

SKYSCRAPER

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FADE IN:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

DIRT -- a blinding ray of sunshine shines on a tiny WHITE WORM.

Then -- the beak of a FEMALE HARRIER, a long-winged, long-tailed hawk, violently grabs the helpless white worm.

The harrier spreads her wings and soars into the clear blue sky.

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE - DAY

The harrier flies along FIFTH AVENUE, performing BREATHTAKING MANEUVERS between the magnificent buildings -- the worm still safe in her beak.

But then -- she gets dangerously close to the ground -- but she manages to pull up.

REVEAL: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING in all its unfinished glory.

The year is 1929.

The harrier soars vertically along the unfinished skyscraper.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - TOP - DAY

The harrier reaches her NEST a few feet below the top. TWO BABY HARRIERS, still half in their shells try to grab it but their mother dangles the worm just out of their reach.

The two hatchlings fight each other to grab the worm and their eggshells rock back and forth -- none of them able to reach the tasty worm.

Above the nest CONSTRUCTION WORKERS are positioning two heavy STEEL BEAMS.

One of the steel beams hangs on an old ROPE -- a rope that is about to snap.

The two baby birds are still trying to get the worm. The harrier looks at her offspring, smiles proudly and gives them the worm.

Each of the hatchlings grabs one end of the worm and they start devouring it.

SUDDENLY, a SCREAM.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
(unintelligible)
Watch out!

The rope snaps.

The steel beam falls. The harrier looks up -- and carefully moves the nest a few inches out of danger.

The steel beam falls and hits another steel beam -- with a concrete mixer on it.

The concrete mixer gets catapulted through the air and falls on the steel beam with the nest on it and the nest gets catapulted into the sky.

The two hatchlings fly through the air -- still connected by the tasty worm and safe inside the nest.

The nest falls on a tilted steel beam and they slide along it until they reach the end and fall down again.

Still safe inside the nest -- and still eating.

The nest lands on a trolley filled with screws -- the trolley starts to roll.

Meanwhile, the harrier has spotted her offspring and dives in to get them -- and misses, Tex Avery style with a bruise to prove it.

The trolley keeps rolling. Construction workers are sitting on a steel beam, lunch break -- but the trolley is on a roll.

The workers can save themselves but their sandwiches are gone -- one of them hits the harrier in the face.

One of the construction worker is able to reach the break of the trolley -- the trolley stops but the nest keeps moving.

The hatchlings and the nest get separated.

The nest lands on the head of a construction worker inside a crane -- he tries to get rid of the nest -- and inadvertently pushes the wrong button.

The crane -- loaded with steel pipes -- turns left and our two hatchlings get caught by it.

The crane keeps turning left and crashes into the steel construction. The steel pipes get loose and the two hatchlings roll with them -- still fighting for the worm and not impressed by what's going on around them.

Meanwhile the harrier circles around the building and watches and hears the chaos unravel from the distance.

The scaffolding turns into a giant Rube Goldberg Machine and the two hatchlings wreak havoc.

Near the end of their odyssey their mother spots them and dives in to catch them.

The hatchlings fall but they land in a safety net. Too bad -- The eggshell breaks and they fall through it.

Mother is still following them -- she reaches them -- she catches the worm in her beak -- they are safe -- the hatchlings are smiling happily and they let go of the worm.

The harrier lets go of the worm. The worm is free and for a second he seems to smile before he falls.

She manages to grab one of the hatchlings. She tries to grab the other one but she has to evade the falling scaffolding.

The two brothers look into each others eyes -- the harrier has to pull up and looks back -- the other one is gone.

Way down a SLIM WORKER is putting in a window. He sees the falling scaffolding and loses his footing. He falls backwards and the little hatchling lands on his chest. The cute little hatchling stares and smiles. The worker smiles back and gets pulled back by his safety rope.

The hatchling keeps falling and looks around, the worm from before passes him -- smiling and enjoying his freedom.

The hatchling gets caught in another mesh, still alive and very cute. This is SCRAP.

The mesh is too wide and Scrap falls through it but only a few feet -- right into a rain pipe.

The harrier circles around the building still calling out for her son.

INT. THE SEWERS - MOMENTS LATER

Scrap emerges from a pipe into the New York sewage system.

He almost drowns but he manages to grab a floating piece of floating wood in a stream of stinking SEWAGE. His journey continues and Scrap is just a passenger on his raft.

A vicious RAT spots the easy prey -- the rat jumps -- and misses Scrap by a few inches.

The journey continues -- a LOW RUMBLE -- a WATERFALL ahead.

Scrap still grabbing the wood falls and vanishes in the rapids.

There -- the wood resurfaces. Where is Scrap?

But then -- BUBBLES -- Scrap resurfaces. He is very weak but he flaps his wings and manages to stay afloat -- barely.

EXT. THE LAKE - DUSK

The sun sets behind the impressive New York skyline.

Scrap lies unconscious on the shore of the THE LAKE in CENTRAL PARK. He is barely breathing.

A SOUND in the BUSHES. TWO DARK SHADOWS slowly approach little Scrap.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

A close up of Scrap's face. He is an adolescent harrier with light colored feathers and a heart of gold. It is impossible not to like him.

He is moving very fast, the wind blows through his fluffy feathers. He is on the hunt.

SKIP, a cocky young squirrel with a "do first, think later" attitude, is running for his life.

Scrap has his eyes set on him, he is close -- very close.

REVEAL -- Scrap is not flying, he is running. Then -- Scrap trips and falls over.

He tumbles downhill -- getting faster and faster.

Skip stops, turns around and starts shouting.

SKIP

Cheater!!

Skip runs after him, laughing.

Scrap keeps tumbling, faster and faster -- he almost crashes into a bunch of SQUIRREL GIRLS -- but they can jump out of his way.

They are furious. Skip smiles at them.

SKIP (CONT'D)

(very charming)

Sorry ladies, I'd love to talk, but as you can see, he's on a roll.

Then -- Scrap crashes into a tree and his beak gets stuck in the trunk.

Skip LAUGHS out loud.

SCRAP
 (mumbling)
 I'm fine Skip, thanks for asking.

Skip pulls Scrap away from the tree and helps him back on his feet.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
 Thanks.

SKIP
 Don't mention it Scrap. That was...
 even for your standards. This calls
 for a new word...
 (looking for the right
 word)
 something huge...I need time to
 think. ... High Five!

Fist bump -- technically paw and wing bump. Scrap smiles.

SCRAP
 At least I won this time.

SKIP
 No you didn't. You rolled down the
 wrong side of the hill.

SCRAP
 Really? Damn. I really thought I
 had you this time.

Skip shakes his head.

SKIP
 But you didn't!

Skip starts dancing on one foot. His victory dance.

SCRAP
 And it's time to go home I'm sure
 Mom and Dad are worried sick.

SKIP
 You're such a spoilsport. Who's
 turn is it?

SCRAP
 I think it's mine.

SKIP
 Okay then. I count to 10.
 But this time no cheating.

Scrap smirks and starts to run.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

Skip and Scrap race each other across the park. They are greeted by some of the parks inhabitants. Other SQUIRRELS, HEDGEHOGS and RABBITS.

All of them greet them warmly.

Skip overtakes Scrap smiling and takes a shortcut by jumping from a bridge to the road beyond it.

Scrap tries to follow but it's too high for him -- he looks down and the ground gets blurry -- he has to take the way around.

Skip smirks.

INT. SQUIRREL DEN

The two rascals reach their home. A nice and cosy squirrel den located inside a large tree that has everything a squirrel could want for.

BERNARD, Skip's caring father and Scrap's "stepfather" is eating some walnuts that HOLLY, their loving mother is opening.

HOLLY

Hey boys, you're just in time for dinner.

Skip and Scrap jump towards the nuts and start eating. Bernard and Holly watch them, smiling.

Skip starts to talk, with his mouth full.

SKIP

You really missed out on something. Scrap got stuck in a tree today, And when I say stuck, I mean really stuck. We raced and then he rolled down the hill and got stuck in the tree. It was... it was...

Bernard looks at Scrap.

BERNARD

Everything OK?

SCRAP

(smiling)

Not really, he beat me again.

Skip BURSTS OUT:

SKIP

SCRAPALICIOUS! That's it!

Bernard, Holly and Scrap throw Scrap an irritated look. Scrap is proud with himself. Bernard pats him on the back and Holly smiles.

HOLLY
You should be more...

Skip cuts in.

SKIP
(imitating Holly)
... careful.

Scrap smiles and even Holly has to smile a bit.

Skip is done with his walnut.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Can we go climbing again later,
Dad.

Bernard gives Holly a look.

BERNARD
No...we're not gonna go climbing
later.

Skip and Scrap look disappointed.

BERNARD (CONT'D)
We go now! First one at the great
oak tree wins.

Bernard runs out of the den.

The boys devour their nut in one gulp, kiss their mother on the cheek and run after him.

Holly smiles and shakes her head.

HOLLY
Sometimes I wonder who's the bigger
child.

EXT. SHEEP MEADOW - MOMENTS LATER

Bernard, Skip and Scrap are racing across the park. Skip is ahead and Scrap is right behind him. Bernard is right behind them. They emerge from the trees into Sheep Meadow.

Scrap is closing in on Skip and Bernard smiles.

Then -- Bernard sees a SHADOW above them -- he runs faster and tries to pull his sons back to the trees.

He grabs Skip but Scrap is out of reach and it takes him a second to realize what's going on.

Skip and Bernard hide next to a tree. Bernard whispers.

BERNARD
Don't move Scrap!

SCRAP
What?

Skip wants to say something but Bernard stops him and points at the sky.

Skip understands.

A HARRIER closes in on Scrap and circles -- Bernard holds his breath -- Scrap looks up and the harrier looks down at him.

Bernard is petrified but then the harrier flies away.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

Bernard checks the sky to make sure it is safe.

He looks around nervously.

BERNARD
That was a close one.

INT. SQUIRREL DEN - NIGHT

Holly is preparing the den for night time by arranging HAY into sleeping places.

Skip and Scrap try to help but they are standing in the way.

Bernard is sitting in his corner of the den, thinking.

SCRAP
That thing today dad? Why didn't it attack me?

Bernard hesitates. Holly gives him a look.

SKIP
Didn't you tell us that we have to hide when we see them.

BERNARD
I guess Scrap doesn't have to hide anymore.

SCRAP
Really? But why did you hide then?

BERNARD
Those birds are still dangerous for us.

Holly is done with the beds.

HOLLY
Bed time boys.

Skip lies into the hay.

SKIP
That bird would have eaten us
alive. We were lucky it didn't see
us.

Bernard sighs and walks over and starts to tuck Skip in.

Scrap is speechless and stares at his father.

SCRAP
Really? So it would have eaten you
but let me live?

Holly intervenes.

HOLLY
Nobody was going to eat anybody
today. Now lie down Scrap.

Scrap hesitates but then he lies down next to Skip.

SCRAP
(to himself)
That thing almost ate you.
(to everybody)
I could never eat you.

Holly tucks him in.

HOLLY
Of course not.

Skip smiles.

SKIP
No question, I'd outrun you with
two broken legs.

Holly looks at him, she is not happy about his comment.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Sorry mom.

BERNARD
Good night, sleep tight.

HOLLY
Good night boys.

FADE TO:

EXT. SHEEP MEADOW - NIGHT

Scrap and Skip, almost grown up now, lie in the tall grass and gaze into the night sky.

Scrap points at random stars.

SCRAP

Do you ever wonder how it is out there?

SKIP

In the city?

SCRAP

No, up there.

Skip turns towards Scrap.

SKIP

If I had wings I'd use them for more than just rolling downhill through the dirt.

They both LAUGH but Scrap's laugh is a little forced.

He looks up into the night sky.

SCRAP

And what do you really think?

SKIP

There isn't a day I don't think about it.

(pause)

But I guess that's how it is if you have a brother like you.

Scrap stays quiet. He keeps looking up to the stars. There is sadness in his eyes.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Do you wonder how it's up there?

Scrap jumps up, smiles and starts running.

SCRAP

Sometimes but not today.

Skip smiles, gets up quickly and goes after him.

SKIP

Over my dead body.

A shadow emerges from behind a tree. Bernard. He heard everything.

EXT. BIG TREE NEAR OPEN FIELD - DAY

Bernard stands on a big branch of a large tree. Scrap stands next to him and looks afraid.

BERNARD

It should come natural to you, just close your eyes and flap your wings.

SCRAP

Why?

BERNARD

Because it's time you learn these things.

SCRAP

And If I don't want to.

BERNARD

You haven't even tried it yet.

Scrap looks down. The ground gets blurry. He's very afraid and closes his eyes.

SCRAP

I told you, I can't.

BERNARD

Not with this attitude.

Scrap opens his eyes and looks at Bernard.

SCRAP

But...

BERNARD

No buts. Just try it.

Scrap closes his eyes and starts to flap his wings and stops again.

SCRAP

So, I tried. Can we go home now?

BERNARD

That's not trying.

Bernard pushes him over the edge.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

This is!

CUT TO:

INT. SQUIRREL DEN

Scrap lies bruised in the den. Holly is attending to his bruises. Bernard stands next to him and Skip is smiling gleefully.

SKIP

... and then dad pushed Scrap and he fell down like a nut from a tree. BAM!

Holly gives Bernard a reproachful look.

HOLLY

Pushing him like that, how could you?

BERNARD

He's a bird. He's supposed to fly. Next time I just have to prepare him better.

Holly and Scrap in unison --

SCRAP AND HOLLY

Next time?

HOLLY

There's not going to be a next time! Understood!

Skip's smiling has turned into a LOUD LAUGHTER.

BERNARD

He has to learn how to fly.

HOLLY

How can you teach him. Last time I checked you couldn't fly.

Bernard shakes his head.

BERNARD

That's not the point Holly. Someone has to teach him and I don't see anyone else.

Scrap loses interest in the conversation and walks towards a hole in the wall. He looks outside and stares towards the sky. He sees a FLOCK OF DUCKS fly by and his eyes follow them.

Bernard stops talking and points at the ducks and then at Scrap. The argument calms down but Skip is still laughing.

HOLLY

Stop it, Skip.

Scrap looks at him and storms out of the den.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Scrap, wait.

