

The Cloudsurfers

written by Martin Fleming

**FADE IN**

**A TOURISM TV COMMERCIAL**

CRACKLES and HUMS. A TV screen plays a dated tourism ad:

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Tired of the daily grind?

COMMUTERS honk in cars in a traffic jam.

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Fighting the urge to punch co-  
workers in the face?

Two WORKERS walk down a hallway, bump into each other, then begin circling each other like boxers.

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Regular holidays got you feeling  
blue?

A FAMILY stares from their car window at a rainy cemetery.

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Then take a trip to Sunshine! The  
island destination with three-  
hundred and sixty five days of  
blue skies, crystal clear water  
and, of course, scorching sun!

It cuts to a glorious blisteringly, glaring blue!

We drop into Sunshine, then zoom in on the town.

Surfers on waves. Hang-gliders float over the woods. Kids  
make sandcastles. Citizens drink cocktails.

SIMON, the MAYOR, very, very tanned, dressed in a GIANT SUN  
costume steps into shot.

SIMON (V.O)  
Come on down to Sunshine. After  
all, you can never have too much  
sun..sun...

The footage starts to crackle.

DEW (O.S)  
Goddamn...useless piece...of...

**INT. TOURIST OFFICE - DAY**

We pull back to see a powerfully built man, thirties, a  
refrigerator on matchsticks, banging the top of an old TV.

This is DEW, dressed in a short sleeve shirt and a tie,  
noticeable sweat patches under each arm.

The tourist office is grey with flickering artificial lights. It's bustling with TOURISTS perusing activity pamphlets.

Dew huffs, then exits the office onto...

**EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY**

The main road. It's resembles a hot frying pan, sizzling. The birds sunbake. Dogs have sunscreen on their faces. A beam of sunlight sits obediently between two cars.

We get a glimpse of Sunshine as it is now - peaceful and picturesque has been replaced with smog and noise. In the distance, crowded beaches.

Mopeds zoom around en masse. Massive cruise ships sit moored in a harbour. Shops display touristy t-shirts of the "I GOT SUNBURNT IN SUNSHINE!" ilk. Tourists fill every inch.

Dew looks up at the melting TV aerial. Sighs, then rips it off the side of the building.

It burns his hands. He winces, then goes back inside the office.

**INT TOURIST OFFICE - CONT.**

Dew throws the aerial onto a big pile, then collapses into a chair behind his desk, turns off the TV, mops his brow.

DEW

Mare! Antenna's melted again!

MARE, a middle-aged, gentle, wispy woman appears from the back, holding a bag of frozen peas to her forehead.

MARE

That's the eighth one this month!

Dew checks a thermometer -- it nudges 48°C. He taps it. It goes up another degree and bubbles.

MARE (CONT.)

Hottest day on record!

DEW

They said that yesterday. And the day before...and the day before.

Dew takes a can of drink from a fridge, downs it in one.

MARE

Tourists are lapping it up. We've never been so busy.

DEW

Maybe that's part of the problem.

A LOBSTER-RED SUNBURNT TOURIST approaches the desk.

TOURIST

Excuse me, do you know where I  
can get some sunblock?

Dew looks him up and down.

DEW

That ship has sailed, my friend.

He sketches a quick map on a notepad. Hands it to the man.

DEW

This farm lets you bathe in their  
milk. Helps with the burn.

TOURIST

Really?

DEW

Well, by, "Let you" I mean, the  
door to their barn is unlocked.

The tourist thanks him and leaves.

DEW

Hey, do you think you could cover  
for me this afternoon? I want to  
surprise Nimbo at school and take  
him surfing.

MARE

Of course, of course. How's he  
doing?

DEW

Hmm, he's great. He was skipping  
school for awhile. But I gave him  
one of my world famous speeches.  
And I think he's really turned a  
corner.

The phone rings. Dew answers it.

His face sours.

#### **EXT. ISLAND OF SUNSHINE - DAY**

An island paradise - think a Hawaiian island. Not a cloud in  
the sky. White sand beaches, crystal blue ocean, a mountain  
in the middle.

**BEACH**

Two kids run into the water, jump on their surfboards and start paddling.

NIMBO, dark hair is a boy who feels every moment spent inside is time wasted. His partner in truancy, MISTY, is a girl with white hair, giggly and a great surfer. They're both tanned - these kids have grown up on the beach.

MISTY

Are you sure we won't get in trouble for skipping school?

NIMBO

Nah. I've left behind decoys.

CUT TO:

**INT. SUNSHINE SCHOOL - SAME TIME**

A classroom full of kids. At the back in two chairs, two crudely created straw dummies. A head rolls off one.

BACK TO:

**BEACH**

A huge ocean wave crests behind the kids. Misty looks petrified, while Nimbo's eyes light up.

They paddle furiously, Misty struggling, Nimbo at ease. They stand and carve the face of the wave. Nimbo cuts off Misty, who veers off course.

A PALE TOURIST bobs a head of her, wearing floaties, reading a plastic, "SURFING IN THREE STEPS" book. Misty sees him at the last second, and crashes into him.

She surfaces, gulping for air.

MISTY

Nimbo! Help!

Nimbo flies past, performing cut-backs, hitting off the tip with twists and turns.

NIMBO

This is the perfect wave for a Rodeo 900! I'll meet you on the beach.

He sets up, flies off the top. He looks down, and the height scares him. He flails and bails into a group of swimming tourists.

He floats to the shore, spitting water like a whale.

NIMBO  
Wicked wipeout.

His board washes up next to him, broken in two.  
He looks over and sees Misty crawling ashore.

NIMBO  
Great wave, eh! I woulda landed  
it if wasn't so crowde--

MISTY  
What the heck, Nimbo!?

NIMBO  
What do you mean?

MISTY  
You left me to drown out there!

NIMBO  
Pfft, come on. You can swim!

MISTY  
Grr, you're so selfish.

Nimbo has no idea what he's done.

#### **INT. NIMBO'S HOUSE - DAY**

Nimbo approaches his small two-storey house.

#### **PORCH**

He throws his board atop a huge pile of broken surfboards,  
puts his school shirt and tie on, then goes inside.

#### **KITCHEN**

He walks into the kitchen, opens the fridge to take out a  
soda. When he closes it he's confronted with the thunderous  
face of his father.

DEW  
Have fun at school today, Nimbo?

Nimbo acts cool. Takes a drink from the fridge.

NIMBO  
Oh, yeah. Big time, big time.  
Maths. Science....And the rest.

DEW  
You don't say? And what, exactly,  
did you learn?

NIMBO

We read the boy who cried wolf.

Dew leans back in his chair, which creaks under his weight.

DEW

Do tell.

NIMBO

Boy cries wolf. Villagers check it out. They thank the boy for drawing attention to the animal.

DEW

Sounds fascinating. Didn't happen to pop by the beach today?

NIMBO

Today? Beach? Ha! No way. I was in school, remember?

DEW

Really? Hottest day on record? Beautiful waves. How ever did you resist?

Nimbo pops the soda can, oblivious to his Dad's tone.

NIMBO

You know me, Dad - teaching before beaching.

Dew picks his son up by his legs, and tips him over. Sand pours out of him into a little sandcastle.

NIMBO (CONT.)

Would you believe, art class?

Dew puts him down.

DEW

Not only did the principal call and say you skipped school. Misty's mum also called. Apparently you left Misty to almost drown!

NIMBO

Dad, you can't trust snitches.

Dew looks exasperated. Plonks into a chair, which creaks.

DEW

What were you thinking Nimbo?

NIMBO

Dad, you can't expect a kid to sit in a classroom for eight hours straight! It's torture.

DEW

School doesn't teach character,  
son. And you showed yours today.  
How could you leave somebody in  
trouble?

NIMBO

It's not my fault, Dad! I was  
trying to land the rodeo 900! You  
know how long I've been trying to  
stick that!

DEW

There'll be other waves, son.  
What you did was selfish and  
dangerous. I taught you better  
than that.

He snatches the soda away.

DEW (CONT.)

Hopefully one day you'll realise  
you're not the centre of the  
universe.

**INT. NIMBO'S ROOM - CONT.**

Nimbo storms into his room and slumps onto his bed. It's a  
typical kids room: posters of cloudsurfers - think  
snowboarders - shredding white fluffy clouds as if they were  
waves. Most feature one WOMAN.

NIMBO

(mocking)

"Maybe one day you'll realise  
you're not the centre of the  
universe".

Nimbo picks up an old *Cloudsurfer* magazine. One of the  
articles reads, "CLOUD PEAKS IS THE PLACE TO BE - ONLY YOU  
CAN'T COME!"

He turns the page. Another article features the woman from  
the posters - TALIA. With the headline, "HOW I MOVE CLOUDS."

He turns it again. "THE CLOUD JAM - THE DEADLIEST COMPETITION  
IN EXTREME SPORTS".

**EXT. DRIVEWAY/SUNSHINE STREET - DAY**

Dew and Nimbo sit on a moped, surfboards attached to the  
side. They're whizzing along the street.

DEW

(Over the wind)

This'll be fun, eh?! We haven't  
hit the waves in weeks!



NIMBO  
You're always working, Dad!

They drive over the crest of the hill and Dew immediately slams on the brakes.

The traffic is outrageous. Tourists fill every inch.

DEW (CONT.)  
Sweet Poseidon!

NIMBO  
This is getting out of control!

DEW  
Come on, let's see if my secret parking spot is still available.

Dew manoeuvres the moped through the sea of people.

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH WALK - CONT.**

Dew finally stops the moped near a tree. They get off. Dew picks up the moped and throws it into the tree.

At the crowded beach, they can't even see the ocean.

DEW  
Hmm, I thought they increased the amount of sand this year?

NIMBO  
They did...

They trudge down the sidewalk, past scenes of tourists on the beach jumping into kiddie pools of sunscreen. Ice cream melting as soon as it's scooped. People turning over on their sun loungers to reveal grill marks on their back.

Nimbo and Dew stop when they realise they're back outside their house...

DEW  
Wait..isn't that our letterbox.

Nimbo throws his board down.

NIMBO  
It's so busy! Tourists are killing this place!

A fisherman slops down the street, sweating under the weight of his catch. He doesn't notice a fish drop - it sizzles and cooks.

DEW  
Not many places you can get a free lunch though, eh?

Dew picks up the fish, bites into it.

DEW (CONT.)

Look, I know there's been a slight increase in tourist numbers this year...but it's a good thing.

NIMBO

I used to have the waves all to myself!

DEW

Don't be selfish. The beach is for everyone.

NIMBO

I'm sick of it! We've got to get rid of them, Dad!

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH - CONT.**

At the beach, the sand is barely visible beneath the crowds.

NIMBO

I can't even see the water.

DEW

You want some cheese with that *whine*, son?

He picks up Nimbo's board - with Nimbo on top.

DEW (CONT.)

Hey, you too old for a Nimbo-bullet?

NIMBO

What? No, Dad! Don't!

He aims him like a javelin and hurls him over the crowds!

Nimbo skims into the ocean and manages to catch a wave.

**EXT. OCEAN WAVES - CONT.**

Nimbo surfs *around* the tourists as they pop-up like moles.

A jet-ski zips by. Nimbo tries to dodge it but his leg-rope gets caught in the engine.

He stays upright - just - and picks up serious speed!

Unbeknown to the JET-SKI RIDER, Nimbo flails behind. Nimbo's yells fall on deaf ears.

The jet-ski turns sharply, causing Nimbo to go flying.

Nimbo tumbles in the air until his leg-rope snaps and the board disappears.

**EXT. BEACH - CONT.**

From the beach, Dew sees his son tumbling into the sky.

DEW  
Nimbo!

**EXT. SKY - CONT.**

Nimbo sails through the sky, crashing into a HANG GLIDER. He looks down and the world spins. Nimbo yelps and grabs onto the hang glider even tighter.

HANG GLIDER  
Hey! What are you doing?!

NIMBO  
Ahh! We're too high! Take me  
down! take me down!

**EXT. BEACH - CONT.**

From the beach, Dew sees his son tumbling into the sky.

DEW  
Nimbo! Hold on!

**EXT. SKY - CONT.**

The hang glider careens out of control, hitting a gust of wind that sends them spiral!

HANG GLIDER (CONT.)  
You're too heavy, kid!

NIMBO  
Don't body shame me!

The hang glider shoves him off. Nimbo falls, grasping at air. He screams as he falls into the woods below.

**EXT. BEACH - CONT.**

Dew runs along the sand, watching helplessly as Nimbo falls.

DEW  
Nimbo! Nimbo! Nimbo!

**EXT. SUNSHINE WOODS - CONT.**

Nimbo crashes through the trees, branches smacking into him.

Luckily, it looks like he'll land in a large, soft pink flower...

Unluckily, he falls onto the hard ground instead.

It all goes black.

**SECONDS LATER**

Nimbo is being poked with a stick.

The stick-poker is a woman named AUTUMN (30s). Red hair, dressed in khaki, wearing a huge back-pack, flanked by an ALBINO WHITE TOUCAN named NEIL.

Autumn pokes Nimbo again, but he remains knocked out.

AUTUMN

Great, now, what am I going to do with a dead kid? You wanna eat him, Neil?

Neil nods enthusiastically. Nimbo slowly comes to.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

What do you know, he survived.

Neil inspects Nimbo with his beak.

Autumn crouches beside the kid.

AUTUMN

Hey, kid -- you okay?

Nimbo sits up, touching his head.

NIMBO

Am I...dead?

AUTUMN

The stupid question would suggest otherwise.

She helps him up. Nimbo dusts himself off.

NIMBO

Where am I?

AUTUMN

Lost. Come on, I'll take you back to your hotel.

NIMBO

Hotel?

AUTUMN

Yeah, where are you staying? The One Season? The Britz?

NIMBO

I'm, er, not staying at a hotel?

AUTUMN

Ah, so you're winging it? Good luck finding a place to stay. It's peak season.

(thinks)

Well, I guess it's always peak season.

NIMBO

No, I live here. I was surfing...

He tries to remember.

AUTUMN

Surfing? Are you sure you're okay? We can call your parents from my farm. You should probably see a doctor. Most of them only know how to deal with sunburn, but who knows, maybe aloe vera cures concussion.

She leads him through the woods.

NIMBO

So, what you doing out here? Are you some sort of crazy lady?

AUTUMN

My name's Autumn. I run a farm out here. I sell the finest gourmet cheese bars in the world. See -

She digs into her bag and takes out a bar of cheese - like a chocolate bar - with Autumn's winking face on the label and "SUNSHINE CHEESE COMPANY".

NIMBO

Wow. Cool you put your daughter on the label!

Autumn grabs the cheese bar back.

AUTUMN

That's me, smart guy.

Nimbo takes the bar back, looks at the label.

NIMBO

What's the expiry date on this?

AUTUMN  
 Alright, that's enough of that.

They walk through the woods, Nimbo chewing on the cheese bar.

NIMBO  
 This is pretty good.

AUTUMN  
 Thanks. All natural. From the  
 freshest milk from the finest  
 Sunshine cows.

She's almost thinking out loud, daydreaming.

AUTUMN (CONT.)  
 Though not sure how much longer  
 that'll last.

NIMBO  
 What do you mean?

She snaps back to it.

AUTUMN  
 Oh. Never mind, kid. It's not  
 your problem.

**EXT. SUNSHINE CHEESE COMPANY FARM - CONT.**

They come to a cliff top. Looking down on an empty paddock.

Autumn takes out a remote. Presses a button. A bubble  
 shimmers then disappears, revealing a farm - an arid farm.

There's a small shed with "SUNSHINE CHEESE COMPANY" on the  
 side. Cows, sheep and goats roam on dirt green and yellow  
 grass.

NIMBO  
 Woah, cool! Why do you keep it  
 hidden?

AUTUMN  
 For some reason tourists kept  
 sneaking into the sheds to bathe  
 in the milk.

They walk towards the farm. Nimbo notices the grass.

NIMBO  
 It's so dry. How do you grow  
 anything?

He picks up a few blades of grass. Rubs them together. They  
 start a small fire.

AUTUMN

I ship water in from neighbouring islands. But I can't afford to do that much longer.

She pats one of her cows.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

The rising temperatures means my crops are dying too fast. Soon I won't be able to feed my animals.

NIMBO

That's horrible. Your cheese makes the best toasties.

AUTUMN

Won't be long until Sunshine goes from tropical paradise to desert wasteland.

NIMBO

God, I could go for some dessert right about now. Got any cheesecake?

