

BIRDS OF PARADISE

written by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: (QUOTE)

"A man does what he can; a woman does what a man cannot."

- Isabel Allende

EXT. SOUTH PACIFIC - MORNING

The BLADES of a twin engine HELICOPTER WHIR as it speeds over the South Pacific. The side of the copter reads "FIJI FLIGHT SCHOOL."

INT. HELICOPTER COCKPIT - SAME MORNING

JANUS (26), a fit, curly-haired instructor and his student SEBASTIAN (21), a shaggy blonde, occupy the cockpit, chatting via headphones. Janus admires Sebastian's piloting skills.

JANUS

You've come a long way since our first lesson, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

So you don't get light-headed like you did during my first lessons?

JANUS

Like I said, you've come a **long** way...

SEBASTIAN

D'ya think I've advanced enough to run my own flight school one day?

JANUS

No doubt about it. Follow your dreams, life is short.

They admire the stark beauty of the endless EMERALD ocean.

SEBASTIAN

We're farther away than usual. What's up?

JANUS

I thought we'd check out this *one particular harbor* I've heard about.

SEBASTIAN

I'm always up for a road trip.

JANUS

I think you'll love this one.

SEBASTIAN

What's the harbor's name?

JANUS

Doesn't have one. But the landmass does...Paradise Island. It's got a great story.

SEBASTIAN

What's a good road trip without a great story? I'm all ears.

EXT. SOUTH PACIFIC - NIGHT

A large pleasure CRUISER is pummeled in a tropical STORM.

JANUS

(V.O.)

Years ago, three international business partners--Thack, Manny and Alec--were caught in a tropical storm. They'd departed from Fiji on a chartered pleasure cruise after closing a big deal. Their *plan* was to celebrate for a few days of fun, sun and adventure.

INT. SHIP'S MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

The business partners--TRENT THACKERAY (35), a handsome black Brit nicknamed *THACK*; MANNY DELLA CRUZ (32), a muscular Filipino American; and ALEC STONE (30), a thin, blonde Australian--huddle beneath a dinner table.

Objects FLY around the CABIN. On deck, the CAPTAIN struggles to navigate. Suddenly, a powerful rogue WAVE tosses him overboard into the RAGING SEA.

JANUS

(V.O.)

But when the storm sank their ship, the men found themselves on an isolated Pacific island.

EXT. SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND - SUNRISE, NEXT DAY

The men swim to a sandy shore. In the b.g., their ship--KISMET--teeters atop a rocky cliff. WRECKAGE covers the shoreline. They trudge to shore and drop to the beach.

They gaze out and see the CAPTAIN, his head bobbing. On a cliff rests his dead CAT. The men exchange glances and swim to the captain and cat.

EXT. BEACH - SAME DAY

Their clothes in tatters, the men PEER at a freshly dug GRAVE marked by two crosses. Behind them troves of BIRDS OF PARADISE blanket a thick jungle. Colorful parrots SQUAWK. The SUN beats down.

ALEC

Before the storm, Cappie said we were near Nikumaroro, where Amelia Earhart crashed. You may recall she was never found. So our rescue's a longshot. Weeks, maybe months.

Thack fidgets with a cracked cell PHONE. Frustrated, he tosses it to the ground.

THACK

Years if you believe Robinson Crusoe or Tom Hanks. That's a long time without decent food. Or shelter. Or outside communication.

MANNY

Or women!

THACK

Spoken like a proud chauvinist.

MANNY

What?! This was supposed to be a pleasure trip. I thought I'd be hanging with exotic babes. Not you two. *No offense.*

ALEC

None taken.

THACK

Some taken.

MANNY

What if we become savages? Like Lord of the Flies!

THACK

We're not gonna become savages. And we'll have plenty of free time to dream about beautiful women. But for now, let's find a safe place to camp.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST NEAR BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON

They traipse through deep brush, reach an opening where a WATERFALL pours into a blue plunge POOL.

YES ALEC

Good spot?

MANNY

Good by me.

Thack is distracted by objects in the sky.

THACK

Uh yea, sure.

ALEC

Okay, welcome to base camp.

THACK

You guys seen those three black dots flitting around like Tinkerbell?

MANNY

Just seagulls or pelicans or something.

Thack continues to observe.

THACK

Big for birds. But...okay.

ALEC

I'll set up an S.O.S. signal. Maybe a random pilot will see it.

THACK

Couldn't hurt. Manny and I'll grab food and supplies from KISMET.

EXT. CAMP - SUNSET

Alec creates an "S.O.S." with rocks. Manny and Thack cart goods from KISMET.

Wearing a "VISIT FIJI" beach towel as an apron, Alec empties CANS into a PAN atop a fire. The men share a pint of JACK DANIELS.

ALEC

Alright gentlemen. For our main course, refried beans a la Alec and canned pineapple bits a la Dole for dessert. Yummy yum.

MANNY

(frowning at his plate)
I say tomorrow we eat out.

THACK

Fantastic idea. Maybe the island's four star steakhouse?

ALEC

I'd be the first customer there if it existed. Right now, I'd settle for shrimp on the Barbie.

MANNY

I'd love one of my Dad's lechon feasts, the entire pig spit-roasted over coals, crispy skin, fresh liver sauce.

THACK

Just good ole Fish and Chips for me.

ALEC

Everybody's got a comfort food. Unfortunately, right now it's just cans and boxes from KISMET.

MANNY

(sighs)
A man can dream.

EXT. CAMP - SUNRISE

The men awaken slowly. The POUNDING waterfall blends with a CACOPHONY of BANTERING PARROTS and SQUEALING MONKEYS.

Manny rubs his eyes, blinks.

MANNY

Damn...it's like waking up at the San Diego Zoo.

ALEC

I think it's a great location.

MANNY

Course you would...you "discovered" it.

The men hear a huge SPLASH and SCREECHING waterfowl.

They GAPE as an enormous CROCODILE STARES DOWN a Pacific black duck, LUNGES, and in one giant gulp DEVOURS its prey.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(to Alec)

OH MY GOD! Now whadya think about your *great location*?)

Alec SHRUGS, tries not to look guilty.

THACK

Better get used to it, Manny. We're the minority species here.

MANNY

Minority or not, there's some weird shit happening on this island. Those black spots you saw yesterday?

THACK

Yea?

MANNY

At dawn this morning, I saw 'em too.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SKY - DAWN

SPECKS dart in the sky backlit by a FULL MOON.

MANNY

(off camera)

They zoomed around like some choreographed *sky dance*. What kind of birds do *that*?

BACK TO PRESENT:

ALEC
 Weird shit happened to me last
 night too. I woke up...felt like
 I'd been shaken.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

A large unrecognizable CREATURE SOARS above the water.

ALEC
 (off camera)
 When I opened my eyes, a big-ass
 bird was hovering over the ocean.
 Wingspan was 30 feet at least!

BACK TO PRESENT

THACK
 I didn't see anything but I did
 hear something. Shrill laughter.
 Like a human. Like a woman's laugh.

MANNY
 Christ, I know this island is a
 real paradise but it's also fuckin'
 creepy.

ALEC
 True that. Our little island
 paradise--gigantic pirouetting
 hummingbirds, invisible laughing
 sirens.

MANNY
 Peter Pan crocodiles.

THACK
 And three lonely, possibly
hallucinating castaways.

FADE TO:

JANUS
 (V.O. THE MONTAGE)
 Three weeks passed. Twice daily the
 men recovered supplies from KISMET.
 They worked, played, hunted, fished
 and planned. Slowly they overcame
 the dangers confronting them. And
 at night by the fire, they enjoyed
 the island's endless bounty.

(MORE)

JANUS (CONT'D)

One morning, they discovered something that would alter their lives forever.

EXT. ALL AROUND ISLAND - DAY - (MONTAGE)

...The men leave KISMET on a handmade raft loaded down with towels, kitchenware, canned goods, mosquito nets, blankets and other supplies.

...Alex adds "HELP" in rocks beside the S.O.S.

...The men SPLASH and play in the ocean.

...Thack spears a FISH and holds it up proudly.

...Manny kills the CHARGING CROC with three ARROWS just feet before the reptile reaches him.

...Alec wades in shallow water, tosses a NET and pulls it to shore; trapped inside are dozens of PRAWNS.

...They talk and laugh next to HOT COALS where the ALLIGATOR roasts on a pit; Alec hands each man a plate with FISH, PRAWNS and crispy roasted GATOR.

...On the KISMET's deck, Thack uncovers a plank that reveals a large, hidden metal TRUNK.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The men lug the TRUNK to camp. Drop it to the ground. It is PADLOCKED, wrapped with metal STRAPS.

MANNY

Holy Mother of God, this thing's heavy! What's in it--an elephant?

ALEC

Whatever it is, must've been special to the captain. It's locked up like Fort Knox.

THACK

(a large rock in one hand)
Watch out.

Thack slams a rock against the LOCK. After three tries, the padlock pops open.

The men peer inside, see...GOLD COINS, GEMS, bundles of CURRENCY, DIAMOND RINGS, NECKLACES, designer SCARVES, two ivory plated PISTOLS, rainbow colored feather BOAS and more.

ALEC

Jesus. Cappie must've stumbled upon
The Count of Monte Cristo's stash.

THACK

Or he was a pirate.

ALEC

However he got it, "*Cappie Pirate*"
is not gonna enjoy his booty. If we
don't get rescued, neither will we.

THACK

Definition of irony. All this loot
and nowhere to spend it.

MANNY

And...nobody to share it with.

He looks at Alec and THACK.

MANNY (CONT'D)

No offense.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - DAY

The men PLOD THROUGH thick, tropical FLORA. Around them...Towering PALM TREES. Colorful FLOWERS. BIRDS and MONKEYS peer from treetops.

MANNY

I need to tell you guys something
but promise you won't laugh.

ALEC

This oughta be good.

MANNY

You ever have a cat?

THACK

Yea.

ALEC

Hmm, as a kid.

MANNY

Me too. This one used to wake me up every morning. 6 a.m. like clockwork. Didn't touch me, just stared at me 'til I woke up. Scared the shit out of me. Last night that happened. But not a cat.

THACK

You got our attention.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Manny lays beneath his blanket gazing at a beautiful WOMAN hunched over him.

MANNY

(off camera)

It was a gorgeous *woman*. She was bent over me, real close. I could almost touch her. She looked like some Latin movie star.

BACK TO PRESENT

THACK

What happened? What did you do?

MANNY

Nothing! I just stared back, like ...straight into her soul.

ALEC

Now you're losing me with the melodrama.

MANNY

No, really Alec! It was like she hypnotized me.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Closeup of WOMAN'S FACE. She has caramel colored skin, high cheekbones, short blonde hair, dark eyes. She tilts her head at Manny. He is totally absorbed.

MANNY
 (off camera)
 For like a minute, we just gazed at
 each other. My eyes closed and it
 was daylight. And she was gone!

BACK TO PRESENT

ALEC
 Jesus!

THACK
 Double Jesus.

MANNY
 Right?! But I know she was real.

ALEC
 Look. Manny. You may *think* she was
 real. I thought that gigantic bird
 was real. And Thack thought the
 woman's voice was real. But,
 there's no way...

THACK
 I heard her again two nights ago.

ALEC
 What!?

THACK
 The woman. I've heard her twice
 now. I wasn't going to say
 anything. But now with what Manny
 saw...these aren't hallucinations.
 I think they're real.

The men stop talking. They hear a COMMOTION.

In the sky are what appear to be large BIRDS emitting high-
 pitched LAUGHTER.

THACK (CONT'D)
 That's what I heard two nights ago!

ALEC
 Sounds almost human.

THACK
 Yea, like women laughing.

The OBJECTS fly closer, hover and ZOOM over the mountains out
 of sight.

THACK (CONT'D)

They saw us. We scared them away.

ALEC

We scared **them?**! Whatever they are, they're as big or bigger than us. They could carry us off for *their dinner*.

MANNY

I hope the blonde does *carry me off!*

THACK

(laughs)

Better hope they aren't flying black widow spiders, Manny. They have sex and eat their suitors!

MANNY

Yea, but...what a way to go!

Uncomfortable laughter.

ALEC

I'm telling you we should be alert. Those things could be dangerous.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Thack and Manny are asleep but Alec is wide-awake, panning the sky with BINOCULARS. Suddenly he flinches. He creeps slowly toward Manny and Thack, gently shakes them awake.

MANNY

What? You can't see I'm getting my beauty rest?

ALEC

Shh. Don't let them hear you.

THACK

(now awake)

Them who?

Alec hands Thack the binoculars. Silhouetted against the moon, he sees the three flying creatures DART, DIVE and DROP with precision.

