

**LUCA**

Original Screenplay by

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EXT. LIGURIAN SEA - NIGHT - PROLOGUE

A small FISHING BOAT exits the harbor of PORTOROSSO, a Ligurian seaside town.

Onboard, a gramophone plays a 1950s pop song. An Italian flag flutters in the breeze. The boat's wake cuts the deep inky blue of the ocean, as lights glimmer on the waves.

On the boat, TWO FISHERMEN. One old, one young. The old one (TOMMASO) steers while the young one (GIACOMO) frets--

GIACOMO

Listen, Tommaso--do we really need to fish near the island?

TOMMASO

You worry too much.

Giacomo points downward--

At a fascinating old illustrated MAP of the Ligurian Sea, featuring all manner of sea monsters. He points his finger near ISOLA DEL MARE, the island they're heading towards.

GIACOMO

I dunno. ...What if the old stories are true?

TOMMASO

Oh, c'mon, Giacomo. You really believe in sea monsters?

GIACOMO

Too many strange things have been seen in these waters...

TOMMASO

They're all just stories. Tall tales to keep us away from a great fishing spot.

GIACOMO

But, Tommaso!--

TOMMASO

We're fine. Non preoccupare ti, Giacomo.

Tommaso cuts the engine, and changes the record on the gramophone. Puccini. *O mio babbino caro*.

TOMMASO

That's more like it.

As the aria fills the night air, they pull in their nets--

While some scaly shadowy *something* approaches. (This is ALBERTO. We won't really meet him until later.)

Its FIN knifes through the water as it closes in on the boat--

Oh. It's not here to murder them. It's here to steal stuff.

As the fishermen go about their business, oblivious, the thing swipes a WRENCH, a DRINKING GLASS, PLAYING CARDS--

But as it reaches a skinny purple arm for the gramophone--

GIACOMO

AAAH! What is that!?

Our scampish little sea monster has been spotted.

TOMMASO

Per mille sardine--

The figure dives into the water--and right into the fishermen's net. It STRUGGLES, getting more tangled--

A lantern smashes on the deck--the light goes out--the panicked fishermen try to reel him in--

GIACOMO

(straining efforts)

Tira, tira!

The boat lists to one side as the tug-of-war intensifies--

Desperate to escape, the sea monster reverses direction and BREACHES THE SURFACE--

It arcs over the fishermen--astonished, they stumble backwards, knocking the gramophone into the water--

The sea monster dives into the water on the opposite side--Giacomo, shaking, throws a harpoon after him, but misses--

And the sea monster is gone.

TOMMASO

(panting)

You missed! Let's go--before it comes back for us--

GIACOMO

I told you they were real!

TOMMASO

Oh, what a monster. Horrifying...

The gramophone and other objects from the boat SINK into the murky depths of the ocean as ominous music BUILDS--

SMASH TO:

LUCA, 12 an adorable and not remotely frightening SEA MONSTER BOY, freaking out:

LUCA

AaaaaaaahhhH!!!

EXT. PAGURO HOME - MORNING

WIDE--he is in front of some kind of UNDERSEA BARN. Its doors are open and no one is inside.

He whirls to see his family's herd/school of GOATFISH dispersed all over the pastoral undersea landscape, snacking on inappropriate things.

LUCA

Fish out of the barn.  
FISH OUT OF THE BARN.  
Mom's gonna kill me--

One of the goatfish bleats, like a goat, then zips away--

LUCA

Caterina! --Wait!!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BRANZINOS' HOME - BRISK CUTS OF LUCA CHASING DOWN GOATFISH

Luca tears past a SEA MONSTER FARMER, startling him in the middle of feeding his crabs--

LUCA

Good morning, Mr. Branzino!  
And also, I'm sorry.  
And, uh. How's Mrs. Branzino?

MR. BRANZINO

(unamused)  
Hi, Luca.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GAMBERETTOS' HOME

Luca timidly approaches another stolid sea monster farmer--

LUCA  
Excuse me, ma'am? Have you, by any  
chance--

MRS. GAMBERETTO  
(severely)  
Yes.

She rotates. A goatfish is nibbling the back of her head.

EXT. HILLSIDE

Luca races up a hill after--

LUCA  
Giuseppe! Get back here!!