AUTUMN

*Desert, kid. Desert.*

NIMBO

What's a *desert*?

AUTUMN

A barren wasteland.

NIMBO

Is that a flavour of ice cream?

AUTUMN

Imagine an island with nothing but beach. No trees, no plants, no life -- just sand as far as the eye can see.

Nimbo tries to imagine.

NIMBO

...What are the waves like?

Autumn pinches her nose.

NIMBO (CONT.)

Well, at least that'll keep the tourists away.

Autumn points in a different direction, to the horizon, where plumes of disgusting smoke billow from the cruise ships.

AUTUMN

That'd be ironic. Seeing as how the tourists are the ones causing the heat wave in the first place.

NIMBO

How can people create heat?

AUTUMN

A bottle of wine and dim lighting usually does the trick.

NIMBO

How do we stop them doing *that*?

AUTUMN

After a few years it tends to fizzle out by itself.

NIMBO

(Confused)

Well, whatever it is, I wish they'd leave. I'm sick of sharing my beach with these tourists.

AUTUMN

It's a vicious cycle. Look, the cruise ships pollute the ozone layer above Sunshine. So, the more ships, the hotter it gets. But the hotter it gets, the more the tourists want to come here. I'm afraid it's just going to get hotter and the tourists are gonna keep comin'.

Autumn heads for her farmhouse. Nimbo chases her.

NIMBO

If we could get it to rain, we could drive tourists away...and, you know, save your farm.

AUTUMN

Probably. But it hasn't rained in years. Don't see the drought ending anytime soon.

Nimbo spots a rickety old private jet, SUNSHINE CHEESE COMPANY stencilled on the side. He runs over to inspect it.

NIMBO

Woah, cool! Is this yours?

AUTUMN

Yeah. It's not much, but it does the job.

Nimbo isn't impressed.



NIMBO

Is this plane up-to-date with all regulatory safety and security procedures?

Autumn looks at him, suspicious.

AUTUMN

As long as it gets me to Parallel City tomorrow, I don't care.

NIMBO

Parallel City...isn't that near Cloud Peaks?

AUTUMN

I have no idea.

NIMBO

Can you drop me off? I can visit my mum!

Autumn crosses her arms, scowls at him.

AUTUMN

Aren't you worried my plane isn't up to code?

NIMBO

I am, and to be honest, I'm not great with heights --

DEW (O.S.)

Nimbo! Oh, thank god! I thought you were a goner. Are you okay?

Dew runs towards Nimbo, starts hugging and kissing him.

NIMBO

Daaadd...Don't embarrass me in front of the cheese lady.

DEW

Autumn.

AUTUMN

Dew?

Autumn disgusted. Dew abashed. Nimbo nibbling his cheese bar.

NIMBO

You guys know each other?

DEW

I haven't seen you in awhile. I thought you'd left Sunshine...

AUTUMN

No, I hide out here instead and run the *Sunshine Cheese Company*.

DEW

That's you? I send sunburnt  
tourists to you all the time!

AUTUMN

That's you. You're the reason I  
had to heightened the security.

CUT TO:

**EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME**

The LOBSTER-RED TOURIST from Dew's office cuts his way through the woods, following Dew's crude map. A huge robot appears from the trees. Starts shooting lasers at him. He screams and starts running.

BACK TO:

**EXT. SUNSHINE CHEESE COMPANY FARM**

Sounds of lasers echo in the distance.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

It makes the milk really taste  
sour. Didn't realise this was  
your kid.

DEW

Oh yeah, Nimbo here is my pride  
and joy.

AUTUMN

He was just asking about why  
there were so many tourists on  
Sunshine. Perhaps you should  
break the news to him.

Dew tries to laugh it off. Nimbo looks at his dad, puzzled.

DEW

Autumn, come on now, don't be  
like that. It was a group effort.

NIMBO

What's she talking about, Dad?

AUTUMN

You never told him? About how  
*somebody* ruined the island?

DEW

It's not ruined...

AUTUMN

Oh please. Have you even *seen* the  
latest weather data?

DEW

Autumn, please. We both agreed --

AUTUMN

I wanted *somebody's* help. And that *somebody* couldn't read the instructions on a box!

Dramatic pause...Nimbo looks confused.

NIMBO

...Well, who was it?

Autumn is baffled Nimbo could be this thick.

AUTUMN

Your Dad. Your Dad is the reason Sunshine is chock full of tourists and likely to become hotter than Mercury in a month!

Nimbo looks shocked. Dew points at Autumn, childishly.

DEW

Well, she helped.

**EXT./INT. SUNSHINE ICE CREAM EMPORIUM - LATER**

The ice cream parlour has expanded rapidly and from the outside it resembles *Howl's Moving Castle*, with make-shift levels and sections slapped. Winches and pulleys deliver ice-cream to the crowded roof.

Inside, it's crammed with tourists. An untouched sundae sits between bashful Dew and sad Nimbo.

DEW

Son...you don't understand.

NIMBO

Why did she say you ruined this island for everyone?

DEW

Well...it's complicated - And it was a group effort really. Like a group assignment. You still get them? You'd know if you still went to school. Tisk tisk. Let's discuss that.

NIMBO

Don't change the subject. What did Autumn mean, Dad?

DEW

Fine. I'll tell you.

(MORE)

DEW (CONT'D)

But you can't get mad. You want another *Choco-mango ka-boom*?

Dew gets a waitress' attention, orders another sundae.

DEW (CONT.)

We're out of cereal, at home so let's just make this your dinner.

Then he settles into his story.

DEW (CONT.)

Back when you were small, Sunshine wasn't like it is today. It rained all the time. It was miserable. Nobody holidayed here. The island was going broke...

### **BEGIN FLASHBACK**

#### **EXT. SUNSHINE - 10 YEARS AGO**

Old Sunshine - dreary, rainy, grim. The beach, now packed, was then deserted. A poster of AUTUMN FOR MAYOR is streaking under the heavy downpour.

#### **INT. SUNSHINE BEACH MEETING ROOM - DAY**

A stuffy conference room overlooking the ocean. It's pouring with rain outside.

AUTUMN (O.S)

And how many tourists last month?

Younger DEW, sporting a mullet, sits with a younger TALIA, his wife, who holds a toddler NIMBO.

A younger AUTUMN sits at the head of the table, with THREE BOARD MEMBERS - Proverbial "nodding dogs" crowding her.

Dew checks the sheet.

DEW

Five.

AUTUMN

Wow. I mean, Five thousand is not great, but --

DEW

No, no - not five-thousand. Five. Total.

AUTUMN

That's *really* not great.

BOARD MEMBER #1  
I'd say it was terrible.

BOARD MEMBER #2  
The *opposite* of great.

BOARD MEMBER #3  
Awful.

BOARD MEMBER #2  
That's the opposite of good.

TALIA  
Why are you complaining -  
tourists ruin everything anyway.

AUTUMN  
What can we do? It just rains.  
All. The. Time. We can't control  
the weather!

The three executives overlap as they talk.

BOARD MEMBER #1  
It's nature, after all.

BOARD MEMBER #2  
It's natural.

BOARD MEMBER #3  
Naturally.

TALIA  
Well, it's perfect weather for  
cloudsurfing. What's the problem?

AUTUMN  
Nobody cares about cloudsurfing.

There's a cough from the far end of the table. A chair spins around. Simon (30s) -- future mayor, very, very pale -- sits like a Bond villain, fingers in a pyramid.

SIMON  
I might have a solution to our  
cloud problem.

BOARD MEMBER #3  
What did he say?

BOARD MEMBER #2  
He said he's got a solution.

BOARD MEMBER #1  
Like...water?

BOARD MEMBER #2  
No, that's the *problem*.

Simon holds up a catalogue.

SIMON

This here is the Cloud Burner 9000. The ultimate in Cloud Dispersing technology. It's Australian.

The Cloud Burner 9000 is a fancy looking machine, with toggles and dials - a giant spout on top.

The board members all murmur stupidly as they squint at the catalogue: *Ooooo* and *AhhHHHHhh*, "Are kangaroos tanned?"

SIMON

The Cloud Burner disperses water vapour in the clouds at a rate of six cumulus per minute, breaking them down before they turn to rain. It's the ultimate in sun-keeping technology.

BOARD MEMBER #1

Fantastic!

BOARD MEMBER #2

Stupendous!

AUTUMN

You want us to...control nature?

The "Yes men" change their tune.

BOARD MEMBER #1

This *does* seems dodgy.

BOARD MEMBER #2

Unnatural, if you ask me.

BOARD MEMBER #3

What kind of guarantees do we have it'll even work.

SIMON

Well, have you ever seen it rain in Australia?

BOARD MEMBER #1

That's true. I've never seen it rain down under.

BOARD MEMBER #3

Never seen a wet kangaroo.

BOARD MEMBER #2

And those weird hats! Don't wear hats in the rain!

Autumn looks to Dew and Talia.

TALIA

This is a terrible idea! We can't fight nature! What if something goes wrong! We could damage the island ecosystem beyond repair!

AUTUMN

What do you think, Dew?

Dew is uneasy.

DEW

I mean, clouds are very important to us...but we've got to do something...

Dew thinks...

TALIA

Are you insane?! You're not actually going to go along with this are you? Using a "Weather machine" to get rid of clouds?!

AUTUMN

Just for the summer. Then we can turn the machine off.

Simon, stands behind Autumn - a devil on her shoulder.

SIMON

Re-election's coming up, Mayor. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to campaign on a platform of turning Sunshine into the paradise it deserves to be?

He jumps over to Dew.

SIMON

You've got a kid, Dew. Think of little Nimbo. How are you going to support him without tourists...

Dew nods. Talia throws her arms up.

TALIA

Well, you're on your own. I refuse to go along with this!

Talia storms out.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - FLASHBACK**

Atop the stormy Sunshine mountain peak. Simon, Autumn and Dew set the machine up. It shoots purple light into the sky.

DEW (V.O.)  
So, we ordered the Cloud Burner  
9000.

The clouds clear and the sun comes out.

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH - FLASHBACK**

Sunshine is now awash with beautiful sunlight. Tourists enjoying the beach. Dew and a two-year-old Nimbo playing.

NIMBO (V.O.)  
And it worked?

DEW (V.O.)  
It worked better than even we had  
hoped. Soon, tourists flocked to  
Sunshine. It worked so well, we  
decided to keep the machine on  
over spring. Then over winter...

Tourists begin packing the beaches. As the seasons change, the beaches get more crowded. Dew watches, his beard and hair growing, and growing - the weather never changes.

DEW (V.O.)  
It got out of control.

NIMBO (V.O.)  
So, why didn't you turn the  
machine off?

DEW (V.O.)  
You think we didn't try?

**EXT. SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN TOP - FLASHBACK**

Talia, Autumn and Dew are back on the mountain top. They turn the machine off. Nothing happens.

They stare at each other. Autumn picks up the cardboard box.

**END FLASHBACK****INT. SUNSHINE ICE CREAM EMPORIUM - CONT.**

Back in the ice cream parlour.



DEW

I didn't read the fine print. You were only supposed to leave the cloud burner on for a few days. We left it on for a few *months*. The cloud burner permanently damaged the moisture absorbents in the atmosphere. See when the water molecules conflagulate --

He pauses when he sees Nimbo's gormless expression.

DEW

Basically, when we turned it off, the clouds never came back.

Nimbo thinks about this story for a few seconds.

NIMBO

Wait, was this why Mum left?

DEW

Your mother thought she had a way to bring all the clouds back...

NIMBO

But she never did...

DEW

No. She never did. She left and never came back.

NIMBO

I bet she wanted to take me with her but you forced me to stay.

Dew has had enough.

DEW

Now, Nimbo, stop that. I did it *for* you. I sacrificed the clouds so you could have a proper life!

NIMBO

No you didn't. You did it for yourself! You ruined everything!

Nimbo knocks the sundae over and storms off.

DEW

(Calling)

There are starving kids who'd kill for that sundae!

**EXT. NIMBO'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER**

Nimbo runs into his house and up the stairs.

**INT. NIMBO'S BEDROOM - CONT.**

He collapses onto his bed, crying.

He looks at the magazine of his mum proclaiming she can "MOVE CLOUDS." He makes a decision. He rips some pages out of the magazine, grabs his backpack and starts packing.

**INT. DEW'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

Dew sits on his computer. Looking at the weather data. He clicks on "FUTURE PREDICTIONS". A graph shows dangerous highs. The computer flashes red - DANGER! DANGER!

DEW  
Oh my god.

**INT. NIMBO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Dew knocks on Nimbo's door, then opens it a crack. He sees Nimbo in his bed.

DEW  
Nimbo? Look, I'm sorry. Really I am. I only ever did what I thought was best. I'm going to try to fix it. And I hope you can forgive me. Goodnight, son.

Dew leaves. And we see it wasn't Nimbo in bed...just a pile of clothes.

**EXT. AUTUMN'S FARM - NIGHT**

Autumn stands next to the cargo hold of her plane, checking a manifesto. Neil the toucan, sits on her shoulder.

AUTUMN  
You go start her up. I'll do the last minute checks.

Neil flies up to the cabin.

Nimbo appears beside her, salutes.

NIMBO  
Permission to come aboard!

Autumn looks up, groans.

AUTUMN

Oh jeez. What are you doing here?

NIMBO

You're dropping me off at Cloud Peaks.

AUTUMN

Absolutely not. This is not a taxi service.

(thinks)

Actually, that's not a bad idea. Cos I'm going to be honest, this thing cost a fortune to run. Okay, how much you got?

Nimbo reaches into his pocket, takes out a wad of money.

NIMBO

I've got...twelve dollars.

AUTUMN

Pfft. That won't even pay for your in-flight meal.

NIMBO

Please. I've got a plan to save Sunshine. Look --

He hands Autumn the HOW I MOVE CLOUDS page from the magazine.

NIMBO (CONT.)

I'm going to find mum and get her to bring clouds back to Sunshine!

AUTUMN

Ah, I remember the first time I ran away from home. Sorry, champ.

She hands him back the magazine page.

NIMBO

Please. If she knew that Sunshine was dying, she'd help, I know she would.

AUTUMN

Then call her and have her come collect you.

NIMBO

I don't know how to reach her. Otherwise I would.

A horn sounds - Neil's impatient at the plane's wheel.

AUTUMN

Look, I gotta go.  
(MORE)

AUTUMN (CONT'D)  
 This triple-brie won't deliver  
 itself. Go home.

Autumn wanders off to the front of the plane. Nimbo notices the cargo door is still open...

**INT. NIMBO'S HOUSE - MORNING**

A sunny morning on Sunshine. Dew dressed for work stands at the door.

DEW  
 (Calling)  
 Nimbo? Are you up? I'm off to see  
 the mayor -- do you want a lift?

No reply.

DEW (CONT.)  
 Good chat. Ok, I'll see you  
 later!

**INT. PLANE - MORNING**

**BEDROOM CABIN**

The sleeping quarters are small, like you'd find on a boat. Autumn wakes up, yawns and stretches.

**COCKPIT**

The cockpit resembles a digitalised ship's bridge with a beautiful orange sunrise shining through a large windscreen.

Autumn walks in pulling on a sweater. Neil sleeps on a little perch, with a little eye mask.

Autumn shakes her head, then examines the control panel.

AUTUMN  
 Hey, wake up! Why did we suddenly  
 go off course?

Neil startles awake. Autumn points at the digital map. There's a huge acute turn upwards. Neil shrugs.

Autumn sniffs the air.

AUTUMN (CONT.)  
 Are you frying cheese?

NIMBO (O.S)  
 Morning crew!

Nimbo bursts into the cockpit, wearing a chef's hat, carrying a frying pan full of cheese.

AUTUMN

What in *brie* are you doing here?!

NIMBO

Well, here's the thing -- fried cheese anyone?

Neil nods, and Nimbo tosses him a slice of frying cheese from the frying pan. Autumn glares at the bird.

NIMBO (CONT.)

I thought about what you said.  
And I almost turned back, but you inspired me.

He takes out a cheese bar wrapper.

Underneath the fold, a quote: "WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS NO, SAY FONDUE, AND DO IT ANYWAY!"

Autumn looks at Nimbo.

AUTUMN

I'm stuck with you because you don't understand marketing?!

Nimbo scrapes the fried cheese onto a couple of plates.

NIMBO

The important thing is, I'm here now. And I've made a slight course correction. We're just going to make a quick stop off at Cloud Peaks. I know, I know, you've got cheese to deliver, but I did the maths and it turns out you've got enough fuel to drop me off too! Win!