Manny SNATCHES the BINOCULARS.

MANNY

Come on, Thack, my turn!

Manny looks, drops the BINOCULARS. They are *women with wings*.

Holding hands, they HOVER just feet above. FLAPPING like butterflies.

They smile provocatively at their captive male audience.

JANUS

(V.O. NEXT SCENES)

Thack, Manny and Alec were mesmerized by the beautiful, flying creatures. Angels on their own tropical paradise! And the women were enthralled with the three men as well. So different from their species. So mysterious. The ice between them had finally been broken. But what would come next?

EXT. MID SHOT OF FIRST WOMAN - NIGHT

The first WOMAN (mid 30s), Alabaster skin, mesmerizing green eyes, long wavy red hair, white wings; wearing a short emerald green dress of fern and hydrangeas.

EXT. MID SHOT OF SECOND WOMAN - NIGHT

The second WOMAN (20 something) the woman Manny saw. Blonde hair in a pixie, dark eyes, silky blue wings, sheathed in a tight dress of yellow Hibiscus, that accentuates her curvaceous body, smooth caramel skin, dark sexy features.

EXT. MID SHOT OF THIRD WOMAN - NIGHT

The third WOMAN (early 30s) in a flowing violet, yellow and white mini-gown of orchids, long, lustrous, raven-black hair flecked with cyan, wings a bright lime, skin milk chocolate. Her golden eyes sparkle. She is muscular and fit.

EXT. THE THREE MEN'S FACES - NIGHT

Wide smiles. Awestruck, the men are speechless.

EXT. SKY ABOVE CAMP - NIGHT

The women launch into the starry night sky. Girlish LAUGHTER fills the air. Then they are gone.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

The men gather driftwood for a fire.

MANNY

It's been three weeks.

THACK

Maybe they weren't that into us.

ALEC

That's a painful thought. I dream about the green-winged girl every night.

MANNY

Same here about my blonde.

THACK

The redhead, yea...

MANNY

On the positive side, we won't have to fight over them if they ever return.

ALEC

Their imminent return isn't looking too imminent. Guess it's the Paradise Island Men's Club again.

MANNY

Too bad...I had a name picked out for her...Mackie. Like that yellow macaw we see around here.

ALEC

Me too. Rainbow for mine.

THACK

Jesus. Did it occur to you they may already have names?

MANNY

Maybe. I doubt if we could understand them though with that language of theirs.

THACK

But naming them? It's what you do for pets.

MANNY

Hell no. They're extraordinarily beautiful women. I just think a woman should be placed on a pedestal. You know, cherished and all that.

ALEC

You're right Manny. Women look to us as leaders. Strong. *Real* men.

THACK

Real men? You mean arrogant asses who name women like *property* or *pets*.

ALEC

Let's not kid ourselves. They aren't coming back. We all need to chill and move on.

THACK

Agree.

MANNY

Yea. Let's just forget about them.

ALEC

Right.

Conversation pauses.

MANNY

I sure miss them.

ALEC

Me too.

THACK

Jesus! You two are hopeless!

INT. - GIGANTIC NEST, TROPICAL FOREST - NIGHT

The women rest on beds of feathers and flowers inside a house-sized NEST atop a centuries-old tree.

The MOONLIGHT peaks through gaps in the nest roof as they fall asleep.

Rainbow dreams...

She flies through a thick FOG over the ocean.

She hears animal-like, prehistoric ROARS. Birds pass her, flying away from the noise.

Suddenly the sky DARKENS with thousands of flying creatures.

They head toward her.

She stops, HOVERS. The BEASTS overtake her, FLAPPING, POUNDING, SHRIEKING. But they do not come into focus.

She feels them, their rancid, scorching breath, their slimy, WARTED FLESH. They surround her but still she cannot make out what they are.

The man appears.

The man she saw. The one who peered at her through the LARGE STRANGE MAGNIFIER EYES he held. His blonde hair WAVES in the night breeze beneath a FULL MOON.

His face reveals FEAR. He too feels the UNSEEN BEASTS.

She must save him! She flies to him, FASTER, FASTER! She reaches him.

He smiles at her. She reaches for him, feels him in her arms...but then he turns to DUST. And SMOKE.

And he vanishes.

RETURN TO PRESENT.

IN THE NEST, RAINBOW'S BED

Rainbow BOLTS awake SCREECHING. She is sweating, gasping for air.

She reaches her hands in front of her.

Startled, the redhead and Mackie rise and comfort her, COOING softly, stroking her hair and wings.

Presently, the women lay down together, three spoons. They CHIRP quietly and fall back to sleep.

EXT. BEACH - EARLY MORNING

Marine layer blankets the sky. Visibility-limited. With bamboo poles, the men FISH in the ocean.

Manny's pole BENDS...a big fish is on the hook. He fights it as it JUMPS out of the water.

A THUNDEROUS sound in the distance. The men wince.

THACK

Storm's coming. Let's get to cover.

MANNY

Lemme land this one. It's a beauty!

Thack and Alec gather their gear and JOG back to camp.

Over the horizon, a large flying FIGURE breaks through the fog. Three more appear.

The men peer at the sky.

ALEC

It's them! You're gonna want to see this Manny.

Manny FROWNS, starts walking backward dragging the fish toward shore.

MANNY

(glances skyward excited)
Damn, Charlie Tuna, this is not the time to be a butthead! Mackie's coming back.

Thack squints, doesn't like what he sees in the sky.

THACK

(to Alec)
I count four. Not three. Four that're way larger than the women.

Suddenly, four enormous DRAGONS emerge from clouds--each 30 feet long from head to tail with wingspans even longer.

Scaly green skin, sabre-like teeth, four clawed legs, spiked tail constantly moving. Huge bat-like wings.

MANNY

Mother of God! Are they...?

Manny drops his pole--fish on the hook--into the water. He SCRAMBLES to shore to join the others.

THACK

Yep. And this is not an episode of Game of Thrones.

ALEC

We can fight them off with those handguns from the trunk.

The men run as fast as they can toward camp.

THACK

Are you kidding, Alec? *If* the captain's weapons are loaded, bullets will bounce off like popcorn against a brick wall!

The men GLANCE BACK to gauge their distance from the dragons.

Manny TRIPS, crashes face-first to the sand.

The first dragon exhales WAVES OF FIRE across the water that ignite beach debris into a flaming PYRE.

Manny is terrified. His foot is trapped; he can't get away.

MANNY

Guys! Help! HELP ME!!!

Thack and Alec stop, look back, run to save him.

The first DRAGON zooms close, claws extended, its huge wings flapping wildly, it's giant tale swinging violently.

Manny shields his face.

ALEC

Oh...my...

THACK

GOD!!

SMASH CUT:

Two hands deftly grab Manny under his armpits, lifting him up seconds before the dragon arrives.

MACKIE carries Manny skyward, her wings BEATING mightily.

The DRAGON pursues shooting FLAMES that just miss her.

As she flies higher, Alex and Thack cheer below.

ALEC
You go girl!!

Manny gazes dreamily-*his rescuing savior!* She smiles at him.

MANNY
Mackie!! I knew you'd return!

Mackie chirps something in her own *language*.

TRACKING SHOT-MACKIE IN SKY:

She reaches camp, the DRAGON just yards behind.

Mackie sees the plunge pool, reacts immediately and releases Manny. He SPLASHES into the POOL.

MANNY (CONT'D)
(yelling, waving arms)
SHIIIIITTTT!

She continues to fly toward the nearby mountain. The DRAGON closes the gap.

She ZIGS and ZAGS over the palm trees hoping to evade the DRAGON. It spews FIRE that enflames the flora below.

It's gigantic red EYES focused on its prey, the DRAGON extends spiked TALONS toward Mackie. She senses this, halts and drops feet first in the air like a vertical torpedo.

In its angered, zealous pursuit, the DRAGON overshoots her.

Its forward momentum carries it into the rocky MOUNTAIN.

Blood SPURTS from its head, its lifeless body bounces end-over-end off the mountain and onto the tropical forest floor.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUATION, SAME DAY

The three remaining DRAGONS SHOOT FLAMES at Alec and Thack.

Gasping to breathe, they are engulfed in a circular wall of SMOKE and FIRE.

The wall of FIRE lessens. The DRAGONS are distracted.

THACK
Come on!

The men run. Loud, shrill SQUAWKING is heard. Alec looks up.

ALEC
Thack. Look!

The other two women--RAINBOW and THE REDHEAD--appear high above. The DRAGONS turn their attention toward them.

THACK
Here comes the Calvary.

RAINBOW and THE REDHEAD accelerate, SWOOP toward the BEASTS.

THACK (CONT'D)
Lassos?!

The women twirl LASSOS made from vines.

They DODGE the dragons' FIREBALLS, LASSO two of the DRAGONS. They tighten the lassos, STRANGLE the beasts and JUMP on their backs.

THACK (CONT'D)
Holy shit!

The third DRAGON shoots FIRE at the women. They DODGE.

The lassoed dragons RASP and ROAR and fall into the ocean with the women on their backs.

Seconds pass.

The third dragon hovers over the sea and WAILS remorsefully for its comrades.

ALEC
They're not coming up!

THACK
(softly)
Come on ladies.

Enraged, the remaining DRAGON returns its attention to Thack and Alec. It FLAPS its gargantuan wings, races toward them.

ALEC
Thack, look I'll distract it. You swim out, see if the women are alive. You're a way better swimmer than me anyway.

THACK
(hesitates)
Good luck.

Alec has a solid head-start on the DRAGON but it closes fast. Thack swims to where the women went down.

Rainbow EXPLODES from the water, HOVERS just above Thack. He MOTIONS her toward the beach.

THACK (CONT'D)
Alec. Save Alec!

Rainbow is confused. She sees the DRAGON chasing Alec and understands. She SQUAWKS, flies off. Thack TREADS water, hoping the redhead will surface.

THACK (CONT'D)
Come on Red.

Finally, the redhead bobs to the surface. PEEPS in pain.

THACK (CONT'D)
Thank God! I thought you
were...what is it girl?

The redhead's LASSO ENTANGLES her WING.

Thack reaches toward her. She FLINCHES. He UNTANGLES the lasso vine from her wing and POINTS to his shoulder.

THACK (CONT'D)
Here. Just hold on. And don't let
go.

She lays her head on Thack's shoulders and closes her eyes as he swims to shore.

ON THE BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow reaches the dragon chasing Alec, JUMPS on its back.

She removes a DAGGER, PLUNGES it into the dragon's head, neck and body. Painful HOWLS. Random flames. GASPING, the dragon CRASHES onto the beach, just missing Alec.

Mackie appears. Rainbow flutters over the dead DRAGON. Thack reaches the beach with the redhead CLINGING to him.

Manny SCRAMBLES back from camp, STARTLES the women.

The redhead TESTS her delicate wings. In a high-pitched Soprano LILT, she calls out to Rainbow and Mackie. The redhead nods a thank you to Thack and the women fly away.

Alec GLOWERS at Manny.

ALEC

Nice job mate. You scared 'em off!

THACK

Alec's right Manny. They're delicate beings.

MANNY

Delicate? They just kicked the shit out of flying lizards!

THACK

Just saying--if that counts as our "*first date,*" a second is looking pretty doubtful.

FADE TO:

JANUS

(V.O. THE MONTAGE)

After the dragon battle, weeks passed. The women did not return. So to pass the time, the men got busy building. They constructed stone huts and a Clubhouse that doubled as a warehouse for the captain's booty. They christened their new three inhabitant village "*Camp Paradise.*"

EXT. CAMP AND NEARBY - DAY - MONTAGE

...The men CHOP through the jungle, CLEARING brush and flora.
 ...Manny, Thack and Alec CARRY round stones toward camp.
 ...Thack SLICES off palm FRONDS for a roof.
 ...The men use ROPES to lower a palm TRUNK into a deep hole.
 ...The men form thatched ROOFS over sturdy cross-timbers.
 ...Stone HUTS and a larger stone CLUBHOUSE form the new camp.
 ...On the Clubhouse ROOF, Thack places a FLAG and a SIGN:
 CAMP PARADISE, POP. 3. Manny and Alec applaud.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. CAMP - DAWN

A torrential DOWNPOUR. Dark OMINOUS skies. Flashes of LIGHTNING. Distant THUNDER. MUDDY pathways.

INT. THACK'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Thack's space is TIDY, with dozens of books, notepads, clothes folded and placed on shelves. From a window over his desk, he FROWNS at the rain, plops into the chair and begins WRITING in his journal.

INT. MANNY'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Manny's place is a MESS...dirty socks and underwear in scattered piles, moldy towels tossed over chairs, a leaking roof. He lolls in bed, lifts his sleep mask, glances at the storm out the window and turns over to sleep it out.

