

**JUPITER JULIA**

A MixTape Flick.

### **Our Narrators**

SHELBY, 21, male, bullfrog, aristocratic Mississippi accent.

SEQUOIA, 120, female, giant tortoise, Ecuadorian accent.

### **The Principal Players**

CANDACE, 10, female, human, mixed African & Korean ancestry, standard American English accent w/slight Southern drawl.

JUPITER JULIA, 2, female, dog, white & brown, Shih Tzu, slight Filipino accent.

### **Key Supporting Players**

CORRINA (MOM), 34, female, human, Korean ancestry, South Korean accent.

COLTRANE, 6, male, beaver, Alabama Southern accent.

DUDE, 8, male, dog, white, German Shepherd, calm, loving, Alabama accent.

MISSY, 4, female, dog, black & brown, Dachshund, feisty, playful, Scottish accent.

GUANYIN, 60, female, flamingo, sage, maternal, Indian accent.

DITTO, 5, male, mockingbird, rapid code/dialect switching.

BOWIE, non-binary, owl, soulful electronic accent.

PUTIN, 29, male, silverback gorilla, English (RP) accent.

ENZO, 1, male, gorilla, Filipino accent.

LINCOLN, 11, male, American buffalo, Kentucky accent.

### **The "Villains"**

BOJANGLES, the river beast.

JISOO, female, human & calico cat, French accent.

ROSE, female, human & calico cat, Swedish accent.

JENNIE, female, human & calico cat, Spanish accent.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Woof! Woof! Woof! Arf! Awoooooooooooo.....!"

- Benji #4, 1974.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Just As I Am" by Lullabye Baby.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY HOLLOW. BY THE RIVER. MOONLIGHT. **2D ANIMATION.**

Moonlight. Crickets. The country landscape. A river flows.

SHELBY, 21, male, bullfrog, seated by the river on a brown rock. Motionless. Smiles. Winks at the camera. Launches his tongue at a fly buzzing slightly out of range. He misses the fly. Chuckles to himself.

JUPITER JULIA, 2, female, dog, Shih Tzu, prances playfully behind Shelby. Gives Shelby a nuzzle.

Julia runs playfully to the water's edge. Stops. Notices her reflection in the water. Taps the water gently with her left paw. Her reflection ripples. She recoils slightly.

A large mouth bass fish appears from beneath, his mouth appearing where Julia's paw touched the water. The bass smiles at Julia. Julia gives a playful bark. The bass squirts water in the air. The water lands on top of Julia's head. She shakes it off. Gives a playful bark. The fish smiles, turns, and heads back towards deeper waters.

EXT. COUNTRY HOLLOW. BY THE RIVER. MOONLIGHT. **2D ANIMATION.**

Julia and Shelby watch the sunrise to the East.

Julia curls up in a ball near the foot of a large Weeping Willow tree and falls asleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RIVER BOTTOM. DAYTIME. **2D ANIMATION.**

The river bed. Clear water. Hundreds of small baby catfish sway forwards and backwards with the current. Happy, playful little catfish friends.

The babies move in formations much like birds in the sky. Changing shapes. Their bodies come together to form a large, dark catfish-like creature, which quickly dissolves again back into the individual baby catfish.

A single baby catfish, BOJANGLES-2187, swims towards us away from the herd. The pack recedes into the distance.

A small net scoops Bojangles and draws her towards the surface. Her worried face looks back at the pack still receding, and shape-shifting, in the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATRE. RECEPTION. SEOUL. 2046. EVENING. **2D ANIMATION.**

Two hands of Asian ancestry place a fishbowl at the end of a long brown table. Bojangles inside the fishbowl. Abandoned :(

Bojangles looks around sheepishly. He is surrounded by other fishbowls with colorful, beautiful pet fish inside.

Bojangles turns to see, through his fish bowl, the doors of the theatre open. Parents stream out. Kids pick up their prizes. Indecipherable mumbling.

Bojangles meets eyes with the goldfish in a small fishbowl beside him. Third place ribbon. A child's hand retrieves the goldfish bowl. The goldfish smiles at Bojangles. First place ribbon. A child's hand retrieves a different fishbowl. Two colorful neon fish inside. The fish smile as they move away from Bojangles.

More fishbowls are removed. Bojangles is the last fish remaining on the empty table. He swims alone in his bowl. The reception area is now empty.

A lone little girl, CANDACE, 10, mixed African & Korean ancestry, standard American English accent w/slight Southern drawl, approaches Bojangles's bowl. Bojangles's eyes meet Candace's. A moment begins from Bojangles's POV and...

CUT TO:

INT. THEATRE. RECEPTION. SEOUL. SUMMER, 2046. **3D ANIMATION.**

...the moment continues from Candace's POV. Bojangles's face changes slowly. Abandonment. Surprise. Recognition. A smile warms. Big grin. Laughing.

Candace makes playful faces at the small catfish inside her bowl. She looks around the reception area.

Shrugs her shoulders. Gives Bojangles a smile, picks up her bowl, slings her backpack over her shoulder, blows her hair out of her face, and walks through the main exit.

**INT. CAR. KOREAN COUNTRYSIDE. DAY. AUTUMN. 2046. 3D ANIMATION.**

The autumn Korean countryside seen from the moving car. Jupiter Julia sleeps in a brown cardboard box seated on the passenger seat. She moves slightly to the bumps of the road. Slowly opens her eyes and yawns.

The car winds up a narrow mountain road. A simple zen monastery sits at the top of a long flight of red, wooden stairs. A long flight of red, wooden stairs lead to the front door of the monastery.

The car door opens. Julia's open box is placed on the first red step. Julia looks confused. The car door shuts. Pulls away. Julia turns in her box. Sits. Nuzzles under her blue blanket. Lets out a long exhale.

**EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. KOREA. TWILIGHT. 3D ANIMATION.**

A monk walks down the long red staircase. He looks down into the brown box to see Julia asleep, shivering. The monk reaches down into the box. Picks Julia up. Cradles her upside down. A RED COMET BIRTHMARK on her belly. Julia rouses slightly. Looks up at the monk. Smack her lips sleepily. Goes back to sleep.

The monk folds the box, wraps Julia in the blanket, and climbs the steps to the monastery.

**INT. CANDACE & MOM'S APARTMENT. SEOUL. EVENING. 3D ANIMATION.**

Candace places Bojangles, still in his bowl, on top of her bedroom dresser. Drops her backpack near the door. Blows her hair out of her face. Frustrated exhale.

Candace in her night clothes. Looks at herself in the mirror. Makes playful, funny faces at herself. Makes playful, funny faces at Bojangles. Ties her black hair in a ponytail. RED COMET BIRTHMARK on the nape of her neck.

**INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. LATE NIGHT. 3D ANIMATION.**

MOM, 34, Korean ancestry, South Korean accent, gently opens the door and peeks in to see Candace fast asleep.

Mom quietly kisses Candace and re-tucks her in. Places her hand on Candace's forehead. Looks up to see Bojangles in his bowl. Mom cocks her head inquisitively. Meets eyes with Bojangles. Smiles. Bojangles smiles back.

Mom places a note on Candace's dresser. Korean script: "Sorry I missed the recital. Had to work again. Good luck on your first day of school ^\_^ Love, Mom."

Mom turns back for one last look before she exits the room. Her face beams with maternal love.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Just As I Am".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: FADE IN "You Are My Sunshine" by Elizabeth Mitchell.

INT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. COLD, CLEAR MORNING. **3D.**

Julia, sleeping, curled up on a red meditation cushion. Her chin stretched out over her blue blanket.

Monks walk past Julia into the main meditation hall.

The monks chant & meditate. Julia rouses. She wanders out the back door of the kitchen.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. COLD AFTERNOON. CLEAR SKIES. **3D.**

Julia walks quickly and calmly on a brown, narrow forest path. Old growth pine trees reach towards the sky.

Julia approaches a ravine in the forest. She criss-crosses down the path towards a small stream flowing beneath.

Julia walks beside the stream, approaching a small stuffed KAWAII BROWN BEAVER (female) plush toy. Julia nudges the small stuffed toy. Puts the nape of the toy's next in her mouth.

Julia walks the forest path, now heading back towards the monastery. She carries the stuffed toy in her mouth. A ripped tag attached to the plush reads, "Corri..". The remaining letters, and remaining tag, have been ripped off. One eye missing. Faded. Aged.

INT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. KITCHEN. 3D.

Julia, toy in mouth, walks into the kitchen. She navigates through the feet of the kitchen workers. Julia continues through the kitchen into the monastery.

INT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. MONK'S QUARTERS. 3D.

Julia enters the simple, private quarters of an elder monk. The monk sleeps quietly in bed, covers drawn.

Julia jumps into bed. Places the stuffed toy into the hand of the monk. The monk rouses, looks down, smiles gently, and pets Julia gently on the head. Julia reciprocates with a lick to the monk's hand.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. SUNSET. 3D.

A monk chops a piece of firewood, laid vertical on a stump. The wood cracks into two pieces as the ax hits. A third smaller piece falls to the ground. The monk gathers the two large pieces. Places them on top of the woodpile. Julia gathers the third smaller piece. Places it on top of a smaller woodpile beside the monk's. Julia wags her tail. The monk chuckles.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. EVENING. 3D.

Moonlight illuminates the front porch of a private meditation cabin deeper within the forest. Julia climbs the steps to the front porch, rolls up into a ball next to a blue blanket arranged on the porch, and falls asleep.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "You Are My Sunshine".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Flamingo" by Kero Kero Bonito.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. MORNING. 3D.

Candace wakes up. Stretches her arms to the sky in bed. Jumps up. Looks at the note from mom. Makes a funny face at Bojangles. Walks to the bathroom in night clothes.

EXT. CANDACE & MOM'S APARTMENT. MORNING. 3D.

Candace slides out the door holding her MINT GREEN BACKPACK WITH PATTERNED PINK FLAMINGOS in her hand. Shuts the door.

Turns the knob. Waits. Turns the knob a second time. It's locked.

INT. SUBWAY CAR. 3D.

Morning commuters packed tight. A sign above the subway door says "Better Safe Than Sorry ^\_^".

Candace's stands looking upwards. Her hand on the handle. The commuters like tall trees reaching above her field of vision.

A small Pomeranian dog arrives beside Candace. Candace, smiling, kneels, hand extended towards her new friend. The Pomeranian snubs Candace's affection. Turns away in arrogance. Candace faces forward. Looks down towards her feet.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION. 3D.

Candace, back to her happy self, sways and glides to the music as she exits the subway station on foot. She shimmies several blocks through the cityscape.

A careless driver on a delivery motorbike swerves in Candace's direction. She glides. The bike rights itself and slides away at the last moment. Candace continues her journey.

A restaurant worker tosses water onto the street, splashing Candace's shoes in error. The worker gives an apologetic face. Candace exhales. Smiles. Turns back towards her path. Blows her hair from her face. Continues.

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. 3D.

Julia arrives at the International School. She walks up the steps as other students arrive. Only Candace's backpack has the flamingo pattern. All other backpacks are solid lime green with brown trim.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. GYM CLASS. 3D.

Gym class. Three girls do perfect yoga flamingo poses. Candace, at the end of the line, struggles to hold the pose. She sways. Breaks the poses. The other three girls snicker mildly and roll their eyes. The girl closest to Candace offers her hand. Candace accepts. The girl pulls Candace up from the ground. Candace gives a sheepish grimace.



A fly buzzes above and around Candace's head. It moves above the girls, towards an open window near the rafters. Out the window and into the back school yard. Over the playground. Down towards the ground and through the chain link fence into a small wooded area. The fly lands on the leaf of a small tree near the ground.

Thwap! A pink tongue snaps the fly from the leaf and into the mouth of a SHELBY, male, bullfrog, seated on a rock just outside the school grounds. The bullfrog smiles. Turns to the camera. Speaks.

SHELBY

Well hello there everybody. Folks here call me Shelby and I suppose this is where our tale begins.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. CAFETERIA. 3D.

Candace waits in line for lunch. Reaches her turn at the counter. Gives a cautious smile to an unenthusiastic, CAFETERIA WORKER, female, behind the counter. Grey slop plops onto the tray. Candace looks down with caution.

SHELBY (V.O.)

That there is Candace. She's a good girl, a good student. It's her first day of school today. Everything's new.

Candace carries her tray past tables with different cliques. Math club. Kawaii club. Kids with guitars.

Candace recognizes the three girls from gym class. Approaches their table. Makes eye contact with one girl. Candace smiles. The girl moves her backpack from a chair. Candace sits.

The girls gossip and chatter. Candace enthusiastically tries to jump in, but can't quite get the flow of the conversation.

SHELBY (V.O.)

Candace tries her best to fit in, but she always seems to be just a little bit different than everyone else around her.

EXT. CITY STREET. AFTER SCHOOL. 3D.

Candace stands waiting for the crosswalk to change. She practices her karate kicks.

CANDACE  
Hiiiyaaaah!

Candace kicks the air with her foot. Loses her balance slightly. Takes a step back. Recovers.

SHELBY (V.O.)  
But she's got spunk. And she's got grit. And she always tries her best at whatever it is she's doing at the moment, and that my friends is what's going to make her grow strong and tall.

Candace performs another air kick with precision.

CANDACE  
Hiiyaaaah

Candace celebrates her perfect performance.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Yeah!

Pumps her fist in celebration. Awkwardly loses her balance. Stumbles backwards, knocks a flower pot off a window sill.

The pot shatters on the ground. The light changes to "walk". Candace quickly looks both ways. Hurries across the street.

INT. END OF LIFE CARE FACILITY. EVENING. 3D.

An elderly female patient lays in bed. Mom sits bedside gently cleaning the woman's arm with a warm wet washcloth.

SHELBY (V.O.)  
That's Candace's Mom. She takes care of older folks who aren't able to take care all by themselves anymore.

MOM walks down the hallway. A male patient walks towards her carrying a food tray. The tray drops. The food spills. The man stumbles down onto one knee.

SHELBY (V.O.)  
She is patient. She is kind. She loves Candace like the mountains love the way the mornin' opens to a soft and bright greeting from the sun.

Mom quickly comes to the man's aid. Eases him to a seated position. Concerned look. The man smiles. Mom laughs and shakes her head.

Mom cleans up the man's spill in the now empty hallway.

EXT. JEJU ISLAND. BEACH. SUNSET. THREE YEARS EARLIER. **3D.**

Mom and Candace stand on the shore facing the ocean. Waves crash on the sand. Water recedes.

SHELBY (V.O.)  
Several years ago we all got a  
surprise when Candace's father went  
to live with the angels.

FATHER, 30's, male, African ancestry, military dress blues, wipes a tear from mom's eye. Kneels down to face his daughter. Candace and Dad embrace. Candace smiles. Dad pinches her cheek. Gives a big smile. Winks. Candace giggles.