AUTUMN

You did the maths?

As if on cue, an alarm sounds. Red lights flash!

NIMBO

Mmm - my maths is never usually bad enough to cause alarm...

Autumn looks from the flashing control panel to the horizon.

ANGLE ON a huge black storm cloud looming in the distance.

NIMBO

Is that a *cloud*!? I've never seen one in real life before!

AUTUMN

It's a *storm* cloud! And we're headed right for it!

NIMBO

Just so we're clear, I was right about having enough fuel?

Autumn desperately turns the wheel. Nimbo presses his face against the glass.

NIMBO (CONT.)

Hey, maybe I can surf it?

Autumn ignores him.

Nimbo rushes out of the cabin.

**EXT. STORM CLOUD - SAME TIME**

The storm crackles and rumbles. The plane looks like a tiny speck as it heads straight for the storm...

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH MAYOR'S BEACH OFFICE - DAY**

The mayor's office is really just a desk on the beach.

MAYOR SIMON'S once pale skin has been replaced with a deep, baked-in tan. He's covered in suntan oil and reads a print-out. Dew stands, waiting anxiously for his response.

MAYOR

So? Big deal.

He hands the paper back to Dew.

DEW

Big deal?! Look at the data. The temperatures are going through the roof. I spoke to Autumn and --

MAYOR

Hmpfh! My bitter predecessor. Why am I not surprised that she would try to blight my ever sunny legacy with all this negativity. Why, under her leadership, most people couldn't even find Sunshine on a map!

DEW

You're missing the point. We have to close down the harbours! Stop the tourists coming!

The mayor takes out a basting brush and some oil. Bastes some oil into his body.

MAYOR SIMON

Are you crazy?! You got that sun stroke? Some sort of solar madness? I knew it was a thing! I invested millions into research and here we are - proof!

Dew waves the paper into the mayor's face.

DEW

Look at the numbers. If we don't stop the cruise ships pumping carbon monoxide into our atmosphere we've got no chan--

MAYOR SIMON

I appreciate you coming to me about this, Dew. It's important for a mayor to listen to his constituents. But the fact is, I can't make it rain. You can't make it rain. Nobody can. So we'll just have to grin and tan it.

A phone rings. Simon answers it.

MAYOR SIMON (CONT.)

Yes?...WHAT?!...oh no! Wait...So this isn't about me? Fiiiine.

Hands Dew the phone.

MAYOR SIMON (CONT.)

(bored)

For you. Something about your kid not turning up for school or something. I lost interest.

Dew takes the phone.

MAYOR SIMON (CONT.)

I tell you, Dew, that kid of yours sure has his head in the clouds.

**INT. PLANE - DAY**

**CONTROL ROOM**

The storm clouds engulf the plane, encasing the control room in blackness. Thunder roars! Lightning strikes!

Autumn desperately tries to navigate them out of it. Neil on her shoulder, his feathers over his eyes.

AUTUMN  
This is bad.

Nimbo runs in, a cooler lid under his arm.

NIMBO  
I found this cooler li-

AUTUMN  
Not the time, kid!

Nimbo looks out the window, awestruck by what it's like being *inside* a cloud.

NIMBO  
Woah. This is unbelievable.

**EXT. STORM CLOUD**

Lightning strikes the plane, the tail catches on fire.

**INT. PLANE**

**CONTROL ROOM**

Inside, the cabin shudders and jolts.

Another alarm sounds. Autumn checks the panels.

AUTUMN  
Uh oh! We're going down! Neil,  
can you check on the damage?

Neil shakes his head - no chance! Autumn opens a window, wind rushes in, Neil flushes out, eyes-popping, feathers-flying.

AUTUMN  
Thanks, Neil.

**EXT. STORM CLOUD**

As Neil battles against the wind, rain reaches the back of the plane, he sees something surprising...

**INT. PLANE**

Autumn also sees it on a monitor - Nimbo has opened the cargo hold, grabbing onto a handgrip, petrified.

AUTUMN  
Oh for god's sake!



**EXT. STORM CLOUD**

Nimbo hesitates. He can't do it - it's too high. He retreats inside. But the plane dips, and Nimbo tumbles out the plane.

He throws the cooler lid under his feet and it's immediately whipped away by the wind.

**INT. PLANE**

Autumn desperately tries to keep the plane upright, but it's no good.

AUTUMN

We're going down! Brace positions!

**EXT. STORM CLOUD**

The plane nosedives towards the ocean, and Nimbo free falls. He sees Neil and at the last minute he grabs onto his talons. Neil struggles under his weight.

Nimbo looks down, then immediately wishes he hadn't. He closes his eyes as Neil flaps furiously to stay airborne.

**EXT. STORM CLOUD**

Everybody screams as the plane - alongside Neil and Nimbo - plummet into the ocean.

**INT. NIMBO'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Back on Sunshine, Dew frantically searches for Nimbo.

Dew runs into Nimbo's bedroom. He's not there.

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH - DAY**

He runs through tourists, searching.

**INT. SUNSHINE ICE CREAM PARLOUR - DAY**

Peaks into the ice cream parlour.

**EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY**

Now, ice cream in hand, he looks around the skate park.

**INT. NIMBO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Dew goes into Nimbo's bedroom. Slumps on his son's bed.

He finds the *Cloudsurfer* magazine. He opens it to an article, and notices the torn pages.

**EXT. CITRUS ISLES BEACH - DAY**

POV: We're looking up at three people in large tribal masks, each shaped like a different fruit - mango, lime and pineapple.

MANGOHEAD (old) kicks at something.

MANGOHEAD

A visitor!

LIMEHEAD (15) claps her hands excitedly.

LIMEHEAD

It's a gift from the Gods!

PINEAPPLEHEAD (30s) groans.

PINEAPPLEHEAD

Why do the Gods always send us the worst gifts?

MANGOHEAD

We must respect all gifts from the Gods.

PINEAPPLEHEAD

We'll put this one right next to the rusted anchor we got last month, shall we?

MANGOHEAD

Why must you disrespect Kyle this way?

PINEAPPLEHEAD

All I'm saying is, would it kill the Gods to send me a new blender?

LIMEHEAD

Can I keep him? Please, Chief Mangohead? Please! I'll take him for walks and brush his hair and teach him tricks!

MANGOHEAD

Really? Creature like this you have to feed every day, Limehead.

LIMEHEAD

Oh I will! I will!

PINEAPPLEHEAD

Just let her have it. Come on,  
I've got some soup on the boil.

Limehead claps excitedly, then picks up Nimbo.

We now get a good look at the tribesman, colourfully dressed in bright dyed tribal attire alongside their fruit masks.

The three head back towards a dense jungle.

A dishevelled Autumn and Neil look on from the trees.

**EXT. CANNIBAL VILLAGE - LATER**

The village is essentially a single dusty street lined with wooden huts. A giant volcano sits in the background.

The fruit-heads enter the village, Limehead carrying Nimbo over her shoulder.

**INT. LIMEHEAD'S HUT - LATER**

The hut is a simple wooden bungalow yet it's outfitted with the latest high-tech devices - TV, stereo, sound bar, etc.

Nimbo is lying on a couch. He comes-to, looks around sees what appears to be a giant lime cutting fruit at a bench.

Limehead turns, brandishing the cutting knife.

LIMEHEAD

You're awake! How exciting! Do you want a juice?

NIMBO

Have I been reincarnated inside a fruit salad?

LIMEHEAD

You speak the language of the streaming services?! You really are a gift from the Gods. I'm Limehead.

NIMBO

I gotta stop taking blows to the head like this. Where am I?

LIMEHEAD

You're on Citrus Isles. You washed up on the beach and Chief Mangohead said I could keep you. So I brought you here.

NIMBO  
Chief Mangohead?

LIMEHEAD  
Yeah. He's the chief in charge of  
Citrus Isles.

Nimbo springs up looking at all the spears on the wall.

NIMBO  
You're...you're cannibals?

Limehead points her knife at him.

LIMEHEAD  
How dare you! No, we're not  
cannibals. We're vegans.

She points to a book -- "VEGANISM FOR CANNIBALS, BY  
MANGOHEAD". Limehead notices the odd look on Nimbo's face.

LIMEHEAD  
Now, I know what you're thinking,  
and we get our proteins from  
pulses and legumes.

Nimbo stares at the knife in her hand.

NIMBO  
Wasn't the protein I was worried  
about.

LIMEHEAD  
So, um, you wouldn't be here to  
fix the electricity would you?

NIMBO  
Electricity?

LIMEHEAD  
Yeah, like, are you God's  
repairman? Because season  
seventeen of *Gordon Ramsay's  
Vegan Adventure* is on, and I was  
really hoping to get some new  
recipe ideas.

Nimbo notices all the technology for the first time.

NIMBO  
You don't have electricity? Why  
do you have all this stuff?

LIMEHEAD  
You think just because we're a  
vegan cannibals on an isolated  
island we don't have technology?

NIMBO

Well, kinda, yeah.

LIMEHEAD

That's prejudice. Admittedly, it hasn't worked for a few years...

NIMBO

Look, Limey, thanks for saving me and everything, but I really gotta get going. I've got to get to Cloud Peaks.

LIMEHEAD

Cloud Peaks? Why on earth would you want to go there? You know they're savages - they eat something called "Hot dogs". I mean, can you imagine?

NIMBO

My mum's there. She's going to help me get some clouds so I can save Sunshine.

LIMEHEAD

You'd be welcome to a boat, but you won't be able to go anywhere until the volcano erupts.

NIMBO

And when's that supposed to be?

LIMEHEAD

Well, it hasn't erupted in a few years, but we're hoping for any day now.

**EXT. CANNIBAL VILLAGE - DAY**

Limehead acts as a tour leader for Nimbo - now wearing a Lemonhead mask - as she walks him down the street.

LIMEHEAD

Citrus Isles is like a great big family. And has everything a peaceful vegan could want....

They come to a deserted hotel - the SEEDLESS SPA AND RESORT.

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

We've got a hotel with over fifty-six rooms...

The hotel is ramshackle. A sandwich board out the front has discounted rates, slashed repeatedly down to "FREE STAYS!"

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

Admittedly, we might have overestimated our tourism industry, but once Kyle erupts, we anticipate a 4000% increase.

Continuing on, they come to a restaurant - THE LUCKY LEGUME. A few cannibals sip soup.

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

*The Lucky Legume is the place to eat. Well, it's the only place really. But they do serve amazing lentils.*

They past a vegetable patch, with PEOPLE tending to vegetables. Piles of fertiliser dot the area.

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

This is our vegetable patch. We make a lot of our fertiliser, you know.

They arrive at the foot of a path leading up to the volcano.

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

And this is the path you can take if you want to pay your respects to Kyle.

NIMBO

Who's Kyle?

LIMEHEAD

He's our God. His lava powers the generators.

She walks to the end of a path.

LIMEHEAD

Well, that's the tour.

She holds out a tip can.

LIMEHEAD

Any questions?

NIMBO

Yeah. What's that?

QUICK PULL out to a huge rusted THEME PARK RIDE that runs up and around the volcano - the *Lava Flow*.

LIMEHEAD

Oh. Yeah. *That*. It's a log ride. And was supposed to be the pride of the Citrus Isles. Designed by Frank Gehry. Sadly, it too needs electricity to run.

NIMBO

So...Kyle...the volcano  
God...powers your island?

LIMEHEAD

Yeah. Well, his lava does. But he  
hasn't erupted in a while. Ever  
since we switched him to a vegan  
diet.

NIMBO

Your God's a vegan?

LIMEHEAD

Of course. We live our lives in  
Kyle's image.

NIMBO

In school they said they used to  
sacrifice virgins to appease  
volcano Gods. Do they grow here?

LIMEHEAD

I'm not sure...we make a descent  
extra virgin olive oil?

Nimbo shrugs. They stare at each other.

Limehead picks up a stick and throws it.

Nimbo stands there.

LIMEHEAD

So, you can't fix the electricity  
and you can't fetch...

#### **INT. SEEDLESS SPA AND RESORT - NIGHT**

#### **RECEPTION**

LIMEHEAD

You can stay here for a few days  
while you search for your dead  
friends. (notices Nimbo's  
reaction) I mean...definitely  
*alive* friends.

BANANAHEAD (19, angsty, emo) sleeps at the reception.  
Limehead dings the bell and Bananahead wakes up. One side of  
her mask "peels" down. She flicks it back up.

BANANAHEAD

(bored and surprised)

Yes?

LIMEHEAD

Can I get a room, please?

Bananahead's suspicious.

BANANAHEAD  
...What do you mean?

LIMEHEAD  
I've got a guest who'd like to stay.

BANANAHEAD  
.....What do you mean?

Limehead indicates Nimbo, in his Lemonhead mask.

The receptionist blinks a few times.

Limehead reaches over and grabs a key from the wall of keys.

NIMBO  
Do I need to fill out any forms?

Bananahead's already fallen back asleep.

LIMEHEAD  
I think you'll be okay.

#### **HOTEL ROOM**

The hotel room is huge, with a massive king bed draped in a lush canopy. There's a *huge* TV mounted on the wall.

LIMEHEAD  
This is our best suite. Probably.  
It's never been used.

Nimbo goes to turn on the light, flicks it, nothing happens.

NIMBO  
No electricity.

LIMEHEAD  
I *knew* you were paying attention.

Nimbo finds a massive, phonebook sized book on the side table -- "CITRUS ISLES GUIDEBOOK" -- Nimbo picks it up, surprised at the heft.

LIMEHEAD  
So, take it easy, maybe have a shower - cos you stink - and I'll come and collect you a bit later for the sacrifice ceremony.

Limehead leaves.



There's a tap on the window -- Autumn, with Neil fluttering beside her. Nimbo opens the window.

NIMBO

Autumn! You're okay!

Autumn and Neil come in.

AUTUMN

I'm okay?! You were kidnapped by cannibals! Have they taken you prisoner? Are you going to be eaten?

NIMBO

No, actually, I think I was upgraded.

Autumn rushes around the room -- panic mode.

AUTUMN

Probably just trying to fatten you up. You're a bit lean.

NIMBO

Where have you guys been?

AUTUMN

Pfft. It's a long story.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CITRUS PEAKS FOREST - DAY**

Autumn and Neil are sitting eating some bananas in a clearing. Autumn sees the town through the clearing.

AUTUMN

Hey, is that a town?

BACK TO:

**HOTEL ROOM**

NIMBO

...That wasn't that long.

AUTUMN

Well, anyway, there was a lot of other stuff that happened in between. Come on, let's get out of here before they eat us.

NIMBO

That's prejudice. They won't eat us. They're vegans.

Autumn stops her fast-pacing.

AUTUMN

What do you mean vegan?

NIMBO

It means they don't eat anything that comes from an animal.

AUTUMN

Where do they get their protein from?

NIMBO

Something called legumes?

AUTUMN

Well, we still need to find a way off this island.

NIMBO

Is your plane okay?

Autumn looks at him like he's mad.

AUTUMN

...Are you serious? No. It's not okay. We crashed into the ocean.

NIMBO

Anything we could just patch together with tape?

AUTUMN

Sadly, no. Also, you know there was some minor structural damage to the engines. It's fine, I saw some boats we can steal.

NIMBO

We can't steal them, there's no electricity to power the gas pumps. I already asked.

AUTUMN

Any chance they've got an international airport hidden behind that volcano?

NIMBO

No. And we don't have time to stay here. Sunshine will die in a month! I've got to get to Cloud Peaks.

Neil helps himself to the complimentary vegan chocolates. Gags and spits them out in disgust.

AUTUMN

We've got to think of something.  
(MORE)

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

I'm not cut out for the vegan lifestyle.

NIMBO

Limey has invited me to some sort of party tonight. Maybe someone there will have something we can use.

Autumn picks up the guide book, leafing through it.

AUTUMN

Alright, but you go alone. I'm not sure a dairy farmer is going to be welcome at a vegan get-together.

NIMBO

What are you going to do in the meantime?

AUTUMN

This book recommends a restaurant called the *Lucky Legume*?

**EXT. CEREMONY - NIGHT**

The tribal ceremony is underway. All the villagers are in attendance, wearing fruit and veg inspired masks.

Mangohead, Pineapplehead are there, alongside STRAWBERRYHEAD, POTATOHEAD, LEEKHEAD and a few others villagers.

Lemon-masked Nimbo stands next to Limehead.

