

PIRANHA

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Based on a script by
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NOTE: UNDERLINED ACTION MEANS MAJOR 3D FX

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VOLCANIC ROCK outcrop, black and jagged. WIND whispers. A HAWK cries. A GILA MONSTER crawls up and over, right past FRAME.

Another SAND-DUSTED ROCK OUTCROP, where two small SCORPIONS fight over rodent bones. Prominent beside them: the FOSSILIZED IMPRINT of a large SPIRAL SEASHELL.

A weather-beaten ROADSIGN rests knocked down, half-destroyed: "Mesolithic Era Dig Site -- No. 2357, Register of National Historic Places, Ahead Next Left." Another hawk CRY echoes...

STRIATIONS in rock, remnants of geologic RIFTS. As a TUMBLEWEED blows past. And from such serene detail, we now CUT WIDE:

Breathtaking in its glimmering grandeur. Placid and endless, surrounded by jagged mountain peaks with a PREHISTORIC quality.

Tiny and distant, amidst the lake - A SMALL FISHING BOAT. With the tinny echo of some HONKY-TONK from a transistor radio.

A hand reaches into the water grabbing a small rope connected to a six-pack of bottles of beer.

ED (60), a blue-collar local, cracks open his Bud and watches a flock of birds flying in formation across the sky. His attention returns to his fishing pole and the nylon line connecting it to a cork, floating peacefully in the water.

Ed hums along with the honky-tonk...as suddenly the cork disappears, the line tightens, and the pole BENDS VIOLENTLY! Ed abandons his beer -- grabs the pole -- he's got a big one!

ED
Oh yeah -- you come to papa now...

A seasoned sportsman, Ed fights with the fish until he finally lifts a beautiful, eight pound bass into the air.

ED (cont'd)
Damn, ain't you a beautiful thing...

The bass frantically resists, and in his struggle, Ed rocks the boat, knocking his beer overboard--

UNDER THE SURFACE: The bottle SPLASHES and SINKS, descending 90 feet to the bottom...revealing what no one ever sees--

A SANDY FLOOR LITTERED WITH MORE BOTTLES, CANS, RUSTY METAL AND OTHER TRASH: THE LEGACY OF DECADES OF TOURIST POLLUTION.

As the beer bottle touches the lake bed - A STRANGE TREMOR CAUSES VIBRATIONS IN THE WATER. The ground begins to move with increasing intensity until a deafening sound erupts-

KRAAAACK!! A geographic fault splits open!

THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF WATER RUSH VIOLENTLY DOWN INTO THE BEDROCK FISSURE. An ENORMOUS BOULDER is sucked into it, followed by all the trash... And the beer bottle.

CUT TO:

THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE -- The fissure below has created a SMALL, BUT ANGRY CIRCULAR WHIRLPOOL just a few feet from the boat. Ed grips the rocking boat, his fish now caught...

ED (cont'd)
What in the hell...

The circular whirlpool gets bigger and bigger on the surface of the lake and THE WATER SPINS FASTER AND FASTER--

And before Ed's fully aware of the danger--

HIS LITTLE BOAT IS CAUGHT IN THE SPINNING CURRENT, INEVITABLY BRINGING HIM CLOSER TO THE DARK, POWERFUL VORTEX.

NOTHING CAN STOP THE FRAGILE VESSEL FROM ACCELERATING AS Ed scrambles to start up the motor. He tries desperately to keep his balance -- but falls overboard!

He struggles, fighting the riptide, clawing the boat's hull in a panic! But ultimately disappears into the whirlpool...

...and just as suddenly as it began, the energy stops. The water flattens. Only pleasant HONKY-TONK still plays...

...AS A CLOUD OF BLOOD FLOATS UP, surrounding the lonesome boat, where the hooked bass still flaps around at line's end--

JUST AS A SHREDDED, SKELETAL HAND RIPS THROUGH THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE, STRETCHING ITS FINGERS TO THE SKY!!

Underneath the water -

AN EYEBALL IS FLOATING SLOWLY IN THE DARKNESS, DRAGGING ITS OPTICAL NERVES. IT COMES CLOSER AND CLOSER WHEN-

A BLURRY SHAPE BURSTS INTO FRAME TO GRAB IT.

The title fills the frame-

PIRANHA

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTREME-CLOSE-UP on a GOLD FISH. It swims along without a care in the world until--

CHOMP! A small but ghastly PIRANHA eats it down in one bite. The ugly, cold-blooded fish swims on in its aquarium...while the LIGHT IN THE TANK switches off...

3 INT. "THE LAKE VICTORIA PET EMPORIUM" - CONTINUOUS

3

...as a slightly-awkward teenager, **JAKE** (17) walks a row of aquarium tanks, clicking the lights off for each.

JAKE

Nighty-night, guys.

He's at work, pulling shut a large accordion screen, separating the "exotic fish section" from the store's other aisles:

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

...and the good folks down at the U.S.G.S. are now calling it a 5.7, epicentered smack dab at the west end of the lake. So here's hoping that fine little afternoon shake-me-up helps get your beautiful weekend off to a rockin' start--

Behind a counter, grandfatherly **MR. GOODMAN** (70's) is up on a stepladder, taking orders from a portly lady customer (50's). She's got three FERRETS poking out of her purse:

FERRET LADY

No, I've changed my mind, not the Deluxe, I'll take the Chateau -- my babies just deserve the best--

Goodman struggles to put a GIANT PLAY-TOWER FOR CATS back up on a high shelf, to trade with an even larger one. Jake sees the old man start to lose his balance -- he instantly races over--

JAKE

Mr. Goodman -- be careful! Let me!

--and catches the old man before he falls, helping him down with the carpeted "cat tower."

MR. GOODMAN

Whoa now, close call. That's my Jake -- always there to count on.

FERRET LADY

(ignores, takes "Chateau")

Oh, wook at this, my wittle babies, won't this make you a nice wittle home. We'll make smores and watch TV and stay snuggly and safe inside. Just till this awful week is over...

(to Jake)

I hope you will do the same, young man.

She leaves a \$20, smooches her ferrets, and heads out the door. Goodman follows, turns the door sign to "Closed." Elsewhere in the store, **MRS. GOODMAN** (70's) is drawing the shades.

JAKE

Tanks are clean, everybody's fed, lights are out in saltwater and fresh.

MR. GOODMAN

Thank you, Jake. I hope you understand about next week -- it just doesn't make sense to keep the store open. With the town working 'round the clock--

JAKE

No, I know -- I know how it is -- Mom's made plans for me anyway--

MR. GOODMAN

Well, I hope they allow for some fun. I mean, Spring Break. A boy your age.

MRS. GOODMAN

Oh Carl. Now don't cause trouble--

JAKE

Actually, maybe you could talk to her about that.

MR. GOODMAN

When I was sixteen, y'know, I trekked clear across Baja. At seventeen, I was first mate on a deep-sea marlin boat--

MRS. GOODMAN

Good God, Carl, you sell goldfish and hamsters. He's always living in the past--

MR. GOODMAN

I'm just telling him to have ambitions!

MRS. GOODMAN

Well, tell him not to forget the crawlers! The night-crawlers! For Zane!

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

Goodman remembers, grabs a plastic bag of BAIT WORMS.

MR. GOODMAN

Give our best to your brother and sister.
Tell 'em to come on by and say hi. And you
go and have a great Spring Break now.

MRS. GOODMAN

Have a great Spring Break, Jake!

JAKE

Yeah, right, thanks...

The Goodmans keep closing up. Jake sighs, to the worms:

JAKE (cont'd)

Like I ever do...

4 **EXT. LAKE VICTORIA COMMUNITY - DAY**

4

The BAG OF WORMS gets dropped on the back of a Vespa scooter. With his Pixies concert T-shirt and his orange vintage helmet, it's very hard to tell if Jake is super cool or a complete nerd... but as he ZIPS his ride away from the pet store, a CAR FULL OF PARTYING TEENS blasts on by:

PARTYING TEENS

Watch out, Sand Rat! Where ya goin', Sand
Rat! Whooo-hoooo....!

JAKE

Make yourself at home...

He rides toward a banner hanging over Main Street: "WELCOME TO SPRING BREAK LAKE VICTORIA"...AS ANGLE CRANES UP AND OVER the unassuming small-town buildings--

--TO REVEAL THE MASSIVE EXPANSE OF THE LAKE BEYOND, filled with HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF BOATS and partying COLLEGE KIDS!

BEGIN OPENING CREDITS ON-

SHOTS of the town: completely overrun. A tiny fishing community by winter, a wild college party come spring. Every motel sign reads "No Vacancy." Toothless OLD-TIMERS sit on their porches in lawnchairs, watching CO-EDS in bikinis rollerblade by. Local YOUNG KIDS sit sentry at lemonade stands, except their signs say "Cold Beer -- \$1." A HIGH SCHOOL's logo reads: "Lake Victoria High -- Home of the 'Sand Rats'".

Meanwhile, Jake zigzags with his scooter down the main street in between long lines of cars with jet skis and speedboats in tow.

4 CONTINUED:

4

He stops at a traffic light and notes a COMMOTION nearby--

A car is halfway on the curb, having knocked over a parking meter. A trio of unruly FRATBOYS are to blame:

FRATBOY DRIVER

Officer, it was a mistake. Can't we work something out here?

A pretty female sheriff, **JULIE FORESTER** (mid 30's), listens with zero sympathy. She's seen his kind too many times before.

JULIE

Mistake or no mistake, you destroyed public property. And from the smell of your breath, I suggest you take this ticket and get one of your friends to drive you home.

The Fratboy scoffs, showing off for his pals.

FRATBOY DRIVER

I dunno, Sheriff. I was kinda hoping you might drive me home.

He flicks Julie's shirt. Her eyes instantly shoot up.

ON JAKE: shakes his head, smiles. Don't mess with the sheriff!

JULIE

Touching an officer's uniform is considered assault. Were you aware of that?

FRATBOY DRIVER

Hey c'mon -- you look pretty hot in tan--

And as he reaches a too-friendly hand out again--

BAM! An elbow to the stomach! WWWWRENCH! An arm-socket twist and over-shoulder-flip! SLAM! Fratboy hits the ground face-first, HAND-CUFFED before he has a clue what hit him.

JULIE

It's not tan. It's beige.

His buddies edge closer, but Julie's TASER GUN is up and ready:

JULIE (cont'd)

You boys take another step, you'll be pissing lightning bolts into next week.

Jake smiles and drives away-

5 **EXT. LAKE VICTORIA COMMUNITY - DUSK**

5

Metal rock music blares from a pick-up truck. Kids cruising. Two hot, buxom college coeds strut half naked in front of wide-eyed TRAILER PARK GRANDMAS who shake their heads in disgust.

Other kids are filling rental boats with coolers, wake boards, and life vests... Jet skies are lowered from their trailers, while college jar-heads high five each other, whistle at girls and chug beer. Further away, a large floating stage is being set up to host the daily spring break events...

END CREDITS AS: Jake pulls into the marina's parking lot. As he stares at the mass of partying young humanity...

KELLY (O.S.)

So hey, do you ever think -- living here -- we get a really warped perception of "college?"

He turns to see **KELLY** (17), a cute local, standing nearby:

JAKE

Nah, I'm sure this is pretty much like an average day in class.

KELLY

Then I am so looking forward to it.

JAKE

Oh yeah. Can't wait. Me too.

Then he realizes he still has his helmet on. Swiftly takes it off. Kelly smiles. There's a comfortable familiarity:

KELLY

So I can only assume you came down here to get on one of those boats?

JAKE

(smiles at her joke)
Gotta pick up my sister from music lessons. It's for my Mom.

KELLY

Guess your Mom's kinda busy these days.

JAKE

How 'bout you?

KELLY

Um, I'm waiting for my ride. Matt and his friends. We're gonna check out some music.

JAKE
Matt Dupree?

KELLY
What's that supposed to mean?

JAKE
What's what supposed to mean? I just said his name.

KELLY
Remind me who you're going out with again?

JAKE
I have standards. That's all I'm saying.

KELLY
Look, Matt's a really good DJ. It's not his fault he doesn't smell like a pet store.

JAKE
Emporium. It's a Pet Emporium.

KELLY
What does that even mean?

JAKE
It's just another word for store.

A car drives up to them driven by **MATT** (17). Two BUDDIES inside. A music-scene wannabe, he is Jake's complete opposite.

MATT
C'mon Kelly, jump in, we're late!

KELLY
(to Jake)
He says he's got backstage passes for the Sand Bar. It'll be cool. You should come.

JAKE
If I wasn't basically under house arrest watching Zane and Laura: wow -- the chance to watch you dirty dance with Matt Dupree -- there is nothing that would make me happier.

KELLY
Jeez, Jake. Too bad. We'll miss you.

JAKE
Like every year.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

KELLY

Anyway...I gotta go. I'll see you 'round.

JAKE

Yeah, see you 'round. At school, I guess.

With a shrug and a smile, Kelly gets in the car.

JAKE (cont'd)

(sotto)

Way to make a move, Jake.

As it peels away, one of Matt's friends yells at Jake-

MATT'S FRIEND

Hey Pixie! Cool shirt!

FROM JAKE'S P.O.V.: The boy throws a giant SLURPEE right at Jake!!! WHACK! DOUSES his T-shirt with RED, STICKY LIQUID.

JAKE

OK, thanks, Brett, I know where you live!

The car peels out, as Kelly yells at Matt's friends. Jake just stands there, dripping and pissed. Watches Kelly go...

6 **EXT. VICTORIA TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS**

6

Adorable, little **LAURA** (10) sits on a park bench, clutching a trombone almost her size. A super-sexy urban-boho brunette in a revealing top sits next to her. This is **DANNI** (24).

DANNI

Nice horn.

LAURA

Thanks. Nice boobs.

DANNI

(surprised smile)

Thanks.

LAURA

I have a training bra but I don't like to wear it cuz it itches.

DANNI

Tell me about it. Who are you waiting for?

LAURA

My brother Jake. He's seventeen. He'll like your boobs too.

DANNI
(c'est la vie)
They all do.

Jake marches onto the scene, shirt and pants now stained red.
He is not in a good mood.

JAKE
C'mon Laura, let's go.

LAURA
(sees his clothes)
What happened to you?

JAKE
None of your business. Let's get out of
here.

DANNI
Hi Jake.

Jake stops. Who's this? And how's she know his name?

LAURA
Try not to stare at her...

JAKE
Shut. Up.

DANNI
I like your shirt.

JAKE
Why, you want to throw something at me too?

It's a rude retort, but Danni doesn't flinch.

DANNI
No, actually, I just like the Pixies.

Laura's ready to go, but Jake stops. He knows he was harsh, and
now it's dawning on him how super-hot Danni is.

JAKE
Sorry, I... I just took a Slurpee shower
because of the way I look.

DANNI
No problem. I understand. This place is
full of morons. I like the way you look.

DERRICK (O.S.)
DANNI! WHERE THE HELL IS CRYSTAL?!

JUST THEN, a hyperactive guy with a HD CAMERA approaches. This is **DERRICK JONES** (30), a classic "wannabe film director." He's a dynamo of aggressive, predatory energy. A "human piranha."

DANNI

She's over there with Andrew -- they're getting sunscreen. I'm just waiting.

Across the street, at a mom-and-pop tourist shop, a gorgeous California blonde, **CRYSTAL** (22) tries on gaudy sunglasses. She's trailed by Derrick's pasty-pale assistant/slave **ANDREW** (27), loaded down with video gear like a postmodern Sherpa.

DERRICK

Sunscreen? We don't need sunscreen! We need body paint, condoms and Redi-Whip! You tell her 10 AM tomorrow, I want her bleached-blond booty at the marina! I have to get my first shot off by noon. Bright and early, baby, so make sure those tits are perked.

(now sees Jake)

Who's this?

DANNI

That's Jake. He's a local.

DERRICK

A "Sand Rat," huh? You know your way around the lake?

JAKE

Uh...yeah...

DERRICK

You want a job? I pay cash money!

JAKE

Um...

DERRICK

Don't bullshit me here, Jake. My guy didn't show and I need someone ASAP. Somebody I can rely on. Someone with ambition. Who takes chances, if you know what I mean.

LAURA

Mister, you talk funny.

DERRICK

Yeah, well, you're short.

Derrick's cell phone rings. He answers, instantly talking:

DERRICK (cont'd)

Derrick here. Whoa -- don't disappoint me, motherfucker! I'll eat your heart and floss my teeth with your intestines! I said I want the biggest goddamn boat this podunk town has to offer, so I better get the biggest goddamn boat.

