

"JOHNSTOWN"

A Screenplay Based on Historical Events.

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Date: September, 2026

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

NOTE: A scene heading marked with an asterisk * indicates the scene is based on historical fact.

SUPER:

"The rain fell, and the floods
came, and the winds blew and
slammed against that house; and it
fell, and great was its fall."
(Matthew 7:27.)

MAIN TITLE: JOHNSTOWN

SUPER: JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL, 1888

EXT. JOHNSTOWN - DAY

A smoky, busy, bustling town situated in a steep valley built at the confluence of two rivers. Horse-drawn trolleys and carriages move through the dusty brick and dirt streets.

Amongst the busy scene, a PETITE PRETTY GIRL crosses a dusty brick street. She enters Heiser's Dry Goods store.

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

EMMA HART (24 yo, petite, radiant looks, curly blonde hair, brown eyes) enters and greets the 52 yo owner GEORGE HEISER and wife 48 yo MATHILDE known as "MATTIE" at the counter.

EMMA HART
Is Victor here?

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

MATTIE HEISER
You seem excited dear.

EMMA
I got some good news this morning.

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - BACKROOM - DAY

VICTOR HEISER (24 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 has been smitten with Emma for years.

INT. HEISER DRY GOODS STORE - NEAR COUNTER - DAY

32 yo ladies ANNA FENN and BELLE WATERS with several young children walk to the counter. EMMA turns, sees them, greets them warmly. 4 yo VIRGINIA "GINNY" FENN, runs up to Emma.

EMMA
Miss Ginny I love your hair.

GINNY
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 there will
be your ticket out of here.

EMMA
One can hope right?

BELLE

Oh Emma. Once those 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 South Fork resort at the lake with her brother Charlie,
for Colonel Unger, who runs the resort.

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 all over. 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 Mrs. Fenn.

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!

EMMA

Colonel Unger called 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 down at the apples all over the floor. Sighs.

VICTOR

I better pick these up.

SUPER: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY, 1888

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE OF THE DUQUESNE CLUB - DAY

Pittsburgh's congested downtown in 1888 features hulking grey buildings and warehouses. Massive steel mills surround three dirty rivers. Boats travel the rivers under many bridges.

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

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

A four story tan brick building sits within the city. A red awning covers its wide marble steps at the entrance. Fancy horse-drawn carriages arrive at the entrance. Well-dressed gentlemen walk up and down the steps.

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

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB - BILLIARDS ROOM - DAY

Cherry wood paneling frame the room filled with elegant red leather couches and chairs. Two men shooting pool.

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 large bank in Pittsburgh.

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

FRICK

Mister Mellon?

MELLON
Apologies Mister Frick.

Mellon shoots but misses badly. He lays down the stick.

FRICK
Something on your mind Andrew?

MELLON
More problems with the city on the Sixth Street Bridge project. They want another round of inspections that will delay us another...

FRICK
Stop. Tomorrow is Friday. We must direct your mind off of all that. How 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 fantastic.

A portly, balding PHILANDER KNOX walks towards them with an older gentleman, "COLONEL" ELIAS UNGER, both holding drinks.

35 yo Philander Knox is the lawyer to many 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.

Unger is the President of their summer resort, the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club at Lake Conemaugh near Johnstown.

KNOX
Look who I found in the lobby.

UNGER
Mr. Mellon, Mr. Frick...

MELLON
Colonel Unger! What brings you here?

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

MELLON

Really? What for?

UNGER

You will be pleased. He's going to work on a new septic system for the Clubhouse and the cottages.

FRICK

Finally! I won't have to ever use that two story outhouse again.

MELLON

I don't think anyone ever used the first floor. How is the search going?

UNGER

I like this man John Parke I met today. Graduated from Penn. Civil engineering. Very good grades.

MELLON

Excellent. Penn is a fine school.

FRICK

I was saying the fishing has been especially good this summer. And the lake seems so much larger this year.

UNGER

Yes. The lake's larger than ever. Lots of snow melt and a rainy spring. Almost three miles wide.

MELLON

I'm so looking forward to the fishing tourney in August. I'll be taking the egg this year gentlemen.

KNOX

Nope! I'm ready for you all this year. Have a new kind of lure. Mark my words. I'm taking the egg!

FRICK

Mr. Knox, the last thing you caught at the lake, was a cold.
(The men laugh.)

MELLON

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

UNGER

Not really. That dam's been around fifty years, should be around fifty more. Some earthen dams have lasted hundreds of years.

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.

(a beat)

Anyone heading to the lake this weekend?

MELLON

Mr. Frick and I are going tomorrow.

UNGER

Excellent. Gentlemen. I must now excuse myself. A meeting at the Monongahela House beckons.

FRICK

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

(all 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 South Fork club at Lake Conemaugh.

(they all toast)

Unger exits. As he does, JOHN "JAY" PHIPPS, a handsome 25 yo, blonde hair, blue eyes, enters with his friend PHILO FRENCH. After hellos, Mellon addresses Jay.

MELLON

Your father's here. Wants to talk with you. He's in the main boardroom 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

Yes. This could be bad.

PHILO

Good luck. I'll wait here.

Jay takes a long drink then 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. And I must speak with him.

So. I believe we're finished here
for today gentlemen. I'll be in
touch next week. Thanks for coming.

The gentlemen stand, nod goodbye and exit.

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)

Close the door and sit down.

JAY

You wanted to see me.

PHIPPS SR.

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.

JAY

I know. What you mean.

PHIPPS SR.

Do you? Because this woman said
she would go to the papers.

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 offices are not some harem for you to...

JAY

I'm sorry.

PHIPPS SR.

You're sorry. Well guess what. I paid this woman quite a bit of money. To keep her quiet.

JAY

I understand.

PHIPPS SR.

This is it 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.

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 to the lake this weekend. And you're coming. You haven't been there in ages with the family. Do you understand?

JAY

I had 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.

Jay nods, heads out of the room. Back to the billiards room.

PHILO

So?

JAY

It's what I thought.
She 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. You still going
to that party on Saturday in
Shadyside?

JAY

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

PHILO

Really! I'm going to the lake. And
I know Lloyd's going. This is
great. And there's someone I want
you to meet. A beautiful girl.

JAY

Did you just hear me?

PHILO

This one's different Jay. She's a
singer. She sings on Saturday at
the Clubhouse. And she's gorgeous.

JAY

I don't care.

PHILO

Well wait until you see her.

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

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.

Among the passengers, JAY PHIPPS. He sees smoky Johnstown as the train passes by. Another ugly dirty steel town.

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 off and pull out stairs. Passengers exit.

HENRY PHIPPS, his 49 yo wife ANNE, and three excited YOUNG CHILDREN walk towards their carriage. The porters load up their luggage and help them into the carriage.

JAY PHIPPS climbs aboard last. Once everyone is seated, the driver snaps a whip and the two horses jump forward.

PHIPPS SR.

Is everyone ready for the lake?

The younger three kids clap, scream YAY!

ANNE PHIPPS

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

PHIPPS SR.

They're coming later today.

ANNE PHIPPS

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

PHIPPS SR.

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

They both laugh. The carriage rumbles onto a country road.

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

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. So strange in this beautiful setting.

The carriage crosses a bridge over a bubbling creek then turns onto the dam road and stops near the center.

HOWARD PHIPPS

Daddy does this hold in the fish?

PHIPPS SR.

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

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - DUSK

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 - DUSK

EMMA and brother CHARLIE HART on stage, ready to start. Charlie is a tall, handsome 17 yo, brown hair, blue eyes.

UNGER

Good evening everyone.
Well it's another beautiful
Saturday evening 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 on his guitar. Emma starts a song.

