Calloway bringing up the rear as the tunnel
collapses. He realizes what's happening -

- and freezes.

Around him, the fissure is SNAPPING SHUT. He tries to move
but is frozen with fear - oh God, this is it for him -

Misty's arm comes out of nowhere.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Misty YANKS Calloway back, the two tumbling backward as the
fissure FILLS WITH RUBBLE.

The earthquake stops. The sudden quiet's like a thunderclap.
The dust settles. Misty pulls herself up, nothing broken.

MISTY
Calloway? Are you -

CALLOWAY
Here. I'm f... fine.

He's not. Misty clicks on her flashlight... blood is running down Calloway's face as he lifts himself from the wreckage.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
Seriously, it's okay. I'm okay.

She takes a towel from her pack and starts to wipe the blood.

MISTY
We need to get you to a hospital.

CALLOWAY
I have a feeling that might be tricky.

Laura shines her flashlight - their worst fears are realized.

The fissure behind them is completely collapsed.

LAURA
... dad?

NOAH
It's okay. This is okay.

Calloway rests his hand against the stone, lost in thought. Then... he notices it.

CALLOWAY
Noah...
(beat)
Look at the rock. Right here,
what's it look like?

LAURA
Like we're fucking doomed?

Noah peers at the stone.

NOAH
Like it's been... jackhammered. But we never sent crews down here, we were waiting for the demo.

CALLOWAY

I'm telling you, something down here isn't right. We need to get back up to the surface and warn Devin before he does something to make it worse.

NOAH

Too bad they ain't built the exits yet.

CALLOWAY

There're LADOT workers stationed at the drill. That's about two miles in. Now, we're on the nose end, so we'll have to hope they've got men on both sides. He'll have first aid, a radio, and an exit. We'll take some readings and get the heck out of here.

(beat)

If we start walking, we'll be out of here by midnight. Trust me, this is under control.

The camera PULLS BACK, leaving them alone.

Pushes DEEPER INTO THE TUNNEL.

Unfinished, barely lit, there's a long stretch of nothing, two miles of it. A long walk ahead of them to the drill.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - THE DRILL, BACK SIDE

Dust fills the air as two shapes slowly rise to their feet.

LADOT WORKER #1

Oh shit.

LADOT WORKER #2

God damn, you alright?

LADOT WORKERS #1 and #2 are in their mid twenties - the youngest guys get the crappiest assignments. On his knees, #1 he pulls his left leg from the rubble with a wince -

LADOT WORKER #2 (CONT'D)

Oh hell, man. Pretty sure your leg shouldn't bend that way.

LADOT WORKER #1

No shit.

He lifts the lamp so he can see: The back of THE DRILL is massive, and it seems like the stone collapsed all around it, effectively sealing the tunnel.

LADOT WORKER #2
Looks like the train's still
intact, but I'm pretty sure that
shoved us off-axis.

#1 takes the radio from #2's belt, lifts it to his mouth.

LADOT WORKER #1
Reggie, we got a problem down here
man, the tunnel is totally...

That isn't a radio - it's his PSP.

LADOT WORKER #2
Seriously? Alone in the dark and
you save the video games.?

LADOT WORKER #1
(wincing)
Well, you know me. Priorities.

CRACK. They both freeze. CRACK. #2 shines his light.

CRACK. The wall of the tunnel SPLITS. #2 leans closer...

A spike BURSTS from the cracked wall, SPEARING the man in the shoulder. He's pulled forward, his face BASHING against the stone, then falls back, dazed and bleeding. Unconscious.

#1's eyes go wide as the MONSTER steps from the stone.

A long **LEG** covered in a **Craggy Carapace** leads to a **SEGMENTED TORSO** protected by the same thick shell. Five other legs unfold as it enters the tunnel. The size of a SMALL HORSE, the creature is a wolf and a spider, covered in stone.

Since every hyper-dense, heavy footfall makes a loud stone clacking sound, we will call these creatures **CLACKERS**.

LADOT WORKER #1 (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Steve, man, please you gotta get -

The Clacker POUNCES on the fallen Worker #2, burying its face in the man's fleshy stomach. Covered in shadow, #1 can't see what's happening... But he can hear the CRUNCH.

Which is when the PSP suddenly JINGLES as it powers up -

The Clacker turns, focusing on #1 with its TERRIFYING ARRAY OF WHITE MEMBRANES. *They may look like eyes, but they're actually EARS - vision by echolocation.*

LADOT WORKER #1 (CONT'D)
 (knowing he's dead)
 ... no...

The Clacker POUNCES, piercing the guard's hand and leg.

The creature's face UNFOLDS. What was once a slab of rock reveals a MASSIVE, FLESHY MAW of feelers and teeth - like a predatory nightmare version of the star-nosed mole - leading to concentric circles of SHREDDING TEETH.

The terrible WHIRRING ROAR begins. As the worker screams, the Clacker's mouth wraps around his arm - and as it SUCKS IN -

CRACK. CRACK. CRACK.

Every bone in the arm is shattered, the pieces sucked out as the arm is FILLETED. The beast consumes the bone, but leaves the flesh behind like a disposed candy bar wrapper.

As his SCREAMS ring out, the Clacker reaches out with its feelers, wrapping his CHEST, pulling him into its MAW -

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - FRESH DUG AREA

Misty's flashlight SWINGS across the dark tunnel. Peering.

Calloway keeps his eyes forward. The makeshift bandage on his head is a dark red - almost black.

BEHIND THEM:

Laura leads Noah. She's faster on purpose.

NOAH
 Laurie, honey -

LAURA
 Laura, please.

NOAH
 Laura. There's a drill just a couple miles up ahead.

LAURA
 I heard you guys before.

Noah frowns. He's just trying to talk to her.

NOAH

I'm sorry about the drop. But hey,
least you get to see my office!

That makes Laura smile.

LAURA

Could use a few windows.

NOAH

Well, you know me. Always liked the
shade.

LAURA

What'd you used to say? "Can't
discover a sunken city of gold if
you're sitting in the sun".

NOAH

You know I'm not gonna let anything
happen to you, right?

Which stops Laura's smile in it's tracks. She turns -

LAURA

That line worked when I was ten -

- Suddenly, the tunnel SHAKES. Slightly, then a little worse.

UP AHEAD:

Misty waves everyone forward to her.

MISTY

Quake! Get in! C'mon, c'mon!

And everyone does - circling Misty and each using the other
to protect the whole. A little debris tumbles around them -

- but the tunnel holds. The small quake settles. Laura turns
to her father.

LAURA

Just... stop lying to me, okay?

And she walks ahead of him, leaving Noah behind.

Meanwhile, Misty settles into a pace next to Calloway.

MISTY

They doing more demolitions, you
think?

CALLOWAY

No. We didn't have anything scheduled. Whatever we started, it's created some kind of... seismic cascade effect.

MISTY

Jesus. You think maybe you caused the Big One?

CALLOWAY

I hope not. I really hope not.

MISTY

Oh, man. I was kidding.

Calloway reaches into his bag and pulls a piece of strange machinery. He waves it in the air, watching the LCD readout.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Quake detector?

CALLOWAY

Methane. Richter counters are a lot bigger.

(beat)

That's the thing. If we cracked into a fault, it's not one we've ever found before. Plus, there's no unusual levels here - and trust me, there would be.

MISTY

Meaning what? If those quakes aren't seismic and they aren't your boys... what's causing 'em?

As they all disappear into the dark distance of the tunnel -

CALLOWAY

... I don't know.

INT. JAGGED PATH - LATER

As Demo helps Yammi up the tight JAGGED PATH leading back to the WATER CAVERN. Evarado shines his light into the new section of tunnel.

The way is tall and thin, a crack in the granite, now filled with loose gravel and scree.

EVARADO

Yo! Javi! You down here, man!?

Evarado's voice echoes in the dark.

DEMO

Maybe he didn't come this way. He's a smart kid, he probably wandered into a dead end and doubled back. I bet he's gonna be waiting back in the shop, blazing one up.

YAMMI

... or he kept moving forward.

EVARADO

He's either forward or back and we ain't going back, not yet.

He moves deeper into the tight space, the scree loose under his feet. Yammi follows, but Demo holds Bing back.

DEMO

You know, I knew this kid once. Kinda shitty on a bike, but even worse with paint, know what I mean? Dude wrote his essays in tag, it was gross. We're out at Sunken City dropping some color and he decides he didn't bring the right can. Walks right up behind 'Rado and snags his red. Uses half the spray before the big man notices. I don't even think he was planning on using it, you know, but when he saw this kid had his shit, he practically shoved him off the cliff. Kid broke his leg. Told his parents he fell. Week later he transferred out.

BING

Why are you telling me this?

Demo nods towards Yammi. The girl disappears into the dark.

DEMO

You really that thick, panda?

UP AHEAD:

The four move through this tight space, everything uneven.

Suddenly, Yammi SCREAMS. The rest turn - she's frozen in place, looking up.

EVARADO

Yammi, you okay?

YAMMI

No.

Above her head is a sight that freezes them in their tracks -
Corpses. Rotten, long buried corpses. Caskets ripped open
from underneath. The remains dangle. Disturbed and gross...

BING

Whoa. We must be under a graveyard.

EVARADO

Fuck, Demo!

He crosses himself as they all jump back - Demo is lifting a
fallen arm.

BING

... that's... really gross, dude.

DEMO

Please. You should see my sister in
the morning.

He spins the arm around, showing the raggedy end.

DEMO (CONT'D)

Look at this, yo. What's it look
like?

YAMMI

Like it's been... chewed.

EVARADO

Hey *Shaun of the Dead*, put it down!

