

How To Train Your Dragon 2

by
Dean DeBlois

Inspired by the novels by
Cressida Cowell

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1000 Flower St.
Glendale, CA 91201
818 695 5000

FROM THE DREAMWORKS LOGO, we see..

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Hiccup and Toothless BLUR PAST, leaving a wake that leads...

EXT. BERK - DAY

(Sequence 0200 - New Berk)

To the island village of Berk, festively adorned with flags and banners. Major new additions alter its familiar skyline.

HICCUP (V.O.)

This... is Berk. The best kept
secret this side of, well,
anywhere. Granted, it may not look
like much, but this wet heap of
rock packs more than a few
surprises.

ON A CLUSTER OF SHEEP, hiding nervously between buildings as shadows of passing dragons race by. The group moves as one, receding into a shadowy alley, pushing one sheep out into the light. It's suddenly snatched and carried into the air!

HICCUP (V.O.)

Life here is amazing, just not for
the faint of heart. See, where most
folks enjoy hobbies like whittling
or needlepoint, we Berkians prefer
a little something we like to call--

WHOOSH, WHOOSH, WHOOSH! A wash of VIBRANT COLORS blurs by. DRAGONS BARREL PAST at a dizzying speed. Their RIDERS SWIPE, KICK, and ROLL into one another while they WEAVE neck in neck between the houses, docks, and revamped structures of Berk.

HICCUP (V.O.)

DRAGON RACING!

It's like an aerial version of the Monte Carlo race. Spectators ROAR from wooden bleachers, fastened to cliff faces and perched over the sea.

FISHLEGS, now 20 and even larger, rides his gronkle, MEATLUG, who carries the sheep in her claws, until...

SNOTLOUT, also 20, but every bit as juvenile, and his Monstrous Nightmare, HOOKFANG, steal the sheep from them.

SNOTLOUT

Oh, I'm sorry, Fishlegs! Did you want that?

FISHLEGS

Snotlout! That's mine!

Snotlout FALLS BACK toward RUFFNUT and TUFFNUT, who lag on their two-headed Zippleback, BARF & BELCH.

SNOTLOUT

Here ya go, babe.

With a chivalrous grin, Snotlout tosses the sheep to Ruffnut. She SNATCHES it with a sneer and a GRUMBLE.

SNOTLOUT (CONT'D)

Did I tell you that you look amazing today? 'Cause you do.

RUFFNUT

Come on, Barf. It's starting to stink around here.

Barf starts to peel off, spewing gas. Tuffnut mocks Snotlout with a mugging grin.

TUFFNUT

Nope. Still hates you. Let's blow this place, Belch!

Belch ignites the gas, sparking a flashy explosion, and leaving Snotlout behind in the smoke.

As they rush past the main bleachers, Ruffnut DROPS her sheep into one of five baskets suspended over a chasm at the lap crossing. Each backboard bears an image of its corresponding dragon. The Barf/Belch basket filled to the brim with sheep.

Presiding over the game, STOICK turns to the frenzied crowd.

STOICK

That's nine for the Twins, Astrid lags with three, Fishlegs and Snotlout trail with NONE!

Stoick eyes an empty basket at the far end, its backboard painted with an image of Toothless.

STOICK (CONT'D)

And Hiccup is... nowhere to be found. Hmmm.

GOBBER

Scared him off with the big talk,
didn't ya, Stoick?

WHACK! Snotlout, still smoldering from the blast, gets CLIPPED from behind. ASTRID, rolls in, astride STORMFLY -- spirited and competitive as ever, and beautiful despite herself.

ASTRID

What are you doing, Snotlout?!
They're going to win now!

SNOTLOUT

She's my princess! Whatever she
wants, she gets.

ASTRID

Ruffnut?! Didn't she try to bury
you alive?!

SNOTLOUT

Only for a few hours!

BACK TO THE RACERS, as they peel away, pouring on the speed.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Dragons used to be a bit of a
problem here. But that was five
years ago. Now they've all moved
in. And, really, why wouldn't they?

The racers chase each other through a sprawling hangar and into a vast cave, teeming with colorfully painted dragon stables. They exit through the far side and circle back through the village, blasting past many of its dragon-friendly additions.

HICCUP (V.O.)

We have custom stables... all-you-
can-eat feeding stations... a full
service dragon wash...

In the village, a baby Gronkle sneezes, accidentally setting one of the Viking houses aflame.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Even top-of-the-line fire
prevention, if I do say so myself.

Astrid rolls her eyes, peels away from the other dragon racers, and yanks open a spout on the overhead network of aqueducts, dousing the flames with a surge of water.

BACK TO STOICK, amused as he watches the racers round the island, searching for sheep. He turns to Gobber and nods.

STOICK
It's time, Gobber.

GOBBER
Righty-ho!
(aloud, to the crowd)
Last lap!

A HORN sounds. The racers all turn to each other, excited.

ASTRID
The black sheep! Come on, Stormfly!
We can still win this thing!

RUFFNUT
Come on, Barf!

TUFFNUT
Let's go!

FISHLEGS
Go, Meatlug!

GOBBER loads the BLACK SHEEP onto a catapult.

GOBBER
This is your big moment. Have a
nice flight!

He pulls the trigger, LAUNCHING the black sheep into the air. Astrid spots it and steers Stormfly into a steep climb toward it.

ASTRID
Up, up, up!

In a flash, Fishlegs and Meatlug blur past, NABBING the sheep.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
No!

FISHLEGS
Good job, Meatlug!

Fishlegs tosses his captured prize to Ruffnut.

FISHLEGS (CONT'D)
Here you go, darling. Mine's worth
ten!

RUFFNUT

Yeah! The Black Sheep!

Snotlout sighs, frustrated.

ASTRID

You guys are fighting for Ruffnut?!

RUFFNUT

I'm totally winning!

Fishlegs hovers up next to Ruffnut with a starry-eyed smile.

FISHLEGS

We're winning together!

She RAMS BARF into Meatlug, sending Fishlegs into an uncontrolled SPIN. He SLAMS into Snotlout, sending their dragons TUMBLING head over tail. The crowd goes wild.

RUFFNUT

No one can stop me now!

TUFFNUT

Except for me. We're attached,
genius!

He GRABS at the sheep. Ruffnut fights back, inciting a tug-of-war.

TUFFNUT (CONT'D)

Quit trying to steal all my glory!

And while they're distracted, Astrid steers Stormfly toward them, CLOSING IN.

STOICK

Get 'em, Astrid!

TUFFNUT

It's MY glory! No sheep, no
glory!

RUFFNUT

You're always ruining
EVERYTHING!

Astrid leaps off of Stormfly, runs up Belch's spindly neck, and PLUCKS the black sheep from the Twins' hands.

ASTRID

Gotcha!

She tumbles through the air onto Stormfly, sticking a perfect landing, black sheep in hand.

RUFFNUT

Astrid!

BACK TO STOICK, beside himself. The crowd ROARS.

STOICK
Well played! Hahaha!
(gloating, to the crowd)
That's my future daughter-in-law!

BACK TO ASTRID ON STORMFLY

eyeing the fast-approaching FINISH LINE, unaware as...

FISHLEGS suddenly RAMS Meatlug into Stormfly, sending Astrid off-course. She recovers and sees Snotlout flying headlong toward her, war hammer cocked, aiming at Astrid.

SNOTLOUT
Uh, excuse me.

ASTRID
Stormfly!

Snotlout HURLS his hammer. Astrid ducks and rolls Stormfly out of the way. The hammer catches Fishlegs in the face with a CLANG. The crowd collectively winces.

Astrid and Stormfly recover from their roll, loop over the water, and they BLAST past the finish line, DUNKING the black sheep into their basket!

STOICK
That's thirteen! Astrid takes the game!

The crowd COMES UNHINGED. Astrid flies over the crowd, basking in her victory.

HICCUP (V.O.)
Yep. Berk is pretty much perfect.
All of my hard work has paid off.
And it's a good thing, too, because
with Vikings on the backs of
dragons, the world just got a whole
lot bigger.

EXT. OPEN SKY/ISLAND COASTLINE - DAY

(Scene 0300 - AWOL Part One)

A boundless sky. Vast. Clear. Crisp. And from it, a BLACK SPECK rockets across the horizon. The image of unbridled freedom.

Tucked into his riding position, HICCUP appears to be part of TOOTHLESS. They dip, roll and dive, over a sea teeming with Thunderdrums, pulling off daring maneuvers with honed refinement, making them seem effortless.

HICCUP

Yeah!

They jackknife, heading skyward, rolling and tumbling through the ethereal cloud-scapes and joining high-flying Timberjacks as they soar in formation.

Hiccup is bound head-to-toe in a snug, aerodynamic flight suit -- an asymmetrical, functional design of leather and articulated plates. It has an air of Viking bike leather.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

What do you think, bud? Wanna give this another shot?

Toothless grumbles in protest.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Toothless! It'll be fine.

With a click of a lever, he LOCKS the pedals in the flared tail position. Hiccup then unhooks himself from the saddle.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Ready?

Toothless SNORTS unenthusiastically.

Suddenly, Hiccup SLIDES OFF of Toothless, peeling away from him like a skydiver from a plane, YELLING as he plummets.

Toothless dives after him. They spiral through the air, face-to-face. Toothless is having fun, despite himself.

Hiccup slips his forearms through a pair of tucked leather flaps... and YANKS, unfurling SHEETS OF LEATHER as he extends his arms. They catch the wind, SNAPPING OPEN like WINGS... and sending him GLIDING -- out of control, at first, then stabilizing. The turbulence buffets his flight suit heavily. But he's flying!

Toothless unfolds his wings, too, catching up with Hiccup.

The freedom is palpable. Hiccup and Toothless are, for the moment, the same. Feeling the same rush of adrenaline. Independently together.

They PLUNGE past cloud formations, splitting apart then crossing paths again.

Impressive as it is, Hiccup is gliding at a steep angle. Toothless launches fireballs ahead of Hiccup, boosting him higher with the expanding heat bursts.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
This is amazing!

A cloud layer washes past, exposing a towering ROCK FORMATION, dead ahead.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
No longer amazing! Toothless!

Hiccup tries to steer himself away, to no avail.

Toothless POURS ON THE SPEED, trying to catch Hiccup as he HURTLES toward collision. His locked tail makes maneuvering difficult. He's UNABLE TO PULL UP at a steep enough angle.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
Oh, no!

At the last second, Toothless BLASTS the jagged rocks just ahead of Hiccup, then WRAPS Hiccup in his wings as they fly through it. The obliterated peak rains down around them.

Toothless emerges through the cloud of debris and HURTLES into the trees of a neighboring peak. They tumble down the uneven terrain, coming to rest on a small plateau.

Hiccup emerges from the cocoon of Toothless' wings. He switches his prosthetic riding foot to his walking foot and stows his leather wings.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
That really came out of nowhere.

The blown up sea stack collapses.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
We gotta work on your solo gliding there, bud. That locked-up tail makes for some pretty sloppy rescue maneuvers, eh?

Hiccup reels in his dorsal fin and removes his helmet, revealing a 20 year old Hiccup framed by wild hair, complete with a Viking braid.

He walks to the edge of the cliff, taking in the NEW LAND stretching off into the horizon, its tall cliffs and sea-stacks adorned with swaying gold birch trees basking in the dappled afternoon sunlight.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Looks like we found another one,
bud.

Toothless FUSSES and SNORTS, not amused, shaking off dust and pebbles like a wet dog.

Hiccup flinches as a pebble WHACKS him on the back of the head. He looks back to Toothless, who averts his eyes.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Oh, what? Do you want an apology?
Is that why you're pouting, big
baby boo? Well... try this on!

Hiccup TACKLES Toothless and tries to put him in a headlock.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Ya feeling it yet? Huh? Picking up
on all my heartfelt remorse?

Toothless simply stands on his hind legs, lifting Hiccup off of his flailing feet and dangling him over the cliff's edge.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Oh, come on. You wouldn't hurt a
one-legged--

Hiccup looks down, seeing the precipitous drop below.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

You're right! You're right! You
win! You win!

WHAM! Toothless flips him over, pinning him to the ground. Hiccup squirms, throwing mock punches. Toothless playfully retaliates with feline taps to Hiccup's head.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

He's down! And it's ugly! Dragons
and Vikings, enemies again, locked
in combat to the bitter -- URFFF!

Toothless rests his head on Hiccup -- SQUEEZING THE AIR out of him. Toothless then suddenly starts grooming Hiccup, lapping at his face and covering him in slobber.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Gaaaaagh!

Hiccup fights to get free, finally springing to his feet and shaking off the viscous saliva.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

You KNOW that doesn't wash out.

Toothless LAUGHS, pleased with himself.

Shifting his attention back to the new land stretched out before them, Hiccup reaches beneath his chest plate and produces a leather-bound book.

He unfurls it to reveal an EXPLORERS MAP, modified with added strips in every direction to accommodate their ever-expanding world. Drawings indicate new lands, new tribes, and many new dragons.

Hiccup peels a fresh strip of paper from a hidden fold in his flight suit and holds it out for Toothless to lick.

Hiccup affixes the moistened strip to the map's outer edge, then whittles a pencil and consults a compass affixed to his forearm.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

So what should we name it?

Toothless GURGLES as he gnaws under his wing, preoccupied.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

"Itchy Armpit" it is.

Hiccup carefully draws the new island's outline.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Whaddy reckon, bud? Think we might find a few Timberjacks in those woods? The odd Whispering Death or two in the rocks? Who knows... maybe we'll finally track down another Night Fury.

(beat)

Wouldn't that be something?

(burdened)

So, whaddy say? Just keep going?

Toothless' ear plates suddenly SHOOT UP. He ROARS, and his call is answered by a familiar SCREECH. Hiccup turns to see...

EXT. SEA STACK/ISLAND COASTLINE - DAY

(Scene 0325 - AWOL Part Two)

ASTRID rising into view, astride Stormfly. Stormfly grabs talon-fulls of rock to slow her landing.

HICCUP

'Afternoon m'lady. Where have you been?

Astrid dismounts and throws back her fur hood as Toothless rushes up to greet them.

ASTRID

Winning races. What else? The real question is... where have YOU been?

HICCUP

Avoiding my dad.

ASTRID

Oh, no. What happened now?

Astrid sits beside Hiccup, inspecting his latest addition to the map. Behind them, Toothless greets Stormfly, inciting a play fight.

HICCUP

Oh, you're gonna love this. I wake up. The sun's shining. Terrible Terrors are singing on the rooftop. I saunter down to breakfast, thinking all is right with the world, and I get...

He gets to his feet and puffs out his chest.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(aping Stoick)

... Son, we need to talk.

Astrid smiles and adopts Hiccup's sloppy slouch.

ASTRID

(aping Hiccup)

Not now, Dad. I've got a whole day of goofing off to get started.

Hiccup breaks character, grimacing at her impression of him.

HICCUP

Okay, first of all, I don't sound like that. What is this character? And second... what is that thing you're doing with my shoulders?

