

"JOHNSTOWN"

A Historical Drama

Written by R. Carl Leech

A movie based on the 1889 Flood of Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Date: September, 2026

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, 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 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.
I'm going to be singing at the
clubhouse this summer at the lake.

ANNA

Really! The boss's club!

BELLE

Bully for you! That could be your
ticket out of here!

EMMA

One can hope right?

BELLE

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

Emma smiles. Being discovered has been her dream since the audition at the clubhouse with her brother Charlie last month. And, maybe moving to Pittsburgh!

Emma turns to see an excited VICTOR coming around the counter. Smiling, staring at her. But CRASH, he trips over a crate and goes down in a heap. APPLES SPRAY all over. His dad laughs. Anna speaks up in a sarcastic tone.

ANNA

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

VICTOR

(looks up at Anna)
Let me check Mrs. Fenn.

EMMA

Are you OK?

VICTOR

No. Damn that hurt actually.
Did you hear something?

EMMA

Yes! We got the job!

VICTOR

Oh my God. That is great!

EMMA

I wanted to tell you in person.

VICTOR

I'm so excited for you and Charlie.

EMMA

(leans in for a hug)
Thank you so much for setting up
the audition. You're such a
wonderful friend.

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 on the floor.

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 belch dark clouds out of tall smokestacks. Boats traverse three dirty rivers under dozens of 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 have become the newest millionaires, 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 building. Well-dressed gentlemen traverse the steps. A smartly dressed doorman opens tall doors into a marbled lobby.

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? Your shot.

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. We must direct your mind off all that. How about this. Lake Conemaugh. Are you going on Friday?

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, white 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

The Colonel! 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'll 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

How's 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 much larger this year.

UNGER

Yes. The lake is the largest it has ever been. Lots of snow melt and a rainy spring. Three miles long.

MELLON

I'm 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. I put them off.

UNGER (CONT'D)

(a beat)

Anyone heading to the lake this weekend?

MELLON

Mr. Frick and I are going Friday.

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 dinners. All at our beautiful South Fork club at Lake Conemaugh.

JOHN "JAY" PHIPPS, a handsome 25 yo, blonde hair, blue eyes, enters with his friend PHILO FRENCH. Mellon steps up to him.

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. 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.

Gentlemen, this is my son Jay Phipps. And I must speak with him. I believe we're finished here for today. I'll be in touch next week. Thank you 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.

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.

(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.

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, the family is going to the lake this weekend.

PHIPPS SR. (CONT'D)
And you're coming. You haven't been
there in ages. Do you understand?

JAY
I have plans this weekend with...

PHIPPS SR.
Do you understand?

JAY
Yes. Yes sir.

PHIPPS SR.
We leave on the 10 AM train on
Friday. 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
so is Lloyd. This is great. And
there's someone I want you to meet
up there. A real doll.

JAY
Did you just hear me?

PHILO

This one's different Jay. She's a singer. She sings on Saturdays 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, a bored 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 train with the 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 two horse carriage.

JAY PHIPPS climbs aboard last. Once everyone is seated, the driver snaps a whip and the 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. So odd in this setting.

The carriage crosses a bridge over a bubbling creek, the dam spillway, 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 happy, swimming in our big lake.

EXT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE - EVENING

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

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE DINING ROOM - EVENING

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.
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. 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
You going to go talk to her?
Turn on that famous Phipps charm.

JAY
Yes boys, I do have that charm in
spades. But what really gets the
lasses? Maybe 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 laughs loudly.)

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

PHILO
And I told you, she's gorgeous.

JAY

Yes. I did not expect to see
someone like her, up here.
Anyway, watch closely.

Jay stands. 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. Guess I
should visit.

EMMA

You sure? 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, she gave me her
card. The Harts of Union Street.

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 - EVENING

CHARLIE and EMMA in a carriage. Emma senses 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. I have to run over to Belle's. I need some sugar. I'll be back soon.

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.

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? I'm Jay Phipps.
From last night. Remember?

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. Not as well as you
though. I have a Martin six string.
Heard of the Martin?

CHARLIE

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

JAY

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

EMMA

I have a visitor it seems.

Emma and Charlie stand. A smiling Emma wearing a colorful sundress enters the room. Looks GORGEOUS.

CHARLIE

You remember Mr. Phipps.

EMMA

I do remember Mr. Phipps.

JAY

You look just, beautiful.
Sorry for the unannounced visit.

EMMA

No. It's a pleasant surprise.

JAY

Are you free this afternoon? To show me the sights?

EMMA

Of course.

EXT. OUTSIDE HART HOUSE - MORNING

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 glad you
introduced Emma to the Colonel.

Victor still can't believe he's talking to Jay Phipps. Jay
is top celebrity of the day, in papers all the time.

He's from one of the richest families in Pittsburgh, hell the
country. And damn, he's a tall, handsome guy.

EMMA
Jay 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
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 - MORNING

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. They talked last night after
the show.

VICTOR
So he sees her one time, and is
here the next day. Really?

CHARLIE

That's our Emma. Always the charmer.

VICTOR

She sure is.

CHARLIE

Something bothering you? Maybe a little bit jealous?

VICTOR

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

CHARLIE

But a rich dandy in a tan suit is here first!

VICTOR

How funny would it be?
I get you the job at the lake.
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 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 pretty common. Over two hundred men died in the mill last year.

JAY

Just like in Pittsburgh. It's such dangerous work. How are you doing?

EMMA

It was tough at first, especially for 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 just 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. I like tennis,
horses. Traveling. Parties.

EMMA

Do you work?

JAY

For my father. At Union Iron.

EMMA

How's that going?

