

Suspended Animation

by

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING, DECADES PAST

The descending sun pours light through polyester curtains. MOM scurries about while a counter top television plays LOONEY TUNES.

A BOY no older than six sits at the table surrounded by drawings, scribbling with a crayon.

Mom effortlessly balances a salad bowl on her shoulder, stirs a pot with one hand, and pours a tea kettle with the other.

With the RING of an egg timer she SLAMS the kettle down, and swaps the stirring to her other hand. Flinching her shoulder, the salad bowl flies through the air.

She catches it with her foot then stands on one leg, all other appendages occupied. KUNG FU COOKING. The accompaniment of LOONEY TOONS sound effects are oddly fitting.

With a spin, the food launches and lands beautifully on two well portioned plates. She turns gracefully, a plate in each hand, and approaches the table.

MOM

Let's clean up, time to eat--

She puts the plates down and picks up the drawing.

MOM (CONT'D)

A piece like this deserves the gallery.

Now attached prominently to the fridge, we see the drawing for the first time.

It's a self portrait typical of someone that age. A large oversized head, stick figure body, and an arrow annotating the figure as "ME".

The portrait begins to yellow and age. Small rips and creases form indicating years of folding and unfolding.

WIDEN TO REVEAL:

INT. CORPORATE WAITING ROOM - DAY

The drawing now rests in the trembling hands of a scruffy man in his late twenties, the ANIMATOR. He flips back and forth between a page of scribbled notes and the self portrait.

A sleek and sophisticated EXECUTIVE enters the room, takes a seat, and pulls out the Wall Street Journal. The Animator hides behind a magazine, attempting to covertly size him up.

The Executive speaks from behind the paper.

EXECUTIVE

Do you think we've got a chance today?

ANIMATOR

I hope so, I mean I know we have a chance, I just don't know how much of --

EXECUTIVE

Well if it hits fifty sell.

ANIMATOR

I'd be happy to have it sell for anything. I've been having a really tough time finding--

The Executive folds up his paper. He turns his head. A microscopic wireless headset is attached to his ear.

EXECUTIVE

(to phone)

I'm telling you Phil. Fifty. There are plenty of other brokers in this town that wouldn't argue. Should I talk to them?

The Animator hides back behind his magazine.

SECRETARY

Sir, they'll see you now.

The Animator continues to hide.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Sir?

She pulls down his magazine.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Sir! They're waiting.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

At one end of a long reflective table sit three men in identical monochromatic suits.

The Animator takes his presentation out of his portfolio and places the self portrait on the table in front of him.

ANIMATOR

What you're about to see, I think,
will be the classic of tomorrow.

He flips a page of his presentation pad, displaying a hand-drawn village.

ANIMATOR (CONT'D)

It takes place in an idyllic
village like those of Disney's
past.

He flips the page, revealing two hand drawn characters in the style of classic Disney. A portly old man with a beard and a young boy in overalls.

ANIMATOR (CONT'D)

Meet Kit and his father Pa, the
town inventor.

He looks across the table, not a glimmer of hope. His brow builds with sweat. His HEARTBEAT becomes audible. He looks to the drawing of PA and KIT, but they stare back blankly.

MAN 1

What takes place? Let's quicken the
pace.

ANIMATOR

Well, Pa builds things, and Kit
helps--

MAN 2

Do you have any of this
computerized?

ANIMATOR

That's the best part! It's hand-
drawn, as a sort of an homage to--

MAN 3

You're kidding.

The three men stare back blankly, Kit and Pa continue to join them. The Animator looks to his self portrait sitting on the table.

ANIMATOR

--but what it's really about is parenthood, what it means to build a person instead of a machine.

The men rustle in their seats.

MAN 1

Listen, we appreciate the effort. But honestly, hand-drawn doesn't sell anymore.

MAN 2

It's antiquated.

ANIMATOR

But what it has to offer is soul, not just cold hard calculations!

MAN 3

Cold hard calculations are why we're the ones sitting, and you're the one standing. We're done.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sketches of characters, buildings and inventions line the walls.

The Animator sits behind a drafting table. Recently opened boxes of computer animation software are piled on his desk. His computer is browned with age, definitely not the latest technology. The crayon self portrait hangs above the desk.

On the monitor, a wire frame city stutters through a rotation. Within the city, a few generic Pixarish characters are randomly distributed.

He hits the play button. ERROR MESSAGES cover the screen. The strained computer REVS and CLICKS, building in frequency. The screen goes blank.

Large plumes of smoke rise from the box. The Animator jumps to action, unplugging the computer by ripping it from the wall.

He throws it to the ground in anger, but the computer isn't what failed him. He rips sketches off the wall, violently stuffing them into garbage bags until the apartment's walls are white and sterile. Only one drawing remains, the self portrait.

He pulls it down and rips it into small pieces, letting them glide from his hand into the garbage bag.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

A black sky pours rain as a street lamp flickers. Bolts of lightning are followed by distant thunder.

The Animator heads towards the dumpster, arms full with the computer and garbage bags.

After unsuccessful attempts to nudge the lid open with his shoulder, he pushes it open with his head and empties his arms. The monitor's screen cracks with the force of impact.

Sketches spill into the trash and wet with rain. Ink runs from page to page. The cracked screen emits sparks onto the garbage. He closes the dumpster.

The storm intensifies. THUNDER follows lightning almost instantaneously. The street lamps flicker off. Only pulses of lightning shed any light on the alley.

The wind blows the dumpster lid open. He closes it and starts to exit the alley.

The lid flies open again. A whirlwind of papers and garbage shoots out of the dumpster, wrapping itself around the Animator.

He grabs hold of a gutter pipe. The pulling tornado lifts him from the ground. The pipe comes loose.

A flash of green lightning sparks out of the dumpster and spirals around the Animator. The spiral closes to a straight lightning bolt, and recedes with the tornado into the trash.

The lid slams shut. The storm ends.

EXT. DARKNESS

Wherever we are, the storm is as strong as ever below. In the sky above, a nebula in the shape of the damaged screen crackles lightning. As other lightning strikes instantly, the green bolt slowly descends toward...

EXT. ANIMATED WORLD - NIGHT

The storm rages over a completely animated world. A hand drawn CARTOON VILLAGE borders a COMPUTER ANIMATED METROPOLIS.

Surrounding both the Village and the Metropolis is a forest atop rolling hills.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Hand drawn VILLAGERS, known as INKIES, scramble to get their families inside. Lightning strikes around them as if intentionally trying to attack.

Rows of houses SLAM their shutters closed.

PA, the stocky bearded inventor from the Animator's presentation, pedals a bike attached to a rotating umbrella against the current of villagers.

PA

Kit?!

EXT. METROPOLIS - NIGHT

Lighting rods on the peak of each skyscraper pull in bolts like a vortex. With each collected bolt, the lights in the buildings flicker brighter and brighter.

The Pixarish characters from the Animator's computer, known as PIXELS, sit calmly in their apartments. They play with video games or read from electronic books.

EXT. MINING SITE IN THE HILLS - NIGHT

With the workday over and the storm in full force, the site is closed down. The only activity is an INKY FLYING PIG hovering above a dumpster, narrowly avoiding the pieces of garbage shooting from it.

PIG

The storm's picking up. Let's get out of here.

A voice responds from inside the dumpster.

VOICE

Hold on! I almost got it.

A head pops out from the dumpster. It's KIT, the boy from the Animator's presentation. He holds a strange COMPUTER ANIMATED OBJECT above him, an odd cube made of various circuits and connectors.

KIT

The things people throw away!

He puts the object into his pocket.

KIT (CONT'D)
Hey Spigot! Race ya!

With a flash, Kit's gone. Spinning in the wake of Kit's exit, Spigot loses balance and falls into the dirt next to the dumpster.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The forest is calm compared to the chaos of the village, but the storm continues. The Metropolis and Village are barely visible through the trees.

Sounds of the expansion and contraction of SPRINGS grows closer.

Suddenly out of the darkness, a claw attached to a spring slams shut on a branch above. The spring tightens, it's pulling something along. A SCREAM of excitement grows closer.

Kit rushes by at the other end of the spring.

KIT
WAAAA!

Flying through the forest like a spring loaded monkey, he releases the claw from the branch and shoots another with the grappler attached to his opposite arm.

KIT (CONT'D)
C'mon Spig! Try to keep up!

Kit launches his grappling spring to another branch, and looks back nervously for his companion.

The storm intensifies. Bolts of lightning strike branches around him.

A bolt strikes the branch attached to Kit's spring. The branch falls and pulls Kit with it.

Kit panics and releases the claw. He aims his other grappler straight up and launches.

Bouncing up and down, Kit peers at the ground far below. A strange STONE OBJECT peeks out of the dirt. It glows multicolored in the moonlight.

Kit aims his other grappler at the object and shoots to grab it like a turbo-charged crane game. Shot after shot he nudges it slightly, but can never get a good grip.

His other grappler claw holds on to the tree above. It slides towards the tip of the branch.

KIT (CONT'D)

Got it!

Now firmly attached to the stone object, the spring tightens. The object won't budge, and instead pulls Kit off the branch and shoots him toward the ground.

Panicked, Kit releases the stone.

Suddenly something swoops in and catches Kit. It's Spigot! Holding Kit with his teeth they glide through the trees.

KIT (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

Spigot throws Kit onto his back.

SPIGOT

Mud.

Kit sniffs the air.

KIT

Mud?

SPIGOT

Let's say its mud and leave it at that.

They fly out the woods and toward the village.

Behind them, the slow moving green bolt snaps to the ground, leaving a glowing electrical dot. The dot blinks and lifts from the ground, spinning as it rises. The spinning forms layer upon layer of lines, drawing a glowing wire frame figure.

The glow of the wire frame dims, leaving only a distorted humanoid shape.

The figure goes up to a puddle and looks in it.

Lightning lights up his face. It's the ANIMATOR, but transformed. Not only a caricature of his previous form, his reflection reveals he is neither entirely hand-drawn or computer animated, but somewhere in between.

His style is not like the Pixels, but rather dark, shadowy, and flat; rotoscoped.

The Animator splashes the puddle away.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

A sign hangs in front of the cabin: "Pa and Son's Repair Shop"

Pa lays on his back in the mud below the chassis of an odd mechanical carriage. NATE stands underneath an umbrella watching nervously.

PA
I see the problem.

NATE
Can you fix it?

PA
I can fix anything.

Spigot, still holding Kit with his teeth, glides down in front of the cabin.

NATE
Hey boys.