He calls from further up ahead.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

We found the tunnel!

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - FRESHLY CONSTRUCTED

The four walk out into the newly dug Olympic. They made it.

The opening they step from is surrounded by shattered stone,
an obvious product of the earthquakes.

Bing FIRES his flare - painting the tunnel with red light.

Bending down, Evarado picks something off the ground - a
ruined joint. He smells it -

EVARADO
- Romulan Deluxe. Javi's strain.

BING
Javi doesn't leave his pot.

EVARADO
You think he'd get this far and not
push for the drill? Bread crumbs,
pendejo.

And he keeps walking.

Bing really doesn't like his tone, scowling.

Only Yammi notices the CIRCULAR TUNNEL in the rock behind
them. Just like the unnoticed one in the Water Cavern.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - THE DRILL, BACK SIDE

Rounding the corner, the kids lay eyes on:

THE DRILL TRAIN. The huge mechanism stretches a hundred feet
into the dark. A huge long stretch of conveyer belts and
storage tanks, hydraulics and counter-weights. Like a train,
but the engine car at the front is a mighty drill nearly
sixty feet in diameter, looming in the far distance.

It's impressive - the kids can't help but stare.

EVARADO
There she is. That's the big bitch
that's taking our houses.

DEMO
(to Bing)
You sure this water thing'll work?

Bing unzips his bag, revealing the jug of water. It's tiny,
but he's confident.

BING
Science doesn't break, Demo. That's
why it's science.

DEMO
Ugh, don't quote Mr. McCallister,
it makes you sound like a tool.

BING
Whatever man. What'd you get, a D?

Bing takes the jug of water out of his bag, smiling.

BING (CONT'D)
This is some A+ shit right here.

Evarado GRABS the jug of water.

EVARADO
Let's get this over with.

Bing is left in the dust. Yammi runs after Evarado.

YAMMI
'rado, that's Bing's -

EVARADO
My plan, my rules. No big, Yammi.

YAMMI
Hey, yes it is big, I -

DEMO
Guys.

The kids all turn.

DEMO (CONT'D)
This is great, but that drill
closes the tunnel. No more tunnel
after that, right? Least not that's
easy to get to.
(beat)
So where the hell is Javi?

Suddenly, the room starts to SHAKE. Slight, THEN MORE -

The kids all run to the walls - Bing goes immediately for Yammi. She huddles against him...

After a moment, the shaking stops. In the quiet -

A faraway SCREAM.

All eyes go to the source - a SIDE-TUNNEL in the wall.
Flashlights land - it's big enough for a person.

DEMO (CONT'D)
Um. Where'd that come from?

BING
It was always here. Look, that's
rock. It can't be fresh.

YAMMI
I saw one like it back near where
we came in.

Another SCREAM. Definitely from the hole. Evarado calls in:

EVARADO
Hey, Javi!? **JAVI?!**

Nothing.

DEMO
Dude, if he's in there -

YAMMI
Why would he be in there!?

DEMO
We can't just **leave** him!

EVARADO
Dude, I'm here for the drill.

BING
I'll go.

All heads turn, once again.

YAMMI
What?

BING
You're always tellin' me how small I am, 'Rado. I can get down there, it's fine. If Javi's in there he hasn't gone far.

Bing goes for the tunnel.

EVARADO
No. Hang back.

BING
You want to stop me? Stop me.

Nope. Bing crawls into the tunnel, with a last look at Yammi.

EVARADO
Whatever man. I'm here for the drill.

Evarado heads for the drill's engine. Demo turns, worried.

But Yammi's eyes don't leave the tunnel.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - THE DRILL, FRONT SIDE.

We're now on the other side of the Drill - no train, just the front of the massive BORING DRILL towering above them. Made to carve an imposing perfect circle in the blasted rock tunnels, it's been SHIFTED, and now points vaguely DOWNWARD. Calloway's shines his light on the surrounding rubble -

There is no way past.

CALLOWAY

Where the hell are the guards?
There should be someone here.

MISTY

This plan is looking a little
bleak, Ted. There's no way to the
other side of the drill.

CALLOWAY

And no people means no exits.

Calloway stops. Thinks.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

... shit.

A quick QUAKE. Slight. The group is getting used to these.

Noah and Laura catch up.

NOAH

Where're the guys?

MISTY

There are no guys.

NOAH

Course there ain't. Engine's on the
other side.

CALLOWAY

The quakes dislodged all this
rubble. Otherwise we could just
walk on past.

Laura grabs Noah's flashlight and begins searching the walls.

LAURA

So what you're saying is we don't
have a way out.

CALLOWAY

That's not what I'm -

MISTY

It is. It's the truth.

NOAH

I could try and blow up the drill.

MISTY

You'd collapse the tunnel.
Guaranteed.

CALLOWAY

Does anyone have cell phone receipt -

LAURA

Uh, what about this?

All eyes turn. Laura's pointing her light at a SIDE-TUNNEL,
dug into the rock.

NOAH

The hell is that?

Noah approaches. Looks at it carefully - the rock is cut
CLEAR THROUGH - a perfect tunnel.

NOAH (CONT'D)

I don't know anything that cuts a
tunnel like this.

CALLOWAY

You're saying we didn't make that?
Looks like it could be an access
route to the other side.

NOAH

I'm saying that if we did make
this, I'd be curious to see what we
used.

Misty drops her bag and begins re-tying her shoes. She's
prepping. Laura notices -

LAURA

Hey, what're you doing?

MISTY

Going down that tunnel. I'm doing
checks before I do.

LAURA

Can I come with you?

MISTY

I think you all should.

She passes Noah on the way to the tunnel.

NOAH
Yeah, and why's that?

Misty stares him down. Gestures to the drill.

MISTY
Cause unless you figure out a way
to move that giant motherfucker,
it's the only way out.

Hm. Calloway doesn't like it.

CALLOWAY
Fine. But I go in first. You're my
responsibility.

MISTY
Bullshit.

CALLOWAY
This is my job. Get my back.

And he climbs in. Misty follows. Laura smiles and pushes past Noah, climbing in after her.

LAURA
Hell yes. I'm right behind you.

Noah tries to stop her -

NOAH
Laura, stop, c'mon -

But she's in. It's over. So he's in too. As he struggles into the cramped tunnel, he calls up to Calloway:

NOAH (CONT'D)
I don't think I much like that girl
of yours!

Calloway, shines his flashlight into the darkness.

CALLOWAY
Too bad. I think I might have a
crush.

Misty grins behind him. They leave the Olympic Tunnel behind.

INT. SIDE-TUNNEL - BING'S SIDE

Bing crawls through the space, a flashlight held in front of him. The rock is tight, but it's getting wider.

He PULLS himself through, peering into the darkness ahead.

BING
Hello!? Javi??

An echo. Then a sound - MUFFLED.

BING (CONT'D)
Javi, I'm coming man.

And he pushes forward.

INT. SIDE-TUNNEL - CALLOWAY'S SIDE

Calloway leads the four through the tunnel. Then stops.

CALLOWAY
Hold on, guys.

MISTY
Shh. Listen.

They do. And they can hear a DISTANT HOWL.

CALLOWAY
There's something in here with us.

LAURA
There's something in here with us??

NOAH
It's just the rock, honey, nothing
to worry about.

CALLOWAY
I'll scout ahead. Stay here.

Misty LIGHTS A FLARE - handing it to Calloway. He and advances, holding the flare in front of him as he expertly pushes her way through the rock tunnel ahead.

Slowly, Calloway makes his way up the tunnel. The others fade into the background. Deeper and deeper.

Until Calloway is alone. And the cry in the darkness has become a SCURRY. Almost a CLACKING.

His eyes go wide. Slows his pace.

Calloway's breaths kick up dust. Something's in the black.
 The darkness ahead is still. Then, about twenty feet away -
BING HUANG stares back.

BING
 Uh, hi. Who are you?

Calloway stares back, confused -

- when a MOAN echoes out between them. WEEPING.

It's coming from a CREVICE, deep and wide, that goes STRAIGHT
 DOWN between the two halves of the side-tunnel.

BING (CONT'D)
 Javi!?

Stuck into a twist in the crevice - it's Javi, pale and
 bruised, bleeding from a dozen wounds...

He's alive, but he doesn't respond.

BING (CONT'D)
 Javi, I got you!

CALLOWAY
 Hey, what's going on? Where did you
come from?

Bing doesn't miss a beat.

BING
 That way. Look mister, my friend
 needs help -

Calloway gets it. He turns back to Misty, shouting -

CALLOWAY
Misty! We need help here!

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - THE DRILL, BACK SIDE

Evarado and Demo climb along the drill, searching.

EVARADO
 I got nothing looks like a gas
 tank, you?

DEMO
 Nope. Got a lot of rocks, though.
 Hope Bing's okay.

Demo gets to the top of the drill and looks back at the tunnel. He looks really scared.

DEMO (CONT'D)

First Javi. Now Bing. None of this feels right.

EVARADO

I'm with you. We wait ten minutes. He don't come back, he can find his own way out.

YAMMI

We are not leaving Bing here. Or Javi.

Below, Yammi COMMANDS Evarado's attention. He turns, glaring.

EVARADO

You telling me what to do, Yamilet?

YAMMI

You can go, I don't give a crap, 'rado. Like you got all this other important shit to do while your friends are down here. Whatever.

(beat)

But I'm staying with Bing.

Her eyes are locked on his. He can't leave his sister.

INT. SIDE-TUNNEL - THE CREVICE

Bing reaches for his friend, but he can't... quite...

JAVI

B... Bing? You.... can't be here...

Misty pushes forward past Calloway.

MISTY

Get the others to safety. I can handle this with the kid's help.

