SONIC: THE MOVIE

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FIRST DRAFT

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SONIC: THE MOVIE

In telling this original interpretation of the "Sonic story", we are attempting to introduce a new mythology to the movie going audience. We ask you to keep in mind that we are all selling a live action movie to a broad family audience, many of whom have never played the Sonic video game. For this reason we believe that the "Sonic Movie" should be a genesis story, and as we discussed in our various story sessions, will involve a teenage boy who transforms into the "Sonic character". This transformation will utilize multiple film elements including live action, full motion animatronics and puppetry and stateof-the-art computer generated images. Somewhat darker and edgier in tone than the existing video game, there should be a strong sense of real jeopardy, as was done effectively in both BATMAN and JURASSIC PARK. Our adventure should be capable of providing wonderful entertainment, with Sonic and his friends being an integral part of the movie going experience.

EXT. UNINHABITED ISLAND- DUSK

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

CLOSE-UP: A droplet forming on a leaf, dripping into a pool of aqua green plant life. We pull back to thick isolated jungle and cruel blue waves crashing against a rocky beach. A haunting rendition of a Mendelssohn violin concerto echoes in the distance. Suddenly, we see a man running for his life through the jungle perimeter.

Across the ground, screaming after the footsteps of their prey, are snakes with heads that look more wolf-like than reptile. They stop, sniff the air, as if driven by the music.

The man trips and stumbles. They each dive for an appendage and just like a calf being drawn and quartered, they pull him in four different directions. Paralyzed with fear, he's quickly dragged into an open pit whose walls are covered with a mass of pulsating fungi glowing a bright phosphorescent green.

The man looks up at a figure, playing the mysterious refrain, silhouetted in sunlight. He yells in defiance "I don't care what you do to me..." The figure gestures with his bow and a grate on the other side of the pit opens. The man becomes stone silent. A shaft of light cuts through, illuminating skeletons of those who came before him, their remains scattered across the floor.

Then we sense motion, a large shadow looming. A close-up of spittle, fangs and fur. A creature... its head is hideous as it hangs in the stillness, nostrils flaring.

Closer, we see an entirely different personality embedded in the forehead of the apelike monster. A second being's head implanted in the other.

Smelling the man, the creature moves intently towards him.

CLOSE-UP as the man's eyes widen.

He lets out a blood curdling scream...

CRASH CUT TO:

The same terrorizing scream flies out of the lungs of a teenage boy. JIMMY HEDGEMAN is a seventeen year old on a hormone high trying to figure out just where he fits into the scheme of the universe. He and his buddy speed down the street, car radio blaring, on the joy ride of a lifetime. His buddy takes a chug out of an obviously illicit beer.

Jimmy's got the right haircut, a stud in his ear and a major attitude towards authority figures. He likes to do everything fast: driving, talking, and eating. He wears his grandfather's bomber jacket with a faded logo of a yellow creature, "Sonic or bust" written underneath it. While the rest of the world is on 33 1/3 rpms, Jimmy's on 72.

About the only thing he doesn't seem to have is... a love life. But he's trying. Two teenage girls sit glued to the backseat as his car races on. Their nails dig deeper into the seat cushion as the car hits a dip and becomes airborne for a moment.

The wail of a police siren suddenly cuts through the grinding beat.

The officer pulls them over. His buddy hides the half-filled beer in the glove compartment. Jimmy feeds the officer an imaginative excuse, but it's not working.

The officer starts to write up a ticket for speeding. This is his third traffic violation since he got his license. Jimmy makes another attempt at pleading and the officer has second thoughts. "Just show me your registration's up to date and I'll let you get on your way.

Jimmy doesn't stop to think and reaches for the glove box before his buddy can stop him. The beer falls out. The officer sees the can and that's it. He explains that Jimmy'll have to come with him to the station, until his parents can pick him up. "If I catch you again, you'll get a couple of days in the cooler to think things over."

The worst is yet to come... Jimmy has to call his father.

CUT TO:

INT. RESEARCH LAB- NIGHT

Ha

A man dressed in a white lab coat, surgical gloves and mask, leans over two plants, one dead, one alive. He takes a needle and injects it into the living plant, extracting a deep blood red liquid. He puts it into a vial and labels it. He sets the vial in an isolator that shakes it 500 turns a second. The lab is scattered with hi-tech equipment, charts and graphs. There are sculptured DNA models standing like giant jigsaw puzzles and lab reports stacked neatly all along the counter. Plants grow under ultra violet lights along one wall. A shelf of cages with animals such as salamanders, toads, and hedgehogs lines another wall. An aquarium bubbles in the corner, jammed with a multitude of marine life.

Dr. Hedgeman is working on a government funded program that is trying to unlock the mysteries of the DNA puzzle. His specific interest is trying to discover the section of the DNA strand that has the ability to repair and replicate itself. His research shows that the DNA of some plants and hibernating animals goes through a special stage which allows damaged DNA to repair itself internally.

He stops the machine and fills a syringe from the vial. Moving to the dead plant, he gently plunges the needle into the heart of its root.

Suddenly the phone rings. Dr. Hedgeman goes to answer it.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION- NIGHT

Jimmy and his father, DR. HEDGEMAN, exit the police station. Dr. Hedgeman is a single parent just trying to understand his post-pubescent son and somehow continue his research. He's having a tough time at both. The two get in the car.

With jaws jutted forward in defiance this genetically stubborn pair ride in severe silence. Jimmy turns the radio on, tries to find a good station, continues punching buttons. Suddenly with a turn of finality, his father switches it off. The two continue in silence.

CUT TO:

INT. LAB- STANFORD RESEARCH FACILITY- NIGHT

"Wait in there, I'm in the middle of a crucial experiment." "But, Dad?" "You heard me." Jimmy goes into a small office towards the back of the lab. This is his dad's inner sanctum. A photo of a man, obviously Jimmy's grandfather, in the same bomber jacket Jimmy wears, standing next to a plane with "Sonic or Bust" written on it, is displayed prominently on the wall behind his desk. Excitedly, Dr. Hedgeman checks on his experiments. The plant he injected earlier seems to have come back to life. "It's working!" Lost in the results, he frantically makes notes into a tape recorder.