Bernard pulls her back and shakes his head.

EXT. THE POND - NIGHT

Scrap sits at the pond, dabbling his feet in the water.

The FULL MOON illuminates the night and he can see his REFLECTION in the pond.

He studies his reflection.
His big eyes. His pointy beak. His long claws.

His useless wings. He keeps staring.

A SOUND in the bushes.

SCRAP
I can hear you dad.

Bernard walks out of the bushes.

BERNARD
Sorry, I always forget how good
your hearing is.

SCRAP
I don't want to talk. I just want
to be alone.

Bernard sits down next to him.

BERNARD
We can do this the easy or the hard
way, your choice.

Scrap hesitates, he is angry and stares back into the pond.

SCRAP
Mom is afraid I could get hurt,
Skip thinks I'm a joke...

Bernard pats him on the back.

BERNARD
Moms worry, that's their job and
brothers ... well sometimes they
can make you go nuts.

Scrap's eyes still focused on his reflection.

SCRAP

...and you're trying to turn me into something I'm not. I know I'm not like you. I can see that. I know I'm not supposed to run around the park and climb trees but I just can't...I just can't...

A long pause.

BERNARD

Fly?

Scrap turns and looks at him with tears in his eye.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

We don't want to change you son but you have to understand.

(beat)

It's great to have a son or brother like you but the time will come when we won't be enough for you.

(beat)

There's one thing all animals in the park have in common. Sometimes we need the company of our own kind. Mom and I won't be here forever and your brother will always ...

Scrap smiles thinly.

SCRAP

...make me go nuts!

Bernard smiles back.

BERNARD

All we want to do is help you, you just have to let us. Me, mom and even Skip - when he is not behaving like an idiot.

Scrap smiles.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

By the way, let's get home, it's cold out here which reminds me of another thing all animals have in common, nobody likes to freeze one's bum off.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Scrap and Bernard are running next to each other. Bernard screams at Scrap.

BERNARD
Flap your wings!

Scrap flaps his wings.

BERNARD (CONT'D)
Faster!

For about a second Scrap loses contact with the ground.

SCRAP
I'm flying! I'm flying!

Scrap flaps harder and gains a little bit more height -- he looks down -- surprised about his success -- but then he loses control and falls down.

MONTAGE

Various failed attempts at flying, each one hurts a little bit more.

Each attempt riskier than the one before and Holly turns from very worried to terrified.

There are also glimpses of Skip trying to get his father's attention -- but Bernard is too occupied with Scrap.

END MONTAGE

Scrap lies bruised and alone on the ground.

HOLLY
That's it, enough for today. Time to rest.

BERNARD
Your mother is right, that's enough for one day. We can try again tomorrow.

Scrap looks at him and then at her, pleading.

SCRAP
Just once more. Please, just once.

Bernard looks at Holly and smiles. Holly rolls her eyes.

HOLLY
Great, he's turning into you. But this is the last time.

She turns and walks away.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Dinner in five.

Bernard helps Scrap up.

BERNARD

The last one was quite good, you
just have to clear your head.

Scrap nods and starts running and flapping.

Then -- a shadow. Bernard looks up -- he pushes Scrap into a bush -- and gets grabbed. Big HARRIER claws lift him up.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

RUN!!!

Bernard claws himself to a tree and manages to pull the harrier down. The harrier turns and grabs Bernard's neck.

They roll over and fight. Scrap hides in the bush -- watching his father fight for his life before his eyes.

The harrier gains footing and pins down Bernard -- the bird looks up -- straight into Scrap's eyes.

Scrap is petrified. He watches the big harrier pecking a struggling Bernard.

The struggling stops.

The harrier stares at Scrap, grabs Bernard's lifeless body and soars into the sky.

Scrap can't move. He can't shake what he just saw.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

Scrap is still hiding in the bush. He's CRYING.

Holly and Skip are looking for Scrap and Bernard.

HOLLY

Scrap, Bernard! ... Dinner was half
an hour ago!

SKIP

Where are you dad?

(beat)

Scrap's probably stuck in a tree
again.

They hear Scrap CRYING and walk towards the bush.

HOLLY

What's wrong?

Holly looks at him and instantly knows what happened.

She starts to cry.

Skip looks around and sees blood and some feathers on the ground.

Skip picks up the bloody fur and looks at Scrap and his mother.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

The sun sets and rises. Summer turns into winter.

EXT. THE LAKE - DAY (EARLY SPRING)

Scrap sits on a rock near at lake and stares across the frozen but thawing lake.

Skip and two other squirrels, FAT SQUIRREL and SKINNY SQUIRREL walk by. They want to skate on the lake.

SCRAP

I wouldn't do that If I were you.

Skip turns around and smirks.

SKIP

Good thing we aren't.

Scrap wants to say something but Skip cut's him off.

SCRAP

But the ice...

SKIP

What are you afraid of now. Frozen water?

The fat squirrel starts to laugh.

FAT SQUIRREL

Can't believe we used to hang out with that freak.

SKINNY SQUIRREL

Don't be too harsh on him.

SKIP

It's not harsh, we're just honest.

Scrap gets up and walks away.

SKIP (CONT'D)

See? Once a coward, always a coward.

Scrap turns around.

SCRAP
I'm not a coward.

SKIP
No? Tell that to my father!

Skip runs onto the ice and starts skating. A pirouette, a camel spin and a lutz jump. He's a natural.

Fat and skinny squirrel watch in awe.

Then -- CRACKING -- a crack opens in the ice.

SKINNY SQUIRREL
Watch out!

Too late. Skip is in the middle of an axel jump -- he lands and the ice beneath him breaks.

Skip is under water -- beneath the ice. He's trapped. He pounds against the ice. He struggles. The water is freezing.

The two squirrels are paralyzed -- too afraid to go on the ice to help.

FAT SQUIRREL
Help! Help!

Scrap hears their cry for help, turns around and runs towards the lake.

He runs on the ice. CRACKING. A tiny crack opens.

He lays down flat on the ice and spreads his body weight.

He slowly crawls onto the ice. Skip is still struggling under the ice but not for much longer.

Scrap reaches him and starts pecking the ice. Skip stops struggling. His time is up.

Scrap keeps picking -- the ice breaks -- and he pulls his unconscious brother out.

EXT. THE LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Scrap and Skip are lying next to the lake. They are breathing heavily.

SKIP
(still coughing water)
I was perfectly fine, I didn't need your help.

Scrap can't believe what he's hearing.

SCRAP
 You're joking, right?
 (beat)
 You're such an idiot. Next time
 I'll let you drown.

Scrap gets up and walks away. Skip hesitates a second but then goes after him.

SKIP
 Hey Scrap, wait.

Scrap stops.

SCRAP
 What?

SKIP
 I'm ... you know....

Scrap waits for an apology.

SKIP (CONT'D)
 You remember how we used to race
 with dad?

SCRAP
 Of course.

SKIP
 Wanna race me? First one to reach
 the old oak?

Scrap smiles at this attempt of an apology.

SCRAP
 But no cheating.

They start running.

EXT. BIG TREE IN CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Skip and Scrap are climbing a large oak tree. They race each other to the top of the tree.

While they race, spring gradually turns into summer.

Scrap's climbing has improved a lot. He uses his claws and his beak to climb and is almost as fast as Skip, but he carefully tries not to look down.

SCRAP
 (to himself)
 Don't look down.

Skip jumps on Scrap's head to gain a little bit more height. Scrap's face send a clear message: He's angry.

Scrap uses his wing to knock Skip off balance. The fight is on.

They push each other when ever they get the chance. It is a miracle that they don't fall.

In the end -- Skip wins the race by a nose.

They stare at each other and for a second it looks like they are about to fight but then, Scrap smiles.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

That was close.

SKIP

But not close enough.

They laugh and their rivalry has dispersed for the moment.

SKIP (CONT'D)

You know, you'd beat me if you used those.

He points at Scrap's wings.

SCRAP

Skip, please. Just stop it. You know I gave up on that. End of story.

SKIP

Dad would have want you to...

Scrap throws him a serious look. Skip falls silent.

Sitting in the tree top they see a FLOCK OF BIRDS fly by in formation.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Maybe you just had the wrong teacher.

EXT. TREE NEAR THE LAKE - DAY

Skip -- wearing some kind of improvised BACKPACK -- ties the rubber band around a branch -- then he takes a leap to another branch -- and ties the other end around it.

He grabs the middle of the band and pulls it towards the trunk.

On the ground half the Central Park animals have gathered, among them Holly and Scrap.

HOLLY

Your brother is crazy, he could really hurt himself.

SCRAP

I think that's the point.

Scrap shouts.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I know I said it before but: You.

Are. Crazy.

Scrap rolls his eyes.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Yeah, but it's gonna be... In. Cre.

Dible.

Skip slingshots himself into the air -- mid air he pulls a string and little WINGS made out of leaves emerge from his backpack.

Skip glides through the air over the lake.

Everybody is APPLAUDING, even Holly is a little impressed -- except Scrap -- he walks away, his head down.

INT. SQUIRREL DEN - NIGHT

Holly and Scrap are eating dinner. Skip has no time to eat, he has to talk and act out his achievement in great detail.

SKIP

I was soaring like I was born to do this. It was amazing.

HOLLY

I'm sure you were but you shouldn't be so reckless, it's dangerous. You could've gotten hurt.

SKIP

Hurt? It's not dangerous, even a baby could do it.

Scrap stops eating, jumps up and runs out of the den.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Did I do something?

Holly looks at him, disapproving.

EXT. SQUIRREL DEN - NIGHT

Scrap sits on a branch outside the den. Holly sits down next to him.

HOLLY

Listen...

Scrap is really angry.

SCRAP
Don't talk to me.

HOLLY
Please.

SCRAP
Just go away. I know what you're going to say. I heard it all before and we know how much good it did us.

A tear forms in Holly's eyes.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Go to your real son and make sure he doesn't kill himself.

HOLLY
What makes you say that.

SCRAP
I'm a complete failure, that's probably why my real parents abandoned me.

He flaps his wings.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
I have wings. I'm supposed to fly...

He stands up and flaps his wings faster.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
But even a damn squirrel is better at it than I am.

HOLLY
Don't let your brother get into your head.

SCRAP
You don't understand, it's not him, it's me. He's right, I'm the freak.

Holly gets up and tries to lay her arm around Scrap's shoulders but Scrap shakes her off and walks away.

Holly stays still and watches Scrap vanishing into the black night.

EXT. TREE NEAR THE LAKE - DAY

The slingshot is in use again.

Skip flies across the lake and returns safely.

The crowd of curious onlookers cheers. Holly is just happy that he didn't hurt himself.

Skip sets down next to Scrap.

SKIP

That was fun you should really try it. It's quite easy.

Scrap turns around and walks away.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What did I do now?

SCRAP

Nothing.

SKIP

What then? Still not brave enough to try? Sometimes you're such a coward.

Scrap has enough. He turns and starts climbing the tree with the slingshot. Skip follows. The race is on.

Skip pulls Scrap back and gains a small advantage.

Scrap climbs fast, very fast. He catches up and looks at Skip. Skip stares back and continues to climb even faster.

Scrap can match his pace. Ahead of them a tree branch is in their way. Skip climbs around it but Scrap elegantly grabs the branch with his beak, swings around and closes the gap between him and Skip.

They are neck and neck.

Skip goes even faster but just for a split second he loses his grip which is enough for Scrap to overtake him.

Scrap reaches the slingshot shortly before Skip and Scrap stares at Skip's construction. He looks doubtful.

SKIP (CONT'D)

You might have gotten lucky so far, but you're still a coward.

Scrap turns around and looks back at his brother.

SCRAP

No, not this time.

He gets into the slingshot and prepares for take off -- his heart beats faster and faster -- he lets go and he gets shoot into the sky -- he flies. He is really flying.

Scrap can feel the wind below his wings. The moment is magical, he is happy.

Back on the ground everybody CHEERS and Holly looks quite astonished.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
 (half spoken half
 screeched, then screamed)
 SCRAPAAAAAAAAAAAA!

But then -- Scrap sees images of Bernard fighting with the harrier -- he loses control and BLACKS OUT.

Scrap hits the ground -- very hard.

Holly runs towards him.

HOLLY
 Scrap! Scrap! Are you ok?

Scrap MOANS. He is barely conscious and heavily bruised.

SCRAP
 Ok, would be pushing it. I'd go
 with alive.

HOLLY
 You scared us.

Holly hugs Scrap.

SCRAP
 Ah, that hurts.

HOLLY
 Sorry.

Skip enters the conversation.

SKIP
 That was pathetic but it was to be
 expected from a freak like you.

Holly looks angry.

HOLLY
 Stop it Skip.

SKIP
 But it is true, he is a bird and he
 can't even fly and he'll never
 learn. Never.

HOLLY
 What's wrong with you?

SCRAP
No, he's right.

HOLLY
He's not, don't listen to him,
don't let him get under your skin.

Skip is outraged.

SKIP
What? You're on his side? First dad
and now you? It's his fault that
dad is not around anymore. Not that
I noticed, he barely noticed me, he
was so busy teaching the freak how
to fly. And guess whose fault that
was?

(he turns to Holly)
You know what, I don't care
anymore. I don't need dad and I
don't need you and I definitely
don't need him. I hate you!

Skip turns around and struts away.

HOLLY
Skip, wait. I didn't know...

Skip keeps walking. She looks at Skip as he walks away.

A tear forms in Holly's eye. She lifts her hand, one last try
to make peace with her son again but -- the other spectators
start to SCREAM.

A big, grown up FEMALE HARRIER circles above them -- she
starts to dive -- aiming for Skip and Holly.

Holly sees the SHADOW.

Holly (CONT'D)
Run!!

The Harrier almost has Skip in his grasp -- Holly jumps and
knocks the bird over. The harrier rolls over.

The harrier gets back up, she looks furious and more menacing
than before.

She grabs Skip again. Holly tries so free him but the harrier
grabs her as well and tries to soar into the air.

Holly and Skip struggle with the bird and prevent the bird
from soaring. The harrier tightens her grip but Holly and
Skip don't give up.

They keep fighting for their lives. Holly frees herself.

Holly follows the low flying harrier -- jumping from tree to tree -- we have never seen her this agile.

Scrap tries to follow but he can't keep up.