JAY with handsome friends PHILO FRENCH and LLOYD HUFF sit near the stage. Talking. But hearing Emma's first notes, they turn, stop chatting. Jay is immediately captivated by her.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - EVENING

The edge of the sun disappears below the darkened hills.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE DINING ROOM - EVENING

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

EMMA

Thank you. We hope you all enjoyed
the music. Have a pleasant night.

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?
Definitely my charm for sure,
but maybe my dashing looks?
My pithy humor? Hard to decide.

LLOYD

I don't know.
I was thinking,
it might be,
(A beat)
your last name?
(Philo roars with
laughter.)

JAY

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

PHILO

And 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

No more girls in Pittsburgh left.
He must look to the east!

Emma alone at a table near the stage. Jay approaches.

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 passing by on the
train. But after meeting you, I'm
sure it must have its own, charms.

EMMA

Maybe.

JAY

Well I've been missing out haven't
I? Guess I should visit.

EMMA

Really? Johnstown?

JAY

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

EMMA

Sure.
(hands Jay a card)

JAY

The Harts of Union Street. Well I might have to...

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)
Thank you for your kind words.

JAY

(stands)
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 as they leave. Jay rejoins 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)
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.

LLOYD

Jay let this one go. Summer's over in a month. And you're never here.

JAY

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

EXT. CARRIAGE HEADED TO SOUTH FORK - DUSK

CHARLIE and EMMA in a carriage. Emma knows Charlie is upset.

EMMA

Are you mad about something?

CHARLIE

Why did you flirt with that guy?

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 guys pining for you in town. Why are you kicking up dust 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.

EMMA

And what if I do?

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 - MORNING

A two-story white wood rowhouse with a front porch.

INT. HART HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

EMMA walks down the stairs and enters the kitchen. Her Mother RUTH HART (50 yo brunette) putting some dishes away.

RUTH

Morning. How did it go last night?

EMMA

Good. Some people talked to us after the show. Said we did well.

RUTH

Of course. You always do. Listen. I have to run over to Belle's. I need some sugar. I'll be back soon.

EMMA

OK. See you later.

Ruth waves goodbye and exits out the kitchen back door.

INT. HART HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

CHARLIE strums his guitar. EMMA enters, sits across from him.

EMMA

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

Charlie starts strumming. Suddenly he stops.

CHARLIE

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

Emma rushes to the window. JAY PHIPPS is walking to the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

He's here. Holy...

EMMA

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

Emma rushes upstairs. A KNOCK at the door. Charlie opens it.

JAY

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

CHARLIE

I do. Can I help you?

JAY

Emma gave me your card. If she's
around, I'd like to see if she...

CHARLIE

She's here. Come in, have a seat.

JAY

(sits down, looks around)
You were both excellent last night.
Have you been playing the guitar
for awhile?

CHARLIE

Seven or eight years.

JAY

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

CHARLIE

(surprised)
Of course. I'd love to have one.
They make them in Nazareth.

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.

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 at the Clubhouse.
He works at the boathouse and
arranged 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.

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.

EMMA

Jay talked to me last night 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...

He watches them walk towards town. Jay's arm on her shoulder.

INT. HART HOME FAMILY ROOM - DAY

A forlorn and stunned VICTOR knocks and enters the house.

CHARLIE

Well hello there Mister Heiser.

VICTOR

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.
You know Emma. Always the charmer.

VICTOR

That's for sure.

CHARLIE

Something bothering you?

VICTOR

Come on Charlie.

CHARLIE

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

VICTOR

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

CHARLIE

But a rich dandy got here first!

VICTOR

How funny would it be?
I get you guys the job up there.
But because of that, she meets some millionaire toff 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, starts a mocking song. "Emma and handsome Jay, strolling our town today...". Victor fumes.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN, CENTRAL PARK - DAY

JAY and EMMA walk and reach busy Central Park. Find a bench.

EMMA

That's my Church St. John's. And I work over there at Cambria Iron.

JAY

I know Cambria Iron. They were once the biggest steel mill in the country. 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
A mill accident. At Cambria.

JAY
Good Lord. I'm so sorry.

EMMA
Thank you. It's not uncommon. Over
two hundred men died in the mill
last year.

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

EMMA
It was tough at first. 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)
So, if you don't like your job at
Cambria, how about being a singer?

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

JAY
Ever thought of moving?

EMMA
Maybe, some day. But I'm here now.

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. Parties.

EMMA
Do you work?

JAY
For my father. At Union Iron.

EMMA
How's that going?

JAY
(a beat, smiles)
He regrets that I enjoy my life of
leisure a little, too much. And
wishes I was more like him, working
ten hour days, six days a week.

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

JAY
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. Take that Friday off work. And I'll pick you up and take you up to the lake.

EMMA

Sounds like a date.

JAY

More than a date. How about a grand tour of Lake Conemaugh. Some time on the water. A great dinner. A night to always remember.

EMMA

A night to always remember?
I'm intrigued. Who will be there?
Maybe President Cleveland?

JAY

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

INT. ANNA FENN'S HOME PARLOR - LATE AFTERNOON

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 Emma. The men turn to talk to the tall, lanky Charlie.

JOHN FENN

Lord, 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 been there. The restaurant is wonderful. And they have one of those new Otis elevators.

ANNA

I heard about that. Well we must go, running late as usual.

The Fenns and Waters say goodbye. Emma and Charlie sit on the couch and the excited kids gather around them.

EMMA

This is my brother Charlie.

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

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, 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?

Kids scream YAY! Charlie begins the song on his guitar.

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS SECRETARIAL OFFICES - AFTERNOON

Emma at her desk in work clothes. Her best 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 an elevated sleek design, bright red paint, silver plated hardware and large rimmed wheels.

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 British Royal family, the Vanderbilts use them.

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 with her bag, everyone
cheers her from the windows-- "GO EMMA" "BULLY FOR YOU EMMA".

JAY sees this, bows at her like she's a princess. He greets
her, helps her up. And they pull away.

The carriage passes near the Heiser store. VICTOR sweeping
out front. Sees the fancy carriage. Spots EMMA laughing,
smiling with JAY. DAMN IT! He SLAMS HIS BROOM against a metal
pole. The broom handle splits in two, with half flying across
the street.

The TOWN CRAZY MAN is standing across the street and catches
that half of the broom handle as it flies through the air.

The TOWN CRAZY MAN, a haggard man in his 50s, blue eyes, long
white hair, roams the streets, always YELLING about something
nuts, usually the end of the world.

He walks across the street towards Victor, holding the broken
broom handle.

TOWN CRAZY MAN

Listen to me boy. You have given
me the Staff of Christ.

VICTOR

That's a broom handle you nut. Now
get out of here.

TOWN CRAZY MAN

Listen boy. This is a sign. And
now you're going to start having
the visions like me. Visions about
the dam. About the coming flood.
The start of the End Times.

VICTOR

I told you, get away from our store. Don't come back here.

TOWN CRAZY MAN

Do you read the Bible? The Book of Revelation? The Seven Seals? One of those seals will be broken here, in this valley, by a horrible flood. You'll see boy. You'll be haunted by the terrible visions. Soon enough. You'll see.

Victor goes into the store. The Crazy Man walks away.

EXT. LAKE CONEMAUGH, NEAR THE DAM - DAY

The carriage moves through the lush forest towards the lake.

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. A beautiful setting, the water bubbling down, lit by the sun.

JAY (CONT'D)
Isn't this butter upon bacon?

Jay steers the carriage to a stop near the spillway. They find a picnic table. Sets down a picnic basket.

JAY (CONT'D)
Such a fine afternoon right? Sunny.
A nice warm breeze.

EMMA
We're lucky. After all the rain we had 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. But wine is a key element.

Jay gets out a bottle of wine. Pours two glasses.