JAY

 (smiles)

How's that going. Well, 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 here. Take that Friday off
work. And I'll pick you up and take
you 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

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 - 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!

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 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 age.

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 - DAY

Emma at her desk. 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! 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 cow!

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. Her hair and makeup done up. Looks GORGEOUS.

PEG

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

Emma sees the elegant carriage waiting for her. Wow!

EMMA

Thanks for the time off Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER

(a bit shaken, wow!)

Oh, OK Emma. You, you have fun.

EXT. OUTSIDE CAMBRIA WORKS - DAY

As EMMA walks towards the carriage, people cheer her on from the office windows: "GO EMMA" "BULLY FOR YOU". JAY smiles, bows at her like she's a queen, helps her onto the carriage. She waves goodbye to those cheering her on. 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! DAMN IT!

He drops his broom on the ground. Picks it up by the broom end. SLAMS IT against a metal streetlamp pole. The broom splits in two, with the handle half flying across the street.

The TOWN CRAZY MAN stands across the street. He is a haggard man in his 50s, wild blue eyes, long white hair.

He catches the broom handle as it flies through the air. Walks across the street towards Victor, holding it.

TOWN CRAZY MAN

Listen to me boy. I had a vision I
would receive a Sign today.
And here it is!
This is the Staff of Christ!

VICTOR

That's a broom handle you nut.

TOWN CRAZY MAN

This is a Sign. Of what is to
come. For you boy. You're going to
start having the visions. Visions
about the dam breaking. About the
flood. The start of the End Times.

VICTOR

What?

TOWN CRAZY MAN

I'm having the visions too. Do you
read the Bible? The Book of
Revelation? Know about The Seven
Seals? One of those seals will be
broken in this valley, by a flood.
Starting the End Times.

VICTOR

Get the hell out of here.

TOWN CRAZY MAN
 You'll see boy. You'll be haunted
 by terrible visions. Just like me.
 Soon enough. You'll see.

Victor enters his store. The Crazy Man walks down the street holding the broom handle. Mumbling to himself.

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 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. He sets down a picnic basket.

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

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

JAY
I feel lucky.
Just spending an evening with you.

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

JAY
Oh yes. But wine is a key element.

Jay takes a bottle from the basket. 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 in bed, tossing and turning, 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. Loud rumbling. The dam crumbles and water explodes into the valley.

VICTOR sits up in bed. Eyes wide open. That crazy man said I would start having visions like this. Is it happening?

INT. CAMBRIA IRON WORKS - SECRETARIAL OFFICES - MORNING

EMMA sits down at her desk. Peg rolls her chair over to talk.

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 three times
bigger than our house!

PEG
I've heard about those cottages.

EMMA
Spent some time on a sailboat. We
had 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, we went out on the lake
in a fancy steam yacht. Never been
on one of those before.

Just spent time together. Later I
got dressed at the cottage for my
singing. 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 - EVENING

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, are you enjoying the
Feast of Lanterns.

EMMA

I am 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 bridge. 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.

(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 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 fifty years old, and 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 at a cottage)

Colonel Unger lives in that cottage.

JAY (CONT'D)

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

So. Have you thought about, about
us? What we discussed this
morning?

EMMA

(looks up at him)

I have. I know the Club here closes
tomorrow. And so, how can we...

Jay leans in with a kiss. Holds her. Gazes 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 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 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 stands 23 yo old 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 here 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. Three miles long, a mile wide. We believe issues with the stability of the dam must be addressed.

UNGER

Alright first, we monitor the lake level closely. And have a spillway to use as needed.

FULTON

The spillway is only seven or eight feet below the dam crest. If the lake level rose too high, it becomes useless.

The lake holds over twenty million tons of water.

FULTON (CONT'D)

If that amount of water breached the dam, it would be a disaster for the valley.

UNGER

I disagree. Your own newspaper in Johnstown, the *Tribune*, had an article on this topic a year or so ago.

FULTON

I know about that article.

UNGER

The article said a break would not impact Johnstown too much. There would be some flooding, but most of the water would disperse through the fifteen miles of valley to Johnstown.

FULTON

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

In addition, this lake is five hundred feet higher than the valley. If it broke, all that water would head downhill. For miles.

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 install 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.

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.

(sighs)

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. We feel that strongly about this situation.

UNGER

Thank you Mr. Fulton. Duly noted.

FULTON

Thank you. 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. Maybe there are some actions we can take to...

UNGER

(Sternly, stares at him)

Mr. Parke. Listen to me.

(a beat)

I hired you for one thing.

A new septic system.

That's what the members want.

UNGER (CONT'D)

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 - DAY

Super: **November, 1889**

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

EMMA

Remember I told Mom I'm staying with Dottie Kinevey in Shadyside.

CHARLIE

You sure about this trip?

EMMA

Yeah. Why?

CHARLIE

How well do you know this guy? You only saw him a few times, right?

VICTOR approaches them on the platform.

EMMA

What are you doing here?

VICTOR

Charlie told me you were going to Pittsburgh. To see Phipps.

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. What do you think of him?
Really, right now?

EMMA

I don't fully know. And I know his
reputation. But I want 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.

After she boards the train, Victor turns to Charlie.

VICTOR

You know Charlie. I wonder.
Maybe Jay is playing her.
But, she might be playing him too.
To get what she wants.
She always seems to get what she
wants.

INT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - DAY

An excited EMMA sees JAY 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

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.

EMMA

I didn't know women could visit the Duquesne Club?

JAY

On Friday evenings, we welcome the fairer sex to join us.

