

DEE GALE & THE ROAD TO WEST

Inspired by

"The Wizard of Oz"

By

L. Frank Baum

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EXT. OUTER SPACE

Thousands of stars slowly drift through the vast blackness of space. One, not particularly distinguishable from any other, becomes highlighted.

SUPER: PLANET (68141) 2123 OZ2 aka THE OZ.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Sand. And lots of it. The top of a HUGE SPACESHIP, rusted and forgotten, pokes through a dune. Just past the ship - more sand. But past the sand...

A WALLED DESERT COMPOUND. A mad scientist's castle of armageddon. Electricity crackles. Flames burst and disappear. Muscular, armed guards walk the walls. Some carry guns. Others more makeshift spears and swords. Below the walls...

Two shadows sprint through the darkness, press themselves against the compound's walls.

One of these shadows is DEE GALE (30s). Tough. Spunky. A charming oasis of light in this dead desert world. She wears the uniform of the apocalypse: leather, scavenged military garb, and whatever else she could scrounge up. On her back, a small backpack. In her hand, a crumpled picture.

IN THE PICTURE - A smiling happy, slightly futuristic suburban-type family. Mom. Dad. A dog. And two sisters in happier times. One is Dee. The other is...

WEST (V.O.)

Will you put that away?

Next to Dee is WEST (20s). Similar dress. Across her back - two metal sticks. If Dee's too hopeful, West more than makes up for it. She's as cynical and hard as they come.

DEE

This. This is why we're doing this.

WEST

It's nostalgic BS. Waste of time.

Dee crumples the pic, puts it back in her pocket.

DEE

Just boost me up.

West boosts Dee up to a SMALL GRATE, just big enough for a young woman to wriggle through. WATER trickles out.

INT. PIPE - CONTINUOUS

Claustrophobic. Barely wider than the women's shoulders. They slide through the wet, watery tunnel, Dee in front of West.

DEE

It's really true, huh? Pipt has a formula to make water.

WEST

I told you. Dee, we get this formula, we can change this planet.

DEE

We get this formula, we take it to Auntie Empire, and we're done.

WEST

You really think once we give Auntie Em Pipt's formula - a formula that will alter the whole planet - she's gonna let us go? Just like that?

DEE

Yes. She's always been good to us. She's the only family we got here.

INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

A dark, damp tunnel, almost sewer-like. Dee pushes her pack out, tumbles from a pipe opening in the wall. Gets up and helps West into the tunnel. Both women are wet and dirty.

WEST

We're her slaves. The only family we've got here is here.

She points to herself and West.

DEE

Fine. But we get this formula to her, she won't need us anymore. She'll send us home.

They turn a corner, water up past their ankles.

WEST

Why don't you ever listen to me, Dee? There's no home to go to.

DEE

You don't know that.

WEST

I do! That's why we left!

DEE

It could still be out there.

WEST

Listen to me for once: With this formula, we'll control the water supply. We'll own this planet.

DEE

Em, Pipt, The Wizard - they own this planet. I just want off.

WEST

With this formula, we'll be stronger than all of them. We can make this our home.

Dee looks to West.

DEE

C'mon.

They navigate deeper into the tunnels, water waist-high.

WEST

You know I'm right, sis!

DEE

I know you should have told me there was gonna be so much water.

They stop. Above them, another larger GRATE. Light and water pour down.

DEE (CONT'D)

These boots are ruined. And they're brand new. I had to trade--

WEST

It's not like you're gonna melt.

West pushes the grate away, climbs up.

DEE

Hey! Where are you--

But she's already through and into...

INT. DR. PIPT'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

West pours herself through the grate in the floor, as water pours down. Dee follows her in. Both are soaking wet.

All around water pours over walls and into different drainage grates on the floor, including the one the sisters just climbed out of.

DEE

Now, you listen to me, little sis. I know you want to prove yourself, but I'm in charge here. It's my plan and we're--

WEST

Your plan? I'm the one who told you about--

DEE

Just once I wish you'd listen. I'm in charge, and we're doing it my way. We get into Pipt's lab, blow open the safe, and we take it back to Em. That's it.

West gives a mocking salute.

WEST

Aye-aye, captain.

DEE

Let's go.

Dee climbs up a metal ladder and into...

INT. DR. PIPT'S COMPOUND - FACTORY - CONTINUOUS

A kind of water processing plant, jury-rigged machines, flashing lights, odd levers, metal stairs. The sisters walk on a metal catwalk. Below, different canals filter the water.

DEE

What is this place?

WEST

I don't know. You're the one in charge.

Dee shakes her head, crisscrosses through the walkways.

INT. DR. PIPT'S COMPOUND - FACTORY - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The metal catwalk opens into an office full of scientific equipment. Formulas on the wall. A table covered with diagrams. And, in the corner - a SAFE.

Dee heads toward the safe, pulls EXPLOSIVES from her pack.

DEE
Help me out with this.

WEST
Finally.

DEE
Light this up and get back.

But then...

DR. PIPT
Oh, little girls...

The women turn and see DR. PIPT (50s), half mad-scientist, half carnival barker in a wheelchair. Two guards follow him.

DR. PIPT (CONT'D)
Whatever makes you think you know
what you're doing?

Pipt's anorexically thin body bends in many creepy, unnatural ways, including his leg twisting completely BEHIND HIS HEAD.

DEE
Pipt. Why is it every time I see
you, you're a little more
disgusting?

Dee reveals a match.

DEE (CONT'D)
We're taking your formula.

DR. PIPT
And do what exactly? Kill yourself?
You couldn't even comprehend it.

DEE
I comprehend enough to know it's my
ticket off this rock.

DR. PIPT
Do you comprehend enough to know
that if you light those explosives
we'll all be blown sky-high?

Dee hesitates.

WEST
Are you willing to die for this
formula, Pipt?

The doctor's crooked teeth get deadly serious.

DR. PIPT
There's enough flammable material--

WEST
Light the match, Dee. Light it.

DEE
Just shut up and let me think.

Pipt's guards move closer.

WEST
Forget this. Gimme the match.

West grabs the match, lights the explosives.

DEE
Stop!

Dee and West grapple over the explosives as the fuse grows shorter and shorter.

DEE (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing? Gimme
those! We have to get them out of--

WEST
This is our chance! Let me do this!

The fuse grows shorter. They fight until Dee knocks the explosives into the air, somewhere between the safe and West.

BOOM.

A FIREBALL fills the room and...

Metal, rock, water - all splatter. But the brunt of the blast is split between the safe and West.

Dee's battered and charred, but mostly ok, except for...

DEE
Oh, c'mon!

Toes stick out of each shoe. Her new boots are ruined!
(Which, all things considered, is pretty fortunate).

Less fortunate is West. She slowly climbs to her feet.

DEE (CONT'D)
Sis? You ok?

She's pretty friggin' far from ok. HALF OF HER FACE IS GONE. Burnt. Blackened. An empty hole where her eye was. Pieces of metal stuck in her cheeks. She catches her reflection in a piece of broken glass.

WEST
What did you do?

DEE
West, I'm... I-

WEST
You always think you know everything!

DEE
I'm sorry! I just--

WEST
Just shut up and find the formula.

She digs through the rubble, as Pipt and his men come to.

DR. PIPT
Stupid girls. Ruined everything.

West and Dee ignore him. But they can't ignore: CRACK!

DEE
What was that?

A large crack slowly forming through the walls.

DEE (CONT'D)
We've gotta go.

WEST
No. I'm done listening to you. This won't be for nothing.

Meanwhile, Dr. Pipt reaches into his jacket and pulls out a VIAL. His bent fingers fumble to open it.

DR. PIPT
Everything I've worked for.

Finally - open! He clumsily downs the liquid inside.

Back to Dee as she watches the wall CRACK again.

DEE

West, c'mon. We can't stay!

West continues her search, until...

WEST

Go! I'm not leaving without - yes.

She finds a small, half burnt DIARY. She flips through it: charts, diagrams, Pipt's formula for water.

WEST (CONT'D)

There you are.

As West celebrates, Dr. Pipt TRANSFORMS, his body rotating in increasingly unnatural angles, until... He becomes strong. Tall. Like a jacked-up stilt-walker.

Dee is awed and terrified by the transformation.

DEE

This was definitely not part of the plan.

The wall CRACKS again, but West doesn't hear. Doesn't hear Dee. Doesn't see Pipt. She can only focus on the diary.

DR. PIPT

You have no idea what that is. What I did for it.

She turns to Pipt, stares through him.

WEST

Oh, I know what this is. This is life. This is power. This is--

BOOM! The walls finally burst, unleashing a tsunami of water, swallowing everything in its wake. Dee, West, Pipt, and the guards bob and flail under the water's power.

Dee reaches out trying to grab something! Anything! Finally she finds the METAL RAILING of one of the catwalks.

West tumbles past her, almost out of reach...

...But not quite! Dee GRABS her hand at the last moment. West, unfeeling, stares at her. She holds Pipt's diary.

WEST (CONT'D)

Dee! Take this.

Dee has one hand on West and one hand on the rail.

DEE
Kinda got my hands full.

Dee's grip on the rail is slipping.

WEST
Let me go and take the formula.

Slipping...

WEST (CONT'D)
Take the book. Use it to show them
who we really are!

Dee looks to her hand, back to West, sighs.

DEE
I don't need you...

She tightens her grip back on the rail.

DEE (CONT'D)
...to tell me who I am.

And PULLS herself AND WEST against the force of the water,
back up to the railing. Back to safety.

INT. DR. PIPT'S COMPOUND - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS

The women cough and sputter as Pipt and guards approach.

DR. PIPT
Oh good. I was afraid you'd gone
off and died.

The guards charge the sisters!

WEST
I told you to let me go.

Water pounds down around them. The two women rush DOWN A SET
OF METAL STAIRS, guards following.

DEE
Hey, no problem. You're welcome.
Happy to help. Glad to be here.

More guards appear. Dee and West fight them off. West grabs
the TWO METAL STICKS from her back and pounds the guards.

The women keep running and fighting Pipt and his guards,
until one guards pulls a BIG KNIFE and STABS Dee in the leg.
She screams in pain!

West goes on a furious rampage, destroying the guards.

WEST
Hurry up, Dee!

She limps behind.

DEE
I'm coming. I'm coming.

But Pipt, with his EXTRA LONG ARMS AND LEGS is gaining.

DR. PIPT
You really thought you could get
away with this?

Pipt reaches out, grabs Dee from behind.

DR. PIPT (CONT'D)
A couple of Em's desert scum rats.
You're nothing!

West CHARGES at Pipt, knocks him toward the edge of the railing, but he holds onto Dee. Dee and Pipt struggle, as water rushes below.

DEE
West! Help!

West looks to Dee and Pipt, then back behind where more of Pipt's guards are coming. Finally, to the diary.

WEST
I'm not going back, Dee.

DEE
West!

Dee tussles with Pipt. The guards are closing in now.

WEST
I'm sorry.

West charges and PUSHES BOTH PIPT AND DEE INTO THE WATER BELOW, screaming as the rapids carry them away. Pipt's guards stop, unsure where their boss has gone. West runs into the darkness.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A large drainage-style pipe. Water slowly trickles down onto Dee's nearly unconscious body, lying in a heap of wet sand.

Nearby, the FAMILY PICTURE floats in a small puddle. Dee can barely move, but she grabs it unconsciously.

Boots approach. Two of Pipt's guards grab Dee and drag her, toes etching the sand. Dee mumbles.

DEE
West... wait... West...

INT. PRISON - SOLITARY CELL - DAY

Dark. Hot stone walls. A cell long forgotten. Even the Spanish Inquisition would think, "This is a little harsh."

The guards toss Dee in the cell, slam the door, walk out.

INT. PRISON - SOLITARY CELL - LATER

MUNCH (50s), a guard with a gut as big as his ego, enters. He carries a bowl.

In the bowl - sawdust, maggots, and a tiny bit of what once might have been rice. Dee eats it greedily as Munch laughs.

DEE
Just let me talk to Pipt. I'm sure
that we could work something--

Munch spits on her feet, brown spittle oozing between her toes. Gross. He walks out. The hallway door slams.

Dee releases a feral animal scream of anger. She turns to the cement wall and PUNCHES it. Immediately grabs her hand.

DEE (CONT'D)
Ow!

INT. PRISON - SOLITARY CELL - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER.

Dee, still dirty and dressed in the same clothes, leans against the bars as Munch enters. He throws the maggot rice bowl on the floor, spits brown juice on her feet.

DEE
What was that for?

Munch walks out. Dee punches the wall again.

DEE (CONT'D)
Ah! I hate this place!

SUPER: ...ANOTHER YEAR LATER (TOTAL = TWO YEARS).

Dee leans against the wall. Munch tosses in the maggots rice.

DEE (CONT'D)
I don't mean to complain, but the
service here has been--

Munch spits across the room, spittle landing on Dee's toes.

DEE (CONT'D)
Oh, c'mon!

She hits the wall again, shakes her hand, but says nothing.

SUPER: ...AND A YEAR AFTER THAT (TOTAL = THREE YEARS).

Munch tosses in the bowl of food.

DEE (CONT'D)
Lemme guess? Maggot rice? It is!

Munch spits.

DEE (CONT'D)
Of course.

She punches the wall, just as hard. But says nothing.

SUPER: ...YET ANOTHER YEAR LATER (TOTAL = FOUR YEARS).

Dee doing pushups on the floor. She's dirty, sweaty, tired.

DEE (CONT'D)
...Two... Thr--

She falls to the floor, exhausted.

DEE (CONT'D)
Two-and-a-half.

Munch tosses the food in the cell. He stares at her; Dee
stares back. Finally, he laughs and spits on her sweaty feet.

He walks out. Dee closes her eyes, opens them, and they have
changed. Not afraid. Not funny. DETERMINED.

She punches the wall again and again and again.

SUPER: ...AND ONE MORE YEAR AFTER THAT (TOTAL = FIVE YEARS).

A noticeable indentation in the wall from years of punching. Dee's knuckles are scarred and calloused.