INT. ALEC'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Alec's quarters reflect an OBSESSIVE personality...socks and shirts organized by color, tools by type, books by author alphabetically . He finishes making his bed--no creases--snatches a palm frond umbrella and walks outside.

EXT. CAMP, OUTSIDE THE ROW OF HUTS - CONTINUOUS

Standing beneath the umbrella in PELTING RAIN and BLUSTERING WINDS, Alec YELLS into the huts to Thack and Manny.

ALEC
WAKE UP WANKERS! GET YOUR ASSES UP
AND JOIN ME AT THE CLUBHOUSE.

He SIDESTEPS huge puddles on his way to the Clubhouse.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Alec and Thack wait at a table as Manny STUMBLES in.

MANNY
Jesus Alec, what's so important
that we need to meet during a
monsoon?

Just as Manny begins to shut the door, the storm abruptly STOPS. A SIZZLING tropical sun returns, the clouds DISAPPEAR. He shakes his head.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Okay, never mind. I'd hate to be a freakin' weatherman here.

ALEC

(chuckles) Seems like an easy job. Downpour in the morning. Hot and humid every afternoon.

MANNY

True. I'd rather have stayed in bed though. Hey, by the way, you guys try that honey I brought back?

THACK

Yea, I have. Right after dinner and I sleep like a baby all night.

MANNY

Me too! You were Mr. A student in college biology. What's in the honey that it does that?

THACK

Island plants might have pollen with special sleep properties. Like CBD. And it gets into the bee's honey.

MANNY

Whatever it is, I'm gonna keep eating that honey! Sleep's the only thing that keeps me from thinking about the women.

Manny TRUDGES to an empty chair at the table.

ALEC

Which is a good segue for why I called you here. Been 17 days, 12 hours and from the location of the sun...

He looks out the window...

ALEC (CONT'D)

...about 30 minutes since we last saw them. But who's counting?

MANNY

What are we doing wrong? They always fly off.

Outside the window, the waterfall THRASHES. A flock of Macaw fledglings and their parents SQUAWK past the Clubhouse.

THACK

Maybe they just aren't that into us.

MANNY

Debbie Downer much?

THACK

Sometimes the truth hurts.

ALEC

I think we should all agree to keep ourselves busy, build stuff, get our minds off of them. Move on.

MANNY

And eat more honey.

Thack approaches the window, SURVEYS the empty, blue horizon. The sun beats down. The Macaws have disappeared from the sky.

EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF PARADISE ISLAND - DUSK

MACKIE roosts in a gigantic Aguaje Palm as the sun FADES over the horizon. She GAZES out at the redhead and Rainbow DANCING high in the purple sky and recalls a memory of her youth.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. ATOLLS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC - DUSK

A TEEN MACKIE (16) chases a flock of other flying girls and boys weaving in and out of the forest like aerial ballet dancers. They joyfully CACKLE, COO, DIVE and DIP.

Suddenly, an older flying woman appears--MACKIE'S MOTHER (mid 40's)--her arms crossed defiantly, wings FLUTTERING as she HOVERS before the young flock.

Mackie frowns, waves goodbye to her friends. The two fly over the water, land on a Palm Tree where others with similar colors and features roost...MACKIE'S FAMILY.

MACKIE'S FATHER (late 40's) lands next to her, places his arm around her as the entire family CHIRPS at the sunset.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

BACK TO PRESENT.

EXT. AGUAJE PALM - DUSK, CONTINUOUS

Mackie returns to reality. The redhead and Rainbow land on fronds near her. She SMILES at them. All at once, the trio begins to CACKLE and COO, sharing in their unique language.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Manny SWIMS in the ocean. The dragon is gone; the tide has pushed its body to sea. On the horizon, Manny spots three figures. He whispers to himself...

MANNY

Could it be?

It's the WOMEN flying back, PIROUETTING, DANCING and DIVING high above the ocean. Manny WAVES exuberantly.

Manny TEARS through the water shows off a breast stroke, a side-stroke, a dog paddle.

The redhead SQUAWKS...a SHARK'S FIN appears.

Mackie sees it too. She swoops, seizes Manny under each arm, LIFTS him out of the water. The other women help her carry him to the beach.

They look displeased, turn and fly away.

MANNY (CONT'D)

No Mackie! Don't leave! Please!

Mackie stops, HOVERS, shakes her head at Manny and joins the women. Higher they go until they are out of sight.

EXT. CAMP - LATER

Manny MOPES back, MUMBLING to himself.

ALEC

Why the long face, mate?

MANNY

It happened again! She must think I'm a big wuss.

THACK

Who? Mackie? She's back?

MANNY

Yea Mackie. I was swimming and a smart ass Great White mistook me for breakfast.

MANNY (CONT'D)

And Mackie saved me. Again! First a dragon. Now a shark.

ALEC

Was Rainbow with her?

MANNY

Yea. And the redhead.

THACK

The redhead? Was she still hurt?

MANNY

She looked like her usual *high flying* self to me.

THACK

Maybe we'll see more of them now.

MANNY

Will we? And under whose terms? They flit and flirt and free us from monsters of sky and sea. We come off as helpless pansies.

THACK

Sounds like jealousy, Manny.

MANNY

It's the damn wings.

ALEC

I know what you're saying, mate. They hold all the cards.

THACK

So you think it's the wings too?

ALEC

I do.

MANNY

Because of those wings, the playing field's not even.

THACK

And how exactly do we make it even?

MANNY

We capture them.

THACK

What??!!

ALEC

It's the only way we can change the dynamic, Thack.

THACK

Jesus H. Christ.

MANNY

Are you with us?

THACK

Nope. I'm not about to *capture* someone I care about.

ALEC

Fair 'nough.

Alec turns to Manny.

ALEC (CONT'D)

We might as well get it over with sooner rather than later, Manny. We lay the groundwork tonight.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Manny and Alec remove SCARVES, JEWELRY, FEATHER BOAS and other treasures from the CAPTAIN'S TRUNK.

ALEC

Grab anything appealing to a woman. Colorful stuff especially.

MANNY

They do love *all that glitters*.

Alec retrieves colorful SCARVES from the trunk.

ALEC

Here, these should get their attention. Come on.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK - LATER

Alex and Manny TIE the SCARVES to tall STAKES. They flap in the breeze, a colorful display below the setting sun.

ALEC

Once they see the scarves, they'll want them. And when they take them, we've piqued their interest.

MANNY

For more goodies!

ALEC

Yep and we set the hook.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - NIGHT

The three women sleep on the forest floor. The redhead dreams...

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

The redhead and Thack MAKE PASSIONATE LOVE. She climbs on top, takes control. Thack watches her expressions--joyous, intense. Finally they CLIMAX together.

She lays back, smiles at Thack. But her expression changes from ecstasy to horror. She bolts up, feels sudden PAIN. Thack REACHES OUT to hold her. She pushes his hands away, reaches behind her back. Her wings are GONE!

Thack EXTENDS his palms. Looks at them. They DRIP with blood.

RETURN TO PRESENT - TROPICAL FOREST - NIGHT

The redhead AWAKENS from her dream, eyes open wide. Her face FROZEN in fear.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Upon waking, Alex and Manny RUN along the beach. The scarves are gone. They smile.

ALEC

Bingo!

MANNY

Guess we got their attention.

ALEC
Now phase two.

Alec removes a small MIRROR, tilts it at the sun.

MANNY
It's like a bat signal for flying
women!

ALEC
Calling all flying women. Report to
Paradise Island beach immediately!
Your goodies have arrived.

Manny LAUGHS. The WOMEN ZOOM toward the beach.

MANNY
That was fast!

Mackie has a SCARF tied around her waist, a second around her neck. Rainbow's is on her wrist. The redhead wears none. Alec places the MIRROR on the beach, steps back.

ALEC
It's okay ladies. Take a look at
yourself.

He gestures toward the MIRROR. Cautiously, Mackie flutters down, GLANCES at herself, CONFUSED.

MANNY
It's okay Mackie.

Mackie CACKLES. She smiles. Intrigued, Rainbow HOVERS next to Mackie, checks out her image in the MIRROR.

ALEC
(to Manny)
They can't get enough of
themselves. Their first selfie!

Suddenly, Mackie pushes aside Rainbow, snatches the MIRROR, flies back to where the redhead hovers. Disharmonious SCREECHING follows.

Thack appears, approaches the men on the beach.

THACK
What the hell is going on?

ALEC
Catfight.

MANNY

More like *bird* fight. Alec tricked them with a mirror. Probably first time they've seen their own image.

The redhead SPOTS Thack, SEIZES the MIRROR from Mackie, glares at him, SQUAWKS and FLINGS the mirror to the beach. Pieces SCATTER in an EXPLOSION of reflected LIGHT.

The redhead STREAKS toward Thack, SHAKES her head. She turns, SPITS on Manny and Alec.

She CACKLES COMMANDS and the women disappear over the ocean.

Thack GLARES at Alec and Manny and STOMPS back to camp.

EXT. BEACH - NEXT MORNING, SUNRISE

Alec and Manny carry wooden BOXES filled with colorful FEATHER FANS. They DUMP them and hide behind a nearby palm.

MANNY

You sure this will work? After how it went yesterday?

ALEC

Trust me, they'll be back.

Soon, the WOMEN appear, SOARING above the FANS, SQUAWKING.

ALEC (CONT'D)

They don't know what they are.

MANNY

I'll show them!

Manny RUNS to the beach, opens a fan, WAVES it by his face.

He OPENS other fans, RUNS back to watch with Alec.

Mackie approaches, without landing, seizes a fan of PEACOCK FEATHERS. FANS herself, CACKLES happily.

Next comes Rainbow. She GRABS two large fans. The redhead WATCHES from above. They all three fly off, Mackie and Rainbow FANNING themselves joyfully.

ALEC

That's it! We've got 'em now,

MANNY

How so? They won't even land.

ALEC
 Tomorrow you'll see. Payoff day.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER SAME DAY

MONTAGE:

...Manny and Alec INSTALL bamboo display TABLES and place the TRINKETS and other VALUABLES on top.

...They hang DRESSES and feather BOAS on nails.

...They place three bamboo CHAIRS in the center of the Clubhouse and HAMMOCKS in the corners.

...They place MIRRORS around the room.

...Thack WALKS in, sees what they've done.

THACK
 So you're still going to go through
 with it?

ALEC
 Yep.

THACK
 And the redhead?

ALEC
 What about her?

THACK
 She's part of your scheme too?

ALEC
 If she follows the other girls.

THACK
 There's no other way?

MANNY
 I don't see how.

ALEC
 This *is* the only way.

Thack TURNS away, LOWERS his head, turns back. SIGHS deeply.

THACK
 It's wrong. It's just so wrong,
 but...

ALEC

But...?

THACK

I pray they'll forgive us.

MANNY

I thought you were agnostic.

THACK

Maybe they've got a Birdgod. I'll pray to him...or her.

ALEC

So...you're in?

Thack NODS indifferently.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Okay. Tomorrow we begin the final siege. May the *Great Birdgod* forgive us.

EXT. BEACH - NEXT MORNING

The men SWIM in the ocean. Two empty BOXES lay beside the STAKES where the scarves once flapped. Manny SCANS the sky.

MANNY

Just like clockwork.

The WOMEN HOVER over the beach.

ALEC

Just like we planned. Don't look.

The men start back to camp. When the men are out of sight, the women SWOOP down and peer into the empty BOXES. When it's clear there are to be no new gifts, they SQUAWK and SCREECH.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The men enter and padlock the door from inside. Outside the women CRY OUT angrily.

ALEC

Hear that? They're pissed.

MANNY

No Christmas presents today girls!

EXT. SKY ABOVE THE CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The women CIRCLE the Clubhouse roof. After a few laps, the trio lands on the roof and POUND their tiny feet.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the men are STILL. Alec shoots a "SHUSH."

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The women have had enough. They DIVE from the roof, BANG on the closed shutters, POUND on the locked door. SCREECHES and SHRILL SQUAWKS flood the air.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The men COVER their EARS. Manny and Alec smile, amused by their ruse's effect. Thack closes his eyes.

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The redhead GESTURES to the others. They fly off, GLANCING back at the Clubhouse.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Once the noise outside ends, Alec UNLOCKS the PADLOCK, opens the door. Sunlight STREAMS in.

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The men EXIT. Alec PADLOCKS the door from the outside. Manny SECURES the SHUTTERS. Thack furtively SURVEYS the sky.