--one last goatfish (GIUSEPPE) nosing his way up the hill, in the direction of the surface. Luca jumps on him; Giuseppe squirms free. Some greased-pig shenanigans. Finally Luca gets him under an arm, and scolds him as he heads back down--

LUCA  
You wanna run off like your buddy  
Enrico? Because I've got news for  
you: he's either dead, or he's...  
(thinking about it)  
...out there somewhere.  
(a little dreamily)  
Seeing the world.

Beat.

LUCA  
(snapping out of it)  
But he's probably dead!

They return to the now-assembled flock--

LUCA  
Okay. That's everyone.  
(knowingly)  
Monalisa...? Why are you smiling?

MONALISA has kind of a creepy smile. She opens her mouth and a smaller fish wrestles its way out of there.

LUCA  
Anyone else in there?

A few more fish emerge from Monalisa's mouth.

LUCA  
Giuseppe, what did we JUST talk  
about.

Giuseppe, who has begun straying from the herd a little,  
FREEZES.

Then he continues straying from the herd a little more.

LUCA  
(to the school)  
All right--Let's head out--

TITLES, AS--

SEA MONSTER FARMERS attend to their labors, surrounded by the  
fields, farms, homes, and silos of a PEACEFUL AGRARIAN  
UNDERSEA COMMUNITY--

Luca exchanges warm polite greetings with many of them--

LUCA MR. GAMBERETTO  
Hello! Good morning!

LUCA MRS. ARAGOSTA  
Hi, Mrs. Aragosta. Hey, Luca!

LUCA MR. MERLUZZO  
Good morning! Morning!

Sea monsters: not quite how we imagine them.

PAN TO:

EXT. UNDERWATER FIELD

Luca corrals the goatfish flock toward a PASTURE--

LUCA  
Ok. All clear.

The fish start grazing, and Luca settles in for another not-  
super-stimulating day.

LUCA  
(to the fish)  
Let me know if you need anything.  
Anyone?  
No?  
...Okay.

Luca sits on a ROCK and blows bubbles from his mouth, bored.

Hmm. Giuseppe is sniffing at something--

LUCA  
Giuseppe?

--an ALARM CLOCK. Luca, intrigued, picks it up. What is this?  
It goes off, terrifying him, then mercifully stops.

There's more--he spots a PLAYING CARD floating nearby--

He examines it, then looks up to contemplate the alien world  
that these things must have fallen from--

And spots a BOAT OVERHEAD--

LUCA  
LAND MONSTERS!  
EVERYBODY UNDER THE ROCK!

Luca herds the scattered goatfish into a small CAVE--this is  
a familiar drill.

They remain as the boat passes, not seeing them--

And as Luca watches it get farther away--

HE BEGINS TO FOLLOW.

As he approaches the surface, the fascinating world up there  
comes into view--he tries to poke his head through, but the  
water BULGES unnaturally with his head, keeping him in the  
water--he strains to see what there is to see--

DANIELA (O.S.)  
LUCA!  
LUNCH IS READY!

Luca's mom's voice shatters his DAYDREAM, which was all it  
was--he's actually just a few feet off the sea floor.

LUCA  
(stressed)  
BE RIGHT THERE!!

Luca scrambles to hide his clock and cards, and collect the herd--

LUCA  
Come on! We gotta get back--

EXT. PAGURO HOME - LUNCHTIME

Luca swims home. His mom, DANIELA--loving, warm, overbearing--is on him.

DANIELA  
You're two minutes late. Was there a boat?! Huh?! Did you hide?!

LUCA  
(dutiful but weary)  
Yes, Mom.

DANIELA	LUCA
Because if they catch even a glimpse of you--you think they come around to meet new friends? Huh? Make small talk about the current? No. They're here to do MURDERS. Just making sure you know.	Uh-huh. No. I don't. Uh-huh. Thanks Mom.

They head into their cozy little undersea farmhouse, as Daniela reminisces about how things have changed--

DANIELA  
When I was a kid, we'd go weeks without seeing a boat. And let me tell you, they did not have motors. Just a sweaty land monster with a paddle.

GRANDMA, prickly, irascible, sits at the table. Even if Luca wasn't her only grandchild, he'd be her favorite.

LUCA  
(giving her a kiss)  
Hi, Grandma.

GRANDMA  
Hey, Bubble.