Dee stops punching the wall, returns to her hardcore prison workout: Pushups. Sit-ups. Dips. She's ripped now, body and mind hard from years of this life.

Plus, she's still dressed in the clothes from five years ago, including the holey boots. You can practically smell her.

MUNCH watches her, cigar hanging from his lips.

MUNCH

Lookin' like another hot one today.

No response.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

Whatdya say, Dee? Maybe today's the day I help you cool off.

She stops her workout, wipes away the sweat.

DEE

No.

Munch smiles, dirty brown teeth.

MUNCH

You know there's a game me and the guards used to play. "Yes, and." I ask a question, you answer with "yes, and". Gets everyone on the same team. Builds rapport.

Dee stands up, walks over.

DEE

Yes, try and touch me. And I'll break that thing you call a face.

Munch takes the stubby cigar out and spits on Dee's toes, which are now black from years of this.

MUNCH

I don't know why you're even still alive. As soon as the order comes, I'm going to gut you myself.

Dee leans down so she's eyeball to eyeball with Munch.

DEE

Is this how the game usually works? Because I don't feel much rapport.

Dee smiles. Munch, angry, flicks the cigar, bouncing it off Dee's forehead. Still smiling, Dee wipes the ash away.

MUNCH

Watch yourself, girl. Orders or not, I run things down here. And accidents can always happen.

Dee and Munch stare tensely, until...

THE WIZARD (O.S.)

Indeed. Take yourself for example.

Munch turns to see THE WIZARD (40ish), although he doesn't know that. To him, she's just a hooded woman who moves fast and speaks faster, as if Munch is the one interrupting her.

MUNCH

What?

THE WIZARD

Accidents. Your mother and father... never mind. Move along, please. I must speak with Ms. Gale.

She produces a document, as if that's the end of discussion.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Alone.

Munch looks the document over. Struggling.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Do you need help? Or--

MUNCH

I can read it.

He uses his finger to scan through it.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

Some of it...

THE WIZARD

That is a direct and contractual, proprietorial, and quite informational agreement, between myself and your direct boss, Dr. Hieronymus H.

(MORE)

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Pipt, owner and director of Pipt Industries, LLC., stating that I am entitled to one - one!- confidential meeting with a Ms. Dee Gale for at least, but not limited to, five minutes, at which time I shall--

MUNCH

Did you say the boss? I haven't heard anything from the boss in--

THE WIZARD

Sir, if you insist on arguing with me, then we'll just have to go and speak with Dr. Pipt directly.

MUNCH

No.

That's not something he wants to do. A dilemma. Finally...

MUNCH (CONT'D)

Five minutes.

THE WIZARD

Thank you. Now, please, move along.

Munch walks out of the room, confused. The Wizard turns to Dee and pushes back her hood, revealing a proper face that belies an intensity. One might get the sense that The Wizard could be your best friend or your worst enemy.

She smirks in disgust at Dee's living conditions.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Not exactly a royal palace, is it?

Dee stares at her. They've met before.

DEE

It's not much, but it's home. What brings the great and powerful Wizard down here?

THE WIZARD

I'm here because I want you to know that I'm serious. I know we haven't always been on the best terms, but I'd like to offer you an accord.

Dee says nothing, goes back to her workout.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
An entente. A covenant. A deal.

Dee switches from one exercise to the next.

DEE
Why would I ever work with you?

THE WIZARD
To start, I'd get you out of here.

DEE
Not interested.

THE WIZARD
They're going to kill my girl, Dee.

DEE
Sucks. Not interested.

THE WIZARD
And when I say they, I mean, West.

Dee stops, stands, stares at The Wizard.

DEE
What did you say?

THE WIZARD
Your sister's made quite a name for herself since you last saw her.

DEE
Now she's after you and Pipt?

THE WIZARD
Pipt? He's been dead for years.
West killed him, right after
your... misadventure.

Dee grabs the bars.

DEE
Pipt's dead? Then what the hell am
I still doing in here?

THE WIZARD
As far as anyone knows, you're
dead. You were very hard to find.

Dee processes this. Shock. Rage. She punches the wall. Hard.
The Wizard, surprised.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Yes, exactly. West left you here to rot. I'm quite possibly the only person who knows you're alive.

DEE

I've been sitting here for nothing.

The Wizard shrugs.

THE WIZARD

This is your chance to show West. To prove that she was wrong.

DEE

Why me? Why not just use your goons to get her back?

THE WIZARD

Why not you? Seeing you alive - that could be the thing that breaks West's will. And I don't have many "goons" left these days. Your sister saw to that.

DEE

I've been locked up for five years, and you think I can find her?

Dee thinks it over. The Wizard stands to leave.

THE WIZARD

If you'd prefer, you can stay here for five more. Or the rest of your life. That'd make West very happy.

DEE

Wait. I can do it.

The Wizard stops.

DEE (CONT'D)

You get me outta here. I'll get your daughter.

They stare at each other through the bars.

DEE (CONT'D)

But I want West.

The Wizard smiles, knowingly.

THE WIZARD

You get my daughter, and West is
all yours.

Dee holds her hand out for shaking.

DEE

Good. Then we have a-- What did you
call it?

The Wizard stares at her filthy hand, doesn't take it.

THE WIZARD

An accord. Good.

She walks away. Dee yells through the bars.

DEE

So when do I get outta here?

THE WIZARD

Soon.

DEE

How will I know?

THE WIZARD

You'll know.

DEE

Will there be a sign?

Munch re-enters as The Wizard is walking out.

MUNCH

What did you say your name was
again? Because I looked through--

The Wizard produces a KNIFE from her cloak. Munch sees it.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

What's that?

THE WIZARD

It's a knife, idiot.

MUNCH

What for?

THE WIZARD

To kill you.

Munch laughs. He pulls out a gun, points it at the Wizard.

MUNCH
Who's the idiot now?

THE WIZARD
That would have been a better idea.

DEE
I can see why you need my help.

Munch smiles, cocks the pistol.

MUNCH
I haven't had an opportunity to
fire this in five years.

DEE
Hey, Munch!

Dee throws herself into the bars, her arms extending through
as far as they can. And she ALMOST reaches Munch. Just short.
Her fingers wriggle inches from his head. He turns.

MUNCH
You two are really bad at-- agh!

The Wizard CHARGES into Munch, stabs him with the knife. He
gurgles in pain and dies. She grabs the keys from his belt -
and Munch's gun. She unlocks Dee's cell.

DEE
So was that the sign?

THE WIZARD
There will be transportation
waiting for you at the front in
five minutes. I suggest you--

As she speaks, a LAWYER GUARD enters the hallway.

LAWYER GUARD
Hey, boss, I've examined this
agreement and I don't think it's--

Lawyer Guard looks to The Wizard and Dee, to Munch's body.

THE WIZARD
It's not what it looks like.

DEE
It's kind of what it looks like.

The Wizard steps forward, points Munch's gun. Lawyer Guard
squeezes his eyes shut, awaits his fate. The Wizard pulls the
trigger! And - nothing happens.

THE WIZARD

What the? C'mon!

She looks closer at the gun. It's rusted and useless from five years of non-use. No way it's firing.

Lawyer Guard drops the paper, runs out of the room. The Wizard struggles with the keys, until finally the door opens.

DEE

Munch was right; this is not a good plan. Only someone from this planet would think this is a good plan.

THE WIZARD

And what was your plan? To sit here? We have to stop that guard before he--

WHOOT! WHOOT! Loud noises. Flashing lights.

DEE

Sounds the alarm?

THE WIZARD

Just follow me.

The two women run out the door and right into...

INT. PRISON - MAIN FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

...the main level. Gen pop. More rows and rows of long forgotten souls. Dee runs through, just in time to see A GUARD WITH A CLUB appear.

GUARD WITH A CLUB

Hey! What are you two doing?!

The guard approaches, swings at Dee. She dodges, deftly steals his club, and BASHES him in the head. No effect.

GUARD WITH A CLUB (CONT'D)

Us guards got hard heads.

She bashes again. It does nothing.

THE WIZARD

They have hard heads. You have to--

Dee hits the guard a third time. He falls down, unconscious.

DEE

I heard him the first time.

Dee drops the club, tosses the keys to a prisoner.

DEE (CONT'D)
Here. You take these.

The prisoner shocked, goes to work on the door to his cell.

Dee and The Wizard twist and turn through the prison. Left. Right. Left again. They search for an exit.

DEE (CONT'D)
I thought you knew the way out!

THE WIZARD
I got a little turned around, and
now I'm not sure-- Is it that way?

DEE
Did I mention this is a terrible
plan? Like really bad.

THE WIZARD
This way!

The Wizard gets her bearings and there it is! The prison's
MAIN ENTRANCE! Just a few bars between them and freedom.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
See? I told you. Easy as...

When, out of the wings, an ARMY OF GUARDS appears.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
That. That's not good.

They both hightail it in the other direction...

BACK PAST THE CELLS

Where escaped prisoners battle with the guards. It's a full
blown riot. They take off...

UP A SET OF METAL STAIRS

TO THE SECOND LEVEL

Where a guard with a SHOTGUN stands. Look out! BOOM!

They dive for cover! Instead of getting split in two, the
blast knocks an iron-barred window loose behind them.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)
Oh sure! That guy's gun works!

The guard comes around the corner, reloading. Dee surprises him, takes the gun and points it right at him, smirks, and pulls the trigger! The gun MISFIRES, blowing her back.

DEE

You just had to say something.

She brushes herself off, just in time to see the guard approach The Wizard with a BIG KNIFE. She takes the shotgun and hits the guard in the head with it. It does - nothing.

DEE (CONT'D)

Oh, right. Hard heads.

She hits him two more times in succession and he falls. She drops the gun and - There it is! The iron-barred window. She and The Wizard try to shake it loose.

DEE (CONT'D)

C'mon! C'mon!

They shake the bars and shake and yes! Success! The bars come out. Just in time too because behind them....

GUARDS

Let's go! Move it! Go!

THE WIZARD

Hurry up! Jump!

Dee looks OUT THE WINDOW. Nothing but sand below. Too far.

DEE

Do you know how far it is?

The guards are getting closer...

THE WIZARD

Do something!

She looks out again. Above - the edge of the roof. Grabs it.

DEE

Ow! Hot! Hot! Hot!

She fits herself through the small hole and pulls herself up to the roof. She pulls The Wizard behind her.

EXT. PRISON - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

They roll on their back. Briefly closes their eyes. Then...

DEE

THE WIZARD

Still hot! Too hot!

Ow! Hot! Hot!

A DOOR ON THE ROOF - Guards explode through, firing and screaming at the women. They run and

LEAP FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP

Of the different buildings in the prison complex. Guards chase them. More guards shoot at them.

DEE

I hate this planet!

They jump again and again, changing levels until they

LEAP DOWN TO THE LOWER ROOF AND

RUN DOWN A SET OF METAL STAIRS TO...

EXT. PRISON - MAIN GATES - DAY

They've made it! The only thing left separating them from freedom: A barred gate, locked solid.

DEE

Oh! C'mon! It's right there.

THE WIZARD

Hurry up! Where are they?

Guards surround them. Looks bad. The GUARD LEADER speaks up.

GUARD LEADER

This was your plan? It's terrible.

DEE

I think I may have mentioned that.

The Wizard beats her head against the metal gate.

THE WIZARD

We gotta get out. We got-- Finally!

In the distance, like a mirage: a small, fast-moving blip. Closer now. And closer. And faster. And it's not stopping. The blip becomes a SPEEDING POST-APOCALYPSE CARGO VAN.

The guard towers fire at the van, but it keeps coming.

The Wizard backs up.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

Dee. You should move.

GUARD LEADER
Hold it! Hold it!

But the women aren't listening. They're moving.

GUARD LEADER (CONT'D)
I said--

BOOM! The van plows THROUGH THE FRONT GATES and SCREECHES to a halt, a wave of sand burying everyone. Van doors fly open; PUNK-ACOLYPSE REBELS emerge, firing automatic weapons.

The leader of this group: CROW (30s), a tall, lean woman dressed in paramilitary gear. She carries a machine gun and chews incessantly on a piece of straw. She often speaks in a combination of TV slogans, movie quotes, and text-language.

CROW
C'mon down! Tell 'em what they won!

Crow fires like a maniac. It's fair to say she might not be the sharpest crayon in the box. Dee spits out sand.

DEE
What the hell?

THE WIZARD
That's Crow. She can get a little intense.

Crow mows down guards. Reloads. Shoots more.

CROW
When you care enough to send the very best!

DEE
Intense? She's lost her mind!

Bullets rain down all around Crow, but she doesn't move. She just keeps blasting.

THE WIZARD
You might say that. Or you might say you're glad she's on our side.

The two dip and dodge the blasts, dive in the van. Crow fires a few more shots.

CROW
Alright, alright, alright! Time to fly the friendly skies!

Crow jumps into the van, as FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION, the PRISONERS storm out of prison, beating the guards with fists and weapons. Crow turns to Dee, conspiratorially.

CROW (CONT'D)
Uh-oh. Did you do that?

The prisoners unleash years of pent-up fury on the guards.

THE WIZARD
Crow! Get us outta here!

CROW
Don't worry, boss! Friends don't
let friends drive drunk! Let's go!

The Wizard smiles at Dee.

THE WIZARD
See? We got out. Great plan!

DEE
Maybe the cell wasn't so bad.

TIRES spin and sand spits and we move to...

EXT. DESERT - HIGHWAY - DAY

...a long, deserted highway. The sand blows across the highway so it almost, kinda looks... yellow.

EXT. DESERT - BAR - DAY

The last rest stop for a million miles. Cars parked outside that would make George Miller say, "That's a little crazy."

The van slams into a spot, knocks over a motorcycle or two. Dee, The Wizard and Crow exit the car. Dee has a SUITCASE.

DEE
Nice driving.

They walk to the bar's door. A short DWARF, obviously drunk, stumbles out of the bar, into Dee.

DEE (CONT'D)
Hey! Watch where you're--

BLEGH! The dwarf pukes on Dee's feet.

DEE (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me?

The dwarf stumbles a few more steps and falls face first into the sand, passed out. Dee whips the puke off her feet.

