

WORLD-BREAKER:
A fable

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- For Willa and Bear- the world isn't broken. It has you in it.

IN THE DARKNESS:

We hear labored breathing.

WE SEE IMAGES:

- An ornately decorated sword, sharpened to a fine point, cuts through the air

- Two enormous hands, calloused and red, grab a massive boulder. The force of the hands begin to crack it

- Flames shoot into the sky

- A small, schooner ship on storm-tossed seas- one bright lantern on the bow.

WE HEAR a SCREAM.

DAD
(in the darkness)
Shh shh shhh.... every thing is
fine. Every thing is-

WILLA
Dad? Daddy?

DAD
I'm here. I'm here.

WILLA
... light?

Nothing. Pause.

WILLA
Light?!

DAD grumbles, we hear him fumbling around in the dark and then flint meets steel, sparks fly and land on a small clump of moss.

The light, small and not very bright, illuminates the darkness. WE SEE

EXT. HOME CAVE - DEEP - MCCAFFREY ISLAND - THE FUTURE

We are in a small section of an enormous cave. The home is meticulously clean and organized, despite it's setting. Canned goods are stacked against the wall. A large banner hangs against the wall that reads simply "WE WON!" With a military insignia after the phrase.

(CONTINUED)

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Two dingy mattresses are on the floor, covered with various horse blankets of different shapes and sizes.

DAD, 40's clean shaven despite the dirt and grime that covers his face, walks with a pronounced limp, and WILLA, ten years old, bright blue eyes that light up everything, even in this darkness.

DAD
Dream?

Willa nods.

DAD
...Peaches?

Willa nods again.

Dad pulls out his small knife and begins to open a can of peaches.

WILLA
Night?

DAD looks around, he reaches out, feels the cave wall.

He shakes his head "no".

DAD
Not yet.

WILLA
How can you tell?

DAD
Too warm.

Willa nods.

DAD
You want to talk?

She shakes her head "no".

WILLA
Story?

He shakes his head.

WILLA
Dad!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD
Nightmares! I tell you and you run
with it. Your fear runs out of-

WILLA
Please.

He sits. Eats a slice of peach.

DAD
They're supposed to help you.
Fairy Tales. Tall tales. That's
all they-

WILLA
Please.

Dad nods.

DAD
Air-Piercer?

WILLA
No.

DAD
Moon crusher?

WILLA
The other one.

DAD
Sun-Eater?

WILLA
Sun-Eater.

DAD
Is that what you were dreaming
about-

WILLA
Sun. Eater.

DAD nods. He sits on his mattress. Breathes deeply. He reaches out, picking up a small wad of moss and rolling it in between his fingers.

He holds it near the fire and it bursts into flames.

From the flames, we see:

EXT. CARNIVAL TENT - BEACH - NIGHT

A large, red and white carnival tent sits on a rocky beach. The wind is strong, but whoever set up the tent has been doing it for years. It doesn't buckle.

Four large, African Elephants slowly emerge from the waves, seemingly coming straight out of the ocean.

The water slides down their hides into the sand as they approach the tent.

DAD (V.O.)

The carnival folk had always
accepted others as their own.

WE SEE a bearded lady, little people, a boy covered in fur, a little girl with scales and a forked tongue.

DAD (V.O.)

Being different, being... "outside
of" was the one thing they had
that binded them together.
Strong. Solid. Real.

The elephants approach the tent and slowly kneel down, prostrating themselves in front of it.

The assorted crowd also gathers around the entrance. We pull in slowly, through the tent entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. CIRCUS TENT - SAME

The trapeze wires have slipped out of their housings, the ropes swinging back and forth, creaking gently.

DAD (V.O.)

They met birth and death with open
arms. Most nights.

WE ZOOM in slowly to the center of the ring, as a pregnant mother lies in the center of the tent, surrounded by hay.

DAD (V.O.)

But this was all before. Before
the darkness. Before the waters
turned. Before the sky bled and
the Earth stood still.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Before time and God forgot us.
Before the World-Breaker.

Up on the trapeze platform, a CLOAKED FIGURE waves a large, black gloved hand in the air. It changes the air. The BIRTHING WOMAN screams out in pain.

EXT. CIRCUS TENT - SAME

The elephants and freaks watch the tent, expectant. A NEWBORN BABY WAILS and the tent erupts into flames.

DAD (V.O.)

And the Sun-Eater was born. Born into death. And Destruction. And Pain. And because this was all she knew this was all she loved. This was all the World-Breaker would let her know.

SUDDENLY, the elephants stand, and pull back to reveal a SOLDIER, riding a motorcycle, decked out in a mish-mash of military gear- desert fatigues, light body armor, motorcycle helmet. The coat of arms painted on the body armor on the knights chest is a bear fighting a serpent. AN ENORMOUS KODIAK BEAR accompanies the soldier, walking alongside the motorcycle.

DAD (V.O.)

But where there is evil, there is good. Where there is darkness, there is light.

The SOLDIER pulls out a sword and an old, battered police shield. Using the sword, the soldier begins to cut the ropes to the circus tent, causing it to collapse.

The assembled freaks watch as the tent falls and the soldier cuts the engine on the bike, dismounts, walking to the place where tent entrance was. The bear sniffs.

The Soldier braces and stands waiting.

DAD (V.O.)

And where there is the World Breaker, there is the brave knight... Kodiak.

A STREAM of flames shoot out of the entrance, right at the soldier who deflects the fire with the sword.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The CLOAKED FIGURE, AKA THE WORLD BREAKER glides out of the collapsed tent, holding a newborn baby in it's hand. The soldier stands. The KODIAK BEAR growls, rising on her enormous hind legs.

The WORLD BREAKER grows, expands in front of our eyes, but the soldier doesn't move, doesn't flinch. As the World Breaker attacks, moving swiftly towards the soldier, the soldier crouches down and then shoots up, slicing into the World Breaker with the sword. The World Breaker howls in pain and flees.

DAD (V.O.)

The soldier, growing weary of this war, had faced the World Breaker and not only survived... but triumphed. The World Breaker was injured and there would be no further battle this day. No more blood. No more fire. No more death. A reprieve. A moment.

WE ARE BACK in the cave.

WILLA

But the soldier didn't win.

DAD

Yes. The soldie-

WILLA

But the World Breaker is still-

DAD

There was no more fire that day. No more death.

WILLA

But the World Breaker is still out-

DAD

Willa-

WILLA

But we're not safe.

Dad lowers his head. He lies back down and covers himself with the blanket. He could try to reassure her, but she's too smart for it.

WILLA

Dad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD
Go to sleep.

WILLA
Dad!

DAD
No. No. We're not safe. Not
anymore.

Willa pulls the blanket around herself and stays sitting. This time, she'll stand guard over her father.

A beat.

WILLA
I like the bear.

DAD
It's a good bear. A friend.

WILLA
A pet?

DAD
A friend.

Willa stands and walks over to a small, wooden chest. She looks back at her father- his back still to her.

She slowly opens the chest.

WE SEE a small collection of items they hold dear- a few knives, forks, spoons, a weathered tennis ball, a sketch pad, and a picture- a yellowed, beat-up picture of WILLA'S MOTHER riding a horse in a bright, green forest.

Willa reaches out, her hands brushing her mother's hair in the picture. She holds it to her face and breathes in deeply.

Dad turns slightly, sees her with the picture. He frowns slightly, reaches over, and extinguishes the moss.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Willa and Dad slowly emerge from the entrance of the cave, quietly, stealthily. They crouch down near the entrance and Willa grabs a stone out of a large pile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She throws it down the cliff face and ducks back into the entrance.

They wait. Listening carefully.

Willa stands to exit the cave but her Dad grabs her. He shakes his head "no". He then points to his ear.

The sound of something huge and monstrous flying overhead can be heard- enormous wings beating against the sky, heavy, deep breathing, growling.

Willa crouches behind the rock. She closes her eyes.

SHE SEES the newborn baby, crying out as fire rips out of its mouth.

She opens her eyes again.

Her Dad has now exited the cave. She rushes after him, walking gingerly along the cliff face.

WILLA

Gone?

DAD

For now. They aren't nimble. It takes them awhile to turn around, to make another pass.

They stand and look out at the Pacific Ocean in front of them. It is dark, but the moon, although muted and not bright, reflects against the water.

They can see across the sound, to the Oregon Coast. Even from here, they can see the flames leaping into the sky. Whatever city was there is burning and has been for a long time.

Dad shakes his head and slowly slides down the rock embankment, to the forest below.

Willa stays, watching the flames reach into the sky.

WILLA

(whispering)

Sun-Eater.

She shakes her head, watches her Dad disappear into the trees and slides down after him.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND FOREST - A FEW MINUTES LATER

DAD is bending down, resetting a trap.

Willa bends down to look and sees a clump of gray fur.

WILLA
The wolf?

DAD
The wolf.

WILLA
He's fast.

DAD
Too fast. We're wasting food.

He stands.

DAD
I don't get it. He's fast, but
that's not...

WILLA
You could shoot him.

DAD
We only have two bullets.

WILLA
Then you'd have one.

Dad looks away, this next sentence is hard to say:

DAD
... we... need two.

He moves on to the next trap. Willa lets him get almost out of sight. She picks up a large stick and, when she's sure her Dad is out of earshot, comes down hard on the trap. It slams shut on the stick, snapping it into pieces. She smiles. This is her secret.

She reaches into her pocket, removes a few beans, and places them on the spent trap.

DAD (O.C.)
Willa?

WILLA
Coming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willa runs off after her father.

CUT TO:

EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dad picks green beans and peppers from the small, pathetic vegetable garden. He pushes hay out of the way, which obscures the crop from the air.

Willa joins him and starts picking.

Dad watches her, pulling the hair away from her face, determined. He looks at this little girl who has had to become a woman so soon. He starts to cry.

WILLA

Dad?

He quickly turns away.

DAD

M'fine.

Willa starts to say something but stops herself. She knows better.

They continue to pick.

CUT TO:

EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - LATER

Willa continues searching for something to pick, but the options are scarce.

DAD

Willa?

She looks up. Her Dad is sitting down. She goes over to him.

WILLA

What are you doing?

DAD

Sitting.

WILLA

I thought we had to pick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

We have time.

He pats the ground. Willa sits beside him.

Dad picks a few dead dandelions. He hands one to Willa. She looks at him puzzled. He blows the dandelion- the seeds fly into the air. From the ground, they float up, in front of the moon.

WILLA

Beautiful.

She blows her dandelion. Giggles. Dad pulls a small blade of grass, places it between his lips, and blows.

WILLA

Who taught you all this?

DAD

My dad.

Willa smiles.

WILLA

Why didn't you ever teach me?

DAD

... there wasn't time.

WILLA

But there is now?

DAD

... we'll make time.

He hugs her, reaches into his pocket and pulls out a perfect, ripe strawberry.

WILLA

What is-

DAD

Try it.

WILLA

Where did you-

DAD

Found it. Try it.