With his dad pre-occupied, Jimmy wanders into the lab and starts examining the weird collection of equipment. Jimmy looks in one cage and an egg starts to crack open, out slithers a baby snake. He moves to the next, opens the cage and plays with a hedgehog named "Squeakers".

Shelves throughout the lab are choked with bottles of everything from pickled snake brains to starfish. Jimmy points to one, showing it to Squeakers, "Look it's the newest thing since pet rocks... pets in a bottle."

His father snaps. "Put that back."

Jimmy gives Squeakers a tour of the facilities, gesturing to some equipment. "Over here we have the gym, spa and salon. I recommend a trim around the ears, my friend. Sideburns are just not you."

He slams his fist on the counter. "Jesus, Jimmy, when are you gonna grow up?" His dad takes the hedgehog, puts it back in its cage. "I'm in the middle of getting my grant extended for probably one of the most important discoveries ever, my funding committee is on my heels every second of the day, and you're out joy riding."

"Oh is it lecture time now?" There's an awkwardness, a moment of father and son not knowing how to reach each other. The part of Jimmy looking for his father's approval shuts down. Jimmy is all defense. "Chill, Dad, I made a mistake alright... no need to crucify me."

"Maybe you need a firmer hand in your life, that school of yours doesn't seem to be able to handle you. Hedgemans have always..." Jimmy cuts him off, "I know, I know, Hedgemans always make their mark. My grandfather was killed trying to break the sound barrier, trying to leave his mark."

Jimmy's father throws it back, "You're so goddamn stubborn and think you have all the answers. Just once I'd like to see you take responsibility for yourself. Military academy didn't do too badly with me, maybe that's the kind of influence you need, because I just don't understand what the hell you're thinking?"

Shocked, Jimmy gets flippant. "I don't see what the big deal is. I wasn't drunk, the cop just didn't like me. I'm seventeen and I'm screwed. I can't vote, can't drink, but I have to put up with crap from everyone."

Jimmy Jimmy

"The big deal is you go through life doing whatever you feel like and don't care about anyone else in the process. You've made a hobby out of disappointing me." Jimmy counter-attacks, "It's clear as ice, ever since Mom died, it's like I'm not even here. You spend more time thinking about your work than you do about me. One day you're gonna drop dead of a heart attack into one of your precious tests and I won't notice the difference."

The phone rings. Dr. Hedgeman picks it up. It's his boss. "Hang on a moment..."

... Jimmy storms out of the lab. Out in the hall he accidentally bumps into some maintenance workers. "Watch it, kid..."

CUT TO:

EXT. LAB- STANFORD RESEARCH FACILITY- NIGHT

Once Jimmy is out of sight, the three maintenance workers leave their post and enter Dr. Hedgeman's lab.

INTERCUT:

As Jimmy slams down the corridor of the research facility, he replays the conversation, mimicking his father. "Well, Dad, you made a hobby out of ignoring me, so I guess we're even." Jimmy stops as he reaches the building exit, realizing he forgot his backpack.

INTERCUT:

INT. DR. HEDGEMAN'S OFFICE- NIGHT

The three men, all dark-skinned with slight accents, pretend to answer a service call as they enter Dr. Hedgeman's small office. As Dr. Hedgeman suggests they're mistaken, they block the door and unplug the phone. One of the men, FACE, has a severe skin condition that makes his skin look like it's almost dripping off his face. He does most of the talking.

"Written up in Science Magazine." He holds up a copy. "Redefining the cutting edge of DNA research on dormancy and cell regeneration during hibernation. Very impressive." Dr. Hedgeman asks, "Who the hell are you?"

INTERCUT:

EXT. DR. HEDGEMAN'S LAB- NIGHT

Jimmy opens the door to his dad's lab, bracing himself for an onslaught from his dad. He picks his backpack off the counter and turns to leave. He stops when he hears voices arguing in the office, his father's one of them.

INTERCUT:

INT. DR. HEDGEMAN'S OFFICE/LAB- NIGHT

FACE picks up a paperweight off Dr. Hedgeman's desk, plays with it. "Our boss wanted a response to his offer." Dr. Hedgeman orders them out, threatens to call the night guard. Face laughs, "Go ahead. My hunch, though, is he won't be able to get here right now."

"Think about it, Dr. Hedgeman, an open checkbook to purchase anything you could possibly need to finish your research, your new lab is ready and waiting for you down at our little Shangri-La, just say the word." Dr. Hedgeman reaches for the door, "The word is no." The door starts to open. Jimmy quickly hides in a giant storage cabinet.

"I can see you don't have a perspective yet, Dr. Hedgeman, let me give you one." Through a crack, Jimmy sees one of the men take out a gun. Dr. Hedgeman moves back. They motion him to the door. He grabs for the cabinet Jimmy is in, topples it at them. It lands face down. Drenched in the liquid from the broken bottles, Jimmy is trapped.

His father physically struggles with the thugs. Face pulls a can from his pocket and sprays Dr. Hedgeman with a kind of chemical gas. He drops to the ground, his head hitting the counter on the way down. The other two pick up Dr. Hedgeman like a rag doll. Blood drips onto the cold tile floor from the gash on his head.

Jimmy is pinned in the cabinet. The three men now talk to each other in a foreign language not instantly recognizable. One of them brushes close to the cabinet while retrieving a large barrel. Jimmy tries to right himself inside. As he does, he notices a shard of glass, dripping with a strange blue liquid, sticking about an inch into the palm of his hand.

He pulls the shard out quickly and stifles a scream as his hand, bleeding, begins to throb. OWWWW! He squeezes hard around his wrist trying to squelch the pain. His vision gets blurry and he feels a little queasy for a second. The room seems full of overpowering odors. He closes his eyes, shakes his head firmly to block it out. It's gone.

> Notil grade

Through the crack in the cabinet Jimmy can see them folding his father into a container marked "Dangerous Specimen- Medical Research Only". Dry ice mist curls from the cracks of the container. With a flip of a switch the container is sealed. SWIISSHH!

Quickly the three men leave, wheeling the container with Dr. Hedgeman.