DEE (CONT'D)

You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna find your girl. I'm gonna kill West. And then I'm gonna get the hell off this planet.

THE WIZARD

You're sure this is gonna work?

DEE

It'll work. If anyone knows where your girl is, it's her.

INT. BAR - DAY

A real juke-joint dive bar shithole, home to some of the worst scum alive on this planet. A dirty bartender pours a dirty drink into a dirty glass as our crew enters.

Proverbial needle-scratch as everyone stares, including a BIG, muscular man wearing animal-pelt pants. No shirt. Not a guy to be messed with. This is DANDY (20s).

Next to him a similarly dressed badass woman named TIGRE (20s). She wears a pink ribbon and cat's ears. Both look unimpressed with Dee.

CROW

They check in, but they don't check out.

THE WIZARD

Indeed.

DEE

Just let me handle this.

Dee leads the way through the bar, as everyone stares her down, all the way to the back where the worst of this bad lot reside. There, sitting at a table is...

EASTER (40s). A post-apocalyptic biker cowboy. Small time smuggler. Big time asshole. If this apocalypse was caused by an ugly bomb, she took the full blast.

DEE (CONT'D)

Easter.

Dee tosses the case on the table. Easter leans forward.

EASTER

Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle. It really is Dee Gale. We heard you was dead.

Behind her stand the "MUNCHKINS." They're more like a biker gang. Leather. Chains. Tats. And they're not short. One of them sucks on a lollipop.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN

Nah, boss. She weren't dead.

Easter turns to him, smirks.

EASTER

I can see that now.

Dee takes a seat across from Easter. Wiz and Crow stand. Crow and Wiz eye the Munchkins.

CROW

Are those the...

THE WIZARD

Yes. I thought they'd be...

Lollipop Munchkin stares at her, cracks down on his lollipop.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

...more friendly.

Easter leans back.

EASTER

We also heard West left you to rot in one of Pipt's prison. Weren't exactly sure which was true.

A FEMALE MUNCHKIN speaks.

FEMALE MUNCHKIN

The one about her being left to rot. I think that was the true one.

Easter stares daggers at her.

EASTER

Thank you.

Easter notices Wizard and Crow.

EASTER (CONT'D)

And look at that - the great and powerful Wizard. Should I bow or curtsy?

Easter reaches to a bottle on the table, pours herself a drink. Inside the bottle - a snake. It MOVES as she pours.

THE WIZARD

I'm always amazed that even with the extremely limited water supply here, you find ways to drink.

EASTER

Where there is a will, there is a way, Ms. Wizard.

Dee reaches for the bottle to pour herself a drink. The snake LUNGES forward, it's face stopped by the bottle. She changes her mind.

DEE

We've come to make a deal.

Easter leans back, lights a smoke between her black teeth and props her feet on the table, revealing some badass SILVER METAL BOOTS.

EASTER

Lemme guess. It's got something to do with this case. And something to do with her little girl.

THE WIZARD

Do you know where she is?

SOLDIER MUNCHKIN wears the remnants of a uniform he scraped off some dead soldier. He speaks up, proudly.

SOLDIER MUNCHKIN

'Course we know where she--

Easter reaches back, punches him in the gut.

EASTER

We might have an idea.

DEE

You tell us where she is. You can take that case.

EASTER

Oh, can I?

Easter looks to the case, drags it in front of her, opens it. It gives off a faint GREEN GLOW.

DEE

That should make you happy.

Easter closes the case, hands it to a MUNCHKIN.

EASTER

You know what'd make me happy? If I just took this case, and you got the hell outta my bar.

DEE

E, look. I get it. We're not friends. We don't have to be friends. But can we at least agree that, as women in a traditionally male dominated industry, we need to help each other out here?

EASTER

Did you think about it a lot?

DEE

What?

EASTER

What West did to you? Did you think about it when you were locked up? Or did you just let it go? Water under the bridge, so to speak.

Easter and her crew laugh at this. Aren't they clever? Dee taps her pistol nonchalantly. Crow and the Munchkins tense.

THE WIZARD

Just tell us where my girl is.

EASTER

Or what? Maybe you got Dee here fooled, but we know you don't account for much these days. You ain't so great anymore. Don't nobody out here do nothing without West's say so.

Easter leans forward.

EASTER (CONT'D)

Nobody. 'Cept me.

Lollipop MUNCHKIN speaks up, proudly.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN
And The Wicked Forest, boss.

EASTER
Shut up!

He shrinks back.

THE WIZARD
Listen here you little witch. I'm
still great enough to squash some
low-level, wanna-be woozy like you.

Easter leaps to her feet. Everyone reaches for weapons,
except Dee, who stands between Easter and The Wizard.

DEE
Whoa! Hey, everyone calm down.
C'mon Easter. We can make a deal.

Easter leans forward, gets right in Dee's face.

EASTER
Here's the only deal you'll get:
Get the hell out of here or I'm
gonna feed you to the Monkeys.

Dee stares right back, fingers tapping her hip holster. The
Munchkins tighten their grips on their own weapons.

DEE
Just tell us where she is.

EASTER
Get out! Before I change my mind!

Dee looks a little confused, a little mischievous.

DEE
Before you change your mind, and
tell us where the girl is?

Easter's eyes wide with rage, she pulls her pistol. Dee
brings up her gun. Each fires, and each blocks the other's
shot, sending bullets flying through the bar. Wizard ducks!

The women go back and forth, shooting at close range, each
shot making a new hole in a wall or a bottle or a Munchkin,
until finally Dee KICKS Easter away, and IT'S ON.

A full-on bar room brawl!

Crow pulls out her guns, fires. Munchkins fire back!

Other patrons join the ruckus, including Tigre (whom we met earlier). She leaps on people with long razor-sharp claws, while Dandy, quietly melts into the background, not fighting.

Back to Dee! A munchkin pulls out a MACHINE GUN, fires!

Bullets, bottles, and blood fly through the bar. Dee jumps...

BEHIND THE BAR

...Where she finds The Wizard and the bartender, hiding.

THE WIZARD

You said this would work!

Dee stands up, fires a few shots.

DEE

It's working! We're just negotiating right now.

The bartender doesn't say anything, just covers his ears.

Dee emerges from behind the bar, fires back, until...

In her face - A Munchkin. Dee pulls the trigger. Click! Shit. No bullets. Munchkin smiles, pulls the trigger on his weapon. Also click! His smile disappears.

Dee tosses her gun IN THE AIR, ROLLS OVER THE BAR, and kicks the munchkin away. All in time to catch the gun and reload.

A munchkin knocks Dee's pistol away with a spear and sweeps her to the ground. He holds the spear above her, ready to stab it down when...

Tigre LEAPS across, knocking the Munchkin away and stabbing him with her claws. Tigre stands, covered in blood.

DEE (CONT'D)

Are you ok?

TIGRE

Don't worry; this isn't my blood.

Tigre leaps into another pile of munchkins.

Dee turns, just in time to see Easter speed toward her. Both go tumbling THROUGH THE FRONT WINDOW. Classic defenestration.

EXT. DESERT - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Dirty and bloody, Easter sits on top of Dee, throws tired punches down at Dee's face. As Easter is punching, Dee, half-conscious, speaks.

DEE
Just tell me...

PUNCH!

DEE (CONT'D)
...where...

PUNCH!

DEE (CONT'D)
...the Wizard's daughter is...

PUNCH!

DEE (CONT'D)
...and we can stop this.

Dee spits out a bloody tooth. Easter stops punching, laughs

EASTER
You never know when to quit do you?

Behind them, the bar cracks, starts to lean. All those gun blasts have compromised the structure.

EASTER (CONT'D)
Where's the last place you'd expect
to see The Wizard's daughter?

Dee spit out blood, while she thinks. The bar cracks again.

DEE
The Wicked Forest?

EASTER
See? You're not as dumb as you
look. Just too bad you won't make
it there.

Dee's tired. Beaten. Still, she smiles through bloody teeth.

DEE
I'm really gonna miss our
conversations, E.

EASTER

What are you talking about? I'm
going to kill you, you dumb b-

Dee flips Easter around. Now, Easter is on her back and Dee is on top. The bar leans. Cracks. With one last CRACK! The bar collapses, right on Easter's face, JUST MISSING DEE.

Dee sits back, wipes the dust from her eyes and sees...

...Sticking out from under the bar, Easter's awesome boots.

Dee, breathing heavy, comes down from the high of the fight. Destruction. Easter's dead body. Realizes what's she's done.

DEE

Oh, boy.

The Wizard and Crow walk up.

THE WIZARD

Yeah, that's bad.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN (O.S.)

Real bad.

Dee and Wiz turn to see the Munchkins surrounding them.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN (CONT'D)

You killed Easter.

Dee backs up, preparing for a fight.

TIGRE (O.S.)

Hey!

Tigre approaches, covered in blood and sweat. Dandy is with her, looking as clean as before the brawl began.

TIGRE (CONT'D)

You wanna fight you short, gumpy
flatheads? Let's do it.

FEMALE MUNCHKIN

Who are you calling a flathead you
little--

DEE

Whoa! Guys, c'mon! Do you really
wanna fight over Easter?

The Munchkins all look at each other.

FEMALE MUNCHKIN
I mean, she was kind of...

SOLDIER MUNCHKIN
Really mean.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN
Maybe we should have done this a
long time ago.

They all look to each other, shrug. Dee sits nearby, puts on
Easter's silver boots.

DEE
I'll say this about her. She has
good taste in footwear.

DANDY
Where ya'll headed now?

Dee sighs, looks around. Nothing but desert and the one road.

THE WIZARD
We're going to get my daughter.

DEE
Before West does.

TIGRE
West, huh? Sounds fun. We're in.

DEE
You're in? No one invited you.

DANDY
She's right babe. No one--

Tigre gives him a look.

DANDY (CONT'D)
I mean, we're in.

THE WIZARD
What's your beef with West?

TIGRE
She exists.

DANDY
And what better way to show the
world Tigre and Dandy then to knock
off the biggest witch around?

TIGRE

And you three look like you need
all the help you can get.

Dee, Wiz, and Crow look at each other, shrug.

DEE

Fine. Get in.

CROW

We're off to the Wicked Forest.

LOLLIPOP MUNCHKIN

The Wicked Forest, huh? To get to
their, all you've gotta do is
follow the yell--

DEE

We know where it is.

They hop into the van and put the pedal to the floor as
spinning tires spit dust and gravel into the air.

EXT. DESERT - HIGHWAY - DAY

A masked and goggled figure trudges along the highway, pelted
by grains of sand from a violent sandstorm.

In the distance - two headlights. As the headlights get
closer, a TOW TRUCK takes shape. The figure sees the
headlights, sticks out its thumb. Hitchhiking.

The truck drives by. The figure throws up its hands.

The truck stops. The figure runs, as much as it can, forward,
climbs into the truck.

I/E. TRUCK - MOVING

The figure removes its goggles and hood to reveal a young
woman: OZMA (20s). Young. Soft. Not aware of exactly what
she's done. Dressed in leathers and other scavenged garb.

OZMA

Oh my god. I'm glad you came by.
It's windy as a muffruff out there.

The truck moves.

OZMA (CONT'D)

So, where ya headed?

In the driver's seat: NICK CHOPPER (40s). He wears the remnants of a yellow soldier's uniform. Pieces of skin are torn away to reveal various METAL BODY PARTS.

One hand sits on the steering wheel. The other picks a piece of sand out of a skin-hole on his face. Nick appears as if he's holding on to life by the loosest of threads.

NICK
Wherever these winds take me.

OZMA
Uh, ok. You think they'll take you
to the Wicked Forest?

Nick looks to her.

NICK
You're going to the Wicked Forest?

OZMA
Yeah. I go there all the time.

She's never been. This is obvious. Nick shrugs.

NICK
All right.

OZMA
I'm Ozma, by the way. What's your
name.

NICK
They call me Nick. Nick Chopper.
You heard of me?

OZMA
No. Should I?

Nick shakes his head.

NICK
Nope.

Ozma sits back, looks out the window. The storm blows.

EXT. GREEN CITY - LANDING AREA - DAY

An oasis of green forest and glass buildings in the middle of the barren desert. In the middle of this, a type of airbase.

A large futuristic SPACECRAFT takes off vertically into the atmosphere. Another sits on the ground, its rear hatch open.

Chained human prisoners walk out. SOLDIERS in sleek uniforms and helmets watch over everything.

SOLDIER 1

Man, I hate this place.

SOLDIER 2

This whole planet's like God's dog took a shit and then He just left it on the sidewalk.

SOLDIER 1

Yeah. For us to step in.

Watching all of this is our new WEST. All black everything. Boots, pants, long black flowing robes. Half Maleficent. Half Little Bill. Half of her face is fine, but the other half - burnt, cut, scarred. An eye patch where that eye should be.

Next to her - MR. JOKER (50s). Hair slicked back. Face and body cracked with lines from age and battle. A pistol sits on his hip, a cigarette in his mouth.

SENATOR HENRY (70s), slick and greasy from years of dirty politics, stands next to them. He wears a suit, covered by a robe.

SENATOR HENRY

That's all for this round, I'm afraid.

West watches as the last of the prisoners exits the ship.

WEST

And what I am to do with them, Senator? They can barely stand.

SENATOR HENRY

That's the challenge of leadership.

WEST

The challenge of-- Do you see what I've done here? What I've built? And that's with nothing but slaves and rejects.

Senator Henry changes his tone.

SENATOR HENRY

If you want your shit planet to be taken seriously, you know the deal.

WEST

There's a billion girls in the galaxy.

SENATOR HENRY

Yes. And I want that one.

WEST

Then get her yourself. I'm not--

SENATOR HENRY

You think I want to spend more time on this planet than I already do?

The senator spits on the ground.

SENATOR HENRY (CONT'D)

I'll be back here in three days. You want this planet recognized? You want a seat on the planetary council? Bring me the girl, and I'll put in a good word. Or don't. And I'll just blow this rock off the map.

WEST

What?

SENATOR HENRY

Have the girl for me when I'm back here or I will push the nuke button on this planet myself.