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. 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 and the water bursts through into the valley.

VICTOR sits up in bed. Eyes wide open. Breathing hard.

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS SECRETARIAL OFFICES - MORNING

PEG at her desk typing. EMMA walks by and sits down at the desk next to her. Peg rolls her chair over to her.

PEG

Welcome back Cinderella.

EMMA

Oh please.

PEG

So how did it go? Do tell.

EMMA

(Leans in to talk to her)

Alright. He took me 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!

Spent some time on a sailboat. We had a nice dinner at the Clubhouse. Later a bonfire outside. Some drinks. I even smoked a cigar for a bit! And I stayed at the cottage.

PEG

Really? A sleep over? Ohhh...

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 fancy steam yacht. Never been on one of those before.

Just spent time together. Later I got ready for my singing at the Clubhouse. Then Charlie and I headed 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 over.

MR. MILLER

Good morning Miss Hart. So. Did
you ride the fancy chariot to work?

EMMA

No Mr. Miller. Just walked today.

MR. MILLER

That's too bad. Now. Enough chit
chat. Get to work ladies.

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

EXT. ON SAILBOAT DURING THE FEAST OF LANTERNS - DUSK

JAY and EMMA mingle among others on a fancy sailboat. Five
lit lanterns hang on the sailboat. Jay pours Emma some wine.
A beautiful summer evening turning to dusk.

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 spillway.

EMMA

I have a question about the spillway. I know the members love to fish the lake. Don't the 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 a thousand 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. Night is setting in. The lanterns shine brighter.

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 anymore?

EMMA

Some of the smartest people in the country have fine summer places here. Like your Dad. And I believe that those very smart people are taking good care of that dam.

JAY

(points up at a cottage)
Colonel Unger lives in that
cottage. He keeps a close eye on
the dam. The lake. Everyone says
he's a good man. Someone to trust.

EMMA

I hope so.

JAY

(a beat)
Have you thought about, about us?
What we discussed this morning?

EMMA

(turns, looks up at him)
I have. I know the Club closes
tomorrow. And so, how can we...

Jay leans in with a kiss. He then stares into her eyes.

JAY

I want you in my life Emma.
I want you to come to Pittsburgh.
This fall, at Christmas...

EMMA

Really? But...

JAY

I'll be blunt. 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.

EXT COLONEL UNGER'S COTTAGE - MORNING**SUPER: Colonel Unger's Cottage****March 1889**

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

In the carriage sits JOHN FULTON, the President of Cambria Iron. Fulton, a tall 56 yo, iron-grey beard, dark brow.

Fulton 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 into Unger's office.

INT. COLONEL UNGER'S OFFICE - MORNING*

JOHN FULTON

Colonel. Thank you for meeting me.

UNGER

Of course Mr. Fulton. Before we begin, this is Mr. John Parke, an engineer we hired to help with special projects.

(Fulton nods hello)

What can we do for you today?

FULTON

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

This lake has grown to its largest size ever. We believe the dam's stability and safety must be addressed and issues resolved.

UNGER

Regarding the lake, we monitor the water level closely. And we have a spillway to control it as needed.

FULTON

The problem with the spillway is it's only seven or eight feet below the dam crest. If the lake rises too high, it would be useless.

The lake by our estimate holds over twenty million tons of water.

(MORE)

FULTON (CONT'D)

If that amount of water ever breached the dam, it would cause a terrible cataclysm in the valley.

UNGER

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

FULTON

I know about that article.

UNGER

They said a break would not impact Johnstown too much. The lake waters would cause some flooding, but most of the water would disperse through the fifteen miles of the valley.

FULTON

I believe that article was wrong. A lot of people do.

Besides the water, this lake sits five hundred feet higher than the valley. So there would be downward force of all that water as well.

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. Parke was hired to set up a new septic system.

FULTON

I see. A septic system.

UNGER

Can we get to the point? What do you want to discuss today?

FULTON

Our recommendations are here.

(He hands him a report)

Please review this when you can, but in summary, we recommend another spillway be installed.

(MORE)

FULTON (CONT'D)

You need to work on overhauling the dam, especially the upper slopes. You should also...

UNGER

(interrupting)

Fine. I'll review your report with the Club leadership. When they arrive in early June.

FULTON

Early June. In three months.

(a beat, a sigh)

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 will help pay for these changes to the dam. Please advise them of this. We feel that strongly about this situation.

UNGER

Thank you Mr. Fulton. Duly noted.

FULTON

Thank you. Good luck to you Mr. Parke. 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. Believe me.

PARKE

If you want, I can review that report, see if there are some things we could do to...

UNGER

(Sternly, stares at him)

Mr. Parke. Listen to me.

(A beat)

I hired you for one thing. Setting up a new septic system.

(MORE)

UNGER (CONT'D)

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.
That's your number one priority.
Do you understand?

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

EXT. JOHNSTOWN TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

Super: **November, 1889**

CHARLIE with EMMA on the platform. Dressed in winter coats.
She is ready to board. Some snow is in the air.

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 on the platform.

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)

Don't you know what kind of guy he is? He's a rogue. A scamp. He'll just...

EMMA

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

He's been writing me letters. Lovely letters. Wanting me to come visit since the summer.

VICTOR

Alright. So what do you think of him? Really, right now?

EMMA

I don't fully know. And I know his reputation. But I need to find out for myself. With eyes wide open. If there's something there. Something between us.

An announcement: "Final Boarding for Pennsylvania Railroad Train 909 to Pittsburgh and points west. Final boarding."

EMMA (CONT'D)

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

She kisses Charlie goodbye. Gets her bag, boards the train.

VICTOR

You know Charlie. I wonder. Is he playing her. Or is she playing him? To get what she wants.

INT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - DAY

An excited EMMA sees JAY waiting on the platform.

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)

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 know women could visit 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.

Fall into the moat at the castle.

Get eaten by an alligator.

JAY

Don't worry. The alligators are
very friendly.

EMMA

But am I 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 the red awning. Some snow in the air. 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.

JAY greets 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.

JAY

(calls for the bartender)

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

(Turns to Emma)

Well, thoughts so far?

EMMA

(looks around)

This is something.
I have to say, I'm a bit...

JAY

A bit?

EMMA

Nervous. This is, a lot 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 much
smaller towns than Johnstown.
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. Elegantly dressed and beautiful 24 yo MILDRED CHAMBERS and 24 yo LORETTA MUELLER walk over.

JAY (CONT'D)

Emma, please meet Miss Mildred Chambers and Miss Loretta Mueller, from 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. Jay will take good care of you.

The women walk away, talking to themselves, giggling. Club members ANDREW MELLON, DURBIN HORNE and JAMES CHAMBERS approach. Jay greets them warmly.

JAY

Emma, please meet Mr. Andrew Mellon, Mr. James Chambers, and Mr. Durbin Horne. Gentlemen, please meet my friend, Miss Emma Hart from Johnstown.

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

Last summer, she was a singer at the Clubhouse at the lake and...

MELLON

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

EMMA

Thank you. I appreciate that.

CHAMBERS

You were so wonderful last summer. Welcome to the Duquesne Club.

EMMA

It's such an honor to be here.

HORNE

You are most welcome. 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

Mr. Horne. I believe people are kind of proud that the financial titans of Pittsburgh summer in our lovely Cambria County.

CHAMBERS

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

HORNE

I'm glad to hear that too. That lake is just 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 know 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.

MELLON

(after a beat)

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

EMMA

Not at all. It'd be my pleasure.

The men smile. Mr. Mellon escorts Emma to the piano.

MELLON

Ladies and Gentlemen.
Your attention please.
We have a very special guest.
Miss Emma Hart from Johnstown.
She sang at the lake clubhouse this past summer and was wonderful.
And she has graciously agreed to sing a song for us this evening.
Please welcome Miss Hart.