Dad ascends a magical staircase towards the sky. Waves back at Mom & Candace. Candace gives a worried look to mom. Mom looks down and cradles Candace's head with her hand.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP. AFTERNOON. **3D.**

Candace exits the shop carrying an empty pot. She skips down the street. Smiling. Spinning. Waves to the baker. Baker shakes a loaf of bread in the air with a smile.

SHELBY (V.O.)  
We learn to grow through our sad  
times and now Candace and her mom  
are happy again. Things are looking  
pretty bright for our young friend.

EXT. THE CITY STREET FROM MOMENTS EARLIER. **3D ANIMATION.**

Candace, kneeling on the sidewalk, gathers the dirt with her hands. Places plant into the new pot. Makes final adjustments to the surface of the soil. Places the new pot on the window sill. Blows the hair from her face. The plant smiles.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Flamingo".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "House Of The Rising Sun" by Doc Watson.

EXT. COUNTRY HOLLOW. BY THE RIVER. EVENING. **2D ANIMATION.**

Moonlight. The misty mountains. The hollow. The stream flows.

Julia sleeps under the weeping willow tree. She yawns. Smacks her lips. Her sleepy eyes flutter. She stands up in a circular motion and shakes off the sleep. Tail wags.

SHELBY (V.O.)

That there's Julia. Jupiter Julia.  
In case you haven't figured it out  
yet, we animals live in a different  
world than you humans. When we  
dream we visit your world and join  
in on your adventures.

Julia waltzes along the trail beside the stream. Places her face in the water. Laps it up. Drinks.

SHELBY (V.O.)

But when we wake up from our dreams  
we come back to our own world. This  
world.

Shelby, perched on his rock, motions with his hand...

SHELBY

This here's the hollow. We live by  
moonlight and sleep when the sun  
stings.

The hollow and the surrounding wood & grasslands.

EXT. THE GRASSLANDS. TWILIGHT. **2D.**

The grasslands. Julia shuffles up to MAMACAT, calico. Mamacat gives Julia a nuzzle. Pushes her forward towards her litter.

JISOO, ROSE, and JENNY (pre-adolescent calico cats), bat around a ball of yarn. Jisoo flicks the ball upwards with her right paw. Rose impressed, dives forward and flicks upwards with her left paw. The yarn ball rises. Jenny walks backwards. Jumps up and hits the ball with her head.

The ball arcs in Julia's direction. Julia jumps forward acrobatically, slides on her back, reaches her nuzzle long and CATCHES the ball with her teeth. Smiles at the cats, ball in mouth. Jisoo shakes her head. Jenny rolls her eyes. Rose gives an uncomfortable smile.

SHELBY (V.O.)

Candace and Julia have a lot in  
common.

(MORE)

SHELBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
They both sometimes feel out of  
place. They both try real, real  
hard. They both dream big.

EXT. OLD COY MOUNTAIN. RIDGE LINE. SUNRISE. 2D.

Julia watches the sunrise from the top of Old Coy Mountain,  
above the cloud line. Other mountain tops in the distance.  
The cloud line shrouds the lower Eastern landscape. Awe.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY HOLLOW. BY THE RIVER. EARLY MORNING. 2D.

Shelby, still perched on his rock.

SHELBY  
Yup. This here's home. Things are  
pretty simple and pretty peaceful  
here in the hollow.

Julia, back from the mountain, and wet, waltzes into Shelby's  
territory.

JULIA  
Well hey there Shelby. How ya doin'?

Julia stops in front of Shelby's rock. Stretches backwards.  
Shakes the water from her fur.

SHELBY  
Mornin' Julia. I was just thinkin'  
about you.

Shelby winks to the camera. Recoils as he is soaked by  
Julia's shaking, wet fur.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
And you always make such a  
memorable first impression!

JULIA  
Aww. Thanks Shelby. You're so  
sweet.

Shelby laughs. Julia puts her paws forward and lays on the  
ground. Her face on her paws. Meets Shelby eye to eye.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Shelby I've got a question.

SHELBY  
Shoot, kiddo.

JULIA  
Well you know Me. I LOOOVE the  
night time. The crickets and, well  
the frogs of course, and the moon  
light. It's perfect. But um, how  
come, well do you know why we  
decided to wake up when the sun  
goes down and go to sleep when the  
sun rises?

Shelby looks around his surrounding. Motions with his hand  
for Julia to come closer. He whispers.

SHELBY  
You are a smart one Julia. So I'll  
tell you the secret.

Julia's eyes get wider. Her tail wags. She leans in closer.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
You'll find out when you get older.

The dog and bullfrog share a laugh.

JULIA  
Awww, come on Shelby.

Our narrator scratches his chin thoughtfully.

SHELBY  
Truth be told Julia I can't say I  
rightly know. But it's a good  
question and maybe one day you'll  
find the answer. Good night kiddo.

Julia smiles. Gives Shelby a nuzzle.

Julia walks sleepily towards her favorite Weeping Willow  
tree.

**EXT. JULIA'S WEEPING WILLOW. EARLY MORNING. 2D ANIMATION.**

Julia curls up into a ball. Places her head on her blue  
blanket. Exhales. Closes her eyes. Smiles.

The branches of the willow tree gently pull Julia in closer,  
arranging themselves to create a shaded lean-to for the dog.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "House Of The Rising Sun".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Flight Of The Bumblebee".

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. HALLWAY. **3D ANIMATION.**

Candace stands by the lockers, eavesdropping on a conversation between three girls:

JISOO, 10, female, Korean ancestry, French accent. ROSE, 10, female, European ancestry, Swedish accent. JENNIE, 10, female, multi-racial ancestry, Spanish accent.

JENNIE

What did you get on your pre-pre-pre-pre-college assessment test?

JISOO

Eighty four percent.

ROSE

That's pretty good, but you'll need at least a ninety to get into the best middle schools.

Candace moves closer to the conversation.

JENNIE

Oh totally. You don't want to end up at one of those schools do you?

JISOO

Shh...don't talk like that Jennie.

Candace accidentally leans in too close and nudges one of the girls. She turns.

CANDACE

One of what schools?

ROSE

Pre-high-pre-college-pre-preparatory preparatory.

Candace looks confused.

JENNIE

Middle schools. Duh!

INT. SCHOOL THEATRE. STAGE. 3D.

Candace twirls gracefully, but somewhat haphazardly, across the stage.

DREAMSQUELCHER, 40's, female, ethnically ambiguous, prim, curt, rates students from the audience. Shouts out scores.

DREAMSQUELCHER (V.O.)  
Acceptable, but unstructured. Group  
Three. Start with fundamentals.

Candace, now offstage, looks confused.

Jisoo twirls across the stage. Graceful. Poised.

DREAMSQUELCHER (V.O.)  
Good form, but stilted. Group One.

Jennie twirls across the stage. Fluid. Original.

Dreamsquelcher addresses her minion.

DREAMSQUELCHER  
A natural completely lacking in the  
rudiments of tradition.

Dreamsquelcher, much louder.

DREAMSQUELCHER (CONT'D)  
Group Two.

Jennie and Jisoo meet each other off stage, clasping hands.

JISOO  
Congratulations you got Group Two.

JENNIE  
Thanks, that's...hey wait you got  
GROUP ONE...that's...so cool.

Candace joins the girls.

CANDACE  
Hey guys what does group one mean?

JENNIE  
It means your elite. The fast  
track. Going places in dance. It  
could be a career.

JISOO  
Oh my god you really think so like  
I could be the next...the next...



CANDACE  
...yeah?...

JISOO  
Well, just the Next!

Candace nods her head slightly. Rose, fresh from the stage, joins the girls.

JENNIE  
So?

ROSE  
Group Two. It will do for now.

Rose puts her arm around Candace.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
Hey Candace how'd you do?

CANDACE  
(somewhat sarcastically)  
Well, dreamsquelcher over there said I was group three, whatever that means.

Jennie recoils slightly. Jisoo makes a pained face.

JISOO  
Oh. Group Three. That's...that's nice.

Rose tries to put a positive spin on it.

ROSE  
Don't worry Candace. Maybe dancing's just not your thing. I'm sure that you'll be able to find something that...

SOUNDTRACK: END "Flight Of The Bumblebee".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley & The Wailers.

INT. MOM & CANDACE'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN TABLE. EVENING. **3D**.

Mom brings a pot of spaghetti from the stove. Sets it on the table. Sits down across from Candace.

The two ladies bow silently at the food on the table.

(beat)

Mom spreads her napkin. Candace twirls and cools her food, blowing a long bite of spaghetti.

MOM

So how was your first day?

Candace looks up at her mom. Her grip slackens on the fork. It drops slightly. The spaghetti slides back onto the plate.

CANDACE

Aww....like that.

Candace signals with her face towards the fallen spaghetti.

MOM

Come on now Candace. It couldn't have been that bad. Did you make new friends?

Candace ponders.

CANDACE

Would we call them  
friends...associates...yes  
certainly associates...but  
friends...maybe one of them. Are we  
friends?

Candace gets sidetracked in monologue. Mom chuckles.

MOM

I see some things never change.  
Tell me more...

Candace starts to jump in again.

MOM (CONT'D)

...but take a breath first and  
start from what started it all.

Candace takes a breath. Eats a bite of spaghetti.

CANDACE

Well. First thing when I arrive in  
the morning.

(MORE)

CANDACE (CONT'D)

People are talking about these tests...and these tests decide your life...and you better do good on the tests or you won't get to do the next test and the next test which leads to high school which leads to college which leads to the next test which leads to happiness...

Candace, now worked up again, stops to catch her breath.

Mom nods and listens.

MOM

Mmm.

Candace gets a bit more serious.

CANDACE

And you know they grade you on dancing? And put you into these groups and which group you're in determines what rank you are and that determines your life forever and ever as a dancer!

MOM

I always just danced.

CANDACE

I know right...just danced...that's good...I'm going to use that one...thanks...

Mom smiles.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

And then this older girl says you have to sign up for the right club and asks me "Who am I" and I say "well I'm Candace" and she says no who ARE you? Do you identify as this or that or who or him and finally I just said well I know exactly what I am my uncle told me when I was five years old he said Candace you're another mouth to feed that's exactly what you are.

Mom jumps in.

MOM

He was joking. You know that.

CANDACE

I know that. It was just something to say. I mean I'm just me, but who am I well, I don't know.

MOM

That's fine love. I'm not sure any of us really have the right answer to that one.

CANDACE

So it's ok to be a bit confused about everything sometimes?

MOM

Yes baby. It's ok.

Candace ponders.

CANDACE

And I can still dance even if it's only for fun?

MOM

I don't see why not.

CANDACE

Ok. I'm cool.

Mom laughs.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Three Little Birds".

FADE TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "En Voilier" by Jean Tonique.

EXT. CITY STREET. BEFORE SCHOOL. **3D ANIMATION.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Very Next Day

\*\*\*\*\*

Julia dances down the street. Her backpack swings gracefully. She improvises her movements and gets into the groove.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. CLASSROOM. MORNING. **3D.**

A classroom full of fourth graders in school uniforms. Students hold copies of "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White.

One student recites, standing, while others follow along with open books.

Candace seated near the window. Holds an open copy of "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. "Charlotte's Web" sits closed on her desk. Candace looks out the window. Twirls her hair.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. ART CLASSROOM. AFTER LUNCH. **3D.**

Candace in deep concentration. Draws fine details on a creative cityscape landscape. Blows the hair from her face. Ties it in a ponytail. RED COMET BIRTHMARK.

Other students complete their art projects. A simple black and white drawing of rabbits. A perspective piece. An abstract piece. A female student pulls clay from her tangled hair. A male student blows paper wads at the window. His friend, another male, throws a pencil upwards towards the ceiling. It sticks in the ceiling tile. The boys laugh. Candace rolls her eyes.

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE. MUSIC CLASSROOM. LAST PERIOD. **3D.**

Candace, standing at the back of the room, plays a simple beat on a snare drum. Right, left, right, left.

Band members playing little yellow recorder flutes sway side to side. Violins. A saxophone. The orchestra conductor moves his wand to the beat with vigor. Signals to end the song.

Candace, spaced out, keeps playing. Band members turn. Snickering. Candace snaps out of it. Grins sheepishly.

The conductor gives a "hmmph". Puffs his chest. Begins again.

EXT. COUNSELORS OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. **3D.**

Candace sits outside the Counselor's office. Poster in the hallway: "Every logical system has a black hole." - Albert Einstein.

INT. COUNSELORS OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. **3D.**

Interrogation lighting. Candace sits, bright lights in her face. Across the table: AUTOTUNE, robot, electronic accent. Name tag: "AUTOTUNE".

AUTOTUNE

What seems to be the problem.

CANDACE  
There's no problem.

AUTOTUNE  
According to our records you do  
well in creative ventures, but your  
attention in arithmetic is weak.

CANDACE  
You know if I'm paying attention or  
not?

AUTONE  
We know before you know.

CANDACE  
That makes no sense.

AUTOTUNE  
Correct. I sense high intelligence.

Candace blushes.

CANDACE  
Well I ...I don't know...maybe a  
little bit intelligent...I'm not  
one to brag...but I...

Autotune interrupts.

AUTOTUNE  
...but reading. Musicing. This is a  
waste of your IQ. It's just not  
practical.

Candace stands-up for herself.

CANDACE  
Hey wait a second I like music. And  
reading...well reading...reading  
is...well I just like it ok and...

Candace's voice grows in intensity.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
...and I think that reading is a  
good use of time and I like music  
so there.

(beat)

The robot. No reaction.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Nothing?

(beat)

AUTOTUNE

Would you like a lollipop?

A mechanical arm motions to a tray of colored lollipops.

EXT. CITY STREET. TWILIGHT. **3D.**

Candace, slouched over, lollipop in her mouth, slowly walks home. It begins to rain. Cars splash the sidewalk. Julia holds the lollipop in her hand, covers her head with her backpack and runs home.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. LATE NIGHT. **3D.**

Candace tucked into bed. Bojangles swims slowly in a larger bowl. Candace pulls herself up. Turns on the bedside table light. Picks up a book from the table. "Diary". Opens and begins to write.

Candace ponders, looking at the diary with her pencil pressed against her chin. She smiles. Writes.

Turns off beside light. Places diary on table. Walks to window. Looks towards the sky. A red comet streaks through the sky.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. LATE NIGHT. **3D ANIMATION.**

The sky and the monastery exterior shine in the moonlight.

Julia sleeps on the front porch of the monastery.