CALLOWAY

I'm not leaving.

MISTY

You said those people were your responsibility, right? This tunnel isn't as stable as we thought. You gotta get them out now.

CALLOWAY

Alright. Okay.
 (back at Noah and Laura)
 Follow me.

LAURA

I want to stay.

Noah turns back to his daughter.

NOAH

Absolutely not -

LAURA

You don't get to order me around,
 Noah. It's not your decision.

MISTY

I could use a little help. I'll
 take care of her, man, just **go!**

Noah and Calloway shuffle past into the darkness.

Misty STABS one of her camming devices into the rock - and the end EXPANDS, locking the device in place. Misty slips a grip through it - now she's got a rope through the grip. She's built a pulley in less than a minute.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Kid, I'm gonna need you to make
 sure that rope gets to your friend.

Bing looks at her, nods. He reaches slowly into the crevice, getting a good footing and taking hold of the rope.

BING

Grab the rope, Javi.

JAVI

They're... it left me...

BING

Javi, you gotta grab the rope.

Bing sees the cuts and bruises. The terror in Javi's eyes.

Finally, Javi grabs the rope.

BING (CONT'D)

There we go. Right on. Now hold on.

Misty looks back at Laura.

MISTY

This is where I need you to pull.
On my mark. Got me?

LAURA

Your mark. Totally got it.

When suddenly - a SHAKE in the tunnel. Javi looks down -

And below him, a CLACKING SOUND begins to ROCK the chasm.
Like whirling metal blades crossed with a scream.

JAVI

No. No **no NOOOO** -

Misty turns back.

MISTY

Alright, here we go, people - three
- two - one -

They PULL. The rope SLIPS between Javi's fingers. Javi holds
on - Bing sees nothing but terror in his eyes.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Again! Three, two, one!

And they PULL. Javi catches his hand on a rock and LIFTS
himself up. Bing grabs his other hand. They're almost out.

But the CLACKING is getting closer, coming from below -

JAVI

Bing? Get them out -

And a STONE SPIKE slams through his chest -

PULLING him into the darkness. **Javi is GONE - fast and hard.**

Bing is STUNNED. Laura is STUNNED. Misty doesn't blink.

MISTY

Move.

And they do.

Misty unclamps the camming device and lets the rope drop,
SCURRYING towards the tunnel as Javi's LAST SCREAM echoes
through the black.

Laura SCREAMS as she crawls down the tunnel. The CLACKING is
JUST BEHIND HER, Bing just ahead.

In front, Misty crawls as fast as her hands and knees can -

She doesn't see a thin crack in the floor - her arm goes down to the elbow, and with her momentum -

Her shoulder DISLOCATES - Misty cries out.

LAURA

We gotta keep moving!

Bing scrambles, pulling the wounded Misty towards the exit.

Laura is just behind them -

When the thin tunnel is rocked by a TREMOR -

Rocks collapse around her, in front of her.

The way is blocked. Laura is caught in here alone.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Oh God!

Clack. All alone in the dark.

Clack. She's almost too terrified to turn on her flashlight.

With shaking hands, she turns it on...

The Clacker is 10 feet from her. Her first good look.

Light reflects off it's 'eyes', stone skin blending in with the tunnel. It's head SPLITS OPEN, the tendrils of its maw reaching out, tasting the air. One leg lifts and CLACKS down.

She FLINCHES - it finds her.

Laura can't even scream.

Suddenly, the stone behind her CLATTERS LOOSE.

CALLOWAY

Your hand, Laura, your hand!

She reaches back, and Calloway GRIPS her hand, PULLING -

The tight space would be too small for anyone larger. As it is, Laura skin is scrapped raw, the Clacking growing LOUDER-

Just her legs are still behind her - she SCREAMS -

LAURA

- It's on my foot! OH MY GOD IT'S
ON MY -

The clacking is DEAFENING as Laura SCREAMS -

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - DRILL, BACK SIDE

Evarado pulls a FOLDING KNIFE on Noah. The scream echoes.

EVARADO

What did you do with our friend?

NOAH

The one we found or the one that found us?

YAMMI

Wait, Javi's alive?

She and Demo stand nearby, their flashlights trained on Noah. We're coming into this conflict *in media res*.

NOAH

Look, kids, what do you think you're doing down here?

EVARADO

I'm asking the questions!

Misty tumbles from the hole, collapsing in a gasping heap.

The boys just stare.

YAMMI

Hey, jerks, help her!

Demo is moving, dropping to his knees, helping Misty onto her-

MISTY

Ow. My shoulder is dislocated -

DEMO

- I'm gonna put it back in -

MISTY

- Wait, *what?*

DEMO

It's cool, miss. I ride.

Demo POPS her shoulder back into place. After the shock - Misty realizes he actually did a good job. Her arm's okay.

BING (O.S.)

Guys!

Bing crawls from the hole, followed by Calloway and Laura -

NOAH

Laura!

He rushes to her, just as he realizes something is wrong; her foot's been MAULED. Yammi almost throws up.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Let's make some space!

Calloway is last out, helping lay Laura on the stone floor.

LAURA

I'm okay, I'm okay. Look, my toes
can move -

Through gritted teeth. Her leg has been sliced - but as Noah wipes the blood, it's clear: she still has her bones.

Misty drags herself over, pulling glue and gauze from a small duffel on her hip.

MISTY

My back-up kit is limited, but
these should help.

LAURA

You're gonna what, super glue my
leg back together?

MISTY

And wrap the rest.
(beat; *softly*)
You know, they'll never admit it,
but guys like cool lookin' scars.

LAURA

No offense, but right now I don't
give a shit what guys like.

Laura leans back, wincing. Noah gets it, and steps away while Misty gets to work.

Across the tunnel, Calloway holds the BLOODY PSP.

Intrigued, Noah joins his friend.

Calloway is looking at the BLOODY PUDDLE on the ground. Shreds of flesh. Chunks of meat. An LADOT BADGE in the filth. TWO BODIES, completely eviscerated.

Calloway looks pale. When Noah walks over, he RETCHES.

EVARADO

Hey, dude, we found it like that.

CALLOWAY

Not it. Them.

Noah wipes his mouth, and checks the badge. He dry heaves.

NOAH

Holy shit. This was Jeff. Jeff the
'just nights guy'.

(beat)

Which means this other guy was
Steeverino. Oh, man...

Noah watches his friend's face. Anger and guilt in equal measure. Calloway's taking this hard.

ACROSS THE TUNNEL:

Bing stares back at the side-tunnel. Yammi approaches him.

YAMMI

Bing... where's Javi?

Bing can't say it. She reaches out for Bing's hand.

YAMMI (CONT'D)

The old man said he was alive. But
he's not with you. I know you
wouldn't leave him... so Bing,
please, tell me. Where's Javi?

Bing doesn't answer. Yammi follows his eyes to the tunnel.

Yammi and Demo look sucker-punched; 'Rado goes cold.

YAMMI (CONT'D)

Was it... was it whatever did that
to her foot?

BING

Yeah. I think.

A quiet settles, everyone feeling the weight of the situation. Calloway lifts the bloody PSP.

CALLOWAY

Is this the only thing you found?
No radio?

The kids shake their heads.

MISTY

How exactly did you kids get down
here?

BING

Tunnels. Caverns. All the way back,
we think they were caused by the
big quake. It gets tight. I don't
know if you'd all fit.

CALLOWAY

Then we just have to head for the
nearest access shaft. Should be
about two more miles up the line,
just before Sepulveda.

(beat)

My name's... Theo Calloway. This
Misty, Noah, and Laura.

YAMMI

Yammi, Demo, Evarado -

EVARADO

- *nunca darse su nombre!* -

YAMMI

They're our *friends*.

EVARADO

We don't know that.

BING

I'm Bing.

Bing reaches out a hand to shake Calloway's. He takes it.

Laura watches them from the floor, blood already soaking
through her bandages.

LAURA

So, we've got a bunch of kids,
another two miles of tunnel, and
some kinda animal down here that
thinks people are super tasty.

A beat. No one argues.

LAURA (CONT'D)

... Don't suppose anybody's got a
joint?

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - LATER

Feet trudge over the stone. A collection of flashlights play
over the partially-constructed tunnel. They've left the drill
train far in the distance.

The group has spread out, paring off in the large space.

IN THE MIDDLE:

Demo and Bing walk together.

DEMO

So, it's a monster? I mean, they weren't mutant rats, or alligators -

BING

I don't know what it was. Just heard the sound. Like a... clacking, right?

(beat)

But, I think it was like dog size. And I remember that time you kicked that dog's ass.

DEMO

It was coming for my people.

UP AHEAD:

Yammi falls into step next to Calloway. Misty walks ahead of them both, on point. Calloway's flashlight has a lantern option - the weak beam creates a small pool of light.

Yammi speaks up, apropos of nothing.

YAMMI

My Mom? She always leaves a light on for me. I always thought is was dumb, because there are kidnapppers and killers and weirdos out there that are way the hell more scary then just the dark.

She looks terrified. Calloway pulls an extra MAGLIGHT from his belt and hands it over to her. She pockets the dinky flashlight she'd been holding.

CALLOWAY

We're gonna get out of here.

Yammi nods - and clutches the solid light with all her might.

AT THE BACK OF THE CROWD:

Evarado walks with Laura. They pass a joint back and forth. Javi's joint. Laura's foot has been bandaged, blood seeping through; every step is a wince.

EVARADO

Your old man gonna make it? He as tough as you?

Laura looks at him. Indicates Demo.

LAURA

What about your friend? He as tough as you?

In front of them, Demo is definitely nervous.

EVARADO

Nah.

