

"JOHNSTOWN"

A Screenplay Based on Historical Events.

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This is a work of fiction based on historical figures and facts about the May 1889 Flood of Johnstown.

For more information on the Johnstown Flood including a pitch deck, please visit:

www.JohnstownTheMovie.com.

MAIN TITLE: JOHNSTOWN

SUPER: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY, 1888

NOTE: An * marking a scene means that the scene is based on historical facts.

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE OF THE DUQUESNE CLUB - DAY

Pittsburgh's congested downtown area in 1888 features grey, buildings and warehouses. Long hulking steel mills surround the three dirty rivers. Black smoke pours through tall rusted smokestacks. Steamboats traverse the rivers under the many bridges. On the steep hillsides about the city, over a dozen inclines run.

Since the Civil War, Pittsburgh's factories has become the largest manufacturer of steel and glass in the nation.

Pittsburgh's business owners are the newest millionaires and part of the Gilded Age in America.

A four story tan brick building sits among the bustling city.

A large red awning covers wide marble steps at the entrance. Fancy horse-drawn carriages pull up to the steps in front. Well dressed gentlemen move up and down the steps.

A smartly dressed doorman opens the doors into a marbled lobby of the exclusive and prestigious Duquesne Club.

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - BILLIARDS ROOM

Men in fine suits shooting pool. Cherry wood paneling frame the room filled with elegant red leather couches and chairs.

Sullen 34 yo ANDREW MELLON, stares out a window. A short man, gray hair, large nose, deep set eyes, bushy mustache. He's President of the T. Mellon Bank, a major bank in Pittsburgh.

HENRY CLAY FRICK, calls out to him. Frick is a bearded 40 yo, large piercing eyes. He owns the H.C. Frick Company, a large coke manufacturer. Coke is critical for steel production.

FRICK
Mister Mellon?

MELLON
Apologies, Mister Frick.

Mellon leans over the elegant billiard table. He eyes up a shot. He shoots, but misses badly. He lays down the stick.

FRICK

(smiling)

Something on your mind?

MELLON

More headaches. Problems with one of our contractors on the Sixth Street Bridge. These guys have been just, just, wasting time on these...

FRICK

Andrew, tomorrow is Friday. We must direct your mind off of that. Think about this instead. Lake Conemaugh. Are you going up tomorrow?

MELLON

Taking the afternoon train.

FRICK

Good. I heard the weather's going to be nice. We can get some fishing in on Saturday.

A portly, balding PHILANDER KNOX walks towards them with an older gentleman, "COLONEL" ELIAS UNGER, holding drinks. Knox, in his 30s, is the lawyer to some Club members. He's known as "Sleepy Phil" due to his baby face and tired eyes.

Unger is a tall, stern-looking, balding 58 yo with deep-seated eyes, a prominent nose, large ears, and white mustache and whiskers. He's the President of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club which oversees their Lake Conemaugh resort.

KNOX

(a smile on his face)

Look who I found in the lobby. The Colonel!

UNGER

Mr. Mellon, Mr. Frick...

MELLON

Colonel! What brings you here?

UNGER

In town for some interviews. We're hiring a new engineer for the Club.

MELLON

What for?

UNGER

We're going to work on getting a new septic system up there, for the Clubhouse, and the cottages.

FRICK

Great news! Finally! I look forward to some day NOT using the two story outhouse by the Clubhouse.

MELLON

I don't think anyone ever used the first floor. I know I didn't.

Everyone laughs.

MELLON (CONT'D)

Found anyone?

UNGER

I like this man John Parke I met today. Graduated from Penn. Going to extend him an offer tomorrow.

MELLON

Excellent. Penn is a good school.

FRICK

I was saying the fishing has been great this summer. And the lake, seems so much bigger this year.

UNGER

You're right. The lake's larger than ever. Lots of snow melt and a rainy spring.

MELLON

I know the fishing tournament is in two weeks. And, I got some new casting reels from H. L. Leonard. I'll be taking the egg at the tourney this year gentlemen.

KNOX

Nope! I'm taking the egg. I'm ready for you all this year. A new kind of bait. Secret formula. Mark my words.

MELLON

Mr. Knox, the last thing you caught
at the lake, was a cold.

Everyone laughs. Mellon turns to the Colonel.

MELLON (CONT'D)

You said the lake is the largest
ever. Any impact on the dam?

UNGER

Not really. That dam's been around
50 years, should be around fifty
more. Some earthen dams have lasted
hundreds of years. The Egyptians,
the Greeks used them.

FRICK

Same people in the valley still
raising a stink about it?

UNGER

Yes. Fulton at Cambria. Moxham at
Johnson Steel, a few others. I'm
used to it. We play nice with them.
Tell them we'll review their
issues. Put them off.

(a beat)

Are you gentlemen heading up to the
lake this weekend?

MELLON

Mr. Frick and I are going tomorrow.

UNGER

Excellent. Gentlemen, now I must
excuse myself. A meeting at the
Monongahela House. I look forward
to seeing you this weekend.

FRICK

Before you go. Let's have a toast.
Everyone raise their glasses.

(raise glasses)

Gentlemen. Here's to black-bass
fishing, and the best bourbon and
cigars, and the finest food...

(the others join him)

All at our beautiful Lake Conemaugh.

(they all toast)

Unger exits. As he does, JOHN "JAY" PHIPPS, a young man with chiseled looks, blonde hair, and striking blue eyes enters with his friend PHILO FRENCH. After greetings, Mellon addresses Jay.

MELLON

Your father's here. He wants to talk to you.

JAY

He in the boardroom?

MELLON

Yes. Meeting with some people from Steubenville.

JAY

Thanks Mister Mellon.

Jay turns to talk to Philo, who's holding two drinks.

PHILO

I figure you might need one of these. Your Dad's here, right?

JAY

In the boardroom. This is bad.

PHILO

Good luck. I'll wait here.

Jay walks down the hall to a closed door. Takes a breath. Knocks. Pokes his head in.

HENRY PHIPPS is seated with THREE OTHER MEN at a table. Phipps is a 50 yo with a deep, broad brow, grey eyes and brown hair and beard. He's an owner of Union Iron Mills Company (later Carnegie Steel) along with Andrew Carnegie.

PHIPPS SR.

You're here. Come in.
Gentlemen, this is my son Jay Phipps. He works with me at Union Iron. And I must speak with him. So. I think we're finished here for today gentlemen. I'll be in touch in the coming weeks. Thank you for coming in. Safe travels back to Steubenville.

The gentlemen nod goodbye and exit, greeting Jay. Once gone, his father sits back down. Looks at Jay sternly.

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)
Close the door, and sit down.

JAY
You wanted to see me.

PHIPPS SR.
That's right. Do you know why?

JAY
I think so.

PHIPPS SR.
You think so.
(a beat)
Again, I'm in the position of
handling another one of your messes
at work. My son, again is accused
of....I can't even say it.

JAY
I know. What you mean.

PHIPPS SR.
Do you? Because this woman said
she would go to the papers about
it. And I believe her.

JAY
I don't know what to say.

PHIPPS SR.
(slams the table, yells)
GOD DAMN IT. You're my son! You
work for me! And yet you continue
this, this, terrible behavior.
The women in our office are not
some harem for you to...
Ah.... I can't even...

JAY
I'm sorry.

PHIPPS SR.
You're sorry. Well, guess what.
I paid this woman quite a bit of
money. And moved her to another
office. To keep her quiet.

JAY
I understand.

PHIPPS SR.

This is the last time Jay.
One more time, and you're out of a
job. And out of the house.
I was already a millionaire at your
age. Twice over. And, you, you...

JAY

I'm sorry to have disappointed you.

PHIPPS SR.

Don't try your cute sarcastic
bullshit with me.
And another thing, we're going up
to the lake this weekend.
You haven't been there in ages, and
your mother wants you to go.
Do you understand?

JAY

I had some plans this weekend
with...

PHIPPS SR.

Do you understand?

JAY

Yes. Yes sir.

PHIPPS SR.

We leave on the 10 AM train
tomorrow. Don't be late.
And now, you can go.

Jay walks back down to the billiard room. He spots PHILO
near the window. Philo hands him a drink. Jay takes a swig.

PHILO

So?

JAY

It's what I thought.
She complained.
Threatened to make a stink.

PHILO

What happens now?

JAY

What happens now, fine sir.
Is I am going to be a very very
good boy.

PHILO

At least at work.
Aren't you going to that party in
Sewickley on Saturday?

JAY

Nope. I'm going to the lake.
My Dad said I have to go.

PHILO

Really? I'm going to the lake too.
This is great. And I know Lloyd's
going. All of us together again.
And there's someone I want you to
meet. To see. A beautiful girl.

JAY

Are you kidding? No more women!

PHILO

This one's different. She's a
singer. She sings on Saturday
nights at the Clubhouse.
And she's gorgeous. And what a
voice! I know you love music.

JAY

I don't care.

PHILO

Well, wait until you see her...

Jay shakes his head and looks out the window. Takes a drink.

SUPER: FOUR MONTHS EARLIER

JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

EXT. JOHNSTOWN - DAY

A smoky, busy, bustling town situated in a steep valley,
built around rivers. Horse-drawn trolleys and lorries move
through the dusty brick and dirt streets. Black fumes pour
from smokestacks at the immense CAMBRIA IRON WORKS. Tall
steep hills surround the city in all directions.

Amongst the busy chaos, we see a PETITE PRETTY GIRL crossing
a brick street. She enters Heiser's Dry Goods store.

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

EMMA HART (23 yo, petite, radiant looks, curly blonde hair, brown eyes) enters and greets the 52 yo owner GEORGE HEISER and wife 48 yo "MATTIE". They light up seeing her. Emma seems especially excited, smiling.

EMMA HART
Is Victor here?

GEORGE HEISER
Yes. I'll get him.
(walks to the back)

MATTIE HEISER
You look excited dear.

EMMA
Yes. Got some good news this morning.

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - BACKROOM - DAY

VICTOR HEISER (23 yo handsome, stocky, brownish hair, blue eyes) lifts a heavy barrel off a shelf, sets it down. Sighs. Another day of grunt work at the family dry goods store. This is his life. This is his future.

His DAD pokes his head in the room, tells him Emma is out front. Suddenly, he perks up, like an electric shock hit him.

VICTOR HEISER
Oh OK. Tell her, tell her, I'll be out in a minute.

His Dad smiles. His son is smitten with Emma. And that is understandable--what young man wouldn't be?

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - NEAR COUNTER - DAY

32 yo ladies ANNA FENN and BELLE WATERS, with several young children, walk up to the counter. EMMA turns, sees them, greets them. A young pretty girl, 4 yo VIRGINIA FENN, runs up to Emma. Hugs her. Emma so happy to see her.

EMMA
Miss Ginny I love your hair.

VIRGINIA
Miss Emma. You comin' over soon?
To sing us some songs?

EMMA

I sure hope so sweetie pie.
(turns to Anna)
She's getting so tall.

ANNA

I know. Anything new with you?

EMMA

I do have some news.
This morning, I found out I'm going
to be singing at the clubhouse this
summer. Up at the lake.

ANNA

Really! The boss's club!

BELLE

Bully for you! Working up there
should be your ticket out of here.

ANNA

One can hope right?

BELLE

Once those big bosses hear you
sing, you'll be packing your bags
for Pittsburgh in no time.

Emma smiles. That dream of being discovered has been the center of her life for the past month since she auditioned at the Clubhouse for Colonel Unger with her brother Charlie. She daydreams about it. Pittsburgh!

Emma turns to see an excited VICTOR coming around the counter. Smiling, staring at her. But CRASH, he trips over a crate and goes down in a heap. APPLES SPRAY across the floor. Everyone stares. His Dad shakes his head, laughs. Anna speaks up in a sarcastic tone.

ANNA

Have any apples Victor? I'm
thinking about making a pie.

VICTOR

(looks up at Anna)
Let me check.

EMMA

(starts to help him up)
Are you OK?

VICTOR
(stands up, in pain)
No. Damn that hurt actually.
So, I'm guessing,
did you hear something?

EMMA
Yes! We got the job!

VICTOR
You did!

Victor leans in and hugs her.

EMMA
Heard from the Colonel this
morning.

VICTOR
I knew he'd like you. And Charlie.

EMMA
Thanks for setting it up. Getting
the audition for us.
I wanted to tell you in person.

VICTOR
I'm so excited for you both.

EMMA
(leans in for a hug)
You're such a wonderful friend for
doing this. Thank you.

Victor's face falls at the word "friend". He pulls away, a half smile. He wants to be more than a friend to Emma. Looks around, down at the floor, at the apples strewn about.

VICTOR
I better pick these up.

INT. PULLMAN CAR PASSING JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Families and excited children seated in an elegant private Pennsylvania Railroad Pullman car furnished in dark woods, crown moldings and plush red leather seats. All headed to their beautiful resort at the lake for a summer weekend.

Among the passengers, JAY PHIPPS. Sitting back, stares out a window. He sees smoky Johnstown as the train passes by. Another ugly dirty steel town. So many of those around here.

EXT. SOUTH FORK TRAIN DEPOT - DAY

Super: **South Fork, Pennsylvania**

July, 1888

The locomotive and Pullman car pulls into the South Fork station and halts. A whistle. A cloud of white smoke.

The train doors open. African American porters in crisp uniforms jump down and pull out stairs. Passengers gingerly step down onto the platform. Porters pull luggage out of side compartments and move it towards waiting carriages.

A family walks towards a carriage. HENRY PHIPPS, his 49 yo wife ANNE, and three excited YOUNG CHILDREN. The porters load up the carriage and help them into the carriage.

JAY PHIPPS climbs aboard last. Puts on sunglasses. Sits back, a bored look. The driver snaps a whip and the horses jump. The carriage jolts, pulls out. Everyone knocked back.

PHIPPS SR.

Is everyone ready for the lake?

The younger three kids clap, scream YAY! Jay nods, smirks. Anne turns to her husband.

ANNE PHIPPS

I forget. Are the Frick's or the Mellon's coming this weekend?

PHIPPS SR.

The Frick's should be here. The Mellon's are coming this evening.

ANNE PHIPPS

I was thinking about Mr. Carnegie the other day. When's the last time he was here? Or even in Pittsburgh?

PHIPPS SR.

Awhile. Years. When he's not in New York, I heard he's looking at castles in Scotland to buy.

They both laugh. The carriage rumbles through the small town of South Fork onto a country road heading slightly uphill.

EXT. CARRIAGE ON A COUNTRY ROAD TO THE LAKE - DAY

The carriage moves forward on the rutted dirt road which slices through the lush forest filled with colorful wildflowers.

Soon the carriage approaches the 900 foot long earthen dam.

The dam: A rugged steep dark hillside. Like a battered wall from an ancient lost temple. Dark crevices, scattered rocks, wild grasses. Strangely odd in this beautiful setting.

The carriage passes over a bridge over a bubbling creek that pours down to the valley stream. The carriage turns right onto the dam road and moves towards the resort. The carriage stops near the center of the dam for all to admire the pristine shimmering lake. A young Phipps speaks up.

HOWARD PHIPPS

Daddy, does this hold in all the fish?

PHIPPS SR.

You mean the dam Howard? Yes this holds in the fish. They're so happy, swimming in the big lake.

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - EVENING

The placid lake lit by warm orange light. Near the clubhouse, men talk around a bonfire. Cigars and bourbons in hand.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - DINING ROOM

EMMA and CHARLIE on the stage. Charlie holds his guitar. They nod to COLONEL UNGER. He rings a bell.

UNGER

Good evening. It's another beautiful Saturday night at our South Fork Clubhouse. And to entertain you, please welcome back one of our favorites here. Miss Emma Hart and Mister Charlie Hart, the Harts. From down the valley in Johnstown.

EMMA

(to strong applause)
Thank you Colonel. Good evening.

Charlie begins a song on his guitar. The gorgeous Emma starts singing in a sultry style.

JAY PHIPPS with PHILO FRENCH and LLOYD HUFF sit near the stage. Talking a bit too loud. But hearing Emma's first notes, they turn and stop chatting. Jay captivated by her. Philo sees this, smiles. He knew he would love her.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - DUSK

The edge of the sun disappears below the darkened hills.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - NEAR THE STAGE

EMMA ends the song "My Darling Clementine". Vibrant APPLAUSE.

EMMA

Thank you. We hope you enjoyed the music. Have a pleasant evening.

JAY and his FRIENDS clap loudly. All a bit drunk.

PHILO

Isn't she something? What a voice. And what a doll. I told you Jay.

LLOYD

Jay's already eyeing her up. You going to go talk to her? Turn on that famous Phipps charm.

JAY

Yes boys, I do have that charm in spades. But what really gets the lasses? Maybe it's my charm, my dashing looks? My pithy humor? Hard to decide.

LLOYD

I don't know. I was thinking, it might be, your last name?

Philo ROARS in laughter. Jay stabs himself in jest.

JAY

That hurt Lloyd. But I do fancy her. I like her, her singing.

PHILO

Oh please, her singing. I told you.
She's gorgeous.

JAY

You may have been right about this
one Philo. Did not expect to see
someone like her, up here.
Anyway, watch closely.

Jay stands. Takes a slug of beer. Winks. Heads towards Emma.

LLOYD

Off to stalk his prey. Always in
for the jammiest bits of jam.

PHILO

He's run through all the Pittsburgh
girls. He must look to the east!

Emma alone at a table near the stage. Jay approaches. Emma
looks up, smiles. Who's this handsome fellow?

JAY

What a wonderful performance.
You're Emma?

EMMA

Yes. Emma Hart. And thank you.
And you are?

JAY

Jay Phipps.

EMMA

From Pittsburgh I assume?