After some light applause, Emma begins the Civil War ballad "Aura Lee" along with the piano and violin. Her voice so captivating. A wonderful moving performance. When she finishes, much LOUD CLAPPING and CHEERS.

HORNE

My goodness, that was wonderful.

CHAMBERS

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

EMMA

It's such an honor to sing here.

JAY

Let me get you a drink. What do you want?

EMMA

A 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 door to the bathroom swings opens. MILDRED CHAMBERS and LORETTA MUELLER enter, talking loudly. Both a bit drunk. Emma quietly sits back down, pulls her legs up off the floor.

MILDRED

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

Loretta hushes Mildred. She looks under the stall doors. No one with them in the bathroom (she thinks).

LORETTA (CONT.)

Yes she is quite the singer.
Apparently Jay saw her 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)
Isn't that big horseshoe railroad
curve near there?

MILDRED

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

LORETTA

I was talking to Philo. Jay told
him about her visit.

MILDRED

What'd he say? Do tell.

LORETTA

Jay told Philo. Need to close the
book on this girl. Worked on her
last summer. But didn't get too
far. I need to get her notch on my
belt. And this small town bumpkin
will be so easy to bed.

MILDRED

He's such a scoundrel!

Both laughing. Emma comes out of the stall.

EMMA
Actually ladies...

They jump. Both with "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. A nasty, icy stare at Loretta.

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 up to JAY as he chats with others.

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. Jay follows her out.

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 we met. 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. No, I didn't mean that!
I might've been kidding around.
Being a clown. It means nothing.

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

JAY
Please, please 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,
to get me into bed...

JAY
Emma I meant what I said in those
letters.

EMMA
You're nothing but a liar.
And I'm nothing but a fool.
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 TRAIN HEADED BACK TO JOHNSTOWN - MORNING

EMMA'S head's pressed against the train window, some tears. An OLDER GENTLEMAN seated next to her, sees this. Gently pokes her. Passes her a handkerchief. The gentleman is distinguished, handsome, with grey hair and blue eyes.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Don't worry, it's clean.

(Smiles)

I don't mean to pry. But is everything alright?

EMMA

Not really.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

We have a few hours on this train. Where are you headed?

EMMA

Johnstown. You?

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Philadelphia. Can I ask, why are you so upset?

EMMA

I went to Pittsburgh 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 cared for me.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

Now that's over?

EMMA

Yes. Now it's back to my 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. So 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 in Pittsburgh?

EMMA

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

OLDER GENTLEMEN

You're a singer?

EMMA

Yes. This past summer I sang at a club near where I live. The South Fork Club. All the richest people in Pittsburgh belong to it.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I've heard of that club.

EMMA

We saw each other a few times. He wrote me letters asking me to visit.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

This man, is wealthy?

EMMA

Yes. Very.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

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

EMMA

Turns out he made it up. I was just someone to toy with.

(more emotionally)

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

I don't know why I believed
anything would happen with him.
I'm just a small town nobody.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

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

EMMA

In those letters, it seemed like he
wanted me in his life. I was so
excited to see him.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

And...

EMMA

(more tears)

I daydreamed about this visit for
months. Of how it could go.
Maybe change my life.
But that hope, those dreams are
gone. My future.
Everything is all 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.
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 - AFTERNOON

EMMA exits the train. VICTOR approaches. She was not expecting to see 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 takes her bag. Emma irritated, walks with 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)
What?

VICTOR
I told you, he was no good.

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. You know that.

Emma stares at him.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

And I was so angry and upset that
you wanted to see that guy.
I couldn't eat, couldn't sleep.

EMMA

Alright. Feel better now?

VICTOR

Look. I know you want to get away
from here. Start somewhere new.

EMMA

And I know your future is here,
with your parents, and the store.

VICTOR

I'm not 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. He says nothing more to her.

INT. HART HOME FAMILY ROOM- AFTERNOON

EMMA enters the front room. Her mom enters.

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 I met at 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 really liked me. He wanted me to visit. I thought there could be something. A future.

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

I thought this was my chance. If Something could happen with him, maybe I could start in Pittsburgh, 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...

RUTH

Remember I was like you in a way. At your age.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

Very good at art in school. Oil painting. Won awards. I thought that was my future.

EMMA

I know.

RUTH

Then I met your father.
And he worked here. At the mill.
And we fell in love.
And we started a family.
You and Charlie.
And I wouldn't change one thing
about what happened to me.

EMMA

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

RUTH

One thing I've learned.
Life is not how we plan it.
Unexpected events happen, something
you never ever 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 BEDROOM - NIGHT

VICTOR in bed, tossing, turning. Dreaming of the flood again.

A powerful wave of water 50 feet high. People running, but
they are swamped. 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. This must be the visions
that crazy old man told him about.

SUPER:

MARCH, 1889

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE PORCH - DAY

VICTOR walks toward the Clubhouse. As he approaches, he spots someone on the porch, JOHN PARKE. Smoking a cigarette.

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, was
hired last year to start this
spring.

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 a 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 for the Colonel
getting the boats ready for the
members. I'm on the lake a lot.

PARKE

Alright Mr. Heiser, give me your
thoughts on the dam.

VICTOR

Since you asked. First it leaks,
and have to 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 the same things. I
brought up the dam with the
Colonel. 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.

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 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 believe it would be far worse than one bad day of flooding.

VICTOR

You know. I haven't told anyone about this, but I'm having dreams about the dam. The dam breaking, flooding the valley, killing people. A few times a month.

PARKE

Really?

VICTOR

Yeah. And here's the strange thing. There is an old man in town that is always screaming about the end of the world. And one day, he told me I would have these dreams, the visions he called it. About the dam breaking. And the flood.

PARKE

Damn.

VICTOR

He said he was having the same visions. Or dreams. I thought he was nuts, but damn, I'm having these dreams now. Kinda scary.

PARKE

Good lord. I would be afraid to go to sleep.

Victor laughs. Parke takes a long puff on his cigarette.

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.

Super:

Thursday, May 30

The Day Before The Flood

Decoration Day Parade

Sandy Vale Cemetery, Johnstown

EXT. SANDY VALE CEMETERY - MORNING*

Union Army Veterans wearing their dress-blue Civil War uniforms lead a parade towards Sandy Vale Cemetery. The parade includes many local groups like the Oddfellows, drum corps and others. Many townspeople also march.

The town's Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are buried in Sandy Vale Cemetery. Today is Decoration Day which honors them. Later this day will 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 Union Army veterans reach a tombstone for one of the fallen, they salute, bow for a moment, and lay a wreath on a stand. Then move to the next tombstone.

Above them, the SKY DARKENS. Dark black clouds have been coming from the west all day. LIGHTNING FLASHES, THUNDER

RUMBLES in the distance. The WIND picks up. Rain starts.

Victor walks up to Emma and Charlie as they view a tombstone. They greet each other. The tombstone reads:

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

VICTOR

Who's this?

EMMA

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

VICTOR

Right. I remember you telling me
about him. Damn. Only nineteen.

EMMA

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

VICTOR

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

Emma finishes a prayer, then they find a tree to get under, out of the rain. Victor turns to her, nervously.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

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

And I know what you hoped would
happen with him. He was your chance
to get away from here. I can't
blame you for wanting that.

Emma smiles. CHARLIE runs over to them. Rain pouring down.

CHARLIE

We should go. This storm is
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? About those other things
you wanted to talk about.

VICTOR

Alright. Sunday. See you on Sunday.

EMMA

See you on Sunday.

Emma smiles, leans in and hugs Victor. A kiss on his cheek.
And they run out of the cemetery, along with everyone else.

