A graduate project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

By
Stephen Baxter Harris

May 2015
The graduate project of Stephen Baxter Harris is approved:

______________________________  
Dr. Kenneth Portnoy  
______________________________  
Professor Scott Sturgeon  
______________________________  
Professor Eric Edson, Chair

Date

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
Table of Contents

Signature Page  ii
Abstract  iv
BLACKBEARD’S CUP  1
ABSTRACT

BLACKBEARD'S CUP

By

Stephen Baxter Harris

Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

Blackbeard's Cup is about Bud Beachley, a 7th grade surfer kid who rebels against authority because he loves pirates. When he finds the enchanted skull of Blackbeard the Pirate. He uses it to wish for perfect waves to surf which accidentally summons Evil Skeletons from the ocean floor who want Blackbeard's gold. The Skeletons kill anything and anyone in town who opposes them, so Bud must learn what it truly means to rebel in order to stop the Skeletons from destroying his town.
EXT. MINI GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: 1985

Wind and rain batter PIRATE STATUES and OCCULT MONSTER STATUES on KOOKY MINI GOLF putting greens.

LIGHTNING strikes near a scaled down replica of a pirate ship which serves as the entrance to the course.

Thunder rumbles.

Lightning strikes closer, lights the crude plaster face of a BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE STATUE who stands at the entrance.

INT. MINI GOLF ARCADE AND SNACK SHOP - NIGHT

Its a brand new video arcade with all the hits like Karate Champ, Paperboy, Marble Madness, Frogger, Spy Hunter, Shark Attack, Super Mario Brothers, etc.

There’s also pool tables, a SNACK BAR and VENDING MACHINES, and a BRAND NEW NEON GREEN 80’s STYLE SURFBOARD with a skull and crossbones on the wall. Under the surfboard sits a HUMAN SKELETON dressed like a pirate.

HENRY WHEDBE, retired Air Force Captain; stands on a ladder to hang up a PIRATE FLAG.

He concentrates on the task with child-like joy despite being alarmed on occasion by the frenzied sounds of thunder and wind outside.

EXT. MINI GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

LIGHTNING strikes in the sky above the course, followed by a SONIC BOOM of THUNDER.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

Henry glances out the window, carries a ladder back toward’s a CLOSET.

MINI GOLF COURSE

A WOMAN IN HOODED ROBE, with a DOLPHIN TALISMAN; slips across the golf course with supernatural ease despite the storm.
ARCADE

There’s a knock at the door, made to look like a pirate ship door.

Henry looks out the porthole, sees the Woman.

The Woman turns the handle. It’s locked.

Henry leans back against the door to keep her out, gasps.

He looks out the porthole again, sees her hold up a CUP made from a HUMAN SKULL.

The Woman drinks from the skull, recites a magic spell.

Lightning strikes. The lights in the arcade flash. The Animatronic Skeleton laughs.

Wind intensifies, batters the buildings outside.

A pirate statue outside sways.

Lightning strikes the statue, catches it on fire, but rain puts it out quick.

The power in the arcade room goes out.

Henry hears the wind whisper.

    WIND
    Let me in. It’s your turn.

He runs to the circuit breaker, flips the switch. Nothing happens.

Henry eyes the door. The Woman knocks harder.

    WIND (CONT’D)
    Let me in Henry. It’s your turn.

He steps towards the door.

He turns the handle.

He pushes the door open.

The Woman’s already back across the put-put course, headed for the BEACH.
The wind dies down. The rain puts out the flaming statue, now charred into what almost looks like a skeleton.

Rain patters to the ground, down upon the skull.

He picks it up.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

Whedbe smashes the skull with a hammer but it doesn’t break. He throws the hammer on the floor in defeat.

He goes to the vending machine and buys a ROOT BEER.

He takes the cup and root beer to the window in the snack bar overlooking the golf course.

He takes an OLD MAGIC SPELL BOOK from a duffle bag, cracks open the root beer, pours it in the cup. He flips to a page in the book with drawings of a ship sailing on calm seas.

HENRY

Relaxus meteoroljicsto.

He drinks root beer from the cup.

The storm dissipates. The moon and stars come out. Henry’s stunned.

EXT. MINI GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

Henry walks across the street to the

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Its a sand dune swept beach which goes on to north and south for miles. A sign reads:

“NORTH CAROLINA C.A.M.A REGIONAL PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS.”

Henry climbs over the dunes and sees . . .

The OCEAN, calm and clear.

DOLPHINS leap from the sea, play.
Henry gulps more root beer from the skull cup and watches the perfect waves roll to the shore from the sea.

He notices BUBBLES and FOAM in a weird pattern over a sandbar.

The bubbles dissipate, reveal GLOWING RED EYES underwater.

SOMETHING rises from the water moves towards Whedbe.

Its a SHADOWY ARM with a DAGGER for a HAND.

HENRY
Evil sons of bitches!

The Arm cuts through the water towards shore, like a shark fin.

Henry runs back over the dune.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

Henry runs through the door. Slams it shut and re-locks it. He runs back to the book in the snack bar, flips through the magic spell book.

He sees a SHADOWY THING, humanoid, same knife for a hand, red eyes; creep through the golf course towards him with jerky movements.

He finds another page in the book with pictures of a shipwreck at the bottom of the sea and the glowing eyes.

Henry drinks more root beer, from the cup.

HENRY
Necronomous slumbarata!

The Skull Cup laughs.

LIGHTNING STRIKES again. The THUNDERSTORM reforms.

In a another lightning flash we see a SHADOW BEAST, also humanoid but much bigger, more animalistic; appear.

Henry’s shocked.
So’s the Shadowy Thing. It gives Henry one last evil look, before it creeps back over the dune in that jerky movement.

The Shadow Beast follows, moves in flashes with the lightning strikes.

HENRY (CONT’D)
To hell with this.

Henry pours out the root beer.

CLOSE ON A:

PADLOCKED SAFE.

Henry throws the Skull in it, locks it with a KEY.

INT. ARCADE - LATER

Henry, with a TOOL BELT and DRILL, pushes the Safe in a WHEELBARROW to an unoccupied section of the arcade.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Waves lap upon the shore, and the Red Eyes glow beneath the surface.

More STORM CLOUDS approach. Lightning flashes and thuder roars again.

MANIACAL LAUGHTER bellows from below the water.

EXT. BOAT SHOP - DAY

TITLE CARD: “Same Town. 30 years later.”

A country road winds through a maritime forest, with a MARSH RIVER BASIN.

A BOAT SHOP sits beside a launch ramp into the river basin.

An CHEVY LUMINA mini-van, dusty, old; pulls into the parking lot.

JANE, grandma who does alot of marathons; sits at the wheel.
BUD BEACHLEY, twelve-year old surfer kid; gets out of the van, opens the sliding door, pulls out a BIKE and SURFBOARD.

HOURS LATER:

Bud scraps crud off kayaks with a scrub brush.

He hoses off the last kayak, checks his watch.

ZEEJ SANDERSEN, twelve-year old with a pre-teen mustache; SKATEBOARDS up to the stand with a surfboard. Bud notices him.

BUD
Okay Mr. Honeycut. I hosed off the boats, slayed a vast army of invertebrate sea monsters, so now I think its party time.

MR. HONEYCUTT, looks like a guy who would play keyboard for Jimmy Buffet, reads an issue of MONEY MAGAZINE.

MR. HONEYCUTT
Okay Bud. Great job. Surf’s up, dude.

NICK SANDERSEN, eleven-year old, husky with long hair; huffs and puffs on ROLLER BLADES with a boogie up to Bud and Zeej with a boogie board strapped to his back.

NICK
You sure its going to be worth it Bud? Avalon’s a an extra mile away.

BUD
Waist to chest high. West winds. Perfect.

Zeej high fives Bud.

EXT. BEACH ROAD - DAY

Bud rides a BIKE with a old used surfboard with a pirate flag drawn in marker on it.

Zeej looks back at Nick who’s fallen behind, chuckles.

ZEEJ
I don’t know if he can handle it.
NICK
Suck it, you turd weasel.

Bud leads them across an intersection to

EXT. AVALON RESORT - DAY

Its a BEACH with an old pier and a hotel.

Bud hits the brakes in the busy parking lot, sees an INDUSTRIAL FENCE built between the pier and a FANCY NEW HOTELS.

BUD
This isn’t supposed to happen for another week.

ZEEJ
What the crap is this?

NICK
Looks like the aliens from planet yuppie have taken over the pier.

ERIN, twelve year old surfer girl; rides past Bud on a more bike with a STAND UP PADDLE BOARD.

ERIN
Hey Bud. Surf’s up!

Bud catches up to Erin, parks beside her in bike rack.

BUD
Erin, my love.

ERIN
We only went out for a week and you didn’t even kiss me on the mouth. That’s not love.

BUD
Nice SUP, yuppie.

ERIN
Its actually pretty fun. Do you have a key?
BU
d 
Yeah. Of course. I might not be rich enough for a
trendy board like yours but I’ve got a key.

ERIN
Okay good. See ya out there.

Erin runs up to the gate.

She greets a SECURITY GUARD, enters the gate with a SPECIAL KEY.

BU
Yeah. No. I don’t have a key.

Bud sees surf PERFECT WAVES alone.

ZEEJ
They can’t do this.

NICK
Yeah! Screw you wankers! Nobody owns the
beach!

The Security Guard notices Nick yelling at him.

GUARD
Does anyone have a key? If not then you need to
leave before we call the cops.

Zeej shoves Nick.

ZEEJ
Shut up dumbass!

Nick shoves Zeej back.

NICK
Don’t tell me to shut up.

ZEEJ
Nick, I hate to break it to you man but Mom told
me last night. You’re biological father is...Jabba the
Hutt.
Nick strikes a martial arts pose.

NICK
C’mon. Enter the dragon.

ZEEJ
The only thing I’ll be entering is the hospital, to visit you.

Bud breaks them apart, steers them back towards the bike rack by their necks.

BUD
Cool it guys. The best waves in town today are here. We gotta get in. Give me your board Nick.

Nick takes off the boogie board backpack and Bud puts it on.

INT. PIERHOUSE - DAY

The Pierhouse is open to the public. Its filled with video games, pinball machines, and a bait and tackle shop.

Bud looks out the window, notices the Security Guards change positions.

EXT. GATE - DAY

Nick waits behind people with keys to enter the gate, steps up to SECURITY GUARD#2.

SECURITY GUARD#2
Can I see your key?

NICK
I’m just playing video games inside the pier there, but I thought you should know something I just heard about you.

SECURITY GUARD#2
What the hell are you talking about kid?
NICK
There was this girl in the pier she said she hooked up with you.

Nick watches Bud hand the surfboards up to Zeej who’s now up on the pierhouse roof.

NICK (CONT’D)
She said you didn’t have what it takes.

The Security Guard takes a defensive posture.

SECURITY GUARD
Oh yeah what was her name?

Nick claps his hands in a weird pattern so the Security Guard doesn’t see Bud climb the fence onto the roof.

NICK
I’ll go ask her.

SECURITY GUARD
I’ll bet it was Jackie. That witch.

Nick sees Bud give a thumbs up signal.

NICK
You know what, I think that might have been it. Yeah. Jackie. Terrible name. My uncle married a Jackie. She cheated on him seven times with the guys she worked with at the Home Depot. I’m gonna go back in now and check for you.

Nick slips past the Guard, back into the

EXT. PIERHOUSE - DAY

Nick walks up to the CASHIER at a turn style, pays her a dollar, and enters out onto the

EXT. PIER - DAY

TOURISTS and LOCALS fish and site see on the old wooden pier.

Erin surfs another good wave in the OCEAN below.
Other SURFERS paddle out.

Nick turns around, sees Bud and Zeej climb down off the roof.

The Cashier at the turnstlye inside sees them.

Bud throws Nick the boogie board.

    BUD
    Go!

The Boys run down the pier with the Cashier in pursuit.

Bud and Zeej toss the boards off the pier.

    CASHIER
    Hey! Get back here I’ll call the cops!

The Cashier catches up to Nick.

Bud sees a FISHERMAN pull up a live BLUEFISH.

    BUD
    Nick, grab that bluefish!

Nick grabs the BLUEFISH off the line, points it at the Cashier.

    NICK
    Stay back wench!

The Bluefish chomps at the Cashier.

A SECURITY GUARD wrestles with Nick.

    ZEEJ
    Oh shit.

Zeej leaps off the pier into the

    EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Erin sees Zeej splash down and paddle towards her on his board. She looks up and sees...
ERIN

Bud?

Bud climbs over the railing, looks down, then back at Nick. The Cashier and Security Guard capture Nick.

More Security Guards approach.

Bud climb back over the railing, sees a live EEL in a bait bucket.

He scoops the eel up and puts it in the Security Guard’s shorts, wrestles the Bluefish from the Cashier.

The Cashier lets go of Nick.

Nick climbs the railing, jumps into water below.

Bud points the enraged Bluefish at the Cashier.

BUD

Back off lady. Bluefish are the Barracuda’s of North Carolina. This thing can bite your hand right off. Do you wanna be the weird lady at Bingo night with a hook for a hand?

Bud throws the bluefish into the water, climbs the rail jumps off the pier and splashes down into the

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Bud scrambles onto his surfboard, puts his leash on, and paddles over with Nick and Zeej to the Erin and the other surfers.

Erin sees the Cashier up on the pier point out Bud.

CASHIER

I’m calling the cops!

Bud paddles up to Erin, sits on his surfboard beside her.

ERIN

What’d you do that for you idiot?
BU
This spot isn’t just for rich kids. It’s our beach too you know.

Bud sees a set of waves on the horizon, looks at Zeej and Nick.

BU (CONT’D)
Alright mateys let’s catch a couple good ones and get the hell out of here!

Nick and Zeej paddle for the first wave.

ZEEJ
Back off Sponge Bob! This one’s mine.

NICK
Suck my butt gas you douche!

Erin gets it instead, surfs its like a pro.

Zeej gets the wave, surfs it to shore.

Bud surfs the next wave, gets a good ride.

Nick gets another little wave by himself, gets tubed.

Zeej gets the next one, turns up and down it from top to bottom with panache.

Bud sees another wave, surfs it, goes right.

Erin surfs it, goes left.

BU
Get out of the way!

ERIN
No. You move!

KLONNNK! Erin and Bud collide, fly into the air and wipeout.