In the distance, PERCHED on the FRONDS of a large palm tree, the women WATCH the men.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The men MARCH behind the waterfall, CRAWL beneath dense foliage and hide. From this vantage point the women can't see the men but the men can see the Clubhouse.

THACK

They watched us come over here.

ALEC

Good. Means they're still curious.

MANNY

Put in your earplugs. They'll be back. That padlocked door is gonna drive 'em bonkers!

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The women RUSH to where the men crawled in. DIPPING under treetops, they cannot penetrate the thick foliage canopy.

EXT. THE MEN'S FOREST HIDING SPOT - CONTINUOUS

MANNY

They're saying 'We want more goodies.'

ALEC

Women are SO predictable.

THACK

What's predictable is how much they're going to hate us.

ALEC

They'll get over it once they get their hands on all that glitter.

MANNY

And, they get us to boot!

DISSOLVE TO:

JANUS

(V.O. THE MONTAGE)

Each day for a week, the men repeated the same program. Go inside the Clubhouse and lock the door. In turn, the women repeated their same response. Hover over the Clubhouse, attempt to break in and, failing to do so, fly away. The men would scurry to the thick tropical forest. There they'd hide until the women became exhausted trying to penetrate the thick canopy and fly away.

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - MORNING - (MONTAGE)

...Dawn breaks, the men AWAKEN, ENTER the Clubhouse and LOCK the door from inside.

...The women soon appear HOVERING over the Clubhouse. They SQUAWK, POUND on the roof with their hands and feet but the men do not stir. The women DROP STONES onto the roof.

...The women FLUTTER outside the Clubhouse door and attempt to BREAK IT down without success.

...Eventually, exhausted and infuriated, they FLY OFF.

...The men come out, PADLOCK the Clubhouse door from the outside. They MARCH swiftly into the brush to hide.

...The women try to BREACH the thick forest but are unable to and FLY OFF.

END MONTAGE

JANUS

(V.O.)

Until one day, the men altered
their program...

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The women FLY OFF in the b.g. The men EXIT the Clubhouse and SCURRY into the brush. As usual the women return to PURSUE them. But this time the Clubhouse door is WIDE OPEN.

The women SQUAWK excitedly. Like a choreographed team of Blue Angels pilots, they DIVE toward the Clubhouse.

They land softly, SHUFFLE toward the door. Their eyes sparkle in anticipation for the treasures they hope are inside.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - DAY

Through the underbrush, the men watch the women.

ALEC

Son of a bitch. We got 'em.

MANNY

I thought this day would never
come.

THACK

I wished this day would never come.

The men creep BACK to the Clubhouse. The POUNDING waterfall drowns out all background noise.

MANNY

I don't hear anything. Do you think it worked?

ALEC

We'll soon find out.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The men enter. The room is in SHAMBLES like a department store after a big sale...MIRRORS, CLOTHES, JEWELRY scattered.

Asleep on the floor are the women, clad in the GOWNS, JEWELRY, SCARVES and SHOES the men had tempted them with.

On a nearby table, a giant bowl of nuts, bananas and kiwi COVERED IN HONEY has been picked over by the women.

ALEC

Looks like your honey did the trick, Manny.

MANNY

Golden sleeping syrup.

THACK

Don't be so smug. Not like they'd want us to do this if they were awake.

ALEC

We've come this far, we've got to finish it.

THACK

I can't.

ALEC

You have to.

MANNY

We *all* agreed to do this, Thack.

ALEC

None of us want to do this.

THACK

Good. I vote we don't then.

ALEC
Election's over, mate. And your
vote was to go through with it.
Here.

Alec **SHOVES** a pair of **SHEARS** into Thack's and Manny's hands
and **GRABS** a pair for himself.

ALEC (CONT'D)
I sharpened them this morning.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. CAMP - MORNING

Manny and Alec **SIT** on tree stumps by a **FIRE** where a pot of **COFFEE** warms. The forest awakens: the sounds of **WILDLIFE**, the **CRASHING** of the waterfall. Thack **EMERGES** from the Clubhouse.

MANNY
How are they?

THACK
Tired. Recuperating.

Thack gathers himself, obviously shaken.

THACK (CONT'D)
The redhead woke up last night. She
saw that she and the others were
tied up and she called out to them.
I couldn't understand a word but I
got the gist of their exchange.

MANNY
Which was?

THACK
It's like she was saying 'We **cannot**
die. We must live. We must go on
together.'

THACK grabs a metal **CUP**, gestures to Alec for coffee. He
takes a **SWIG** and continues.

THACK (CONT'D)
Whatever she said, it inspired
them. They changed from drowsy and
sorrowful to content. Even
cheerful.

Thack becomes EMOTIONAL, fights back tears, resumes.

THACK (CONT'D)

When I helped the redhead drink some honey water, she gave me the biggest, most wonderful smile. My heart leapt from my chest. I caught myself after I realized what we'd just done. And now...

MANNY

It's okay, Thack. I'm feeling guilty too.

ALEC

Truth be told, so am I but gents, they'll heal. We all will. Then we can move on...together.

Thack GLANCES at the back of his HAND, eyes spatters of BLOOD. He turns his hand over. His palm is ENCRUSTED with BLOOD. He balls his hand into a FIST.

EXT. SOUTH PACIFIC - DAY

The FIJI FLIGHT SCHOOL HELICOPTER ZOOMS over the vast ocean. In the distance, a hand-painted sign reads PHOENIX ISLAND FUELS.

Sebastian lands the copter and turns off the engine. The BLADES stop rotating. A small dark-skinned, teeth-challenged man in flowered shirt--DANNY (60's)--waves to Janus.

Janus steps out of the copter, WAVES back.

JANUS

Hello Danny. Fill 'er up will you?

DANNY

Sure thing Mr. Janus.

EXT. PHOENIX ISLAND FUELS - CONTINUOUS

While they wait, Janus continues his story.

SEBASTIAN

So the men...they...

JANUS

Yes. They captured the women. And they severed their wings.

SEBASTIAN

But why? The women hadn't done anything to hurt them. In fact, they saved them. Several times!

JANUS

Fear.

SEBASTIAN

What could the men possibly fear?

JANUS

They feared losing them. Feared that the women would tire of them and one day just...fly away.

SEBASTIAN

Did the women ever forgive them?

JANUS

Well...many weeks passed after "*the incident in the Clubhouse...*"

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCENES AROUND THE ISLAND - DAY - (MONTAGE)

...The sun is high in the sky.

...The land shimmers with light.

...Colorful birds CACKLE and SQUAWK in the tropical forest.

...The waterfall POUNDS into the plunge pool.

...The ocean waves CRASH onto the sand where HERMET CRABS seek cover from the bubbling tide.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The men LOUNGE near the plunge POOL. Manny and Alec no longer have beards. Thack holds a MIRROR, SHAVES off his own beard. They watch the women SWIM near the waterfall.

ALEC

They're like exotic mermaids.

Their shining hair GLITTERING in the sun, the women's strong muscular arms rise, their heads LEAN forward, their delicate hands GUIDE them through the glistening water.

MANNY

They're dead ringers for that lady
in those old movies...Ethel
Mermaid? Ethel somethin'?

Thack stops shaving, smiles.

THACK

Esther *Williams*. She was an MGM
starlet and synchronized swimmer.

ALEC

Well, looks like we've got **three**
Esther Williams out there.

MANNY

Don't you think they're all feeling
more comfortable with us? Mackie
doesn't jump anymore when I run to
her. She knows I'm just playing.

THACK

I don't know. Could you ever
forgive someone if they did what we
did to them?

MANNY

If it was in the name of love like
we...

THACK

That's why we did it? For love?

ALEC

Knock it off you two. Point is,
they've come around. Isn't it
better being *with* them than waiting
for them?

THACK

Sounds like rationalization and
hubris to me.

ALEC

I told you they'd come around.
Women flirt and act hard to get.
But when you show them...

Thack SCOWLS at Alec.

THACK

Please tell me you weren't going to
say *show them who's boss*?

ALEC

They like when men are in charge.
They like being taken care of.

THACK

In charge? That's what we did with
those shears? Showed them who's **in
charge?**

MANNY

Look at them. They're adapting to
their new way of life with us. Just
look how quickly they're learning
the language.

The women RISE from the water, approach the shore. They
TEETER as they navigate the uneven beach terrain.

ALEC

One thing they are probably never
going to do well though is walk.

MANNY

And certainly not run. Not with
such little feet.

Mackie reaches Manny, whispers SEXILY into his ear.

MACKIE

Kiiiiissss me!

MANNY

That's what I'm talkin' about!

Manny CARESSES Mackie's face, KISSES her gently.

EXT. CAMP - TWILIGHT

Fireflies ARC in a purplish sky. Twinkling replace the
setting sun. The POUNDING of the waterfall blends in with
crickets CHIRPING, birds CALLING.

Sitting in a circle around a FIRE, Thack READS to the women.
Manny and Alec listen.

THACK

Ladies, I think you'll enjoy
tonight's lesson. It's what is
called a fairy tale.

MACKIE

What is fairy tale?

THACK

It's a made-up story. This one is about a girl called Cinderella.

RAINBOW

Girl! That is what we are!

THACK

That's right. So, once upon a time, there was a young girl named Cinderella who lived with her stepmother...

MACKIE

What is stepmother?

THACK

Stepmother? A stepmother is someone who is not the mother who gave you birth. She is someone who married your father.

THE REDHEAD

Why would my father marry someone who is not my mother?

THACK

(irritated)

It's a good question but let's just say he did. So the stepmother also had two daughters. And the three of them were all cruel to Cinderella.

MACKIE

What is cruel?

THACK

Cruel is not being nice to people.

RAINBOW

Can you be *cruel* to animals and birds as well as to girls?

THACK

Yes. You can be cruel to them too.

THE REDHEAD

Hmmm.

Thack continues reading

THACK

So the cruel stepmother and her daughters made the girl work like a slave...

MACKIE

What is slave?

THACK

(exasperated)

A slave? Well...a slave is someone who is controlled by someone else and is made to do work for them.

THE REDHEAD

Ah. I understand. So we are slaves to you men like the girl was to her stepmother?

The women CHUCKLE. Thack FROWNS.

THACK

No. No. That's not exactly true.

THE REDHEAD

Why not?

THACK

Because you have the freedom to leave.

THE REDHEAD

Freedom? Leave? You mean fly away? How can we fly away without wings?

MACKIE

Yes, she is right.

RAINBOW

Yes, we cannot fly away.

Thack is embarrassed; he gives out a deep SIGH.

THACK

Maybe we should call it a night. Let's continue the story another time.

MACKIE

Okay.

RAINBOW

Okay.

Mackie and Rainbow rejoin Manny and Alec. They leave together WALKING back to the huts. The redhead stays behind.

THE REDHEAD

In the reading lessons you give us,
I have learned many words.

THACK

I've noticed. Your vocabulary is
very good.

THE REDHEAD

Thank you Mr. Thack.

THACK

Just Thack is good.

THE REDHEAD

Okay...Thack. One of the books I
read told of a man named Ulysses...

THACK

Yes, *The Odyssey*.

THE REDHEAD

Right. He seemed
brave...courageful.

THACK

Courage-ous. It means to possess
courage. Yes, Ulysses was a
courageous man for sure.

THE REDHEAD

But is not courage more than
physical strength? Is it not also
courageous to be truthful and kind?

THACK

Absolutely.

THE REDHEAD

I do not think you men are
courageful...er, *courageous*. You
told us we have freedom. But we do
not. You men took that from us when
you did what you did. It was not
courageous. It was another word I
have also learned.

THACK

Oh I don't...

THE REDHEAD

That word is liar. You and the
others are liars. Now you lie to us
about having freedom.

(MORE)

THE REDHEAD (CONT'D)

But we do not. You keep us on the ground when we could be soaring. When we *should* be soaring high in the sky.

Thack puts his hands on the redhead's shoulders and stares into her eyes.

THACK

You're right. Men do sometimes lie and that's wrong. What we did was *wrong*. And I'm so sorry for it.

The redhead SHRUGS Thack's hands off her shoulders.

THE REDHEAD

Not nearly as sorry as we are, *Mr.* Thack.

She walks away leaving Thack standing, arms to his sides, watching her with a guilty look. He SIGHS, plops down onto his bamboo chair and STARES at the FIRE.

EXT. AROUND THE ISLAND - DAY (MONTAGE)

...The women wave to the men as they walk carrying SHOVELS, HAMMERS, BOARDS.

...LAUGHING the men ZIPLINE from a cliff.

...The women PICK FRUIT, place it in burlap BAGS and swing them over their shoulders. They STRUGGLE to carry the load.