JAY

Yes. I'm from "hell with the lid
off". May I sit down?

EMMA

(She nods OK)

Well I'm from Johnstown, and we
might fight you for that title.
Been there?

JAY

No, just seen it from the train.
But after meeting you, I'm sure it
must have its own, charms.

EMMA

Maybe.

JAY

Then I've been missing out haven't I? Guess I need to visit.

EMMA

Really?

JAY

I love to explore new places. Maybe you could show me around. You have a card or something.

EMMA

Not much to see, but, here's our card.

(hands Jay a card)

JAY

The Harts of Union Street. Well, I might...

CHARLIE

(walks over, interrupts)

We need to go. It's getting late.

EMMA

(a little irritated)

Mr. Phipps, this is my brother Charlie. And he's right, we do have to head back. Before it gets dark.

(stands up)

Thank you for your kind words.

JAY

(stands as well)

A pleasure to meet you Miss Hart. And you Charlie. And Miss Hart. Maybe, see you again?

EMMA

Don't lose that card.

A flirtatious wink and smile from Emma. They turn to leave. After they're gone, Jay does a twirl, smiles, and joins his friends. They clap in a mock ovation.

PHILO

Well good man. You made it without a drink in your face. I'm shocked.

JAY

Not only that, I got her card.

(holds it up)

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

The Harts of Union Street in
Johnstown.

LLOYD

Like you'd ever set foot in
Johnstown.

JAY

How about this? I'm thinking about
going there tomorrow. Find this
little songbird. I'll catch the
late train home from there.

LLOYD

Jay, let this one go. Summer's over
in a month. Hell, you're never up
here anyway.

JAY

Suddenly, I love this lake. And a
lot can happen in a month.

EXT. CARRIAGE ON COUNTRY ROAD HEADED TO JOHNSTOWN - DUSK

CHARLIE snaps the whip on the buggy and the horse moves
forward. Charlie quiet. Emma knows something's wrong.

EMMA

Are you upset about something?

CHARLIE

Why do you have to flirt with this
rich kid?

EMMA

He was nice. He came over and said
how well we did. What is...

CHARLIE

You gave him our card. What if he
looks you up?

EMMA

And what if he does?

CHARLIE

I don't understand you. You have at
least three guys pining for you in
town. Why are you kicking up dust
up here?

EMMA
Kicking up dust...
(laughing)
Where do you get these expressions?

CHARLIE
You know what I mean.

EMMA
Fine. I'll try to control my dust-kicking going forward.

CHARLIE
I know what you're doing.

EMMA
What do you think you know?

CHARLIE
You're thinking you're going to find someone in the boss's club. Someone to...

EMMA
And what if I do? What's wrong with that?

CHARLIE
Do you think one of these rich toffs is going to want to...what marry you? They'll want you for one thing, and that's...

EMMA
Just shut up Charlie. Don't tell me what to think. Or what to do.

CHARLIE
Fine.

EXT. HART HOME JOHNSTOWN - DAY

A two-story white wood row house with a front porch sits in a neighborhood full of similar houses. A garden in front with a Blessed Mary statue. Rocking chairs on the porch.

INT. HART HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

EMMA walks down the stairs and enters the kitchen. Her Mother RUTH HART putting some dishes away. Her Mom is 50 years old, brunette, with a friendly face. Still attractive.

RUTH
Morning. How did it go last night?

EMMA
Good. Some people talked to us
after the show, told us we did
well.

RUTH
I'm sure you did. You sing so
beautifully.

EMMA
Just like you used to.

RUTH
Listen. I have to run over to
Belle's. She has some tomatoes and
peppers. Might make a salad
tonight.

EMMA
Sounds good. See you later.

Ruth waves goodbye and exits out the kitchen back door.

INT. HART HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHARLIE strums his guitar as EMMA comes into the room. They
exchange greetings. She sits down across from him.

EMMA
Let's run through "Shenandoah". I
messed up the lyrics last night.

Charlie starts strumming. About a half minute in, he stops.
Looks out a window, a shocked expression.

CHARLIE
Oh my God. I can't believe it.
That guy from last night. Phipps.
He's outside.

Emma rushes to the window. A fancy carriage outside. JAY
PHIPPS looks down at the card. Walks towards the front door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
He's here. Holy...

EMMA
Hush. Answer the door. I need to
straighten up.

Emma rushes up the stairs. A loud KNOCK at the front door. Charlie opens it. Jay stands before him in a tan suit.

JAY

Charlie, right? Remember me? I'm Jay Phipps. From last night.

CHARLIE

I do. Can I help you?

JAY

Your sister gave me your card. If she's around. I know this is a Sunday, and unannounced...

CHARLIE

She's here. She'll be down in a few minutes. Come in, have a seat.

JAY

(sits down, looks around)
You were both excellent last night. And you're very good at the guitar. Have you been playing long?

CHARLIE

About 7 or 8 years.

JAY

I play some myself. I have a Martin six string. Heard of the Martin?

CHARLIE

(surprised)
Of course. They're the best guitars. I'd love to have one. They make them in Nazareth, since the 30s I think.

JAY

Yep. Visited the shop there a few years back. Had to have one.

EMMA

(enters the room)
I have a visitor it seems.

Jay and Charlie stand. A smiling Emma wearing a colorful sundress. Looks GORGEOUS.

CHARLIE

You remember Mr. Phipps.

EMMA

I do remember Mr. Phipps.

JAY

You look just, beautiful.
I apologize for the unannounced
visit but...

EMMA

No. It's a pleasant surprise.

JAY

I wondered if you were free this
afternoon. Maybe you could show me
the sights? Like we talked about?

EMMA

Of course.

EXT. OUTSIDE HART HOUSE - DAY

EMMA and JAY outside on the porch. Suddenly, VICTOR arrives on a bicycle. She was not expecting him. He pulls to a stop and is stunned--who is this guy? Also, so awkward for Emma.

EMMA

I didn't know you were stopping by.

VICTOR

I wanted to surprise you with a
visit. But. I'm the one surprised.

EMMA

(a beat)

Jay, this is my friend Victor
Heiser. And he's the reason I'm
singing up at the Clubhouse.
He works at the boathouse and got
us the audition with the Colonel.
And Victor, this is Jay Phipps, who
I met, last night.

JAY

Greetings Mr. Heiser.

VICTOR

Wait, did you say Jay Phipps? From
the Phipps family? In Pittsburgh?

JAY

That's correct. And I'm so glad you
introduced Emma to the Colonel.
She's such a wonderful singer.

Victor still can't believe he's talking to Jay Phipps. Jay Phipps--an A-List celebrity of the day, in the papers all the time, attending social events and balls. And he's from one of the richest families in Pittsburgh, hell the country. And, damn he's a tall, handsome guy. Shit! Emma speaks up.

EMMA

Jay stopped and talked to me after the show and said he wanted to visit Johnstown.
See the sights.
We're going to take a walk around.

VICTOR

Really? The sights? In Johnstown?
(a beat)
That should be a pretty short walk.

JAY

(nods as they turn to go)
Nice meeting you Vincent.

VICTOR

It's Victor, not...

But Jay's already talking to Emma. He watches them walk towards the carriage. His arm around her shoulders a bit. Victor mutters to himself "Never mind..."

INT. HART HOME - DOWNSTAIRS - DAY

A forlorn and stunned VICTOR knocks and enters the house. CHARLIE on the couch, looks up, stops playing his guitar.

CHARLIE

Well hello there Mister Heiser. I didn't know you were stopping by.

VICTOR

(plops down on a chair)
I can't believe that I just met Jay Phipps. Jay Phipps. What the...

CHARLIE

Yep. Down here to see Emma. They talked last night after the show.

VICTOR

He sees her one time, last night, and he's down here the next day. The next day? Really?

CHARLIE

I am going to say, yes.
That's exactly what happened.
That's our Emma.
Always the charmer.

VICTOR

I know.

CHARLIE

Something bothering you?

VICTOR

Come on Charlie.

CHARLIE

I know. It's the worst kept secret
in Johnstown. Your long-time crush
on Emma.

VICTOR

Actually smart ass, I wanted to
come over to talk with her, about,
you know, maybe...

CHARLIE

But you arrive and a millionaire
toff in a tan suit and fancy
carriage gets here first. Curses!

VICTOR

How funny would it be?
I get you guys the job up there.
Feather in my cap right?
But because of that, she meets some
rich dandy from Pittsburgh.

CHARLIE

Not funny.
Actually. Very sad for you.
So sad in fact, I might have to
write a song about it.

Charlie strums his guitar, and starts a mocking song. "Emma
and Jay, strolling our town today...". Victor fumes.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - CENTRAL PARK - DAY

JAY and EMMA walk past rowhouses and storefronts, talking,
pointing. They reach the Central Park and find a bench.

EMMA

(pointing)

That's my Church, St. John's. And I work over there, at Cambria Iron. Like most people around here.

JAY

I know about Cambria Iron. They were once the biggest steel mill in the country. Before the war. Bigger than anything in Pittsburgh. What do you do there?

EMMA

I'm a secretary.

JAY

Do you like that?

EMMA

Not really. But it's a paycheck. Charlie's still in school. I have to take care of things.

JAY

What about your father?

EMMA

(a beat)

He passed away, a few months ago.

JAY

Oh my God. What happened?

EMMA

He worked at Cambria. A mill accident.

JAY

Good Lord. I'm so sorry.

EMMA

Thank you. It's not uncommon. Over 200 men died in the mill last year. Hot metal explosions, crane accidents, falls.

JAY

The same with the mills in Pittsburgh. It's such dangerous work. How are you doing?

EMMA

It was tough at first. A lot of tears. So hard on my Mom. They'd been together for years. But time passes. You just, have to carry on.

JAY

I understand.
(a beat)
I wondered, regarding work. You're such a great singer, what about doing that?

EMMA

It's hard to make a living around here as a singer.

JAY

Ever thought of moving?

EMMA

Oh yeah. But I'm here for now. With my Mom, and Charlie, so...

JAY

Can I ask, that guy, Vincent, he didn't seem too happy to see me. Are you two...

EMMA

We're just friends.
His name is Victor actually.
Anyway,
(pokes him playfully)
Enough of my sad stories.
What about you?
What do you do for fun?

JAY

I enjoy music. I told Charlie I play the guitar a little bit. I like tennis, horses. Going out with my friends. Parties.

EMMA

Do you work?

JAY

For my father. At Union Iron.

EMMA

How's that going?

JAY

(after a beat, smiles)

I think he regrets that I enjoy my life of leisure a little, too much. And wishes I was more like him, and wanted to work 10 hours a day, six days a week.

EMMA

Wow. So much honesty on our first, whatever this is.

JAY

(puts his hands on hers)

Lots to cover there. Believe me. But let's save that for next time. When I see you in two weeks.

EMMA

What's happening in two weeks?

JAY

I'm back up here. Please take that Friday afternoon off. And I'll pick you up. Take you to the lake.

EMMA

Sounds like a date.

JAY

More than a date. I'll give you a grand evening tour of Lake Conemaugh. A great dinner. A night to always remember. And, you can stay over with us in our cottage, for your show on Saturday.

EMMA

What an invitation. And a night to always remember? I'm intrigued. Who will be there? Maybe President Cleveland?

JAY

(Takes her hands)

You mean old Grover? You never know. You'll have to see.

INT. VICTOR HEISER'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

VICTOR lays in his bed, tossing and turning. He's dreaming.

He sees peaceful placid Lake Conemaugh, but a growing darkness falls over it. Black storm clouds. Lightning. Thunder. Winds rise. Torrents of rains start to come down.

The waters slam against the dam and start to pour over the top. A widening waterfall forms. The dam crumbles in a huge explosion as water bursts through. Pouring into the valley.

VICTOR gasps, wakes up, sits up in bed. Eyes wide open. Breathing hard. What the hell was that?

INT. ANNA FENN'S HOME - PARLOR - EVENING

ANNA FENN and husband JOHN with BELLE WATERS and husband GEORGE chatting. A KNOCK at the door. Anna opens it. EMMA and CHARLIE, holding a guitar case, stand outside.

ANNA

Emma. And a special guest, Charlie!

EMMA

With all the kids and the babies, I asked Charlie to help me out.

ANNA

That's fine. Come on in.

As they enter, greetings all around. Several kids run up to hug them. The men turn to talk to the tall, lanky Charlie who sets down his guitar case. They smile at him.

JOHN FENN

Lord Charlie, you're growing like a weed.

CHARLIE

Bit of a growth spurt I guess.

JOHN FENN

You still playing baseball at Johnstown High?

CHARLIE

Yep. Starting at first base.

GEORGE WATERS

(holding a cigar)

Damn. You keep growing, and you'll be playing baseball for our Quicksteps one of these days.

EMMA
 (to the wives)
 Where are you going tonight?

ANNA
 The new Hulbert House hotel.

EMMA
 I've heard the restaurant is
 wonderful.

ANNA
 I hope so. Well we have to go,
 running late as usual.

The Fenns and Waters say goodbye. Wish Emma and Charlie good luck, to some LAUGHTER. Emma and Charlie sit on the couch and the excited kids gather around them, in chairs, on the floor.

EMMA
 This is my brother Charlie.

One girl: "HE'S CUTE". Other young girls giggle.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 He is, right?

Some more GIGGLING. Charlie embarrassed, smiles.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 Who wants to have a singalong?

Claps and CHEERS. Charlie lifts his guitar out of the case.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 Before we start, I want everyone to
 tell Charlie your name, and how old
 you are.

The six Fenn children and two Waters daughters introduce themselves and give their ages.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 What song do we want to sing first?

Different songs yelled out. Emma listens. Nods.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 I heard "My Bonnie Lies Over The
 Ocean". How about that one first?

Kids scream YAY! Emma smiles. Charlie begins the song on his guitar and Emma starts to sing. In a few minutes, everyone is singing. Virginia Fenn cuddles next to Emma on the couch.

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS - SECRETARIAL OFFICES - DAY

Emma at her desk in her work clothes. Her friend MARGARET "PEG" LEECH (pretty, 24 yo brunette) walks over.

PEG

Thought he was getting here around two. You better change.

EMMA

Oh shoot! Lost track of the time.
Be back in a few minutes.

EXT. ELEGANT CARRIAGE MOVING THROUGH JOHNSTOWN - DAY

JAY PHIPPS steers an elegant carriage pulled by a fine horse through Johnstown. People stop and point. This is no ordinary carriage. It has bright red paint, silver plated hardware, large rimmed wheels, an elevated sleek design.

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS - SECRETARIAL OFFICES - DAY

PEG and others gather at the office windows, pointing at the impressive carriage. 52 yo Manager JOHN MILLER approaches.

MR. MILLER

What are you looking at?
(sees the carriage)
Holy shit!
That's a, that's a Chariot D'Orsay.

PEG

A what?

MR. MILLER

A Chariot D'Orsay. It's one of the most expensive carriages in the world. The English Royal family, the Vanderbilts use them. I've never seen one before.

PEG

Well that's Emma's ride today.

MR. MILLER

Really? Our Emma?

EMMA approaches, changed from her work clothes into a cute dress. Her hair and makeup done up. Looks GORGEOUS.

PEG

Look at you Cinderella. And your
Prince Charming has arrived.

Emma looks outside and suddenly excited seeing the elegant
carriage waiting for her. Wow!

EMMA

I better go. Thanks for the time
off Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER

(a bit shaken, like wow!)
Oh, OK Emma. You, you have fun.

EXT. OUTSIDE CAMBRIA WORKS - DAY

As EMMA walks towards the carriage, everyone cheers her on
from the office windows-- "GO EMMA" "BULLY FOR YOU EMMA".

JAY sees this, bows at her like she's a princess. He greets
her, helps her up. She waves to the CHEERING group. She sits
down in the coach and they pull away from the building.

The carriage moves through town, passes by the Heiser store.
VICTOR sweeping out front. Sees the fancy carriage. Spots
EMMA. With JAY PHIPPS! She's smiling, laughing.

VICTOR SO ANGRY. He SLAMS HIS BROOM against a metal rail. It
breaks in half. He curses loudly. Damn it!

EXT. LAKE CONEMAUGH, NEAR THE DAM - DAY

The carriage moves through the lush forest towards the lake.
EMMA looks around at the fancy elegant carriage.

EMMA

This little buggy made quite the
impression today.

JAY

It's a bit much. I know.
Razzmatazz. My dad bought it a few
years ago, for special occasions up
here.

EMMA

Like what?

JAY

Weddings. Anniversaries. In June, we have a Launching Of The Fleet party. Then in August, the Feast of Lanterns. That's in a few weeks.

EMMA

What's that?

JAY

Sailboats are tied to a steam yacht and are pulled around the lake, like a parade. All have five lit lanterns on them.

EMMA

That must be something to see.

JAY

After that, there's fireworks. It's a big party. You'll see.

The carriage stops on the bridge over the scenic spillway. The waters lit by the sun, bubble over the rocks, down to the valley creek. A relaxing soothing sound.

JAY (CONT'D)

Isn't this butter upon bacon?

Jay steers the carriage to a stop near the spillway. They both get off and find a picnic table. There are others around. He sets a lunch basket onto the table. JAY waves to a few people he knows.

JAY (CONT'D)

Such a fine afternoon right? Sunny. A nice warm breeze.

EMMA

We're lucky. After all the rain this week.

JAY

I feel lucky. Just spending an evening with you.

EMMA

(kind of rolls her eyes)
Uh huh. So the fancy carriage, the spillway, the picnic. I bet this works well with the ladies?

JAY
Oh yes. Every time!
But wine is a key element.

Jay pulls a bottle of red wine out of the basket. Emma smiles. He opens it and pours them both a glass.

EMMA
Do you want to have a toast?