Willa smells it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLA
Split it?

DAD
No. I've had it before.

Willa hesitates.

DAD
Willa... be a kid for one minute.
Just enjoy it.

Willa nods, pops the strawberry in her mouth, closes her eyes.

WILLA
Mmmmmmm.

Dad laughs.

DAD
That good huh?

WILLA
Yes!

DAD
Life's little pleasures.

He puts his arm around Willa.

WE PULL BACK as they sit on the ground, blowing dandelion seeds into the moonlight, happy and content.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - LATER

Willa and Dad lay the contents of their pockets on a blanket.

DAD
We need meat.

WILLA
Maybe we'll catch something. In the traps.

He grunts.

DAD
Check the pails?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willa nods.

She exits the cave.

Dad waits for a long beat, looking up at the banner hanging on the cave wall.

DAD

"We won."

He shakes his head and begins pulling the veins out of the green beans.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Willa appears at the cave entrance and begins climbing, sure and swift, up the side of the cliff. Like a rock-climber, she uses her legs and swings up and over the outcroppings- confident, assured.

She reaches the first ledge, roughly forty feet above the sea (twenty feet above the cave entrance) and stops.

Two small children's sand toy buckets are tied to the ledge, filled with water.

She empties the water from the buckets into a small thermos strapped to her back and looks down at her descent.

She pauses, looking up at over sixty feet of sheer cliff above her. She looks back down, making sure her Dad isn't watching, pushes her foot out into a small crack, and swings out on to the cliff face.

She immediately realizes this was a bad idea. Above the first ledge, the cliff turns sheer- hand holds and footholds are relatively non-existent.

Willa gets about 10 feet up before she's stuck, unable to find hand holds to go up and unable to find her holds to get back down.

She swings her body out to the ledge and slips, sliding a few feet down the sheer face before she manages to stop herself.

She closes her eyes, breathes deeply and launches herself toward the ledge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She lands hard, bouncing and rolling against the wall. Her momentum is such that she bounces off the wall and slides off the small cliff.

WILLA

Ahh!

She closes her eyes, but is surprised to find that she isn't falling at all. She looks up to see the thermos, wrapped around her back, has stuck into a small crack in the rocks. Wedged in there, it's the only thing holding her up.

She reaches her hand out, steadying herself, trying to pull herself back on the ledge when she hears a familiar sound- the beating of enormous wings.

WE SEE what Willa sees- the ocean below her as she dangles precariously below the ledge. WE HEAR the wings get closer and closer and then the sound of a large animal landing on the very ledge Willa is dangling from.

Willa puts her hands over her mouth to hold her breath.

We hear the breathing of the creature, loud and intense.

Willa starts to cry, but digs her fingernails into her leg, stopping herself from making any noise.

The creature can be heard sniffing the air.

There is a long beat.

The creature flies off into the night.

The Thermos and string holding Willa up starts to loosen in the rock. She turns around, grabbing the ledge and, with all of her strength, hauls herself up, back on the ledge as the thermos rips from the string and plummets down the cliff face, far below, landing in the ocean.

Willa takes a deep breath, tries to steady her nerves. WE PULL BACK, leaving her alone on the ledge, watching the land burn, trying to get control of her breath, beginning to cry.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - LATER

Dad puts the cooked green beans and a few slices of pepper on each of the plates as Willa enters.

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CONTINUED:

DAD
You ok?

WILLA
Yeah. Fine.

The Dad looks at her empty hands.

DAD
Water?

WILLA
Empty.

DAD
Empty?

WILLA
Empty.

Dad nods.

DAD
Thermos?

Willa looks away.

DAD
Willa?

WILLA
Think I... must have left it up
there.

DAD
You have to be more careful.

She nods, unable to say more, unwilling to tell him she lost it.

She sits down. They work slowly, cutting the beans into small pieces, trying to make everything last just a little bit longer.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE - LATER

Dad braids Willa's hair as she stares at the picture of her mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA

Can you do it like she wears it?

Dad looks away. He can. But he just... can't.

DAD

I... no.

WILLA

That's ok. You do pretty good.

DAD

Thanks.

WILLA

Did she teach you this?

DAD

No.

WILLA

Then, how did you learn?

DAD

I... I had to. So I did. Like you.
Learning to hunt. To climb. To
survive.

WILLA

Does she have a picture of me?

DAD

An old one.

WILLA

How will she know? What I look
like now?

DAD

She'll know.

WILLA

She could pass me on the street
and-

DAD

She'll know.

Willa shrugs.

WILLA

I hope I don't change too much.
Before I see her. I hope I don't-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

Me too.

He finishes her hair. Kisses her head gently.

DAD

Me too.

FADE TO:

IN THE DARKNESS

We hear Willa breathing heavily again.

WE SEE IMAGES:

- An ornately decorated sword, sharpened to a fine point, cuts through the air

- Two enormous hands, calloused and red, grab a massive boulder. The force of the hands begin to crack it

- Flames shoot into the sky

- A small, schooner ship on storm tossed seas- one bright lantern on the bow.

WE ZOOM in on the SCHOONER and see THE SOLDIER wearing a motorcycle helmet at the helm of the boat, steering it up and over the waves.

Willa screams.

WILLA

Dad?!

Nothing.

WILLA

Dad, light!

Beat. Nothing again.

WILLA

Dad?

Finally, a spark flies through the air and ignites a small clump of moss.

DAD

Nightmare?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willa nods.

DAD

You ok?

WILLA

I... I want to go out.

DAD

It's light out.

WILLA

I need to get out of here.

DAD

It's not safe.

WILLA

We're not safe!!!! We're not!

Dad grabs Willa and holds her tightly.

WILLA

What's left?

DAD

Willa-

WILLA

What? What are we doing? What are we going to do? Grow old and die in this cave?

DAD

Willa-

WILLA

I can't... I can't do it!

DAD

We're waiting.

WILLA

Waiting for what!

DAD

Your mother.

WILLA

What if she's dead?

Dad immediately let's her go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

She's not.

WILLA

She went off to fight over four years ago! She's not coming-

DAD

She's not dead. I'd know.

WILLA

How could you-

DAD

I'd know!

He looks away. They don't say anything.

DAD

Can you sleep? Willa?

Willa sighs and collapses on her mattress.

DAD

She's not dead. And when they win... when they win she'll come to us. And we won't be alone.

Willa buries her head in her pillow.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - MUCH LATER

Willa listens to her Dad, gently snoring.

She reaches under her blanket and pulls out a small KODIAK BEAR STUFFED ANIMAL.

WILLA

Be. Brave.

She stands up in the dark cave and feels her way along the wall.

She stands in the long tunnel that leads to the outside world and looks back at her Dad.

She makes a decision and runs through the tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE ENTRANCE - SAME

Willa stops at the entrance to the cave, shielding her eyes from the sunlight.

She slowly moves forward, stepping a little closer with each step, until she is fully out in the sunlight.

She slowly opens her eyes.

The ocean looks beautiful- not the dark, foreboding place it is at night.

Willa smiles, still shielding her eyes, trying to get used to the sunlight.

She looks back at the cave, at the darkness, and then slips down the side of the cliff into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND FOREST - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Willa runs through the forest, her eyes adjusting to the light. She runs around the trees, picks flowers, watches butterflies and bees float among the weeds.

She's smiling, ecstatic. It's clearly been awhile since she was outside during daylight. It's also clear that there is a reason why.

As she disappears under the forest canopy, we see an enormous set of black wings cut across the air. Something is scanning the ground. Something is hunting.

WILLA runs through a small stream and stops as she hears buzzing.

She looks up, spotting an enormous honeycomb, bees buzzing around it.

Willa bites her bottom lip, considers.

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a clump of moss and the flint.

She climbs the tree, again, effortlessly, assured.

As she nears the honeycomb, a bee stings her arm.

WILLA

Ow!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She grabs her arm and nearly falls out of the tree. She steadies herself, pulls out the moss and flint, and lights the moss.

She blows on the small spark until it grows and then holds it out, close to the bee's nest.

She's stung a few more times, but keeps holding the moss, smoldering, smoking, calming the bees.

As the moss shrinks in her hands, she pulls it back and a clump falls slowly to the ground. She doesn't notice.

She reaches out and pulls an enormous clump of honeycomb out of the beehive. There are a few bees on this clump, but she slowly and gently brushes them off, back on to the main hive.

She smells the honey, smiles. Her tongue darts out for a quick taste.

WILLA

Hmmmm.

She slides down the tree, opening up her satchel and placing the honeycomb inside.

As she turns, she spots THE WOLF eating the beans she laid out by the trap.

Willa stops. The wolf growls.

Willa puts her hands up and slowly backs up.

She puts her back against the tree and slides down, sitting.

The wolf continues to watch her, but stops growling. He eats the beans.

WILLA

Hi there, boy.

The wolf looks at her quizzically.

WILLA

You like those beans? I left those for you.

The wolf starts to back away.

Willa pulls out the honeycomb. The wolf stops, looks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Willa pulls off a chunk of the honeycomb and drops it on the ground. She sits.

The wolf slowly approaches the honeycomb, watching Willa the whole time.

WILLA

It's ok. It's ok. It's ok.

The wolf comes closer, ever closer to the honeycomb.

He reaches down, snaps it up in his mouth, and runs a safe distance away before stopping, dropping it on the ground, and licking it.

WILLA

You like that?

Willa smiles.

WILLA

Can I... can I tell you something?

The wolf watches her, then goes back to licking the honeycomb.

WILLA

I want to... I can't really tell my dad that...

Willa looks away, starts to cry.

WILLA

I miss her. I miss her so much.

She wipes her tears.

WILLA

I don't remember much. Before the war. Before the fires. Before she was gone. My dad called her Bear. Not a good nickname for a girl I guess but... she was Mama Bear. And if I close my eyes... like, really tight... I can still feel her hair on my cheek. I can smell her neck. I can...

The wolf lies down, feeling safe, and continues eating the honeycomb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLA

She used to have this little shoebox. It was filled with her life. Magazine articles. Pictures. Old Faithful. She'd close her eyes real tight and tell me how hot the steam was, how she squealed when it erupted. How dad held her close. Her shoebox was filled with her life. Mine...

Willa looks down at her shoes, beaten up, holes in the toes.

WILLA

I don't have anything.

Willa sighs.

WILLA

I can remember her singing to me, but I can't remember the song... the lyrics. I want to. I want to. Badly. To remember what she would...

Willa hums quietly to herself "You are my sunshine", but she doesn't know the lyrics.

WILLA

After the first war, there weren't that many men left. So my dad... he stayed behind. With me. My mom... everyone's moms... they fought. They're fighting. And she'll come back for me. One day. One day she'll come back and we'll be together again. And then... if there's ever another one... another war... it will be my turn. My turn to fight.

The wolf's head pokes up. He smells the air and then takes off running.

WILLA

Wait! Wait! Don't go! I-

Willa turns and sees the brush smoking behind her. The moss she dropped from the tree smoldered and has now started a small brush fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLA

Oh no. No no no.