EXT. BETHESDA FOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

The harrier reaches the BETHESDA FOUNTAIN and Holly uses her last chance to reach them.

She jumps from the top of the fountain and grabs the harrier's claw.

Skip is still struggling. Holly uses brute force to stem the claw open.

Skip is free and falls into the fountain.

POV HOLLY -- The harrier grabs her.

The harrier soars into the sky. Holly SCREAMS for help.

Scrap has reached the fountain and jumps in to rescue Skip.

He reaches him and pulls him out of the water. Skip is still breathing.

Far above them, Scrap and Skip can see that the harrier flies towards the city.

Scrap and Skip stare at each other.

Skip jumps up and charges towards Scrap. He throws Scrap on the ground and starts to hit him.

SKIP

This is all your fault. Your pathetic flight attempt attracted your friend. We should have left you where we found you.

Scrap doesn't defend himself. He feels guilty.

SKIP (CONT'D)

If it weren't for you, my parents would still be here and we would live a normal and happy life.

Scrap nods. Skip is surprised and stops hitting Scrap.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Pathetic!

Skip starts running towards the city, where the harrier took Holly.

Scrap gets up and wipes the tears from his eyes.

SCRAP
It's my family too!

Skip stops and turns.

SKIP
You don't have a family, freak!

Skip runs away.

Scrap, still a bit dazed, gets back up and stares at the distant skyline. He sighs and runs after Skip.

EXT. AT THE EDGE OF CENTRAL PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Scrap, out of breath, reaches the edge of the park and from his perspective -- down on the ground -- the CITY looks gigantic and threatening.

Scrap steps out of the park and onto the pavement but a HUMAN FOOT almost squashes him and he jumps back and hides behind a BUSH.

Just a few yards away, Skip has the same problem getting across the street.

He almost gets squashed. Luckily he manages to avoid the humans but he is unable to cross the street.

Meanwhile Scrap climbs the nearest tree and looks around, searching for another way.

Skip is preparing his SLINGSHOT and he sees Scrap staring at him.

SKIP
Go back, this is no place for a
coward like you.

Scrap ignores him.

Skip lets go of the slingshot and gets shot across the street.

He manages to hold on to a WALL ORNAMENT -- barely -- but he pulls himself up.

He looks back at Scrap, he tries to look triumphantly but Scrap can see that he's scared.

Scrap focuses on the street. He looks at the CARS and the PEOPLE and their movements.

A TRAFFIC LIGHT -- a cross-walk -- people. Red light -- cars stop -- people walk.

SCRAP

This could hurt ... a bit.

Scrap closes his eyes and jumps onto the crowd crossing the street.

An OLD LADY SCREAMS. Scrap flaps his wings. More SCREAMING. Scrap falls onto the ground -- a foot kicks him.

He hits the wall -- hard.

Scrap hides under a fruit crate in front of a grocery store. He is on the other side. He pats himself down to make sure that he is not injured. In his claws he has some hair.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Uhgg, fur...!

He wipes the hair off.

Skip is already preparing for his next jump across the street. He has aimed for the MARQUEE of a fancy clothing store.

He jumps and uses the marquee as a trampoline -- but the jump does not go far enough.

He lands in the middle of the street -- a car is heading for him. He closes his eyes and ducks.

The car passes over him, without harming him. He gets up and runs the rest of the way to safety. He's out of breath.

SKIP

(breathing heavily)

Ok, this is not going to work.

Skip and Scrap look at each other across the distance and both try to hide the obvious fear in their faces.

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE - DAY

Scrap crawls along the house walls -- trying not to get hurt by the pedestrians -- he slowly moves forward along the block to the next street.

Skip, on the other side of the street does the same -- just not on the ground but one floor above ground level, jumping from marquee to marquee.

They reach the next street -- before them an almost endless canyon formed by city block after city block.

SCRAP

I should have brought some nuts.

Skip uses his higher position to his advantage and uses a TELEPHONE CABLE to get across the street. Step after step he slowly walks across the cable.

Then he slips -- he loses his balance -- he falls into an open CAR and lands on the lap of the DRIVER. The driver SCREAMS and loses control of the car and crashes into a lamp post.

Skip jumps out of the car and climbs the lamp post as fast as he can.

He is out of breath and trembling.

SKIP
So much for "a plan".

Almost immediately Skip looks to the other side of the road to see what Scrap is up to -- but Scrap is not there.

SKIP (CONT'D)
That's not possible. He can't have been faster.

Skip looks around. Scrap is nowhere to be seen -- but then, Skip sees a feather next to a MANHOLE, leading down to the sewers.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Idiot, doesn't he know that it's dangerous down there.

Skip jumps from the lamp post towards the wall and continues to jump from marquee to marquee but then he stops.

He gazes ahead through the endless canyon and then back to the manhole.

INT. THE SEWERS - DAY

Scrap walks along a narrow pathway in the New York sewers.

A steady stream of sewage flows past him. It is very dark but from time to time the manholes provide some light.

The stench is horrible and Scrap uses his wing to cover his nose.

SCRAP
Great idea to get down here, from smoke to smother.

In the distance he hears a strange NOISE accompanied by the sound of FALLING STONES. He shouts.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Who's there?

While he's shouting he mums himself and whispers to himself.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
 Awesome Scrap! Tell the big bad
 thing where to find lunch.

Scrap keeps walking in the opposite direction the noise came from.

Suddenly, the same NOISE again. This time louder and nearer.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
 Skip? Is that you? I know it's you
 and I'm not gonna get scared.

Nothing.

But then, the NOISE returns. It sounds like thousands of small feet running across the wet tunnel.

Scrap panics and starts to run as fast as he can.

INT. THE SEWERS DEAD END - DAY

Scrap is still running but the tunnel is small and narrow.

He's out of breath, stops and looks around to make sure he's safe.

SCRAP
 I don't wanna know what that was.

He has reached a dead end but there is a small hole in the ground, just big enough for him to fit through.

He starts to peak through the hole.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS - DAY

An underground cistern, part of the underground water system, but somehow forgotten a long time ago.

An underground city almost as breathtaking as the New York itself -- the home of the self-declared super-race of the underground -- GUINEA PIGS.

Thousands of guinea pigs are standing, side by side listening to their megalomaniacal leader, General FLUFFY. He is dressed in a very convincing looking uniform made out of trash.

Fluffy speaks from a large STAGE, behind him an giant picture of him made out of different pieces of paper.

FLUFFY

My friends, the day has come.
 Finally we will take our rightful
 place in this, our world. Too many
 of us have been replaced by those
 vicious cats and these cuddly dogs.
 Too long have we lived as outcasts,
 thrown away, flushed down. They
 treated us like rats. I say enough
 is enough. It is our birthright and
 we deserve nothing less than the
 full unconditional love of the
 humans.

(beat)

We have to fight for our rightful
 place as the prime pet. Who is with
 me?

Everybody CHEERS, in their high guinea pig voices.

ALL THE GUINEA PIGS

Oo-rah!

Fluffy smiles.

INT. THE SEWERS DEAD END - DAY

Scrap is captivated by the speech and doesn't realize that
 the cracks in the floor around him grow bigger.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS - DAY

General Fluffy is still speaking to his captivated audience.

The guinea pigs are so mesmerized that they don't notice the
 dust from the cracking ceiling.

FLUFFY

We have to prepare ourselves for a
 long and hard fight. Some of you
 will not make it but we will be
 victorious, it's us or them. It's
 about being flushed down or
 flushing them down.

(beat)

I won't be flushed down again, I
 say: FLUSH THEM DOWN!

ALL THE GUINEA PIGS

Oo-rah!

FLUFFY

So tonight we will leave our prison
 and show the humans how cute we
 really are.

(MORE)

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

(beat)
Cute faces!

ALL THE GUINEA PIGS

Oo-rah!

After the battle cry all the guinea pigs practice their CUTE FACES, the cutest facial expression ever. They look extremely cute but Fluffy "out-cutes" all of them.

But then, the ceiling breaks and Scrap falls into the middle of the hall.

Complete silence. Nobody moves, not even Scrap who is a bit dazed from the fall.

FLUFFY

Attack faces!!

Every guinea pig turns towards Scrap, this time with their mean and vicious but nevertheless cute ATTACK FACES.

Scrap looks terrified and very awkwardly he waves his wings.

SCRAP

Hi.

The guinea pigs take a step towards him.

Scrap SWALLOWS HARD and Fluffy CRACKS his knuckles.

FLUFFY

Hmm, what have we here?

The guinea pigs take one more step towards Scrap.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS - DAY

Fluffy stands on the stage, Scrap lies next to him, tied up and gagged.

FLUFFY

Look at him. This is the face of the enemy. He might not look like a threat now, but don't forget for a lot of families birds are the pet of choice these days.

Every guinea pig nods in approval.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

I can't hear you!

ALL THE GUINEA PIGS

Oo-rah!

But then -- Skip swings through the hall on an improvised rope and kicks Fluffy off the stage. The guinea pigs panic.

Complete chaos ensues. Skip quickly unties Scrap.

SCRAP

What are you doing here?

SKIP

What does it look like, I'm rescuing you.

SCRAP

And who's rescuing you?

He points at the approaching guinea pigs.

SKIP

If you don't want to be rescued I can leave you to them.

Fluffy climbs back on the stage, grins and takes a step towards them.

SCRAP

You know what you're doing? Right? You have a plan, right?

SKIP

Theoretically.

Fluffy and the other guinea pigs come closer and closer.

Skip jumps up and punches Fluffy hard and he falls off the stage into the crowd.

Skip grins.

Fluffy gets back on his feet and tries to stand up but before he can say anything he gets run over by a bunch of panicking guinea pigs.

Skip points at Fluffy.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What's his problem?

SCRAP

He was flushed down a toilet.

SKIP

Okay, that explains a lot.

Fluffy stands up again, this time he manages to get his footing. He screams.

FLUFFY

ATTACK FACE!!

The guinea pigs stop panicking instantly. They display their "attack face" and look very menacing, as they walk towards the stage.

At first slowly, step by step -- then faster.

Skip throws Scrap a questioning look.

SCRAP
Attack face?

SKIP
Great, for a moment there I thought
we were in trouble.

The guinea pigs charge at them. Skip and Scrap are outnumbered 10000 to 2.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Let's do this!

The first over eager guinea pig reaches them and tries to punch Skip. Skip side steps the attacker, the guinea pig misses him, teeters and falls over.

A first wave of guinea pigs follows, focusing on Scrap.

He ducks. Their momentum is so strong that they fly over him and bounce back from the wall and almost hit Skip.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm standing here!

One of them hits Skip but instead of knocking him over it bounces off of him and knocks about 10 other guinea pigs over. Skip CHUCKLES.

SCRAP
Sorry!

Skip is surprised and smiles.

SKIP
I'm beginning to like those little
fellas.

The guinea pigs get back up and keep attacking in waves but our two heroes have no problem defending themselves against these two legged FUR-BALLS.

Guinea pigs fly through the air. One, then two, two with a perfect somersault. Four, perfectly choreographed... it looks like an air ballet.

Skip has a great time and his smile grows and grows and even Scrap is amused as he sees how the guinea pigs pile up.

Then -- on top of the pile -- Fluffy appears and he starts to roll down the hill with the intention to knock Skip and Scrap over.

He flies through the air -- Kung-Fu-Style -- heading for Scrap -- Scrap performs a roundhouse-kick and kicks Fluffy to the other end of the great hall.

Fluffy seems to stay in the air forever. In his face we can see equal parts of agony and embarrassment.

Finally he reaches the other end of the hall and hits the wall next to a VALVE.

SCRAP

Did you see that?

SKIP

Not bad, bonus points for punching
General furball.

Skip sends another guinea pig flying through the room with a somersault kick and smiles at Scrap.

SKIP (CONT'D)

But look what I got!

Scrap smiles.

But then -- a strange NOISE. Scrap gives Skip a questioning look.

The noise gets louder. The guinea pigs stop fighting, they pause, then they panic.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What's going on guys? Already
tired?

Far in the distance Fluffy is back on his feet and LAUGHS DIABOLICALLY, his hands on the valve.

FLUFFY

EMERGENCY FLUSH CONDITION DELTA!

The guinea pigs look at each other. A SKINNY GUINEA PIG looks concerned and SQUEALS.

SKINNY GUINEA PIG

(subtitled)

Please let it be freshwater!
Please!

Behind him a huge wave of stinking sewage gushes into the hall.

SKINNY GUINEA PIG (CONT'D)
(subtitled)
Oh \$#!t!!!

The guinea pigs claw themselves to the ground and hold hands.

The Great Hall gets filled almost instantly and the "net" of guinea pigs starts to float.

The wave reaches Scrap and Skip and knocks them over.

Scrap struggles in the water, but he manages to stay afloat.

Skip struggles even more and gets pulled down by the current.

Scrap tries to dive back to help him but the current is too strong. He tries to reach Skip.

Skip looks at his brother.

POV SKIP

For a moment Skip sees Holly being grabbed by a vicious harrier.

Skip hesitates. He looks afraid.

Scrap keeps reaching out. Skip finally reaches out as well but too late. They are too far apart.

Skip moves his lips but they are both underwater so Scrap can't hear what Skip says.

A second wave reaches Scrap and he gets flushed away. He knocks his head on the ceiling and BLACKS OUT.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST - DAY

Holly regains consciousness. She is in the harrier's nest near the top of the Empire State Building.

She looks around and sees two UNHATCHED EGGS and a dead RAT.

She climbs to the edge of the nest and looks out.

A breathtaking view -- literally. Holly looks frightened.

Behind her the top of the almost finished Empire State Building and below her the BIG PULSATING CITY.

INT. THE SEWAGE RIVER

Scrap, weak and completely drenched, wakes up on a small piece of driftwood, slowly drifting along the sewage river.

It is very dark and the only noise he can hear is the PURLING stream.

His mind wanders. He stares into sewage. For a second he sees the image of Skip hesitating but he immediately realizes that this is just in his head.

A tear forms in his eye and he uses his wings to wipe it away.

SCRAP

You can do this. I don't need him.

He hears a HISSING SOUND. He looks around and he sees an ugly vicious looking RAT. The rat follows him.