They look for their boards.

Bud’s board is broken in two. He stands up in waist deep water, throws the board into the white water.

Erin’s board is undamaged. She swims up to Bud.
Bud body surfs into

EXT. SHORE - DAY

Bud chases the broken board past TOURIST KIDS onto the wet sand, picks it up to reassess the damage.

Erin rides a wave in behind him, checks out the broken board.

ERIN
Bud, wait.

Erin runs up the beach, looks in her BAG, comes back to Bud with three TICKETS.

ERIN (CONT’D)
Meet me tonight at eight thirty. I’ll make it up to you, I swear.

Bud stares at the tickets.

ERIN (CONT’D)
Bud come on. I promise. Come put put and play video games with me, and it’ll be worth your while.

Erin winks at Bud.

He takes the tickets.

Nick and Zeej wade into shore, join Bud and Erin on the beach.

Zeej examines the broken board.

BUD
Tell me something good, Dr. Zeej.
ZEEJ
Snapped stick, bradda. Finito. Its a sacrifice to the summer surf gods.

Nick sees the tickets.

NICK
Alright! Free tickets. Sick!

BUD
I guess we’ll see ya tonight. How about a kiss?

Bud closes his eyes, leans in to kiss her but she laughs and dodges.

Bud and the Panini Brothers see

OFFICER KRAPMAN, jarhead cop, the kind of guy who drove a new pickup truck and listened to rap in it in high school; talk to the Cashier up on the pier.

ZEEJ
Douche patrol.

BUD
Krapman. Abandon ship.

Bud leads Nick and Zeej in a run up the dunes, leap over the gate into the

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The Security Guard flirts with TWO PRETTY GIRLS at the gate, sees the boys run for it, gets on the radio.

EXT. PIER - DAY

Officer Krapman fills out a report with the Cashier and another SECURITY GUARD, who hears the radio.

He runs back out to the

EXT. PARKING LOT -DAY

Bud and the Panini Brothers escape out the parking lot, down the road.
The parking lot is too crowded with other SURFERS, FISHERMEN, and TOURISTS for Krapman to get to them in time.

Krapman watches Bud and the Panini Brothers vanish down a side street.

EXT. BLACKBEARD’S GOLF - NIGHT

Some new features adorn the put-put course since Henry ran it. BUMPER BOATS, GO-KARTS, and a DRIVING RANGE surround the weird Pirate and Monster Statue mini golf course.

The older statues are dilapidated and neglected.

The Blackbeard Statue’s nose is broken off.

A SEAGULL poops on his shoulder.

TEENAGE EMPLOYEES, in uniforms; sell ice cream and admission tickets to TOURISTS and LOCAL KIDS.

Erin, dressed in a Blackbeard’s Golf Employee Uniform, puts a golf ball from the back of the green toward an OCTOPUS-MAN STATUE’S MOUTH.

Bud watches the ball go in, hole-in-one.

BUD
Pretty good, rich kid.

ERIN
Let’s see you do better.

BUD
Golf’s not really my thing. To the galley, me lady.

Bud points out the Video Arcade.

INT. VIDEO ARCADE - NIGHT

It has the same 80’s games as before, but of course their more beat up, and surrounded by NEW HI-TECH VIDEO GAMES.

The Animatronic Pirate Skeleton’s also still there, but now he shares space with a MONSTER STATUE, cheesy with a SKULL FACE AND OCTOPUS TENTACLES.
The Neon Surfboard is still on the wall too, along side a funny looking painting of Henry Whedbe.

Nick and Zeej shoot zombies in a Zombie Attack game.

Nick looses. The machine spits out reward tickets to him.

    NICK
    Blamo! You’ll never beat my high score buddy.

    ZEEJ
    Yeah, but you’re dead. I’ve got three lives left.

Nick points the fake gun at Zeej, pretends like he’s blasting him, then woofs down a Reese’s Cup.

Bud races Erin in a NASCAR simulation game. Erin wins at the last minute at the finish line.

    BUD
    Crap. This hasn’t been worth my while at all so far.

    ERIN
    Oh yeah? That’s a pretty cool board up there huh?

Erin gets up, points out the Neon Green 80’s Surfboard with the skull and crossbones artwork.

    BUD
    Sweet. I’d say its the sick and radical creation of a genius.

Erin unlocks the STORAGE CLOSET with a key, carries a step ladder out across the room, puts it underneath the surfboard.

She climbs the ladder, retrieves the board, gives it to Bud.

    ERIN
    Well here, now its yours.

    BUD
    You serious?
ERIN
Yep. Never been ridden before. It’s time for her maiden voyage, mate.

BUD
Thanks. Wow. You’re blowing me away.

Bud reviews the board and smiles.

Zeej looks at the board with PRETTY TOURIST GIRLS beside him.

Nick trades game tickets to the SNACK BAR GIRL in exchange for three funnel cakes.

ZEEJ
(to Tourist Girl)
Hey, you like funnel cake?

Zeej steals a funnel cake from Nick, offers it to the Tourist Girls.

Nick stands up.

NICK
Okay Zeej. Eat the food that worked hard to earn. Make fun of me for it. Its cool. But do you remember the time I caught you talking dirty to that picture in the yearbook of Miss Judy our old bus driver?

The Tourist Girls look at Zeej weird.

ZEEJ
He’s lying.

NICK
No I’m not. That’s why Mom hides the yearbooks now.

The Animatronic Skeleton laughs like a maniac.

ZEEJ
Fat ass!

Zeej throws a stool at Nick.
NICK
Heeyit!

Nick ninja rolls and the stool bounces off the Octopus Man statue, lands on the floor with no effect.

ERIN
Oh thank god. My mom would kill me if that thing broke. My Dad made it.

The Statue falls apart at every joint and topples to the ground.

BUD
Thanks Zeej. Things were finally looking good there for a minute.

ZEEJ
Sorry man.

NICK
Yeah sorry Bud.

Bud, Zeej, Nick, and Erin pick up the statue pats and sort them out.

Bud picks up the Real Human Skull, examines it.

AMELIA WHEDBE, Erin’s mom, in a Blackbeard’s Golf T-Shirt; enters with boxes.

MIKE, Bud’s old surfer dude dad; limps with a FAKE LEG also carries boxes.

AMELIA
Hey Erin honey can you help me--

Amelia sees the broken pile of statue. She and Mike rush to help pick up the pieces.

AMELIA (CONT’D)
What in god’s name happened in here, girl?

ERIN
Mom, I can explain.

MIKE
Bud, did you boys do this?
BUD
No. I mean. Sort of. We didn’t mean too. What are you doing here Dad?

AMELIA
I hired your Dad to help me around here this week.

BUD
Thanks, Amelia.

VANDERHOOF and VANDERSCHMIDT, fancy pants real estate agents; enter the arcade with measuring tape, oblivious to the people gathering animatronic skeleton bones.

AMELIA

The Real Estate Agents measure the room and examine the video games.

Bud helps Erin re-attach the Skeleton’s head, as she watches the Real Estate people with perplexity.

VANDERHOOF
Oh hi Amelia. Just getting the first measurements to send to the wrecking crew and appraiser.

ERIN
What for?

Amelia helps Mike work on the circuit board inside the Skeleton’s face. They exchange pensive glances.

AMELIA
I sold them the Golf Course, honey.

ERIN
Oh great. Sell everything off to the carpet baggers.

BUD
Yeah that sucks.

AMELIA
Erin! Where’s your manners?
Mike scolds Bud with a look, shakes his head, pleads to the sky with his hands.

MIKE
Does you’re Mom know you’re here this late?
She’s probably worried sick about you.

Mike waves his hand in front of the Animatronic Skeleton and it laughs again.

AMELIA
Erin, put that ladder away and go find somewhere else to play.

Amelia looks at the picture of Henry, sighs, ushers Erin, Bud and the Pannini’s out.

BUD
Uh, I’ll see you guys in a sec. I gotta use the bathroom.

Bud compares the human skull to animatronic one, looks for witnesses, slips the skull in his backpack.

EXT. MINI GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

The kids stroll through the course.

ZEEJ
I think its pizza time, Bud. I can hear Nickie’s stomach growling.

NICK
Don’t mess with my stomach, man. Its alive and one day it might get a mind of its own, detach from my body and kill and eat you.

ERIN
Lovely story, Nick.

BUD
Yeah well that’s cool. Hey Erin, I’m down for another round. This time your going down. I’ll see you guys in a little bit.
Bud high fives Nick and Zeej.

EXT. WHEDBE'S MINI GOLF - LATER

It's almost closing time at the mini-golf course. TOURIST FAMILIES drag towards the exit gate.

Bud, pulls back with his club and whacks a golf ball at the Blackbeard Statue, misses the hole, hits the statue in the GROIN.

Erin and Bud laugh.

BUD
Good thing he doesn’t have any balls.

Bud watches the golf ball bounce off Blackbeard, across the course and into a pond.

Erin sets her ball down, aims for the barrel of Blackbeard's PISTOL, swings, and WHOOOOOSH. Its a another hole in one.

Bud's mouth hangs open as they walk back towards the entrance gate.

BUD (CONT’D)
Man. You win.

Erin swoops in close beside Bud.

ERIN
I’ve played this course like a thousand times, Bud.
And besides, maybe you did better than you think.

Bud clues in on her vibe, glances at her hand, hesitates a moment, watches her look out at the calm waters of the river basin.

He looks, back down at her hand, holds it.

She gives it a squeeze. She smiles. Hand in Bud's, Erin steers them over to the deck along the river basin.

He puts his arm around her, brings her close.
ERIN (CONT’D)
There’s romance in the air tonight.

She smiles at him, looks deep in his eyes. He looks deep in her eyes with a goofy smirk, grabs her BUTT.

She looks at his hands on her butt, frowns, pushes off him and projects a loud shrill which echoes across the river basin.

ERIN (CONT’D)
You asshole! I’m never hanging out with you again.

Erin hoofs it into the EMPLOYEE LOUNGE, slams the door shut.

VOICE (O.S)
Asshole.

Bud's looks down to his backpack.

VOICE (O.S) (CONT’D)
Asshole.

He takes the Skull out. It glows. He's startled.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

It's the same country road Bud traveled down to get to the beach. A MARSH separates the road from the river basin, a body of water also known as the SOUND.

Bud walks in the opposite direction then before, examines the Skull.

CRAB FISHERY LIGHTS twinkle from a dock across the sound.

SOMETHING ELSE GLOWS in the water just off the dock.

It's the Shadowy Thing with red eyes Henry Whedbe saw in 1985.

A car slows behind Bud. Headlights shine on him. Bud looks back, realizes where he is again.

BUD
Oh. Sorry.
Bud waves to the car, moves to the shoulder. The car passes.

Bud looks across the water, sees the Shadowy Thing in the water.

He’s spooked.

Bud watches the Red Eyes. They move across the water towards him.

LIGHTNING STRIKES.

A SPOOKY VOICE calls to him

VOICE

Free us.

Bud freezes in fear, stares into the Shadowy Thing’s glowing eyes.

VOICE (CONT’D)

Free us and we’ll solve all your problems.

Bud looks at the human skull in his hand. It GLOWS. Bud looks back at the Shadowy Thing.

He throws the Skull in the water, runs.

The Skull floats to the surface, back towards shore with eerie speed.

A Skeleton ARM with a KNIFE for a HAND goes after the Skull in the water.

BUD

To hell with this.

He runs away.

The Skull washes on the shore in the reeds. The Skeleton Knife Hand recedes below the water.

EXT. BUD’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bud’s house is an old one-story, three bedroom beach box on stilts. It sits amongst other little beach box houses on stilts. A late 90’s Ford Escort with chipped paint and a couple dents sits in the driveway. A grassy lawn which looks out of place beside the sand drowned yards sits outfront.
Bud enters into the

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

It’s really more of a kitchenette, connected to a small den sized living room.

**LAURA**, pretty-but-worn down a bit, Bud’s mom; washes dishes.

**SUZIE**, 7 years old, Bud’s sister; sits at the dinner table, draws pictures of SKELETONS.

**BUD**

Hi mom.

**LAURA**

He Buddy. How was work today?

Bud opens the fridge.

**BUD**

It was okay. Shit. Who drank all the ginger ale?

**LAURA**

Hey. You think because you’re a working man now you can go rated R on the language?

**BUD**

The s word is PG-13.

Bud checks the pizza.

**BUD (CONT’D)**

We going vegetarian around here?

**LAURA**

Suzie and I voted on plain cheese.

**BUD**

Suzie, what are ya doing to me babe? You’re not going to grow anymore unless you eat your pepperoni pizza.

Bud shakes Suzie’s shoulders playfully.
She pulls away with a laugh.

SUZIE
Lay off pepperoni boy.

MIKE (O.S)
Laura!

Laura runs down the hall.

LAURA (O.S)
C’mon we’re going now.

Laura returns with Mike, helps him into a WHEELCHAIR.

Mike grabs his knee where his fake leg protrudes from, winches in pain.

LAURA (CONT’D)
Suzie grab mama’s purse. Bud you have to work again in the morning?

BUD
Yeah. Are you alright dad?

Bud hugs his dad.

MIKE
Its alright, son. I’ll be alright.

LAURA
Dr. Morgan says the operation’s wont take longer than 4 hours this time. We’ll be back tomorrow evening at the most. There’s more pizzas in the freezer.

BUD
Hey Mom, you ever seen anything weird going on at night out in the sound over by the crab shedders?

LAURA
I saw a fat naked guy drinking whiskey and dancing around with mud on his face out there when you were two. I think he was on meth. Why?
BUD
Oh nothing much. Thought I saw a...ghost out there.
Must have just been an optical illusion. I mean,
ghosts aren’t real right?

LAURA
I’ve never seen one. Are you sure you’re alright?

BUD
Yeah. Drive safe. Love you guys.

LAURA
Night baby.

Laura hugs and kisses Bud. He hugs Suzie, and they head out the door, leave him home alone.

EXT. BUD’S ROOM - NIGHT

A BIKINI BABE CALENDAR, SURF POSTERS, and a PIRATE FLAG hang on the walls. A POSTER of a SURFER shredding a perfect wave in Hawaii with the word “RADICAL” printed on it stands out in particular. SURF MAGAZINES, DIRTY CLOTHES sit in a few piles on the Bed and floor.

An older clunky desktop computer sits on a desk beside the bed.