The barve

CUT TO:

EXT. STANFORD RESEARCH FACILITY LOADING DOCK- NIGHT.

Jimmy kicks at the cabinet until he bends the door enough to squeeze out. He takes off after them. As he runs, he staggers and falls, but catches up in time to see the container has been loaded onto a truck with about thirty other barrels just like the one holding his dad. He looks at his palm. It's swelling, painful.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION- NIGHT

Breathing hard, wild-eyed, Jimmy bursts through the door towards the front desk sergeant. He starts telling him what happened. But Jimmy's speech pattern has accelerated to about 150 mph. Each time Jimmy tries to slow down and speak clearly he can't, it comes out jumbled. The desk sergeant gets irritated. "What are ya, drunk?"

Much to Jimmy's dismay his "Number one public enemy", the cop who revoked his license, overhears this and makes his way to the front. "Hey wait a minute, aren't you the kid... Grab him!" Jimmy takes off.

CUT TO:

A HIGH SPEED CHASE/PURSUIT dodging traffic, pedestrians and other obstacles. He's pumped full of nervous adrenaline and as his vision becomes blurry, he weaves in and out of traffic. His injured hand cramps up and he has trouble turning the steering wheel. He looks in the rearview mirror and sees streaks of blue hair. He shakes his head, closes his eyes and when he reopens them, he's normal.

The cop tries to cut Jimmy off. Sweaty and blurry-eyed, Jimmy crashes into him. "Oh my God." Jimmy leaps over the squad car's hood and races off. The cop isn't even out of his car before Jimmy is out of sight, with an incredible burst of speed.

CUT TO:

INT. HEDGEMAN LAB- NIGHT

Jimmy sneaks back into his father's lab. It's all cleaned up. No evidence of any violence whatsoever. Now the police will never take him seriously!

Frantic, Jimmy searches, hoping to find a clue. He opens the cabinet. It's full of broken glass, amidst a mixture of dripping goop of all colors. He examines one of the broken bottles labeled, "Hedgehog dormant DNA". "Who'd believe me, anyway?". Then he notices his father's tape recorder on the floor under the counter. It was turned on during the scuffle. Jimmy rewinds it and finds that it picked up what the men who kidnapped his father were saying.

Sweating, nursing his hand, he slumps into his father's office chair, wrestling with what he should do. He feels he let his father down. The photo of his grandfather seems to looms over Jimmy, weighing at his conscience. "What would you do?"

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CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE- EARLY A.M.

Jimmy pounds on a front door. Silence. He pounds louder. Slowly the door opens. A groggy old woman, MRS. DEEDHAMMER, sees Jimmy. The look on her face says she wishes him dead. "Well, Mr. Hedgeman, it wasn't enough you refused to show up for my class in the last three months, now you feel the need to wake me up at 3 a.m.?"

Jimmy pleads his case to his Spanish teacher. "My old man's in serious trouble. I gotta bring them proof or there's no way the cops will believe me." She thinks this is some practical joke. He plays the tape for her and describes the men. She realizes Jimmy isn't taking no for an answer.

She shows him a map of South America and explains that it sounds like a derivative of a centralized language from the Peruvian region. In fact, the voices seem to be saying the familiar name of a town or something.

Jimmy continues to act strangely. He explains, "I'm not feeling myself right now." Mrs. Deedhammer excuses herself and goes into the kitchen. Jimmy studies the map. It comes to him. He stabs his index finger on the word they've been looking for, it's a blue area surrounded. by green. It's not a town, it's a lake! Excitedly Jimmy goes to tell Mrs. Deedhammer. She's on the phone. Jimmy hears the word "police", grabs the map and races out the door.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD-

PULL BACK... to reveal a man, DR. PAUL ELLESON (aka "Robotnik"), walking on a cloud... A voice interrupts his thoughts. Face, the thug from Dr. Hedgeman's office, speaks, "Excuse me, sir?"

Elleson flicks a switch in his hand. The clouds dissipate, leaving him standing in a chamber attached to his office. He's a striking man in a chiseled way and looks younger than the more than half a century he is. The slight graying around the temples is the only giveaway.

Elleson climbs out of the chamber. "Is he here?" Face responds, "Not by choice."

The walls of his office are covered with posters from old circus acts. "Dog-Face Boy"; "Three-legged Man"; "Spider Woman". Bizarre exotic plants fill the empty spaces. An ant farm, with giant ants, lines an entire wall. This is a room of mixed sensibilities. Elleson is a meticulous man with a twisted fascination for perfection. He moves to the door. "As if any of us had any choices, really."

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Elleson stands over Dr. Hedgeman, strapped to a gurney, still unconscious. He takes a hypodermic, fills it with a serum and shoots it into Dr. Hedgeman's arm. His body reacts with a slight convulse, then his eyes slowly open.

"Good morning, Dr. Hedgeman, how'd you sleep? You'll be back to normal in no time. The air on this island is as perfect as you'd find anywhere on this planet. I know, I created it."

Dr. Hedgeman knows Elleson, a legendary science recluse, by reputation. "You went to Cambridge, dropped out and made a fortune on the first patent for synthetic blood, enough to go into funding your own research. But you died ten years ago." "More like reborn," counters Elleson. Elleson turns to Dr. Hedgeman and puts out his hands, waving his fingers in a slow haunting way. He suddenly pulls the fingers off of his right hand! He sets them on the counter. What's left of his hand is a grotesque stub.

Dr. Hedgeman is horrified, then turns to notice the fingers are still moving, coming towards him. "Sorry for the exhibition, I always forget that I enjoy things most people find uncomfortable."

Elleson was born with no fingers. They gave him inefficient metallic fingers when he was a boy. "Children can be so cruel, they use to call me "Claws"... I tried to make something of myself." Elleson moves to a poster of a boy holding a violin. The headline reads "The Fingerless Virtuoso". "People came to see me just to thank God that they didn't suffer from my handicap."

Elleson's fingers now rest on Dr. Hedgeman's shoulder. Seemingly hanging on Elleson's every word, Elleson's fingers steadily crawl up around Dr. Hedgeman's ear to his face. The fingers cover up Dr. Hedgeman's nose and mouth. He can't breathe.