Senator straightens his robe, turns to his soldiers.

SENATOR HENRY (CONT'D)

Get us out of here.

SOLDIER 1

You heard him, ladies! Let's get the hell off this shithole.

The Senator climbs in and the spacecraft launches into orbit.

MR. JOKER

A real charmer, that guy.

West clenches her fist in anger.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

Relax, boss. We know where she is.

WEST

Do you care to share, Mr. Joker?

West and Joker walk through the crowds of soldiers.

MR. JOKER
She's going to the Wicked Forest.

WEST
She thinks she can hide there.

MR. JOKER
It can be alotta fun, if you can survive it.

WEST
Get the train ready.

MR. JOKER
There is one other thing. Easter is dead.

WEST
Who cares?

MR. JOKER
Thought you might.

He tosses Dee's old, holey boots. West's instant recognition.

WEST
Where did you get these?

MR. JOKER
At Easter's bar. After a friendly discussion with some of her Munchkins, found out was The Wizard killed Easter. And another woman.

West looks over the boots. They smell terrible.

WEST
The Wizard still wants to play games, it seems.

She thinks it over.

WEST (CONT'D)
Put the word out. One million cold hard. To whoever brings me The Wizard and the other woman. Alive.

MR. JOKER
One million? Are you--

WEST
Just do it.

MR. JOKER
What about the girl?

WEST
I'll find her myself.

MR. JOKER
You're the boss, boss.

WEST
I've worked too hard for this. No
one is going to stop me now.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

An army of DRONES buzz through the sky, dispatching bundles of PAPERS that float down to the ground.

MONTAGE - THE WORD IS OUT.

--INT. SALOON - DAY - A wanted poster on the wall. The pirates, thieves, and crooks that make up the female biker gang, the WHEELERS, eye it and snarl.

--EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY - A large, barely-human mutated hand - belonging to a WINGED MONKEY gang member- grabs a poster out of the air, motions to his mutant friends.

--EXT. BROTHEL - DAY - a woman in dirty frills and leather - GLINDA (40s)- walks up wooden stairs as she reads the poster.

--EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY - A poster peacefully floats through the air, until SMACK! It temporarily sticks in the grill of the punk-acolpyse van, before it floats away.

END MONTAGE.

I/E. REBEL VAN - CONTINUOUS - MOVING

INSERT: In Dee's hand, the crumpled picture of the family (Mom, Dad, West, Dee, and a dog).

DANDY (O.S.)
Cool dog. What's his name?

Dee crumples the picture back up, stuffs it in her pocket.

DEE
West never let me give him one.

Inside the rebel van, Crow drives. Dee rides shotgun. Behind them, The Wizard sits while Dandy and Tigre zip up a black duffle bag, full of guns and weapons. Stitched on the side: BAG O' DEATH.

TIGRE

So, you're really West's sister?

DEE

Why would I make that up?

DANDY

Maybe you thought'd be "cool."

DEE

As cool as being a big stinkin' coward? I saw you at Easter's.

TIGRE

What did you say?

Tigre lunges forward, but Wiz steps in between them.

THE WIZARD

Everyone just calm down! We're on the same side here.

Dee and Tigre stare each other down.

THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

We've all got, uh, strengths and weaknesses. That's what being on a team is all about.

CROW

Let the good times roll, huh?

Dee turns to The Wizard.

DEE

You never said anything about being part of a team. You said, you'd get me outta there, and I said I'd help you get your daughter.

THE WIZARD

You wanna get to West? Show her how tough you are? How much you hate her? Fine. I don't care. But I'm not rolling the dice on my daughter's life. We can use all the help we can get.

DEE
They're children.

Dandy accidentally pulls the trigger on one of the guns,
blows a hole in the roof.

DANDY
Sorry!

THE WIZARD
Maybe you could help them out. Get
to know them.

DEE
Here's a list of things I'm not
interested in: (1) Getting to know
them. (2) Getting to know Crow. (3)
Getting to know you.

THE WIZARD
But if we could--

DEE
And here's a list of things I am
interested in: (1) Killing West.

Everyone waits for the list to continue. It doesn't.

THE WIZARD
That it?

DEE
Yes! That's it.

THE WIZARD
Fine. But your attitude? Sucks.

DEE
Well, it's a sucky world, isn't it?
Just one big piece of dirt, full of
scavengers, mutants, cannibals,
mutant cannibals, convicts,
traitors, lions, tigers, mutant
cannibal lions, and other dirt-
hole, muck-licking stuff that I
probably don't even know about.

DANDY
So, wait. You said there are
cannibals?

The crew chuckles at this. Crow looks into her side mirror.

CROW

Uh-oh. Guys? We need to act now.

Dandy stares out the back.

DANDY

Are you seeing this?

DEE

What is it? Monkeys?

TIGRE

No. Thank God.

DANDY

That's what I like about you, babe.
Always so positive.

Tigre smiles, as a sound like thunder SCREAMS the air.

DEE

What was that?

CROW

Speaking of sucky attitudes - it's
the Wheelers.

Coming over the horizon - a militia of motorcycles, ATVS, dirt bikes, and, bringing up the rear, a BIG ASS SEMI hauling a flatbed trailer.

THE MOTORCYCLES, ETC. are decorated with human skulls, bones, skin, spikes, and other really creepy stuff.

ON THE HOOD OF THE TRUCK, a pinup painting of an evil woman with wheels for hands and feet.

Meet THE WHEELERS - an all female biker gang, made up off pirates, thieves, and your worst nightmares. It's safe to say they're bad news, but that's the only safe thing about them.

One rider pulls up on either side of the van. HORNED WHEELER (40s) wears a helmet with viking horns. THREE-WHEELED WHEELER (40s) is a big mamma-jamma on a three wheeled bike.

They notice Dandy in the van, yell over the noise.

HORNED WHEELER

Hey big boy! We're going to fuck
you! Then we're going to eat you!

THREE-WHEELED WHEELER

Or maybe we'll eat you! And then
fuck you!

Dandy gulps hard.

DANDY
How is that even possible?

TIGRE
Don't worry. They might eat you,
but I'll never let them fuck you.

DANDY
Thanks?

Crow pushes the petal to the floor.

EXT. DESERT - HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The rebel van speeds ahead, but the Wheelers keep pace.

Behind - more Wheelers surround the van.

I/E. REBEL VAN - CONTINUOUS - MOVING

DEE
Don't worry. We're safe in here.

RATATATATAT! Bullets from Wheelers puncture the sides of the van, allowing tiny rays of sunlight in the darkened van.

DANDY
Oh yeah. Very secure.

Three-Wheeled Wheeler laughs and yells.

THREE-WHEELED WHEELER
We're gonna get you, and your
little boyfriend too!

Dee reaches between the seats, pulls out a sawed-off shotgun. She checks the gun; yep, it's loaded. She yells out the van.

DEE
Hey! I told them the van was safe!

Dee points the gun out the van window and BLAM! Shotgun blast right into Three-Wheel's bike. She tumbles to the ground.

Dee yells to the back.

DEE (CONT'D)
Don't let me have all the fun.

BOOM! More bullets rock the van. Tigre elbows Dandy in the ribs. Gives him THE LOOK.

DANDY

Right. Right. Don't worry ladies.
I've got you covered.

Dandy digs through the DUFFEL BAG, pulls out a machine gun. He nervously smiles at Tigre, kicks open the door, and sprays hate. RATATATATAT! Two Wheelers fall from their bikes.

DANDY (CONT'D)

You see? That's how it's done.

TIGRE

Yes, babe! You got this!

Bullets fly over his head; he falls to the floor in fear.

DANDY

Actually, I'm more of a close-range
type of fighter, really. I don't--

Another look from Tigre.

DANDY (CONT'D)

I mean, yeah, I got this.

Dandy reloads his machine gun. A shotgun blast from the Wheeler's just misses our crew. Dee reloads.

EXT. DESERT - HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wheelers ride up on either side of the van again. Three-wheeled Wheeler is replaced by HUNTRESS WHEELER (30): A woman on a dirt bike, with a bow and a flaming arrow. She aims...

FROM INSIDE THE VAN

Dee watches as Huntress grips the bike with her legs, aims.

DEE

Crow, step on it.

CROW

Zero to sixty in... Oh shi--

OUTSIDE THE VAN

... and THWOOP! The flaming arrow goes into the wheel-well and EXPLOSION! The van tumbles down the road!

INSIDE THE VAN

Everyone spills like clothes in a dryer.

BACK OUTSIDE THE VAN

The van crashes and spins until it skids on its roof, upside down, to a stop.

BACK INSIDE THE VAN

The whole crew lies crumpled across the van. Dandy is closest to the back door.

DEE
Everyone good?

CROW
And she's ok!

The backdoor flies open; Female hands drag Dandy out.

TIGRE
Hey! Leave him alone!

Another hand grabs Tigre. She claws it and there's a scream from the hand's owner. Another arm reaches in and drags her out, kicking and screaming.

Dee and Crow are manhandled through the side doors.

DEE
Hey! Watch it!

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

The Wheelers toss the crew together and surround them, pointing guns, bows, sharp sticks. HELMET WHEELER (30s), her face hidden by a shiny visor, grab the Huntress Wheeler.

HELMET WHEELER
What about alive do you not understand?

HUNTRESS WHEELER
They still live.

Helmet pushes her away, just as...

The SEMI pulls up, loud rock music blaring, turns so that its flatbed is parallel with our crew, just behind the circle of Wheelers.

OUT OF THE TRUCK ambles a large woman wearing a tank top, a beat up trucker hat, and a belt made of razor blades and severed appendages. This is RAZOR (40s), the Wheeler leader. She casually drags a razor over her face, as if "shaving".

She steps forward, takes a look at Dee and the crew, smiles. She even has most of her teeth.

RAZOR

This her?

HELMET WHEELER

That's her, boss.

Helmet hands Razor the wanted poster. Razor looks to Dee, to the poster, back to Dee.

RAZOR

Picture looks better. You smell like shit.

DEE

That hurts coming from you.

RAZOR

You really that witch's sister?

DEE

Really? Why would I make that up?

Razor nods, methodically dragging the razor over her face.

RAZOR

Thought you was dead.

DEE

Not yet.

Turns her back on Dee.

RAZOR

Well... Throw 'em on the truck.

DANDY

Wait! You just need Dee, right?

DEE

What!

DANDY

You said you weren't interested in getting to know us.

Razor turns back around.

HELMET WHEELER

Poster says just The Wizard and the woman, boss.

Razor stops, eyes the crew. Shrugs.

RAZOR

Ok. Bring them two.

Razor heads back to the truck.

RAZOR (CONT'D)

Kill them others.

The Wheelers all point their weapons.

DANDY

What!

DEE

Wait! Wait! Hold on!

Razor and the Wheelers stop.

DEE (CONT'D)

Since when are the Wheelers friends with West?

RAZOR

Since she offered a million cold hard.

DEE

What!

Crow grabs a wanted poster.

ON THE WANTED POSTER - Dee's likeness and the reward: 1,000,000 cold hard.

DEE (CONT'D)

C'mon. That doesn't even look like--
Whoa. A million cold hard.

TIGRE

That's a serious amount of money.
Everyone's gonna be out for us.

DEE

Wait. Since when do Wheelers care about money? What do you need money for?

The Wheelers look to each other, not quite sure.

DEE (CONT'D)

I thought Wheelers took what they wanted.

RAZOR

We do.

The Wheelers cheer.

DEE

I thought Wheelers loved to prove how tough they are.

RAZOR

We do.

They cheer again.

DEE

Then how about this: You and me. I win, you let us go. And you give us your truck, since you destroyed our van. You win, you take us to West. And do whatever you want with them.

Razor drags her razor across her face, thinks it over.

RAZOR

Fine. But I don't wanna fight you. You're small and weak. I want him.

She points to Dandy. He gulps hard.

EXT. DESERT - MOMENTS LATER

The Wheelers have gathered in a circle, cheering like kids in a schoolyard. On one end of the circle - Razor. The other - Dandy. He stretches, getting ready.

DANDY

This is your last chance. You do not wanna mess with this.

Razor growls.

Just outside the circle - Dee, The Wizard, and Crow.

DEE

This was a good idea right?

THE WIZARD

Uh... Sure.

Tigre massages Dandy's shoulders. She leans in.

TIGRE

It's all you, babe. You got this.

Dandy leans toward Tigre, changes his tune from bravado to...

DANDY

Babe, she looks really mad.

TIGRE

Hey! You're the biggest and the strongest cat in this jungle, ok?

DANDY

Right. You're right. I just think--

Razor yells over at them.

RAZOR

You two love birds gonna talk all day? Or we gonna fight?

The Wheelers cheer. Dandy snaps back to bravado.

DANDY

I'm just giving you a chance to change your mind!

Back toward Tigre.

DANDY (CONT'D)

I just think that maybe we could walk away from this one. Just talk this out. I mean, doesn't that take more courage?

TIGRE

What? No.

Razor again.

RAZOR

Maybe I shoulda fought her! Seems like she's the one with the guts!

Razor and the Wheelers snicker. Tigre's eyes go wide.

TIGRE

Are you calling my man a coward?

Tigre LEAPS toward Razor, who charges forward, but Razor never really had a chance. Tigre thrashes and claws with brutal ferocity.

Dandy cowers. Dee, Crow, and The Wizard stare in shocked awe. The Wheelers go silent.

Tigre bites. Claw. Tears. Dandy, slowly moves toward her.

DANDY
Babe? Babe? Babe!

She turns to Dandy and ROARS! She's covered in Razor's blood.

DANDY (CONT'D)
Babe, it's ok. You won.

Tigre breathing hard, wipes blood from her face. She turns toward the Wheelers. They recoil in fear.

TIGRE
No one calls my man a coward!

The circle of Wheelers slowly parts as the crew makes their way through and to the truck. They pile in, Dee last. Helmet Wheeler steps forward.

HELMET WHEELER
They're gonna keep coming for you.

DEE
Who?

HELMET WHEELER
Everyone.

Dee climbs in the truck. Crow drives away.

EXT. WICKED FOREST - DAY

In the far distance - Nick's smoking overheated truck.