Bud flops on the bed, reads a magazine, sees...

...the Skull, on the night stand beside his bed.

The Skull glows and a voice comes from it.

   SKULL
   Thirst.

   BUD
   Oh no.

Bud throws the Skull out the window.

He sits at the computer, looks up “Magic Skull Cup” on the internet.
He sifts through images of Human Skulls turned into cups. He finds an image similar to the Skull he found.

CAPTION READS:

“Cup made from a human skull used by Nostradamus for wine scrying. France. 17th century.”

Bud reads.

BUD (CONT’D)

Scrying...

Bud sees an image of Nostradamus gazing into a Skull Cup where he sees the present day New York City inside the cup.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bud opens the medicine cabinet, squeezes toothpaste on a toothbrush.

Bud shuts the cabinet, brushes his teeth.

He looks in the mirror, sees...

...the Skull atop a towel rack in the mirror’s reflection.

He spits out toothpaste, rinses, turns to the Skull atop the towel rack.

SKULL

Thirst.

He picks up the skull.

INT. BUD’S ROOM - NIGHT

Bud pours water into the Skull. The water disappears like something invisible drinks it.

The Skull glows.

SKULL

Rum.

BUD

I don’t have any.
SKULL
Ale.

BUD
We’re all out.

SKULL
Wine.

BUD
Damnit. One glass. But you better tell me what the hell is going on or I’ll torch your ass in the backyard, man.

Bud makes a quick FLAME ball with a LIGHTER and can of KRYLON ART SPRAY, makes a menacing face.

SKULL
Yes.

Bud backs away from the Skull with caution.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT
Bud rummages through the cabinets, finds a half empty bottle of Mom’s wine.

INT. BUD’S ROOM - NIGHT
Bud pours the wine in the Skull. The Skull glows. The wine swirls around in the cup on top.

WORDS form in the wine.

“Captain Blackbeard the pirate here matey. Cast a spell with this cup made from me skull and me magic be yours.”

The wine disappears as if a GHOST drinks it.

The Skull laughs.

BUD
Magic.
Bud looks around as if he knows he’s somehow already in deep trouble, but he’s excited.

EXT. PUBLIC BEACH - DAY

A far less maintained beach access than the private beach at the pier. An old wood staircase raises up to a bridge over sand dunes, which overlooks the beach and ocean to the East. Wooden planks in the stairs rot with pilings missing or broken off by past storms.

Bud, Nick, and Zeej step on the

EXT. DUNE BRIDGE - DAY

The ocean washes around with no true shape of form, crashing upon the beach.

BUD
Surf sucks. As usual. But we’ve got an edge, mates.

Bud points Blackbeard’s Cup at the sea.

Zeek pulls a copy of the same pirate book Whedbe had in 1985.

ZEEJ
I hope we don’t hex ourselves

NICK
Yeah our mom would be pissed.

BUD
Where’d you get that book anyways man?

ZEEJ
Ebay.

BUD
Okay. Find the spell.

Zeek finds the spell in the book beside an illustration depicting Blackbeard’s Cup and a calm ocean.

Nick and Zeej look at the cup, then at each other. Spooked.

Bud pours a bottle of ginger ale into the Skull.
NICK
Hey you got any more, man? I’m thirsty too.

ZEEJ
Ease up you blob. We’ll get some more at Stop n’
Shop on the way home.

Bud pats Zeej on the shoulder.

BUD
Recite the spell for me, Zeej.

ZEEJ
Why me?

BUD
You know latin.

ZEEJ
No I don’t.

NICK
You were Mrs. Largin’s favorite student in Word
Origins class.

BUD
Yeah. You got an A and we got D’s.

ZEEJ
That’s because I helped her get her cat out of a tree
one day.

NICK
Oouie. Zeek just loves showing off for the mature,
full figured female authority figures.

ZEEJ
Shut your mouth blubber butt.

BUD
You also got an A in Spanish class, so recite the
spell Dr. Zeej.
ZEEJ
Dammit. Okay. But if I get possessed by the devil or something I’m going to barf on you guys first.

BUD
If I turn into a zombie or something I want you to kill me quick Zeej.

NICK
Yeah. Me too. Zombies suck.

ZEEJ
Here goes nothing....

Zeej reads the spell out loud.

ZEEJ (CONT’D)
Transformous Meteorologiko.

Blackbeard’s Cup glows, and “drinks” the ginger ale.

ZEEJ (CONT’D)
Holy shit. We’re going to hell.

Blackbeard’s Cup laughs.

The sloppy ocean below changes into

Pristine WAVES, rolling into shore.

The boys’ eyes widen in astonishment.

BUD
Head high.

NICK
Perfect.

ZEEJ
Barrels.

NICK
Holy shit it worked man.
BLACKBEARD’S CUP
Yaharg! Hahaha! Me magic always works lads.
Now go out and ride the surf.

Bud’s jaw drops.

BUD
He can like, full on talk now.

BLACKBEARD
Aye. The curse be lifted.

ZEEJ
Are you really Blackbeard, man?

BLACKBEARD
Yoho! Edward Teach be me birth name, boys.

NICK
So you’re a ghost?

BLACKBEARD
Yeehar. Kind of. I can explain later. Now go get “radical” like in them pictures I seen on your wall, Bud.

The Boys run down the stairs to the beach with their boards.

Bud stashes Blackbeard’s Cup under an abandoned life guard stand.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Bud, Nick, and Zeej ride perfect waves.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Bud, Nick, and Zeej descend the stairs from the beach into the parking lot.

TRENT DUTCHIE and other PREPPY FRAT TYPES play CORNHOLE with Erin and other PREPPY GIRLS on a lawn in the center of the parking lot.
Erin throws a bean bag at the hole in the plywood cornhole box, scores. She jumps and cheers.

Trent hugs her, looks over her shoulder down at her ass, gives Bud a lecherous thumbs up, smirks.

Trent extends the hug too long. Erin pulls off him, sees

ERIN
Bud.

Bud fakes a smile.

BUD
Hey Erin!

ERIN
Wanna play cornhole? Or are you going to spaz out and ruin that too?

TRENT
Yeah Bud. Don’t be an asshole. Play cornhole.

The Preps pass around a JOINT, laugh at Trent’s lame slogan.

Bud, Nick, and Zeej wash their boards off under rinse stations.

BUD
No thanks dudes. Did you check the surf? It was epic out there

TRENT
What are you talking about you little kook? The pier’s the only place breaking in town right now.

Nick gives Bud Blackbeard’s Skull as they move toward’s their bikes.

Erin’s pissed.

ERIN
The cup!

TRENT
Ooohoo. The cup. What have we got there?
Trent gives a prep the joint, runs over, snatches Blackbeard’s Cup from Bud.

    BUD
    Give it back.

Bud pulls back the cup, but Trent, a foot taller, holds it higher.

    TRENT
    You dork.

Trent kneels Bud in the stomach, sly like, so it looks like to Erin that Bud fell.

Bud falls down on his back, lays unconscious. Nick and Zeej help him.

    ERIN
    Bud! Trent you bastard.

Trent pushes Nick and Zeej off Bud, crouches down, examines him.

    TRENT
    C’mon. Get up, faker. You little kook. Get the fuck up.

Bud punches Trent.

Trent choke-slams Bud against the rinse station wall.

    TRENT (CONT’D)
    You’re dead you little kook!

    GRAHM (O.S)
    Who you calling kook, Trent? Ya douche.

GRAHM, 17, tattoos, renegade, loner, surfer dude; stands by his VAN, with a GRIM REAPER AIRBRUSHED on it.

    TRENT
    I’m calling your little buddy here a kook, Grahm.
    He hasn’t paid his dues.

    GRAHM
    Have you? Put him down or I’ll push your face in.

Trent lowers Bud.
BU

Thanks Grahm. Don’t worry about me next time though.

GRAHM

You alright man?

BU

Yeah man. See ya around.

Bud, Nick, and Zeej ride away on their bikes.

Erin shakes her head at Bud.

PREP

So Grahm what’s the deal? Can you get us that keg or not?

GRAHM

Yeah sure. What’s in it for me?

TRENT

My cousin Carey’s going to be there.

GRAHM

The one that always wears the yoga pants with the UGG boots?

TRENT

That’s the one.

GRAHM

What kind of beer do you guys want?

Trent hands Grahm money. He counts it.

EXT. STOP N SHOP - DAY

Bud, Nick, and Zeej sit on the curb.

Zeej opens a package of PEANUT BUTTER CUPS.

Nick stares at the cups, hungry.
NICK
Can I have one?

ZEEJ
No. What happened to the cookies you bought?

NICK
I ate em’ man.

ZEEJ
Respect your body a little more man and you won’t be such a slug.

NICK
Do you want me to wreck your shit Zeej?

Nick assumes fighting stance.

BUD
Cool it guys.

Bud looks at Blackbeard’s Cup.

BUD (CONT’D)
Ok man. So what else can you do?

BLACKBEARD
I can give you more of what you want Bud, but first I need help.

BUD
With what?

BLACKBEARD
I was once a man, and like every man, I deserve to meet my maker in the afterlife.

BUD
Oh, you mean like, heaven?
BLACKBEARD
Sort of. It's actually a bit more complicated than that. But what I need from you is simple. Reunite me with my body.

BUD
The stories say it's at the bottom of Teach's Cove, but I don't have any scuba gear or anything like that so--

BLACKBEARD
Nay. Me body rests in a tomb amongst the Algonquin burial grounds at Colington Point.

ZEEJ
Not gonna be easy. Melvin works the evening shift.

BLACKBEARD
Should be easier than a fisherman's daughter on a Saturday night. Tis merely a graveyard.

BUD
Not anymore.

Grahm pulls up in his van.

GRAHM

NICK
Hell yeah. Let's go.

BUD
Nah man. Thanks though. We're good.

NICK
What?

BUD
Don't that badass thing we're doing with this badass Skull Cup?

GRAHM
That thing is pretty badass. Where'd you get it?
BUD
Left to die in the arcade.

ZEEJ
Yeah. Its a shame nobody respects the badass original old school around here anymore.

GRAHM
Yeah. This place is overrun with rich kid invaders man. Welp, see you around dudes.

Grahm enters the Stop N Shop.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The Boys bikes through the woods, with SHOVELS.

Bud holds Blackbeard’s Cup.

NICK
Bud, you sure we’re not openin some kind of portal to hell?

ZEEJ
If we did, then we’re already screwed, Nick. So shut up and enjoy the damnation.

BLACKBEARD
Don’t worry about a thing. All we need now is me corpse and I’ll be on my way.

They ride over the BRIDGE, pass by the crab shedders out in the sound.

BUD
Hey Teach, I saw something freaky out here the other night, and I kinda need some verification.

BLACKBEARD
What manner of freakishness? Ghostly lights? A flying Dutchman? A fisherman screwing a horny mermaid in the moonlight?
BUDD
It was this thing. It had glowing eyes, an evil laugh, it was kind of like...

LIGHTNING STRIKES. It RAINS.

The SHADOWY THING stands in the road.

BUDD (CONT’D)
That. It was exactly that!

NICK
Holy shit!

ZEEJ
Jesus Christ!

BLACKBEARD
He can’t help you now.

The Shadowy Thing turns, runs after them.

BUDD
Ride!

The boys pedal for their lives, escape the Shadowy Thing for now.

It turns, marvels at a

CELL PHONE TOWER.

LIGHTNING STRIKES the tower. The blinking light stops.

The SHADOW BEAST from 1985 rises from the water.

The Shadowy Thing’s scared, but the Shadow Beast recedes back into the water.

The Shadowy Thing laughs with evil, and relief.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Bud, Nick, and Zeej look back, see the Shadowy Thing gone, keep riding.

Bud holds the lighter and Krylon spray to Blackbeard’s Cup.
BUD
Verification now or I torch you ya creepy talking head!

BLACKBEARD
He’s a demon. He was once a man, a pirate like me, but he sold his soul to the devil, and now like me he’s trapped between the living and the dead.

ZEEJ
Roast it Bud!

NICK
What happened to enjoying damnation!? I never even got to be actually sin. Now I’m damned forever!

BLACKBEARD
No one is damned. But we need me bones and a magic talisman I stole from Calypso, the goddess of the sea.

ZEEJ
Calypso. She brings good waves. Maybe if I help you she’ll finally hook me up with my first tube ride.

BUD
So if we get the talisman thingy everything’s cool?

BLACKBEARD
Aye. But we must first dig up me bones to get the talisman thingy.

NICK
And we still get treasure right?

BLACKBEARD
Yo ho ho. Ineed.

BUD
And I need one more thing.
BLACKBEARD
Aye what be this thing?

BUD
I need a girl to like me again.

BLACKBEARD
Yaha. That’s not so easy as making good waves for
surfin, Bud. But I’ll try me best.

BUD
Deal.

The Boys ride on into the rainy night.

EXT. STOP N SHOP - NIGHT

Graham runs through the rain, jumps in his van, starts the ignition, puts the van in drive.
The Shadowy Thing stares at him in the headlights. He slams on the breaks but its too late and
WHAM. He hits the Thing, knocks it down.

Graham back up, gets out, finds...

...a SKULL, and pile of BONES, a bone arm with a CORRODED KNIFE for a hand.

GRAHM
What the---

The Knife hand reaches up, SLICES Graham’s legs, over and over.

GRAHM (CONT’D)
Ow! You dick!

The Skull laughs.

Graham’s shocked. He jumps back in the

INT. VAN - NIGHT

He locks the doors, turns the ignition, but it won’t start.
GRAHM
C’mon!

Grahm picks up his phone. No signal. CRACK.

A SKELETON ARM pulls on the door.

Grahm climbs to the other side, jumps out of the van with the keg of beer.

EXT. VAN - NIGHT

Rain really pours now. Zero visibility.

GRAHM
Bud? Neat prank man. I was actually scared there for minute.

A SKELETON HAND grips Grahm’s shoulder.

He spins, sees...

...The Shadowy Thing’s red eyes glow at him.

The Knife Hand cuts Grahm across the chest, deep. Grahm doubles over in pain.

The Thing pulls Grahm close to the knife.

SHADOWY THING
Ahoy mate.

GRAHM
Heh?

SHADOWY THING
I need a virgin’s blood.

The Shadowy Thing looks at the Grahm’s blood on its knife hand.

SHADOWY THING (CONT’D)
That be you?