Elleson sees a fly, catches it in the air with his left hand, holds it for a second, then lets it go. One beat later he smashes the fly with the other hand. "You see, doctor, real power is letting something believe, even for a moment, that you've given it life...".

Elleson holds out his stub of a hand, an inch from Dr. Hedgeman's face, the fingers climb back on. "You're free to go, Dr. Hedgeman, whenever you like, but I hope your curiosity will at least allow me to give you a tour of the facilities."

Elleson pushes a button on his desk, the door opens and Face enters. "Make sure Dr. Hedgeman is shown to his accommodations." "I thought you said I was free to go." "You can go any time after you help me complete my research." Face leads him to the door. "I hope you're as comfortable as the last occupant."

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE

Jimmy, looking more adult in his father's jacket, lays down his Dad's credit card and books on a commercial plane. The moment comes for him to sign. His injured hand is wrapped in a sling, he uses this as an excuse for the signature not matching. The attendant shows "Mr. Hedgeman" to his first class seat.

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CUT TO:

Jimmy smuggles a few miniature liquor bottles off the drink cart, orders a soda and empties them into a glass. He then asks for a "Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue" from the attractive flight attendant. She gives him a cold icy glare as she hands him one. Jimmy flips through it, eyeballing each page. Sweating, he looks down at his hands and sees thin wisps of blue hair growing. (Adrenaline, from either nervousness or excitement, accelerates the "hedehog" serum.)

CUT TO:

Jimmy gets up and jockeys for a position to the bathroom. Feeling dizzy and nauseous, he finally gets into the bathroom, slams the latch and turns to the sink. He scrubs at his blue hands feverishly. He picks up a guest razor and starts to scrape the hair off. More keeps growing.

Jimmy shakes. He splashes cold water on his face. Grappling for a 100 C towel, he accidentally knocks the light out overhead the sink. In the dark, his body ripples through a quick flash of morphing.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPLANE LAVATORY

We hear sounds of crashing and banging from inside the small space. Doors bulge. Deep throat breathing and snorting come from within. Then the door opens.

Jimmy, normal again, calmly steps out and we pan around to see that everyone is on the other side of the plane, staring at him. "What are you looking at?" He goes back to his seat, collapses and nervously sits on his hands for the duration of the flight.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT

Jimmy arrives in the hubbub of an international scene. A couple of street con artists notice him asking for directions and offer to help. They tell him they can take him to a river that leads to the lake. "Unfortunately, we have to charge you rental for the boat." Jimmy takes some money out of his wallet and puts the wallet back in his pack. We hear a street beggar, in the background, warn Jimmy not to go. "It's a Godforsaken place. Nothing lives, nothing dies." In the rush, Jimmy doesn't take notice. The con artists sweep him into a run down jalopy off the side of the road.

Riding along, the men joke and tease him, trying to put Jimmy at ease. One guy keeps a keen eye on Jimmy's back pack.

They arrive at the river. Jimmy asks, "Where's the boat?" All too suddenly the men grab Jimmy's backpack, knock him unconscious and throw him in the water. The river's current recklessly washes Jimmy downstream to a larger body of water.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND- NIGHT

Belawability

Desperate, near drowning, Jimmy swims for a dark land mass, an island. He pulls himself safely to shore. He's in a mangrove swamp, vines hang from the limbs of enormous looming trees. A blanket of darkness brings the island to life. There are inhuman cries and shrieks. Jimmy nervously pulls the hood to his jacket up.

The sounds of bones crunching surround Jimmy. He starts to break into a cold sweat and randomly scratches as an itchy feeling What bok like overwhelms him. His nose begins to twitch. He hears more unsettling sounds beyond him.

Jimmy lifts up a rock to defend himself and finds a nest of worms wreathing underneath. He picks up a worm and uncontrollably brings it closer and closer to his mouth. Jimmy feasts until the very last one is gone. He looks around, sees the empty worm nest and one small worm desperately squirming for its getaway. He grabs it, downs it, burps!

Jimmy then turns and sees his reflection in the murky water. He jumps back in shock when he thinks he sees himself as some kind of strange animal. (This is only seen in pieces, not a complete transformation.)

Suddenly something charges him with a vicious growl. He sees a flash of razor-sharp teeth. He runs frantically through thick brush. Sweat drips down his forehead, adrenaline kicks in, blue hair on his palms and face starts to show. Whatever it is gains on him, snapping at his heels.

Jimmy makes a last ditch effort, hurls himself up a tree. His pursuer snarls in frustration as Jimmy makes it to safety. The shocking horror of all that just happened hits him. He leans over, pukes his worm breakfast.

His head still pounding, he transforms back to himself. From his perch, he eyes the ground below. "I'm just imagining this... calm down..." Suddenly, Jimmy is grabbed from behind, his mouth covered. Before he even knows who or what hit him, he's out cold. ACT TWO:

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Elleson gives Dr. Hedgeman a tour of his facilities. Elleson's lair is built on the side of a volcano. It has thick plate glass windows looking outward on a spectacular view, one side towards the island plains, the other inward on the volcano itself. Lava tubes provide various intricate connectors to the rest of Elleson's operation.

Jimmy's father is brought into a room, Elleson throws a switch. A simulated voice requests, "Fingerprint verification needed for access. Please depress now." A plate pops up in the center of the chamber. Elleson presses his fingers down and gives the computer a verbal code, "Go to phi beta sig... 2, 3, 3."

The father finds himself suspended in mid-air. Below are generated images. Suddenly he's in the middle of the floor of the NY stock exchange, men shouting and pushing. "Greed..." Then he finds himself being shot at by a sleek military bomber. "War..." Elleson launches into a slide show of sorts, using his holographic computer to demonstrate the seven deadly sins that show how imperfect a world we live in. "But I want to change that. Let me show you..."

Still in the holographic model, Elleson tells Dr. Hedgeman he wants to eliminate the world's imperfections and frailties which deprive all organisms of living in communal harmony. He plans to find the key to manipulating DNA so that he can transform the essence of life in all creatures and humankind into elite perfection. "Buckminster Fuller called this planet "Spaceship Earth", Galileo called it a "Global Village". I believe it is more of a musical overture. Each living thing is a single note blending with every other to create a perfect harmonious composition."