JAY
I do. To the most beautiful day
I've enjoyed, in a very long time.

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS - SECRETARIAL OFFICES

PEG at her desk, typing. EMMA walks by and sits down at the desk next to her. Peg stops typing. She's excited to see her, find out about the weekend. Leans into talk to Emma.

PEG
Welcome back Cinderella.

EMMA
Oh please.

PEG
How did it go at the lake? Do tell.

EMMA
Alright. He took me up to the lake
for a nice picnic by the spillway.
Then off to their so-called
cottage, which is actually three
times bigger than our house! Then
out to dinner at the Clubhouse.
Later, a bonfire outside. Some
drinks. And I stayed at the
cottage.

PEG
Oh really? A sleep over?

EMMA
Stop it. His whole family was
there. I slept in a guest room.

PEG
Oh OK.

EMMA

The next day, lunch at the Clubhouse, then out on the lake in a nice sailboat. And just spent time together. Later, I got ready for my singing at the Clubhouse. Charlie took me home.

PEG

What do you think?

EMMA

Well. He's. He's, very handsome.
(they both giggle)
And he's very...

PEG

Rich! Very rich!

EMMA

I was going to say he is very much the gentleman. We kissed a little. Held hands. But he was not...

PEG

What happens next?

EMMA

He invited me to this thing called the Feast of Lanterns. In two weeks. Then I guess we'll see.

The manager MR. MILLER walks by.

MR. MILLER

Morning Miss Hart. Did you ride the fancy chariot to work today?

EMMA

No Mr. Miller, just walked.

MR. MILLER

Too bad. Now. Enough chit chat. Get to work ladies.

They both smile, turn to their typewriters, start working.

EXT. LAKE CONEMAUGH - ON SAILBOAT IN FEAST OF LANTERNS - DUSK

JAY and EMMA mingle among other on a fancy sailboat. All wearing summer finery, expensive jewelry. Five lit lanterns hang on the sailboat. Jay pours Emma some wine. A beautiful summer evening turning to dusk. The lanterns shine brighter.

JAY

Miss Hart, I can see you're
enjoying the Feast of Lanterns.

EMMA

Thank you Mister Phipps. This is
really something.

JAY

And wait til the fireworks. I bet
they're the best you've ever seen.

Their sail boat approaches the dam and its spillway.

EMMA

That's the spillway right?

JAY

Yes.

EMMA

I have a question. I know the
members love to fish the lake.
Don't a lot of game fish swim out
through the spillway?

JAY

No. There's a screen of iron rods
under the bridges. Keeps them in.
(Emma nods, got it)
Get this. When they stocked this
lake awhile back, the Club shipped
1,000 black bass on a special
train, all the way from Lake Erie.

EMMA

How about that.
(a beat, then speaks in
an affected voice)
Oh to be so rich,
to have a special train,
just for fish.

Jay smiles. Pokes her playfully. The boat parade passes by
the dam. It's getting darker.

EMMA (CONT'D)

And there's the dam.
Or what I call it, the boogey dam.

JAY

Why?

EMMA

A few times a year after some bad rains, the rumors start that it's going to go. It's over 50 years old, so I used to get scared.

JAY

You don't worry about it anymore?

EMMA

Some of the smartest people in the country have fine summer places here. Right? Like your Dad.

JAY

I guess. Yes.

EMMA

And I believe that those very smart people are taking care of that dam.

JAY

(points up at a cottage)
See that cottage on that hill?
Colonel Unger lives there.
He keeps a close eye on the dam.
The lake.
Everyone says he's a good man.
Someone to trust about such things.

EMMA

I hope so.

JAY

(a beat)
Have you thought about, about us?
What we talked about?

EMMA

(turns, looks up at him)
Yes. I have. I know the Club closes tomorrow for the summer. And, I guess, how will we...

Jay leans in with a kiss. Surprises her, but she kisses him back. He pulls back, holds her firmly, stares into her eyes.

JAY

I want you in my life Emma.
I want to see you after the summer.
This fall, at Christmas...

EMMA

Really? But...

JAY
 I'll be blunt.
 And I'm sorry if this is rude.
 But. You're too good for your town.
 Too talented.
 You should be singing for crowds in
 opera houses, theaters, at garden
 parties.
 In Pittsburgh, New York, Chicago.
 Hell, London and Paris.

EMMA
 That's what, what I want to do.
 That's my dream.

JAY
 (slowly, intensely)
 So. Make your dream. Come. True.

He leans in and they passionately kiss. Suddenly huge
 FIREWORKS explode over the boats and the lake. Lighting up
 the kissing couple. The others on the boat CHEER and TOAST.

EXT COLONEL UNGER'S COTTAGE DAY

SUPER: Colonel Unger's Cottage

March 1889

A buggy makes a turn onto dirt road, heading up to the Unger
 Cottage, which sits on a hill overlooking the lake.

In the buggy sits JOHN FULTON. Fulton is an imposing, tall 56
 yo, with an iron-grey beard and dark brow.

Fulton exits the carriage and approaches the front door.
 Knocks. Colonel UNGER answers. With him is 23 yo old sandy-
 haired slender JOHN PARKE in an ill-fitting suit. They move
 to his office and sit down.

INT. COLONEL UNGER'S COTTAGE OFFICE DAY

JOHN FULTON
 Colonel. Thank you for meeting me.

UNGER
 Of course, Mr. Fulton.

But first, this is Mr. John Parke,
 an engineer we hired to help here
 with special projects.

JOHN FULTON
Pleasure to meet you Mr. Parke.

UNGER
What can we do for you today?

FULTON
I represent a number of city and business leaders from Johnstown who are concerned about the dam.

Lake Conemaugh has grown to its largest size ever, and to the point where, we believe, the dam's stability and safety is in serious question.

UNGER
Regarding the lake and the dam, we monitor the lake level closely. And we have a spillway to control the lake level as needed.

FULTON
The problem with the spillway is that it's only about five feet below the dam crest. If the lake got too high, it would be useless.

Your lake, by our estimates, holds over 20 million tons of water. If that amount of water ever breached the dam, it would cause a terrible cataclysm in the valley.

UNGER
I disagree about that.
And it's not just me saying that. Your own newspaper in Johnstown, the *Tribune*, posted an article on this topic about a year or so ago.

FULTON
I know about that article.

UNGER
They said a break would not impact Johnstown too much.
The waters from the lake would cause some flooding, but most of the water would disperse through the fifteen miles of the valley, in creeks and tributaries, before reaching Johnstown and...

FULTON

I believe that article was wrong.
A lot of people in Johnstown agree.

Besides the 20 Million tons of
water, you know this lake sits 500
feet higher than the valley. So
there would be downward force of
all that water as well.

If a breach happened, there would
be little time to warn the valley.
What if it happened at night? There
could be a vast loss of life.

Fulton looks over at Parke, back to the Colonel.

FULTON (CONT'D)

Mr. Parke, your new engineer. Is
he working on the dam?

UNGER

Mr. Fulton.
(a bit frustrated)
Mr. Parke is here to set up a new
septic system, for the Club.

FULTON

I see. A sceptic system.

UNGER

Can we get to the point. What is
it you want me to do?

FULTON

Our recommendations are here.
(He hands him a report)
Please review this when you can,
but in summary, we recommend to
have another spillway installed.
You need to work on overhauling the
dam, especially the upper slopes.
Third...

UNGER

(interrupting)
Fine. I'll review and take your
recommendations to the Club
leadership. Once they arrive in
early June.

FULTON

Early June. That's in three months.
(a beat)

(MORE)

FULTON (CONT'D)

Alright. I guess I'm done here for today.

(standing)

But, before I go, I want to add something else.

UNGER

Of course.

FULTON

Please let the Club leadership know that Cambria Iron is willing to help with the costs of making these changes to the dam. We know they could be expensive.

Please advise them of this. We feel that strongly about this situation.

UNGER

Thank you Mr. Fulton. Duly noted.

FULTON

Thank you Colonel.
Nice to meet you Mr. Parke.
Good luck in your new role.
I can find my way out.

Fulton exits. Parke waits for him to exit the cottage.

PARKE

Colonel, what do you think?

UNGER

It's nothing new.

PARKE

If you want, I can take a look at that report, review some options...

UNGER

(Sternly, stares at him)

Mr. Parke.

I want to be clear about this.

I hired you for one thing.

Setting up a new septic system.

That's what the members want.

They are tired of using that two story outhouse and having no indoor plumbing in the cottages.

And I'm goddamn tired of them bitching about it to me.

You work only on the septic system.

(MORE)

UNGER (CONT'D)
That's your number one priority.
Do you understand?

Parke stands and nods yes. He exits out of the office.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN TRAIN STATION - DAY

Super: **April, 1889**

CHARLIE helps EMMA off their carriage. Gets her bag. They step onto the train platform.

EMMA
Remember if Mom forgets, I'm
staying with Dottie Kinevey in
Shadyside. OK?

CHARLIE
You're sure about this trip?

EMMA
Yeah. Why?

CHARLIE
I don't know. How well do you know
this guy? You only saw him a few
times last summer.

VICTOR approaches them.

EMMA
What are you doing here?

VICTOR
Charlie told me you were going to
Pittsburgh. To see Jay.

EMMA
(To Charlie)
Why did you...

VICTOR
(To Emma)
He's playing you. Don't you see
that? Come on. He's a playboy. A
rogue. Can't you see...

EMMA
Stop it. I know what you think.
And you too Charlie.
But I think you're both wrong.

He's been writing me letters.
(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

For months. Long, lovely letters.
Wanting me to come visit since last
summer. But I could never get away.

I want to find out for myself.
With eyes wide open. If there's
something there. Between us.

An announcement: "Final Boarding please, Final Boarding"

EMMA (CONT'D)

I have to go. Charlie, I'll see you
here on Sunday, around six.

She kisses Charlie on the cheek. Gives Victor some side eye.
She picks up her bag, and boards the train.

INT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - DAY

EMMA sees JAY waiting for her on the platform. She steps off
with a wide smile. They share a warm hug and embrace.

JAY

Welcome to Pittsburgh Miss Hart.

EMMA

Thank you. And thanks for the first
class ticket. I felt like a queen.

JAY

It's so good to see you.

EMMA

I'm sorry I couldn't get here
sooner, but...

JAY

No worries. You're here now.

EMMA

Should we get my bag?

JAY

No, I have someone for that.

She sees an African American porter, getting her bag.

EMMA

Are we off to the Phipps castle?

JAY

The castle?

(smiles)

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

Actually I wanted to stop off at
the Duquesne Club first.
Have a few drinks.
You can powder your hair a bit.
Before you visit the castle.

EMMA

I didn't think women were allowed
at the Duquesne Club?

JAY

On Friday evenings, we are open for
the fairer sex to join us.

EMMA

As long as I don't drink too much.
I don't want to fall into the moat
at the castle.
Get eaten by an alligator.

JAY

There's a wide drawbridge at the
castle. And the alligators are very
friendly.

EMMA

But do you think I'm dressed smart
enough for the Duquesne Club?

JAY

Don't worry. You look beautiful.

EXT. DUQUESNE CLUB ENTRANCE - EVENING

EMMA and JAY exit the carriage and walk under a red awning. A doorman greets them, opens the tall wood doors, and nods hello. Emma so thrilled and nervous. The Duquesne Club!

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - LOBBY, BAR ROOM - EVENING

The elegant marble lobby lit by beautiful chandeliers. They enter the bar room, ringed with rich dark woods, elegant furniture, vaulted cathedral ceilings, and beautiful moldings. Piano and violin music plays. She's here!

JAY greets the well-dressed members as they move through the room and arrive at an elegant long ornate oak bar.

JAY

What can I get you?

EMMA

A Tom Collins. Thank you.

JAY

(calls for the bartender)

Raymond! Good man! A Tom Collins
and a Manhattan, two cherries.

(Then to Emma)

What do you think so far?

EMMA

(looks around)

This is something.

I have to say, I'm a bit...

JAY

A bit what?

EMMA

Nervous. This is, a little
different. Not like the lake.

JAY

Maybe you feel like a fish out of
water here. But a lot of the
members here grew up in towns like
Johnstown, even smaller.
Mr. Knox, our club attorney, is
from a tiny burg called
Brownsville.
Mr. Horne's family grew up on a
farm.

EMMA

Maybe so, but...

JAY

Even the famous Mr. Carnegie was a
penniless 13 year-old Scottish
immigrant when he arrived in
Pittsburgh. True story.

Drinks arrive. Jay raises his glass in a toast.

JAY (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Please, relax. But just in case,
a few of these should help.

Emma smiles. They clink glasses. Elegantly dressed and
beautiful 23 yo MILDRED CHAMBERS and 23 yo LORETTA MUELLER
walk over. Jay greets them.

JAY (CONT'D)

Emma, please meet Miss Mildred Chambers and Miss Loretta Mueller of Pittsburgh. And ladies, this is Miss Emma Hart, from Johnstown.

EMMA

A pleasure to meet you both.

MILDRED

Charmed. You're from Johnstown? I've heard it's a delightful town.

EMMA

It has its own, charms, I guess.

LORETTA

I'm sure it does. Mildred we must visit sometime.

EMMA

I'd be happy to show you around.

MILDRED

We'll plan on it.
Well, we must mingle.
It was a pleasure meeting you.
Please enjoy your stay. I'm sure
Jay plans to take good care of you.

The women walk away, talking to themselves, giggling. Emma thinks them odd, their condescending tone.

Club members ANDREW MELLON, DURBIN HORNE and JAMES CHAMBERS approach. Jay greets them warmly. Emma is a bit star struck.

JAY

Emma, this is Mr. Andrew Mellon, Mr. James Chambers, and Mr. Durbin Horne.
Gentlemen, please meet my friend, Miss Emma Hart from Johnstown. Last summer, she was a singer at the Club...

MELLON

Of course we remember Miss Hart. You have a memorable voice.

EMMA

Thank you. I appreciate that.

CHAMBERS

Welcome to our Club here Miss Hart.

EMMA

Thank you. It is so beautiful.

MELLON

Can I ask, Miss Hart. Being from Johnstown, I've often wondered, how do the folks there feel about our South Fork club at the lake? Are there any, strong opinions?

EMMA

I think people are kind of proud that the, the financial titans of Pittsburgh, choose to summer in our lovely Cambria County.

CHAMBERS

Financial titans? I like that. I heard we're called the big bosses. Or much worse.

HORNE

I'm glad to hear that too. That lake is so peaceful. So beautiful.

EMMA

But people do talk about one thing.

CHAMBERS

What's that Miss Hart?

EMMA

Every year after some heavy rains, rumors start that the dam's going to break. People knows it's an old dam. That does worry some people.

CHAMBERS

I assure you, we'll work to make sure that the dam is safe and secure. Our man up there, Colonel Unger, keeps a close eye on things.

EMMA

I know the Colonel very well. I'm glad to hear that.

HORNE

(after a beat)

Well I'll just come out and ask. Would you mind, singing a song?

This surprises Emma but she smiles. Jay smiles, nods as well.

EMMA

Not at all. It'd be my pleasure.

The men smile. Mr. Mellon escorts Emma to the piano. After a conversation there, he RINGS A BELL sitting on the piano.

MELLON

Ladies and Gentlemen.
Can I have your attention please.
We have a very special guest.
Miss Emma Hart from Johnstown.
She sang at the lake clubhouse last
summer and has graciously agreed to
a song. Miss Hart.

After some light applause, Emma begins the moving Civil War ballad "Aura Lee". The crowd quiets even more as she continues. Her voice so captivating. A wonderful performance. When she finishes, CLAPPING and CHEERS.

HORNE

My goodness, that was wonderful.

CHAMBERS

"Aura Lee" is my favorite song from
the war years. Thank you dear.

EMMA

It is such an honor to sing here.

JAY

I think everyone wants to get you a
drink. What do you want?

EMMA

Another Tom Collins. But I need to
use the ladies' room first.

Jay provides her with directions. Emma exits the room.

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - LADIES BATHROOM - EVENING

EMMA sits in a stall, starts to stand, ready to leave. The bathroom door swings opens, MILDRED CHAMBERS and LORETTA MUELLER enter, talking loudly. They're both a bit drunk.

MILDRED

Jay's new girl is quite the singer.
I remember her from last summer.

Emma quietly sits back down, pulls her legs up off the floor.

Loretta hushes Mildred. She looks under the stall doors. No one with them in the bathroom (she thinks). Both turn to the mirror, begin to apply makeup.

LORETTA (CONT.)

Yes she is quite the singer. Lloyd told me Jay saw her one night and fell so hard he visited her the very next day. In Johnstown.

MILDRED

In Johnstown? Really? Well you do need a good reason to visit that dump of a town. What's even there?

LORETTA

(stops, thinking, a beat)
I think that horseshoe railroad curve is near there.
I don't know. And I don't care.
I'm never going there.

MILDRED

Speaking of curves, Jay's got the kind of curves he likes tonight.

As she listens, Emma becomes more and more angry.

LORETTA

Get this. I was talking to Philo. Jay told him about her visiting this weekend.

MILDRED

What'd he say? Do tell.

LORETTA

He told Philo,
Got to close the book on this girl.
Worked on her last summer.
But didn't get too far.
Finally got her to visit.
I need to get her notch on my belt.
And this one, this small town bumpkin, she'll be so easy.

MILDRED

He's such a scoundrel!

Both laughing. Emma comes out from the stall.

EMMA

Actually ladies...

They jump. Both have "OH SHIT" looks on their faces.

EMMA (CONT'D)
The railroad horseshoe curve is
near Altoona. Not Johnstown.

Emma calmly steps to the mirror, washes her hands. Turns to leave. Both still speechless. Until Loretta speaks up.