KIT
Did the gear come loose again?

Pa peeks out.

PA
Where were you? You had me worried sick.

KIT
Spigot and I were out by the orchard, but we got caught in the storm.

PA
Thank the stars you made it back safe.

SPIGOT
The stars and a certain flying pig...

Kit nudges Spigot. Pa stands up from the ground.

PA
Spigot, you're all muddy! I see I'm in good company. Nate, you have time for dinner?

NATE
I'm in a bit of a rush.

PA
We'll make it quick. The part you
need is inside anyway.

They all enter.

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN - NIGHT

The modest cabin is cramped wall to wall with various inventions. They're straight from Rube Goldberg comics, with gears, hooked to cages, hooked to teapots.

Kit and Nate search through parts on shelves.

KIT
If we use this heavy duty spring
gear you shouldn't have to keep
fixing it.

Pa pulls Spigot aside.

PA
Why don't you get washed up before
dinner. You can be the first to
test drive the new shower.

Spigot looks to the machine. A large sealed metal capsule attached to tubes, boilers, and gears.

SPIGOT
I really don't mind using a sink.

PA
I insist!

Pa throws a lever, opens the port on the shower, and shoves Spigot in. He closes the capsule and pulls the lever back. Noises and jostling erupt from the contraption behind him.

Pa wipes his face off with a towel and walks in front of a large machine which overtakes the entire kitchen.

PA (CONT'D)
Go ahead and sit. I think I got the
settings just right last night.

KIT
You say that every night.

Pa sets a dial to four, throws a lever, and sits at the table with Kit and Nate. The kitchen machine rattles and shakes. Eggs roll down a chute and are grabbed by vacuum attached plungers. They swing the eggs through a blade, releasing the contents into a mixing bowl. The vacuum reverses, shooting the shells into the garbage. Pa screams over the noise.

PA

Can't you see one of these in every home?

INT. SHOWER MACHINE

Spigot stands in the shower looking confused. The machine is rattling but nothing is happening inside.

From a shower head above, piping hot water begins to drizzle out. Spigot gets underneath and enjoys the water.

The flow of water increases from a drizzle to a pour. Spigot doesn't seem to mind until he notices the water isn't draining. He now floats in a bath which grows closer and closer to the top of the capsule. Soap shoots in.

Spigot desperately swims up for air. The entire machine begins to shake.

INT. CABIN

The capsule of the shower machine lifts up from the floor and spins like a Ferris wheel meets centrifuge.

The kitchen machine chugs along, slicing potatoes on a rotating blade, popping balloons full of seasonings and flour into the mixing bowl, loading plates in what appear to be a crossbow.

PA

I don't see what the Metropolis has to offer that we don't.

NATE

I've gotta go where the jobs are.

PA

But that's just my point. That shouldn't be the only place with jobs.

NATE

The smog is making farming impossible.

(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)

Businesses are struggling to survive. The village is half the size it used to be.

PA

That's what I'm hoping to fix.

Plates shoot out of crossbow like frisbees.

KIT

Heads up!

Kit jumps from his seat and grabs the plates as they soar over the table. He misses one, which slams and breaks against the wall.

KIT (CONT'D)

Whoops.

He places the plates on the table.

KIT (CONT'D)

What's it like there?

NATE

Imagine the tallest tree you've ever stood under. Now imagine standing in a forest of trees ten times that height.

KIT

Sounds amazing.

PA

Sounds terrifying. And to be surrounded by all those Pixels! I'll get everything fixed and you back home in no time.

NATE

How?

Pa gets up to the table and walks over to an object covered in a sheet.

KIT

Can't this wait until after dinner?

PA

We've got time.

He pulls off the sheet, revealing a machine with bellows connected to tubes connected to glass jars filled with green sludge.

He places a large empty aquarium upside down over the device and redirects a chimney chute under the aquarium, filling it with black smoke.

PA (CONT'D)

Now this is just a scale prototype.

The bellows begin to open and close, bubbling the black smoke through the jars of sludge. The air in the aquarium becomes clear.

The machine begins to sputter. The glass jars explode, releasing sludge and smoke back into the aquarium.

PA (CONT'D)

Still a few bugs to work out.

NATE

I'll take my chances with the Metropolis for now.

At the kitchen machine, food loads from a conveyor belt onto a catapult. It releases, hurling food through the air. Kit grabs a plate and catches it like a pro.

Another launch. Kit catches more food in a second plate.

The door to the shower machine swings open, releasing Spigot in a tide of water. He gasps for air.

Kit dives for another pile of launched food and successfully catches it.

PA

All clean? We can always set it to rinse and repeat.

The final pile of food shots from the catapult and slams into Spigot. He licks it off his face.

SPIGOT

No, I'm good.

Nate looks at his plate. Exploded mashed potatoes covered in something brown.

NATE

I'll just grab a bite to eat on the road. I really need to get going.

PA

The part?

NATE

Kit can help me, he seemed to know how to fix it.

PA

Suit yourself.

KIT

I'll be back in a minute.

SPIGOT

I should get going too, my parents were expecting me a while ago.

PA

Good luck, Nate. In a place like that, you're gonna need it.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

The storm has calmed.

Spigot flies off into the village. Kit lies down underneath the carriage and fits the part into place. Nate sits at the driver's seat and looks off toward the Metropolis in the distance.

NATE

I've gotta hand it to your Pa. He doesn't give up.

KIT

Do you think he really can change things around here?

NATE

He's fighting something bigger than himself. Compared to the Pixels, we're lost in the past.

KIT

I try to tell him but he doesn't listen.

NATE

Let him dream, that may be all any of us have left soon enough.

Kit tightens a bolt.

KIT

All done.

NATE

Thanks. If you're ever in the
Metropolis make sure to find me.

KIT

I will.

Nate pulls a lever and the carriage putters off. Kit returns
inside.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

PA

Come sit down, supper's getting
cold.

They sit and eat.

KIT

Have you ever been to the
Metropolis?

PA

No. We're Inkie's, the village is
our home.

KIT

But Nate-

PA

Nate'll come back. Everyone will.
Once we get the village back to
what it used to be.

KIT

Maybe if we try something different
with the machine, some newer
technology.

PA

Why do I have to tell you this
every night? If we wanna fix the
problems they created, we'll do
things our way.

Kit looks into his food. A worm digs its way out of the
potatoes. He pushes his plate away.

PA (CONT'D)

Yeah, haven't quite gotten the bugs
out of that either.

KIT
I'll load the washer.

Pa pats his head.

PA
G'night son, we've gotta long day
tomorrow. Don't stay up too late.

KIT
I won't.

Pa heads upstairs. Kit loads the plates into a metal tub in the kitchen and pulls a lever. Mechanical mops rub down the dishes.

Kit walks to the smog-cleaner. He circles around it, examining every mechanism. He checks for tightness and replaces the jars of sludge.

He pulls out the computer animated CUBE from his pocket. Tossing it from hand to hand, remaining focused on the machine.

He reaches in, pulls out the balloon hooked to numerous tubes, and reattaches the tubing to the connectors on the cube.

KIT (CONT'D)
Here goes nothing.

The aquarium is placed upside down over the machine and filled with smoke. Kit pulls a lever.

The machine sputters, sucks in smoke and releases clean air out. The bellows opens and close faster and faster even though the air in the aquarium is now clean.

ACCELERATING and REVVING, the aquarium rumbles then IMPLODES.

Kit jumps behind a table.

A small tornado forms with its eye at the machine. Small objects throughout the room fly toward it and are caught in a vortex. Tables and chairs screech across the floor.

The vortex pulls the fire from the fireplace and sucks the smoke and years of chimney soot into the machine. The fire blows out.

Kit holds on tightly to a support beam.

Pa runs downstairs. He screams over the noise.

PA
What's going on?!

KIT
I got it working!

Pa heads to the lever but can't get it to budge. He motions Kit over. Together, they turn the device off.

PA
That's amazing! How'd you fix it?

KIT
Well...

PA
Don't tell me, I want to figure it out myself.

Pa examines the machine. He rips the cube from it.

PA (CONT'D)
What's this?

KIT
I found it dumpster diving.

PA
But whose dumpsters? This is a Pixel part!

KIT
Out by the-

Pa throws the cube to the ground and stomps on it until pulverized.

PA
We're doing this our way.

He points to the pieces of what once was the cube.

PA (CONT'D)
That is the type of thing that got us into this mess.

KIT
But Pa-

PA
Goodnight Kit.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS

Nate rides his carriage, an old relic compared to the ultramodern automobiles gently hovering above the surface. An Inky SAILOR DUCK with his head buried in a map stumbles through traffic. HONKS seem to have no effect on him. Nate quickly brakes, narrowly missing the Duck.

EXT. METROPOLIS ALLEY - NIGHT

A shadowy alley is lit only by the neon signs and traffic lights on the adjacent street. The Duck, his head still buried in a map, stumbles in. He stops to reorient himself.

A trash can rattles.

DUCK

Hello?

He slowly approaches the trash can. It bursts open, a Pixel HOUSE CAT pounces out. The Duck breathes a sigh of relief. He re-buries his head in the map.

DUCK (CONT'D)

Ah Ha!

He rotates the map so it's no longer upside down and heads out the alley. He bumps into something.

DUCK (CONT'D)

Huh?

A black flat claw bursts through the map and rips it down.

At the inlet to the alley we can see only darkness beyond it. Fearful incessant QUACKING accompanies the sounds of PAPER RIPPING and SCRATCHING.

After a moment of silence, a puff of feathers explodes out the alley. A cloud of black smoke rises from the alley, lit by the neon signs, and settles in the sky above.

EXT. MINING SITE - DAY

Pixel bulldozers push ore out of the hillside. A Pixel WORKER runs through the busy site.

WORKER

Have you seen the Supervisor?

The other workers shake their heads. He keeps running until he falls at the feet of the SUPERVISOR.

WORKER (CONT'D)

Sir. Sir!

SUPERVISOR

You should be digging over there.
There's no ore in my shoes.

WORKER

Sir, we hit something.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The worker and supervisor stand in front of another multicolored STONE OBJECT, refracting light like an oil puddle.

SUPERVISOR

Dig it out.

The supervisor grabs his walkie talkie.

SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)

(to his walkie talkie)

Get a hold of management, we've got
another piece.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Kit stands outside a cabin, pounding on its front door.

KIT

Delivery!

He looks through the window. The cabin is empty.

Kit hops onto a bike attached to a rickshaw filled to the brim with parts and machines.

