

# U N N A T U R A L S

Written by

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FADE IN:

**EXT/INT. MISSOURI DESERT [COMMUNITY] - SUNSET, 1996's**

Somewhere in the Missouri Desert there is a secret community: A peaceful little town surrounded by an invisible glass/crystal dome, where families live in charming houses of various colors, all the same size and positioned in a perfect geometric order.

LONG SEQUENCE SHOT... Here, young people skateboard and kiss behind trees, women wash their clothes together in tanks, students read and debate amongst themselves sitting on synthetic grass, and parents live daily with scientists, biologists and physicists who occupy almost half of Population and kids PLAY happily on the streets.

Inside one of these houses, three children run through the house until they are shoed to the street by the mother (33) of one of them, who talks quietly with a Scientist (56). Child-DAVID (8) brings with him an aromatic candle in a clay pot, which is quickly off by the glass of water of the pesky Child-RACHEL (6). The two struggle while the child-JASON (6) continues to admire the dull candle, and a small water drop in the pot that becomes a near-perfect mini-sphere that slowly floats up. Child-Jason follows it with the eyes, the drop becomes irregular and shakes, the sky becomes more and more red, merging with the mountains on the horizon and suddenly... an EARTHQUAKE. People SCREAM at the end of the street, SHOTS are heard and the crowd starts to run in panic at Jason's direction. Jason-child runs through the confusion, already without the others, and turns his head still in the attempt to see something beyond the darkness of the shadow of the tall people where he is submerged. The SHOTS approach, along with MILITARY TANKS, Child-Jason goes to a perpendicular street. END OF LONG SHOT SEQ.

He is alone, there are no more buildings there, but a giant 12-foot WAVE that rises threateningly like a wall toward him. Jason-child is frozen, he closes his eyes and ...

END OF DREAM.

**INT. JASONS ROOM - MORNING (8:00AM)**

SAN DIEGO, USA. TODAY.

...Jason (17) wakes up suddenly, dazed and coughing, as if his lungs were full of water and now came to the surface. Jason is Caucasian with brown-dark eyes and brown hair, his room is blue, with fluorescent stars glued to the ceiling, hanging planets astronauts, spaceships, a collection of comics and merchandising of future new civilizations in space. From the window there is a manifestation: twenty walking and yelling through the dirty and poor urban alleys.

His mother (MOM, old 50's) is already in the room, she closes the window blindfold and continues to clean and tidy up the laundry of the floor while talks:

MOM

That dream, again?

Jason runs his hand over his face and hair, admired for being dry until finally returning to the real world.

JASON

The wave seems bigger in each dream. It felt so real...

MOM

Shhhh... It will get worst, and then it will get better. You'll see.

His mom gives him a kiss. She cares ugly bruises on her skin.

JASON

They did that to you? For giving an opinion? Who was it?

MOM

People who don't want to listen,  
Jason. And you should also be  
careful with what you say...

JASON

But is just dreams...

MOM

People are very sensitive about  
catastrophes Jason. Now, get up..  
You will be late.

Jason looks at the cartoon in the wall, about the new  
civilization in the new planets.

JASON

We should leave.

MOM

Even if the congress accepts that  
program, we can't go son. It was  
not develop for people like us.

Mom leaves. Jason gets up and looks at his big and full  
backpack hide in the corner of the room.

Change his idea, and turns on the fan in the room.

MATCH CUT TO:

**EXT. SHOP WINDOW - DAY**

INSERT - TELEVISION: TODAY IN THE NEWS. A big tornado in  
Idaho.

NEWS ANCHOR

And once again we see a major  
catastrophe that a category 4  
tornado has done in Idaho.  
The National Weather Service is  
baffled by the recent appearance  
of multiple tornadoes throughout  
the region but still commenting

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

that there isn't a reason for  
concern...

Jason and five more walkers are watching this News on the  
television, in the storefront.

Jason continues walking to school. He is serious and sad.  
Around him there are a lot of beggars. Parts of the city  
are ruined, whether by catastrophes or angry people.

CUT TO:

**INT. SCHOOL - MORNING (9:30H)**

The TEACHER (man, old 60's) starts the class.

TEACHER

...You probably already know that  
there was another tornado in  
Idaho, and another big earthquake  
in Singapore.