LORETTA
Hey Johnstown.

Emma stops. Turns. Gives Loretta an icy, nasty stare.

LORETTA (CONT.) (CONT'D)
I'm sorry you heard that.
You seem like a nice girl.

EMMA
Yeah. Maybe so. I'm just mad I
found out about this,
from you two drunk ass bitches.

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - BAR ROOM - EVENING

EMMA walks back into the bar room. Walks up to JAY as he chats with others. She's flustered, angry.

EMMA
I need to go. I'm not feeling well.

JAY
What? Really? What's wrong?

EMMA
I'm leaving.

JAY
Did something happen? What?

Emma turns to walk away from him. An embarrassed Jay excuses himself from the others. Follows her out of the lounge.

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - LOBBY - EVENING

EMMA in the lobby, not sure where to go. JAY reaches her.

JAY
What happened? Are you OK?

EMMA
(some tears, angry)
You're a fucking ass. A liar!

JAY
(shocked)
What?

EMMA
I heard your friends in the
bathroom talking about me.

JAY
Who? What? What did you hear?

EMMA
Those two twits from the bar. They
said they heard you talking to one
of your friends. About my visit
this weekend. And how I was going
to be easy. Another notch on your
belt.

JAY
Oh Christ. They said that! No, I
didn't mean that! I might've been
kidding, bragging to my friends.
Being a clown. It means nothing.
It's bullshit with the guys...

EMMA
Bragging about how you're going to
bed me this weekend?
The dumb small town bumpkin?

JAY
You have to believe me.

EMMA
Why should I believe you? All that
time at the lake, the letters. The
gushing over me. How talented I
was, how beautiful. All lies, to
get me here. To your royal court,
then get me into bed...

JAY
I'm serious. I don't know any other
way to say it. I meant everything I
said about you in those letters.

EMMA
You're nothing but a liar.
And I'm nothing but a fool.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)
An idiot. Now, get me out of here.
I want to be on the next train to
Johnstown. Got it?

Emma pushes past him, exits out the front door of the Club.

INT. ON THE PULLMAN CAR HEADED BACK TO JOHNSTOWN - DAY

EMMA'S head's pressed against the train window. She wipes her eyes. Tears start to flow.

An OLDER GENTLEMAN sits next to her, sees this. Gently pokes her. Passes her a handkerchief. He is distinguished, handsome, with grey hair and blue eyes. He smiles.

OLDER GENTLEMEN
Don't worry, it's clean.

Emma smiles at him. Wipes her tears away.

OLDER GENTLEMEN (CONT'D)
I don't mean to pry. But is
everything alright?

EMMA
Not really.

OLDER GENTLEMEN
We have a few hours on this train.
And I can be a sympathetic ear.
Where are you headed?

EMMA
Johnstown. You?

OLDER GENTLEMEN
A little further. Philadelphia.
Can I ask, why such a beautiful
young lady like yourself is so sad.

EMMA
I. I don't know where to start.

OLDER GENTLEMEN
What were you doing in Pittsburgh?

EMMA
To visit a friend. Or what I
thought was a friend.

OLDER GENTLEMEN
Things didn't turn out well?

EMMA

They didn't. It's that, I was hoping. He maybe, cared for me.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Now that's over?

EMMA

Yes. It's over. Now its back to where I'm from. My dead end life as a secretary in a dirty mill town. Taking care of my Mom and brother.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Does your father work?

EMMA

My dad died last year, in an accident at the mill.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I'm so sorry to hear that. And you're the only one making a living?

EMMA

My Mom does some sewing at home, but it's not a lot. And my brother's still in school.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Can I ask. What happened?

EMMA

Last year, I met this, this gentleman, while singing...

OLDER GENTLEMEN

You're a singer?

EMMA

Yes. Last year I sang at a club on a lake near where I live. The richest people of Pittsburgh are in the club. The South Fork Club.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I've heard of that club.

EMMA

We saw each other a few times. But he lives in Pittsburgh.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

And he wanted you to visit.

EMMA

He kept in touch, wrote me sweet letters, wanting me to visit. But I could never seem to get away, until this past weekend.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

This man, is wealthy?

EMMA

Yes. Very.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

And you were hoping that maybe, this young man and yourself... But something happened.

EMMA

Turns out he made it up. His love for me, whatever. I was just someone to toy with.

(more emotionally)

How stupid for me to think that anything would happen? With me? Some small town nobody.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I could see why a young man might fall for you.

EMMA

He wrote me these letters. It seemed like he wanted me in his life. I was so excited to see him. And finally, I could make it.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

And...

EMMA

(more tears)

You have to understand. I daydreamed about this visit. For months. Of how it would go. Of how it might, change my life. But. But that, that hope, those dreams, are gone. My future. My dreams. I'm just. Sick. Crushed. I'm...my life, is suddenly, so dark.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

But dear, it can't all be dark?

EMMA

My dreams. What I hoped would happen. That's gone dark.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Your dreams shouldn't grow dark.
They're what moves us forward.
Why we live and press on.
In the worst times.
What do you want?
What is your dream? Right now.

EMMA

I want to be a singer.
Make a living as a singer.
And sing on stages in big cities.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

(slowly, intently)
If you truly want that,
then don't give up dear.
You're so young.
Just starting your life.
Keep that dream,
Keep that light alive. Always.
It will keep moving you forward.

EMMA

I don't see how it can happen. I
just don't anymore...

Emma, teary eyed, leans in. He puts his arm around her.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN TRAIN STATION - DAY

EMMA gets her bags from the side train compartment. The train pulls away. VICTOR approaches. She was not expecting him.

VICTOR

Charlie told me you were coming
back a day early.
Asked if I could meet you.
Was there a change in plans?

Victor picks up her bag, and they start walking. Emma irritated, not looking at him.

EMMA

Things didn't work out.

VICTOR
Can I ask...

EMMA
I don't want to talk about it.

VICTOR
Can you stop for a minute.

Emma stops, sternly turns to him. Victor sighs. Looks around.

EMMA
(a beat)
Do you have something to say?

VICTOR
I knew he was no good for you.

Emma turns away and starts walking.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Wait. Please.

Emma stops again. With a "what now?" look on her face.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
This. This is hard for me to say.
But. I. I adore you.
And have for years. I think you
know that.

Emma stares at him.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
And I was so angry, and so upset
that you wanted to see that guy.
I couldn't eat, couldn't sleep.
I was heartbroken.

EMMA
Alright.

VICTOR
Look. I know you want to get away
from here. Start somewhere else,
with your singing...

EMMA
(sternly)
And I know your future is here,
with your parents, and the store...

VICTOR

I'm not so sure about that anymore.
I wanted to talk to you about that,
and some other things.

EMMA

(a loud sigh, angry)
Christ. You know what.
My life is so messed up.
Living in this god damn...
No way out. I don't want to talk
about this. Or anything.
I want to go home.

Emma storms away. Victor, shocked at her outburst, follows behind, carrying her bag. He says nothing more to her.

INT. HART HOME JOHNSTOWN - DAY

EMMA enters the front room with her bag. She takes a deep breath, and drops the bag on the floor. Her MOM RUTH walks in.

RUTH

You're home? I thought you were
coming back tomorrow.

EMMA

I thought Charlie would tell you.
I needed to come back early.

RUTH

Everything OK? With Dottie?

EMMA

Mom. I didn't tell you the truth,
about my trip. I didn't visit her.

RUTH

Really? What did you do?

EMMA

I visited that gentleman from the
lake last summer, Jay Phipps.

RUTH

Why didn't you tell me.

EMMA

I don't know. I wasn't sure about
the whole thing.

RUTH
What happened?

EMMA
I thought he liked me. He wrote me letters. Wanted me to visit. I thought, there might be something there. With him. A future. I believed it.

RUTH
And?

EMMA
I don't want to talk about it right now. Alright?

RUTH
That's fine. I understand.

Emma starts to tear up.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Honey, what's wrong.

Emma moves in to hug her Mom. They embrace.

EMMA
Mom. I thought this my chance. If Something would happen with him. Maybe. And maybe, I could start there, with a singing career.

RUTH
I know you want to sing. I do.

EMMA
People tell me I'm good. Really good. But, I don't feel like there's any way I can, I can do that...

RUTH
Remember, I was like you in a way. At your age. Very good at art in school. Painting. Won awards. I thought that was my future.

EMMA
I know.

RUTH
Then I met your father.
And he worked here.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

At the mill.
And we fell in love.
And we started a family.
You and Charlie.
And I wouldn't change anything
about what happened.

EMMA

But you put your dreams aside. To
be an artist. I'm not ready to do
that yet. Not yet.

RUTH

One thing I've learned. Life is
not how we plan it. Unexpected
events happen, something you never
even even thought about. Out of
the blue. Just keep an open mind.
You never know what the next day
might bring.

Emma leans in and hugs her Mom. Tears in her eyes.

INT. VICTOR HEISER'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

VICTOR lays in his bed, again, tossing and turning. Again.
He is dreaming. About the dam, again.

A powerful wave of water 50 feet high approaches a town. The
people run but the waters destroy the town and swamp the
people. He sees a train car crushed by the waters. People in
the windows screaming.

The waters coming at him, rising over his head. He hears
Emma's voice crying out. The water about to crash down.

Victor, sits up in bed, wide awake. He pounds the bed. So
angry! Why does he keep having these dreams!

EXT. JOHNSTOWN STREETS - DAY

A tired VICTOR walks downtown. A grey day. Rain's in the
forecast. A chill in the air.

The TOWN CRAZY MAN, a haggard man, in his 50s, blue eyes,
long white hair, YELLING about something nuts, usually the
end of the world. Victor tries to walk by him. Everyone
does. But the guy GRABS HIM by the shirt. Stares at him
hard.

VICTOR

Hey! Let go of me!

TOWN CRAZY MAN
You havin' nightmares boy?

VICTOR
What? No? Let go of me.

TOWN CRAZY MAN
Yeah. About the dam at the lake.

VICTOR
What?

TOWN CRAZY MAN
(leans in, spookily)
I can see it in your eyes boy.
You know what's comin. And it's
comin' soon. Part of the End Times.
Read this.
(hands him a flyer)

VICTOR
The End Times?

TOWN CRAZY MAN
Do you know about the Seven Seals
in the Book of Revelation?
One of the Seals is about plagues
and floods.
And I know that Seal is to be
broken here. In this valley.
With a powerful flood.

VICTOR
What do you mean, broken?

TOWN CRAZY MAN
(suddenly agitated)
By the flood coming!
And I'm having the visions too boy.
In my dreams.
Same as you. Wild, wild! Right?
Read the flyer boy. Read the flyer!
It's coming soon! Soon!

The TOWN CRAZY MAN suddenly walks away. Victor looks at the flyer: The dam will break. Opening the Seven Seals. The start of the End Times. Ends with Scripture: Matthew 7:27.

*"The rain fell, and the floods
came, and the winds blew and
slammed against that house; and it
fell, and great was it's fall."*

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE PORCH - DAY

VICTOR walks toward the Clubhouse. As he gets closer, he spots someone on the porch, JOHN PARKE. He is smoking.

VICTOR

Strange to see a new face up here.
My name's Victor Heiser, I work at
the boathouse.

PARKE

(shakes his hand)
John Parke, I'm an engineer,
started a few months ago.

VICTOR

Are you working on the dam?

PARKE

(smiles, takes a puff on
his cigarette)
You're about the tenth person to
ask me that. No. I'm working on
the septic system up here.
Getting rid of that monstrosity for
one thing.
(he points at the two-
story outhouse)
You've been here for awhile?

VICTOR

A few years. I work in the spring
and summer for the Colonel, getting
the boats ready for the club
members. I'm on the lake a lot.

PARKE

You're a good person to ask. What
do you think about the dam?

VICTOR

Since you asked. First, it leaks,
and they patch it every spring.
They need to build it up more.
There's only one spillway for this
huge lake. They need another one.

PARKE

I've heard some of the same things.
I brought up the dam a few times
with the Colonel. He told me not
to worry about it. And the last
time I did, he got angry. So, I
stopped asking.

VICTOR

Really?

PARKE

Unger and others believe an article they read in the Johnstown paper about the dam. And what would happen if it broke.

VICTOR

What did it say?

PARKE

That if the dam failed, the lake waters would disperse through the valley, into the creeks and streams. Not a huge disaster.

VICTOR

People believe that. It's fifteen miles from here to Johnstown. Quite a ways.

PARKE

Yeah. True. But.
This lake sits higher than the valley. And Johnstown.
And, there's at least twenty million tons of water in there.
If the dam broke, all that water would burst out into the valley. Heading downhill. For miles.
That would be some immense power.
(a beat)
I think it would be far worse, than one bad day of flooding.

VICTOR

Damn. Never thought of it that way.

Parke nods, smiles. Takes a long puff on his cigarette.

Super:

Thursday May 30

The Day Before The Flood

INT. SMALL SHANTY ON LITTLE CONEMAUGH RIVER - NIGHT

The TOWN CRAZY MAN having bad dreams. Suddenly he CRIES OUT in terror. Stumbles out of his bed. Heads outside, looks at the creek waters. Some darkening clouds, winds picking up, some thunder, but nothing's wrong. Goes back inside.

EXT. SANDYVALE CEMETERY - DAY

Patriotically dressed townspeople and marching bands, along with Union Army Veterans wearing their dress blue Civil War uniforms, march towards Sandyvale Cemetery. The town's fallen Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are buried in this cemetery.

Today is Decoration Day, to honor fallen veterans. Later this day would be renamed Memorial Day.

EMMA and CHARLIE marching. Further back, is VICTOR. The parade enters the cemetery led by the Union Army veterans.

When the Grand Army soldiers reach a veteran's tombstone, they salute, bow for a moment, then lay a wreath on a stand by the tombstone.

As the parade continues, the SKY DARKENS above. Dark clouds have been coming in from the west all day. LIGHTNING, FLASHES, THUNDER RUMBLES in the distance. The WIND picks up.

Victor walks up to Emma and Charlie as they stop to view a new wreath placed at a tombstone. The tombstone reads:

*William Henry Hart
54th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment
Company E
August 23, 1844 - May 15, 1864*

Victor greets them and they turn and greet him. Rain comes down a bit harder. Thunder rumbles in the distance.

VICTOR

Who's this?

EMMA

Our father's baby brother, Billy.
He served in the 54th.
Fell at the Battle of New Market in
Virginia. Just 19 years old.

VICTOR

Right. I remember you telling me
about him. Damn. So young.

EMMA

My dad missed him so much.
The baby of the family.
Called him My Little Billy.
It broke his heart.

VICTOR

I'm so sorry.
Hopefully they're together now.
(a beat)
Can we talk for a moment?

Emma says a prayer and they find a tree to get under, as the rain comes down harder. Victor turns to her, nervously.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry about the whole Jay Phipps thing. How I reacted. I know he hurt you. Badly.

And, I know what you were hoping for with him. What might happen.

I can't blame you, for wanting that.

Emma smiles at him. CHARLIE runs over to them.

CHARLIE

We should go. This storm, it's getting worse. Someone said we could get record rains. Tornadoes.

EMMA

(Turns to Victor)
My Mom's making some apple pies this weekend. Why not stop by on Sunday. We can talk some more. Alright?

VICTOR

Alright. OK. Sunday. See you on Sunday. Sounds good.

EMMA

(Smiling)
See you on Sunday.

Emma leans in and hugs Victor. And then they exit the cemetery quickly, along with the rest of the crowd.

Victor has a smile on his face. As he walks slowly, he is getting drenched. He doesn't care. Can't wait til Sunday!

INT. VICTOR HEISER'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

VICTOR in bed, the rain pouring down so hard. He hears something odd, like a voice, walks to the window.

Standing in the rain in the street below him, the TOWN CRAZY MAN. Staring right at him. Victor is horrified.

The Man's eyes roll up into his head and he starts moving his mouth in a creepy way. Victor spookily hears him talking.

CRAZY OLD MAN

Listen boy.
Today is the Day.
Today is the Day of the Flood.
The Beginning Of The End Times.
Like I told you.
The Lord's Will be done.

The Man then turns and walks into the rain. Vanishes.

He wakes up. That dream so real. He goes to the window. Nothing outside, but the flooded streets and pounding rain. Am I going crazy? What's happening? Today is the Day?

INT. HART HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Super: **The Day Of The Flood**

8:30 A.M.

EMMA pulls on her raincoat. Sips her tea. CHARLIE enters. Groggy, sleepy, stares out a window. They exchange greetings.

EMMA

School's closed. I heard the bells.

CHARLIE

This stupid town's flooded. Again.
You going to work?

EMMA

Yep. One reason. It's pay day.
I'm used to walking in the rain.

Suddenly, the front door bursts open. VICTOR tumbles in, drenched from the rain. Soaked. Out of breath.

EMMA (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

VICTOR

(Excited, talking fast)
Listen to me. Both of you. I've
been having dreams. Horrible
dreams about the dam breaking. So
real, so vivid. And then I ran
into the crazy guy downtown.

(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)

And he said, I know you're having the dreams boy...

EMMA

Just slow down. What are you talking about?

VICTOR

The crazy man tells me he's having the dreams too. About the dam breaking. Says it means the end of the world. Anyway, last night, I saw him in a dream, talking to me. And he said, today was the day. Today is the day of the flood!

CHARLIE

The flood? C'mon. It's another rainy day.

VICTOR

No. This is different. I'm telling you. Please stay home Emma. Don't go to work. And both of you and your Mom. Get to higher ground. Maybe up to Green Hill or...

EMMA

Mister Heiser. I am going to work and getting my paycheck. Then I'll be back here, and like I told you. Come back over here on Sunday. Maybe in some dry clothes.