Luca's dad, LORENZO, is a little too into his show crabs, our sea monster equivalent of prize-winning chickens. He is attending to one now named PINCHY-PESSA.



LUCA

Hi, Dad.

LORENZO

(whispering, awestruck)

Luca. *Look at Pinchy-pessa.*  
She's molting. Oh, it's  
magnificent. Now here's a champion  
show crab if I ever saw one.

LUCA

(trying to be interested)

Oh. Nice.

LORENZO

Whoa whoa whoa!  
Don't look her in the eye!

LUCA

Sorry!

LORENZO

But don't apologize! She can sense  
weakness!!

Sure enough, Pinchy-pessa PINCHES Luca's ear.

Daniela uses her tail to scoop up the crab and orders Luca to  
the table.

DANIELA

Come eat, Luca. C'mon.

(to Lorenzo)

We better beat those Branzinos at  
the crab show this year. Everyone  
thinks Bianca Branzino's so great.  
With her prize-winning crabs and  
amaaaazing dolphin impression.  
Please! Everyone has a dolphin  
impression!  
ECK ECK ECK ECK ECK ECK.  
I mean, right?

LORENZO

Why do dolphins even sound like  
that? Why don't they just talk?

Luca's thoughts are back on the pasture--Grandma notices--

GRANDMA

Luca, what's on your mind?

LUCA

I... Well, I was just wondering...  
where do boats come from?

Lorenzo SPIT-TAKES.

GRANDMA

The land monster town. Just above  
the surface. I beat a guy at cards  
there once.

DANIELA

Mom! What are you doing?!

GRANDMA

(shrugs)  
He's old enough to hear about it.

LUCA

(floored)  
You've been to the surface?! And--  
and done the change?!--

DANIELA

Nope! Nope! The end! Shut it down!

LUCA

I was just curious--

DANIELA

And the curious fish gets caught!  
We do not talk, think, discuss,  
contemplate, or go ANYWHERE near  
the surface. Got it?

LUCA

(cowed)  
Yes, Mom.

Daniela hands Luca the rest of his lunch--

DANIELA

Here. Now let's get back to work.

She watches him get his crook, a little wistfully.

DANIELA

Hey. Look me in the eye.  
You know I love you, right?

LUCA

(softening)  
I know, Mom.

She watches him head out with the flock.

DANIELA  
(to Lorenzo)  
We're a little worried about him,  
right?

LORENZO  
(completely disengaged)  
No thanks! I'm full!

EXT. FIELDS

Luca is hunting more and more fascinating human objects. They carry him farther and father out of the pasture.

A shiny WRENCH--

A DRINKING GLASS--

And there, in the distance--

The GRAMOPHONE from our prologue.

Fascinated, cautious, he approaches it.

Too distracted to notice the ominous FIGURE IN A DIVING SUIT,  
STEALTHILY CLOSING IN BEHIND HIM--

Luca turns--

LUCA  
AAAAAAH!!!

The diver hefts his harpoon--Luca, scrambling to get away,  
blunders into a rock--

HE'S CORNERED--

ALBERTO  
Boo.

LUCA  
HUH?

The diver takes off its helmet to reveal that IT'S ANOTHER  
SEA MONSTER BOY (ALBERTO, 14).

Alberto is a rule-breaker, insouciant, carefree and careless.  
Your parents might think he's a bad kid, but you know he  
doesn't mean anyone any harm.

ALBERTO  
It's fine! I'm not human.

LUCA  
Oh!  
(still kind of terrified)  
...Thank goodness!

Before Luca can stop this from happening, Alberto hands him his harpoon.

ALBERTO  
Here, hold this.

Luca very gingerly takes hold of it and watches Alberto begin to collect all of the human items that have fallen here--

LUCA  
Uhhh. Do you... live around here?

ALBERTO  
Down here? No no no. I just came for my stuff.

Alberto picks up Luca's CROOK, too--

ALBERTO  
Ooooh!

And bolts for the surface before Luca can stop him--

LUCA  
Hey. Wait! That's mine!

Luca HURRIES AFTER HIM, only managing to catch up once Alberto is near the surface.

LUCA  
Sir? You forgot your harpoon. And if I could just--

ALBERTO  
Oh yeah. Thanks.