EMMA

As long as I don't drink too much. I might 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 - DAY

EMMA and JAY walk under the red awning. Some snow in the air. Emma so thrilled and nervous. The Duquesne Club!

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB LOBBY, BAR ROOM - DAY

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 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. This past 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.

CHAMBERS

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

EMMA

Thank you. It's such an honor to be here.

HORNE

Being from Johnstown, I've often wondered, how do the folks there feel about our 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 there, Colonel Unger, keeps a close eye on things.

EMMA

I know the Colonel very well.

MELLON

(a beat)

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

EMMA
 (Surprised, smiles)
 Not at all. It'd be my pleasure.

Mellon escorts Emma to the piano. She has a brief chat with the musicians. Mellon rings a bell.

MELLON
 Ladies and Gentlemen.
 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.

After some light applause, Emma begins the Civil War ballad "Aura Lee" along with the piano and violin. Her voice captivating. A moving performance. Loud clapping at the end.

HORNE
 My goodness, that was wonderful.

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

JAY
 Let me get you a drink.

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

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 sing and
fell so hard he visited her the
next day. In Johnstown.

MILDRED

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

LORETTA

(stops, thinking)

Isn't that big horseshoe railroad
curve near there?

MILDRED

Speaking of curves, Jay's has 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.)
You seem like a nice girl.
I'm sorry you heard that.

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

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB BAR ROOM

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

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
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

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

I meant what I said. Everything.

EMMA

You're nothing but a liar.
And I'm nothing but a fool.
Now get me out of here. I want to be on the next train to Johnstown.

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 some time on this train.
And I can be a sympathetic ear.

EMMA

Alright. I was in Pittsburgh to
visit what I thought was a friend.
I thought he cared for me. I
thought we had a future together.
Turns out, it was all a lie. I was
just someone to toy with.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

How did you meet him?

EMMA

This past summer, I met him while
singing...

OLDER GENTLEMEN

You're a singer?

EMMA

Yes. I sing at a club called the
South Fork Club at a lake near
where I live in Johnstown. The
richest people in Pittsburgh
belong.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I've heard of that club. This man,
is wealthy?

EMMA

Yes. Very.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

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

EMMA

(some tears)

Yes. I daydreamed about this visit
for months. Of how it could go.
Maybe change my life.
But I don't know why I believed
anything would happen with him and
me. Some nobody.

OLDER GENTLEMEN

I could see how a young man could
fall for you.

EMMA

Well, it's over. Over with him.
And now my hopes and dreams are
dark. My future, everything is
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.
It is what moves you forward.

Emma, teary eyed, smiles a bit, leans on his shoulder. He
puts his arm around her.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - AFTERNOON

VICTOR approaches her. She was not expecting him.

VICTOR

Charlie told me you were coming
back a day early.
Asked if I could meet you.
Did your plans change?

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.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
This. This is hard for me to say.
But. I. I adore you.
And have, for years. You know that.
And I was so angry and upset that
you wanted to see that guy.
I couldn't eat, couldn't sleep.

EMMA
Alright. Well it's over.

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.

EMMA (CONT'D)
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 on the couch.

RUTH
Hello there. I thought you were
coming back tomorrow.

EMMA
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
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
He wanted me to visit. I thought he
had feelings for me. I thought
there could be something with him.
A future.

RUTH
And?

EMMA
I don't want to talk about it.

RUTH
That's fine.

Emma starts to tear up.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Honey what's wrong?

Emma moves in to hug her Mom. They embrace.

EMMA
I did really like him. And if
something could happen with him,
maybe I could start in Pittsburgh,
with a singing career.

RUTH
I know you want to sing dear.

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

RUTH
I was like you in a way. At your
age. 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.
We fell in love. 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. 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 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 fifty feet high. People running, but they cannot outrun it. They are swamped, killed. A train car is 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, wide awake. The visions are getting worse.

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.
Working for the Colonel. I started
here about a month ago.

VICTOR
Congratulations. 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 to set
up a new septic system. Install
indoor plumbing. Getting rid of
that monstrosity for one thing.
(points at the 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

OK. First it leaks, and they have to patch it every spring. They need to build up the dam face more. Strengthen it. There's only one spillway for this huge lake. They need another one.

PARKE

I've brought up the dam with the Colonel a few times. But the last time I did, he told me to not talk about it anymore. Got really angry.

VICTOR

Really?

PARKE

Unger believes an article he read in the Johnstown newspaper about the dam. From a few years ago.

VICTOR

What did it say?

PARKE

That if the dam failed, the lake waters would disperse through the valley, into the creeks and streams. A bad day of flooding, but 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 Johnstown. And there's twenty million tons of water in there. If the dam broke, all that water would burst out. Heading downhill. For miles. In a steep valley. That would be some immense power.

PARKE (CONT'D)

(a beat)

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

VICTOR

I haven't told anyone about this,
but I'm having dreams about the dam
breaking, flooding the valley,
killing people.

PARKE

Really.

VICTOR

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

PARKE

He told you that.

VICTOR

Yeah. He said he was having the
same dreams. I thought he was nuts,
but damn, I'm having the dreams
now. Just like he said. It's so
strange. And scary.

Parke nods. Takes a long drag on his cigarette.

Super:

Thursday, May 30, 1889

The Day Before The Flood

Decoration Day Parade

Sandy Vale Cemetery, Johnstown

EXT. SANDY VALE CEMETERY - MORNING*

Union Army Veterans wearing dress-blue Civil War uniforms
lead a parade into the Sandy Vale Cemetery. The town's
Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are buried here.

In the parade, EMMA and CHARLIE march, along with VICTOR.

When the Union Army veterans reach a veteran's tombstone, they salute, bow for a moment, and lay a wreath on a stand.