Laura smiles... just as Noah finds them. Evarado exhales.

NOAH

Hey.

Evarado rolls his eyes, striding off.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Hold on there, kid.

He opens his hand, palm up. 'Rado hands over the joint. Whatever.

Noah holds it, looking at his daughter, he raises it -

And takes a drag.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question about... what you saw? It's just, we have a better chance of getting out of here if we have all the details - I mean, we're *getting out* of here, but details would be -

LAURA

- What's the question?

NOAH

What did it look like?

A beat. Conversation in the tunnel stops. Everyone gathers.

LAURA

Scary. Covered in rock... like it was prehistoric. And no, it wasn't a fucking lizard man.

NOAH

I never said it was. City's digging some new holes in a part of town that isn't stable. Tectonic pressure builds up, dynamite gets blown...

LAURA

It couldn't see me though. I mean, I shined a light in its face, it didn't flinch. But when I made a noise...

CALLOWAY

Echo-location.

YAMMI

Echo what?

DEMO

Echo-location, girl. It's like when you can see with sound. Like Daredevil.

BING

Or like a bat. Or a shrew.

Demo gives him a look.

BING (CONT'D)

Biology, man.

YAMMI

So you're saying that thing's a bat?

LAURA

Yeah. Like a 400 pound tunnel digging cave bat that rips your bones from your skin.

That sits for a second.

EVARADO

Got any more biology for us, Bing?

Demo smirks - but Bing is thinking.

BING

The bones. If this thing's from deep down, there isn't any plants or mice down there, just lava and shit. So they'd need minerals. Like calcium.

YAMMI

How much bones would something that
big need to eat?

DEMO

More than we got.

Evarado puts his hand up, like he's in class.

EVARADO

So these clackers come up some
hole, start eating humans, think
they're tasty and decide to stay?

NOAH

Well, bone marrow *is* delicious.

(beat)

Beef marrow, not human marrow, I
wouldn't know about that.

(beat)

But no. I don't think... there's
this old police report -

LAURA

- oh fuck, here we go -

NOAH

1941. Two days after a 6.5 rocked
the basin. Massive damage to the
city, including damage to the red
line, which was still being built.

DEMO

Oh shit old man, you're talkin'
'bout the Murdoc Report!

NOAH

I. How do you... are you on the
boards?

DEMO

Fixy4Lyfe.

NOAH

Silvermaniac666.

EVARADO

Nerds.

DEMO

Murdoc was a cop. See, there was
this massive police action.

(MORE)

DEMO (CONT'D)

Dozens of police, full Untouchables
shit, went down into the Red Line
to bust up some drug running mother
fuckers. But one guy's report said
different.

NOAH

"Scales like smooth pebbles. Teeth
like nails. A cornered beast that
couldn't scream."

LAURA

What happened?

NOAH

According to Murdoc? It killed
eight men before they Tommy-gunned
it to death.

Demo begins to sit, exhausted and overwhelmed -

YAMMI

I'm starting to root for mutant
rats.

MISTY (O.S.)

Everyone, keep an eye on your feet.

- and he stands back up, seeing what Misty sees.

Misty runs her light over the tunnel, which shows a ton of
earthquake damage. They all take care to step around the
rubble and rebar, avoiding the larger cracks in the wall.

Calloway steps up to her, not looking to start a panic.

MISTY (CONT'D)

This place isn't even close to safe
anymore.

CALLOWAY

Yeah, well, we're running out of
options.

MISTY

Then we should pick it up. This
tunnel could collapse in a second
and we wouldn't know 'till it was
on top of us.

Calloway turns to the rest of the line. In a booming voice -

CALLOWAY

Only about another mile, people!
Let's hold it together!

They all begin to walk again. Yammi gives Calloway a look.

YAMMI

You should act, you have a real
commanding stage presence.

Misty SNICKERS. Calloway takes the heckling.

CALLOWAY

You should hear my lecture on
shifting strata and aquifer
development, it wows people right
to sleep.

EVARADO

I'd like to hear that lecture, man.

Evarado joins them at the front of the line.

CALLOWAY

You would?

EVARADO

Oh hell yeah. I'm all about hearing
you LADOT assholes talk shit out
your faces.

YAMMI

'Rado -

EVARADO

I remember you, man. At the
demolition.

(beat)

This shit's your fault.

The accusation is heavy, and hangs in the air.

BEHIND THEM:

Laura missteps, her hurt foot betraying her -

Noah catches her as she stumbles. She shakes him off and
starts jogging again, wincing with every other step.

NOAH

You should know better then to run
on that foot. I'll carry you -

Noah grabs her arm. Laura flinches like she's been slapped.

LAURA
 Why should I let you help me, when
I don't know you.

She's intense, but quiet; what she has to say in only meant for one set of ears.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 (beat)
 You weren't there for me, not ever. When I got straight A's you weren't there to hug me. When Bobby Devlin stood me up at prom, you weren't there to kick his ass. All I had was Nana, and all she ever did was cry. And now you want to pretend I'm your little girl? I'm not. You aren't my dad. You never were. Stop pretending.

That really hits Noah. She moves off, a painful shuffle.

UP AHEAD:

CALLOWAY
 - Look, it wouldn't be safe for your homes to be built over the tunnel, they're not up to code -

EVARADO
Not up to code?
 (beat)
 Who decided where the tunnel should go? Why not under Hollywood Blvd, or Beverly Hills?

CALLOWAY
 Because they don't make as much sense geologically -

EVARADO
 So my family gets evicted. They're clearing us out like we're weeds in the grass, so rich white folks can go from the Staples Center to the beach for a picnic.
 (beat)
 No wait. *They're* not doing that.
 (beat)
 You are.

The tension in the tunnel is palpable.

BEHIND THEM:

Noah grabs his daughters arm.

NOAH

Do you remember that road trip
across the state?

She pulls away from him and keeps walking. So he keeps up.

LAURA

We hitchhiked. That's not a
roadtrip, Noah. It was terrible.

NOAH

It was.

(beat)

A week on the road and we finally
made it to your Grandma's. I called
it a road trip, but you're right,
it wasn't. I'd lost my job. Your
mom's medical bills had wiped out
our savings. We hitchhiked, because
I couldn't even afford the gas.

This isn't the story she remembers.

LAURA

(beat)

I... didn't know.

NOAH

I couldn't tell you.

(beat)

I wasn't strong enough to tell you.

(beat)

This? It's different. I can't hide
it from you. But I can tell you
that we're in it together. You're
my baby girl, maybe the only thing
that turned out right in my entire
life. You don't think you know me?
I understand. But know this - I
will do anything to keep safe.

For once, Laura doesn't pull away from his touch.

UP AHEAD:

It's getting heated.

CALLOWAY

I tried to stop this. I knew it was
unsafe -

EVARADO

Wait, you knew and you didn't do
shit?

CALLOWAY

I tried. Ask Noah, for days I've
been doing everything in my power
to stop this thing from -

Evarado CLOCKS HIM, all his hate in one punch. Sends Calloway
STUMBLING against the wall.

EVARADO

That's your problem. We've been
trying to wreck this drill for
three months, asshole.

BING

'Rado, you've got to shut this
down.

EVARADO

He's taking your house too! Your
mother's house, your brother's
house -

BING

Right now he's just bleeding on the
floor!

CALLOWAY

I don't want to fight you, kid.

EVARADO

My name's *Evarado*.

Bing steps in his way - and 'Rado slugs him IN THE CHEST -
- and is PULLED back by Yammi, showing surprising strength.

YAMMI

Evarado who? Not Alvarez. My
brother's a thug, but he's not a
bully. He doesn't smack his friends
and he doesn't beat up old gringos.

She bends down to Bing, helps him up. He sucks air in through
his teeth, totally winded. There's a connection there, and
for the first time, Evarado catches it.

Tense silence...

And then a CLACK. All flashlights turn behind the group.

CALLOWAY
Everyone hear that?

DEMO
I don't see it.

MISTY
Remember what Laura said? It sees
you without eyes.

CALLOWAY
(to Evarado)
I think we're gonna have to table
this discussion.

Suddenly, RIGHT NEXT TO THEM -

The stone wall SHATTERS, and a CLACKER pulls itself free -

Everyone SCREAMS, the creature almost GRABBING Yammi as it
pulls itself from the tunnel -

No one needs to be told twice, and they TAKE OFF RUNNING.

LEADING THE PACK, the fastest by far, is Demo, fully gripped
by panic. Bing and Yammi race behind him.

AT THE BACK, ignoring the pain in her bloody foot, Laura runs
as fast as she can, and makes the mistake of looking back -

In the wildly flailing light of her flashlight, she sees them-

Not just one, but a HALF DOZEN creatures, maybe more -
crawling on the floor, the ceiling, the walls -

LAURA
There's more than one.
(Yelling)
There's more than one of them!

CALLOWAY
The access tunnel is just up ahead!

Feet pounding, flashlights waving, the sounds of the clackers
behind them GROWS LOUDER, filling the tunnel.

With every stride, every gasp of breath: Clackers get closer.

Up ahead, Calloway's light plays against the curving stone of
the wall. There's caution tape, leftover debris...

... and A BARRED DOOR, padlocked with heavy chain.

Demo doesn't even hesitate, THROWING himself against the bars. He goes to do it again - and Evarado JOINS HIM, adding his weight.

It doesn't budge. They can see the LADDER, disappearing into the dark above them -

But they can't get to it.

EVARADO

Fucking *chingada puta* cocksuckers-

LAURA

HELLO? Can anyone hear us!?!
Please, help!!!

MISTY

Calloway, you have your keys. Use the keys!

Calloway's world is falling apart around him.