Victor walks slowly in the rain. A big smile. He's getting
drenched. He doesn't care. He can't wait until Sunday.

INT. VICTOR HEISER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

VICTOR in bed, the rain pouring down 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 turns and walks into the rain. Vanishes.

Victor 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 - MORNING

Super: **The Day Of The Flood**

8:30 A.M.

EMMA sips her tea. CHARLIE enters. Groggy, sleepy.

EMMA
School's closed. I heard the bells.

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

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

Suddenly the front door bursts open. VICTOR tumbles in, drenched. 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. For months.
Horrible dreams about the dam
breaking. So real, so vivid. It
started right after I talked to the
town crazy man. He said I would
have these dreams.

EMMA
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.

CHARLIE
The end of the world?

VICTOR
Anyway last night I saw him in a
dream talking to me. And he said
today is the day. Today is the day
of the flood!

CHARLIE

C'mon. It's just another rainy day.

VICTOR

This is different. I'm telling you.
Please stay home Emma. Don't go to
work. And all of you. Get to
higher ground. Maybe Green Hill.

EMMA

(Matter of factly)

Mister Heiser. I am going to work
and getting my paycheck.
Then I'll be back here.
And like I told you.
Come back here on Sunday.
Maybe in some dryer 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. I'll see you on Sunday.

Victor just shakes his head. 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 work to dump tree stumps, dirt, large stones 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 his men working on the spillway screen using long poles, picks, axes. But there's no water getting to the spillway. He gets off his horse. Walks up to Parke.

UNGER

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

PARKE

We can't get the screen cleared Colonel. The lake just pushes debris into it. Faster than we can clear it.

UNGER

Get that screen cleared. You hear me. Get more men on it!

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 screen under the bridge is clogged with too much shit. You need to...

UNGER

I don't have time for this.

BUCANNON

The screen is attached to the bridge. If you can't clear the screen then tear down the bridge...

UNGER

Get the hell out of here.

Unger steps away from him. Bucannon follows him.

BUCANNON

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

Bucannon finally leaves. Parke approaches the Colonel.

PARKE

The spillway working fully is the only chance to prevent the dam breaking. We can't get the screen cleared. It makes the most sense to remove the bridge and...

UNGER

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

PARKE

But Colonel...

UNGER

Enough! No more excuses! Get that screen cleared. Get this spillway working!

With that, Unger exits. Parke shakes his head.

INT. HART HOME FAMILY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Super: 12:15 P.M.

CHARLIE plays his guitar. The front door opens. EMMA enters.

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 must have been
really bad. But anyway.

(Holds up her check.)

I got my check. So I guess the
crazy man was wrong about the flood
today. So far at least.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - AFTERNOON

Super: 1:30 P.M.

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

UNGER stares at this scene. He looks sick. Terrified.

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

EXT. PORCH OF ANNA FENN HOME - AFTERNOON

Super: 2:00 P.M.

ANNA FENN holds her BABY DAUGHTER ESTHER. Her next door
neighbor BELLE WATERS comes out on her porch. They exchange
hellos. The flood waters now 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.

GINNY

You comin' in soon Mom?

ANNA

Yes Ginny. Go back inside.
(turns to Belle)
I better get back in.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

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 - AFTERNOON

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, the water'll spread out, disperse in the valley. That's what the paper said would happen.

PARKE

(A beat)

I disagree Colonel.
When this dam fails.
And twenty million tons of water pours into this valley of towns.
Headed downhill.
I believe, 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 steady.

EXT. THE VALLEY, THE STONE RAILROAD BRIDGE - DAY*

LOUD THUNDEROUS ROAR as twenty million tons of water devours and crushes the landscape in the valley.

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

HOWLING WINDS. Fast moving flood waters reach 40 to 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 stopping the water. A new dam forms a new lake. Briefly.

But the water's strength builds in force and power. The huge stone bridge creaks as it strains to hold back the mounting weight of the water. Huge cracks begin to appear. A rumbling noise. The bridge EXPLODES in a heap 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 stopped for hours due to the flooding.

A Pullman passenger car among the cars 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 flood wave travels a straight two mile stretch to the town through the valley, no valley twists. The wave hits like a SLEDGE HAMMER. Block after block flattened instantly.

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. Deadly barb wire is now part of the rushing flood waters.

EXT. SHANTY ON CREEK NEAR JOHNSTOWN - 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. "Oh My God!". But he pauses, takes a deep breath. Smiles. Makes the Sign Of The Cross. Closes his eyes. Looks up.

Screams "I AM COMING HOME LORD!"

EXT. JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Super: **Johnstown, Pennsylvania**

4:05 P.M.

INT. HEISER HOME SECOND FLOOR - DAY

GEORGE HEISER and his wife MATTIE gaze 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 from the east in the distance. A rumbling ROAR grows. Getting louder.

INT. HART HOME SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM - DAY

CHARLIE strums his guitar. His mom RUTH sitting in a chair enjoying it, smiling. He stops. Gazes out a window.

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 start 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. SMASHING SOUNDS.

A LOUD WAVE of water BLASTS through the windows. The house CRUSHED, FLOODED. All three tossed into the powerful WATERS.

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. She gazes out. 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.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - DAY

The wall of water SLAMS the eastern end of town. Shattered buildings, carriages, railroad cars slammed together.

INT. HEISER HOME SECOND FLOOR - DAY

GEORGE HEISER looking for Victor. MATTIE says he's in the backyard. George runs to a window. Spots VICTOR by the barn in their backyard. His Dad motions GET ON THE ROOF! NOW!

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 it. CRUSHES it. His parents disappear as the building collapses. 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 sees a family across from him in a building floating in the waters. The father tries to pack a trunk. The wife and children cling to rafters. Suddenly the building collapses and pitches forward. All fall into the waters. SCREAMING.

INT. ANNA FENN HOME, 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 stand with her across from the windows and hold hands. Anna hugs her baby ESTHER.

The water BLASTS through the windows. The baby ripped out of her arms. Kids SCREAMING, THRASHING ABOUT. Water in the room rises fast. Anna tries to save her kids. All struggling in the waters. Grabbing at her. 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 flood waters. He dodges flying timbers 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, barely 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 roof 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 all hug each other. Alive.

EXT. RIDING THE FLOOD WAVE - DAY

EMMA's roof drifts in the debris field. She spots THREE CHILDREN on a portion of a roof. CRYING OUT, scared. Their roof sinking fast. They float closer. 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. Another sister grabs it too.

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. The older sister helps her brother onto the roof. He's CRYING in pain. His leg twisted at an odd angle. Finally all are safely on Emma's roof.

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

EMMA (CONT'D)

You're OK sweetie. You're OK.

(a beat, sees the dog)

What's your doggie's name?

YOUNG GIRL

Hazel. She barked when the flood started. And we 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. Hugs her dog.

EXT. CAMBRIA IRON, SCENES OF JOHNSTOWN - DAY

Powerful waters SLAM into the Cambria Iron plant. CRUSHES 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.

All over: people on roof tops, in trees, some naked, on floating train cars. Some in their battered homes, floating on beds. Many crying out for help, in pain.

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

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

At the Stone Bridge, a massive debris field fed by the flood waters grows. Tons of wreckage clogs the arches, including wrecked 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 stumbles out to a muddy street. 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 - DAY*

Crushed structures, debris, locomotives, dead horses, barb wire jammed together in a 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, but there's not much anyone can do. Many are too far out of reach.

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

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.

The flames approach fast and are suddenly all around them. They have to quit the effort. The woman's horrible 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 an AXE. They start to bust through the wrecked buildings.

The men bash a path through the structures to reach them. Victor makes his way onto the roof, helps Emma off the structure. The other men pick up the children and Hazel.