Nick and Ozma walk through the gates of the city

The WICKED FOREST is Kowloon meets Bartertown times a thousand. A walled city that may have once been a military fort is now governed only by its residents. Even West has no official sway here.

Prostitutes, crooks, addicts, mercenaries, stray creatures all walk the streets, which are dark even in the day. The only light comes from torches and cheap electricity, a hair's breath from burning it all down.

It's a bazaar of slums and dark alleys.

OZMA
Is this it?

Nick casually lights a cigarette.

NICK
This is it. But you knew that,
since you come here all the time.

OZMA
Right. Where are you going?

Nick puffs on his smoke.

NICK
I told you - nowhere.

In front of them, a gang of tough guys meets another gang.
One shoots the other. No one bats an eye - except for Ozma.

OZMA
Yeah, well, take me with you.

NICK
I'm sure you have your own
destination to reach.

That gang loots the loser gang, then notices Nick and Ozma.
The leader of the gang, a dirty old man with a wooden leg,
CAP'N BILL (50s), yells out.

CAP'N BILL
Hey!

The gang surrounds Nick and Ozma. One mousy-looking man
stands next to Bill.

CAP'N BILL
We're the guardians of the Wicked
Forest. Like to keep the riffraff
out.

They snicker at this.

NICK
There's no guardians of the Forest.

CAP'N BILL
Self-appointed. What do ya got to
trade?

NICK
We got nothing.

Nick steps forward, but Bill doesn't budge. He points to the dead gang.

CAP'N BILL
They didn't have nothing neither.

He sees Ozma.

CAP'N BILL (CONT'D)
But I think you got quite a lot.

OZMA
Piss off, creep.

Bill laughs, turns to Nick.

CAP'N BILL
Yes, quite a lot. Give us the girl,
and we'll let you go.

Nick puffs on his smoke.

NICK
She's not for trade.

Bill pulls out a gun, holds it to Nick's head.

CAP'N BILL
Maybe I'll just take her then.

Nick turns to Bill. The light catches the shiny revolver on his hip. We can just make out the word "CHOPPER."

NICK
I don't wanna fight you.

Mousy man whispers into Bill's ear. Bill's demeanor changes.

CAP'N BILL
That right? You Nick Chopper?

Nick says nothing. The red circle of his cigarette glows. Bill holsters his gun.

CAP'N BILL (CONT'D)
Uh, well, uh I'm sorry, Mr.
Chopper. I didn't know. Enjoy your
time here, miss.

Bill takes a step back; the circle parts.

CAP'N BILL (CONT'D)
Hey! You scumsucking
mummerclubbles! Make way! This is
Nick Chopper.

Everyone in the streets stops and stares. Even the toughest among them move as Nick gets closer.

OZMA
Whoa! Who are you?

Ozma is liking this new status. Nick tosses his smoke away.

NICK
Didn't you hear him?

OZMA
Yeah, but who are you?

NICK
No one.

Littering the streets - the wanted posters with Dee and The Wizard. Nick and Ozma don't notice them.

OZMA
That was really awesome.

NICK
Nothing awesome about that.

Nick keeps walking.

OZMA
Wait! Where are you going?

NICK
You keep asking me that.

She steps in front of Nick.

OZMA
Fine. I've never been here. I just had to get the hell out of - there. I just can't be who I was. I need a place to make a new start. Do you know what that's like?

Nick looks to her, sees she's telling the truth.

NICK
C'mon. I know a place.

He walks off, Ozma follows.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

A luxurious train car, decked in green. West, dressed in black, stares out the window. Mr. Joker stands at her side.

Out the window, the GATES OF THE GREEN CITY close and the terraformed green forests give way to the desert wasteland.

MR. JOKER

Word from the world is that Razor from the Wheelers won't be riding anymore. Seems shh had a run-in with The Wizard and the woman.

WEST

I'd think a million would have been more motivation for their success.

MR. JOKER

Well, on the sunny side, they took out Easter. The Wheelers. They keep this up, might solve a lot of our problems for us.

WEST

And if they get to the girl, we'll have a whole new breed of problem.

Mr. Joker shrugs. West stares out the window.

WEST (CONT'D)

I've always done what I've had to do to survive here, Mr. Joker. But no matter how high I rise, there's always someone higher up. Dee couldn't see past Auntie Empire. Em couldn't see past The Wizard. The Wizard couldn't see past a desert wasteland. Even our "all-powerful" Senator can't see past a girl.

MR. JOKER

Funny, huh?

WEST

Funny. When I got here, this planet was a joke. Nothing but sand. Now look - a budding oasis of green.

Mr. Joker lights a smoke.

MR. JOKER

Yeah, well, not everyone likes change.

WEST

They fear it. The Senator fears it.
Even our emperor fears it, but
things are changing. He already
destroyed my home once. I won't let
that happen again.

The train rolls on.

I/E. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Dee drives, Crow in the middle, Wizard next to her. Dandy and
Tigre in the back. The sun sets in the distance over endless
miles of desolate sand.

CROW

Isn't this just the happiest place
on earth?

Dee puffs on a smoke.

DEE

Where'd you learn to talk like
that?

CROW

Talk like what?

DEE

Never mind.

THE WIZARD

Crow's parents were killed in a
farming accident on an agriculture
ship. Crow didn't know what to do
with her, so they sat her down in
front of a screen looping old coms.
That screen basically raised her.

CROW

Are we having fun yet?

THE WIZARD

I think its makes her feel safe
somehow. Reminds her of home.

DEE

Yeah, I guess.

The truck rolls down the yellow highway, until...

CROW

End of the road, sweethearts.

In the near distance - the walled city of the Wicked Forest.

DANDY

You sure this is really the best place for us to go?

DEE

People come to the Wicked Forest because they don't wanna be seen. And if you really don't wanna be seen, there's only one place.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - DAY

A lively little cantina full of mercenaries, outlaws, drunks, and working girls. The kinda place where you could have the best day of your short life - or the worst.

GLINDA

Dee Gale! You sonuvabitch!

GLINDA (40s) -from our earlier montage- pushes through the crowd - a real Miss Kitty for the cataclysm.

GLINDA (CONT'D)

And The Wizard! Your highness.

Glinda bows extravagantly.

TIGRE

Oh yeah. We just blend right in.

DEE

Relax. Glinda's an old friend. She's as discreet as they come.

GLINDA

Look everyone! Dee's back!

CROW

I feel safer already.

Glinda and the crew navigate through the crowd. NEARBY, a greasy THUG taps a huge desert viking of a man we'll come to know as ROQUAT (50s), points to Dee.

GLINDA

I heard what you all did down at Easter's place. You're not gonna do that here are you?

BEHIND THE BAR, a pretty girl, PATCHES (20s) slings drinks for the crew. Dee throws back a shot.

DEE
Does everyone know about that?

GLINDA
Everyone.

DEE
Guess that explains this.

She slides the wanted poster across the bar.

GLINDA
Oh, yeah. Ya'll are mighty popular.
Everyone's out looking for you.

DEE
That's actually why we're here.

Glinda nods knowingly.

GLINDA
Let's step into my office. Patches,
take care of Dee's friends here.

The Bartender smiles and pours more drinks.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - GLINDA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Glinda sits behind a desk, reveals another bottle, and pours.

GLINDA
Damn, Dee! We all thought you was
real dead.

DEE
So I keep being told.

Dee and Glinda clink glasses, drink.

GLINDA
I mean, if I'd a known, I would
have thought real hard about coming
to rescue you. I'd at least a
written a letter.

DEE
Thanks, G. I appreciate that.

Glinda lights up a smoke. Walks over, opens the window.

GLINDA
Gotta say, you smell like shit
though.

DEE

You spend five years locked in a
dungeon. We'll see how you do.

GLINDA

Don't worry. I'll take care of you.
I got my own stash of water. Not
even West knows about it.

DEE

I thought West controlled all the
water?

Glinda sits down, pours a drink.

GLINDA

Where there is a will, there is a
way, my friend.

DEE

You always did know how to come
through... which is why I'm here.

Dee pours herself another drink.

DEE (CONT'D)

We're looking for the Wizard's
daughter. Supposedly she was
heading to the Wicked Forest. You
seen her?

GLINDA

I see a lot of things, Dee, but you
know I can't tell you that. This
whole place is built on discretion.

DEE

If you don't tell me, then West
will get her.

GLINDA

That's what you really want, right?
To get to West?

Glinda smiles, as if remembering.

GLINDA (CONT'D)

The three of us had some times back
in the day, didn't we?

Dee remembers too. Glinda changes tone suddenly.

GLINDA (CONT'D)

You know, she came here, after you're... She told me you were dead, and I believed her. She only looked half alive herself. Burnt up. Broken leg. Face half gone.

Glinda puffs on her smoke.

GLINDA (CONT'D)

I let her stay here, heal up, but one night, she just snapped. Remember Zeb Hugson? She cut his head off. I told her she had to go.

DEE

Can't too many people been sad about that.

Glinda shrugs.

GLINDA

After that she went on a tear. Em, Pipt, you name it. She went after all of 'em.

DEE

Yeah, let's not forget she let me rot for five years.

Glinda takes another shot.

GLINDA

You got done wrong, Dee, I know it. But, I don't know. I just wonder... maybe I coulda done something... Maybe I coulda helped her and this wouldn't have happened.

Dee slams the glass down on the desk.

DEE

She made her choice. She's always wanted to prove herself.

GLINDA

She did make her choice. The West we knew is gone, but you're still here. You're still good. I know you want West, but you don't have to become her.

Dee stands up.

DEE

You let me worry about that. We just need to find that girl.

Glinda puts her cigarette out.

GLINDA

There might be a girl here, but you won't like who she's with.

DEE

Who?

GLINDA

Nick Chopper.

Doesn't register.

DEE

Who?

Glinda downs her drink.

GLINDA

God, Dee, I forgot you been locked up. Nick Chopper. The Butcher of Bunbury. The Killer of Gillikin County. The Tin Woodsman. Was West's right hand for a few years 'till, they say, he killed so many people even she couldn't stand it. Don't nobody got a heart for fighting like Nick Chopper.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ozma lies asleep in the bed. On the floor, between her and the door, lies Nick, his hat over his eyes. A window is on the wall behind them.

Suddenly... BOOM!

The door kicks in. A group charges through the door!

DEE

No one move!

Nick slowly pushes the hat off his eyes, as Dee lunges for him with, pistol drawn. Then, he moves, as if without thinking. He takes her gun, pushes her down to the floor.

Tigre leaps at him; He knocks her away. Crow fires! It hits Nick in the stomach, but he doesn't register. Just takes her gun and throws her to the ground. Dandy brings up the rear.

DANDY

Wait! I didn't--

But Nick deftly punches him in the stomach and jiu-jitsu's him to the ground.

Ozma screams; heads for the window.

THE WIZARD

Wait! Ozma!

She stops.

OZMA

Mom?

Dee slowly climbs back to her feet.

DEE

If everyone, could just calm down.

Nick stands between the crew and Ozma.

NICK

I don't want to fight you.

Crow and the rest slowly get up.

CROW

If that's when he doesn't wanna fight...

Ozma sees The Wizard, heads back to the window.

OZMA

No. No! I'm not going back.

THE WIZARD

Honey! Stop. Please. I'm sorry!

Ozma stops in spite of herself.

OZMA

You're sorry? Sorry for trying to sell off your daughter?

THE WIZARD

I didn't try to sell you off. I--

OZMA

Then what do you call it? A trade?

THE WIZARD

No. I was-- I was wrong. I'm sorry.

TIGRE

Someone wanna tell me what the hell is going on here?

DEE

You said West was gonna kill her.

THE WIZARD

She is! Just as good as. She's going to give her to Senator Henry.

OZMA

Oh, so if West does it, it's wrong? But if you your mother does it, it's ok?

DEE

What is she talking about?

THE WIZARD

Henry said he'd eliminate West if I gave him my daughter. West would be gone, and Ozma'd be a Senator's wife. It'd be better than being here.

OZMA

So much better you didn't even ask me.

THE WIZARD

I just wanted to give you a better life.

OZMA

By being married to that psycho? I'll throw myself out this window before that happens.

DEE

Ok, ok. No need for that.

Dee tries to get a handle of the situation.

DEE (CONT'D)

We're not the only ones looking for you. West is coming for you.

DANDY

And us.

DEE

And us.

OZMA

I'm not going back with her.

THE WIZARD

Honey, please. I'm sorry.

Nick watches all of this.

NICK

We should go with them.

OZMA

You don't ever wanna tell me anything, but now you tell me this?

NICK

You're angry, and you should be. But you don't wanna go down that road. Trust me.

Nick pushes past them, and out of the room.

TIGRE

Can we all just get drunk now?

DEE

We'll leave you two alone.

Dee and the crew leave The Wizard and Ozma in the room.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - BAR - NIGHT

Glinda and Patches serve drinks to patrons and our team, who all stand around the bar.

DEE

Thanks for bringing the girl here.

NICK

I didn't do anything.

DEE

Well, thanks for not killing her. And us.

NICK

There's only person I'm interested
in killing. And it's not you.

DEE

Uh, good to know.

NICK

Is this how you always start
conversations?

DEE

No. Just, I heard you used to be
West's right hand and that you had
a few nicknames.

NICK

I've been called a lot of things.

DEE

Why the Woodsman?

Nick takes a drink.

NICK

There was a family who wouldn't
sell their land to West. Why should
they? They were one of the few here
who had their own water. Even a
small group of trees. West sent me
to persuade them. They ran into
their forest, and I put so many
bullets into them that the trees of
that forest fell to the ground.

Nick takes another drink.

DEE

Why'd you quit?

NICK

Why'd I quit slaughtering innocent
people? I guess I had enough of the
blood and the screaming and the
crying. Maybe there's a limit on
how many people a man can kill. Or
maybe I just don't have the heart
for it anymore.

DEE

So, who's the one person?

NICK

I was your sister's right hand. And Mr. Joker was her left. He didn't take too kindly to me leaving.

Nick stands up.

NICK (CONT'D)

Speaking of leaving, you have a good night, Dee.