KIT (CONT'D)

Where is everybody?

Spigot flies up.

SPIGOT

C'mon Kit, you're late! The big
town meeting is today.

They speed off toward the town center, located under a big clock tower.

INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Kit and Spigot sneak into the back of the room. The Mayor, an Inky whose protruding belly barely stays contained in his three button suit, stands at the podium. The room is filled exclusively with Inkie.

VILLAGER

It's impossible to sustain ourselves.

VILLAGER 2

Our crops can't grow in this smog, and what does grow is dirty and deformed.

VILLAGER 3

Can't we just get factory-made food for now?

VILLAGER 2

And support the Pixels? I'd rather starve!

VILLAGER 3

And keep your mouth shut for once? Unlikely.

Villagers yell over each other. The mayor slams down his gavel.

MAYOR

Now let's be civil. Attacking each other will get us nowhere. There's a logical solution to this problem. Pastor, please tell them.

The Pastor, by far the oldest individual in the room, leans his weight against a cane and rises to the podium.

PASTOR

The only way we'll get through this is together. The prophecy foretold it.

MAYOR

The prophecy?

He reads from a scroll.

PASTOR

The skies will blacken and life will shudder. What once moved will petrify.

(MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Restore the relic and light will
return and sorrow be destroyed.

The crowd becomes unsettled.

VILLAGER
No offense Pastor, but the relic
won't help us. We don't even know
if exists!

The Mayor shoves the Pastor aside.

MAYOR
What I think the Pastor is getting
at, as darkly as he put it, is that
a solution exists. We just need to
find it.

VILLAGER 2
And what would that be?

MAYOR
Well, I guess, one way, um.

Pa stands.

PA
We clear the skies. My machine will
do just that.

MAYOR
I appreciate the effort, but no
single device could fix all this.

PA
But it works! I've tested it.

Pa looks around the room.

PA (CONT'D)
Kit! Tell them.

KIT
It was working, but you broke it,
remember?

MAYOR
It works? Can it be fixed?

PA
Easily, just a minor set back.

KIT
Yeah, with a Pixel part.

Gasps fill the room.

VILLAGER

Since when can Pixel technology be trusted?

PA

There's no need for it. I'm close to a solution.

PASTOR

The relic is the solution.

MAYOR

Well in the meantime it wouldn't hurt to get the part.

PA

But-

MAYOR

I know it's blasphemy, but what choice do we have? Keep working on it. We'll need someone to go to the Metropolis and get the part. Any volunteers?

Silence fills the room.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Anybody?

KIT

I'll do it.

PA

But Kit!

KIT

I know the part, I know the machine. It's gotta be me.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - NIGHT

Kit rides his rickshaw-bike. Its compartment is full and covered with a tarp. Spigot flaps behind him.

Traffic zips past them. He pedals harder to keep up.

The streets are dirty and crowded. Angular neon lights advertise bail bonds and booze. Pixels passing by laugh.

KIT
Are they laughing at us?

SPIGOT
Maybe it's at the people in the
other rickshaw.

KIT
What other rickshaw?

SPIGOT
Exactly.

KIT
Any idea where we are?

SPIGOT
Not a clue.

Kit looks around. Pixels everywhere; cops, kids, businessmen.
He sees someone in the distance.

KIT
Let's ask him.

They pedal up to a row of trash cans. An Inky raccoon,
dressed in the finest hobo-wear, digs through its contents.

KIT (CONT'D)
Excuse me?

The raccoon keeps digging. Trash flies from the can. He
raises his hands in the air.

RACCOON
Officer, no need to panic, I'm just
looking for a little grub.

He turns to see Kit and Spigot.

RACCOON (CONT'D)
You ain't Zaps.

KIT
No, just a couple of lost boys from
the village.

RACCOON
The old country! Where are you
trying to get?

KIT
Anywhere that sells spare parts.

RACCOON

If it's parts your looking for,
there's no better place than the
Fifth District. Two blocks down,
three blocks over. You new to the
Metropolis?

KIT

Yeah.

RACCOON

Then you're in for a treat.

He returns to his garbage, but finds nothing. Kit grabs a
banana from the rickshaw compartment and throws it to him.

KIT

Thanks!

RACCOON

No no, thank you!

Kit and Spigot ride off. The raccoon ducks into an alley and
eats his banana. He searches through another can.

A shadow overtakes him.

RACCOON (CONT'D)

Boys lost already? Like I said, two
blocks down and three blocks-

He turns, it's not the boys he sees. The Raccoon SCREAMS.

EXT. FIFTH DISTRICT - NIGHT

Flashing colorful advertisements fill the buildings like
canvases painted to the edges. It's Times Square meets Las
Vegas meets Tokyo. Pixels ogle the gadgets which fill store
front windows.

Kit parks the Rickshaw, locking chain after chain through he
wheels.

SPIGOT

You sure that's enough?

They wander up and down the streets. As they pass, Pixel
HUSTLERS open their trench coats to display an assortment of
gadgets.

HUSTLER

Got what you're looking for? Of
course I do. You a holovid fan?

The hustler hits a button on one of the devices which projects holographic birds flying around Kit's head.

KIT
How does it do that?

HUSTLER
I knew you were. I can spot one a mile away. Though this little baby can project twice as far.

SPIGOT
Kit, we need to go.

KIT
So where's the lens?

SPIGOT pulls him away.

KIT (CONT'D)
What was that for?

SPIGOT
This isn't a pleasure trip.

KIT
But he might have known where to find the part.

A Pixel SCIENTIST in an oversized lab coat turns around.

SCIENTIST
You're looking for parts?

KIT
I told you this is the place to find them.

The scientist opens his lab coat; The inside is lined with plastic compartments of odd electronics.

KIT (CONT'D)
I'm looking for an intake jet, but there needs to be a filter.

SCIENTIST
That's a serious piece of equipment. I wouldn't dare carry it on me. But if you came with me to my shop, I'm sure I could dig one up.

SPIGOT
Are you actually a scientist?

SCIENTIST

Would someone who wasn't a
scientist wear a lab coat?

SPIGOT

Someone pretending.

KIT

Don't mind him.

SCIENTIST

Come with me, the pigeon can come
too if he keeps his beak shut.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

SCIENTIST

It's right over here.

Kit, pushing his rickshaw, and Spigot follow the Scientist
further and further through the maze of alleys. They whisper
too each other.

SPIGOT

I don't have a good feeling about
this.

KIT

We're probably almost there.

The scientist stops.

SCIENTIST

Well this is it.

KIT

Where's your shop?

SCIENTIST

You're my shop.

He nods his head up. Two PIXEL THUGS jump out of the shadows.
One grabs Spigot by the wings and holds his mouth shut.
Another restrains Kit, keeping his hand over Kit's mouth.
They struggle to break free.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Let's see what's on sale.

The scientist peeks under the tarp on the rickshaw.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

What?

He pulls the tarp off. The compartment is filled with produce.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)
Vegetables?!

He kicks over the rickshaw and spills its contents on the ground. Kit breaks his mouth free.

KIT
Let us go!

A telescopic view of a nebula in the sky pulls down and settles onto the scene from high above. Rhythmic REVS are followed by mechanical CLICKS.

SCIENTIST
You expected to get a part with
veggies? You've got a lot to learn
about the Metropolis kid.

The telescopic view flips around.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

A telescope points at a large curved array of mirrors, which click into place like an opening flower. The reflective satellite dish collects the ambient light from all the flashing signs and focuses them into the telescope's lens.

Boots snap into a hoverboard. A hand wearing finger-less gloves pushes a joystick to remotely aim the telescope.

With a click, a laser-like beam shoots from the telescope's eyepiece.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

SCIENTIST
Let's take the bike, at least it'll
be able to haul gear around.

The Scientist fails to notice the intense beam of light settling on his lab coat.

SCIENTIST (CONT'D)
Do you smell smoke?

His back ignites. Attempts to extinguish it end in vain and with a burnt hand.

He throws off his lab coat, which bursts into flames.

The MYSTERIOUS PERSON on the hoverboard shoots down, directing the beam to make the scientist's feet jump up and down.

THUG

Boss? Why you dancing?

SCIENTIST

Let em go! Let's get out of here!

The Thugs release Kit and Spigot, load the Scientist into the cart, and pedals away.

A switch is flipped on the joystick, and the beam follows the rickshaw on automatic control. It smolders then is engulfed in fire. The flaming vehicle swerves out of the alley and onto...

EXT. FIFTH DISTRICT - NIGHT

The thug loses control and crashes into a parked Zap car. Extinguishers shoot out of compartments in all of the surrounding objects, cars, light posts, mailboxes, and put out the fire.

COMPUTERIZED VOICE

Fire contained.

ZAPS approach. The scientist runs into the alley leaving the thugs behind.

He looks back to make sure he's not being followed. The black claw of the Animator knocks him to the ground. He crawls away in terror but it's no use.

The Scientist SCREAMS.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Spigot collects the spilled vegetables. Kit digs through the burnt remains of the Scientist's jacket, throwing broken scorched parts over his shoulder. The hoverboard settles to the ground.

SPIGOT

Oh now what?

The boots step off of the hoverboard and approach them. Kit looks up from the parts.

It's a Pixel wearing a pair of reflective sunglasses and a hoody. Kit stands.

KIT
Who are you?

The glasses come off and the hood comes down, revealing a head of long purple hair. She replies.

GIRL
Name's Digit. I saw you two were in a bit of trouble.

SPIGOT
You can keep the carrots! Just let us be!

KIT
Don't mind Spig, he's a little frazzled. You were the one shooting that beam?

DIGIT
The one and only.

KIT
Thanks. I never would have thought this city was so rough. I'm Kit. This is Spigot.

DIGIT
Did you lose your tour group?

KIT
Actually we're looking for parts.

DIGIT
Then I'm your savior twice tonight. Those wings work?

Spigot flies up to her.

SPIGOT
No, they just make me look pretty.

Digit mounts her hoverboard.

DIGIT
Hop on.

Kit steps on the board behind her.

DIGIT (CONT'D)
I suggest you grab hold of something.

He wraps his arms around her and they shoot into the air.
Spigots flaps as fast as he can to follow.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The mirror array clicks closed as Kit and Digit land.

KIT
Where'd you get that?

DIGIT
I built it.

They step off the hoverboard. Kit spins the telescope.

KIT
Do you spy on people often?

DIGIT
I wasn't spying. This is what I was
looking at before your screams for
mercy distracted me.