He turns his back, still talking, as Jake looks to Danni:

JAKE

Who is that guy?

DERRICK

Derrick? He's the director.

JAKE

So...you, you're an actress?

DANNI

No, not really. I'm a "Wild Wild Girl."

Jake blinks, incredulous. Nearly chokes on his gum.

JAKE

(raspy)

Wow...

DANNI

Well, I "go wild" at 10 AM tomorrow, anyway...

LAURA

What's a Wild Wild Girl, Jake?

But Jake's momentarily forgotten his kid sister exists...

DERRICK

Yes, of course we know boats! Fuck the waiver, you sign the waiver!

(hangs up, turns back)

So Jake, baby. We gonna do this?

JAKE

Do...

DERRICK

The job, the location scout, guide us around! The good spots, the G-spots, I need a local -- I need you. Talking 'bout a "life lesson" here, Jakey.

Danni smiles. Jake opens his mouth, but no words fall out--

6 CONTINUED: (4)

6

DERRICK (cont'd)

Great. Ten tomorrow, don't be late. Oh,
and wear a different T-shirt.

Derrick claps him hard on the shoulder, walks away. Jake and
Laura are left with Danni, who smiles as she follows:

DANNI

So Jake. Guess we'll see you tomorrow?

LAURA

Well actually tomorrow, he's gonna be--

Jake slaps a hand over his kid sister's mouth to shut her up.
And watches the "Wild Wild" bunch walk away...

7 **EXT. SHERIFF FORESTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

7

A modest Craftsman home right on the lakefront, the sheriff's
PATROL CAR in the driveway. Full moon on dark water.

8 **INT. SHERIFF FORESTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

8

The local news plays on the kitchen TV, while Julie the Sheriff
is still in uniform, cooking dinner...

JAKE

Mom, help me out. Where'd you put those
leftover cookies?

JULIE

They're over by the -- wait, are you
kidding? I'm making dinner -- no cookies!
Ten minutes!

She turns her back; Jake nabs the cookies anyway. The phone
rings, distracting her...as Jake exits, passing Laura at the
dinner table. ZANE (8), plays video games on the sofa:

LAURA

...well, when I become a rock star, see if
I let you be one of my groupies.

ZANE

Gimme a break, dude. You play the trombone.

LAURA

That's why I'm gonna do it. Because no
one's done it.

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

JULIE
Excuse me, young lady?

Laura wears an impish smile, but tries an innocent face:

LAURA
Jake made some other plans. Go ask him.

JULIE
(spins down the hall)
JAKE??!!

9 **INT. JAKE'S ROOM - SAME TIME**

9

The WILD WILD GIRLS WEBSITE is on Jake's computer screen: where Derrick's surrounded by topless babes. Jake bobs his head to the site's catchy pop music, entranced--

--just as Julie FAST-KNOCKS and opens the door. Caught, Jake races to speed-click shut the site's SEXY POP-UP WINDOWS.

JAKE
Why do you knock if you're just gonna walk in?

JULIE
Am I disturbing you?

JAKE
I'm studying! Doing research! For school!

JULIE
But you're off for a week.

JAKE
And you should encourage such academic commitment!

He manages to shield the screen with his body, as he gives up on clicking the pop-ups and just STABS his monitor OFF.

JULIE
So Laura's telling me you may have some other plans for tomorrow?

JAKE
Me? No! No way. What's she's talking about? I'm 100% babysitting.

JULIE
You know I don't have a backup.

JAKE

Mom, would I let you down? I know how crazy this week is for you. Don't worry. I'll handle the nitwits.

Arms folded, she's suspicious. But shows some sympathy:

JULIE

Jake. I know all your friends are out there having fun. But this is family. And I've got no one else.

(her look turns stern)

And by authority of the City of Lake Victoria, I do have the power to arrest and imprison you.

JAKE

Mom, I'm not twelve. Playing the Sheriff card doesn't really work anymore.

Julie's look softens. Jake's convincing:

JAKE (cont'd)

I'm telling you. You can count on me.

Reluctantly satisfied, she tousles his hair and stands:

JULIE

I promise, next year, we'll find a better solution.

JAKE

No sweat mom.

JULIE

Dinner's ready, okay? Come on.

She leaves...and Jake looks back to his computer. Unable to resist, he turns his MONITOR back on. Where one last POP-UP WINDOW shows two Wild Wild Girls GYRATING in smiles and bikinis right there on his screen...

JAKE

Life lessons, Jake...life lessons...

A remote and marshy part of the lake, jet-black and ominous.

As a POLICE CAR'S HEADLIGHTS cut through the reeds...

Crunching over overgrown dirt road, patchy with weeds. Rumbling and remote.

The car stops at road's end -- and it's Julie who emerges. Bleary-eyed, just awakened, uniform off-kilter. She rendezvous with reliable DEPUTY FALLON (50) beside his own patrol car:

DEPUTY FALLON

Hope I didn't wake the kids, Jules--

JULIE

It's OK. They sleep through anything.

(beat)

So Maggie last heard from him yesterday?

DEPUTY FALLON

Yeah. Just before noon. Says Ed took his boat out to bring back some bass. So she drove 'round the lake all night looking--

JULIE

Where's the boat?

At water's edge stands DEPUTY GREEN (25) with Ed's wife MAGGIE. Beyond them is a 50-foot-long ROTTED PIER. Falling apart amidst the sinister swamp. Tall weeds protrude everywhere...

...and tangled twenty feet off pier's end is ED'S FISHING BOAT. No sign of any life inside. The duo keep their voices low:

FALLON

Feelin' like a skinny dip, Jules?

JULIE

You figure we can make it to the end of that pier?

FALLON

Meaning what? I'm "too old" or I'm "too heavy?"

JULIE

Too chickenshit, whaddya think.

(calls to Maggie)

We're gonna go get his boat, Maggie! Don't you worry, Ed just probably had to ditch it!

MAGGIE

But he hasn't spent a night away from home in thirty years! And he has a bad heart, Doc Endicott told him!

Deputy Green keeps the worried woman at bay...

As Julie and Fallon warily step onto the pier's rotten planks. Their FLASHLIGHT BEAMS dance in the gloom... CREEEEEEAK... the sodden boards MOAN with rot... each step is precarious...

The light beams illuminately briefly the mucky water beneath the boards. And some mysterious DARTING SHADOWS...

FALLON

Jules, you hear something down there?

JULIE

Just the lake, Ray.

FROM UNDERWATER: beyond a TANGLE OF REEDS in the moonlight, Julie and Fallon's DARK SILHOUETTES dance and sway...

Near the pier's end, Fallon reaches it first. One last plank to a busted railing. But as he leans weight on it, there's a SNAP!

FALLON

That didn't sound good.

He shifts his weight back, as Julie moves closer to him -- and RRIIPPP! The boards mid-pier GIVE WAY, and Julie PLUMMETS IN!

She fully submerges, vanishing into the murk!

FALLON (cont'd)

Julie?! JULIE!!!

A moment's tense silence...

...and then an ERUPTION OF WATER as Julie SPRINGS UP just behind him in the f.g. at pier's end. Wet, surly, spitting mud:

JULIE

Okay, THAT was disgusting!

Waist deep in muck, Julie edges forward, spreading the high weeds with her arms. It's still tense. She's easy prey...

...but she wades and reaches the empty boat. Inside, the dead bass is still hooked on Ed's fishing line. Julie finds a coil of rope, TOSSES it to Fallon on pier's end:

JULIE (cont'd)

Take the line and pull it to shore. How long you think the thing was drifting?

Fallon starts reeling in the fishing boat, leaving Julie now alone in the middle of the swamp...

She looks around, searching for a clue, anything that could help to find Ed. Her eyes finally stop on something. A few feet away-

Three GNARLED, DISCOLORED TWIGS stick out of the water- one of them with a GLINT OF METAL reflecting the moonlight!!

Julie edges closer, getting a sinking feeling...as she wipes the mud from the metal...to reveal it's a WEDDING RING. Those things aren't twigs at all...

JULIE (cont'd)

Ray, I need you to have Carter move Maggie Boyd outta here...

FALLON

Whaddya see, Jules--

JULIE

Now, do it now, Ray -- shit!

She jumps a little, swatting the water at her legs. On guard:

FALLON

What?!

JULIE

A fish or something -- nicked me--

--as KRAAAAK! The end of the PIER gives way! Fallon SLIDES down the planks, SPLASHES into the water--

--as his FLASHLIGHT submerges and lights up some gray striped FISH, just as Julie sees a BASS poke its head from the water, nibbling a bit of flesh from the white bones!

FALLON

Ah, shit -- just a bunch of bass--

But Julie's still startled, and she takes a step back -- atop the body's foot like a lever--

--causing ED'S HALF-FLESH-STRIPPED SKELETON to POP UPWARD straight out of the swamp, its momentum carrying it forward--

--to COLLIDE with Julie as it falls atop her, bits of flesh and viscera hanging off bone LIKE IT'S BEEN DIPPED IN ACID! Tiny crabs and insects crawling out of mouth and eye sockets!

Julie YELLS in fright. Fallon CRIES OUT too. And poor Maggie the widow now sees -- and SCREAMS. And SCREAMS.

Julie FLAILS to get out from under the corpse, splashing and scrambling to escape the muck and get back to shore, joining Fallon mid-swamp as they scramble back onto land--

--where Julie and Fallon stare back at the horrid floating body, amidst the detritus of the boat and destroyed pier...

FALLON (cont'd)

You all right?

10 CONTINUED: (4)

10

They catch their breath to the din of Maggie's screams...

JULIE
I've been better.

11 **EXT./INT. POLICE STATION - NEXT MORNING**

11

Julie's patrol car parks behind the police station which has been built on the waterfront. She's on the phone as she exits, all cleaned up from the night before:

JULIE
...look, his boat was fine and those were not propeller wounds. There's no way it was a boating accident. Tell him I want toxicity tests, like for acid or something, some flesh-eating thing. Yeah, well, tough shit if you're having breakfast, my day started with a biohazard bath--

The tiny station is PACKED WITH PEOPLE as Julie makes her way inside. Among them is the town neurotic.

TOWN NEUROTIC
Sheriff Forester. Those b-b-boys came by last night and do you know what they d-d-did? They exposed their g-g-genitals.

JULIE
Did you get a look at their faces?

TOWN NEUROTIC
No. But I can ID the rest!

Others in the office can't help themselves from laughing.

JULIE
Look, people, if any of you are here to report public drunkenness or nudity, we're not taking those complaints today...

Half the room groans and turns to leave.

JULIE (cont'd)
... And that includes anybody peeing on your house or property.

Most of the other half groans and follows. Her secretary, AMY, hands Julie some phone messages.

AMY
You've got twenty calls already and Mr. Gordon's waiting in your office.
(MORE)

11 CONTINUED:

11

AMY (cont'd)
 (scrunches up nose)
 What's that smell?

JULIE
 Chemical scrub, you should try it.

12 **INT. JULIE'S WORK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

12

MR. GORDON (45), the dam's annoyingly humorless chief engineer regards the lake, as Julie enters, leaving Amy behind--

JULIE
 What can I do you for, Mr. Gordon?

MR. GORDON
 Julie, I think we may have a situation.
 We've detected a water level drop at the
 dam. 4.2 inches in the last twelve hours.

Julie grabs a radio, waterproof jacket and sheriff's hat--

JULIE
 Can't you just slow your output flow and
 let the lake fill up again?

MR. GORDON
 Apparently the anomaly began right after
 yesterday's quake.

Julie now stops. That part is serious.

JULIE
 Tell me the dam's still structurally sound--

MR. GORDON
 Yes, yes, there's no breach, that was
 checked right away. The water loss has
 apparently been elsewhere--

JULIE
 What's that mean? Where does water "go?"

MR. GORDON
 Simple physics, Sheriff. Water goes down.
 USGS recorded heavy seismic shifting
 directly beneath the lake's south end--

A YOUNG DEPUTY pokes his head in her office--

DEPUTY GREEN
 Rocky's Joint is selling liquor already.

JULIE
 I told him not before noon, didn't I?

12 CONTINUED:

12

DEPUTY GREEN

You sure did...

MR. GORDON

We need to have a site survey done. I've requested a team of seismologist divers--

JULIE

Uh-huh. Okay...

13

EXT. POLICE DOCKS - CONTINUOUS

13

With her gear, Julie heads out a back exit. Gordon follows--

MR. GORDON

--and I told 'em you would escort them out.

Almost to her patrol boat, Julie stops in her tracks.

JULIE

Mr. Gordon, as you know, our quiet little town of twenty-five hundred has just been invaded by twenty thousand kids, who -- for the next ten days -- have just one thing in mind: drink themselves into oblivion and screw anything that's not nailed down. Which makes me kinda sorta busy at the moment.

MR. GORDON

Those twenty thousand kids, Julie, are the ones who provide jobs for this fine town. They only come here because of the lake. And I am telling you it's losing water.

JULIE

What time do the divers get here?

MR. GORDON

They'll be here by noon.

JULIE

I can only spare two hours. They'd better be on time.

She hops onto her boat. Fallon's on board, waiting. They depart the dock as a SECOND BOAT brings back to the station some drunken kids wearing life-vests and handcuffs.

FALLON

Welcome to Spring Break, Lake Victoria.

JULIE

Thanks for reminding me.

FALLON

Of what?

JULIE

To call in sick this year.

(checks her watch)

Ed's body must be just getting to Huntsville. What would you say to the idea of closing the lake until we get the autopsy report?

FALLON

I'd say it'll take days to get something conclusive. And that's two-thirds of the town's annual income you'd be putting on the line. Last I checked, Julie, sheriffs get elected...

Off Julie's conflicted look...

14 **EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - DAY**

14

Underwater- We move slowly from the depth to the surface where the feet of a kid sitting on the wood deck flutter in the water...

It's Zane, fishing... His white skin seems to glow.

Outside- A worm hangs in the air when it's suddenly pierced by a sharp hook-

Zane prepares his fishing rod. Laura and Jake stand behind him:

JAKE

It's one day, OK? One day only. But we've gotta keep our stories straight.

LAURA

We're not lying to Mom.

ZANE

Yeah, we're not lying to Mom.

JAKE

And I'm not asking you to "lie" to Mom. I'm asking you to say what you always say. "What happened at school today?" "Nothing, Mom." "What'd you play with your friends today?" "Nothing, Mom." "What'd you do while Jake was babysitting--?"

He motions to Zane and Laura, a prompt to say "Nothing"--

LAURA

"Babysitting? What babysitting? Jake went out to see naked girls."

JAKE

Laura! OK, what do you say I give you guys the babysitting money to take care of your selves. Just for the afternoon. Twenty bucks -- pretty sweet, huh?

ZANE

Don't you get paid forty a day to look after both of us?

JAKE

Listen, every year it's the same thing. I'm stuck here with you and miss all the spring break fun--

LAURA

You mean the spring break boobies.

(then)

What about Kelly?

JAKE

Kelly? We're just friends. I don't like Kelly. Who says I like Kelly?

Zane and Laura trade a look. Yeah, right.

JAKE (cont'd)

Okay, lemme teach you two something here. You're gonna be too young to understand this. But there are some girls in the world... that you wait for. If you ask 'em out in high school, you date for a month, then you break up, it's ruined, and you're never friends again. So what you do is: you let her do that with a bunch of other guys. And then who's left standing, huh? You.

LAURA

Stupidest thing I ever heard. Sixty bucks and you've got a deal.

JAKE

Sixty? But I get paid forty!

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

LAURA

Twenty dollar deception surcharge. Better make up your mind. It's almost ten o'clock -- don't you have somewhere to be?

Jake sighs, finds his wallet. Pretty much empties it...

JAKE

Don't pick up the phone, don't answer the door. And do not leave the house. I am counting on you.

15 **EXT. LAKESIDE ROAD - DAY**

15

A retro "Welcome to Lake Victoria" billboard...as a CONVERTIBLE speeds past, racing a beat-up MOTORCYCLE. Sexy, smoking-hot COLLEGE GIRLS scream as they hang out of the car.

The BIKER recklessly lifts the shield of his helmet to wink at the cheering girls. He's a little too old for spring break, but his spirit is just right. This is **SAM** (early 40s).