Emma leans in and hugs Charlie. And then hugs Victor.

EMMA (CONT'D)

If I see the crazy man, I'll tell him you said hello. Although, I'm not sure who's more crazy anymore.

She smiles, and exits out the door. Victor turns to Charlie.

VICTOR

I'm telling you. This is real.

CHARLIE

Come on. Is this some ploy, or something about Emma. If it is...

VICTOR

No, it's not!

CHARLIE
Are you going to higher ground
today. What about your parents?

VICTOR
They. They told me not to worry.
They hear about the dam breaking
all the time. And nothing happens.

CHARLIE
OK. They're staying. Are you?

VICTOR
Christ. I don't know.

CHARLIE
Go home Victor. I'll see you on
Sunday.

Victor hugs him. Heads out the door.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - MORNING*

Super: 10:00 AM

TORRENTS OF RAIN pour down. Water starts to flood onto the
dam road. Men working to dump tree stumps, dirt, anything
off wagons onto the road, trying to halt the waters.

UNGER on horseback, crisscrosses the dam road, back and
forth, screaming at the men to do more.

Unger sees PARKE and men working on the spillway using long
rods, picks, axes. He sees there's no water getting to the
spillway. He gets off his horse. Walks up to Parke.

UNGER
What's going on? Why isn't the
spillway working?

PARKE
We can't get the screens cleared
Colonel. The lake just pushes
stumps, logs, brush, anything
floating into them. Faster than we
can clear it.

UNGER
Get those cleared. You hear me. Get
more men on it if you have to.

A stout bearded man, 32 yo JOHN BUCANNON, approaches. Walks
up to Unger. Gets in his face. Parke steps back, watches.

BUCANNON

You're the Colonel right?

UNGER

What do you want.

SHOWERS

I'm John Buchanan from South Fork.
There's no water getting to the
spillway. The fish screens you have
under the bridges are clogged with
debris. You need to...

UNGER

I don't have time for this.

BUCANNON

The fish screens are attached to
the bridges. If you can't clear
the screens, then you have to tear
down the bridges...

UNGER

Get the hell out of here.

Unger steps away from him. Bucannon follows him briefly.
Yelling at him. Pointing.

BUCANNON

People may die if this dam breaks.
To save a bunch of fucking fish.
FISH! GODDAMN IT! TEAR DOWN the
bridges! You'll have blood on your
hands.

Bucannon finally relents and leaves. Parke approaches the
Colonel.

PARKE

We can't get the screens cleared.
It's too much debris.
It might make the most sense to
remove the bridges and...

UNGER

Parke! I have no intention of
tearing down two bridges that the
Club just built a few years ago.

PARKE

But Colonel...

UNGER
 Enough! No more excuses!
 Get those screens cleared.
 Get this spillway working!

With that, Unger exits. Parke shakes his head, he's crazy.

INT. HART HOME - DAY

Super: 12:15 P.M.

CHARLIE plays his guitar. The front door opens. EMMA enters. Shakes off the rain. Hangs her coat on the coat rack.

CHARLIE
 Home already?

EMMA
 They let us out early. What happened with Victor?

CHARLIE
 He left right after you. Still upset.

EMMA
 I guess those dreams got to him.
 But anyway.
 (Holds up her check.)
 I got my check, so I guess the crazy man got it wrong about today.
 So far, at least.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - DAY

Super: 1:30 P.M.

A fifty foot waterfall pours over the dam. The workmen stand by, staring. Their axes, picks, on the ground, useless.

UNGER stares at this scene. Terrified.

PEOPLE from South Fork have gathered by the dam. Staring. Stunned. Watching, waiting. It's just a matter of time.

EXT. PORCH OF ANNA FENN HOME IN JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Super: 2:00 P.M.

ANNA FENN holds her BABY DAUGHTER EVA. Her next door neighbor BELLE WATERS comes out on her porch. They exchange hellos. The flood waters up to their porches.

BELLE

When John gets back, can you have him stop by? We could use his help moving some furniture upstairs.

ANNA

Sure, I'll let him know. He's helping out at his mom's place.

Five year old GINNY FENN comes out on the porch.

VIRGINIA

You comin' in soon Mom?

ANNA

Yes Ginny. Go back inside.
(turns to Belle)
I better get back in.
Lord it's been collie shangles all day. Six bored kids and this baby, stuck together upstairs.

BELLE

I don't know how you do it.
God bless. See you soon.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - DAY

Super:

3:00 P.M.

The WATERFALL pouring over the dam is one hundred feet wide and growing. PARKE and UNGER stare, helplessly.

PARKE

A lot of people here.
I guess you don't see something like this every day.

(a beat)

What do you think Colonel?
What's goin' to happen?
After the dam breaks.

UNGER

(trembling voice)

I think, I think the water'll spread out, disperse in the valley. That's what the paper said would happen. Why, what do you think?

PARKE

(A beat)

I disagree Colonel.
I think when this dam fails.
And twenty million tons of water
pours into this valley of towns.
Headed downhill.
It's going to be.

(a beat)

The most Awful Force
Of The Creator.

Screen goes BLACK and SILENT.

Super: **Friday May 31, 1889**

Lake Conemaugh, Pennsylvania

3:10 P.M.

A THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION OF NOISE.

The bloated lake BLASTS through the dam. The crowd erupts in SCREAMS. Water GUSHING OUT AT TREE-TOP LEVEL, plunging, pouring into the valley. Tons and tons of water.

UNGER founders, holds his chest, falls to his knees moaning "OH GOD, OH GOD". PARKE tries to hold him up.

EXT. LITTLE CONEMAUGH RIVER AND RAILROAD BRIDGE - DAY*

LOUD THUNDEROUS ROAR as twenty million tons of water devours and crushes the landscape in the valley. A RAGING, POUNDING wall of water.

Tears up railroad tracks. Shreds huge trees like dead twigs. Crushes any structure in its path.

HOWLING WINDS. Fast moving flood waters reach 70 FOOT HIGH in steep areas of the valley.

The flood wave smashes into an 80-FOOT HIGH STONE RAILROAD BRIDGE. Debris jams the huge arch of the bridge. A new dam forms a new lake. Briefly.

But the water's strength builds in force and power. The huge stone bridge creaks and cracks as it strains to hold back the mounting weight of the water. Huge cracks begin to appear. Then the bridge EXPLODES as the flood wave punches through it with even more force.

EXT. - EAST CONEMAUGH RAIL YARD - DAY*

Super: **East Conemaugh Rail Yard**

A locomotive moves in reverse. TRAIN WHISTLE blowing nonstop. The train stops. Men jump off, run. The dark wall approaches.

EXT. - EAST CONEMAUGH RAIL YARD - DAY*

TWO PASSENGER TRAINS sit on parallel tracks. Both have been sitting here for hours due to the flooding.

A Pullman passenger car on the higher tracks.

Another train with a passenger car on the lower tracks is closer to the oncoming flood. Which is coming fast.

The flood wave SMASHES the train and passenger car on the lower tracks, people trapped inside the car screaming in HORROR. They're killed instantly. Swamped.

The people in the Pullman on the higher tracks, see this awful sight. Begin sobbing, praying. They are NEXT TO DIE.

But, they are saved. The Pullman is partially flooded and pushed down the tracks. But they survive. The passengers weeping, thanking the Lord.

EXT. WOODVALE - DAY*

Super: **Woodvale**

A ROAR grows in the distance. A BLACK MISTY ALIEN WALL approaches the town fast People see it and panic.

The wave hits like a SLEDGE HAMMER. A straight shot to the town in the valley, no twists and turns. Block after block flattened in minutes.

So much HORROR. A group of people trying to run, crushed under a rail car. Over 90 horses drown in a downtown stable. People trying to outrun it, swamped. Drowned.

After the flood devastates Woodvale, the waters slams into the massive Gautier Barb Wire factory west of town. Huge geysers of steam. The boilers EXPLODE in a thunderous ROAR. Huge spouts of water shoot HUNDREDS OF FEET INTO THE AIR. Killer Barb wire is now part of the flood waters.

EXT. AREA ON CREEK RIGHT BEFORE SOUTH FORK - DAY

The CRAZY MAN steps outside his shanty. Turns to see a 40 foot high wall of DARK WATER APPROACHING FAST.

At first he shakes in fear. Cries Out. "Oh My God!". Then he takes a deep breath. He smiles. Makes the Sign Of The Cross.

Closes his eyes. Screams "I AM COMING HOME LORD!"

EXT. JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Super:

Johnstown

4:05 P.M.

INT. HEISER HOME (OVER THEIR DRY GOODS STORE) - DAY

GEORGE HEISER and his wife MATTIE look out a window. The pounding rains have slowed. The sky's brightening some.

MATTIE

Maybe the worst's over. The sun's even coming out.

GEORGE HEISER

Shhhh, do you hear that? Look.

He points to an alien misty dark mass approaching in the distance. A rumbling ROAR grows. Getting louder.

INT. HART HOME RUTH'S SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM - DAY

CHARLIE strums his guitar. His mom RUTH laying in bed enjoying it, smiling. He stops.

CHARLIE

Looks like the rain's slowing down. And the sun's coming out.

RUTH

Finally. And you know...

Suddenly EMMA bursts into the room. Runs to the window.

EMMA

Look out here. In the distance.

Charlie and Ruth head to the window. Emma points to a black wall of mist coming closer. Below them in the street, chaos, people running about. Shouting. Bells ringing. Sirens.

EMMA (CONT'D)
It's a flood wave. The dam must
have broke. We've got to go.

They scramble downstairs out to the front porch. But the flood wave coming too fast. Emma sees others on their roofs.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Get back inside! Get on the roof!

They head back into the house, rush up stairs. Her Mom trips, stumbles. Emma turns and goes back down to help her. HOWLING WINDS. The ROAR of waters grows LOUDER.

They're on the second floor as a LOUD WAVE of water BLASTS through the windows. The house CRUSHED, FLOODED. All three tossed into the powerful RUSHING WATERS. Swamped.

Moments later, CHARLIE surfaces on a telegraph pole, spitting up water. His head bleeding. EMMA hanging onto a roof timber. Their mom RUTH barely hanging on to a piece of wall frame.

The waters push them out into a crowded debris field. Buildings JAM into each other.

Emma tries to get to her Mom. Suddenly, a large section of a building near her collides with another.

The building CRASHES DOWN on her Mom. Emma barely survives. But her Mom is swamped under the structure, gone.

Emma screams "MAMA" "MAMA"... Emma swims to a more sturdy roof. Climbs on. She keeps crying out for her Mom. Then, she looks for Charlie. She sees him briefly.

Charlie hangs onto a telegraph pole that is quickly floating away. Emma watches as he disappears heading to the west in the roaring waters. At least he's alive. She hopes.

Emma safe on a sturdy roof floating in the rushing waters.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - DAY

The wall of water SLAMS into the eastern end of town. Shattered buildings, houses, carriages, street cars pushed and crammed together.

INT. HEISER HOME OVER HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - DAY

GEORGE HEISER looking for Victor. MADDIE says he saw him out in the barn in the back yard. George runs to the back window. Spots VICTOR by the barn in the rising flood waters.

His Dad motions GET ON THE ROOF! NOW! Victor races into the barn to get to the roof.

EXT. HEISER BARN - DAY*

VICTOR reaches the roof of the barn. Turns to see his PARENTS on their roof, frightened, holding each other.

The black misty wave approaches, as high as the building and PUMMELS the building. CRUSHES it instantly. His parents disappear as the building collapses into the waters. He closes his eyes. Waiting to die.

The waters SLAM Victor's barn. Knocks it off its foundation. It starts SPINNING in the water. Victor almost knocked off but grabs onto a chimney pipe. He struggles to stay on.

His barn spinning, quickly sinking. He leaps onto another roof, barely making it.

He spots a family across from him in another building. The father packs a trunk. The wife and children clinging to rafters. Suddenly, the building pitches forward. All fall into the waters. SCREAMING.

INT. ANNA FENN HOUSE, SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM - DAY*

ANNA FENN and her CHILDREN play on the second floor. Laughing. Outside she hears, SIRENS, BELLS, YELLING. A LOUD RUMBLING. What's that racket? She goes to the window.

She sees the FLOOD WAVE CLOSING FAST. She's terrified. But she remains calm. Tells her six kids to get away from the windows and hold hands. Hugs her baby. Says a prayer.

The water BLASTS through the windows. Her baby ripped out of her arms. Everyone knocked about. Kids SCREAMING, THRASHING ABOUT. Water level in the room rises fast. Anna tries to save her kids. All struggling in the waters. Grabbing at her. THRASHING about. She tries to help them. The water keeps rising.

Anna's head barely above water. Near the ceiling. She waits to drown. Then the water stops rising. She has survived. But her SEVEN CHILDREN float around her, ALL HAVE DROWNED.

EXT. RIDING THE FLOOD WAVE - DAY*

VICTOR hangs onto a roof in the surging flood waters. Total chaos all around. He dodges flying timbers and debris blasting out of the water like missiles.

A FREIGHT TRAIN CAR heads towards him fast. Hits a building, launches into the air. Falling towards him. He waits to die.

His roof suddenly shoots forward in the rushing waters. The train car CRASHES into the waters, just missing him. A huge spray. He opens his eyes. Alive. How?

His roof floats into open calmer water. He sees a man on a roof, half naked. PRAYING LOUDLY to GOD to save his Soul.

INT. WATERS HOUSE ATTIC - DAY*

GEORGE and BELLE WATERS stand with their two daughters on wide roof rafters in the attic. Belle holds their baby EVA.

The roar grows louder. The flood wave BLASTS through the windows. The house ROCKS VIOLENTLY and floods to the rafters. The two daughters knocked into the waters.

George moves towards them, holding onto a rafter. Reaches into the dark water. He can't find them. CRIES out for them. His hands thrash around. Where are they?

After a few moments, he finds two feet in the waters. With all his strength, pulls at both of the feet. And, amazingly he has grabbed BOTH daughters, one foot each. Both COUGHING, CRYING. They hold each other. Alive.

EXT. RIDING THE FLOOD WAVE - DAY

EMMA's roof drifts in the debris field. Jammed up buildings, smoke, people screaming for help. Dead horses in the waters.

Emma spots THREE CHILDREN on a portion of a roof. CRYING OUT, scared. Their roof sinking fast. They float closer. She needs to help them. Not much time.

Emma finds a LONG TIMBER in the waters. Emma CRIES out to them. They see her. Wave at her.

EMMA

Hey! Hey kids! Grab onto this!

As they get closer, Emma holds out the long timber. An older girl grabs for it, once, twice. Almost falls in. The third time she grabs it, holds on.

Two sisters grab the timber. Emma pulls them closer to her, using all her strength. Almost falls in herself.

They're close enough that she can help them onto her more sturdy floating roof. An older girl holds her brother.

He's CRYING in pain. His leg twisted at an odd angle. Badly injured. Finally all safely on Emma's roof.

The youngest girl holds a SMALL DOG. She shivers, CRYING. Emma sits next to her. Tries to calm her down.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You're OK sweetie. You're OK.
Do you know what happened to your
Mom and Dad?

YOUNG GIRL

I don't know. I don't know.

EMMA

OK. We'll look for them.
(a beat)
What's your doggie's name?

YOUNG GIRL

Hazel. She barked at us when the
waters were coming. And we were
able to get on the roof.

EMMA

Well. Hazel's a little hero dog
isn't she? And I bet she's glad
you're here. To keep her warm.

The girl stops crying. Smiles at Emma. She hugs her little dog. Emma hugs her tight.

EXT. CAMBRIA IRON, SCENES OF JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Powerful waters SLAM into the Cambria Iron plant. CRUSHES its smaller outer buildings. Tall smokestacks SHAKE, some tumble into the waters. Metal roofs bend and CRASH down.

The wave slams into the hillside to the west of town. The waters pushed back, forms a powerful swirling eddy.

And now, people on roof tops, in trees, some naked, on floating train cars. Some in their homes, floating on beds. Many crying out for help, or in pain.

The waters calming. Mud, muck, debris, wrecked twisted busted up structures, corpses, dead horses. Smoke as fires burn.

Stunned crowds of people slowly walk down from hillsides around the town. They try to help the survivors as much as possible. Assisting them off roofs, or upper floors.

At the Stone Bridge, west of Johnstown, a massive debris field fed by the flood waters grows. Tons of wreckage clog the arches, including houses with people trapped inside.

EXT. RIDING THE FLOOD WATERS - DAY

VICTOR's roof comes to a rest in the debris field near the Stone Bridge. He finds a LARGE BOARD and rafts himself to more solid but muddy ground.

He stumbles and falls into the mud. Soaked, out of breath. Hands, bare feet bleeding, bruised. His clothes--torn, covered in dirt and mud. But he has amazingly survived.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN, STONE BRIDGE DEBRIS FIELD - DUSK*

Crushed structures, debris, locomotives, dead horses, barb wire jammed together in a huge debris field in front of the Stone Bridge. Over a hundred yards long.

Within the debris field, people trapped in their battered homes. Some pinned by beams. Some too injured to escape.

A MAN near the Stone Bridge looking at the wreckage, lights a CIGARETTE, tosses the match.

Immediately a HUGE FLAME catches on a pool of oil from a wrecked locomotive. The winds catch the flames. They spread quickly in the wreckage near the bridge, including crushed wood houses with people trapped inside.

People try to help the people trapped in their homes, but there's not much anyone can do. Most of those trapped are too far out of reach from those trying to help.

The FLAMES move quickly fed by winds along with the wood houses and flammable oils and debris.

People SCREAM for help. Some hurt, some trapped, pinned in their wrecked homes. The flames quickly consume structures.

Horrible BLOOD CURDLING SCREAMS of those dying.