She readjusts the telescope towards the sky. Kit looks
through the eyepiece. It's focused on the Cracked-Screen
Nebula.

KIT
Wow.

DIGIT
My mom used to say that we all
rained down from the hole in the
heavens-- I guess that's just a
fairy tale.

KIT
A nice one.

Spigot flaps up to the rooftop, covered in sweat and panting.

SPIGOT
Did you have to live in such a tall
building?

DIGIT
Ah you made it! Could you both help
me haul this gear back to my
workshop?

KIT
Workshop?

SPIGOT
Hauling?!

INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Kit, Digit, and Spigot enter the workshop. Modern in styling, the walls are lined with an assortment of gadgets and parts, all small and elegant as Pixel objects should be.

They unload the equipment onto a steel worktable. Spigot leans against a wall to catch his breath.

KIT
This is yours?

She blushes.

DIGIT
Yeah.

Kit wanders the room, excitedly grabbing and activating gadgets along the walls. They stand in stark contrast to the Pa's inventions. They're sleek, sophisticated, and efficient.

KIT
And you built all these?

DIGIT
I've got a lot of time on my hands.

He picks up an object. A small orb.

KIT
What's this?

DIGIT
It's a shop light, but it doesn't work too well.

She presses a button on the top of the orb. It lights up and floats in the air for a moment before sparking off and falling to the ground.

DIGIT (CONT'D)
I can get it to light up or levitate, but the minute I need both it stops working.

Kit twists it open. It's filled with a tangle of wires.

KIT
Whoops.

Digit takes it and slams it shut.

DIGIT

It's OK. I'll figure it out eventually. What parts are you looking for.

KIT

Just one part actually. A filtered intake jet. The stronger the better.

Digit goes over to a wall lined with drawers, searching one after another for the part.

DIGIT

What for?

KIT

A smog cleaner.

She stops looking.

DIGIT

You'd be better off building something custom. Plus it'll cost less.

KIT

The cheaper the better, we only have vegetables to trade anyway.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Digit?! You Home?!

DIGIT

Quick, hide!

She shuffles Spigot and Kit into a closet.

INT. CLOSET

Kit and Spigot are cramped inside.

SPIGOT

What a wonderful tour of the Metropolis.

KIT

Keep it down.

DIGIT (O.S.)

Yeah Dad! I'm in the workshop.

Footsteps approach.

DIGIT'S DAD (O.S.)
I've got an emergency meeting at
the office. Don't build anything
too explosive tonight, OK?

DIGIT (O.S.)
I'll keep it to just implosion and
incineration.

DIGIT'S DAD (O.S.)
That's my girl.

Footsteps walk off. The closet door opens and Digit peeks in.

DIGIT
Sorry. He's a little old-fashioned
when it comes to visitors,
especially Inkies.

KIT
My Pa's the same way.

Spigot and Kit exit the closet.

KIT (CONT'D)
The part?

DIGIT
Let's see what I've got. We might
be able to hack something together.

SPIGOT
Anything I can do?

DIGIT
I've got one idea.

INT. WORKSHOP - LATER

Kit and Digit sit over various parts on the workbench,
disassembling and taking notes. Spigot flaps behind them with
a light up orb in his mouth, illuminating the table.

DIGIT
This won't cut it.

KIT
What else will we need?

DIGIT

A microchip. I know just the place.
It won't be open until morning
though.

Spigot spits out the orb.

SPIGOT

I think it is morning.

Digit opens the roof door. A sunrise crests the skyscrapers.
Black clouds speck the sky like freckles.

DIGIT

Well then, no need to wait.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MORNING

Digit opens up a storage closet and pulls out another
hoverboard. She throws it to Kit.

DIGIT

You know how to work these things?

KIT

Is it like riding a bike?

DIGIT

Sure, figuratively.

SPIGOT

What do I get?

DIGIT

Let's see...

EXT. CITY SKY - MORNING

Kit and Digit shoot through the air on their hoverboards. Kit
barely keeps his balance but tries to save face.

Spigot, now with a jet pack attached to his back, his wings
extended and wearing leather aviator goggles, darts over to
them.

SPIGOT

Can I keep it?

DIGIT

Sure, it's not like I've got wings.

Spigot smiles to Kit.

SPIGOT
I like this girl.

Kit smiles back.

DIGIT
This is the place!

They arrive at...

EXT. SKYSCRAPER

The skyscraper projects towards the heavens like a monolith, by far the tallest building in the entire Metropolis. The gang lands by a service entrance.

DIGIT
You two stay out here. I'll go in
and get the chip.

She enters. Kit and Spigot wait along a wall. Floating cars shoot by.

KIT
Better view than a closet?

SPIGOT
Definitely an upgrade.

Digit exits the building holding a box in her hand.

KIT
That was fast.

DIGIT
I know a guy.

The mount their boards, power their rockets, and shoot into the city.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Pa works on the smog cleaner. He keeps running through the same routine. Fill an aquarium with smoke, activate the machine, and watch it break down.

He makes adjustments but they don't change much. He gets frustrated.

PA
I need a break.

EXT. VILLAGE

Pa walks around the town, going over the machine's workings in his head.

PA
...if I hook the bellows to the
filter, and then to the pump...

The Mayor, looking out of the window of a cabin, sees Pa passing by. He runs outside to catch him.

MAYOR
Any news on the machine?

PA
Nothing yet, but I'll have it soon.

MAYOR
Have you heard from the boys?

PA
No. If Kit were here we'd have this
finished by now.

MAYOR
What if you aren't able to fix it?
I can't take that chance. You must
understand.

PA
So instead you took a chance with
my son? Sending him there like it's
the corner store!

MAYOR
I didn't force him, he volunteered.

A farmer runs up to the Mayor.

FARMER
Mayor, I've been looking everywhere
for you. The crops, they're
they're...

MAYOR
Slow down, what happened.

EXT. FARM - DAY

The Mayor, Farmer and Pa all stand beside the fields. The crops are brown and rotted.

FARMER

I don't know what caused this. It's like a plague.

MAYOR

What are our options?

FARMER

Even if we clear the field and replant, the sky will be just as bad. It's never been like this.

The sky is quite a different sight from the day before, and has only grown darker since the morning. Small specks of sunlight peek through the dark black clouds.

MAYOR

Couldn't this just be temporary? Weather is weather.

PA

Look at the horizon.

Clouds of blackness rise from points along the ground in the distance, mostly from the Metropolis.

PA (CONT'D)

This isn't just weather.

The mayor picks up some rotted crops and throws them to the ground.

MAYOR

Get your machine working by tonight. I'll get everyone to Town Hall. We need to organize.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

The Animator slashes at what looks like a black and white sketch of a Pixel. It dissipates into a black cloud and floats to the sky.

The Animator melts into the shadows.

INT. WORKSHOP - EVENING

Kit and Digit huddle over a mess of wires on the work bench. She slams her tools down.

DIGIT

I don't understand it. This should be working.

KIT

Let's take a step back and think it through. We routed the chip to the valve, then the valve to the filter...

Spigot circles them in the air.

SPIGOT

I'm bored. Isn't there anything I can do?

KIT

No. Unless...

SPIGOT

I'm listening, anything please!

KIT

Maybe one of us should get back to the village and let them know it's taking longer than we thought.

SPIGOT

One of us?

KIT

I need to stay here and fix this.

DIGIT

With the jet pack it shouldn't take you long at all.

KIT

We'll come half way. I know just the place to think this stuff through.

EXT. SKIES - EVENING

Kit and Digit ride their boards while Spigot shoots along beside them.

KIT

OK, you know what to say?

SPIGOT

You had a minor setback and will be home with the piece soon.

KIT

Good, this is where we branch off.
See ya Spig!

SPIGOT

Bye Kit. Thanks again for the jet,
Digit.

DIGIT

Don't mention it.

They fork off, Spigot towards the village and Kit and Digit towards an unknown destination by the forest.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - EVENING

The Animator slashes at something. It dissolves into a black cloud. He follows it floating toward the sky.

A JET sound originates from off screen. Spigot propels through the black cloud, breaking it in two.

ANIMATOR

Spigot?

The Animator dissolves into the shadows.

EXT. SKIES - EVENING

Spigot's jet pack begins to putter out. The fuel indicator blinks empty.

Spigot starts to flap, but the weight of the jet pack is too much.

SPIGOT

Just glide.

He falls toward the village. He aims himself over chimneys, catching the bursts of smoke with his wings to stay afloat.

The Animator re-forms from and dissolves back into the shadows on the ground beneath Spigot, constantly keeping up.

EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

Spigot crash-lands behind a shed in a villager's backyard. He's tangled in the straps of the jet pack and can't get free.

A shadow forms and overtakes him.

VOICE

Spigot. You're all tied up.

Spigot looks to the voice. It's the Animator.

SPIGOT

Who are you?

ANIMATOR

I gave you wings and this is how
you thank me? A jet pack?

He lifts Spigot by the straps and throws him back down. His
aviator goggles fall off.

Spigot desperately fumbles with the latches to get free.

ANIMATOR (CONT'D)

Here, let me help you.

He raises his black claw and strikes towards Spigot. Spigot's
body bruises in the form of an inanimate charcoal sketch
where he scratched.

SPIGOT

HEL-

The Animator scratches his mouth. It is now sketched closed.

ANIMATOR

I'll do the talking. Why is it the
minute an idea leaves your mind and
hits the paper it betrays you?

Spigot mumbles behind his sealed mouth.

ANIMATOR (CONT'D)

Back to the drawing board.

He scratches violently at Spigot until all that remains is a
still sketch. The Animator inhales deeply, pulling a cloud of
color from the sketch and into his body. He grows larger in
size.

With a final slash Spigot bursts into a black cloud which
floats to accompany the ever growing dark sky.

INT. CABIN - EVENING

Pa works on the machine. There's a KNOCK at the door.

He opens it to see HAMILTON, a well dressed PIG wearing a vest and monocle, and MOTHER GOOSE; SPIGOT's PARENTS. Pa invites them in.

HAMILTON

I'm sorry to bother you, being busy with your machine and all, but the wife and I, we were getting worried.

MOTHER GOOSE

Have you heard from our sons?

PA

No.

HAMILTON

It's just, people have been going missing. And none of us expected the boys to take this long.

PA

You don't think...

Mother Goose bursts into tears.

HAMILTON

Now now. I'm sure it's all in our heads.

MOTHER GOOSE

It's just, I can feel it Hamilton. I'd know if my son was safe. And I just don't know!