A LARGE TRUCK follows the motorcycle and the girls. A magnet on the side reads, "UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY"

16 **INT. U.S.G.S. TRUCK - DAY**

16

Team leader **NOVAK** (mid 30s) is at the wheel. A friendly charmer of a man's man: scruffy facial hair and trucker's cap on backwards. Next to him, a cowboy-hatted tomboy, **PAULA** (32):

NOVAK

If he hits the wheelie, it's over. I'm taking his sloppy seconds, thirds and fourths.

PAULA

Thirty-five going on eighteen. Are you guys ever going to grow up?

NOVAK

No wheelie Sam... Don't do it. Don't...

But too late--

17 **EXT. LAKESIDE ROAD - DAY**

17

ONE OF THE GIRLS IN THE CONVERTIBLE FLASHES HER TITS AND--

Sam pulls back on the handlebars and--HITS THE WHEELIE. The girls go nuts.

17 CONTINUED:

17

Sam drives in front of the convertible, coming down from his wheelie. A crude bumper sticker is seen--

CLOSE ON: The bumper sticker reads, "DIVERS ALWAYS GO DOWN."

18 **INT. U.S.G.S. TRUCK - DAY**

18

Novak smiles as Sam finishes his wheelie and then speeds up, disappearing in the distance...

NOVAK

We're diving on Lake Victoria during spring break! Who the hell wants to grow up?!

PAULA

I'm so screwed. You guys are all gonna want to stay the whole weekend.

19 **EXT. LAKE VICTORIA - MAIN PIER - DAY**

19

Seen from above in slow motion, a hot, big-breasted chick jumps on a trampoline. With every jump, she gets closer to camera.

Loud music pulsates from dozens of boats anchored in and around the main pier. Party-goers drink, dance and scream.

The entire marina has been turned into A GIANT OPEN AIR DANCE FLOOR, packed with tanned young flesh. The docks are bustling with activity as people prepare for a day on the lake. The boats range from little dingies to two-engine racing boats.

Amidst it all, Deputy Fallon works to keep some semblance of order. Accosting a FAT FRAT who tossed trash in the lake:

FALLON

That's the town rules, kid. You toss a piece of trash in our lake, you gotta jump in and pick ten pieces up.

The fat kid protests, but the partiers around him shout "Go! Go! Go! Go!" until his BUDDIES toss him in. The kid surfaces with HANDFULS of plastic bags and beer cans. Everybody CHEERS.

FURTHER DOWN THE DOCKS: the U.S.G.S. truck has parked. Novak and Paula unload dive tanks and hardware. Sam joins them, carrying RED POM-POMS, waving to the convertible girls:

SAM

After the dive, our presence is requested at "Kokomo" by the Arizona State Cheerleading team.

NOVAK

Those were cheerleaders?

SAM

I know -- the best. Girls who've been trained to make you happy.

JULIE (O.S.)

So. You must be the divers.

They turn to see Julie has arrived, in her sheriff's gear. All business. Sam and Paula straighten up...

JULIE (cont'd)

I'm Sheriff Forester. Bob Gordon wanted me to take you out to the site.

NOVAK

Good to meet you. Love the welcoming committee in this town. My name's Novak, this is Paula, that's Sam.

JULIE

(re: Sam's red pom-poms)
And I'll assume that's technical equipment?

NOVAK

Hey Sheriff. Don't ask, don't tell.

Novak grins. Julie doesn't. Novak turns to his TOPOGRAPH MAP:

NOVAK (cont'd)

According to the epicenter coordinates, we need to get to...here.

JULIE

Okay...that's about thirty minutes to the south. I'm ready when you are...

Novak takes in her officious attitude. It's lost on Sam...

SAM

Hey, you guys sure you're gonna need me? I might have to explore some other seismic faults today...

(out loud to passing girls)
SCUBA DIVING, LADIES?

Julie's unamused. Novak shrugs an apology, taps his head:

NOVAK

Nitrogen imbalance. It happens.

20

EXT. MAIN PIER - ELSEWHERE - SAME TIME

20

Deputy Fallon and Green walk by...not seeing Jake crouched behind a pick-up truck on his idling SCOOTER. Keeps face shielded until they're past. Then parks and enters the crowd...

...walking down the dock, looking for the "Wild Wild" bunch. We hear snippets of the semi-drunk boat captains as he passes:

BOAT CAPTAIN #1

...now the same rules apply to the water as on the road. No drinking and driving. And no show-boating...

BOAT CAPTAIN #2

Lake Victoria is forty-five miles long, and ranges in width from one mile to three. So you can get lost. Don't.

Jake's hurrying, noting a clock over a LAKE MAP reads: "10:15".

JAKE

Oh no...please still be here...please...

JUST THEN, he hears HOWLING in the water. Jake runs to the edge of the dock to get a better look--

AS SCENE SHIFTS TO SLO-MO for Jake's POV: of Danni on a central party boat, amidst many more. Her bikini would make a Brazilian girl blush. The ultimate spring break internet fantasy.

AGGRO PARTY-GOER

Yeah baby!!! Take it off!!! I love you!
I'll marry you! I'll do anything!

Derrick and Andrew film the fun with their HD camera when Danni's even wilder, and clearly trashier, friend Crystal joins in and french kisses her. The crowd CHEERS!

GEEKY PARTY-GOER

OMYGOD! I can't believe my parents are paying for this!

The whole crowd starts CHANTING--

CROWD

MOTORBOAT! MOTORBOAT! MOTORBOAT!

Crystal smiles and obliges. She presses her face into Danni's impressive cleavage and blows air, her head shaking rapid-fire. The crowd erupts at her performance of "the motorboat."

JAKE
 (sotto, in awe)
 This is the best day in the history of the world...

KELLY (O.S.)
 Um, Jake?! Jake!!

Jake turns to see Kelly, in shorts and a tank top. Surprised, his first instinct is to smile. His second is to casually cup both hands over his shorts.

JAKE
 Kelly...

KELLY
 Who exactly are you babysitting here?

JAKE
 Well -- actually, see -- it's funny--

KELLY
 (teases lightly)
 Or maybe you just didn't want to hang out with me.

JAKE
 No way, hey, c'mon--

Distracted by CHEERING GUYS, she now sees Danni & Crystal...

KELLY
 Wow. Look at those idiots...

JAKE
 Yeah it's... huh.... terrible.

Camera in hand, Derrick spots Jake and STORMS toward him:

DERRICK
 Hey Sand Rat! Where the hell have you been? We got the girls lubed up and ready to roll! I'm docking your paycheck, c'mon, kid, let's go!
 (now sees Kelly)
 --or OK then -- whoa. Now I know what you've been scouting for the last fifteen minutes.

JAKE
 Kelly, I'll catch you later -- since you have to go--

DERRICK
Hello there "Kelly." I'm Derrick Jones.

KELLY
(to Jake)
You know this guy?

DERRICK
Know me? Jake is my boy. He's the man
with the plan, the insight, the knowledge--

KELLY
I'm not buying it, we're in math class
together.
(suspicions growing)
And those girls are with you?

DERRICK
Hell yeah. Why -- you into girls?

She's confused, equal parts disgust and jealousy. Eyes on Jake:

JAKE
I'm just showing them around. All the cool
spots--

DERRICK
The job's called location scout. You
should come with us, we're making movie
history today--

JAKE
Oh no, she's already got plans--

DERRICK
(eyes on Kelly)
You like champagne?

KELLY
(eyes on Jake)
I love champagne.

JAKE
Hang on -- wait a minute--

KELLY
And I'd love to take a ride on your boat.
Thanks, Derrick.
(nods to Jake)
After all, someone's gotta keep an eye on
"the man with the plan" here...

She flashes a smile and sashays off. Jake's deflated, sotto:

JAKE

Why... why today...

Jake starts to hurry after her, but Derrick holds him back--

DERRICK

Excellent catch, Jake. Dynamite find. You scout like a damn professional!

Just then Matt and his cronies arrive on scene, drunk. They've spotted Derrick from the crowd near the boat:

MATT

Whoa -- Derrick! You're Derrick Jones! I buy all your videos, man -- YOU ROCK!

DERRICK

Yeah, thanks. Bring me girls.

MATT'S PAL BRETT

Yo, yo -- are you taking resumes, man?!

About to board the "Water Bug", Jake now catches up with Kelly:

JAKE

(low, concerned)

Kelly, you know who Derrick is? If he invites you to party with him, it's only to get you in front of his camera--

KELLY

Oh come on, no one can force me to do anything I don't want to. Right? Besides, you'll be there to protect me...

She's helped aboard by Danni & Crystal, tossing a teasing look back at Jake. Matt and pals now see Kelly on board...

MATT'S PAL BRETT

Yo, Matt -- dude, that's Kelly...

MATT

(incredulous at his bad luck)

Baby! How did you--?! I mean -- hey, what happened to hanging with us?

Kelly just ignores, greeted by Danni & Crystal:

CRYSTAL

Hi there! Welcome aboard!

DANNI

Is that your boyfriend or something?

KELLY

Nah, he's just a guy from school. The kind who says he has backstage passes when he really never did.

MATT

KELLY!! Let us come, we'll be cool!

DERRICK

Sorry guys, it's called Wild Wild Girls, not Drunk Drunk Meatheads.

He orders Andrew to cast off ropes; the gangplank's raised...

MATT'S PAL BRETT

What the fuck! Is that Jake Forester?!

DERRICK

(a farewell to the crowd)

Now don't forget everybody! We're off to shoot some wild-core blow-your-mind footage with these Wild Wild goddesses here! But we'll see YOU again out at Copper Canyon -- four o'clock. For the Lake Victoria Wet T-Shirt Wild-strava-ganza!

The crowd CHEERS. Derrick motions to Andrew. He BLASTS some music as he STARTS the engine. And the Water Bug heads out...

Derrick pumps his arms to the music, then heads after the girls. Jake basks in the energy of the moment, seeing Matt & Brett furious, seeing the crowd waving them off...but it's a brief moment of vindication...

...because he turns back toward the bow, where he sees Derrick saunter up to Danni, Crystal and Kelly...and slip an arm around Kelly's waist. His "dream day" is turning into a nightmare...

21 **EXT. ZANE'S HOUSE - DAY**

21

A JET SKI blasts past -- Whoo-hoo! In its wake, we reveal Zane slowly push an aluminum canoe off their dock! He carries a backpack, pole and tackle and Mr. Goodman's BAG OF WORMS.

LAURA

Zane! We have to talk about this! We told Jake we'd stay at the house!

ZANE

I told him I'd fish. But I can't if there aren't any. Lake's too busy. C'mon, Sand Island's really close.

21 CONTINUED:

21

Laura sighs. Finally gets in and grumbles:

LAURA

I should've brought my trombone.

ZANE

No way. Be a girl and just sunbathe or something.

As they push off, Laura leans back at the bow and trails both hands in the water, wiggling her fingers...

FROM UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE: Laura's fingers are seen. The small, vulnerable boat is the only thing on the vast surface.

22 **EXT. LAKE/INT. SHERIFF'S PATROL BOAT - DAY**

22

Elsewhere, A POLICE BOAT ZOOMS across the water at a speedy clip of 20 knots. It carries Julie, Novak, Sam and Paula...

Julie's at the helm. Sam and Paula PREP GEAR at the stern, while Novak enters, intrigued by the Sheriff...

NOVAK

You don't see many women working law enforcement, out here in cowboy country.

JULIE

We see a lot of cowboys, though.

Novak grins. Watches her steely eyes survey the lake...

NOVAK

I heard when they first built the dam, this place was a real pristine paradise. Stocked with fifty different species of fish. Must be hard to watch -- year after year -- when yahoos take it over this way.

JULIE

We're down to seven.

NOVAK

What?

JULIE

Species of fish.

Novak nods. Glances to the water, with a troubled frown:

NOVAK

You know the strange thing about that? I haven't seen a fish yet this whole trip.

EXT. THE WATER BUG - LAKE- DAY

Upbeat MUSIC is PUMPING as The Wild Wild Girls boat cruises. Jake's with Andrew, with a LAKE MAP spread out at the helm:

ANDREW

It's our first year shooting Lake Victoria. Usually we're at Panama Beach or South Padre. But those girls are so quick to take it off -- there's no more surprises, you know what I mean? Derrick wants to capture innocence. He says it's all about innocence.

Jake listens, distracted, watching Kelly off with Derrick and Crystal. Drinking glasses of CHAMPAGNE. Derrick keeps trying to pull her closer. Kelly repeatedly wriggles free. She tries to laugh and smile, but she's getting a touch uncomfortable...

She turns to see Jake looking at her and both of them pretend to look somewhere else...as Danni sidles up to the helm area:

ANDREW (cont'd)

So how come everyone calls you local kids "Sand Rats"?

JAKE

It's what they called the workers who built Parker Dam -- in the 30's. Without them, there'd be no lake, no town. Before the dam, this whole thing was desert.

Danni sees Jake's attention is locked on Kelly...

DANNI

Y'know, I wish guys would stare at me like you've been staring at her for the last thirty minutes...

JAKE

Who, me? No way. I wasn't staring at her.

DANNI

Don't worry, Derrick's just making his play. Might as well ask him not to breathe.

ANDREW

Show a girl a camera and she'll want to perform. It's a law of physics. She's no different.

DANNI

Nah, not this one. I'm telling you.

ANDREW

I don't know. I've seen him charm the pants off a lot of women...

DANNI

(to Jake)

She's not messing up your party, is she?

JAKE

(arms folded, face tight)

Like I care. She's not my girlfriend. This is great. We're having fun. We're going wild. I'm going wild.

DERRICK

HEY JAKE! How far is this place?

JAKE

We're almost there!

Derrick turns back to Kelly. Says something that makes her laugh. Danni leans into Jake, with a whisper:

DANNI

So speaking of "wild"...you haven't seen anything yet.

24 **EXT. THE WATER BUG - LAKE - LATER**

24

The Wild Wild Girls boat has anchored in a beautiful cove. Suddenly two SPLASHES ERUPT in the f.g. -- as Danni and Crystal surface for breaths like glistening sea nymphs--

DERRICK (O.S.)

OK, action, action, here we go! Let's get you girls into character!

They swim to the boat ladder, where Jake is standing...as they reach up to hand him their BIKINI TOPS and BOTTOMS. The water refracts their naked figures beneath...

DANNI

Here you go, Jake. Why don't you put it somewhere.

CRYSTAL

Yeah. Put it anywhere you want.

She and Crystal swim off, laughing and splashing...as we now reveal Kelly sunbathing on an INNER TUBE nearby. She watches Jake, eyes narrowed, holding the dripping bikinis...

JAKE

Um, see, it's -- part of the job -- I have to -- get busy with -- be right back--

--as he darts down into the cabin, the Wild Girls call to Kelly:

CRYSTAL

Hey Kelly, cutie! Wanna join us?!

KELLY

Why, whatcha guys doing down there?

CRYSTAL

Come see for yourself!

DANNI

Crystal, leave her alone, she's not even legal--

KELLY

Oh, OK, do your thing! Not for me!

Seen from the depths of the lake, Kelly's white skin glows in the sunlight making her seem vulnerable...

The main cabin of the WWG boat is GLASS-BOTTOMED. Derrick and Andrew both aim HD cameras toward the glass--

--as Crystal and Danni cross in the f.g., like mermaids underwater, tangled and frolicking...and fully naked.

IN THE CABIN: Jake tries to peer over Derrick and Andrew's camerawork for a view, his eyes popping wide:

JAKE

Oh my God...oh my God...

As his CELL PHONE RINGS. He checks the readout: "SHERIFF." Oh no! He turns away from the naked girls, turns back, turns away--

JAKE (cont'd)

Shit, not now, shit, shit!

(answers)

Hi Mom, how's it going, nothing's happening here...

INTERCUT EXT. LAKE/INT. SHERIFF'S BOAT - SAME

Julie's boat has reached its destination. Novak, Sam and Paula change into WET SUITS in b.g. Julie's on her cell:

JULIE

Well, then why aren't you answering the home phone? I've been trying to reach you. Where are the kids?

JAKE

Sorry. We've been outside. I can go out and get them if you want--

JULIE

No, that's all right. What is that music?

Under the water, Danni and Crystal wrap naked bodies together...

JAKE

Oh my God!

JULIE

What? What's wrong?

JAKE

Nothing, the kids just -- pitched a tent. In the backyard. It's just great to see the two of them -- playing together--

DERRICK (O.S.)

Look at these goddess bitches. Oh shit, this is hot. Now that's what it's all about, yeah? Beer, sun, beer...and naked honeys making out underwater--

JULIE

Jake? Is someone there with you?