EXT. MUDDY STREET NEAR STONE BRIDGE - DAY

The GROUP stumbles into a muddy street. COUGHING up smoke.

Victor and the men tend to the kids. Put them on an OX CART with some others that are hurt, a makeshift ambulance.

Emma waves goodbye to the children on the cart. The youngest sister jumps off the cart. Runs up, hugs Emma tightly.

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, at the school house. What happened to you?

EMMA

Our house was crushed. We ended up in the water. My mom's lost. I don't know what happened to Charlie. He was floating towards the west the last I saw him.

VICTOR

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

EMMA

Their roof was sinking. I got them on my roof. Which was more sturdy.

What about you? What happened? I thought you wanted to leave 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 store. My Mom and Dad were swamped. Then my barn was picked up, carried away. Jumped on some other roofs. Rode it out.

EMMA

I'm so sorry about your Mom and Dad. This is just so, unbelievable.

(A beat)

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. 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. Train cars on their sides. 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 with a blanket.

People helping others off rooftops. Others search wreckage.

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

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

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB BAR - EVENING

JAY, PHILO, and LLOYD at a table. Drinking. LAUGHING LOUDLY. Across the club, Philo spots MR. PHIPPS slowly walking into the bar room. He has a stunned look on his face.

PHILO

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

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.

(A beat)

The dam broke on Lake Conemaugh
this afternoon.
Flooded the valley down to
Johnstown.

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

JAY

What's the word? Is it bad?

PHIPPS SR.

From what we know, it's very bad.

They pulled a man out of the
Conemaugh River west of town. That
river was moving like white water
rapids. He said the flood hit
around 4:00. Devastated the town.

There were people floating on
wreckage, alive. But also, dead
bodies in the waters. Corpses.

PHILO

Oh my God. Has anyone talked to
Unger?

PHIPPS SR.

We can't reach him. The circuits
are down. Everything is down.

Jay and his friends silent. Wide-eyed. The bar quiets. The
word of the disaster 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.

(a beat)

This will be in the papers in the
morning. Good night.

Mr. Phipps, leaves the table. Jay and his friends stunned.

EXT. ADAMS STREET SCHOOLHOUSE - EVENING

A large crowd around the schoolhouse now makeshift hospital.
Many people outside laid out on stretchers, some bodies
covered by blankets. People WEEPING.

EMMA and VICTOR enter the schoolhouse. A busy chaotic scene.
People lie on stretchers, on the floor. MOANS of pain.

Emma spots the THREE CHILDREN. Walks over and sees the
brother in bed. His sisters rush over to greet her.

EMMA

Is your brother going to be OK?

OLDER SISTER

They had to take off his one leg
below the knee. It was mangled,
twisted. It started to turn colors.

EMMA

Oh Lord. How are you doing?

OLDER SISTER

We're OK.

EMMA

Do you know anything about your
parents? What happened to them?

OLDER SISTER

They were on the roof with us and
got knocked off. Into the waters.

EMMA

Alright. They may still show up.
I'll pray for them.

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

OLDER SISTER

Thank you. For everything.

Emma smiles, hugs her tight. Hugs her younger sister.
Emma and Victor walk the hospital but do not find Charlie.

EXT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - AFTERNOON

A sign outside the station: "Pittsburgh Relief Committee." A
large crowd is there to donate suitcases and bags full of
canned goods, coats, clothes, shoes and more. Uniformed
railroad personnel load train cars with the supplies.

EXT. OUTSIDE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - EVENING

EMMA and VICTOR stand outside the schoolhouse. People with
stunned looks wander around. A woman CRIES out, faints, when
seeing a child's body under a blanket. This shakes Emma.

EMMA

We need somewhere to stay tonight.

Victor sees people setting up tents. They head there.

INT. TENT NEAR THE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - MORNING

Morning light shines in the tent. VICTOR rolls over, sees EMMA. She looks so peaceful. He thinks. Holy hell. What now?

EXT. OUTSIDE ADAMS STREET SCHOOL HOUSE - MORNING*

On the top step, a group of older men stand. JOHN FULTON begins speaking. Everyone presses in to hear him.

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.

First, we must 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 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 relief?
When should it arrive?

JOHN FULTON

At least a few days. We understand supplies from Pittsburgh can only reach Bolivar. I'm not sure about relief from the east.

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

MAN IN THE CROWD

We know why this happened. That dam broke at the lake. That was their dam. The big bosses! They didn't take care of it!

ANOTHER MAN IN THE CROWD

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

People start clapping and yelling in agreement. Angry voices 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 give you strength.

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

EXT. BOLIVAR TRAIN STATION - DAY*

Trains rumble through the green countryside. A sign "Johnstown Relief" hung on many of the cars.

At the Bolivar station west of Johnstown, men unload boxes and crates off a train. Normal trains cannot go further due to the flood damage. The supplies are loaded onto smaller HANDCARS that can still travel 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 on opposite tracks. As they get closer, the train crews WAVE, CHEER each other on.

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: **Tuesday, June 4**

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

Stares out a window at the former lake--an alien expanse of mud and puddles lit by the fading sunlight.

Unger perks up. He hears something. Something outside. Voices. Angry voices.

In the waning light, he spots a mob of men moving 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 runs into the next room. Opens a door to a small closet under the stairs. 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. Busting up furniture.

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.

Unger tries to stand but one of the men pushes him down. A man ties his hands behind his back 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 TWO

Get him up.

Two men help Unger shakily get to his feet. Stands before the group of ten men around him. All wearing masks.

MAN TWO (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 ONE

Did anyone warn you that this could happen? Did you know about problems with the dam?

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 a wider dam road. For their carriages.

MAN THREE

Why was there a screen attached to the bridge over the spillway? It got clogged with debris.

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 TWO
I know you're guilty as hell.
You knew about issues with that
dam. That could lead to this.
But you didn't do anything.
In fact you made things worse.

If it was my choice,
you would hang by the neck tonight.
But, I will not make that decision.
Someone else will 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 TWO
This is Mrs. Anna Fenn. She has a
story to tell you Colonel.

ANNA
On the day of the flood, my husband
died helping his mother.
His mother died with him.

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. 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
was 10, Gen was 9, George was 8,
Ginny was 5, Bismarck was 3, and my
baby Esther, who was almost 2.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)
 They drowned Colonel.
 Crying out for their mother.
 But I couldn't help any of them.

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. Draws the sword away.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 Look at this picture Colonel.
 (Takes out a picture of
 her children, holds it
 before Unger's face)
 I want to take this sword, and
 slowly, stab you to death.
 (a beat)
 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. She drops the sword and walks out. The other men follow her out. One man remains. He picks up the sword, walks up to him. Unger sobs.

MAN TWO
 You know in your heart what you
 did. And what you failed to do.
 So many died horrible deaths.
 Drowned, crushed, sliced 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: **Thursday, June 6**

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

PEG

You going to that hospital camp at Sang Hollow today?

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 that one part of the mill started working yesterday. This town needed some good news.

Emma starts to leave. Peg hugs her tight.

PEG

Good bless you chuckaboo. I hope you find out something about Charlie. Praying for you.

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

EXT. SANG HOLLOW HOSPITAL CAMP - DAY

EMMA walks among hospital tents, looks into some. People on hospital beds. Nurses mill about. Emma spots an OLDER DOCTOR with a clipboard. She greets him.

EMMA

Doctor, is there anyone I could talk to about a patient list?

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 a list like that. You would have to check with the morgues. So this is your...

EMMA

My brother.

DOCTOR

I see. Well keep looking for him. But 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. Many others still 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

I'm looking for someone.

CLARA

I'm Clara Barton with the Red Cross. Maybe I can help.

EMMA

(Surprised)

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

CLARA

Who are you looking for dear?