EXT. CABIN

Rustling in the bushes. The Animator slashes yet another sketch to release a black cloud. He hears the crying, and sneaks up to the window to eavesdrop.

INT. CABIN

PA

There's no need to worry. Our boys are fighters, they can handle themselves. No Pixel would stand a chance.

HAMILTON

If you hear anything will you let us know?

PA
Of course. They'll get home and our
Pixel problems will be behind us.

HAMILTON
We'll let you get back to work.
Come on honey.

Pa returns to his machine. Hamilton and Mother Goose exit.

EXT. CABIN

Hamilton and Mother Goose load into a mechanical carriage and ride away. The Animator dissolves into a puddle of shadow in front of the cabin.

INT. CABIN

KNOCK. KNOCK. Pa puts his tools down.

PA
Who is it now?

He opens the door. No one.

PA (CONT'D)
Hello?

EXT. CABIN

Pa's head peeks out the door. Nothing.

INT. CABIN

Pa closes the door and returns to work.

A shadow slips across the back wall and begins to take shape. Pa notices a shadow moving closer to him.

He grabs a fire extinguisher and jumps up.

PA
Who's there?!

The Animator reforms and steps out of the shadows.

ANIMATOR
A friend. Don't you remember me?

Pa keeps the extinguisher aimed at him.

PA

No.

ANIMATOR

Well I remember you. In fact we've known each other for a very long time.

PA

What do you want?

ANIMATOR

I'm here to help you get what you want. And maybe I want it a little too.

PA

What?

ANIMATOR

Justice. That's what any father would want when he finds out his son is gone forever.

PA

Gone?

ANIMATOR

Do you actually think Kit is safe out there with the Pixels? The very people destroying our way of life?

PA

He's fine!

ANIMATOR

It's like one of your machines, just put the pieces together. People are missing, your son is nowhere to be found. You know the Pixels, how they think of us. You understand their power.

The Animator steps back into the shadows.

Pa falls to the ground.

PA

But what can I do? The Pixels don't care about us enough to change!

ANIMATOR

Treating the symptoms won't destroy the disease.

The Animator dissolves into the shadows.

Pa lies on the ground, stunned, and tries to collect himself.

Pa gets up, pushes the smog-cleaner into a corner, and rolls large piece of blueprint onto a drafting table.

On the wall above his desk hangs a family photo; himself and Kit with a woman, Kit's mother. He looks to it then draws on the blueprint.

EXT. MEADOW - EVENING

The moon peeks under the black cloud ceiling, painting blue light onto a meadow beside a pond. Kit and Digit sit under a tree. A sketch pad with the part's design rests in front of them.

KIT

I can't figure out what's wrong with it.

DIGIT

If the design's fine maybe we're the problem.

Kit laughs.

KIT

That's a bit tougher to fix. We are who we are.

Digit looks at Kit, as if building up the courage to say something.

DIGIT

What's it like being an Inky?

She covers her mouth and turns away.

DIGIT (CONT'D)

You don't have to answer, that was rude. I'm sorry.

He smiles.

KIT

I don't know what it's like. I've always been one. What's it like to be a Pixel?

She laughs.

DIGIT
I guess I've always been one too.

She closes the sketchbook.

DIGIT (CONT'D)
How is this place supposed to work
anyway?

KIT
When I'm really stuck on a problem,
I just come here. Then I don't
leave until I know what to do.

DIGIT
We could be here a while.

The wind picks up, leaves blow off the trees. Kit picks one
up and examines it.

KIT
Man, imagine trying to design this!
Every vein is just the right
distance apart.

Digit looks over the leaf.

DIGIT
That's it!

Digit stands up and kicks into her hoverboard.

KIT
What?

DIGIT
I know how to fix it. Let's get
back.

She rockets off. Kit fumbles into his hoverboard.

KIT
Wait! You haven't told me the idea
yet!

He kicks into his board and rockets behind her.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

The villagers are in an uproar. The Mayor SLAMS down his
gavel.

MAYOR

This is only temporary. Packaged food will have to suffice until we can get the crops going again.

FARMER

Well there won't be any crops until we've got light again.

MAYOR

Which is precisely what Mr. Pa's invention will fix. And how is that?

Pa sighs, stands and walks towards the front of the room.

PA

It's hopeless.

MAYOR

But what about the boys? Can't the Pixel part fix it?

PA

They're gone. The Pixels got them.

The villagers gasp. Mother Goose faints at the back of the room.

MAYOR

Gone?

PA

The machine's a lost cause. It's time we cure the disease instead of treating the symptoms!

He walks up to the Podium.

MAYOR

What are you doing?

He pushes the mayor aside.

PA

The Pixels are that illness and this is the medicine.

He unrolls the blueprint. It's a design for a large, intricate, catapult-like device.

MAYOR

A weapon? We are peaceful people.

PA

We sit back and let ourselves be
walked on.

MAYOR

Let's not let our emotions get in
the way of rational thought.

VILLAGERS stand.

VILLAGER

How can I help?

PA

We'll need your kerosene tank.

VILLAGER 2

What about me?

PA

Whatever lumber you have.

HAMILTON

And me?

PA

I'll need a second in command.

MAYOR

Are you insane? This is suicide!
Pastor, tell them!

The Pastor remains calmly seated, an observer rather than a
participant.

PASTOR

This is how it is written.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Villager after villager brings carriages full of items to
Pa's shop. Hamilton inspects what they unload and writes on a
clipboard.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Pa pins the blueprint to the wall and directs villagers as
they attach parts together.

INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Kit and Digit huddle over the table. The leaf from the meadow sits beside exposed gadgets.

DIGIT

Let's test this first.

Digit opens up a light orb and rips the wires out, replacing them with a circuit board whose design mirrors the veins of the leaf.

She clicks it on. It floats into the air and remains lit.

KIT

It works!

The orb follows Digit as she wanders the room. Kit places the boards in other orbs and activates them. Multiple light orbs orbit Kit and Digit individually.

DIGIT

Let's try to fix your part.

She brings it over to the work bench. Kit takes six of the leaf-veined circuit boards and clicks them together to form a cube. Kit opens up the part, rips the tangle of wires out, and replaces it with the circuit cube.

KIT

Here goes nothing.

Kit hooks it to a power source and flips a switch on the part. A whirlwind envelops the room, sucking all the light orbs toward the inlets of the device.

A ball of collected light orbs floats into the air. The wire to the battery holds it like a kite.

Kit unplugs the power. The lights float back into the air and the part falls to the table.

Kit and Digit scream for joy. They run to each other and embrace. Every light orb orbits them as if one point.

From outside, A WHOOSHING sound, then a CRASH.

DIGIT

What was that?

They charge to...

EXT. ROOFTOP - MORNING

A large flaming mass hurls past them into an adjacent building.

In the skies above, other flaming balls shoot deeper into the Metropolis.

As objects SMASH into exterior walls, automatic sprinkler systems shoot out in attempts to control the fires.

COMPUTERIZED VOICE
Fire contained.

SIRENS announce Zaps arriving on the scene.

Kit and Digit hop onto their hoverboards.

KIT
Let's get out of here.

EXT. VILLAGE - MORNING

A huge complicated contraption takes hunks of garbage and lumber, molds it into a ball, douses it in kerosene, lights it, and catapults the mass towards the Metropolis. It's Pa's kitchen machine gone wrong.

Pa patrols the machine, checking the tightness of belts, adjusting valves, and reading gauges. He looks satisfied.

PA
Keep it steady, we're doing good!

Hamilton puts down his binoculars and hands Pa a piece of paper. Pa examines it.

HAMILTON
So far 14 hits. Five misses. But they're extinguishing them fast.

PA
We need to increase the speed.

The Mayor runs up.

MAYOR
Isn't this enough? Haven't they learned their lesson?

PA
I'm not teaching them, I'm saving us.

Pa pulls a lever on the machine. It doubles in speed.

EXT. FIFTH DISTRICT

Kit and Digit board through the sky, avoiding the flaming chunks shooting around them.

DIGIT
Where are we going?

KIT
Somewhere safe.

The shooting ceases and all the billboards on the buildings go black.

DIGIT
Wait.

KIT
What?

Digit points to the signs. The Seal of the Metropolis Ministry is displayed on every one of them.

DIGIT
The Prime Minister is going to speak.

They pause in the air, surrounded by displays. The flaming chucks embedded in buildings are extinguished.

COMPUTERIZED VOICES
Fire contained.

The Seal on the screen fades to the Prime Minister, a gray-haired Pixel in glasses.

PRIME MINISTER
My fellow Pixels. As you know, our beloved home, our beacon of freedom and progress, was attacked today. The fires are contained, but the damage remains. Reports of missing Pixels are flooding in.

The display changes to a live feed from the village

EXT. VILLAGE (TELEVISION DISPLAY)

Hundreds of Zap cars surround the village, cuffing and lining up villagers.

PRIME MINISTER (V.O.)

The perpetrators were our neighbors; neighbors we accepted and left alone, but who could not do the same for us.

EXT. FIFTH DISTRICT

Digit, Kit, and the crowds on the street are glued to the screens.

The displays surrounding them show Pa screaming at the camera.

KIT

That's Pa!

The feed returns to the Prime Minister's office.

PRIME MINISTER

It is for this reason I am now enacting the Inky Relocation Act. All persons of non-Pixel origin have 24 hours to leave the Metropolis. After that point, any remaining Inkies will be incarcerated.

KIT

I've gotta get out of here.

Kit rockets off.

PRIME MINISTER(O.S)

Those protecting or harboring Inkies will be punished to the fullest extent the law will allow.

DIGIT

Wait!

Digit follows. Kit turns and stops.

KIT

I'm not getting you implicated in this. I need to talk to Pa.

DIGIT

Will I see you again?

KIT

Let's hope.

Kit launches towards...

EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

Kit lands outside his cabin and kicks off his board. He hides it under a tarp around back. The village is silent.

KIT
Where is everyone?

EXT. TOWN HALL - EVENING

Zap cars and a limousine with the Seal of the Metropolis Ministry are parked outside. Kit peeks through the window.

INT. TOWN HALL - EVENING

Zaps protect every entrance and exit. The Prime Minister sits beside the Pastor on the stage, while the Mayor stands at the podium.

MAYOR
The Prime Minister and I have discussed the problems of both Pixels and Inkies alike, and have come to an agreement.

The Mayor pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket and reads from it.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
To ensure both the autonomy of the Inkies as well as the safety of the greater Pixel population, the Prime Minister will graciously drop all charges against any Inkies implicated in this, ahem, misunderstanding. Together we will discover and eliminate the source of these disappearances.