Scrap continues his journey, the rat close behind him -- unfortunately for Scrap, the rat is not alone.

INT. THE SEWAGE RIVER - WATERFALL

Scrap, still on his raft, reaches a vast underground pond, a place where four sewage rivers meet.

At first the water seems calm but suddenly the current gets stronger.

He keeps paddling with his wings. He paddles, picking up speed on the sewage pond. Then he hears --

-- a LOW RUMBLE. He stops paddling, suddenly alert. The rumble turns into a ROAR. Scrap whirls and paddles furiously into the opposite direction.

He is headed towards the edge of a WATERFALL.

He tries to paddle as fast as he can but the current is too strong. He tries not to panic -- unsuccessfully.

He looks around. Looking for something to hold onto, but he is too far away from the shore.

He reaches the waterfall and in the last moment before the raft falls down he starts to flap his wings.

To his surprise he manages to stay in the air for a few seconds but he loses control and falls into the rapids.

He flaps his wings frantically to stay afloat but he is just a passenger in the current. He struggles for air --

-- finally breaking the surface, he GULPS a breath --

-- and is PLUNGED back under. The stone walls blur past him as he flaps his wings to get back to the surface.

Far in the distance small pieces of driftwood and other things are piling up.

Five STEEL BARS separate the sewage from larger items. This is Scrap's only chance to escape the current.

Scrap uses all his power to jump out of the current and he barely manages it. With his beak he holds on to the steel bar. But he is not safe yet.

He is surrounded -- by a bunch of vicious RATS.

About 50 rats gathered around him. They look hungry and their HISSING echoes through the tunnel. They come closer and closer.

Their red eyes glow in the dark and follow Scrap.

He climbs the steel bar and looks for an easy escape -- there is none. He has to face the rats.

Scrap flaps his wings and screams as loud as he can.

SCRAP

AHHH!!

The rats take a step back. Scrap continues with his chest-beating but the rats are not as impressed as he hoped.

The rats charge towards Scrap. They bite him in the wings and rip out some feather. It hurts.

Scrap jumps -- a few rats tumble into the sewage.

He uses the heads of the first rats as stepping stones -- he jumps further up and claws himself to the ceiling.

The rats jump up but they can't reach him. He climbs as fast as he can to get away from the rats.

The rats turn around and look even meaner than before. Scrap tries to outrun them.

Turn after turn he looks back -- but the rats are still behind him.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - CELLAR

Through a drain Scrap enters a large dark storeroom with many shelves full of crates.

He can hear the rats running past the small opening.

He climbs a shelf and sits down next to a crate. He is exhausted and rests.

SCRAP

Just for a few minutes.

He falls asleep immediately.

INT. GUINEA PIG PRISON

Skip lies in a prison cell made out of old rodent cages.

Skip shares his cell with SHELDON, a cocky tortoise, who's always in for a good joke, LINUS, a very easily frightened, TAIL-LESS lizard who lives inside Sheldon's shell and pops out through the different openings.

Linus, popping out near Sheldon's arm, pokes Skip with something indefinable.

LINUS

Is he dead?

Sheldon sniffs Skip's fur.

SHELDON

For his sake I hope he's dead. He smells like ...

Skip MOANS.

SKIP

Shhh...mom. Just five more minutes.

Skip is waking up.

LINUS

Hey buddy, everything all right.

Skip looks up towards him, still dazed.

SKIP

I think, so. But why do I feel like I kissed the but of a swamp toad?

Skip looks around in the cage.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Where is Scrap?

SHELDON

Scrap?

SKIP

My brother, they should've brought him with me.

LINUS

Sorry, you're the only one they brought here. Maybe he escaped.

Skip shakes his head.

SKIP

No he didn't. The water. There was too much. If he's not here, he's...

Skip looks genuinely sad.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What is this place anyway?

SHELDON

Welcome to the Casa del Fluffy...

LINUS

...where General Fluffy keeps his guest.

SKIP

General Fluffy?

LINUS

The crazy toilet brush with delusions of grandeur.

SKIP

His name is Fluffy? He must have had a tough childhood.

Linus is still poking him.

SKIP (CONT'D)

I'm OK you can stop poking me with this...

Skip grabs the thing out of Linus's hands and examines it. Linus vanishes into the shell, with his backside still visible. Skip startles.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What the...

Linus's bottom slowly moves further into the shell.

Skip looks at Linus's bottom and realizes that Linus has no tail and that the thing in his hand looks like it could have been a tail once.

Skip instantly drops it.

SHELDON

My "roommate" does that occasionally.

Linus's head pops out next to Sheldon's head.

LINUS

Don't make fun of it. It's a defence mechanism and it is completely ... normal ... everyone does it.

SKIP

If you say so Stumpy.

Skip grins but Linus feels hurt.

LINUS

My name is Linus.

SKIP

Nice to meet you, and your big friend?

SHELDON

Sheldon.

Awkward silence.

SKIP

I see. You're the talker.

(beat)

I'm Skip. How long have you been locked up here?

SHELDON

Long, very long. We lost count.

LINUS

Those morons just threw us in here because they didn't like our faces.

To everyone's surprise A DEEP THUNDERING VOICE joins the conversation. The voice belongs to TEDDY, a quiet and really sad looking guinea pig with an eye patch. He's is drawing violent scenes in the dirt.

TEDDY

It's not their fault.

Skip is surprised and turns towards the voice.

SKIP

Have you seen them lately? They're completely nuts.

TEDDY

They are not nuts, they just want to be loved.

Skips looks at him in disbelief.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

It's the truth. Look at us, we are so cuddly. Unfortunately we are somewhat, how shall I put it... "simple minded" ... and Fluffy was able to use that to his advantage.

Skip looks at Linus and Sheldon and rolls his eyes.

SKIP

(ironically)

Okay, thanks for sharing.

(beat)

Who is that weirdo?

SHELDON

Teddy.

LINUS

He was already here when we came.

SKIP

Speaking of here...

He RATTLES the cage.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Ever tried to break out of here?

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - CELLAR

Scrap wakes up and climbs down and walks towards the drain. He hesitates and looks around.

SCRAP

Where am I?

He looks around and sees a dimly lit wooden staircase.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - READING ROOM - NIGHT

Scrap enters the reading room. Bookshelves everywhere. There are a few lights that illuminate the impressive room.

There is not much light coming through the large windows. The night is dark and dark clouds cover the moon.

Scrap wanders along the bookshelves. Then -- a flash of light illuminates the room. Scrap looks through the window.

Far in the distance a storm is gathering. LIGHTNING STRIKES.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - READING ROOM - NIGHT

Scrap wanders along the bookshelves.

Then -- a LOUD NOISE -- a BOOK hits the ground.

Scrap startles and hides under a bookshelf.

Scrap slowly emerges from his hiding place and tries to figure out where the sound came from.

Another book hits the ground inches away from him. He starts to run.

Another book and another one. A BOOK AVALANCHE.

He keeps running, trying to outrun the falling books but the books fall faster than he can run.

A big tome -- the United States Tax Code -- falls in his way. Scrap jumps to the side and climbs the bookshelf.

He tries to hide in the top shelf -- but to his surprise he is not alone. A TINY WHITE BOOKWORM stares at him.

This is PIERS, the unofficial librarian. The worm freezes, afraid for his life.

Piers assumes worm fetal position and closes his eyes.

Scrap looks down at the tiny worm. Piers trembles, he is frightened to the death -- waiting to meet his maker.

But to his surprise the end does not come. With his big eyes he stares at Scrap, surprised.

SCRAP

Did you throw the books?

No reaction from Piers.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

You're afraid of me?

Nothing from Piers. No movement at all.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

You don't talk much, do you?

Piers does not even blink, he just stares.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Well then, I don't have time anyway. Just stop throwing stuff at me. Okay?

Scrap waits for any sign of understanding but after a few seconds of Piers staring at him he turns around and walks away.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Nice not talking to you.

Scrap walks away but something isn't right. He turns around. Piers is following him, keeping safe distance.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

What?

Piers gestures Scrap to follow him.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I should follow you?

Piers turns around and crawls away.

Scrap hesitates. He turns his head towards the windows.

Far in the distance the storm grows darker and bigger.

INT. GUINEA PIG PRISON - NIGHT

Sheldon holds Skip in his hands using him as a battering ram to open the cell door.

Teddy watches the scene from his dark corner and Linus moves between Sheldon's head and his arms.

SKIP

It wont hurt.

SHELDON

Sure?

SKIP

Probably not. But since Mister "I have a shell that would be perfect for this" is too heavy to lift, my attitude is all I have left.

LINUS

Positive thinking?

SKIP

Yes.

SHELDON

Good luck. On three... One ... two ... three.

He rams Skip against the cell door as hard as they can. We can see the pain in Skips face.

The door doesn't move -- not an inch.

LINUS

It moved. I think. Again!

SKIP

Just a second.

LINUS

No time. One...two...three.

Second try. This time even harder. The door is still intact.

LINUS (CONT'D)

Again!

Third try. Skip is in total agony. His head hits the door and a tremble is sent through his hole body. The door doesn't move. Sheldon seem to like their useless efforts and shouts.

SHELDON

Again! One ... two...

SKIP

No! Stop it, stop it ... please,
stop it.

Sheldon looks disappointed.

SHELDON

But the door is still closed.

SKIP

I can feel that.

LINUS

We can't stop now. We're too close.

SKIP

Says the one hiding in the turtle
shell.

LINUS

Hey, that's unfair. Sheldon, tell
him to stop being mean.

Linus falls silent. Sheldon smiles.

SHELDON

Maybe we could use your feet?

Skip looks at his feet and for a moment he considers the idea
-- but then.

SKIP

C'mon guys, take it serious.

(beat)

No, this is not working. Maybe
Scrap was right after all, I need
to come up with a plan.

To everyone's surprise Teddy speaks.

TEDDY

Give up already. You're not gonna get out of here and even if you did, you'd never beat Fluffy.

Skip turns around and looks at Teddy.

SKIP

No, we're not going to give up. Maybe it's the headache speaking but I'm not a quitter like you.

Skip sits down and tries to deal with his pain. Something in Teddy's face changes.

SKIP (CONT'D)

We might not succeed, but at least We are trying, not like you.

Teddy looks at Skip, angrier than before.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What? To frightened to say something.

Teddy opens his mouth to say something but he hesitates.

SKIP (CONT'D)

I thought so.
(to Sheldon and Linus)
We need to think of something, we need to get out. We need a plan. Ideas? ... Anything?

Nothing. Then --

TEDDY

If you really want to get out, why don't you just ask them politely.

They look at him in disbelief.

SKIP

That's the stupidest idea I ever heard.

(beat)

C'mon guys, we have to think of something.

Teddy stays in his corner, gnashing his teeth.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST - NIGHT

Holly is still sitting in the nest. She looks up, a glimpse of moonlight breaks through the dark clouds.

Far in the distance the storm has grown to epic proportions.

The moonlight vanishes. A DARK SHAPE approaches the nest. The harrier returns.

Holly tries not to move -- she holds her breath -- she plays dead.

The harrier lands, drops a DEAD WORM into the nest and rearranges the eggs with her beak. Up close the harrier looks impressive and frightening.

The harrier glances at Holly, she knows that Holly is pretending but she starts to gut the rat anyway.

Holly looks appalled.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - PIERS' LAIR

Skip and Piers are sitting comfortable in a small cavern between some bookshelves. The place is covered with open books about various subjects.

SCRAP

... and then I met you.

Just as Scrap finishes his story, Piers crawls between two pages of a biology book and uses his hole body to turn the page.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

He stops at a page with a large picture of a bird with a worm in his beak. Piers points at the image and then looks at Scrap.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

For the tenth time, I'm not gonna eat you.

Piers continues to stare and Scrap gets a little annoyed.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

What!?!

Piers stands up and crawls away. He looks back at Scrap who's still sitting on the floor.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Piers turns around and continues to crawl away. Scrap sighs.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

OK, OK, I'm coming. I'm starting to understand why we eat you. You're so annoying.

Scrap gets up and follows Piers.

INT. GUINEA PIG PRISON - NIGHT

The prisoners are desperately trying to look occupied.

Skip throws a small ball against the wall and catches it, Sheldon cleans his shell and Teddy SNORES in his corner.

Linus SINGS from within the shell, making him sound like an opera singer.

LINUS

(singing)

You are so small, you are so furry,
and you're eyesight's really
blurry. You are so stupid, you are
so fat, I really wish you all were
dead.

His singing catches the attention of two guinea pig guards, they start to tap their feet.

LINUS (CONT'D)

(singing)

Then there's Fluffy the tiny, who
is more than a little bit whiny.

The two guards start to dance.

GUARD 1

This is quite catchy.

Linus slides out of the shell and looks surprised.

LINUS

Catchy?

GUARD 2

Yes, it has a nice rhythm to it.

LINUS

Really?

(singing)

The reason he whines all day,
Is that he once got flushed away.

Teddy stands behind Sheldon and covers Linus's mouth with his paw and shushes him.

Linus stops singing. The guinea pigs stop dancing and their smile vanishes from their faces.

GUARD 1

Why are you stopping?

TEDDY

Why don't you come over and open
the cell door and he can sing and
dance with you.

The guards look at each other.

GUARD 2

Sounds reasonable.

The other guard nods and the two guards walk over to the
cell. Sheldon, Linus and Skip look surprised.

Teddy signals them to be prepared.

The guard turns the key and Sheldon jumps up and runs towards
the guards, Skip throws his ball against one of the guard's
head and knocks him out.

Teddy lands a great punch and knocks the other guard out.
Linus looks at the two unconscious guards.

LINUS

I can't believe this worked.

Teddy smiles, he looks almost proud.

TEDDY

A stupid plan for stupid guards.

Skip smiles and gives Teddy a nod of appreciation.

SHELDON

Come on, we're not out yet.

They leave the cell and run towards a small opening in the
wall. Sheldon with Linus and Skip run through the opening.
Teddy glances back at the prison for a second and follows
them.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS

They enter the Great Hall. Sheldon stops abruptly and Skip
bumps into him.

SKIP

Why are you stopping?

Sheldon remains silent and Linus vanishes into the shell.
Skip can't believe his eyes.

Teddy, just a few steps behind them, stops instantly.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Not again.