Willa takes off her jacket. She dips it in the stream and then runs up to the fire beating it with her wet jacket.

WILLA

Please please please go out. Go out. Go out!

She slaps at the flames with her jacket.

WILLA

Sun-Eater. Please. Please don't do this. Please!

WE FLASH TO:

The SOLDIER swinging a sword at the WORLD BREAKER, the Sun-Eater, as a baby, screaming and flames shooting into the sky.

WE FLASHBACK TO:

Willa manages to extinguish the flames.

She looks up at the smoking, rising through the tree tops.

WILLA

No. No no no no no.

She takes off at a dead sprint, leaving her satchel with the honeycomb and flint behind.

WE FOLLOW HER as she runs out of the tree cover, scrambling up the cliff face, her hands and feet slipping, her knees and shins bloody.

She runs toward the cave entrance as quickly as she can, not looking back, not wanting to.

WE HEAR WINGS beating the sky and a low, deep growl.

Willa doesn't look back. She gets to the entrance of the cave and dives behind the boulder.

WILLA

Please please please please...

WE HEAR THE WINGS beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Willa, against every thing in her body, forces herself to look.

WE SEE a large, dragon like creature hovering over the forest canopy, right at the spot where smoke drifts up through the trees into the sky. The body is covered in fur, the wings jet black and it emits a soft, barely perceptible glow from its skin. It is THE FLIER.

WILLA

No, no, no, no, no.

THE FLIER watches the smoke with curiosity, hovering in place like a hummingbird, flapping its massive wings.

Willa can feel her heart beating out of her chest.

THE FLIER looks as if it smiles, ever so slightly, and then zooms off, flying quickly toward the mainland, toward the fires, toward its master.

Willa closes her eyes.

WILLA

They'll know we're here.

She stands up, running through the cave tunnel as quickly as she can.

She trips, falls, and cracks her forehead on the cave floor.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CAVE - LATER

In the darkness, WE HEAR:

DAD (V.O.)

He had lived in the mines his whole life. When they gave him his first sledgehammer, he mined two tons of coal that day alone- one ton for each year of his life.

CUT TO:

INT. COAL-MINING CAVE - A LONG TIME AGO

WE SEE:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Only darkness. Then, a bright light shines from far away. It gets closer as we see it is a headlamp, belonging to THE MOON CRUSHER.

At first, the light blinds us, we can not see his shape, but then the light dims a bit and we can make him out-easily eight feet tall. Over three hundred pounds of pure muscle.

DAD (V.O.)

He was taken from his mother at such a young age. All he knew was his job. To crush. Rock. Coal. He was convinced the way out was just on the other side. They told him that if he just dug hard enough, far enough, that he would breakthrough. That one day, he could break through.

WE SEE MOONCRUSHER use a sledgehammer, slamming huge holes in the rock wall, again and again and again.

DAD (V.O.)

And because he knew only darkness and sweat and hunger, The Moon Crusher could not be stopped.

MOONCRUSHER slams the sledgehammer into the wall until it shatters. He looks at the handle and the top, broken in pieces. He begins pounding on the walls with his hands. Each punch is enormously powerful and loud. His hands begins to bleed. Water begins seeping through the holes in the wall.

A GUARD comes up behind MOONCRUSHER.

GUARD

Must be an underground lake.
Stop.

Mooncrusher continues slamming the rock, more water starts to seep through the cracks.

GUARD

Stop!

He does not.

The Guard lifts his weapon and comes down hard on Mooncrusher's neck. Mooncrusher turns, grabs the GUARD'S head, and begins pressing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WE SEE the hands glow. As he's crushing the man, he's also somehow draining his energy, his life force.

DAD (V.O.)

When his hands touch you, squeeze you, it takes the goodness, the energy out of you. He drains it as surely as it does the rock and earth. He takes it all.

THE GUARD, dead, begins to shrivel, his body turning to dust like the rocks around him.

SUDDENLY, a light shines from the far end of the cave.

MOONCRUSHER turns and looks.

DAD (V.O.)

And then the Soldier arrived.

The light gets closer and we see that it is a motorcycle.

Mooncrusher smiles and rushes the motorcycle, running at full speed, his body almost bent in half from the size of the cave.

DAD (V.O.)

Mooncrusher is enormous, huge.
But the Soldier wasn't alone.

In the headlight of the motorcycle, WE SEE THE KODIAK BEAR charge Mooncrusher.

They meet in the middle and slam into each other. Mooncrusher punches the bear, the bear swipes him into a wall. It's brutal and savage.

Mooncrusher gets his hands around the bear's neck and begins to squeeze. The bear's fur starts to turn grey.

Suddenly, the soldier flips off the motorcycle. The cycle crashes into Mooncrusher's knees, causing him to fall over.

Soldier flips in the air, pulling out the sword but Mooncrusher catches the Soldier by the neck. The sword falls to the ground.

Soldier head-butts, slamming the motorcycle helmet against Mooncrusher's skull, but is starting to lose consciousness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

In a last ditch effort, the Soldier reaches down with a foot, kicks the sword into the air, catches it, and plunges it deep into Mooncrusher's left eye.

Mooncrusher howls. Drops the Soldier to the ground and retreats into the darkness.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE - NOW

Dad is sitting above Willa, pressing a washcloth to her head.

DAD
Mooncrusher vanished into the
darkness.

Willa stirs, smiles.

WILLA
... what happened to his eye?

DAD
Willa? You're awake?

She nods.

DAD
How do you feel? Does your head
hurt?

Willa shakes her head "yes".

WILLA
What happened to his eye,
Mooncrusher?

DAD
You know what happens.

WILLA
Tell me-

DAD
What were you doing at the
entrance?

WILLA
Dad-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

Tell me-

WILLA

What happened to his eye?

Dad studies her for a beat.

DAD

The soldier fed it to her bear.

WILLA

And what did it give him?

DAD

It gave the bear the ability to see danger.

WILLA

And made the soldier stronger.

DAD

And made the soldier more dangerous.

WILLA

Stronger.

DAD

Ok.

He rubs her head.

DAD

Your turn.

WILLA

I...

DAD

I found you near the entrance.
Knocked out. What happened?

Willa sits up.

WILLA

I...

DAD

Willa-

WILLA

Dad. I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

Sorry for what? Willa?

WILLA

I went out. Into the light.

Dad doesn't say anything, he just sits back, in shock.

WILLA

I followed all the rules. What you taught me. Stay low, stay in the trees. I followed all the-

DAD

Never go out in the light! That's the rule! That's the most important-

WILLA

I'm sorry!

DAD

What were you thinking?

Willa looks away.

WILLA

I was looking... for something.

DAD

What?

WILLA

The wolf.

DAD

The wolf? Was he in the trap?

WILLA

No.

DAD

Why would you look for-

WILLA

To talk to him.

DAD

Willa, you can talk to me.

WILLA

Not about everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAD
Yes, about everyth-

WILLA
NOT ABOUT HER!

Dad looks away. Nods.

Willa sits up, rubbing her head. She reaches for her stuffed bear, holds it.

DAD
Did anything see you?

WILLA
The wolf.

DAD
The wolf? What if he attacked you?

WILLA
He didn't.

DAD
But what if he did!

WILLA
HE DIDN'T! He's not... he's good.

DAD
Did you see anything else?

WILLA
One of the fliers.

DAD
You saw one?

WILLA
Yes.

DAD
Then it saw you?

WILLA
No. I'd be dead-

Dad stands, paces nervously.

WILLA
But it knew someone was here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DAD
How? Willa, how?!

Willa looks down, starts to cry.

DAD
Hey hey hey, no. No time for
that. I need you to be strong,
yeah? Think about your mommy.
What would she do?

Willa gets it under control.

WILLA
I lit a small fire... to make
smoke for the beehive.

DAD
Beehive?

WILLA
I wanted to bring you honey. It
had been so long since we ate
anything sweet.

DAD
Yes-

WILLA
I tried to smoke the bees out, but
I guess a spark hit the grass-

DAD
Is it still on fire?

WILLA
No. But the smoke-

DAD
The smoke. Yes.

Dad thinks.

DAD
You're sure the flier saw the
smoke?

WILLA
Yes. He stopped right over it and-

DAD
Hovered?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

WILLA

Yes.

Dad nods. He walks over to the chest and opens it. He takes out the gun and the two bullets.

He starts packing up the canned goods, water bottles, etc.

WILLA

What are you doing?

Nothing. He continues to pack.

WILLA

Dad?

DAD

We have to go. We have to get out of here.

WILLA

Why?

DAD

They know someone is here.

WILLA

Just the flier.

DAD

If the flier knows, they'll know. And they'll come for us.

WILLA

Who?

Dad packs.

WILLA

Who's coming for us?

DAD

Get up. Get your stuff. We can't take everything.

WILLA

If they're coming, shouldn't we stay here?

DAD

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

WILLA

In the cave?

DAD

No! They'll look. That's the first thing they will do. They'll look in all the holes. All the hiding spots. We have to stay on the move. Head into the forest. Try to stay ahead of them. Now. Get up. Pack clothes. Food. Everything else stays.

WILLA

What if mom comes back?

DAD

She won't-

WILLA

What if she comes back and we're gone?

DAD

What if she comes back and we're dead!?

Dad throws items in his backpack. Willa goes to the chest, takes out the picture of her mother and puts it in her pocket.

She then walks over and helps load food into backpacks and bags.

DAD

If it was still light out, it could have been hours ago. They could already be on their way.

WILLA

I'm packing.

DAD

As much food as you can. And water. We'll need more water than anything.

Dad throws the backpack on. Willa puts hers on as well.

WILLA

Where are we going?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

DAD
Other side of the island.

WILLA
But why? What's-

DAD
A boat.

Willa let's this hit.

WILLA
A boat?

DAD
A few. Probably one we can-

WILLA
There's been a way off? This
whole time?

DAD
Why would we get off the island,
Willa? This is our home-

WILLA
But if there's a way-

DAD
This is our home!

He looks away.

DAD
Was.

WILLA
A boat?

DAD
One of the battles. At the
beginning... was here. We could
salvage. We could-

WILLA
But we could have-

DAD
Willa, there was no where else to
go. Before. There was nowhere
else.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

WILLA

And now?

DAD

Now? Now there has to be. They are coming and even if this place was the last place on earth... it can't be now. Now we go. And we hope.

Dad hugs her.

DAD

Ready?

Willa shakes her head.

Dad heads for the cave entrance.

WILLA

Wait.

DAD

We go now.

WILLA

Just... wait a minute.

DAD

Willa, what?

WILLA

This... this was our home.

Dad gets it. He comes back in. They look at the scattered remains of their last four years.

Willa sees the "WE WON" banner.

WILLA

Should we take that?

DAD

No.

WILLA

It was yours.

DAD

It... it was never true, anyway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Dad exits. Willa takes a last look at everything and then follows him out.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dad and Willa crouch down at the cave entrance, looking outside.