Alberto grabs the harpoon and just WALKS OUT OF THE WATER.

LUCA  
Wha?? What are you doing?!

Luca, in shock, stares through the water--he can't totally make out what's happening--

Then the CROOK sticks back through the surface.

And hooks Luca and pulls him out of the water, too.

LUCA  
GAAAAH!!!

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Alberto, now in human form, hauls Luca up onto the sand--

Luca's hand quickly begins to TRANSFORM--then his arms, his body, his face--he has HAIR--

Luca COMPLETELY FREAKS OUT. He thinks he might be dying.

LUCA  
AAAAAAHHH! No no! OH NO!! AAH!!  
HELP ME!!!

SMASH TO WIDE: He is not dying. He is a small human boy rolling around yelling on the sand for seemingly no reason.

ALBERTO  
First time?

LUCA  
Of course it is!! I'm a good kid!

Alberto realizes he needs to walk him through this a little.

ALBERTO  
Hey. Relax. Breathe.

Luca takes a couple breaths. Sure enough, he begins to relax.

He looks around.

He takes in the sights and sounds of the surface. The shore. The trees. The grass. The sky.

Things he has spent his entire young life wondering about.

Alberto watches, amused.

ALBERTO  
Well? Isn't it great?

This snaps Luca out of it--

LUCA  
Uh! No! It's bad! I'm not supposed to be up here!  
--Good day!

Luca scrambles into the water.

Alberto picks up Luca's crook and holds it out right as Luca comes back for it, flustered--

                  LUCA  
                  (angry polite)  
Thank you.  
Good day.  
...Again.

INT. PAGURO HOME - LUCA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luca can't sleep. He glances across the room at Grandma. She gazes back at him.

He needs to ask SOMEONE about what he saw.

                  LUCA  
Grandma?  
...Did you really go up to the--

                  GRANDMA  
SNORE.

Ah. Grandma was asleep with her eyes open. She does that.

EXT. FIELDS - NEXT MORNING

Luca assembles a crude rock sculpture that is supposed to look like him.

                  LUCA  
                  (to the fish)  
Okay everyone. This is, uh...  
Smuca. Yeah. He's in charge now.  
Got it? Great.

EXT. NEAR THE SURFACE

And, his responsibility discharged for the moment, Luca returns to the surface, fascinated but apprehensive--

He stops a few feet away. Fear overtakes him. He backs away, shaking his head.

He approaches again, gets pretty close to the surface, and once more backs away at the last minute--

And again--

ALBERTO

Wow.

Luca whirls. Alberto has been watching this whole embarrassing thing.

ALBERTO

That was hard to watch.

He is holding another armful of stuff. He hands some to Luca--

ALBERTO

Here. C'mon.

Alberto exits. Luca holds his breath, and hurries after him--

EXT. BEACH

--in time to see Alberto finish transforming, flipping the water out of his hair. Luca STUMBLES after him, dropping everything he was holding.

For the second time in his life, Luca TRANSFORMS. This time he really takes it all in. So this is The Change.

LUCA

WHOA.

He absently reaches for his tail--

LUCA

Wait. It feels like it's still there--

ALBERTO

Yeah, that's called "phantom tail."  
You'll get used to it.

Luca tries to stand and immediately falls over.

ALBERTO

Right. Walking.  
Don't worry! You're in luck. I basically invented walking. To start, stack everything one on top of the other. Like a pile of rocks.

Luca manages to stand in a WOBBLY way.

ALBERTO

Great! I mean, not great. But, fine. Now, walking is just like swimming. But without fins. Or a tail. Also there's no water. Otherwise it's the exact same thing!

Luca tries to follow this advice and completely eats it.

ALBERTO

Uh. That's not it. Try it again.  
(Luca fails again)  
Hmm. Try to lead with your head?  
(Luca looks insane)  
Nope. More belly.  
(Luca falls down)  
That's, ah... that's just lying on the ground.  
How about this: Take a step without even thinking about it.

Luca hesitates. He's clearly thinking about it.

ALBERTO

No no no no. DON'T think about it!

LUCA

I don't know how to NOT think about something!

This is going nowhere. But Alberto gets an idea--

ALBERTO

Okay, okay. Watch.  
(positioning Luca)  
Point your feet to where you want to go. Okay? And then just catch yourself before you fall.