Pa sits in the front row, still handcuffed. He whispers to Hamilton beside him.

PA
They're not getting off that easy.

MAYOR
Pixel security officers will remain in the village for our protection.
(MORE)

MAYOR (CONT'D)

In addition, a set of local ordinances will be enforced to keep us safe from whoever it is, Pixel or Inky, that is responsible.

The Mayor looks to Pa and stops reading.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

I must remind you we'll need everyone's cooperation.

EXT. TOWN HALL

Kit continues to look through the window.

GRUFF VOICE

Hey! What are you doing?

Kit turns. A Zap stands authoritatively over him.

KIT

I was just-

ZAP

You should be inside with the others.

The Zap pulls him into...

INT. TOWN HALL

The mayor continues to ramble.

MAYOR

In the meantime we'll be given packaged food rations by the Pixels until our crops are - Kit?

The crowd turns. Kit is pulled in by the Zap. Pa stands from his seat and runs toward Kit. A Zap intercepts and holds Pa back.

PA

You're alive!

The mayor runs down toward him.

MAYOR

Let him through!

The Zaps let go of Pa and he runs to Kit. Pa attempts to hug him but his hands are cuffed behind his back.

He jumps his legs over his arms so they're now in front and wraps them around Kit.

PA

I thought you were gone forever!

Kit hugs back, confused.

KIT

I sent Spigot home to let you know it would take longer than expected. Did he forget to tell you?

Hamilton turns, also cuffed, and approaches.

HAMILTON

You talked to Spigot? Where is he?

KIT

I thought he was here.

PA

We thought they got you both.

KIT

Got us? Who?

MAYOR

There will be time for explanations later.

The Mayor runs back up to the podium.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to the Prime Minister for being so understanding of our situation. Together we will return to normalcy.

The Mayor applauds, alone in his appreciation.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)

Come on!

Scattered villagers clap unenthusiastically. If the cuffed ones could, they wouldn't. The Prime Minister stands, smiling and shooing away the applause.

FLASH. A Pixel photographer takes a photo of the Mayor and Prime Minister shaking hands. The Prime Minister nods to the Zaps and they release the handcuffs on the various villagers.

Pa grabs his wrists in relief. He places his hand on Kit's shoulder.

PA

It's a miracle you're alive. I'll need you now more than ever for what I've got planned next.

EXT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

The Zap cars and limo float into the air and zoom off toward the Metropolis. Some Zaps stay behind and patrol the village.

The Mayor pounds a sheet of paper to the door with a hammer.

The villagers gather around to read. It's a list of rules and regulations signed by the Prime Minister and Mayor.

VILLAGER

With the exception of religious ceremonies there will be no public gatherings larger than five Inkies?!

They continue to read.

VILLAGER 2

A curfew? I'm an adult.

PA

It won't last. We won't let it.

Pa, Kit, and Hamilton walk through the village. Zaps patrol every corner.

PA (CONT'D)

People were disappearing left and right. You'd been gone so long, I could only assume-

KIT

Where's Spigot?

HAMILTON

So he's not with you?

PA

They must have gotten him. I'm so sorry, Hamilton.

Hamilton sulks down, then rises in anger.

HAMILTON
The Pixels will pay for what
they've done.

PA
That's the spirit!

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN - NIGHT

Kit, Pa, and Hamilton enter. Pa runs over to his drafting table and grabs a blueprint.

Pa unrolls the blueprint on the table. He and Hamilton examine it.

PA
Can you get a hold of a fuel tank?

HAMILTON
It'll be tough, but I think so.

KIT
I rushed back the minute I saw the arrests and forgot the part for the smog machine. It's still in the Metropolis.

PA
The plan's changed. We don't need it anymore.

KIT
But the Mayor-

PA
The Mayor sold us out, Kit! He might as well be one of them!

Pa and Hamilton return their focus to the blueprint.

KIT
What are you looking at?

Kit walks over and looks at the blueprint. He turns away disgusted.

KIT (CONT'D)
You've changed.

PA
I haven't changed Kit, the world has!

(MORE)

PA (CONT'D)

We can let ourselves get pushed
aside or we can go down fighting.

KIT

What about fixing things our way?
This isn't my way.

HAMILTON

If not for our sake, do it for
Spigot.

Kit grabs his coat and heads to the door.

KIT

You used to be able to fix
anything, Pa, but now it's you
that's broken.

Kit slams the door behind him.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Kit walks through the village. Zaps are patting down
villagers and checking for identification.

He turns a corner, backing right up behind a Zap. Kit sees
him and quickly runs back around the corner.

Kit continues to covertly walk through the shadows to avoid
being seen.

GRUFF VOICE

Hey you!

A Zap spots him. Kit runs behind a cabin and trips to the
ground. Directly in front of his face are Spigot's aviator
goggles, torn and broken.

Kit picks them up.

KIT

He's really gone?

A shadow descends over Kit. A hand grabs his shoulder. Kit
shoots around.

A Zap holds him by the jacket.

ZAP

It's after curfew. You should be
tucked in and sleeping peacefully.

EXT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN - NIGHT

A Zap pushes Kit towards the door.

ZAP
Get inside.

Kit enters.

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN - NIGHT

Pa and Hamilton are looking over the blueprints.

Kit stands in the doorway, Spigot's broken goggles still clenched in his hand.

KIT
How can I help?

Pa and Hamilton jump to their feet, put their hands on his shoulders, and pull him toward the table.

PA
I'm glad you came around, son.

Kit examines the blueprint.

INT. RITZY OFFICE - MORNING

A well-dressed Pixel CEO paces back and forth in front of ceiling-high windows overlooking the Metropolis. The sky is still dark and overcast.

He looks down at the ground far below. The thousands of Pixels on the streets are dots of nothingness.

CEO
Look at them, they're ants craving food. And I keep tossing them bread crumbs.

He turns.

CEO (CONT'D)
Sales are up. Costs are down. We're in the best position we've ever been. Between the disappearances and the Inky scare, our customers desire something safe and warm. InnoDyne products are their security blanket.

He walks over to a large multicolored stone statue beside the window. Its shape is like an incomplete stick-figure.

CEO (CONT'D)

The occupation of the village has given us wider mining access. Raw materials are practically free. Even my art collection is growing!

He pats the base of the statue and looks across his desk.

Digit sits in a chair opposite him.

DIGIT

What does this have to do with me?

CEO

It's time you joined the family business.

DIGIT

I've told you Dad, I'm doing my own things!

CEO

Your little gadgets? You'd rather put together flashlights than be in line to run the most profitable company in existence?

DIGIT

I like building things.

CEO

You could build a company!

DIGIT

And treat people like robots? No thank you. I'd rather never leave the workshop!

Digit's father leans forward on his desk.

CEO

Don't try to guilt me. Do you know where your shop came from? All those parts and components? This company! You're benefiting from my actions the most of anyone!

Digit looks away, not wanting to believe it.

CEO (CONT'D)

If I cut you off you'd be down in the slums, probably disappeared like the rest of them!

DIGIT

What?

He comes around the desk, kneels beside her, and puts his hand on her hand. She pulls away.

CEO

I'm sorry Dij, that was uncalled for.

DIGIT

No, the disappearances.

CEO

Oh. The slums. That's where most people have gone missing.

DIGIT

You mean the Inkies aren't responsible?

He laughs.

CEO

Responsible? They're incapable. Most of the slums are Inky immigrants coming to the Metropolis for work. Just as many of them have gone missing as us.

DIGIT

How do you know this?

CEO

Market research. We probably know more about it than the Prime Minister. We'll milk it a little longer, then let the public know. It's good business.

Digit stands and grabs her coat.

DIGIT

I'm out of here.

CEO

Where are you going?

DIGIT

To do some market research.

She walks towards the balcony.

CEO

I knew you'd come around. I'll get
the head of marketing on the phone.
You'll have a job by the end of the
day.

The CEO runs behind his desk and picks up his phone.

Digit exits out to...

EXT. OFFICE BALCONY - MORNING

The balcony is on the top floor of the tallest skyscraper. A
hover-limo is parked on top of it.

Digit kicks into her hoverboard, jumps into the air and off
the edge of the balcony.

Her father runs out.

CEO

How does 12:30 sound?

He looks around the empty balcony.

Digit?

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - MORNING

Digit hoverboards down the side of the building. She zooms
through the Metropolis arriving at...

EXT. METROPOLIS SLUMS - DAY

Digit dismounts from her board and walks the block.

Scattered Zaps mind the corners while Inkies pack up their
belongings.

A familiar figure, Nate, walks slowly down the front stoop
carrying a large box. He can barely keep a grip.

DIGIT

Here, let me help you.

Digit runs up the stoop and grabs hold of the other end of the box.

NATE

Thanks. It's refreshing to see a Pixel willing to help an Inky.

DIGIT

We're not all out to get you.

He laughs.

NATE

I know.

They load the box into his mechanical carriage.

DIGIT

I know this might sound odd, but say someone's looking to disappear...

NATE

Now why would you want to do that?

DIGIT

It's not me. I'm just trying to figure out what's behind all the disappearances.

NATE

Everyone's always coming and going in a place like this. Usually no one even knows you're here to begin with.

DIGIT

But people are actually disappearing!

NATE

I just keep out of the shadows. I suggest you do the same.

Nate pulls a lever and the carriage inches forward. He nods goodbye to Digit and merges into the crowd of rickety Inky vehicles headed out of the city.

DIGIT

Shadows huh?

Digit eyes the darkest alley she sees and runs toward it.

EXT. DARK ALLEYWAYS - DAY

Between the height of the walls and the dark overcast sky, it might as well be night.

Digit slowly steps through an alley. She hears a SCREAM, but can't register where it's coming from.

She approaches a fork and chooses the darkest attached alley.

At its far end, a lone garbage can rattles.

She approaches. The can balances on its bottom edge, revolving in an ever quickening circle.

CRASH! The trash can falls to its side. Its lid shoots open. Digit SCREAMS and falls to the ground.

Her terror turns to relief. A small Inky house cat crawls out of the can and slides against her.

Digit stands up and lifts the cat to eye level.

DIGIT

That was a mean thing to do,
scaring me like that.

The cat meows back, but starts to struggle out of her hands.

DIGIT (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

The cat finally breaks free and scurries back into the fallen garbage can. Digit kneels down and peeks into the can.

Looking out from inside the can, Digit speaks to the cat.