LIMEHEAD

I'm glad your friends are okay. And can you ask them to leave a good review for the *Lucky Legume*? It's dying on Yelp.

The villagers assemble around a catapult loaded with a congratulatory fruit basket.

LIMEHEAD

(sotto)

Every week, we sacrifice our finest fruits and vegetables to Kyle in the hopes that he will see fit to erupt.

NIMBO

Maybe Kyle just prefers humans?

LIMEHEAD

I'm going to pretend I didn't hear that.

CEREMONIAL DRUMS BEGIN TO BANG.

LIMEHEAD (CONT.)

OoOo -- it's starting come on!

A hush goes around the village. Chief Mangohead appears at the top of a wooden pulpit.

MANGOHEAD

My friends. We are gathered once again to offer the mighty Kyle a healthy sacrifice. In turn, we hope he blesses us with the power necessary for blending smoothies.

CANNIBALS

Amen!

The cannibals start a slow humming chant.

MANGOHEAD

(addressing the volcano)

Oh, great and almighty Kyle!  
Please accept this bounty. With its vitamins and minerals, we hope it pleases you.

Limehead suddenly remembers something, runs up and places some extra virgin olive oil in the basket. Runs back, winks at Nimbo.

Mangohead signals and a cannibal cuts the rope, sending the fruit basket flying into the dormant volcano.

There's a moment of hushed silence, as the cannibals wait.

Nothing.

Nobody looks surprised. Mangohead claps his hands together.

MANGOHEAD

Right, that's it. As usual, Kyle's not giving us much. Now, we've got finger foods and fruit punch over at...who's hosting tonight?

STRAWBERRYHEAD

The Pineappleheads.

There's a collective groan from the crowd.

ALL

(adlib)

Oh no, don't put it on pizza!

Everyone begins filing away.

Nimbo holds Limehead back.

NIMBO

Hey, Limey, do you think maybe you could ask your parents if they know a way off the island?

LIMEHEAD

I don't really have a family, *per se*.

NIMBO

You don't have a Mum or Dad?

LIMEHEAD

Mum died giving birth to me. And Dad died a few years ago.

NIMBO

Oh, that sucks. Who do you rebel against?

Limehead shrugs.

LIMEHEAD

I look at the whole town as my family now. They help me whenever I need it, and it gives me someone to get annoyed at.

NIMBO

That's pretty cool.

LIMEHEAD

Yeah. I guess it is. I never thought about it really.

NIMBO

My mum left when I was five.

LIMEHEAD

That sucks. But you know, a mum is more than just a person who gave birth to you.

NIMBO

What do you mean?

LIMEHEAD

You'll figure it out. Now come on, let's go mess up your room so Bananahead has something to do tomorrow.

**INT. LUCKY LEGUME RESTAURANT - NEXT MORNING**

Nimbo and Autumn are enjoying an alfresco breakfast dining experience at the Lucky Legume. Nimbo wearing his lemonhead mask. Autumn with a mask fashioned out of a pillowcase.

AUTUMN

We're stuck on an island and our only chance of escape rests on a volcano with a speciality diet?

NIMBO

Yes.

AUTUMN

And they're trying to get it to explode by offering it...fruit?

NIMBO

Limehead said they've been lobbing melons at it for years.

AUTUMN

That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

NIMBO

Then you wouldn't want to hear their thoughts on cheese.

A WAITER in a blueberry mask brings them two juices.

WAITER

One *Orange You Glad*. And one *Kick Some Acid*.

They thank the waitress and she leaves.

AUTUMN

If they're so convinced in this Volcano-God-Mumbo-Jumbo why don't they just go back to feeding Kyle virgins?

NIMBO

They don't grow them here. They've tried extra virgin olive oil but that didn't work.

AUTUMN

Humans. I meant, humans.

NIMBO

Oh. They said it's cruel to sacrifice living creatures.

AUTUMN

That's very selfish of them.  
(MORE)

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

We really need to figure out a way to get Kyle here to spew.

NIMBO

If only Dad was here. The last time he cooked I got explosive diarr--

AUTUMN

Thank you, I think that's enough.

Autumn sips her juice, she looks over at the communal garden, with all its fertiliser. An idea forms.

**EXT. CEREMONY - NIGHT**

The sacrificial ceremony is beginning again. The usual crowds have assembled.

Mangohead once again presiding.

MANGOHEAD

We are here once again to offer Kyle a gourmet basket--

Meanwhile...

**EXT. VOLCANO PEAK - SAME TIME**

A top the volcano, Autumn, Nimbo and Neil crouch out of sight, peaking down at the ceremony.

AUTUMN

Remember, don't throw it in until the fruit flies.

Nimbo brushes himself manically.

NIMBO

Where?! I hate fruit flies.

AUTUMN

Just hold off on doing anything until I give the word.

NIMBO

Are you sure this is going to work? I mean...it's fertiliser.

AUTUMN

Kid, you would not believe the things in your garden that could be turned into bombs.

NIMBO

Why don't they teach us *this* stuff in school?

AUTUMN

Probably for the best.

**EXT. CEREMONY - SAME TIME**

Mangohead finishes his speech.

MANGOHEAD

--this basket contains all of your five a day. Yada, yada - fire!

He lowers his arm and the catapult lets the fruit fly!

**EXT. VOLCANO PEAK**

The fruit rains down on the volcano, some of it burning up in the lava, but most landing harmlessly beside our heroes.

Neil picks up a banana and starts to peel it.

AUTUMN

Now!

They start pouring fertiliser into the volcano.

Immediately it begins bubbling, rumbling and shaking.

AUTUMN

Um, okay, I didn't think it'd happen this fast, we should probably get outta here!

The two run towards the path down the mountain - a huge rock blocks the way. Lava begins to rise behind them.

The volcano rumbles some more - then BLOWS ITS TOP!

**EXT. CEREMONY**

The villagers watch in awe as the volcano erupts!

Rocks and lava begin raining down on them.

MANGHOEAD

What was in that fruit basket?

STRAWBERRYHEAD

Um, I think we've angered Kyle!



The villagers all run for cover!

It's mayhem!

**EXT. VOLCANO PEAK**

Autumn and Nimbo run around the rock, head down the path.

The lava rises above the crest and begins flowing after them like treacle from an evil pudding.

Ahead, Autumn stumbles, composes, then keeps running!

Nimbo has fallen behind. He sees a sign -- literally. A metal sign reads: "NO CURED MEATS PAST THIS POINT".

Nimbo rips off the sign, throws it under his feet and begins surfing it down the mountain!

NIMBO

Autumn! Grab on!

Autumn jumps onto Nimbo's back as he zooms past her.

They're now volcano-boarding down the side of the mountain.

It's a bumpy ride! The lava picks up speed!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Explosions rock the ground.

They come to a dry river bed, now filling with lava.

Autumn looks back.

AUTUMN

It's gaining on us, Nimbo!

Nimbo catches a glance, sees the lava bearing down on them in folds of fire. Instead of steering away, he jumps onto the lava wave!

ANGLE ON up ahead, a lava waterfall looms. Nimbo gulps.

Another option needed -- Nimbo spots it on the right, the entrance to the log ride -- its flumes now filling with lava.

He goes up a rocky path and airs onto the metal ride entrance platform, rattling along, then - with Autumn still clinging onto his back -- he jumps the barrier and starts surfing down the log ride flume!

**EXT. LOG RIDE FLUME**

The power has returned. The attractions bells and whistles spring to life as Nimbo and Autumn take the ride.

Giant plumes of fire shoot out of cannons. Down they go, chicaning the flumes as they fill with lava. Arrows shoot across their faces.

They turn left. Right. Left. Up. Down. Through a tunnel. A buzzsaw zips over their heads.

Then they come to the final *steep* drop!

A menacing mechanical laugh echoes from surrounding speakers...they scream as they tip over...and drop down.

Their faces stretch backwards comically as they slide down the final flume and shoot right off the end!

The furious vegan cannibals are there, waving their fruits and vegetables in frustration.

#### **EXT. VILLAGE**

Nimbo and Autumn shoot down the village street, still bouncing along on the sign, street lights turning on as they pass - electricity is beginning to be restored to the town.

AUTUMN

There!

Autumn points at the harbour, now lit with a bright yellow neon sign - CITRUS ISLES HARBOUR.

Nimbo takes a sharp turn.

#### **HARBOUR**

Nimbo skids to a stop on the wooden pier. They step off and the metal sign melts through the wood. Neil flutters down beside them, casually nibbling his banana.

AUTUMN

Nice of you to join us. Okay,  
I'll get some gas, you find a  
boat!

Autumn runs over to the gas pump. Nimbo runs over to the worst looking boat in the harbour.

NIMBO

What about this one? A bit of a  
fixer-upper, but it's got charm.

AUTUMN

(humouring)

I'm not sure about the colour.

She fills a canister with gas and climbs into a good solid looking speedboat and begins filling up the tank.

NIMBO  
They're coming!

The cannibals are indeed running towards them.

The cannibals throw fruits, vegetables and even a chicken at the boat. Limehead tries to stop them.

LIMEHEAD  
No! Don't! They're my friends!

A few of the projectiles land - including the chicken - but the speedboat is soon out of throwing distance.

The cannibals watch them disappear.

MANGOHEAD  
Oh well. Least now we can catch up on *The Crown*.

PINEAPPLEHEAD  
I heard Prince Andre--

MANGOHEAD  
No spoilers!

**EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATER**

Autumn and Nimbo celebrate their narrow escape.

AUTUMN  
Well, that was a close one. Now how do we get back to Sunshine...

Autumn finds a map, looks at a compass. Turns the boat accordingly. Nimbo grabs the wheel and steers it the other way. They fight over the wheel.

NIMBO  
We've got to go to Cloud Peaks!  
I've got to find my mum!

AUTUMN  
No! Stop it! We're not going to Cloud Peaks.

NIMBO  
Mum can help Sunshine! She's the only one that can.

Autumn pushes him away from the wheel.

AUTUMN  
I've got to get back! And your Dad is probably worried sick.

NIMBO

What do you care about my Dad?!

AUTUMN

Nimbo. Stop. This isn't a game anymore.

He tries again to lunge for the wheel. Autumn pushes him. He collapses against the back of the speedboat.

NIMBO

Please. Please.

Autumn comes and sits next to him at the back of the boat.

AUTUMN

Kid...what's going on? Why's this so important to you?

NIMBO

I just...want to save Sunshine!

AUTUMN

I never took you for the saviour type. .

Nimbo suddenly finds something interesting to pick at.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

Wha is it?

NIMBO

Dad said I was selfish. He said I never think about anyone but myself.

AUTUMN

And you think he's wrong?

NIMBO

No! That's what's so annoying. I don't care about anyone else! But it's because they're idiots! And I hate it when Dad's right.

Autumn laughs.

AUTUMN

So, you want to save Sunshine to prove your Dad wrong?

NIMBO

If Mum can help me get clouds back, the tourists will go away. I'll save Sunshine and I'll show Dad I'm not selfish!

AUTUMN

You want your mum to help you get clouds?

Nimbo takes out the magazine and hands it to her.

NIMBO

Dad said she left to go get them, but she never came back. But if she knew how bad things had gotten on Sunshine, I'm sure she'd help.

AUTUMN

Ah, yeah I remember. Look, kid, I'm not sure your mum...

She looks at him, doesn't want to break his heart.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

I'll tell you what. According to this map, Cloud Peaks is not too far from here. How about we go there and call your Dad?

Nimbo nods.

NIMBO

Is that...a chicken?

It is indeed a chicken.

**EXT. SUNSHINE HARBOUR - DAY**

Sunshine harbour.

Tourists are re-boarding their cruise ships after a long day of doing absolutely nothing on the beaches.

Dew's there with a small bindle of clothes on a stick.

He finds a CAPTAIN welcoming tourists back to his ship. A smiley, happy man with a beaming smile.

DEW

Captain Sol?

CAPTAIN SOL

At your service.

DEW

My name's Dew. I live here.

CAPTAIN SOL

Oh yes, of course, of course...I know who you are. You run the tourist shop.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN SOL (CONT'D)  
Well, from everyone on the ship,  
let me just say, a big thank y--

DEW  
Your next stop's the Citrus  
Isles?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Why, yes, sir. It is. They've  
just reopened for tourists. Best  
lava-powered log ride in the  
world!

DEW  
Hey, listen, I'm trying to get to  
Cloud Peaks --

Captain Sol looks sheepish.

CAPTAIN SOL  
Oh, no. You won't find a ship  
round here that'll take you  
there. Tourists are banned from  
Cloud Peaks.

DEW  
Yeah, I know. But Citrus Isles is  
close by. I was hoping you could  
drop me off?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Oh, no can do, I'm afraid. You  
know as well as I do ours is a  
leisure cruise on a course set by  
travel agents. Strictly no  
adventuring allowed.

DEW  
Yes, I know. But please, Captain.  
My son, he's run away. I think  
he's gone to Cloud Peaks.

CAPTAIN SOL  
I'm sorry to hear that, but the  
waters around Cloud Peaks are  
dangerous. Monsters and what not.

Dew pulls him to the side.

DEW  
(sotto)  
Look, how about this. The next  
edition of the *Sunshine Island  
Travel Guide* comes out next  
month. Maybe you're on the cover.

This piques the captain's interest.

CAPTAIN SOL  
Is that right?

Dew feels he's got him. He puts his arm around, showing him the future --

DEW  
Picture this -- you, in your...clothes...your face right there on the cover. Blazon with "Sol's Tours" in big bold letters.

Captain Sol strokes his chin.

CAPTAIN SOL  
That'd annoy the heck outta that Captain Moon. God, he really grinds me up. Alright. I'll make you a deal. One of deck hands disappeared the other day. Apparently, he went to track down a bathtub full of milk and hasn't been seen since.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SUNSHINE WOODS - SAME TIME**

The sunburnt deckhand sits with his back against a tree. Looking scared as a security robot searches.

BACK TO:

**EXT. SUNSHINE HARBOUR**

CAPTAIN SOL  
So we're a bit short-handed. You help out on-board, I'll see to it you get to Cloud Peaks.

**EXT. OCEAN/CLOUD PEAKS - DAY**

The boat zooms along the crystal blue water. Then, a fog rolls over them. They all look nervously at each other.

Autumn lowers the throttle. The speedboat slices through to the other side...revealing...

An eerie island shrouded in fog, Surrounded by the fluffiest marshmallow-y clouds you've ever seen.

NIMBO  
That's gotta be it! We did it!

AUTUMN

Hopefully this place has WiFi.  
I'm going to have to dish out  
some serious discount codes.

The boat jolts!

NIMBO

What was that?

AUTUMN

No idea...but I'm not sure it  
loves us being here.

The waves start to bubble up around them.

The boat jolts again!

A giant blue tentacle rises from the misty waves.

NIMBO

What was that?

AUTUMN

I have no idea. But I'm not sure  
it's a welcoming party.

She pushes the throttle on the boat forward. The engine revs loudly, but the boat doesn't move - the tentacle has wrapped itself around the boat.

It crushes the back of the boat. Nimbo and Autumn push up against the back of the boat.

A giant head rises from the ocean. Blue and slimy, the octopus creature stares down at them with a single gigantic eye. It's tentacles flailing.

It grabs the chicken and swallows it whole!

NIMBO

Clucky! No!

The tentacle slams down on the waves. The resulting wake causes the boat to rise up onto its stern.

AUTUMN

Abandon ship!

As the boat turns to splinters, Nimbo and Autumn leap into the ocean. They climb atop a piece of the broken boat.

Another *thump* from the octopus creates another wave. Nimbo paddles on the wave, as if surfing, he jumps up and rides them on a wave towards the island.



**EXT. CLOUD PEAK BEACH - CONT.**

Autumn and Nimbo are thrown forward, ending up jack-knifed with their heads in the sand.

Nimbo pops himself out. His shock turns to excitement as he sees all the clouds. Neil pulls Autumn out of the sand.

NIMBO

Woah! Look at these clouds!  
They're so thick!

Nimbo is giddy. He grabs a cloud and bites into it. The cloud dissolves like fairy floss. He begins running up a path.

AUTUMN

Nimbo! Stop, wait! Jeez. We just escaped from a monster, I think that warrants at least a couple minutes rest.

Nimbo begrudgingly stops, still bouncing on his toes. Autumn catches up with him and the two start walking up the beach towards the road. Neil flapping beside them.

Bits of boat float up to the beach. Autumn kicks them away.

AUTUMN

Remember where we parked.