Luca follows his example. He points his feet and gets up.

ALBERTO

That's right...

Alberto gives him a NUDGE--and Luca starts WALKING!--

ALBERTO

Good... good... yes. YES!

LUCA

I'm getting it!



Luca's first success on land. It feels pretty good.

ALBERTO  
Not bad, kid.  
(introducing himself)  
Alberto Scorfano.

LUCA  
Luca Paguro.

Alberto leads Luca through a confusing HANDSHAKE--

ALBERTO  
Piacere, Girolamo Trombetta.  
(off Luca's bafflement)  
It's a human thing. I'm kind of an  
expert.

LUCA  
What does it mean?

Alberto does not reply right away.

LUCA  
The, uh... thing you just said?  
With the handshake?--

ALBERTO  
(interrupting)  
C'mon, I'll show you some more  
stuff.

EXT. ISLAND - HILL - DAY

Alberto leads Luca through the trees, up the hill--

To the base of an ABANDONED SARACEN TOWER. A rickety ladder  
leans against the side.

LUCA  
Mother of pearl. You live up here?

ALBERTO  
Yeah. Me and my dad. He's not even  
here a whole lot, so I pretty much  
just do whatever I want.

LUCA  
Isn't it dangerous?

ALBERTO  
Yeah! It's the best. EVERYTHING  
good is above the surface.

LUCA  
Like... what else?

MONTAGE OF GREAT ABOVE-THE-SURFACE THINGS:

1. AIR.

ALBERTO  
Air!

Alberto does a BIG INHALE. So does Luca. He accidentally  
inhales a bug.

2. GRAVITY. Alberto, on the top of the tower, yells down to  
Luca, on the ground:

ALBERTO  
Gravity! Also known as: FALLIIIIING

Luca watches Alberto jump down into a tree, fall through some  
branches, and then land on the ground, bruised and giddy.

3. THE SKY.

ALBERTO  
(pointing)  
The sky, clouds, the sun--  
(covering Luca's eyes)  
Whoa, don't look at it!  
(uncovering Luca's eyes)  
Just kidding. Definitely look at  
it.

Luca squints at the sun and is immediately blinded.

4. HUMAN STUFF.

ALBERTO  
And then there's human stuff.

Alberto leads Luca into his hideout--

INT. ALBERTO'S HIDEOUT

Luca takes in the incredible, wildly disorderly spectacle of  
Alberto's room. It contains AN UNGODLY AMOUNT OF HUMAN STUFF.  
Rusty, broken, salvaged from shipwrecks.

LUCA

WHOA.

ALBERTO

I've been collecting for a long  
time. Ask me anything.

Luca spots the gramophone and gazes into it--

ALBERTO

Ah yes, the Magic Singing Lady  
Machine. It's broken,  
unfortunately...

As Alberto is saying this, Luca discovers the CRANK, fiddles  
with it, and--

MUSIC comes out. The Puccini aria. *O mio babbino caro*.

Alberto is momentarily at a loss for words. This kid did  
something cool.

ALBERTO

Whoa! You unbroke it!

Luca's attention settles on a VESPA POSTER--

LUCA

What's that?

ALBERTO

(recovering bravado)  
That? Just the greatest thing that  
humans ever made. The Vespa.  
You sit on it, and it takes you  
anywhere you want to go.  
*In the whole stinkin' world.*

Luca, rapt, reads the Italian on the poster:

LUCA

"Vespa is freedom."

DISSOLVE TO HIS IMAGINATION: Luca flies over the sea,  
gloriously, on a fantastic magical VESPA--

LUCA

Who!! Yeah!!

ALBERTO (O.S.)

Pretty cool, right?

Alberto's voice brings Luca back to REALITY.

LUCA

Yeah.

And gazing around the hideout, Luca gets an idea--

LUCA

Are you gonna make one?  
I think you have all the parts...

Alberto follows his gaze around the room and realizes--that thing is a wheel, that thing is another wheel, that rocking chair could be a seat...

ALBERTO

I do have the parts.  
I AM gonna make one!!  
You wanna help?

LUCA

(delighted)  
Me?! Yeah!  
(remembering)  
Wait. No. I can't. I gotta go home!

ALBERTO

Right this second?