Jake scampers up to the deck to get away from Derrick's noise--

JAKE

No, no, that was kids out on the lake. It's crazy around here, you know how it is--

--and on deck, he peers over the edge, both port and starboard, hoping for another glimpse of Danni and Crystal--

JULIE

I know. Jake, listen to me... I don't want Zane or Laura near the lake today.

JAKE

OK, Mom. We'll stay inside, we'll catch
some TV -- whatever's on--

--and as he catches the briefest glimpse of naked Danni and
Crystal swimming back under the boat, hand-in-hand--

--he looks to Kelly's inner tube...and sees it floating EMPTY.
A half-empty champagne glass rests there upon it. Jake now
looks troubled... where is she?

JULIE

OK, thanks honey. Gotta go. I owe you for
this one. I'll try to be home early.

Seeing the Divers ready, she hangs up. So does Jake.

He's still staring at the empty inner tube.

JAKE

Kelly?! Hey! KELLY, WHERE ARE YOU?!

Silence on the water.

JAKE (cont'd)

KELLY?!!

A shift in the waves causes Kelly's champagne glass to tip over.
Falls. Sinks. Worried, Jake jumps into action. He pulls off
his shirt and DIVES into the water--

--SWIMMING FAST for the inner tube, where he searches all
around, diving to scan underwater, seeing nothing below. He
surfaces again, gasps for air, crying out--

JAKE (cont'd)

KELLY?! KELLY? YOU GUYS, HELP?!

KELLY (O.S.)

Help with what?

Looking back to the boat, he sees Kelly standing at the ladder,
where Danni and Crystal are climbing out. Kelly hands them
towels as they wrap themselves up.

KELLY (cont'd)

Whatcha doing all the way out there, Jake?
You just missed the rest of the show.

Kelly gives him a smirk, and walks away. Jake just floats at
the inner tube. Outsmarted again.

27 **EXT. WATER BUG - MOMENTS LATER**

27

Jake climbs back on board, wet and sour, as Derrick accosts him:

DERRICK

Hey Jake, my man. Can't thank you enough for the fresh teen meat. This Kelly's gonna make an Internet star. You just gotta help me get her...comfortable...

JAKE

Y'know, I really don't think she's Wild Wild material. I heard she's got a million scars. And she kisses like a first grader--

DERRICK

Watch and learn, kid. Watch and learn. The hooks are in. The girl is mine.

28 **INT. SAND ISLAND - DAY**

28

CAMERA PANS over the beautiful but tiny Sand Island...to find Laura and Zane. Zane has his fishing gear, but no fish. There's staring at a docking post...with nothing there.

LAURA

Wow. Good work. Way to tie off the canoe.

ZANE

I must have gotten my knots mixed up.

LAURA

So you catch zero fish and you lose our only boat. This day is just full of accomplishments.

ZANE

Jake is gonna kill us.

LAURA

Mom's gonna kill Jake.

ZANE

So it's a good news/bad news thing.

LAURA

Somebody'll see us. Somebody will stop...

Zane surveys the island while Laura removes her flip-flop and steps into the water, looking over the lake for any boats. Further away, unnoticed, A HUGE SHADOW moves underneath the water, changing shape rapidly: A SCHOOL OF FISH...

Underwater- we can see Laura's feet walking between the rocks when- The little girl steps on A BROKEN BEER BOTTLE-

LAURA (cont'd)

Ouch!

She sees A TINY PIECE OF GLASS lodged in her foot. Painfully, she removes it revealing A SMALL CUT that starts bleeding-

A few drops of blood hit the surface of the lake-

IN THE WATER, THE MOVING SHADOW ACCELERATES TOWARDS THE BLOOD. IT IS ALMOST AT THE LITTLE GIRL'S FEET WHEN-

ZANE (O.S.)

LAURA?! COME CHECK THIS OUT!

Laura steps back on shore-

On the other side of the small island, Zane has just found someone's camp site: a tent and BBQ are unattended.

ZANE (cont'd)

Hello, is anyone here?

Zane peeks into the tent, as Laura joins him.

ZANE (cont'd)

Campers. They must've just left.

LAURA

Without their gear? They even left their shoes.

ZANE

Maybe they went for a swim.

LAURA

But they couldn't have gotten over here without a boat, right?

Zane sees nothing but rocks protruding all around the island. Very distant, SOMETHING BRIGHT ORANGE shimmers in the water.

LAURA (cont'd)

What is it?

ZANE

I dunno. But it's upside-down.

Two hundred yards from the island, an overturned kayak is drifting away. The camera dives beneath the surface, revealing-

TWO HORRID HUMAN SKELETONS STILL SITTING IN THE INVERTED BOAT!!

DISSOLVE TO:

29 INT. SHERIFF'S PATROL BOAT - DAY

29

A DIGITAL IMAGE of the lake bottom on a radar screen. A large BLACK ANOMALY is right in the middle of it.

PAULA

There's your drop in water level, Sheriff.
You got yourself a brand-new fissure
cracked open right at the epicenter.

The back of the boat now looks more like a NASA command center than an old police patrol craft.

JULIE

Whoa, look at the size of that. What is
it, a cavern system?

NOVAK

Looks to me like a subterranean lake.
Probably bigger than the one above. That
gap there opened up a connecting passage.

JULIE

Wait -- a lake under the lake?

NOVAK

Sorry, Sheriff. Still your jurisdiction.
Part of an old volcanic ridge -- they're
all over the area.

PAULA

That's the beauty of it -- we're gonna be
the first ones to ever explore it!

SAM

I don't get why you're always so excited.
All we ever see is rocks and sand...

PAULA

We're popping its cherry, Sammy.

SAM

Oh. Shit. When you put it like that.

30 UNDERWATER - MOMENTS LATER

30

Seen from deep underneath Fallon's boat, the divers enter the
water simultaneously.

31 **EXT. PATROL BOAT - SAME TIME**

31

Novak remains up top to monitor and guide the operation...

JULIE

You should probably warn 'em, it's not very pretty down there. Tourists treat this lake like a garbage can.

NOVAK

(on the radio, to test)

How you guys doin'? Sheriff says it's a regular treasure trove down there. I got dibs on fake gold jewelry and any back issues of Playboy.

PAULA (O.S.)

I got dibs on home appliances.

SAM (O.S.)

I got dibs on missing college girls.

NOVAK

Last year we dove the sewers of New Orleans. Trust me. Can't be any worse.

32 **UNDERWATER**

32

With Sam in the lead, the two divers descend towards the fault, releasing streams of bubbles back to the surface.

PAULA

We're getting closer to the fault. Water is clear... Almost full visibility.

Within minutes, they stop at the edge of the geological tear—their small human bodies reveal the sheer size of the opening and the scale of the damage done by the quake—

The fault line extends like an open wound along the surface.

PAULA (cont'd)

Oh my God... this is the longest one I've ever seen...

SAM

Can you keep your mind on the task at hand?

PAULA

Wow, Sam. Aren't you deep.

SAM

There you go again.

He picks up from the garbage-strewn ground a Campbell's can...

SAM (cont'd)

Hey. Chicken soup for the soul.

PAULA

*It's at least two hundred feet, Novak.
We're switching on lights and going in...*

After a last equipment check, they slowly enter the dark crevasse. The two divers disappear deep into the lake floor.

The crevasse seems endless- the walls which extend deeper and deeper narrow progressively towards the bottom- the divers look around in amazement.

SAM

Descending fissure. Novak do you copy?

NOVAK (O.S.)

Ye....retty ...good....

PAULA

*You should see this... It's unbelievable...
The sedimentary lines are so clearly
defined.*

Finally the crack has become too narrow for them to pass, but an opening remains large enough for one diver to go deeper-

SAM

Looks like single file time. I'll go first.

PAULA

*No, I should do the prelim scout. Your fat
ass will get stuck.*

SAM

*Baby, I'm like an eel. An electric eel. I
get into such tight spaces, it's shocking.*

PAULA

*I can't believe you've ever had a date in
your life.*

34 SURFACE - SHERIFF'S BOAT

34

Novak and Julie follow the divers' movements. Into radio:

JULIE

Looks like they've reached the bottom.

NOVAK

No -- see? That's their depth, they're still... Hmm. They're splitting up. Hey, I'm losing you guys... Everything OK?

But now there's nothing but radio STATIC.

35 INSIDE THE CRACK

35

Attached to a nylon safety reel, Sam descends slowly into the hole: barely large enough to hold both him and his equipment.

With his tanks sliding and banging against the rocky, razor sharp walls, Sam must use his hands to propel himself...

SAM

Hey, Paula? This increase in pressure reminds me...did I ever tell you about my first blowjob?

From the other side, Paula watches the thin safety rope unwind:

PAULA

Heard the story before. And it's much too short.

Suddenly, the safety line JERKS TO A STOP.

PAULA (cont'd)

Sam? Sam?

Silence.

PAULA (cont'd)

Sam?!

SAM (V.O.)

(from radio)

Yeeeeees?

Relieved, Paula curses. Over the radio, Sam is heard laughing.

Back in the hole, Sam continues moving. Up ahead just a few feet is an ominous black hole. It's the end of the tunnel.

SAM (cont'd)

End of the tunnel's right -- Whoa! I'm hitting a serious drop in temperature! It's at least thirty degrees colder.

PAULA

You're probably at the mouth of the underwater lake. Do you have any visual?

He gets to the edge: it's an amazing sight. A cave so big that even his flashlight is too weak to make out the other end.

It's pitch black on all sides as he swims through the opening:

SAM

Jesus. This thing seems endless.

Some huge stalagmites are coming out of the ground in the dark.

Looking closer there's something strange about them like if they were slowly waving. Sam removes a portable sonar. He scans inside the cave and gets a reading of 250 ft ...

He moves the laser around when-

SOMETHING SWIMS BEHIND HIM!

He turns quickly around, pointing the flashlight towards the cave wall- JUST A LONG SEAWEED PASSING WITH THE CURRENT.

He looks more closely and recognizes-

THOUSANDS OF FISH EGGS CLINGING TO THE KELP AND THE ROCKS.

Sam turns back to the moving stalagmites and realizes-

THEY ARE MADE UP OF THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF FISH EGGS ATTACHED TO THE LENGTH OF SOME TALL SEAWEED.

SAM (cont'd)

Holy shit! It's like fish eggs, everywhere.

Swimming backwards his fins accidentally nudge the egg formations SENDING A BUNCH OF THEM FLOATING AWAY IN THE WATER-

ONE OF THE EGGS COMES SO CLOSE TO THE CAMERA THAT WE CAN SEE INSIDE -

A CREEPY FISH EMBRYO MOVING IN ITS SAC! REVEALING PIERCING RED EYES AND SHARP TEETH.

Sam approaches the rocky wall of the cave to touch the eggs when-

A BLURRY SHAPE COMES FROM NOWHERE ATTACKING HIS HAND!

SAM (cont'd)

FUCK!!

Sam pulls back! What was that?! Looking back down, he realizes he's been severely bitten by whatever it was.

PAULA (O.S.)

*Sam, what are you seeing down there?
C'mon, Sam, stop messing around!*

Blood streams from his hand in a steady flow...

SAM

Something bit me!

PAULA (O.S.)

*Oh yeah, I thought you always liked that
kind of stuff.*

(silence, now worries)

Sam? You hearing me? Sam?!

Worried, Sam looks around in the darkness, but his flashlight simply fades into emptiness. Needing a stronger source, he lights an UNDERWATER FLARE, whose blue electric light REVEALS--

--A CAVERN WALL of STARING PIRANHAS!!

WITH BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO SEE THEIR TEETH, THEY HAVE ALREADY
ATTACKED!! SAM SCREAMS BLOODY MURDER!!!

PAULA (O.S.) (cont'd)

SAM??!!

At the same moment, Paula appears at the end of the tunnel—Her eyes freeze behind her mask as she watches—

THE WHIRLPOOL OF FISH FORMING AROUND SAM WHOSE BLUE, ELECTRIC
AURA TURNS BLOODY RED! THE SWARM MOVES AS ONE ENTITY, A SINGLE
PREDATOR WITH A THOUSAND PARTS.

The flare descends to the bottom, landing on thousands of fish skeletons!

WITH NO TIME TO TURN AROUND, PAULA DESPERATELY TRIES TO BACK-
TRACK UP THE TUNNEL BACKWARDS!

On Novak's monitors, Sam's vital signs go haywire, FLAT-LINING, while Paula's vitals ACCELERATE...

NOVAK

Jesus Christ, something's happening--

36 CONTINUED:

36

JULIE

What, an aftershock? Novak, what?!

NOVAK

I DON'T KNOW! I have to get down there!

In a flash, Novak slips his own scuba tank on...

37 **BACK IN THE CRACK**

37

Breathing heavily, Paula moves backwards through the tight tunnel as fast as she can.

THE PIRANHAS ENTER THE TUNNEL.

PAULA

No, no... Paula, swim... fucking SWIM!

Paula struggles as she fits through the tight hole, squeezing through and accelerating towards the other end.

The piranhas approach. CLACK! CLACK! CLACK!

PAULA'S POV - THE SCHOOL QUICKLY CATCHES UP, AND THE LEAD FISH ARE ALREADY BITING HER HANDS AND FACE...SHE GURGLINGLY SCREAMS!

38 **IN THE CRACK**

38

Paula exits the tunnel and swims in the opposite direction, in a total state of hysteria- AROUND HER SCUBA MASK, HER FACE IS COMPLETELY BITTEN TO THE BONE!

A giant flurry of carnivorous fish follow Paula out of the tunnel, where they finally have enough room to surround her--

SHAKEN LIKE A RAG DOLL, SHE IS RIPPED TO SHREDS IN A ANOTHER WHIRLPOOL OF BLOOD...

Just as the piranhas are about to dig into her liver, NOVAK APPEARS ABOVE THE OPENING, EYES WIDE AND INCREDULOUS, GRABBING PAULA'S ARM AND PULLING HER OUT OF THE FAULT.

39 **EXT. LAKE - DAY**

39

Novak surfaces above the water, swimming rapidly and dragging Paula's body through the whirlpool of blood.

NOVAK

SHERIFF, HELP ME!

Julie reaches overboard helping Novak back into the boat. His wetsuit's legs are SLASHED and bleeding. In turn, Novak pulls Paula up and out of the water--

There remains practically nothing of her body. It's as if she was dipped in sulfuric acid. Julie literally RECOILS--

JULIE

Oh my GOD!

Novak removes his mask and regains his breath. HE'S IN TOTAL SHOCK, but his wounds are superficial. He and Julie stare...

...at a lone live PIRANHA, as it flops around on the deck.

CUT TO:

A belly button is filled with tequila -- to the sounds of UPBEAT PARTY MUSIC. As Derrick's face leans in...

...to suck it out of Crystal's belly button. His mouth moves up her body, to take a slice of lemon from between her lips.

He then turns to his audience: Danni, Jake, Kelly and Andrew.

DERRICK

Ladies, your body is a temple. And it's time to give thanks to the gods. Andrew, roll camera. Kelly -- you're up.

KELLY

Me? No thanks, no. I think I've had too much already.

DERRICK

You don't want to worship at this beautiful altar? I know you're partial to champagne. But baby, you can trust Crystal--

Jake's had enough and decides to come to her rescue.

JAKE

Derrick, c'mon man. She said no.

DERRICK

No, she said no thanks -- there's a difference. She understands gratitude is the right attitude.

(from menace to a smile)

Kelly, sugar, take it from me. It's never cheating if it's with another chick.

Kelly puts her glass down, just a little unsteady...

DANNI

Go ahead, Kelly. Try it. It's fun.

DERRICK

Not trying to take away her fun now, are you Jake?

Danni, Crystal, Andrew, Derrick...they're all looking at him.

JAKE

I told you, she's not my girlfriend--

KELLY

Fine, I'll do it.

Jake blinks, surprised. Huh? Derrick swiftly motions to Andrew: roll camera, roll camera! She mock-Wild Girl-walks over to Derrick, just trying to make Jake squirm. Derrick runs a trail of salt down from Crystal's stomach, then fills her belly button with tequila.

DERRICK

First you lick the salt, then you suck the tequila, then you get the lemon. Body, baby. Temple. Show this Jake kid how it's done.

(hands her a SHOT)

Do this one first. For a little courage.

Everyone's eyes are on Kelly. Her eyes are on Jake. Like this challenge is somehow about him. She downs the shot.

JAKE

Kelly, you don't have to do this.

KELLY

We don't need your babysitting here.

After a deep breath, Kelly kneels beside Crystal, and leans in, licking the salt trail to her belly button...