GRAHM
Yeah. So what? I’ve almost been to third base. I’m working on a couple high school chicks online.
SHADOWY THING
That’s sad. You look like you could, lad. What a pathetic place this land’s become.

The Shadowy Thing stabs Graham again. Graham falls down.

The Shadowy Thing stabs him over and over again.

The Shadow Thing stabs the keg with its knife hand. Beers sprays.

The Shadowy Thing tastes the beer, looks at its bloody knife hand.

SHADOWY THING (CONT’D)
Yaharg. Party time.

The Shadowy Thing cackles into the night, stroll away.

EXT. COLINGTON POINT - DAY

A NEW CHEVY TAHOE, converted into a security patrol car; cruises down the road in a

GATE COMMUNITY along the shores of the sound in a HARBOR.

A SECURITY GUARD SHACK protects the MAIN COMMUNITY STREET.

INT. TAHOE - NIGHT

A NAKED DANCING HULA GIRL and G.I Joe preside on the dashboard, secured with glue. MOLLY HATCHET blares on the radio.

MELVIN MELVINO, middle-aged, bearded, mullet, military tattoos; drives up to the

EXT. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT

Melvin exits the Tahoe, heaves barrel-chested towards the shack, a .45 holstered to his belt.

He casts a stare out towards the sounds, sees a storm approach over the water.

He opens the sliding door, enters the
INT. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT

FREDDY, security guard, college age; sits in the shack, plays a WAR VIDEO GAME.

Melvin’s not amused. The Security Guard is killed by ENEMY SNIPERS, in the game.

MELVIN
Video games make you impotent. Its Saturday night. Go out and meet a girl, Freddy.

Melvin switches off the game.

Freddy scampers out the door without word.

Melvin checks on the SECURITY MONITORS. There are SEVERAL. The entire gated community covered.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Melvino’s in command now. All is secure.

Melvin switches on AM TALK RADIO.

RADIO HOST (O.S)
Welcome back to Night Talk. George Gary here with you. For those just tuning in tonight, we’ve gotten strange calls from Nags Head, North Carolina, a few people claiming strange things afoot. One caller, a young man, who is in critical condition at the hospital there reported being stabbed 25 times and left for dead, says a Skeleton Man did it. Hmm. Ghosts? Drugs? Or just a prank? What do you think Dr. Crabtree?

Melvin’s eyes light up with interest.

DOCTOR CRABTREE (O.S)
I want to believe, George.

Melvin opens a secret panel, revealing

A COMPLETE ARSENAL of modern WEAPONRY. PISTOLS, ASSAULT RIFLES, M-60’s and a ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER.
MELVIN
Come on up here to Mel’s house, you drugged out
extra-terrestrial skeleton ghost freaks. I got what
you need.

Melvin picks up a rifle, tests the aim, puts it back, closes the secret panel.

Melvin cranks the Molly Hatchet, cracks open a beer, and watches STEPHANIE
ABRAMS on the WEATHER CHANNEL.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Hot damn. Stephanie Abrams, you looking good
tonight in that little dress, girl. Woo!

Melvin plays air guitar, head bangs.

EXT. BUSHES. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT
In a thicket behind the “Colington Island” sign, Bud, Nick, and Zeej hide, watch Melvin
rock out on air guitar.

BUD
Looks like a regular guy.

ZEEJ
I heard he escaped a P.O.W camp in Nam’. Fifty-nine confirmed kills. Twenty of em ere escaping
that camp.

NICK
Some kids I know saw him in the woods one day
and said he killed a black bear with his bare hands.
And then he ripped out its heart and ate it.

BLACKBEARD
Sounds like a fine man. Yar.

Bud pushes his bike from behind the bushes, rides up to the

EXT. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT
Melvin practices KARATE in the shack, sees Bud, opens the sliding door.
MELVIN
How can I help you, dude?

BUD
I’m going to a Erin Whedbe’s.

MELVIN
You sure you’re not coming in here to throw park benches in the lake?

BUD
No sir.

MELVIN
Good. Then I won’t have to knock you upside the head with my baseball bat.

Melvin shows the bat.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Hold on a sec.

Melvin dials the number, waits. Nothing.

Melvin picks up his CELL PHONE. No service.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Well shit. You got a phone?

BUD
No. Please sir, just let me in. I’m just looking to eat some cake and whack the hell out of that pinata and eat candy till I puke.

MELVIN
Sorry little dude. No way.

Melvin slides the door shut on Bud.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

SEA PINES, LIVE OAK, and DOGWOOD TREES out behind the McMansion backyards, stretching out to a point in the harbor.
Bud, Nick, and Zeej carry Blackbeard’s Cup through the woods along a path.

BUD
I hope your body isn’t buried under some jerk’s house.

BLACKBEARD
Nay. Tis under the Dogwood tree on the tip of the point thar.

ZEEJ
How do you know that?

BLACKBEARD
I don’t for certain, but I believe in me mate I entrusted with the task.

Nick lags behind, panting like a dog on a summer day.

NICK
Hey guys, hold on. I gotta take a break.

BUD
Only one hour before your mom sends the whole town looking for you, Nick.

Nick wipes sweat from his head, forces himself onwards, up the path.

CUT TO:

TV

CHERYL TIEGS, works out on a WEIRD EXCERCISE MACHINE in an infomercial.

Melvin watches her while polishing his ROCKET LAUNCHER.

MELVIN
Hot damn. 65 years old and still a babe. Come on over to Mel’s place, baby.

Melvin checks SECURITY MONITORS, sees

Bud, Nick, and Zeej tromp behind a house in the woods.
Melvin holds a TASER into view, turns it on, shuts the secret weapons compartment, picks up the bat.

He doesn’t know he’s watched by
The Shadowy Thing, and two more SHADOWY THINGS in the rain.

EXT. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT
Melvin opens the sliding glass door, steps over to his truck.

He halts for a moment, as if he senses SOMETHING WICKED nearby.

He gets in, turns on the truck, drives into the gated community.

EXT. BUSHES - NIGHT
The Shadowy Things run from the bushes to the security shack.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT
Melvin U-turns, points the truck towards the shack.

He sees the Things, boney arms and legs.

MELVIN
No shit.

He gently pulls the .45, takes the safety off.

EXT. SECURITY SHACK - NIGHT
The Things snoop around.

Melvin sneaks up behind the knife handed, leader, puts the gun to its head.

MELVIN
One sound and I blow your head clean off.

The Shadowy Thing spins, roars.

Melvin FIRES.
The Thing swings the knife hand at Melvin, but he dips, pops back up with the .45.

BLAM . BLAM . BLAM . Melvin shoots the Thing but it keeps coming.

Boney arms reach from behind, hold Melvin.

He turns looks, horrified at what he sees.

    SHADOWY THING LEADER
    Your weapons or your life mate.

Melvin puts up his hands.

EXT. BIKE PATH - NIGHT

Its a nice path along the woods in the gated community.

Erin rides her bike right past a

SHADOWY THING.

She looks back at it, crashes into a TRASH CAN.

The SHADOWY THING closes in on her with Melvin’s MACHINE GUN.

    SHADOWY THING
    Halt or I’ll cut you to ribbons, wench.

Erin’s stunned.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Bud, Nick, and Zeej stop at the DOGWOOD TREE out on the point where the bridge to the island is visible.

KAAAAAAABOOOOM! A brilliant orange-white-light flashes on the boys’ faces.

The spin around, and see

The bridge COLLAPSE. On FIRE.

Bud looks through BINOCULARS at the bridge.
EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Shadowy Thing Leader with the knife hand loads another round into Melvin’s ROCKET LAUNCHER.

A COP CAR, sirens on and wailing, drives across the bridge from the other side, but realizes what happened too late.

The Shadowy Thing Leader fires the rocket launcher again and the bridge before the Cop Car EXPLODES and COLLAPSES before the car can stop, and it slides into the water, on fire.

Rain still pours, so its hard to see the Shadowy Things still, but its clear to see it watching the cop car sink with psychotic mirth.

SHADOWY THING LEADER
Yo-ho ho and a bottle of rum!

The Thing scampers back towards the island with a cackle that echoes across the water, pauses, sees Bud with Blackbeard’s Cup.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Bud is stunned.

BUD
Guys, dig!

The kids gaze at the blown up bridge, dig as if they’re lives depend on it.

BUD
He saw you, Teach. I think he wants someone to relate to.
BLACKBEARD
He’s got no concern for me.

NICK
Does he know you?

BLACKBEARD
Yes. So dig up me bones before he gets here and I’ll destroy him with me black magic.

BUD
We dig too deep and we’ll hit water.

BLACKBEARD
Aye. Won’t be a problem. I instructed me mate
Lovely to build a chamber of cobblestone upon the
roots of this here Dogwood tree.

BUD
Solid.

ZEEJ
I don’t think so, Bud. An evil thing is on the loose
with a rocket launcher. Either we’re in deep shit or
I’m hallucinating from skipping dinner tonight.

NICK
Hey wait a minute. Your tomb isn’t booby trapped
or nothin is it? I’m not going out like that.

BLACKBEARD
Tis nothin to be worried about Nick. Lovely knew
I’d be the only one looking for this here spot.

BUD
Guys. I think we passed the point of no return
when we used a haunted human skull to summon
perfect waves. And yeah. Something evil is out
there and what we need to stop is six feet below
this tree.

BLACKBEARD
Yar. What he said.
Bud sets Blackbeard’s Cup in a branch on the Dogwood tree, spades the shovel into the top grass layer.

Zeej helps. Nick hesitates.

**BUD**
You don’t get any say in the last couple magic wishes if you don’t help out Nick.

**ZEEJ**
Yeah Nick. Besides, I think working for a talking skull is the coolest thing you’ve done this summer since Sara Jordan let you put tanning oil on her at the pool.

**NICK**
Yep. She moaned with pleasure when I hit those erogenous zones.

Nick smiles with remembered pride and helps.

**BLACKBEARD**
Sounds like a fun girl. What’s an erogenous zone?

**NICK**
Special places you can touch on a woman’s body that make her real horny.

**BLACKBEARD**
Yo ho ho. I’m familiar with the areas you refer to.

**ZEEJ**
Damn Teach. They always said you were a full on ladies man.

**BLACKBEARD**

Yahar.

The cup’s eyes glow.
INT. GUARD SHACK - NIGHT

Melvin, handcuffed to the desk, gagged with duct tape, sits on the floor.

Melvin kicks the desk leg, but it won’t break.

FREDDY, the Security Guard from before, opens the door, sees Melvin.

Melvin wiggles around and yells. Eddie takes off the duct tape.

MELVIN

Freddy. Get these cuffs off me. Some serious shit has gone down tonight and we gotta kick some ass.

Freddy shows Delbert the keys, but doesn’t unlock the cuffs.

FREDDY

Okay, but you gotta give me some of your pills you got for your back injury first.

MELVIN

You terrible little prick. Fine. They’re in the bottom drawer under the condoms.

Freddy searches the bottom desk drawer, pulls out the BOTTLE of PILLS.

FREDDY

What do you need condoms for?

MELVIN

I pull sexy single rich chicks all the time when I’m in here working the late shift. Unlock these handcuffs you buttpipe.

Freddy unlocks Melvin’s cuffs.

Melvin opens his secret weapons compartment, all that’s left is one HAND GRENADE.

MELVIN (CONT’D)

I’m going to kick the crap out of these boney-ass bitches.

Melvin kisses the hand grenade.
EXT. DOGWOOD TREE - NIGHT

Bud, Nick, and Zeej shovel up deeper dirt.

Bud admires the dirt pile he’s made, but freezes in horror as he sees...

...The Shadowy Thing Leader rise up onto the bulkhead, climbs the steps from the water behind Nick and Zeej.

And for the first we see it completely.

It’s a re-animated SKELETON, in torn pirate clothes, with that coreoded blood stained KNIFE for a HAND

BUD
Ah, guys.

BLACKBEARD
Funnybone.

NICK
Who?

BLACKBEARD
Captian Funnybone. My old foe.

ZEEJ
C’mon Bud. Keep at it. We’re almost there man.

Funnybone takes Blackbeard’s Skull off the tree limb.

BLACKBEARD
Run for your lives boys!

Nick and Zeej spin, see Funnybone. The boy’s scream in terror, leap from the hole.

Nick trips.

Bud and Zeej pull him into the woods towards the guard shack with them.

The Skeleton with the Headshot cuts them off, points Melvin’s .45 at them.

The boys halt before him.
HEADSHOT
Goin somewhere, laddies?

Funnybone studies Blackbeard’s Skull.

FUNNYBONE
Yoho, boys. Don’t you want to know if what ye be after tis truly buried here?

Funnybone tosses Blackbeard’s Skull to Headshot, who catches it with one hand, keeps the gun on the boys.

Funnybone orders the boys back to the hole.

BLACKBEARD
Careful, Funnybone. You might find the devil waiting for you down there.

FUNNYBONE
What makes you so sure you’re not late for a meeting with him yourself, Teach?

BLACKBEARD
I used magic to survive. You used it for tyranny.

Bud shovels out more dirt, hits tree roots, finds nothing.

BUD
Where’s the tomb, man?

Funnybone peers into the hole, sees high tide sound water wash over the tree roots. He laughs.

FUNNYBONE
Betrayed again I see, Captain Blackbeard.

BLACKBEARD
Me mate wasn’t the most reliable of sorts, but at least me bones be safe from your evil.
FUNNYBONE
Don’t lose your head, Teach. I believe that’s been your trouble all along.

Bud and Zeej exit the hole.

Funnybone takes Blackbeard’s Skull from Headshot, marvels at it.

FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)
Think I’ll let you go home tonight lads.

NICK
Really?

Bud shakes his head in disbelief.

Funnybone points his knife hand at Zeej’s face.

ZEEJ
Please, man. Not the face! It’s all I’ve got in this twisted world.

Funnybone opens Zeej’s backpack, lifts out Kim’s pirate book. He flips through it, to the chapter on the Skull Cup.

Funnybone sets the knife against Bud’s cheek.

SLICE. The knife cuts Bud. Blood dribbles onto it.

BUD
Ow. You douche.

Funnybone hoists the bloodied knife in the air, recites a new spell from the book.

FUNNYBONE

BLACKBEARD
Been nice knowing you, lads. Ye tried your best and that’s all that matters.

BUD
Everybody go their mental happy place, alright?
ZEEJ
I can’t. All I see is death.