Astrid laughs, jostling her shoulders in an awkward way.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

A truly flattering impersonation.
Anyway, he goes...
(resuming Stoick's brogue)
You're the pride of Berk, son, and
I couldn't be prouder...

ASTRID

(continuing her impression
of Hiccup)
Aw, thanks, Dad. I'm pretty
impressed with myself, too.

HICCUP

WHEN have I ever done that with my
hands?

ASTRID

You just did.

She laughs, playfully.

HICCUP

Okay... just...
(holding her arms, mock-
stern)
Hold still. It's very serious.

She giggles, trying to hold a straight face.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

(resuming Stoick's brogue)
You're all grown up, and since no
chief could ask for a better
successor, I've decided--

Astrid straightens, her face brightening.

ASTRID

--TO MAKE YOU CHIEF! Oh, my gods!

She jumps to her feet, beaming...

ASTRID (CONT'D)

Hiccup, that's amazing!

And socks Hiccup in congratulations, deliberately hitting the
dorsal fin release button and triggering it to pop up. She
laughs as Hiccup reels it back in, self-consciously.

HICCUP

You're gonna wear out the spring
coil. The calibration is very
sensitive!

They're suddenly BOWLED OVER by Toothless and Stormfly.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Yeah, so... this is what I'm
dealing with.

Astrid helps him up and dusts him off.

ASTRID

(excited)

What did you tell him?

HICCUP

I didn't. By the time he turned
around, I was gone.

Astrid picks up the map, folding it as she paces around him,
processing it all.

ASTRID

Well, it's a lot of responsibility.
The map will have to wait for sure,
and I'll need to fly Toothless,
since you'll be too busy...

She pauses, wincing in sympathy. She turns to Hiccup. He nods
knowingly, taking the map from her.

HICCUP

It's not me, Astrid. All those
speeches, and planning, and running
the village... that's *his* thing.

ASTRID

I think you're missing the point. I
mean, *chief*. What an honor. I'd be
pretty excited.

Hiccup shakes his head.

HICCUP

I'm not like you. You know exactly
who you are. You always have.
But...

He shuffles to the cliff's edge, gazing out at the new land.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

I'm still looking. I know that I'm
not my father... and I never met my
mother... so, what does that make
me?

He sits at the edge, looking burdened, restless. Astrid approaches and settles beside him, joining him in looking out at the distant horizon. She weaves another braid into his hair as she speaks.

ASTRID

What you're searching for... isn't out there, Hiccup.

She places a hand on his chest.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

It's in here.

(beat)

Maybe you just don't see it yet.

She kisses his cheek, but gets a mouthful of Toothless' slobber. She grimaces, wiping it off.

Distracted, Hiccup eyes the horizon keenly.

HICCUP

Maybe. But, y'know... there *is* something out there.

ASTRID

(exasperated)

Hiccup...

He turns her face to the horizon. A distant smoke plume rises from a misty valley.

EXT. LAPLAND WOODS/TRAPPER'S FORT - MOMENTS LATER

(Scene 0400 - Shot Down!)

Hiccup and Toothless fly over the fjord, winding deep through undulating crimson and gold forests.

Astrid and Stormfly catch up as the autumn colors suddenly give way to charred timbers. They fly deeper, through ash and wafting smoke. Ahead, in a sheltered harbor, an explosion of ice stands as an eerie marker of what used to be a TRAPPER'S FORT.

HICCUP

Stay close.

They fly through the suspended remains of the buildings, splintered, and frozen in mid-destruction.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

What happened here?

It's at once harrowing and puzzling. Toothless spots an enormous DRAGON FOOTPRINT in the muddy shoreline below, leaving him uneasy.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Easy, bud.

As they crest the ice formations, Astrid spots a CREW OF MEN at the stern of a moored ship below.

ASTRID

Hiccup!

ERET (O.S.)

Fire!

The men fire a stern-mounted cannon. The projectile unfurls into a NET. Hiccup and Toothless dart out of its way.

HICCUP

Astrid! Look out!

It HITS Stormfly, TANGLING her wings and causing her to spin uncontrolled. Astrid struggles to free her as they HURTLE toward a collision.

ASTRID

HICCUP!

Astrid falls off of Stormfly, but Toothless SNATCHES her at the last second.

Stormfly hits the ground, tangled in the net. Trappers rush out of hiding, piling onto her with ropes and weapons. She whips her tail, sending spikes flying.

ERET

Watch the tail!

A large, raven-haired trapper lunges over the spray of spikes and lands upon Stormfly's head, twisting it and taking her down like a rodeo cowboy.

ERET (CONT'D)

Tie those legs up!

Eret deftly ties her gnashing jaws shut, wrangling her into submission -- clearly a pro among pros. He looks up, revealing a handsome face and gleaming, intelligent eyes that search the sky as Toothless' tell-tale BANSHEE scream rings out.

ERET (CONT'D)

Is that what I think it is?

Toothless suddenly streaks across the sky, banking and landing with a FEROCIOUS ROAR.

HICCUP
STOP!

ASTRID
STORMFLY!
(to the trappers)
What are you doing?

Astrid and Hiccup leap off of Toothless, rushing toward Stormfly.

Eret's men immediately draw weapons. Hiccup extends and ignites his DRAGON BLADE -- a telescoping fiery sword -- impressive enough to wow Eret's men.

ERET
Back again?

Eret steps forward, focused only on Toothless.

ERET (CONT'D)
Soil my britches... that is a Night Fury. Thought they were all gone for good.
(to his fellow trappers)
Looks like our luck's had a turn for the better, lads! Don't think Drago has one of *those* in his dragon army.

His men sound out in agreement. Hiccup eyes Astrid, confused.

ASTRID
Dragon army?

HICCUP
Look, we don't want any trouble.

ERET
Ha! You should've thought of that before you stole all of our dragons and blasted our fort to bits!

HICCUP
Wait...

ASTRID
What are you *talking* about?

Astrid and Hiccup take in the icy destruction, putting it together.

HICCUP

You think we did this?

ERET

Dragon trapping is hard enough work as it is, without do-gooder dragon riders sneaking in to rescue them.

HICCUP

What do-gooder -- there are other dragon riders?

ERET

You mean, other than your thieving friend from last night? You tell me.

Eret approaches. Toothless snarls, protectively.

ERET (CONT'D)

You may have an ice-spitting dragon on your side, but we still have a quota to fill. How do you suppose we explain this mess to Drago Bludvist?

HICCUP

Drago *what-fist?* Does anything you say make sense?

TEENY

He's expecting a new shipment of dragons for his army by tomorrow.

NO-NAME

And Drago don't take well to excuses.

Eret parts his tunic, revealing a large branding-iron scar on his torso, in the shape of a dragon skull, split by a sword.

ERET

This is what he gave me last time I showed up empty-handed. He promised to be far less understanding in the future.

HICCUP

(exasperated)

Look, we don't know anything about a dragon thief, or an ice-spitting dragon, or your lunatic boss and his dragon army, okay?

(MORE)

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Just give us back our dragon, and
we'll go, strange, hostile person
whom we've never met.

Eret bows playfully.

ERET

Oh, where are my manners? I'm Eret.
Son of Eret. Finest dragon trapper
alive.

He pulls a dagger from behind his back, waving it cockily.
His men ready their weapons and net cannons.

ERET (CONT'D)

After all, it's not just anyone who
can capture a Night Fury.

Toothless ROARS a warning.

HICCUP

And this is Toothless. He says
we're going. Now.

ERET

Heh. They all say that.
(beat)
RUSH 'EM, LADS!

Eret lunges toward them. Toothless BLASTS, bringing down a
massive spire of ice. It shatters as it hits the ground,
forcing Eret and his men to dive out of the way.

Making quick use of the distraction, Hiccup re-ignites his
dragon blade and slashes through the ropes binding Stormfly.

ASTRID

Stormfly! C'mon, go! Go!

Eret gets to his feet in time to see Toothless and Stormfly
take to the air, carrying Hiccup and Astrid out of reach of
the volley of arrows.

ERET

YOU WILL NEVER HOLD ON TO THOSE
DRAGONS, YOU HEAR ME?! DRAGO IS
COMING FOR THEM ALL!

I/E. BERK/BLACKSMITH STALL - SUNSET

(Sequence 0500 - Lock-Down!)

The GANG joyrides past GOTHI'S house, scattering her assortment of terrible terrors. She waves a fist at them as they sweep past, WHOOPING AND CHORTLING, leading us down to...

THE UPPER PLAZA, where a GATHERED CROWD of Vikings and their dragons are cued up outside of Gobber's BLACKSMITH STALL, awaiting their turns. Stoick maneuvers through the crowd, spouting JOVIAL GREETINGS in passing.

He makes a bee-line for GOBBER, who is busily grinding a metal dragon tooth into shape. A Zippleback waits patiently, his head cocked open like a car hood while the other head watches, sympathetically.

STOICK
Any sign of him?

Gobber flips up his welding guard, revealing a matching area of unsoiled skin.

GOBBER
Ah, he's probably flown off the edge of the world by now. You sure you want that kid running the village? You can still delay your retirement.

STOICK
Oh, he's ready. You'll see.

A SUDDEN EXCITEMENT in the crowd heralds Hiccup and Astrid's return. They touch down on Toothless and Stormfly.

STOICK (CONT'D)
Haha! There he is!
(to Gobber, proving his point)
Huh? The pride of Berk!

Hiccup stows his helmet and heads toward Stoick with urgency.

GOBBER
Who finally decided to show up for work. Yay.

HICCUP
Sorry. Got held up.
(privately, to Stoick)
Hey, Dad, could I have a word?

STOICK
Something you're itching to tell me?

HICCUP

Not quite the itch you're thinking
of, but yes.

Stoick hands him an apron and guides him to the front desk.

STOICK

Good man! Now, lesson one. A
chief's first duty is to his
people. So...

Stoick changes the rune on the "being served" placard.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Forty one? Forty --

HICCUP

Could we just talk in private for--

STARKARD

--That's me! That's me! I'm next!
(pushing his way through)
I was ahead of you! Excuse me, I've
been here all day!

STARKARD reaches the counter, giddy with excitement.

STARKARD (CONT'D)

Okay, I want one of those high
seaters, with lots of spikes and a
big stowage compartment.

STOICK

Absolutely! You got it, sir!

Stoick spins Hiccup around, steering him back into the shop.

HICCUP

Dad, this is actually a little more
important than building saddles.

STOICK

Ah-ah! Lesson two. No task is too
small when it comes to serving your
people. Excuse us, Grump.

They step over the tail of a large, snoring oaf of a dragon,
stirring him awake with a fussy start.

GOBBER

Grump! You let the forge die down
again!

Grump coughs a slug of molten lava into the forge. It splatters everywhere, igniting a rash of fires. Hiccup sidesteps them as he gathers materials in the back of the stall. Gobber pulls the fire extinguisher, dumping water everywhere.

GOBBER (CONT'D)

That's it, Grump. You're going up for adoption!

Stoick fills a toolbox with tools from Hiccup's workbench.

STOICK

One of these. And this...

HICCUP

Dad --

STOICK

-- There you go! Go on. Have away.

HICCUP

But, seriously, I really need to tell you about this *new land* we came across.

GOBBER

Another one?!

Fishlegs walks in, followed by the Twins and Snotlout.

FISHLEGS

Any new dragons?

Stoick slaps a sheet of leather onto a dragon mold, and hands Hiccup pencil. Exasperated, Hiccup begins tracing an outline as he speaks.

HICCUP

We didn't stick around to find out. These folks weren't particularly friendly.

GOBBER

Oh, really? Your Night Fury and Deadly Nadder didn't bring them cheering to the rooftops?

Gobber spins his prosthetic arm dispenser.

HICCUP

No, this was different. Not the standard run-for-the-hills hoo-ha I've come to enjoy. These guys were trappers. *Dragon trappers.*

ASTRID

You should've seen their fort. All
blown apart and stuck in giant
spikes of ice. It was *weird*.

HICCUP

I've never seen anything like it.
And worst of all, they thought we
did it!

Gobber pops off his prosthetic tongs and selects a wire brush
from his dispenser...

GOBBER

Y'know, you two are gonna get
yourselves in SERIOUS trouble one
of these days. Not everyone
appreciates this way of life.

Which he uses to brush his mustache and eyebrows.

Stoick takes the sheet of leather to the table saw...

STOICK

Gobber's right, son. Best we keep
to our own. Besides, you'll have
more important uses for your time --

And pulls a lever, starting it up.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(sing-songy, under his
breath)

Once we make the big announcement!

Hiccup pulls the lever, shutting the saw down.

HICCUP

They are building a dragon army.

Silence fills the stall. Vikings exchange worried glances.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Or at least the guy they work for
is. *Dargo Bloody Fist* or something.

Stoick's eyes widen. He turns to Gobber, with growing alarm.

TUFFNUT

I'll bloody his fist with my face
if he tries to take my dragon!

RUFFNUT

Or mine.

TUFFNUT

You're such a moron.

FISHLEGS

A beautiful moron.

SNOTLOUT

Yeah...

Ruffnut grumbles, revolted by their advances.

Stoick grabs Hiccup by the shoulders, wide-eyed and intense.

STOICK

Bludvist? Drago Bludvist?

HICCUP

Uh, yeah. Wait. You *know* him?

INT. BERK - DRAGON STABLES - MOMENTS LATER

Stoick rushes down a circular stone staircase into the vast, bustling cave that houses the dragon stables.

STOICK

GROUND ALL DRAGONS!

HICCUP

What? Why?!

Hiccup, Astrid, Gobber, and Toothless chase after Stoick.

STOICK

SEAL THE GATES! LOWER THE STORM
DOORS!

HICCUP

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Wait! What is
happening?

GOBBER

You heard the man! Lock it down!

Behind him, the massive storm doors rattle as they're lowered.

STOICK

No DRAGON or VIKING sets foot off
this island until I give the word!

HICCUP

Because some guy you knew is
stirring up trouble in some faraway
land?

Stoick turns to Hiccup, gravely serious.

STOICK

Because Drago Bludvist is a madman.
Without conscience or mercy. And if
he's built a dragon army... gods
help us all.

Stoick continues on shouting orders, leaving Hiccup stewing.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Get them into their pens! Quickly!

Hiccup chases around to confront Stoick.

HICCUP

Then let's ride back out there.
We'll follow those trappers to
Drago and talk some sense into him.

STOICK

No. We fortify the island.

HICCUP

It's our duty to keep the peace!

STOICK

Peace is over, Hiccup. I must
prepare you for war.

HICCUP

War? Dad, if Drago's coming for our
dragons, we can't wait around for
him to get here. Let's go find him
and change his mind.

STOICK

Some minds won't be changed,
Hiccup. Berk is what you need to
worry about.

(beat)

A chief protects his own.

Stoick heads off, calling out more orders...

STOICK (CONT'D)

SECURE THE STABLES! LATCH EVERY
STALL!

... leaving Hiccup eyeing Toothless as the storm doors close. Astrid approaches him, seeing the determination on his face.

ASTRID
Hiccup, don't.

HICCUP
I have to.

He gives her a quick peck on the cheek.

STOICK
THIS WAY! QUICKLY!