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS MAIN STREET - DAY**

A make-shift sign stencilled on wood reads, "NO TOURISTS!"

They pass through some thick curtain cloud. And Nimbo and Autumn begin shivering. When they come through the other side, the Cloud Peaks Main street appears.

It resembles a shanty ski town with wooden shacks, shrouded in thick, billowing white cloud. Most of the stores are devoted to cloudsurfing.

Cloudsurfers - think shell-suited snowboarders - wander the streets.

Limbo is so excited, he doesn't know where to look! Autumn locates the Non-Tourist Information centre.

**INT. CLOUD PEAKS DISINFORMATION CENTRE - CONT.**

A bell dings as they enter. The centre's stocked with cloudsurfer clothes and racks of cloudboards. Several HIPPIES are fascinated by some shiny jackets.

Nimbo rushes over to look at all the equipment.

An impressively cool girl sits behind the counter. She has long hair covering her eyes. This is SKYLER (late teens). She gives them a huge smile.

SKYLER

Sup, homies! Wait, you're not tourists are you?

AUTUMN

Um, no, actually, we're looking for someone.

SKYLER

Righteous. It's a small place. And I know...82% of people. So, I can probs spin you in the right direction. Who you after?

AUTUMN

Her name's Talia? You know her?

SKYLER

Know her?! She's only the coolest cloud surfer on the island - heck - the planet!

AUTUMN

Um, okay, is she, like around?... (a nudge from Nimbo)...dude?

SKYLER

She's probably shreddin' the Cumulus.

AUTUMN

Could you take us up there?

SKYLER

No, can do, amigos. Talia doesn't like to be disturbed. Besides, it's a vicious trek. Ain't for amateurs.

AUTUMN

Um, we can probably just wait here for her.

NIMBO

No way, we can do it. What do we look like, tourists?

Skyler eyes him suspiciously.

SKYLER

Kinda. Say, where are your boards?

NIMBO

Um, I snapped it. Doing something gnarly, probably. So I need a new one.

Nimbo picks up a board, examines it. Skyler puts on his own jacket.

SKYLER

Ah, excellent taste. That's the Berserker Swift. A real mean machine.

NIMBO

Um, do you think I could maybe try this out?

Skyler eyes him suspiciously.

SKYLER

Alright then...I guess I could take you up there...

AUTUMN

I don't like the sounds of this. What about you Neil - Neil??

She looks over to Neil who is surrounded by the hippies.

HIPPY #1

Woah, man! It's beautiful...

HIPPY #2

An albino toucan! Such good vibes.

HIPPY #3

Little colourless dude, join us, won't you?

They stroke Neil, who laps it up, turns to Autumn and smiles.

AUTUMN

Neil's joined a cult. This is going well so far.

**EXT. WIND STREAM GONDOLA LIFT - DAY**

Autumn, Skyler and Nimbo stand in a lift queue. They're now dressed in colourfully bright shell suits.

The cloudsurfers ahead of them get ushered into a gondola and they're *whooshed* away, up into the clouds! Skyler sees the surprised look on Nimbo's face.

SKYLER

(suspicious)

You guys *have* cloudsurfed before?

NIMBO

Yeah. Of course. Down in New Zealand. Long white cloud. Not many people know about it.

SKYLER

Must be really new. I've not even heard of Old Zealand. Sorry, but you know, I gotta make check - tourists are strictly prohibited.

AUTUMN

Yeah, I met your security guard...

SKYLER

Sorry about him. But Talia thinks they ruin everything.

NIMBO

I know what she means.

Skyler invites them into the next gondola.

SKYLER

These bad boys run on superheated air. They'll chop us through the clouds like a hot knife through even hotter butter.

As the gondola shoots through the clouds, Autumn's grips the handrails. Nimbo looks out in excitement.

SKYLER

Stick your head out. Feel the G's, little dude!

Nimbo sticks his head out and his face flaps like a dog out a car window.

**EXT. CUMULUS PEAK - CONT.**

The gondola bursts through the top of the clouds, then slows and levels out.

The door hisses open and the three into the thick cloud.

This area has a few pop-up hot chocolate and cheese stalls and a single cloud lodge with various people on the balcony.

Nimbo whoops. Skyler breathes in the fresh alpine air. Autumn curls over like she's about to vomit.

SKYLER

Alright, here we are. Cumulus. The clouds are thick, but there's also lots of ice. So, be careful.

Cloudsurfers are shredding by, disappearing into the clouds.

SKYLER

We're going to have to slope  
through some pretty rogue fluff.  
(to Autumn)  
Sure you don't want to come?

AUTUMN

As "righteous" as that sounds, I  
think I'll go wait in the lodge  
until you two finish breaking  
your legs.

SKYLER

Sounds good!  
(to Nimbo)  
Ready?

Nimbo looks apprehensive. He suddenly notices how high it is.

NIMBO

Um...

SKYLER

Tubular!

Then Skyler disappears. Nimbo closes his eyes...

**EXT. CLOUD RUN - CONT.**

VIEW ON the entire mountain. Now we get to see how  
cloudsurfing really works:

As well as fluffy, billowing clouds, there are air bubbles,  
curling clouds, wave type clouds that break down and waft up.  
There are also solid ice walls and icicles dotting the slopes.

Skyler shows us the best of the sport, skirting along cloud  
faces, carving up through the clouds. It's a fun rock n' roll  
sequence where snowboarding meets skydiving.

Nimbo struggles to keep up, as he slaps into the clouds. He  
sees over the clouds at how high he is.

Skyler slows down and points down to a darker set of clouds.

SKYLER

So, this is a dark run. It's  
gonna get pretty icy from here  
on! Watch out for fluffholes!

NIMBO

What's a fluffhole?

Skyler gives him a suspicious look.

SKYLER

I've never met a cloudsurfer who  
doesn't know what a fluffhole is.

Nimbo gulps.

NIMBO

Oh. Um. I know, I know. We call em something different where I'm from, probably.

SKYLER

Tubular. Let's roll.

Skyler disappears into the dark clouds.

**EXT. DARK RUN - CONT.**

Darkness descends, the clouds get thicker. Skyler disappears from view. Nimbo cautiously surfs down the clouds.

NIMBO

Skyler?

An icicle appears as if out of nowhere!

SMACK! Nimbo spins around, flailing to recover!

Another icicle appears!

WHACK!

Another desperate recovery.

SLAP!

Flailing and struggling he regains balance, then stops. Breathes a sigh of relief.

A second later, he falls through the clouds into nothingness.

**EXT. STRATUS PIPE - CONT.**

Nimbo falls like an out of control skydiver.

He manages to hit the ground board-side, shooting down a slope and then immediately shoots up into the air again!

He looks over his shoulder - wearing a "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?" expression - realises he's launched up a halfpipe.

WOMAN (O.S)

WOAH, WATCH OUT!

Nimbo smashes straight into a woman, midair.

They collide and tumble in a heap.

The WOMAN (40) stands groggily, wearing goggles and bright fluro clothing.

She looks futuristic, wearing silver reflective glasses, and has wild, heavily dyed-orange hair-sprayed-hair that curls up and over like a wave. She's the essence of cool.

Though at the moment she's hot under the collar. She tosses her gloves off as if preparing to fight.

WOMAN

What the frick, noob?

NIMBO

I'm sorry, I just --

WOMAN

Let me guess, you've cloudsurfed two days, and decided to take on Cumulus?

NIMBO

...No, I was with --

WOMAN

Sweet Kyle, why do so many kids think they can handle this peak?

Skyler arrives, upbeat.

SKYLER

Oh wow! How'd you beat me here?

NIMBO

Um, I think I took a short cut.

SKYLER

You'll have to show me sometime.

WOMAN

You know this little twerp?

SKYLER

Ah, yeah, kinda. I was actually bringing him to meet you.

NIMBO

...You're Talia?

TALIA

(annoyed)

Yeah. I'm Talia. Let me guess, you want free lessons?

NIMBO

Well, not exactly, you see...

TALIA

Cos you really, *really* want to be a cloudsurfer, right?

NIMBO

No, no, it's just --

TALIA  
 You think because you've got a poster of me on the wall you're *entitled* to something?

NIMBO  
 No...

TALIA  
 Newsflash, kid. It's not a team sport. I don't need no wannabe shredder cramping my style.

NIMBO  
 You don't understand, you see--

TALIA  
 Get outta here. I don't like kids.

Then she turns, and leaves. Skyler puts her hand on Nimbo.

SKYLER  
 Bummer.

**INT. LODGE - LATER**

A sombre Nimbo mopes into the lodge, slumps into a chair opposite Autumn.

AUTUMN  
 How'd it go?

Nimbo slides down his chair, disappearing under the table.

AUTUMN (CONT.)  
 That well, huh?

Nimbo reappears.

NIMBO  
 It's over.

Nimbo grabs a hot chocolate from a passing waiter's tray.

NIMBO (CONT.)  
 Say goodbye to Sunshine. Adios.  
 Sayonara. Au revoir.

He downs the hot chocolate.

AUTUMN  
 What happened?

NIMBO  
 She's not going to help us. She doesn't even like kids.

AUTUMN  
 She told you that?



NIMBO

Sort of.

AUTUMN

Well, I've managed to get us a room here for a few days. We can try again. Can't stay too long though -- look at this.

She hands Nimbo her phone.

### NEWS REPORT

VIEW ON the phone shows a REPORTER in Sunshine standing on the beach. Behind her, TOURISTS pass out from the heat.

REPORTER

...On the quiet island of Sunshine, temperatures have reached *record* highs for the thirtieth straight day. Tourists are passing out on the beach, with the usual cool water providing little relief.

(turns to a tourist)

What's it like taking a swim?

TOURIST

It's kinda like taking a bath - not fun and I probably won't do it again for awhile.

REPORTER

Mayor Simon though, sees the upside.

The mayor appears, sweating, even more deeply tanned. He's still basting himself with oil.

MAYOR

(Chipper)

No, no, I'm not worried. We're the most popular tourist destination for a reason. And fifty degree heat in the middle of winter? What's not to love.

### LODGE

Nimbo looks horrified.

NIMBO

Oh my God.

AUTUMN

I've managed to find a plane.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

I'm going to head back to Sunshine, collect my animals and head for greener pastures before it turns into a desert.

NIMBO

We can't just leave Sunshine to die! All my stuff is there. And the roses, Autumn! The roses

AUTUMN

The ecosystem is way out of balance. You can't have sun without rain. And we've had *none* for years. And the influx of tourists on those polluting cruise ships has increased the greenhouse effect. Speeding the whole thing up.

NIMBO

Okay, I have no idea what any of that means, but what if Sunshine *did* get some rain? I can still convince mum to help me move the clouds!

AUTUMN

Even if you *could*. It would need a hell of a deluge. Even then...

Nimbo hangs his head, dejected.

AUTUMN (CONT.)

I'm sorry, Nimbo.

NIMBO

I guess I should call Dad. Tell him we need to find somewhere new to live...

AUTUMN

Mmm, more bad news I'm afraid. I couldn't get ahold of him. His work said he hasn't shown up for a couple of days..

NIMBO

Great, my mum doesn't want me and Dad's disappeared!

AUTUMN

He's probably looking for you. You did just disappear. And your dad loves you. Wherever he is, I'm sure he's worried about you.

CUT TO

**INT. CRUISE SHIP - DAY**

Stormy high seas rock the cruise ship back and forth.

Dew cleans a toilet when a MAN rushes past him and vomits.

DEW

I'm going to kill my kid.

CABIN BOY (O.S.)

Hey! Dew!

A CABIN BOY struts into the bathroom. Long-hair, white pressed uniform.

CABIN BOY

Captain wants to see you. Says,  
we're, like, close, or something.

Dew's eyes light up, he thrusts the bucket into the boy's arms.

DEW

Finish this up for me,  
woulda'cha?

Dew rushes from the latrine. Leaving the boy confused.

**INT. CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER**

Captain Sol stares through binoculars out the bridge window.

Dew rushes in, grinds to a halt. Salutes.

DEW

Captain.

Captain Sol is off in another world.

CAPTAIN SOL

Magnificent creatures...

DEW

...In the ocean?

VIEW THRU the captain's binoculars. He's staring down at the deck, where some scantily clad women are sunbathing.

DEW (CONT.)

Captain?

The captain snaps around.

CAPTAIN SOL

Ah. Dew. Yes. How are the  
latrines?

DEW  
Sparkling, captain.

CAPTAIN SOL  
Good, good. Wars were  
won on the back of clean  
latrines.

DEW  
Were they?

CAPTAIN SOL  
No idea. I've never been in a  
war. Anyway, we're nearing  
Citrus Isles. Cloud Peaks is not  
far from here, so this is, dare I  
say it, where you get off.

DEW  
Oh. Excellent...and...how am I  
supposed to get there?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Take one of our life boats.

DEW  
Are you sure?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Sure. Thanks to global warming,  
we don't need to worry about  
icebergs.

Captain Sol puts his hands on Dew's shoulders.

CAPTAIN SOL  
Good luck. It was nice knowing  
you.

He hugs him. Dew looks confused.

CAPTAIN SOL (CONT.)  
Here. Take this.

VIEW ON army dogtags with LT. WILFRED SMITH engraved -

DEW  
Who's Wilfred Smith?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Sort of a tradition. Helps with  
identification. You know, when  
you get eaten by the creature.

DEW  
Creature?

CAPTAIN SOL  
Security. He's new, but he's  
tough.

Captain Sol goes back to using his binoculars.

**EXT. CRUISE SHIP - LATER**

The cruise ship sits where the clouds form on the ocean.

Dew, in a small lifeboat, lowers himself down. CREW line up to say goodbye. A CABIN BOY plays a MEMORIAL TUNE on a bugle. A PRIEST says the last rites. A CREW MEMBER hands him a sharpened mop.

Dew laughs.

DEW  
So, dramatic. Sure there's  
nothing to worr--

QUICK CUT TO

**EXT. OCEAN OFF CLOUD PEAKS - LATER**

Dew is in vicious hand-to-hand combat with the Kraken!  
Thrusting the spear into him.

DEW  
Back! Back ye beast! I'll mop the  
floor with you!

The kraken wraps his tentacle around the mop and swallows Dew whole...

**INT. LODGE - SAME TIME**

Autumn sips hot chocolate. Nimbo is scribbling out a plan.

NIMBO  
Okay, I've got a plan.

He shows her the crayon outline of his plan.

NIMBO (CONT.)  
We break into Mum's house at  
midnight. Do we go for her  
boards? No, we go for her shoes.  
Instead of breaking out, we wait  
in her closet till morning, then  
when the cops come, we knock them  
out and steal their uniforms.  
Next, we use those uniforms to  
infiltrate the police station--

Autumn holds up her hand to silence him.

AUTUMN

And, what are you hoping to achieve with this plan?

NIMBO

To get her to talk to me. So she'll help us.

SKYLER (O.S)

You'll never get her to talk to you, little dude.

Skyler is leaning against the counter, ordering a drink.

SKYLER (CONT.)

I'm sorry, you know for how she treated you. That was bogus.

NIMBO

Why was she so mean?

SKYLER

She's doesn't like chatting to anyone at the best of times. Let alone this close to the Cloud Jam.

AUTUMN

Then why did you take him to see her?

SKYLER

You said you knew her. I thought you'd know what you were getting into.

AUTUMN

Any chance you could set up a proper chat with her. She is Nimbo's m-

Nimbo cuts her off.

NIMBO

Idol. She's my idol. I just love her so much.

SKYLER

No dice. She's disappeared. Gone into hiding until the Cloud Jam. Apparently you "threw her off her kailoduscope". But hey, maybe you can win it, then I'm sure she'd love to meet you...

A WORKER hands Skyler his coffee. She walks over to them.

NIMBO

The Cloud Jam...eh...maybe I  
could --

SKYLER

Ha! Forget it, booster seat. It's  
the most dangerous competition in  
the cloudsurfing calendar. You'd  
be lucky to even survive. Hell,  
I'd face the Kraken than compete  
in that.

**INT. KRAKEN - SAME TIME**

It's pitch black.

A match strikes. Dew's face appears in a small circle of  
light.

Fleshy. Pink. Goey - he's inside the Kraken. He prods at the  
side of it with the end of his mop.

The match goes out. He lights another one. He looks around,  
sees a couple of skeletons, a cloudboard and a half-full  
bottle of rum. He rips off part of his shirt, wraps it around  
the mop, pours the rum over it, then lights it. Creating a  
torch.