Jake is mesmerized as Kelly sucks up the liquor, then moves up Crystal's body. Next is the lemon. But when Kelly moves to her mouth to get it, Crystal grabs the back of her head and MAKES OUT with her. Danni WHOOPS playfully. Andrew BEAMS--

DERRICK

(a private smile)

Little Kelly. America thanks you.

Kelly's eyes open wide with surprise. She tries to pull away, but Crystal holds her tight. Till she gives in and kisses back--

ANDREW

Whoa Jake! Check it out! We got a Sand Rat making out with a model! You were probably hoping that was your job!

--Kelly finally pulls away, now a bit embarrassed, glancing to Jake. She realizes the alcohol's gotten to her--

DERRICK

OK, how 'bout we trade places now! Jake!

JAKE

(revenge on Kelly)
Fine, where's the lemon.

CRYSTAL

Come and get it!

But Danni's aware of the tension here and intervenes--

DANNI

Wait, let's do something else. Let's mix it up. How 'bout Jake and Kelly.

JAKE

What?

KELLY

What?

Everyone stops. Derrick wears a "don't spoil it" look--

KELLY

I don't really think he--

JAKE

I really don't think she--

DANNI (cont'd)

C'mon, Derrick. Poor kid hasn't had a drink all day. I mean -- if it's alright with her...

Kelly's head is swimming...what's the right answer?

KELLY

I don't care. Up to Jake.

DANNI

No, it's up to the Captain: Derrick's boat. Derrick's rules. Am I right?

DERRICK

Fuck it. Sand Rats, roll camera, let's go.

More timidly, Kelly lies down on her back. Danni gives her a "don't worry" pat, pours the salt and fills up the tequila.

Jake kneels before her, reluctantly. She seems so vulnerable this way, so trying to be someone she's not... as Derrick and Andrew, both filming, start up competitive chants:

ANDREW Sand Rats...Sand Rats... DERRICK Jake...Jake...Jake...Jake...

Almost apologetic, Jake licks the salt, drinks the tequila and approaches Kelly's face. Their lips are about to touch, with that first dreamed-of, hoped-for kiss...when all of a sudden--

Kelly sits up and vomits overboard!!!

DERRICK (cont'd)
Oh my God!! She's PUKING!

ANDREW
This is cinema. This is awesome.

41 **INT. WATER BUG - HEAD - MOMENTS LATER**

41

Kelly finishes vomiting in the head as Jake stands behind her, awkwardly holding her hair. Then she waves him away...

KELLY
I'm sorry, I've never drank like that before. I shouldn't have mixed all that stuff. And with the boat--

JAKE
Oh, yeah, you think? You think maybe getting on this boat in the first place was maybe not the best idea you ever had in the world?

KELLY
Oh, that's right, all this was my idea!
It's not a problem for you to be here--

JAKE
I'm seventeen! OK? I'm a guy! I had the chance for a masters degree in sex here! I was hanging out with supermodels! What the hell is so wrong with that?

KELLY
Is that a serious question?

JAKE
But you -- they just want to exploit you!
And you let them!

KELLY

And if I never had, I never would've--

She catches herself. Turns to the sink, splashing water on her face, chastising herself in the mirror--

KELLY (cont'd)

Can't believe I made out with a girl... I am so pathetic--

JAKE

Well, actually...that was kind of hot...

KELLY

I knew it. I knew that's what you wanted. God -- such an idiot. I can't believe I came on this boat for you.

Her voice is so angry, it takes him a full two seconds...

JAKE

For me?

KELLY

Yes Jake. Did you really think I wanted to hang out with Derrick the cokehead pornographer?

JAKE

I...huh...

Jake's amazed. All this time, he thought he was the one afraid to make that first move...

KELLY

God... What was I thinking trying to compare myself to them. Look at them... Look at me. I look like shit.

She's almost crying. For Jake, it's now or never.

JAKE

You are so much better than those girls.

KELLY

Yeah right. They're older, way more experience, and they have the best bodies I've ever seen. Really, have you looked at them?

JAKE

Yeah. I mean, yes. But it doesn't matter, Kelly. I think you outshine them in every way...

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

Wiping her tears, she looks up at him with a smile.

JAKE (cont'd)
What?

KELLY
Nothing...

JAKE
Tell me.

They look at each other for a moment and move closer and closer.

KELLY
Do you think it's gross if we kiss right
after I just puked?

Their lips are almost touching...

JAKE
Definitely.

But it doesn't matter. It's that sweet, tender first kiss time.
And when they finally break, he's true and sincere:

JAKE (cont'd)
Now let's go bring you back home.

42 **INT. LAKE VICTORIA PET EMPORIUM - DAY**

42

An insistent KNOCKING at the door. Mr. and Mrs. Goodman enter
from a side door, turning on lights, and opening the door--

--to see Julie and Novak, bedraggled and shell-shocked, with
Fallon behind them. Novak carries a WATER BUCKET--

MR. GOODMAN
Sheriff--?

But before he can finish his sentence, Julie grabs the bucket
from Novak and BURSTS IN, to slam it on the counter:

JULIE
What the hell is this doing in my lake?!

MR. GOODMAN
(looks in, incredulous)
Where did you get this--

NOVAK
In the middle of the lake! Where two
people are dead!

Mrs. Goodman gasps, puts a hand to her heart. Julie spins to Fallon, with his radio ready:

JULIE

Try to cordon off the south end all the way to the dam. Use fishing nets, dredge nets, whatever the town has. Try to work from Sand Island to Lookout Point.

FALLON

I'll have Bob Gordon prep emergency shutoff of the spillway--

JULIE

The second we have approval from the Governor, I want a full evacuation. No boats, no swimmers, nothing -- everybody out of the goddamn water. Let's pray it's contained downstream to the south--

Fallon exits. All the while, Mr. Goodman has been focused on the fish. Fascination in his eyes. He dumps the bucket into an empty AQUARIUM TANK, revealing the captured PIRANHA.

MRS. GOODMAN

Oh my!

NOVAK

Oh my -- yeah, oh my. Oh my they just tore two friends of mine apart! That's thing's a piranha, isn't it?!

MRS. GOODMAN

(to Mr. Goodman)

Carl...? Someone must've released it into the lake--

JULIE

It's not the only one, there were more--

NOVAK

(his ripped, bloody wet suit)

You fuckin' see this? There were thousands!

MRS. GOODMAN

I've heard of this happening. It's like those baby alligators in New Jersey. Someone leaves them and they breed--

MR. GOODMAN

No one released this fish into the wild.

His grave, mesmerized tone stops them all. His gaze remains locked on the piranha swimming beyond the glass.

MRS. GOODMAN

Carl, how do you know that?

MR. GOODMAN

No one on earth could've bought this fish.

JULIE

What are you talking about...

MR. GOODMAN

This particular piranha...vanished off the face of the planet more than two million years ago.

He takes off his glasses and looks above the "exotic fish area," to a large FOSSIL OF A GIANT FISH hanging high on the wall.

MR. GOODMAN (cont'd)

Allow me to introduce you to Pygocentrus nattereri. The first piranha. The original piranha.

Goodman retrieves his stepladder and climbs it to bring the fossil down. Skeletal remains embedded in a stone cross-cut.

MR. GOODMAN (cont'd)

My father worked construction on Parker Dam. They found fossils like this when they first broke ground. He gave this one to me for my eighth birthday... They used to swim the Colorado River right up until the Pleistocene Epoch...

Novak grabs the fossil and compares it to the live fish. Both specimens have many things in common.

MR. GOODMAN (cont'd)

I still don't understand how you found one alive.

NOVAK

We discovered a subterranean lake through a rift that the quake opened up.

MRS. GOODMAN

But how could they survive for so long, cut off from the surface?

MR. GOODMAN

By eliminating and feeding off of all the other species...

JULIE

And then what?

MR. GOODMAN

Cannibalism... They must have fought each other to survive. Look at all those scars on his scales. And notice the eyes...

Mr. Goodman comes closer to the tank where our prehistoric fish is agitated and annoyed by his confinement. But when Goodman stops moving, the piranha stops moving too.

JULIE

Jesus. It's like he's staring back.

MR. GOODMAN

Not staring. Sensing. Centuries spent in darkness must have rendered them blind. And forced them to react...to movement...

Goodman slightly touches the water- The piranha turns back right away and starts hitting the glass of the tank to break free, revealing his open angry jaw.

MR. GOODMAN (cont'd)

Piranha hunt in packs. Not for protection, but for overwhelming force. They're organized. Methodical. The first bite draws blood. The blood draws the pack.

JULIE

So how can we stop them?

MR. GOODMAN

They're killing machines, but they're still fish. You can catch them or kill them. But if there really are thousands...

NOVAK

Yeah?

MR. GOODMAN

Yesterday would have been a good time to start.

43 **EXT. CHANNEL - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**

43

We're CLOSE ON A MEGAPHONE:

JULIE

49

This is the Lake Victoria Police Department! We have an emergency situation! This lake is officially off-limits to swimming of any kind!

49

43 CONTINUED:

43

Throughout the channel leading to the lake, Julie's deputies navigate their fleet in an attempt to clear the water from swimmers. Julie uses her megaphone to speak to the crowd-

JULIE (cont'd)
 ...Anyone attempting to re-enter the water
 will be subject to immediate arrest...

44 **EXT. COPPER CANYON - OTHER SIDE OF LAKE - SAME TIME**

44

At that time of the day, Copper Canyon is crowded with spring breakers. Empty beer cans float all around the boats and jet-skis... Different kinds of music are coming from everywhere.

On one of the boats, a cute redhead barely eighteen is drinking her first beer bong while some other guys (including MATT and his group) moon each other from deck to deck.

Deputy Fallon's PATROL BOAT navigates through the armada of party-ers on boats, inner tubes, and jet skis...

A large crowd has gathered a few hundred yards from the shore, around the floating stage which hosts the afternoon attraction-

A WET T-SHIRT CONTEST!!

As a DJ plays upbeat music, a bunch of girls in "Dying to get wet" white t-shirt get sprayed by powerful water guns. The crowd cheers as the party gets hot and wild.

45 **INT. UNDERWATER- BENEATH THE STAGE - DAY**

45

The bass from the music vibrates through the water, deeper and deeper...

46 **EXT. LAKE FLOATING STAGE - DAY**

46

Deputy Fallon's patrol boat trolls through the mass of spring breakers, yelling down at them.

FALLON
 Out of the water! Now!!!

But nobody is listening. Fallon puts the sirens on. But the music is too loud...

FALLON (cont'd)
 (to the driver)
 Cut the engine.

Deputy Fallon takes his gun out of his belt and shoots three times above his head. The DJ stops the music and looks up along with everyone else. Now, Fallon has their full attention.

He lifts his megaphone and addresses the floating crowd.

FALLON (cont'd)
This is the Lake Victoria Police
Department! The Sheriff has declared an
emergency!

PARTY-GOER
Don't worry! We got beer over here!!!

FALLON
This lake is off-limits to swimming! The
water has been deemed unsafe! Clear the
area or face immediate arrest!

Another beat. Then... A kid among the crowd erupts-

DRUNK KID
CANNON BALL!!!!

SEVERAL DOZEN PEOPLE ALL JUMP INTO THE LAKE AT THE SAME TIME,
QUICKLY IMITATED BY THE REST! Screams of enthusiasm fill the air
as the DJ restarts the MUSIC. Drunk youth GOES WILD.

Fallon picks up the radio:

FALLON
Julie, evac's gonna be a bit of a problem.
There's us and there's twenty thousand kids
-- you do the math.

JULIE (O.S.)
Just do it. We're on our way.

47 **UNDERWATER**

47

*Seen from the bottom of the lake we can see the hundreds of
swimmers and boats splashing in and out of the water!!!*

All unaware of the danger to come.

48 **EXT. CHANNEL - DAY**

48

Julie speeds her boat to join Fallon at Copper Canyon. She's on
her phone, yelling over the roar of the engine...

48 CONTINUED:

48

JULIE
National Guard, Coast Guard, all the forces
in your power to deploy! I know Governor,
but we're talking about thousands of them!
I have seen them! They are here!

49 **EXT. CLIFF - CONTINUOUS**

49

A SCREAMING CLIFF DIVER JUMPS, SPLASHING INTO THE WATER BELOW!

CLIFF DIVER
Yeeeeaaaah-boyyyyyyy!!!!

TWO MORE DIVERS have made their way to a LEDGE on the cliff.
Below them, A HALF-DOZEN OTHER PEOPLE start climbing up.
The divers look down at the long drop to the sparkling water.

DIVER #1
(to his nervous friend)
Don't worry, just clench up your butt
cheeks when you hit so your balls don't get
sucked up inside your ass.

HE JUMPS OFF THE LEDGE WITH A TRIBAL YELL, and plummets for what
seems like an eternity.

50 **UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS**

50

SUDDENLY, the placid surface of the water IMPLODES as Diver #1's
body enters the lake, shooting down into the depths.

IN A PACK, the school of Piranha IMMEDIATELY ATTACK.

*Near the lake floor, Diver #1 lets out a muffled, underwater
scream and furiously tries to swim up to the surface, but his
body is completely surrounded by chomping fish.*

51 **EXT. LEDGE - CONTINUOUS**

51

Diver #2 looks down tentatively, waiting for his friend to
reappear.

He does not, but bubbles do...and THEN BLOOD. LOTS OF BLOOD!

DIVER 2
Oh... my... God.

Dismembered body parts float to the surface! TERRIFIED, DIVER #2
BACKS AWAY FROM THE LEDGE. AND AS HE TURNS TO GO-

51 CONTINUED:

51

ANOTHER BOY PUSHES HIM OFF THE CLIFF-

BOY
Come on, pussy. Jump!

SLOW MOTION- DIVER #2 FALLS FACE FIRST TO HIS DEATH, SCREAMING!

52 **EXT. LAKE VICTORIA - ABOVE THE WATER - CONTINUOUS**

52

MATCH CUT to a CLOSE UP ON DRUNK GIRL'S MOUTH - SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS.

PULL OUT to REVEAL - she is 200 feet in the air, dangling from a parachute. A para-sailing speedboat pulls her along.

THE DRUNK GIRL looks down at all the activity below.

The boat SLOWS as DRUNK GIRL drops in altitude. Her feet drag in the water for a few moments before the boat picks up speed again, lifting Drunk Girl into the air.

53 **EXT. WATER BUG - DAY - MOVING**

53

An exuberant vibe. Andrew drives the boat while Derrick follows Drunk Girl through his camera lens. Meanwhile, Jake guides Kelly back topside. She's woozy, an icepack held to her head:

JAKE
Just sit still and rest. You'll feel better. I'll talk to Derrick...

Crystal's by Derrick, whispering in his ear. His nose twitches.

DERRICK
Jake! I'm promoting you. Take the camera and point it at that chick. The water might pull her top off. Don't miss it.

JAKE
Listen, if it's OK, Kelly and I are kinda ready to head home--

DERRICK
You get paid for the day. Get the shot.

Derrick THUMPS the camera into his chest -- then leads Crystal to a starboard bench, for a COCAINE break.

With no other choice, Jake points the camera: the speed boat slows, dipping Drunk Girl again, before lifting her back up. And now she's waving at someone...so Jake TILTS THE CAMERA DOWN to see Sand Island. The girl is waving at TWO KIDS.

Jake ZOOMS IN -- it's ZANE AND LAURA! They're waving for help.
He puts the camera down--

JAKE
Oh, shit! Kelly!

KELLY
What's wrong?

JAKE
Zane and Laura are out on Sand Island!
(to Danni)
That's my brother and sister!

DANNI
Are they waving for help?

JAKE
They're supposed to be at home! I'm
supposed to be at home!

Derrick lifts his powdered nose from a rolled up dollar bill--

DERRICK
What are you doing?! You're gonna miss the
money shot!

JAKE
That's my family over there! I think
they're in trouble!

DERRICK
You're the one in trouble if I don't get my
Flying Ta-Ta's! Now!

JAKE
What the hell is wrong with you?

DERRICK
What's wrong with me?

Suddenly, DRUNK GIRL'S BREASTS ARE EXPOSED. Derrick scrambles
forward, spilling his tray of coke as he flails for the camera--

DERRICK (cont'd)
Goddamnit, you're missing it!!!

Frantic, Derrick picks up the camera, searching for the flying
DRUNK GIRL, but she has DISAPPEARED BEHIND A MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE.

DERRICK (cont'd)
Goddamnit! Fuck!!

JAKE

We need to go get them! They're stranded -- they need me! Are you even listening?