Hiccup and Toothless BLAST PAST, heading for the exit.

STOICK (CONT'D)
HICCUP!

They try to fly through one door, but it seals shut.

HICCUP
Come on!

Toothless spins around and DIVES through the gap in the second lowering storm door.

STOICK
Hiccup!

Astrid and Stormfly blow past Stoick and slip through the storm door before it shuts, leaving Stoick fuming.

EXT. OPEN SEA - MIDDAY

(Scene 0700 - Eret's Lesson)

Eret's ship carves a defiant path North, leaving the last glimpses of Lapland in its wake.

Eret stands on the bowsprit, eyeing the waves intently, searching the surface. He turns toward the deck, where his crewmen man the gunwale cannons, sights trained to the sky.

ERET
Keep your eyes peeled, lads! With this wind, we'll reach Drago by daybreak, so best we fill this ship up with dragons and quick! It's no time to be picky. Not if we want to keep our --

UG

Uh... Eret?

Eret turns in the direction Ug is pointing to see a pair of dragons flapping toward them.

ERET

HEADS! OFF THE PORT QUARTER!

The crewmen swing the net cannons toward the back-lit, silhouetted dragons, drawing ever closer.

ERET (CONT'D)

Net 'em, lads! Take 'em down!

Eret loads a cannon and takes aim. He spots Hiccup and Astrid riding the dragons. His eyes narrow, determined.

ERET (CONT'D)

You're not getting away this time.

Nets fly through the air. Hiccup and Astrid outmaneuver them and dive toward the ship, landing on the deck with a clatter.

ERET (CONT'D)

And here I was worried we might turn up empty-handed.

Astrid brandishes her axe in invitation. Hiccup indicates for her to lower it, then holds up his hands in surrender.

HICCUP

Nope. It's your lucky day. We give up.

Eret's crew exchange confused stares. As does Astrid.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

That's one Night Fury, one Deadly Nadder, and...

He dismounts Toothless and tosses a net over Astrid.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

... two of the finest dragon riders west of Luk Tuk. That oughtta make the boss happy, right?

Astrid grumbles. He takes her axe, hands it to Eret, and escorts Astrid past the men to the open live well.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Excuse us.

He leads Astrid down the ladder. She glares at him, plainly hating the plan.

ASTRID
What are you doing?

Toothless tries to follow them, but Hiccup holds him back.

HICCUP
Toothless, stay.

Hiccup flips the latch, lowering the grate as Eret watches, confounded.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
The dragons don't really care for cramped spaces, so they'll just hang out with you. They won't be any trouble.

Eret's men nervously direct their swords and spears toward Toothless. HE SNARLS.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
Unless you do that. Wooden boat, big ocean. How's your swimming?

NO-NAME
Not good.

A burst of flame erupts from the live well, causing the crewmen to jump back. Hiccup thrusts his Dragon Blade through the grate.

HICCUP
Oops. Almost forgot. Can't have armed prisoners!

ASTRID
How is this a plan?

He retracts the blade and offers it up. A crewman cautiously takes it, looking it over. The pommel of the hilt is expelling green gas.

HICCUP
Just what every dragon trapper needs. One end coats the blade in Monstrous Nightmare saliva. The other sprays Hideous Zippleback gas. All it takes is a spark and...

A curious crewman clicks the lighter, igniting the gas. Hiccup ducks as the sudden explosion sweeps over the deck.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, there you go!

Toothless paws at the embers.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Once they see you as one of their own, even the testiest dragons can be trained, right, bud?

Toothless gurgles and falls over.

ERET

Give me that!

Eret snatches the dragon blade and HURLS it overboard. Stormfly bolts after it...

ERET (CONT'D)

What game are you playing?

HICCUP

No game. We just want to meet Drago.

And returns in a flash, dropping it at Eret's feet like a fetching dog, tongue wagging. Eret throws it again, frustrated. Stormfly returns with it just as quickly.

ERET

Why?

HICCUP

Because I'm going to change his mind about dragons.

Eret and his crew LAUGH. Astrid pokes out of the well.

ASTRID

He can be really persuasive.

Hiccup pets Toothless, thoughtfully.

HICCUP

Once you've earned his loyalty, there is nothing a dragon won't do for you.

ERET

Puh! You won't be changing any minds around here.

HICCUP

I can change yours. Right here.
Right now.

Hiccup sets Toothless' tail in the locked, splayed position.
Eret sneers, suspicious.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

May I?

Suddenly, Hiccup is snatched into the air! Dragons blur past.

I/E. OPEN SEA - SHIP - SUNSET

(Scene 1000 - Botched Rescue)

The crewmen SCRAMBLE to the NET CANNONS as a FLURRY OF WINGS
streak past, GASHING holes in the sails and SLICING through
rigging.

ERET

Dragon riders!

Toothless SHRIEKS and bounds up the mast, spotting Hiccup in
the talons of a Monstrous Nightmare. Toothless relaxes,
realizing that it's Hookfang.

HICCUP

Put me down! Snotlout! What are you
doing?

Snotlout looks back to see if Ruffnut witnessed the save.

SNOTLOUT

See how well I protect and provide?

Ruffnut GRUMBLES at the incessant courting. A FLYING NET
whizzes past her head.

TUFFNUT

Aggh! What is with all the nets?!

RUFFNUT

Hey watch it! That was close...

Ruffnut spots Eret, FIRING nets from the deck of the ship.

TRANSITION TO:

A SLOW MOTION, sexy POV of Eret's glistening biceps,
shuddering as he BLASTS the net cannon, aimed directly at
her.

RUFFNUT (CONT'D)

Oh, my.

The net unravels in SLOW MOTION...

RUFFNUT (CONT'D)

Me likey.

... enveloping Ruffnut as she yields to it, blissfully.

RUFFNUT (CONT'D)

Take me.

BACK TO REAL TIME

As Hiccup FLIPS upside-down in the Hookfang's talons and KICKS off, pulling his wing-suit flaps.

Eret takes aim, but Astrid SHOVES him, throwing off the shot.

ASTRID

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

Hiccup glides unsteadily towards the ship and collides with its sail. He slides down the canvas and drops to the deck. Toothless lands behind him.

HICCUP

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?!

Gobber and Grump land on the deck, scattering Eret's crew.

GOBBER

We're here to RESCUE you!

HICCUP

I DON'T NEED to be rescued!

STOICK (O.S.)

ENOUGH!

The bow dips heavily as Stoick touches down on SKULLCRUSHER. He dismounts, fuming.

Eret blocks Stoick, cocky and confident.

ERET

Well, didn't you just pick the wrong ship, eh? I am Eret, son of --

Stoick shoves his face aside, sending Eret SLAMMING into Grump. Before he can react, Gobber CLUBS Eret on the head, sending him collapsing to the deck. Grump then sits on him, smothering him into submission.

ERET (CONT'D)
(panting, suffocated)
Get... this... thing... off... me!

Gobber turns to the other crewmen, with a smile.

GOBBER
Anyone else?

Eret's men eye the Vikings, armed and flanked by their dragons. They set down their swords.

GOBBER (CONT'D)
That's what I figured.

STOICK
(to Hiccup)
You. Saddle up. We're going home.

HICCUP
No.

STOICK
Of all the irresponsible --

HICCUP
-- I'm trying to protect our dragons and stop a war! How is that irresponsible?

STOICK
BECAUSE WAR IS WHAT HE WANTS, SON!

Hiccup glares, frustrated.

Stoick SIGHS, realizing that he has to explain.

STOICK (CONT'D)
Years ago, there was a great gathering of chieftains to discuss the dragon scourge we all faced.

INT. VIKING HALL - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

A hulking, cloaked figure strides confidently into fire-lit hall, interrupting a council meeting of Viking chieftains. His face is masked in silhouette.

STOICK (V.O.)

Into our midst came a stranger from
a strange land, covered in scars
and draped in a cloak of dragon
skin. He carried no weapon and
spoke softly, saying that he, Drago
Bludvist, was a man of the people,
devoted to freeing mankind from the
tyranny of dragons.

ON STOICK, some twenty years younger, seated in a throne,
studying the impudent stranger with suspicion.

STOICK (V.O.)

He claimed that he alone could
control the dragons and that he
alone could keep us safe, if we
chose to bow down and follow him.

The Viking council erupts in mocking laughter.

BACK TO PRESENT

Snotlout, Fishlegs, and the Twins snicker.

RUFFNUT

Stupid.

TUFFNUT

Good one.

STOICK

Aye. We laughed, too...

BACK TO FLASHBACK

STOICK (CONT'D)

Until he wrapped himself in his
cloak and cried out, "Then see how
well you do without me!"

Drago Bludvist pulls the dragon skin cloak over himself and
marches toward the door. Above, dragon fire rips through the
ceiling, bringing down flaming timbers, followed by dragons
covered in heavy metallic armor. They BLAST FIRE as panic
ensues.

STOICK (V.O.)

The rooftop suddenly burst into
flames, and from it, armored
dragons descended, burning the hall
to the ground.

BACK TO PRESENT

STOICK
(stinging regret)
I... was to only one to escape.

The Twins, Snotlout, and Fishlegs exchange spooked glances.

STOICK (CONT'D)
(to Hiccup)
Men who kill without reason cannot
be reasoned with.

HICCUP
Maybe.

Hiccup turns and stomps toward Toothless, determined. Eret
watches intently.

STOICK
Hiccup...

HICCUP
I'm still going to try.

Hiccup jumps onto Toothless and locks eyes with Stoick.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
This is what I'm good at. And if I
could change *your* mind... I can
change his, too.
(to Toothless)
Come on.

Toothless and Hiccup TAKE TO THE AIR, leaving everyone
stirring in awkward silence.

Astrid mounts Stormfly, about to go after him.

ASTRID
Let's go.

STOICK
NO! Lead the others back to Berk.
I've had enough mutiny for one day.

Astrid stirs, conflicted, as Stoick stomps toward
Skullcrusher, fuming. He passes Ruffnut, who's busily
fondling Eret's biceps as he lays crushed under Grump.

RUFFNUT
Ooh, I like that.

STOICK
Ruffnut!

RUFFNUT
(petulant)
Ugh! Okay!

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

(Scene 1100 - Ambushed!)

Hiccup stares ahead, frustrated, as Toothless glides over a bed of clouds, glowing in the low, Arctic sun.

Hiccup YELLS, then slumps back onto the saddle.

Toothless recoils, sensitive to Hiccup's upset. The steam from their breath mixes in the frigid air.

HICCUP
Don't worry, bud. I'm not gonna let anything happen to you. I promise.

Toothless' ear plates perk up. He glances over his shoulder to see a disturbance in the blanket of clouds.

A strange and arresting MASKED WARRIOR rises from the clouds, standing upon something unseen. Its armor and cape flap in the buffeting turbulence.

The warrior eyes Toothless and Hiccup, pulling up alongside them. Hiccup senses the approaching figure in his periphery and sits up, flustered.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
AW, COME ON, DAD! REALLY?!

He whirls around expectantly then FREEZES, mouth agape.

The warrior stares blankly, tilting his head in curiosity while cutting a menacing silhouette.

Then, just as gradually as he rose, the warrior dips back beneath the clouds, disappearing.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
(alarmed)
Okay.
(to Toothless)
No sudden moves.

Suddenly, the warrior EXPLODES out of the clouds before them, standing atop a large dragon. They circle Hiccup and Toothless, forcing them to TREAD AIR.

The warrior points a staff toward Hiccup, unnervingly, as he returns to face them.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
Hold on, hold on.

Toothless GROWLS a warning.

Suddenly, they're ambushed from behind. Hiccup is plucked off of Toothless by another DRAGON and carried off.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
Toothless!

With the tail unmanned, Toothless PLUMMETS helplessly. He FLAPS wildly then CRASHES through the ice into the black, frigid water. FLAILING and CRYING OUT, he struggles to stay afloat as he watches...

Hiccup disappear into the night sky, carried off in the talons of the strange dragon -- one of TENS that accompany the warrior in a cavalcade.

Toothless BELLOWS in distress, desperately trying to take to the air. As he LEAPS and CRASHES, time and again...

A group of SPINY DORSAL FINS split the ice, carving a path toward Toothless.

Beneath the ice, a pod of SEASHOCKERS approach, two-headed, with Manta Ray like wings GLIDING silently in the gloom.

Fixated on Hiccup, Toothless is caught by surprise as the Seashockers surface and DRAG HIM UNDER.

Hiccup's helmet bobs to the surface, marking all that remains.

EXT. ARCTIC SKY/ARCHIPELAGO - NIGHT (MIDNIGHT SUN)

(Scene 1300 - Dragon Lady)

Hiccup shivers in the claws of the dragon, surrounded by the strange flock full of breeds he's never seen. He looks back for Toothless, now long gone.

HICCUP
HEY! YOU LEFT MY DRAGON BACK THERE!
HE CAN'T FLY ON HIS OWN! HE'LL
DROWN!

The warrior offers no response, seemingly immune to the cold as he leads the dragon flock across the polar night -- an alien landscape, harsh and foreboding.

Out of the fog looms an EPIC ICE FORMATION -- jagged, spiked, and similar to the icy aftermath of Eret's fort, but many times its size.

The DRAGON ESCORT dives into its jagged folds.

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

The WILD RIDE suddenly gives way to a MULTILEVEL, CAVERNOUS CHAMBER made of ice and columns of basalt rock. It's heavily populated with dragons of all kinds, looming in the shadows.

Hiccup is dropped in the center. He scrambles to his feet, calling out into the darkness.

HICCUP

We have to head back for my dragon!

A HISSING dragon CLOSES IN, sniffing, leering, aggressive.

Hiccup extends and lights his telescoping dragon blade, waving a swirl of fire around himself. The dragon pauses, intrigued, and then watches hypnotically as Hiccup pacifies him with calculated sweeps of the fiery blade.

The warrior watches keenly from the shadows.

Several aggressive dragons close in behind Hiccup. Hearing their hisses, he quickly stows the blade, replaces a cartridge in its hilt, then flips it around and sprays a perimeter of Zibbleback gas around himself. He clicks the lighter, igniting a flash ring. The testy dragons recoil.

He then reaches through the smoke, offering his open hand. The dragons re-approach, sniffing him with calmed curiosity.

ON THE WARRIOR

... tilting his masked head, curious. He dismounts his dragon and approaches Hiccup.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Who are you? The Dragon Thief?
Drago Bludvist?

The warrior circles Hiccup in silence, taking in his gear, his dragon blade, his face.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Do you even understand what I'm
saying?

The warrior whirls and HAMMERS his staff. In response, a large dragon ASCENDS from the depths, carrying...

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Toothless!

Toothless is dumped on the ground next to Hiccup, sopping wet. Hiccup rushes to him, petting him reassuringly. Toothless coos in relief.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm glad to see you,
too, bud. You really had me worried
there.

The warrior rattles his staff at a nearby dragon. In response, it and the surrounding dragons produce firelight from their throats, spotlighting Hiccup and Toothless.

The warrior sets down his staff and shield, then approaches Hiccup, cautiously and animal-like.