NICK
I’m never going to make out with a real girl am I?

The ground RUMBLES.

WAVES on the Albemarle Sound TURN.

A SKELETON in late 16th century armor, PORTUGUESE with SWORD, SHIELD, cracked STERNUM and broken collar bone, rises from the water, climbs up the bulkhead steps to the edge of the woods, acknowledges Funnybone.

FUNNYBONE
Mata-los.

PORTUGUESE SKELETON
Sim.

BUD
What did he say Zeej.

ZEEJ
Kill them.

NICK
Don’t. I never tasted sushi.

Headshot aims the pistol at Nick and Zeej.

The Portuguese raises his sword.

Bud winces in preparation for death.

HEADSHOT
He’s gonna shit his pants, Cap’n.

The Skeletons cackle wildly at Bud.

Bud knocks the pistol from Headshot with the shovel.

NICK
Heeut!
Nick karate rolls, catches the gun.

**ZEEJ**
Right on, Nick!

Nick points the gun at Funnybone, Headshot and the Portugese.

**NICK**
Eat lead, you demonic dorks.

Nick shoots, and BLAM, blows a hole in Funnybone’s skull.

Funnybone’s eyes glow, as he licks the hole with a FORKED TONGUE.

The bullet hole in Funnybone’s Skull closes up.

**ZEEJ**
I don’t like that one bit.

Funnybone and the Skeletons close in on Bud, Nick, and Zeej Headshot rips the gun back from Nick.

**MELVIN (O.S)**
Leave those kids alone, you dirty skeleton bastards.

Melvin jumps from the trees, followed by Freddy.

Melvin displays the hand grenade.

Freddy spots the Skeletons, runs back into the woods.

**MELVIN (CONT’D)**
Freddy you bitch! Okay you what this is, right, my fellow little human dudes?

**BUD**
Hit the deck!

Melvin pulls the pin, lobs the grenade, somersaults behind the dogwood tree.

The boys dive for cover.

Funnybone catches the grenade. His fellow Skeletons huddle around him in curiosity.
FUNNYBONE
Tis a queer little cannon ball.

HEADSHOT
Aye. It’s like a pine cone made of steel--

BOOOOOOM!

The Skeletons explode.

The boys run back through the woods towards the GUARD SHACK.

The Skeletons reform, give chase. Headshots’ leg blown to bits by shrapnel.

BUD
We need that book back.

BLACKBEARD
Nay. All we need is to reunite me with me jolly old
mate Patterson. He’s buried in Nags Head Woods.

BUD
Its ten miles away. We need wheels.

MELVIN
Melvino’s on your side now boys.

The boys arrive at the

EXT. GUARD SHACK - NIGHT

Freddy’s inside. Freddy locks the door.

Melvin pulls on the handle.

MELVIN
Freddy, you twink.

Melvin blasts the door open.

Freddy runs out the other side, right into Funnybone. He thrusts the HOOK in Freddy’s
GUT.

Freddy falls, DEAD.
MELVIN (CONT’D)
Great job, Freddy.

Headshot puts the gun to Melvin’s head, pulls the trigger.

CLICK. Headshot’s out of ammo.

Melvin blasts Headshot’s second leg off. Portugese picks Headshot off the pavement.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!

M-16 Skeleton shoots at Melvin from the opposite end, Erin subdued in his other boney arm.

Melvin and the boys run for cover behind the community sign.

Melvin rises, blasts off Machine Gun’s hand.

Erin escapes.

       BUD
       Erin!

Melvin and the kids evacuate from the sign.

Bud takes Erin’s hand, runs with he and the gang towards Melvin’s truck.

Funnybone fires the M-16 on them, shoots up Melvin’s truck.

       MELVIN
       Hell no. That truck is my woman!

Melvin retrieves the .45 pistol.

BWOOOOP. POLICE SIRENS.

COP CARS, screech to a stop, cut off Bud and the gang.

OFFICER KRAPMAN

Exits his cruiser, points a REVOLVER at Melvin.

A ROOKIE COP finds Freddy’s body.

       ROOKIE
       Holy Toledo. They killed a guy!
The Cops point their guns at the kids.

    KRAPMAN
    Drop the weapon, Melvin.

    MELVIN
    Hell no, Krapman. Check them out.

The Skeletons, who advance on the humans.

    KRAPMAN
    What the hell? Okay. Melvin, drop your piece just
    and let us handle this.

Funnybone sprays bullets at the cops.

The kids take shelter with the cops.

    BLACKBEARD
    Help us find the grave of Jim Patterson and ye town
    be spared calamity.

The Cops drop behind their cars.

Krapman reloads, sees Blackbeard’s glowing skull talk.

    KRAPMAN
    What in the sam hell?

    ROOKIE
    What’s our next move?

    KRAPMAN
    Boom-sticks.

Krapman trades revolver for his SHOTGUN

GUARD SHACK

The Cops swing up blasting SHOTGUNS at Funnybone.

    MELVIN
    Rock n roll!
Melvin blasts at Funnybone.

Funnybone’s bones heal almost as fast as they’re shot.

BUD
Melvin c’mon, we’re out of here!

Melvin blasts Funnybone’s skull apart, but it reforms in an instant. Melvin backs up, reloads.

MELVIN
I’m covering you.

EXT. COP CAR BARACADE - NIGHT

Melvin and the Cops run out of ammo.

Funnybone advances, seizes the shotgun from Melvin.

Melvin flees, but Funnybone pulls him back, threatens with his knife hand.

FUNNYBONE
Of all these fools in this here place and time, I like you the most, matey. Now give up or I’ll be chumming for sharks with ye internal organs.

The Cops run but they’re surrounded and dragged back by

A FEMALE SKELETON PIRATE and a horde of MALE and FEMALE SKELETONS, tattered clothes, damp and freshly resurrected from their watery graves off the coast.

KRAPMAN’S COP CAR

Bud climbs in the cruiser. Erin shimmies around into the passenger side.

Erin panics at the site of the Skeleton’s human captives.

ERIN
They got everybody! What the hell is happening, Bud? My thoughts are moving so fast I can’t think straight! You know how to drive one of these things?
Bud reassure’s her with a hug.

BUD
Everything’s fine. This Skull is possessed with a
great and powerful pirate-slash-magician’s spirit. Sit
back and enjoy the ride. I’m taking control.

Bud throws the cruiser into gear.

CIRCLETREE
After them.

Nick and Zeej haul ass with Pirate Skeletons in pursuit.

CRUISER
Bud drives to Nick and Zeej.

BUD
Guys, run!

Zeej climbs in the car.

NICK
trips on a sprinkler, falls behind in the grass.

ZEEJ
Runs back for

ZEEJ
Nick!

The Skeletons pull Nick and Zeej toward Funnybone.

BUD
floors the gas, crashes the car into another Cop car, hits a couple Skeletons.

Bud and Erin reach out the driver’s side window for Nick and Zeej, but its too late.
Skeletons carry Nick and Zeej off in a sea of corroded bones.

    BUD
    No!

More Pirate Skeletons attack the cruiser.

A Skeleton pries open the door.

Erin kicks the Skeleton to the ground.

Bud hits the gas, mows over the Skeletons, speeds out to

INT. CRUISER. COUNTRY - NIGHT

Bud drives, punches the steering wheel. Erin holds Teach.

    ERIN
    What’s the story here, Bud?

    BUD
    Damnit. Nick, Zeej. I gave up on my best friends. I
    resurrected that psycho skeleton from hell.

    ERIN
    Bud, what the crap inspired you to do anything like
    that?

    BLACKBEARD
    It’s not your fault. Curses be placed on the
    Whedbes, the local family I entrusted to keep my
    head from evil.

    ERIN
    Whedbes? Nobody ever told me I had to take care
    of a talking Skull or else dead guys would rise up
    from the grave and ruin my summer vacation.
    Who’s head are you, man?

    BLACKBEARD
    Edward Teach.
ERIN
You mean?

BUD
Yep.

ERIN
Holy ghost turds.

Lightning strikes. Thunder rumbles.

EXT. GUARD SHACK - NIGHT

Funnybone sticks his knife against Krapman’s throat.

FUNNYBONE
I’d be honored if you’d show me around town, sheriff. How many more bridges are there?

KRAPMAN
There’s five more, but you’ll never-

Funnybone THWAPS Krapman in the head with the butt of the machine gun.

FUNNYBONE
The real sheriff and I’ll be off sightseeing tour.

Funnybone gives Patch the rocket launcher.

FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)
Take the want-to-be sheriff and his accomplices home, find the rest of his toys, and blow the bridges.

Patch and a couple Skeletons drag Melvin, Nick, and Zeej into Kim’s mini van.

MELVIN
Sorry, Captain Boneshit. You used my last two RPG’s on the first bridge.

FUNNYBONE
A man like you can never get enough fire power.

PATCH
What you want me to with them when I’m done?
FUNNYBONE
Patch, we’re skeletons. Its our job to duty to nature to propagate our species.

Funnybone glances at his hook, and over to Melvin, who hangs his head low with shame.

PATCH
Aye.

Patch cackles.

Zeej struggles against Patch’s clutches.

ZEEJ
Sons of bitches!

Nick prays.

NICK
Please God, I’m sorry I put all those bags of flaming dog shit on people’s doorsteps last Easter. Don’t let us die. Amen.

FUNNYBONE
Hah. The Gods only comes here in the form of a hurricane. And they come to destroy.

Funnybone opens a cop car’s passenger side door, throws in Krapman.

FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)
My fellow bone people. Its time to paint the town red.

Funnybone hoists up his knife.

The Skeletons cheer.

EXT. BACK ROAD- NIGHT
Rainfall nurtures cypress trees covered in moss.

Bud drives the police cruiser down a back road, past the pizza place, pulls up to a
EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

TOMBSTONES, old and crusty, slanted from erosion; jut from small plots, fenced in along side the dirt road, past a swamp in the nature preserve.

The kids exit the cruiser, leave it running, and carry Blackbeard’s Cup into the graveyard, search for

BUD
Laferty...

Someone’s DUG UP the graves.

ERIN
Well isn’t that special.

BLACKBEARD
The powers of the underworld are hard at work tonight.

Bud reads a tombstone name:


A COFFIN sits open in the hole.

Bud shines Krapman’s mag light on FOOTPRINTS.

Bud and Erin follow the footprints to the

EXT. GREEN DOLPHIN PIZZA - NIGHT

MARSH GRASS grows high around the

GRAVEL PARKING LOT.

Bud and Erin try the

FRONT DOOR, but its locked, so they skip around to the

LOADING DOCK, where they see a BUCKET OF DEAD FROGS.
ERIN
Dinner is served.

BUD
Fried frog legs are good.

ERIN
Yuk.

BUD
They taste just like chicken.

TEACH
Yahar. Scrumptious treats.

Erin shudders.

ERIN
Nasty.

BUD
We can’t all afford organic buffalo tacos every night for dinner.

ERIN
You think you’re such a badass don’t you Bud?

BUD
No I don’t.

Erin rolls her eyes at Bud as they enter the

INT. KITCHEN. BLACKBEARD’S DEN - NIGHT

BUD SEES THE GREEN DOLPHIN BLACKBEARD LEGEND HERE. BLACKBEARD REMEMBERS.

Bud and Erin follow blood streaks, past an over-turned BOX OF LIVE CRABS. Smoke fills the air.

A MAN SCREAMS.
Bud and Erin cough on the smoke, go around BOXES, towards a wrestling, squishing noise. They exit the kitchen through double doors into the

INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Bud shines the flashlight on a

DEAD BODY, pizza cook, with a

SKELETON, in hood and cloak, wet, with CHARRED BONES. An overturned can of GASOLINE and a ZIPPO LIGHTER lay on the ground.

The Skeleton’s eyes glow and he pulls a BLOODY METAL THREE PRONGED FROG GIG from the body.

Blackbeard recognizes the Skeleton as

BLACKBEARD
Lovely.

Lovely pulls the frog gig from the body, rises.

LOVELY
Evening Teach. Got any gold on you? Too bad he got defensive. Really wasn’t much worth it.

Lovely holds a SEVERED HAND with a WEDDING RING on it, stained with blood.

The kids twist away in disgust.

BLACKBEARD
You’ve betrayed the brotherhood, Lovey. You betrayed our priestess and sold your soul to Satan.

Bud picks up the gas can.

BUD
That guy in there tried to burn them.

BLACKBEARD
Aye. Of course. Burning is the only way to destroy his kind.

LOVELY
But it aint exactly easy to do now is it?
Lovely, creeps to Erin with the frog gig.

LOVELY (CONT’D)
Well bred little wench. I’m sure she’s worth a pound of Doubloons or more.

He runs the gig up Erin’s leg.

Bud, stops the gig, wraps a protective arm over Erin.

BUD
Hands off my woman, creepster.

Bud knocks Lovely’s skull around backwards with the gas can, spills gas on Laferty.

Erin lights the Zippo, throws it on Lovely and he goes up in flames, screams, run out to

EXT. SIDE YARD. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lovely jumps into the CANAL WATER.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bud takes the frog gig and the kids run back to

KITCHEN

Where another SKELETON, with a GUN, blocks their way.

Bud douses the Skeleton with gas.

Blackbeard’s eyes glow.

BLACKBEARD
Jump!

Erin and Bud jump behind a salad prep table as the Skeleton fires the gun and

KABLOOOOWIE! The Skeleton explodes, the kitchen now on FIRE.

ERIN
Jesus, Bud!
BUD

Bail.

Another loud EXPLOSION rings out from the kitchen, as Bud and Erin leap out the doors and off the

EXT. CRAB PIER - NIGHT

LOVEY POPS UP, BUT GREEN DOLPHIN kills HIM.

A strong WIND blows through the trees, RAIN showers down from the dark CLOUDS in the night sky.

Bud picks up Blackbeard’s Cup from the deck.

BUD

You got the keys to your jet ski?

ERIN

Yeah. Why?

BUD

We’re going south.

ERIN

How do you know that’s where he went?

BUD

Jeez. You own the golf course and you don’t know?

ERIN

Green Dolphin?

BUD

Yeah.

ERIN

Two problems. Its nighttime and those freaks are out there.

BUD

You want them to get what they’re after and become invincible or do you want to help me kick their asses back to hell?
Erin can’t argue with that.

BLACKBEARD
Yahar!