EXT. NEAR STONE BRIDGE - DAY*

Hearing the cries and screams, VICTOR rushes into the debris field. Sees a YOUNG WOMAN pinned by timbers. CRYING out.

ANOTHER MAN joins Victor. Desperately, they try to pull her out. The timbers too heavy. Too jammed. They cannot free her. Flames approaching fast.

The flames and heat finally too much. Both have to abandon the effort. The woman's horrible dying SCREAMS fill the air. Victor falls to his knees, holding his ears.

Victor shakily gets to his feet. He listens for other cries for help. He hears a VOICE. Barely. He runs towards it. He recognizes the voice. It's EMMA! OH MY GOD! EMMA!

He cries out "EMMA", "EMMA" as he runs toward the voice.

EXT. EMMA'S STRUCTURE IN THE DEBRIS FIELD - DAY

VICTOR climbs up on some battered structures, following the voice. Spots EMMA with the three CHILDREN. Trapped by crushed structures. FIRES approaching fast.

Victor yells for help. TWO MEN run over. One has a AXE. Immediately, they start to axe through the wrecked buildings.

Tongues of fire, cinders, smoke fill the air.

The men bash a path through the structures to reach them. Victor makes his way onto the roof, hugs Emma, helps her up. The other men join him and pick up the children and the dog.

EXT. MUDDY STREET NEAR STONE BRIDGE - DAY

The GROUP stumbles out into a muddy street. Out of breath. COUGHING.

Victor and the men tend to the kids. Others join them, putting them on a LARGE OX CART, a makeshift ambulance.

Emma waves goodbye to the children on the cart. The youngest girl who held the dog Hazel, jumps off the cart. Runs up, hugs Emma tightly. Thanks her. Emma hugs and kisses her.

Victor approaches Emma. She looks at him, amazed, and hugs him tightly. She whispers intensely "THANK YOU". She looks at the ox cart leaving with the children.

EMMA

Where are they taking them?

VICTOR

They set up a hospital on Adams Street. They're taking them there. What happened to you? Your Mom?

EMMA

Our house was crushed. We ended up in the water. My mom's lost.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

I don't know what happened to Charlie. He was floating towards the Stone Bridge the last I saw him.

VICTOR

Oh my God. I'm so sorry. How did you end up with the kids?

EMMA

They were in the waters near me. Their roof was sinking. I got get them up on my roof.

What about you? What happened? I thought you were leaving town.

VICTOR

My Mom and Dad wouldn't leave. And I couldn't go without them.

I got on our barn roof. The flood waters crushed our home, and my Mom and Dad got swamped. Then my barn got picked up, carried away. I hung onto the roof. Got on some other roofs. Just rode it out.

EMMA

My God. I'm so sorry.

Emma pulls him close to hug. She talks in his ear.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Let's go to that hospital. Maybe Charlie's there.

EXT. DEVASTATED STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - EVENING

EMMA and VICTOR walk through the shattered town, both stunned, expressionless. Everything so unreal. Huge piles of twisted wreckage and muck in muddy pools of water. Fires burn. Mist and smoke envelops the town.

Structures crammed together, crushed, split in half. Houses on their sides, with wood beams exposed like ribs.

Dead horses. Trees stripped of bark. Chunks of twisted machinery. Odd sights too, like an upright piano sitting in the street. Ready to play.

They see corpses, some bloated, bent into ugly shapes. A WOMAN HOLDING A BABY is covered up with a blanket.

People helping others off rooftops. Some search through wreckage.

A WOMAN with a stunned wide-eyed look approaches Emma and Victor. Asks if they had seen a six year old blonde haired boy in brown pants, white shirt, "about so high". They both nod no. Deflated, she moves on to ask others.

The FLAMES from the Stone Bridge fire light the evening sky.

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB BAR - EVENING

JAY, PHILO and friends at a table. Drinking. LAUGHING LOUDLY. Across the club, Philo spots MR. PHIPPS walking into the bar room. So sullen, a stunned sad look.

PHILO

Jay. Your Dad just came in.
Looks like he's seen a ghost.

They turn to see him. Mr. Phipps sees them. Walks over. Greeted warmly. But his sad expression shakes them.

JAY

Dad. What's wrong? You OK?

PHIPPS SR.

(stunned, monotone voice)
We just finished a meeting.
The South Fork board.
We found out.
We found out.
The dam broke on Lake Conemaugh
this afternoon.
Flooded the valley down to
Johnstown.

Jay and his friends so shocked. "Oh My God". "Christ".

JAY

What's the word? Is it bad?

PHIPPS SR.

From what we know, it's very bad.
A group pulled a man out of the
Conemaugh River west of town.
The river was twice its size, and
moving like white rapids.
The man said Johnstown was wiped
out. The flood hit about 4:00 and
destroyed almost the whole town.
They also saw people floating on
wreckage, alive.

(MORE)

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)
 But they also saw,
 lots of dead bodies in the waters.

PHILO
 Oh my God. Has anyone talked to
 Unger?

PHIPPS SR.
 We can't reach him. The circuits
 are down.

Jay and his friends silent. Wide-eyed. The bar quiets. It
 seems the word is spreading among the members.

JAY
 Dad, I knew that girl, her family,
 in Johnstown. The singer. Emma.

PHIPPS SR.
 I know you did.
 Beautiful girl.
 Lovely singer.
 Pray for her son.
 And her family.
 I'll pray for them too.
 Pray for the whole town.
 (looks around the table)
 This will be in the papers in the
 morning. I have to go. Good night.

Mr. Phipps, leaves the table, walks away. Jay and his friends
 speechless. Stunned. As news spreads, the bar quiets.

EXT. HOSPITAL AT THE ADAMS STREET SCHOOLHOUSE - EVENING

A large crowd around the schoolhouse. Many people outside
 laid out on stretchers, many bodies covered by blankets.
 People WEEPING. Holding each other.

EMMA and VICTOR approach. They enter the schoolhouse. A busy
 chaotic scene. People lie on stretchers, on the floor. People
 tend to them. Loud talking. Yelling. MOANS of pain.

Emma spots the CHILDREN. Walks over to the young boy, laying
 on a bed, sleeping. His sisters see Emma and rush up to greet
 and hug her. She hugs them back.

EMMA
 Is your brother going to be OK?

OLDER SISTER
 They had to. Had to take off his
 one leg, below the knee.
 (MORE)

OLDER SISTER (CONT'D)
It was mangled, twisted.
It started to turn colors.

EMMA
Oh Lord. How are you doing?

OLDER SISTER
We're OK.

The younger sister brings a bag to her. Inside the bag, the LITTLE DOG HAZEL. Emma smiles.

EMMA
(to the older sister)
Any news about your parents?

OLDER SISTER
No, not yet. We let the people here
know about them. They said that
people are still showing up.

EMMA
OK. I'll pray for you all.

OLDER SISTER
Thank you. For everything.

Emma smiles and hugs her tight. Then hugs her younger sister. They walk around the hospital, but they do not find Charlie.

EXT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - AFTERNOON

A hand painted sign outside the station: "Pittsburgh Relief Committee." A large crowd lined up to donate suitcases and bags full of canned goods, tins, clothes, shoes for the relief effort. Uniformed railroad personnel load train cars with the supplies. Busy, loud, chaotic scene.

EXT. OUTSIDE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - EVENING

EMMA and VICTOR stand outside the schoolhouse. Disheveled people with stunned looks. A woman CRIES out, faints, when seeing a child's body under a blanket. This shakes Emma. She turns to Victor.

EMMA
We need somewhere to stay tonight.

Victor sees people setting up large tents. They head there.

INT. TENT NEAR THE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - MORNING

Morning light shines in the tent. Inside, people starting to rise. VICTOR rolls over, sees EMMA sleeping. She looks so peaceful, so beautiful. He thinks. Holy hell. What now?

EXT. OUTSIDE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - MORNING*

EMMA and VICTOR in a large crowd outside the school house. On the top step, a group of older men stand. JOHN FULTON begins speaking. Everyone presses in to listen.

JOHN FULTON

Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please. Thank you.

First, many of you know me. I'm John Fulton, the President of the Cambria Iron company. This morning, I met with many of the city's leaders. They have asked me to lead our recovery efforts. I want to inform you of our plans.

As he speaks, camera pans to the various men mentioned, and scenes of the role they play in the recovery.

First, we need to handle the deceased. Reverend Beale and Reverend Chapman will set up and manage temporary morgues.

Next, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Johnson will work on removing dead horses and other animals. They must be incinerated, to prevent disease.

Third, Doctors Lowman and Matthews will set up temporary hospitals.

Fourth, Captain Miller will become our chief of police and deputize a force to prevent looting.

Finally, Cyrus Elder will store any monies or valuables found in the debris for safekeeping.

MAN IN THE CROWD

What have you heard about supplies, relief?

JOHN FULTON

We believe relief from the west can
only reach Bolivar or New Florence.
I'm not sure of the east. There are
crews working round the clock. But
it will be a few days at least.

Some murmuring in the crowd. Some angry words. Rising voices.

MAN IN THE CROWD

We know who's responsible for this!
The big bosses up at the lake. That
was their dam!

ANOTHER MAN IN THE CROWD

Anyone still up there should hang
by the neck.
Especially that Colonel Unger.

People start clapping and yelling in agreement. Anger
rising. Fulton tries to calm the crowd, interrupts.

JOHN FULTON

Please everyone, please.
This is not helping.
Please everyone.

The crowd finally quiets and calms.

Good people, we have been dealt a
terrible blow. A horrible tragedy.

But for now, we must take the reins
here. For those who have lost loved
ones or friends, may God's Grace be
with you and may He give you
strength.

But, we must carry on. The people
still with us are counting on us.
God bless us on this mission.

EXT. BOLIVAR TRAIN DEPOT, OTHER LOCATIONS - DAY*

Trains rumble through the green countryside. One has a sign,
"Johnstown Relief" hung on the side of many cars.

At the Bolivar train station west of Johnstown, men unload
boxes and crates off a train. The supplies loaded onto
smaller HANDCARS and head down the tracks.

EXT. RAILROAD SCENES - DAY*

American flags fly from a locomotive as it moves through the countryside. "Pittsburgh Relief Committee" signage on some cars. Another train approaches from the other direction. As the trains get closer, the train crews WAVE, CHEER each other.

EXT. OUTSIDE A SMALL TOWN CHURCH IN PENNSYLVANIA - DAY

Near a church, people walk to a horse-drawn wagon, carrying bags and boxes of supplies. CHURCH BELLS RING.

INT. COLONEL UNGER'S COTTAGE - DUSK

Super: **June 3**

UNGER, at his desk, looks ill, haggard. His hair and beard unruly, face gaunt. He has not slept in days.

Stares out a window at the former lake--an alien expanse of mud lit by the fading sunlight. Unger perks up. He hears something. Something outside. Voices. Angry voices.

LOUD ANGRY VOICES outside getting LOUDER.

In the waning light, he spots a mob of men coming up the hill towards his cottage. Several hold TORCHES. Several with STONES. As they get closer, they start throwing the stones. A stone CRASHES through a window. Other rocks hit the door.

Unger, terrified, runs into the next room. Opens a small door to a closet under the stairs. A closet. Pulls the door shut.

The mob SMASHES through the front door. They move into the cottage. Blood chilling voices. "MURDERER! MURDERER!" "WHERE ARE YOU COLONEL?" "YOU'RE GOING TO DIE TONIGHT".

The mob ransacks his cottage. BREAKING glass. Busting up furniture. Several go upstairs looking for him.

UNGER terrified, shaking, cowers in the dark cramped closet. Holding his breath. The voices right next to his closet. He hears, "Look in there". CRACK! The closet door yanked open. Unger closes his eyes. "There he is!"

MAN ONE

Colonel Unger. Hiding like a rat.
Just like we expected.

Unger tries to stand, but one of the men pushes him back down. A man ties up his hands as he lies on the floor.

MAN ONE (CONT'D)
What do you want to do with him?

MAN TWO
I don't know. What do you do with
a murderer. Hang him? Shoot him?

UNGER
I'm not a murderer! I didn't want
this to happen. I'm innocent!

MAN ONE
Get him up.

Two men help Unger shakily get to his feet. Stands before the
group of ten or twelve men around him. Visibly shaken.

MAN ONE (CONT'D)
Make your case Colonel.
If you claim you're innocent.

UNGER
We worked for hours on that dam,
trying to fix it that day, trying
to stop the flood. We sent riders
down the valley to warn people.

MAN TWO
Were you warned that this could
happen? That the dam could fail?
Be honest.

UNGER
I. I was. I was aware of issues.

MAN TWO
What issues?

UNGER
(stammering)
I, I, ah...

MAN ONE
What issues? What issues?

MAN TWO
You lowered the dam a few years
ago. Right?

UNGER
The members wanted it. For a wider
dam road. For their carriages.

MAN ONE

Why were there screens attached to
the bridges over the spillway?
Those screens got clogged with
debris blocking the spillway.

UNGER

The members. They wanted to keep
the game fish in the lake.

MAN THREE

How many died for fucking fish.

UNGER

(Sobbing)

You have to understand.

MAN ONE

I think you're guilty as hell.
You knew that there were dangers.
But you made things worse.
If it were up to me, you would hang
by the neck tonight.
But, I will not make that decision.
We brought someone else to do that.

UNGER

No please. Don't do this.

From a dark corner, ANNA FENN steps forward. Not wearing a
mask. Holding a military sword. Unger starts to shake.

MAN ONE

This is Mrs. Anna Fenn. She has a
story to tell you Colonel.

ANNA

(Sternly, seething)

On the day of the flood, my husband
died helping his mother.
She died as well.
And I lost, seven children. Seven.
One was a baby. They all drowned.
In the same room I was in.

Unger gasps, cries a bit, whimpers.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Do you want to know their names?

UNGER

(sobbing)

Mam.

(MORE)

UNGER (CONT'D)

Mam I'm so sorry for your horrible loss. You have to believe me, I never...

As she says each name, she slams the sword hard on the floor. And moves closer to Unger with each name.

ANNA

There was John who was 12, Daisy who was 10, Gen who was 9, George who was 8, Ginny who was 5, Bismarck who was 3, and my baby Esther, who was almost 2. They drowned Colonel. Crying out for their mother. But I couldn't help any of them. Not one. Not one.

Now face to face with him. Unger weeping. He falls to his knees. Anna SLAMS the sword close to him.

Anna kneels down next to him. A stern gaze. He is sobbing, "Please, please"..." She HOLDS THE SWORD TO HIS THROAT.

Anna slowly stands up. Pulls the sword away. Looks around the room at the masked men, silent, staring, not knowing what she plans to do. Will she strike him with that sword, cut his throat? They would not blame her. She takes out a picture of her children. She holds it up to Unger's face.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Look at this picture.
The vengeance in my soul is
frightful. Powerful.
I want to take this sword, and
slowly stab you to death.
(slams the sword hard)
But. I am a Christian woman.
(she turns to the men)
There has been enough death.
Enough pain. Leave him here.
Let his soul rot with the memories
of the pain and death he has
caused.

Anna sets the picture down on his desk. Some tears in her eyes, a quiet sob. She drops the sword and walks out of the room. The other men slowly follow her out. One man remains. He picks up the sword, walks up to him. Unger sobs.

MAN ONE

You know in your soul what you did.
And what you failed to do.
So many died, horrible deaths.

(MORE)

MAN ONE (CONT'D)
 Drowned, crushed, slice to death up
 by barb wire, burned alive.
 I hope you rot in hell Colonel.

The man exits with the sword. Unger, still bound by his hands, begins to SHAKE. WEEPING, sprawled out on the floor.

INT. PEG'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - MORNING

Super: **June 5**

PEG sips tea as EMMA enters. Emma has been staying with Peg since the flood. Exchange good mornings. Emma pours some tea.

PEG
 You still going to that hospital
 camp at Sang Hollow?

EMMA
 That's my plan. What about you?

PEG
 Goin' down to Cambria. See if
 there's any news on our jobs coming
 back. I'm so bored.

EMMA
 I bet not for awhile. Not our jobs.
 But at least they got that one part
 of the mill working yesterday.
 This town needed some good news.

Emma starts to get up to leave. Peg smiles at her and gets up from the table. Hugs her tight.

PEG
 Good luck chuckaboo. I hope you
 find out something about your
 brother. Praying for you.

Emma smiles. Whispers "thank you". She exits the apartment.

EXT. SANG HOLLOW HOSPITAL TENTS - DAY

EMMA walks among many hospital tents, looks into some. Some people on stretchers, bandaged, some up walking. A busy scene. Nurses, assistants mill around. She spots an OLDER DOCTOR with a clipboard. She greets him.

EMMA

Doctor, is there anyone I could
talk to, about a patient list?
About who's been treated here?

DOCTOR

Who are you looking for?

EMMA

A Charles or Charlie Hart. 18 years
old, tall, brown hair, blue eyes.

The doctor looks over the clipboard. Checks again.

DOCTOR

I don't see him. I'm sorry.

EMMA

What happens if someone comes here,
and, passes away. What do you do?

DOCTOR

We notify the coroner and they take
him or her to one of the morgues.

EMMA

Do you have a list of people from
here, that were sent to a morgue?

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, I don't have that list.
You would have to check with the
morgues. So this is your...

EMMA

My brother.

DOCTOR

I see. Well, keep looking for him.
But you know, many people won't be
found. I'm sorry to tell you that.

EMMA

I know. I keep hoping.
Doctor, what's the toll,
how many are gone?

DOCTOR

At least 2,000. Probably a lot
more. So many missing.

(A beat)

God bless you dear.
I hope you find your brother.

Emma nods thank you. Turns to walk away.