RANDOM STUDENT

Is the pollution! We are  
destroying the planet!

ANOTHER RANDOM STUDENT

Is the government!

THIRD STUDENT

I know who they are! Was the  
anarchists!

TEACHER

Silence! We are not allowed to  
speak about catastrophes in  
class. At this point, I think we  
should concentrate in our  
literacy, page 32.

JASON

(whispering)

Is he actually saying that we should stay in silence, just waiting for the next catastrophe? We can be next.

FEMALE STUDENT

He's not, it's the opposite. Teachers are not allowed to speak about catastrophes in school. I think he's warning us.

JASON

Warning us of what? It's catastrophes, we cannot do anything.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

The author said: "Before we are interior, we're exterior". What drives you? What makes a person himself? Our identity... do you think that what we are and do is based on our memories... shifted by what we already lived...the external. Or maybe your ideas already existed and you're moved solely according to your motivations?

FEMALE STUDENT

I think its people.

Jason looks at her, now with a different perspective of things.

CUT TO:

**INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY (16h00)**

About twenty Hapkido students (ages 15-25), aligned face to face in perfect posture and divided into groups of two,

four and six. The class does the salute and starts practicing with each other.

The SENSEI (late 50's) walks by his students with a firm posture but with a calm expression, he examines and approaches each one.

SENSEI

(to the class)

...Use all your senses, your intuition is the strongest part. We are all human, and we are all connected to each other and with everything around us: - growing, learning, falling down - that's the human experience: to learn how to defend yourself you'll need to learn how to fall, and then you start to recognize how to not hurt yourself even while falling.

Jason is the best in class, he's in a group of six (3 against 3) and he beats every one practically alone.

The next fight, is Jason against a taller opponent (MARK, 22), the opponent falls and Jason won again. He continues practicing the last movements in the air while the sensei approaches him.

SENSEI

Your technique is lacking...

JASON

(impatient)

I don't see a problem with it.

Sensei keeps walking around him, peacefully.

SENSEI

(smiling)

I see, I see many problems...

SENSEI (CONT'D)

You're confident with your  
abilities, maybe too much.

Sensei immobilizes Jason in only two quick and agile movements; Jason uses all his strength but is again stopped by the master with a single movement. Jason falls to the ground, and Sensei ends up making his hapkido salute in perfect posture.

KYU-WON

Still no problems?!

(BEAT)

Say again the principles of  
Hapkido, Jason.

JASON

Circle, Flow... and...

KYU-WON

Harmony. And remember your tools,  
Jason:

(points to the head)

Not only your body, you need to  
clear your mind first, that was  
the first problem. A mind full of  
worries is a sick tool...obsolete...  
it has no use. I taught you how  
to counter these moves, and yet  
you got surprised and failed, so  
that leads us to the second  
problem:

(points to heart)

Communication.

(helps Jason get up)

When we fight we are  
communicating without saying  
anything... But you're fighting  
alone.

Jason and Sensei are standing face to face while the students stop practicing and begin to pack their things, going to the changing rooms.



JASON

(capricious)

But, I'm alone in a fight. It's either me or Mark.

SENSEI

There is no you or them. There is us. Whether you're fighting with a friend, or against an enemy, you never fight alone. You fight with all the world gives you. With all the elements it provides you. Never alone. Even an enemy is company, from a certain point of view.

(BEAT)

As long as you continue to focus the energy on beating the opponent, you're bound to lose.

Jason acknowledges with his head and proceeds to pick up his stuff.

SENSEI

(gives Jason his bag)

We are all connected to someone whether we want to or not. They might not be physically present but they are there.

JASON

(aggressive)

What's the point of having friends?! or even a girlfriend if they may die in the next hurricane, or something so simple has a car crash... There are things you cannot fight back...

SENSEI

We all regret what happened with Sandra, Jason.

JASON

(despondent)

There are many things we simply  
have no way of fighting back...

Jason puts his bag on and goes to the changing rooms.

CUT TO:

**INT. CHANGING ROOMS - CONTINUES**

Everybody changes clothes. Jason is in a corner of the  
room, apart.

In the other corner, five GUY's are bullying the youngest  
trainee.