Bud and Erin run back onto the

EXT. BACK ROAD - NIGHT
Where they discover the road now covered in BONEY FOOT PRINTS.

BLACKBEARD
Careful kids. These tracks be fresh.

Bud and Erin leg it for the police cruiser headlights in the

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT
The headlights move at them.

The kids halt.

BUD
The car’s moving.

ERIN
Who’s in it?

BLACKBEARD
Who do you think?

BUD
The undead.

ERIN
Shit.

The kids spin into a dead sprint the opposite way. The cop car gains on them.

BRAT-TA-TA-TA-TAT TAT!

Bud and Erin run across to the soundside of the back road.
The Skeleton Crew, crammed in the cop car like its a clown mobile at the circus, chase them off road, but trap the cop car wheels in mud.

Bud and Erin run into the

EXT. SOUND SIDE WOODS - NIGHT

The Skeletons jump from the cop car, chase after the kids but can’t see them in the thick marsh/woodland.

The Skeleton Driver speaks into the cop radio.

SKELETON
They vanished in the swamp Cap’n. You want us to risk goin in there?

EXT. DREDGE BOAT. HARBOR INLET - NIGHT

Funnybone looks out upon the EMPTY HARBOR in the wind and pouring rain as the dredge boat rocks up and down, walkie talkie in hand.

FUNNYBONE
No. Meet me back here. Its time for fun.

The boat rocks hard against a gale wind, knocks Funnybone down. He cackles wildly into the the storm.

EXT. MELVIN’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Its a late-70’s A-frame cottage, with a 25 horse power jon boat docked behind the house in a canal. An AMERICAN FLAG flutters in the night wind.

Patch and his Skeletons lead Melvin and the Sandersen Brothers at gun point into

INT. MELVIN’S HOUSE - NIGHT

TAXIDERMIED GAME CREATURES, GI JOES, and BIKINI BABE POSTERS adorn the walls. A FISH TANK, an OCTOPUS in it; stands in the LIVING ROOM REAR on a BAR. BOOKS occupy the
A TV plays the WEATHER CHANNEL who cover the HURRICANE on its way further up the coast.

A framed PHOTO shows Melvin, younger, in para-military clothes with machine and a DEAD BAD GUY in the MIDDLE EAST.

Patch points the gun at Melvin.

PATCH
Cooperate, or we’ll do worse to ye quarters than the storm ye magic picture box predicts.

Melvin reaches under the COFFEE TABLE, offers a PISTOL set and a RIOT SHOTGUN, the automatic combat kind.

Patch slings the shot gun over her shoulder, examines the pistols.

PATCH (CONT’D)
Is that all?

MELVIN
That’s all she wrote.

PATCH
Never trust a land lover like him mates. Ransack this codfish hobby hole.

The Skeleton Goons wreck the house, search for more.

A Skeleton Goon tears a BIKINI BABE poster off the wall. Nick reaches out in a plead against it.

NICK
Don’t you guys have any respect for god’s beautiful creations?

ZEEJ
Maybe they only like women who’re like them.

NICK
How do you tell if a skeleton’s a boy or girl?

PATCH
Wider hips, mate.
SKELETON GOON
Yahar! The wider the better.

PATCH
I’ll deal with you two later.

SKELETON GOON’S GOON
Yahar. There’s nothing more I like to do than breed.

NICK
Ew.

ZEEJ
You think she might have been hot when she was alive?

MELVIN
You are a pretty sick kid, Zeej.

ZEEJ
Thanks.

Patch nods to the Octopus in the fish tank.

PATCH
You colonists are a strange lot. Outta blow that wretched thing away. Don’t know if we’ll ever be getting used to your ways.

MELVIN
I don’t think I’ll ever get used to having conversations with talking lady pirate skeletons, One-Eyed Willy Nelson, but just like my ex-wife on tequila, life’s a real mixed up bitch sometimes.

PATCH
Tequila? You got any?

MELVIN
Sure. I don’t drink, but like I said, my wife loves that nasty shit. Hey Zeej you speak Spanish right? Lets practice.
ZEEJ

What?

MELVIN

Espanol.

ZEEJ

Ah. Si.

MELVIN (SPANISH)
Find this Skeleton babe some tequila in the kitchen there.

Zeej freezes in terror.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Its ok man. That Remington Skeletor’s got’s enough to wax us both with from here to there.

Zeej moves around the fish tank to the KITCHEN where he searches the cabinets.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Look above the fridge, gov.

Zeej reaches in the cabinet, brings the tequila back around the Octopus in the fish tank.

The Skeleton Goons rip down a CHERYL TIEGS POSTER, find a COMBINATION SAFE implanted in the WALL.

Melvin’s not happy about it.

PATCH
What manner secret compartment ye installed into the masonry?

SKELETON GOON
Some sort of oriental pad lock.

PATCH
Fraternizing quite regularly with Chinamen in these times from that boy’s mixed features, I can plainly see.
Patch points the gun at Zeej, then at Nick.

Melvin’s worried about these kids.

**PATCH (CONT’D)**

Numbers please, or he dies.

**MELVIN**

Six.

The Skeleton Goons turn the lock to six.

**MELVIN (CONT’D)**

Seventeen.

Skeletons Goons follow.

**MELVIN (CONT’D)**

Eighty five.

Skeleton Goons hit eighty five, pull on the lock but it won’t budge.

**PATCH**

He dies now.

**MELVIN**

Woah wait! I’m sorry honey I just couldn’t remember if it was the year I bought my first pickup truck or the year I lost my virginity twice. Change that last number to eighty two.

**PATCH**

If it doesn’t open I kill him alot, and the oriental boy right after.

**NICK**

He’s not oriental he’s...Zeej what is it all again?
ZEEJ
Half Italian, quarter Japanese, half-quarter Afro-Brazilian, seven percent Cherokee, a dash of French Canadian, and one hundred percent all American, you racist boner faced bitch.

The Skeletons open the safe. Patch grins, releases Nick.

MELVIN
Zeej. Octopussyaro!

Zeej pulls the Octopus from the fish tank, reels back and

CLUNK. The Octopus covers Patch’s skull like the face hugger in Alien.

Melvin swipes the shotgun.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Tequila.

Zeej tosses Delbert the tequila. He SMASHES it on the ground at the Skeletons’ feet, BLASTS the shotgun and

FWOOOOM. All three Skeletons go up in flames, Patch wrestling with the Octopus.

ZEEJ
That really works?

MELVIN
Hell yeah man. That’s 150 proof Mexi-shine.

Melvin commando rolls to the safe behind the fire, retrieves .22 RIFLES he presents to Nick and Zeej.

MELVIN (CONT’D)
Welcome to the gun club.

NICK
Hell yeah.

Melvin yanks the Octopus off Patch, kicks off her flaming head, makes a run for it with the boys to the
EXT. JON BOAT - NIGHT

Melvin throws the Octopus in the canal.

    MELVIN
    You’re free old timer. Make the best of your last years.

Melvin and the boys take off down the

EXT. CANAL. NIGHT

Melvin throttles on the engine, looks back at his HOUSE as it BURNS DOWN despite the heavy rain.

    ZEEJ
    You got insurance?

Melvin switches focus toward’s the HARBOR MOUTH a few hundred yards ahead.

    MELVIN
    Yeah. I’m really hoping killer Skeletons counts as an act of God. I believe so.

    NICK
    Waterfront property. That’s probably worth good money at least huh?

    MELVIN
    Copy that little amigo.

    ZEEJ
    Yeah but you’re wife’s gonna be really pissed right?

    MELVIN
    I’m also hoping the Skeletons thing will cover that too.

Melvin hoots and hollers as they race the jon boat from the canal out into the
EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

The waves get bigger and more unpredictable as the jon boat whizzes past EMPTY YACHTS and other BOATS.

MELVIN
I wonder why no body else tried this.

Then Melvin sees it a hundred yards up where the harbor meets the OPEN WATER...

....the DREDGE BOAT, lights on, crossing the harbor with a...

...PIRATE FLAG raised.

Funnybone and the Skeleton Crew circle the harbor in three SPEED BOATS.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT - NIGHT

Funnybone drives the boat wildly towards the canals while several more SKELETONS aim MACHINE GUNS at

EXT. JON BOAT. HARBOR - NIGHT

MELVIN
Get down!

Nick and Zeej hit the deck as

MELVIN

Swerves just in time as the Skeleton Crew OPENS FIRE and hit the port side, riddle it with bullet holes.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Funnybone speaks into a WALKIE TALKIE.

FUNNYBONE
Run em down and finish em off.

Funnybone powerslides his boat around, pursues the
EXT. JON BOAT - NIGHT
Melvin cuts back around at the canal mouth, kills the engine.

EXT. SKELETON BOAT - NIGHT
Another Skeleton speed boat zeroes in on them.

EXT. JON BOAT - NIGHT
Melvin pushes Nick and Zeej down with him as

EXT. SKELETON SPEED BOAT - NIGHT
Skeletons pass with machine guns shred the

EXT. JON BOAT
Hull with more bullet holes.
The boat takes on water fast, SINKS.

MELVIN
Abandon ship!

Melvin and the boys dive off the sinking boat into the

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT
Melvin and the boys swim for a MARSH across the harbor in the rain, wind, and waves.

MELVIN
I’m gonna napalm every last one of their boney asses.

An INBOARD MOTOR BUZZ grows louder from the canals.

Melvin and the boys see

TRENT
On a JETSKI with a SPOTLIGHT. He hauls ass towards the inlet.
MELVIN, NICK, & ZEEJ
Help! Mayday! Trent!

TRENT

Whizzes past, heads straight on across the harbor for the open waters, seen from

EXT. WOODS. HARBOR - NIGHT

Where the woods cut-off above the MARINA DOCKS.

Bud watches Trent with binoculars.

BUD
Trent you idiot.

Erin looks through the binoculars.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Trent whizzes on the jet ski towards Funnybone’s boats.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT - NIGHT

Funnybone aims the RPG at Trent’s jet ski.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Trent screams in terror, leaps off the jet ski as

KABLOOOOOOM. Funnybone’s grenade hits the water a meter ahead of the SKI, blows it SKY HIGH, in pieces.

TRENT
I surrender!

Trent swims towards the Skeleton boats, but a CURRENT rushes against him, and he’s swept through the harbor.
EXT. SHALLOWS - HARBOR - NIGHT

Melvin, Nick, and Zeej wade ahead in the shallows across the harbor to the marsh.

Melvin checks his WATCH.

MELVIN
High tide. C’mon.

NICK
Where we goin?

MELVIN
All skeletons buried on this island came back from the dead tonight?

ZEEJ
I haven’t seen any animal skeletons.

NICK
Animals don’t have souls.

ZEEJ
The do too, you grease pile.

Zeej shoves Nick.

Nick scoops mud, throws it in Zeej’s face. They wrestle.

Melvin breaks up the fight.

MELVIN
Some people are all alone in this world. You guys are family. Respect that.

Melvin leads the boys onto the

EXT. MARSH STRAND- NIGHT

It’s an empty strand along the sound shore with an ABANDONED KEYSTONE LIGHT BEER truck in the TREES.

ZEEJ
Somebody drank all that stuff a long time ago man.
MELVIN
Looks can be deceiving.

Melvin enters the

INT. BEER TRUCK - NIGHT

Melvin shines his FLASHLIGHT around in the beer truck container, finds a MILITARY COMMAND STATION, over run with vines.

NICK
Sick.

ZEEJ
C.I.A in Colington Harbor. No shit.

Melvin, Nick, and Zeej step lightly from the beer truck container.

EXT. MARSH - NIGHT

Melvin looks around the area with the flashlight when

SHIIINK. A SKELETON, in TORN-UP COMMANDO FATIGUES, bones more yellow, fresh; creeps from a trees, slides a knife against Melvin’s throat.

COMMANDO SKELETON
Anybody moves and I bleed this goober.

MELVIN
Ease up man. We’re Americans just like you.

COMMANDO SKELETON
I don’t see no America here. All I see is hell.

ZEEJ
You know this one Delbert?

MELVIN
No. But I knew he was around.

Nick looks at the Commando Skeleton’s
NICK
Sick Mercenary Patch. You get that on Ebay?

COMMANDO SKELETON
Shut up kid.

The Commando Skeleton pushes the Delbert and the boys deeper into the trees.

EXT. HARBOR INLET - NIGHT
Trent struggles against the current but its no use. He’s pushed out into the

EXT. OPEN WATERS. SOUND - NIGHT
Trent treads water.

TRENT
My dad’s gonna kill me, bro.

He swims east, around the island towards the marsh alleys.

EXT. BOAT SHOP. HARBOR- NIGHT
Bud leaps down from the fence, unlocks it for Erin.

Bud looks under a tarp.

BUD
Sweet.

Bud pulls off the tarp, finds the L.E.D light kit he hid for Erin when she came to the shop earlier in Act 1.

BUD (CONT’D)
Ready?

Bud and Erin hurry through wind and rain along a

EXT. BULKHEAD. HARBOR - NIGHT
They march around a point toward a hidden BACK BAY with cypress stumps and docks.
ERIN
Did you get the right kind of batteries?

BUD
What do you think I’m just a complete screw up now?

ERIN
No I just want to make sure we get it right--

BUD
Its a wonder you’re even here with me now I guess. You know, because I’m such an asshole?

ERIN
You invite god knows what out there tonight to hurt your friends and they’re families and now you get angry at me? You think you’re the only one who’s life can suck?

BUD
No. But present danger excluded, my life sucks worse compared to yours.

ERIN
Oh it’s your Dad isn’t it?

BUD
You think? He might never walk again.

ERIN
You love your Dad?

BUD
Yeah. What do you think I am? Some kind of robot?

ERIN
Yeah well, me and my mom loved my Dad. He said he loved us too. Didn’t stop him from selling drugs in Costa Rica and getting killed.

BUD
What? I thought he--
ERIN
Owned a restaurant and surfed perfect waves in warm water everyday? My mom makes me tell everyone that so no one from down there comes looking for us.

Erin holds back tears.

BUD
I’m sorry Erin. Nobody around here takes me seriously but you, and it sucks. Its like that book we read last year. The Outsiders? You’re rich. You’re a soc. I’m not. I’m nothing, a greaser. Nobody respects me.

Erin turns from Bud, looks at the

EXT. SOUND - NIGHT

She watches the tide roll in. A tear rolls down her cheek. Its hard to see in the drizzling rain.