EMMA

My brother Charlie.

CLARA

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

(Looks at her watch)

I'm sorry dear, but I'm late for a meeting. But stop by here tomorrow morning. Around 10. I'll get information about your brother. And we can post it around 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 dear. A nurse during the Rebellion at Antietam and Fort Wagner, and before that, over in France, during the Prussian war. But this is 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 must get to a meeting. Please visit here tomorrow morning. Alright?

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, men work to clear the huge debris field.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Super: **Friday, June 14**

A busy scene as a train pulls into the station. JAY PHIPPS steps off the train with a bag and a GUITAR CASE amongst a large crowd. Walks out to the busy, carriage stand. Finds an available carriage. Greets a DRIVER who takes his bags.

Jay climbs aboard. He is stunned, seeing the battered landscape. And the large crowds. The driver is seated.

JAY

A lot of people. Is this normal?

DRIVER

Yep. Flood tourists. Want to see the destruction for themselves.

(MORE)

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Use their new Kodaks for
photographs. Take home some relics.

JAY

Kind of morbid.

DRIVER

Actually it's good for the town.
Lots of money coming in. People
stay at the hotels, eat at the
restaurants. Where can I take you?

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.

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 in the valley
wiped off the map too. Woodvale,
Mineral Point, East Conemaugh.

(Pulls carriage over)

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.
Is there anywhere I can get a list
of those who died or are missing?

DRIVER

The Red Cross hospital on Locust
Street. We can head there.

EXT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A two story building with a Red Cross flag waving out front.
JAY steps off 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 walks up to the Red Cross building.

INT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

After a brief wait in line, 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. But 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 just left an hour ago.

JAY

Really? Do you know where she's
staying? I'm an old friend.

NURSE

I don't. People are living all over
since the flood. But she'll be back
Monday. You want to leave a note?

JAY

Of course. Thank you.

She hands him a pad and pencil. 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 BELIEVE THIS IS SO URGENT.
I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE.*

JAY PHIPPS

Jay folds the note, hands it to the nurse. Thanks her.

Walks to the bulletin board. Sees names of identified people who perished listed. But many others are marked as "UNKNOWN", 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 - MORNING

EMMA sits 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?

I have reflected on this. And I
want to share my thoughts with you.
But this is not easy to say.

Too many of the people in this
valley had become obsessed with
earthly desires.

(MORE)

PREACHER (CONT'D)

Making the most money.
Gaining the most possessions.
Abusing demon alcohol.
Partaking in unclean acts of the
flesh.

The Good Book says 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
the opening of the Seven Seals. And
this means that the End Times are
upon us. 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 - MORNING

EMMA walks outside the church with VICTOR. Smiling.

EMMA

What was that? I wanted to come to
Church for some uplifting music,
some inspiring prayers. Try to feel
hopeful for a change. Not hear
about the End Times.

VICTOR

I know. And to blame the flood on
alcohol and 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 went to the
Red Cross hospital on Saturday.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

And there was note for me. From Jay Phipps.

VICTOR

Really? Is he here?

EMMA

(hands him the note)
He's at the Clubhouse.

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 there. I bet the Colonel and his men are still there.

EMMA

Alright. There's a 2:00 train to South Fork. 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 leans in.

VICTOR

I've been meaning to tell you.

(A beat)

I'm headed to Philadelphia this Wednesday.

EMMA

Really?

VICTOR

My one uncle is there. He invited me to stay with him. And while I'm there, I plan to visit some colleges.

EMMA

That makes sense. You have to consider your future. I mean. What's left here for you?

VICTOR

Well, something's still here.

He tenderly reaches for her hand, squeezes it tight.

EXT. THE CARRIAGE HEADED TO THE 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. So alien.

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. EMMA and VICTOR step onto the wide porch. Other than the buzzing summer bugs, a strange eerie quiet.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE LOBBY - DAY

EMMA and VICTOR slowly enter the darkened lobby. Tables and chairs knocked over. Broken glass. A 12-foot-high brick ornate fireplace and a grand wooden stairway.

They turn to walk down a long 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, points a PISTOL at them.

PARKE

Stop! Who goes there?

VICTOR

(Pulls Emma aside)

Don't shoot!

(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)

My name's Victor Heiser. I worked 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. Takes a long drink.

UNGER (CONT'D)

Miss Hart. Mr. Heiser. How are you?

EMMA

I'm looking for Jay Phipps.

UNGER

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 like 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 awful 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)

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

No, man did.
Man did.

UNGER

We did our best, please 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.
Thank you for coming.
How's Charlie, and your Mom?

EMMA

My Mom went down in the flood.
Charlie's missing. Probably gone
too.

JAY

Oh Christ, I'm so sorry.

EMMA

(Looking at guitar case)
What's that?

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 here. I want you to come
stay with us. We want to set up
fundraisers and 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.
Like an old dirty penny.
All shined up like new.

JAY

That's not it. It's because I know
you're an amazing singer.
What are you doing today? Now?

EMMA

I'm a nurse's assistant. At the Red
Cross. I'm trying to help people,
help my town recover.

JAY

(exasperated)

The Red Cross? 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 intends
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. We're so heartbroken
about this terrible accident.

VICTOR

An accident?
Is that what you called it?
This all could have been prevented.
People knew about the problems with
that dam, and ignored them.
Did nothing to fix them.
People in this room.

Victor stares hard at Parke. He turns away. Stares at Unger.

JAY

(turns to Emma)

I know it didn't end right for us in Pittsburgh. But if I didn't mean what I said at the lake, in those letters, would I be here?

EMMA

Now I'm to believe that I'm the one. I don't think so. I think your Daddy sent you to find me. Make him and the other members feel better about the horrible shit that happened here.

JAY

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's still your dream.

I know it.

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. Are you thick? 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. Parke and Unger stand, get between the two of them. Emma steps in front of Victor.

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 have a gift. My voice.
I should use it, right?
To help our town?
(a beat)
I know, this isn't what you wanted.

Victor's face falls. Shocked. How could she do this? After what they have been through together! Go with Jay? NO!

Emma hugs him, slowly turns. Walks towards Jay, with a slight smile. Jay smiles back.

Jay then looks at Victor with a smug smile. I win again.

As he leans in to hug Emma, she SLUGS HIM HARD IN THE NOSE. Jay CURSES and holds his nose which starts 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 on his nose, bleeding. Seething.

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 playing. Dogs run about, barking. Hammering noise fills the air as men are working on new construction.

EMMA on a PARK BENCH in her white Red Cross uniform. VICTOR arrives. She 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. Where
did that come from?

VICTOR

That night in the Adams Street
hospital, seeing those doctors
working on patients, helping them,
saving them. I was so inspired. I
decided, I want to do that.

EMMA

That's great news.

VICTOR

I should hear something in the next
few weeks. And my chances are
pretty good. They're making special
exceptions for flood victims.

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, taking vital signs,
giving medications. It's so
interesting.
Who knew I might want to become a
nurse? And you, a doctor!

VICTOR

You never know what life brings.

EMMA

Meeting Miss Barton changed my
life. Probably saved it.

VICTOR

There were stories in the papers
all the time about the Red Cross
here. She's a national hero.

EMMA

She hasn't left since the flood.
Working 12 hour days. 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 are still missing people
showing up 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 still feel like a clumsy store
clerk some of the time...

EMMA
Listen!
Never forget what you did for me.
And those children.
Never forget that.

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 just know it.

VICTOR

(tears in his eyes)
 I hope so.
 I would have wanted 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. ORIGINAL OLD OYSTER HOUSE RESTAURANT, PITTSBURGH - DAY

Super: **Original Old Oyster House**
 Pittsburgh

September, 1889

Attorney PHILANDER KNOX sits in a high wood booth at the back of the restaurant. HENRY PHIPPS enters and crosses to him. Sits across from Knox. Phipps agitated. Speaking fast.