Toothless SNARLS and circles Hiccup defensively, but then instantly yields to the stranger's outstretched hand. With a quick, disarming gesture, the warrior lays Toothless down in a state of bliss. Hiccup is astounded.

The warrior's hand continues toward Hiccup's face. He recoils, but the warrior persists, finding the faint scar on Hiccup's chin, glinting in the firelight.

The warrior GASPS and retreats a few steps.

WARRIOR

(whispered, shaken)

Hiccup?

(beat)

Could it be? After all these years?
How is this possible?

The voice is surprisingly female.

HICCUP

Uh, should I... should I know you?

WARRIOR

No. You were only a babe...

The warrior slowly removes the strange mask, revealing VALKA, 40, beneath. Her eyes meet his, equally wide-eyed and aghast.

VALKA

... but a mother never forgets.

Hiccup stammers, tongue-tied, aghast.

VALKA (CONT'D)

Come...

EXT. ARCTIC SKY - NIGHT (MIDNIGHT SUN)

(Sequence 1325 - Searching)

Stoick and Gobber search over the frigid waves that lap against the pack ice.

STOICK

Boar-headed! Just like his mother!
She could never stay put either.

Gobber glances over at Stoick, who's hunched over, brow furrowed and solemn.

GOBBER

Ah, he's just twenty. And a Viking.
I mean, could there be a worse
combination? Ha! When I think of
how stubborn and senseless YOU were
back in the day... well, not much
has changed, actually.

STOICK

You know what he's like. He won't
give up, Gobber. And if Hiccup
finds Drago, before we find him...

GOBBER

Bah! NOTHING can hurt Hiccup so
long as that Night Fury's around.
It's a Night Fury!

Framed by a hole in the ice, a glistening object bobs on the surface below. Stoick squints and CIRCLES BACK, leading Skullcrusher in a DIVE toward it. Stoick SNAGS it out of the water. It's Hiccup's helmet.

Gobber pulls alongside Stoick, seeing his look of dread. Stoick holds the helmet out for his dragon to SMELL.

STOICK

Find him, Skullcrusher. Find him.

Skullcrusher SNIFFS the helmet like a bloodhound, ROARS, and suddenly CHANGES HEADING.

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - TUNNEL - DAWN

(Scene 1400 - A New Family)

CLOSE ON Hiccup, flustered, winded, chasing VALKA through tightly winding corridors.

HICCUP

Hold on! Wait just a minute! Come back here!

VALKA

This way. Come.

HICCUP

You can't just say something like that and run off! You're my *mother?! I mean, what the -- do you grasp how INSANE it sounds?!*

(beat)

I have questions!

VALKA

Come. Quickly!

Hiccup follows her over the difficult terrain. He tries to clamber over a tall rock, unsuccessfully.

HICCUP

Where have you been all this time?

Toothless boosts him over. Hiccup lands on the other side.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

What've you been doing?! They said you were *dead!* Everyone thinks you were eaten by...

Hiccup trails off as he enters...

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - OASIS - CONTINUOUS

... a stadium-sized chamber teeming with ferns, waterfalls, hot springs and THOUSANDS of new DRAGONS.

Hiccup wanders in, basking in the in the amazing sight: a dome of sweating ice capping a geothermal micro climate, filled with dragons of every shape and kind.

He spots Valka clinging to a basalt overhang, watching him.

HICCUP

This is where you've been for
twenty years?

She nods from her perch.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

You've been rescuing them.

She nods again, this time with a smile.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Unbelievable.

VALKA

You're not upset?

HICCUP

What? No. I don't know. It's a bit
much to get my head around, to be
frank. It's not every day you find
out your mother is some kind of
crazy, feral, vigilante dragon
lady.

Valka chuckles, and using her dragon's wing, lowers herself
to the ground like a skilled acrobat.

VALKA

At least I'm not boring... right?

HICCUP

I suppose there is that...
(feeble, trailing off)
... one... specific... thing...

Excited dragons rush up to greet Hiccup and Toothless. Hiccup
pets a few, marveling at the vast dragon utopia before him.

VALKA

Do you like it?

HICCUP

I don't have the words.

Toothless SNARLS in annoyance as the curious, smothering
dragons SNIFF every part of him.

VALKA

Can I... ? He's beautiful!

She reaches out to stroke Toothless, who PURRS at her touch.

VALKA (CONT'D)

Incredible. He might very well be
the last of his kind.

She inspects his talons as Toothless rolls onto his back,
nuzzling her.

VALKA (CONT'D)

And look, he's your age! No wonder
you get along so well.

Hiccup smiles, astounded by Toothless' affection for Valka.
She checks his teeth. They recede into the gums at her touch.

VALKA (CONT'D)

And retractable teeth? Ah!
How did you manage to--

HICCUP

--I found him in the woods. He was
shot down and wounded.

She winces and offers a sympathetic nod as she stands to
caress a few of her own rescued dragons.

VALKA

This Snafflefang lost his leg to
one of Drago Bludvist's iron traps.
This Raincutter had her wing sliced
by razor netting. And this poor
Hobblegrunt was blinded by a tree
snare... then left to die alone and
scared.

(re: Toothless' tail)

And what of this? Did Drago or his
trappers do this, too?

HICCUP

Heh. Well, crazy thing is... I'm
actually the one who shot him down.

She glares, confused.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

It's okay though. He got me back.
(playfully, to Toothless)
Right, bud? You couldn't save all
of me, could you? You just had to
make it even. So... peg leg!

Hiccup rattles his prosthetic leg with a smirk. Valka
observes their playful rapport with curiosity.

VALKA

What did your father think of your
Night Fury friend?

HICCUP

He didn't take it all that well.

She mutters in agreement.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

But then... he changed. They all
did. Pretty soon everyone back home
had dragons of their own.

She smiles at Toothless, dismissive.

VALKA

If only it were possible.

HICCUP

No, really, I --

VALKA

-- Believe me, I tried, as well.
But people are not capable of
change, Hiccup. Some of us... were
just born different.

EXT. BERK VILLAGE - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

Dragons sweep from the sky, blowing FIRE, carrying off sheep
and dried fish. Vikings chase them down, hurling weapons.

VALKA (V.O.)

Berk was a land of kill or be
killed, but I believed peace was
possible.

A Viking is about to finish off a felled dragon, but Valka
chases up to him and tugs at his arm.

VALKA

Stop! You'll only make it worse!

The dragon takes wing, escaping to safety... leaving the
Viking warrior glaring at Valka.

VALKA (V.O.)

It was a very unpopular opinion.

As he rushes off, Valka hears a clatter and whirls around to see a DRAGON (Cloudjumper) clawing its way through the roof of a house.

VALKA

Hiccup!

INT. STOICK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

FLASHBACK CONTINUED

Cloudjumper enters the house through the hole in the roof, sniffing out a baby's cradle in the corner.

Valka rushes in, panicked.

VALKA (V.O.)

One night, a dragon broke into our house, finding you in the cradle.

Valka draws a sword quietly, slipping up to the dragon, only to find it huddled protectively over the cradle as BABY HICCUP innocently plays with one of its talons.

VALKA (V.O.)

I rushed to protect you, but what I saw... was proof of everything I believed.

Valka's careful approach causes a floorboard to squeak. Spooked, Cloudjumper whips around to face her, accidentally SCRATCHING baby Hiccup's chin.

Their eyes meet. Valka lowers her sword, transfixed.

VALKA (V.O.)

This wasn't a vicious beast, but an intelligent, gentle creature, whose soul reflected my own.

Stoick's AXE spins through the air between them, barely missing Cloudjumper and planting into a pillar.

STOICK

Valka, run!

Alarmed, Cloudjumper WHIRLS around at Stoick and BLASTS!

Stoick DIVES out of the way as the FIRE SPLATTERS against the wall, burning a hole and setting the room ablaze.

The dragon moves toward Stoick, but Valka grabs hold.

VALKA

Don't!

It turns to face her again, locking eyes, agitated.

STOICK

Hold on!

Stoick dashes through the fire toward Hiccup and pulls him out of the cradle. He pulls his axe from the pillar...

VALKA (O.S.)

No! Stoick!

... but in a WHOOSH of smoke and embers, the dragon and Valka are GONE.

STOICK

VALKA!

VALKA

(distant)

Stoick!

Stoick and baby Hiccup watch helplessly as the dragon spirits Valka away into the night sky.

STOICK

Valka...

ON BABY HICCUP'S FACE, with the fresh nick on his chin...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - DAWN

PRESENT DAY

HICCUP'S FACE, with the matching scar.

VALKA

You and your father nearly died that night, all because I couldn't kill a dragon.

HICCUP

Yeah, it runs in the family.

VALKA

It broke my heart to stay away, but I believed you'd be safer if I did.

Hiccup considers this, then raises his eyes to hers, seeing the sting of remorse.

HICCUP

How did you survive?

VALKA

Oh, Cloudjumper never meant to harm me. He must've thought I belonged here...

She leads him to the edge of raised natural terrace, overlooking the steamy oasis with its flowing hot spring waterfalls. Half-submerged in the warm lake below, a massive white dragon with pronounced, mammoth-like tusks rests benevolently on the banks, his stately countenance like that of a lion surrounded by his pride.

VALKA (CONT'D)

In the home of the great Bewilderbeast. The alpha species. One of very few that still exist.

(beat)

Every nest has its queen, but this is *king* of all dragons.

Dragons land and bow reverentially to the Bewilderbeast. Valka gestures to the spiked ice ceiling that acts as a sweating greenhouse.

VALKA (CONT'D)

With his icy breath, this graceful giant built our nest. A safe haven for dragons everywhere.

On HICCUP, putting it together.

HICCUP

Wait, *that's* the ice-spitter? *He's* responsible for all that destruction?

VALKA

He protects us. We all live under his care. And his command.

They pass an eggshell-littered NURSERY. HATCHLINGS dart out of it, greeting them excitedly and inciting chaos. Toothless is overwhelmed by their manic picking and scratching. Cloudjumper balks and sends them scattering.

VALKA (CONT'D)

All but the babies, of course...

The hatchlings clamber on top of the Bewilderbeast and play on his massive tusks, despite his authority. Valka laughs.

VALKA (CONT'D)
... who listen to no one.

The Bewilderbeast lets out a frosty SNORT, sending off the youngsters to spread more mischief.

Now awakened, The Bewilderbeast raises his gargantuan head to take a closer look at Hiccup, coming eye to massive eye. Valka bows in his presence. As does Toothless.

VALKA (CONT'D)
I've lived among them for twenty years, Hiccup, learning their ways, discovering their secrets...

He acknowledges Hiccup with another icy snort, slicking back Hiccup's hair in a frosty veneer. Valka laughs.

VALKA (CONT'D)
He likes you.

HICCUP
Wow.

She chuckles, delighting in his awe.

VALKA
You must be hungry.

HICCUP
Uh, yeah. I could eat.

VALKA
Good. It's feeding time.

Toothless tucks himself beneath Cloudjumper's wing, trying to befriend him, but Cloudjumper isn't having any of it. He grimaces and follows Valka out.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

(Scene 1200 - Astrid Takes Charge)

Astrid and Stormfly circle a lone iceberg, being used as a rest stop for the Gang and their dragons. She lands with a frown, eyeing the distance.

ASTRID
I don't like it. They should've been back with Hiccup by now.

RUFFNUT

I don't like it either. Eret son of
Eret was the man of my dreams. My
everything!

SNOTLOUT

But, baby, I grew facial hair for
you.

Fishlegs strokes his peach fuzz beard, meek and dejected.

FISHLEGS

Me, too.

ASTRID

What if Drago shot them down? What
if they need our help?
(resolute)
We have to find them.

FISHLEGS

(nervously)
What? But Stoick said...

ASTRID

It doesn't matter what he said, if
they've all been captured. Come on!

She flies off, determined.

EXT. ICE FLOES - NIGHT

Eret's ship is beset by ice floes. The crew stirs on deck as
he paces, grumbling, while nursing his head with a large
chunk of ice.

NO-NAME

Do we go back?

ERET

We've nowhere to go! Nothing to
sell! And no heads to call our own,
if we don't turn up with dragons
and fast --

He's suddenly scooped up in Stormfly's talons.

ASTRID

Careful what you wish for!

UG (O.S.)

ERET SON OF ERET!

Nets whiz past as Astrid and the Gang rocket out of range.

ERET
What is this?!

ASTRID
A kidnapping.

Ruffnut grabs his leg, clutching him possessively.

RUFFNUT
Yay! Can he ride with me? Can he?
Can he?

Both Eret and Tuffnut groan in protest.

ASTRID
You're gonna show us the way to
Drago.

ERET
And help dragon riders sneak into
Drago's camp? Just kill me now.

ASTRID
That can be arranged. Stormfly,
drop it.

In enthusiastic response, Stormfly pops open her talons, sending Eret plummeting. He wails and flails as he hurtles toward the ice far below.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
Good girl! Stormfly, fetch.

She dives after him, just as enthusiastically.

ON ERET, terrified, as the ground rushes up at him.

ERET
ALL RIGHT! OKAY! I'LL TAKE YOU TO
DRAGO!

Stormfly suddenly SNATCHES him out of his free-fall just before hitting the ice. Astrid giggles and cracks her knuckles.

ASTRID
Works every time.

EXT. SKY - EARLY MORNING

(Scene 1600 - Momma's Boy)

BEGIN MONTAGE

Hiccup and Toothless follow Valka and Cloudjumper over a majestic fjord in the long rays of the low Arctic sun.

Hiccup peers over his shoulder to see that a thick flock of dragons -- nearly all of Valka's rescues -- are close on their tail. He turns back to his mother, confused.

HICCUP

Hey, I thought we were going to eat?

VALKA

(with a mischievous grin)
Oh, we are.

She directs his gaze below, where in the choppy water of the fjord, a group of Seashocker dragons are corralling a dense shoal of fish near the surface.

Suddenly, the Bewilderbeast rises from deep below, scooping the fish up in its vast mouth as its tusks break the surface. It breaches just below Hiccup and Toothless, giving them a fright before spitting the fish into the air and crashing back down into the sea.

Valka laughs at Hiccup's surprise as the hungry dragons race for the flailing fish, scooping them out of the air. Hiccup gestures to Toothless to join in and he gladly scoops up a mouth full.

EXT. SNOWY SHORELINE - LATER

MONTAGE CONTINUES...

Hiccup has his map spread out in the snow, explaining the various lands he's discovered during his explorations.

HICCUP

And from Dragon Island, I found this archipelago...

He looks up to see that Valka is no longer next to him, but she has sketched out the rest of the northern land masses in the snow, wowing Hiccup with just how far and wide she has explored.

She returned to Hiccup's side with a smile. But his amazement is interrupted by Toothless joining in, drawing all over Valka's map with a giant icicle.

Hiccup simply shrugs as his mother giggles, and Cloudjumper sneers.

EXT. WINDSWEPT CLIFF - LATER

Valka and Hiccup rise on their dragons, carried skyward by a strong coastal wind that thrusts vertical up shoreline cliff.