ERIN
I always respected you Bud.

BUD
Yeah?

ERIN
Yeah. If you can’t see that then I guess you don’t respect me.

Back on task, Bud opens his backpack, takes out Blackbeard’s Cup.

BLACKBEARD
Your backpack is a realm of darkness from which I thought I’d never return. Thank you for freeing me, Bud.

BUD
Sorry Teach.
Bud removes the LED kit, turns on the light, shines it through the rain.

BLACKBEARD
I overheard your conversation. Sorry about your Dads, Erin and Bud.

ERIN
It’s alright. We’re still alive.

BLACKBEARD
Exactly. So you see you’re lives don’t suck. Look at me.

BUD
It's not so bad Teach. We’ll find your body.

BLACKBEARD
Yes, and when we do, I’m going to rock n roll all night and party every day.

The KISS song from the mini golf course in 1985 plays, from Blackbeard’s Cup, as if he’s a little radio.

Lightning strikes. Thunder rumbles. Blackbeard’s eyes glow with joy.

More rain pours as Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard’s Cup move to

EXT. DOCK. HIDDEN BAY - NIGHT

Erin’s jet ski and paddleboard sit untouched at a tie down slip off the dock in the bay.

Bud fastens the L.E.D Kit onto the jet ski, another L.E.D to the paddleboard.

He looks in the boat at the next slip, finds a 12 VOLT BATTER CHARGER.

ERIN
Be careful with that ok?

BUD
Oh yeh.

Bud smirks like a mischievous monkey.
EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Erin RIDES the jet ski full speed, with Blackbeard’s Cup DUCT TAPED on the handlebars. On a ski rope behind her, she pulls Bud on the PADDLEBOARD.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT - NIGHT

Funnybone scans the harbor with binoculars, sees them...

FUNNYBONE
Hello kiddies.

Funnybone revs the motorboat, chases after them. The other two Skeleton Boats triangulate with him.

EXT. SOUND - NIGHT

Erin speeds through the inlet out to the open waters in the sound but...

A Skeleton Boat speeds up port side.

Another Skeleton Boat rides Erin’s starboard.

Funnybone speeds behind Bud.

Bud holds the ski rope, cuts back and forth in the wake, looking for space.

Erin’s worry turns to hope as she accelerates towards

EXT. MARSH CAUSEWAY - NIGHT

Its a hundred marsh bank strip between the sound and MARSH CANALS.

EXT. SOUND - NIGHT

Skeletons jeer at Erin from boats on both sides. She looks back at

BUD

He figures out her plan.
The causeway rushes into view.

ERIN
Charge it, Bud.

BUD
Time to party.

BLACKBEARD
Yo ho ho!

Bud grabs the paddleboard rail, crouches for action.

SKELETON CREW
Show no fear as

ERIN’S JETSKI
Hits the bank, launches, clears the causeway.

The STARBOARD and PORT SKELETON BOATS hit the bank, clear the causeway.

BUD
Hits the bank, ollies over the causeway, hits the water with a jolt, almost loose balance but lands it.

Funnybone hits the bank, clears it easy.

EXT. MARSH ALLEY - NIGHT
The chase continues in a narrow marsh alley. Its forces the Skeleton Boats in tighter.

Another ROAD rushes up ahead.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT
A HATCHBACK STATION WAGON and SEAFOOD TRUCK wait in the rain along the road before the blown-up bridge, confused.

A car length stands between them.
The FRUSTRATED DRIVERS see the jet ski and Skeleton Boats headed for them.

EXT. MARSH POND - NIGHT

Erin hits the bank, LAUNCHES between the truck and hatchback, lands on the other side.

The portside Skeleton hits the bank, and

CRASHES into the seafood truck, leaves CRABS, FISH and Skeletons scattered on the road.

BUD
Dear god...help. Thank you and amen.

BLACKBEARD
Get radical, dude!

Bud hits the bank, grabs his rail, and SOARS over the seafood and Skeleton debris.

The Starboard Skeleton Boat swings quick right, SCRAPES against the hatchback BUMPER, skids to a stop in the road.

Funnybone accelerates, helms slight left at the bank, launches and SMASHES down on the hatchback roof, slides off, continues after Erin’s jet ski.

EXT. MARSH ALLEYS - NIGHT

Erin whips the jet ski away from a CYPRESS MANGROVE.

Bud hangs on as he’s yanked across the wake, Funnybone fast on his rear.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT - NIGHT

Funnybone whips away from the mangrove.

The marsh alley widens. He accelerates beside Bud.

FUNNYBONE
Heya Bud.

Skeleton Crewmen throw a FISHING NET on
Bud. He wipes out, looses the board, struggles in the net as the Skeleton Crewmen hoist him onto the boat.

Skeletons pull Bud from the net, hold him in the boat at GUNPOINT.

Funnybone pulls Bud forward, cuts him with the knife, catches the blood in a water bottle.

Funnybone uses a MEGAPHONE.

**FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)**

Pull over or your boyfriend dies.

The marsh alley tightens.

EXT. ERIN’S JETSKI - NIGHT

Erin keeps the ski fast and steady.

**ERIN**

They’re going to kill him.

**BLACKBEARD**

The Talisman’s the only way, lass.

Funnybone follows, careful not to run his boat aground on the mud banks.

EXT. FUNNYBONE’S BOAT - NIGHT

The marsh alley bottlenecks, Funnybone’s boat catches mud bon the sides, SPILLS water in the boat, knocks the Skeletons back a pace.

Bud throws the net on the Skeletons, turns on the 12 Volt Battery Charger, jumps in the water, throws the charger in Funnybone’s boat.

Funnybone catches another bank side, grinds to a crawl, spills water in the boat and

ZAAAAAAAAAAAP! Electricity FRIES Funnybone and the Skeleton Crewmen in their boat.

The surge hits the motor, catches the boat on FIRE.

Funnybone, on fire jumps in the water, swims after Bud.
EXT. MARSH - NIGHT

Erin power-slides her jetski around, rescues Bud from Funnybone.

They ride from the marsh alley into a

EXT. COVE- NIGHT

Erin and Bud ride the jetski across a cove along barrier island shores.

Through the rain, they see a

LIGHTHOUSE on a salt marsh forest ISLAND.

BLACKBEARD

Beautiful.

The lighthouse is shut-down, looks deserted for some time.

Erin cruises the jetski, helms for the island.

In the distance between the jet ski and the island, BLUEFISH jump from the water, after smaller prey, in a FEEDING FRENZY.

The GREEN DOLPHIN rises from the surface, snags a fish, submerges.

Blackbeard’s Cup’s eyes glow like they did when he moved the sandbar for Bud.

GALE FORCE wind blows at the duct tape holding Blackbeard’s Cup to the jetski handlebars.

BUD

Teach.

Bud holds the tape down, Erin helps, but Blackbeard’s Eyes glow bright, and the wind rips him off the jetski handlebars, into the water.

BLACKBEARD

Ya-ha ha har! Yew! I’m going to ask it where my body is.
The wind blows Blackbeard’s Cup towards the island. He laughs all the way.

BUD
Teach you bastard!

Erin races after the cup in the jet ski, but it sputters halfway there, dies.

ERIN
C’mon.

She hits the start button over and over again. Nothing.

Lightning strikes. Thunder rumbles.

BUD
Hurry.

The Dolphin rises beside the jet ski, laughs at Bud, submerges.

Lightning and thunder again, and in the flash...

...The Dolphin emerges on the island shore, transforms into a CLOAKED WOMAN, beautiful, motherly.

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

The Cloaked Woman holds Blackbeard’s Cup, beckons the kids, whispers.

CLOAKED WOMAN
The treasure you seek is under the lighthouse. Swim across and I’ll show you.

BLACKBEARD
Don’t trust her kids. She’s the reason I’m weird talking skull now!

CLOAKED WOMAN
I’m Calypso. Goddess of the sea. Join me on the beach and I’ll help you destroy Captain Funnybone.

Lightning strikes, thunder rumbles, and Calypso cackles.
EXT. ERIN’S JETSKI. COVE - NIGHT

Bud lets Erin’s waist go, but she pulls him back.

    ERIN
    Bud wait.

    BUD
    Why? What else is there to lose?

    ERIN
    Me.

    BUD
    What?

    ERIN
    Back at the crab house. You called me your woman. Is that what you want?

    BUD
    Yeah.

    ERIN
    Then treat me like one.

    BLACKBEARD’S CUP
    Hurry Bud. She’s a witch. She’s crazy! Help!

    BUD

Bud jumps in the water, swims for shore.

    ERIN
    Okay.

Erin jumps off her jetski, swims with Bud towards Calypso.

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

Calypso sticks a KNIFE in the fish, pours its blood in Blackbeard’s Cup.
BLACKBEARD
You wicked little stink queen! They’re my buddies. Leave em’ alone.

Calypso puts down the fish, drinks fish blood from Blackbeard’s Cup.

EXT. COVE - NIGHT
Bud and Erin swim to where they can touch, neck deep in the water.

ERIN
Ew. Gross. You seeing this?

BUD
Yeah. Well even though she’s like a forty year old woman, I don’t hit girls.

ERIN
And?

BUD
It’s up to you to kick her in the privates so we can rescue him.

ERIN
No. What if she’s just misunderstood and actually really nice?

BUD
That’d be great, but she might want to cut off our heads and eat our brains for dinner like spaghetti.

ERIN
She’s...dancing.

Bud and Erin swim closer to shore, see the Calypso dance like freak at a rave.

BUD
Yeah. That looks completely evil to me.

Blackbeard’s Cup’s eyes glow at them.
BLACKBEARD
Look out Bud!

TENTACLES rise above the water behind Bud and Erin, followed by the
ABYSS MONSTER, same one depicted in the crappy statue at the mini-golf course, but
this thing’s real, huge, and looks hungry.

It lunges at them.

Bud holds Erin, dodges the monster with her.

It stands up waist deep before them, flashes RAZOR SHARP TEETH.

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

Blackbeard’s Cup’s eyes glow again.

BLACKBEARD
Cut that freak’s eyes out, Bud!

Wind blows the dead fish in the air.

EXT. COVE - NIGHT

Bud catches the fish, pulls out the knife and
STABS the Monster in the eye.

It screams in pain.

Bud and Erin swim, splash and run onto

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

Bud runs at Calypso with the knife.

She points Blackbeard’s Cup at him.

CALYPSO
Enough!

The knife blows Bud’s hand, keeps him from proceeding.
Bud clutches the knife, but the wind opens his hand, blows it from him, onto the ground.

Lightning. Thunder.

The Abyss Monster emerges onto the shore. His EYE heals, REFORMS.

The Abyss Monster picks up the knife, comes at Bud and Erin.

    BLACKBEARD
    Nice knowing you kids.

    CALYPSO
    Halt.

The Abyss Monster stops.

    CALYPSO (CONT’D)
    I’ll get you some dinner later, Abyssmo.

Lighting flashes. Abyssmo the Abyss Monster disappears.

    CALYPSO (CONT’D)
    You’ve done well Bud.

    ERIN
    Is his eye going to be alright?

    BUD
    Yeah. I’m sorry. It just kinda looked like he was going to eat us alive or something.

    CALYPSO
    Don’t worry about him. He’s a special beast with lots of magical powers. I just had to test your spirit Bud. You’re now worthy of the treasure, and ready to destroy Funnybone and the Skeletons.

    BUD
    Awesome.

Calypso hands Blackbeard’s Cup to Bud.
CALYPSO
You must help these children teach or Funnybone will destroy their island home and others. No coast shall be safe.

BLACKBEARD
Yahar. I consider it a pleasure, but how?

Calypso snaps her fingers.

EXT. COVE - NIGHT
A HEADLESS SKELETON, with a CUTLASS and a bottle of RUM; rises from the water. It’s

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT
Blackbeard’s Cup roars with laughter.

BLACKBEARD
Me bones! Yo-ho-ho!

The Headless Skeleton steps on shore, takes Blackbeard’s Cup from Bud, places it on his spine and with a SNAP, Blackbeard the pirate’s skull and skeleton become one.

BLACKBEARD (CONT’D)
Where’s me gold?

CALYPSO
Under the lighthouse Teach. You were so drunk the last night we were together you buried it down there and never remembered.

BLACKBEARD
I’m sorry I dissed ya.

CALYPSO
Thank you for that wonderful night, baby. No one but the gods can dis Calypso.

Lightning strikes, thunder rumbles, and Calypso VANISHES.

Rain pours. Wind howls.
Lightning strikes again, and Blackbeard’s Skeleton turns into the real actual flesh and blood Blackbeard.

BLACKBEARD

Yahar!

Calypso’s laughter echoes from the sky.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Its a five-stories, high, white brick. A sign on the fence says:

“Closed for repairs.”

Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard emerge from the trees, stride into the

EXT. YARD. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Blackbeard hacks through the door with his cutlass and they enter.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard explore the inside with a flashlight.

At the start of the stairwell a DEAD SHARK, stuffed, mounted to the WALL leers at them.

Blackbeard reaches in its mouth, pulls a lever and

A CONTROL ROOM opens.

INT. CONTROL ROOM. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

It’s a cavernous room, hard to see in the dark.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Bud opens the CIRCUIT BREAKER, turns on the POWER.
INT. CONTROL ROOM. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

The room comes alive with 1980’s era COMPUTER MONITORS and EQUIPMENT.
FRAMED PAINTINGS and PHOTOS, uniform size, hang on the walls, like Presidential Portraits in an elementary school library.

The first portrait is Blackbeard. The last portrait is

   ERIN
   My dad.

   BLACKBEARD
   Yahar. The Brethren of the Coast. Sworn protect me cranium’s powers and the shores of the new world from evil.

   BUD
   Check it out.

There’s a MAP on the wall. It shows an insanely long - winding TUNNEL under the lighthouse, with the treasure and NAZI SWASTIKA at the end.

   BLACKBEARD
   I must’ve been partying really hard the night I buried me treasure.

   ERIN
   Nazis?

   BLACKBEARD
   Rather terrifying looking flag emblem I should say.

   BUD
   Germany.

   BLACKBEARD
   The Germans are terrible sailors, but all around they aren’t too bad a lot.

   BUD
   Well, not during World War II.
BLACKBEARD
World War?

BUD
Yeah. Two of em so far.

BLACKBEARD
Who won?