Above the parade, 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 greets them as they view a tombstone. On the tombstone:

**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 talking about
him.

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?

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

VICTOR (CONT'D)

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

I understand 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 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. He is holding the broom handle, and the handle is glowing brightly. 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.

TOWN CRAZY 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 was so vivid. 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: **Friday, May 31, 1889**

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. 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.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

And he said today is the day.
Today is the day of the flood!

CHARLIE

It's just another rainy day.

VICTOR

This is different. I'm telling you.
Please stay home Emma. Don't go to
work. And get your Mom. 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. 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.
You should get to higher ground.
Green Hill!

CHARLIE

Come on. Is this some scheme 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
I hope so. God I hope so.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - MORNING*

Super: 10:00 AM

TORRENTS OF RAIN pour down. Water only a few feet from the dam crest. Men work to dump tree stumps, dirt, large stones off wagons onto the road, meant 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. Rides over, gets off his horse. Angry.

UNGER
Why isn't the spillway working?

PARKE
We can't get the screen cleared.
The lake keeps pushing logs,
stumps, underbrush, all kind of
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.

BUCANNON
I'm John Bucannon from South Fork.
There's no water getting to the
spillway.

UNGER

I don't have time for this.

BUCANNON

The fish screen attached to the bridge is clogged with too much shit. If you can't clear the screen, 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 way to prevent the dam breaking. Since we can't get the screen cleared, we have to tear down the bridge.

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!

INT. HART HOME - FAMILY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Super: 10:30 A.M.

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

CHARLIE

Home already?

EMMA

They let us out early. All the flooding. How long did Victor stay?

CHARLIE

He left right after you. Still upset about his dreams. Wanted me to take Mom to Green Hill.

EMMA

Well anyway. I got my check.
(Holds up her check.)
Guess the crazy man was wrong about the flood today. So far at least.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - MORNING*

Super: 11:15 A.M.

The rain continues to pour down. The roiling lake water is at the crest of the dam. The workmen still trying to dump tree stumps, logs, rocks and dirt onto the dam road.

But the water is pouring across the road and down the front of the dam. Small waterfalls are forming.

Unger still on his horse, yelling at the men to do more. But even he sees these efforts are not going to stop the waters.

He rides over to Parke, still working on the spillway. Off his horse, he steps up to Parke. Unger is solemn. Like a broken man. He knows what's going to happen.

UNGER

Parke. We need to get a message out to the valley. Ride down to South Fork. Go to the telegraph tower. Let them know that the dam is going to give way. They need to alert the valley towns and Johnstown.

Parke nods and immediately runs to get his horse.

EXT. PORCH OF ANNA FENN HOME - AFTERNOON

Super: 11:30 A.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 front porches.

BELLE

Is John around? We could use his help moving some furniture upstairs.

ANNA

He's actually heading over to his Mom's place. Will be back later.

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.
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. STINEMAN'S STORE, SOUTH FORK - AFTERNOON*

Super: 11:45 A.M.

Parke rides his horse on a treacherous country road through the pouring rain. Arrives in South Fork. Spots a group of men standing on the porch of Stineman's Store. Rides up to them.

PARKE

(Drenched, out of breath)
Listen to me. Listen. The waters are pouring over the top of the dam at the lake. It is going to give way. You need to alert people.

The men look at him. Just shake their heads.

STINEMAN MAN ONE

Listen son. Someone already rode down here today and told us about the dam. Guy named Bidwell. Said there was nothing to worry about. The Colonel has a plan.

PARKE

No. Listen, things have gotten so much worse. The Colonel sent me.

The man waves him off. Parke, frustrated, rides to the South Fork telegraph tower to get messages down the valley.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - AFTERNOON*

Super: 1:30 P.M.

A fifty foot waterfall pours over the dam. The workmen stand by. Their axes, tools, lay on the ground around them.

UNGER looks sick. Terrified. PEOPLE from South Fork have gathered at the dam all morning. Staring, watching, waiting.

EXT. TELEGRAPH MESSAGES*

On screen, telegraph messages typed out and displayed.

1:52 PM RP OD VIA MP & AO
THE WATER IS RUNNING OVER THE
BREAST OF LAKE DAM, IN CENTER AND
WEST SIDE, AND IS BECOMING
DANGEROUS.

2:25 PM RP OD VIA MP & AO
THE DAM IS BECOMING DANGEROUS AND
MAY POSSIBLY GO.

EXT. SOUTH FORK DAM - AFTERNOON

Super: 3:00 P.M.

As the rain pounds down, the WATERFALL pouring over the dam is one hundred feet wide. PARKE and UNGER stare at this spectacle, along with a large crowd. Parke looks around.

PARKE

All these people. I guess you don't
see something like this every day.

(a beat)

What do you really think is going
to happen, when the dam breaks?

UNGER

(trembling voice)

The water will spread out in the
valley. In the fifteen miles to
Johnstown. Like that newspaper
article said.

PARKE

I disagree Colonel.
 I believe. When this dam fails.
 And twenty million tons of water
 pours into this valley.
 Headed downhill.
 I fear, 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 - AFTERNOON*

LOUD THUNDEROUS ROAR as twenty million tons of water devours and crushes the valley landscape. The wave is 40 feet high.

Tears up railroad tracks on the valley edges. Shreds huge trees and telegraph poles like twigs. Crushes farmhouses, barns, any structure in its path. Like paper blocks.

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

The flood wave smashes into an 80-FOOT HIGH STONE RAILROAD BRIDGE. Debris jams the huge arch of the bridge 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.