PHIPPS SR.

Mister Knox. Alright. I need to
 know about this Nancy Little Case.

KNOX

You want to order some...

PHIPPS SR.

I don't have time.

KNOX

Alright. Nancy Little lives in
 Sewickley. Her husband John was a
 woodenware salesman and in
 Johnstown on a business trip.

(MORE)

KNOX (CONT'D)

He was at the Hulbert House hotel downtown. That hotel was hit by the flood. And he perished.

PHIPPS SR.

Christ. And I understand she has seven children.

KNOX

Actually, she has eight. She's suing the South Fork Club for \$50,000 for the loss of her husband, due to our negligence maintaining the dam.

PHIPPS SR.

How do you plan to counter that?

KNOX

We will plead not guilty. And here is our argument. First we'll say 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 sent many telegraph messages too.

PHIPPS SR.

Alright. That sounds promising. What if they testify about, other things? Like having only one spillway, the fish screens on the bridges, the dam road being lowered. Negligence in general.

KNOX

I don't believe any of that matters. Even if all those things were addressed, there's still no way to know if it would have prevented this flood.

(MORE)

KNOX (CONT'D)

Beyond a reasonable doubt.
That's the key.
Reasonable doubt.
We plan to have many experts
testify to that.

PHIPPS SR.

Knox we can't lose this case. It
would lead to many more like this
one. It could cost us, millions...

KNOX

Well, another thing I plan to do is
use every lever of the court to
drag this case out. I can request
frequent continuances and motions,
object to evidence, dispute some of
their discovery requests. Believe
me, this case could take years.
And, it will scare off others
trying to sue us.

PHIPPS SR.

Alright. I guess you know your
craft very well.

KNOX

Not only that. But we are in the
right. This was an Act of God.
The Club 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.

INT. JOHNSTOWN RED CROSS HOSPITAL - 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. JOHNSTOWN RED CROSS HOSPITAL - 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, wearing a hat. She squints in the sun. She stares harder. It's a man. He steps closer. He's carrying a duffel bag. As he approaches, he takes his hat off.

Her eyes meet 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, steps up to CHARLIE, tears in her eyes.

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. 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 I started to remember things. Where I was from. I remembered you. And Mom. And...

EMMA

How did you 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.

INT. ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTROOM - DAY*

Super: **Allegheny County Courthouse**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March, 1892

HENRY PHIPPS and JAY PHIPPS stand in the back of the
courtroom. The courtroom quiet but there is much anticipation
as a jury verdict should be in soon. PHILANDER KNOX sees them
and walks over. Exchange greetings.

PHIPPS SR.

What are you hearing Knox? Is the
verdict coming in soon.

KNOX

Yes. I think so.

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 bailiff follows him in. The bailiff addresses the court.

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, have you reached a verdict?

JURY FOREMAN

Yes we have Your Honor.

JUDGE FLAHERTY

Please address the Court and state your verdict.
And I ask that the courtroom remain calm after the verdict is read.

JURY FOREMAN

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. 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 observe the unruly courtroom. After a few minutes, 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 service.
 You are now discharged.
 This case is adjourned.
 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, the 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? No. No. I would
 not recommend doing something like
 that. That would be...Let's
 discuss...

PHIPPS SR.
 For Chrissakes, shut up Knox.
 Just shut the fuck up.
 (eyes moist)
 Oh my God,
 (a beat)
 what have we done?

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 very large crowd surrounds a new granite monument covered in a cloth tarp. At a podium, Governor ROBERT PATTINSON and Mayor HORACE ROSE stand to address the crowd. CLARA BARTON with them near the podium.

A crowd of over 10,000 people are there. Including:

ANNA FENN MAXWELL and her new HUSBAND.

BELLE and GEORGE WATERS and their THREE CHILDREN.

PEG along with MR. MILLER and others from Cambria Iron.

The THREE KIDS RESCUED BY EMMA and their PARENTS who survived the flood. And their dog Hazel, now fully grown.

INT. INSIDE TENT BEHIND THE MONUMENT - DAY

In a tent, EMMA talks with CHARLIE. She's so nervous. She hasn't sung in front of people in a long time.

CHARLIE
 You're going to be fine. You sounded beautiful this morning.

EMMA
 Practicing in a mirror is not the same as singing in front of people. This crowd is huge!

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 support Emma.

I knew she was singing today.

And, I wanted to talk to her.

And tell her.

(Turns to Emma)

I'm so sorry about what happened in Pittsburgh, and 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

I understand. How are you things now, 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

After I saw what happened here. It shook me to my bones. It changed me. And I realized. We were at fault. We did this. Our dam broke. Our dam.

EMMA

Sometimes it takes something like this to realize what matters. And to make real changes.

JAY

I know. All those things were weighing on me. The guilt. The shock. And I was so angry, all the time.

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're here. 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.

EMMA

One good thing did happen that day. Charlie loves the Martin guitar you brought for him. Thank you for that.

Jay smiles. Someone enters the tent, says: "Emma and Charlie, they're ready for you".

JAY

Good luck. I know you'll be wonderful. Both of you.

He leans in and they hug tight. Jay still misses her so, and what might have been. She heads out of the tent. As Charlie leaves, he looks at Jay and holds up the Martin guitar. He says "Thank You" to Jay. Jay smiles. Charlie smiles back.

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 her for that service.

Miss Hart, the podium is yours.

EMMA walks to a podium, CHARLIE stands behind her. There's also a church choir to accompany her.

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 determined look. She's ready. 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 in a very moving performance.

As she sings, the Governor and the Mayor pull away the tarp at the front of the monument. The 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, stuffed animals in front. Many kneel to pray.

As Emma continues to sing.

CUT TO:

INT. WALNUT STREET THEATER - EVENING

Super: **Walnut Street Theater**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

One Year Later

EMMA in a beautiful blue gown, continues the same song, but now on a lighted stage and accompanied by an orchestra.

She finishes the song "God Moves In A Mysterious Way" to LOUD APPLAUSE FROM THE FULL HOUSE.

Emma smiles. Thanks the audience and says good night. As Emma comes off the stage, she sees an older man waiting for 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.
Can I say. You were just wonderful.
A beautiful performance.

(a beat)

And I'm so glad, you kept the light
alive. It looks like your dreams
came true.

EMMA

Thank you. Thank you so much for
coming.
And for what you told me that day
on the train.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

It did mean something to me.
It really did.

(staring at him hard, a
beat)

You know. Just now.
I am noticing something.

(a beat)

You remind me a lot,
of my father.

OLDER GENTLEMEN FROM THE TRAIN

(Warmly smiles)

I know dear.

PEG, a bit drunk, suddenly grabs Emma by the arm.

PEG

We're waiting for you over there.

EMMA

OK. I want you to meet someone.

PEG

Who?

EMMA

This man. I talked with him on the
train back from Pittsburgh, after
that thing with Jay, remember..

She turns to greet him. THERE IS NO ONE THERE. Emma is
shocked. Where did he go? He was just here.

PEG

Who? I don't see anyone. Come on.
You need a drink. Or three.

Emma is shook. Looks back at the space. The man is gone.
Where is he? Peg leads Emma to their table. CHARLIE loudly
claps. She leans in, hugs, kisses him. But where is he?

Out of the shadows, VICTOR enters in a handsome pinstripe
grey suit, with a large BOUQUET OF RED ROSES. Emma sees him
and smiles. Takes the flowers, hands them to Peg.

Victor takes her in his arms and holds her tight, looking
into her eyes, and then they kiss deeply.

Fade To Black

THE END