Nick walks out.

DEE

Yeah. You too Nick.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - SHOWER - NIGHT - LATER

Dee stands under the running water, a robe and her pistol hanging within arm's reach. Next to the pistol - the family picture. It's the first time she's seen water since...

INT. PIPT'S FACTORY - CATWALK - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

WEST

I'm not going back, Dee.

DEE

West!

WEST

I'm sorry.

West pushes Pipt and Dee into the water.

END FLASHBACK.

Dee shakes the memory away, pushes water from her face. She looks to her feet. They're clean.

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - BAR - NIGHT

Tigre, Dandy, and Crow in the bar, loud and quite drunk.

THROUGH THE DOOR comes a motley band of SCAVENGERS, decorated with various pieces of forgotten tech. Like fur trappers, but instead of fur, they wear pieces of technology. Watch pieces. Circuit boards. Transistors. Anything they could scrounge up.

Their leader, ROQUAT (50s), our big desert viking of a man - as big as Dandy- with eyes that have seen some things. He has a wild, long beard, pieces of metal braided in. He smiles.

ROQUAT
Ya'll are Dee's friends, right?

INT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - SHOWER - NIGHT

Dee wraps a towel around her. Enjoys this rare luxury.

Across the room, a door opens, letting in more light. Dee's hand goes to her pistol.

Outlined in the doorway - Glinda.

DEE
Glinda? What are you doing?

GLINDA
I'm sorry, Dee.

Just as she speaks, Patches, the bartender, steps in to the light. She holds a revolver to Glinda's back.

Dee snaps up her pistol halfway raised.

PATCHES
Nuh-uh, Dee.

Patches shoves her pistol toward Glinda's head.

PATCHES (CONT'D)
Kick that smokewagon over here.

Dee doesn't like it, but she does what she's told. Patches tosses a pair of iron handcuffs to Dee.

PATCHES (CONT'D)
Put these on.

DEE
No.

Patches cocks the gun.

DEE (CONT'D)
Oh, you mean these?

Dee locks in one cuff, then the other.

GLINDA

C'mon darling, you don't wanna do this. You're not a killer.

Patches shoves the gun hard into Glinda's back.

PATCHES

For one million cold hard, I could be. You think I wanna stay here? Working for you forever?

GLINDA

You know that we can work--

PATCHES

Shut up.

Patches backs out of the doorway, still holding Glinda at gunpoint. Dee walks out of the room and into the...

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

One side is open to the main bar room below. The other side is lined with doors. She speaks to Dee.

PATCHES (CONT'D)

You. Let's go.

DEE

I just got clean, and now you--

PATCHES

Shut up!

DEE

You know, G, you really should do a more thorough background check on your employees.

GLINDA

I'll have you know that our customer service is second to none.

PATCHES

I said shut up! Both of you!

Dee, hands cuffed, leads the way

DOWN THE STAIRS....

DEE

Fine. But I'm warning you - I run with a hardcore gang of merciless killers and outlaws...

AND OUT THE FRONT DOOR...

EXT. GLINDA'S BROTHEL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The moon shines down from a cloudy sky. Dee exits the brothel, Glinda and Patches behind her.

DEE

...and they'll come for me. We have
an absolutely unbreakable bond.

There, just in front of them, the crew (Dandy, Tigre, Nick, Crow, The Wizard, and Ozma) tied up and on their knees.

DANDY

Oh, God, please! I hardly even know
Dee. Just let us go! Please! I can--

BLEGH! Dandy pukes everywhere.

DANDY (CONT'D)

I'm way too drunk for this.

Crow, in a drunken stupor, falls flat on her face. Patches gives Dee a you-were-saying look.

DEE

You got the jump on Nick Chopper?

THE WIZARD

Oh no, Dee. Nick surrendered. He
doesn't fight.

DEE

You don't fight?

NICK

I told you I don't fight.

She turns to Glinda.

DEE

You told me he was a butcher! A
killer!

GLINDA

He is! He was!

PATCHES

Everyone shut up! You think you're
the only one who's got friends?

Behind the crew - the scavengers from the bar, led by Roquat.

ROQUAT

There she is, boys. Dee Gale. I gotta say, I thought you was dead.

Glinda spits on the ground.

GLINDA

Roquat. I shoulda known.

She turns to Patches.

GLINDA (CONT'D)

Darling. Out of all the desert scum you coulda thrown in with, you done chose the worst. Whatever he said he'd do, don't expect it.

ROQUAT

Now, Glinda, is that anyway to talk about your old friend, Roq?

Glinda stares daggers through Roquat.

GLINDA

I always been good to you, Roq. Better than you deserve, anyway.

Roq laughs.

ROQUAT

Maybe so, but this ain't about being good. This is about being rich. One million cold hard been's promised for your friends here.

A short, mousey looking member of Roquat's gang leans over, whispers to Roquat.

ROQUAT (CONT'D)

Really? You're sure about that?

The mousey member whispers more.

ROQUAT (CONT'D)

Huh.

The whispering stops.

ROQUAT (CONT'D)

My associate here has just informed me that, in fact, the money is only for Dee. I guess that makes the rest of you - unnecessary.

TIGRE
So we keep being told.

Roq leans, dirty breath right in Tigre's face.

ROQUAT
I could maybe find a use for some
of you.

Tigre snarls and BITES HIS FACE. Roquat screams in pain. His associates jump to his aid, rip her off.

Tigre spits skin to the ground. Roquat pulls back, blood gushing from his cheek. He's both enraged and amused.

ROQUAT (CONT'D)
Oh, I like that one.

He kicks her HARD, she falls in to the sand.

DANDY
You stay the hell away from her.

Dandy leaps to his feet, and, though he's tied up, he gets in Roquat's face.

ROQUAT
Or what?

Roq and Dandy stare each other down, as clouds roll through the sky and over the moon, cloaking the desert in darkness

PATCHES
What the hell?

OVER THE DARKNESS - a feral, LION-LIKE ROAR. An inhuman SCREAM. Temporary FLASHES OF LIGHT as guns go off all around.

BANG!

BANG! BANG!

BANG!

And then...

...the clouds roll away, allowing the moonlight through.

IN THE CENTER - Dandy, bathed in blood. Around him stands the crew (Dee, Tigre, Crow, The Wizard) all free and holding smoking guns, which they procured from Roquat's crew - all of whom are quite dead.

The only one who isn't holding a weapon - Nick.

NICK
See? Ya'll did just fine.

THE WIZARD
Where's Ozma?

GLINDA
There.

Glinda holds her side, points to the near distance, where Roquat has thrown Ozma over a motorcycle. He kicks into gear.

DEE
Glinda! What happened?

GLINDA
She shot me. I had to shoot back.

Glinda collapses near Patches' dead body. Dee comforts her.

GLINDA (CONT'D)
West's not gonna stop. Whether it's one of these bounty hunters or she does it herself.

DEE
Don't worry. I'm gonna get her.
I'll get her for both of us.

Glinda shakes her head.

GLINDA
Just go get that girl. And promise me you won't become like West.

Glinda's breathing near non-existent. She speaks faintly.

GLINDA (CONT'D)
Promise me.

DEE
I promise.

GLINDA
Good. Hey, at least now you don't have to pay your tab...

Glinda's eyes slowly close and her head falls back.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Roquat rides hard through the night, Ozma tied up behind him.

I/E. TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

The whole team (Dee, Wizard, Crow, Dandy, Tigre, Nick) ride in the semi, the flatbed behind them. Crow pushes it as hard as it will go.

THE WIZARD

Can't this thing go any faster?

CROW

I'm giving it all she's got.

THE WIZARD

I didn't think it was gonna be like this.

NICK

No one ever does.

DEE

Don't worry. We're gonna end this.

NICK

More people are gonna die before this is done. Might be West. Might be any of us. You ready for that?

DEE

So what should we do? Give up? Forgive her?

NICK

Is that what you want?

DEE

Ha! The butcher is giving me lessons on forgiveness now.

NICK

I've done things, but it's different for you. I've seen what revenge does. I'm telling you - you don't wanna go down that road.

DEE

I'm tired of people telling me what I wanna do, Nick Chopper, so let me tell you what I wanna do. Let me tell all of you what I wanna do. All I've thought about for five years is getting to West, so I do want to go down that road. All the way. You don't like it?

(MORE)

DEE (CONT'D)

Then get out now 'cause you get in
my way out there, I'll shoot you
down. Comprende?

The gang all look to each other, not exactly sure what to
make of this new Dee, but they get the deal.

DEE (CONT'D)

Good. Now, let's get to work.

EXT. DESERT - TRAIN TRACKS - NIGHT

The sun peeks over the horizon, illuminating the motorcycle
in the distance, barreling hard toward us.

On the train - Mr. Joker and West wait.

Roquat pulls up, tosses Ozma in the sand, in front of West.
Mr. Joker steps off the train, picks her up.

WEST

You brought us the girl.

ROQUAT

That's right. The girl for one
million. That was the deal.

West shakes her head.

WEST

No. The deal was one million for
Easter's killer. This girl's never
killed anyone.

Roquat stands up off the bike.

ROQUAT

You said one million for the girl.

WEST

No. But I do appreciate you
bringing her to us.

ROQUAT

You stupid b--

Mr. Joker stand between the train and Roquat.

ROQUAT (CONT'D)

I'm not scared of you, you--

BANG! Roquat doubles over as Mr. Joker shoots him in the gut.
BANG! BANG! Mr. Joker shoots him in the head. He's dead.

WEST

Come along girl. We've got to get you to the city.

The train roars to life.

EXT. DESERT - TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

The crew's truck speeds alongside the train tracks, West's train in the far distance.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

Luxurious. Decorated in shades of green. Ozma sits at a dining table. She's bloodied and bruised, but, overall, ok. A glass of water in front of her.

Across from her - West. Mr. Joker stands behind her.

WEST

How are you feeling, Ms. Ozma?

OZMA

Well, at least I know I'm not the ugliest person in the room.

MR. JOKER

I see why the senator likes her.

She smiles at this.

WEST

If I didn't know any better, I'd think you were trying to hurt my feelings.

OZMA

I didn't know you had any.

WEST

It's true - I don't.

West takes a sip of water.

WEST (CONT'D)

I know you think this has something to do with you, but it doesn't.

OZMA

Then why am I here?

WEST

Because you're a means to an end.
Do you know how I ended up here? On
your terrible excuse for a planet?

OZMA

Do I care?

WEST

Dee and I, and our parents, our
home was, well, no longer a place
we could live. Men, much like the
senator, saw to that. Wars.
Disease. Pollution.

OZMA

Cool story, bro.

WEST

It's get better. This was not a
good place to live, so we left.

OZMA

Good for you.

WEST

Not at the time. A magnetic storm
knocked us all off course, and we
crash landed here. Almost everyone
on board was killed, including my -
and Dee's - parents.

OZMA

But you survived. Lucky me.

WEST

I did survive. And so did Dee. I
carried her out of the wreckage
myself. It wasn't long after that,
that we fell in with Auntie
Empire's gang. It kept us alive,
but that's about it.

OZMA

If you hate it here, so much why
don't you leave?

WEST

You sound like Dee. Running away
from our problems is what got us in
trouble in the first place.
Sometimes you just have to shift
your perspective.

Ozma moves his head, looking at her from a different angle.

OZMA

Nope. Still ugly.

WEST

I appreciate your attitude, but you know I'm right. This is a terrible shithole of a planet, but I'm making it hospitable. I'm making it a place people can live.

OZMA

As long as they do exactly what you say, right?

WEST

Yes. Violence is the only language this world -this galaxy- understands. I'm going to crush every single person on this planet who tried to crush me. Then, when the senator makes me a member of the council, I will destroy him. And then the emperor. And then every planet in the galaxy that stands in my way - just like they destroyed my home. My life.

OZMA

You think you're the only person this has happened to? Everyone here has had something bad happen to them. That's why they're here. You could help. You could save them.

WEST

You think anyone wanted to save my world? You think anyone cared? No!

West slams her water down.

WEST (CONT'D)

I am what this world made me to be. I am the consequences of your actions. And now I am here to collect.

I/E. TRUCK - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

West's train grows closer. Dee speaks to the crew.

DEE

So, here's the plan - Nick and I will go after Ozma. Tigre and Dandy, you take care of the driver. Crow and Wiz, you be here for when we come back with Ozma.

THE WIZARD

Fine. But remember - you have to get her out of there before that train reaches the Green City.

The Wizard points down the tracks where there is nothing but GREEN: plants, vegetation, trees. A beautiful forest and in the center of the forest...

...Sleek, futuristic, steel and glass towers reach for the sky, surrounded by a great WALL and a GATE that goes over the train tracks. All of it GREEN. All of it beautiful.

DEE

That's West's Green City? It looks just like home.

TIGRE

I guess. If your home's a dictatorship where you have to obey West's every wish and command.

NICK

West gets past those gates, that's it. We'll never see the girl again.

DEE

That won't happen. C'mon Nick.

Dee climbs out and onto the flatbed. Nick follows.

DANDY

This could be a bad idea.

TIGRE

A real bad idea.

INT. TRAIN - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Joker peers out the window.

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, the truck takes shape. Two shapes leap to the train.

MR. JOKER

Looks like we've got company.

West stands up, looks. The truck speeds past, toward the front of the train.

WEST

Mr. Joker, see that that is taken care of, please. I'll handle, Dee.

OZMA

You weren't ready for this, huh?

WEST

No, girl. I was waiting for this.

EXT. TRAIN - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Dee and Nick on the roof.

NICK

No guards. Nothing. Too easy.

DEE

Maybe my plan is just that good?

Nick gives Dee the side-eye.

NICK

Doubtful.

In the distant sky, a shadow takes shape. Nick points.

NICK (CONT'D)

That's not the sign of a good plan.

The shadow is soon joined by another. And another.

IN THE TRUCK

Crow pulls up to the train's front car. This gargantuan steel contraption puts the LOCO in locomotive. Steel spikes jut out at every angle. A bald head can just be seen through a tiny window. That's the DRIVER.

DANDY

And just exactly how are we supposed to get over there?