LUCA

Yeah. If my parents found out I was up here...  
(cringing)  
It would be bad. So thank you, but.  
(staring longingly at the Vespa poster)  
Goodbye. Forever.

**CARD: One hour later.**

Luca has not left. Instead he has begun making the Vespa with Alberto.

LUCA

Okay but now I really do have to go.

ALBERTO

Okay. Bye.

**Card: Forty-five minutes later.** Now it has wheels.

LUCA

Seriously, I have to go, like now.  
Like right now.

ALBERTO

Okay! See you!

Card: **Two hours later.** Their improvised Vespa, made from 100% NON-VESPA parts, is done. They admire it, dreamily.

LUCA

It's even better than the picture.

ALBERTO

Yeah it is.

LUCA

Gotta run!

ALBERTO

See you tomorrow!

EXT. PAGURO HOME - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Luca races home--

INT. PAGURO HOME - DINNER

But his suspicious mom is waiting for him in the kitchen.

DANIELA

Luca?! Where have you been?!--

LUCA

(rushed)

Uhh...

LUCA'S THOUGHTS

Don't say surface.

Don't say surface.

LUCA

Surface.

He claps his hand over his mouth--

DANIELA

(narrowing eyes)

WHAT did you just say?!

LORENZO

(pointing)

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS FOOT?!!

Luca looks down--

ONE OF HIS FEET IS STILL A HUMAN FOOT SOMEHOW--

LUCA  
AAAAAHHH!!!

SMASH BACK TO:

The last ten seconds was just his IMAGINATION. Thank God.  
But his mom is still waiting for an answer--

DANIELA  
Luca? Gonna tell us where you were?

LUCA  
I...Uhh...

Grandma comes to the rescue.

GRANDMA  
It's my fault. I sent him to look  
for sea cucumbers.

LUCA  
(catching on quick)  
RIGHT. Sorry, Grandma. Couldn't  
find em!

DANIELA  
Mom. His life is maybe a little  
more important than your snacks?

Grandma shrugs. The heat is off Luca. For now. He mouths a  
"Thank you" to her.

INT. LUCA'S BEDROOM

Luca can't sleep. He just had the greatest day of his life.  
And tomorrow might be even better.

EXT. HILLTOP - NEXT DAY

Luca is amazed to find the Vespa now outside the tower, at  
the top of the hill--

LUCA  
Whoa! How'd you get it down?

ALBERTO  
(bragging)  
I RODE it down.

Beat. Alberto, how would that even work.

ALBERTO  
(admitting the truth)  
I didn't. I pushed it out the back window. Took a while to put back together. But it's fine now!  
You ready to ride it?

Alberto gestures DOWN A DIZZYINGLY STEEP HILL. A little WOODEN RAMP sits at the bottom.

LUCA  
Ah. Well, thank you, but, no thank you.  
(beat)  
I mean I just think maybe I would die.

ALBERTO  
(shrugging)  
Okay, I'll ride it. You hold the ramp.

EXT. BOTTOM OF HILL

Now under the ramp at the bottom of the hill, Luca tries not to freak out--

LUCA  
--Sir? Maybe we should sleep on it?

--as Alberto mounts the Vespa, high above him--

ALBERTO  
Whatever you do, do not move!

LUCA  
(panicking)  
I'm not the guy you want for this!  
I'm more of an idea man--

ALBERTO  
(triumphantly)  
TAKE ME, GRAVITYYYYYYYYYY!!!

And with that glorious cry, Alberto kicks off--

And races down the hill toward Luca.

Almost immediately, the Vespa hits a rock and breaks in half. Alberto, now riding the front half like a unicycle, continues hurtling toward Luca--

ALBERTO  
THIS IS NORMAL. STAY FOCUSED.

Pieces of the Vespa come tumbling past Luca--he ducks behind the ramp--

And peeks out to see Alberto tumble off the last remaining Vespa wheel and begin VIOLENTLY SOMERSAULTING TOWARD HIM--

LUCA  
AAAAAAHHH

ALBERTO  
DON'T MOVE DON'T MOVE DON'T MOVE--

Luca ducks back under the ramp just as Alberto ROLLS over it--

Is suspended in the air for a glorious moment--

CRASHES into the water--

And just kinda floats there.

LUCA  
He's dead. I killed him.