EXT. LOCUST STREET, JOHNSTOWN - DAY

EMMA walks a muddy street lined with twisted piles of wreckage. Men throw carpet and debris into large fires.

She stops before a battered railroad car up on blocks. An American RED CROSS FLAG waves above it.

Nearby stands a five-foot dark-haired woman, with a prominent nose, dark eyes. 67 yo CLARA BARTON. She sees Emma staring at the Red Cross flag. She walks over to her. Greets her.

CLARA

Can I help you?

EMMA

Well, I'm looking for someone.

CLARA

I'm Clara Barton with the Red Cross. I might be able to help.

EMMA

Miss Barton. I've heard of you.
I'm, I'm Emma Hart.

CLARA

Who are you looking for dear?

EMMA

My brother Charlie Hart.

CLARA

Alright. Well missing people are still showing up. Every day.

(Looks at her watch)

I'm sorry, but I'm late for a meeting. But stop by here tomorrow morning. I'll get information from you about your brother. And we can post it at the hospitals in the valley.

EMMA

Thank you, so much.

CLARA

And what about you? You have a place to stay? Are you working?

EMMA

I'm staying with a friend. Still
not back to work.

CLARA

Well I hope you get news about your
job soon.

EMMA

Miss Barton. Can I ask?
Is there anything I could do for
you? For the Red Cross?

CLARA

We can talk about it. We do need
all the help we can get.

EMMA

Thank you. I'd be so happy to help.
In any way I can. And, sorry,
before you go, have you ever seen
anything like this? In your life?

CLARA

I've been through a lot in my life
dear. A nurse during the Rebellion
at Antietam and Fort Wagner, and
before that, over in France, during
the Prussian war. But this is so
different.

EMMA

Why's that?

CLARA

This tragedy struck so suddenly. A
valley of towns laid to waste in a
matter of minutes. Thousands gone.
Women, children, babies. No man-
made weapon of war could do this.

I'm sorry but I do have to get to a
meeting. Please visit here
tomorrow morning.

EMMA

I will. I'll be here. Thank you.

EXT. STONE BRIDGE - DAY

Several men wire dynamite boxes. They evacuate the area. Once
clear, a man at a detonator yells: "FIRE IN THE HOLE."

He pushes down a plunger. A huge EXPLOSION rocks the area. Chunks of debris near the Stone Bridge BLAST into the air. Using dynamite, they work to clear the huge debris field. This effort takes many months.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Super: **June 15**

A busy scene as a train pulls into the station. A huge group of people exits the train.

JAY PHIPPS steps down from the train with a bag and a GUITAR CASE. Walks out to the busy, NOISY carriage stand. Finds an available carriage. Greets a DRIVER who takes his bags.

Jay climbs aboard. Settles in. So stunned, seeing the battered landscape around him. And the large crowds at the station. The driver gets into his seat. Jay leans forward.

JAY

So many people arriving. Is this normal?

DRIVER

Yep. Mostly flood tourists. Want to see the destruction for themselves. Use their new Kodaks for photographs. Take home some relics.

JAY

Kind of morbid.

DRIVER

Actually it's a good for the town. Lots of money coming in. People stay at the hotels, eat at the restaurants. So where to?

JAY

Can you take me to this address?
(hands him Emma's card)

DRIVER

(a beat)

I'm sorry to tell you.
Union Street was wiped out.

JAY

Christ. Can we get close?

DRIVER

I'll take you as close as I can.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Men work in the devastated street mess. Feed a large bonfire with piles of bedding, clothes and carpet. A horrible stench. JAY wide-eyed as the carriage moves through the narrow streets lined with debris. Shocked by the utter destruction.

DRIVER

Ever seen anything like it?

JAY

It's like hell on earth. Anyone know, how many died?

DRIVER

I've heard 3,000. I've heard 5,000. There's other towns up the valley wiped off the map too. Woodvale, Mineral Point, East Conemaugh.

Jay shook, stunned. The horrid mess, the smell.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

We're on the cross street for Union. That's what's left.

Twisted debris and wrecked structures for hundreds of yards.

JAY

I knew a family that lived there. The Harts.

DRIVER

Sorry to hear that.

JAY

Is there anywhere I can get a list of those who died, or missing?

DRIVER

The main Red Cross hospital on Locust Street. We can head there.

EXT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A two story storefront with a Red Cross flag waving out front. Nurses and others move about the busy scene. JAY steps down from the carriage. Turns to the driver.

JAY

Can you wait? I won't be long.

The driver nods OK. Jay hands him \$10, far more than the fare. He then walks up to the Red Cross building.

INT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

After a brief wait, Jay talks to a nurse at the desk.

JAY

Hello. I'm looking for someone. Is there a list of people injured? Or missing? Or, perished?

NURSE

That board behind you. Who are you looking for? I manage the list.

JAY

Her name's Emma Hart. She used to live on Union Street.

NURSE

Oh my God. I know her. She works here. She left about an hour ago.

JAY

Really? Do you, do you know where she's staying? I'm an old friend.

NURSE

I don't. Sorry. People are living all over since the flood. But she'll be back tomorrow. You want to leave a note?

JAY

Of course. Thank you.

She hands him a pad and pencil. Jay nods thanks. He's so excited, he can barely write. He addresses it to Emma.

*I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
I HOPE YOUR BROTHER AND MOM ARE
SAFE TOO.
I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT NEWS.
SOMETHING THAT CAN HELP YOUR TOWN.
BUT IT INVOLVES YOU.
I'LL BE AT THE CLUBHOUSE UNTIL
TUESDAY AFTERNOON.
CAN YOU PLEASE COME UP THERE?
I THINK THIS IS SO URGENT.
I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE.*

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

JAY PHIPPS

Jay folds the note, writes "Emma Hart" on the outside, hands it to the nurse. Thanks her.

Walks to the bulletin board. Sees many names listed with their ages. Others unidentified, with descriptions like:

UNKNOWN FEMALE. Age Forty Five. Weight 100. Very long black hair. Black dress. Plain gold ring on third finger of left hand. Black stockings. Five pennies in purse. Bunch of keys.

UNKNOWN MALE. Age Five Years, Sandy Hair, Checkered Waist. Ribbed Knee Pants. Black stockings darned in both heels.

UNKNOWN FEMALE. Light hair. About fifteen years.

Jay shudders. So many gone. So many.

INT. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JOHNSTOWN - DAY

EMMA in a church pew with VICTOR. A Christian hymn begins: "On Jordan's Stormy Banks". Emma does not sing. A little later, the OLDER PREACHER'S fiery sermon has begun.

PREACHER

Good people. I struggle with this.
Why did a God who loves us so much,
let this horrible event happen?

But I have some thoughts.
And I want to share them with you.
And it's not easy to say.
But, too many of us had become,
obsessed with ungodly earthly
desires. Making the most money.
Gaining the most possessions.
Abusing demon alcohol. Partaking in
unclean acts of the flesh.

The Good Book notes that there will
come a time of Great Tribulation.
A time of judgment unmatched by any
period in human history.

This is revealed by the Seven Seals
of The Book of Revelation.

I believe this horrible flood is
opening one of the Seven Seals.
And, this means that the End Times
are upon us.

(MORE)

PREACHER (CONT'D)

I do firmly believe that the End Times are coming.
 And we must be prepared.
 For the Apostle Peter said, "The End of All things is at hand, be therefore sober, and watch unto Prayer."

EXT. OUTSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

EMMA walks outside the church with VICTOR amongst others.
 Talking with him, shakes her head, smiling.

EMMA

What was that about?
 I wanted to come to a Church for some uplifting music and hopeful prayers.
 Try to feel good for a change.
 Not hear about the End Times.

VICTOR

I know. And to blame alcohol and the desires of the flesh?

EMMA

The good preacher should visit Green's Hill. Lizzie Thompson's place and the other brothels up there are doing great business.

VICTOR

The Good Lord must have bad aim.

Emma stops at the bottom of the steps. Turns to Victor.

EMMA

I wanted to tell you. I got a message from Jay Phipps. On Friday.

VICTOR

Really? Jay Phipps? Is he here?

EMMA

(hands him the note)
 He left this for me at the Red Cross. He's up at the Clubhouse. Until Tuesday.

VICTOR

What do you think?

EMMA

I don't know. I might want to go up there. See about this urgent news.

VICTOR

Alright but I'm going with you.

EMMA

You don't have to do that.

VICTOR

Of course I do! Who knows what's going on up there. The Colonel and his men are probably still up there.

EMMA

Alright. Thank you. There's a 2:00 train. We can make that.

INT. TRAIN RIDE TO SOUTH FORK - DAY

EMMA and VICTOR view the destruction of the towns in the upper valley for the first time. Flattened expanses where buildings once stood. Both stunned. Victor speaks up.

VICTOR

I've been meaning to tell you.

(A beat)

I'm headed to Philadelphia this Wednesday.

EMMA

Really?

VICTOR

I have an uncle there, and he invited me to come up for a visit. And while I'm there, I'm going to check out some colleges.

EMMA

That makes sense. You have to consider your future. What's left here?

VICTOR

Well, something's still here.

He tenderly reaches for her hand, squeezes it tight.

EXT. IN THE CARRIAGE HEADED TO THE SOUTH FORK DAM SITE - DAY

Their carriage approaches the dam site. Now a wide gap between two steep hillsides. A muddy misty stew of puddles and brush as far as the eye can see. Both stunned at this strange alien landscape. The beautiful lake. Gone. Vanished.

EXT. IN THE CARRIAGE PASSING THE COTTAGES - DAY

The carriage passes damaged, vandalized cottages. Shattered glass, battered doors, broken furniture scattered in the overgrown, unkempt front yards full of weeds.

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Outside the clubhouse, tall weeds choke the front lawn and gardens.

EMMA and VICTOR step onto the wide porch. They turn to view the huge muddy expanse of the former lake, the flipped over boats, the deserted docks.

Other than the buzzing summer bugs, so quiet.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - FRONT ROOM AND HALL - DAY

EMMA and VICTOR slowly enter the darkened lobby. Tables and chairs scattered about. Broken glass everywhere. On their right, a 12-foot-high brick ornate fireplace. A grand wooden stairway stands across from them.

They turn to walk down a long empty hallway. Slowly push open a door to another room. They enter the dining room.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE DINING ROOM - DAY

COLONEL UNGER and JOHN PARKE sit at a table in a dark corner. Parke sees them enter. Stands up, points a PISTOL at them.

PARKE

Stop! Who goes there?

VICTOR

(Pulls Emma aside)

Don't shoot! My name's Victor Heiser. I worked up here. I'm with Emma Hart. You know me Colonel!

UNGER

It's alright Parke. Put that away.

Emma and Victor walk in slowly. Approach the table. Parke sits down. Parke so unkempt, a growing beard, long hair.

UNGER (CONT'D)

Miss Hart. Mr. Heiser. How are you?

EMMA

I'm looking for Jay Phipps.

UNGER

Mr. Parke. Go get Mr. Phipps.

(turns back to her)

How's your brother Charlie?

EMMA

He's missing. That's how he is.

UNGER

I'm sorry to hear that. Would either of you care for an Old Overholt?

They both nod, no thanks. Unger pours himself a drink.

VICTOR

We saw the cottages coming in.

UNGER

A few days after the flood. A drunken mob ransacked most of the cottages. They almost got me.

EMMA

An angry mob. I wonder why.

UNGER

Miss Hart, no one wanted this to happen. We're so heartbroken. All of us. Such a terrible accident, an Act of God.

EMMA

An Act Of God? Really?
Is that what you said?
Colonel, I have a question for you.
Did God build that dam?
Did God take care of that dam?
(a beat)
No, man did.
Man did.

UNGER

We did our best, you have to believe me.

JAY PHIPPS enters. Holds a GUITAR CASE. He's excited to see Emma. But he can tell--she's not happy to see him.

JAY

Emma, I'm so glad you're alright.
How's Charlie, and your Mom?

EMMA

My Mom went down in the flood.
Charlie's missing. Probably gone.

JAY

Oh Christ, I'm so sorry.

Emma notices the guitar case.

EMMA

What's that for?

JAY

It's a Martin guitar. For Charlie.
He told me how much he wanted one.

EMMA

You can keep it.

JAY

No, no. Please take it. In his
memory. Or maybe he'll be found.

EMMA

So what's this urgent news?

JAY

My father and others want to help
the people of the valley. Raise
money. I want you to come stay with
us and help out. We want to
organize fundraisers, balls, and
you can sing at them.

EMMA

There's plenty of singers in
Pittsburgh. Why me?

JAY

You're from here. That'll mean so
much more.

EMMA

Really?
I don't think so.
No, you need to show me off.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

Like an old dirty penny,
shined up, like new.

JAY

That's not it. It's because I know
you're a wonderful singer.
What are you doing today? Now?

EMMA

I'm a nurse's assistant. At the Red
Cross.

JAY

(exasperated)

What? You're one of the best
singers I've ever heard. Wrapping
bandages, mending wounds. That's
not what God intended you to do.

VICTOR

(steps up)

How do you know what God intended
her to do?

JAY

Have we met? Didn't you work at the
boathouse?

EMMA

This is Victor Heiser. He saved my
life. And three other children with
me. Found us trapped near the Stone
Bridge, and rescued us all.

JAY

God bless you. This whole thing.
We're so heartbroken about it, this
terrible accident.

VICTOR

An accident?
Is that what you called it?
People up here knew about the
problems with that dam,
and ignored them.
Did nothing to fix them.

Victor stares hard at Parke. He turns away. Then at Unger.

JAY

No one wanted this to happen.

VICTOR

That help you sleep at night?

JAY

(turns to Emma, sternly)
I know it didn't end right for us
in Pittsburgh. But, if I didn't
mean everything I said about you,
would I be up here?

EMMA

Now I'm to believe, that I'm the
one. I don't think so.
I'm thinking your Daddy sent you to
find me.
Make him and the other members feel
better about the horrible shit that
happened here.

JAY

I swear to God. Look.
I'm leaving on Tuesday.
Come with me. Please.

VICTOR

Did you hear her? She said no.

JAY

(ignores him)
Do you remember what you told me at
the lake?
How you wanted to sing on the
biggest stages in the country?
It is still your dream. I know
that.
Even if you still hate me, at least
follow that dream.
You can start in Pittsburgh.
Do this for yourself, but you can
also help your town.

VICTOR

Maybe her dreams have changed.
Can't you take a hint?

JAY

(Angry, turns to Victor)
Alright boathouse boy.
Then she can stay here with you,
in this fucking hellhole...

VICTOR

You son of a bitch.

Victor moves at Jay. The others stand up. Emma steps in front
of Victor. Holds him back.

EMMA

Don't do this. Please. Don't.

Victor stops, stares intently at Jay. Victor backs off.

Emma pauses. Thinking. Looks up, stares into Victor's eyes.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Maybe he's right.

I can do more in Pittsburgh to help out here.

Raise money. Like he says.

I think I have a gift.

I should use it, right?

To help our town?

(a beat)

I know, this isn't what you wanted, for us. But...

Victor's face falls. Shocked. Crestfallen. How could she do this? After what they have been through! Go with Jay?

Emma hugs him, then slowly turns. Walks up to Jay, with a slight smile. Jay smiles back, and starts to lean into hug her. Jay then turns to Victor, a smug smile. I win again.

And she SLUGS HIM HARD IN THE NOSE. Jay CURSES and holds his nose, which is bleeding. Everyone GASPS. Stunned.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You didn't get my notch on your belt. But how about a bloody nose.

VICTOR

(stunned, shocked)

Emma. Holy shit.

I think. I think.

We should go.

EMMA

(smiling)

You're right Vincent.

It's time to go.

Don't forget the guitar.

Victor picks up the guitar case. He's so nervous. What will they do? Parke has a gun! They head out of the room. Jay holds a napkin up to his face, bleeding. Seething.

Jay SO ANGRY. HOW DARE you do that! To ME! To ME! I traveled all the way here, to find you, in this fucking wretched mess, to RESCUE you! To SAVE you! TO CHANGE YOUR FUCKING LIFE! And you HIT me! NO ONE TURNS ME DOWN! You little...

JAY
(yelling, angry)
Go ahead and stay here!
With the boathouse boy.
Enjoy singing to the rubble.
You stupid....

EXT. JOHNSTOWN CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Super: **July, 1889**

The park alive with activity. Families with children playing. Dogs run about, barking. The noise of hammering fills the air as reconstruction on nearby buildings continues.

EMMA on a PARK BENCH in her white Red Cross uniform. VICTOR arrives. She gets up, greets him with a warm hug.

EMMA
Well, mister traveler. Welcome
back. A long trip. How was
Philadelphia?

VICTOR
Good. Spent a lot of time
exploring it. What a fine city.
Museums. So much history.
And I have some news.

EMMA
Let's hear it.

VICTOR
While there, I visited Jefferson
Medical College. Talked to some
people. I liked it. They seemed to
like me. And, I applied to their
pre-med program.

EMMA
Pre-med? That's, unexpected.

VICTOR
I know. Did not expect to be so
interested in medicine, but the
more I talked with them, the more I
grew to like the idea. I should
hear something in the next few
weeks.

EMMA
That's great news.

VICTOR

And my chances are pretty good.
They're making special exceptions
for flood victims. So we'll see
what happens.

How are you? How are things with
the Red Cross?

EMMA

Good. Good. It's keeping me busy.
And I'm learning so much. Treating
patients, learning about medicine.
It's so interesting.
Who knew, I might want to become a
nurse?

VICTOR

You never know what life brings.

EMMA

Meeting Miss Barton changed my
life. Probably saved it.

VICTOR

There were stories in the papers
there about her and the Red Cross
here all the time. She's a national
hero.