WILLA
Just dark.

DAD
That's good. It will be easier.

WILLA
Easier to what?

DAD
Hide.

They stand and exit the cave. Willa sees her satchel at the cave entrance. She kneels down, picks it up.

DAD
What is it?

WILLA
My... my satchel.

Willa opens it up and pulls out the rest of the honeycomb.

DAD
Put it away. We'll need it later.

Willa reaches back inside and pulls out a dead rabbit.

DAD
Did you hunt?

WILLA
No?

DAD
You didn't get that rabbit?

WILLA
...no.

Willa looks up, smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA
Wolf must've.

DAD
The wolf?

WILLA
Yes.

DAD
He just... brought you food? As a
gift? Really?

Willa nods.

WILLA
Except it's a she.

DAD
A girl wolf?

WILLA
Mm-hmm.

DAD
How do you know?

WILLA
I know.

Dad laughs it off.

DAD
Let's go. Maybe Wolf will help
you kill the bad guys while she's
at it.

Dad heads down the cliff face, towards the forest.

Willa looks at the rabbit, puts it back in her satchel
and smiles. She follows her father, into the forest, into
the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNED OUT CITY CENTER - SAME

The FLIER swoops over burnt out buildings, hollowed out
shells. It lands on the roof of a large skyscraper, all
the windows blown out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE WORLD BREAKER, in the cloak, appears. A long, black-gloved hand extends and pets the FLIER. The FLIER stares at the WORLD BREAKER and then flies off.

THE WORLD BREAKER nods and effortlessly glides back into the skyscraper.

WE SEE:

- The SUN-EATER standing in a street filled with rubble. There are three FEMALE SOLDIERS hiding behind a burnt out car as the Sun-Eater releases a blast of flames from her mouth, covering the Soldiers in flames.

- The MOONCRUSHER, runs down an abandoned city street, knocking through walls and buildings as if they were made of paper.

- THE AIR-PIERCER, a WOMAN dressed in green with FOUR ARMS holding swords in each hand, is fighting a small group of female soldiers. She easily kills them.

ALL THREE CREATURES look up at the same time, toward the skyscraper. They have been summoned.

FADE TO:

EXT. ISLAND FOREST - AN HOUR LATER

Willa and Dad trudge through the forest. They stop at the stream. Dad leans down to fill up a water bottle.

WILLA

I thought it wasn't safe? To drink?

DAD

We'll have to boil it.

WILLA

But we can't make a fire if-

DAD

Later. We'll have to boil it later. We need more water. We'll figure it out.

WILLA

Where are we going?

DAD

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA

When are we going to stop?

DAD

We're not.

WILLA

Not ever?

DAD

...not until we have to.

Willa looks around.

WILLA

We've never explored the island.
At all. It's our home and we've
never even-

DAD

No. It's not safe.

WILLA

But it is now?

DAD

No. But it's our only choice.

WILLA

I'm just saying... how do we know?

DAD

Know what?

WILLA

If there are any other people
here? On the island? They could
help us fight. They could help us-

DAD

I hope we are alone here.

WILLA

Why?

DAD

Because if we aren't, what's
coming will kill them too.

WILLA

But they can help us fight.

Dad stops, looks at Willa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

The fighters are gone Willa. Your mother, the rest. All that's left are the lame and the children.

WILLA

You can still fi-

DAD

I fought. I lost. We're here.

Willa bites her lip.

Dad shakes his head.

DAD

I'm sorry... I'm... we will fight. If they catch up of course we will... but Willa, you can climb. That's what you can do. So when they come, if they come... I want you to find the tallest tree... find the biggest cliff on the island and climb. Climb into the sky. Climb into the clouds. Climb.

WILLA

What about you?

DAD

What about me?

WILLA

You can't climb.

Dad looks down at his leg.

DAD

I can fight.

WILLA

But you just said-

DAD

I will fight. For you, I'll do anything. Anything.

They hug. Dad starts to cry but stops himself.

DAD

Now, let's go. Pick up the pace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Willa nods and they head through the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNED OUT CITY DOCK - LATER

The three creatures stand at the edge of the dock, looking out at the dark water before them.

Dead fish in the thousands are washed up on the beach, including a few whales and sharks.

THE FLIER zooms overhead. The creatures watch him.

SUN-EATER

Hate water.

MOONCRUSHER grunts.

AIR-PIERCER

We're hunting. It will be worth it.

Sun-Eater nods.

THE FLIER lands on the beach, reaches out and takes an enormous bite out of a decomposing whale.

Sun-Eater and Air-Piercer climb on its back. Mooncrusher holds on to one of its enormous talons and it takes off into the sky, toward the island.

It flies unsteady at first, the weight of Mooncrusher throwing it off. It grips him with both talons, distributing the weight, and continues to fly, still struggling.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKYSCRAPER BALCONY - SAME

The World Breaker stands, watching as the Flier takes off into the sky.

Its long, bony fingers tap on the railing of the balcony as it watches, expectant.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND - WHEAT FIELDS - LATER

Dad and Willa are on the edge of the forest, looking out at enormously tall wheat stalks rising 10-feet in the air.

WILLA

Should we go?

DAD

Not sure. I'm worried about cover.

WILLA

It looks tall enough.

Dad nods.

WILLA

What is it?

DAD

Wheat.

WILLA

What is it for?

DAD

Use to make things with it. Bread.

WILLA

What did it taste like?

DAD

It's not how it tasted... its how it smelled.

WILLA

How does it smell?

DAD

It... makes a warm fire. In your belly. It's fluffy. Like a cloud. It... I can't... I'm not really good at-

He looks at Willa. Her eyes are closed. She's imagining the bread and doing so rather successfully.

Dad smiles. Sits, pulls out a can of mushrooms.

They take turns eating a few.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

We can rest. For a bit.

WILLA

Are you sure?

DAD

I just don't know if that will cover us. We should wait here for a bit.

Willa sits, taking off her shoe. Her foot is bloody.

WILLA

Ah..

DAD

Honey, why didn't you tell me?

WILLA

It's ok.

DAD

It's... you're bleeding.

WILLA

We had to keep moving.

DAD

But you're bleeding.

WILLA

It's my fault.

Dad shakes his head. He kneels, touches her cheeks.

DAD

Listen to me, Willa. This is important.

He looks up at the sky, back to her.

DAD

This world... what's happened... the water and the clouds and the fire... none of it... NONE of it is your fault. Do you understand?

WILLA

Yes.

DAD

You have to understand that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLA

Ok. Yes.

He smiles. Cleans off her foot.

WILLA

What's coming for us? Dad?

DAD

I... I don't know.

WILLA

Is it the Moon-crusher? The Sun-eater?

DAD

Those are stories. Fables. Things people made up to explain... all this.

WILLA

So they aren't real?

DAD

I didn't say that.

WILLA

So they are real?

DAD

I don't... no one knows. No one knows if they're real or just a way to explain away all the ugliness.

Willa looks away, takes a bite of mushrooms.

DAD

I thought you didn't like mushrooms.

Willa shrugs.

WILLA

Can't afford to not like any food.

Dad laughs.

DAD

You sound forty.

Willa laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAD
You want a story?

WILLA
No.

DAD
No?

WILLA
Not like the others. Not Sun-
Eater or Mooncrusher or-

DAD
Then what?

Willa puts her head in her father's lap.

WILLA
Something from before.

DAD
Before?

WILLA
Before all this.

She touches his leg.

WILLA
Before this.

She hugs his leg.

WILLA
Before everything changed.

Dad nods. Thinks for a moment.

FADE TO:

EXT. OREGON FOREST- BEFORE THE WARS

WE SEE a field filled with beautiful and vibrant wildflowers. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds buzz against the bright blue sky.

DAD (V.O.)
There were flowers. Thousands and
thousands of bright reds, purples,
yellows. Everything was alive.
Electric.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Hummingbirds and butterflies. The
dirt was soft on our feet. Warm
and welcoming.

WE SEE a small log cabin nestled in a wooded area with a
large, crystal blue lake right outside. The sky is
reflected off the still, calm water so brightly that it
is as if the lake was made of sky clouds.

DAD (V.O.)
And there were two people. Two
people deeply and fully and wholly
in love.

WE SEE DAD and MOM standing on the porch of the cabin,
looking out at the lake.

DAD (V.O.)
And they were filled with love.
And Hope. And Tenderness. So much
so that they could not wait to
bring their child into this world.
Because they knew, no matter what
would come. They had enough.
Enough love. Enough love. Hope.
Enough to share with her.

WE SEE DAD and MOM wading into the lake with a small
baby.

DAD (V.O.)
And when she came into the world,
this little creature so filled
with trust and wonder, she didn't
cry. Or scream. There was no
fear.

The baby is perfectly calm in the water, smiling gently
as MOM sings "You are my sunshine" to her and holds her,
floating in the water.

DAD (V.O.)
It seemed like the world
celebrated her.

Deer, rabbits, foxes, birds, moose, elk, all come out of
the surrounding forest and gather around the lake. MOM,
focused on her baby, doesn't notice, but DAD does.

The forsythia trees surrounding the lake begin to shed
their flowers, falling into the lake all around the
couple and their child.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD (V.O.)

The dad could look into her eyes
and know that the world, for the
smallest of moments, for the
briefest of times, was perfect.

Mom and Dad look at each other.

WE PULL BACK on the lake, covered in flowers, the wind
blowing gently, the animals all watching. Peace. A
beautiful moment of peace.

SUDDENLY, we hear the sound of thunder.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - SAME

DAD strokes Willa's hair as she sleeps. He looks up at
the sky, hearing the thunder in the distance.

He PULLS OUT a SMALL GREEN TARP and places it over
himself and Willa. As he does, he notices his hands are
shaking uncontrollably.

DAD

(whispering)

Stop. Stop it. Stop it. STOP!

Willa gently stirs.

DAD

Shhh....

He strokes her hair and leans back against the tree. He
tries to close his eyes, to sleep.

WE PULL BACK on the tarp, small, flapping slightly in the
wind, two masses huddled underneath, preparing themselves
for the coming storm.

FADE TO:

EXT. SKY - LATER

THE FLIER cruises through the air, the three figures
riding along. Lightning heralds the coming storm as the
Flier picks up its pace and we see, in the distance, the
outline of the island.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - SAME

The wolf sits on a small, rock outcropping, staring up at the sky. It sniffs the air and then disappears deeper into the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - SAME

Dad finally closes his eyes, nodding off as the rain comes down.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOFTOP - EIGHT YEARS AGO

A CARD READS: NEAR THE END OF THE FIRST WAR

The burned out shell of the parking garage sits amongst the rubble of a large city.

Cars are in various stages of destruction- all are covered with a thick coating of soot.

AIR-PIERCER sits amongst the rubble, legs folded under, swords laid out in front, eyes closed, a smile on the lips.