One by one, dragons leap from the cliff and catch the strong updraft, popping their wings open like kites. They ride the wind and orbit around each other in a colorful, mesmeric dance. It's clearly a form of dragon play.

Hiccup, lifted off of his saddle by the force of the wind, laughs giddily as he watches Valka walk across Cloudjumper's wing and onto several others, dragon-hopping from one to another, until she gracefully crosses Toothless from wing tip to wing tip. She then drops out of sight, reappearing a moment later standing atop Cloudjumper. Hiccup is in utter awe of her.

Valka breathes in the frigid air. Lets it out blissfully.

VALKA

When I'm up here, I don't even feel
the cold. I just feel...

HICCUP

Free.

She smiles at Hiccup. He gleams back.

VALKA

This is what it is to be a dragon,
Hiccup.

Hiccup LOCKS the pedals in the flared tail position and unbuckles himself. Valka watches, curious.

HICCUP

It's all well and good to call
yourself a dragon.

Hiccup RUNS OFF of Toothless, pulling his stowed wings.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

But can you fly?

They catch the air, SNAPPING OPEN... and sending him GLIDING.

Valka GASPS, astonished. She flies her dragon alongside him, marvelling, as...

... Hiccup SOARS, riding the wild air currents like an eagle, the image of freedom. Toothless descends steadily with him, hovering protectively.

Hiccup grins, pleased at having impressed Valka... until he realizes that he is once again racing toward a collision with a fast approaching mountain top.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Oh no. Toothless!

But, with his tail locked, Toothless can't make the tight jackknife turn skyward to rescue Hiccup.

Realizing that they're in trouble, Valka and Cloudjumper pour on the speed. All four of them collide just as they reach the mountain top, sending them crash-landing in an explosion of snow.

They all TOPPLE head over tail to a messy landing on the wind-swept ridge and pop up LAUGHING.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Man! Almost! We just about had it that time!

Toothless raises his snow-packed face, glowering. He tail-swipes Hiccup off of his feet and back into the powder.

Valka inspects Hiccup's wing suit with utter fascination.

VALKA

Incredible.

HICCUP

Well, not bad yourself.

She caresses his cheek, staring deep into his eyes. Hiccup doesn't recoil this time.

VALKA

All this time, you took after me.

And where was I?

(remorseful)

I'm so sorry, Hiccup. Can we start over? Will you give me another chance?

Hiccup smiles, a simple acknowledgement that all is forgiven.

VALKA (CONT'D)

I can teach you all I've learned,
these past twenty years. Like...

Valka finds a spot at the top of Toothless' neck and rubs in a circular pattern. In response, his dorsal blades slowly crack, split and extend, forming a pronounced, aerodynamic 'V' down the length of his back and tail.

VALKA (CONT'D)

Now you can make those tight turns.

Toothless shudders, as if experiencing a much-needed chiropractic adjustment. He bounds over to Hiccup, giddily retracting and splaying his dorsal blades like a kid with a new toy.

HICCUP

Did YOU know about this?

Valka smiles, delighting in their mutual amazement.

VALKA

Every dragon has its secrets.

Toothless pounces around, showing off to Cloudjumper, who seems thoroughly unimpressed.

VALKA (CONT'D)

And I'll show them all to you.
We'll unlock every mystery, find
every last species, together, as
mother and son.

(beat)

This gift we share, Hiccup... it
bonds us. This is who you are, son.
Who we are. We will change the
world for all dragons! We will make
it a better, safer place!

HICCUP

That sounds... amazing.

She pulls him into a hug -- forceful, bursting with emotion. Hiccup hugs Valka back. They share a cathartic moment, before Hiccup peels away from her.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

This is so great! Now you and I can
go talk to Drago -- together!

She chuckles, incredulous.

VALKA

What? There's no *talking* to Drago.

HICCUP

But we have to --

VALKA

-- No. We must *protect our own*.

Hiccup stares, exasperated by the familiar line. Cloudjumper lumbers over, eager to be rid of Toothless' puppy-like energy. Valka pets him.

VALKA (CONT'D)

Now come on, we should be getting back.

Before Hiccup can say anymore, he hear heavy breathing next to him, and looks over to see Toothless with a gaping grin, clapping his dorsal blades.

EXT. ICE CAVE - DAY

(Scene 1350 - Meet Drago)

Astrid and the gang stealthily approach a cluster of tabular icebergs, collapsed against each other at the mouth of a maze. Stormfly drops Eret to the snow, but before he can flee, she lands atop him and nests like a hen with her egg.

ERET

Agghh! Okay! I got you here, now get this thing off me!

ASTRID

Never take a toy from a dragon.
Don't you know anything?

Stormfly crushes him in place under her weight.

ERET

(strained)

Gah! Why does this keep happening to me?

Astrid crawls up the rising ridge to reveal...

A MASSIVE FLOTILLA, moored together like a floating camp in the deep water between collided icebergs.

Thick chains run deep into the water, where great blasts of bubbles erupt on the surface. The unseen creature rocks the ships. Its effect alone describes it as gargantuan.

ASTRID

What's down there?

Fishlegs rifles through his note cards contained in his belt pouch.

FISHLEGS

Large diameter bubbles, massive lungs, cold water deep dweller, I'm thinking class five leviathan, maybe six.

Suddenly, Stormfly is alerted to an encroaching menace and takes wing. BLOW DARTS whiz through the air, hitting the other dragons. The effect is immediate -- they fall to the ground, unconscious. Drugged.

HICCUP

Meatlug! What's wrong, girl?

Eret spring to his feet and draws his blades. Astrid and the Gang find themselves surrounded by soldiers, camouflaged in polar bear furs, and poised to fire darts. They're outnumbered. Fishlegs raises his hands, dropping the cards.

EXT. DRAGO'S SHIP - DECK - MOMENTS LATER

DRAGO BLUDVIST, a hulking figure draped in a dragon skin cloak, crouches over the prow of the fleet's grisly flagship, adorned in massive dragon bones and skulls. His scarred face is masked by thick, grizzled dreadlocks.

ERET (O.S.)

DRAGO!

Drago turns to see Astrid, Eret, and the Gang being forcibly escorted onto the deck. Eret SHAKES HIMSELF FREE.

ERET (CONT'D)

Get off me!

In the background, a sledge, loaded with Hookfang, Meatlug, Belch and Barf -- all unconscious -- is dragged onto the deck by armored dragons.

ERET (CONT'D)

Always great to see you, my friend!
Keeping warm up here?

The soldiers disarm him, pushing him forward as Drago approaches.

ERET (CONT'D)

Well, as you can see, I'm right on time with a new batch of dragons, just like I promised.

Hookfang awakens, groggily shaking off the effect of the blow-dart. He rears as soldiers struggle to reign him in.

SOLDIER #1

Watch out! He's waking up! Keep him steady!

SOLDIER #2

Give me some backup here!

DRAGO

Drop the ropes.

They do so. Hookfang bucks and roars, chasing off the soldiers, then focusing on Drago as he closes in. The armored dragons avert their eyes and cower as Drago passes.

Hookfang HISSES a warning, but Drago approaches, undaunted.

Hookfang BLASTS. In a blur, Drago wraps himself in his dragon skin cloak. The sticky, napalm-like fire splatters against the fireproof scales, enveloping Drago in dripping flames as he persists forward without missing a step.

As the blast ends, Drago drops the cloak, closing in and holding a cold stare. Hookfang lets out a ferocious ROAR.

Drago YELLS back with a fierce, savage scream, interrupting Hookfang and causing him to recoil. Drago whirls his bull-hook overhead and STABS it into the deck planks.

Hookfang stirs, his aggression fading in the face of Drago's unflinching show of dominance.

After a moment, Hookfang averts his eyes and lowers his head in submission. Drago places his boot upon Hookfang's snout, pressing it into the deck planks.

SNOTLOUT

Hookfang!

RUFFNUT

Hey!

ASTRID

What are you doing?

DRAGO
(quiet, to the dragon)
You belong to me now.

ERET
And as an added bonus, I also
caught you their riders. No extra
charge.

Drago notices the saddle on Hookfang's back. His eyes wander to the saddle on Meatlug. Alarm flashes in Drago's eyes.

ASTRID
What?! Are you kidding me?!

RUFFNUT
But you were so perfect!

ERET
Turns out, there's a whole bunch of
them out there. They --

In a flash, Drago stops toward Eret and seizes him by the throat.

DRAGO
How many?

As Eret chokes, stammering, Astrid whispers to the gang.

ASTRID
Drago doesn't have them after all.

DRAGO
HOW MANY?!

ASTRID
Hundreds! A whole island full!

His grip tightens around Eret's neck as he turns to Astrid.

ERET
I wouldn't worry about it. My men
are hunting them down as we speak.
They won't know where you're
hiding. I promise you that.

Astrid nods a covert signal to the Gang -- she has a plan.

ASTRID
Oh, yes they will!

Drago drops Eret as Astrid advances, staring Drago down. Eret tries to signal her to stop, but it's no use.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

They know we're missing and they have tracking dragons. If you so much as touch us, Hiccup is gonna kick --

DRAGO

-- Hiccup?

ERET

He's not a problem. Really. Trust me.

ASTRID

He's only the son of Stoick the Vast...

Drago's eyes narrow upon hearing Stoick's name.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

... his heir to the throne of Berk... and the greatest dragon master this world has ever seen!

DRAGO

Dragon master? I ALONE control the dragons!

TUFFNUT

Nope.

FISHLEGS

Sorry!

ASTRID

And unless you let us go, right now, he will blast through here on his Night Fury and blow your entire fleet of ships to splinters!

Eret slips away, trying to distance himself from the tension.

RUFFNUT

Then they'll be crying like babies!

SNOTLOUT

Funny and beautiful.

FISHLEGS

Good one, babe!

Ruffnut groans, exasperated by their smarmy advances.

TUFFNUT

Yeah. Like babies. They always cry.
Real tiny ones...

Drago grabs Eret by the face and bears down on him.

DRAGO

First there was one rider. And now
all of Berk.
(to Eret)
And YOU led them to me.

He THROWS Eret across the deck.

ERET

Drago!

DRAGO

CEASE ALL PREPARATIONS! WE MUST
ATTACK THE DRAGONS RIDER'S NEST AT
ONCE!
(savoring it)
WE WILL TAKE DOWN THEIR ALPHA...
AND THEN WE WILL TAKE BERK!

Soldiers CHEER in the thousands.

ERET

You're overreacting!

DRAGO

And get rid of him.

ERET

Drago, please...

The soldiers HURL throwing knives at Eret...

But Stormfly lands in a blur of wings, shielding Eret from
the flurry of blades. She whips her tail, throwing spikes in
all directions.

ASTRID

STORMFLY!

Stormfly ROARS protectively, hiding Eret within her wings,
until a well-blown dart sinks into her neck, bringing her
down...

ASTRID (CONT'D)

NO!

Revealing Eret, gawking in shock.

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - OASIS - MORNING

(Scene 1800 - Family Reunion)

Hiccup reattaches his flight suit while standing on a ledge overlooking the utopian nest, teeming with dragons. Several babies race in to hassle Toothless as he naps.

HICCUP

(determined)

Well, bud, we can't wait around for Drago to attack this place. We've gotta find him first. Let's go.

Suddenly, a thick hand clamps down over Hiccup's face -- muffling his scream!

Toothless whirls around to find STOICK, towering over Hiccup. He calms Toothless with a touch and releases Hiccup.

STOICK

Easy now.

HICCUP

Are you kidding me? How'd you get in here?

STOICK

The same way we're getting you out.

HICCUP

We?

Gobber appears in the arch of a tunnel.

GOBBER

All clear!

STOICK

Toothless. Come.

They hurry back into the winding corridor.

HICCUP

Dad! There's something you need to know!

STOICK

Yeah, yeah, tell me on the way.

HICCUP

This isn't an on-the-way kind of update, actually...

STOICK
I've heard ENOUGH, Hiccup.

HICCUP
... more of the earth-shattering
development variety.

STOICK
Yeah, just add it to the pile.

HICCUP
Dad, unlike most surprises I spring
on you, this is one you'll like. I
promise! You just have to handle it
delicately, so...

They round a tight bend in the corridor to find Gobber
staring blankly at something unseen in the next chamber. He
shuffles past Stoick and Hiccup, dazed.

GOBBER
Uh, you might want to take this
one. Oh, boy.

Stoick draws his SWORD, then braves into the chamber ahead.

HICCUP
Dad, can you put the sword away...
please?

Stoick GASPS as if seeing a ghost... and drops his sword with
a clatter.

Valka stands some twenty paces ahead of him, blocking the
path. She lets out an audible SHUDDER upon seeing him.

He removes his helmet slowly as Hiccup, Gobber, and Toothless
appear at Stoick's side.

VALKA
(rattled)
I know what you're going to say,
Stoick. How could I have done this?
Stayed away all of these years. And
why didn't I come back to you? To
our son.

Stoick steps towards her, wide-eyed and speechless. Dragons
emerge from the recesses behind Valka, hissing protectively.

VALKA (CONT'D)
Well, what sign did I have that you
could change, Stoick? That anyone
on Berk could?
(MORE)

VALKA (CONT'D)

I pleaded so many times to stop the
fighting, to find another answer,
but did any of you listen?

GOBBER

This is why I never married.
(beat)
This and one other reason.

Stoick continues to close the gap, mesmerized. With every step, Valka becomes increasingly flustered. She backs into an ice wall, with nowhere to go, and Stoick just a few paces away.

VALKA

(tearful)

I know that I left you to raise
Hiccup alone... but I thought he'd
be better off without me. And I was
wrong, I see that now, but...

Stoick gently reaches a hand toward her face.

VALKA (CONT'D)

Oh stop being so stoic, Stoick. Go
on... SHOUT, SCREAM, SAY SOMETHING!

STOICK

You're as beautiful as the day I
lost you.

His words snuff her retort, rendering her speechless. She softens despite herself, yielding her cheek to his palm. He caresses her skin as a reluctant tear runs through his fingers. He PULLS her into a KISS. She resists briefly, then gives in. The surrounding dragons softly RETREAT in kind.

Hiccup gapes, warmed by the sight of his parents reunited.

EXT. ICE CHANNEL - DAY

(Scene 1750 - Eret's Turn)

Drago's massive flagship leads the flotilla, pulled along forcefully by whatever's at the other end of the enormous chain.

Drago WHACKS the chain with his bullhook, spurring it forward.

ON DRAGO'S SHIP

Eret, Astrid, and the Gang are escorted to the stern, surrounded by several of Drago's soldiers. Wrists bound. Spear tips pressed into their backs.

SNOTLOUT

Could this day get any worse?

TUFFNUT

Uh, let me see. You'll jump into freezing cold water and then die from drowning.

They reach the gang plank. Eret peers overboard at the deep, icy water below.

ERET

Looks refreshing.

He turns to Astrid, meeting her glare with mock chivalry.

ERET (CONT'D)

Please, ladies first.

A pair of soldiers GRAB Astrid by the arms.

ASTRID

You are a steaming heap of dragon --

ERET

-- Duck.