Elleson explains the reason he needs Dr. Hedgeman's help. "The work you've done with transmuting DNA is only steps away from what I'm working on." He gestures all around him at the vast holographic computer environment. We see the world very much as it is now except none of the horrors of war, famine, and crime. Elleson walks Dr. Hedgeman through a sea of experimentally "perfect" communities. "God created the world in 7 days, it will only take me one to correct it."



Then Elleson takes Dr. Hedgeman's arm as everything around them swirls. They're actually standing inside a fully dimensional DNA molecule. As Elleson talks, he re-arranges things. He points to a certain part of the double helix. "This is where I've failed, this is where I need your effort."

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND- NEAR DAWN

Jimmy wakes. PULL BACK to find him splayed on a makeshift stretcher being dragged and bumped along the ground. Pulling Jimmy is a hideous-looking mutant creature. Jimmy starts to move, he's bound and gagged. A 16 yr. old girl in a brightly woven grass tunic puts a knife to his throat. "Make another sound and you'll get us all killed." Meet AMANDA MORGAN. She's a self-sufficient, "take no attitude" half girl, half wild-woman.

They come to a clearing at the edge of a cliff and stop. The creature takes Jimmy in his stretcher and moves towards the edge. Jimmy struggles, sees the edge coming closer and closer. Powerless, Jimmy shouts "No!" as the creature hefts him over.

CUT TO:

Jimmy falls at an accelerated pace, the rocks below rush towards him. Thinking he's going to die, he closes his eyes.

SPROING! He lands in a net inches above the jagged rocks. A hand comes at him with an even bigger knife. It belongs to an even larger mutant creature than the one that threw Jimmy over. The creature is howling like a crazy man. But he's not a man, he's the oddest thing Jimmy has ever seen. A giant with huge paws, walking upright, with long curly dreadlocks for a mane. It cuts Jimmy loose, grabs him by the throat.

Introduce KENTAR, a native product of Elleson's early research. (Jimmy in his fast talking glib style, nicknames him "Knuckles" because of his long apelike arms that he tends to drag along the ground.) He's hard as nails and as strong as an ox. Why can't he he plas

Amanda and the other creature follow Jimmy's entrance, landing on each side of "Knuckles".

EXT. MUTANT SHANTY TOWN

Knuckles prods Jimmy along with a spear. We see the village through Jimmy's eyes. Ladders descend from what appears to be tiny hanging shacks built on the side of the cliff! Dead animal carcasses hang in between the ladders, an eye-watering stench permeates the air. Low chanting echoes from all around.

Tiny huts cluster together, separated by wooden plankways creating a multi-layered, multi-leveled village. Large rats, like favored pets, romp up and down the planks. As they reach the main platform, Jimmy is forced past rows of staring eyes through open windows. Creatures, similar but in no way as large as Knuckles, come out to see what's going on.

Jimmy is knocked to his knees in front of a particular hut. The door opens, revealing a creature, TATICUS, "The Elder", holding a long stick. He pounds the cane loudly. He is smaller, but commands a presence and respect with his deep green eyes. One long thick orange braid runs down his back. Amanda walks up and speaks to Taticus in a possessive tone.

Taticus inspects Jimmy, grunts as he pokes and prods, then responds, "A good tisherman only keeps what he can use." He leaves, climbing up a ladder. Knuckles and other mutants cheer as they look down on Jimmy. "We can kill him!"

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Zoom into the craggy volcano crater, where Elleson continues giving his overview as he takes Dr. Hedgeman to a section of the compound with heightened security. They enter the "Zoo of New Creatures". There are cages with extraordinary animal creations distinctively different than we've ever seen before. Along with being on display, everything the mutants think, feel or do is observed and written down.

Elleson picks up a particular new creature, still in the experimental stages, and shows it to Dr. Hedgeman. "You see they're unique, but unfortunately imperfect." He puts a scrap of food in the middle of them. He waves his hands, instructing them to let only one of them have it. As soon as he removes his hand they all fight for it. "The inability to obey, it's tragic really."

Elleson pleads his case, "Dr. Hedgeman, mankind is destroying their own world. I believe they've given up their moral right to this planet. I'm interested in orchestrating harmonies, not conflict. I'm inches away. My life was a tragedy. No living thing should have to endure what I went through. It's not such a bad thing to want to do, is it?"

Dr. Hedgeman, still trying to absorb it all, doesn't argue. Elleson dismisses him promptly. As soon as he leaves, Elleson turns to Face and chuckles. "Well, I think the fool bought it, don't you?" Without a thought, Elleson calmly presses a button which causes all of the imperfect creatures from the demonstration to be destroyed.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF TOP-

Taticus meditates as Amanda interrupts and begs him to spare Jimmy's life. Taticus reminds her about the rule for outsiders. She makes her case saying that Jimmy isn't an outsider, that she's seen him transform and he should be allowed "The Test" to prove it. "He should have the same claim as any other mutant, the chance to earn the right to live amongst us." Taticus thinks long and hard and then replies, "Let him take "The Test" at dawn then. But you know the consequences if he fails. You've sided with an outsider and I cannot be responsible for how you will be treated."

CUT TO:

INT. MUTANT HUT

Jimmy is bruised and battered as he lays on a dirt wood floor. Amanda brings him food. She throws the scraps on the ground. Pointing at Jimmy she says, "Sonic, eat" and stands, arms crossed, watching.

Jimmy reluctantly picks at what he thinks is his last meal. Amanda explains she got him a reprieve if he can pass "The Test." If he fails, then it'll be the end for him. Jimmy is puzzled why she calls him Sonic until he sees her staring at his jacket and realizes she thinks that's his name.

Jimmy tries to tell her his real name but she continues to call him Sonic. He explains he's come 7,000 miles on a gut instinct and tries to enlist Amanda's help. "Look, some guy has kidnapped my dad and I'm having some allergic reaction that makes my hair stick up and my palms turn blue. Cut me some slack." Amanda stares at him a moment, "Your slack is you fight at dawn," then leaves.