At Mineral Point, people on hillsides watch as a 40 foot wave crushes their creek side town. Over thirty structures. Wiped off the map in minutes. Swept away.

EXT. - EAST CONEMAUGH RAIL YARD - AFTERNOON*

Super: **East Conemaugh**

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

The wall of water smashes into a huge train roundhouse. Nearly 30 locomotives, some weighing up to eighty tons, are lifted, flipped and crushed like toys. Locomotives and train cars scattered up to a mile from the flattened roundhouse.

EXT. - EAST CONEMAUGH RAIL YARD - AFTERNOON*

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.

The other train with passenger cars on the lower tracks is closer to the oncoming flood. Which is coming fast.

The flood wave SMASHES the train on the lower tracks. People inside the passenger cars screaming in HORROR. Swamped.

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

But the waters are somewhat blocked by a train tower. The Pullman is partially flooded and pushed down the tracks. But the passengers survive. Weeping, thanking the Lord.

EXT. TOWN OF WOODVALE - AFTERNOON*

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 twists or turns. 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.

Next the waters slam into the massive Gautier Barb Wire factory west of town. The boilers EXPLODE in a thunderous ROAR. HUGE SPRAYS of water. Barb wire now in the waters.

EXT. SHANTY ON CREEK NEAR JOHNSTOWN - AFTERNOON

The TOWN CRAZY MAN steps outside his shanty. Holding the broom handle. Turns to see a 40 foot high WALL of DARK WATER APPROACHING FAST.

At first he shakes in fear. Wide-eyed, terrified. But he pauses, takes a deep breath. Smiles. Makes the Sign Of The Cross. Closes his eyes. Looks up. Extends his arms. Holding the broom handle. Screams "I'M COMING HOME LORD!"

Super:

Johnstown

4:05 P.M.

INT. HEISER HOME - SECOND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

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.

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 - AFTERNOON

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.

RUTH

Finally. How about some chili for dinner, how does that sound? I have some...

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

EMMA

Look out 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 out to the front porch. But the flood wave is coming too fast. Emma sees others on their roofs.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Get back inside! Get on the roof!

They head back in, rush up the stairs. Her Mom trips, stumbles. Emma turns and goes back 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 rushing waters push them out into a crowded debris field.

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 - AFTERNOON

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

INT. HEISER HOME - SECOND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

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 - AFTERNOON*

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

The black wave approaches as high as the building and PUMMELS it. His parents disappear. He closes his eyes. Waits to die.

The waters SLAM Victor's barn. Knocks it off its foundation. It starts SPINNING in the water. He hangs on barely.

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 - AFTERNOON*

ANNA FENN and her CHILDREN play on the second floor. 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 - AFTERNOON*

VICTOR hangs onto a roof in the rushing flood waters. He dodges flying timbers and debris blasting 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. The train car SPLASHES in the rushing waters, barely missing him.

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 - AFTERNOON*

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. Pulls them onto the rafters with him and his wife. Both COUGHING, CRYING. They all hug each other. Alive.

EXT. RIDING THE FLOOD WAVE - AFTERNOON

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 this!

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

Using all her strength, Emma pulls them closer, almost falls in. 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.
 (sees the dog)
 What's your doggie's name?

YOUNG GIRL
 Hazel. She barked when the flood
 started. And we got 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 - AFTERNOON

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.

The scene: 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.

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 - AFTERNOON

VICTOR's roof comes to a rest. He stumbles out to a muddy street. Soaked, out of breath. Hands, bare feet bleeding, bruised. His clothes--torn, covered in dirt and mud.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN, STONE BRIDGE DEBRIS FIELD - AFTERNOON*

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 locomotive. The winds catch the flames. The fires spread quickly among the debris and the battered houses with people trapped inside. An inferno erupts.

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

People SCREAM for help. Some hurt, some trapped, pinned in their homes. Horrible BLOOD CURDLING SCREAMS of those dying.

EXT. NEAR STONE BRIDGE - AFTERNOON*

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. It's too much heat. They have to quit the effort. The woman's horrible SCREAMS fill the air. Victor falls to his knees, holding his ears.

Victor shakily rises. Listens for other cries for help. He hears a VOICE. He runs towards it. He recognizes the voice. It's EMMA! He cries out "EMMA" as he runs toward the voice.

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

VICTOR climbs onto some battered structures. Spots EMMA with the three CHILDREN. Trapped by crushed structures.

Victor yells for help. TWO MEN run over. One has an AXE. They start to bust through the wrecked buildings and finally 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 - AFTERNOON

The GROUP stumbles into a muddy street. Victor and the men tend to the kids. Put them on an OX CART with some other injured people, a makeshift ambulance.

Victor approaches Emma. She looks at him, amazed, and hugs him tightly. Whispers "Thank you". She sees the ox cart leaving.

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. My mom's lost. I don't know what happened to Charlie. He was floating away the last I saw him.

VICTOR

How did you end up with the kids?

EMMA

Their roof was sinking. And I was able to get them on my roof. What about you? What happened?

VICTOR

I was 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

This is so, unbelievable. And good lord, you tried to warn us this morning.

(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. Huge piles of twisted wreckage and muck in muddy pools of water.

All around: 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.

A stunned, wide-eyed WOMAN approaches them. 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.

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

INT. DUQUESNE CLUB BAR

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 walks over. His sad expression shakes them.

JAY

Dad. What's wrong? You OK?

PHIPPS SR.

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.

In the river, there were people
floating on wreckage, alive. But
also, dead bodies in the waters.
Corpses. Lots of them.

PHILO

Oh my God. Did you talk to Unger?

PHIPPS SR.

We can't reach him. The circuits
are down to the lake.