The sky. A red comet streaks. Julia briefly rouses from her slumber just in time to catch a glimpse of the comet. Julia smiles. Falls again deep into slumber.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "En Voilier".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: FADE IN "Froggie Went A Courtin'" by Bob Dylan.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD. MOONLIGHT. **2D ANIMATION.**

A country path. Oak tree in the distance. Two owls perched, watching. Two large bullfrogs gallop forward, harnessed to a green wagon with brown trim.

Atop the wagon sits a family of four common frogs, dressed in their Sunday best. Mom and dad in the front. Sunday dress. Hat. Shirt & tie. Top hat. Parousel. Two kids in the back of the wagon eat from a picnic basket. Bouncing up and down.

A smaller, younger bullfrog trails slightly behind.

The wagon rambles down the path, takes a turn towards the mountains. Approaches two dogs walking side by side. DUDE, white German Shepherd. MISSY, black & brown Dachshund.

Dude & Missy step to the side of the road. "Father" common frog tips his hat to the couple as the wagon passes. Dude nods downward. Missy curtsies.

The wagon continues ahead towards the hollow.

EXT. COUNTRY HOLLOW. MOONLIGHT. **2D.**

Shelby and Julia by the river. Shelby on his rock. Julia paws at the water, making patterns with the ripples of the waves.

The wagon enters the hollow, approaching Shelby and Julia.

Shelby addresses one of the two bullfrogs pulling the wagon.

SHELBY  
Say hey Billy.

BILLY BULLFROG  
Sah hey there Shelby.

SHELBY  
How you runnin'?

BILLY BULLFROG  
Hard and fast. You?

SHELBY  
Same.

BILLY BULLFROG  
All right then.

Shelby gives a wave. Billy, now well past the rock, turns his head forward. The wagon powers on.



Shelby turns back to address Julia. Julia beats him to it.

JULIA  
A frog he would a riding go. His  
girl and boy and wife also.

Julia smiles in anticipation.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Your turn. Go.

Shake her head in excitement. Wags her tail.

Shelby joins in, slowly at first.

SHELBY  
And on the road they were not slow.

Shelby accelerates. Julia nods.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
For they quickly distanced friend  
and foe.

JULIA  
Yeah!

MISSY (O.C.)  
Says the owl to his mate...

Dude and Missy arrive.

MISSY (CONT'D)  
...in the tree.

DUDE  
Tallyho! Tallywhoooooooooooo...

Julia joining in.

JULIA  
Tallywhoooooooooooo...

Missy and Shelby greet one another while Julia & Dude  
continue their "longest Tallyhoo" competition in the  
background.

SHELBY  
Madam Missy. Good to see you and  
old Dude here are doing well.

Shelby signals to Dude, still tallywhoing with Julia.

MISSY

And good day to you Shelby good sir. What do you know about they weather?

SHELBY

Clear skies today. Could be a cloudy one tomorrow. Reckon we'll all make do just fine.

MISSY

Reckon we will.

Julia caves first.

JULIA

Whooooooooo...

She collapses in exhausted laughter.

Dude, still tallywhooing with gusto, can't help but crack up at the sight of Julia. He laughs. The competition ends.

Dude rubs his paw on Julia's head.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Thanks Uncle Dude that was fun.

DUDE

Anytime kiddo.

Shelby, still seated on his rock, sways to the music.

The landscape. The moonlight. The night sky. The milky way.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Froggie Went A Courtin'".

FADE TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Counting Down The Days - Yotto Edit" by Above & Beyond.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. MOONLIGHT. **2D.**

A forest clearing amidst soaring redwood trees. Lightning bugs illuminate the sky.

GUANYIN, female, Flamingo, Indian accent, instructs a group of five red foxes. The foxes lined up in front on Guanyin. Two rows. First row, three foxes. Second row, two foxes. All seated on arranged piles of brown leaves.

Julia approaches the group.

GUANYIN signals for her to join the group. Julia takes her seat in the back row on a prearranged cushion of brown leaves.

FOXY 1 breaks her concentration.

FOXY 1  
Hey there. Thought we might not see you tonight.

JULIA  
Got caught up with the adults and Shelby...

Foxy 2 turns from the front row, serious.

FOXY 2  
Shhh!

Foxy 2 turns again towards the instructor. Julia makes a funny, playful face (not sarcastic), and laughs quietly with Foxy 1. Guanyin flashes a quick knowing smile.

GUANYIN  
So glad you could join us Juila.

JULIA  
Yes mam.

The group settles.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. MOONLIGHT. 20 MINUTES LATER. **2D.**

The students sit erect, straigh-backed. Attention on Guanyin.

GUANYIN  
So remember nothing tastes as bitter as dogma.

Julia, previously seated, now tumbles to the ground asleep. Suddenly wakes as she rolls onto the ground. The foxes giggle.

JULIA  
Hey dogs don't taste bitter!

GUANYIN  
Indeed.

Guanyin breaks her cool, calm facade and gives an honest laugh. Julia gives a sheepish grin.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)

Indeed.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. MOONLIGHT. **2D**. AFTER CLASS.

Julia approaches Guanyin after class.

JULIA

Mam Guanyin.

GUANYIN

Have you ever been past the outer frontier?

JULIA

No one's been past the outer frontier.

GUANYIN

Oh yes of course. Silly me. I forgot. No one has been past the outer frontier have they?

Julia gives a quizzical look. Ponders this odd statement. Guanyin picks at her pink feathers.

JULIA

Mam. Why do we always sleep at sunrise and live in the moonlight?

GUANYIN

Not everything has an answer Julia. Sometimes we make a choice. That choice becomes a habit. Then we forget that we ever made a choice in the first place.

Julia ponders.

JULIA

Hmmm. Last question.

GUANYIN

Is there anything you're still afraid of?

Julia responds gravely.

JULIA

The river beast.

GUANYIN

Ah yes the river beast.

JULIA  
If you ride the river past the  
outer frontier the river beast gets  
you.

Guanyin smiles.

GUANYIN  
I see.

JULIA  
Ok. Thanks. I gotta run now.

GUANYIN  
Take care Julia.

Julia exits the clearing.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)  
Oh and Julia...

Julia quickly turns back. Enters the clearing eagerly.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)  
When you do meet the river beast  
will you tell him something for me?

Julia, stunned, cocks her head to one side.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Counting Down The Days".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Tis The Last Rose Of Summer" by Wynton  
Marsalis.

EXT. THE HOLLOW. SUNRISE. **2D ANIMATION.**

The sun rises over the landscape. The mountains greet the  
opening morning. The wind rustles the trees.

Shelby perched atop his rock faces East. Turns to speak.

SHELBY  
Well we here in the hollow all knew  
that Jupiter Julia was just a  
little bit out of place wherever it  
was that she went. But we loved  
her. And we knew that one day, when  
that right moment came, purpose  
would find her and she'd get along  
just fine being herself.

Shelby smiles to a passing cow.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
And Candace. Well we all know  
school can get tough sometimes.  
I've got a good feeling about  
Candace, but we'll just have to  
wait and see.

Shelby, intent and focused.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
Now watch closely boys and girls.  
Sometimes magic can happen so quick  
you might miss the moment. It's  
like when you can be so excited  
and...

The ground shakes and moves beneath Shelby.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
Well that was...

The ground shakes again. As the rock rises, soil and leaves  
fall from the giant shell of SEQUOIA, female, giant tortoise.  
Shelby has been perched atop his friend all this time.

SEQUOIA  
Would you please get to the point.

Shelby blushes. Gathers himself.

SHELBY  
Well hey there Sequoia. Did you  
have a nice nap?

Sequoia yawns. Recedes back down into the landscape, almost  
invisible once again.

SEQUOIA  
Hmm.

Shelby quickly stands, does a twirl and a little dance,  
and...

SHELBY  
Well there you have it...without  
further ado, Let's Get Ready To...

SOUNDTRACK: END "Tis The Last Rose Of Summer".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Why Not Me" by The Judds.

INT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. AUTUMN AFTERNOON. **3D ANIMATION.**

Julia sits eagerly on the top step of the stairway leading to the monastery. A group of villagers down below climbs the steps. Julia wags her tail. The villagers arrive out of breath. A little girl, the youngest of the group makes it to the top step.

Julia approaches the little girl. The little girl giggles and snuggles up to Julia. The girl's mother takes the girl's hand. Leads her away from Julia towards the temple. The girl waves. Julia looks sad. Changes to a smile. Tail wag.

INT. PUBLIC BUS. SCHOOL FIELD TRIP. AUTUMN AFTERNOON. **3D.**

Candace's class of students occupies the majority of a small bus. Girls chatter. A chaperone. Jennie and Jisoo sit together. Candace and Rose behind them. Candace, seated by the window, looks out the window at the autumn landscape. Rose, on the aisle, leans forward to join the conversation with Jennie and Jisoo.

The bus climbs the winding road through ancient, mystic forestry.

INT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. KITCHEN. **3D.**

A steaming pot of water dumps into a large bowl of vegetables. Rapid foot traffic in the kitchen.

Julia runs across the kitchen to fetch a yellow ball. Runs back across the kitchen to the doorway. Drops the ball at the foot of a young child who giggles and claps. The child picks up ball and throws it across the kitchen. Julia once again tunnels across the room to retrieve the ball.

Julia drops the ball and looks up past the doorway where the little girl should be waiting. In the distance, the little girl's face across daddy's shoulder as he carries her away. The girl waves. Julia, look rejected.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. AFTERNOON. **3D.**

Candace and her classmates climb the monastery steps.

INT. EIHEI-JI MAIN TEMPLE ROOM. MOMENTS LATER. **3D.**

The class tours the main hall of the temple. Large red drum. Multiple buddha statues. Zen circle artwork.

EXT. EIHEI-JI. ZEN GARDEN. WOODEN PATHWAY. 3D.

Candace and Rose stand on a wooden pathway. The zen garden. Candace flaps her face with a unfolded fan.

The Abbot quietly enters the pathway from the monastery door.

Candace pulls her hair back into a ponytail. RED COMET BIRTHMARK.

The monk looks up from his path and sees Candace's birthmark. The monk smiles slightly, turns and walks into a side door of the monastery...

INT. MONK'S LIVING QUARTERS. HALLWAY. 3D.

...into the main hallway of the monks living quarters.

The monk moves slowly down the hallway. Here comes Julia, trotting down the hallway in the opposite direction. The Abbot. Julia wags her tail.

The Abbott scoops up Julia into his arms, continuing unaltered on his path. Gently rolls Julia over onto her back in his arms. RED COMET BIRTHMARK on Julia's belly.

The Abbot gives Julia a playful tickle before rolling her back over and carrying her in his arms. Julia is happy.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. LATE AFTERNOON. 3D.

Students file out of the monastery. Candace gathers her backpack and shoes from the common area. Exits the monastery.

Candace turns back. The Abbot, smiling, waves. Candace, looking slightly confused, waves back.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD. LATE AFTERNOON. 3D.

The bus navigates the winding road back down the mountain.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Why Not Me".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Little Girl" by Sam Cooke.



INT. PUBLIC BUS. FIELD TRIP. LATE AFTERNOON. **3D.**

Candace sits in the back row. Alone. Looks out the window. Her hand over her backpack, across her lap. The main compartment zipper is open.

A cute furry nose pushes through. Candace still looking out the window. A full head pushes out of the backpack. It's Julia. Candace still zoning out. Julia's eyes see Candace's face. Starstruck puppy eyes. Pushes further out of the backpack to lick Candace's hand.

Candace, startled, looks down at Julia. Shock. Softening. A big smile. Starstruck puppy eyes.

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE. TWILIGHT. **3D.**

Students unload from the bus. Julia comes last, carefully cradling her backpack.

EXT. CITY STREET. TWILIGHT. **3D.**

Candace walks home, carefully cradling her new friend in her arms. Her backpack, now closed, on her back.

Candace tickles Julia's belly. Julia wiggles in happiness. Julia's RED COMET BIRTHMARK.

Candace notices. Astonishment. Touches her own RED COMET BIRTHMARK at the nape of her neck.

INT. CANDACE & MOM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. **3D.**

Candace walks in carrying Julia under her arm. Mom, chopping vegetables.

MOM

Hi pumpkin. How was the field trip.

CANDACE

Weeeeeellllllll...

Mom know that voice. She turns from the vegetables. Candace kneeling, hands together in a begging position. Julia stands beside her. Mom surprised. Julia sits on her hind legs. Paws her front feet forward in the air. Mom laughs.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Pleeeaaasse....

MOM  
And who is this?

CANDACE  
This is. This is Paris.

Julia turns her head sideways, perplexed.

Mom kneels down as Julia nuzzles her open hand.

MOM  
Well, hello there Paris.

CANDACE  
And look she's got the same  
birthmark as me!

Mom playfully rolls Julia over.

MOM  
So she does. That's interesting.

Candace makes her cutest pleading face.

CANDACE  
Can I?

Mom laughs.

MOM  
You know that pathetic routine  
stopped working years ago.

Candace switches from pleading to bashful.

MOM (CONT'D)  
Ok. But she has to sleep in her own  
bed on the floor. Agreed?

Candace excites. Julia excites too.

CANDACE  
Deal.

Mom gets parental.

MOM  
Candace I'm serious. She sleeps on  
the floor.

Candace extends her hand to shake.

CANDACE  
Yes mother dear. We are agreed.

Mom laughs and shakes. Julia is cute. The family plays together on the kitchen floor.

INT. CANDACE & MOM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. 3D.

Mom finishes up the dishes. Wipes her hands on a hanging towel. Exhales. Wipes the back of her hand across her forehead.

She opens a drawer and pulls out a photograph of Mom, Dad, and baby Candace. Mom flips the photograph over. "Thank you for the gift of our daughter. Love always, your Coltrane."

Mom smiles. Puts the photograph back in the drawer. Shakes her head knowingly. Looks upwards, hands briefly in a prayer position. Mouths "thank you".

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Little Girl".

FADE TO BLACK:

\*\*\*\*\*

"Jumpin' Jupiter Julias! It had been a long time since I'd seen real magic!"

- Walt Disney, April 1, 2046.

\*\*\*\*\*

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Wish You Were Here" by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. LATE NIGHT. **3D ANIMATION.**

Candace and Julia play with a ball on the floor. Candace throws. The ball lands across the room, next to a kawaii beaver stuffed animal / plush toy (male). Julia runs towards the ball. Stops. Slides. Tumbles at the feet of the beaver. Quickly recovers. Barks, bouncing backwards playfully, at the plush toy.

Candace laughs. Walks across the room on her hands and knees. Pets Julia. Picks up the beaver plush toy.

CANDACE

Don't be afraid Paris. This is Coltrane. Daddy gave him to me before he went to heaven. He told me to squeeze Coltrane every time I miss him.

Julia jumps into Candace's lap and snuggles up with her and Coltrane.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. MINUTES LATER. **3D.**

Candace sits reading "Charlotte's Web" to Coltrane and Julia.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. MINUTES LATER. **3D.**

Candace makes a bed for Julia from a large blue towel. She sets Coltrane beside Julia.