CALLOWAY

They didn't make it out of the fissure collapse.

MISTY

What?

CALLOWAY

Noah, I need explosives and I need them now -

The clacking ROARS like a ROLLING AVALANCHE... and is suddenly quiet. Everyone stops. Dead still.

NOAH

If we don't move, they can't find us. So, nobody move.

YAMMI

I don't think that's a long term option.

NOAH

If I can just set a charge -

CALLOWAY

No. We can't clear the explosion. It'd kill us.

BING

There's another option. The way we came in isn't fifty feet further.

LAURA
You mean over there?

Between them and the JAGGED PATH...

More Clackers. The rest of the pack has joined up. Not knowing where the humans are, these Clackers shift from side to side, trying to 'see' their prey in the darkness.

Noah hands his knife to Laura. She takes it, standing a little straighter.

Calloway finds a piece of rebar sticking out of the rubble; he pulls it free and holds it like a club.

EVARADO
Demo, do you want to die here?

DEMO
Hell no.

EVARADO
Does anyone else?

No one says anything. Calloway gazes into the dark.

CALLOWAY
You say fifty feet past them?

Bing nods.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
(beat)
Okay. We push to the left. Make for the hole. On my mark.

Clack.

The Clacker in front POUNDS the stone, searching...

Clack.

The creatures start to shift, zeroing in...

Clack.

As one, the Clacker's lock on their targets, their "eyes" making contact. Iridescent, red and gold. Scattered across the darkness, like drops of blood.

A SEA OF CLACKERS, waiting in the dark.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)
Run!

The Clackers STRIKE.

Lights waving wildly, it's hard to see what happens next.

A Clacker SLAMS into Demo, catching him low and LIFTING, its stocky legs extending UPWARDS, GRINDING the screaming Demo against the tunnel wall -

Another comes at Misty, but she's just a moment faster, rolling over it like the hood of a car.

Evarado turns, brandishing his knife with a BELLOW, bringing it up and INTO the underside of the Clacker pinning Demo -

The creature TWITCHES - dropping its prey.

It LASHES out with one of its back legs, kicking Evarado - who FLIES across the tunnel.

UP AHEAD:

Yammi and Bing have made it to the opening to the Jagged Path - the CRACK that leads to their Water Cavern - but they both see their friends laying in the dirt.

YAMMI

'rado!

BING

- Yam, wait! -

But she's too fast, rushing back towards her brother.

Bing doesn't follow - he quickly opens up his BACKPACK, pulling free the FLARE GUN KIT.

BEHIND THEM, IN THE DARK:

The Clacker turns back towards the groggy, bleeding Demo -

Calloway catches the monster, moving full speed. He uses his rebar like a lance, putting all his weight behind it -

The monster's skin CRACKS - the Rebar SLIDES DEEP -

Calloway takes a fall, sliding - but as more Clackers advance, he pulls his rebar free.

BLACK ICHOR erupts from the creature, a high-pressure burst of black blood. It TWITCHES WILDLY, almost screaming -

Misty is suddenly there, helping Demo to his feet.

FURTHER BACK:

Noah and Laura have fallen behind. THREE CLACKERS have blocked their path, cutting the two off from the others.

LAURA
We have to run -

NOAH
Can't always run Laura.

LAURA
Dad!

AHEAD:

Yammi grabs Evarado, trying to lift him to his feet. Blood runs down the side of his face.

A Clacker appears out of the dark, FAST - YAMMI CRINGES -
- Out of the DARKNESS, a FLARE fired by Bing COLLIDES with the creature's mouth; it LURCHES.

Then Calloway is there, helping Yammi drag her brother.

AT THE JAGGED PATH ENTRANCE:

Bing is RELOADING the plastic gun with a SECOND FLARE. Misty appears, dragging Demo as they disappear into the crevice.

Bing snaps the chamber shut. Takes aim. FIRES.

BEHIND THEM:

Noah SCREAMS OUT into the dark as he's attacked by a Clacker -

And the flare COLLIDES with one of the creature's faces, brightly burning slag scattering across its "eyes" -

NOAH
Now!

He and his daughter race towards the Jagged Path.

AT THE JAGGED PATH ENTRANCE:

Evarado finally wakes up enough to stagger to safety. Yammi grabs' Bing's hand, pulling him, but he resists -

CALLOWAY
Go!

Bing gives in. Calloway sees Noah and Laura running towards their escape, moments from safety.

Noah trips.

By the time Laura realizes, she's already at the crevice -

While Noah THROWS HIMSELF back to his feet -

A single CLACKER LEG reaches from the darkness -

- and STABS HIM THROUGH THE SIDE.

Laura and Noah lock eyes -

With a casual underhand toss, he THROWS his bag to her, even as she LUNGES FORWARD -

Calloway GRABS HER, but she THRASHES.

NOAH

I'm sorry.

One last look between them as Calloway DRAGS HER BACKWARDS, into the Jagged Path. Noah drops with a SQUELCH.

We're left alone in the dark with Noah. A single Clacker in his line of sight - but we can HEAR many more in the tunnel surrounding him.

In his free hand, one last stick of explosive.

From his coat he pulls a BUTANE LIGHTER.

He looks back. He can just see the crevice - and it's empty. They made it. He's all alone.

He turns back to the Clackers, a slight smile on his face as he LIGHTS the flame.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Sulfur. Diatoms. Nitrogen Oxide.
You guys know what those taste
like?

A Clacker CHARGES HIM, coming out of the dark -

Its front legs pierce Noah's guts. He exhales...

NOAH (CONT'D)

We call it **dynamite**.

The Clacker's mandibles rip into Noah's chest, getting a grip on his rib cage... and PULLING.

But Noah's lighter BLISTERS THE RED EXPLOSIVE -

INT. ESCAPE CREVICE - CONTINUOUS

The EXPLOSION KNOCKS everyone off their feet, DUST and FLAME BURSTING BEHIND THEM -

The tunnel becomes BLACKNESS, the roar of the blast obliterating all other sounds.

The tumble of rocks.

SCREAMING. A man, Demo, maybe Bing.

Sobbing, a woman gasping for air.

DEMO (O.S.)
Are we alive?

MISTY (O.S.)
Ted? Laura?

CALLOWAY
Call me... Theo...

EVARADO (O.S.)
Yamilet!?!

YAMMI
(coughing)
'Rado, I'm here. I'm okay. Bing -

A flashlight snaps on. Yammi, getting his bearings. She sees her brother pulls himself to his feet -

And Bing's arm sticking from the rubble.

Rushing to him she drops to her knees, HURLING the rocks away-

His other arm was protecting his face. Bing's bleeding...

But he's alive. He gives her a weak grin.

She kisses him. Young love, better than any hospital.

YAMMI (CONT'D)
Now get yourself up.

Bing pushes his way to his feet, relatively undamaged. Yammi locks eyes with her brother - he saw everything.

Misty LIGHTS a flare, the red, smoky light filling the ruined space. Behind them, the way has been entirely blocked.

Laura isn't moving.

MISTY

Laura?

Misty drops to her side, lifting her head. There's no blood. Laura's eyes are open, but she just stares.

CALLOWAY

She's okay.

Laura might be physically fine, but she and Calloway have the same look on their face: traumatic shock.

LAURA

Did... did he...

Suddenly, a HUGE CLACKING SOUND FROM BEHIND THEM. Many Clackers, TEARING through the cave-in.

LAURA (CONT'D)

OH GOD.

EVARADO

Demo! Lead us out!

DEMO

You got it.

CALLOWAY

Let's go, everyone, we gotta **move!**

He doesn't have to give Laura any motivation - she sprints.

MISTY

Kids, stay close!

They all begin to RUN down the tunnel. Evarado, however, waits for Bing. He GRABS him as he passes.

EVARADO

Hey.

BING

Let go of me, 'rado -

And he PUNCHES Bing. Bing recoils, against the wall -

- But Evarado just reaches his hand to help Bing up.

BING (CONT'D)

What the hell?

EVARADO

There's more where that came from
if you hurt her, you hear me?

BING

Yeah. I do.

EVARADO

Then c'mon. She'd kill me if I let you die.

And he helps Bing up, turning and running ahead. Bing stays for a second, then takes up the rear.

Behind them, the rocks begin to SHAKE.

INT. SHATTERED FISSURE - LATER

The rock passage is thin, the spine of the crevice above their heads. It has slowed them down - no more running, just hurried steps in the dark.

Demo pulls himself along with abandon. Misty is catching up -

MISTY

Demo.

DEMO

That's *Demonstration* to you, ma'am.

MISTY

Kid, cave diving is my life, and if you don't slow up, I'm telling you, you're gonna kill yourself.

Demo doesn't slow. He knows better than that.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Alright, what are you walking on?

DEMO

Freedom road.

MISTY

Look down.

He does, slowing. The uneven ground SHIFTS around his feet.

MISTY (CONT'D)

It's not rock, it's scree. Dirt and rubble. Sand. And I'd bet that this fissure we're in goes -

Demo's next step sees him DROP, SINKING into the gravel.

Misty doesn't hesitate - she throws herself forward, wedging herself in the crevice, stabbing a SPIKED CRAMPON into the crack above her head. She can now HANG from the ceiling -

- and reaches out, GRABBING Demo's hand.

Bing and Yammi appear, stepping out of the dark -

MISTY (CONT'D)

Stay back!

She STRAINS - pulling Demo out of the rock. The gravel below them DRAINS into a deeper fissure. Plugging itself up.

Misty slowly lowers Demo back down and he carefully puts his weight back on the ground beneath him. It holds.

She drops down, giving Bing and Yammi the 'okay' to advance.