...Rainbow LASSOES coconuts from a coconut palm. A WOLF sees her, bares it's teeth. But Rainbow cracks open one of the coconuts, MOTIONS for the wolf to drink. As it drinks, she pets it. She carries the coconuts; the wolf FOLLOWS.

...The men sit READING: Thack's book is *Darwin's On the Origin of Species*, Manny's is a *National Geographic* and Alec's is a dog-eared *Playboy*.

...In the forest, the women CALL out. BIRDS and BUTTERFLIES land on their shoulders. The women laugh as they PET the birds, HOLD the butterflies and TALK in their language.

MONTAGE ENDS.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Thack and the redhead sit by a fire. Nearby, Manny, Mackie, Alec and Rainbow hold hands. They say goodnight to Thack and the redhead and head back to their huts.

THACK

Your vocabulary is improving by the day. I'm impressed.

THE REDHEAD

Impressed. I am sorry you are feeling sad.

Thack smiles.

THACK

No, that's DE-pressed. I'm IM-pressed by how well you are reading and speaking English.

The redhead covers her mouth, chuckles. Thack extends his arm toward her with a book in his hand.

THACK (CONT'D)

I thought you might like to read this. You seem very curious about how things work.

She reads the title aloud...

THE REDHEAD

The Foo-ter of Ar-chy-tek-ter?

THACK

The Future of Architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright. He was a great designer and builder of places to live and work and play.

THE REDHEAD

Thank you! I will love reading it. I *am* enjoying learning your words. Do you think you would like to learn my language?

THACK

I *would* like that. Let's start with your name.

THE REDHEAD

Ah, it's SCAW, SCA-CAH.

THACK
So it's...SCUL, SUCULL?

THE REDHEAD
Close. But not "cul." It's SCAW
like "saw" with a "c." And SCA-CAH
like "ah." No "l."

THACK
Alright.

Thack concentrates.

THACK (CONT'D)
SCAW...SCA-CAH.

The redhead applauds, smiles.

THE REDHEAD
Yes! Perfect!

THACK
How does it translate in my
language? In English?

THE REDHEAD
It's the color of my hair. So you
would say *Scarlet*.

Thack extends his hand to her.

THACK
Well...Scarlet. Glad to meet you.

SCARLET
Nice to meet you too. What do you
want me to do with your hand?

THACK
It's a handshake. It's a greeting.

SCARLET
Okay.

Scarlet WAVES her hand side to side.

Thack smiles.

THACK
No, we *shake* each other's hands.
Like this...

He carefully GRASPS Scarlet's hand, shakes it once.

SCARLET

I like the way we greet others much better.

THACK

Oh? Show me.

Scarlet PRESSES her LIPS sensually against his ear. In a lilting, feminine voice she WHISPERS...

SCARLET

Coo. Coo. CUCK-OOO.

Thack's eyes WIDEN with pleasure.

THACK

You're right! I *definitely* prefer your greeting!

They SMILE at each other.

THACK (CONT'D)

Scarlet, now that we've been formally introduced, may I escort you home?

SCARLET

Thack. I would be delighted.

They leave the fire. Thack GRASPS Scarlet's hand. She places her head on his shoulder as they glide down the path.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The men and women gather around the table as Thack lays down a gameboard and lettered tiles.

THACK

Ladies, tonight I thought instead of language class, we could play a game that's all about words...PROSEPLAY.

MANNY

Oh man. I used to kill at that.

ALEC

Let's all play. Men against women.

THACK

Ladies?

SCARLET

Mackie, Rainbow, is our vocabulary good enough yet?

MACKIE

Just knowing the word vocabulary means we're good enough!

The women laugh.

THACK

Okay then, men against women. We'll go in order of how we're sitting around the table.

Manny goes first, eagerly lays out his tiles.

MANNY

One of the best words in the English language...men. M-E-N.

MACKIE

Here's a word that goes really well with men.

Mackie lays out her tiles...

MACKIE (CONT'D)

Asshole. A-S-S-H-O-L-E.

The women LAUGH. The men FROWN.

THACK

I'll just play off Manny's men.

Thack lays down two tiles.

THACK (CONT'D)

Women. W and O added to MEN.

SCARLET

Quite biblical of you Thack. Women created *out of* men.

Scarlet adds letters beneath the N in MEN.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

How about N-I-C-E. As in 'women are nice.'

MACKIE

And men are assholes!

Again, the women LAUGH and the men do not.

ALEC

Not so fast ladies. You don't own the market on profanity. Try this one on...add H-I-T-H-E-A-D to the S and you get...

RAINBOW

Good one...you get shithead. I think I have a great example of one of those. Add L-E-C to the A in Shithead and you get Alec!

MACKIE

Bet you didn't see that coming did you Alec?

ALEC

That's a proper word. Can't use it.

SCARLET

The rules Thack told us never said that.

MANNY

Doesn't matter.

MACKIE

Why not?

ALEC

Just because Thack forgot to tell you doesn't mean it's not a rule.

RAINBOW

Thack, you're our teacher. What is it when you don't tell all of the facts?

THACK

Well...it's omission.

SCARLET

And if you tell someone you are giving them all the facts but you omit some, isn't that called...

MACKIE

Lying! It's called lying.

THACK

Well, now, I really wasn't trying to...

RAINBOW

To lie?

SCARLET

Funny how it always comes back to
that same theme with men.

Scarlet places two tiles in front of the 'E' in nice, an 'L'
and an 'I.'

SCARLET (CONT'D)

L-I-E. Lies told by liars. Let's go
ladies.

MACKIE

Really enjoyed it guys. Let's play
a game sometime where you don't
cheat.

The women leave as the men STARE blankly at one another.

MANNY

Well, that went well.

THACK

Can't blame them for not trusting
us after what we did...

ALEC

They'll get over it.

MANNY

But when?

EXT. TOP OF CLIFF - DAY

Alec pushes a wooden CART up a steep hill; Rainbow sits
inside holding a HAND-WOVEN BASKET on her lap.

RAINBOW

What's the special occasion, Alec?

ALEC

It's our anniversary!

RAINBOW

Thack hasn't taught us that word
yet.

ALEC

It' a day you celebrate for an important date; in this case, it's been exactly six months since we met.

Rainbow's eyes light up.

RAINBOW

You remember that day?

ALEC

I do indeed. And we're going to celebrate with a picnic.

They reach the top of the cliff overlooking a panoramic view of the ocean, the rocky cliffs and the beach. CRASHING waves, SWAYING palms, bees and butterflies BUZZING and FLUTTERING.

Alec spreads a blanket on the ground, motions for Rainbow to sit. He lays out tableware, fresh fruit and flowers.

RAINBOW

I like anniversaries! But you don't like fruit, do you?

ALEC

I...I guess I'm getting used to it. I know you love it. That's the important thing.

RAINBOW

Why Alec Stone, are you abandoning your macho image just for me?

ALEC

Let's just say I'm trying to do better.

RAINBOW

(chuckles)

I like this new improved version.

ALEC

You've softened me.

RAINBOW

It's okay to be a man, Alec. To be strong. But strength is not always physical or macho. Sometimes it's about empathy, understanding, sharing. A tenderness of spirit.

Alec sits down next to her. Places her hand in his.

ALEC

Where I grew up, boys are raised to be tough and proud. So bear with me, Rainbow. Change is hard for someone like me. But I do want to change...for you.

RAINBOW

We can change and grow together. It's a partnership, Alec, not a competition.

They embrace, KISS passionately. Behind them, the emerald ocean glistens beneath a cloudless blue sky.

EXT. OCEAN - AFTERNOON

Thack and Scarlet ROW a single-OUTRIGGER CANOE through minor waves near the rocky shoreline.

SCARLET

So far, so good on the maiden voyage!

THACK

Yep, she's holding up rather well. We did a pretty good construction job for two first time boatwrights didn't we?

SCARLET

I just did what you told me. Hammer, saw, hammer, saw.

THACK

As long as she doesn't leak, we should be in good shape.

They round a bend, come upon even calmer waters. Scarlet stops rowing, RETRIEVES a basket of fruit.

SCARLET

Banana, guava or sour sop?

THACK

Guava.

SCARLET

Sour sop for me.

She takes her fruit and hands a guava to Thack.

THACK

Orange you glad I didn't say
banana?

SCARLET

What?

THACK

Bad kid's joke. Sorry.

SCARLET

Ah...joke. Like funny, ha ha.

THACK

Yea.

SCARLET

We don't really have jokes but our
culture likes to have fun. My
family was very playful.

THACK

Do you miss them? Your family?

SCARLET

Often, yes. Whenever I see birds in
the sky. Especially when they're
flying south.

She stares into the distance, solemn, pensive.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

The last time I saw my family, they
were flying south. But they never
returned. Mackie, Rainbow and I are
all that's left of our kind.

THACK

I'm sorry.

SCARLET

As am I. Growing up, it seemed like
we were always flying somewhere,
north, south, east, west. Fleeing
volcanoes and floods and droughts.
Always looking for the perfect
environment.

THACK

I was like that too. My father's
job took us around the
world...London, New York, Cape
Town, Tokyo.

SCARLET
Are those islands like this?

THACK
No. They're cities. In different countries.

Thack's words CONFUSE her; she squints and tilts her head.

THACK (CONT'D)
Cities and countries. I guess your culture didn't have those?

SCARLET
We had flocks. And homes...in the trees, on the beach, in the forest.

THACK
Did you like always being on the move?

SCARLET
I liked being with my family.

THACK
I'm sorry your family is gone.

SCARLET
Yes.

She gazes at the water, turns her head toward Thack.

SCARLET (CONT'D)
Now...you are my family.

THACK
Yes, I *am your family*. And you are *mine*.

Scarlet GRABS her oar, starts to PADDLE.

SCARLET
Better get back. Before high tide.

They turn the CANOE around and set back for shore.

A large flock of SEAGULLS soars overhead heading south. Scarlet glances up and SMILES.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Manny and Mackie STROLL hand in hand. Manny places his hands over her eyes and escorts her closer to the ocean.

He stops, whispers in her ear, removes his hands.

Mackie OPENS her eyes, COVERS her mouth. A WIDE SMILE appears on her face, her eyes TEAR UP.

Manny has constructed a tall WOODEN WALL illuminated by a dozen TIKI TORCHES in the sand.

Painted in 4-foot high ALL CAPS are THREE WORDS... MACKIE, MARRY ME!

She FLINGS her arms around Manny, NODS yes, pulls him close.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

As the sun rises, a six person, one canine PROCESSION weaves its way down the trail to the beach.

The three women and three men walk HAND IN HAND, onto the sand by a stone building near the shoreline.

The women, CROWNED with flowers and carrying garlands, cling to their male escorts as they navigate the uneven terrain. Rainbow's pet WOLF PRANCES close behind. Scarlet whispers to Thack, her escort...

SCARLET

It took them eight *months* to speak English and just eight *days* to agree to marry!

THACK

It does seem fast. But I can tell you the minute Manny saw Mackie it was true love at first sight.

SCARLET

I'm not surprised by *those* two. I didn't think we'd be having a dual ceremony though.

Manny and Mackie take their place on the beach facing the sunrise. Alec and Rainbow line up beside them.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

Guess we better take our spots now
Justice Thack.

THACK

It is that time isn't it,
Ringbearer Scarlet?

Scarlet WOBBLER in between the other couples and takes her place, directly opposite of Thack. Facing the couples, he READS from a notebook.

THACK (CONT'D)

We are gathered today to marry this
woman Mackie to this man Manny
Della Cruz and this woman Rainbow
to this man Alec Stone.

Overhead, birds gather and become a SQUAWKING winged audience: gulls, pelicans, macaws, parrots, teals. The wolf is CURLED beside them, its tail wagging, tongue panting. Scarlet addresses the rowdy throng...

SCARLET

CAW CAW KAY, CAW CAW KAY!!

Immediately, the birds STOP their outburst.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

Guess they know who's Queen Bird
'round here.

Everyone smiles. Thack CONTINUES with the ceremony.

THACK

Queen Bird Scarlet, I believe you
have the rings. Will you please
hand them to Manny and Alec.

She does. Manny and Alec place them on the fingers of their soon-to-be-brides and turn back to face Thack.

THACK (CONT'D)

Is there anyone here who says these
men and women should not be joined
in matrimony?

Scarlet shoots a THREATENING GAZE at the birds. They remain STILL and SILENT...not a peep.

THACK (CONT'D)

Then by the powers conveyed upon me
by...everyone here...I pronounce
you husbands and wives. You know
what to do--make it good!

The couples KISS passionately. The birds break into A
SQUAWKING celebration. Macaws circle Mackie and Manny.
Parrots trail Rainbow and Alec. Scarlet approaches Thack.