(still no response)

You don't understand -- my mom's the sheriff!

Everybody spins. Crystal's head pops up from the floor mid-coke-snort. Andrew drops some equipment. Danni's eyes flash, amused. Watching Derrick lower the camera...with seething eyes:

DERRICK

Am I to take that...as a threat?

JAKE

All I'm saying is, if we don't stop by Sand Island...there could be consequences -- for me. And I just wouldn't want any collateral damage.

KELLY

Like say, confiscated video tapes.

She's now moved beside Jake to back him up. Derrick sourly stares at the two of them. Tension in the air...

ANDREW

So what are we doing, boss?

DERRICK

Swing by the motherfucking island. Throw the minnows in the boat.

54 **EXT. UNDERWATER**

54

The Water Bug's propeller CHURNS WATER as it changes direction.

55 **EXT. NEARING SAND ISLAND/EXT. WATER BUG - MINUTES LATER**

55

Andrew still drives, nearing REEF-LIKE ROCKS that ring the isle:

JAKE

Be real careful on the approach. The shallows are full of rocks and weeds. I've seen 'em strip motors clean off.

ANDREW

You're the one needs to be careful...

He says it low, confidently. Causing Jake to look to the back of the boat, where Danni and Crystal primp and preen. But Derrick's not watching them. His cold stare is on Jake...

56 **INT. UNDERWATER - DAY**

56

Back to the main spring break location...where, just below the surface, a MASS OF PIRANHAS swims towards the spring breakers! We see INNER TUBES from below, where ringed asses in bikini bottoms hang like ripe fruit...

57 **EXT. FLOATING STAGE - DAY**

57

A SORORITY GIRL floats in one of the inner tubes, and suddenly reacts with a YELP as if pinched. And then pinched again. She raises her butt out of the water, to find a better position--

--as Julie's patrol boat arrives on scene to join Fallon's, Julie sees the surge on the water approaching the swimmers--

JULIE

Oh my god! They're heading straight for them!

NOVAK

(scans with binoculars)

There's two more schools moving further up. Do you see them?

JULIE

They're surrounding us! We've gotta get these kids out of the water!

Watching the wet t-shirt contest, THE SAME SORORITY GIRL IN THE INNER TUBE CHEERS at the action on stage -- then GETS SUCKED DOWN ASS-FIRST THROUGH HER RING! Nobody really notices at first. Nor when a SECOND SWIMMER disappears further away...

But the then the BLOOD SURFACES...and swimmers now edge back...

DRUNK DUMB JOCK

Holy fuck! Shark! SHARK!

DRUNK LAUGHING JOCK

Who the fuck yells shark in a lake?

But the confusion isn't comical for long -- as a slow-building panic spreads through the crowd WHEN THE BUTCHERY STARTS FOR REAL!! MORE PEOPLE DISAPPEAR INTO THE LAKE. GALLONS OF BLOOD SPREAD ACROSS POOLS OF BUBBLING WATER--

What was panic a few seconds ago, now turns into terror--

EVERYBODY CLIMBS ON THE STAGE MAKING IT WAY TOO HEAVY. PEOPLE START TO PULL THEMSELVES ON THE TOP OF THE STRUCTURE WHICH SWINGS BACK AND FORTH.

57 CONTINUED:

57

It's the human race at its worst- people crying, screaming, pushing and fighting each other for the smallest life saving space...

TOP-HEAVY, THE STAGE IS OFF BALANCE. A WAVE OF HYSTERIA SPREADS OVER THE CROWD AS THE STAGE COLLAPSES. THE WET T-SHIRT GIRLS SLIDE INTO THE WATER...

Stage right, hanging to one of the monitor speakers, the DJ looks as the whirlpool of blood turns the water full of flesh, hair, and hemoglobin.

DJ

Shit man... Somebody stop this thing... Oh fuck.. Oh, fuck dude...

Cables pop, sparks fly, when- One of the audio towers tumbles into the lake, hitting a boat full of college kids-

A cable holding up a lighting rig snaps with tremendous force, and flies across the water-

THE CABLE SLASHES A BOAT OF BIKINI GIRLS, INSTANTLY SEVERING ARMS AND OTHER BODY PARTS, SENDING THEM INTO THE WATER TO THE FEASTING PIRANHAS.

THE CAMERA CRANES OVER THE BLOODY MOSHPIT BUT SCREAMS OF AGONY HAVE REPLACED THE ROCK MUSIC.

58 **EXT. LAKE- CONTINUOUS**

58

Meanwhile, the drunk parasailing girl still floats in the air bare breasted.

The boy driving the boat pulling her slows down when he sees the unusual activity around the floating stage.

BOY

(to his friends)

Look, what the hell is going on?

The boat comes to a stop-

SEEN FROM UNDERWATER- DRUNK GIRL DIPS BACK DOWN INTO THE LAKE.

The two other boys in the boat stand to look out at the horizon, trying to understand what's happening over there-

They don't notice that behind the boat, the parasailing girl who is fully submerged starts to SCREAM and WIGGLE as the water bubbles around her.

BOY (cont'd)

Let's get out of here...

The SPEEDBOAT STARTS UP AGAIN, REVEALING BEHIND THEM-

A LIFELESS DRUNK GIRL lifted up into the air -- the FLESH FROM HER BOTTOM HALF HAS BEEN EATEN AWAY!!

As Julie drives her boat into the fray, Novak pulls out their first rescue- a YOUNG WOMAN with bite marks so terrible, it's hard to tell if she will survive. Julie abandons the helm...

...to help pull more survivors out of the water- kids SPLASHING desperately for her boat. Their bodies are mutilated. The fish are everywhere attacking from all sides, as Julie draws her GUN:

Bang! Bang! Bang! The bullets get through the water into the school of fish, killing just a few...

JULIE
(to Novak)
You know guns?

NOVAK
Yeah... enough.

JULIE
Take the shotgun behind you.

Novak grabs the shotgun and pumps it- He's been waiting was for this all day-

Ka-ching - Bang! He starts shooting but the fish are everywhere... Novak and Julie fire again, and again other fish EXPLODE above and underwater. Novak then spots something:

NOVAK
(leaps up on railing)
There's too many kids still in the water!

JULIE
Novak, what are you doing?!

As she watches Novak LEAP RIGHT OFF her boat! He SPLASHES DOWN into the water -- and surfaces just in time to GRAB the throttle of an abandoned JET SKI! It REVS out of the water just in time - - as PIRANHA CHURN the water, right on Novak's heels--

--as Novak SWEEPS the SKI into a crowd of FLEEING TEENS. He grabs a GIRL, helps her aboard--

NOVAK
Grab another person! Make a chain!

59 CONTINUED:

59

The rescued GIRL clutches him around the waist, reaches a HAND back, gripping another GIRL. A GUY grabs her legs, a GIRL grabs his legs, and more...and Novak REVS the Jet Ski ahead--

--pulling a human chain of a DOZEN WOUNDED SWIMMERS out of harm's way, faster than the piranha can swim...

...although the last GEEKY KID in the chain ("I can't believe my parents paid for this!") is not so lucky, SCREAMING as PIRANHA sever his arms at the elbows! The kid falls back, doomed... while his FOREARMS survive, still clutching some girl's ankles!

BACK ON JULIE'S BOAT: Now out of ammo, Julie grabs her tazer gun! She FIRES into the water-

THE ELECTRONIC PULSE SPREADS ON THE SURFACE AMONG THE SCHOOL OF FLAPPING FISH- FISH EYES EXPLODE... GUTS BURST... A FEW PIRANHA ARE INSTANTLY CHARRED AS THE ARC OF POWER BLAZES THROUGH THEM.

60 **EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS**

60

In the hysteria, everyone tries to climb out as best they can by grabbing on to anything outside the water-

THERE IS SO MUCH BLOOD UNDERNEATH THAT EVEN THE FISH ARE CONFUSED AND START ATTACKING ONE OTHER!

CUT TO:

Two girls fight to get back on their boat, when another vessel loses control, slamming one girl's head and crushing it between the two crafts. Blood splatters on the other girl who screams in terror.

61 **EXT. LAKE SHORE - CONTINUOUS**

61

A HEAVY BREASTED GIRL (THE TRAMPOLINE GIRL) RUNS PANICKING OUT OF THE WATER TRIPPING OVER A FLOATING CORPSE. SHE FALLS IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, IN JUST A FEW INCHES OF WATER- ENOUGH TO BECOME ANOTHER TASTY MEAL FOR THE PIRANHA.

62 **EXT. JULIE'S BOAT - SAME TIME**

62

Out of arsenal to fight back, Julie continues to pull victims out of the water, sitting them next to other bloodied, shaking, and shell shocked kids...

JULIE

Oh God...we don't have enough boats...

62 CONTINUED:

62

Her boat's like a refugee craft, with its deck totally full and others hanging off the side, CLINGING to its rails--

63 **EXT. FLOATING STAGE - DAY**

63

--while Novak SWEEPS his JET SKI near the beach, allowing his "human chain" to scamper to safety. He then TURNS BACK to try and pick up more, one hand FIRING the shotgun--

--while Matt (who has managed to survive so far) jumps off the tilting stage, onto a small motorboat-

WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO MANEUVER, HE RUNS PEOPLE OVER, SLICING THEM UP WITH HIS PROPELLER, ATTRACTING THE PIRANHAS AND STARTING ANOTHER FEEDING FRENZY-

--and sending his motorboat right into the path of Novak's JET SKI! Novak SWERVES at the last second, sent off-balance! He's tipping over, right toward a GNASHING BLOOD-CLOUD--

--but he THROWS HIS WEIGHT INTO THE ROLL, AS HIS JET-SKI ROLLS UNDER IN SLO-MO to see PIRANHA CHARGING RIGHT AT HIS FACE -- except his MOMENTUM CONTINUES THE ROLL, a full 180 back up to the surface -- and Novak regains control of the Jet Ski!

--while, behind him, Matt's boat gets stuck after just a few yards! When he checks the engine, Matt finds a girl trapped beneath the boat with her hair tangled in the propeller.

SHE SCREAMS AS SHE DROWNS- HER SCALP TORN FROM THE SKULL!

Matt unmercifully tries to start the engine without ever attempting to help. When he looks up, Matt's face freezes- a crowd of screaming swimmers heads in his direction. (Including the Fratboy Driver and Friends who encountered Julie.) BUT BEFORE MATT CAN REACT, THE CROWD IS ALREADY ON THE BOAT LIKE AN ARMY OF ATTACKING ZOMBIES...

The boat is too small and the swimmers only manage to turn it upside down. Matt climbs onto the overturned hull- His body COVERED WITH PIRANHAS.

64 **EXT. DEPUTY FALLON'S BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

64

The second police boat is close to the beach which is overwhelmed with fleeing screaming, college kids. Amidst the chaos, Deputy Fallon FIRES into the water--

But the fish are too numerous and the bullets have little impact- Deputy Fallon looks around with desperation. Young Deputy Green sits in a corner of the boat crying, utterly broken.

What more can Fallon do? Looking down at the outboard motor, he suddenly gets an idea- In a series of quick actions, he-

DISMOUNTS THE ENGINE BY UNSCREWING ITS BRACKETS-

REMOVES HIS BELT, SLIPPING IT INTO THE GAS TANK'S HANDLE-

SLIPS HIS ARM THROUGH THE BELT AND CARRIES THE GAS TANK UNDER HIS SHOULDER-

FINALLY, WITH BOTH HANDS FREE, HE GRABS THE ENGINE AND LIFTS IT OFF THE BOAT-

With a determined look on his face, he revs the engine a few times, SPINNING THE PROPELLER OUTSIDE OF THE WATER, AND JUMPS INTO THE KNEE-HIGH WATER WITH HIS NEW IMPROVISED WEAPON-

A FISH CHAIN SAW!

FALLON
CHEW ON THIS, FUCKERS!!!!

HOLDING THE MOTOR FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS, FALLON DIPS THE PROPELLER INTO THE WATER, TEARING THE PIRANHAS INTO A MILLION PIECES.

DEPUTY FALLON
(to the swimmers)
GET TO THE BEACH! HURRY! COME ON!

Fallon saves many of the victims as the Piranha are attracted to the bloody carnage he creates. More and more of the fish surround him, their sheer numbers slowly overtaking him.

Now safe on the sand, a YOUNG NERDY GIRL whom Fallon just saved witnesses him start to lose the battle.

PIRANHAS COME AT HIM FROM ALL DIRECTIONS, FINALLY BRINGING HIM TO HIS KNEES. THE HEROIC DEPUTY SCREAMS IN AGONY AS HE DISAPPEARS BENEATH THE SURFACE!

ALONG THE BEACH, PEOPLE RUN OUT OF THE WATER WITH MISSING LIMBS, WHILE OTHERS TRY TO HELP THE VICTIMS, AND DRAG BLOODIED BODIES ALONG THE SAND... It's D-Day all over again!!

As Novak meets Julie's eyes from his Jet Ski, now on the beach, Julie surveys the lake in horror- The damage done to the resort town looks like the worst natural disaster.

JULIE
(on the radio)
Fallon? Do you copy? Fallon?

65 CONTINUED:

65

Only static... Then-

DEPUTY GREEN (O.S.)
(crying on the radio)
He's gone Sheriff... they got him...

She sinks wordlessly to her knees, shaking... as the camera dives under the surface to reveal-

WIDE SHOT OF THE UNDERWATER BATTLEFIELD. THE SHOCKING VISION OF DOZENS OF HUMAN DEAD BODIES FLOATING OR SINKING UNDER THE DESTROYED BOATS...

Piranha are swimming from corpse to corpse, reorganizing themselves for the next attack-

66 **INT. THE WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

66

The WWG boat is at the tiny Sand Island DOCK where Jake, Kelly and Danni are helping Zane and Laura board...

LAURA
OK, Jake, I am not taking the fall for this. It was all Zane's idea--

JAKE
I paid you sixty dollars to stay put.

LAURA
How 'bout forty and we call it even?

JAKE
How 'bout we're all going home -- end of story.

LAURA
(now sees Kelly)
Wait -- Kelly's here too?
(surprised, to Zane)
Did I call it or did I call it?

KELLY
Just get on the boat, you guys--

DERRICK
Yeah, GET ON THE BOAT! We should've been at goddamn Copper Canyon an hour ago for the motherfucking main event!

ZANE
(to Laura)
Who's he?

LAURA

He's the one who talks funny.

Zane glances out in the water where something approaches, submerged, moving fast. Intrigued, he looks over the rail -- to see a SCHOOL OF FISH dart directly under the boat.

Andrew starts the engine and puts the boat in reverse. The large vessel slowly pulls away from the sandy shore.

67 **INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

67

Jake descends with the kids and Kelly. She finds some cold water in the galley, gives it to the thirsty kids:

JAKE

Kelly, I want you to rest down here -- and keep Zane and Laura with you. I don't want 'em anywhere near Derrick. He's gotta take us home, I won't give him a choice...

Zane moves away, his attention drawn...to the GLASS BOTTOM area. He carefully steps onto it, getting a great underwater view. He looks for fish, but sees nothing but rocks and floating weeds.

SUDDENLY, THE BOAT JERKS AND STUTTERS. THE ENGINE'S CONSTANT HUMMING FALLS SILENT.

DERRICK (O.S.)

What the hell is going on NOW?

ANDREW (O.S.)

I don't know... we're caught on something.

DERRICK (O.S.)

Well fucking fix it, Andrew! FIX IT!

Jake, Kelly and Laura all look to the deck, seeing Derrick pass. The drinks, drugs and hot sun have become a toxic, angry mix.

KELLY

Jake, maybe you should wait on that conversation...

The engine cranks and sputters, but fails to turn over.

Zane returns his attention to the transparent bottom, when-

THE SCHOOL OF PIRANHAS JET BY THE GLASS, SCARING HIM!!

LAURA

What was that?

67 CONTINUED:

67

Zane turns to Laura who has snuck up behind him.

ZANE

I don't know. I've never seen those before.

68 **UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS**

68

The water is clear and blue. Not a thing in sight -- the camera PANS, revealing weeds wrapped around the propeller.

69 **EXT. THE WATER BUG - MOMENTS LATER**

69

Back on deck - Crystal helps Andrew put on some DIVING GEAR, as Derrick the ugly drunk rants, right in his face...

DERRICK

What the hell do I pay you for? You said you knew how to drive a boat! What were you -- looking at the goddamn girls? You look at the girls when I say you can!