Eret WHIRLS around, ROUND-HOUSING both soldiers. They GO DOWN, heavily.

He catches one of their spears with his bound hands and slices his ropes free. They fall away as he catches the other spear, twirling both in invitation.

SOLDIER

Warn the others!

One soldier runs to send up the alarm... while the last two raise BLOW DART TUBES.

Eret SWIPES the first off of his legs, sending the dart into the neck of the second.

RUFFNUT

Get 'em, you son of an Eret!

As the downed soldiers SCRAMBLE to their feet, Fishlegs FALLS OVER, CRUSHING them under his weight.

Eret CATCHES the falling tube from the second soldier and BLOWS the dart at the fleeing third. The soldier DROPS, unconscious -- just shy of the Captain's Quarters.

RUFFNUT (CONT'D)
Okay, I love you again.

Ruffnut skips past Snotlout on her way to Eret. Snotlout watches, crestfallen.

TUFFNUT
Ugh. Pathetic. You can still jump.

Eret avoids Ruffnut and turns to Astrid.

ERET
So? Are we going to save your dragons and get out of here or not?

Astrid narrows her eyes, not knowing what to make of him. He reclaims his sword and dagger from the unconscious soldier who took them and cuts Tuffnut free.

ERET (CONT'D)
Check every trap. They're here somewhere.

EXT. DRAGO'S SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Astrid slips under a tarp and cranks open a metal trap. She peers between its massive iron teeth, discovering Meatlug within, bound and chained to its base as bait.

ASTRID
Meatlug?

ON ERET

Carefully cranking another trap, wincing at the sound. The iron jaws of the trap open wider with every CLICK.

ERET
Anyone coming?

Ruffnut "stands guard," fixated on Eret's rippling biceps.

RUFFNUT
I don't know. You just keep doing what you're doing. Keep crankin'...

Eret squeezes between the cocked teeth, finding Stormfly within, muzzled and chained. She looks up at Eret, calming immediately. He pauses, then approaches slowly.

Eret carefully reaches out and strokes Stormfly's muzzle.

ERET

Thank you for saving my life.

(beat)

Now let me return the favor.

INT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - VALKA'S LIVING QUARTERS - LATE
AFTERNOON

(Scene 1850 - The Last Dance)

As Toothless and Cloudjumper hover for scraps, Stoick and Valka prepare skewers of fish. She's overwhelmed, lost in her thoughts, and covering it up poorly.

HICCUP

Mom, you'd never recognize it!
Where we used to make weapons, we
now build saddles, wing slings --
we even fix dragon teeth! You
wouldn't believe how much
everything's changed!

Valka offers a skittish half-smile and hands him a plate.

STOICK

Our son's changed Berk for the
better. I think we did well with
this one, Val.

HICCUP

Thanks, Dad.

Stoick places his hands on Valka's shoulders. She flinches, dropping the plate.

Cloudjumper steals the fish before Toothless can get to it. Toothless whimpers, and as a sign of acceptance, Cloudjumper regurgitates the fish so Toothless can have some.

VALKA

I'm... a little out of practice.

STOICK

(sweetly)

Well, y'know... I didn't marry you
for your cooking.

GOBBER

(to Hiccup and Grump)

I hope not. Her meatballs could
kill more beasts than a battle axe.

(MORE)

GOBBER (CONT'D)

I've still got a few knocking
around in here. Ha ha!

Gobber takes a bite, gags, and dump the entire plate of fish skewers into Grump's mouth like a trash can.

HICCUP

And once you move back in, with all
of your dragons, Drago won't even
stand a chance. Everything will be
okay!

Stoick can see that Valka is overwhelmed. He lays a hand upon Hiccup's shoulder, calming him.

STOICK

Slow down, son. It's a lot to take
in.

HICCUP

Oh. Gotcha.

Valka crosses the room to fill a flask with water, back turned to the group, as Stoick eyes her sympathetically. He decides on a different approach... and whistles a familiar tune.

ON VALKA, as her eyes widen, stirred, recognizing the melody. She turns away from Stoick, as the water overflows from the flask.

GOBBER

Oh, I love this one!

Stoick approaches her delicately.

STOICK

(whispered)

Remember our song, Val?

Hiccup watches him, curious, as Stoick FUMBLES THROUGH THE FIRST VERSE of an old Viking courting song:

STOICK (CONT'D)

(singing softly)

I'll swim and sail on savage seas,
with ne'er a fear of drowning. And
gladly ride the waves of life, if
you will marry me.

Valka avoids his gaze, wallowing in a mess of emotions.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(singing)

No scorching sun, nor freezing cold
will --

GOBBER

(singing)

-- will stop me on my journey!
(catching himself,
embarrassed)
Sorry.

Stoick scowls at him, then returns his attention to Valka.

STOICK

(singing)

If you will promise me your
heart...

Stoick pauses, setting Valka up for her part of the duet.

STOICK (CONT'D)

And love...

Stoick hangs eagerly, awaiting her words, but Valka closes her eyes, rejecting his invitation. He lets out a heavy-hearted sigh. But nostalgia gets the better of Valka. She softly SINGS HER PART:

VALKA

(singing)

And love me for eternity.

Stoick beams. She brushes past him, setting into the center of the chamber and holding her forearm aloft in invitation. Stoick crosses his forearm against hers, initiating a beautiful dance to accompany the song.

VALKA (CONT'D)

(singing)

My dearest one, my darling dear,
you mighty words astound me. But
I've no need of mighty deeds, when
I feel your arms around me.

The dance is full of charming missteps as Stoick and Valka recreate a moment from their past, before Hiccup's wonder-struck eyes.

STOICK

(singing)

But I would bring you rings of
gold. I'd even sing you poetry.
(MORE)

STOICK (CONT'D)

And I would keep you from all harm,
if you'd stay here beside me.

VALKA

(singing)

I have no use for rings of gold. I
care not for your poetry. I only
want your hand to hold. I only want
you near me.

Gobber can't help himself. He drags Hiccup onto his feet so
that he can join in the dancing, too.

GOBBER

C'mon, Hiccup!

VALKA, STOICK, & GOBBER

(singing)

To love and kiss, to sweetly hold.
For the dancing and the dreaming.
Through all life's sorrows and
delights, I'll keep your love
inside me.

Hiccup is amazed by the sight of his giddy parents, spinning
and laughing in each others' arms, reunited.

VALKA, STOICK, & GOBBER (CONT'D)

(singing)

I'll swim and sail through savage
seas, with ne'er a fear of
drowning. And gladly ride the waves
of life, if you will marry me!

Gobber carries the last note...

GOBBER

(singing)

I'm still going...

Hiccup taps him.

HICCUP

Gobber!

GOBBER

I'm done.

Valka and Stoick slow to a stop, WINDED and LAUGHING.

STOICK

Ah... I thought I'd have to die
before we'd have that dance again.

VALKA

No need for drastic measures.

STOICK

For you, my dear... anything.

She smiles sweetly. Stoick's eyes well with tears. He goes down on one knee, proposing to her anew.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Will you come home, Val? Will you be my wife once again?

Toothless nudges Valka closer to Stoick. They laugh as Hiccup joins them. Stoick throws his arm around him.

STOICK (CONT'D)

We can be a family! What do you say?

Valka, between tears and laughter, turns to Hiccup.

VALKA

Yes!

Gobber pops his head in.

GOBBER

Great! I'll do the cooking!

They laugh.

STOICK

Thank Odin you didn't listen to me, son. We never would have found each other.

Suddenly, Toothless and Cloudjumper suddenly perk up, sensing something unheard. Hiccup notices.

HICCUP

Toothless?

Dragons SWARM past Valka's chamber, racing toward some unknown disturbance.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

What's happening?

They're answered by subsequent HEAVY BOOMS that reverberate through the fortress.

EXT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

(Scene 1900 - Surprise Guests)

Valka rushes out to find...

DRAGO'S ARMADA in the lagoon below and his forces of thousands now landed upon the beach.

They launch catapults and ballistas into the icy spires, gaining entrance into the mountain's tunnels.

Hiccup, Stoick, and Gobber catch up to Valka.

HICCUP

Oh, no...

Valka tries to hurry off, fuming. Stoick stops her.

STOICK

Val! It's all right, it's all right. We're a team now.

(beat)

Now what do you want to do?

She glances from Hiccup to Stoick.

VALKA

We have to save the dragons.

STOICK

(determined)

Aye. You got it!

He throws an arm around Hiccup.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Come on, son.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD

VALKA'S DRAGONS SWOOP down to engage the attackers, picking up soldiers and carrying them off while Drago stands in the line of fire, unflinching.

The catapults continue to bring down the icy defenses of dragon mountain. Drago's men pour into the tunnels.

*

DRAGO

Whatever comes, keep hitting the mountain! We need to draw the alpha out.

Drago's armored DRAGON ARMY takes wing, clashing with Valka's dragons in the skies.

DRAGO (CONT'D)
Ready the traps!

Iron jaws are opened like bear traps, revealing screeching 'bait' dragons within. Valka's dragons swoop down to rescue them, only to be SNAPPED UP in the fearsome jaws.

A second set of traps are cocked open, but instead of dragon cries, ZIPPLEBACK GAS seeps out... followed by an EXPLOSION. The TWINS rocket out of the trap, riding BARF and BELCH.

TUFFNUT
Surprise! Yeah!

DRAGO
WHAT?!

They're joined by Astrid and the rest of the GANG, bursting out of the traps atop Meatlug and Hookfang.

Eret comes flying out last, WAILING aboard Stormfly. He struggles to hold on, as she rejoins Astrid (riding Meatlug, along with Fishlegs). He gives them a sheepish shrug.

ASTRID
You really are full of surprises.

She leaps onto Stormfly, steadying them.

ASTRID (CONT'D)
Let's go!

Together they rocket across the sky...

TUFFNUT
Dragon Riders coming through!

And DIVE-BOMB the traps, setting them aflame. The yokes and leather bindings restraining the bait dragons are incinerated, freeing them to fly away, unharmed.

DRAGO
CUT THEM DOWN!

Projectiles are launched, one of which KNOCKS Ruffnut off her dragon. She PLUMMETS past Eret toward the rocky shore below.

RUFFNUT
Eret, son of Eret!

She suddenly grabbed by both arms before hitting the rocks.

RUFFNUT'S POV: of Snotlout on one side... and Fishlegs on the other. SOFT and ROMANTICIZED as her epiphany dawns.

Above them, more catapults fire, bringing down massive spires of ice, directly over Astrid and Eret.

ASTRID

Up, girl! To the left, Eret! That's
it! Look out!

It's about to crush them when... it's BLOWN TO PIECES by Toothless' fireball. Hiccup, Stoick, and Gobber come bursting through the flames on their dragons.

Hiccup and Toothless arc across the sky triumphantly and set their sights on a downed dragon surrounded by soldiers.

Toothless BLASTS one of Drago's net launchers, knocking it onto its side. Stoick then CHOPS the trigger line, FIRING the catapult and NETTING the throng of soldiers, freeing the dragon.

Drago's ARCHERS target Stoick with their arrows.

ARCHER

Take 'em down!

GOBBER

Heads up!

Gobber flies up from behind, KNOCKING the archers out with Grump's tail. Gobber chuckles.

DRAGO hears Toothless' tell-tale BANSHEE scream and turns to see him streaking across the sky.

DRAGO

Dragon Master.

Hiccup catches up to Astrid and Eret on Stormfly.

HICCUP

Welcome aboard, dragon rider!

ERET

Thanks. I think.

Astrid glares, both relieved and annoyed to see Hiccup.

ASTRID

Where have you been?

HICCUP

Oh, y'know. Catching up with Mom.

Astrid shoots him a confused glare. He nods skyward. Astrid and Eret look up to see...

VALKA, in full warrior garb, rising from the towering ice spikes, atop Cloudjumper.

ERET

Whoa...

An earth-trembling roar follows as the Bewilderbeast rises behind Valka.

ASTRID

That's your mother?!

HICCUP

Well, now you know where I get my dramatic flair.

ON DRAGO, gawking in awe as the great BEWILDERBEAST BLASTS an epic explosion of ice upon the attackers.

DRAGO

The alpha! Now we have a fight!

Valka blasts overhead on Cloudjumper, commanding swarms of dragons to swoop down and attack Drago's army. A swarm of Zipplebacks set themselves aflame and roll like fiery wagon wheels through the battlefield, scattering soldiers and destroying war machines.

One of them gets CAUGHT under a Dragon Swatter, but Hiccup and Toothless double-back for a rescue.

HICCUP

There! Come on, Toothless! Show them what you got, bud.

Toothless dive-bombs the swatter and DESTROYS it with a plasma bolt, freeing the dragon.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Thatta boy!

BACK TO VALKA, on Cloudjumper as they pry Drago's armored dragons off of the flailing wild ones. A net suddenly envelops Cloudjumper. They CRASH heavily, but Valka cuts herself free, sliding to a stop just paces away from Drago.

DRAGO

I've waited a long time for this!

Drago cocks his bull hook, ready to strike, but Valka deflects Drago's hit and attacks him.

VALKA

You cannot take our dragons! They
are controlled by the alpha!

DRAGO

(smug)

Then it's a good thing I brought a
challenger.

He turns to the flagship and YELLS savagely, whirling his
bullhook overhead.

The heavy chains are released. The underwater creature, now
freed, breaks the surface in an epic cascade of seawater. It
rises toward the shoreline, revealing itself to be...

A SECOND BEWILDERBEAST -- bigger, meaner, and covered in
scars that indicate years of training and abuse. The chains
fall away from iron cuffs fastened to its massive tusks.

Valka GASPS.

HICCUP

(horrified)

Another one?

FISHLEGS

I WAS WAY OFF! THAT IS A CLASS TEN!
CLASS TEN!

Drago's challenger lumbers onto the beach, focused on Valka's
Bewilderbeast.

VALKA

No. No.

DRAGO

Come on! Take down the alpha!

Valka attacks Drago with her bullhook, trying to stop his
commands, but Drago strikes back, knocking her forcefully
onto her back. He pins her as she struggles, removing her
mask and staff. He's about to finish her off, when WHAM! He's
knocked to the ground. He looks up, fuming, to see Stoick
helping Valka to her feet.

VALKA

Thank you.

STOICK

For you, my dear... anything.

As Drago gathers his weapon and drops his heavy cloak, circling Stoick, Drago's Bewilderbeast confronts Valka's in a threat display.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Val, do you think you can stop them?

VALKA

I'll do my best! Come on, Cloudjumper!

Valka cuts the nets away and hops onto Cloudjumper, flying off toward the Bewilderbeasts as they charge each other, CLASHING TUSKS.

Drago LUNGES at Stoick, SWIPING his bullhook.

DRAGO

You... I watched you burn!

The two imposing warriors CLASH WEAPONS, SLASHING and LANDING PUNCHES.

STOICK

It takes more than a little fire to kill me!

Valka flies between the Bewilderbeasts, waving her staff commandingly, but to no effect.

BACK TO STOICK AND DRAGO

As Drago hooks and yanks the axe out of Stoick's hands. Gobber flies by and HURLS his mace attachment.