TIGRE

Just get us close, Crow.

Tigre moves toward the truck's door, but before she can open it, a shadow moves over the truck.

DANDY

What the?

CROW

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird.
It's a plane. It's--

TIGRE

The Monkeys. That's bad.

The shadows come into view.

Triangular in shape, these armageddon hang glider carry riders: THE WINGED MONKEYS. Not literal monkeys, but more like animal-worshipping cannibals, decked in the skull and bones and furs of different creatures.

THUD! Something on the roof.

THE WIZARD

What was that?

CROW

Ruh-roh.

TIGRE

Keep driving. We'll handle this. I hope.

Tigre opens the passenger door and - ROAR! A animalistic human face. It's hand grabs for her!

She dodges and quickly SLAMS THE DOOR on the Monkey's hand again and again, until it plunks to the ground somewhere between the truck's tires and the train's tracks.

CROW

Boys and girls, the night's just getting started.

On the hood now, and moving forward, another Monkey. It punches the windshield. CRACK! It feels no pain.

TIGRE

Of course! She had to bring The Monkeys.

Crow weaves back and forth and the Monkey slides back, finding a piece of hood to hold on to just in time.

TIGRE (CONT'D)

Crow, keep it steady.

Tigre throws the door open, grabs the roof.

TIGRE (CONT'D)
 Babe, I'll take care of the
 Monkeys. You get to the driver.

She climbs up and yells back.

TIGRE (CONT'D)
 Don't worry. We got this!

Crow drives, while Tigre climbs.

DANDY
 Ok. Let's do this.

Dandy steadies himself, takes a deep breath, and JUMPS out of the truck, landing just BEHIND the lead car. He climbs forward, drops down between the two front cars.

BACK ON THE TRUCK

The Monkey from the hood climbs toward the roof. Tigre aims her pistol, carefully. Carefully!

The Monkey ROARS but the sound is cut short by the BANG! of Tigre's pistol. The creature tumbles from the truck.

THE WIZARD
 Good shot!

But there's no time to rest. Another Hang-gliding Monkey releases himself from the glider and right on to Tigre! They tumble off of the back of the truck and into the flatbed.

The Monkey tosses her away and she rolls down the flatbed, finally stopping near the edge.

Our Monkey friend lurches forward, swinging at Tigre. She falls back until she's right ON THE EDGE of the truck.

Monkey charges! Tigre moves! The Monkey tumbles off the back, but not before he grabs her! The two soar off the truck and -

Tigre -at the last second- grabs the end of the truck, holding on with everything she has; the Monkey grips her leg, as he is dragged wildly through the sand.

Her grip is slipping! Slipping!

She pulls harder, goes for her gun.

Holding on with one hand with all her might...

And BANG!

Good shot. The Monkey falls into the sand.

Tigre pulls herself back up, collapses on her back.

TIGRE

Had to be the Monkeys.

BACK ON THE TRAIN'S ROOF

Dee and Nick vs. the Monkeys. The Monkeys carry simple weapons - clubs, knives, spears, bad attitudes.

Dee tosses a Monkey off the train.

DEE

Guess West had a plan too!

Dee stabs another Monkey.

NICK

You go. I'll take care of this.

DEE

Are you sure? I thought you didn't--

NICK

Go. Save the girl.

She nods and falls down between the train cars, while Nick takes everything in with trained eyes. Monkeys all around him. One has a club. Another a big knife. More fly in.

Even the Monkeys seem slightly hesitant, until...

IT'S TIME FOR NICK TO FIGHT

He pulls out the "CHOPPER" pistol and fires. One bullet. One Monkey. Over and over again.

The Monkeys attack. They swing clubs, machetes, their fists. Sometimes Nick dodges. Sometimes they connect. A club hits his head. A knife to his gut, but he never stops. Pieces of skin fly, revealing metal body parts, but he keeps going.

He shoots. He punches. He stabs. It's not pretty - just pure militaristic precision. Completely heartless.

INSIDE OZMA'S TRAIN CAR

West holds Ozma at one end of the car. Dee at the other end.

WEST

Hello, Dee.

DEE
I've been waiting for this moment
for five years.

West smiles.

WEST
I like this new attitude. Maybe if
you'd been like this before, we
could have done this together.

Dee smiles confident, cocks her pistol.

DEE
Then maybe you wouldn't have left
me to rot in that prison.

BACK IN THE DRIVER'S CAR

Where Dandy stands large and imposing over a short, bald,
cowering train conductor. Dandy seems confident in this.

DANDY
Now we can do this the hard way. Or
the easy way.

The driver nods in agreement.

DRIVER
Easy. Please.

MR. JOKER (O.S.)
What's the hard way like?

Dandy turns around to see Mr. Joker, leaning casually in the
doorway. He lights a smoke.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
Since you gave the option.

BACK ON THE TRUCK

Tigre stands back on her feet, looks to the Driver's car,
where she's able to see Dandy and Mr. Joker squaring off.

TIGRE
Oh, shit.

Tigre runs to the front of the truck, climbs on the roof.

TIGRE (CONT'D)
Crow! Get closer to the train!

Crow drives closer. Tigre readies herself and...

LEAPS...

...Into the air. Full on badass Tigre moment when...

CRASH!

A flying Monkey INTERCEPTS air, crashing into her MID-LEAP!

The Monkey grabs Tigre. Tigre grabs the Monkey and they...

...tumble end-over-end through the air until they...

...SMASH down into the train tracks in FRONT OF THE TRAIN!

Tigre, adrenaline pumping, limps to her feet, just in time to see the TRAIN -and its SPIKED BUFFERS- hurtling toward them.

But her vision is quickly filled by The Monkey and a cannibalistic roar. Tigre roars back and PUSHES the Monkey back on to the spikes, impaling him, the spikes stopping just inches from her eyes!

TIGRE (CONT'D)

Monkeys. Always so slow to get the point.

The Monkey opens its eyes and ROARS again, before it falls back. Dead. She uses the spikes to climb up onto the train.

BACK IN THE DRIVER'S CAR

Mr. Joker still leans in the doorframe, ultra-casual, ultra-cool. Dandy puffs out his chest.

DANDY

I know who you are.

MR. JOKER

Do ya now? Wish I could say the same, but don't take it personally. I don't know the names of half the people I kill.

DANDY

You're gonna remember me. They call me Dandy. I'm the one who--

Mr. Joker doesn't move.

MR. JOKER

Driver, get us to the City.

DRIVER

But sir, if I--

MR. JOKER
I said, speed this thing up.

The train accelerates. Joker turns back to Dandy.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. You were saying?
Something about...

Dandy steps forward.

DANDY
I'm going to kill you.

MR. JOKER
Oh yeah. That was it.

Dandy surges toward Mr. Joker, but at the same time BANG!

But it doesn't stop Dandy's huge body from tackling Mr. Joker

THROUGH THE DOOR AND

INTO THE SECOND CAR

Where the two roll across the floor.

Dandy picks up Mr. Joker, squeezes him with all his might in a massive lion-sized hug, but still...

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
I don't know who you are, boy, but
I know what you ain't. You ain't a
killer.

The gunshots come again and again, muffled by Dandy's frame, until, finally, Dandy let's go.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
I know a little bit about killing.
A lot of times they call killers
heartless, but that's not true.

Dandy falls to his knees. Mr. Joker casually reloads his gun.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
To be good in this business, you
gotta have heart. You gotta feel
good about what you do.

Joker smiles his half smirk, points the gun at Dandy's head.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
And I feel very good about this.

He cocks back the gun and BOOM.

But it's not the gun. Like a missile across the room, Tigre tackles Joker before he even knows what hit him.

She holds him in front of the door from the train car, the desert rolling by behind him.

TIGRE

You know what? I'm feeling very good about this.

She THROWS him out the door of the train and sends him tumbling through the desert sand.

She goes back to Dandy. He's hurt. Real bad.

DANDY

How we looking babe?

She lies and helps Dandy to his feet.

TIGRE

I've seen worse.

DANDY

C'mon. We've gotta stop this train.

But there's a problem.

The two of them turn toward the Driver's car, only to be blocked by a gang of vicious, bloodthirsty, killer MONKEYS, salivating with a lust for flesh!

TIGRE

Babe, wait here and I'll--

Dandy pushes himself fully to his feet.

DANDY

No. I'll take care of this. You get to the front.

Dandy steps forward, bleeding and full of holes, and releases the loudest, kingliest SCREAM we've heard. Even the Monkey's look as if, for one moment, they want to back down.

But they don't.

They rush forward with clubs and knives and sharp sticks and Dandy fights right back with his strength and rage and fists!

One Monkey stabs him. He sends that guy through the wall. Another clubs him. He kicks that Monkey away. Another bites him. Dandy breaks his face.

Through it all, Tigre makes her way out and...

IN TO THE DRIVER'S CAR

...which is covered in blood. A Monkey crouches down, gnawing on what might have once been the Driver's femur.

TIGRE

Ugh. Gross.

The Monkey growls at her. Tigre lunges forward, stabs the Monkey with her claws. He falls, dead.

She looks to the controls, then out the front of the train. The GREEN CITY is coming up fast.

DANDY (O.S.)

Babe! Hurry!

Behind her - Dandy, a whirlwind of fury, fights the Monkeys.

DANDY (CONT'D)

Stop the train!

Tigre looks back to the front. Gates coming up fast. She finds a radio. Grabs it.

TIGRE

Uh, mayday! Mayday! Open the gates!

A GREEN CITY GUARD speaks over the radio.

GREEN CITY GUARD (OVER RADIO)

Who is this? What's going on?

Tigre, thinks fast.

TIGRE

(imitating West)

Uh, this is West. I'm a major bitch, and I command you to open the gates now!

On the other end - silence... Until...

GREEN CITY GUARD (OVER RADIO)

Yes, my queen. Open the gates! Now!

She looks ahead. The gates open. Very slowly.

TIGRE

Faster!

GREEN CITY GUARD

My queen, the gates can't go--

But Tigre doesn't listen. She grabs the brake and yanks with all her might until the handle SNAPS off.

BACK IN OZMA'S TRAIN CAR

Dee aims her gun. West uses Ozma as a human shield.

WEST

You don't have any clue what this is about, Dee.

DEE

It's about me killing you.

WEST

I looked for you!

DEE

You pushed me off the ledge and left me to die!

WEST

I went back. I looked for you. When I saw Pipt was alive, I searched for you for a long time.

DEE

You left me in that prison for five years.

WEST

And do you know what I endured over those five years? What I did to get here? You have no clue. Look around you. This planet was nothing but a bunch of idiots killing each other over some holes in the ground, and what is it now? Tell me! What does it look like?

DEE

Home.

WEST

That's right. You wanted to go home, sister? Here it is!

DEE

No. Not like this. You're
destroying the planet. The people.

WEST

You wanna talk about destroying the
planet? If I don't get this girl to
Senator Henry, this planet will be
destroyed.

DEE

What are you talking about?

WEST

He's going to nuke the planet.

DEE

You're lying.

WEST

Am I?

Dee searches her face. She's not.

WEST (CONT'D)

You might call me a tyrant today,
but I'll be a hero tomorrow.

DEE

West, you don't have to--

SCREECH! The train slams to a halt and Dee, West, and Ozma
fly through the air, but not before Dee's gun goes off.

BACK OUT ON TOP OF THE CAR

Nick and the Monkeys battle, until they too, fly off the
train, and into orbit.

INSIDE THE SECOND CAR

Where Dandy, surrounded by a Monkey horde, launches into
space, flying THROUGH the train's wall.

IN THE DRIVER'S CAR

Where Tigre SMACKS into the control panel of the train, as...

THE ENTIRE TRAIN CRASHES THROUGH THE GATES

And DERAILS into the GREEN CITY.

EXT. GREEN CITY - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Just inside the walls, a park-like area. Trees. A fountain. Soldiers and people walk about on sidewalks. Train tracks run through the center of it all, coming to an end near the center of the Courtyard. Peaceful. Until...

... The DERAILED TRAIN barrels through everything.

People scream and scatter as it crashes in a tangled mess of steel and glass and spikes and bodies.

IN THE WRECKAGE

The train's wheels slowly stop spinning. Smoke billows. And a hand moves.

Dee pulls herself out of the debris. Broken. Bruised. Bloodied. But alive. Nearby, she sees...

...Ozma's body, lying on the wreckage. It slowly moves!

OZMA

This is how you rescue people?

Near Ozma, West crawls out of the wreckage, still alive.

AT THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN

Tigre claws through the mangled mess of metal and into the green grass, where she finds...

TIGRE

Dandy!

She runs to him, cradles his shot-up, cut-to-hell body.

DANDY

Was that part of the plan?

She laughs despite herself.

TIGRE

No. I don't think so.

DANDY

We saved her, right?

She has no clue.

TIGRE

Yeah. We did.

DANDY

Good.

He's fading fast.

DANDY (CONT'D)

We took on West. Mr. Joker. The
Monkeys. We were pretty brave, huh?

She wipes away tears.

TIGRE

Yeah, we were.

Dandy's eyes close. Head falls. He's gone. Tigre bows her own
head, tears down her face.

But there's no time for mourning now.

All around her, SOLDIERS are gathering, West's army coming in
from every direction. Tigre's eyes fill with rage.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE WRECKAGE

West climbs to her feet, tumbles toward Ozma. She has one
bloody ear, grazed by a bullet. West grabs her.

OZMA

This is your city? I thought it'd
be nicer.

WEST

Shut up! You're coming with me.

OZMA

No way! I'm not going any--

She punches her -HARD- in the stomach. He doubles over.

OZMA (CONT'D)

Ok. Maybe just for a bit.

Dee stumbles after them.

DEE

West!

West, with Ozma, faces off with Dee, both are beaten to hell.

TIGRE (O.S.)

Dee!

Tigre runs up to Dee.

TIGRE (CONT'D)

Dee! Dandy. He's--

Dee doesn't take her eyes off West.

DEE

Not now.

Tigre grabs her, shakes her.

TIGRE

But Dandy, he's--

She pushes Tigre away.

DEE

I don't care. We have to get to West.