A small army convoy moves through the street below. They are just visible from the top of the parking structure, a transport vehicle crawling along, clearing debris as soldiers wearing breathing apparatuses follows closely behind.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. ARMY TRANSPORT VEHICLE - SAME

An eight year younger version of DAD sits in the back of the transport vehicle with a group of young, male soldiers.

The soldiers are all nervous. The young soldier by DAD, PRIVATE PHILLIPS, leans over.

PHILLIPS

Hey, old man?

Dad nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIPS

We kinda have a bet going. You in
your forties, or fifties?

Dad laughs.

DAD

32.

PHILLIPS

No shit?

DAD

No shit.

PHILLIPS

Shit man, you look at least forty.

DAD

So will you after a few more
battles.

Phillips looks at the other soldiers, they laugh.

PHILLIPS

Didn't you hear, gramps? We won.

DAD

Yeah. I heard that.

PHILLIPS

The invasion is thwarted. The
enemy is crawling back into their
holes. People are dancing in the
streets.

Dad lifts the flap to the transport truck, glancing out
at the empty, dirty streets.

DAD

You see any dancing?

PHILLIPS

Not yet. Just wait until we get
back home, man.

Dad nods.

DAD

I'll keep my eye out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They look out the back, seeing the soldiers walking behind them stretch out a banner. The banner reads simply "WE WON"- the banner from Dad's cave.

Phillips yells.

PHILLIPS

Alright!

The soldiers laugh.

PHILLIPS

See old man? We won. I told ya.

Dad nods. Lowers the flap.

PHILLIPS

You got kids?

DAD

One. You?

PHILLIPS

Not yet, man. I'm 17.

DAD

Well, better start soon.

PHILLIPS

Naw, too young for that.

DAD

Not anymore. You should do it now.

PHILLIPS

Why now?

DAD

Because you're still alive.

PHILLIPS

So, it's like, what, my patriotic duty to-

Dad stares at him, hard.

DAD

We'll need more people. For the next one.

PHILLIPS

The next what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAD

The next time whatever crawled
back into their holes decide to
crawl out again.

Phillips looks down.

PHILLIPS

Come on, man. We're winning.
Can't you just... I don't know...
can't you let us have this one?
Just celebrate for a few goddamn
minutes before we get back to our
regularly scheduled war?

Dad doesn't answer. The vehicle rumbles along for
another long beat before...

SCREECH! The transport vehicle slams on its brakes. The
soldiers in the back all go flying, falling over each
other.

SUDDENLY, an explosion rocks the vehicle and it rocks
over on to its side.

The soldiers scream. Dad falls against the side of the
transport and the vehicle crushes his leg.

The other soldiers scramble to exit but Dad is pinned.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOF - SAME

Air-Piercer stands, watching the soldiers scramble out of
the back of the vehicle, panicked. She smiles, takes a
step, and falls off the top of the building, falling
below, toward the street and the assembled soldiers. She
holds her swords tightly.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME

The soldiers from the back of the transport exit and meet
up with the small group trailing behind.

Dad is still stuck, pinned to the truck by his leg.

DAD

Help! Help me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOLDIER 1 (O.C.)
Whoa whoa whoa, what is that?

SOLDIER 2 (O.C.)
Shoot it! Shoot it!

We pull tight on Dad's face as he listens to the sounds. Gunfire, metal slicing through the air, and the groans of men dying. It is horrifying.

He can just see out of the back of the transport, watching as soldiers scream, falling to the ground, bleeding profusely.

The "WE WON" banner floats down to the ground, whoever was holding it is dead.

Dad closes his eyes, trying to block out the sounds of the dying. He pulls at his leg, but can't get loose.

SUDDENLY, there is no sound. No movement, no gunfire. Silence.

He doesn't move, trying to control his breathing as best he can.

Suddenly, he sees a pair of legs walk by the transport vehicle dragging four swords. The swords drag along the asphalt, sparking wildly.

Dad closes his eyes. He doesn't want to see what is coming. He doesn't want to know what is.

FADE OUT.

EXT. CLIFF EDGE - LATER

THE FLIER lands on the rock outcropping that WILLA fell from earlier. Sun-eater, Mooncrusher, and Air-Piercer dismount.

AIR-PIERCER
(to the Flier)
Close to the smoke?

The Flier nods.

As the rain starts to fall, Sun-eater spots the cave entrance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUN-EATER

Holes all over the cliff. I'll check that one.

AIR-PIERCER

Afraid you'll melt?

Sun-Eater grumbles.

SUN-EATER

Aren't you?

Air-Piercer smiles, looks at Mooncrusher.

AIR-PIERCER

What about you? Want to check the caves?

Mooncrusher grunts and starts climbing down into the forest.

AIR-PIERCER

(to Sun-eater)

I'll check the caves. You go to the fire spot.

SUN-EATER

How will I know where it is?

Air-Piercer shoots Sun-Eater a look and climbs swiftly and surely down to the cave mouth.

Sun-Eater jumps back on the flier, looks up at the sky with a look of foreboding, and they are off.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - LATER

Dad wraps up the tarp.

Willa is still dreaming.

WE SEE IMAGES:

- An ornately decorated sword, sharpened to a fine point, cuts through the air

- Two enormous hands, calloused and red, grab a massive boulder. The force of the hands begin to crack it

- Flames shoot into the sky

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- A small, schooner ship on storm-tossed seas- one bright lantern on the bow.

Willa stirs, sits up.

WILLA
Did you sleep?

DAD
Some.

WILLA
Not enough.

DAD
Some.

He straps the tarp to his back pack.

Willa looks down at her feet, bandaged up with a shirt, the toes meticulously wrapped.

WILLA
Did you wrap my feet?

Dad nods.

WILLA
This is your shirt.

Dad nods.

DAD
You ready?

She stands, walks up to her Dad and kisses him on the nose.

She kneels, starts putting her shoes back on.

Dad smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. FOREST - LATER

Mooncrusher stomps through the forest, knocking down trees and rocks as he goes, not stopping.

Limbs slam into his face, scratching him, but he keeps going.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He slams into a huge oak tree. Slams into it again. It buckles and shakes, but does not collapse.

Mooncrusher backs up, looks at the massive tree.

He growls and slams into it, again, and again, and again until it leans and then crashes to the ground.

Mooncrusher allows himself a small smile before he continues on.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Dad and Willa are wading through the wheat field when they hear the massive sound of the tree falling to the ground.

WILLA

What was that?

DAD

Keep going.

WILLA

Thunder?

DAD

Keep going.

Dad moves ahead. Willa looks back in the direction of the sound.

DAD

Willa?

WILLA

Coming.

She trudges after him, trying not to look back, trying not to think about what that sound meant.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - HONEY TREE - SAME

Sun-Eater stands at the base of the tree with the bee's nest. She also heard the tree fall and looks back toward the sound.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The FLIER circles above her in the sky, creating eerie shadows on the ground.

She rubs her hands on the scorched earth, feeling the ashes.

She looks up at the tree.

A bee lands on her arm and stings her.

She gasps and yells out, fire escaping her lips and swallowing the bee and her arm.

She isn't affected at all.

She watches the body of the bee turn black and fall to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - SAME

Air-Piercer walks slowly down the tunnel of the cave, her swords out, ready.

She comes to the main room, Dad and Willa's home. She crouches down and listens.

She hears nothing and moves into the room.

The first thing that catches her attention is the "We Won" banner. She looks at it curiously.

She knocks the few remaining canned goods over. She picks up a small blanket and smells it.

She hears a sound in the corner, something knocks a can over.

Air-Piercer releases her sword and it flies into the wall, stabbing a rat, impaling it.

She walks up to the rat, stares at its lifeless body.

She smells it, pulls her sword out, and heads out of the cave- no one here. Time to hunt.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD - LATER

Dad and Willa move quickly through the wheat field, nearing the end.

Willa stumbles and falls, but Dad picks her up.

DAD

I gotcha.

He starts walking. Willa feels guilty at first, tries to get down, but Dad holds her tight and she wraps her legs around him, holding on, willing to be a kid for a just a few minutes.

He carries her to the end of wheat field and puts her down.

DAD

You ok?

WILLA

Yeah. I can walk.

DAD

You sure?

WILLA

I'm sure.

Dad looks up into the sky, then looks at the edge of the wheat field- a rocky outcropping leading down to the beach.

DAD

I'll just... you stay here. I'll run ahead and see if I can find a way down.

WILLA

No-

DAD

It's ok.

WILLA

I want to go with you-

DAD

I'll just be a minute. Just a minute.

Willa nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA
Then straight back?

DAD
Straight back. Promise.

Willa nods.

Dad kisses her forehead and then runs for the edge of the field.

Willa sits, exhausted.

She looks up at the wheat stalks, blowing in the wind, and she waits.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND SKY - SAME

Sun-Eater rides the FLIER, it beats its wings and glides effortlessly over the landscape, eyes peeled.

Sun-Eater smiles, her eyes glow orange.

They approach the wheat field and we can see, from above, the wheat stalks swaying in the breeze.

Sun-Eater squints, watching the wheat move. From up here, in the sky, she can see a barely visible path someone has just pushed through the wheat.

She smiles, kicks the flier into going faster, and they zoom over the wheat field.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - SAME

Mooncrusher stomps through the forest. He is covered in mud, pants ripped, face bloody. But he continues, straight ahead.

Suddenly he stops. He's breathing heavily, sweat dripping. He kneels slightly to the ground. His large hand traces something in the ground, a footprint. He stands, smiles, and begins running again.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALT CLIFFS - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dad runs up over a small incline and stops at the edge of an enormous salt cliff.

He looks over the side and gasps.

WE SEE dozens of ships- small boats, sail boats, schooners, and even a few larger warships beached, rusting from the sun and salt.

They are decimated. Hulls are blown out, sides are rusted through.

Hundreds of skeletons line the beach, some mostly covered by the sand and surf, others hanging off the boats.

Dad's hands fly to his mouth. He tries to recover but can't imagine that there's a way off the island now.

He steps back moving to where he left Willa, and that's when he sees the flier circling overhead, back at the wheat field, right near where his daughter is.

He runs as fast as he can.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD

Willa lies down in the field, looking up at the sky. The sun is starting to rise and, for a brief moment, her face is illuminated by the first rays of sunshine.

And then shadows fall over her body again, as the FLIER spots her and its enormous wings blot out the light.

Willa flips over on to her stomach and starts crawling deeper into the wheat field.

The flier flaps its massive wings, blowing the cover back. Willa realizes she is uncovered and stands.

She sees the flier and starts to run.

WE SEE a pair of legs walking through the wheat field, the feet crushing the stalks of wheat.

It's Sun-Eater and her whole body is aflame. She hisses, breathes out, and flames shoot out of her mouth, catching the wheat field on fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She continues to walk, hissing and spewing fire on the field.

A heavy, black smoke starts to rise.

Willa retreats, stuck in between the flier and the Sun-Eater, she turns, running toward the cliff and her father.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE - SAME

Air-Piercer stands at the entrance to the cave, looking out at the forest below her.