10'000 guinea pigs are staring at them with "ATTACK FACE".
Fluffy stands in the middle of the first row.

LINUS

(from inside the shell)
I have an idea: Let's go back into
the cell and pretend we like it
there.

FLUFFY

Nice of you to join us. I was
afraid you'd miss my greatest
triumph.

Fluffy LAUGHS diabolically.

Teddy steps forward.

TEDDY

How could I miss that?
Let them go. They didn't do
anything.

Linus carefully peaks out near Linus's head.

FLUFFY

I'm afraid I can't do that. There
is no place for freaks like that in
our world. Lizards bonding with
turtles, birds with squirrels,
what's next? Clownfish and
pelicans?

LINUS

He has a point. Clownfish are
scary.

SHELDON

Is there anything that doesn't
scare you?

Linus thinks.

LINUS

Good point.

SKIP

(to Teddy)
So what's the plan?

Teddy smiles.

TEDDY

Just follow my lead.

Teddy starts to SCREAM and charges towards the guinea pigs.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

FREEDOM!

Sheldon, Linus and Skip look at each other and heroically follow his lead.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - READING ROOM - NIGHT

Scrap and Piers sit on a large reading table. They are surrounded by open books, most of the books are about birds in general but there is one about harriers in particular.

Scrap stares at the pages, Piers is turning them. Piers points at a piece of text in a book.

BOOK TEXT

A harrier is any of the several species of diurnal hawks forming the Circinae sub-family of the Accipitridae family of birds of prey. They usually nest in very high places like tree tops or tall buildings like skyscrapers.

Piers looks at Scrap expectantly. Scrap looks clueless.

SCRAP

What? I never said I could read.

Piers shakes his head and keeps turning pages until he reaches a large picture of a harrier eating a squirrel.

Scrap stares at the image in disgust.

BOOK TEXT

Harriers characteristically hunt by flying low over open ground, feeding on small mammals, reptiles, or birds.

SCRAP

Put that away. I told you I don't do that. I'm not like this. Why do you keep showing me pictures like that?

Scrap turns away with his head down.

Piers pats him on the back and makes him look at another picture, a flying harrier.

Scrap shakes his head and sighs.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I don't do that either. If I want to fly I have to the other stuff as well.

Piers shrugs.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
No? You mean I don't have to be
like them to be able to fly like
them?

Piers nods.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
You think I have a choice?

Piers nods.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Let's assume you're right, why
can't I fly then?

Piers pats him on the head.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
My head? You think I'm stupid?

Piers waits a second and smirks but then he shakes his head.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
So you think it's a matter of
concentration?

Piers shakes his head. Piers turns to an empty page and
points at it.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
What? That's an empty page.

Piers nods.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
And? Do you want me to clear my
mind?

Piers smiles.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
And how does that work?

Piers crawls to the edge of the table.

Scrap gets up again and follows him to the edge of the table.
He looks down -- it is higher than he thought.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
So you want me to jump and hope
that I can clear my head?

Piers nods.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

And you think I'll be able to fly.

Piers shrugs. Scrap starts to smile.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Your lack of faith in me is not very encouraging. Just so you know, if I fall I'll probably eat you.

Piers smiles. Scrap spreads his wings and jumps off the table.

Scrap flaps his wings -- he gains some height -- he flies. Piers smiles he looks proud. Scrap looks back at Piers.

POV Scrap -- instead of Piers he sees a vicious harrier charging at him.

Scrap loses control and falls to the ground like a rock.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS

Skip, Linus, Sheldon and Teddy, tied to a ROPE, are hanging above a big black hole. Linus and Sheldon are unconscious.

Under the watchful eyes of the guinea pig army Teddy and Skip are unsuccessfully trying to free themselves.

SKIP

Great plan. Next time we wage war against a paranoid, megalomaniac guinea pig, remind me not to pick you as my sidekick.

Fluffy stands in front of them and addresses the crowd.

FLUFFY

This is our moment! We have to decide now, once and for all, who we are and what we deserve.

Fluffy points at Teddy.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

He tried to convince us to be content here. He tried to stop us from achieving our goals.

Linus and Sheldon regain consciousness. They want to speak but Skip and Teddy silence them.

Teddy points at the rope and the others see, that the rope is brash and that they could make it snap.

They start to use their weight to make the rope move like a pendulum.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

It is our destiny to go up there again and get rid of the other pets and reclaim our birthright. He wants you to be complacent and that is why we have to get rid of him and his friends once and for all. I say, let's flush them down.

The guinea pigs cheer and our friends gain momentum. There is a pipe under the ceiling and they get nearer and nearer to it.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

But we mustn't stop with the traitors. We have to flush down everything that is not pure and cute.

The eyes of the guinea pigs follow the pendulum. They are mesmerized.

Fluffy is so busy speaking that he doesn't notice what the four prisoners are doing behind him.

The pipe is almost in Sheldon's grasp. He expands his neck as far as possible. He is almost there, just a little bit more momentum.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

Today is the day. Today is the day we shed our chains and break free.

Sheldon grabs the pipe with his mouth and the movement stops instantly -- and so do the eyes of the guinea pigs. Only one guinea pig's eyes are still moving but his neighbor changes that with an elbow punch.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

Today is the day we show the world how cute we are. Today we return to the surface world.

Sheldon is grabbing the pipe. The rope snaps -- Sheldon holds on, barely.

The pipe is slightly tilted and they are slowly gliding along the pipe. Sheldon's teeth grind along the pipe -- with a terrible CREAKING NOISE.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

Today we reclaim our dignity.

They stop gliding and the prisoners try to stay calm but Linus has a PANIC ATTACK. Teddy can silence him but it's too late.

Linus's tail falls off -- right in front of Fluffy's feet.
Fluffy looks up --

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

What the..?

Sheldon looses his grip and the prisoners land on top of Fluffy.

The guinea pigs are still mesmerized. Fluffy tries to free himself from under our heroes.

SKIP

What now?

Fluffy, still buried, SCREAMS:

FLUFFY

Attack!

EXT. NEW YORK - NIGHT

The storm has reached New York and wreaks havoc.

Umbrellas fly through the air and people run inside as fast as they can.

Trash cans roll over the streets and trees get ripped out of the ground.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST - NIGHT

Up here the storm is even worse. Each wind blow makes the nest shake more. The Harrier makes sure the nest is as secure as possible.

The harrier spreads her wings and flies away to find a place to hide.

Holly gets up and looks around. She sees the tattered cadaver.

She starts to climb out of her nest but she gets distracted by a CRACKING SOUND behind her.

One of the eggs is full of cracks and there is a strange SOUND coming from within the egg. A beak knocking on the shell -- the crack opens and the head of a cute little BABY HARRIER pops out.

Holly startles. She tries to put the shell back onto the egg but the big eyes of the baby harrier stare at her.

Behind her the other egg also CRACKS and another BABY HARRIER pops out.

Holly turns around and climbs out of the nest. Then -- she looks back at the two hatchlings. They stare at her with their big eyes.

EXT. THE LAKE - DUSK [FLASHBACK]

BABY SCRAP, with his big eyes, lies unconscious on the shore of the THE LAKE in CENTRAL PARK. He is barely breathing.

A SOUND in the BUSHES. TWO DARK SHADOWS slowly approach little Scrap. Holly with Baby Scrap and Bernard slowly emerge from the bushes and walk little Scrap.

Bernard smiles.

BERNARD

How can something so naked,
hairless and stinking look so cute?
Look so tiny and helpless.

Holly doesn't look happy.

HOLLY

Don't even think about it. What
will the others say.

BERNARD

He wont hurt us.

HOLLY

Maybe not now but what about later.

Bernard looks at Holly and pouts.

Baby Skip toddles towards Scrap and hugs him.

SKIP

Hey, I'm Skip. Do you wanna be my
friend?

Bernard smiles. Holly knows she has lost the argument.

HOLLY

But if he eats us it's going to be
your fault.

Holly smiles, kisses Bernard and picks up tiny Scrap.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(to Skip)
How should we call him?

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST - NIGHT

The two hatchlings are still staring at her with their big eyes.

Holly grabs the two babies just as a powerful wind blow hits the nest and blows it away.

The nest falls.

The nest hits a platform a few feet down and remains on the platform.

Holly keeps staring into the abyss.

She turns towards the two baby harriers. The little harriers look at her with their big eyes and Holly can't help but smile.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - READING ROOM

Piers stands next to Scrap who is still on the floor. Piers tries to help him get up but Scrap refuses and instead of getting up he rolls under a reading table.

SCRAP

I don't need help. I'm fine.

Piers crawls under the table.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Leave me alone.

Piers looks at Scrap and rolls his eyes.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

What? You know this would be much easier if you just talked to me.

Piers shrugs. He is not agreeing.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I never asked for flying lessons, all I wanted to know was where my mother is.

Piers turns around and makes the follow me gesture again.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

No, I'm not falling for that again.

Piers crawls away and Scrap stays back alone, lying on the floor.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I'm not getting up. I'm not stupid.

He looks around to see where Piers went but he can't see him anymore. Scrap jumps up.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Hey, wait?

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS

Skip, Teddy, Linus and Sheldon, still tied together fight against the guinea pigs.

They go round in circles and kick the attacking guinea pigs away and like bouncy fur balls the guinea pigs fly through the air.

One of the flying guinea pigs lands on top of another one, the others fall like domino stones, fancy patterns included.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - READING ROOM

Scrap and Piers are back on the table with new books. Piers is pointing to the book again but this time he uses mostly children's books as visual aides.

With one end of his body he points at words, with the other end he points at images.

BOOK TEXT

A **harrier...**

He points at Scrap.

SCRAP

I?

BOOK TEXT

.... usually **ests**

He points at the picture of a birds nest.

SCRAP

Nest?

Piers nods.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I ...nest...

BOOK TEXT

...in very high places like **tree tops...**

Piers tail points at the picture of a tree.

SCRAP

Tree. I ... nest tree.

BOOK TEXT

...or tall buildings like **skyscrapers....**

Piers turns towards the window and points at it. Through it we can see the towering Empire State Building.

SCRAP

Window?

Piers shakes his head and stands up in front of the window and shapes his body like a skyscraper.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Statue?

Piers shakes his head and stops pretending to be a skyscraper.

Right at this moment a lighting illuminates the dark sky and through the large reading room windows Scrap sees the silhouette of the Empire State Building.

Scrap has an epiphany.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

You mean that one?

Piers exhales happily and nods. Scrap stares at the distance building and looks back at Piers.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Does it have to be that one? It's quite high? So you think I have to go up there?

Piers shrugs.

Scrap sits down and shakes his head in despair.

Piers crawls towards him and points at the wings. Scrap can't help but smile.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

I know someone just like you. Really annoying but he never gave up.

Piers smiles.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

But how should I get there? Without flying it's impossible.

Piers quickly crawls away and with a few impressive jumps he climbs a tall bookshelf and throws down the biggest book he can find.

Then he jumps down with a double somersault.

Scrap looks impressed.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

So you think I should stop whining and get my act together?

Piers smiles.

INT. THE GREAT HALL OF THE GUINEA PIGS

Our four heroes still tied together -- fighting for their survival against endless waves of guinea pigs.

Fluffy has joined the fight and his attack focuses on Teddy. But Teddy reacts quickly. He kicks Fluffy in the face. Fluffy falls back.

SKIP

Hey Linus since you're not tied up like the rest of us you're in a perfect position to cut that rope.

LINUS

Sorry. Can't do that.

They waves of guinea pigs keep coming.

TEDDY

Why not?

LINUS

I told you I can't, let's leave it at that.

SKIP

You're not serious?

LINUS

I'm afraid I am.

TEDDY

It's just for a few seconds. Out and in, 10 seconds tops. Sheldon, help us.

Nothing from Sheldon -- they start to tumble -- the guinea pigs stop attacking.

SKIP

What the...

Then they realize. Sheldon has crawled out of his shell, he is quite skinny. He blushes, he's embarrassed but he's opening the rope.

The rope falls to the ground.

SHELDON

If anybody talks about this, ever I'm gonna do unspeakable things to you.

Teddy, Skip and Linus look at each other and nod even the guinea pigs around them nod.

Then a SKINNY GUINEA PIG points at Sheldon.

SKINNY GUINEA PIG

Haaa-Ha!

Sheldon knocks him out cold and crawls back into his shell.

The guinea pigs attack again and the fight continues.

Fluffy gets back up and aims for Teddy again.

FLUFFY

I defeated you before, I can do it again.

TEDDY

You sure? This time I'm not asleep.

Fluffy and Teddy start fighting -- and what a fight it is.

Like two rubber balls they fly around in the room and every punch gives them more momentum. The fight is almost too fast for anyone to follow.

After a round around the Great Hall they land next to the hole. Teddy sees his chance to end the fight.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Hey look, a toilet brush.

Fluffy turns his head and Teddy throws a left hook, Fluffy stumbles and Teddy grabs Fluffy by the neck.

A LOUD WHISTLE. Everything stops. Teddy holds Fluffy over the hole.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Hey guys!

The guinea pigs freeze -- no movement -- not even an eye blinking.

FLUFFY

You can't do this. You will regret it. I will...

TEDDY

You will what? Flush me down? Guess what...

Teddy lets go of Fluffy -- he falls and screams.

FLUFFY

Not again!

TEDDY
Good riddance Fluffy,

Teddy looks at Skip, Skip smiles but shakes his head.

SKIP
Good Riddance? That's it? You can
do better than that.

TEDDY
Look who's flushing now?

Skip shakes his head again.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
No? But I'm on the right track?

Skip wrinkles his nose.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Tell me...

Skip opens his mouth but Linus points at the guinea pigs.

LINUS
I hate to ruin your important
discussion but what about them.

TEDDY
Don't worry, they're harmless.
(to the guinea pigs)
GROUP HUG.

On this command all the guinea pigs start to hug each other.

SKIP
Is it just me or is this more
frightening than attack face?

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NIGHT

The storm has reached it's climax. Holly is carefully
climbing down the Empire State Building and every step is
harder than the one before.

The rain drenched her and the cold makes her shiver.

A strong wind stroke -- she has to use all her strength to
hold on to the building.

Then -- she slips and she loses her footing -- she holds on
to the building with just one paw and pulls herself up.