BUD
We did.

BLACKBEARD
Kick ass.

ERIN
But it wasn’t easy. Why is there a swastika on the map?

BUD
There was a year or so during the war when German U-boats sunk merchant supply ships off the coast here regularly. But other than that, I don’t know.

ERIN
How do you know that?

BUD
I got an A- in history.

ERIN
How did that happen?

BUD
I studied.

ERIN
I’m impressed.

BUD
Maybe I’ll work harder in school.

ERIN
Good for you.
BLACKBEARD
Where’s the tunnel entrance?

Bud pushes a button on the console, and another SECRET DOOR opens, reveals the TUNNEL on the other side.

BLACKBEARD (CONT’D)
New world sorcery. Yo-ho.

Blackbeard enters the tunnel, but

An ALARM sounds.

SHAPES appear on the RADAR screen, move fast towards the control room’s position.

EXT. COVE - NIGHT

Funnybone and what’s left of the Skeleton Crew from the last Skeleton Boat, approach the island.

Rain pours.

Funnybone scans the island with binoculars.

Wind blows Erin’s jet ski from behind a bush.

FUNNYBONE
Yahar.

Funnybone pilots boat for the beach.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The SECURITY MONITOR displays:

Funnybone and the four Skeletons he has left in the rain with GUNS on the beach, headed for the lighthouse yard.

ERIN
Oh crap.

BLACKBEARD
Hey look what I found!

Bud and Erin enter the
INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Blackbeard inspects a CANNON, at the bottom of an ELEVATOR SHAFT with CANNON BALLS and all the other required supplies.

Bud pushes another BUTTON.

The door to the control room closes.

The canon moves up the elevator shaft with Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard on it.

    ERIN
    Oh no.

    BUD
    Oh yeah.

    BLACKBEARD
    Yeeharg.

CELLAR DOORS open above as Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard ride the cannon platform out into

EXT. YARD. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

The cannon platform settles in a SPLIT IRON SHIELDED TURRET on the lighthouse yard.

Bud positions the turret at the

EXT. TREES - NIGHT

From which Funnybone and the last three Skeleton Crewmen emerge.

They march into the

EXT. CANNON TURRET - NIGHT

Bud loads a GUNPOWDER in the flash pan.

Blackbeard packs wadding and 25 lb CANNON BALL in the muzzle with a RAMROD.
BLACKBEARD
  Give it a look see lad. I think we’re good.

Bud inspects the shot in the muzzle with the flashlight.

ERIN
  How do know how to do this?

BUD
  History Channel.

Bud tightens the shot in the cannon ball with the ramrod.

EXT. YARD. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Funnybone and the Skeletons fire their guns at Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT

Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard duck behind the iron split shield as bullets catch and ricochet in/off it.

Blackbeard peeks at Funnybone between the iron shields, aims the cannon at him.

BLACKBEARD
  Fire!

BUD
  Aye aye Cap’n!

Bud lights the fuse.

Bud, Erin, and Blackbeard duck for cover.

The fuse hits the cannon ball.

KAPOWWWWWW! The ball zooms from the muzzle at

EXT. YARD. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Hits Funnybone and the three Skeletons, sends their BONES scatterd about on fire in the rain on the lawn.
The Skeletons’ bones burn and the scattered skulls curse.

Funnybone’s skeleton reforms, picks up a GUN.

Blackbeard leaps over the turret, CUTS off Funnybone’s HEAD, hoists it in the air.

FUNNYBONE

Funnybone’s headless body pours Bud’s blood from the water bottle onto his knife hand, raises it to the sky.


The ground QUAKEs.

SKELETONS rise from the lawn. A few dozen.

EXT. TREES - NIGHT

In the trees between the lighthouse yard and the beach...

SKELETONS, in SPANISH CONQUISTADOR ARMOR, about a HUNDRED, emerge from the trees.

The Skeleton Horde encircles Black beard and the kids.

Funnybone cackles into the night.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT

Bud loads another cannon ball.

ERIN
We need help.

BUD
There’s a radio in the control room. Go.

ERIN
Okay. Cover me.
BUD
You got it.

Erin leaps off the turret, runs across the yard.

EXT. YARD. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT
Funnybone’s headless body grabs his head, runs after Erin.
Blackbeard tackles him.
Funnybone reconnects his skull to his skeleton, stabs Blackbeard with his knife hand.
Blackbeard double kicks Funnybone off him, leaps to his feat.
Erin reaches the

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT
But she’s surrounded by SKELETONS.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT
Bud aims the cannon at the Skeletons around Erin.
He FIRES and
KABAM! Skeletons explode.
Bud more SKELETONS swarm around Erin, close in on her.

BUD
Erin! Get back.

Bud aims at the Skeletons covering the lighthouse entrance.
He FIRES.
KABWWWWWOM CLUCHUUUUNK WABAAAMMMMO!
The cannon ball blows a hole through skeletons and the lighthouse entrance.
INT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT
Erin runs past jeering, blown-up skeletons, pulls the handle in the sharks mouth, enters

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT
Erin mashes a button, closes the doors.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE YARD - NIGHT
Skeletons split up, rush to the lighthouse and at Bud in the turret.
Funnybone pulls one back, takes its SWORD.

    FUNNYBONE
    Lets party Teach.

Blackbeard accepts the challenge.

    BLACKBEARD
    I’ve always fancied that knife ye wear for a hand. I
    think tonight I’ll take it.

Funnybone swings. Blackbeard blocks, and their swords clash, left, right, up, down, and
all around in an epic fight.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT
Bud readies more gunpowder in the cannon.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE YARD - NIGHT
Skeletons charge the turret.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT
Bud seals PAPER TUBES with LITTLE CANNON BALLS inside, packs them in the
cannon.

    BUD
    Got something new for ya assholes!
Bud lights the fuse and

FWOOOOOOOBAM!

The buckshot tears through DOZENS of SKELETONS, who collapse on the lawn.

More rush the cannon.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Erin flips on a “RADIO” switch, speak into a TRANSMISSION MIC.

   ERIN
   Is anybody out there? We need help. The
   Lighthouse at Teach’s Cove is under attack.

Skeletons hack at the door on the other side.

EXT. MARSH - NIGHT

Melvin, Nick, and Zeej, surrounded by Para-Military Skeletons, hear

   ERIN (O.S)
   Repeat. The lighthouse is under attack by these
   things. These real creepy terrorists.

The Para-Military Skeletons pay attention.

   PARA-MILITARY SKELETON LEADER
   Roll out, men!

   MELVIN
   Untie us. Y’all need me.

   PARA-MILITARY SKELETON LEADER
   You don’t deserve to fight with us after what you
   pulled, Melvin. But you can watch. Move it.

The Para-Military Skeleton Leader pushes Melvin and the boys to a

HELICOPTER.
EXT. TURRET - NIGHT

Bud blasts the CANNON, spins the around, fires, and clears another round of Skeletons coming at him from the rear.

He loads another round as Skeletons reach in the turret, pull at his legs.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE YARD - NIGHT

Blackbeard blocks Funnybone’s sword thrust.

Blackbeard swings, kicks Funnybone’s lower spine, crushes a few vertebrae.

Funnybone doubles over, slices Blackbeard across the shoulder.

Blackbeard slices out Funnybone’s crushed vertabrae.

Funnybone drops in height several inches.

    BLACKBEARD
    Yahar!

    FUNNYBONE
    Yaaaarg.

Funnybones swings at Blackbeard, he blocks, and they dance around the yard clinking and clashing swords.

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Erin pushes into the dark tunnel below the lighthouse with her flashlight.

EXT. TURRET - NIGHT

He smacks at Spanish Conquistador Skeletons with the ramrod, leaps off the turret.

    CONQUISTADOR SKELETON
    Give us the gold!

    BUD
    You want gold?

    CONQUISTADOR SKELETON
    Si. Give it to us or we’ll cut you to ribbons.
Bud points the other Skeletons.

BUD
They stole it. Their British, remember?

The Conquistador Skeletons fight the British Skeletons.

BUD (CONT’D)
Sweet.

Bud runs past the fighting Skeletons, watches the maelstrom of swords and bones with glee.

A British Skeleton climbs in the turret, obliterates Spanish Skeletons with cannon fire.

Bud at the

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Blackbeard and Funnybone fight before the entrance.

Funnybone stabs Blackbeard in the gut.

BUD
Teach!

Blackbeard rises, slices off Funnybone’s good hand, catches his sword.

Blackbeard attacks Funnybone with both swords, but he catches them, in his forearms, knees Blackbeard in the gut wound, chases Bud into the

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

Bud pulls the lever in the shark’s mouth, enters the

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Bud pushes the control room door shut, runs into the

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Erin pushes further into the tunnel, finds the
EXT. TREASURE TOMB - NIGHT

Its a MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE. DIAMONDS. GOLD EVERYTHING. CROWN JEWELS. GOLD SWORDS. GIANT PEARLS.

The treasure glows with gold, but there’s still something eerie about the room.

Still though, Erin’s can’t believe her eyes.

Bud touches her shoulder.

She screams.

    ERIN
    Asshole!

    BUD
    Who you calling asshole? I got you all this treasure.
    Sheez.

A SKELETON HAND rises from the treasure, hoists up the

GOLD CALYPSO TALISMAN.

Bud pulls it from the skeleton hand, but it won’t let go.

Bud pulls more, and a

NAZI SKELETON, U-boat commander with SWASTIKA cap, rises from the treasure pile, clutches the talisman.

More NAZI SKELETONS emerge from the treasure and an

ENGINE ROARS.

Treasure flings off a

NAZI U-BOAT, propeller end lodged in the tunnel from a crash.

Bud stomps down on the U-boat Commanders boney leg, yanks the talisman from him, pushes him into the

SPINNING SUBMARINE PROPELLER.

Bud and Erin run away from the creeping skeletons, back up through the tunnel into the
EXT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Blackbeard and Funnybone trade blows.

Bud points the talisman at Funnybone.

    BLACKBEARD
    You did it, Bud!

Funnybone backhands Blackbeard, runs him through with the sword.

Blackbeard’s body hits the floor, DEAD.

    BUD
    Teach.

Funnybone smirks, creeps towards Bud with his sword.

    FUNNYBONE
    Give me the talisman, boy.

    BUD
    I call upon the powers of Calypso to send you back
to hell.

    FUNNYBONE
    Hahhar. That’s not how its done boy.

Funnybone holds up the spell book.

    FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)
    There’s rules you gotta follow.

    BUD
    Fuck rules. Calypso, please, c’mon help us.

The Nazi Skeletons creep behind Bud and Erin.

Funnybone, now inches from Bud and Erin, cackles.

    PARA-MILITARY SKELETON LEADER
    Yo Joe!
Funnybone turns around, and there’s the Melvin, Nick, and Zeej with the Para-Military Skeletons.

    MELVIN
    Duck, kids!
Bud, Erin, and duck.

Melvin fires a MINI-GUN with back pack mounted ammo, cuts Funnybone and the Nazi Skeletons to shreds.

    FUNNYBONE
    Annhilatiaum!
Funnybone raises his knife hand in the air.
Bud steals the book from Funnybone.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT
Lightning strikes, and the hordes of Skeletons outside push stop fighting with each other, pour into the

INT. CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT
Swords swing, guns fire, grenades explode, as Melvin, Nick, and Zeej Para-Military Skeletons take on the Funnybone’s skeleton warriors.
Bud, Erin, Nick, and Zeej escape the battle, run back down into the

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT
Funnybone chases the kids down into the

INT. TREASURE TOMB - NIGHT
The kids search frantically through the book for Calypso talisman spells.

    KAPOW.
A Nazi Skeleton shoots the book from the kids hands, then points it at them.
Two more Nazi Skeletons surround the kids.
Funnybone picks up the book off the ground.

FUNNYBONE
You’re all virgins aren’t you?

BUD
Yeah.

FUNNYBONE
Then I want the talisman and one of you.

Bud steps forward.

KIDS
Bud no.

Funnybone takes the talisman from Bud, holds him at knife point.

FUNNYBONE
Hold the book.

Funnybone turns to the page on the talisman.

BUD
Let them go.

FUNNYBONE
I think not. They’re the only ones left besides you know what I am.

Funnybone raises the talisman aloft, recites a SERIES OF INCANTATIONS.

The walls QUAKE.

The U-boat tilts over.

WATER pours in the room from the OCEAN.

The water level rises.

FUNNYBONE (CONT’D)
Take the girl and prepare for departure mate.

The new Nazi Skeletons open the U-Boat hatch, go inside with Erin, close the hatch.
BUDD

Why don’t you just shoot us man?

FUNNYBONE

Because I love to watch people drown.

The water level rises above the boys necks, their noses, and then they’re...

INT. UNDERWATER. TOMB - DAY

Everything is slower as Bud, Nick, and Zeej swim and thrash about, but in vain.

Funnybone laughs, bubbles from his mouth.

Bud plays dead.

Funnybone checks Bud’s pulse.

Bud slams Funnybone’s skull against the wall, SMASHES it to PIECES.

Bud takes the book, reads a spell, but its hard to hear underwater.

Nick and Zeej hug each other, accept their fate.

Funnybone’s body climbs on Bud, chokes him.

In a flash, the Abyss Monster appears behind Funnybone, pulls him off Bud and Eats Funnybone, whole.

Bud looses consciousness, for real this time.

Every thing goes BLACK.

INT. TREASURE TOMB - DAY

Bud lies unconscious, surrounded by Melvin, Nick, and Zeej.

The Skeletons are gone.

Erin pushes does CPR contractions, gives Bud air, mouth-to-mouth.

Bud coughs up water, awakens.
ERIN

Bud!

BUD

Hey Erin.

Erin hugs Bud.

ERIN

You saved my life. So I had to save yours.

BUD

Naturally.

ERIN

For a fraction of a second I thought it all my be some elaborate prank to get me to put my mouth on yours.

BUD

Nope.

Bud and Erin rise.

ERIN

Good.

BUD

That’s not my style.

ERIN

So you save the day and you’ve finally got some class now?

Bud holds Erin’s hand.

BUD

What do you think?

Erin squeezes Bud’s hand tight.

ERIN

Maybe.

Bud and Erin look into each other’s eyes.
Bud kisses her.
She kisses him back.
Bud places his hand on her lower back.
She places it on her butt.
Blackbeard laughs from somewhere beyond the grave.

THE END