CUT TO:

Jimmy stares out a window. Outside, some of the creatures playfully challenge each other with feats of bravery. This is a very basic, primal tribe of misfits that value physical strength more than anything.

Bodies fly 20 ft. in the air and smash to the ground. BOLAR, a young creature boy with more guts than smarts, challenges Knuckles. When Knuckles wins, he struts around flaunting his victory. Bolar slinks away in shame. The others laugh, "Go back where you belong, mama's boy."

Observing some of the mutant creatures, Jimmy knows he doesn't stand a chance in a physical match against one of them. He also realizes that at times, he's not too different than they are. He becomes angry and depressed at his situation, slumps down into a corner.

The sun begins to set. As darkness grows the mutant villagers get agitated. Music wafts over the island, deep melodious notes singing from a violin. The games are dropped, windows snap shut, ladders are pulled up, doors are bolted closed. The entire shanty town locks itself up from within.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB- PRE-DAWN

Elleson looks over some of his new creatures. They aren't developing at a pace he's happy with. One of his technicians informs him that their food isn't sufficient. "They're rejecting all but live sources." Elleson pushes the worker aside, "Do I have to think of everything around here?"

We see Elleson unleash his bizarre snakelike hunting creatures, ordering them to bring back ten living specimens from his reject mutant enclave. "What you do to the rest, I don't really care." He resumes monitoring his experiments.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND-DAWN

Knuckles stands in the middle of a natural amphitheater made out of rocks and tree stumps. It's surrounded by a ring of water. The rest of the creatures push a reluctant Jimmy into the center. He catches Amanda's eyes. "This is crazy." She stresses, "It's the only chance you have." Knuckles and Jimmy go one on one. It's a grueling match of brute strength versus an American teenage kid who has seen a few Bruce Lee movies. Jimmy tries to turn into Sonic but can't. Knuckles drags Jimmy near the moat and holds his head under water. Amanda watches, worried and frustrated.

Jimmy clutches at the choke hold Knuckles has on him. Knuckles laughs, and shouts to Amanda, "I'll show you your prize isn't such a prize." Jimmy gulping for air, starts to feel strange. His heart races and his lungs expand. He feels an intense pressure pounding in his head, building, stronger and stronger, as he begins to morph under the water. Sonic reappears, a mass of blue fury.

Knuckles is surprised, he starts to lose his grip. A blue lightning bug, he whirls, gains the upper hand, pulls Knuckles under. Now it looks like Sonic is going to win!

Suddenly Elleson's vicious snake creatures storm out of the forest. Villagers shriek in terror, run for cover. Sonic drops Knuckles in the confusion.

A thundering noise echoes as two attack helicopters come looming over the trees. There is absolute chaos, some are even trampled to death, as other villagers desperately flee. The snake hunters herd the terrified villagers. The helicopters begin to drop nets down. Chaos reigns. A net descends on BOLAR, tearing him from his mother's arms. "No, no! Not my son, please..."

Another net drops on Amanda. Knuckles goes to save her. Two snake hunters turn on him. Knuckles is outmatched. They go in for the kill. Sonic makes a mad dash to save Amanda and Knuckles. The two hunters are slammed to the ground before they know what hit them.

Sonic has a brief opportunity to escape into the forest. Realizing there's no time to lose, Sonic grabs Amanda and pulls her after him. Captured, Knuckles can only struggle as he watches them leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND

Sonic and Amanda run for safety. They follow a stream into a different section of foliage than the rest of the island. It's a secret spot that Amanda shows him. Wonderful, organic multi-colored rare plants and flowers bloom. It's Amanda's private garden. It's beautifully bizarre.

He turns on Amanda. "What the hell just happened?!!" Amanda explains, "Those were Elleson's creations, trained to do his bidding for him and in exchange he lets them feed on the island. Do you know what will happen to those captured today? They'll be fed to Elleson's other pets."

He questions her about Elleson. Amanda admits her father worked for Elleson and when he wouldn't continue, he disappeared here on the island. "Elleson thinks I'm dead. My father hid me with the villagers. He knew something wasn't right. If Elleson has him, your dad could be dead too." That's why Amanda wants the creatures to leave the island, so they'll be safe. "They're the only family I have now. But they won't leave their home, no matter what Elleson does to them, and I won't go without them."

Jimmy senses her courage. He finds himself attracted to her. Amanda is not like any girl he's ever met. He looks at his own hands, which are still blue, wondering if she could ever be attracted to something that is part monster or worse.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Face leads in the captured mutants for Elleson's inspection. Knuckles is one of them. Along with Face is one of the helicopter pilots from the raid.

Elleson learns, from an image disc taken by the pilot, that an outsider is in the village.

Dr. Hedgeman views the tape from the background. He's shocked to see his son, but doesn't react outwardly. He overcompensates by continuing to focus more on his work. Elleson notices the subtle change in the father.

Elleson is furious that they let a human on the island get away from them. He kills the pilot on the spot, in front of Jimmy's father, then explains to him in a calm, callous manner why he couldn't let him live, "... filled with imperfections, to let him live would have been a tragedy."

Pointing to Jimmy's image on the disc, Elleson orders Face, "Bring me that one, I want him."

Taking advantage of the moment, Knuckles barters for his life. "I know him, his name is Sonic." Elleson questions why Knuckles is willing to give him up. Knuckles explains that Sonic isn't one of them, he lets it slip that Sonic can go between being human and mutant.

Elleson is excited by this information. Sonic could contain the genetic answer he's been looking for. Knuckles offers to deliver Sonic to Elleson in exchange for letting the mutants go back to their village to live in peace.

Elleson tells Knuckles that he looks upon all his creations as his children. "And like all children, you should be punished when wrong and encouraged when right." Elleson gives Knuckles a deadline of 24 hours. Knuckles exits the room with blood in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. HEDGEMAN'S ROOM

Dr. Hedgeman paces, trying to figure a way out from under Elleson. A dinner tray is brought in and left on the table. In an act of angry frustration, Dr. Hedgeman wipes the tray to the floor. The fork spins across the room and lands under his bed.