SCARLET

I think you may have a future as a
Justice of the Peace.

Thack surveys the CRAZINESS.

THACK

You call this peaceful?

SCARLET

The flocks are just excited. No
doubt the first time they've ever
attended a real wedding ceremony.

Thack gazes at Scarlet. He leans forward, KISSES her.

THACK

This could have been a three couple
ceremony, Scarlet.

SCARLET

(grinning)
Sure but who would have officiated?

Thack raises his eyebrows.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

Thack. I love you, you know that.
But...not yet.

THACK

It's been over a year since I first
laid eyes on you, Scarlet. And the
first time I saw you I knew you're
the one I want to spend my life
with. When will you know?

SCARLET

One day. When that inner voice in
my head stops saying "Wait! Not
yet." One day it will stop.

THACK

(sighs)

I'll wait. As long as I know you
love me, I'll wait.

In the foreground, the couples finish kissing. Hand in hand,
they walk to the stone building.

Birds SWOOP and DANCE above.

The setting sun casts a multicolored rainbow of light.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

JANUS

(V.O. THE MONTAGE)

In the years that followed, the couples settled into a regular routine. On most mornings, the men grabbed their gear and tramped off to their latest building project. And, just in time for dinner, they shuffled back to camp, tired and hungry. While the men were busy doing their thing, the women were doing what the men called "women stuff"...cooking, cleaning and caring for the kids. There were three children now--a boy and a girl for Mackie and Manny, a boy for Rainbow and Alec. Scarlet and Thack remained committed to one another but unmarried. One day, when the men were away, the women took the children to the beach. The conversation that day would prove to be a harbinger of life-altering events to come.

EXT. ALL AROUND THE ISLAND - DAY (MONTAGE)

...The men, now in their 40s, carry CONSTRUCTION GEAR into the tropical forest. The women wave goodbye.

...The men RETURN, tired and sweaty; the women move as fast as their small feet can move to greet them.

...MACKIE, still beautiful but a few pounds heavier, stirs a pot of soup over an open fire.

...RAINBOW, looking older, repairs a hole in a pair of Alex's pants. The WOLF rests at her feet.

...SCARLET, who looks the same as she did ten years before, organizes a bookcase for Thack and herself.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The women LUMBER to the beach CARTING towels, blankets and a basket of toys.

Mackie and Manny's children--ANGEL (13) a tall, thin blonde beauty and ICARUS (7) a muscular boy full of energy--follow the women.

Rainbow carries Cook, nicknamed COOKIE (4) a stocky, handsome tyke. Rainbow's WOLF runs beside them.

They lay down a BLANKET.. The children SCAMPER. The boys DO NOT have wings...but Angel DOES.

ANGEL

Hey mom, look!

Angel takes a running start and with her fragile WINGS, LIFTS OFF the ground a few feet. She checks to be sure the ladies saw her and FLAPS hard until she reaches low clouds.

Icarus, watching her, smirks at his sister.

ICARUS

Show off.

MACKIE

(yells)

Not too high sweetie!

RAINBOW

(to Mackie)

You must re-live the thrill of flying through her.

MACKIE

I do. But watching is not the same as flying.

RAINBOW

Oh I know. I love my little Cookie but I do hope my next one is a girl.

(MORE)

RAINBOW (CONT'D)

If boys can't fly, at least I can
live vicariously through a little
girl who can!

Angel FLIES down and LANDS on a large boulder where the boys
play. She PLODS to the top of the rock.

MACKIE

Don't walk Angel. Fly! Use those
wonderful wings.

Angel does just that...DIPPING and DIVING toward the women.
She HOVERS face to face with her mother and PLANTS a KISS.

RAINBOW

Hey, what about me?

Angel flutters to Rainbow and KISSES her cheek.

SCARLET

Ahem.

Angel smiles and approaches her. Scarlet pulls Angel onto her
lap, CARESSE her wings.

Jealous of the attention given to Angel, the boys RACE back.

ICARUS

Mommy! Angel is just showing off.
If I had wings, I could fly lots
better!

Icarus JUMPS into his mom's lap. Mackie HUGS him tightly. She
WINKS at Angel, still in Scarlet's lap.

MACKIE

Yes baby. I'm sure you could.

RAINBOW

Come here Cookie. Mommy wants to
hold you.

Cookie WADDLES to his mother, the wolf chasing behind. Cookie
points...

COOKIE

Wolfie. Doggie. Wolfie!

RAINBOW

I like that name. From now on he's
Wolfie!

Rainbow pats the newly named WOLFIE on the head. Cookie follows suit.

Getting bored, the three children take off again. Angel FLIES. The two boys RUN. Wolfie CHASES them.

MACKIE

She's growing up so fast. I'd love to be up there guiding her.

RAINBOW

I dream the same but we know that's not gonna happen.

SCARLET

Remember how we used to just fly all day for fun. *And* all night under the full moon!

RAINBOW

I used to fly as high as I could and drop like a stone until I almost touched the water.

MACKIE

I loved racing. We'd race from one part of the island to the other. Or from one cloud to another.

SCARLET

Remember the beautiful sunsets?

RAINBOW

And sunrises from the air!

SCARLET

And thunderstorms. Dodging lightning! Rain bouncing off our wings. Shouting and singing and leaping through the wind and rain.

MACKIE

I used to love to watch you Scarlet. You *were fearless*. But I was afraid you might hurt yourself.

RAINBOW

The worst--or best--depending on how you remember it, was that cyclone! I've never been so scared *and* excited simultaneously.

SCARLET

God yes. So cool!

MACKIE
But dangerous.

RAINBOW
Dangerously cool!!

The women chuckle.

SCARLET
How quickly life changes.

MACKIE
Do you remember the first time we
saw them? The men.

RAINBOW
(smiles)
I think that was our happiest time-
those weeks before they knew we
were there.

SCARLET
They knew but they didn't know. It
was so much fun teasing them.
Studying them.

MACKIE
I used to sneak up on Manny at
night and just watch him sleep.
Like he was a little baby.

SCARLET
Thack said he used to hear us.

RAINBOW
They thought they were dreaming it.

SCARLET
Until we saved their asses from the
dragons!

MACKIE
And the great white!

RAINBOW
The shark rescue. Alec said that's
when he and Manny decided to
capture us. They didn't like
feeling inferior to women.

MACKIE
And yet...there is something about
them that makes you feel quivery
when they're around.

SCARLET

Power. Even when its not real. They exude it in their tone of voice. Their bluster. The way they walk.

RAINBOW

Seems so ironic. They *walk*. But we *fly!* We slay dragons. They hide. We go thru painful labor. They claim that "we" are pregnant.

SCARLET

And yet...here we are. Unable to fly. Watching their children, preparing their meals, cleaning their homes.

MACKIE

While they hang out telling stories and doing stuff they like to do.

RAINBOW

Most of the time--without us.

MACKIE

Scarlet, I remember all of those times you begged us not to fly over here, to Paradise Island. '*Leave with our families. Fly south before it's too late*' you'd tell us.

SCARLET

But as we got to know more about them, I told you that I might not be able to help myself. And you see...I wasn't.

MACKIE

Are you sorry, Scarlet?

SCARLET

No.

MACKIE

Rainbow?

RAINBOW

Not really.

MACKIE

Me neither. I love my kids. I love Manny. But...I also love--or--loved flying.

RAINBOW

What was it that changed your mind
Scarlet? What made you give up the
fight and come with us?

SCARLET

I'll tell you. It's something I've
never told anyone except Thack.

Scarlet pauses, swallows hard, regains her composure.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

I was incredibly sad. You were
seeing more of your new loves and I
missed you. I thought I was losing
you to the men. I was beginning to
fall for Thack too. All I knew is
that I was moody and sad. So...I
decided to kill myself.

MACKIE

Oh my God Scarlet!

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - NIGHT

Scarlet climbs higher into the sky. Suddenly, she stops
flapping her wings and DROPS.

As she nears the treetops, she struggles to open her wings.
SHE CANNOT!

She continues to STRUGGLE. Finally, her wings spread and she
floats to the fronds of a giant PALM. She lays down and SOBS.

SCARLET

(V.O. THE FLASHBACK)

One night I was flying by myself. I
flew higher and higher and higher.
And I just stopped flying and
dropped like a stone. But a funny
thing happened. I started to think
about Thack. My real feelings came
forward. I realized I loved him.
And I knew I couldn't die. But my
wings betrayed me. They would not
open! I kept falling. And I just
willed them to open. At last, they
did. I floated to the top of a
tree. And I wept.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

BACK TO PRESENT

RAINBOW

I've never seen you cry.

SCARLET

The tears come much easier now.

RAINBOW

You told Thack?

SCARLET

I didn't have to...he saw me fall.

MACKIE

He saw you?

SCARLET

He'd been in the forest and saw me struggle and fall into the tree.

RAINBOW

What did he say?

SCARLET

Later, when I learned English, we talked about it. He said it changed him. It's what convinced him to join with Manny and Alec to capture us.

MACKIE

But why?

SCARLET

He was afraid that one day I'd fly too high and kill myself. He thought all of us were becoming too fearless not appreciating the dangers of flying.

MACKIE

Guess we'll never be able to test his theory. In a few days, it'll be time for the mid-year clipping.

RAINBOW

It's true. After ten years of shearing, I doubt our wings will ever grow back big enough to fly.

SCARLET

Sort of like men going bald,
right?!

The women LAUGH uncomfortably. The children RETURN to them,
finished with their playing.

RAINBOW

Wingless women. *Hairless* men. A
match made in heaven.

MACKIE

And on earth.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST NEAR THE BEACH - DAWN

Manny and Icarus march toward a large swath of heavy brush.
They carry BOWS and shoulder a quiver of ARROWS.

MANNY

Walk real slow and be quiet. This
is where I saw their flock.

ICARUS

(whispering)
What do they look like Dad?

MANNY

Bluish purple with a short red
beak. Size of a chicken.

ICARUS

What's a chicken?

MANNY

Oh right. Well, it's little. This
one's called Takahe, according to
Thack's bird book. Should be good
eating.

ICARUS

You can eat birds?

MANNY

Oh yea! Technically these aren't
true birds. They can't fly. Aren't
you tired of fruit and nuts? All
that boring grub your mother forces
on us?

ICARUS
 (reluctantly)
 I guess so. I just thought we weren't supposed to kill living creatures. That's what Mom says.

MANNY
 Well, sometimes your mother...

Manny spots a flock of TAKAHE strutting thru the brush. He motions for Icarus to prepare to shoot.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 Okay Ick, aim for the heart.

Icarus hesitates. Seconds pass.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 What are you waiting for?

Icarus shoots. The arrow OVERSHOTS the flock. The birds SQUAWK and SCAMPER. Manny shakes his head.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 Not so fast little chickadees.

Manny raises his bow and aims. His arrow finds a Takahe's HEART. A tear FLOWS down Icarus's cheek.

EXT. CAMP - LATER SAME DAY

Manny (smiling) and Icarus (not) LUMBER back. Mackie meets them outside their hut.

MACKIE
 I was worried! You went off without saying goodbye this morning.

MANNY
 We brought you a surprise. We can have a Thanksgiving feast now and it's not even Thanksgiving.

MACKIE
 Whatever that is.

Manny removes the slain Takahe from a burlap BAG and proudly displays it. Mackie sees their BOWS and ARROWS.

MACKIE (CONT'D)
 Manny what have you done? Did Icarus see his father do this?!

MANNY

Of course. Where I come from,
fathers teach their sons to hunt.

MACKIE

(sobbing)

Not where I come from. And a bird?
You killed a bird?!

Mackie returns to the hut, SOBBING. Icarus runs after her.
Manny stands by himself still holding the dead bird.

EXT. CAMP - DUSK

The men return to camp from a day working on their project on
the other side of the island. Angel FLIES to her father,
Manny. Icarus SMILES at his father, WAVES without emotion.

MANNY

How's my pride and joy?

Angel gives her father a KISS. Manny glances at Icarus, who
turns and walks into the family hut.

Rainbow, carrying Cookie, CREEPS to Alec, HANDS the little
boy to his father.

Seeing Scarlet, Thack RUNS to her to save her the steps. HUGS
her tightly.

THACK

I'm so glad to see you! Rather stay
here with you but the guys insist
we have to finish the new site.

SCARLET

(softly)

You haven't let on have you?

THACK

No. They think I did up the plans.
They didn't know **I** was such an
architectural **genius**.

SCARLET

If they ever found out I drafted
the layouts, there'd be complete
chaos.

THACK

(chuckles)

I'm just glad you drafted them.

(MORE)

THACK (CONT'D)

It's something I can achieve and be proud of.