CANDACE

Here Coltrane can keep you company tonight so you don't get scared.

Candace turns to grab a bottle of water. Coltrane gives Julia a FRIENDLY WINK. Julia wags her tail.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. HOURS LATER. **3D.**

Lights out. Candace slumbers in her bed. Julia asleep with her head on Coltrane's lap.

(beat)

The view from Candace's window shows gathering dark thunderclouds. Thunder. Lighting. The windows rattle. A second time, louder.

Julia startles awake. Looks around, confused, where am I?

Hail starts to beat the bedroom window, making a loud racket.

Julia sits crouched beside Coltrane. Her teeth chattering.

A strong wind blows tree branches against the window pane. Shadows make scary dancing movements across the wall.

Julia makes a run for it. Dashes across the room. Up into Julia's bed. Under the covers at Candace's feet. Ruffles towards Julia. Candace, still fast asleep, rolls over and puts her arm over Julia.

Julia relaxes and rolls sideways. Julia's comet birthmark. Candace, slumbering like an old man. Candace's comet birthmark.

A bright flash of lighting outside the window. Julia's comet illuminates in the fashion of a lightning bug. Candace's comet illuminates in the fashion of lightning bug.

The view from Candace's window. Storm clouds. A rainbow, shining bright through the dark clouds. Moonlight streams through. Two bright shooting stars rocket upwards through the gap in the clouds.

INT. MOM'S ROOM. **3D ANIMATION.**

Mom, sleeping gently on her pillow. Eyes still closed. Gives a faint smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE TRANSPERSONAL REALM. **2D ANIMATION (W/TOUCHES OF 3D).**

The comets surge into the transpersonal realm, their tails twisting and dancing as friendship grows.

We ride the universe like a roller coaster. The comets travel through a multi-variate latticed framework, shifting to the sounds of the music.

The lattice structure unfolds and folds back upon itself. TORNADOS swirl on desert and mountain landscapes.

Giant cosmic engineering turbines spin, intertwined with each other, locking into one giant cosmic movement.

Bright fireworks burst out in a kaleidoscope of colors through the grindings of the gears.

Thousands of multicolored tiny dancing bears grow from the sparks of the fireworks.

Giant, layered fluffy clouds part as a rainbow, and thousands of dancing bears, streams through the afternoon sky.

Two comets follow the rainbows, flaming out in the atmosphere of The Country Hollow, below.

The dancing bears retreat. The clouds swirl and dissipate.

Astonishment.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Wish You Were Here".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Hello" by Giraffage.

EXT. THE HOLLOW. LATE AFTERNOON. **2D ANIMATION.**

The hollow. The weeping willow. Songbirds perched in the branches. DITTO, male, mockingbird, copies the sound of another bird.

Candace, in a deep, loud slumber. Her head and upper body leans against a large and fluffy white pillow.

Ditto copies Julia's cacophonous exhale.

Candace calmly wakes up. Yawns. Stretches her arms. Starts to open her eyes. Collapses back into her large pillow.

Ditto makes an alarm sound.

Candace, flustered.

CANDACE

All right, all right, I'm up.

Candace stands and gathers herself. She looks around. Perplexed. The large white pillow behind Candace shakes from side to side revealing brown trim on one edge.

Ditto mimicks the sound of Candace's snore again.

JULIA

That's a new one ditto.

Candace standing. Looks up into the tree at Ditto.

CANDACE

Wha...

The head of a giant white and brown Shih Tzu turns to meet Candace head on, nose to nose.

Candace's size in this world is roughly three apples high.

JULIA

Agggggh!

Julia recoils in fear. Candace looks at Ditto, at the ground, at Julia.

CANDACE

Agggggh!

Candace takes several steps backwards.

Julia stares in astonishment. Candace looks down at her arms and legs.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Agggggh!

Julia bounces forward and gives Candace a big lick on her face.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Ewww. Wha...!

JULIA

Hey. Hey. Chill out. It's ok.

Candace relaxes a bit takes a big breath.

CANDACE

Ok, I'll try...just give me  
a...wait. You spoke! Agggggh!

Julia turns her head sideways in mild discomfort at the scream.

Julia relaxes her body, puts her paws forward, and lays her chin down. Looks at Candace.

Candace, pacing back and forth, talking to herself.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
(to herself) I mean I know I wished  
for a friend but I never could  
have...

Julia closes her eyes for a nap.

(beat)

EXT. THE HOLLOW. SUNSET. 2D.

Julia, unmoved, still slumbers. Candace, seated on the ground. Candace rises and closes the distance with Julia. Taps on Julia's nose.

Julia opens her eyes. Flutters her lashes.

CANDACE  
Ok so I've figured it all out. I  
ate some bad fish at the monastery  
and this is all just a bad dream.  
You can't really talk. I'm just  
imagining it. I look all funny  
because it's a dream.

Julia lifts Candace's arm with her nose.

JULIA  
Ok, sounds good to me.

CANDACE  
Ok but it's right. Right?

Julia, with conviction.

JULIA  
Right.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD. TWILIGHT. 2D.

Candace walks briskly. Julia at her side. Candace accelerates past Julia. Julia catches up.

CANDACE  
Well, I guess since I'm here.

Candace musters her courage and puffs her chest.



CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Paris, what is there to do here?

JULIA  
Weeeeelll. Folks call me Julia,  
Jupiter Julia, JJ, Juliette, or if  
you like, Wally.

Candace reflects.

CANDACE  
Julia.

JULIA  
Aaaaaaannnd. We don't really do do  
anything, except when we're doing  
it.

Julia confuses herself.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Well, what do you mean?

CANDACE  
Like, uh, what do you do for fun?

JULIA  
Oh, sleep.

Candace softens.

CANDACE  
Oh I know right. I looove sleep.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Hello".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac.

EXT. POPPY FIELDS. MOONLIGHT. **2D.**

Julia trots through a large field of bright, red poppy  
flowers. Poppy stems, chest height for Julia, push to the  
side the dog wades through. Candace straddles Julia's neck,  
riding her like a horse.

The two friends bounce up and down through the field. A small  
mountain in the distance. Moonlight. Voices begin to whisper  
suggestively from the field.

POPPYWRETCH 1 (O.S.)  
You'll never make it. You will  
certainly fail.

Julia begins to gain elevation, moving into the foothills.

POPPYWRETCH 2  
Why not relax and take a rest?

POPPYWRETCH 3  
You know every time you try you  
never make it.

Candace takes note of the discouragement coming from the  
field.

CANDACE  
Julia, what's that?

Julia wrinkles her face in mild consternation.

JULIA  
Poppywretches. They fill all these  
fields of desperation.

A poppywretch nips at Candace's feet. Julia whips the wretch  
to the side as the two continue forward.

CANDACE  
What do they want.

JULIA  
Don't know. I've actually never  
been this far. Poppywretches annoy  
me so I've always turned back to  
the hollow.

Julia ponders. An idea.

CANDACE  
Let's stop and rest a bit.

JULIA  
Here?

Candace gives a cute, but assertive nod yes. Julia lowers to  
the ground. Candace dismounts. Walks to the nearest  
poppywretch. Face to face with the poppy.

CANDACE  
Excuse me.

Poppywretch. No reaction.

Julia taps the wretch on the head.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Excuse me.

The wretch quickly turns its head to the left. Julia barks.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Excuse me.

The wretch finally relents and turns, looking obliquely, at Julia. With a quick glance in Candace's direction...

POPPYWRETCH 4  
Oh I'm sorry I didn't see you  
there.

JULIA  
(to Candace)  
Careful.

Candace smiles. Looks the poppywretch directly in the eye.

CANDACE  
(with kindness)  
I just wanted to know why you're  
mean.

Julia barks in agreement.

POPPYWRETCH 4  
Oh that again.

Julia gives a slight growl.

POPPYWRETCH 4 (CONT'D)  
Many people say they want to climb  
the mountain, but few have the  
gumption to make it.

POPPYWRETCH 5 leans in, cornering Candace & Julia

POPPYWRETCH 5  
Our job's to make sure that  
travelers who lack the will to  
complete a journey never begin the  
journey in the first place.

POPPYWRETCH 6 joins in.

POPPYWRETCH 6  
Yes yes so we protect dogs and...

Poppywretch 6 judgmentally looks Candace up and down.

POPPYWRETCH 6 (CONT'D)  
...and things like you...

Candace triggers.

CANDACE  
Hey I'm not a thing!

Julia barks more firmly. Shelters Candace.

POPPYWRETCH 4  
So sorry.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Dreams".

SOUNDTRACK: FADE IN "99 Red Balloons" by Oliver Nelson.

Julia, mistrustful. Growls slightly.

Candace, now calm, collected, thinks. Scratches her chin.

CANDACE  
Well...have you ever tried saying  
something nice?

Many poppywretches pay attention. Confusion.

POPPYWRETCH 5  
Uhhhh. Like what?

Julia whimpers slightly. Candace pats her.

CANDACE  
Ok, so like. Ok here. Like this.

Candace leans in beside Poppywretch 4.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
You know you actually smell really  
nice.

Poppywretch 4 flatters.

POPPYWRETCH 4  
Oh, why thank you...I do try...well  
not try but I...

Candace, speaking to Poppywretch 5.

CANDACE  
See, it's easy. We'll ride and you  
try.

The poppywretches look at each other and shrug. Why not.  
Worth a try.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS. POPPY FIELD. MOONLIGHT. **2D.**

Candace rides Julia higher into the foothills through the poppy field.

Poppywretch 7 gives positivity a try.

POPPYWRETCH 7  
(uncertain) There is a very very  
small chance you might possibly  
reach...

CANDACE  
...I like the encouragement, but  
maybe a bit more enthusiasm?

Julia's tail starts to wag. Her head begins to shake to the music. The poppies begin to sway. Candace's ponytail sways.

POPPYWRETCH 8  
(clears her throat) Look at the  
coat on that steed.

Julia suspicious.

POPPYWRETCH 9  
So soft, so shiny.

Julia softens. Smiles and shakes with pride.

Poppywretch 10 clears his throat.

POPPYWRETCH 10  
(Shakespearean) Thus with imagined  
wing our swift scene flies in  
motion of no less celerity than  
that of thought. Suppose, that you  
had seen...

Candace raises an eyebrow.

POPPYWRETCH 11  
(singing) You're  
Amaaaaaaazinngggg!!!

Candace interjects.

CANDACE  
(deadpan) Ok maybe a little less  
enthusiasm.

Julia turns upwards. Confides in Candace.

JULIA  
I think I liked them better grumpy.

Candace, in cahoots with Julia, puts a finger over her mouth  
concealing a quick smile.

CANDACE  
Shhh. Ok guys go ahead give it a  
try.

The poppywretches confer.

POPPYWRETCH 12  
Ummm...you have a steady pace. Keep  
putting one foot in front of the  
other.

POPPYWRETCH 13  
I can see your goal ahead. You  
aren't that far.

CANDACE  
Really? Hey, wait that was a good  
one.

Poppywretch 13 flatters.

POPPYWRETCH 13  
Thank you.

Candace and Julia trot ahead.

POPPYWRETCH 14  
Hey this is kind of fun...wait,  
wait...um, oh I know...

Poppywretch 15 interjects before 14 can deliver.

POPPYWRETCH 15  
Your confidence would impress even  
the River Beast.

POPPYWRETCH 14  
Hey, that was my idea...

POPPYWRETCH 15  
Sorry, you snooze you lose.

Our heroes trot ahead as the poppy field begins to dissipate.

SOUNDTRACK: END "99 Red Balloons".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Chain Gang" by Sam Cooke.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE. TWILIGHT. **2D ANIMATION.**

The mountain ridge approaches ahead. Candace, dismounted, and Julia climb the last leg of the journey to the ridge line.

Julia, head down, panting, clearly out of shape. Candace puts her hands on her knees, panting.

CANDACE

Buhh. Buuhhhh. Break time.

Julia looks backward towards Julia with concern.

JULIA

The ridge is just ahead.

Candace looks towards the horizon.

CANDACE

The sun's coming up. Can we make it up top by sunrise?

JULIA

Don't know. Never been this far.

CANDACE

Really?

Julia, suddenly grave, lectures, mimicking MAMACAT.

JULIA

Curiosity killed the cat.

CANDACE

It also got the cat out of the bag.

Julia gets playfully defensive.

JULIA

What's that supposed to mean?

Candace gathers her strength.

CANDACE

Means you're a dog. Roam! Explore!

Candace suddenly sprints ahead towards the ridge.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Red rover red rover send Candace  
right over!

Julia smirks playfully. Takes off up the mountain.

JULIA  
Nice try kiddo, but this is my  
world!

Candace laughs as she runs at full speed towards the mountain top. Julia catches up and nips Candace's heels.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Tag you're it!

Candace laughs and tries to catch-up. Julia at full sprint up the mountain.

EXT. OLD COY MOUNTAIN. RIDGE. SUNRISE. 2D.

The sun eclipses the horizon. More mountains in the far distance. Julia sits perched atop a large rock nestled on the ridge. She stares contemplatively at the valley below and larger mountains in the distance.

Candace, panting, climbs up beside Julia. The two young women sit and watch with awe.

EXT. THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE. JUST AFTER SUNRISE. 2D.

The moment closes.

JULIA  
I've never seen one of those from  
up here.

CANDACE  
Kind of makes you feel small huh?

JULIA  
Or real big.

Candace scratches Julia behind the ear.

CANDACE  
Yeah.

(beat)



EXT. THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE. MINUTES LATER. 2D.

Julia squints, attempting to map the distant landscapes.

DITTO buzzes the tower (Candace's head). The mockingbird swerves shakily in the air.

Candace's reverie breaks.

CANDACE

The redcoats are coming!

Julia snaps from her contemplative gaze.

JULIA

Bark!

Candace gives Julia a quizzical look.

DITTO buzzes the tower again from the opposite direction. Candace puts out her hands. The talons release. A vintage, worn MONOCULAR drops into Candace's hands.

Ditto crash lands. Candace and Julia laugh. They rush to Ditto's aid.

JULIA (CONT'D)

You all right there buddy?

DITTO

Beep. Chiirrpp. Whiirrrr. Beep.  
Awooo.

Ditto jumps up unharmed. Makes a funny. Flies away.

The monocular in Candace's hands. Julia and Candace look at each other. Candace shrugs. Opens the monocular. Puts it to her eye. Julia's tail wags.

EXT. MONOCULAR VIEW OF THE VALLEY BELOW. MORNING. 2D.

The mountains in the distance. Unfocused. The view clears. Movement to a beachhead. Hundreds of jellyfish parachutes fall from the sky as fireworks explode above the beach. Thousands of ants storm the sandy shores.