He walks around the belly, that resembles a wet trash pit,  
with all sorts of rubbish. He hears a *cluck cluck cluck*  
coming from somewhere.

Surprised, he finds a live chicken. Who is just as surprised  
to see Dew. They share a tense stand-off, neither blinking.

The tension is broken by the Kraken's tummy rumbling. Dew and  
the chicken are pushed together. The chicken's feather  
flicking against his nose. Dew sneezes.

Which gives him an idea...

**EXT. NEBULA TIPS - NEXT DAY**

We track high through the thick, curling, fluffy clouds up to  
a dark mountain, where we come to a flat cloud platform.

Autumn is there, atop a snowmobile, along with a nervous  
looking Nimbo on his cloudboard.

NIMBO

We're really high, huh?

AUTUMN

I've been higher. Once in Peru I  
had this ayahua-- Oh, yeah, yeah  
- this is Nebula Tips.

(MORE)

AUTUMN (CONT'D)  
According to Skyler this is the  
highest run on Cloud Peaks.

NIMBO  
Maybe I should have started on  
something bit smaller.

AUTUMN  
Or maybe this entire idea is  
ridiculous.

Nimbo snaps on his goggles.

NIMBO  
Winning the Cloud Jam is the only  
way we'll get her to help us.

AUTUMN  
Haven't you banged your head  
enough recently?

NIMBO  
I don't make the rules...

He leaps into the air...

NIMBO (CONT.)  
...I just break 'em!

...and instantly bails.

AUTUMN  
Nice moves, bad boy.

Nimbo dusts himself off, tries again -- more carefully.  
Autumn follows on her snowmobile.

Down the slope Nimbo goes. If it were a ski run, it'd be a  
black run. Clouds are choppy, cresting and falling in uneven  
waves. Frozen stalagmites of ice jut out from nowhere.

Nimbo begins to look more comfortable - he pulls off some  
surf-inspired aerial moves, and some 360° spins.

NIMBO  
This isn't so hard!

AUTUMN  
Um...Nimbo...

Autumn has spotted a giant chasm just ahead. Shrouded in  
clouds, the other side is barely visible. The drop deadly.

AUTUMN  
Nimbo! Watch out!

Nimbo finally sees it. He scrambles to stop but launches over  
the drop, he tumbles and falls down the chasm. Then slackens.  
He's been attached to Autumn's jet ski via a rope.



**INT. KRAKEN - DAY**

Dew braces himself in the throat of the giant Kraken.

He holds the gormless chicken up to the tonsils of the Kraken. It twitches. The Kraken opens its mouth, revealing sunlight... but then closes his mouth.

Dew tries again. Holding the chicken longer to the tonsils of Kraken. This time the Kraken starts to splutter...

Dew grabs a piece of driftwood as..

The Kraken sneezes! Mucus flows up the throat like a wave. Dew jumps on the wood, tucks the chicken under his arm and rides the driftwood-mucus-wave to freedom!

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS STREET - LATER**

There's buzz and excitement as the town gets ready for the CLOUD JAM COMPETITION -- putting up banners and posters, etc.

Nimbo and Autumn trudge down the street. Autumn tries to comfort a dejected Nimbo.

AUTUMN

Hey, don't be so hard on yourself. You've only been cloudsurfing a few days!

NIMBO

How am I supposed to win the Cloud Jam if I'm scared of heights!

AUTUMN

It was a giant gorge. Only a psychopath wouldn't be scared.

NIMBO

How do I become one of those?

AUTUMN

I dunno, ask my first husband.

A chicken runs across their path.

NIMBO

Hey, I recognise that chicken...

AUTUMN

And I recognise that Dad...

They look up and Dew stands there. Covered in green mucus.

NIMBO

Dad?

Dew's furious.

DEW  
I don't think I need to say  
it...but you're in serious  
trouble.

**INT. CLOUD CAFE - NIGHT - LATER**

It's late. The cafe is deserted.

Nimbo and Dew sit drinking hot chocolates decorated with mini clouds.

DEW  
Sounds like you've had quite the  
adventure yourself. Can't believe  
Autumn put up with you.

NIMBO  
To be fair, I saved her at least  
as many times as she saved me.

Dew looks into the bottom of his cup.

DEW  
Look, Nimbo. I should have told  
you about Sunshine and the  
machine and all that. I thought I  
was protecting you.

NIMBO  
So...you're not mad?

DEW  
Oh, no. I'm absolutely furious -  
you'll be lucky if you're allowed  
out of the house again before  
you're eighteen - but I'm just  
happy you're alive.

Nimbo looks sheepish.

NIMBO  
I'm sorry I ran away. I just  
wanted to prove I wasn't selfish.

DEW  
Ironically doing the most selfish  
thing possible. Look, I know it's  
hard to hear, Nimbo. But it's not  
your responsibility to save  
Sunshine.

NIMBO  
Why not? Doesn't seem like adults  
are doing much to save it.

DEW

Touché. But you're a kid, Nimbo.  
You should be out having fun.

NIMBO

What would you know about having  
fun?

DEW

As scientifically improbable as  
you might find this...but I was  
actually a kid once myself.

NIMBO

I don't believe it.

Dew smirks at the joke. Then thinks.

DEW

Hey, do you know anywhere we  
could get a thermos?

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS MUSEUM - LATER**

Shrouded in cloud, the museum is a chalet style building.

Dew and Nimbo wait by some chipped stone sculptures of  
exaggerated, Romanesque cloudsurfers.

Autumn walks towards them, dressed in pajamas, face full of  
thunder.

AUTUMN

You wanna tell me why you woke me  
up to go to a *museum*?

DEW

We needed a thermos.

Autumn nods, sardonically, handing over the thermos.

AUTUMN

Yep, that makes sense. Filled  
with hot chocolate, as requested.

Dew doesn't even try the door, but leads them around back.

**EXT. BACK OF THE MUSEUM**

Dew looks up at the windows - *just* out of reach.

He then begins manically hugging the empty air.

As he does he creates a sort of *mini-cloud*.

NIMBO

How'd you know how to do that?

Dew winks, then places the thermos underneath the cloud.

Steam *lifts* the mini-cloud a few inches from the ground. Dew stands on it like a platform and jimmys the window open.

He crawls through, then seconds later, he opens the back door and welcomes them in.

**INT. MUSEUM**

Nimbo looks at his Dad with new-found admiration.

DEW

Your old man's still got a few tricks up his sleeve.

It's dark. Dew finds the light switch.

The museum is bathed in light, revealing a dusty room full of old photos and other cabinets of cloudsurfing antiques.

Nimbo looks around.

NIMBO

What is this place?

DEW

It's a museum, Nimbo. Where kids are shocked to learn there's a world outside of their own.

NIMBO

And why would I want to learn that?

DEW

Take a look around. Might learn something.

NIMBO

(suspicious)

I don't know...this feels educational...

Dew pushes him to go have a look. Autumn and Dew amble around the museum, as if on a date.

AUTUMN

I had no idea you'd been to Cloud Peaks before, Dew.

DEW

I actually grew up here. Back when it was a tourist hot spot. And didn't have the monster border security.

AUTUMN

Ah, you had the pleasure as well.

DEW

Where'd you think all that mucus came from?

NIMBO (O.S.)

Woah! Is this you!

Nimbo points at a photo. An old sepia image of a much younger Talia and Dew, holding each other, cloudboards next to them.

NIMBO

You were a cloudsurfer?

DEW

Are you kidding, I was *the* cloudsurfer. Your mum and I practically invented the sport back in the seventies.

NIMBO

No way! You and mum...were cool?

DEW

Yep. We were quite the power couple. Oh wow - my old board!

Dew squishes his face against a glass cabinet. Inside, a basic wooden cloudboard.

DEW (CONT.)

I carved it myself from a boat I'd stolen. I made two and gave one to your mum as a present.

NIMBO

That's so cool! What happened to hers?

DEW

Ah, we got stuck up near Devil's Breath and had to burn it for firewood to stay alive. We were stranded for three days. More than once your mum considered eating me.

He chuckles.

DEW (CONT.)

Good times.

Nimbo rushes over to another cabinet that contains a gossamer thin rope, like a silk lasso.

DEW

That's Cloud Rope. That's how We used it to move clumps of clouds around.

NIMBO

Is that how mum *moved* clouds?

DEW

It's how *everyone* moves clouds. If you got a really firm stratus, you could lasso it to a lower part of the mountain.

Dew spots another picture. Nimbo is absorbed in the rope.

DEW (CONT.)

Oh! Here I am at the world's first ever Cloud Jam. I remember that race. I was an ass. I put fire ants in some guy's pants before the race. I put chili sauce in a racer's goggles. Oh man. But when I won...never had to pay for a single hot chocolate again.

Nostalgically, he touches the photo - he's being hoisted high by his friends, a trophy in his hand.

NIMBO

If you were so good, how come you moved to Sunshine?

DEW

'Cos of you, kid. When we had you, we made a decision that you came first. We couldn't risk our lives on these dangerous clouds when we had you to worry about.

NIMBO

Wait, I was born here?

DEW

Yep. You even shredded a cloud or two before we left.

Dew finds a photo in a collage - baby Nimbo on a board.

NIMBO

...but mum never stopped?

DEW

She did for awhile. But after Sunshine lost its clouds...

NIMBO

I never knew. You gave up so much for me. Fame. Stardom. Hot chocolate.

Dew gives a big belly laugh.

DEW

It was less glamorous than it sounds. Surfing these clouds was my life, sure, but as soon as you came along, it just didn't seem important.

Dew notices his son look sad.

DEW

What's wrong?

NIMBO

I'm sorry I made you give it all up.

DEW

Son, I didn't bring you here to make you feel bad. I brought you here because I wanted to show you that I was young once too. And I was even *more* selfish than you. I didn't care about anyone but myself. And that's *okay*. You're learning who you are. And it's great you want to save the world, even if it is just to prove a point. But don't forget about being a kid. Do you understand?

NIMBO

I think so. You're saying I should be *more* selfish?

DEW

...no. What? No. Jeez. Next time I'll do it with puppets. Come on, let's get some sleep. I'll see about getting us a ride home tomorrow.

Nimbo pulls away from him.

NIMBO

I can't leave yet. I haven't got mum to help us yet.

Dew looks at Autumn, confused.

DEW

And she *actually* wants to help?

Autumn tries to shake her head inconspicuously so Nimbo doesn't see. When Nimbo catches her, she pretends to be stretching her neck.

NIMBO

Well, she won't talk to me...but  
if I win the Cloud Jam she'll --

DEW

The Cloud Jam? What? You're not  
competing in that!

Nimbo is annoyed.

NIMBO

Why don't you ever believe in me?

DEW

It's got nothing to do with you.  
I just *believe* that riders die in  
the Cloud Jam. And you've never  
even cloudsurfed before!

NIMBO

I did it this morning!

Autumn tries another inconspicuous shaking of her head.

NIMBO (CONT.)

I'm not like you! I don't just  
give up on my dreams!

DEW

Is that what you think I did?

NIMBO

I think you took the easy way  
out! And you're using me as an  
excuse.

Nimbo rushes from the museum.

AUTUMN

Well, that backfired.

**INT. LODGE - LATER**

Nimbo sits on a stool at the bar. Several empty shot glasses sit in front of him.

NIMBO

Bardude, another shot of hot  
chocolate.

BARTENDER

I think you've had enough --



NIMBO

I'll tell you when I've had  
enough!

The bartender pours him another from a thermos.

Dew walks up, slides into the adjacent empty stool.

DEW

So, that escalated quickly.

Nimbo turns on the stool.

NIMBO

Why can't you just leave me  
alone?

DEW

(to the bartender)

Can I get a hot chocolate,  
please. Melt the marshmallows.

(to Nimbo)

You know, there's not many who'd  
want to compete in the Cloud Jam.

The bartender tosses a few marshmallows in a cocktail jar,  
and pours over the hot chocolate then shakes it.

NIMBO

This is my chance to save  
Sunshine and you won't let me!

DEW

Son, you've been here two days.  
That race is for *serious* racers.

NIMBO

But I've been surfing my whole  
life, Dad! It's not hard! I was  
getting it today, I really was!  
It's just...

DEW

The heights?

Nimbo nods.

The bartender slides the mug of hot chocolate down the bar  
and Dew catches it. Downs it in a big gulp, big "Ah!".

DEW

You know I used to have some  
problems with heights too?

Nimbo looks up at his Dad.

NIMBO

Is it cos you're so tall?

Dew laughs.

DEW

How about tomorrow we hit the clouds? Just me and you? I'll teach you.

NIMBO

Really?

DEW

Absolutely. And then if you *still* want to compete in the Cloud Jam, I'll only tell you no a few more times.

NIMBO

You're probably really bad now, though, huh?

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS - NEXT DAY**

Nimbo waits at the bottom of the mountain, near the lifts.

Autumn appears, with Neil on her shoulder. Neil is dressed in hippy robes with John Lennon glasses.

AUTUMN

Morning, kid. You going for a ride?

NIMBO

Dad's going to teach me. Hey, Neil, where you been, buddy?

CUT TO

**EXT. HIPPIY COMMUNE - FLASHBACK**

Neil sits around a roaring campfire with a bunch of other HIPPIES. They're passing around a drink and chanting. Neil takes a sip, spaces out.

BACK TO

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS - DAY**

Neil holds up two fingers in a peace gesture.

AUTUMN

Neil's found himself.

NIMBO

I didn't even know he was lost.

Autumn looks at something over Nimbo's shoulder.

AUTUMN

Um, did your Dad find a time machine by any chance?

Nimbo turns and sees Dew *squeeeezed* into his old bright-but-faded cloudsurfing uniform from the museum.

He carries his original wooden board, giving hearty waves to curious on-lookers.

Autumn, Neil and Nimbo start laughing. Dew acts nonchalant.

AUTUMN

What *are* you wearing?

DEW

My original outfit. Still fits.

AUTUMN

Dew, it's painted on! You're bursting out of that thing!

DEW

It's a tight fit. But I found some baby oil, slid right in.

NIMBO

I think you look great, Dad.

DEW

Thanks, son. Now, come on, we shredding these cumulus or what?

NIMBO

Yeah! You wanna come, Autumn?

AUTUMN

(sarcastic)

You know, as much as I'd love to ride with you and old slim-fit, over here, I better check in at home.

NIMBO

Suit yourself. Come on Dad, I'll teach you how to ride that tree branch you've got there.

DEW

Please, I *invented* cloudsurfing.

NIMBO

And I'm going to perfect it.

The two jibe as they head for the gondola.

**EXT. BLUE CLOUD RUN**

A different part of the cloud mountains, calmer, softer clouds crest and flow. Nimbo and Dew stand at the precipice.

Dew breathes in deeply.

DEW

I've missed that fresh cloud air.

NIMBO

Let's do it!

The two head off down the slopes, Dew is rusty, flailing down the slopes.

**MONTAGE**

A real father-son, bonding montage.

-- Dew starts awkwardly, but then begins carving expertly.

-- Nimbo pulls off an aerial of a crest, Dew replicates.

-- Dew goes up a curling cloud and pulls off a more audacious aerial. Nimbo follows.

-- Dew stands and admires himself...Only to sink into a cloud hole and disappear just as he brags.

**END MONTAGE****BOTTOM OF THE BLUE RUN**

They come to a stop at the bottom of the run. Laughing, enjoying it.

DEW

--I completely forgot about fluffholes.

NIMBO

But that corkscrew 540 you nailed was killer!

DEW

Reckon you're ready to give the Nebula Tips again?

They both look up at the dark, shrouded black clouds in the distance.

**EXT. NEBULA TIPS CHASM - LATER**

Nimbo and Dew stand on the Nebula Tips -- the giant launch visible ramp at the bottom.

NIMBO

I'm not sure I can do this Dad.  
It's too high.

DEW

Now, how far do you think that  
jump is?

Nimbo shrugs.

DEW

I'd say it's about fifteen metres  
across. Now, I saw you do dozens  
of them today.

NIMBO

Yeah, but there was never a giant  
deep hole in the middle.

DEW

What difference does that make?  
It's the same distance.

NIMBO

Yeah, but I could fall into an  
abyss and into the blackness of  
nothingness.

DEW

There's no abyss. It's just more  
clouds. If you fall, it'd be like  
landing on a bed of marshmallows.  
You just *think* it'll be bad,  
because you don't know different.

NIMBO

That doesn't make me feel any  
better.