ANDREW

I'm sorry, Derrick, I'm sorry. It won't happen again--

DERRICK

There's a million other social rejects out there who'd kill to have your fucking job. You want to go back to living in your parents' basement?

ANDREW

Please, Derrick! I'll make it up to you! I'm sorry!

DERRICK

Just get us up and running.

Crystal steps back. Andrew's gear is ready. So Derrick plants a HAND on his chest -- and PUSHES him into the water.

CUT TO:

Laura and Zane huddle around the glass bottom, when Andrew appears.

CUT TO:

UNDER THE WATER -- Andrew works desperately to unravel the weeds from the propeller.

CUT TO:

Meanwhile, on deck, Derrick slugs from a TEQUILA BOTTLE, surly and slumped at the helm. He watches Danni and Crystal as they stand on opposite sides of the boat and, using oars, attempt to keep it from hitting the protruding rocks nearby...

DERRICK (cont'd)
Hey bitches. Get the Sand Rat up here.

Danni and Crystal trade a suddenly worried look...

DERRICK (cont'd)
I SAID GET HIM FUCKING UP HERE!

JAKE (O.S.)
Why don't you do it yourself.

Jake's now standing at the stairs to the cabin. Fully emerges. Derrick slugs his tequila again. The sense of a showdown...

DERRICK
I was just sitting here thinking, kid. How this whole fucked-up day has been your fault.

He sets the bottle down, unsteadily stands. And approaches...

DERRICK (cont'd)
Won't help me with the new bitch, won't do the things I say, take me way the fuck off course. You're new at this, I know, and I understand that. It's cool. But there's a word for that, when you're on a boat. What's the word for that... oh yeah... it's "mutiny."

JAKE
Nah, Derrick. Relax, man. It's just me going a little wild is all--

Danni and Crystal laugh. That seals it. Derrick STORMS forward -- Jake tries to back up, but Derrick GRABS him by the throat, marching him backwards toward the stern of the boat--

JAKE (cont'd)
Hey, Derrick, hey, HEY!

--and Derrick holds him OVER THE RAILING, HALF-SUSPENDED over the water, where neither notices the SHADOW OF FISH below--

DERRICK
If anyone should be down there helping, it oughta be you.

CUT TO:

69 CONTINUED: (2)

69

IN THE WATER -- Using a knife, Andrew continues hacking through the weeds. He can see the kids waving at him through the glass, when-

SUDDENLY, A LARGE MASS OF FISH BLOCKS HIS VIEW. The PIRANHA!

70 **EXT. BACK ON DECK**

70

Where Derrick's ready to hurl Jake overboard...

DERRICK

Fix my boat or I drown you myself--

...and just as he starts to shove Jake over, they hear SCREAMS--

71 **INT. THE WATER BUG/UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS**

71

Zane and Laura scamper away from the glass-bottom in horror at the sight of Andrew being ATTACKED by the PIRANHA! He disappears in a whirlpool of blood, guts and flopping fish.

He struggles to swim up, but the piranha EAT THROUGH HIS AIR HOSE. Oxygen EXPLODES out of the tank and thrusts HIS BODY HARD AGAINST the glass like a rocket--

The GLASS BOTTOM EXPLODES, SENDING THE TWO KIDS DIVING FOR THE STAIRS TO THE DECK!

KELLY HITS HER HEAD AGAINST THE WALL, KNOCKING HER UNCONSCIOUS!

The boat quickly tilts to one side, just as Zane and Laura race upwards, and the RUSHING WATER immediately cuts off the stairway exit, leaving unconscious Kelly trapped below!

72 **EXT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

72

AT THE SAME TIME, EVERYONE ON THE BRIDGE IS JOLTED BACK. JAKE ALREADY HAD HOLD OF A RAILING. BUT THE OTHERS GO SLIDING -- WITH DERRICK THROWN ONTO HIS BACK TUMBLING TOWARDS THE WATER--

AS HE SLIDES HE GRABS CRYSTAL'S LEG AND PULLS HER INTO THE WATER WITH HIM!!

73 **UNDERWATER**

73

Derrick sinks like a stone before gathering himself and finding his bearings- He turns around and-

COMES FACE TO FACE WITH CRYSTAL AS SHE'S ATTACKED BY THE PIRANHA!

She fights valiantly but the fish are too numerous- She tries to hold on to Derrick but he claws her face and pushes her away!

CRYSTAL'S EYES OPEN WIDE AS A BIG FAT PIRANHA COMES OUT OF HER MOUTH, STRETCHING HER JAW WIDE OPEN!

TERRIFIED, DERRICK SWIMS BACK TO THE SURFACE. HE GRABS THE THE BOAT'S RAILINGS AND TRIES TO PULL HIMSELF OUT, WHEN-

THE PIRANHAS ATTACK HIS LEGS!

Derrick screams and hangs on to the boat with all his strength. Zane and Laura rush over to help him. But in his panic, Derrick GRABS Laura's arms, pulling her out over the water--

--just as Jake and Danni leap to grab her legs! Laura's in a human game of tug-of-war! She screams in total terror--

JAKE/DANNI
LET GO OF HER! DERRICK, LET GO!

DERRICK
NO FUCKING WAY! FUCK YOUUUAAAAAHH!

Jake GRABS AN OAR and BASHES Derrick across the arms! He lets go, SPLASHING back down. Danni pulls Laura to safety. Then Jake extends the oar again, not giving up on Derrick--

JAKE
The oar! Grab the oar!

Derrick does, and Jake manages to haul him back on board... but Danni almost faints when she sees- HIS LEGS HAVE BEEN DEVoured AND THE PIRANHA GNAW AWAY AT HIS TESTICLES!

JAKE (cont'd)
What the hell! Those are piranha!
(to Zane and Laura)
Guys, get outta here! Get to the helm!

MEANWHILE, AS THE PIRANHAS FINISH CRYSTAL, HER SILICON IMPLANTS FLOAT TO THE SURFACE!!

The kids run off and Derrick screams for his life while--

DANNI PICKS UP A SECOND OAR AND BOTH SHE AND JAKE BEAT THE PIRANHA FLAPPING ON THE DECK, WHILE DERRICK CONTINUES SCREAMING.

Within the school, one of the piranha, swims away from the pack with a precious piece of human flesh in its jaw-

DERRICK'S SEVERED PENIS!! BUT ANOTHER FISH COMES AND STEALS IT.
WITH DELIGHT, THE PIRANHA SWALLOWS THE SEVERED MEMBER-

BURP!

With water rushing in from every direction, it SLOSHES against Kelly's unconscious face...causing her to stir -- just in time to see a PIRANHA clacking-jaws, zipping right toward her! She leaps up -- now standing -- atop the cabin's couch--

JAKE (O.S.)
Kelly?! KELLY!!

KELLY
I'm down here!

Jake appears at the top of the steps, about to descend when he looks into the swirling water where HUNDREDS OF RAVENOUS PIRANHA ARE FINISHING WHAT LEFT OF ANDREW'S BODY, CIRCLING IN THE BLOODY WATER, WAITING FOR THEIR CHANCE TO CHOW DOWN- IMPOSSIBLE TO GO FURTHER... Jake can't believe his own eyes. Kelly's trapped!

ZANE
(from helm, terrified)
Jake?! Please please let's call Mom, OK?

Laden with wounded college kids, the patrol boat navigates the remnants of the battle-torn lake. Some boats are on fire, while others are overturned- Half eaten corpses litter the water...

There's nothing more Julie and Novak can do. A grisly pall in the air. Silence broken by the chirp of Julie's CELL PHONE:

JULIE
(absent, still in shock)
Sheriff here...

JAKE (O.S.)
MOM! I'm so sorry. I screwed up. We're on the lake. And...

JULIE.
What?! Where are Zane and Laura?

JAKE (O.S.)
They're with me on a boat.

JULIE

Oh God! Okay, whatever you do stay out of the water.

JAKE (O.S.)

You don't understand, Mom. Our boat is sinking!

JULIE

WHAT?! Where are you?!

JAKE

We're right off Sand Island... And Mom -- there's fish in the lake who're attacking! I swear to you it's like they're--

JULIE

They're piranha -- I know. We'll be right there! YOU KEEP THEM SAFE!

She hangs up, realizes her whole body is trembling--

NOVAK

What's happening?

JULIE

My kids are on the lake -- on a sinking boat. Sand Island -- God, it'll take us too long!

DEPUTY GREEN

We've got to get all these wounded to town, Sheriff...

Julie spins, trying to stave off the panic. Then spots a ski boat among the floating carnage -- still in pretty good shape.

JULIE

Just take 'em. Don't worry about me.

Without hesitating, Julie steps over the railing and jumps onto an abandoned boat. She LEAPS from one barge to the next, making her way to the ski boat...

...and then turns in surprise to see Novak standing there. He's followed her route right behind her...

NOVAK

Not worried at all.

Julie starts the boat instantly- they take off!

77 **INT. THE WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS** 77

The water is higher now. Kelly climbs off the couch, clutching shelves and cabinets to reach the GALLEY...where she perches atop the boat's STOVE UNIT. There's a ceiling skylight in the room's center. Where Jake appears -- calling down --

JAKE
Hang on, Kelly. Help is coming!

78 **EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS** 78

The speed boat races towards Sand Island.

79 **EXT. THE WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS** 79

CRANE UP above deck where we see Jake waving an oar above his head -- his shirt tied to it.

80 **EXT. SPEED BOAT - CONTINUOUS** 80

THROUGH JULIE'S BINOCULARS -- Jake's waving the "flag" in the distance. Novak steers the ski boat at full speed...

JULIE
That's them! Straight ahead!

81 **INT. THE WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS** 81

Kelly is running out of time...as BLOOD drips from a cut on her forehead...causing the PIRANHA to grow frenzied beneath her.

KELLY
Jake! The water's getting higher!

JAKE
Can you reach the skylight?

KELLY
It's too small to get through!

JAKE
Kelly, wait -- you're in a kitchen! Can you feed them something?! Is there any fish? Meat? Anything!

KELLY
It's a stupid idea, Jake!

JAKE

Kelly, just do it!

Kelly strains to reach a cabinet -- finding boxes of cereal: BRAN FLAKES, FROOT LOOPS. She nearly loses her balance, SCREAMS -- plants a hand on a submerged shelf to keep from falling -- and pulls her hand away, already BITTEN multiple times--

KELLY

They don't want their fucking breakfast!
They want ME!

82 **EXT. SPEED BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

82

The speed boat is almost there. When they're thirty yards away, Julie signals for Novak to stop.

JULIE

We can't go any further... They've drifted
into those rocks...

Julie and Novak stand on the side of their boat watching the "Water Bug" as it continues to sink in a field of protruding rocks. She musters her confidence.

JULIE (cont'd)

We've got to try a rescue anyway.

Julie and Novak search for anything that can help. She finds life jackets, oars, skis. Novak spots A WATER SKI ROPE.

NOVAK

Do you think it'll reach?

Her face reads fear. They have to try. Novak pulls the rope out and untangles it on the ground.

JULIE

(yelling)

JAKE? WE'RE GONNA THROW YOU A ROPE. DO YOU
HEAR ME? I WANT YOU TO GRAB IT AND SECURE
IT TO THE TOP LEVEL OF THE BOAT.

JAKE

(screaming back)

OK, Mom...

Novak swings the handle bar side of the ski rope above his head until he launches it toward Jake's open arms- But the rope falls short, landing in the water.

JULIE

Dammit! Try again...

JAKE
It's too short!!

NOVAK
TRY USING THE OAR TO PULL IT IN!

Jake extends the oar overboard and paddles the rope over to him.

The Piranha attack the rope.

JAKE
Get off! Get the fuck away!!

Jake successfully lifts the rope into the boat-

JULIE
GOOD JOB! NOW JAKE?! TIE IT OFF AS HIGH AND
AS TIGHT AS YOU CAN, OK!!

JAKE
Yes!!

Novak's stripped off his shirt and is unbuckling his pants...

JULIE
What are you doing?

NOVAK
I'm going out there to get them.

JULIE
No you're not. It's my kids on that boat.

Julie takes out her walkie-talkie and walks over to the radio attached on the dashboard, flipping channels to match frequency.

JULIE (cont'd)
I need you here to maneuver this one and
keep the line taut. Please, Novak: I'm the
lightest. It has to be me.

Julie bravely undresses to lighten her load.

JULIE (cont'd)
Keep on this frequency, I've got my radio.
I'll assess when I get there...

NOVAK
(he consents)
Just get there.

83 **EXT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

83

Jake has secured the ski rope to a chrome hand rail connected to the boat's roof, when suddenly-

THE BOAT SHIFTS ON THE ROCKS WHERE IT'S MAROONED, JOLTING EVERYBODY ON BOARD!!

84 **EXT. SKI BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

84

The outboard engine on the ski boat REVS. At the helm, Novak uses the throttle to keep the connecting tow line tight.

NOVAK

OK!

With her radio belt-strapped across her chest, Julie takes hold of the ski rope, swings legs above and crosses her ankles.

Hanging upside down, she slowly slides from the ski boat toward the Water Bug. She glances to the water, where a school of PIRANHAS track her every move...

On deck, Jake and Danni scramble, extending hands to help Julie as she finally makes it on board. She signals to Novak -- he slows the engines. Zane and Laura rush to hug their mom...

JAKE

I'm really sorry, Mom. I screwed up bad.

JULIE

We'll deal with you later. Is this everyone on the boat?

LAURA

Kelly's stuck down there! In the cabin!

JULIE

Kelly -- our Kelly? From school?

Julie rushes toward the cabin skylight -- passing Derrick's bloody remains. She grabs a un-inflated LIFERAFT to cover him--

JULIE (cont'd)

Jake, keep the kids away--

ZANE

Are we all gonna die--? Like him?

--then reaches the skylight, seeing Kelly trapped below, still atop the stove, with the WATER RISING all around her.

JULIE

Kelly, stay still. Don't panic. Can you reach the skylight? Can you grab my hand?

KELLY

It's not big enough! I won't fit through!

DANNI

What about something to float on -- that life raft!

JULIE

Inflate it and it won't fit through the door. She'll still be trapped when the whole boat sinks--

Kelly SCREAMS as water sloshes onto the stove, PIRANHAS flipping over each other to nip at her feet. She edges higher...as Julie finally looks overboard, face grim, voice low:

JULIE (cont'd)

The only way to her is through the bottom.
(rallies the others)
The rest of you -- get back to the rope.

JAKE

You can't leave her down there!

JULIE

We have to save the ones we know we can save! I'm sorry Jake. Once we get across that rope, I'll come back for her--

JAKE

I'm not leaving, Mom. Not without her.

JULIE

(grabs him)
Jake, Jesus Christ, you can't get to her without getting in the water. And I will not let you do that! We're not giving up, but just get to the ROPE!

She physically shoves him toward the rope, but he spins out of her grasp. Holds his ground.

JULIE (cont'd)

That was an order.

JAKE

I won't leave her, Mom.
(beat)
I'm the reason she's here...

Julie stares at him -- and for the first time in her life, she sees the man she's always hoped her teenager would be.

NOVAK

Guys! The rope line won't hold forever!
Whoever's coming better do it now!

JULIE

(to Jake, at last relents)
Let me get Zane and Laura across and then
I'll be back and we'll do it together.

Without waiting for an answer, she rushes to the edge of the boat where the ski rope is TIED. Directing Danni:

JULIE (cont'd)

We'll keep the little ones between us. You
go first if you think you can do this.

DANNI

Better fuckin' believe it. I don't pole
dance for nothing.

Danni grips the rope with both hands and swings her legs around it in a lithe, fluid motion. As Julie looks back to Jake:

JULIE

You have a lot of explaining to do...

Danni pulls and slides herself ahead. Julie grabs Laura, then Zane -- securing their hands and feet on the rope--

JULIE (cont'd)

Okay, gang, it's like at the playground.
Hand-over-hand and you'll be there. Just
don't look down, do you hear me? Hand-over-
hand, you do not look down--

The kids nod, too scared to speak. They start edging their way across. Julie leaves her radio here, grabs the rope herself and starts after them...but takes a quick glance down -- causing her ankle-lock to slip as HER FEET FALL, SPLASHING INTO THE WATER! She YELPS as she lifts them back up, KICKING off two fish--

ZANE

She looked down! Mom looked down!

LAURA

Mom, do not look down, ALL RIGHT?!

Julie manages to get her legs locked again. Close call.

84 CONTINUED: (3)

84

JAKE

There's more of them coming! From everywhere!