The monocle moves. The valley. A group of elephants arrange themselves into a pyramid. A group of donkeys arrange themselves into a taller pyramid. A single elephant climbs the pyramid, reaching even higher. A group of porcupines swarm around each other. One porcupine attempts to climb onto the back of another porcupine. Stings his toe. Ouch!

A group of baby porcupines, elephants, and donkeys all play soccer with a large coconut. Laughter and smiles all around.

The top elephant tumbles, bringing down the entire pyramid with him. The donkeys laugh, triggering the tumbling of their pyramid as well. A baby porcupine.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Chain Gang".

FADE INTO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Lenny" by Stevie Ray Vaughan.

EXT. MONOCULAR VIEW OF THE VALLEY BELOW. MORNING. **2D**.

Focus shifts to a large river valley below. The river rushes through a lush landscape. Darkness and a loss of focus.

CANDACE  
There's this strange black  
nothingness.

EXT. THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE. MORNING. **2D**.

Candace pulls the monocular from her eye. Turns it around.

CANDACE  
Maybe there's something on it  
somewhere here...

Candace rubs the lens with her shirt.

JULIA  
No. That's the outer frontier.

Candace lights up with a sudden sense of adventure.

CANDACE  
What's past the outer frontier?

Julia shivers.

JULIA  
No one knows.

Candace remembers the monocle.

CANDACE  
Let's find out.

Julia shakes her head no in fear. Candace pulls the monocular to her face, closing one eye.

EXT. MONOCULAR VIEW OF THE VALLEY BELOW. MORNING. 2D.

The river rushes. Darkness. The outer frontier. More darkness. Focus returns. The river continues, running towards a magical bright gold shining glowing flashing enchanting...

EXT. THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE. MORNING. 2D.

...Candace pulls the monocular from her eye.

CANDACE

That's where we're going.

Candace begins making preparations. Julia retorts.

JULIA

But, but...it's past bed time...should have been asleep hours ago and...Wopner, definitely gotta watch Wopner...and no one's ever come back from the Outer Frontier!

Candace, kind, but firm.

CANDACE

Look, I'm scared too. But some things you just gotta do. We'll do it together. Ok?

Candace spits on her palm and offers it for a shake.

JULIA

What...ewwww. What's that?

Candace in confidence.

CANDACE

My daddy taught me. If you make a promise you keep it. This way you remember.

Julia smiles.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

So this is my promise. Go on. Shake...you know how to shake don't you?

Julia licks her own paw. The ladies shake.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Ok then. That's that. From here on  
out it's you and me through thick  
and thin.

Julia tackles Candace and brings her to the ground. The two  
friends laugh.

EXT. GRASSLANDS. LATE MORNING. 2D.

The ladies walk through the grasslands side by side. A dust  
cloud begins to gather. A large brown beast rushes past  
Julia.

JULIA  
Hey!

Another large beast rushes past Candace. The beast's face.  
It's a BUFFALO.

BUFFALO1  
Sorry.

Buffalo continue to rush past as the dust cloud thickens.

BUFFALO2  
Excuse me.

BUFFALO3  
Once we get moving like this...

BUFFALO4  
...things get kind of out of  
controoooooooool...

Candace stops, turns around. Sees what's coming.

CANDACE  
Julia!

Julia skids to a halt.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
(fearful)  
Julia.

Julia turns to see a giant herd of buffalo charging at full  
speed. Buffalo as far as the eye can see across the horizon.

LINCOLN, male, American buffalo, Kentucky accent, takes note  
of Candace and Julia as he rushes by with the herd.

The herd. Much nearer. Buffalo heads bear down. The dust grows.

Ahead, LINCOLN, pull a hard u-turn, skidding, slipping, and charging as he does.

The herd. The moment before impact. Julia and Candace grimace, hug, cower. Dust envelops our heroes.

Lincoln, in front of Candace and Julia, faces the herd head on with dignity and gravitas. The beasts, still at full speed, part before Lincoln, making an arrowhead wake.

The herd passes.

EXT. THE GRASSLANDS. MOMENTS LATER. 2D.

The dust settles. Lincoln stands, distinguished.

Candace pulls her head out of Julia's hair. A lone white patch where Candace's face was. Everything else dirty.

Lincoln reclines. Candace, in awe, approaches. Julia shakes off the dirt.

Lincoln farts.

JULIA

Ewww...

Candace loses her reverential state.

CANDACE

Yeah...ewww.

Lincoln chuckles.

Julia eyes Lincoln up and down.

JULIA

Do you know how far it is to the outer frontier?

Lincoln looks around with gravity. Towards the horizon. Contemplates.

LINCOLN

No. Do you?

CANDACE

No...that's why I...look nevermind...no problem...

Julia notices the smell. Candace waves her hand across her nose.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for saving us and all...but  
we've got to get...we should move on  
to someplace less...

JULIA  
...aromatic.

Candace shushes Julia with her hand.

CANDACE  
Shh...no be polite.

Julia whimpers.

JULIA  
Don't shush me...it's my world you  
know...humph.

Julia and Candace have started to back out of the situation  
and wander back out towards the open plain.

LINCOLN  
Going so soon?

Candace recovers.

CANDACE  
Well we've really got to get  
going...we've got this frontier to  
pass and...

Lincoln turns to look Candace dead in the eye.

LINCOLN  
Ahh. You want to know what's past  
the outer frontier.

Candace, caught off guard.

CANDACE  
Well. Yes. Do you know how to get  
there?

Lincoln puffs up.

LINCOLN  
Of course. I am lord of these  
plains. Most of the time at least.  
(MORE)

LINCOLN (CONT'D)  
Sometimes Mary Todd says I'm not  
allowed to...but that's not  
the...yes I know the way.

Candace flusters.

CANDACE  
But you said you didn't know...

Lincoln interrupts. Grandfatherly.

LINCOLN  
I said I didn't know how far it is  
to the outer frontier. And I don't.  
That's different for everyone. But  
I do know how to get there.

Julia and Candace. Rapt attention.

LINCOLN (CONT'D)  
Point your feet in the right  
direction. Put one foot in front of  
the other. Repeat. That's it.

Julia and Candace look at each other in disbelief.

LINCOLN (CONT'D)  
Go on. Try it.

They point their feet westward. One foot forward. Another  
foot forward. Julia's feet, moving forward at double time.

Lincoln, now somewhat in the distance.

LINCOLN (CONT'D)  
There you go! One foot in front of  
the other and repeat! Repeat!

Julia and Candace.

CANDACE  
He's a crazy old fart isn't he?

Julia laughs.

Lincoln, chuckling to himself.

MARYTODD, female, American buffalo, approaches.

MARYTODD  
Toying with the little ones again?

Lincoln smiles.

LINCOLN

No, this one's special. I just gave her the whole secret of life. Let's see if she follows it.

MARYTODD snuggles up.

MARYTODD

Oh you know they never do. We all have to make our own mistakes, and usually, learn the hard way.

Looks lovingly at her husband. They smile.

A heart in the sky frames the two buffalo.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Lenny".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "The Dock Of The Bay" by Otis Redding.

EXT. FOREST PATH. EARLY AFTERNOON. 2D.

Candace leads. Julia follows. Both look down at their feet. One foot in front of the other.

Light streams through the canopy above. Lush alpine forest.

Candace's shadow crosses Julia's path. Julia jumps at the shadow. The shadow ducks and covers.

JULIA

Sorry. Can't get used to you guys.

SHADOW1

That's ok. Everybody's afraid of shadows.

Julia's shadow chimes in.

SHADOW2

Yeah, most people spend all their lives running from us.

Julia, sympathetic.

Candace, up ahead, looks up from her feet.



CANDACE

Hey that old feller was right. I've  
been so zoned out I didn't realize  
we had walked into an entirely  
different...

Candace stops in awe at the foot of GENERAL SHERMAN, a giant  
redwood tree.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

...whoa!

General Sherman awakes from his slumber.

SHERMAN

Permissions please.

Candace scratches her head.

SHERMAN (CONT'D)

Ahem. Permissions please.

Julia growls. Barks.

Sherman relents. Goes through his routine.

SHERMAN (CONT'D)

Attention ladies and gentlemen.  
All wishing to pass through these  
woods must have permissions and  
passports from all proper  
authorities responsible for  
accountability and such what not  
forever and ever amen. And remember  
please fasten your seatbelts. Only  
you can prevent forest fires...

Sherman's voice trails off, and with it, his enthusiasm.

Candace and Julia confide in close quarters.

JULIA

I didn't ask permission before we  
left the hollow.

Sherman, feigning interest, interjects.

SHERMAN

Why not ask permission now?

Julia ponders.

JULIA

Well I guess I could call.

SHERMAN  
Yes yes, wouldn't want folks to  
worry now would we.

Sherman winks across the forest to a small mossy mound.

Candace encourages Julia.

CANDACE  
Go on.

Julia takes a deep breath.

JULIA.  
Ok. Awoooooooooooooooooooooo!

Silence.

JULIA  
Awoooooooooo!

EXT. A MOSSY KNOLL. AFTERNOON. 2D.

DUDE, crouched behind the grassy mound.

DUDE  
Should I call back?

MISSY (O.C.)  
Well I think we better.

DUDE  
Ok. But I don't want to blow our  
cover.

Dude restrains his voice, calling softer than expected.

DUDE (CONT'D)  
Awoooooooooooo...

EXT. FOREST PATH. EARLY AFTERNOON. 2D.

Candace jerks her head in the direction of the dog's call.  
Julia's ears perk up.

DUDE (O.C.)  
....oooooo....ughh. Ahem. Hack.  
Cough.

Dude loses his tone and coughs.

Julia gets suspicious. Candace realizes.

CANDACE  
Hey wait a minute.

JULIA  
Ok guys you can come out now.

Candace and Julia shake their heads.

EXT. A MOSSY KNOLL. AFTERNOON. 2D.

Dude, Missy, Shelby and Sequoia rise from behind the grassy knoll, positioned less than twenty feet away from Candace and Julia.

DUDE  
Well we were just...

MISSY  
...in the area and well...

SHELBY  
...well we missed this majestic forest air...don't get air like this in the hollow...

SEQUOIA  
...we were spying.

Candace taps her foot. Julia wags her tail.

JULIA  
Ok guys so can I go with Candace on her adventure?

The parental mound recedes again behind the mossy mound.

DUDE  
...sure yes i don't see why not...

MISSY  
...but be careful and don't talk to strangers...

SHELBY  
...and always stay on the path. Listen for the music now ya hear...

SEQUOIA  
...just walk.

Candace and Julia look up at Sherman. The trees part and the path clears.

Candace and Julia look at each other.

JULIA  
Parents.

The two laugh.

SOUNDTRACK: END "The Dock Of The Bay".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "King Of The Road" by Roger Miller.

EXT. ROLLING BAMBOO FOREST. AFTERNOON. **2D.**

Candace and Julia tread carefully through the forest.  
Candace, horseback on Julia.

Julia looks around, disoriented. Candace looks uncertain. Up ahead. Several LARGE PANDA BEARS lounge, eating bamboo.

Candace, fearful, signals "shh" with her finger over her mouth. Julia gulps. A branch snaps. Candace looks down at her foot. Julia stress face.

A large male panda snaps his head around. Dead focus on Candace and Julia.

Candace gives a a fearful, tentative wave. The panda immediately breaks into a large, toothy grin. Waves back.

The other two bears wave. A baby panda pops his head out and giggles.

Candace and Julia, with renewed confidence, walking through the forest.

EXT. BEACHFRONT. AFTERNOON. **2D.**

Waves splash gently on the sandy beach. Candace and Julia make tracks with their bare feet.

A pelican dive bombs. Misses his target. Looks suspiciously at Candace and Julia. Candace waves. Pelican breaks into a toothy grin, makes an attempt to wave back.

Julia chases hermit crabs. The waves deposit pebbles. Julia is put in check by the crabs.

The birds make Malick-esque formations in the afternoon sun.

EXT. ARCTIC LANDSCAPE. AFTERNOON. 2D.

Candace and Julia continue to make tracks, in the snow. A group of playful penguins slide down the snow dunes.

Candace surveys the landscape with confidence. Across the ice a large POLAR BEAR stands on his hind legs, makes an alarming racket. Candace smiles and gives a big wave to the bear. Julia wags her tail. The bear, disarmed, breaks into a toothy grin and returns the wave.

Candace walks ahead with confidence. Julia slips and slides. Julia, on her belly, all four legs sprawled out. The penguins laugh. A small group of stronger penguins helps Julia to her feet. Julia licks a penguin. Eww...

Julia shakes it off. Catches up with Candace. Candace jumps aboard and the two gallop ahead cowboy style.

EXT. WESTERN ARIZONA LANDSCAPE. AFTERNOON. 2D.

Julia gallops ahead. Focus on Julia's feet.

Other, longer feet with hooves appear, galloping alongside Candace & Julia. Several other horses pass.

Candace and Julia continue their journey, making footprints in the dusty landscape.

EXT. LUSH JUNGLE LANDSCAPE. AFTERNOON. 2D.

Candace and Julia confidently trot through the jungle landscape.

A large BENGAL TIGER lounges on a branch looking regal.

Candace gives her usual big wave and toothy grin. The TIGER turns her head, snubbing. Ignoring and disinterested.

Julia, still trotting, turns to look at Candace.

JULIA

Cats.

Candace laughs. Gently taps Julia with her heels.

CANDACE

Hiyaah!

The two gallop ahead.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "King Of The Road".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Blowing In The Wind" by Dick & Jacquire Schuyler.

EXT. LUSH ROLLING MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE. AFTERNOON. **2D.**

Julia shuffles and sidesteps through the lush rolling hills.

A group of young monkeys swing and play in the branches.

ENZO, male, baby gorilla, Filipino accent, twirls to the music. Tumbles. Rolls. Bounces up. Twirls some more.

PUTIN, male, silverback gorilla, English (RP) accent, charges from the bushes head on towards Candace & Julia.

Julia and Candace continue ahead, looking to the side at baby ENZO.

Putin still charging.

Enzo tumbles. Candace and Julia laugh. Julia turns her head.

JULIA

Candace.

Candace turns.

CANDACE

Wha...

Paralysis. Fear. Putin charges faster and...

...stops, inches from Julia.

PUTIN

Halt!

Puting grunts. Snorts. Roars.

(beat)

Candace looks up.

CANDACE

Umm...I thin...

Putin stares Candace down.

PUTIN

I am the all powerful all knowing  
All of this land and all who would  
pass, ahem, such as y'all, shall  
require the wherewithal after all  
there is always...

Julia confused. Candace asserts herself.

CANDACE

..well what is the wherewithal you  
require?

Putin is lanced by the words.