DEW

I'll tell you how I got over my  
fear of heights. You've got You  
need to rationalise your fear.  
Think, what's the worst thing  
that can happen if you miss that  
jump?

NIBMO

I die.

DEW

I told you, that won't happen.  
Marshmallows. Remember.

NIMBO  
I could break a leg.

DEW  
Which you risk every time you  
step on a board. That doesn't  
normally stop you.

NIMBO  
I could bang my head --

DEW  
Okay, okay new tact - what's the  
best thing that could happen?

NIMBO  
I make the jump?

DEW  
So, you know you can make the  
distance. The void is irrelevant.  
You know you've done jumps like  
this before. You know you  
probably won't get hurt. And you  
know how good it'll feel to make  
the jump. All those things added  
up, it seems silly that you ever  
got scared of this little jump,  
doesn't it.

Dew heads down and clears the launch ramp with ease. Nimbo  
takes a deep breath.

Then heads down the slop. His eyes focused, concentrating.

NIMBO  
(adlib psyching himself  
up)  
...This is easy. I can do it.  
Same distance. Same distance...

He launches off the ramp, has a brief look down, panics, but  
steadies, then lands on the other side.

He comes to a stop in front of his Dad.

NIMBO  
I did it! I did it!

DEW  
Easily, I'd say!

They hug.

NIMBO  
Thanks, Dad.

DEW

And, now, keep up the training  
and maybe in a few years you'll  
be able to compete in the Cloud  
Jam.

Nimbo pushes away.

NIMBO

I told you, Dad. I've got to  
compete tomorrow!

DEW

Son, I mean, this was a great  
start, but you've got a long way  
to go.

NIMBO

You *haven't* been listening to me!  
This is the only way mum will  
talk to me! It's the only way to  
save Sunshine!

DEW

Son, don't --

But Nimbo zooms off.

DEW

That kid sure does loving away  
from his problems.

**EXT. STRATUS CLOUD JAM - DAY**

The day of the Cloud Jam! It's a celebration!

A rickety wooden stadium is packed with cheering, raucous  
supporters.

Autumn sits in the stadium. Dew pushes through to her with a  
couple of hot chocolates.

AUTUMN

Any luck tracking him down?

DEW

No. I've got no idea where he is.

AUTUMN

Well, if he really is desperate  
to compete I guess we'll see him  
soon.

DEW

How did he even qualify for this?

## AUTUMN

Apparently there's been a shortage of competitors in recent years, owing to the fact that racers keep dying, so the bar for entry is very low. Plus, apparently he had a coupon.

**STARTING LINE**

The competitors take their positions at the starting line.

The CLOUD JAM MC, DJ TRICKY, a wild and eccentric man dressed in fluro, soars over the crowd with a jetpack and a microphone. His voice echoes over the crowd.

## DJ TRICKY

Leezadies and mental-men! The Cloud Jam is about to kick into hyperdrive! Let's introduce the locos risking it to get the biscuit today!

VIEW ON a group of four, dressed in blue shell-suits. All silver-haired, in their fifties, but fit as fiddles.

## DJ TRICKY

These old dogs have got some new tricks! Age is just a number - in their case a massive one. This might be their last event...ever, cos Father Time is tapping his watch, let's give it up for the *Silver Bullets!*

Cheers erupt as the *Bullets* acknowledge the crowd.

VIEW ON the next group of four. An all girl group, dressed as punks, in bright fluro teal and pink shell suits.

## DJ TRICKY

The power house *Polar Punks!* Undeniably the grittiest crew this side of the a sludgy driveway. Push, their captain, recently took home the Big Air in Peru and she'll be looking to cause a big upset!

PUSH - the captain - bears her teeth, while the *Polar Punks* acknowledge the crowd, whooping and cheering.

VIEW ON the third crew, a selection of young kids.

## DJ TRICKY

This lot are barely outta diapers and already they're killing it.  
(MORE)



DJ TRICKY (CONT'D)

The *Vertabrats*, with a combined age of just 45, they're not crawling, they're shredding, across the international stage.

The *Vertabrats*, all under 12, black shell suits, drink in the cheers. One does a standing backflip.

DJ TRICKY

And finally, the team to beat. These guys speak for themselves...so what do you need me for? Led by World number one - TALIA! They've got more awards than a kid's sports day - *The Storm Surfers!*

VIEW ON Talia making an entrance, dressed in a robe, with the rest of the *Storm Surfers*. Surrounded by gushing assistants, one takes off Talia's robe.

The crowd erupts with its biggest cheer yet as the competitors line up.

DJ TRICKY

And finally, a late solo racer! A complete unknown on the circuit, but he had a coupon, let's give it up for Nimbo!

At the name, Talia looks curiously over at the small kid.

Before she has time to do anything though, she's ushered to the starting line.

DJ TRICKY

Let's take a look at what our willing victims will be facing today...

A GIANT SCREEN tracks through the course -- a visual representation of what DJ Tricky is talking about.

DJ TRICKY (CONT.)

The Cloud Jam is a 1,500 metre perilous run through thick ice clouds, over unforgiving jumps of...thin treks through caves of mist...navigating dangerous corridors of ice cloud. One slip...and it's all over. Riders - this is your worst nightmare. We don't have first aid standing by, we have morticians.

VIEW ON Dew and Autumn who are sweating furiously.

The racers line up.

DJ TRICKY

Rules are simple - first over the  
line wins it for their crew.  
Fighting is allowed. Tricks are  
expected. Shortcuts are perilous!  
ARE YOU READY?!

Absolute madness from the crowd.

DJ TRICKY (CONT.)

I can't hear you!

Louder cheers.

DJ TRICKY (CONT.)

No, seriously, I can't hear you.  
I think I've got an ear  
infection.

He puts his finger in his ear to clean it out.

At the starting line, all four crews push and shove. Nimbo  
looks petrified alone at the end.

DJ TRICKY

GO!

#### **A MONTAGE OF THE RACE**

- It's a kaleidoscope of colourful carnage as the competitors  
push off, colliding and crashing with each other.
- A *Vertabrat* immediately picks a fight with Nimbo, while  
another rider comes at him from the side in an attempted  
sandwich. Nimbo ducks causing the two teammates to collide.  
The *Vertabrat* starts wailing and crying for his mum.
- Nimbo almost rams a member of the *Silver Bullets*.

SILVER BULLET

Outta the way, ya young, long-  
haired yahoo!

- Nimbo stumbles, while the battle for the slopes rages on  
multiple fronts between all the competitors.

DJ TRICKY (O.S.)

They're coming up to the first  
obstruction - the dreaded Curtain  
Rail!

- Nimbo looks up and sees a giant chasm, shrouded in thick  
cloud. Thin red and white candy-cane grind rails extend over.
- He focuses - "You can do this, there is no void" - He *just*  
manages to land on a rail. He slips and his board catches, he  
goes across upside down! Somehow he lands upright on the  
other side.

DJ TRICKY (O.S.)  
 MOSES SMELL THE ROSES! Young  
 Nimbo with the Tippy Grind! Call  
 your mum right now, tell her how  
 great that was!

- Another competitor is not so lucky. A *Polar Punk* misjudges the rail and slides off, falling into the abyss.

DJ TRICKY (O.S.)  
 OooOooOo ouch that's gonna leave  
 a mark! Don't worry folks, if we  
 can find her I'm sure she'll be  
 absolutely...um...in one  
 whole...chunk.

- The competitors begin to thin out as the race goes on. Talia is in the lead, Nimbo in last place.

VIEW ON the screen. An overhead shot of a fork in the road.

DJ TRICKY (O.S.)  
 Here's where it gets interesting  
 folks! They're approaching the  
 first fork in the road! Left is  
 the perilous *Cave of Blunders* -  
 quicker, yes, but, hey, so is  
 jumping off a cliff. If they go  
 right, they'll be facing the  
 slower, safer --  
 (baby voice)  
 "My Itty Bitty First Cloud Race".

- FROM ABOVE we see two go left into the cave - Talia and the Polar Punk captain, Push.

DJ TRICKY (O.S.)  
 As expected, Talia and Push go  
 left! If they come out the other  
 side they're going to be  
 perfectly positioned!

- Nimbo, unprepared for the choice, hesitates, then goes left.

DJ TRICKY  
 Nimbo goes left as well! Well,  
 take a good look, folks. This is  
 probably the last time we'll see  
 him alive.

**END OF MONTAGE****INT. DARK PATH - CONT.**

Nimbo rides into the cave and a calm falls. Thick, soupy cloud engulfs him. The crowd cheers dulls.

Nimbo can barely see a foot in front of him. He can just make out Talia and Push ahead.

A beam of sunlight shines through a crack, illuminating a downward helter-skelter of swirling cloud with a hole straight down the middle.

VIEW ON Talia and Push clashing, shoving each other as they take the tight curves!

POLAR PUNK  
Buzz off, you burnt-out flame!

TALIA  
Suck an egg, creep.

Talia hits a pocket of air, wobbles, only maintaining balance by grabbing onto her opponents jacket.

POLAR PUNK  
Hey! What are you doing?!

Talia rights herself, dragging the Polar Punk down.

POLAR PUNK (CONT.)  
That's cheating! Stop it!

VIEW ON Nimbo watching his mum tussle with Push.

Not paying attention, he slips down the centre!

He falls past Talia and Push, who turn to see him fall.

Nimbo throws out his hand and manages to latch onto an outlying icicle. He's dangling over the void!

Talia and Push, neck-and-neck, approach Nimbo's position.

NIMBO  
Help! I'm stuck!

Talia sees Nimbo, so does Push.

Talia thinks about stopping, but then keeps going, riding straight past him as if he's not even there.

Push, shocked at this, does stop and help him up.

NIMBO  
Thanks.

Push nods, then pushes off again.

**DARK PATH**

Nimbo brushes himself off, steely-eyed now, heads after them.

He bursts from the cave into the bright sunlight. The cheers rev back up.

**RACE TRACK**

A small figure performs a backflip and disappears over the crest of the clouds - it's Talia, miles ahead.

Push and Nimbo are second and third respectively. Behind them, the rest of the competitors close in.

DJ TRICKY

Talia cruises ahead, with half  
the race in the rear view mirror,  
can anyone catch her?

**TRICK PARK**

VIEW ON the screen showing a trick park - boxes, rails, ramps. Talia performs a stylish grind on a rail.

DJ TRICKY

Talia's the first to reach the  
fun park and she powers through  
with real panache and style!

Nimbo is determined now, as he performs a clean grab over the first ramp. He sees Push just ahead.

As the other competitors reach the trick park they all pull off high-flying technical tricks off the first ramp.

DJ TRICKY

It is a masterclass out there! I  
don't know where to look!  
Cliffhanger 540s. Pirouette  
Grinds. Heel Clicker seven-  
twenties - Oh my god - who are  
these freaks?!

A replay on the big screen shows a GIRL executing an elaborate trick, ejecting high off a jet of air, taking her board from under her feet and flipping it around her hands.

DJ Tricky watches in complete shock and awe. He throws his microphone and puts his hands up in mock surrender.

Push slides across a rail, and her board snaps, she goes down, tangling over a void - just as Nimbo was in the cave.

DJ TRICKY

Push is down!  
(MORE)

DJ TRICKY (CONT'D)  
 That gives Talia an some  
 breathing room! Nimbo's the only  
 one who can catch her now.

Nimbo approaches Push then. Stops, looks ahead -- then bends  
 down and holds out his hand.

Push thinks, then takes it. It's a struggle, costing precious  
 time, but Nimbo drags her up. The other competitors stream  
 behind them.

DJ TRICKY  
 Oh, my! What an incredibly moment  
 from the solo racer! He has  
 sacrificed his only chance of  
 catching Talia to help a fellow  
 competitor. Well, not much melts  
 this icy heart, but that was  
 beautiful.

#### **STANDS**

Dew is wiping away a tear.

DEW  
 Isn't he amazing.

Autumn nods through a mouthful of hot dog.

AUTUMN  
 Tell you what's amazing -- this  
 hot dog.

#### **RACE TRACK**

Talia cracks a sly smile when she hears the news.

#### **TRICK PARK**

Push brushes herself down.

PUSH  
 Thanks, kid.

The other competitors are well past them now.

PUSH (CONT.)  
 Come on, let's finish.

**FINISH LINE**

At the finish line, everyone is huddled around Talia, celebrating her win.

Nimbo and Push cross the line.

Push gives Nimbo a final nod and then goes over to her crew.

AUTUMN (O.S)  
Well done, Nimbo!

Autumn appears, and gives him a giant hug.

NIMBO  
I came dead last.

AUTUMN  
But you didn't die.

Dew is there, kicking cloud a few feet away. Nimbo sees him.

AUTUMN (CONT.)  
I'll leave you guys to have some  
of that fabled male bonding.

She walks away and Dew comes in.

DEW  
Um, that was...that was pretty  
amazing, son. What you did out  
there...it showed real character.

NIMBO  
I didn't win though.

DEW  
There are more important things  
than winning, son.

Nimbo remembers something.

NIMBO  
Sun...Sunshine!

He quickly turns around, trying to find Talia. She's surrounded by supporters.

Nimbo runs over and tries to get to her.

NIMBO  
Mum! Mum!

He can't get through -- the supporters drowning him out.

Eventually Talia is lifted away into the winners circle. Nimbo tries to go in, but a BRUTISH SECURITY GUARD holds him back.

SECURITY GUARD

No losers.

Nimbo wanders back to Autumn and his Dad.

DEW

Come on, son. Let me buy you a hot chocolate.

**EXT. CLOUD VILLAGE**

Dew and Nimbo sit outside a cafe enjoying a hot chocolate. There are revellers stumbling down the street, still enjoying the party of the Cloud Jam.

Autumn appears.

AUTUMN

I've managed to find a plane.

NIMBO

We can't leave yet, I haven't spoken to Mum yet.

Autumn sits down, a solemn expression.

AUTUMN

I don't think we can wait any longer, Nimbo. You saw that report.

DEW

Maybe we could wait a few more days. I'll see if I can find her.

Autumn goes to argue, but is interrupted by an excited group heading running towards a crowd.

Dew stops one of them.

DEW

Hey, chief, what's the fuss?

RIDER

It's the storm! The Tundra Storm!  
It's here!

The three head towards the crowd.



**CROWD**

The buzzy crowd gathers on a precipice, all staring out at a monstrous, evil-looking black cloud rumbling towards the mainland.

This is the big one - the *Tundra Storm*.

Our heroes move to join the crowd, listening to the hushed whisperings of some of its MEMBERS.

CROWD MEMBER #1  
I can't believe it's here!

CROWD MEMBER #2  
Once in a lifetime!

CROWD MEMBER #3  
Talia say she's going to surf it!

CROWD MEMBER #1  
No way! Is she insane!?

CROWD MEMBER #2  
Certifiably. But when has that ever stopped her?

CROWD MEMBER #3  
Better her than me. They're the most powerful storm clouds I've ever seen!

CROWD MEMBER #1  
If anyone can wrangle them, she can.

They continue to murmur, while Nimbo tugs on Dew's shirt.

NIMBO  
Dad, I've got an idea.

**EXT. LODGE - LATER**

In the crowded lodge, cloudsurfers are discussing the storm.

Our three - and Neil - have found a spot round a fire. Autumn paces.

AUTUMN  
No, no - it's too crazy.

DEW  
It could work, Autumn. It *could*.

Autumn looks at him.

NIMBO

You said it yourself. Clouds aren't enough. Sunshine needs a storm. This is our best shot.

Autumn, doing the science in her head.

AUTUMN

This isn't a normal storm, Nimbo. This is a monstrous, crazy, mega storm! There's probably not even enou--

NIMBO

We could check the museum? Maybe they've got more in the basement.

AUTUMN

Even if we *did* it, who'd be crazy enough to go out and wrangle it?

DEW

Well, luckily, we've got the best cloudsurfer there is.

Dew stands up and grips Nimbo's shoulder, who smiles.

DEW (CONT.)

Just so we're clear. I'm talking about me.

#### **INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT**

#### **BASEMENT**

Autumn, Nimbo, Dew and Neil have broken back into the museum. They're in the basement with flashlights.

Nimbo and Dew are distracted with all the relics.

NIMBO

Woah, Dad, look at this! An original shell suit from Rash's Manilla run!

DEW

An original poster from the 1994 Winter Olympics!

AUTUMN

Guys, hate to stop the trip down memory lane, but time is short.

Neil squawks - he's found something.

They go over to see spools of Cloud Rope stacked up.