She sees trees falling to the ground in the wake of Mooncrusher.

She scrambles down the side of the cliff, into the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - SAME

Mooncrusher stands at the edge of the forest, looking at the wheat fields.

He sees the smoke rising into the air.

He heads into the wheat field.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Willa scrambles through the wheat, crawling close to the ground, coughing from the smoke.

She stumbles through the smoke and comes to rest against a large rock.

She tries to catch her breath.

Suddenly, the rock moves, and Willa looks up to see that she is right beside the foot of the FLIER!

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD - SAME

Dad runs as fast as he can. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the two bullets and gun.

He sees the smoke rising and runs faster, tripping, and falling to the ground.

He holds on to the gun, but the bullets fly into the wheat, bounce on the ground, and disappear.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

The Sun-Eater walks through the field, breathing fire on the wheat. Her skin is glowing hotter, brighter than before.

It's almost as if the fire coming out of her is soothing her.

She sees small footsteps and starts to follow them.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Willa looks up at the FLIER. Thanks to the smoke, his head is obscured. He hasn't noticed her. Yet.

Willa slowly starts to crawl away from him. His feet shift slightly and she narrowly avoids getting stepped on.

She crawls away, scrambling into a thicker section of wheat to hide herself, but the thicker the wheat, the bigger the fire at this point.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD

Dad scrambles around on the ground, looking for the bullets. He is frantic, his fingers and hands being cut up by rocks and sticks in the wheat.

He's trying to keep it together, but keeps glancing up at the smoke rising from the fields.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sees one of the bullets in the dirt, picks it up, blows it off, and slips it into the revolver.

He looks for the other bullet, but then he hears a horrible sound, Willa screaming.

He takes off, running through the wheat field, towards his daughter's cries.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Sun-Eater stands in a small clearing. Willa is on the ground, pinned to the corner of the clearing by the Sun-Eater. She starts to cry.

SUN-EATER

Why so sad, child?

WILLA

I... I don't want to die.

Sun-Eater laughs.

SUN-EATER

Is that all?

She breathes fire.

SUN-EATER

Everyone dies.

WILLA

Not everyone.

SUN-EATER

No?

WILLA

Not the World Breaker.

SUN-EATER

And what do you know of the World Breaker?

Willa tries to crawl off, but the Sun-Eater traps her.

SUN-EATER

What. Do you know. Of the World-Breaker?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA

That... that it took you. It took you from your mom. And dad.

Sun-Eater tilts her head.

SUN-EATER

You know this?

WILLA

It was part of the story-

SUN-EATER

The story?

WILLA

The story.

SUN-EATER

I see.

WILLA

Does it hurt?

SUN-EATER

What?

WILLA

The fire?

Sun-Eater pauses. She didn't expect this.

SUN-EATER

... yes.

WILLA

I'm sorry.

Willa coughs. The smoke is getting to her.

WILLA

Why did you come for us?

SUN-EATER

Because you exist.

WILLA

But I don't understand-

SUN-EATER

Everyone must live in the new world. Our world. The world over there. On the mainland.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUN-EATER (CONT'D)

This here... this was just an illusion. No one gets this anymore.

WILLA

Why?

SUN-EATER

Why what?

WILLA

Why does it want to break the world?

SUN-EATER

The world was already broken, child.

WILLA

Yes but-

SUN-EATER

We are just here to keep it that way.

WILLA

But it won't be that way.

SUN-EATER

It won't?

WILLA

Not always.

SUN-EATER

And how do you know this?

WILLA

My dad.

SUN-EATER

Your dad.

WILLA

He told me.

SUN-EATER

He did?

WILLA

He did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SUN-EATER

And is your dad still alive?

WILLA

Yes.

SUN-EATER

And what if he is wrong?

WILLA

He's never been wrong.

SUN-EATER

He's wrong this time.

WILLA

He's never wrong.

SUN-EATER

Then why isn't he here?

Sun-Eater smiles. She opens her mouth and, just as the flames are about to shoot out, a gunshot rips through the air.

Willa jumps.

Sun-Eater turns, looks around, and WE SEE a large hole in her left eye-socket.

The fire inside of her extinguishes. She drops to the ground like someone cut her strings.

A single blast of flames shoots into the air and then dissipates.

Willa watches as the Sun-Eater's body slowly shrinks, fading away into the newborn baby from that circus tent long ago. Still dead, but no longer the Sun-Eater.

Dad runs into the clearing.

DAD

Willa?

WILLA

Daddy!

She jumps up and runs to him.

DAD

Are you... are you hurt?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLA
No.

DAD
Did she hurt you-

WILLA
No. No. I'm ok. I'm-

DAD
Ok. We have to go. We have to
keep going.

WILLA
Yes.

DAD
The smoke's getting bad.

WILLA
Yes.

They look up, see the Flier beat its wings, fanning the flames even more. The flames are getting too close, and it launches itself into the air.

DAD
Stay down. It can't see us. It
will take a few minutes.

WILLA
For what?

DAD
For it to come around again.

Willa nods and they half-stumble, half crawl back towards the Salt Cliffs.

WILLA
You killed her.

DAD
Yes.

WILLA
Have you done that before?

DAD
... yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Willa nods.

CUT TO:

INT. FOREST - SAME

Air-Piercer runs through the forest, towards the sounds and smells of fire.

As she nears the edge of the forest, she hears a growl behind her.

She turns. The wolf stands on a high rock, fangs bared.

AIR-PIERCER

Look at you. The hunter. The
feared.

Air-Piercer turns, then, suddenly, launches her sword through the air toward the wolf.

It clangs against the rock. The wolf is gone.

AIR-PIERCER

Fast.

She walks up to her sword, picks it back up. She sees the wolf run behind a tree and gives chase.

The wolf takes off, full sprint, in and out of trees, over rocks. But Air-Piercer is almost super-humanly fast and starts to close the gap.

She turns the corner and the wolf is up against a large rock. Air-Piercer smiles.

AIR-PIERCER

No where to run to now. Who is
the hunter? Who is the pr-

She steps right in another ANIMAL TRAP Willa's Dad set. It clamps around her foot, metal teeth puncturing her leg with a sickening crunch.

AIR-PIERCER

AHHHHHHH!

She drops her swords, kneels on the ground and tries to pry the trap open.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She manages to get the trap halfway open, starts to slide her foot out, and then the blood on her hands causes her to lose her grip, the trap snaps shut again. She screams.

AIR-PIERCER

AHHHHHH!

She looks up as the wolf bears his fangs, growls, and slowly, cautiously approaches her.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Willa and Dad get to the edge of the field.

DAD

Look on the ground.

WILLA

For what?

DAD

I lost a bullet.

WILLA

You lost it?

DAD

Yes.

WILLA

I thought we needed them. Both of them.

DAD

We did.

WILLA

But you used one.

DAD

Yes. Help me.

They start digging through the dirt. Dad places his gun on the ground as they dig with both hands.

WILLA

It said... she said the world was always broken.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLA

I love you t-

Two enormous hands reach out from the wheat stocks, grab Dad by his head, and launch him back into the wheat field.

Willa screams.

The shadow eclipses her. We see MOONCRUSHER, just a flash of his size, as he heads back into the field after Dad.

Willa scrambles, grabbing the gun and looking for the bullet.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The wolf slowly approaches Air-Piercer. She picks up a sword and waves it in front of her, at the wolf. She uses her other three arms to try to pry the trap off of her foot.

AIR-PIERCER

Back. Back.

The wolf snarls, growling.

Air-Piercer manages to pry the trap open with all of her strength, she slips her foot out as the trap closes shut.

She sighs, a brief moment of relief before she looks up and sees the wolf launching himself at her.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD

Dad tries to stand. He looks up, sees the Flier circling around and ducks down to avoid detection.

As he does this, the two hands grab him again and toss him, like a ragdoll, toward the Salt Cliffs.

He bounces, slowly stands.

MOONCRUSHER stands before him and he is enormous.

His face is scratched and bleeding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOONCRUSHER

D...d...d.. D...

Dad stands, rears back with all of his might and punches Mooncrusher in the face. It does nothing.

Dad grabs his hand.

MOONCRUSHER

D...d...d...

Dad reaches down, grabbing rocks, throwing them at Mooncrusher. Some of them hit their mark, knocking into Mooncrusher's head.

MOONCRUSHER

D...d...d... don't.

Dad stops.

DAD

Did you... you speak?

MOONCRUSHER

D...don't.

Dad steps back.

DAD

Don't? Don't what?

MOONCRUSHER steps toward him.

He looks down at his feet where a sizable rock Dad hurled at him now sits.

He lifts his foot, brings it down hard, and crushes the rock.

MOONCRUSHER

Don't... st... st... struggle.

Dad backs up. Mooncrusher laughs and moves toward him.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD - SAME

Willa continues looking for the bullet. She looks up in the sky and sees the FLIER, now circling, come in at a dive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willa slips into the cover of the wheat field, just missing the talons of the Flier.

She watches as it beats its wings and begins to circle back, it goes out over the ocean.

Willa thinks. Gets an idea, and scrambles in her father's bag for a length of rope.

She pulls it out, looks at it, and heads into the wheat field.

As she goes, WE CAN SEE the bullet lodged in the ground, right beside the gun she dropped.

CUT TO:

INT. FOREST - SAME

The wolf has latched on to Air-Piercer's arm, ripping at the tendons.

Air-Piercer lifts a sword and swipes.

The Wolf yelps and runs off into the forest, leaving a blood trail behind.

Air-piercer slowly stands, unable to walk well.

She looks at her arm, the tendon ripped open, blood dripping down.

She grimaces, begins to give chase to the wolf before remembering why she is here.

She turns, and heads in the opposite direction, toward the wheat field. Toward Willa and her Dad.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Dad is running as fast as he can, but Mooncrusher is gaining on him.

He reaches down, pulling a small skinning knife out of his pants and holds it at the ready.

Mooncrusher approaches him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA (O.C.)

Dad? Daddy?

Mooncrusher turns, looks toward the noise. Smiles.

DAD

Stay the hell away from my
daughter.

Mooncrusher turns back to Dad, steps toward him.

Dad lunges out with the knife, burying the small blade in
Mooncrusher's chest.

Nothing. It does nothing.

He stabs repeatedly, hopelessly.

Mooncrusher laughs.

He grabs Dad's wrist and snaps it. The knife drops to the
ground.

Mooncrusher reaches down, picks it up, and plunges the
knife into Dad's leg.

DAD

Ahhhhhh!

Mooncrusher laughs, tosses him through the air, and heads
off in search of Willa.

Dad lands with a sickening thud near the Salt Cliffs.

He starts to lose consciousness, but slaps himself,
forcing his body to stand.

He looks out at the ships, buried in sand, devastated. He
shakes his head, starting to lose hope.

DAD

Get up... get up.

WE FLASHBACK TO:

EXT./INT. ARMY TRANSPORT VEHICLE - EIGHT YEARS AGO.