Jay and his friends silent. Wide-eyed.

JAY

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

PHIPPS SR.

I know you did.
Pray for her son. And her family.
I'll pray for them too.
Pray for the whole town.
(a beat)
This will be in all the papers in
the morning. Good night.

Mr. Phipps leaves the table. The bar, suddenly so quiet.

EXT. ADAMS STREET SCHOOLHOUSE - EVENING

A large crowd around the makeshift hospital. People laid out
on stretchers, some bodies covered by blankets.

EMMA and VICTOR enter the schoolhouse. A busy chaotic scene.
People on stretchers, on the floor. MOANS of pain. Doctors
and nurses trying their best to help them.

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

EMMA

What happened to your brother?

OLDER SISTER

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

EMMA

Oh my. How are you doing?

OLDER SISTER

We're OK.

EMMA

Have you heard anything about your
parents?

OLDER SISTER

No one has seen them. They were on the roof with us and were knocked off.

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. 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 to find a place 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 to the crowd. EMMA and VICTOR in the crowd. Everyone presses in to hear him.

JOHN FULTON

Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please.

I'm John Fulton, the President of the Cambria Iron company. This morning I met with some city leaders. They asked me to lead our recovery efforts.

JOHN FULTON (CONT'D)

I want to inform you of some of the plans.

First Reverend Beale and Reverend Chapman will set up and manage morgues to handle the deceased.

Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Johnson will work on incinerating dead horses and other animals.

Doctors Lowman and Matthews will set up hospitals.

Captain Miller will act as our chief of police and deputize a force to prevent looting.

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. Supplies from Pittsburgh can only reach Bolivar. I'm not sure about other relief.

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

MAN IN THE CROWD

We know why this happened. The big bosses's dam broke at the lake. That was their dam, their lake. They need to pay for this!

ANOTHER MAN IN THE CROWD

They are murderers! Anyone still there should hang by the neck. Especially that 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.

The crowd finally quiets and calms.

JOHN FULTON (CONT'D)

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

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

We must carry on. The people still with us this morning are counting on our efforts. God bless us on this mission.

EXT. PITTSBURGH UNION STATION - AFTERNOON*

A sign outside the station: "Pittsburgh Relief Committee." A large crowd 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. BOLIVAR TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON*

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. 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 - EVENING

Super: **Tuesday, June 4**

UNGER at his desk, looks ill, haggard. His hair and beard unruly, face gaunt. He has barely 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. Angry voices outside.

In the waning light, he spots a mob of men moving towards his cottage. As they get closer, they start throwing stones. One rock CRASHES through a window. Other rocks hit the door.

Unger heads 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. The voices right next to his closet. He hears "Look in there". CRACK! The closet door yanked open. They spot him, cowering in a corner.

MAN ONE

Colonel Unger. Hiding like a rat.
Get out of there.

Unger slowly exits, tries to stand but is pushed down. A man ties his hands behind his back as he lies on the floor.

MAN THREE

What do you want to do with him?

MAN TWO

What do you do with a murderer.
Hang him? Shoot him?

UNGER

I'm not a murderer! 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, trying to stop
the flood. We sent riders down the
valley to warn people.

MAN ONE

Did you know about problems with the dam? That might have caused this?

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 crest a few years ago. Right?

UNGER

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

MAN THREE

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

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 problems with that dam. But you didn't do anything. In fact you made things worse.

If I decided your fate,
you would hang by the neck tonight.
But, I will not make that decision.
Someone else is here to do that.

UNGER

No please. Don't do this.

From a dark corner, ANNA FENN steps forward. Not wearing a mask. Holding a military dagger. Unger starts to shake. He falls to his knees.

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 alongside him.

And I lost, seven children. Seven. One was a baby. They all drowned. In the same room I was in.

Unger 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.

As she says each name, she slams the dagger hard on a table.

ANNA

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

Anna kneels down. She is face to face with him. SLAMS the dagger on the floor. He is sobbing, "Please, please"..."

She HOLDS THE DAGGER TO HIS THROAT. She takes out a picture of her family. Holds it up to Unger's face.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Look at this picture Colonel. This is my husband John and my seven children. I want to take this dagger, and slowly stab you to death. Cause you so much pain.

Unger cries out, weeping. Begging.

But. I am a Christian woman.

She stands, turns to look at the men.

There has been enough pain.
Enough death.
Leave him here.
Let his soul rot with the memories
of what he has done.
Let the Lord render his final
punishment.
For Eternity.

Anna, with tears and a quiet sob, sets the picture down on his desk. She walks out of the room with the dagger. The men follow her. Unger lays on the floor, weeping, shaking.

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 - AFTERNOON

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

No. 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 will probably never be found. I'm sorry.

EMMA

I know. I keep hoping. Doctor, how many are gone?

DOCTOR

At least 2,000. Maybe more.
(a beat)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
God bless you dear.
I hope you find your brother.

Emma nods thank you. Turns to walk away.

EXT. LOCUST STREET, JOHNSTOWN - AFTERNOON

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 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 still show up every day.
(Looks at her pocket watch)
I'm sorry dear, but I'm late for a meeting. Can you stop by here tomorrow morning. Around 10. I'll get information about your brother. Get it posted in the valley.

EMMA
Thank you, so much.

CLARA

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

EMMA

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

CLARA

Well I hope you get news about your job soon.

EMMA

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

CLARA

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

EMMA

I'd be happy to help. In any way I can.

CLARA

Thank you dear.

EMMA

Miss Barton, have you ever seen anything like this, in your life?

CLARA

I've been through a lot. 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.

EMMA

I know.