Holly looks down -- way down -- an almost endless abyss.

Holly looks around and sees a small crack in the facade. She carefully climbs over and crawls into the crack. It is just big enough to hold her.

It feels even colder -- she is shivering. She assumes the fetal position to stay warm.

EXT. NEW YORK - MORNING

The storm is almost gone. There is still heavy rain falling down all over the city but there are a few glimpses of sunlight that find their way through the dark clouds.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - MORNING

A BIRD SCREAM wakes up Holly. It's the harrier returning to the place her nest used to be.

She rubs the sleep out of her eyes -- for a moment she hopes that all was just a bad dream -- but a look outside crashes these hopes.

She looks up and sees the harrier circling around the building -- she must be looking for his nest. Screaming like a mother looking for her children.

Holly climbs carefully out of the sheltering crack and down the building.

It is going to be a long way down along the tallest building in the city.

We follow a rain drop -- down to the street level.

Life is returning to the city after the storm. CARS, PEDESTRIANS -- the city is busy again.

The ongoing rain continues to fill the drains and runs down into the sewers.

INT. THE SEWAGE RIVER

Because of the rain, the sewage current is really strong now.

A SOUND is echoing through the tunnels. A loud SCREAM -- but not one of fear -- a SCREAM of excitement.

Skip, Linus and Sheldon -- Sheldon as the raft -- travel through the tunnel at a high speed.

Skip has the time of his life.

SKIP

Wahoo! This is awesome!

Ahead of them the channel forks into two tunnels.

SHELDON
Which way?

SKIP
I don't know! Let's see what happens.

Skip shifts his weight and the "raft" turns around. Backwards it is.

Linus is terrified and loses his tail, again.

LINUS
Moooooooooom!

They enter the left tunnel.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - CELLAR

Piers and Scrap are back in the gloomy lit cellar. They are standing in front a small opening in the wall.

SCRAP
Thanks for everything.

Scrap wants to hug Piers but Piers lifts his eyebrow and crawls away.

Scrap crawls through the small opening in the wall.

Piers turns around, smiling.

PIERS
(in a thick French accent)
It was my pleasure.

INT. THE SEWAGE RIVER

The stream has calmed down.

The trio is still "rafting" through the tunnels but their excitement has turned into exhaustion.

Linus snores and Sheldon can barely keep his eyes open. Only Skip is still alert, he seems to be searching the tunnels for something.

SKIP
(to Sheldon)
Don't fall asleep!

SHELDON
But what about Linus?

Skip kicks Linus -- he wakes up and is a little disoriented.

SKIP
We have to stay alert.

LINUS
You've been saying that for hours.
Alert for what?

SKIP
I know it when I see it.

SHELDON
We know, but any idea when you're
going to see "it"?

SKIP
Shut up, I have to concentrate.

Skip is still looking around and they pass TWO LARGE PIPES
marked "Empire State Building".

LINUS
Have you seen "it" yet?

Skip throws him an angry look.

Their journey continues and they vanish into the dark.

They emerge from the darkness. Skip is still searching but
now Sheldon is swimming on his back and clearly asleep.

LINUS (CONT'D)
Can you at least tell me how it
looks like.

Skip screams.

SKIP
I don't know. That's the problem.

LINUS
Finally you admit it. I have
nothing against winging it but at
some point a real plan would be
great.

SKIP
(screaming)
I have a plan, it's just not
finished yet.

The screaming wakes Sheldon up.

SHELDON
Hey, not so loud please. I was just
dreaming of a nice lady sea turtle.
(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Those curves and their well rounded shells, just wonderful.

SKIP

We don't have time for your silly dreams. I need to focus.

SHELDON

We're here too. You're not on your own. We can help you but only if you let us.

Skip knows that they are right but he can't admit it yet.

LINUS

Try us.

SKIP

But how? You can't help me find them.

SHELDON

But maybe we could offer a new perspective.

SKIP

New perspective?!?

There's a twinkle in Skip's eye.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE PARK - DAY

Skip, Linus and Sheldon emerge from the sewers in the middle of Madison Square Park. Behind them the FLATIRON BUILDING.

It is still raining.

SKIP

It's nice here, well apart from the weather.

SHELDON

It definitely smells better than down below.

SKIP

But that's not really the issue. I thought we would get some perspective here.

SHELDON

You're so impatient. Let's look around, maybe we get lucky.

They start looking around, people with umbrellas and more people with umbrellas. Linus stares at the Empire State Building in the distance and points at it.

LINUS

Wow, look at that one. That's
really tall.

Skip sighs and rolls his eyes.

SKIP

Focus, we're not sightseeing we're
on a mission.

INT. SUBWAY TUNNEL

Scrap walks along a dark subway tunnel in the middle of the tracks -- but he doesn't know that.

He keeps walking -- very alert -- always checking for strange noises and other possible dangers. Nothing.

The tracks start to HUM.

Far behind him -- a flickering light. A SWOOSHING sound -- very calm -- then louder.

The light grows bigger -- the sound louder.

Bigger -- Louder.

Scrap picks up pace. There is something wrong here -- he has no idea what but he sure feels like running. He looks back.

The lights -- bigger. The Sound -- louder.

Scrap runs as fast as he can. He is trying to outrun the light -- desperately trying.

Now -- just a few yards behind him -- a subway train, full speed.

The subway catches up to him -- blinding lights. Scrap ducks -- he lies flat on the ground between the tracks.

The subway runs over him at full speed -- the sound of the passing subway is almost unbearable -- and continues for what seems like an eternity.

Luckily, Scrap is small enough to not get harmed.

The last cart -- but it is not over. A strong wind current follows the subway. The current lifts Scrap up.

He is gliding in the wind current -- he is almost flying.

Scrap looks down to the ground. He starts to struggle again -- he loses height -- but thanks to the current he is still above ground.

He gains height thanks to the current.

Then -- the subway stops -- but Scrap does not.

He gains too much height and hits the ceiling -- full on.

He falls -- and hits his head again on the ground.

Scrap moans.

SCRAP

Not again.

He tries to get up -- but everything hurts.

The subway starts moving again and vanishes into the dark.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

An exhausted Holly is about to reach street level. She stops on top of the main entrance and looks down.

The rain has stopped and life is slowly returning to the streets.

Cars HONK -- pedestrians cross the street -- more HONKING.

Holly shakes off the exhaustion and prepares for the final stage of her climb down. She carefully crawls over the edge and slowly slides down towards the decorative bird figure.

She rubs heads with the figure and stops at the feet of the statue.

HOLLY

This should be close enough.

She looks towards the street. One of the many cars is slowing down to let someone out. The car stops in front of the main entrance. The car door opens.

Holly takes her chance -- she jumps and lands on the cars' roof.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

That was easy.

The car door SLAMS again and the car drives away.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Next stop home, or at least somewhere close to it.

The car turns left at the next crossing and parks in an empty parking spot.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Damn!

She looks around and spots another car.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Maybe two times's the charm.

She waits until the car is close and jumps.

She misjudged the distance -- she barely reaches the roof.
She claws herself into the roof and pulls herself up.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I'm not gonna do that again.

The car turns right -- the wrong direction.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
You got to be kidding!

The car stops in front of the main entrance of the Empire State Building. She is frustrated.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
This is going to take forever.

EXT. BRYANT PARK - DAY

Skip paces up and down behind a bush. Sheldon and Linus stare at him.

SHELDON
I'm not saying you should give up
but you have no idea where she is
or if she is even alive.

Skip looks at him -- if looks could kill.

SHELDON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry but you have to face that
possibility.

LINUS
Look, we really get it. We also
lost friends and family but at some
point you have to face the truth.

Skip burst in anger.

SKIP
Don't talk to me about truth. Let
me tell you the truth. The last
thing I said to my mother was "I
hate you"!

LINUS
She knew you didn't mean it. She
knew you loved her.

SHELDON

Calm down. It's not your fault.

SKIP

But that's the whole point, it is my fault. I attracted the bird that took her.

LINUS

You attracted the bird?

SKIP

Yes, I had to show off and then it came.

LINUS

Interesting.

Skip gets really angry and attacks Linus. He rips him out of the shell, throws him to the ground and starts to strangle him.

SKIP

Interesting? Interesting? What's wrong with you?

Linus tries to speak but he can't. Sheldon pulls them apart and Linus crawls back inside.

LINUS

Please let me explain. I just meant that if you attracted a bird once, why don't you do it again?

SKIP

That's it, you're dead.

Skip charges at him but Linus hides inside the shell. Sheldon manages to push him back.

LINUS

(from inside the shell)
You're not getting it, are you?

SKIP

Getting what?

LINUS

If the bird sees and catches you he will take you to his nest.

SHELDON

Which is probably the nest you're looking for.

Skip draws a blank but after a few seconds he realizes what they mean. He starts to smile.

SKIP

You're a genius. Let me hug you.

Skip crawls halfway into the shell. Sheldon pulls Skip out and Skip has Linus ins his paws.

Skip hugs him and gives him a big fat kiss on the forehead. Linus looks very uncomfortable.

SKIP (CONT'D)

You should really open a window in there.

LINUS

Hey, that smell is completely normal.

SKIP

Sorry.

SHELDON

What about me?

Skip hesitates for a second.

SKIP

You want me to kiss you too?

SHELDON

No, not really.

Everybody smiles.

SKIP

Well guys, it has been a pleasure. Maybe we'll meet again. Take care.

LINUS

Hey, wait...

But Skip doesn't listen he runs towards the open grass and makes a lot of NOISE.

SHELDON

He's crazy.

LINUS

He is, but you have to admit he has style.

SHELDON

Do you think we'll see him again?

LINUS

Definitely not. He's gonna get himself killed.

SHELDON
I wanna see this.

Skip runs in circles, lies down every once in a while to play dead for a few seconds before he gets back up to run and to make some more noise.

SKIP
Come and get me you stupid bird.
I'm really tasty.

Far above the park a bird is circling. Skip spots the bird and lies down.

SKIP (CONT'D)
(mumbling)
Please be the right one, please be
the right one.

The bird dives down.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

Holly slides long the wall. She looks for an opening in the pedestrian traffic to cross the boardwalk.

Then -- an opening -- she runs and reaches a lamp post.

She stares across the street -- behind her the Empire State Building.

Scrap climbs out of a drain, a few feet away from the lamp post and stands in front of the Empire State Building -- his eyes look up the majestic building and not towards his mother -- a smile all over his face.

SCRAP
I made it.

A pedestrian almost squashes him but nothing can stop him now. He just runs and he reaches the wall unharmed.

He starts to climb as fast as he can. After a few yards he sees a reflection in a window -- his mom?

He turns but there is nothing but a car stopping at a RED LIGHT.

Disappointed he turns and continues climbing.

The light turns green and the car drives away and we can see Holly in the middle of the zebra-crossing.

A car approaches fast and the driver sees the helpless animal in the middle of the street and stops abruptly -- too abruptly for the car behind him.

And the one behind that.

The cars CRASH into each other. HONKING. Chaos ensues. More HONKING and more CRASHING.

Scrap turns to see what's going on. He can't believe his eyes. Among all the car wrecks he sees her.

This time he is sure. It's really her.

He is so excited that he almost falls down.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Mom! Here! Mom! I'm here!

He waves his wings to signal her but she doesn't hear or see him. The cars are still CRASHING into each other. Scrap loses his grip and falls.

He lands on top of a woman -- her hat to be specific. She SCREAMS and waves her arms.

Finally -- Holly sees him, she looks beyond happy.

Scrap jumps towards the street lamp and from there he continues to cross the street by jumping from wrecked car to wrecked car, still screaming:

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Mom! Mom!

He reaches the other side where he saw Holly but she is gone. Scrap looks around and sees her on the other side of the street.

Holly signals him to wait and starts to run across the street. Cars are still crashing into each other but Holly doesn't care, she just runs.

Scrap closes his eyes, he can't watch this.

She makes it to the other side and she just hugs him.

HOLLY
You came! You came to rescue me.

Scrap smiles. He is speechless.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Where is Skip?

Scrap stops smiling and Holly knows what it means. All the joy vanishes from her face and her eyes tear up.

SCRAP
I'm so sorry, There was this flood
and I tried to save him but he
hesitated and then it was too late.

Holly brushes the tears out of her eyes.

They look at each other in silence.

Then -- Holly hugs Scrap and Scrap starts tearing up.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

It's all my fault.

HOLLY

Don't you say that.

SCRAP

But it is. First I got dad killed
and then Skip.

Holly grabs him and looks deep into his eyes.

HOLLY

Listen, it wasn't your fault and
never think that again.

Scrap smiles with tears in his eyes. Holly smiles back and they hug some more.

SCRAP

Let's go home.

Holly nods.

Then -- a SHADOW appears on the ground -- they look up and see a harrier. They panic.

Scrap takes Holly's hand, looks right, then left -- an opening between the pedestrians -- they run towards the drain next to the boardwalk and vanish.

Far above the street the harrier circles -- with Skip in his claw.

Skip plays dead but he has to peek, the view is too phenomenal.

The bird ascends and circles around the Empire State Building. Skip's eyes are wide open now and he enjoys the breathtaking view.

The harrier slows down and closes in on the nest. She lands and throws Skip into the nest.

INT. THE SEWAGE RIVER

Scrap and Holly are walking along the sewage river.

Far behind them -- a STRANGE NOISE. It sounds like screams but there is something off about them.

HOLLY
What's that? Rats?

SCRAP
I hope not I had enough rats or
guinea pigs for one lifetime.

The sound gets louder -- it's not a scream it's a:

SHELDON
Wahoo!

Sheldon gets shoot out of a pipe like a torpedo and lands in the sewage with a SPLASH. Holly and Scrap are drenched and Holly hides behind him.

SHELDON (CONT'D)
Sorry about that.

Scrap stares at the tortoise and Linus pops out and sees Scrap and drops his tail and vanishes back into the shell.

LINUS
(from inside the shell)
What are you doing, are you crazy?
Get away from here. He's gonna eat
me.

SHELDON
He doesn't look hungry but...

Holly steps out of Scrap's shadow. Sheldon and Linus stare at her.

Scrap looks at Holly and shrugs.

Sheldon and Linus keep staring at Holly -- then they stare at Scrap.

SCRAP
What's up with you?