GOBBER

Stoick!

Stoick catches it and lands a direct hit on Drago.

But, with a devastating SWIPE, DRAGO's Bewilderbeast takes down Valka's, plunging in its tusks and burying its opponent's lifeless body under an avalanche.

VALKA

No!

Hiccup and the others watch in horror as dragons everywhere land and bow their heads in acknowledgement of the new alpha -
- DRAGO'S ALPHA.

DRAGO

We've won.

Drago points his bullhook toward Valka and Cloudjumper.

DRAGO (CONT'D)
Now finish her!

Stoick whirls around, spotting Valka and Cloudjumper in the alpha's sights.

STOICK
No!

Drago's Bewilderbeast INHALES... and BLASTS! Valka steers Cloudjumper out of the way, but ice HITS his tail, causing them to SPIRAL out of control toward the icy spires.

STOICK (CONT'D)
Hold on!

He LEAPS onto Skullcrusher, spurring him into the air.

STOICK (CONT'D)
Skullcrusher, go! Come on, Gobber!

Stoick tosses the mace back to Gobber in passing, who follows brazenly, waving it aloft.

GOBBER
Right behind ya, Stoick!

EXT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

(Scene 2000 - Stoick's Sacrifice)

With his tail impaired, Cloudjumper struggles against a throng of oncoming dragons. Valka is knocked off, but manages to cling to her dragon's neck.

As she loses her grip and FALLS...

Stoick LEAPS from Skullcrusher and CATCHES Valka. He sinks his axe into an icy column, and they slide to a safe landing. Drago's Bewilderbeast presses closer, sniffing them out.

BACK TO HICCUP, spotting Drago on the battlefield, commanding the Bewilderbeast to finish the job.

HICCUP
STOP! Stop!

Hiccup lands Toothless a few paces from Drago and brazenly removes his helmet. Drago eyes him, incredulous, then begins to CHUCKLE.

DRAGO

This... is the great dragon master?
The son of Stoick the Vast? What
shame he must feel.

Toothless snarls, ready to blast, but Hiccup calms him with a hand gesture.

HICCUP

All of this loss, and for what? To
become unstoppable? To rule the
world?

Drago smirks and turns away from Hiccup.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Dragons are kind, amazing creatures
that can bring people together.

DRAGO

Or tear them apart.

Drago LAUGHS mockingly, then removes his FALSE ARM, revealing a stump at his shoulder. Hiccup is taken aback.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

You see, I know what it is to live
in fear. To see my village burned,
my family taken.

He reattaches the prosthesis, circling Hiccup menacingly.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

But even as a boy, left with
nothing, I vowed to rise above the
fear of dragons and liberate the
people of this world.

HICCUP

Then why a dragon army?

DRAGO

(grinning, smug)
Well, you need dragons to conquer
other dragons.

HICCUP

Or maybe you need dragons to
conquer people.

(beat)

To control those who follow you...
and to get rid of those who won't.

DRAGO

Clever boy.

Drago grabs his bullhook and re-approaches Hiccup. Toothless readies himself.

HICCUP

The world wants peace. And we have the answer, back on Berk. Just let me show you.

DRAGO

NO! Let ME show YOU.

Drago SHRIEKS madly, summoning the Bewilderbeast. Toothless circles Hiccup, protectively.

ON THE BEWILDERBEAST, about to blast Stoick and Valka. It hears Drago's distant wails, and approaches obediently.

STOICK

What...?

Stoick follows its stare to the distant battlefield below. He spots Hiccup and Toothless a few paces from Drago.

STOICK (CONT'D)

(panicked)

Hiccup!

He rushes off. Valka follows, racing past Gobber as he finally joins them, winded from having run up the mountain.

STOICK (CONT'D)

Come on, Gobber!

GOBBER

Okay, change of plans.

He hurries back down the mountain after them.

BACK TO DRAGO

jabbing his bullhook into the ground commandingly. The Bewilderbeast flinches and stops, submissive.

DRAGO

No dragon can resist the alpha's command. So he who controls the alpha, controls them all.

Drago points to Toothless. The Bewilderbeast stares and HISSES, forcing Toothless to cower under a hypnotic ultrasonic broadcast. Toothless struggles against the alpha's command, writhing and grinding his head against the ground.

HICCUP

Toothless? You okay, bud? What's going on?

Toothless fights the command, shaking his head in protest. The Bewilderbeast insists, with a mesmerizing glare and a low, throaty grumble... until Toothless finally succumbs to its control. He raises his head, his stare vacant and robotic, as his pupils turn to slits.

Drago then points to Hiccup. The Bewilderbeast responds, HISSING again at Toothless.

DRAGO

Witness true strength. The strength of will over others. In the face of it, you are nothing.

Toothless slowly turns to face Hiccup. Advancing.

HICCUP

Uh, what did he just tell you?

ON STOICK

Bounding across the ice, pushing himself to make it to Hiccup in time.

BACK ON HICCUP

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Toothless, what's the matter with you? What're you doing?

Hiccup is backed against fallen ice, with Toothless advancing mindlessly, and nowhere to run.

Toothless opens his yawning mouth. Gas seeps from his throat.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Knock it off! Stop! Snap out of it!

Stoick barrels through ice formations and over war machines, racing against time.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Toothless! No! Toothless! Don't!

STOICK
Hiccup!

 HICCUP
STOP!

 STOICK
SON!

Hiccup sees Stoick about to run into the fray.

 HICCUP
DAD! NO!

Toothless BLASTS.

Stoick leaps in front of it, shoving Hiccup out of the way and absorbing the blast in the process. He's thrown against the ice with great impact.

ON VALKA, hearing the blast, horrified.

Drago glances back, seeing Stoick laying lifeless in the aftermath, pleased by the sudden turn of events. He shuffles off, satisfied.

Stunned, Hiccup comes to and sees Stoick in the rubble. He rushes past the still-entranced Toothless, straining to scatter the ice boulders on top of Stoick's body.

 HICCUP (CONT'D)
Dad!

Valka arrives, winded and aghast.

 VALKA
Stoick...

She helps Hiccup to turn Stoick's body over. Valka presses her ear to Stoick's heart, confirming his death with a mere glance to Hiccup. He tears up, overwhelmed.

 HICCUP
No... you...

Gobber, Astrid, Eret, and the Gang arrive, slack-jawed.

Satisfied, the Bewilderbeast turns away, releasing Toothless of the trance-like state. Toothless blinks, coming to and confused. He approaches the group, sniffing Stoick's hand. Hiccup **SHOVES** him.

 HICCUP (CONT'D)
No! Get away from him!

Toothless recoils, innocently.

HICCUP (CONT'D)
GO ON! GET OUT OF HERE! GET AWAY!

Toothless retreats like a scolded dog, ear plates back and head hung low. Valka watches, broken-hearted, as Hiccup falls upon Stoick, inconsolable.

VALKA
It's not his fault. You know that.

On the battlefield, the alpha BELLOWS, calling all of the dragons to gather. Meatlug, Stormfly, Hookfang and the others all follow the command as the Gang calls after them.

VALKA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Good dragons under the control of
bad people do bad things.

Drago notices Toothless tumble down a snow-bank, once again slit-eyed and entranced, but unable to fly to the alpha without a rider. Drago pins him down, eyeing the saddle, pedals, and prosthetic tail.

ON HICCUP and VALKA

In tears as Toothless rises into view, with Drago in the saddle.

DRAGO
GATHER THE MEN AND MEET AT BERK!

His soldiers cheer in the thousands.

HICCUP
Toothless!

Hiccup tries to go after Toothless, but Valka holds him back.

VALKA
No, don't!

Drago JABS his bull hook and points toward the horizon. The alpha BELLOWS, commanding an exodus as it leads the way.

DRAGO
Move out!

Hiccup watches, powerless as all dragons TAKE WING and follow.

EXT. DRAGON MOUNTAIN - LAGOON - DUSK

(Scene 2100 - Viking Funeral)

A KEEL grinds against the shoreline pebbles as a listing, battered ship is pushed into the still iceberg-filled lagoon.

GOBBER (V.O.)

May the Valkyries welcome you, and lead you through Odin's great battlefield. May they sing your name with love and fury, so that we might hear it rise from the heights of Valhalla... and know that you've taken your rightful place at the table of kings.

Bows and pitch-dipped arrows are gathered from the battlefield. Gobber hands a set to Hiccup, meeting his eyes with sympathetic glance.

GOBBER (V.O.)

For a great man has fallen. A warrior. A chieftain. A father. A friend.

Hiccup dips his arrowhead in a smoldering chunk of wreckage, igniting the pitch that coats the tip.

He releases his arrow, which sails through the air and lands on the deck of the ship, where Stoick is laid out on a pyre, covered by a sail, his axe upon his chest.

The others follow Hiccup's lead. They DRAW BACK in unison and LOOSE their arrows, filling the sky with crisscrossing, flaming streaks. They arc over the lagoon and set the ship alight.

ON HICCUP, fighting back emotion and losing the battle.

HICCUP

I'm sorry, Dad.

He eyes the engulfed ship.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

I'm not the chief that you wanted me to be. And I'm not peacekeeper I thought I was. I don't know...

Valka watches him, her heart breaking. She steps forward.

VALKA

You came early into this world. You were such a wee thing. So frail, so fragile. I feared you wouldn't make it.

Hiccup lowers his eyes, but Valka lifts his chin.

VALKA (CONT'D)

But your father... he never doubted. He always said you'd become the strongest of them all.

(beat)

And he was right.

(beat)

You have the heart of a chief and the soul of a dragon. Only you can bring our worlds together. That is who you are, son.

Hiccup meets her bolstering stare. He turns to the ship and watches it in silence, silhouetted in its glow.

HICCUP

I was so afraid of becoming my dad. Mostly because I thought I never could. How do you become someone that great? That brave? That selfless?

(beat)

I guess you can only try.

(to the others)

A chief protects his own. We're going back.

TUFFNUT

Uh, with what?

RUFFNUT

He took all the dragons.

HICCUP

Not all of them.

EXT. ICE CHANNELS - MOMENTS LATER

(Scene 2200 - Hatchlings to the Rescue)

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH! JUVENILES BLUR past, like flying raptors, ZIGZAGGING wildly.

Riding bareback, Hiccup & Co. HURTLE through the narrow ICE CHANNELS -- created by massive splits in the iceberg shelves.

RUFFNUT
Fly straight!

FISHLEGS
I don't want to die!

TUFFNUT
We can't fly these things!

FISHLEGS
Yeah, no kidding!

Fishlegs barrels into a snow bank, sending several chunks right into Eret's face as rides inverted and HOLLERING.

ASTRID
But won't that Bewilderbeast just take control of these guys, too?

HICCUP
They're babies. They don't listen to anyone!

TUFFNUT
Yeah, just like us!

Gobber follows up the rear clumsily, STRUGGLING for control.

GOBBER
This... is... very dangerous!

He PULLS ALONGSIDE Hiccup and Valka.

GOBBER (CONT'D)
Some might suggest this is poorly conceived.

HICCUP
Well, it's a good thing that I never listen.

A SHARP RIDGE RUSHES up at them. They're going to CRASH. Hiccup ROUNDS one side of it, and Gobber flies down the other side. They shout through gaps in the iceberg.

GOBBER
So what IS your plan?!

HICCUP
Get Toothless back and kick Drago's-

He's interrupted by another closure in the gaps of ice. They blast out of the other side.

GOBBER

Heads up!

They SPLIT to avoid another peak and then reconvene, only to find another icy outcropping directly in their path.

HICCUP

And that thing.

Gobber HITS it, with a THUD and a YELP.

EXT. BERK - NIGHT

(Scene 2450 - Hiccup Vs. Toothless)

Torches burn in their braziers as Berk slumbers... until the Bewilderbeast approaches, STOMPING down on the monolithic Viking statues that guard the harbor.

INT. GOTHI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The sound of destruction rouses a flock of Terrible Terrors and Gothi, who was sleeping under the dragons. Their pupils turn to slits, and heeding the ultrasonic call, they fly off.

Gothi shuffles onto her deck, confused, then GASPS at horrifying sight.

INT. VIKING HUT - CONTINUOUS

A Gronckle lounges peacefully by the fire, as his Viking owner lavishes him with scratches.

HOARK

Ah, that's a good boy!

The Gronckle's eyes suddenly turn to slits and it, too, takes wing, knocking over a chair and table as it heads for the door.

HOARK (CONT'D)

Watch the furniture! Where are you going?

It barrels out of the hut and into the night sky as the Viking rushes to the doorway, spotting the same arresting sight with a gasp.

EXT. GREAT HALL - CONTINUOUS

Vikings pour out of the Great Hall as all of Berk's dragons fill the night sky and join the ranks of Drago's growing DRAGON ARMY.

The Bewilderbeast rises out of the sea, bearing down on the people of Berk as Drago hovers on Toothless, leading the charge. The Vikings stare, aghast.

DRAGO

Your chief is dead.

Waves of shock and whispers of "Stoick?" spread through the crowd.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

No one can protect you now.

He thrusts his bull-hook, commanding the Bewilderbeast to fire. The Vikings watch in horror as the Bewilderbeast opens its yawning jaws and BLASTS.

EXT. SKIES/BERK - NIGHT

Dragon roars grow louder as Hiccup & Co. approach through clouds, racing against time.

They collectively GASP at the sight of Drago's Bewilderbeast having now covered most of the village in explosions of ice. Berk's now commandeered dragons circle in a huddle behind him, joining Valka's flock, and corralled by Drago's armored dragons.

HICCUP

No...

FISHLEGS

He took all the dragons!

HICCUP

(fuming)

Distract the alpha. Try to keep his focus off of Toothless.

TUFFNUT

Uh... how?

ERET

Have you forgotten who you're riding with?

He brazenly aims his baby dragon toward the Bewilderbeast.

ERET (CONT'D)

There isn't a dragon alive that I
can't wrangle!

His baby dragon dives toward the sea instead.

ERET (CONT'D)

Except for this one!

SNOTLOUT

Amateur.

The others shrug and follow. As they get closer, the
Bewilderbeast looms bigger and BIGGER.

Berk's Vikings in hiding notice Hiccup and the others as they
approach.

VIKING #1

Look, it's Hiccup!

The Vikings CHEER.

ON DRAGO, surprised to see Hiccup and the others approaching.

DRAGO

What?

With an irate HUFF, the Bewilderbeast focuses on Hiccup,
gaining ever closer to Toothless.

Suddenly, a SHEEP appears in its sight, rising and falling
out of view. The Bewilderbeast blinks, confused.

It looks down to see Eret catching the falling sheep and
reloading it into the game launcher, as Tuffnut cocks the
mechanism and Ruffnut pulls the trigger.

RUFFNUT

Keep 'em coming!

Snotlout tosses the black sheep to Tuffnut.

SNOTLOUT

Black sheep, baby!

Exasperated, the alpha inhales, about to blast, when... HONK!
The game horn blares, breaking his concentration.

He turns, finding the horn unmanned. The Bewilderbeast then
returns his focus to the sheep launcher, until the BLACK
SHEEP LANDS on the his face, bouncing down his facial spines
and becoming lodged.