Alberto lifts his skinny sea monster fists to the heavens.

ALBERTO  
WOOOOHOOO!! HA HA HA!!

LUCA  
That was... good?!

ALBERTO  
Did you see the height I got?!  
Hey. Nice ramping.  
Come on, let's build another one--

Alberto pats Luca on the back--

A BIG DUMB SMILE floods Luca's face--

--BEGIN MONTAGE--



EXT. HILLTOP - DAY

Luca and Alberto begin assembling another Vespa, with more fun human items--Alberto swings a buoy around joyously and accidentally bonks himself in the head--

INT. HIDEOUT - LATER

Alberto gives Luca some AWESOME HUMAN CLOTHES--

EXT. HIDEOUT

Luca and Alberto GROOVE to some TUNES--

EXT. HILLTOP

Alberto rides another janky Vespa down the hill as Luca, under the ramp again, is attacked by a seagull--

EXT. FIELDS - UNDERWATER - QUICK CUT

Daniela glances from distance at Luca's pasture to check on him--she is fooled by the silhouette of SMUCA--

EXT. ISOLA DEL MARE

Alberto does a fearless graceful CLIFF DIVE--

ALBERTO  
(from the water)  
C'mon, Luca!

Luca tries to do the same, but fear takes over--

LUCA  
AAAAAAHHH--

--and he ends up doing more of a brutal CLIFF BELLY FLOP.

EXT. FIELDS - UNDERWATER - QUICK CUT

Uh oh. Daniela discovers Smuca--

And Lorenzo finds Luca's cache of human trinkets--

INT. HIDEOUT

Luca and Alberto diagram a Vespa with charcoal--

EXT. HIDEOUT

Luca repurposes the wire hanger Alberto has been using as a back scratcher, turning it into handlebars--

EXT. FIELDS - UNDERWATER - MORNING

DANIELA and LORENZO, hiding behind rocks, watch Luca position Smuca and then swim away. So THAT'S what he's been doing.

The parents are horrified. But Daniela has a plan--

EXT. OPEN WATER - DAY

Luca and Alberto watch an ANGRY FISHERMAN shout at a passing speedboat--

ANGRY FISHERMAN  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, STUPIDO?!

EXT. GROTTO - LATE AFTERNOON

Alberto YELLS into a cave, imitating him--

ALBERTO  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, STUPIDO?!

EXT. COVE - SUNSET

Luca grabs two SEA SNAILS and uses their slime to style his hair like Alberto's, and the two gaze happily at a sunset.

--END MONTAGE--

EXT. HILLTOP - NEXT DAY

Another day, another Vespa. But this time:

ALBERTO  
We gotta ride together. If you don't sit on the back and hold on to the front, the whole thing falls apart.

LUCA  
And who's holding the ramp?

ALBERTO  
The turtle.

Yes. The ramp is balanced on a TURTLE.

ALBERTO  
And he's faster than he looks.  
Let's go.

LUCA  
(resolutely)  
Okay. Let's go.

Beat. Luca doesn't move.

ALBERTO  
You, uh... you coming?

LUCA  
Nope. Can't do it. Never in a  
million years--

ALBERTO  
Hey hey hey. I know your problem.  
You got a Bruno in your head.

LUCA  
A Bruno?

ALBERTO  
Yeah. I get one too sometimes.  
"Alberto, you can't. Alberto,  
you're gonna die. Alberto, don't  
put that in your mouth."  
Luca, it's simple: Don't listen to  
stupid Bruno.

Beat, as Luca puzzles over this--

LUCA  
Why is his name Bruno?

ALBERTO  
I don't care. It doesn't matter.  
Call him whatever you want. Just  
shut him up. Repeat after me:  
SILENZIO BRUNO.

LUCA  
(hesitantly)  
Silenzio Bruno.

ALBERTO	LUCA
Louder!	Silenzio Bruno!
SILENZIO BRUNO!	Silenzio Bruno!!
SILENZIO BRUNO!	

ALBERTO  
CAN YOU STILL HEAR HIM?!

LUCA  
NOPE! JUST YOU!

Alberto physically puts Luca on the back of the Vespa--

ALBERTO  
GOOD. Hang on.

Alberto checks his image in the rearview mirror (not a mirror: instead a taped photo of MARCELLO MASTROIANNI)--

And he kicks off.