MISTY (CONT'D)

If you don't mind, I'm going to go first for a while.

She literally has to squeeze past Demo to get to the front - He's a bit in awe, following after her.

DEMO

Yeah, whatever you say.

BEHIND THEM:

Misty, Calloway and Laura. Laura STUMBLES -

And Calloway catches her.

CALLOWAY

He said it a lot but it didn't mean it wasn't true.

LAURA

What?

CALLOWAY

I'm going to keep you safe. That's what he did back there.

LAURA

I don't want to talk about it.

So they walk in silence. She puts an arm around Calloway. He helps her along the road - his face filled with purpose.

AT THE BACK OF THE PACK:

Yammi, Evarado, and Bing. Silence - until Evarado starts talking quietly to himself.

EVARADO

Javi liked to smoke. He took me up to a church rooftop once, off Alexandria. Awesome view of the city, good herb, and then we see this bird. A seagull. What the fuck, what's a seagull doing here, we're nowhere near the beach. We bullshit, talk about how this seagull has been hustlin' the streets, he's got to get that fish, take it back to his old lady and all his little chicks, that're all fucking *chirp chirp chirp*.

At this point Bing and Yammi have noticed. Calloway, ahead of them both, has also begun to listen in.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

And then Javi got real quiet. Eyes got all wet, like he was about to start crying.

(beat)

He was really sad. All that papa seagull wanted was to get back to his family. Javi was crying for the loneliest seagull in the world.

Calloway stops, turning back to Evarado.

CALLOWAY

I'm very sorry. He sounds like an awesome kid. Guess I would have liked him.

Evarado wipes his eyes.

EVARADO

Yeah, I bet. But he didn't know the one thing you gotta learn down here.

CALLOWAY

What's that?

EVARADO

You want to save this girl?

CALLOWAY

Of course.

EVARADO

You can't.
 (beat)
 That's her job.

Laura stares at him - she really heard that.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

You want to help us? You want to
 bring a smile to my *abuela's* face,
 save my family? Maybe tomorrow's
 paper reads "Olympic Line Canceled:
 Unsafe tunnels cause Lead
 Designer's death."

(beat)

You want to help us? Have the next
 person you kill be yourself.

Before Calloway can respond -

Laura SLAPS Evarado's face. Hard.

Evarado backs up. He didn't come to start trouble with her.

LAURA

(quietly)
 My father didn't build unsafe
 tunnels...

And she continues down the way. Calloway follows, shaken.

CALLOWAY

Keep up. We have to keep moving.

INT. JAGGED PATH - LATER

Now leading the group, Misty moves from rock to rock. The way
 has gotten uneven - and she freezes. A ROTTEN ARM sticks from
 the stone. They're back under the graveyard.

Now that she's looking, she can see multiple limbs wedged
 from every direction. But behind her, faint CLACKING.

Misty's flashlight plays against the end of the crevice - the
 way NARROWS down to a tight point. Behind her -

DEMO

I can go first.

BING

I can go first.

They both have caught up.

MISTY

No. This one's mine.

She says it with a smile, easy confidence. The kids grin.

Misty disappears into the hole, head first.

INSIDE THE CREVICE:

Misty moves with quiet determination. The ground is that same loose scree, for now staying even. The way is barely wide enough for her to crawl through.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Tour guide. That's what I should be doing. Art is a fool's game, tour guiding's where the real money is -

The tunnel SHAKES.

DEMO (O.S.)

Misty?

MISTY

I'm okay. Just, everyone stay -

It's a SHORT TERMOR, but Misty is kneeling on rubble -

In seconds, she's GONE. The earth shakes the thin tunnel like box of rocks, everything pulled DOWNWARDS by gravity.

DEMO

MISTY!?

INT. WATER CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Misty FALLS out of the wall, SLAMMING against the ground.

The loose rock pours out of the fissure, covering her.

Misty is on her back. Blood runs from her broken nose.

From her POV: the ceiling is rippled with the reflection of the iridescently blue water. She can only hear RINGING, and the ROAR of the stone... like the crashing waves...

Her eyes close.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. WATER CAVERN - MOMENTS LATER

The cave is filled with water, but for the small shore.

YAMMI (O.S.)
She's still alive.

Demo kneels at Misty's body. Bing watches from nearby, while Yammi holds the woman's wrist between two fingers.

DEMO
We have to move her, there's no
time.

Evarado steps out of the fissure, assessing the situation.

EVARADO
At least get the rocks off her
chest.

He steps up, lifting some of the larger debris off her. He grabs a large rock, wedged in place. As he pulls it free -

Misty SCREAMS, her eyes snapping open - she spits up blood.

Finally revealed is her right leg - CRACKED between two massive rocks.

Misty start to hyperventilate. She can't speak.

Calloway is there. He doesn't touch her.

CALLOWAY
Stay still. Don't say anything,
you're going to be all right.

Through clenched teeth, the blood draining from her face -

MISTY
Even I know that's bullshit.

CALLOWAY
This is gonna hurt.

MISTY
It already does.

He grips her leg by the thigh -

EVARADO
- Wait, what are you doing? -

Calloway PULLS Misty's leg from the ROCK, the skin ripping. Her SCREAM pierces the cavern -

Misty's leg lays on the stone, free but ruined. Broken in two places, bloody, she sucks air through her teeth.

MISTY

Okay. Okay. We gotta move quickly,
and you've gotta get me out of
here. Is there a way?

Bing points to the ceiling - way up there: the hole the teens dropped down from. The "leap from the lion's head".

MISTY (CONT'D)

So we swim. And then climb.

BING

And then shimmy through tar pits.

EVARADO

Then up. Maybe... eighty feet.

DEMO

More like a hundred.

Misty looks at her leg. No way she's clearing that.

CALLOWAY

So we'll pull Misty up on a rope.
(beat)
We're not gonna leave her.

MISTY

Oh good, talking about me like I'm
already dead.

EVARADO

Cause you probably are.

Evarado squares his shoulders. He gestures towards Laura.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

That old man was a tough son of a
bitch. He fuckin' loved this girl.
And he dead.

(to Misty)

Ma'am, you're fuckin' street as
Hell. But I don't know you. Me and
mine? We learned long ago that when
you keep yourself safe, no one
needs to save your ass.

DEMO

How it's always been.

EVARADO

We got to be strong. People still need us.

(to Yammi)

We got to get *home*.

LAURA

We all get home or none of us do.

Laura steps forward. Pale.

EVARADO

Miss, you know I wish it wasn't true -

LAURA

I'm serious. My dad didn't... he didn't *die* back there so you could leave us in this fucking cave.

(beat)

He died... saving my life. Saving all, of our lives.

Bing and Yammi in particular hear her.

YAMMI

We're not leaving anyone.

BING

Misty, we're gonna get you out.

LAURA

(quietly)

You're not listening. We carry her. We drag her. All that way out. How many feet behind us are the Clackers? How many minutes? And where do we end up?

EVARADO

... Tio Frankie's Market.

LAURA

And how long does he last with a dozen monsters ripping him apart? Longer than my dad?

And she chokes up, her jaws snapping shut. Her fists clench, weeping and furious.

BING

She's right. We show them the way up, the vibrations from the street'll be like a dinner bell.

DEMO

So. We leave and kill our families.
Or sit quietly and die.

(beat)

Really wish we hadn't smoked that
joint.

The silence hangs over them. Funereal.

Calloway's eyes fall to the PAINTED MAP on the floor...

CALLOWAY

There's a third option.

DEMO

Thank fuck.

CALLOWAY

It's... crazy.

MISTY

Crazy works for me.

CALLOWAY

You got any more paint, kid?

Bing hands him the last can.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

The front of the drill is trapped
under a cave in, bent off its axis,
pointing down. We all saw it. We
also saw the crack where your
friend -

(beat)

- where Javi -

(beat)

- was dragged. Beneath the cave-in.

He's sketched all this out in profile.

The long tunnel, leading to Bing's Map. In the middle of the
tunnel, bisecting it: the DRILL, now pointed downwards by
about 45 degrees. Directly towards a deep crack - the fault
from his charts, which heads straight down into the earth.

BING

If we can widen that crack...

EVARADO

... the drill will drop. And we'll
still be waiting to die.

MISTY

Not if it's on.

(beat)

We detonate everything in Noah's bag within that lower crevice. It opens up the crack, dragging the drill down -

BING

- Vibrations from the drill attract the Clackers. Bigger better dinner bell.

CALLOWAY

And they follow it downwards as it burrows through the unstable bedrock that defines this region -

DEMO

- straight to Hell.

CALLOWAY

Or home, if Laura's right.

Beat.

DEMO

Well. I fuckin' love this plan.

No one notices the RIPPLES in the water.

EVARADO

Demo, come on.

DEMO

The Clackers are diggin' everywhere 'Rado. Even if we stay, even if they eat us down here, eventually man, they'll run out of bones. They're like dogs man, they gotta eat. You think they don't eventually find their way up? This way, they go back where they came from. Even if we're not safe, our streets are. That's our hood, man. That's the whole ballgame.

Calloway is binding Misty's CLIMBING PICK to her mangled leg.

CALLOWAY

What do you think?

She WINCES as he tightens the brace.

MISTY

I think it's insane. But that's not why it won't work. See, problem is, the way we came from is collapsed. There's no way back into the drill, even if we wanted to go back.

YAMMI (O.S.)

There is.

They all turn. She's standing over something stuck to the rock. Bing shines his light - it's Javi's shoe.

And above it -

The entrance to the small, CIRCULAR TUNNEL.

YAMMI (CONT'D)

It drops into the Olympic. Just behind the drill.