West's army gathers, completely surrounding Dee and Tigre.

WEST

Looks like you'll have to wait a little longer, sister.

West, with Ozma, slips into the crowd of her soldiers.

WEST (CONT'D)

Kill them.

Dee and Tigre, back-to-back, in a circle of soldiers.

TIGRE

So, this was your great plan, huh?

DEE

My plan was to get West!

TIGRE

That worked out great, didn't it? Dandy's dead. The girl's gone. And who knows where the others are.

The soldiers press in tighter.

DEE

You really wanna have this conversation right now?

TIGRE

You remember before when you were talking about how much the world sucks? Maybe it's not the world that sucks. Maybe it's just you.

DEE

Well, maybe, you're right!

TIGRE

I just wish we didn't all have to die for you to realize that!

DEE

Me too!

The soldiers get closer. A SOLDIER LEADER steps forward.

SOLDIER LEADER

Dee Gale. We all heard you was--

BANG! A bullet finds its spot right between Soldier Leader's eyes. Another bang; Another dead soldier. And another. And another. Everyone turns to see...

Nick Chopper, hanging from the back of the SEMI, driven by Crow. The Wizard fires from the passenger side.

TIGRE

It's the cavalry.

The truck pulls up near Tigre and Dee. Nick and The Wizard firing over and over. Crow jumps out and fires. Nick points at a YOUNG SOLDIERS.

YOUNG SOLDIER

You Nick Chopper?

NICK

That's right.

He throws his weapon down and runs. Nick lets him live.

DEE

Great timing.

THE WIZARD

Where's Ozma?

Dee finds West dragging Ozma through the City.

DEE

I told you I'd get her. And I will.

Dee runs toward West. And it's time for...

THE FINAL BATTLE

Nick fires again and again. Rebels run through the streets, attacking soldiers. West's soldiers fight right back.

EXT. GREEN CITY - STREET - CONTINUOUS

West drags Ozma through a slightly-futuristic, tree-lined city street. In the near distance, past a Green palace, Senator Henry's spacecraft.

OZMA

I feel like maybe this isn't
exactly the plan you planned?

She smacks her in the head and wrenches her forward.

EXT. GREEN CITY - LANDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Senator Henry and his soldiers watch the carnage, amused.

SOLDIER 1

Sir, should we neutralize the
situation?

SENATOR HENRY

Let the savages kill themselves.

EXT. GREEN CITY - COURTYARD - TRAINWRECK

A pair of boots drags itself across the desert, into the Green City, and up and over the train wreckage.

These are Mr. Joker's boots. He's dirty, covered in sand and blood and pieces of skin are missing, revealing his metal skeleton. His formerly slicked-back hair is everywhere now. He watches the battle and the destruction and LOVES it.

MR. JOKER

Finally.

He pulls two pistols off his hips and goes to work. He's a rabid dog off the leash. Finally set free.

He fights with whatever he can. He kills whoever he can, including West's soldiers. He does not care.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

C'mon! Don't anyone here have any
guts? Ain't anyone here game?

TIGRE (O.S.)

I'm game.

Tigre stands on the grass, near the beginning of the street.

MR. JOKER

Oh, I remember you little kitty.
Where's your boyfriend?

Tigre says nothing, but Joker can see the answer.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

Cowards always gotta way of dying,
don't they?

TIGRE

Don't call him a coward.

Tigre charges forward, and it's on.

Joker fires again and again, but Tigre is lightning quick, ducking and dodging the blasts until she's on top of Joker, slashing with her claws across his face and chest.

He wipes blood from his face.

MR. JOKER

Finally someone with some spirit.

TIGRE

Oh, I'm just getting warmed up.

He tries to fight her off, but she's fast. She punches, she cuts, she knees him in the gut! Finally, he PUSHES her back.

MR. JOKER

You are feisty, that's for sure.

TIGRE

I'm gonna kill you, Mr. Joker.

MR. JOKER

No, you're not. But it's gonna be
fun to see you try.

She jumps again. Joker clips her in the shoulder with a blast. Tigre falls back. Mr. Joker fires again. Misses. She jumps and BURIES HER CLAWS deep in his gut. He screams.

TIGRE

Look at me. You think I got a
killer's heart?

Mr. Joker looks in her eyes.

MR. JOKER

Oh, I know you do, sweetheart.
You're burning up, but for you...

Boom! He SLAMS his pistol into Tigre's head and she stumbles to the ground. She staggers up; He knocks her with the pistol again. She falls to the ground.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

This is revenge; To me, it's fun.

She rolls over, spits blood at Joker. He smiles as he places his boot over her throat.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

Your man is dead, and you're about to die. All for some girl you don't even know. That's funny.

He points the gun down at her head.

NICK (O.S.)

You know what's funny to me Joker?

Mr. Joker turns to see Nick, shadowed by the setting sun..

NICK (CONT'D)

You. Your whole existence.

Mr. Joker forgets about Tigre.

MR. JOKER

Nick Chopper! They said you were hiding behind children these days.

Nick raises his pistol.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)

They also said you only got one bullet in that gun.

Joker steps forward and...

BOOM!

Nick shoots Mr. Joker right between the eyes. Joker staggers back, as Nick shoots again and again.

NICK

They lied.

He reloads his gun, while Joker stumbles to his feet.

MR. JOKER

Maybe there's some heart left in you after all.

Joker points his gun and...

At the same time, Nick finishes loading, points, and...

...They fire at the same, feeling the weight of each blast. Over and over, every bullet finds its mark, but each soldier keeps moving forward.

They reload; fire again. Flesh rips from skin, revealing cyborg parts. Blood flows from the human parts. Still they march on.

Face-to-face now, both baring the scars of the gun battle, but neither falling. Mr. Joker smiles wildly.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
Just like old times, eh Nick?

Mr. Joker pulls a knife, STABS Nick. He goes to stab again, but Nick blocks and charges, knocking them both to the ground. They roll back and forth, through the street and...

CRASH!

THROUGH A STOREFRONT WINDOW

AND INTO A STORE

Two beasts that cannot die.

In the aisle of the store, Joker rolls on top of Nick. He rains punches down.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
Oh c'mon now, Nick. Don't let me
down. Don't let me down!

Each punch beats Nick's face in more. Eyes begin to pop out of their metal sockets. Nick turns his head.

Outlined in the door, a blurry shape. Growing closer now. Coming into focus. It carries something in its hand.

TIGRE approaches, carries a long metal club pulled from the carnage. She SWINGS at Mr. Joker's head. CRACK! The club breaks, but temporarily disorients Joker.

Mr. Joker shakes the cobwebs loose, as he stands.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
You have been a thorn in my side
for the last time, girl.

He GRABS Tigre by the neck, blood dripping down his metal hand. He squeezes. She struggles, but Mr. Joker's too strong.

MR. JOKER (CONT'D)
It was fun though, wasn't it?

Tigre continues to struggle, but the life is fading when...

BANG!

Another shot right through Joker's head. He drops Tigre. Another and another and another head shot. Joker drops to the ground, but he still functions.

NICK
You were never any fun, Joker.

Nick POUNDS Joker's face, metal and bone twisting and contorting, until Nick's own hands lose their shape. Until there's nothing left. Mr. Joker stops moving. Dead.

Nick falls to the ground. Bloodied. Mangled. Exhausted. He leans back against a wall. Tigre walks over.

TIGRE
Get up, old man.

Nick looks, one eye completely blank. The other, fading fast.

NICK
Hey. You and your man. Takes a lot of guts to do what you all did.

Then, from the doorway, people approaching fast. Nick uses his last energy to raise his gun, but it's Dee, Crow and Wiz.

DEE
Nick! Tigre! What happened?

Nick's eye flickers.

NICK
This is revenge, Dee. This is what it looks like.

Flicker's softly again...

NICK (CONT'D)
Make your choice.

And finally life fades from Nick's eye. Dead.

Dee falls to her knees beside Nick.

DEE

I'm sorry. This - this isn't... I didn't mean for this... I just wanted West to know how I felt.

Crow puts her hand on Dee's shoulder.

CROW

Before you start down the road of revenge, dig two graves.

Dee, surprised.

DEE

What?

CROW

Nick is right. Your search for retribution will damn you as much as it's damned West. And when it's finished? Then what? Dandy and Nick'll still be dead, and you'll still have that hole inside you. Nothing can fill that. 'Cept you.

DEE

That actually makes a lot of sense.

CROW

I know. You got everything you've been looking for all along right here.

Crow nods. Tigre does the same.

DEE

Thank you.

TIGRE

Are we all friends again? Good. Now let's go get the girl.

DEE

Wait. There's something I need to tell you.

Dee looks through the store's broken window and out toward the Landing Area.

EXT. GREEN CITY - STREET - CONTINUOUS

The crew runs through the streets.

TIGRE

So, you're telling me that if we save the girl, we'll lose the planet. But if we save the planet, we'll lose the girl?

DEE

That's right.

CROW

Not fun.

THE WIZARD

I don't care what West said. I'm getting my daughter.

DEE

I know! We'll figure something out.

Dee stops as the others move forward.

DEE (CONT'D)

I hope.

She runs toward them.

EXT. GREEN CITY - LANDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Nearly to the spacecraft now, West drags Ozma, who fights the whole way.

OZMA

Let me go!

WEST

For the record, I tried to convince the senator to find someone else. Not because I care about you. Because this would have been much easier for me.

Ozma digs her heels in, struggles to break free.

WEST (CONT'D)

Girl, My patience with you--

DEE (O.S.)

West! Stop!

Temporarily distracted, Ozma PUNCHES West in her good eye. West screams in pain, Ozma runs toward our heroes.

West flicks her wrist and two metal sticks telescope into view. She points at Dee.

WEST
Give me the girl!

Dee stands in front of Ozma.

DEE
No. We can figure this out.

WEST
You'd sacrifice this whole planet
for one girl? You? Who thinks
you're so noble?

West storms toward Dee. Dee marches toward West.

DEE
No. I know I'm not.

Dee approaches and West Spartan KICKS Dee, knocking her back.

WEST
You want your revenge, Dee? Come
and take it.

West swings her baton down on the ground, just missing Dee.

WEST (CONT'D)
You want to prove you got what it
takes? I know what it takes. While
you were dreaming of home, I was
making things happen.

Again and again with the sticks, just missing Dee.

WEST (CONT'D)
You never had the vision. You never
had the guts. Who was the one who
always did whatever it took? Me.

Dee gets to her feet, still on the defense, dodging West.

WEST (CONT'D)
You think this is about one girl?
About one planet? This is about
revenge on everyone. Everyone who
killed our parents. Destroyed our
planet. Destroyed our lives.

West CRACKS! Dee across the face with a stick, blood flying.

Tigre and Crow charge forward, but West knocks them back.

Dee climbs back to her feet. West swats her away.

WEST (CONT'D)
You never could see that. That's
why you lose.

Dee finally breaks through! She tackles West into the dirt.

DEE
No. You might own this planet, but
you're losing.

West stands up, turns see Ozma barrel into her.

DEE (CONT'D)
We don't have to do this.

BACK AT THE SENATOR'S SPACECRAFT

The Senator watches the fight, turns to his soldiers.

SENATOR HENRY
Let's go. This bores me.

SOLDIER 1
Should we get the girl, sir?

The Senator looks to the fight again.

SENATOR HENRY
No. I'm tired of this planet.

BACK TO THE FIGHT

West pushes Ozma away, just in time to see The Wizard jump in. Then Tigre and Crow charge back into the fight.

Whenever West gets the upper hand against Dee, Tigre charges in. When West fights off Tigre, Crow jumps in, then Ozma, then Dee. West fights them off, but it takes its toll.

But West doesn't quit. She knocks them all back. She stands, bloodied and beaten.

WEST
Look at all of you. You're weak.
You're nothing. You can't win.

Dee and West CHARGE at each other. Dee tackles West to the ground.

DEE
None of us can sister, if we don't
work together.

In the near distance - the sound of Henry's spacecraft preparing for launch.

Dee stands up, offers West her hand. West thinks about it and then - TAKES IT. Dee helps West to her feet.

DEE (CONT'D)

Look.

She holds out the family photo to West. West grabs it, admires it.

WEST

You still have this?

DEE

Yes. C'mon sis. We can do this together.

WEST

Then what? I go back to being nothing? A slave to you? Or The Wizard? Or whoever replaces Henry? You always were weak, sister.

DEE

No. We can--

West crumples the picture, but KEEPS IT IN HER HAND.

WEST

No. We can't.

West pushes Dee away and RUNS toward the Senator's spacecraft. She LEAPS, grabbing onto the rear hatch as it's closing.

The hatch closes and the craft heads out of orbit. Just as it exits the atmosphere, it EXPLODES.

EXT. DESERT - LATER

The sun sets over the horizon. Dee, Tigre, and Crow stand over three makeshift graves: Dandy, Nick - and West.

In the background - The Wizard and Ozma. And the semi truck.

DEE

I'm sorry again, about Dandy.

TIGRE

In the end, I think this is what he was looking for.

CROW
I think we all were.

Dee turns to The Wizard and Ozma.

THE WIZARD
Thank you, Dee. For everything.

DEE
What will you do now?

The Wizard looks to Ozma.

THE WIZARD
We'll rebuild.

OZMA
Maybe we could find a way to send
you home.

Dee looks to Tigre, Crow.

DEE
I think you already did.

Tigre and Crow look at each other, make vomiting noises.

DEE (CONT'D)
What? I meant the truck. We have a
truck. That'll get us back to-- you
know what? Never mind. Forget it.

She heads toward the truck. Tigre and Crow laugh it up.

DEE (CONT'D)
Just get in the truck.

They all climb in.

DEE (CONT'D)
You know what I meant.

TIGRE
Oh, yeah. We know.

Dee turns the truck's key. It sputters, but doesn't start.

DEE
What's wrong now?

TIGRE
Didn't you bring any gas?

DEE

Me? No. That wasn't part of the
plan.

CROW

Great.

DEE

Hey! It's not my fault we're outta
gas. It's not my fault!

Dee climbs out of the truck and pops the hood, as the sun
sets over the horizon.

THE END.