PUTIN

Uh, uh, ahem. I'm sorry what do you  
want?

Candace grows more confident.

CANDACE

You said passage requires the  
wherewithal.

PUTIN

Yes.

CANDACE

So what do you require?

Julia starts to catch on.

PUTIN

All who wish to pass require  
permission to...

Candace plays with Putin.

CANDACE

...who's permission?

Putin looks down, slightly confused.

PUTING

Well. Mine.

Candace and Julia both make their best puppy dog faces.

CANDACE AND JULIA

May we have your permission?

PUTIN

Well. Yes.

Candace and Julia trot ahead as Putin steps aside.

Candace looks back and gives a wave.

Putin realizes he's been bested. He throws a tantrum, but keeps his word and stays put.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Blowing In The Wind".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "When First Unto This Country" by Jerry Garcia and David Grisman.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH. MOMENTS LATER. 2D.

Julia trots ahead. Sniffs the ground.

A brown furry ball rolls across the path. Playful laughter.

Julia stops, points. Candace alerts.

The brown furry ball rolls across the path again.

ENZO arrives.

ENZO

Don't worry about 'ol Putin back there. He's fallen in love with his own voice and forgotten how to hear the universal sound.

Julia howls. Enzo howls. Candace chimes in.

ENZO (CONT'D)

See there you go. You know all about it.

CANDACE

I think we're still just learning but thanks.

Enzo looks the two up and down. Puts his hands on his hips.

ENZO

So what do you say?

Candace takes a step back.

CANDACE

About what?



ENZO  
About making friends silly!

Enzo laughs. Julia wags her tail and moves closer. Candace smiles.

CANDACE  
Friends it is!

Candace puts her hand forward, palms down. Enzo places his hand on top of Candace's. Julia does the same.

JULIA  
1, 2, 3...

IN UNISON  
Ow ow awoooooooooooo!

The three friends raise their hands, and together, run, howling towards the woods.

A baby tiger arrives. The monkeys arrive. A rabbit. Guanyin.

The crew all greet one another as old friends do. Julia assigns team captains.

CANDACE  
We need one more player to make teams.

GUANYIN  
Well kiddo, improvise. Have a look and see what life brings you.

Candace, hot, but not bothered, nods in agreement. Looks to the forest edge. Sees an animal-made shelter in the distance.

Back to the huddle. Picking sides. Teams are almost complete.

ENZO, looking satisfied. Scans his team.

ENZO  
Ok, JJ your pick.

Julia. Consternation.

EXT. TWENTY YARDS AWAY. 2D.

COLTRANE, male, beaver, Alabama southern accent, leans against his animal shelter.

Candace. A flash of recognition. Coltrane waves. Candace rushes ahead towards her friend.

CANDACE

Coltrane!

Candace wraps her arms around her old friend.

COLTRANE

Well hey there little partner.  
How's this here little kiddo doin?

Candace unloads.

CANDACE

Oh my god it's like...Julia was in  
bed...and lightning...and whoosh  
whooosh...boom we're here and there  
was this tiger and the moonlight  
was...

Coltrane steadies his friend.

COLTRANE

Easy there kiddo. Here, I've been  
working on something that might  
help ya.

Coltrane rummages inside his shelter, bringing out a  
homemade...

EXT. BACK TO PICKING TEAMS. AFTERNOON. **2D.**

Julia eyes the two remaining players.

FOOTLOOSE, baby chimpanzee, female, rapidly rotates from  
standing on her hands to standing on her feet. Her eyes  
glazed and disjointed. A happy smile. Rotates again.

PATCHES, male, seal, yellow with large, black spots, claps  
his flippers together. Jumps forward. Smiles. Arf. Arf.

Julia considers. Looks back over her shoulder at RIBALDO,  
male, fox, Portugese accent, who is admiring himself in a  
small puddle of water on the field.

Julia to Enzo.

JULIA

Tell you what. I'll trade ya. You  
take Ribaldo there off my hands and  
I'll take Footloose and Patches  
here. Deal?

Enzo agrees.

ENZO

Deal.

Julia nods, turns, and walks straight towards Ribaldo.

JULIA

Ribaldo.

Ribaldo turns slowly, disinterested.

RIBALDO

Yes?

Julia points to the other team.

JULIA

You've been traded to the other  
team.

Ribaldo, disbelief. Walks, chest inflated, cheeks red, to the  
other side. Ribaldo tantrums.

Both teams struggle to withhold their chuckles. A new  
teammate offers Ribaldo a hand. Ribaldo smiles, shakes.

EXT. TWENTY YARDS AWAY. 2D.

Coltrane hands Candace a homemade soccer ball.

CANDACE

Thanks.

Coltrane makes a bow.

COLTRANE

Much obliged madame.

Candace gets cute. Curtsies.

JULIA (O.C.)

Candace, come on, game time. And  
bring ol' Alvin along too we could  
use some tunes...

Candace, back in competition mode.

CANDACE

Coming!

Coltrane offended.

COLTRANE

She knows I'm a beaver right?

Candace, already running ahead looks, back.

JULIA  
Come on Coltrane. Game time!

Coltrane calls back.

COLTRANE  
Coming!

Coltrane.

COLTRANE (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)  
All right then. Right.

Reverie breaks. Excitement.

COLTRANE (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)  
Right!

Coltrane runs after Julia, towards the soccer field.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "When First Unto This Country".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "On Your Face" by MC Hammer.

EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD. MOMENTS LATER. **2D.**

A kangaroo, playing goalie, kicks the ball downfield. High, arching. The tree leaves hum backup to the music.

A meerkat heads the ball downfield to Ribaldo, who is charging towards the goal. Taps the pass with his foot. Sets up the shot.

Candace slides tackles and steals the ball. Ribaldo flustered. Candace dribbles downfield.

Footloose looking confused, standing on his hands. Candace lobs the ball into Footloose's feet.

Julia

JULIA  
Go! Go!

CANDACE  
Run Footloose Run!

Footloose runs straight downfield on his hands. The ball held safely above the ground with his feet. Reaches the penalty box. Throws the ball forward.

Julia closes her eyes. Candace anticipates. The opposing goalie, a baby rhinoceros, dives for the save. Ball hits the back of the net.

Patches celebrates.

PATCHES

Gooooooooooooooooaaaaaaaalllllllll!

Ribaldo appeals to the referee, a zebra. Yellow card.

Candace and Footloose. Hi fives. Julia nods in approval. Coltrane ruffles Candace's hair.

EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD. MINUTES LATER. **2D ANIMATION.**

Candace passes downfield to Julia. Julia struggles to dribble with her front feet, tumbles over as her back feet run too fast.

Patches rests on Ribaldo's right foot. Ribaldo struggles. The ball rolls past.

In the background, a zipper begins to unzip the fabric of reality.

Julia intercepts the ball and dribbles past Patches and Ribaldo.

The fabric of reality unzips upwards from the ground to the middle of the landscape. Friendly MACHINE ELVES peek out from behind the unzipped reality. Black, starry background within the zipper.

Coltrane moonwalks to the zipper. High fives several Machine Elves. Signals to the gang on the soccer field. Come on! Let's go!

Our friends walk happily towards the zipper, still unzipping, and into...

EXT. THE TRANSPERSONAL REALM. **2D & 3D ANIMATION.**

...a starry moonlit ocean landscape. Water, one quarter inch deep, all around. Welcoming. No menace.

The machine elves, singing backup, dance. Enzo, on soprano, vocally solos. Coltrane sings lead.

Candace laughing, feels the groove. Julia shuffles, does The Humpty Dance. Other team members join in. The rhinoceros shuffles.

Enzo and baby tiger square dance. Julia and Candace dance sideways up a staircase. Ribaldo kicks the water hard, jumping into an animated tap dance routine.

The machine elves raise the roof. Candace and Coltrane dance back and forth.

Enzo belts it out. The machine elves sway back and forth. Gospel. A group of machine elves breaks loose. Breakdancing. Head spins. Back spins. Coltrane does the worm. Candace gets her groove on. Guanyin does the sprinkler. Julia laughs, breaking her snoopy cool.

Coltrane rap. The gang dance in circles around Coltrane. Machine elves multiply and begin constructing a large luxurious space travel cruise ship.

The gang, led by Coltrane, dance up the boarding plank to the Moonlight Express. Julia. "All Aboard!".

Machine elves playfully set the steamer on it's course, righting destiny.

The machine elves wave bye-bye. Candace & Co wave from the back deck of the ship. "Here we go!".

The machine elves launch. "Don't be a stranger". "Remember to write". "See you again soon".

The ship, wheeled to a roller coaster track, tunnels downwards back towards reality, passing inexplicable color imagery as it does so.

The machine elves playfully do combat with magic balls of light, zipping reality back up in the wake of the Moonlight Express.

**EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD. MOONLIGHT. 2D ANIMATION.**

Fresh snow on the ground. The Moonlight Express, now transposed into a large wooden raft, rides gently through the zipper on the hands on the machine elves.

The raft lands softly on a downward sloping, snowy landscape. The machine elves zip and repair the tear in the background fabric.

Candace and Julia wave backwards. The last machine elf waves.

The other cast members jump off one by one as the raft continues to sled downwards.

ENZO  
Safe travels friends!

Enzo jumps off.

CANDACE  
I promise to come see you in  
Stockholm!

ENZOW  
Yes mam!

The rhinoceros jumps off.

RHINOCEROUS  
Okie dokie. This is my stop.

The raft accelerates as the rhino jumps off. Julia, Candace, and Coltrane surge forward.

The raft sleds through a beautiful snowy landscape. Slows, approaching the river. Lands gently in the water, moving at the same pace as the flowing water.

Coltrane, astern, puts his tail in the water to steer. Candace, port. Julia, starboard. Julia places her head in Candace's lap. Candace closes her eyes. Places her hand on Julia's head. Candace struggles to stay awake.

The raft moves downriver by moonlight. Candace, again, struggles to stay awake.

The river by moonlight.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "On Your Face".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Corrina, Corrina" by Boz Scaggs.

EXT. THE RIVER RAFT. MOONLIGHT. **2D.**

Coltrane, alert, steers. Bioluminescence in the small wake of the raft. Hundreds of tiny baby catfish move in the wake.

Candace wakes up, softly. Yawns. Gently moves out from under Julia. Pushes a blanket up beside Julia. Julia rests her head. Sleep smiles.

Coltrane eyes the stars. Candace approaches, sits.

(beat)

Candace joins in the stargazing.

COLTRANE  
So, how's everything at school?

CANDACE  
Oh you know. Girls. School. Blah.

They both laugh.

COLTRANE  
It gets better.

Candace looks hopeful.

CANDACE  
Yeah.

Coltrane gently shifts gears.

COLTRANE  
So, any luck with the boys yet?

Candace breaks her reverie. Feigns disgust.

CANDACE  
Wha...eww...no. Well friends I  
guess, but not. Definitely no.

Coltrane satisfied.

COLTRANE  
I see.

Candace teases Coltrane.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
What about you there C? Was there  
ever any special Missus Coltrane in  
your life?

Candace laughs. Coltrane deepens.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
Oh, sure I had lady once. A good  
woman.

Candace captivated. More serious.

CANDACE  
What was her name?



COLTRANE  
Corrina. Ah. Corrina.

CANDACE  
Hey, my mommy's...I mean my mom's  
name is Corrina.

Coltrane gives a wise, gentle laugh.

COLTRANE  
It's a lovely name. Many have sung  
her song and thus, many have been  
named after her. Charming, but mere  
coincidence kiddo.

Coltrane gives Candace a playful jostle.

CANDACE  
My dad once said there are no  
coincidences.

Coltrane impressed.

COLTRANE  
Sounds like a smart man.

Candace, nostalgic, longing.

CANDACE  
Yeah.

(beat)

COLTRANE  
Would you like to hear the story of  
how I met my dear old Corrina? It's  
a doozy!

Candace snaps out of it. Excited.

CANDACE  
Absolutely.

COLTRANE  
Well it all started back in...well  
I guess it was right after the...

Coltrane trails off. Switches gear. Prepares to tell a story.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
(in a funny formal accent)  
I had been in the service...

Candace laughs.

EXT. CULLMAN, ALABAMA. 1940'S. BLACK AND WHITE. SUNSET. 2D.

Kawaii landscape. Kawaii characters.

The grocery store. Country roads. The sushi counter.  
COLTRANE, makes kawaii sushi. The sushi chatter back and forth playfully.

COLTRANE (V.O.)  
...and then, like magic, lo and behold, I found myself back home again in a small Alabama town.  
(laughs)  
Got myself a quiet, little piece of land.

A red farmhouse sits atop a hill overlooking cow fields, sloping downwards gently towards a large pond, sheltered by shaded forest branches.

COLTRANE (V.O.)  
And then one day, there she was.  
And that was it for me.

EXT. MAIN STREET. 1940'S BLACK AND WHITE. KAWAII. SUNSET. 2D.

CORRINA, female, racoon, walks down the sidewalk in her Sunday best. Arm in arm with her best friend, CAUTION, female, ferret, also in her Sunday best. Parasol. Giggles.

Coltrane drives by in his beat-up red pickup truck. Georgia license plates. Whitfield Country. Windows down. Coltrane poses.

Corrina and Caution gossip.

CORRINA  
Who's that Georgia Peach coming through our little 'ol Southern Alabama town thinking he's something else...

CAUTION  
...I know.

Coltrane eyes Corrina in the side view mirror. Stops the truck. Drives backwards. Stops parallel to Corrina and Caution.

COLTRANE  
I'm that Georgia Peach.

Corrina nonplussed.

CORRINA

Well?

COLTRANE

Well, what do you say you throw 'ol caution there to the wind...

Nods at Caution.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)

...and you and me take a ride to get acquainted with one another.

Caution reddens. Corrina chuckles.

CORRINA

Sorry I don't get into cars with strangers.

Coltrane cool. Polite.

COLTRANE

Well then I imagine we'll have to remedy that.

Caution triggers.

CAUTION

Remedy her getting into cars with strangers? I don't think s...

Corrina stops her friend. Turns to Coltrane.

CORRINA

No. He means remedy the stranger part.

Coltrane laughs sheepishly. Corrina smiles.

CORRINA (CONT'D)

You're smooth. But not that smooth.

Corrina and Caution walk off ahead down the road.

Coltrane, spellbound, walks to the front of his truck. Leans on the hood. Watches her go.

Corrina and Caution further ahead in the distance. At the last possible second...Corrina flashes her head back and shoots Coltrane a welcoming smile.

Coltrane returns the smile.

COLTRANE (TO HIMSELF)  
All right then. We're in business!

Coltrane gets in his pickup truck.

Driving. Lovestruck. Twilight. Darkness. Headlights. Stars.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Corrina, Corrina".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Brokedown Palace" by The Grateful Dead.