SNOTLOUT (CONT'D)

Ten points!

The Bewilderbeast shakes the black sheep off and prepares to blast again.

SNOTLOUT (CONT'D)

Uh-oh...

HONK! The alpha whips around -- still no one at the horn.

ON FISHLEGS, giggling and hiding behind the game horn.

The Bewilderbeast finally lets loose the ice blast, covering the entire horn in jagged spikes... as Fishlegs leaps from the platform.

FISHLEGS

I'm okay!

BACK TO HICCUP

as he reaches Drago, hovering directly in Toothless' sights.

DRAGO

You certainly are hard to get rid of. I'll say that.

Hiccup ignored him and focuses on Toothless' slitted pupils.

HICCUP

Toothless? It's me, bud. It's me. I'm right here. Come back to me.

TOOTHLESS' POV: Hiccup appears as an unfamiliar red blur, still firmly under the control of the Bewilderbeast.

DRAGO

He is not yours anymore. He belongs to the alpha!

Drago smugly sits back in the saddle, his arms open in invitation.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

But, please, oh great *dragon master*, try to take him. He will not miss a second time.

Hiccup holds strong, maintaining eye contact with Toothless. He reaches out to touch him.

HICCUP

It wasn't your fault, bud. They
made you do it.

Drago's amusement fades as Toothless stirs. His pupils
DILATE, then NARROW again.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

You'd never hurt him.
(beat)
You'd never hurt me.

Drago watches, amazed, as Toothless fights the control.

DRAGO

How are you doing that?

Hiccup holds the stare, tears in his eyes.

HICCUP

Please. You are my best friend,
bud.

Bewilderbeast ROARS a forceful command.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

My best friend.

Toothless' pupils jitter, then DILATE fully. He coos
sympathetically.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Thatta boy! That's it! I'm here!

Toothless' eyes finally dilate fully and resolve on Hiccup's
familiar face.

Drago goes from astounded to alarmed. Drago STRIKES Toothless
with the bull hook in a vain attempt to regain control.

DRAGO

No!

Toothless ROARS defiantly, snatches the bull hook in his
jaws, and PULLS... yanking Drago off of his back and sending
him both PLUMMETING to the sea.

HICCUP

Yeah!

But without a rider, Toothless drops out of the sky as well.
Hiccup leaps from the baby dragon, diving after him.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Hang on!

Drago breaks his fall, landing heavily upon the Bewilderbeast's tusk...

As Hiccup tucks in his arms, trying to close the gap between he and Toothless before they both make impact with the ocean.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Almost there, buddy. Almost there!

Hiccup reaches Toothless. They pair up, mid-air, and skyrocket past Drago as he hobbles to the top of the alpha's head.

EXT. BERK - VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

(Scene 2500 - One True Alpha)

Hiccup looks back at Drago, now issuing commands from the top of the Bewilderbeast's head.

DRAGO

Do something!

HICCUP

We need to get those two apart.

Hiccup flies Toothless past a flag pole tears a strip of the flag.

The Bewilderbeast BLASTS in their direction, barely missing them as they disappear around the back of a mountain.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

We gotta block him out, Toothless.
Do you trust me, bud?

Toothless coos, allowing Hiccup to BLINDFOLD him with the flag. Hiccup calms him with a touch.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

We can do this. You and me. As one.

Hiccup SPLAYS Toothless' mechanical tail. Toothless responds, MATCHING the move with the natural half.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

That's it. Now let's try this one more time!

They PEEL around the other side of the mountain, heading back toward Drago and Bewilderbeast, passing Astrid and the cheering Vikings on the ground.

ASTRID

Take them down, babe!

The Viking roar in support as Hiccup and Toothless race past.

Valka watches with pride as her son hurtles towards Drago and the alpha.

VALKA

Go get 'em.

DRAGO

Take control of it!

The Bewilderbeast's HISS becomes a furious ROAR, but to no avail. Hiccup clamps his hands over Toothless' ear plates, muffling the alpha's commands.

HICCUP

Shut it out, Toothless!

DRAGO

STOP THEM!

The Bewilderbeast BLASTS!

HICCUP

NOW!

Toothless suddenly PULLS UP, ARCING over Drago's head! Drago LAUGHS, victorious, then pauses in shock.

DRAGO'S POV: as Toothless climbs inverted through the sky, the blindfold falls free, revealing an EMPTY SADDLE.

Drago WHIRLS around, wide-eyed, to see...

HICCUP ZOOMING TOWARD HIM, his wing-suit deployed, and his Dragon Blade trailing Zippleback gas. Drago SWIPES but misses him. Hiccup clicks the lighter and ignites the gas, blasting Drago off his Bewilderbeast with a SCREAM.

Drago PLUMMETS, BREAKING HIS FALL against the massive dragon's spines and landing hard on the ground, his bullhook landing just out of reach.

The Bewilderbeast WHIPS its tail, trying to SWAT down Hiccup.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Not again.

(beat)

TOOTHLESS! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

Toothless pops open his dorsal blades, arcs skyward, and rejoins Hiccup just before colliding with the alpha's tail.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Come on, bud!

Together again, they speed along the length of the thrashing tail...

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Hold on!

And shoot past the tip of the tail, narrowly making it!

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Yeah! We did it!

They arc through the sky and LAND a few paces from Drago, kicking up a trail of dust.

Battered and weary, Drago reaches for his bullhook. Hiccup extends and fires up his Dragon Blade, hurling it like a javelin, and sticking it in the ground between Drago and his weapon, singeing his outstretched hand.

DRAGO

Agghh!

HICCUP

Hold him there Toothless!

Toothless SNARLS a warning, ready to blast.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

It's all over now.

But the cloud of dust settles, revealing the Bewilderbeast, rising behind Hiccup, ready to blast him instead.

DRAGO

(grinning knowingly)

Or is it?

Hiccup spins around, alarmed, as a RUSH of water THUNDERS up the Bewilderbeast's throat.

HICCUP

Oh, no!

It BLASTS, but Toothless leaps into the way, shielding Hiccup beneath him. The freezing explosion envelops them both.

Drago laughs to himself as Valka lands her baby dragon and rushes to the icy explosion, hammering away at it desperately.

VALKA

No! No...

ON ASTRID and GOBBER, watching from a distance, horrified. As Valka POUNDS at the ice, a GLOWS forms from deep within. She realizes what is about to happen and backs away.

A BLAST thunders from inside the ice, SHATTERING it. Toothless emerges from the debris, revealing Hiccup curled safely under his wings.

Toothless is steaming, his black skin glowing blue with rage, his split dorsal blades searing with blue heat, a glow emanating from his flared nostrils.

He turns back to Hiccup, to check if he's unharmed, then turns his full attention back to the Bewilderbeast. He leaps out of the crater and lands upon an ice spire, roaring ferociously.

The Bewilderbeast bellows back at this affront. Toothless unleashes a salvo of plasma into the Bewilderbeast's face, not letting up.

HICCUP

He's challenging the alpha!

VALKA

To protect you.

The Bewilderbeast ROARS at this act of insubordination. Toothless fires back, time and again, fully in control.

The alpha thrashes his tusks through the ice, trying to smash Toothless, but he deftly spring from spire to spire, continuing his unrelenting attack.

In the midst of the mayhem, the horde of commandeered dragons -- both Berk's and Valka's -- break free from the control to witness Toothless' retaliation.

Toothless lands protectively by Hiccup and Valka, commanding the dragons to shift sides. They follow, amassing behind Toothless.

Seeing this, Drago panics and rushes toward the Bewilderbeast.

DRAGO

No, no, no, no! Fight back! Fight!
FIGHT!

Drago clammers up the Bewilderbeast's tusk, totally unhinged.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

(to the defecting dragons)
What's the matter with you?

The Berkians swell in to show their unified support. Drago fumes as Hiccup and Toothless fly up together onto an ice spire.

HICCUP

Now do you get it? This is what it
is to earn a dragon's loyalty.
(beat)
Let this end now.

DRAGO

Never! Come on!

He hammers the Bewilderbeast, spurring it into a charge.

Toothless calls over his shoulder, commanding the dragons to ready themselves. He then BLASTS the Bewilderbeast, mid-charge. Suddenly, Skullcrusher fires. Followed by another, and another.

Hiccup looks around, amazed to see the flock of dragons opening fire on Drago and his Bewilderbeast. They've started a rebellion.

Drago is forced to hide from the fiery barrage by taking cover in the tall spines of the giant's crown.

DRAGO (CONT'D)

FIGHT! BLAST THEM!

His prosthetic arm is blasted clean off by one of his own armored dragons.

The Bewilderbeast rears back to cover them all in ice, but Toothless lets loose a powerful shot. The Bewilderbeast's head is KNOCKED backward by a blue-flame fireball.

As the smoke clears, one of its massive TUSKS FALLS to the ground, sheared clean off. Drago glares at Toothless.

Toothless ROARS commandingly, calling an end to the fight.

HICCUP

The alpha protects them all.

Overwhelmed and overpowered, the Bewilderbeast yields to the new alpha and heeds Toothless' command, retreating into the sea in an explosive splash.

The Berkians CHEER in victory!

As the smoke clears, Hiccup and Toothless see nothing but bubbles on the waves to mark their disappearance. No sign of the Bewilderbeast... or Drago.

Toothless hops down from the spire, cooling off, as people celebrate all around them.

All of the dragons -- Berk's, Valka's, even Drago's -- land around Toothless. Cloudjumper bows to Toothless, starting a wave of bows, acknowledging their new alpha.

Toothless looks around, surprised, then lets out a majestic ROAR. The assembled dragons join in, roaring in tribute.

Toothless turns to Hiccup as he approaches.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

You never cease to amaze me, bud.
Thank you.

Toothless GURGLES and licks Hiccup's face. Hiccups squeals, trying to get away.

HICCUP (CONT'D)

Toothless! You know that doesn't
wash out.

The crowd laughs. All around them, Berk's dragons reunite with their Vikings.

ASTRID

Stormfly!

Stormfly bounds into Astrid.

GOBBER

Oh, give me a cuddle, Grumpy!

Grump lands ON TOP of Gobber, flattening him.

Relieved to the point of tears, Snotlout and Fishlegs race towards the expectant Ruffnut...

FISHLEGS

Who's my little princess?

... and then right PAST her to embrace their dragons.

FISHLEGS (CONT'D)

I missed you so much!

SNOTLOUT

Don't you ever leave again,
Hookfang!

Ruffnut GRUMBLES, dejected. Barf dips his head in to console her.

RUFFNUT

Oh Barf!

She hugs him. Belch looms in for some affection, but Ruffnut pushes him away...

RUFFNUT (CONT'D)

Not you.

And into Tuffnut who glowers back at her.

Hiccup smiles, taking in the happy reunions. Skullcrusher approaches him, without an owner to reunite with. Hiccup pets him, as Eret approaches.

ERET

That was some *pretty fine* dragon
wrangling back there. You'd make a
good trapper.

Before Hiccup can respond, Skullcrusher nuzzles Eret affectionately. Eret chuckles and gently strokes him.

HICCUP

Y'know, Skullcrusher's gonna need
somebody to look after him now.

ERET

Me?

Hiccup nods reassuringly. Eret looks at Skullcrusher, pausing to consider it.

ERET (CONT'D)

I'd be honored.

Valka walks up to her son, bursting with pride.

VALKA

Your father... he'd be every bit as
proud as I am.

HICCUP

Thank you. I'm really glad you're here, Mom.

VALKA

And here I'll stay.

Toothless arrives, purring at Valka's touch as Astrid strides toward Hiccup, beaming proudly.

ASTRID

See? I told you it was in here.

She places her hand upon his chest, then quickly pokes the dorsal fin button, popping it open. She GIGGLES.

HICCUP

Ha, ha. Still doing that one?
That's hilarious.
(then)
Come here, you.

He scoops Astrid close and pulls her into a kiss. Gobber covers a gawking boy's eyes.

GOBBER

Ooh.

Gothi, the elder, taps Hiccup's shoulder, interrupting the romantic moment. She gestures for Hiccup to kneel. He does so, respectfully.

Using ash from a heap of burnt wreckage, Gothi traces a Viking symbol onto Hiccup's forehead. She bows.

Hiccup stands, meeting Gobber's proud, smiling eyes. Gobber turns to the silent crowd and throws up his arms.

GOBBER (CONT'D)

The chief has come home!

The Berkians erupt with cheers and applause as Hiccup takes in the moment, acknowledging the weight of responsibility now upon him.

Toothless throws back his head and BLASTS in celebration, spurring all other dragons to follow suit, lighting up the sky in a spectacular display.

EXT. BERK VILLAGE - DAY

(Scene 2700 - A New Beginning)

A sheep grazes lazily on the grass as a Terrible Terror struggles in vain to carry him off. Suddenly, both are snatched up by a passing dragon.

IN THE AIR

Ruffnut and Tuffnut wrestle over the sheep atop Barf & Belch. Ruffnut sends the sheep flying toward Fishlegs. Snotlout nabs it instead, blowing a kiss mockingly.

HICCUP (V.O.)

This... is Berk. A bit trampled and busted and covered in ice, but it's home. It's our home.

They swoop past a gathered crowd on the battered bleachers as Snotlout dunks the sheep in his basket. Eret joins the race atop Skullcrusher.

They fly past Hiccup and Toothless, who are steadily hoisting a palette of timber and supplies onto a rooftop where workers are rebuilding the damaged houses.

Hiccup then turns his attention to a massive statue of Stoick, presently under construction. He grins with pride.

HICCUP (V.O.)

Those who attacked us are relentless and crazy. But those who stopped them? Oh, even more so!

He looks to the horizon, scanning it from east to west to ensure that no trouble is approaching.

Astrid and Stormfly buzz past him playfully, coaxing him to join the game. He smiles.

HICCUP (V.O.)

We may be small in numbers, but we stand for something bigger than anything the world can pit against us.

Astrid soars past the blacksmith stall, waving to Valka and Gobber as they remove the armor from Drago's freed battle dragons.

HICCUP (V.O.)

We are the voice of peace. And bit by bit, we will change this world.

Realizing that he's late, Gobber hurries over to the sheep launcher and pulls the trigger, sending the black sheep hurtling into the air.

Astrid and Stormfly close in on the black sheep, about to snatch it out of the air, when suddenly, Hiccup and Toothless dart past, beating them to it. Toothless looks back with a gummy smile.

HICCUP (V.O.)
You see, we have something they
don't. Oh sure, they have armies
and they have armadas...

Toothless and Hiccup dive toward the line of baskets. As they approach, Toothless bounces Hiccup into the air, allowing him to dunk the black sheep into Astrid's basket. They reunite on the other side. The crowd cheers!

HICCUP (V.O.)
But we... we have...

Hiccup and Toothless land upon the chief's dais, joined by Astrid, Stormfly, and the other dragon riders.

HICCUP (V.O.)
OUR DRAGONS!

Toothless lets out a proud roar as Hiccup look out over Berk, gleaming with pride.

CUT TO:

END TITLE: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2