EVARADO

Yammi, how could you -

YAMMI

I saw it, when we went up. Must've pulled Javi through but that means we can use it to get back into -

SPLASH. The Clacker BURSTS from the underground lake -

CRACK. Its thick leg SLAMS into Yammi's chest -

THROWING HER INTO THE WATER.

EVARADO

Yammi!!

DEMO

I got her, man!

Demo doesn't hesitate, taking a breath and DIVING.

Evarado turns on the dripping wet Clacker.

EVARADO

Come on, you fuck! Make a new friend! Let's go, you asshole!

(beat)

Come on!

It CHARGES.

UNDERWATER:

Demo holds his breath, searching. He sees Yammi - she's being dragged by the current like a ragdoll. Swimming hard, he powers closer to the girl -

ON THE SHORE:

The Clacker comes for Evarado. As it gets close, he comes up low and SMASHES it across the "eyes" with his maglight -

Calloway charges, staggering the beast from the side.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

Hey, I had it!

UNDERWATER:

Demo wraps his fingers around Yammi's arm - her eyes SNAP OPEN, and she SCREAMS -

- SHE'S DROWNING - Demo kicks up -

They both GASP as they surface. Pulling her in a lifeguard's swim, Demo drags her to shore.

ON THE SHORE:

The Clacker has vanished. The only sound is slapping water and panting breath.

CALLOWAY

Misty, now or never.

She nods, staggering towards the circular hole. Within moments, she's wiggled inside.

INT. CIRCULAR TUNNEL - INTERCUT

The way is incredibly tight, even for her. Creeping forward, she WINCES with every movement.

MISTY

Ted! You're next, shoulders first.

CALLOWAY

I told you to call me -

MISTY

Not the time, Ted!

BEHIND HER:

Bing looks at Calloway.

BING
You heard her big man, move!

EVARADO
We got this!

Calloway nods. Climbs into the tunnel, tailing Misty.

Demo helps Yammi to her feet, as she vomits water.

DEMO
Go. Both of you, go!

Bing climbs into the tunnel. With a look over his shoulder, Evarado follows. Yammi and Demo bring up the rear.

YAMMI
... thank you.

DEMO
Psh. Ain't no thing.

INT. CIRCULAR TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Yammi gets into the tunnel, Demo's the last in.

DEMO
Besides, if you die, who does my
calculus homework -

- He SCREAMS -

- The Clacker is at the mouth of the tunnel, mandibles SPREAD WIDE, its inner feelers spreading like terrifying anemone has they wrap around his foot. The WHIRL of the CLACKER TEETH creates a chaotic mess -

YAMMI
It's got Demo!

DEMO
Go! Fuck! *Chingado* fuck!

Bing stops, looking back -

- Evarado pushes at him. Tears on his face in the dark.

EVARADO
We can't stop!

Looking back, he shares a last look with the terrified Demo -

- who suddenly smiles, the coolest kid in the world. He kicks down at the creature with his free leg -

DEMO

This is for Javi, you lizard man
motherfucker!

He GRABS IT, holding on, and literally JABS his THUMBS into two of its many "EYES". Black blood SPURTS as it wraps its feelers around his chest -

Demo doesn't scream.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - LATER

The tunnel is dark, collapsed. Quiet. Silent. Terrifying.

Then a BANG. Another. ANOTHER.

The wall BURSTS open, and from the CIRCULAR TUNNEL EXIT fall our survivors: First Misty, supported by Calloway, Bing, Laura, all using flashlights. Finally, Evarado and Yammi.

Evarado can barely hold back his tears.

A quiet moment as Yammi stands, looking at her brother's sad eyes. She reaches to him and embraces him silently.

Meanwhile, Misty surveys the tunnel with Calloway. It's dark in both directions.

CALLOWAY

I don't hear anything.

MISTY

That doesn't mean much and you know it.

CALLOWAY

Still. Makes me feel better.

MISTY

... Whatever you gotta do, man. But stay prepared.

Calloway reaches down and picks up another stick of rebar. Holds it like a baseball bat. He's ready.

Bing points down the way.

BING

'bout ten minutes that way. We should get going.

MISTY

Don't let me stop you.

Bing takes the lead - and the others follow. Calloway hands over Misty to Laura, stays behind to walk with Evarado.

A silence... the two simply walking together. Evarado is starting to harden against the emotion.

CALLOWAY

I'm... you were... right.

Evarado doesn't say anything. Just keeps walking.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

I didn't think. About your houses.
I should have, but I didn't. You
were a map to me.

Nothing. Just keeps walking.

CALLOWAY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Evarado stops.

EVARADO

You're sorry.

CALLOWAY

Yeah. I am. And I'll do everything
I can to stop you kids from losing
your houses.

EVARADO

If you live.

CALLOWAY

Yeah. If I live.

EVARADO

Alright, man. Alright.

Evarado looks at him, kinda smiling.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

'cept none of us living through
this.

And Evarado walks away. Calloway takes a beat, grips the rebar with force. All his terror and his strength.

Calloway charges into the dark.

INT. OLYMPIC TUNNEL - DRILL, BACK SIDE

Flashlights reveal the drill train. It's been DESTROYED.

The cave-in and subsequent Clacker damage have cracked the drill train in a dozen places with huge rocks.

Calloway doesn't slow.

CALLOWAY

Come on, we have to get to the drill!

MISTY

If it still works...

CALLOWAY

If it doesn't, we're pretty screwed anyway.

Calloway runs ahead, through a crevice in the fallen rock. Misty follows.

INT. DRILL CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The drill is incredibly massive - and still intact, though pointing downwards. It's surrounded by fallen rock.

They step out into the cavern, onto a ledge in front of the dropped drill. The nose of the machine is buried in the rock.

MISTY

Hey. Drill's in one piece. That's lucky, right?

CALLOWAY

Luck is a matter of perspective. It's been torn from the drill control. We'll have to operate it manually.

LAURA

Define manually.

CALLOWAY

We have to run power, then connect it at the source. One of us will have to ride it down.

LAURA

Bad idea. Think of another one.

MISTY
I already have.

Eyes on Misty - who pulls her entire remaining coil of CLIMBING ROPE - and she's already put on a harness.

MISTY (CONT'D)
Two of us ride it down.

CALLOWAY
No way. Your leg is broken.

LAURA
You know, I thought you were cool
but I'm starting to think you're
actually just crazy.

Bing, Evarado, and Yammi all enter the cavern. Misty pulls a descender from her kit.

Unseen, Laura notices a SPARKING TUBE. A power conduit, torn but still running.

MISTY
We secure this to the ceiling with
a camming device. We take a spike,
put it in that wall.

She points behind them about thirty feet.

MISTY (CONT'D)
It's the last of my gear, but it'll
be enough to keep us tethered. I
can pull us up once the hole's deep
enough.

BING
Whoa, you're not going down with
the drill -

CALLOWAY
Agreed, you're not going down with -

MISTY
Hey!

Everyone stops.

MISTY (CONT'D)
My equipment. My life. My decision.
(to Calloway)
How else you plan on surviving?

He doesn't have an answer.

CALLOWAY
... We need to run power.

LAURA
Already on it.

Laura walks to the power conduit -

LAURA (CONT'D)
We're just lucking out today.

- and suddenly she's **PULLED INTO THE DARKNESS.**

CALLOWAY
Laura!!

EVARADO
Into the tunnel, go go go!

Yammi SPRINTS for the SIDE-TUNNEL - it's still there.

Calloway RUNS for the power supply while Misty CLIMBS, grabbing an outcropping above. Her leg is in huge pain, but she's managing with upper-body strength.

She CLAMPS the descender in place above her, running the rope through it. Perfect for leverage. She tests the strength -

- then DROPS. Her leg cracks sickeningly on landing.

Calloway grabs the power, runs for the drill.

With a last look, Evarado SHOVES Bing into the side-tunnel.

Misty SLAMS the spike into the rock nearby. She WINCES.

CALLOWAY
You alright?

MISTY
Gonna have to be.

In the distance... a growing CLACKING sound.

MISTY (CONT'D)
Tell me this is gonna work.

Calloway stares into the darkness. Steel in his eyes. A kind of gritty, determined confidence.

CALLOWAY
Well, we might die along the way...
(*half to himself*)
... But this is gonna work.

INT. DRILL CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The detonation SHAKES the entire cavern.

CALLOWAY

Please work.

He slams the cable into the receiving port on the drill. For a moment, nothing -

- a CLACKER appears from the ceiling above them -

- and the drill suddenly HUMS to life!

The rock beneath them COLLAPSES as the drill LURCHES forward into the ground. Calloway and Misty hang on for dear life.

Above them, the descender HOLDS, feeding her rope from the coil - which is still attached to the spike in the wall. A seemingly perfect system.

MISTY

Hold on! Here they come!!

Above them, the crashing room begins to FILL with CLACKERS.

INT. SIDE-TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

EVARADO

Yamilet, come on!

The whole tunnel is collapsing behind them - Yammi is crossing the hole to escape on the other end. Evarado reaches for her and takes her - leaving Bing.

But Bing keeps up, and they begin pushing through the collapsed tunnel. The collapse is just behind them - oh shit -

Suddenly, Bing is PULLED FORWARD - into -

INT. RUINED CHASM, WEST CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

The collapsed other side of the tunnel, where Laura and the adults first came from. Except it's no longer just a tunnel - they now stand on the western cliff of a massive CHASM. The drill cavern has shattered, leaving a huge gap in the tunnel.

Evarado drops Bing, looks out over the strange landscape.

Beneath them, the drill LOWERS, cracking this chasm in half and descending DEEP into the earth.