EMMA

She hasn't left since the the
flood. Working 12 hour days. Every
day. 67 years old. I don't know how
she does it.

VICTOR

Besides work, have you, tried
singing again?

EMMA

Not really.
(sighs, somberly)
That part of me.
It doesn't feel connected anymore.
Like I was another person.
In a different life.
In a different place.
It's so strange.

VICTOR

We all feel that way. So much has
changed. Any news about Charlie?

EMMA

No. Nothing. But. I keep hoping.
There're still some people showing
up, who they thought were gone.

VICTOR

Good. You never know, right?
(a beat)
I did want to talk to you about one
other thing.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

If things work out, and I get into
school there. I want you, to come
and join me. Once I get settled.

EMMA

Victor, I...

VICTOR

It's a big decision, I know.

EMMA

Let me think about it.
(a beat, she smiles)
It's so funny.
I was so sure I was the one leaving
this town, and you were staying.
But, things have totally flipped.

VICTOR

Everything has flipped.
Our whole world. Our lives.
(a beat)
Please think about what I said.

EMMA

Alright. And. I'm not saying no.

VICTOR

Good. Good.
I can't believe I'm talking about
going to medical school.
Me!
I feel like a clumsy store clerk
most of the time...

EMMA

Listen!
Remember what you did for me.
And those children.
Never forget that. Never!

VICTOR

I won't.

EMMA

(A beat)

I'm so proud of you.
After what you've been through.
To maybe being a doctor some day?

VICTOR

A long way to go, but thank you.

EMMA

I bet you do it. I do.
(a beat)
And your Mom and Dad.
They're looking down.
They're so proud of you.
(a beat, tears in her
eyes)
I know it.

VICTOR

(tears in his eyes)
I hope so
I would want to make them proud.
(A beat)
I miss them so much. Every day.

Both teary-eyed, they hug warmly on the bench.

(NOTE--Victor Heiser is a historical figure and he did become a world renowned doctor that traveled the world, specializing in treating leprosy and other diseases.)

INT. OLD OYSTER HOUSE, PITTSBURGH - DAY*

Super: **Original Old Oyster House**

Pittsburgh

October, 1889

Attorney PHILANDER KNOX sits in a high wood booth at the back of the nearly empty restaurant. HENRY PHIPPS enters and crosses the restaurant. Sits across from Knox. Phipps agitated, in a hurry. Speaking fast.

PHIPPS SR.

Alright. I need to know about this
Nancy Little Case.

KNOX

You want to order some...

PHIPPS SR.

No I don't have time.

KNOX

Alright. Nancy Little lives in Sewickley. Her husband John was a salesman and in Johnstown on a business trip. Staying at the Hulbert House hotel downtown. That hotel was hit by the flood. And he perished.

PHIPPS SR.

Christ. And I understand she has six children.

KNOX

Actually, she has seven. She's suing the South Fork Club, for negligence in maintaining the dam.

PHIPPS SR.

How do you plan to counter that?

KNOX

First, we'll say that there's no way to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that any dam, built by the best engineers in the world, could've withstood that much rain. A record, over ten inches in two days. Truly, an Act of God.

PHIPPS SR.

Good. I like that.

KNOX

And our team there worked tirelessly all day in dangerous conditions to try to stop the flood. The Colonel sent riders down the valley several hours before the flood, to warn people. And used telegraph and telephone messages as well.

PHIPPS SR.

Alright. That sounds. Promising. What if they bring up, other things?

(MORE)

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)

Like having only one spillway, the fish screens on the bridges, the dam road being lowered.

KNOX

I don't think any of that matters. Even if all those things were addressed, there's still no way to know that it would have prevented this flood. Beyond a reasonable doubt. That's the key. We will have many experts testify to that.

PHIPPS SR.

Alright. Knox we can't lose this case. It would lead to dozens like this one. It could cost us, millions...

KNOX

I'm supremely confident that we're on the right side of the law here. This was a horrible tragedy due to an Act of God.

The Club and its members are not at fault. No one wanted this to happen.

We are fully prepared to make that argument. And win the case.

PHIPPS SR.

Christ I hope so.

Phipps leans back. Sighs. Alright.

INT. ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTROOM, PITTSBURGH - DAY

Super: **Allegheny County Courthouse**

March, 1890

HENRY PHIPPS and JAY PHIPPS stand in the back of the courtroom. The courtroom quiet, but so much anticipation as a jury verdict should come in soon. PHILANDER KNOX sees them and walks up to them. Exchange greetings.

PHIPPS SR.

What are you hearing Knox? Is the verdict coming in soon.

KNOX

Yes. I understand the verdict
should be in soon.

PHIPPS SR.

Good lord, I'm so nervous.

One of Knox's assistants approaches him and leans in to say something to him. Knox turns to the Phipps men.

KNOX

The verdict is in.

Knox heads back to the defense table. The courtroom suddenly abuzz as word spreads that the verdict is coming in.

The jury enters. The crowd chatter grows LOUDER. The JURY FOREMAN hands a paper to the BAILIFF. The bailiff nods, exits the courtroom. A few moments later, JUDGE CHARLES FLAHERTY (66 yo, white haired, distinguished) enters. The murmuring in the courtroom stops. The bailiff follows him in.

BAILIFF

All rise. The Fifth District Court
of Allegheny County and the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is
back in session. The Honorable
Charles Flaherty presiding.

JUDGE FLAHERTY

Mr. Foreman, has the jury reached a
verdict?

JURY FOREMAN

Yes we have Your Honor.

JUDGE FLAHERTY

Thank you. Now, please address the
Court and state your verdict.
And I ask that the courtroom remain
calm after the verdict is read.
Please proceed Mr. Foreman.

JURY FOREMAN

Yes your honor. We have reached a
verdict in the case of Negligent
Homicide filed by the family of Mr.
John Little of Sewickley
Pennsylvania against the South Fork
Fishing and Hunting Club. Our
verdict is that the South Fork Club
is...

Not Guilty

AN EMOTIONAL ROAR rises. Reporters race out of the back of the courtroom. People SHOUT at the jury, calling them cowards, and worse. They yell at the judge. Police move into the room. The judge stands, YELLS, SLAMS GAVEL.

JUDGE FLAHERTY

Order. Order!

We will have order!

The two Phipps men look around at the unruly courtroom. After about a minute, with the police in the room, calm returns.

JUDGE FLAHERTY (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, a verdict in this case has been reached.

(Looks at jury)

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County thank the jurors for your duty and service. I know this was difficult for you. This case is adjourned. The jury is discharged. God bless this Court and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The judge SLAMS down the gavel.

KNOX turns to see the PHIPPS men in the back of the courtroom. Smiles at them. Pumps his fist. We won!

On the plaintiff side of the room, widow NANCY LITTLE weeps with her children. Hugging them tight. She has lost.

The PHIPPS men see the Little family mourn. Henry Phipps is moved, emotional. KNOX approaches. Surprised he is upset.

KNOX

Henry, we won. Why the...

PHIPPS SR.

I'm going to make it right for her, for her family.

KNOX

What do you mean? I would not recommend doing anything like that. Let's discuss this...

PHIPPS SR.

For Chrissakes, shut up Knox. Just shut the fuck up.

(eyes moist)

Oh my God,

(MORE)

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)
 (a beat)
 what have we done?

Jay sees his father getting so emotional, with tears. This is so unusual for him. His stoic, stern father never seems to have any passion or emotion. Seeing this moves Jay. He turns to his Dad. Their eyes meet. They hug each other tightly.

INT. RED CROSS HOSPITAL, JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Super: **October, 1889**

EMMA, in a white Red Cross uniform, tends to some patients in their beds. Chats with them, holds their hands, smiles, laughs with some. You can see the patients like her.

EXT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS -DAY

EMMA walks outside. Takes a deep breath. A sunny day. She's tired. A little chill in the air, she pulls on a sweater.

She spots a figure approaching down the busy street. She squints in the sun.

She stares harder. It's a man. He gets closer. He's carrying a duffel bag. He's wearing a hat. As he approaches, he takes his hat off.

Her eyes meets his eyes. She's SHAKEN. Oh my God!

IT'S CHARLIE! CHARLIE!

She starts to walk towards him. Then runs. He drops his bag seeing her. Puts his hands out to hug. She slows down, gets up to CHARLIE, tears in her eyes, stares up at him.

EMMA
 Oh my God, are you a ghost?

CHARLIE
 I hope not.

Emma leans in. They hug so tight. She pulls back.

EMMA
 Where have you been? What happened?

CHARLIE
 A lot. After our house was lost, I floated down the river, way past Johnstown. I was hurt, bleeding.
 (MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

A bad head wound they told me.
Some people in Blairsville took me
to the hospital there.

EMMA

Oh my God. That's 20 miles from
here.

CHARLIE

I couldn't remember anything. And I
didn't have any papers on me, so
they couldn't find my family.

EMMA

Then what?

CHARLIE

It took time. My injuries healed.
And then I started remembering .
Where I was from. I remembered you.
And Mom. And...

EMMA

How did you know where to find me?

CHARLIE

When I got here this morning, I
started asking people. Someone
knew you worked at the Red Cross.

EMMA

I still, I still can't believe it.

CHARLIE

So, is Mom...

Emma looks at him. Shakes her head--no. He's suddenly
emotional. He hugs her tight.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oh God. I prayed for her. But, I
knew it. I just knew it.

EMMA

It's OK. It's OK.
I just, I can't believe you're
here.

(a beat)

Oh Charlie. Oh God.
I missed you so much.

She leans in and holds him so tight. Both in tears.

EXT. GRANDVIEW CEMETERY, JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Super: **Grandview Cemetery**
 Johnstown, Pennsylvania
 May 31, 1892

Three Years to the Day After the Flood

On a bright sunny day, a large crowd surrounds a new granite monument covered in a large heavy cloth tarp. At a podium, Pennsylvania Governor ROBERT PATTINSON and Johnstown Mayor HORACE ROSE stand to address the crowd. CLARA BARTON with them near the podium.

A crowd of over 10,000 people surrounds them. Including:

ANNA FENN MAXWELL and her new HUSBAND.

BELLE and GEORGE WATERS and their three children.

Emma's friend PEG along with MR. MILLER and others from Cambria Iron.

The THREE KIDS RESCUED from the flood by Emma and their grown up dog HAZEL, along with their PARENTS. The BOY has a cane, as he has a wooden leg.

INT. INSIDE TENT BEHIND THE MONUMENT - DAY

Near the monument, in a tent, EMMA talks with CHARLIE. She's so nervous. She has not sung in front of people in a long time. And this crowd is huge.

CHARLIE
 You're going to be fine. You
 sounded beautiful this morning.

EMMA
 Practicing in front of a mirror is
 not the same as singing in front of
 a crowd. I've never seen so many
 people.

CHARLIE
 Just relax and...

Into the tent, steps JAY PHIPPS. Emma and Charlie have not seen him in years. Both surprised, shocked.

JAY

Emma. Charlie. I hope you don't mind.

CHARLIE

What. What are you doing here?

JAY

(stumbling, nervous)

I'm here to...

I came to, to support Emma.

I heard she was singing today.

And, I wanted to talk to her. And tell her.

I'm so sorry about what happened at the Clubhouse.

EMMA

That was a long time ago.

JAY

I hope you understand.

I was in a dark state of mind.

Just a wrecked soul.

EMMA

We were all, in some ways, wrecked.

JAY

But it's more than that. I realized how I was living my life. Being.

I don't know. Like a child.

EMMA

How are you getting along with your father?

JAY

We had work to do. To heal. But he changed too. A lot. We're fine after all these years. I'm working hard for the company. Seeing a nice young lady, for awhile. Gave up the carousing, the partying.

EMMA

(Smiles)

You?

JAY

Yes. After I saw what happened here. It shook me to my bones. It changed me. And I realized.

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

We were at fault. We did this. Our dam broke. Our dam.

EMMA

Sometimes, it takes something like this, to realize what really matters.

JAY

I know. All these things weighing on me. The guilt. The shock. And so angry, all the time. And, I took it out on you.

I'm here to tell you that. It's been some time. I hope you can forgive me.

EMMA

(stands, takes his hands)

It means a lot to me that you came all the way here today. And yes, I forgive you.

JAY

Thank you Emma. Thank you.

EMMA

(she smiles)

And I'm sorry...

(a beat)

that I punched you in the nose.

JAY

(smiles back)

Oh. I deserved it.

Jay, starts to lean in, to hug her. She's tentative at first, but then hugs him back. A tight embrace.

Someone says: "Emma and Charlie, they're ready for you".

Emma pulls away, smiles at Jay. Nods. He does still miss her so much. And what might have been.

JAY (CONT'D)

I know you'll be wonderful.

Emma nods thank you. She walks out of the tent towards the podium. As Charlie leaves, he looks at Jay and holds up the Martin Guitar. He says "Thank You." Jay smiles. Charlie smiles back, nods, and exits the tent.

EXT. GRANDVIEW CEMETERY - DAY*

Before the large crowd, the GOVERNOR begins his speech.

GOV PATTINSON

We, who have to do with the concentrated forces of nature, the powers of air, electricity, water, steam, by careful forethought must leave nothing undone for the preservation and protection of the lives of our brother men.

With this proclamation today, we dedicate this monument to those who perished three years ago in the flood on May 31, 1889.

At this time, Miss Emma Hart, will lead our choir in song. Miss Hart lost her mother Ruth Hart that day. But her brother Charlie, after being missing for many months, did finally arrive home. He will accompany Miss Hart on his guitar.

After the flood, Miss Hart worked for the American Red Cross for several years to help the people of the valley.
We thank you for your service.
Miss Hart, the podium is yours.

EMMA walks up to a podium, CHARLIE stands behind her. There's also a church choir to support her as well.

EMMA

Thank you Governor Pattinson and Mayor Rose. Thank you for the kind words. I'm so honored to be here.

Emma clears her throat. Charlie begins to strum his guitar. She begins the song "God Moves In A Mysterious Way" But her voice is shaky. She stops. Looks down. Charlie stops playing.

An anxious silence in the air. Will she be able to sing?

She looks up. A serious look in her eyes. LET'S DO THIS.

Charlie starts the song on the guitar. Emma begins to sing.

EMMA SINGS THE SONG POWERFULLY, BEAUTIFULLY. The choir joins her as well and it is a rousing moving song.

As she sings, the Governor and the Mayor pull away the heavy tarp from the front of the monument. The monument's inscription reads:

*In Memory Of The Unidentified Dead From The Flood
May 31, 1889*

Many in the crowd WEEP. ANNA and BELLE hold each other close. JAY in tears, clapping. PEG in tears. People walk up to the new monument. Many crying, place photos of lost loved ones, flowers, toys, and stuffed animals in front. Many kneel down to pray.

As Emma continues to sing.

CUT TO:

INT. WALNUT STREET THEATER, PHILADELPHIA - BALL ROOM - NIGHT

Super: **Walnut Street Theater**

Philadelphia, PA

One Year Later

EMMA in a beautiful blue gown, continues the same song, but now on a lighted stage surrounded by plush red velvet curtains and accompanied by an orchestra behind her.

She finishes the song "God Moves In A Mysterious Way".

LOUD APPLAUSE FROM THE FULL HOUSE.

Emma smiles at the crowd. Nods. Acknowledges the warm reaction. Thanks them and wishes them a good night.

As Emma comes down the stairs from the stage, she sees an older man she recognizes. He smiles warmly at her.

Standing before Emma is the OLDER GENTLEMAN FROM THE TRAIN from when she traveled back from Pittsburgh several years ago. After the terrible episode with Jay that crushed her. The one who comforted her, encouraged her.

EMMA

It's you. From the train.
You remembered me?

OLDER GENTLEMAN FROM THE TRAIN

I live here and saw your picture in
the advertisements for the show.
I recognized you.
Can I say. You were wonderful.

(MORE)

OLDER GENTLEMAN FROM THE TRAIN

A beautiful performance.

(a beat)

And, I'm so glad,
you kept the light alive.
It looks like your dreams did come
true.

EMMA

Thank you.
Thank you so much for coming.
And for what you told me that day
on the train.
It did mean something to me.
It really did.
(staring at him, a beat)
You know.
Just now.
I noticed something.
(a beat)
You remind me a lot,
of my father.

OLDER GENTLEMEN FROM THE TRAIN

I know dear.

Her friend PEG suddenly grabs Emma by the arm, turning her.
Peg is a bit drunk and loud.

PEG

We're waiting for you. Over there.
Come on.

EMMA

OK. I want you to meet someone.

PEG

Who?

EMMA

This man, I talked with him on the
train back from Pittsburgh, after
the thing with Jay, remember..

She turns to greet him. THERE IS NO ONE THERE. Emma is
bewildered. Where did he go? He was just here.

PEG

Who? I don't see anyone. Come on.
I think you need a drink. Or three.

Emma is shook. Looks back at the space again. The man is
gone. What? Where is he? Where did he go?

Peg leads Emma to the table. CHARLIE loudly claps as she comes over. Emma is smiling, so happy to see him. Leans in, hugs, kisses him.

But where is he?

From the shadows, VICTOR in a handsome pinstripe grey suit and tie, arrives with a large BOUQUET OF RED ROSES.

She sees him and smiles, takes the flowers, hands them off to Peg. Emma turns back to him. Looking up at him.

Victor takes her in his arms, lifts her up. Hugs and kisses her. She wraps her arms around his neck, hugging him hard too. He lowers her. Looks into her eyes. They hug again.

She smiles, then they hug and kiss again, as ROMANTIC MUSIC from the bandstand SWELLS GORGEOUSLY in the ball room. Charlie and Peg standing, applauding them.

Soon, the rest of the ballroom crowd, standing and applauding them as well.

Fade to black.

THE END

Thank you for reading.