GUY 1

You're pathetic. No idea why the  
sensei wastes time with you.

Jason is getting angry.

VICTIM

The next tornado should pass by  
your house!

GUY 1

(serious)

What did you say?

The group of five cornered him.

Guy 2

(smiles)

Grab him.

Guy 3 beats him. Jason is just looking. The victim is now  
on the floor with his head down and some blood on his face,  
he looks at Jason asking for help.

Jason leaves.

He looks behind one last time, in his eyes he's willing to  
help him, but turns away and leaves.

Guy 3

(laughing)

Wrong person, man. That dude has  
a problem with...

(points to the heart)

Communication.

Two guys grab him and put a wet cloth over his mouth and  
nose, he tries to yell, but can't breathe.

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN - DUSK**

INSERT - TELEVISION: NEWS ABOUT UNNATURALS  
ON TV:

In the channel, there are three important men sitting at  
the assembly table, debating for the camera.

UNNATURAL SIDE

Was the Unnaturals! They call  
themselves "the anarchists" They  
are dangerous!

DEBATE ANCHOR

So wait, let me see if I got this  
straight... you're saying these  
catastrophes are getting worse  
because of special people who are  
able to control them?

UNNATURAL SIDE

They can't control them, Jerry.  
They just make them! I mean  
c'mon, 3 major earthquakes in  
less than an hour?! In the same  
location?

DEBATE ANCHOR

Those were replicas! Our  
scientist here already cleared us  
on this matter.

## SCIENTIST

Yes, replicas are pretty common as you might have guessed. But, I also have to say that they usually are less powerful than the original earthquake and we are talking about 3 major ones all sequential.

## UNNATURAL SIDE

It doesn't seem natural to me!

## SCIENTIST

(nervous laugh)

Well, it's remarkable but arguing that they are controlled by people with "special powers" is completely preposterous.

## DEBATE ANCHOR

We have to stop right here as its time to take a call from the audience. And we're live from New York.

Jasons Mom changes the CHANNEL.

## RELIGIOUS PROTESTER

This is obviously the wrath of God. And these are clear signs that the end times are near, just look around you: Death, Murder, corruption...

CHANNEL change.

## UNNATURAL SCEPTIC

(insecure)

They... do not...exist. Simply put. I don't know where this Unnatural paranoia came from but we...

CHANNEL change, again.

NEWS ANCHOR

..And we're seeing major protests in front of city hall, claiming that the "Unnaturals" are responsible for the recent wave of global disasters and demanding that the government finally reveals the "truth behind it all".

IN THE HOUSE:

Jason ENTERS in the kitchen and takes a soda out of the refrigerator.

JASON

I thought that "Unnaturals" was a myth.

MOM

They found one.

(BEAT)

I know I wasn't supposed to wait for you to dinner but...

She takes a pan with soup. It's not much, but enough to warm the house. They eat.

MOM

(looking at the TV)

I'm glad your father is not here to see this misery.

JASON

I don't understand why we don't ask for financial support of dad's father. If it was a catastrophe that took him...

MOM (interrupts)

Jason, we spoke about this already. It was a long time ago, it's too late now.

JASON

You want to know what I think?  
Perhaps he never died... perhaps he  
just left and you can't admit it.

MOM

Enough! Go to your room, now! And  
learn how to respect your family.

JASON

Forget it. I'm going to practice.

MOM

Jason!... JASON!

Jason leaves.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BEACH - SUNSET**

Jason walks to a secluded area by the beach. He's the only  
one there.

Start's practicing. He's very determined and practices all  
his moves for hours until the sun goes down. The wind  
blows. He closes his eyes to focus in his movements and all  
the SOUNDS around him, but the only memory that comes to  
his head is the bulling he assisted with five guys against  
one. Jason gets angry.

Suddenly, a low sound comes from the ground. Is getting  
stronger as his anger. The waves get bigger. Jason open his  
eyes and look around, he's afraid.

On the horizon, about 700 meters in front of him, there's a  
girl swimming: RACHEL (17). Jason only can see her  
silhouette and long hair.

Suddenly a big wave starts to form. The sea is rough; Jason  
approaches until the water hits him.

He looks around but can't see the girl anymore.