On the other side:

THE EAST CLIFF:

Misty's spike is placed, but it's beginning to RATTLE IN PLACE. Incoming CLACKERS.

The Clackers begin to clatter down in pursuit of the drill. Dozens of them. A FLOOD.

ON THE WEST CLIFF:

EVARADO

Yammi! Stay back!

She huddles with Bing while Evarado grabs a hunk of twisted debris, their only defense.

YAMMI

What's happening!?

EVARADO

The man was right. They're all coming for dinner. And I'm not letting 'em eat you.

From the darkness beyond him, CLACKING. They're coming from this ridge too. They're about to be in a flood of Clackers.

INT. DRILL CHASM - CONTINUOUS

Misty and Jon look up to see the incoming swarm of Clackers in the dark. They can feel it in the walls. They're nearly on top of the drill.

Their feet DROP OUT as the drill SMASHES through a huge shelf. Misty almost falls - but Calloway holds her steady.

He hands her the rebar. Smiles.

INT. RUINED CHASM, WEST CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Evarado readies his swing.

EVARADO

Ready!!

But Bing's eyes see it -

ON THE EAST CLIFF:

The Clacker flood has cleared - and the spike is now DISLODGED. Misty and Calloway are no longer tethered.

BING

'Rado! The line! The line, it got knocked out!

Evarado sees it too.

EVARADO

Nothing we can do.

BING

Bullshit. We can get it back in the wall, man, we just gotta climb -

EVARADO

No time. We gotta protect Yammi.

BING

We can. But we can't stay here.

EVARADO

You can go.

He realizes it.

EVARADO (CONT'D)

But I have to stay.

YAMMI

No, Evarado, NO -

Suddenly, a Clacker RUNS out of the darkness. Evarado SLAMS the metal against it - but he goes FLYING across the room.

EVARADO

GO! Save my sister or my ghost'll kill you, panda! This is my city!!

YAMMI

Evarado!

But Bing GRABS her and pulls her towards the cliff-face.

Evarado SLAMS against another Clacker. He's taking them down with his fists. Or trying anyway.

A Clacker goes for Yammi - and Evarado THROWS the metal like a spear, knocking it sideways. He's buying them time.

BING

Come on, Yammi. We have to climb.

She gets it. He LIFTS her up - looking back -
 - as Evarado gets a last glimpse of his baby sister.

Suddenly, a Clacker LEAPS above him and LANDS on top of Evarado. It's lips WRAP around his body and SUCK AWAY HIS BONES. He SCREAMS his final breath.

Bing turns away and leaps to climb after Yammi.

INT. DRILL CHASM - CONTINUOUS

CRASH - rock flies past Calloway's head -

MISTY

Hang on!

- as the drill FREEFALLS -

- For a moment, they both seem to FLOAT -

SLAM, the drill crashes into the next layer of bedrock. The WHIRL of the drill is DEAFENING -

Calloway looks up: the walls above them are CRAWLING WITH CLACKERS -

CALLOWAY

Misty!

And he SWINGS his rebar, practically taking off her head as he CRACKS a Clacker off their ride.

CRASH as the drill once again DROPS through the floor -

- drilling through the soft sandstone and shredding spar -

Misty pulls Calloway to the side just as a Clacker practically lands on him. The drill BUCKS and the creature is thrown free, plunging into the drill's process -

- it's RIPPED APART. Misty's tether line continues to unfurl behind her...

Dirt. Rock. Pain. Blood. Gravity. Clackers.

MISTY

Hooolllly shittttt we're gonna die!

But she's smiling. Calloway can't hear her - he smiles back.

INT. RUINED CHASM - EAST CLIFF

Bing lands against the east cliff of the chasm, pulling himself up and helping Yammi off the wall.

He steps to the loosened line - the coil is rapidly playing out. He lifts the spike to the wall but can't get it back in.

YAMMI
(small)
It doesn't work.

Fuck. However Misty had secured the line, it isn't going back the same -

CLACK. They both hear it. They turn.

CLACK. There's one left.

BING
... get behind me.

Yammi doesn't. She takes his hand.

Two small teens. One unfathomable monster. They don't close their eyes...

With a SCREAM, a piece of ruined metal SLAMS into the Clacker, taking the creature off its feet.

YAMMI
Laura!

The battered, bloody girl looks up - and every ounce of fear is gone. Where once there was shell-shock, now there is only GRIT. She races past, snatching the CAMMING SPIKE from Bing -

- SLAMMING the metal spike down into the clacker's mouth!

Again and AGAIN, every ounce of her strength going into each blow. She SCREAMS a guttural cry as black ichor SPRAYS OUT.

AGAIN. AGAIN. Again.

INT. DRILL CHASM - CONTINUOUS

Calloway struggles to keep the power running.

Above them, the Clackers SWARM. Misty holds onto the rope.

MISTY
Come on... come on...

INT. RUINED CHASM, EAST CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

The Clacker is dead. Laura's covered in its blood.

BING

How did you... I can't believe
you're...

Yammi pulls the rope on the cammer - which is stuck into the
Clacker. It doesn't budge - it's STUCK.

YAMMI

They need something to anchor this
in, right? Does this work? Bing,
they got to climb up still -

LAURA

No. They're not... climbing...

Her eyes roll back in her head, and she drops.

YAMMI

Bing?

He sees how close she is to losing herself to the raw
terror. And he gets an idea.

BING

She's right. They ain't climbing.
Help me!

And he throws himself against the dead Clacker, the rope
firmly lodged in its face. After a moment, Yammi helps -

They STRAIN - this thing is HEAVY AS FUCK -

Finally, they YELL together and PUSH as HARD AS POSSIBLE -

The Clacker TUMBLES over the East Cliff...

... PULLING THE ROPE down into the chasm!

INT. DRILL CHASM - CONTINUOUS

The rock closes in as the drill drops faster than ever.

Clackers are caught up in the debris, the entire world is
destruction and SHATTERING STONE -

Calloway and Misty are wrapped in each other's arms...

And they're suddenly weightless.

INT. MAGMA CATHEDRAL - MOMENTS LATER

The drill crashes through the ceiling, dropping...

... towards a sea of MOLTEN LAVA. An active flow, the glowing heat lights up Calloway and Misty's face.

Clackers fall next to them.

Rocks tumble.

This is the last thing they'll ever see, and it's beautiful -

YANK! Calloway grabs her just as Misty is PULLED UPWARDS.

DIRECTLY INTO THE FALLING CLACKERS.

INT. DRILL CHASM - MOMENTS LATER

The heavy dead Clacker drops downwards, pulling the rope -

- the rope races through the descender, creating a fulcrum -

- PULLING Misty upwards at incredible speed.

Calloway clings to her, KICKING at a falling Clacker, sending them SLAMMING against the side of the chasm.

Spinning and twisting, the two streak up - smashing and avoiding tumbling Clackers in equal measure - until they pass the last one, dead and pulling their rope.

Which is when Calloway realizes how close the ceiling is -

CALLOWAY

- We're going too fast!

MISTY

Don't let go!

And she stretches down, yanking free the CLIMBING PICK that splints her leg -

- Kicking off the side of the wall with a SCREAM -

As the ceiling RACES AT THEM, she SLASHES the rope, sending them FLYING THROUGH THE AIR -

INT. RUINED CHASM, WEST CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

- SLAM. Misty and Calloway TUMBLE over each other into the rubble, like a car accident without the cars.

Yammi stays with an unconscious Laura as Bing runs to them. They look BAD. Twisted.

Bing slaps Calloway's face. Again.

BING
Hey, man. You gotta wake up.

Again.

BING (CONT'D)
Come on. Please...

Misty is starting to come to, but Calloway's still out.

BING (CONT'D)
Come on...

Misty turns to him, barely conscious.

MISTY
Theo... Theo, wake up...

Suddenly, Calloway COUGHS. He's awake. He's alive.

He locks eyes with Misty... who PUSHES him slightly.

MISTY (CONT'D)
Told you it would work.

Calloway coughs... and tries not to laugh.

Below them, the endless hole begins to CAVE in. The Clackers are buried, once again.

Slow rise to MUSIC - as we slip into a final MONTAGE.

INT. WATER CAVERN - DARKNESS

Calloway and Misty support each other on the way out. Yammi and Bing carry Laura.

Yammi shares a look with Bing. Sadness... but she's glad he's there. She begins to cry.

INT. BLACK CAVES - DARKNESS

The party steps through the dark tar caves. Laura's face is haunted and barely conscious.

Calloway is filled with purpose. They're making it out.

INT. BASEMENT TUNNEL - DARKNESS

Light ahead. Misty manages a small smile.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BASEMENT - DAY

The bright day streams in - cutting rays of yellow LIGHT.

They each help one another out of the crevice, standing into the light. Yammi wipes away a tear. Cannot help but smile when she sees dust dancing in the light.

They stumble up the stairs...

INT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

... and out onto the streets of Los Angeles. Bright and dirty. Grimy and sunswept.

A PASSERBY looks at Calloway, nonplussed, walking by -
- he looks at the sun. Can't believe he's seeing it again.

Misty collapses to her knees - a GRANDMOTHER stops to help.

Bing CALLS FOR HELP - and a group of twenty-something run from their car to help hold Laura.

Yammi finds someone's cell-phone and dials 9-11.

Misty reaches up to take his hand. Calloway takes hers. A smile crosses his face.

Slowly, Calloway is surrounded by the slowly-growing horde of helping hands. Sirens in the distance. A community, rushing to their aide.

Suddenly...

... an EARTHQUAKE. Just a small one. A tremor. An aftershock.

Maybe.

Calloway looks at Misty.

Oh shit.

SLAM TO BLACK

THE END

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