They keep staring.

SHELDON
(to Linus)
It can't be.

LINUS
No, that would be crazy.

SHELDON
How many birds and squirrels
travelling together do you know?

Linus shrugs. Scrap and Holly feel ignored.

HOLLY
What's wrong with them?

SCRAP
Your guess is as good as mine.

SHELDON
You must be Scrap and you are
Holly. Right?

Now Scrap and Holly are doing the staring.

SHELDON (CONT'D)
I take that as a yes.

LINUS
Small world.

SCRAP
(stammering)
How?

Sheldon and Linus smile.

SHELDON
We have a mutual friend.

LINUS
An annoying one.

Holly and Scrap look at each other, they start to smile.

HOLLY AND SCRAP
Skip?!?

SHELDON
Yes! We helped in the overthrow of
a ruthless dictator and almost got
killed in the process.

LINUS
But we did win.

Sheldon and Linus fist bump.

Holly hugs Sheldon.

HOLLY
Where is he?

SCRAP
Is he back at the park?

SHELDON
Not exactly.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST

Skip lies in the nest. He looks around and sees a small piece of fur.

He picks it up and smells it. The smell is familiar and we can see the anger in his eyes.

After a moment he looks up and sees the harrier circling above the nest.

Skip stops crying. His eyes focus on the harrier.

Skip stands up and looks at the fur again.

SKIP

I will end this once and for all.

He climbs out of the nest.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

Scrap and Holly are standing in front of the Empire State Building. From across the street they stare at the tall tower in awe.

SCRAP

You really climbed down all the way from there? I always thought dad was the climber.

Holly smiles.

HOLLY

I let him think that.

Scrap smiles.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

And now we climb back up there.

Scrap shakes his head, he doesn't like this plan.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Any better ideas? I guess flying is not an option.

Scrap smiles.

SCRAP

There might be another way but let's cross the street first.

They jump down the drain.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - NEST

The harrier returns to her empty nest.

With her claws he searches the nest for her recent prey.
Nothing.

The bird jumps around nervously. Looking for any evidence of what happened. Nothing.

Then -- a SCREAM.

SKIP

Hey birdie!

Skip, few feet above the nest jumps out of his hiding place and throws a piece of metal at the harrier.

The harrier loses her grip and falls down.

But the harrier doesn't fall far. She regains control and soars back up.

INT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - ELEVATOR SHAFT

Holly and Scrap are high up in an elevator shaft -- feeling really uncomfortable about the height.

SCRAP

But you have to admit that it is probably much safer than outside.

HOLLY

Maybe but we still have a long way to go.

The climb is very difficult, the darkness makes it difficult.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I can't see anything. It's just too dark here.

SCRAP

Just one step after the other. Just like in the sewers.

A strange RUMBLE. It's origin below them. HUMAN VOICES from the elevator cabin far down.

HOLLY

What is that?

SCRAP

No idea but I suggest we climb faster.

Then -- the elevator starts to move -- upwards.

HOLLY
I don't want to alarm you but we
have a problem.

Scrap looks down.

SCRAP
Faster mom. Faster!

Holly climbs faster -- so does Scrap -- but the elevator
comes nearer and nearer -- very fast.

HOLLY
I can't go faster.

SCRAP
You have to.

Holly tries to go even faster but she loses her grip -- one
hand -- one foot -- the second foot.

HOLLY
Scrap! Help me!

Scrap turns around. Holly is falling. Without hesitation he
jumps.

Scrap grabs her -- he flaps his wings. He doesn't lose
height -- he almost flies.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
You're flying. You're flying!

But Scrap has no time to enjoy it. The elevator is closing in
on them.

SCRAP
Mom, the trick is not to remind me
of that fact.

Scrap tries to gain some height but the elevator is too fast.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
This doesn't work. I have to try
something else. Something I never
did before.

HOLLY
What?

SCRAP
Land!

The elevator is now just below them. Scrap slows down his
flapping and they drop like a stone onto the moving elevator.

Holly smiles.

HOLLY

Not bad for the first time but
there's room for improvement.

Scrap is peaking through a small hole into the elevator.

He turns towards her and smiles.

SCRAP

I know how we'll get to the top.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - TOP

Skip and the harrier are playing cat and mouse -- or squirrel
and harrier.

Skip hides and once he has a clear shot he throws a small
METAL PIECE at the harrier.

The harrier starts bleeding in the face from the first hit
but now that the harrier is alert and prepared she reacts
much quicker and evades Skip's other attempts.

Skip is in hiding again -- behind a wall ornament.

The harrier looks for him -- her claws hold on the wall. The
bird is just a few feet below Skip. This is his chance.

Skip jumps. The harrier sees him -- but it's too late.

Skip lands on top of the harrier. He grabs her neck. The
harrier jumps away from the wall. Skip holds on.

The harrier is flying -- Skip still on his back -- holding
tight.

SKIP

You're not gonna loose me that
easy.

The harrier performs a roll. Skip holds on and tightens his
grip around the neck and the harrier starts to have trouble
breathing.

The harrier continues with her maneuvers and this time she
doesn't stop with a roll.

A loop, another roll, another loop, a spin, another loop --
Skip manages to hold on but he loses his grip a bit and the
harrier can breath again.

The harrier soars again and steers towards the top of the
Empire State Building.

SKIP (CONT'D)

You killed my father and ate my
mother. It's my turn now.

INT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - ELEVATOR

Holly and Scrap are inside the elevator. They are staring at the control board with all the numbers.

HOLLY
I think I've seen one of those
before.

Scrap smiles at her.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - OBSERVATION DECK

The harrier and Skip have reached the top of the building, just above the observation deck.

This time the harrier has the advantage -- she has Skip pinned down.

HARRIER
The eggs? Tell me and you might
live.

SKIP
Do you really think I care about
your stupid eggs?

The harrier throws him against the wall and before Skip can get up the harrier grabs him again.

HARRIER
I can do this all day.

SKIP
Welcome to the club.

Skip punches the harrier straight into the face. The harrier stumbles and Skip goes for the throat again.

INT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - ELEVATOR

Holly and Scrap are inside the elevator, waiting. ELEVATOR MUSIC is playing.

Scrap likes the music and taps the rhythm with his claws.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - TOP

Skip and the harrier are still fighting. They have reached the upper observation deck.

Skip has the harrier still by the neck. The harrier soars towards the sky and tries to loose Skip by flying as close to the antenna as possible.

And she succeeds. Skip -- focused on strangling the harrier -- gets knocked off the harriers's back. He falls -- past the upper observation deck.

The lower observation deck -- this is it, his last chance -- with one finger he is able hold onto the railing.

He looks back up. The harrier has spotted him.

Skip tries to pull himself up -- but he can't.

Then -- a CLAW of a harrier grabs his paw.

SCRAP

Need any help.

Skip looks Scrap in the eyes, smiles and grabs the other claw with his other paw.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

So typical you, always hanging around.

Scrap pulls him over the railing. Skip lies on the floor -- breathing heavily and speechless then he sees his mother.

Skip can't believe his eyes.

HOLLY

I think "Hi" is the word your looking for.

Skip jumps up and hugs Holly.

SKIP

You're alive!

SCRAP

So am I by the way.

Skip smiles at Scrap and starts to hug him -- but then -- he remembers -- too late.

The harrier is back.

SKIP

Watch out!

The harrier grabs Skip and tries to take off. Holly grabs Skips paw and together they try to pull the harrier down.

Scrap -- claws first -- jumps towards the harrier.

SCRAP

AHHHHHH! Take this!

Scrap tries to pull the harrier down -- but the harrier is too strong and takes off nevertheless.

Skip and Holly hanging from the harriers claws. Scrap watches them gaining height.

Scrap runs towards the wall and with a few well executed jumps he follows the harrier towards the upper observation deck.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

You can do this.

The harrier has a hard time flying with the two struggling passengers.

SKIP

Let go mom. This is too dangerous.
You're gonna get killed.

HOLLY

Stop it. We're in this together.

Scrap keeps climbing faster and faster. He climbs the ANTENNA.

The harrier is to far away for a jump -- there a security rope -- Scrap jumps and swings toward the harrier.

Scrap catches the bird and signals Holly to grab the rope. She grabs it and pulls Skip away from the harrier and they reach the antenna.

Scrap, still grabbing the rope and the harrier swing around the antenna -- a merry-go-round -- Scrap punches the harrier and the bird falls down.

Scrap reaches the antenna as well, slightly dizzy.

SKIP

And what now?

SCRAP

Spread out, she can only attack one
of us, the others try to jump her.

The harrier turns around -- full speed -- heading towards them.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

On three!

The harrier is here.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

Three!

They jump. They land on the harrier. Skip grabs her neck. Holly grabs one of her wings and Scrap claws himself into the harrier's back.

It works. The harrier struggles. They are forcing her down. They hit the floor of the observation deck. They pin the struggling harrier down.

The harrier stops to struggle. She looks at Scrap.

HARRIER
Why are you helping them?

SCRAP
They are my family.

HARRIER
But can't you see? We're the same!

SCRAP
But I will never be like you.

HARRIER
They stole my eggs.

SKIP
We don't care about your eggs and you won't care for them much longer either. You killed our father.

Skip attacks the harrier -- the wings specifically.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Let's see how long you last without your wings.

The harrier SCREAMS -- the same scream she made when she was looking for her eggs -- a scream of despair.

Holly remembers the scream and tries to stop Skip.

HOLLY
No. Don't do that.

SKIP
Why not? She tried to kill us.

Skip rips some feathers from the wings. Holly grabs him to make him stop.

HOLLY
The eggs. I took them.

Skip looks at Holly.

The harrier can free herself and has the upper hand now. She attacks Holly.

HARRIER
You stole them!

HOLLY
No, I didn't! I saved them!

The harrier looks surprised but keeps attacking her. Scrap defends Holly.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I didn't harm them.

The harrier looks at her in disbelief.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
You children are save.

The harrier stops attacking.

HARRIER
Children?

Holly nods and smiles.

HOLLY
Two.

But then -- a huge EXPLOSION above them -- everything trembles.

They look up and they see -- a shadowy figure emerges from the dust -- Fluffy with an evil grin.

FLUFFY
Missed me much?

SKIP
Fluffy!

HOLLY
Who the hell is that?

SCRAP
That's the crazy toilet brush Linus mentioned.

SKIP
Since when do they let bottom feeders up here? What do you want?

FLUFFY
What I want? Not much. I just thought it would be fun to introduce you to my new friends. Rat Pack ... ATTACK!

Hundreds off vicious RATS emerge from behind him. The rats charge towards Skip, Holly, Scrap and the harrier.

Scrap looks at Skip.

SCRAP

Rats. Why'd it have to be rats?

SKIP

I doubt GROUP HUG is going to work here.

Scrap throws him a questioning look.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Don't ask.

Scrap smiles and the fight begins. It's four against a few hundred but it sure feels like four against millions.

Skip and Scrap throw punch after punch but the rats keep coming back.

Holly tries to get out of the way but the rats follow her.

Then -- she has an idea: She makes them charge at her -- a quick side step -- a few dozens miss her and fall down from the building.

HOLLY

Hey boys! This is how it's done.

Skip and Scrap start to throw the rats off the building as well. It doesn't look as elegant as Holly's solution but it does the trick and they manage to decimate the rats.

The rats around Holly change their strategy and approach slower now. They have her surrounded.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Boys!

But Scrap and Skip can't help her. They are too busy with their rats.

Then -- the harrier joins the fight. She grabs a bunch of rats takes and drops them off the building.

It's raining rats today.

Holly smiles at the harrier but she doesn't smile back. She is not helping her, she is just defending her prey.

Fluffy sees that the fight is not going well.

FLUFFY

The barrel!

Even more rats. But they are not attacking they are rolling a big BARREL. They throw the barrel down -- the barrel breaks and OIL spills all over the observation deck.

The harrier gets some of it onto her wings.

Fluffy has a sparkling ELECTRIC CABLE in his hand.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

STOP!

The rats stop fighting and so do our friends.

SCRAP

What is that?

SKIP

I don't know but I have a really bad feeling about this.

HOLLY

Boys, get away from that black stuff.

They take a step back away from the black liquid.

Fluffy throws the cable into the liquid and a spark from the cable ignites the liquid. Instantly the oil catches FIRE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

FIRE!

The rats run away as well and some of them even jump off the building. Skip and Scrap see an opening to flee the scene.

Skip grabs Holly and pulls her away -- but Holly doesn't move.

SKIP

We have to leave!

HOLLY

No. We can't.

She points at the harrier who lies next to the railing trying to get the oil out of her feathers.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

We have to help her!

She runs towards her and tries to help get up but because of the oil she is stuck on the ground and can barely move.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

There's a crack a few stories down.
I hid them there.

The harrier looks surprised and Holly starts to clean her feathers.

The fire grows bigger. It has reached a junction box. A huge EXPLOSION shakes the whole building.

Parts of the railing fall off. Holly almost falls down but Scrap can grab her.

SCRAP

That was close. We have to get away now.

HOLLY

We have to help her get her eggs. I promised.

SKIP

They are not our problem. Can't we just let them die.

HOLLY

I didn't let Scrap die then and I won't let them die now.

Skip looks at Scrap and Skip nods, he understands.

SKIP

OK, you do that. We deal with Fluffy!

HOLLY

You sure?

SKIP

I'm always sure. Scrap, you're up for this?

Scrap smiles.

SCRAP

Let's kick some fur balls.

Scrap and Skip jump through the fire. It's a miracle that they are not hurt.

They climb the wall and they reach Fluffy's position but he has moved on.

Fluffy is dangling from the antenna.

FLUFFY

Come and get me you freaks.

Skip and Scrap follow him and climb the antenna.

They climb as fast as they can -- but this time they are not racing each other -- they are helping each other.

What they don't know -- the first explosion has damaged the foundation of the antenna.

Fluffy has reached the top and waits for them with a DIABOLICAL LAUGH on his face.

SKIP

You can stop laughing now. The party is over.

FLUFFY

The party hasn't even started yet.

Back down Holly climbs into the crack to get the BABIES. The harrier is standing on the edge above her and watches her.

Holly grabs the first baby and climbs back up. It's a hard climb but she manages and hands the harrier the first hatchling.