A glimpse of something catches his eye. A leather belt hangs looped around the bed frame. Dr. Hedgeman unlatches the belt and lays it out on the ground. Etched into the grained leather are tiny symbols, a code of some kind. Dr. Hedgeman fingers the belt. He gets an idea...

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Dr. Hedgeman sneaks into the room with the holographic chamber. He turns it on. Nothing. A simulated voice requests, "Fingerprint verification needed for access. Please depress now." A plate pops up in the center of the chamber.

Dr. Hedgeman looks around. Spots a drinking glass sitting on Elleson's desk in his office. He uses the glass to have the weird prints from Elleson's regenerated fingers read via laser beam. "Verification Acknowledged." He verbally plugs in the code he found in his room and the hologram responds.

Immediate images come to life. This is Elleson's real future world. He's created exact replicas of life forms that will walk the planet. A computer generated eco system that shows both animals and plants never before seen: certain perfected plants can actually hunt animals, creatures that travel between land and water, insects that are disproportionate in size to their environment.

The most disturbing change is the noticeable difference in all human existence. Humankind has been changed into hardly recognizable half human, half creature-like beings.

The perfected creatures and transmuted humans have one thing in common, they're all engineered by Elleson!

Elleson's entire scheme is laid out. He plans to harness enough energy from the dormant volcano to allow him to shoot the mutated replicating DNA into the atmosphere. It will contaminate the world's water supply, wipe out the imperfections and allow him the opportunity to transmute the planet's life-forms into his own intelligent, perfected creations. The only thing he doesn't have yet is the final key to controlling human DNA.

CUT TO:

EXT. ELLESON'S ISLAND- DUSK

Jimmy now sees the dilemma of the villagers as a way to rescue his father and perhaps get himself cured. He convinces Amanda that they have to unite to stop Elleson. Together they gather some of the other mutants who are hiding in the forest. The mutants blame Jimmy for the raid. They think he's brought them bad luck and want nothing to do with him.

Amanda convinces them that they're wrong. She pleads with them to confront their fear of Elleson head on. She challenges them to stand up for themselves just like Sonic is doing. "You can't keep living this way. It's you or Elleson. Stop the creatures and you stop Elleson. Until then, terror reigns."

One by one a small group commits to his cause. Knuckles, still biding his time, stands in the shadows distancing himself. He makes plans to tip off Elleson regarding the intended raid, thus delivering Sonic right into Elleson's lap.

EXT. ELLESON'S VOLCANO COMPOUND

Jimmy, Amanda and their mutant team are outside the compound. There are a dozen different paths and chambers. They take a guess at which direction to go.

Face and his security guards discover the rebels. Jimmy tries to mutate, but hasn't learned how to control it. He fails, they make a run for it. The security guards manage to shoot some of the mutants, stopping them from escaping. Face gets a couple shots off at Jimmy but misses. He and Amanda get away.

Jimmy blames himself for leading them all into trouble. He is horrified at the pain he's caused. This is the "CRASH OF HIS EMOTIONAL HARD DRIVE". Like Joseph Campbell's "Belly of the Beast", he hits absolute bottom and doubts his ability to continue. This is the moment Jimmy turns from boy to man.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND

Hoping to inspire him, Amanda brings Taticus to see Jimmy. Jimmy rebuffs him. "Leave me alone. I've screwed everything up, let everyone down."

Taticus tries to help. Jimmy tells Taticus that he's afraid his body is infected and he's dying. "I'm not ready to die yet."

Taticus examines him. He feels his pulse, stares into his eyes. The old man tells him he's "dying into something new." "We must accept what we become, not deny it. Our only limits are what we put on ourselves. Use it for good or bad, you can't go backwards."

The Elder talks to Jimmy about coming to terms with the animal inside. "You humans are so arrogant. You think you have the sole right to the planet. All life is a cycle. There is DNA in all living things. Humans are no different." He uses the Eskimo analogy, that when they kill a polar bear, they consider that they are killing a brother.

Taticus cautions, "You can't fight the brother that is now inside you. You may not believe in yourself, but I believe you will be the one to lead my people to freedom. You must learn to harness your skills and learn quickly."

EXT. CLIFF TOP

Taticus is on the cliff top meditating. Face stumbles upon him. He starts to hit the old creature, threatening worse if he doesn't tell where Sonic is.

Taticus quietly resists. Face gets angry, pulls out a gun and shoots Taticus, his frail body falls off the cliff.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND BEACH

Knuckles finds Taticus and falls beside the bullet riddled body. He smashes rocks with his fists in anger. He realizes that Elleson has gone back on his word not to harm any of the villagers before his deadline is up.

Knuckles lifts Taticus's crumpled body in his arms and carries him back to the others.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGER'S CAMP

With The Elder's death, Amanda realizes they haven't got much time and that she will have to complete Sonic's instruction. Sonic still resists.

Knuckles grabs him, lifts him up in the air. "You're not giving up. You can be dead or you can fight, but you're not giving up." Knuckles explains that he heard things in the compound and that there's more at stake than just the villagers. Elleson has a bigger plan that impacts the whole world.

Jimmy commits and as Sonic goes through a rigorous training sequence to learn to control his abilities of strength, speed, and spins, so he can go up against Elleson for himself and for the village.

CUT TO:

Amanda gives Sonic Taticus's final test that proves he's ready.

INT. ELLESON'S VOLCANO COMPOUND

Jimmy, with the help of Amanda and Knuckles, has a plan to break into the compound to find the mutants and his father. He has a couple of near detections but manages to get deeper into Elleson's volcano compound thanks to Knuckles, who draws him a rudimentary map. (At a crucial crossroad, the map is wrong but Sonic counteracts for it.)

Finally Jimmy finds where they're holding the mutants. They're in a damp chamber guarded by some of Elleson's snakerope creatures. They writhe along the floor, back and forth. There's no way to get within six feet of the entrance. This is where Sonic shows that he can really use his skills. WHOOSH! SPIN! He takes out the creature guards and has a clean shot at getting everyone out.