EXT. FRONT PORCH. CORRINA'S FAMILY RESIDENCE. BLACK AND WHITE. KAWAII. MORNING. 2D.

Coltrane, dressed in his best Sunday outfit, with flair, walks up the steps to Corrina's front porch. Sits in the large porch swing. Eyes on the horizon. Weeping willows. Honeysuckles.

Coltrane waits, patiently.

EXT. FRONT PORCH. B&W. KAWAII. AFTERNOON. 2D.

Coltrane swings gently, still waiting.

Corrina walks up the front steps, holding hands with her younger brother.

Coltrane stands, hat in hand. Hopeful.

Corrina guides her younger brother through the doorway.

CORRINA  
Now's not a good time. I'm busy tonight.

COLTRANE  
I'll wait.

Corrina shakes her head, betrays a smile.

EXT. FRONT PORCH. B&W. KAWAII. EVENING. 2D.

Coltrane, still alert, waits. His feet push the swing. Slight sway to the music.

The front door opens. Candace walks through looking ready for a date.

Coltrane turns.

COLTRANE

Excsc...

Corrina gasps. Playfully slaps Coltrane with her purse.

CORRINA

You can't be here. I'm busy.

COLTRANE

I'll wait.

CORRINA

No I mean I'm busy.

Corrina glances towards the street.

COLTRANE

Oh, you have a date.

CORRINA

No I don't.

COLTRANE

Yes you do I can see the car  
approaching over your shoulder...

CORRINA

What? Really?

COLTRANE

No, but now you gave it away.

Corrina stutters.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)

But now we might really be in  
trouble because I'm pretty sure  
that is your date.

A black Cadillac-inspired car pulls up to the curb, windows down.

Corrina tries to gather herself. Starts to walk down the stairs.

SUITOR, male, poodle, gets out of the car, walks towards the sidewalk.

Coltrane leaps down the steps, ahead of Corrina, approaches SUITOR, hand extended, big grin.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
Well, howdy there partner.

Suitor reaches out for a shake, but Coltrane walks right past him with a little shuffle.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
Now you two kids have fun.

Corrina walks politely towards the car.

Coltrane opens the passenger side car door for Corrina.

Gets serious.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
Now make sure you have her back by curfew.

Corrina laughs. Suitor walks towards the driver side door, passing Coltrane.

Coltrane stops, turns, makes eye contact with Corrina in the car.

COLTRANE (CONT'D)  
Oh and Corrina. I'll see you tomorrow night.

Corrina blushes. Coltrane gives Suitor a wink. Strolls on down the sidewalk with a whistle.

EXT. THE RIVER RAFT. MOONLIGHT. COLOR. **2D.**

The river. The moonlight. The raft. Coltrane steers.

Candice listens with rapt attention.

COLTRANE  
And that was that.

CANDICE  
And just like that you knew she was the one for you?

COLTRANE  
Just like that.

CANDICE  
Awwwwwwwwwwww.

Julia, sleepy, jumps up, sits beside Candice.

JULIA

Yeah, he didn't tell you the part about...

Coltrane smiles.

COLTRANE

...I think we'll leave out the other details there JJ.

Julia looks at Candace. At Coltrane.

JULIA

Yeah.

Yawns. Puts her head back down in candace's lap.

The river, and raft, move ahead. A tall, rising, dark border approaches in the distance. Towards a dark, black horizon.

Coltrane points ahead.

COLTRANE

Look!

CANDACE

The outer frontier.

The raft nears the great barrier. The sun begins to rise.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Brokedown Palace".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Mr. Bojangles" by Jerry Jeff Walker.

EXT. THE OUTER FRONTIER. BARRIER GATEWAY. SUNRISE. **2D.**

A large, futuristic, man-made wall with electronic controls stretches hundreds of feet tall into the air.

The raft slows to a halt, tapping the outer edge of the barrier. Coltrane looks around. Candace looks at Julia. Julia shrugs. Candace taps on the metal barrier with her fist.

A small panel opens. Out flies BOWIE, non-binary, owl, soulful electronic accent. Bowie circles the raft, examining each of Candace, Coltrane, and Julia as ze does.

Bowie stops in front of Candace. Scans her face with a red light emanating from zir eye.

BOWIE

What is your purpose?

Candace looks back at Coltrane. Bowie switches gears.

BOWIE (CONT'D)

What is your malfunction solider?

Candace startled, confused.

CANDACE

Wha...no, we're just travelers...we  
had this vision...

Julia interjects.

JULIA

...she had this vision...

CANDACE

...Julia...ok I had...anyway the  
point is.

Coltrane steps forward.

COLTRANE

We seek your permission to pass  
through the outer frontier.

Bowie looks quickly at each of the three.

BOWIE

Permission denied.

Bowie quickly flies back into the panel from whence ze came.

Candace, Julia, Coltrane, the raft. Shock.

(beat)

BOJANGLES, the river beast, some 100 yards away from the  
great wall, makes his way towards the outer barrier. He swims  
slowly, slightly breaching the surface.

His scales, upon closer inspection, are smaller, mini,  
independently swimming baby Bojangles.

As he swims, Bojangles constantly disintegrates into hundreds  
of baby Bojangle catfish and then reintegrates again into an  
entire whole large adult Bojangles catfish.

Bojangles sighs, approaches the rear of the river raft.



The great wall panel automatically opens and Bowie flies out to inspect. Bowie takes a quick glance at Bojangles. Waves him ahead with indifference.

BOWIE (CONT'D)

You may pass.

A lock in the great panel opens up. Bowie, flies again into the panel. Panel closes. Bojangles swims into the lock. Looks back at the raft and crew behind him.

BOJANGLES

Well. Are you coming?

Coltrane. Candace.

COLTRANE

We won't get a second chance.

Candace eyes Bojangles.

CANDACE

Looks like it's been a long time  
since someone's given him the  
benefit of the doubt.

Julia barks playfully.

COLTRANE

Let's go!

The raft pushes forward into the lock, aside Bojangles. The great wall closes rapidly behind.

INT. THE GREAT WALL. OUTER FRONTIER. LOCK. 2D.

Darkness. Silence.

CANDACE

Well mister we sure do  
appreciate...

BOJANGLES

Hold on tight.  
(lacking conviction) Safety first.

Darkness. Swishing sounds. Machinery sounds. Lock.

BOJANGLES (CONT'D)

Here we go.

The front door of the lock opens. Sunlight slowly streams in from the bottom up.

EXT. THE LOWER RIVER. EARLY MORNING SUN. 2D.

Bojangles and the raft side by side. Candace and Bojangles make eye contact as Bojangles moves ahead.

CANDACE  
Have we met?

Bojangles musters the energy to speak.

BOJANGLES  
I doubt it. I don't talk much.

Candace thinks.

BOJANGLES (CONT'D)  
Mostly I just swim around looking  
for my lost parts...though, I do  
tend to make a mess.

All around Bojangles swirls darker, muddier water.

COLTRANE  
That's a lot of mouths to feed.

BOJANGLES  
Yeah.

Bojangles reaches out to pull back several small baby catfish  
Bojangles that have escaped the moving herd.

BOJANGLES (CONT'D)  
Ok then. I've got to get on ahead  
down the road.

The crew waves.

JULIA  
Keep it real Captain B.!

CANDACE  
Bye friend!

COLTRANE  
Thanks for the help.

Bojangles moves ahead.

BOJANGLES (TO HIMSELF)  
Friend. I like that.

Bojangles smiles.

EXT. THE RIVER RAFT. MORNING LIGHT. 2D.

Coltrane steers. Julia and Candace watch the water clear as Bojangles moves further ahead downstream.

COLTRANE

He wasn't so bad for a river beast.

Candace thinks. Agrees.

CANDACE

Yeah. Guess sometimes you just gotta give someone a chance.

JULIA

Wish we could help him.

CANDACE

Yeah.

Bojangles disappears past the horizon. Clear water.

The crew continues ahead downstream.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Mr. Bojangles".

FADE TO BLACK.

\*\*\*\*\*

"All true friends are forever friends."

- Jupiter Julia, Friday, July 13, 2018.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RIVER RAFT. MORNING LIGHT. 2D.

The raft is partially beached on a white sandy shore.

Julia and Candace sit, feet in the water.

CANDACE

So, I guess we won't be able to  
talk to each other like this much  
longer.

JULIA

Oh I don't know. Coltrane may be a  
while...

CANDACE

...no I mean.

JULIA

You mean once our journey's  
complete?

Julia gets Candace's meaning.

CANDACE

Yeah.

JULIA

Yeah.

(beat)

CANDACE

Maybe we should develop a code.

Julia excites.

JULIA  
Like a secret handshake...

CANDACE  
...or a secret language.

JULIA  
Secret language...so we can talk  
without talking...

CANDACE  
Exactly!

JULIA  
Ok, hmm, let's see what do I need  
to be able to tell you...oh wait, I  
know. When I'm happy I could...

Julia wags her tail.

CANDACE  
Ahem...that's one's kind of a dead  
giveaway there isn't it?

Julia realizes her tail is wagging. Laughs.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Wait I know...mom taught me these  
symbols....you can try to write  
them with your tail.

Julia looks skeptical.

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
Ok, so let's see...

Candace draws a symbol in the sand with her finger. Korean  
hangul "sigpum"/"food".

CANDACE (CONT'D)  
...so this one means food. Go on  
see if you can do it.

Julia, walking awkwardly backwards, scratches the hangul  
symbols for "sigpum"/"food" into the sand.

Candace pats Julia on the head.

JULIA  
Ok. That. That has to stop.

CANDACE

Awww. Does somebody not like being  
pet on their head when they're  
learning to speak?

Julia barks.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Ok, ok what else?

Julia thinks.

JULIA

What about help? That might be  
useful.

CANDACE

Yeah.

Candace tries to remember.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

I think it's like...

Candace draw the Korean script hangul symbols for  
"doun"/"help" in the sand with her finger.

Coltrane, full of energy, rushes into the moment. Haphazardly  
kicks sand onto the symbols.

COLTRANE

Ok, we got the last three spots!

CANDACE

Woo hoo!

JULIA

Nice.

Julia hi-five Coltrane.

COLTRANE

Let's go.

Coltrane signals to follow-him. Candace and Julia jump up.  
The three walk the shore towards a large gilded gate  
shimmering in the morning sun.

The water shimmers. Seagulls. A rainbow. Dolphins jump in the  
river. A manatee.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "That's What Friends Are For".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Blue Sky" by The Allman Brothers Band.

INT. THE FABLED CITY OF GOLD. MORNING. **2D.**

The city gates swing open. A tour group moves forward.

The tour guide, a siamese cat, herds the group into an organized mass. A family of four Shih Tzus. Julia fist bumps another female Shih Tzu. Also in the group: a squirrel, several meerkats, a dodo bird.

The group shuffles forward, as per a horse with blinders.

SIAMESE TOUR GUIDE

And over here you can see blah,  
blah, blah...

The group steps onto a conveyor belt, moving upwards into the city.

SIAMESE TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

...this was the site of the famous  
blah, blah, blah,

Coltrane, off trail, behind the bushes, signals to Candace and Julia.

COLTRANE

Pssst. Over here. Come on.

Candace looks at Julia. Julia nods. The two sneak away from the group, joining Coltrane off the beaten path.

SIAMESE TOUR GUIDE (V.O.)

...and thus mystics through the  
ages have written about this  
fabled, magical city of gold.

Coltrane, Candace, and Julia slide down gilded dirt paths on magic potato sacks. They swerve back and forth like go-karts, uphill, downhill. Coltrane leads. No Julia. Here comes Candace. Coltrane spins out. Julia by a nose.

The trio laugh and continue to the next ride.

A giant golden wheat field crop-circle wind tunnel blows upwards from the ground into the city heights above. Our three contestants jump in and ride the wind upwards through the city sights.

Julia spins and sprawls, weightless. Julia does the breaststroke. Coltrane propels forwards with his tail.

The trio lands gently on a giant rock outcropping. Vanilla sky in the distance.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Blue Sky".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Little Birdie" by Steve Young.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE. ROCK OUTCROPPING. 2D.

Misty mountains. Smoky entrance. Candace moves forward into the cave entrance.

Julia moves to follow. Coltrane places a gentle hand on Julia's neck, stopping her movement. Gives Julia a wink.

Candace continues through the mist into the cave entrance, walks towards a dim fire flickering ahead.

A dark-skinned figure tends the fire, his back turned to Julia. Julia steps on some pebbles, making a racket.

The figure turns, revealing the contours of his face.

Julia leaps forward in astonishment.

JULIA

Daddy!

She rushes into the open arms of her FATHER, late 30's, male, African ancestry, Alabama Southern accent.

FATHER

Hey there pumpkin.

JULIA

Daddy.

The two embrace.

(beat)

Candace slides down to stand on her father's toes. Father takes her hands. He walks forward as she walks backwards standing on his feet. Candace laughs.

INT. FATHER'S CAVE. FIRELIGHT. 2D.

Father and Candace sit and talk by the fire.



FATHER  
You've grown.

Father, places his hand lovingly on Candace's head.

CANDACE  
So have you.

Candace pokes her dad in the stomach. Father laughs.

INT. FATHER'S CAVE PLANETARIUM. MOMENTS LATER. **2D.**

The two sit quietly as the fires begins to die down.

FATHER  
Anything you'd like to talk about?

CANDACE  
Just want to spend time. That's  
all.

FATHER  
That's all, that's all, that's  
all...

Father playfully mocks Candace's somber mood and dances around the fire. Candace lets out a hearty laugh. Joins her father in the fire dance.

Embers float upwards into a bright tapestry of stars in the night sky. Comets. Saturn. The milky way.

INT. FATHER'S CAVE PLANETARIUM. LATER. **2D ANIMATION.**

The last embers of the fire flicker. Candace yawns. Father prepares a bed for her by the fire.

CANDACE  
Will I be able to see you again?

Father tucks Candace in.

FATHER  
Of course!

Candace smiles.

FATHER (CONT'D)  
I'll be right here waiting any time  
you need me.

Candace relaxes. Gets concerned again.

CANDACE  
But how will I find...

Father soothes his daughter and places his hand on her forehead.

FATHER  
...don't worry kiddo, Coltrane  
knows the way.

Candace laughs.

FATHER (CONT'D)  
Now get some rest.

Father kisses Candace on the forehead.

Candace closes her eyes. Father tends the last sparks of the fire, his hand on Candace's shoulder.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Little Birdie".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Friends" by Michael W. Smith.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. MORNING. **3D ANIMATION.**

Candace opens her eyes. Her own room. In bed. Julia asleep beside her. Candace yawns. Stretches her arms. House slippers. Alabama T-shirt. Pajama pants. Walks into bathroom.