Dad is stuck in the Army Transport vehicle, his ankle
crushed. He manages, with a great amount of pain, to
dislodge his foot from the truck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He slowly, surely crawls out of the truck, into the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME

As Dad pulls himself out of the truck, he sees them, dozens of dead bodies, soldiers, cut to pieces. Blood covers the street.

Dad tries to stand, but it's not happening.

He slowly crawls over to one of the soldiers, flips him over. It's Phillips, but he's dead, his body nearly cut in half.

Dad shakes his head, starts to cry.

He looks up at the moon, shining overhead, the burnt out buildings, what's left of his life, his world.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a small photograph—his wife, holding Willa as a baby in the lake. A moment of perfection.

He looks up to see Air-Piercer standing down the street, a distance away.

Dad is shocked. He thought whoever did this was long gone.

He tries not to move, not to do anything, but it is too late. Air-Piercer turns toward him and, within a few seconds, is standing beside him.

Her sword snakes out, resting under Dad's chin.

Air-Piercer slowly leans her head in, sees blood dripping down Dad's head and neck. Her tongue darts out and she tastes him.

He closes his eyes, ready for what comes next.

AIR-PIERCER

Are you ready?

DAD

You... you aren't real.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIR-PIERCER

I'm not? What happened to all
these young men, then? What did
this?

DAD

War.

AIR-PIERCER

War?

DAD

War.

AIR-PIERCER

And are you ready?

DAD

Re... ready for what?

AIR-PIERCER

For death?

Dad closes his eyes.

Air-Piercer lifts a sword in the air and smiles.

AIR-PIERCER

It's gone.

Nothing. A beat.

AIR-PIERCER

All gone.

Dad opens his eyes.

DAD

What? What's all-

AIR-PIERCER

Nothing left.

DAD

What... what do you-

Air-Piercer smiles, leans down to him.

AIR-PIERCER

Your fight. There's no fight left
in you. At all. It has left your
body. Fled. No fight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dad shakes his head.

DAD

No-

AIR-PIERCER

No?

DAD

I'll kill you. I'll kill every
last one of you-

AIR-PIERCER

No. You won't.

Dad looks at her.

DAD

One day-

AIR-PIERCER

Today is one day. Your fight is
over.

Air-Piercer, somewhat disappointed, lifts her sword.

As she does, THE KNIGHT zooms down the street on the
motorcycle. The BEAR runs alongside.

Air-Piercer sees them coming.

AIR-PIERCER

What is better than a dead enemy?

Dad shakes his head.

AIR-PIERCER

What is better than a dead enemy?

Dad starts to cry, putting his hands to his ears, trying
to block her out.

He is broken. Physically and psychologically broken. He
starts to weep.

Air-Piercer smiles.

AIR-PIERCER

That. That is better.

She rounds the corner and is gone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WE PULL BACK on Dad, sitting amongst the carnage, the dead bodies. We pull back as THE KNIGHT dismounts from the bike and runs up to help Dad. The "WE WON" banner blows in the wind, one side pinned down by the dead body of PHILLIPS.

We pull back into the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALT CLIFFS - NOW

Dad stands up. He's not ready to give up, not yet.

The blood drips down his leg into the grass. He tries to pull the knife out of his leg, but can't manage it.

He sees the FLIER, circling around for another pass.

He limps off, toward the wheat field, toward his daughter.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Willa scrambles through the wheat field, carrying the length of rope from the bag.

She sees Mooncrusher stomping through the field.

She sneaks by him, circling him, trying to find the best way to get close.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - SAME

Air-Piercer stands at the edge of the forest. Her one arm is hanging useless beside her. Her other arm holds her leg. With her two good arms, she pulls out her swords and begins cutting a pathway to where the noise is.

She disappears quickly into the overgrowth, but we stay here, on the edge of the forest for a beat, as the wolf appears, limping. She stands at the edge of the field, then looks back toward the forest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A small beat as the wolf makes a decision, and then she makes her way into the wheat field.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Willa is passing around the back side of Mooncrusher when she feels two hands reach out and grab her. She almost makes a sound, but the hands clamp over her mouth.

She looks behind her- It's Dad.

He nods his head and then removes his hands.

She holds up the rope.

He nods.

WILLA

I thought we could-

DAD

Tie it around his foot. Good idea.

WILLA

... then what?

Dad looks up, trying to see the Flier.

DAD

What were you thinking?

WILLA

If we... we tie the other end to a boulder or... and then we push it... I didn't really think this all the way through.

DAD

No, no. It's good. It's good thinking. But I think... look up.

Willa does.

WILLA

The flier?

DAD

The flier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA

But... how?

DAD

I... I'll figure that part out.

Willa looks at his leg, the knife sticking out of his skin.

WILLA

You're hurt!

DAD

I'm fine.

WILLA

Let me take it out-

DAD

No, no. It stopped bleeding. It's ok. It's ok for now.

Willa starts to cry.

DAD

Hey... we can do this. You're fast, so I need you to get his attention. Can you do that?

WILLA

Yes.

DAD

And you won't get caught?

WILLA

No.

DAD

You'll be fast?

WILLA

Yes.

DAD

And brave?

WILLA

Yes.

Dad hugs her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

Willa girl... this world isn't
broken. It has you in it.

He kisses her. She reaches up and puts her hands on his
cheeks.

WILLA

I... I love you. So much.

DAD

I love you.

He smiles.

DAD

When this is all over, we'll get a
big fudge sundae.

WILLA

I don't know what that is, but
it's a deal.

DAD

Be strong.

WILLA

Always.

DAD

Fight.

WILLA

Always.

DAD

And love. Love it all. Even the
dark.

He kisses her forehead and then heads toward the Salt
Cliffs. Willa sneaks toward the Mooncrusher.

She sees him, standing in the field, the smoke from the
fires getting to him. He coughs and hacks, rubbing his
eyes.

Willa slowly crawls toward him.

There is a quick beat. Willa waits for her Dad to
disappear.

She picks up a rock and waits. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She hurls the rock at Mooncrusher. He turns, growls and runs toward her.

Willa stands her ground, waiting, and then, at the last minute, slides under Mooncrusher's legs and sprints in the opposite direction, toward the Salt Cliffs.

Mooncrusher comes to a stop, turns, and then follows her toward the Cliffs.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALT CLIFFS - A MINUTE LATER

Dad kneels at the edge of the wheat field, watching the Flier circle overhead. He waits, listening for the sound of Willa and Mooncrusher coming his way.

He takes out the rope, tying loops on both ends. He pulls out his picture of his wife and Willa in the lake.

He kisses it gently, then places it on the ground with a rock on top, near the gun Willa had discarded. Willa doesn't know the full plan, and he wants to make sure she'll have the picture.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Air-Piercer slices her way toward the smoke and noise.

She hears something behind her and turns, but can only see the wheat, blowing in the breeze.

She turns, and continues slicing her way forward.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF WHEATFIELD - SAME

A beat.

Willa breaks through the edge of the wheat field, seeing Dad as he stands up straight at the edge of the Salt Cliffs, rope in hand.

WILLA

Dad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

Keep coming!

She does, running at a sprint. She looks up and sees the Flier coming in at a full dive, talons out.

WILLA

Dad!

DAD

Keep coming!!!

Mooncrusher appears behind her, picking up speed, reaching his hands out to ensnare her, but Willa stays mere steps ahead of him, moving as quickly as she can. She sees the Flier get closer and closer to Dad and starts to realize what he's doing.

WILLA

Dad! No!

Dad motions for her to keep coming. The tears start to stream down her cheeks.

WILLA

Please!

DAD

It's ok-

WILLA

No! Please!

She's close to him, almost close enough to touch.

DAD

Slide!

WILLA

Please-

DAD

Willa! Slide!

She does, sliding under his feet, sliding under him and over the edge of the cliff.

She reaches out, grabbing the cliff face, desperately holding on, her hands slipping.

WILLA

Ahh!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAD

Ok?

WILLA

Dad! Please!

Dad drops one end of the rope, an enormous loop on the ground right in front of his feet.

He turns, looks at her lovingly for a beat, and then the talons are there, the Flier grabs him, covering his body.

DAD

AHHHH!

The flier starts to lift off with Dad as MOONCRUSHER continues to run, full force. He tries to stop himself when he sees the cliff, but it's too late.

With two quick movements, Dad loops one end of the rope around the Flier's talon. The other end is on the ground, directly where he was standing, directly where the Mooncrusher now stands.

As the Flier lifts off into the sky holding Dad, the rope pulls tight, the loop closing around Mooncrusher's foot, and lifts him up into the air too.

He's unsure what just happened, but is now floating, upside down, into the air, over the ocean as the Flier comes around for another pass.

Willa, holding on to the cliff face, screams.

WILLA

DADDDDDDDDD!

She watches him disappear into the sky.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - SAME

Air-Piercer hears Willa's scream and picks up her pace, her swords slashing the air.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - SAME

Mooncrusher is dangling from the rope. The Flier is having trouble staying steady as he struggles to free himself. The Flier climbs higher and higher.

Mooncrusher looks up at Dad, puzzled as they fly over the ocean.

MOONCRUSHER

D... d... don't...

DAD

Yes.

MOONCRUSHER

Don't... st... struggle.

Dad smiles.

DAD

Yes.

He reaches down, and with enormous effort, yanks the knife out of his leg. His leg begins bleeding profusely, but he takes the knife and hacks at the rope once, twice, a third time.

The rope gives way and Mooncrusher floats in the air for a second before falling, fast and hard, crashing into the endless, deep ocean.

With his size and weight, he immediately sinks, down deep, into the darkness.

He's gone.

Dad smiles. His leg continues to bleed everywhere. He starts to lose consciousness, but keeps himself going.

He looks out for a brief moment, watching the sun as it continues to rise over the water. It's bright orange and for a moment, for the briefest of moments, Dad is reminded of the beauty that comes with the day.

He starts crying. He looks back toward the cliffs, back where Willa is hanging on. He looks down at the talons digging into his body, the leg wound. He knows he doesn't have much left.

He reaches up with the knife and slashes with all of his might, cutting away at the guts of the Flier. The knife is small, but Dad is savage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The flier is bleeding everywhere as it starts struggling, then goes into a fast, out of control dive, right into the ocean.

Dad looks up, watching the sunrise the entire way, feeling the warmth one last time before the ocean swallows him up.

The Flier crashes into the waves, struggles to swim, and then sinks down, down into the deep.

FADE TO:

EXT. SALT CLIFFS - SAME

Willa watches the Flier crash into the ocean and then sink out of sight. She cries, letting go for the first time in a long time, long measured weeps. She weeps for her father, for what he has done for her, for what life will be like alone.

She hangs there for a long beat, knowing he won't come back, hoping against hope he will.

The rocks she's holding start to crumble. Her grip is slipping.

She hangs there for a brief moment with her decision.