There's just one problem, Jimmy's father isn't there. He gets the mutant villagers to the drop off point where Amanda and Knuckles are waiting, preparing to go back for his dad. The sounds of footsteps coming sends them into a flurry. Amanda and Knuckles lead the group out. Using himself as a decoy, Sonic takes off down one of the lava tubes, making a point of getting Elleson's men's attention. They run after him shooting.

He races down a tunnel, ducks into a corridor and thinks he's lost them, when BAM! Face hits him over the head and he's out cold. He grabs him and drags him to Elleson.

ACT THREE:

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB-

Sonic is strapped to a table, electrodes taped to his arms and heart. A machine takes a blood sample every two minutes to monitor change.

He demands to know if Elleson has his dad. Elleson is pleasantly surprised that Sonic/Jimmy is Dr. Hedgeman's son. "A coincidence like this is absolutely intriguing!"

Elleson explains that now with Sonic, the last piece of his intricate puzzle will be complete. He will be able to transmute humankind into more disciplined creatures.

Sonic coins the nickname "Robotnik" for Elleson's cold mechanical methodology.

Elleson plans to do a vivisection on Sonic to find out what makes him able to change so rapidly between human and mutant.

Dr. Hedgeman is held in Sonic's sight by some of his henchmen. Elleson points out that if Sonic doesn't cooperate, Dr. Hedgeman will suffer for it.

CUT TO:

Elleson begins a series of DNA development tests on the samples from Sonic that should provide the answer to controlled manipulation of human DNA.

CUT TO:

Using his holographic DNA replica Elleson takes a strand of Sonic's DNA and fuses it. It physically spirals into Elleson's model, creating a real pulsating swirling complete DNA. Success!

Elleson can now prepare to harness enough volcanic energy so that he can shoot the mutated DNA into the atmosphere and spread it through the world's water supply.

No longer useful, Elleson orders Face and another henchman to take Sonic and Dr. Hedgeman away. CUT TO:

INT. PIT

Sonic and his father are put in a pit. It looks hauntingly familiar. As the CLANG! of the metal door sounds and the lock is turned shut, the grate on the other side of the pit slowly begins to rise. Sonic and Dr. Hedgeman are to be the two headed mutant's latest meal.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Barking orders, Elleson is busy making preparations.

CUT TO:

INT. PIT

hof or pour

The creature's footsteps and grunts can be heard getting closer.

The two start looking for any way out. Sonic goes for the only other opening. It's a maze formed out of the cavern walls. Intricate and endless, one wrong turn and it's a literal dead end!

Sonic plunges forward, convincing his father to follow. They can hear the creature's footsteps echoing behind them. They hit a solid wall. The creature starts to come around the corner.

Father and son have a rare moment together in the face of death.

Suddenly, a loud BAM! BAM! BAM! sounds overhead. Suddenly a rope falls from the ceiling. Sonic looks up from the bottom of the rope and it's Amanda and Knuckles to the rescue.

Knuckles pulls Sonic and his father up to safety.

Sonic knows he has to stop Elleson or the entire planet will be contaminated. He takes off towards Elleson's lab. The others follow.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

A showdown in Elleson's lab. Sonic gets waylaid by more of Elleson's men. He takes them out one by one, including Face.

Amanda is cornered by one of Elleson's men. Dr. Hedgeman sneaks to the back to try and get an S.O.S. message out. Knuckles takes on the snake hunters. He has his hands full as Sonic goes for Elleson.

Sonic comes after Elleson with everything he has. Lightening quick, he spins and knocks Elleson... one, two, three. Hit hard, Elleson is knocked off balance, falls to the ground.

Desperate, Elleson lifts himself up to the counter and grabs one of the capsules and downs the DNA serum. Instantaneously we see Elleson transform into a hideous, gigantic mutation beyond anything we've seen so far.

He comes at Sonic with renewed energy and super strength. Sonic is now acting on pure defense, trying to stay alive. His speed is the only thing that prevents Elleson from tearing him apart. Sonic tries to get in a few good hits but just bounces off Elleson, not even making a dent.

Elleson picks Sonic up with both hands and throws him against the wall. THUMP! Sonic falls to the floor, collapsed in a heap.

Elleson kicks him. No response. He slams past Sonic and goes to his console. He deposits the two remaining capsules into their slots and shoots them down a tube to a pre-built launching pad.

He then hits a button causing a small underground explosion, designed to release pressure. Using the untapped steam underneath the earth, he plans to launch the capsules out of the volcano cone and into the atmosphere.

The volcano starts to shake.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND

The mutant villagers feel the rumble. Sensing the impending danger, they run for cover. They cling together in fear.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Sonic rises and tears back into Elleson, trying to stop him. Elleson laughs at Sonic's weak attempt. He throws him off.

At a loss for what to do, Sonic gathers all his energy and spins through the volcanic rock to the launching pad. He diverts the pressure away from the capsules and inadvertently feeds it into the core, causing the dormant volcano to rumble awake.

Elleson panics. "This isn't supposed to be happening. The heat generated from an actual eruption will burn up my DNA capsules before they leave the cone."

The lab starts to rock and shake as the rumbling intensifies.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

The "Zoo of New Creatures" is in pandemonium. We hear ear shattering screeches as the creatures scratch and claw at the walls, desperately looking for a way out.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLESON'S BIO LAB

Elleson is consumed with trying to save his experiment from going awry. A reading on the capsule tube screen flashes red. "Temperature overload. System failure."

An alarm sounds. Elleson becomes frantic as his bio lab starts to disintegrate around him. He refuses to acknowledge his failure.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISLAND

Sonic, Amanda, Knuckles and Dr. Hedgeman make a last minute escape from the compound. They look back just in time to see Elleson's compound fall into the crater, destroyed. Moments later there is an eruption. Lava spumes

CUT TO:

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF ISLAND

With nervous anticipation, the mutant villagers come out of hiding. There is major celebration as the news of Elleson's defeat spreads. The signaled help is seen in the distance coming to evacuate the island.

Jimmy's father tells him he's sorry for not believing in him and that he's very proud of him.

Jimmy apologizes too and tells his dad they've got a bit of a problem still. "You thought it was tough raising an ordinary teenager, you ain't seen nothing yet!"

...THE END