Thack reaches for Scarlet's hand as they walk and talk.

SCARLET

There'll be plenty more to do after that project. I've been working on plans for the entire island. And everyone--men, women and children--will need to pitch in to finish them.

THACK

I'll keep working on Manny and Alec 'cause convincing them to work alongside women and children is gonna be a heavy lift.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - EVENING, SAME DAY

The men, women and children DINE at a long wooden TABLE.

ALEC

(chewing)

So what did you ladies and our beautiful children do today?

COOKIE

Us kids had fun at the beach!

RAINBOW

They sure did! Cookie loves running. He's not *wobbling* as much as he used to.

MACKIE

(looks at Angel)

Not like my Angel and her flying! You're still a little bit *wobbly* but you're getting better and better aren't you sweetie? Still, you shouldn't fly so high. I wish I could be up there teaching you.

ALEC

(raises his brow)

Angel is flying *high*? You think that's safe Manny?

MANNY

God no! Mackie--we've talked about this.

(MORE)

MANNY (CONT'D)

And there's obviously no way in hell her mother will ever "be up there" again, teaching her. Besides, when she's 18, she's...

MACKIE

She's what?

MANNY

Nothing. This is not the time or place to discuss it.

ANGEL

Discuss *what* Daddy?

SCARLET

Yes, Manny. Discuss what?

Beneath the table, Thack NUDGESS Scarlet to stay out of it. Manny wipes his face with a napkin. Tosses it on the table.

MANNY

Not that it's any of your business, Scarlet. But when Angel turns 18, we'll be clipping her wings. No grown daughter--or wife--of mine is going to fly. It's too dangerous. The air is no place for women.

ALEC

Got that right, mate. It's cute when she's a young girl. But it's not womanly; flying is not what God wanted women to do.

SCARLET

Funny how men always know what *God* intended for women.

Thack grimaces. Mackie comforts the SOBBING Angel. They rise, leave the table. Mackie shoots a displeased look Manny's way.

Manny confronts Scarlet...

MANNY

See what you did?! Everyone gets along fine until you women start up with that flying bullshit. Not gonna happen with my little girl. Un uh.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - NEXT MORNING

The women and Angel sit in a circle. The boys play with Wolfie. They all wave to the men as they LEAVE to work on their project.

SCARLET

What are you going to do, Mackie?

MACKIE

He's not going to cut off my little girl's wings. I'd rather die.

Mackie and Angel WEEP. Rainbow COMFORTS them.

MACKIE (CONT'D)

Manny said whoever Angel marries, her husband would cut her wings too! He said every man on the planet would do that.

Icarus JOINS the group. Cookie WADDLES close behind.

MACKIE (CONT'D)

Rainbow, would you ever let Cookie cut **his** wife's wings?

RAINBOW

No sweetie, of course not. I'm not raising him to be like Alec.

Scarlet RISES from her chair, addresses Mackie and Rainbow.

SCARLET

Finally! We've come to our senses. We are no longer timid little goslings. Once again we're proud, strong *women*.

RAINBOW

What *should* we do Scarlet? What *can* we do?

SCARLET

Rebel! Make them realize they're *nothing* without us beside them. We *will* be by their side but they must be by ours as well.

Scarlet PACES in a circle behind the women.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

We'll **refuse** to let them cut Angel's wings.

MACKIE

Oh...I could never tell that to Manny. I'm afraid he'd do it even before Angel turns 18.

Hearing this, Angel's SOBS louder.

SCARLET

I'm not saying we *tell* them. I'm saying we rebel **in secret**. Once, I heard Alec say 'all's fair in love and war.' This is both. We can't trust them. We trusted them once and once is enough.

RAINBOW

But they'll just overpower us.

SCARLET

Not if we learn to walk. And run.

This STARTLES the women. Even Angel and Icarus are SURPRISED.

MACKIE

Why would we want to walk?

SCARLET

Because now that we can no longer fly, we are completely subservient to the men. But imagine if we could walk **and** fly!

RAINBOW

If we learn to walk and we no longer seem so helpless, they'll stop giving us things...fruit, nuts, those beautiful flowers Alec brings home. They **can** be generous.

MACKIE

They can also be tyrants. Just look how they took advantage of our innocence.

Silently the women consider each other's words, then...

SCARLET

If we allow them to cut Angel's wings then there will never be another special being like us. If we don't learn to walk, to run, we'll always be beholden to the whims of men. But...

Scarlet STROLLS to the center of the circle.

SCARLET (CONT'D)
 ...if we walk, run *and* fly again,
 we will be their equals. In fact--
 don't tell them but--we will
 actually be their superiors.

Everyone CHUCKLES uncomfortably.

SCARLET (CONT'D)
 One day on this island a boy will
 be born with wings. What will
 happen to our girl children? If men
 can fly and walk, women who can do
 neither will perish.

RAINBOW
 We will all be left behind.

SCARLET
 That's why we must walk *and* fly.

Angel SHIFTS uncomfortably, leans forward in her chair.

ANGEL
 I love Daddy. And I know he loves
 me. But I would not cut off his
 arms just so he would need to
 depend upon me. It hurts me to see
 everyone here so sad. I feel like
 I've caused all the sadness.

MACKIE
 No honey, that's not...

ANGEL
 It's okay mom. I'm sad too. But I'm
 also excited. Because we **can** fix
 this. I agree with Aunt Scarlet. We
 must **walk and run and fly**.

Silence initially. Then slow CLAPPING, even from Icarus and a
 mimicking, giggling Cookie.

SCARLET
 Okay...remember that big cave on
 the northern reef? The one we used
 to hide in during big storms...

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - NEXT MORNING

The women and children MARCH through thick foliage and stop at a clearing.

SCARLET

Today we change our lives and the lives of all born on this island in the future. Mackie?

MACKIE

Yes?

SCARLET

Walk.

MACKIE

Scarlet, you know I can't...

SCARLET

Can't?

MACKIE

It's just that...my tiny feet can't...

SCARLET

No?

Suddenly, Scarlet LEAPS and lands like a ballerina in the middle of the group. The others STARE, stupefied, as she WALKS, then JOGS around the playground.

MACKIE

Oh my God! You run like a man.

Scarlet motions for Mackie to try.

Reluctantly, she takes a STEP. And ANOTHER. And ANOTHER.

Her eyes widen with satisfaction, pride.

She STUMBLES and FALLS.

The group is silent. But Mackie PULLS HERSELF UP. And keeps WALKING. Angel FLIES to her mother.

ANGEL

Momma! You're doing it! You're walking.

MACKIE

Angel, don't fly, WALK! Come with me, we'll teach each other!

Rainbow joins in. Soon the entire group--including the boys--WALK in a circle, falling, getting up and walking again.

Scarlet leads them, stopping to give pointers. WOLFIE tilts his head at the strange behavior, decides to join.

EXT. CAMP - DUSK (MONTAGE)

...The men lay a final stone for a hut at the new camp.

...The new camp: 8 stone houses, two larger buildings, a watchtower, colorful flower garden, picnic area with gazebo, sports field and a playground.

...The men play bocce ball.

...Rainbow hands Cookie one half of a coconut, places the other half in front of her wolf.

...Cookie laughs at WOLFIE SLURPING milk from the coconut.

...Mackie, Rainbow and Angel BALANCE on a rope on the beach.

...Scarlet demonstrates how to balance when they walk.

...Mackie and Angel toss picked fruit into a basket held by a bored Icarus. Wolfie snatches an orange from the basket.

...The women and Angel race down the beach. Angel wins. They all close in for a high-five celebration.

...The men stroll back into camp, tired and sweaty.

JANUS

(V.O. THE MONTAGE)

Several weeks passed. To the men, everything seemed normal. They continued to work and play together while the women did their "women's work." But what the men did not know was that the women were also learning to walk. And to run. Until one day, when the men returned from work...

EXT. CAMP - DUSK

Led by Scarlet, the women in short skirts, SCOOT toward the men. Wolfie and the children SCURRY behind. The men freeze.

MANNY
They're walking?

THACK
Almost running.

The women break into a jog.

THACK (CONT'D)
Now they are *definitely* running.

The women and children climb up a large knoll. Scarlet stands in front, arms crossed defiantly.

MANNY
Mackie, what does this mean?

SCARLET
It means rebellion! It *means* we **will not** allow you to take Angel's wings.

Alec laughs. Then Manny. Thack smirks and shakes his head.

ALEC
You need to get back home. We're hungry.

MANNY
I'm ashamed of you Mackie! You know we can't let her fly.

Thack remains silent.

SCARLET
Come on ladies. Icarus, Cookie, you too.

RAINBOW
Come on Wolfie!

They scurry down the back of the knoll...except for Mackie.

She LEAPS onto a nearby tree limb, WALKS as if on a tightrope, JUMPS down for a perfect landing and RUNS to catch up with the group.

MANNY
That explains why Mackie has been bandaging her feet lately!

Alec shoots a sideways GLANCE at Thack.

ALEC

This little scheme has Scarlet's fingerprints all over it.

THACK

No doubt about that. Makes me kind of proud.

ALEC

They'll be back within a day.

EXT. CAMP - DUSK (NEXT DAY)

A replay of the previous day's scene. The men return; the women, Angel, the boys and Wolfie wait atop the knoll.

SCARLET

We've given you 24 hours to think it over. What's your decision?

ALEC

Same as before...no!

MANNY

Absolutely not! No daughter of mine is going to fly!

THACK

Aren't you women happy?

RAINBOW

Happy?! Would you be happy in our situation?

MACKIE

When you took our wings you took true happiness too. And now you want to do the same to Angel.

SCARLET

And eventually to any girl born on this island.

Alec steps forward.

ALEC

End this now. Come home. We are not going to let Angel or any other female fly!

SCARLET

Then we leave Paradise Island
forever.

ALEC

That I'd like to see. Come on
Manny, Thack. Let's put a stop to
this nonsense.

Alec and Manny RACE up the knoll. Thack WATCHES from below.
Scarlet calls out in her NATIVE LANGUAGE.

SCARLET

SECAW! SECAW! DEET DEET SECAW!!

Mackie and Rainbow SCOOP up Icarus and Cookie. As Alec and
Manny approach, the women, boys and Angel TAKE TO THE AIR.
Wolfie SCRAMBLES below them.

The women's short wing stumps barely keep them aloft. The men
stare--POWERLESS--as they disappear into the forest.

INT. NEW CAMP CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Slouching on bamboo barstools, the straggly bearded, brooding
trio pass around a bottle of WHISKEY.

JANUS

(V.O.)

For weeks, as they waited for the
women and children's return, the
men slept little and drank much.

MANNY

I miss my family.

ALEC

Me too.

THACK

I miss Scarlet but I could tell in
her eyes, she meant it this time.
They won't be coming back.

MANNY

We screwed up.

ALEC

I've been thinking...

THACK

And...?

ALEC

If the women learn to walk and fly,
maybe it's okay. It might be good
for all of us.

THACK

Duh!

ALEC

I'm Aussie, okay?! Eventually even
macho guys make the right decision.

MANNY

I'm going to the watchtower. Maybe
I'll see them. Flying. Or running.
Or yelling at us to go to hell.

Alec snatches the whiskey from Manny, motions for him to go.

EXT. TOP OF NEW CAMP WATCHTOWER - DAY

Manny PANS THE SKY with binoculars. DRIZZLING, CLOUDY.

Powerful waves pound the shoreline. Hundreds of frightened
SQUAWKING birds zip through the sky.

The grey sky quickly turns BLACK. The wind picks up. Trees
bend, branches snap.

A swirling system of WIND and WATER rises from the ocean and
rapidly approaches camp.

MANNY

Holy mother!

Manny DESCENDS the watchtower two stairs at a time. Alec and
Thack greet him at the base.

MANNY (CONT'D)

A cyclone!

ALEC

Christ! We haven't finished the
shelter yet.

THACK

On the leeward side there's a set
of caves. If we leave now...

ALEC

Yea. Let's go.

The men RACE through the forest, DODGING airborne palm fronds, tree limbs and construction debris.

The cyclone's advance winds DEMOLISH camp buildings and underway construction. Thack glances back. The CYCLONE is DESTROYING everything in its path.

THEY are in its path.

THACK

The wind and water's gaining on us!

MANNY

God, I hope Mackie and the kids are okay.

ALEC

Appears the feeling's mutual.

Alec POINTS to the sky. The figures approach fast. First, Mackie. Then Angel. And Rainbow and Scarlet close behind.

They spot the men, SWOOP down. Their WINGS have GROWN, almost to full size.

Angel SOARS like a jet, weaving, darting, dropping like a pro. She reaches her father.