She lets go with one hand, dangling over the cliff. It would be so easy to just let go, to let the sea take her as well, to let the fall down to the beach below be her last moment.

She hangs there as the sun continues to rise and then, suddenly, her free hand reaches up and grabs the side of the cliff. She steadies herself. Her feet and hands grip the cracks in the cliff face, and she climbs, up and over the abyss.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALT CLIFFS - SAME

Willa's hands dig into the ground and she pulls herself up and over the cliff edge.

She stands on the edge of the cliff, looking down at the ocean, the ships dug into the sand, the desolation.

She cries as the sun continues to rise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A long beat.

Willa turns toward the wheat field and sees her, the Air-Piercer, standing by the edge of the wheat field. She is bleeding profusely from her leg and arm.

One sword is out, towards Willa.

AIR-PIERCER
We've been looking for you.

WILLA
I know.

AIR-PIERCER
Sun? Moon?

WILLA
Dead.

AIR-PIERCER
Both?

WILLA
Both.

Air-Piercer nods, impressed.

AIR-PIERCER
No one expected this.

WILLA
No?

AIR-PIERCER
World Breaker. This was an easy mission.

WILLA
What?

AIR-PIERCER
Destroy hope. Destroy light. Find those not yet touched by the darkness and make them feel it.

Willa nods.

AIR-PIERCER
Your name isn't Hope is it? That would be... prophetic.

Willa nods her head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLA

My dad... didn't think you were real.

AIR-PIERCER

He didn't WANT to think we were real.

WILLA

You're just... just a way to explain away all the ugliness.

AIR-PIERCER

Look over there. On the mainland. Sun is up. Look.

Willa looks over. She can see dark plumes of smoke rising from the city.

WILLA

Yes.

AIR-PIERCER

You see that city?

WILLA

Yes.

AIR-PIERCER

That city... is every city.

WILLA

Not every-

AIR-PIERCER

Every.

Willa shakes her head, refusing to believe.

AIR-PIERCER

You killed two. Mooncrusher, with his barbaric, calloused hands crushing you, Sun-eater with her agony. Her fear. Her loathing eating her from the inside. You killed them both.

WILLA

Yes.

AIR-PIERCER

And is the ugliness gone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLA

I-

AIR-PIERCER

Is the ugliness gone? Look over there.

Willa does.

AIR-PIERCER

What do you see?

WILLA

I see-

AIR-PIERCER

War. And misery. And fear. That's what you see.

WILLA

I see... I see the sun.

AIR-PIERCER

You do?

WILLA

It's coming up. Just now. Can't you see-

AIR-PIERCER

It will go away again-

WILLA

I see the light. Shining down on the city. On the shadows. I see it turning.

AIR-PIERCER

Not for you-

WILLA

I see it changing.

AIR-PIERCER

Not for you.

Air-Piercer levels her sword at Willa.

Willa closes her eyes.

AIR-PIERCER

Are you afraid?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Willa breathes out.

WE SEE IMAGES:

- An ornately decorated sword, sharpened to a fine point, cuts through the air

- Two enormous hands, calloused and red, grab a massive boulder. The force of the hands begin to crack it

- Flames shoot into the sky

- A small, schooner ship on storm-tossed seas- one bright lantern on the bow.

Willa opens her eyes.

AIR-PIERCER

You fought hard. There is still goodness inside you. I can feel it, sickly and sweet. I can see it. But you are alone. No one is coming for you. And you will die. On this island. Alone.

Willa shakes her head.

AIR-PIERCER

Get on your knees.

WILLA

I won't.

AIR-PIERCER

It's so much easier if you just give in.

WILLA

I won't.

AIR-PIERCER

You are alone.

WILLA

No. I'm not.

Air-Piercer hear a growl and turns around to see the wolf, leaping through the air.

Air-Piercer tries to bring her swords up, to defend herself, but the wolf has already closed the gap, sinking its powerful jaws into Air-Piercer's neck, ripping it open.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Air-Piercer starts to scream, but her scream is silenced by the blood filling her esophagus and lungs. She stumbles backward, dropping her swords, hands grabbing her neck, trying to stop the bleeding.

She stumbles forward and collapses to her knees. Willa sees her opportunity and runs at Air-Piercer, using all of her body weight to push her up and over the side of the Salt Cliff.

Air-Piercer slips over the side. Willa turns and looks at the wolf, its fur stained with blood.

WILLA

Thank you.

The wolf watches her, keeping a safe distance back.

WILLA

Thank you.

Again, nothing. Willa takes a step toward the wolf and it snarls. She pauses, takes two steps back, putting her arms in the air.

WILLA

I'm sorry. It's ok. It's o-

SUDDENLY, Air-Piercer's hand reaches up, grabbing Willa's ankle. Willa screams and is pulled over the side of the cliff as well.

The camera tracks up and over the side of the cliff as we see Willa, hands dug into holds in the rock, dangling precariously above the thirty foot fall. Air-Piercer is holding her by the ankle, covered in her own blood, fading fast but determined to take Willa with her.

Willa struggles, kicks out with her foot and connects with Air-Piercer's face, again and again.

Air-Piercer hangs on, not letting go. She keeps trying to talk, but her throat releases nothing but gurgling sounds.

Willa feels herself starting to slip, starting to fall, but she digs her hands into the rock and holds on. She kicks out with her feet again and again, slipping, slipping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Finally, she connects with Air-Piercer one last time, causing her to let go of Willa's ankle, sliding down the rock face until her head smashes into an outcropping and she sickeningly cartwheels down the side of the cliff, landing with a thud on the beach below.

Willa looks down, making sure the Air-Piercer isn't moving, and slowly, weakly lifts her body back up the cliff, on to the ledge above.

The wolf is still standing there. Watching.

Willa climbs up. She stands on the ledge, lifts her face to the rising sun, and let's out a long, rebellious howl.

The wolf watches her. She does not join in.

The brief moment of joy passes as Willa slumps to the ground, exhausted. She starts to cry.

The wolf approaches her cautiously, sitting near her on the ledge.

They both look out at the sun rising, the water below. They both look out at a wide open world and an unknown future.

Willa's crying increases until she falls back on to her back, staring up at the sun and openly weeping. She's crying for her dad, for her mom, for a world of possibilities gone.

Lying back on the ground, she closes her eyes.

WE SEE the same images as before:

- An ornately decorated sword, sharpened to a fine point, cuts through the air

- Two enormous hands, calloused and red, grab a massive boulder. The force of the hands begin to crack it

- Flames shoot into the sky

- A small, schooner ship on storm-tossed seas- one bright lantern on the bow.

Willa opens her eyes. Lying on the ground, at this angle, she sees something soft and metallic shining on the ground.

She squints, trying to figure out what it could be.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

Her hand reaches out and her fingers delicately wrap around the object.

She sits up, wiping her eyes dry, her hand clenched tight.

She opens her hand and there, in the palm, is the last bullet, the one Dad lost in the scuffle.

Willa nods. She now understands what it was for.

She stands slowly. She walks over to the wheat and grabs the discarded gun.

With some effort, she manages to open the chamber and slip the bullet into the gun.

She's doing this calmly, almost detached.

She turns toward the cliff and starts gingerly making her way down to the beach.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNED OUT CITY CENTER - SAME

The WORLD-BREAKER stands on the balcony, looking out at the destruction before it.

A small smile slips across its gray, inhuman lips.

There is a small beat and a single, beautiful firework shoots into the sky- reds and blues breaking up the darkness.

The World-Breaker looks up at the firework, puzzled.

Suddenly, dozens of others spring up from all over the city center, flying into the air, lighting up the sky, beating back the darkness.

Somewhere in this city, the humans are aware that something has shifted the balance and, for a moment, just a moment, they are celebrating. They feel joy. And hope. And what it means to be human.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Willa and the wolf scramble over boulders and land on the beach.

Willa looks around at all the ships, most of them utterly destroyed, the skeletons long since rotted.

The wolf follows behind her closely, watching her as she weaves in and out of the destruction, in and out of the ships and bodies, heading down towards the water.

She looks out at the ocean. The wolf sits a safe distance away, not wanting to get wet.

Willa watches the sun for a long beat.

She turns, look at the wolf.

WILLA

They'll ask you. They won't know who else to ask, so they'll ask you. Who killed the creatures? Who slew the dragons? When kids have nightmares and their parents try to explain away all the... all the ugliness. They'll ask you because you're the only one who knows. And you can tell them. There was a girl named Willa. And she was strong and weak. Happy and sad. Full of hope and full of fear. You can tell them she had a wolf as a friend and lived in a dark cave eating peaches and strawberries that tasted like... heaven. You can tell them that her father was a one-legged magician and storyteller, whose fables came to life and made sense of a world that didn't. Whose mother was a soldier and a singer. How she could make the world fall in love with her voice. How she could sing songs that everyone knew, but no one knew the words to. You can tell them she was scared of what was to come but ready to face it.

Willa looks down. She sighs. She is still holding the gun at her side. She breathes deeply.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLA

You can tell them that the only thing that could kill her, Willa of the World, the only thing that could defeat her...

Willa looks down.

WILLA

Was being alone.

Willa nods.

WILLA

You can tell them that.

Willa smiles. She looks out at the waves, the endless ocean. She's never felt more alone. She sighs.

WILLA

You tell them that, won't you?

She nods.

WILLA

I wish I could pet you... but you're not really a pet, are you?

She turns back to the ocean, looks out at the spot far out where her Dad disappeared in the waves.

She breathes deeply and lifts the gun from her side, resting the barrel against her temple.

She pulls the hammer back on the gun and closes her eyes.

Everything is dark.

Then, we see a light in the darkness, far off, but bright, so bright, and getting closer.

Willa opens her eyes.

She looks out at the monstrous waves on the ocean and she's convinced she can see something- something from far out in the ocean getting closer, coming toward her.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOONER BOAT - STORM TOSSED SEAS - SAME

THE SOLDIER, wearing the motorcycle helmet and coat of arms of the bear fighting the serpent, stands at the controls of the schooner, steering it up and over the waves, pointing it toward the island. Toward Willa.

On the seat by the helm of the boat is a large, brown LABRADOR RETRIEVER.

WE ZOOM IN on the collar, which reads simply "BEAR".

We watch as THE SOLDIER shines the bright search light towards the island, alerting Willa. It's the boat from her dreams with the single, bright lantern.

The SOLDIER takes off the helmet and we see that it is WILLA'S MOTHER, her face more aged, her skin cracked and dry, bags under her eyes, weary from the war, but it is her. Unmistakably her. And she is coming for her daughter.

Willa sees the light, way out in the darkness.

A beat and then she lets the gun fall to her side and then down into the sand.

She reaches into her bag and instead pulls out the remaining bit of honeycomb. The wolf approaches, nudging her hand with his nose, and she breaks off a piece for him.

She tears a chunk and places it on her tongue, keeping her eyes trained on that single light.

The light is far off, faint, but it is unmistakable. Illuminating the darkness and getting closer, ever closer.

Soon.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF FILM.