The harrier has the look of a mother who sees her child for the very first time.

HOLLY

Look, he's fine.

Holly climbs back down to get the second one.

But then -- a third EXPLOSION.

Skip and Scrap hold on to the shaking antenna. The antenna still holds.

Holly loses her grip. She can grab the crack with one hand -- the hatchling in the other.

The harrier tries to help Holly but she is out of reach.

Skip and Scrap have almost reached Fluffy -- they hear the harrier SCREAM.

SKIP

Go, help them. I can handle him alone.

SCRAP

You sure?

Skip nods and Scrap turns around.

Fluffy stands on top of the antenna and waits with a DIABOLICAL LAUGH for his guests.

SKIP

You can stop laughing. I'm gonna end this once and for all.

FLUFFY

Why end it? It hasn't even started!

Scrap reaches the harrier, hanging over the edge, still trying to reach Holly. Scrap climbs down along her and reaches Holly. The harrier pulls them up.

The harrier mother grabs her two babies and hugs the, Scrap and Holly smile.

Back on the Antenna -- a terrible CREAKING SOUND -- Skip realizes it too late -- the antenna breaks. Debris of the antenna falls on the observation deck.

Fluffy slides down the falling antenna. He is extremely fast and incredibly agile.

Skip holds on to piece of debris, he is in free fall.

Holly looks up.

HOLLY
(to the harrier)
Watch out!

Too late. A piece of the antenna hits Holly.

Holly falls but the harrier catches Holly and pulls her back up.

She can barely hold on -- but she is safe for now.

The harrier loses her footing and jostles the hatchlings over the edge.

Another big piece of the antenna smashes into the wall -- a rain of fire -- everything starts to burn.

The harrier mother jumps through the fire after her hatchlings. Her wings catch fire.

Holly sees Skip falling, holding on to a burning piece of metal. She shouts as loud as she possibly can.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
SKIP!!!!!!

Scrap is already on it. He jumps off the roof.

While diving, the harrier is hit by another piece and she and her eggs continue to fall.

The ground comes nearer and nearer.

Scrap reaches Skip.

Skip lets go of the antenna part and he reaches for Scrap. Skip manages to get on his back.

Scrap continues to dive -- not sure if he's going make it.

He is almost there. He has almost reached the burning harrier.

Skip stops screaming and pauses.

SKIP

Land? I like that word. It has
soothing sound to it not like crash
or shatter.

Scrap grins.

Skip closes his eyes.

Scrap glides further down. Debris from the antenna is falling
on the street.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

A FIRE TRUCK is hitting the brakes. FIVE FIREMEN exit the
truck and run into the building.

Scrap slows down and lands next to the fire truck. It's a
hard landing but everybody, even the babies, survives
unharmd.

SCRAP

That was close.

SKIP

Since when can you fly and land?

SCRAP

About 10 minutes.

SKIP

It was about time.

Scrap and Skip smile -- but then Skip points back at the top
of the building.

SKIP (CONT'D)

(very fast)

Mom is still up there. I have to
get back up there. I have to save
her.

Scrap tips him on the shoulder and Skip turns and looks at
his brother.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Right. WE have to get up there.

Skip smiles. He raises his paw for a paw and wing bump. Scrap
joins in and smiles.

Skip looks up to the top of the building.

SKIP (CONT'D)

And what now?

SCRAP

I'm not sure. On my own I can probably get up again but with you ... I doubt it.

A voice from behind them.

TEDDY

Maybe we can help.

Skip and Scrap turn around.

Teddy, a few hundred guinea pigs, Sheldon and Linus are standing next to the fire truck.

LINUS

We thought you could use some help.

SHELDON

And then we ran into them.

Sheldon points at the guinea pigs.

TEDDY

It's the least we can do.

Skip smiles again. Scrap is a little intimidated.

SCRAP

Who are they?

SKIP

They are my friends. Thanks for coming but I have bad news. Fluffy is back and he's even crazier than before.

TEDDY

We know. We followed his filthy stench.

SKIP

He is still up there. We have to get there as fast as we can.

SCRAP

Someone has to take care of the babies.

SHELDON

We're gonna do that.

Sheldon kneels down and tries to pet the hatchlings but they seem more interested in Linus' tail.

Linus panics and loses his freshly regrown tail.

Sheldon burst out LAUGHING. Linus is embarrassed.

SKIP

Scrap, you get back up there and buy us some time.

Scrap nods.

SCRAP

See you up there.

Skip pats Scrap on the back. Scrap smiles.

SKIP

Not if I see you first.

SCRAP

But no cheating.

Scrap soars into the sky. Skip watches him gain height, smiling -- then he turns to Teddy.

TEDDY

And how do we get up there?

Skip looks at the fire truck and grins.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Do you have a plan?

SKIP

Yes I do!

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - OBSERVATION DECK

Scrap gains more height. He still is not entirely comfortable in the air but he gets the job done.

He looks down to the ground. Everything gets smaller and smaller as he gains more height.

Scrap reaches the top of the Empire State Building.

Fluffy is where they left him and he has Holly in his possession.

Scrap sets down a few feet away from them.

He has Holly in one hand and in the other he has an electric cable. It's a standoff.

FLUFFY

I expected you sooner, but what can you expect from a stupid bird.

Scrap takes a step towards them and Fluffy brings the cable closer to her head.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

One step closer and I fry me some squirrel meat.

SCRAP

Let her go. She has nothing to do with this.

FLUFFY

But she's gonna make sure that everybody shows up on time.

Holly tries to free herself but Fluffy is stronger.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)

(To Holly)

I don't think so.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

Back on the ground the guinea pigs are unwinding the fire hose. They connect the hose to the RAINWATER PIPE. Skip instructs them while Teddy looks really concerned.

Next to the fire truck the five firemen are tied up and gagged.

TEDDY

You're sure this will work? It doesn't look particularly safe.

SKIP

Compared to my slingshot this is perfectly safe, trust me.

Teddy sighs.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Just hold your breath and think of something nice.

TEDDY

Like what?

SKIP

I don't know, Happy Face?

Teddy smiles.

SKIP (CONT'D)

(to Sheldon and Linus)

You ready?

Sheldon stands next to the MANUAL PUMP and has his paws on the pressure VALVE. Linus checks the pressure.

SHELDON

Ready!

LINUS

Ready!

Skip turns towards Teddy. Teddy nods.

SKIP

(To Linus and Sheldon)

Don't forget, we need full pressure.

LINUS

Roger that.

Skip crawls into the hose. Teddy follows him and a few guinea pigs connect the hose to a pipe marked Obersevation Deck.

SHELDON

OK, boys. Let's show them what you've got.

Hundreds of guinea pigs have positioned themselves on the fire truck above both sides of the manual pump. Two of them jump on the pump -- then two from the other side.

No movement.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Don't panic, we knew this could happen.

Five of them jump from each side, they are very agile.

The pump starts to move.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

That's it. Faster boys.

They jump faster, the pressure builds up. 40%.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

You can do better, boys.

Even faster -- ten from each side. 70%.

LINUS

We need more!

SHELDON

Double up, guys! I thought you were flushing experts? Show me!

Now twenty guinea pigs jump from each side, they look like rubber balls -- 90%.

LINUS
We are almost there!

25 from each side.

LINUS (CONT'D)
105%, keep going.

SHELDON
You hear that keep going!

30. The guinea pigs jump up as high as they can before the land on the pump.

120%. We're in the red zone. The pump is trembling.

One of the fireman watches nervously and closes his eyes -- this is not going to end well.

Sheldon opens the pressure valve and the water shoots through the hose.

INT. RAIN WATER PIPE

The water pressure shoots Skip and Teddy through the pipe.

Right turn -- left turn. It's a bumpy ride.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - OBSERVATION DECK

Holly is still Fluffy's hostage.

SCRAP
You can't hold her forever.

FLUFFY
It wont be much longer.

HOLLY
They will come, they will save me.

FLUFFY
That's what I'm counting on.

A RUMBLING NOISE.

FLUFFY (CONT'D)
Ah, finally!

A FOUNTAIN shoots out of a rainwater pipe and the water pours down on Scrap. A few seconds after the water, Teddy and Skip get shoot out of the pipe as well.

SKIP
Yippee-ki-yay!

Fluffy stares at the fountain and Holly takes a chance. She strikes him with her elbow and tries to take the cable.

Fluffy tumbles, Holly is free but he still has the cable.

Skip and Teddy, completely drenched, join the standoff.

FLUFFY

And so we meet again.

TEDDY

It is over Fluffy, give up.

FLUFFY

And where would be the fun in that?

SKIP

C'mon Fluffy it's four against one.
You have no chance.

Fluffy waves the cable around.

FLUFFY

Do you know what this does to wet
animals ... like you?

Scrap, Skip and Teddy realize that they are standing in the water and that Fluffy can electrocute them with a single hand movement.

Fluffy LAUGHS DIABOLICALLY and electrifies the water.

Scrap grabs Holly and Skip and lifts up to evade.

Teddy jumps up as well, somersaults and lands next to the rain pipe fountain. He picks up a METAL PIECE from the antenna.

TEDDY

Why don't we find out!

He uses the metal to divert the fountain at Fluffy.

Fluffy gets FRIED by the electricity and the water fountain pushes him off of the building.

SKIP

FLUSH FACE!!

Scrap drops his family and lands. Skip turns to Teddy.

SKIP (CONT'D)

That's how you nail it.

Teddy start to LAUGH and bows in respect.

Skip runs towards Holly, he hugs her. Scrap smiles and joins in.

Teddy walks to the edge of the building and looks down.

TEDDY

That should have done the trick. I
Hope we wont see him again.

Scrap joins him.

SCRAP

I doubt that he survived the frying
but even if he did, he should hit
the ground right about ... now.

Teddy smiles.

Skip and Holly join them as well.

SKIP

And as far as I know you are the
expert in hitting the ground.

Scrap smiles.

SCRAP

But at least I won the race to the
top.

SKIP

That's just because I gave you a
head start.

HOLLY

Boys!

Everybody smiles.

SCRAP AND SKIP

Yes, Mom!

Standing on the edge, they finally have time to appreciate
the magnificent vista below them. NEW YORK CITY.

Far in the distance they can see Central Park.

SKIP

It sure looks nice. I could get
used to it.

HOLLY

Yes it does.

Scrap just grins, takes a few steps back and jumps over the
edge and soars into the blue sky.

Holly and Skip watch him.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Linus is running for his life. He is fighting his way through some bushes. He is breathing heavily and rests behind a tree trunk.

Then -- from above -- a cute little harrier, HARRY, scares the living daylight out of Linus.

Linus drops his tail and another little harrier, TOM, emerges from the bushes and grabs the tail.

TOM

I won, I won...

HARRY

No you didn't. I caught him.

Harry climbs down from the tree and he and Tom start to wrestle about the tail.

TOM

It's mine, I saw it first.

HARRY

But I made him loose it.

Linus is still breathless and on the brink of a nervous breakdown.

LINUS

I should have never left the shell.
This was a bad idea.

The little harriers keep fighting about Linus's tail.

Then Scrap joins them. He dives down from far above and lands right next to them.

He grabs the tail from the two fighting harriers.

SCRAP

Stop fighting. How many of those do we have at home? 10? 15?

The two harriers look a little embarrassed.

TOM

But...

SCRAP

No but... let's give uncle Linus some rest and let him grow back his tail. And maybe we could try to let him have it for more than 10 minutes.

Linus smiles and the two boys nod.

SCRAP (CONT'D)

So, who want's to come with me to see uncle Sheldon.

TOM AND HARRY

We do!

EXT. THE LAKE - DAY

Tom, Harry and Scrap are standing next to the lake. Sheldon is floating in the water. He is sunbathing and it looks like he's having a great time.

SHELDON

Hi boys.

TOM AND HARRY

Hi uncle Sheldon.

Skip and Holly arrive at the lake as well.

SHELDON

Seems like almost everybody is here, just in time.

Sheldon smiles.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Prepare to be impressed. I taught them a new trick.

(shouting)

Places everybody, and remember just like in the rehearsals.

(beat)

CANNONBALL!

The trees next to the pond start to RUSTLE and the guinea pigs high dive into the lake.

They jump alone and in groups and they perform elaborate aerial maneuvers like triple somersaults but every jump ends in a cannonball with a big SPLASH.

Slowly they return to the surface and like Sheldon, they start to sunbath.

The last one is Teddy and his jump is just magnificent, a back quadruple Somersault with 5 twists and the SPLASH from his cannonball is so big that it reaches the shore just as Linus reaches his friends.

Linus gets completely drenched.

LINUS

Really?

Everybody LAUGHS. Teddy returns to the surface and looks at Linus with a huge grin.

TEDDY
Sorry, my bad.

Linus smiles.

SHELDON
It took me almost forever to teach them. You can't imagine how scared of water they are.

Scrap smiles and turns towards Tom and Harry.

SCRAP
You can stay here with uncle Sheldon and practice swimming. I'm gonna take uncle Skip for a spin.

Tom and Harry nod and they jump into the water. Scrap turns to Skip.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
You ready?

SKIP
Sure.

HOLLY
But don't do anything too stupid.

SCRAP
C'mon mom, how could we.

Holly smiles and Skip climbs on Scrap's back.

HOLLY
Have fun guys.

SKIP
Thanks.

SCRAP
And let's go.

Scrap soars into the sky. He gains height and circles around the lake. Below them they can see a few hundred guinea pigs sunbathing. Holly, Harry and Tom wave at them.

Scrap dives and he flies close by them, his feet dabble in the water.

Then -- Scrap gains height again.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
Where to?

SKIP
You're really asking?

Scrap smiles.

SCRAP
Hold on tight.

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE - DAY

They exit Central Park.

Scrap flies along FIFTH AVENUE, performing BREATHTAKING
MANEUVERS, Skip has a great time.

SCRAP
Wahoo!

But then -- he flies dangerously close to the ground.

CARS HONK and he almost collides with a car but he manages to
pull up in the last second.

REVEAL: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.

SCRAP (CONT'D)
SCRAPALICIOUS!

Scrap soars almost vertically along the finished skyscraper.

He circles the Empire State Building.

It's a beautiful summer day in NEW YORK and Scrap looks truly
happy.

FADE OUT.