ANGEL

Hold on Daddy!

She SCOOPS up Manny under one arm and tries to lift him. But she struggles. Mackie comes to her aid, grabs Manny by the other arm. Together they HAUL him into the air.

MANNY

I'm so sorry. Mackie. My little Angel. You both *must* fly!

MACKIE

And walk!

ANGEL

And run! I can run faster than Mom now Dad!

MACKIE

Just a little faster! Let's save the stories for later sweetie.

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow swoops down and picks up Alec. Scarlet reaches Thack at the same time and carts him off.

THACK

I see you've been lifting weights.

SCARLET

Must be adrenalin.

THACK

I'm glad you came back. I thought I might never see you again.

SCARLET

I've missed you every minute, Thack. We saw the cyclone coming and knew we had to come back for all of you.

EXT. IN THE AIR ABOVE THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow CRADLES Alec, FLAPPING her wings like a hummingbird.

ALEC

I'm sorry, Rainbow.

RAINBOW

I hope you see why we should fly.

ALEC

To save men's asses? Seems to be a pattern.

RAINBOW

Yep. For every species on the planet in fact!

The women and their "cargo" form a V-formation, Scarlet in front.

Suddenly a flying palm frond STRIKES Rainbow, knocks her off balance. She LOSES HER GRIP on Alec. He FALLS from her arms.

Alec plummets as Rainbow tries to regain equilibrium. Angel sees him fall.

ANGEL

(to Mackie)

Mom! Can you handle Daddy by yourself?

MACKIE

Yes. Go girl! Like I taught you!

Angel DIVES like a missile. Just as Alec is about to fall into a rocky canyon, she GRABS him and resumes her spot in the flying formation.

ALEC

I can't believe we ever wanted to stop you from flying.

ANGEL

Wings do come in handy at times like this.

ALEC

I'm becoming a believer.

The group nears the island's leeward side.

Behind them, the cyclone wreaks havoc. Destruction everywhere. WATER, WIND, DEBRIS.

THACK

Where are we headed?

SCARLET

There's a set of caves on the leeward side.

THACK

That's where we were going too!

SCARLET

Great minds think alike. Only *my* way, we'll get there a lot faster.

The group passes over a flat-topped MESA, towering BUTTES and LIMESTONE-CUT STREAMS.

A narrow gap between two cliffs appears ahead. Scarlet, Mackie and Rainbow fly through the gap.

Angel is just behind. Alec looks back over Angel's shoulder.

ALEC

Look behind us.

A huge cresting wave of floodwater ROCKETS toward them.

ANGEL

We've got a decision to make.

The GAP between the two rock formations LOOMS.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Through or over?

Alec looks ahead. The gap is narrow and behind, the flood waters are cresting toward them.

Above the cliffs, the winds RAGE.

ALEC
I trust your judgment.

ANGEL
I prefer wind over water. Hold tight.

Angel FLAPS as fast and hard as she can. They climb over the gap as the waters rush through it below.

Above the cliffs, the winds INCREASE. Angel is caught in an obstruction current; it THROWS her backward.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
If we can just find an updraft.

She keeps climbing, FURIOUSLY PUMPING her wings. Suddenly, they find an UPDRAFT. She regains control.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
That's better! Gonna be a rough landing Uncle Alec so hang on tight.

Alec smiles at being called Uncle. He closes his eyes.

A stretch of CAVES along the coastline comes into view. The others have already landed there.

In front of a cave on a steep cliff, Mackie SIGNALS for Angel to slow down.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Okay Mom. I got this.

She GLIDES toward the cave. Mackie still motions to slow down. Angel realizes she is going too fast.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Uh oh. Comin' in hot. Get ready for a rough...

Angel STREAKS past her mother. Her feet hit the ground...she STUMBLES.

Alec TUMBLES onto the rocky cliff, Angel ROLLING behind.

Mackie runs to them.

MACKIE

Angel!

Angel gets up, falls into her mother's arms.

ANGEL

All good, Mom. Guess I need to practice my landings. You okay Uncle Alec?

Mackie tilts her head.

MACKIE

Uncle Alec?

Alec smiles at Mackie as he gets to his feet.

ALEC

Never better. I'd be your copilot anytime you want to take me up.

Cookie, Rainbow and Wolfie run to escort Alec and Angel to safety inside the cave. Scarlet motions to the cave entrance.

SCARLET

We need to close this off.

THACK

Manny. Alec. That boulder. Let's roll it in front of the cave.

The three men slide the large boulder along the ground. Icarus and Cookie observe. Their eyes plead to help.

MANNY

Come on, boys. Time to show off your strength!

The two boys RUN over. Scarlet, Mackie, Rainbow and Angel join them. Together, they stage the BOULDER at the entrance and squeeze into the cave.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The group gathers around a small FIRE.

THACK

Nothing to do now but wait. We can check out the damage when this is all over.

MACKIE

That gives us all time to catch up.

SCARLET

I assume you gentlemen have had a change of heart about Angel's wings?

ALEC

Oh yea!

MANNY

We've definitely seen the light!

THACK

And all it took was a dragon fight, a shark attack, a tropical cyclone and the thought that we might never see all of you again!

Laughter. Hugging. Cooing. Smiling. Wolfie-howling.

While outside...the winds DESTROY, the waters FLOOD.

EXT. OUTSIDE CAVE - NEXT MORNING

The cyclone is gone but its destruction is DEVASTATING.

The group WALKS back toward the new camp...even the women.

Occasionally Angel flaps and HOVERS just high enough to discern if the path ahead is free of debris.

SCARLET

So Mr. Thackery, I believe I owe you an answer to a question you've been posing for several years?

A wide SMILE forms on Thack' face.

THACK

That you do!

SCARLET

Remind me, would you mind repeating that question again?

THACK

Absolutely! Will you finally, please, please marry me?

SCARLET

I thought you'd never ask. Yes!
Yes, I will.

Thack turns to Scarlet, embraces her tightly.

THACK

You've made me the happiest man on
earth, Scarlet *Thackery*.

SCARLET

I love you and that's forever. But
I thought I might keep my maiden
name. Just Scarlet. Is that okay?

THACK

Scarlet. Has a nice ring to it!
Kinda like Beyonce. No last name
needed for a woman like you.

SCARLET

Beyonce?

THACK

It's a long story.

They KISS. The men CONGRATULATE Thack with a SLAP on the
back. The women and Angel run to EMBRACE Scarlet.

EXT. NEW CAMP - LATER, SAME MORNING

The group surveys the carnage.

Every building has been DESTROYED or damaged beyond repair.

STANDING WATER blankets the sports field.

Fallen trees, broken limbs, shattered windows, roof tiles,
cracked furniture--SCATTERED EVERYWHERE.

Manny wipes away a TEAR. Thack squeezes Scarlet's hand. Alec
MASSAGES his temple; Rainbow lays her head on his shoulder.

SCARLET

It was all just stuff. We can
rebuild.

ALEC

It took us so long to build it the
first time though.

MACKIE

That's because you did it without any help.

RAINBOW

That's right. Think of what **we** could build if *all* of us helped-- men, women and children.

ICARUS

I can be the official hammerer and sawer.

ANGEL

And I can fly back and forth bringing everyone building supplies.

ALEC

In that case...when do we get started?

Thack shoots a smile at Scarlet. Everyone is animated, hugging, laughing. Wolfie TROTS back and forth howling.

THACK

I've got a confession to make Alec. The plans for this camp, I didn't create them. Scarlet did.

MANNY

We knew that.

THACK

What?

ALEC

Manny and I knew you couldn't have drafted them. We've seen your drawing and handwriting and, well, to put it diplomatically...it sucks.

THACK

You call *that diplomatic?*

ALEC

We figured it was Scarlet. Hell, she does everything else so damn well. And the handwriting was so...*feminine*, almost *artsy*, not sloppy like a man's.

THACK

If you knew, why didn't you...?

MANNY

Kind of a *man* thing isn't it? We weren't about to admit a woman could be better than a man at something at the same time we were gonna stop Angel from flying.

SCARLET

You were saving face.

ALEC

Yea. We were saving face. A man's age-old Achille's heel.

SCARLET

Well, today is a new start.

DISSOLVE TO:

JANUS

(V.O. THE MONTAGE)

So, working together, the group reclaimed and rebuilt the new camp. They removed debris, cleared limbs, piped out standing water. They rebuilt it better than before and celebrated the results of their teamwork. Exactly nine months after Scarlet and Thack's wedding day, an event both wonderful and terrible took place.

EXT. NEW CAMP - DAY (MONTAGE)

...Alec drags a large tree limb. Icarus follows close behind dragging a smaller one. Behind him, Cookie drags a twig.

...Angel flies to Manny, hands him a large wrench.

...Supervised by Scarlet, Thack pumps water from the field.

...Rainbow and Mackie paint the outside of a stone house.

...The new camp from above: it's now a small, quaint village.

...The men and women dance in a circle of celebration; Angel dances with the two boys; Wolfie runs in circles.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Scarlet is in LABOR.

Thack holds her hand, wipes her brow. Rainbow serves as midwife. Mackie, Alec, Manny and the children wait with anticipation for the delivery.

RAINBOW
(to Scarlet)
It's okay sweetie. Won't be long.

SCARLET
(breathes rhythmically)
It hurts. But it's a good kind of pain.

RAINBOW
That it is. Only females can give life. That makes the pain more than worth it.

Suddenly, Scarlet grimaces, her breathing becomes LABORED. She squeezes Thack's hand. He CARESSES her face.

THACK
Rainbow, she okay?

RAINBOW
The baby's coming. Push Scarlet. Push hard!

Scarlet breathes deeply; her face FLUSHED, she PUSHES.

The baby CRIES. Scarlet blinks rapidly, sighs with relief.

Rainbow SWADDLES the baby, hands it to Thack. He reveals the newborn to its mother.

THACK
Sweet Scarlet...our baby.
It's a boy!!

Thack HOLDS UP his son.

Scarlet smiles proudly.

Everyone crowds around the bed APPLAUDING.

THACK (CONT'D)
And he has...wings!!!

Scarlet struggles for air, reaches out for the baby. Thack gently places the child in his mother's arms.

SCARLET

Now...men and women are **equal** partners. There is **no limit** to what we can accomplish...**together**.

Scarlet CLOSES HER EYES.

And PASSES AWAY.

The baby STOPS CRYING and coos softly at his mother.

INT. HELICOPTER COCKPIT - DUSK

JANUS and SEBASTIAN talk thru headsets. They continue their flight over the vast emptiness that is the South Pacific.

SEBASTIAN

Oh my God!

JANUS

I told you it got better!

SCARLET

What happened to the boy? Did he fly?

JANUS

Well, he...

Janus and Sebastian SIGHT land...a tiny island.

SEBASTIAN

I think this is it, Janus.

Janus consults the flight panel.

JANUS

Minus 171.4289 latitude, minus 8.20337 longitude. Yep, that's it. We're here!

Janus twists excitedly in his seat. Sebastian leans forward.

JANUS (CONT'D)

Beautiful isn't it?

SEBASTIAN

Incredibly so! Finish your story before we get there.

JANUS

Yes, the boy did fly. And so did many other boys born after him. Thack, Alec and Manny never left the island. In fact, they're still there...er here. As are Rainbow and Mackie, Angel, Icarus and Cookie. And all their offspring.

SEBASTIAN

How can you be sure?

What appears to be a flock of birds approaches the copter.

Janus UNBUCKLES his seat belt. Sebastian is puzzled.

JANUS

Because Scarlet was *my mother*. I am her son. And this is *my home*.

Janus OPENS the passenger door. A WHOOSH of air envelops the cockpit. He drops his headphones onto the seat.

SEBASTIAN

Janus!

JANUS

Bravo Zulu, Sebastian! You're ready to solo. I enjoyed our sessions but I need to get home now. Use the same coordinates to go back. And Sebastian...Fiji Flight is all yours now. I signed it over before we left. Take care my good friend.

Abruptly, Janus falls backwards out the door, STARTLING Sebastian..

Several seconds go by.

No sign of Janus.

Sebastian reduces speed, HOVERS OVER the ocean, SCANS the horizon.

Suddenly outside the front window Janus appears.

He has WINGS and he is FLYING! He WAVES to Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

What the...?

More winged people appear--men, women, children of all ages.

Janus joins them, taking the lead of the magnificent SQUAWKING entourage. They FLY in a perfect V toward Paradise Island.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Well I'll be damned.

Sebastian watches as Janus and his extended family fly over the island and disappear to the other side.

He SPINS the helicopter around and heads back to Fiji using the same route that brought him to Paradise Island.

A small flock of SEA BIRDS trails behind.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END