CLARA

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 - AFTERNOON

Super:

Friday, June 14

JAY PHIPPS steps off a train with a bag and a GUITAR CASE. A huge crowd exits the train. Jay finds a carriage. Climbs aboard. He is stunned at the large crowd.

JAY

A lot of people. Is this normal?

DRIVER

Yep. Flood tourists. Want to see the destruction for themselves. Use their new Kodaks for photographs. Take home some relics.

JAY

Kind of morbid.

DRIVER

Actually it's good for the town. Lots of money coming in. For the hotels, 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. But I'll take you as close as I can.

EXT. STREETS OF JOHNSTOWN - AFTERNOON

Men work in the devastated street mess. Feed a large bonfire with piles of bedding, clothes and carpet. A horrible stench.

DIVER

Ever seen anything like it?

JAY

It's like hell on earth. Do they have a final death toll?

DIVER

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?

DIVER

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

EXT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS - AFTERNOON

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 to the Red Cross building.

INT. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

After a wait in line, Jay greets a nurse at the desk.

JAY

I'm looking for someone. Is there a list of 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 nods yes. She hands him a pad and pencil.

EMMA:

*I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE OK.
I HOPE CHARLIE AND YOUR 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.*

JAY PHIPPS

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

Walks to the bulletin board. Sees names of identified people who were lost in the flood 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 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 became obsessed with earthly
desires.
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 inspiring music and
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

Lizzie Thompson's and the other brothels on Frankstown Hill 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 went to the Red Cross hospital on Saturday. 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 up there. I bet the Colonel's men are still there too.

EMMA

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

INT. TRAIN RIDE TO SOUTH FORK - AFTERNOON

EMMA and VICTOR view the destruction of the towns in the upper valley for the first time. Victor leans in to talk.

VICTOR
I've been meaning to tell you.
I'm headed to Philadelphia on
Tuesday.

EMMA
Really?

VICTOR
My one uncle is there. He invited
me to visit. And while I'm there, I
plan to look at some colleges.

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

VICTOR
Well, something's still here.

He tenderly reaches for her hand, squeezes it tight.

EXT. THE CARRIAGE HEADED TO THE DAM SITE - AFTERNOON

Their carriage approaches the former 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 - AFTERNOON

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 - AFTERNOON

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

The front door is locked so EMMA and VICTOR enter through a
broken window. Stand in the darkened lobby. Tables and chairs
knocked over. Broken glass. They turn to walk down a long
hallway. Slowly push open a door to the dining room.

INT. SOUTH FORK CLUBHOUSE DINING ROOM

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! 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 to Emma)
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, we're so heartbroken.
Such a terrible event, an Act of
God that has shook us all.

EMMA

An Act Of God? Really?
Is that what you said?
Colonel, can you tell me?
Did God build that dam?
Did God take care of that dam?
(a beat)
No. 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

I'm so glad you're alright. Thank
you for coming.
How's Charlie, and your Mom?

EMMA

My Mom is gone. 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 wants to help the people
here. Set up fundraisers and balls.

JAY (CONT'D)

I want you to stay with us. And you can sing at the different events.

EMMA

There's plenty of singers in Pittsburgh. Why me?

JAY

It'll mean so much more for you to sing since you're from here.

EMMA

Really? I don't think so.
No, you want to show me off.
Like an old dirty penny.
All shined up like new.

JAY

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

EMMA

I'm a nurse's assistant at the Red Cross.

JAY

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

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?
This accident as you called it, didn't have to happen.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

People knew about the problems with
that dam, and ignored them.
Did nothing to fix them.
People in this room, right now.

Victor stares at Parke and Unger. They look away. Jay
ignores Victor, turns to Emma.

JAY

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

EMMA

Now I'm to believe that I'm the
one. I don't think so.
I bet 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)

You told me 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 it 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 and 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.

I have a gift. 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've been through together! Go with Jay? NO!

Emma hugs Victor, slowly turns. Walks towards Jay, with a crooked smile. Jay smiles back.

Jay 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 profusely. Everyone GASPS. Stunned.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You didn't get my notch on your belt. But how about a nice bloody nose?

VICTOR

(stunned, shocked)

Holy shit.

I think. I think.

We should go.

EMMA

(smiling, calmly)

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
 Go ahead and stay here!
 With the boathouse boy.
 Enjoy singing to the rubble.
 You stupid...

EXT. JOHNSTOWN CENTRAL PARK - AFTERNOON

Super: **July, 1889**

The park alive with activity. Families enjoying the beautiful day. Dogs run about barking. Hammering noise fills the air as men work on new construction.

EMMA on a PARK BENCH in her crisp white Red Cross uniform.
 VICTOR arrives. She greets him with a warm hug and kiss.

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
 entry program.

EMMA
 Medical school. 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 thought, if I ever got the
 chance, I want to do that.
 This is my chance.

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. Learning a lot. 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

I think everyone feels that way.
Any news about Charlie?

EMMA

No. Nothing. But I keep hoping.
People thought to be gone do show
up once in awhile.

VICTOR

You never know.
I did want to talk to you about one
other thing.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

If everything works out and I get
into school there. I want you to
come and join me.

EMMA

Victor, I...

VICTOR

It's a big decision I know.

EMMA

Let me think about it.
(smiles)
It's so funny.
I was so sure I was the one leaving
town, and you were staying.

VICTOR

Everything has flipped.
Our whole world. Our lives.
(a beat)
Please consider 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

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 so proud of you.
(tears in her eyes)
I just know it.

VICTOR

(tears in his eyes)
I hope so.
(a beat)
I miss them so much.
Every day.

Both teary-eyed, they hug warmly on the bench.