INT. CANDACE & MOM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. **3D.**

Mom puts soft food into Julia's bowl. Pat's Julia on the head. Mom opens cupboard. Cereal boxes. "Guanyin's Gummies". "Mystery Elf Surprise". "

Julia eats. Mom makes pancakes.

INT. CANDACE'S ROOM. AN HOUR LATER. **3D.**

Candace in her bathrobr, walks to her dresser. Coltrane. Candace picks up her stuffed bear. Hugs. Deep smile.

EXT. CITY STREET. AFTER SCHOOL. **3D.**

Candace and the other students flood out the front door and down the steps. Julia. Hachiko pose, waiting.

Candace picks up Julia and hugs her. Places Julia's leash in her hand. Places Julia on the ground. Candace's three frenemies tussle down the steps.

The three girls play with Julia as she bounces around, putting on a good show for Candace's friends. The four girls all laugh. Candace and Julia high five.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM. VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION. **3D.**

Candace, now in high school, serves the ball. Mom and Julia in the bleachers, on the edge of their seats with anticipation.

The opposing team returns. Over the net. Bump up. Set. Candace spikes. Ball rockets downwards. Opponent dives & misses. Mom jumps in excitement. Julia howls. Candace Hi-fives her teammate. Laughs. Waves to mom and Julia.

EXT. FRONT PORCH. CANDACE & MOM'S CITY HOME. **3D.**

BOY, male, 16, any ethnicity, kicks the ground casually as Candace stands opposite. Candace and Boy make eye contact. Candace smiles. Boy leans forward.

Julia, peeking through the front window, from inside the apartment, barks up a storm. Window lights in the home turn on.

Boy, startled, turns to leave. Julia stops him. She moves in for the kiss. The young lovers share a moment.

Julia. Consternation, and then, a smile.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY. **3D.**

Candace, in her graduation cap and gown, walks the stage. Receives her diploma. Mom and Julia in the stands. Candace waves. Mom extremely excited.

EXT. MOM'S CITY HOME. MORNING. SUMMER. **3D.**

Candace, dressed in hippie gear, drives off in a beat-up station wagon. Smiles, and waves at Julia and Mom in the rear view mirror. Mom waves. Julia's tail wags.

Julia looks up at mom. Makes a concerned face. Mom kneels down. Picks Julia up. The two turn and walk towards the front door.

INT. KITCHEN. THANKSGIVING WEEKEND. 3D.

Mom, and Julia prepare Thanksgiving dinner. Julia trails Mom's path perfectly, eating every crumb that mom drops.

Candace, dressed in urban hip gear, rushes in from the front door. Drops all university textbooks and supplies on the floor near the door. Biology textbook. Magic markers. Several colored spiral notebooks. Big hugs all around.

INT. LIVING ROOM. THANKSGIVING. EVENING. 3D.

Mom and Candace sit on the couch. Thanksgiving cartoon special on the television. Julia rests. Whimpers. Gets up, walks down the hallway.

INT. LIVING ROOM. MINUTES LATER. 3D.

Mom still watches. Julia gets up and heads towards the bathroom. The bathroom door, ajar.

INT. BATHROOM. 3D.

Candace enters.

Julia, asleep, curled up with stuffed Coltrane. Beside Julia, an open spiral notebook. Written in shaky script with a black magic marker: Korean script / hangul symbols for "DUOM"/"HELP". Candace. Concern.

Candace kneels and cradles Julia. Quickly carries Julia to the living room. Mom reads the situation. Jumps up and gets her coat. Candace and Julia quickly put their shoes on.

Julia, in Candace's arms, snuggles closer. Candace kisses Julia on top of her head.

INT. TAXI CAB. EVENING. 3D.

The car moves quickly. Mom in the front seat points out the fastest route. Candace, in the backseat, holds Julia in her arms.

Julia opens her eyes and looks out the window and the passing skyscraper landscape. Looks at Candace. Julia smiles. Candace smiles.

The animal hospital approaches.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL. PRIVATE EXAMINATION ROOM. **3D.**

Julia lays on the examining table. Candace and Mom surround her with love. Stuffed Coltrane snuggles too.

The veterinarian examines.

Julia, resting with her family, wags her tail lovingly for the last time.

INT/EXT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL/TRANSPERSONAL REALM. **3D/2D.**

Julia leaves the earthly realm, guided by two large loving human hands. The hands guide her spirit upwards...

EXT. THE TRANSPERSONAL REALM. **2D ANIMATION.**

...revealing the owner of the hands. Candace's FATHER. Father cradles Julia. Julia smiles, bounces, licks Father. Father laughs, carries Julia's spirit as he walks towards the horizon.

EXT. CITY OF GOLD. AFTERNOON. **2D ANIMATION.**

Julia is placed within the city of gold by Father's loving hands.

Julia is greeted by the family of Shih Tzus seen earlier. Julia joins the pack, travels towards the city interior. Laughter, playfulness all around.

INT. SUBWAY CAR. LATE NIGHT. **3D ANIMATION.**

Candace and Mom ride the subway home. Holding hands. Quiet.

The city rushes by the moving subway car.

The night sky. A single shooting star travels upwards.

Candace, watching the star, smiles and waves. Peace.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Friends".

CUT TO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Jah Live" by Bob Marley & The Wailers.

INT. MOM'S HOME. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT. 3D.

Candace and Mom sit on the couch. A projector projects images onto the opposite wall.

IMAGE1: Elementary school. Julia and Candace pluck a maple tree leaf. Julia looks awkward. Leaf collection three ring binder on the ground.

Candace and Mom laugh.

MOM

I could barely take the picture you guys were so funny...

CANDACE

...you know I'd forgotten all about that day...you got us ice cream and we talked and talked.

Mom remembers.

MOM

It was a good day.

CLICK. The Image on the wall changes.

IMAGE2: Middle school. Candace drives a remote control car that Julia chases, nipping at the back tires.

MOM (CONT'D)

Oh my god she was fast wasn't she.

CANDACE

I could never keep up.

Laughter.

CLICK. Image change.

IMAGE3: Julia's later years. Curled up by a fireplace with her best friend, stuffed Coltrane. Coltrane's nose is coming loose and he has several small tears and loose threads.

MOM AND CANDACE

Awwwww.....

CANDACE

There they are. Best friends :)

Candace turns off the projector.

INT. MOM'S ROOM. MINUTES LATER. **3D.**

Candace tucks Mom into bed. Kisses her forehead. Lights out.

INT. MOM'S GUEST ROOM. MOMENTS LATER. **3D.**

Candace sits on her bed. Looks at stuffed animal Coltrane, resting on the pillow. Picks him up. Ruffles the tear in Coltrane's fabric.

Desk drawer opens. Rummaging. Retrieves sewing kit.

Candace brushes Coltrane's plastic features with a toothbrush. Superglues a falling eye button.

Candace admires her handiwork. The new and improved Coltrane plush toy.

Lights out. Candace removes her slippers. Gets into bed. Snuggles with plush Coltrane. Falls asleep.

Awakens with a startle. Candace looks on her dresser. BOJANGLES-2187, the baby catfish, now in a larger bowl, stares back.

Candace ponders. Dresses. Jacket. Toboggan cap.

EXT. CITY STREET. LATE NIGHT. **3D.**

Candace, carrying BOJANGLES-2187 in his fishbowl, walks the moonlight streets of Seoul.

EXT. THE RIVER'S EDGE. LATE NIGHT. **3D.**

Moonlight shimmers off the river. Candace kneels and releases BOJANGLES-2187 into the wild. His tail makes wake as he moves ahead. Turns back. Waves to Candace. Candace waves.

INT. THE RIVER BOTTOM. LATE NIGHT. **3D.**

Moonlight pierces the surface of the river. ENTROPY-2187 swims into the depths.

A school of small catfish moves, roughly in the outline of a much larger giant catfish.

The school moves ahead. ENTROPY-2187 catches up and merges with the school. A large giant grouper fish swims in front of the school of catfish. The grouper passes.

A single, smiling, giant friendly catfish moves ahead with grace, disappearing into the distant, shimmering blue waters.

INT. MOM'S GUEST ROOM. AN HOUR LATER. **3D.**

Candace under the covers. Smiles. Snuggles plush Coltrane.

ADULT CANDACE closes her eyes. Asleep. Candace's COMET BIRTHMARK illuminates.

The night sky seen from Candace's window. A shooting star.

SOUNDTRACK: FADE OUT "Jah Live".

FADE INTO:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Life Is Like A River" by Doc Watson.

EXT. THE HOLLOW. MOONLIGHT. **2D ANIMATION.**

TEN YEAR OLD CANDACE, three apples tall, wakes up in the hollow. Moonlight on the rushing river.

Candace, standing, brushes dirt off her knees. A pack of Shih Tzus tackle her. Julia jumps on top, nipping at Candace's ear. The two embrace. Smiles all around.

The pack, with Candace & Julia, stroll the hollow.

Shelby, perched atop Sequoia, sings the lyrics.

SHELBY

Life is like a river that runs to  
eternity. And all must ride that  
river, honey, just like you and me.  
It's sometimes rough and muddy with  
rapids along the way. For some, the  
trip is shorter, but all must have  
their day.

Coltrane moonwalks into the pack. The group makes a circle. Coltrane break dances in the middle of the circle. Candace breakdances in the middle. Julia and Father links arms and hoe-down spin. Other cast members move to the music. Laughter.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

There's no dark and rolling tide  
between you and me. Lot's of love  
and happiness far as I can see.



Candace stands on Father's toes as he tries to walk and move to the music. Laughter.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

There's a dark and muddy current  
that can sweep your boat from  
sight. If you pass that point of no  
return, there's a dark and endless  
night. There's also a mighty  
boatman and he's out there every  
day. Just put your life in his  
hands and you're safely on your  
way.

Shelby, singing to Sequoia and the gang keeps pace, snapping his fingers and tapping his feet.

INT. MOM'S GUEST ROOM. **3D ANIMATION.**

Adult Candace wakes up. Turns on the light. Rummages the bedside drawers for paper to write on. A pen.

Candace, leaned up against the headboard, begins writing.

SHELBY (V.O.)

There's no dark and rolling tide  
between you and me. Lot's of love  
and happiness as far as I can see.

EXT. KYOTO, JAPAN. AUTUMN. SUNSET. **3D.**

The Kyoto autumn landscape.

Julia, perched atop a temple wall, types on her laptop.

EXT. EIHEI-JI MONASTERY. WINTER. SUNRISE. **3D.**

The Eihei-ji snowy winter landscape.

Candace, seated at the back of a meditation hall, types on her laptop.

INT. CANDACE'S APARTMENT. SEOUL. LATE NIGHT. **3D.**

Candace, at her writer's desk, types on her laptop.

Pages of text on the printer tray. Coltrane seated.

SHELBY (V.O.)

We've rode this raging river when  
the banks were cavin' in. When the  
storms have almost beaten us, we've  
always tried again. Let's keep the  
faith together, encouraging our  
friends. Until we reach that  
crystal sea of life that never  
ends.

INT. MOM'S CITY HOME. MORNING. 3D.

Candace opens a large cardboard box. Rows of freshly minted paperback novels inside.

Candace pulls out a copy.

**"Jupiter Julia, by Candace Armstrong"**

Candace smiles.

INT. MOM'S ROOM. MORNING. 3D ANIMATION.

Candace shows her mom the children's book. Mom, resting in bed smiles. Laughs.

Candace reads to mom. The two laugh. Smile. Holding hands.

Candace flips the pages to the last chapter. As the pages flip, we move into...

EXT. THE HOLLOW. MOONLIGHT. 2D ANIMATION.

...the hollow. Shelby perched atop Sequoia, sings the last chorus.

SHELBY

There's no dark and rolling tide  
between you and me. Lot's of love  
and happiness as far as I can see.

The gang dances by the river. Candace. Julia. Father. Coltrane. Guanyin. Enzo. Putin. Ditto. Bowie. The Shih Tzu pack.

EXT. THE RIVER. MOONLIGHT. 2D ANIMATION.

The gang square dances, gets down, and gets jiggy, all atop the giant Bojangles. Bojangles floats downstream with his new friends partying on his back.

Shelby and Sequoia wave from the shore.

Bojangles, and the gang, move downriver, fading into the horizon.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Life Is Like A River".

FADE TO BLACK:

SOUNDTRACK: BEGIN "Trampoline" by Kero Kero Bonito.

- First credits sequence -

2D and 3D animated cast members. Dance Dance Revolution meets Street Fighter. 2D vs. 3D. Magic balls of light. It's a tie.

Julia raps. Candace sings, dances.

A giant trampoline. Cast members jump.

The Shih Tzus, choreographed and precise, take over. The pack leads the entire cast in a coordinated, choreographed, short dance.

Everyone falls down in laughter as the music ends.

SOUNDTRACK: END "Trampoline".

- Roll credits -

SOUNDTRACK: PLAY TO END "Famous" by Mason Ramsey.

## **APPENDIX: SOUNDTRACK: Jupiter Julia Playlist (Spotify)**

### **OPENING.**

1. "Just As I Am" by Lullabye Baby

### **ACT I.**

2. "You Are My Sunshine (Version 1)" by Elizabeth Mitchell
3. "Flamingo" by Kero Kero Bonito
4. "House Of The Rising Sun" by Doc Watson
5. "Flight Of The Bumblebee" by Brandon Ridenour, Canadian Brass
6. "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley
7. "En Voilier" by Jean Tonique
8. "Froggie Went A Courtin'" by Bob Dylan
9. "Counting Down The Days - Yotto Edit" by Above & Beyond
10. "Tis The Last Rose Of Summer" by Wynton Marsalis
11. "Why Not Me" by The Judds
12. "Little Girl" by Sam Cooke

### **ACT II.**

13. "Wish You Were Here" by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
14. "Hello" by Giraffage
15. "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac
16. "99 Red Balloons" by Oliver Nelson
17. "Chain Gang" by Sam Cooke
18. "Lenny" by Stevie Ray Vaughan
19. "Sittin' On The Dock Of The Bay" by Otis Redding
20. "King Of The Road" by Roger Miller
21. "Blowing In The Wind" by Dick & Jacquire Schuyler
22. "When First Unto This Country" by Jerry Garcia
23. "On Your Face" by MC Hammer
24. "Corrina, Corrina" by Boz Scaggs
25. "Brokedown Palace" by Grateful Dead
26. "Mr. Bojangles" by Jerry Jeff Walker

### **ACT III.**

27. "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick
28. "Blue Sky" by The Allman Brothers Band
29. "Little Birdie" by Steve Young
30. "Friends" by Michael W. Smith
31. "Jah Live" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
32. "Life Is Like A River" by Doc Watson

### **The END.**

33. "Trampoline" by Kero Kero Bonito
34. "Famous" by Mason Ramsey