DIGIT (CONT'D)

You don't need to hide. I'm not
gonna hurt you.

A shadow overtakes Digit from behind. The cat crawls deeper into the can.

VOICE

What's a nice little Pixel like you
doing in a dump like this?

Digit turns. The Animator stands above her, smiling.

DIGIT

I was just going.

She gets up and walks away. The Animator grabs her by the jacket.

ANIMATOR

So soon? But we were just getting
to know each other.

Digit pulls away to break free. As she runs away, the Animator dissolves into a shadow behind her.

Digit looks back. The Animator's gone. She keeps running.

POW. She's hit something. The Animator has re-formed in her path.

DIGIT

Just let me go!

ANIMATOR

Don't worry. The pain is only
temporary -- then it gets fun. For
me at least.

The Animator slashes his claw at Digit. She falls to the ground. The side of her face is bruised in sketch.

She crawls backwards along the ground as he approaches.

Digit reaches into her pockets. She pulls out a light orb and throws it like a grenade at the Animator.

The orb floats up to the Animator's eye level.

ANIMATOR (CONT'D)

Cute.

With a flash the orb lights. The Animator flinches back, blinded.

Digit seizes the opportunity and runs away. She activates another light orb. It floats around her like a protective shield.

EXT. METROPOLIS SLUMS

She kicks into her hoverboard and jets off.

INT. WORKSHOP

Digit barges in through the roof door, slams it shut, and locks it behind her. She catches her breath.

She sees Kit's part sitting on the workbench and approaches it.

She picks it up and looks at her face in its reflection. The sketched bruise shows no signs of healing.

Digit puts the part and a few more light orbs in her pockets and bolts for the roof.

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN - DAY

Kit rubs his eyes and focuses on the elaborate contraption in front of him. Pa walks downstairs, still in his nightgown and cap.

PA
Did you get any sleep?

KIT
No, too distracted. I made some modifications to the design.

PA
Oh?

Pa examines the contraption and compares it to the blueprints.

PA (CONT'D)
Not bad.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Pa opens it and Hamilton steps in.

PA (CONT'D)
Ah good, Hamilton. You have to see what Kit's done!

HAMILTON
Actually, I'm just here to invite you both to a memorial service we're having for Spigot this afternoon.

Pa places his night cap against his chest and looks solemnly to the ground. He looks up and smiles.

PA
Good plan. We can finally all get together and figure out our next move without the Zaps breaking up the meeting.

HAMILTON

It's a service for all villagers with missing family members. I don't think that'd be appropriate.

PA

Of course of course. Are you sure you don't want to see what we've done?

HAMILTON

Not now. Kit, would you be willing to say a few words about Spigot?

A disoriented Kit looks up from the contraption.

KIT

Yeah.

HAMILTON

His mother and I really appreciate it.

Pa shows Hamilton to the door.

PA

Get some rest Kit. I can take over from here.

Kit stumbles upstairs and falls into bed.

EXT. ZAP STATION - DAY

A Zap is dragging a familiar handcuffed Inky, Nate, into the station.

NATE

I told you, my carriage broke down. I'm just trying to get back to the village.

ZAP

You overstayed your welcome. I don't write the laws, I just enforce them.

INT. ZAP STATION - DAY

The station is crowded, chaotic, and loud. Crowds of handcuffed Inkies are lined up in every available space.

The Zap brings Nate up to booking.

ZAP

I've got another expired visa.

The BOOKING ZAP stamps down onto a form. He places it in Nate's front pocket

BOOKING ZAP

Case 1345. Take him to the back of the line.

Nate is pushed into an overgrowing crowd of Inky prisoners.

A buzzer BEEPS and a steel door opens. Line after line walks past the door and down a shadowy corridor into...

INT. HOLDING CELL

The gymnasium-sized room is tightly packed and barely lit. Inkies stand shoulder to shoulder in all directions. Everyone screams in protest.

Zaps push more and more Inkies in.

They close the cell and slam the steel door shut behind them. The SLAM is barely heard over the YELLING.

A shadow slivers in through the barred windows and re-forms outside the cell. The Animators grins maniacally.

INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Quiet calm.

The pastor stands behind the podium as ORGAN plays. The villagers sit, all dressed in black. A Zap guards the door.

MOTHER GOOSE cries. Some are more stoic.

PASTOR

Memorials are not simply a time for mourning, but for celebration of those we have lost. Though they are no longer with us in body, they will always be with us in spirit.

The Pastor nods to Kit then sits down. Kit comes up to the Podium.

KIT

Spigot was the best friend a boy could ever ask for-

The door to the town hall opens. Digit, hooded and wearing her reflective glasses, walks in quietly and sits at the back of the room. Kit eyes her and continues to speak.

INT. ZAP STATION - AFTERNOON

Two ZAPS guard the steel door to the holding cell.

ZAP 1
Something feels wrong.

ZAP 2
Yeah. It's too quiet.

The Zaps rush to open the steel door. A black cloud pours out from behind it.

ZAP 1
What the-

They turn on their flashlights and push through the black smoke filled corridor. At its end, the Animator inhales an immense cloud of rainbow smoke and grows larger and larger in size.

ZAP 2
You stay here, I'm gonna get backup.

ZAP 1
No, I am!

EXT. ZAP STATION - AFTERNOON

The exterior walls rattle and shake. The building explodes pouring out black smoke that rises and settles amongst the black clouds. It is now so overcast that the distinction between day and night is meaningless.

The Animator, now the size of a small building, unfurls himself.

Zaps surround him and aim their laser guns.

ZAP
Freeze!

The Animator picks up a Zap and scratches him with his finger.

ANIMATOR
Cootchie cootchie coo.

His scratch transforms the Zap into a static sketch.

He throws the sketched Zap into his mouth, chews with a CRUNCH, and blows black smoke into the air.

The remaining Zaps drop their weapons and run in terror.

INT. TOWN HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Kit takes in a slow and controlled breath.

KIT
...I'll never forget him.

Every villager sobs hysterically. The Zap guarding the door wipes his nose on his sleeve.

Kit walks away from the podium and past his seat. The Pastor returns.

PASTOR
I believe Hamilton has a few words
to say.

Hamilton walks to the podium as Kit approaches Digit. He pulls her aside and into...

INT. FOYER

Flowered wreaths line the walls.

KIT
What are you doing here?

DIGIT
Is Spigot really... ?

KIT
Gone? Wouldn't you know?! Pixels
did it.

Digit takes off her sunglasses, revealing crying eyes.

DIGIT
There's something else out there.

He brushes the hair away from her face, revealing the sketched bruise.

KIT
What happened, are you OK?

DIGIT

I don't know who, or what, that thing was. But it's not Pixel or Inky. All I know is, it's a monster.

The door to the reception opens and Pa walks out.

PA

Kit? That speech was perfect. Everyone will support the cause!

Pa notices who Kit's talking to, his hand still on her face, and pulls him away from Digit.

PA (CONT'D)

No son of mine will get all googly eyed with a Pixel.

KIT

This is Digit. She helped me with the part.

PA

Well her help is no longer required. We've got a new plan.

KIT

But something else is responsible. A monster!

PA

A monster, honestly Kit! Are we living in a fairy tale?

The reception door shoots open and a Zap runs out, his radio blasting loudly.

RADIO

All units, all units. Emergency response Alpha is in effect. All available officers return to the Metropolis ASAP.

A FWOOSH and then a BANG! Kit, Digit and Pa look to each other confused.

PA

Wasn't me!

INT. CHURCH

Another FWOOSH and BANG! The Pastor looks out the window.

PASTOR
That was earlier than expected.

BANG! A large chunk of concrete slams through the wall.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Everyone outside!

The crowd rushes out the door.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

It's as dark as night. Chunks of Pixel buildings SLAM to the ground around the village. Zap cars, sirens blazing, zoom toward the Metropolis.

In the distance the Animator, now as tall as a skyscraper, terrorizes the city.

DIGIT
That's him!

PA
Oh dear god, that's him.

KIT
You know him?!

PA
He told me you had disappeared,
convinced me the Pixels were to
blame!

The Pastor slowly walks up, leaning against his cane.

PASTOR
Ah there he is.

PA
What?

PASTOR
The prophesy. The day of reckoning.

PA
You mean that's real?

DIGIT
Day of reckoning?

KIT

It's the legend of the end of the world. The creator undoing his creation.

MAYOR

Come everyone, let's get inside.

The crowds rush inside the Town Hall while Kit, Digit, Pa and the Pastor stare off into the distance.

EXT. FIFTH DISTRICT

The Animator leisurely strolls along the street, digging his claws into buildings and revealing their underlying wire frame structure.

He throws chunks of buildings over his shoulder.

On the ground, Pixels tiny in comparison to the Animator SCREAM in terror.

EXT. TOWN HALL

Sirens and flashing lights fill the village from the Zap cars above as they race for the Metropolis.

KIT

Can't we do something?

PASTOR

The legend speaks of a relic scattered throughout the world. When pieced together, order is restored.

PA

It's just a story. No one's found the pieces.

KIT

What do they look like?

PASTOR

Stone of iridescent color.

DIGIT

I know where it is! Or at least most of it. Is it about this tall, shaped like a stick figure?

She reaches her arm into the air indicating a statue twice her size. For once the Pastor is surprised.

PASTOR

But how?

DIGIT

It's in my Dad's office. They've been finding pieces at the mining sites. Though, it seems like it's missing one.

PASTOR

We need to complete that statue. But then...

KIT

What's the matter?

The Pastor peers above him.

PASTOR

It must be summoned with light from the heavens.

The clouds are as black as night.

PA

Look at the sky, it's hopeless.

KIT

The smog-cleaner! Digit, do you have the part?

She hands Kit a cube wrapped in a leaf. He unwraps it and hands it to Pa.

KIT (CONT'D)

Pa, get the machine working. Digit, can you get hold of the statue? I think I know where the last piece is.

DIGIT

I'm on it.

Digit and Kit kick into their hoverboards. Pa stands there stunned, staring at the reflective cube sitting in his hands.

PASTOR

Terrible weather today.

EXT. SKIES

Digit and Kit ride along beside each other beneath the black clouds.

KIT

Good luck.

DIGIT

Wait.

She pulls Kit toward her and flips her board in the opposite direction, spinning them in a circle which shoots towards the clouds.

DIGIT (CONT'D)

If we don't make it I want something to remember you by.

They KISS, breaking through the black clouds and until the sunlight above.

Digit lets go and darts down into the clouds.

Kit does a loop-de-loop in the air.

KIT

Woohoo!