INT. ORIGINAL OLD OYSTER HOUSE RESTAURANT, PITTSBURGH

Super: **Original Old Oyster House**

Pittsburgh

September, 1889

Attorney PHILANDER KNOX sits in a booth at the back of the restaurant. HENRY PHIPPS enters, looks around. Sees Knox and sits down in his booth. Phipps is agitated.

PHIPPS SR.

Thanks for meeting me Mr. Knox.
Look, I need to know about this
Nancy Little lawsuit.

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.

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 negligence maintaining the dam.

PHIPPS SR.

How do you plan to counter that?

KNOX

We plan to 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 issues? Like having only one spillway, the fish screen on the bridge, the dam being lowered for the road. Negligence in general.

KNOX

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

KNOX (CONT'D)
Beyond a reasonable doubt.
That's the key.

PHIPPS SR.
Knox we can't lose this case. It
would lead to more like it.
It could cost us millions.

KNOX
I know. That is why another thing
I plan to do is use every lever of
the court to drag this case out.
I can request continuances, more
motions, object to evidence,
dispute 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
We are in the right here Henry.
This was an Act of God. The Club
members are not at fault. We are
fully prepared to make that
argument. And win the case.

PHIPPS SR.
Christ. I hope so.

INT. JOHNSTOWN RED CROSS HOSPITAL

Super: **October, 1889**

EMMA, in a white Red Cross uniform, tends to some patients in
their beds. Chats with them, holds their hands, smiles.

EXT. JOHNSTOWN RED CROSS HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

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. 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. She steps up to him.

EMMA

Oh my God, are you a ghost?

CHARLIE

I hope not.

Emma leans in. They hug tightly. 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 arrived 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.

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.
Oh Charlie. Oh God.
I missed you so much.

She leans in and holds him so tight. Both in tears.

INT. ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTROOM*

Super: **Allegheny County Courthouse**
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March, 1892

HENRY PHIPPS and JAY PHIPPS stand in the back of the courtroom. There is much anticipation as a jury verdict should be in soon. PHILANDER KNOX sees them and walks over.

PHIPPS SR.
What are you hearing Knox?

KNOX
The verdict should be in soon.

PHIPPS SR.
Good lord I'm so nervous. Even
after all these years.

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. He returns moments later. 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 CHARLES FLAHERTY (66 yo, white haired, distinguished) enters. Sits down on the bench. Addresses the jury.

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'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.

On the plaintiff side of the room, the widow NANCY LITTLE weeps with her children. Hugging them tight.

The PHIPPS men see the Little family mourn. Henry Phipps is moved, becomes emotional. KNOX approaches.

KNOX
It took awhile, three and half
years. But we finally won.
(Sees Henry Phipps is
upset.)
Henry we won the case. It's over.
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 anything 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,
what have we done.

EXT. GRANDVIEW CEMETERY, JOHNSTOWN - MORNING

Super: **Grandview Cemetery**
Johnstown, Pennsylvania
May 31, 1892

Three Years to the Day After the Flood

On a sunny day, a crowd of 10,000 surrounds a new granite monument covered in a cloth tarp. At a podium, Governor ROBERT PATTINSON and Mayor HORACE ROSE. CLARA BARTON also with them near the podium. The crowd includes:

ANNA FENN MAXWELL and her new HUSBAND.
BELLE and GEORGE WATERS and their THREE CHILDREN.

PEG LEECH 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 - MORNING

In a tent, Emma is so nervous.

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.

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.

(a beat)

How are things 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. Our dam broke. Our dam.

EMMA

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

JAY

I know. All of that was weighing on me. The guilt. The shock. I was angry all the time.

It's been some time.

I hope you can forgive me.

EMMA

(stands, takes his hands)

It means a lot that you're here. And yes Jay, I forgive you.

JAY

Thank you Emma. Thank you.

EMMA

(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.

Jay smiles at Charlie. 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, 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 - MORNING*

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 Hart, after
 being missing for many months, did
 finally arrive home.

Miss Hart has worked for the
 American Red Cross here for several
 years. We thank her for that
 service. Miss Hart, the podium is
 yours.

EMMA and CHARLIE walks to a podium. A church choir is behind them, near the podium.

EMMA

Thank you Governor Pattinson and
Mayor Rose for the kind words.

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. People walk up to the new monument. Place photos of loved ones lost in the flood, flowers, toys, stuffed animals at the foot of the monument.

As Emma continues to sing.

CUT TO:

INT. WALNUT STREET THEATER, PHILADELPHIA

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 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.

When she reaches him, she recognizes the OLDER GENTLEMAN FROM THE TRAIN from when she traveled back from Pittsburgh.

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.
It looks like your dreams came
true.

EMMA

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

OLDER GENTLEMAN FROM THE TRAIN

I'm glad to hear that dear.

EMMA

You did make a difference in my
life. You helped to lift me up.
Thank you again.

(staring at him)

You know.

Just now.

I'm noticing something.

(a beat)

You remind me a lot,
of my father.

PEG suddenly grabs Emma by the arm. Turns her.

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, after that thing with Jay...

She turns. THERE IS NO ONE THERE. Emma is shocked. What!

PEG

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

They head to their table. Emma is still looking around.
Where did he go? What happened to him?

They reach the table. CHARLIE standing, loudly clapping.

But someone is missing

Out of the shadows, VICTOR walks to their table in a handsome
pinstripe grey suit and tie, with a large BOUQUET OF RED
ROSES.

Emma with the biggest smile. Victor takes Emma in his arms
and holds her tight, gazes lovingly into her eyes, and they
kiss deeply.

THE END