DEW  
Help me get it down.

He tries to lift one off the top -- the whole thing topples down and crushes him.

NIMBO  
Dad!

They rush over and take the spools off his legs.

NIMBO (CONT.)  
Are you okay?

AUTUMN  
Can you move?

DEW  
I'm not sure. Let me check.

He tries to stand up and there's a dull crack.

DEW  
Nope. Nope. Not okay. That was the sound of bone breaking.

AUTUMN  
Well, that's that plan ruined.

NIMBO  
I can do it! I can surf the storm!

DEW  
Not a chance. We'll find another way.

NIMBO  
Come on! This my chance to save everyone on Sunshine.

Autumn and Dew look at each other.

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS EDGE - NEXT DAY**

Dark, windy, and freezing cold at the peak. Dew - in leg cast - Autumn and Nimbo stand shivering next to a snowplane - a sea plane, but with skis instead of floaters attached to the bottom.

The *Tundra Storm* is drawing ever closer...

DEW  
We're sure this is going to work?

AUTUMN

No. Definitely not. In fact, I told you it *wouldn't* work.

NIMBO

Now or never!

Nimbo snaps on his goggles, adjusts his voice headset. Positions himself on the board. Picks up a tow-rope and ties it around his waist.

Autumn and Dew get into the plane.

Autumn revs the engine, then begins down the hill...but immediately slams on the brakes! Nimbo slams into the back.

Talia stands in front of the plane, face full of fury.

Dew and Autumn get out.

Talia softens in surprise.

TALIA

Dew? Wh..What are you doing here?

Nimbo appears from behind the plane.

NIMBO

Oh, hi, Mum. We're just going to ride the *Tundra Storm*. No biggie.

Talia's eyes widen even further.

TALIA

Nimbo!? It *is* you...when I heard your name at the Cloud Jam...I didn't ever in a million years...believe...

AUTUMN

And when you shunned him at the halfpipe? Or when you saw him dangling from the clouds, I suppose then, you didn't recognise him then either?

TALIA

(sarcastic)

Ah, Autumn's here. Joy. No, actually I didn't. I was focused on other things. Now, is somebody going to tell me what exactly is happening here?

NIMBO

We just need to borrow the *Tundra Storm*, Mum.

TALIA  
Borrow the Tundra Storm?

She laughs at the stupidity.

NIMBO  
...we'll bring it back.

TALIA  
Is that, Cloud Rope?

Nimbo tries to hide it, but Talia picks it up.

NIMBO  
...surprise?

TALIA  
You're planning on *wrangling* the  
Tundra Storm?

DEW  
Please. Who'd be that crazy...

TALIA  
And *I'm* the irresponsible parent?

DEW  
Your words.

AUTUMN  
Look, it's important, Talia.  
Sunshine will die without it. I  
know you don't care about anyone  
but yourself, but luckily your  
son does.

TALIA  
Sorry, I'm just a bit confused.  
You came to Cloud Peaks  
to...compete in the Cloud Jam  
and...steal a storm?

AUTUMN  
Nimbo got the dumb idea that you  
might want to help him out. So he  
came here to ask for help. But  
instead you turned your back on  
him and now we're taking matters  
into our own hands.

The three start bickering, talking over each other.

TALIA  
Why didn't you tell me who you  
were, Nimbo?

AUTUMN  
Would that have made a  
difference?!

DEW

We need that cloud, Talia!

TALIA

You can't just take storm clouds!  
They're unpredictable! There's no  
safety net.

DEW

Nimbo can wrangle it!

TALIA

There's no way he can do that!

AUTUMN

Like *you'd* know!

TALIA

What's *that* supposed to mean?

AUTUMN

You didn't even recognise him!

TALIA

I haven't seen him in ten years!

AUTUMN

*That's* your excuse?! "I'm a bad  
mother - sorry!"

TALIA

He can't just show up here and  
steal my storm!

NIMBO

STOP!

The adults abruptly stop arguing. They look at each other,  
ashamed.

NIMBO

Please, Mum. I know you wanted to  
save Sunshine once. Help us save  
it now.

Talia crouches next to her son.

TALIA

Oh, kiddo. Why would you want to  
save that place? They ruined it  
for themselves. Why don't you  
stay here?

AUTUMN

You've got to be joking. *Now* you  
want to be a parent?

Talia ignores her.

TALIA

I can teach you everything I know. In a year or so, you could be pro.

Nimbo looks at Dew and Autumn. Then shakes his head.

NIMBO

Sorry, Mum. I want to go home. To Sunshine.

Talia sighs.

TALIA

This isn't your park-picnic-cloud, Nimbo. This is a beast.

NIMBO

I've got to at least try.

TALIA

It'd be nice to get to know you...

Talia hesitates, thinking.

TALIA (CONT.)

...I mean there'd be an adjustment period and...you know the world championships ... might...be...easier...

Nimbo smiles at her.

NIMBO

It's okay, Mum.

TALIA

Guess I can't be number one at everything, huh?

She stands up, stoic again.

TALIA (CONT.)

Fine. Go. Wrangle.

(to Dew)

Bye, Dew. And, um, thanks. For taking such good care of him. Looks like you've raised a hell of a son.

DEW

Thanks, Talia. I'd say don't be a stranger. But...I think I'd prefer it if you were.

**EXT. CLOUD PEAKS EDGE - MINUTES LATER**

Autumn and Dew in the plane, Nimbo attached to the back.

The plane takes off at blistering speed. The tow-rope tightens and Nimbo shoots off with it.

They soar through the clouds heading for the storm.

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

Autumn and Dew in the plane, headsets on.

AUTUMN

We're approaching the storm,  
Nimbo. Good luck...

DEW

Wrap that cloud, son!

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

Into the storm they go.

Lightning cracks! Thunder rumbles! Heavy pelting rain! Black storm clouds roll in waves!

A cloud tube forms over Nimbo, but a second late he shoots out the other end of the cloud tube.

He's a tiny dot against a backdrop of insurmountable nature.

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

Dew looks nervous. Autumn checks the instruments.

AUTUMN

Okay, Nimbo, we're nearing the  
south end of the storm!

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

Nimbo rises to the top of the cloud, gripping the spool of cloud rope. He tosses the rope and it grips to the cloud particles with a static jolt.

NIMBO

Got it!

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

Autumn banks the plane, begins circling the storm.



**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

Nimbo holds the end of the Cloud Rope as the plane circles, wrapping up the cloud like they're loose marshmallows.

NIMBO  
It's working!

Spoke to soon - a crack of lightning whips Nimbo's gloves and he drops the spool of cloud rope.

Nimbo tries to recover, but is pulled away as the plane banks.

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

Dew looks back.

DEW  
He's dropped the rope! We've got to go back.

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

Nimbo makes the decision, unties himself, riding freestyle down the cloud towards the cloud rope.

Lightning cracks around him. The rain makes visibility difficult. He reaches out for the rope...

Almost...

...almost...

...just a little...further...

Got it!

He grabs the cloud rope triumphantly...then realises...

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

DEW  
He did it!

AUTUMN  
Yeah, but now the Cloud Rope isn't attached to anything!

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

That's what Nimbo's realised too.

He lands on a cloud but it's like surfing raging rapids.

Puffs of cloud explode like geysers! Nimbo dodges them, but it's not going well.

NIMBO

Um, guys...I'm in trouble.

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

AUTUMN

I'm going to swing back around.  
Try to grab the tow-rope.

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

The plane circles back around. And Nimbo reaches for the tow-rope, but he can't reach it.

AUTUMN (O.S.)

I can't go any lower. I'll be  
sucked into the eye of the storm.

Nimbo looks up and sees what she means --

ANGLE ON the eye of the storm, a whirlpool of black cloud, crackling ferociously, drawing him down.

Nimbo searches for an escape, he can't go back up the cloud -- too steep -- and going across the cloud is fruitless.

He drops and tries to scramble up the cloud instead.

It's no use. He loses grip and slides down towards the eye...

He waits for the inevitable...

But suddenly he's hoisted into the sky!

It's Talia! She's attached to another plane.

NIMBO

Mum?!

TALIA

Didn't think I'd leave you again,  
did you? Now come on, you still  
got both ends of that Cloud Rope?  
We've got some storm to wrangle.

Talia speaks into a walkie-talkie.

TALIA (CONT.)

Take us towards the other plane.

The other plane veers closer to Autumn's plane, and Nimbo manages to grab back onto his own tow-rope.

**INT. SNOWPLANE**

Autumn and Dew breathe a sigh of relief.

TALIA (O.S.)

Autumn. Dew. You there? Nimbo's reattached.

AUTUMN

Talia, is that you?!

TALIA

Let's not make a big deal outta this. You just go left, we'll go right, okay?

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

The two planes divert to different sides of the Tundra storm.

Nimbo and Talia -- now each holding opposite ends of the Cloud Rope -- hold on tight as the plane circles around the storm with them surfing opposite sides of the cloud.

Nimbo and Talia meet in the middle, share a high-five while Talia hands her son her end of the rope.

TALIA

Cloud secured. Gnarly riding, Nimbo. I think you guys have got it from here. Seeya later, kiddo.

NIMBO

Mum! No! Wait!

But Talia gives her son a salute and disappears into the clouds. Nimbo tries to watch her as long as he can, but Autumn is already flying him away from the storm...

**INT. SNOWPLANE - LITTLE LATER**

They're now flying in calmer, blue sky conditions.

The three - and Neil of course - are crammed comically in the cabin.

DEW

I'm sorry about your mum, Nimbo.

NIMBO

Don't be sorry, Dad. A wise person once told me that family isn't who gave birth to you, it was who was there for you when you needed them.

He looks at Autumn.

AUTUMN

Was that one of the weirdos in  
the fruit mask?

NIMBO

Genius.

AUTUMN

Who'd have thought tracking down  
a woman who leaves her family  
because of the weather wouldn't  
end in a fairytale.

NIMBO

Just cos it's not a fairytale,  
doesn't mean it's not a happy  
ending.

Dew wraps his arm around his son.

DEW

Let's save our Sunshine.

**EXT. SKY - DAY**

The plane continues its journey to Sunshine, the *huge* Tundra  
Storm being towed behind them.

**INT. SNOWPLANE - LATER**

Sunshine appears in the distance.

NIMBO

Home.

Dew hugs Nimbo tight.

AUTUMN

Just in time too --

A alarm sounds -- fuel low.

NIMBO

What is it with you and alarms?

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH - SAME TIME**

Everyone's looking up as the plane flies over Sunshine. The  
mayor is there, and it's his eyes we see fall to the storm.

MAYOR

What in God's name...

**INT. PLANE**

AUTUMN

Here we go...now or never.

Autumn presses a button.

Nothing happens.

DEW

So...never?

NIMBO

What happened? Nothing happened.

AUTUMN

The rope detachment mechanism is jammed!

DEW

Jammed?!

AUTUMN

Yes - jammed! Like the stuff you spread on bread! Only this time, it looks like we're toast.

DEW

What do we do?

AUTUMN

I don't know, but we're running on fumes. If we crash this storm *into* Sunshine. I can only assume that will be bad.

Autumn manically presses buttons on the dash. The plane flies over Sunshine, dragging with it the storm clouds.

Nimbo has an idea. He opens the door of the plane.

DEW

Nimbo! What are you doing?

Nimbo takes his cloudboard.

NIMBO

Autumn, keep circling as long as you can.

DEW

Nimbo you can't go out there!  
There's no cloud to ride!

Nimbo looks outside -- the heights making him dizzy. With a deep breath and a slight hesitation, he jumps out of the plane, the wind whips him backwards. Dew and Autumn scream!

DEW

Nimbo! Oh no! My only son!  
Plummeted to his doom!

AUTUMN

Not exactly father of the year,  
are you?

A second later, Nimbo reappears - surfing the Cloud Rope,  
*sliding* back down towards the storm!

Nimbo reaches the end, where the rope meets the storm.

He struggles, then manages to unhook the rope, which drops  
away. The plane and the cloud separate.

Nimbo grabs at the cloudrope still attached to the plane, but  
just misses.

The plane flies on, Nimbo jumps against the storm.

**INT. PLANE**

The plane sputters, drops a little in altitude.

DEW

He did it. Crazy kid did it!

AUTUN

Yeah, but now we're crashing!

DEW

We can't die yet! Nimbo's still  
out there!

AUTUMN

Don't beat yourself up - the  
ground will do that for us in  
about ten seconds.

The plane nose dives. They scream! Neil the Toucan screams,  
but then, slyly, opens the window and jumps out. Enjoys a  
casual flight away.

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

Nimbo realises he can't surf the edge of the cloud forever.

He begins snatching at clouds - just like his dad did.

**INT. PLANE**

The plane nose dives. Dew and Autumn are screaming.

AUTUMN

We're not going to make it!

She aims for the ocean...

**EXT. OCEAN**

The plane waterskis across the ocean and comes to a stop in front of the beach. With Dew and Autumn entwined in fear.

**EXT. TUNDRA STORM**

As Nimbo reaches the end of the storm cloud, he closes his eyes and leaps off and throws his personal cloud under his board.

He aims for the mountain and skips across the sky as the cloud breaks up beneath him.

The cloud finally dissolves when he's over the mountain. He leaps onto the mountainside and surfs it down...

Shooting off the end he performs his sort after RODEO 900 before landing in the ocean.

**EXT. OCEAN**

Nimbo comes up gasping for air.

NIMBO

I did! A Rodeo 900! I finally did it!

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH - MINUTES LATER**

The tourists look on in befuddlement as Dew and Autumn come ashore.

The mayor pushes his way through.

MAYOR

What is the meaning of this?

DEW

Hi, Simon. Yeah, we're fine by the way.

MAYOR

I don't care about you - what is *this*!

He points to the sky.

DEW

Something to help with the heat.

The *Tundra Storm* is now directly over the island.  
 A huge crack of thunder, followed by a fork of lightning.  
 Then the heavens open!

**EXT. VARIOUS SUNSHINE LOCATIONS**

The water hits the pavement and sizzles.  
 The dying plants look to the sky.  
 The dry earth on Autumn's farm begins to moisten.

**EXT. SUNSHINE BEACH**

It's a deluge on the beach.

MAYOR

Oh my god, what have you done?!  
 You've ruined us! My tourists! My  
 precious tourists!

Instead of running for cover though, the tourists splash  
 about, loving every minute of it!

DEW

Can't have Sunshine without a  
 little rain, Mayor.

The Mayor seethes, then he's hit in the face by a waterbomb  
 thrown by a cheeky Board Member.

Nimbo appears onshore, runs up and hugs Autumn and his Dad.

NIMBO

We did it!

AUTUMN

No kiddo, you did it. All I did  
 was crash a plane.

**INT. NIMBO'S HOUSE - A FEW DAYS LATER**

Back home, Dew and Nimbo watch the storm through the window  
 where outside kids and adults are running around in the rain.

NIMBO

It's been days -- when do you  
 think it'll stop?

Dew shrugs.

DEW

I don't care if it never stops.

Autumn opens the door and comes in, drenched.



AUTUMN

Well, it's official, the Sunshine eco-system is back up and running.

Autumn hands them her phone.

AUTUMN

Data shows the clouds have solidified and are reproducing.

NIMBO

Clouds reproduce? Ew.

AUTUMN

When this storm clears, it'll hopefully create new ones. With any luck, we could even get a rainy season.

DEW

That should keep the tourists numbers steady.

AUTUMN

The storm clouds up on the mountain look amazing too.

NIMBO

Oh wow! Could we go and ride them, Dad? Can we?

DEW

Haven't you had enough cloudsurfing for awhile?

Nimbo looks at him like he's an idiot.

NIMBO

...Is that a serious question?

Dew spots something out the window.

DEW

Well, I promised Autumn dinner. Maybe there's somebody else you could take...

Talia is outside with her crew. Nimbo opens the door.

TALIA

Hey, kiddo. Heard Sunshine had a nice storm? Wanna go for a ride?

Nimbo smiles, turns to his Dad, hugs him, then rushes out and joins the crew.

DEW

You're soaking wet, you know.

Dew puts his arm around Autumn, then goes in for the kiss.

AUTUMN

Even if I wasn't, I'm not sure  
it'd be a great idea.

Dew pulls back, sheepish.

AUTUMN

Ah, fine. You need a little  
sunshine to your life.

Then she pecks him on the cheek.

**EXT. CLOUDY VOLCANO PEAK**

Talia, Nimbo and the crew shred the Tundra Storm as we...

FADE TO BLACK