He shoots down through the clouds.

EXT. METROPOLIS

Armies of Zaps attempt to contain the Animator, but it's of no use. Lasers shoot at him but he only laughs.

ANIMATOR

C'mon guys, that tickles.

He continues to scratch and swallow Zaps, now handfuls at a time. He exhales cloud after cloud of black smoke into the air. With each breath he grows larger.

The Animator grabs another chunk out of a building, crumples it into a ball, and chucks it in the air. He whistles "Singin in the Rain".

Digit flies past on her hoverboard and approaches the InnoDyne skyscraper, narrowly avoiding the chunks of debris falling from the sky.

EXT. FOREST

Kit flies through the trees on his hoverboard. Three light orbs revolve around him like search lights.

He sees something off in the distance and zooms toward it.

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN

The part sits on a table. Pa stares at it.

EXT. OFFICE BALCONY

Digit lands and kicks off her board next to the limo. She enters...

INT. OFFICE

Digit busts in and heads for the statue.

Digit's dad rocks back and forth in his chair overlooking the city. He's in shock.

CEO

I should have told them sooner. We could have done something.

Digit pries at the statue but it's too heavy.

DIGIT

Are you coming?

Digit exits to the balcony.

CEO

A captain goes down with his ship.
This is my ship.

The hover-limo SLAMS through the office windows. Digit gets out of the driver's seat.

She pulls down a curtain from the window and throws it over the chandelier.

She wraps and ties one end around the statue and tugs down on the other end. It won't budge.

DIGIT

At least help me?

He walks over and grabs the curtain with her.

DIGIT (CONT'D)
Ready? One. Two. Three!

They pull, lifting the statue.

CEO
What are we doing?

DIGIT
Saving your ant hill. Get in.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER

The hover-limo floats off the balcony and zooms toward the village. The statue pokes out of its sunroof, the curtain still tied to its neck, flapping behind it like a superhero's cape.

The Animator approaches the InnoDyne Skyscraper and rips it to shreds.

EXT. FOREST

Kit lands by the statue piece poking out of the ground. He pushes against it. It won't move.

He walks thirty feet away then charges toward it.

KIT
AHHHH!

SLAM. The stone doesn't budge.

He grabs his hoverboard and wedges it under the statue.

KIT (CONT'D)
Here goes nothing.

He activates the board and jumps back. The board barely moves but the piece jiggles.

He pushes against the piece. The wobbling increases. The stone falls backwards onto hoverboard and shoots off.

Kit is left stranded.

He reaches into his bag and pulls out his grappling arms.

Kit shoots from tree to tree like a spring loaded monkey. He approaches the hoverboard and shoots his grappling arm at the stone.

The claw holds and he's pulled along for the ride.

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN

Pa stares at the cube. He wipes his brow and sighs.

PA
Here goes everything.

Pa pulls the smog cleaner from the corner, picks up the cube, and starts connecting it to the machine.

EXT. TOWN HALL

Digit lands the limo outside and the Pastor runs up.

PASTOR
The relic! It exists!

The Mayor runs outside followed by a bunch of villagers.

DIGIT
We'll need help moving it.

Villagers climb on top of the limo and pull the statue out through the sunroof. Digit's dad sits and mutters to himself in the front seat.

They place the statue down.

DIGIT (CONT'D)
Where's Kit?

Kit's hoverboard flies over the crowd and slams into the Town Hall.

The stone falls to the ground. A spring is still attached.

The spring tightens and Kit launches toward everyone.

KIT
Heads up!

He lets go of his grappling arm and somersaults into the crowd.

Kit gets up, brushes himself off, and looks around.

KIT (CONT'D)
Where's Pa?

He runs through the village to...

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN

The door opens and Kit enters. Pa is huddled over the machine, crying. He looks up at Kit.

PA
I can't do it Kit. I don't
understand how it works.

Kit walks over and puts his hand on Pa's shoulder.

KIT
You understand. It's different than
you're used to, but you can figure
it out.

PA
I can't! You do it!

He pushes the part into Kit's hand but Kit resists.

KIT
Remember that place Ma used to take
us? Imagine you're there.

Pa looks at the cabin around him. Slowly a superimposition of the meadow dissolves on top of it.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

It's the meadow where Kit brought Digit. All that is there is Kit, Pa, and the machine. The world is calm, stress-free.

Pa smiles. He hooks the piece in.

PA
I've got it.

Beyond the trees he catches a glimpse of Kit's MA smiling.

They return to...

INT. PA AND KIT'S CABIN

Pa and Kit load the machine onto a wheelbarrow and race out the door.

EXT. TOWN HALL

The villagers are lifting the final piece onto the statue.

In the distance, the Metropolis is almost completely destroyed. The Animator, now bored, eyes the village.

Pa and Kit approach with the machine and unload it next to the statue.

PASTOR
Let there be light.

Pa flips a switch on the machine. The machine pumps and churns. Above its intake a small vortex forms.

MAYOR
Is it working?

PA
It's warming up.

The vortex grows larger and louder. Villagers grab onto to anything sturdy.

The machine wobbles, its legs lifting from the ground.

It launches skyward.

PA (CONT'D)
All warmed up.

It pierces a hole into the ceiling of black clouds. A beam of sunlight pours onto the statue.

We can now see the statue in its entirety. It's the Animator's ripped-up self portrait. The statue glows colorfully in the light.

The glowing grows stronger, the statue emitting light rather than reflecting it.

The rocky exterior crumbles, revealing an animated version of the SELF PORTRAIT inside.

It floats slowly into the air.

KIT
What do we do now?

PASTOR
We wait.

EXT. SKIES

The Self Portrait floats serenely toward the Animator.

EXT. METROPOLIS

All that remains of the Metropolis are green wireframes of the buildings.

The Animator, now bored, charges toward the village.

EXT. TOWN HALL

The Animator is coming closer. He slashes at buildings along the way and chucks them in the air.

Everyone runs for cover.

EXT. OUTER VILLAGE

The self portrait floats in front of the face of the building-tall Animator.

The Animator stops his charge.

ANIMATOR

You shouldn't be here. Not anymore.

The self portrait speaks with the innocent voice of a child.

PORTRAIT

I never left.

The portrait floats down and touches the Animator's right hand and pushes into it. From that point rainbows of color spread outward along the Animator's body.

The color grows and consumes the Animator.

He tries to push the color away, but touching it only makes it spread.

He stops fighting it, leans his head back and lets the color take over.

EXT. TOWN HALL

Everyone watches the color consume the Animator.

Fully consumed, the Animator dissolves into a wispy cloud of color which twists its way into the black cloudy sky.

EXT. SKIES

The twisting intensifies and forms a tornado of clouds approaching the ground.

EXT. TOWN HALL

The tornado touches down and the wind pulls toward it.

Chunks of buildings and debris fly into the air.

The mixed colored sky erupts into a storm. Blasts of THUNDER and LIGHTNING.

Everyone rushes inside.

INT. TOWN HALL

The villagers crowd in. The WHOOSHING from outside makes it difficult to hear.

The Pastor makes his way to a chair. He lights a candle beside him and pulls out a scroll. Kit approaches him.

KIT

This is supposed to *stop* the
destruction of the world, right?

The Pastor double checks the scroll.

PASTOR

That's how it's written.

The walls to the building rattle as the tornado grows larger and larger, consuming more and more of the world around them.

Pa turns from the window.

PA

Everyone hold on!

CRASH! The roof rips off of the Town Hall and villagers are sucked into the air.

EXT. VILLAGE

The tornado pulls buildings off the ground. The world is in a blender.

INT. TORNADO

The wind has pulled everything and everyone into the air. Kit spins out of control, desperately trying to grab hold of anything near him.

The Pastor continues to sit and calmly read from the scroll, apparently unaware that his chair no longer rests on the ground.

Kit floats within reach and grabs the Pastor's chair.

KIT

You're sure this isn't the end of the world?

The Pastor looks up.

PASTOR

Two more verses.

Kit peers around. Amongst the terrified villagers, Digit spins in the far distance, while Pa spins halfway in between.

He lets go of the Pastor's chair and kicks towards Pa. They catch hands.

DIGIT

Kit!

PA

Go get her.

Digit and Kit jump from object to object. They jump toward each other and hold on.

KIT

Don't worry, it's almost over.

DIGIT

I'm not worried.

EXT. ANIMATED WORLD

The tornado pulls inward, condenses to a point, and implodes. Buildings slam to the ground. The storm ends.

The colors in the sky settle.

A dome of rainbow cloud covers the world.

The Animated world is now a mixture of Inky and Pixel buildings. Forest, village, and metropolis are all one.

Outside the dome, black dots draw lines, which draw colorless Inkies. Green dots draw empty wireframes, non-textured Pixels.

The re-formed characters descend through the rainbow dome and regain their color.

Kit and Digit lie on the ground, looking up at the falling characters.

A familiar flying pig rockets through the sky.

DIGIT
There's Spigot!

KIT
Remember that story you told me?
How we came to the world raining
down from the heavens?

Kit grabs her hand.

KIT (CONT'D)
It wasn't just a fairy tale.

EXT. SKIES

A small point of light rises out of the atmosphere and into the darkness of space.

INT. DARKNESS

A loud mechanical rumbling sound.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

We're back in the REAL WORLD.

The dumpster is being lifted by a garbage truck. The lid slams open and the Animator peeks out.

As the dumpster lifts, the Animator and TRUCK DRIVER meet eyes.

SLAM. The dumpster is dropped back to the ground.

DRIVER
Hey! What are you doing in there?
Get an apartment!

The Animator hops out of the dumpster, tripping on his way out.

Upon hitting the pavement, he notices something in his hand -- a folded piece of paper.

He opens up the paper and smiles.

We pull into the paper.

It's his childhood self portrait, complete and undamaged, as if never ripped at all.

WIDEN TO REVEAL:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

The drawing sits inside a frame. A small plaque is attached to it: 'In Case of Emergency Break Glass'.

The frame sits on a desk beside a wall-sized window overlooking a forest.

The Animator sits behind the desk, looking through the window. A WOMAN walks up carrying a piece of paper.

WOMAN

Is this OK?

He looks over it and nods. The woman walks away and the Animator follows her. She sits down at a drafting table further down the office.

Rows of drafting tables and computer stations line the walls, each with an animator sitting behind them.

On the screens and desks we see drawings and renderings of Kit, Pa, Spigot, Digit and the combined Inky/Pixel World.

Everything's come full circle.

FADE OUT:

THE END