85 **UNDERWATER**

85

The silhouettes of Danni, Zane, Laura and Julie are outlined above the surface, and progressing on the rope, while-

In the foreground, dozens of NEW PIRANHA arrive, alerted by the disturbance Julie caused in the water...

86 **BACK TO THE SURFACE**

86

On the other side, Novak must increase engine power as the rope bends toward the water. But on the other side, unnoticed yet, THE RAILING HOLDING THE SKI ROPE STARTS BREAKING... Not good.

Novak turns around watching Danni almost reaching the ski boat, while Zane and Laura are close to the halfway point, when-

THE PIRANHAS START JUMPING OUT OF THE WATER, CLACKING THEIR TEETH, TRYING TO BITE THEM ALL!!

Julie lifts herself higher on the rope, freezing- THE FISH JUST INCHES AWAY!! Danni is not so lucky-

WITH EACH JUMP, THE FISH TEAR A PIECE OF FLESH FROM HER BACK!! IT'S GRUESOME AND TERRIBLY PAINFUL!! Screaming in a panic, Danni's instinct is to try and reverse course--!

JAKE

KEEP GOING FORWARD! DON'T STOP!

LAURA/ZANE/JULIE

(stuck by her bottleneck)

DANNI! KEEP MOVING! KEEP GOING!

DANNI

I CAN'T!! I CAN'T!! GET THEM OFF!! SOMEONE HELP ME!! OH MY GOD, NO, I'M BLEEDING!!

NOVAK

SHUT YOUR EYES AND MOVE! NOW! MOVE!

THE BLOOD DRAWS EVEN MORE FISH DIRECTLY BELOW HER. STRUGGLING TO KEEP MOVING, HER HANDS SLIP, AND THE TOP HALF OF HER BODY FALLS INTO THE WATER!! WITH HER LEGS STILL CLINGING TO THE ROPE, SHE FIGHTS OFF THE FISH WHO ATTACK HER FACE AND TORSO!!

The kids are petrified, watching Danni fight for her life.

JULIE
GET UP!! GET UP!!

DANNI LIFTS HERSELF OUT OF THE WATER, EXPOSING HER DISFIGURED
FACE, JUST FOR A MOMENT BEFORE-

HER LEGS WEAKEN, LETTING HER FALL INTO THE WATER WHERE SHE IS
INSTANTANEOUSLY DEVOURED!!

JULIE (cont'd)
Laura! Zane! At me -- LOOK AT ME! Keep
moving! YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

SMOKE STARTS TO BILLOW FROM NOVAK'S OVERHEATING ENGINES AS THE
RAILING HOLDING THE SKI ROPE KEEPS BENDING!! IT'S NOT GONNA HOLD
FOREVER...

NOVAK
COME ON, KIDS!! HURRY!!

But the trembling kids are petrified, frozen, until they heed
their mom's words...and finally meet her eyes...

JULIE
Laura and Zane Forester, listen to me: when
one bites you, it doesn't hurt. Do you
hear me? When one bites you, it doesn't
hurt. They can only hurt you as a pack.

The idea seems to snap the kids back to life -- they resume
their hand-over-hand for the ski boat...as PIRANHA LEAP OUT,
trying to snare them, RIPPING TINY NIBBLES of their backs--

--the kids CRY OUT, but just shut their eyes and keep coming--

JULIE (cont'd)
(getting BIT herself)
THAT WAS ONLY ONE! THAT WAS ONLY ONE OF
THEM! SHUT YOUR EYES, KIDS! IT'S ONLY
ONE!

--and they do, eyes shut, picking up the pace, sure and steady,
until they start edging higher as the rope reaches the ski boat!
And then they're in Novak's grasp! Zane and Laura are safe!

And then just as Julie's about to join them--

THE RAILING BREAKS ON THE WATER BUG! THE SKI ROPE SLIDES AWAY-
PLUNGING JULIE IN THE WATER!!

The ski rope still tied to the broken railing ultimately gets
blocked into another part of the boat-

THE ROPE STRETCHES AGAIN OUT OF THE WATER BUT-

JULIE LOSES GRIP AND FALLS INTO THE PIRANHA!! JUST AS NOVAK GRABS HER HAND AND PULLS HER OUT RIGHT BEFORE THEY SWARM!!

Zane and Laura clutch their mom with desperate relief!

JULIE (cont'd)

It's over now -- it's over -- we're safe--

Novak eases on the engines. And now Julie spins, remembering--

JULIE (cont'd)

JAKE, C'MON, YOU HAVE TO--

--but to her shock, she sees the SKI ROPE now untied from the Water Bug's broken railing, and now tied around Jake's waist.

Jake has purposely SABOTAGED the only route across...

JULIE (cont'd)

(shouts across the water)

Jake, what are you doing?!

JAKE

(sotto, focused)

It's what you said, Mom. There's only one way in...

87 **INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

87

THE WATER CONTINUES TO FILL THE CABIN. BACKED UP AGAINST A WALL, KELLY HAS RUN OUT OF SPACE. PIRANHAS JUMP OUT CLACKING THEIR TEETH- CLACK! CLACK!

KELLY FINDS A FRYING PAN AND SWINGS IT LIKE A TENNIS RACKET, REPEATEDLY BATTING THE JUMPING FISH AWAY!! BUT THEY ARE COMING BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN.

88 **EXT. WATER BUG/EXT. SKI BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

88

Jake raises Julie's left-behind RADIO into view...

JAKE

Guys! Can you hear me! I'm gonna get to her through the glass bottom!

JULIE

(rushes to ski boat's radio)

Jake, they'll kill you! You can't!

99

JAKE

I'm gonna bring this tow rope down with me,
and as soon as I have hold of her, you're
gonna have to pull us out as fast as
possible. You got that, over?

99

NOVAK

Got it, kid...

JULIE

But what about the rocks?

NOVAK

Look at that formation there. If I angle
the boat further down, I think maybe they
could shoot the gap.

JULIE

But Jake, it'll take you way too long to
get to her!

JAKE

The piranhas want blood... So let's give
'em some.

Aboard his boat, Jake marches toward the UNINFLATED LIFE RAFT
left covering Derrick's corpse--

NOVAK (O.S.)

Kid, listen: these little fuckers can't
see! They react to motion! Do you hear
me? Motion--!

Just as Jake kneels and casts the life raft aside--

AND DERRICK'S GHASTLY VISAGE LUNGES A HAND OUT TO CLUTCH JAKE BY
THE THROAT. PALE AND BLOODY, EYES WIDE, FOR HIS FINAL WORDS...

DERRICK

(a tortuous struggle)

...wetttt....teeee-shhhhhirt!

And he dies. Jake's heart just skipped a beat, but he recovers.
Re-wraps the raft around Derrick's mangled remains--

JAKE

Good news. You're about to make a
contribution to society...

--and he lifts and throws him over the starboard side--

JAKE (cont'd)

Hey fishies! Come and get it!

88 CONTINUED: (2)

88

--and then immediately runs for the port side himself, lowering himself into the water. While the water around Derrick's CORPSE FOAMS RED AND WILDLY CHURNS!

89 **EXT. WATER BUG HULL - CONTINUOUS**

89

Careful not to splash the water, Jake swims along the hull--

JAKE
(voice shaking)
I didn't say it was the greatest plan...

--then takes a deep breath and disappears beneath the surface.

90 **INT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS**

90

The piranhas continue feeding on Derrick!

Not far away, Jake descends deeper underwater, feeling his way along the fiberglass hull. When he reaches the opening, he pulls and kicks his way inside. And on his way to Kelly...

...he notices TWO LARGE PROPANE TANKS in the kitchen.

91 **INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

91

Kelly's about to climb down from her perch to enter the water and make a suicidal break for it... when JAKE BURSTS OUT WITH A DEEP BREATH, SCARING THEM HALF TO DEATH!!

KELLY
JAKE!!!

Jake scrambles atop the galley's counter/cupboards with her. Manages to find his mom's floating, waterproof radio:

JAKE
Just don't puke on me, okay? Don't puke,
that's all I'm asking.
(tries to be brave)
We're getting out -- both of us--
(into radio)
Does anybody copy?

JULIE (O.S.)
Jake, where are you?!

JAKE
I'm in.

NOVAK (O.S.)
Kid, we're ready when you are.

Jake spots an EMERGENCY KIT on a wall above the water line-

JAKE
Wait one sec... I might have found something.

JULIE (O.S.)
What do you mean?

He goes to the emergency kit and tears it open, revealing a set of waterproof FLARES which he quickly unwraps.

KELLY
Jake, what are we waiting for? The piranha are gonna come back...

JAKE
Don't move... I'll be back in a second.

He dives back down to the propane tanks, where- he turns the knobs, opening them and releasing large gas bubbles toward the sinking cabin.

Jake swiftly resurfaces...just as Kelly notices the intense flow of bubbles coming from underneath the water...

KELLY
Jake, what is that? It smells like gas--

JAKE
Listen to me: When I say go, you're gonna take one final breath and we're gonna swim out through the bottom... Then you have got to hang on tight. Hang on to me.

Jake finds a DISHRAG from the galley detritus and uses it to tie the waterproof flare to his mom's floating radio-

JAKE (cont'd)
(on the radio)
You're clear to pull us out in 10 seconds. OK? Do you guys copy?

NOVAK (O.S.)
Copy that. Ten seconds on your signal.

JAKE
On my signal...

He and Kelly lock eyes -- for perhaps the final time. And emboldened by the stakes, they KISS, fast and urgent--

91 CONTINUED: (2)

91

JAKE (cont'd)
 (into radio)
 Here we GO! Ten...

Jake and Kelly take their final breaths -- going under!

JULIE (O.S.)
 ...nine...eight...

Jake and Kelly DIVE for the bottom.

92 **INT. WATER - CONTINUOUS**

92

THE PIRANHAS HAVE FINISHED DERRICK, AND INSTANTLY LEAVE BEHIND HIS STACK OF BONES...

93 **INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

93

Jake and Kelly swim by the propane tanks still releasing gas...

94 **EXT. SKI BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

94

Julie and Novak keep counting down -- total max tension!

NOVAK & JULIE
 ...5... 4...

Julie looks at the slack on the ski rope...

NOVAK & JULIE (cont'd)
 ...3... 2... 1...

Novak is ready to hit the gas when the engine of the boat stops!

JULIE
 What's happening?

He turns the key back and forth, but the engine doesn't start.

NOVAK
 Shit! Come on!

95 **INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS**

95

More and more bubbles come out of the propane tanks. Whatever space remains out of the water, is now filling with gas...

96 **INT. WATER - CONTINUOUS**

96

JAKE AND KELLY PULL THEMSELVES OUT OF THE HULL. They cling tightly to one another, but the ski rope remains limp.

THE PIRANHAS APPROACH!!

Remembering the words Novak shouted to him, Jake puts a finger to her mouth -- indicating for Kelly not to move a muscle!

CUT TO:

Novak's engine still won't start!

NOVAK
Come on! Start dammit!

CUT TO:

THE PIRANHAS SURROUND JAKE AND KELLY, WHO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO REMAIN STILL.

One piranha swims out of the pack and comes closer to Jake, almost nose to nose.

Terrified, he can see the ugly features of the prehistoric fish and his two milky blind eyes. The fish bumps into him a couple of times, testing him...

Jake knows the slightest move means certain death. Petrified, Kelly is clearly running out of breath.

The piranha finally turn back and swim away.

Quickly, Jake ignites the FLARE which is tied to the floating radio and releases it back inside the hull--

INSTANTLY, THE PACKS FLIPS BACK AND CHARGE THEM!!

JAKE SPINS KELLY AWAY TO SHIELD HER WITH HIS BACK. THE PIRANHA SWARM, JAWS GNASHING, SLASHING CUTS ACROSS JAKE'S ARMS AND BODY--

--JUST AS THE SPEED BOAT ENGINE REVS! NOVAK GUNS THE THROTTLE! THE ROPE TIGHTENS AROUND JAKE, INSTANTLY PULLING HER AND KELLY AWAY FROM THE BLOODY CLOUD OF DEADLY FISH!!

97 **EXT. SKI BOAT - CONTINUOUS**

97

JULIE
Yes! YES!

97 CONTINUED:

97

She leaps up, trying to catch sight of them! Novak looks forwards and back as he guides his catch through the rocky lake-

98 INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS

98

Back in the boat, the flare's light moves towards the surface.

99 INT. WATER - CONTINUOUS

99

JAKE AND KELLY PASS THROUGH A SERIES OF DANGEROUSLY, SHARP ROCKS-
THEIR BODIES TWIST AND TURN, FLOPPING AROUND IN A BLINDING SEA
OF BUBBLES!!

But beneath the water, they are far from safety- THE PIRANHAS
GIVE CHASE!!

100 INT. WATER BUG - CONTINUOUS

100

INSIDE THE CABIN, THE FLARE REACHES THE SURFACE- INSTANTLY
IGNITING THE GAS INTO A FIRE BALL EXPLOSION!!

101 UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

101

JAKE HOLDS KELLY WITH ALL HER STRENGTH AS THE PROPANE AND
GASOLINE TANKS EXPLODE BACK TO BACK CREATING A HUGE UNDERWATER
SHOCK WAVE THAT SPREADS THROUGH THE LAKE!

THE ENERGY RELEASED BY THE EXPLOSION ENGULFS THE PIRANHAS,
KILLING THEM ON CONTACT!

102 EXT. SKI BOAT - CONTINUOUS

102

Above the lake, the Water Bug is ON FIRE! The ski boat stops, as
Novak turns the vessel around to retrieve Jake and Kelly...

NOVAK
Go get him, Julie...

In a swift maneuver, he swings the boat close. Julie, Zane and
Laura reach overboard to help Jake and Kelly onto the boat--

--as they cough up water and take deep breaths. That was as
close as it gets. Novak helps Jake up; their first real meeting.

NOVAK (cont'd)
You scared us there for a second, Jake.
Glad to have you on board.

Jake takes a second to catch his breath. Overwhelmed by emotion:

JAKE

I'm so sorry, Mom...

JULIE

For what?

(a smile at last)

Next year, I get a babysitter.

Jake smiles back at her--

--as Kelly takes his hand. She's still shocked and scared, so Jake holds her. He seems far older than the kid we first met. Kelly slowly regains her calm and dares to look overboard- The piranhas are gone... The water is still-

Suddenly, A DEAD PIRANHA POPS UP TO THE SURFACE.

ZANE

Look, look mom! Over there...

They all stand to see- Another piranha popping up further away, and another... and another...

LAURA

They're all dead!

As the camera cranes up above the survivors, HUNDREDS OF PREHISTORIC PIRANHA BLANKET THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF THE LAKE LIKE A BEAUTIFUL *MONET PAINTING*...

JAKE

It worked...

ZANE

You did it, Jake. You did it.

NOVAK

So Sheriff...I thought dynamite fishing was illegal in these parts...

JULIE

Well, you know what they say.

(looks to Jake)

Rules are made to be broken...

Seen from underwater, thousands of dead fish are silhouetted by the sun in a surreal vision inspiring silence and awe...

Novak unties the ski rope and goes to the commands. He starts the ENGINE--

NOVAK

Who's ready to head back to shore...

Suddenly the boat's radio squawks to life-

AMY (V.O.)
Sheriff?! Sheriff?! You there?!

Julie grabs the radio, answering with an upbeat tone-

JULIE
 This is Julie, go ahead.

103 **INT. POLICE STATION/EXT. SKI BOAT - INTERCUT**

103

Amy stands, holding the radio. Mr. Goodman is with her, his kind, grandfatherly face now knitted with deep, great worry.

AMY
 It's Amy...Mr. Goodman's here, he needs to tell you something--

JULIE
 Put him through.

INTERCUT - Mr. Goodman grabs the radio from Amy.

MR. GOODMAN
 Julie, we have a major problem!

JULIE
 I'm staring at at least a thousand dead piranha. I'd say we're doing pretty good.

MR. GOODMAN
 You don't understand: the specimen you left with me... It has no mature reproductive organs!

JULIE
 What are you talking about?

MR. GOODMAN
 The piranhas that killed those divers, the ones you're hunting... they're not fully developed!
 (he gulps)
They're the babies!

Julie's smirk drops. She turns to Novak--

NOVAK
 "Babies?"
 (beat)
 Then... where are the parents?

103 CONTINUED:

103

Novak doesn't finish his line-

A GIANT SIX FEET MONSTER PIRANHA JUMPS OUT THE WATER AND CHOPS
NOVAK IN HALF!!!

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.