ALBERTO  
ANDIAMOOOOOOO--

Luca clings to Alberto, terrified, as they go HURTLING DOWN THE HILL, bouncing off loose rocks and stuff. Alberto's erratic steering mostly does not have them aimed at the ramp.

ALBERTO  
(psyched)  
WOOHOOOOOOO!!! YEAH!!!

Luca's eyes are shut tight--he opens them for a peek--the Vespa begins to FALL APART--oh God no--he shuts his eyes, grips Alberto tightly, and pulls the Vespa back together--

LUCA  
(terrified muttering)  
silenzio bruno silenzio bruno  
silenzio bruno silenzio  
brunooOOOOOOOOO--

Alberto steers them onto the ramp just in time--

ALBERTO  
YAHOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!

And Luca opens his eyes as they SOAR gloriously into the sky--

And takes in the SPARKLING SEA, THE CLOUDS, the SHORELINE.  
It's an indescribably wonderful moment.  
Then they begin plummeting seaward.

ALBERTO

Uh-oh.

Specifically right toward an extremely sharp-looking rock.

LUCA

AAAAAAAAAAHHH

At the last moment, Luca, thinking quickly, SHOVES Alberto's half of the Vespa away from his half--

They become TWO PROJECTILES instead of one, and Alberto SPLASHES down safely on one side of the rock, Luca on the other.

They SURFACE--Alberto shoots his fists in the air--

Luca's disbelief quickly turns to ELATION:

ALBERTO

WHOOHOOO! YEA! Take that, Bruno!

LUCA

YES. WE'RE ALIVE. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

EXT. ROOFTOP - EVENING

Luca and Alberto lay around a CAMPFIRE, gazing at the STARS.

LUCA

What are all those tiny lights?

ALBERTO

Anchovies. They go there to sleep.

Luca is DUMBFOUNDED.

LUCA

Really?

ALBERTO

Yeah. The big fish protects them.

(pointing at the moon)

I touched it once.

(nonchalant)

I dunno. Felt like a fish.

Luca is ASTOUNDED. And a little wistful--

LUCA  
Wow. Your life is so much cooler  
than mine. I never go anywhere. I  
just dream about it.

ALBERTO  
You came up here!

LUCA  
Thanks to you.  
(gazing at stars)  
Otherwise I never would have seen  
any of this.

His gaze travels to the HUMAN TOWN across the water.

LUCA  
Have you ever gone to the human  
town?

ALBERTO  
Yeah! All the time.  
(beat. This is a lie)  
No. Not even once.  
But my dad told me all about it,  
so, I'm pretty much an expert.

LUCA  
Your dad sounds so cool. You're  
lucky he lets you do what you want.

ALBERTO  
Yeah, for sure.

A silence. Each boy is in his head.

Alberto gets them out of it.

ALBERTO  
Hey, remember that time we almost  
hit that rock? And we flew through  
the air? And I was like "YEAHHH!"  
And you were like "NOOO!!"

It cracks Luca up.

LUCA  
Wouldn't it be amazing to have a  
real Vespa?

ALBERTO  
That's the dream.

Luca closes his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO HIS IMAGINATION: EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Luca and Alberto ride through the open fields on a Vespa.

Little trails of smoke rising from the field alert them to--

ALBERTO  
Oh, Luca, look!

A herd of UNTAMED, RIDERLESS VESPAS, like wild horses.

LUCA  
Wild Vespas!

The wild Vespas ride with them toward a GIANT RAMP that goes straight into the sky.

ALBERTO  
Luca, take over!

Luca climbs up front and takes control--

ALBERTO  
Yeah man! Faster!!

Luca can't resist Alberto's encouragement. He guns it and shoots up the ramp, launching them into the sky--

ALBERTO  
WHOOOHOOOO!

They fly among the stars, which are, indeed, LUMINOUS GOLDEN FISH.

Luca reaches out to touch one--its skin RIPPLES brilliantly--

LUCA  
I'm doing it, Alberto!--

But when he looks back--Alberto has DISAPPEARED.

LUCA  
Alberto?--

And everything begins turning to water--

Luca transforms back and begins falling earthward, abyssward--

LUCA  
AAAAAAHHH--

SMASH BACK TO REALITY:

EXT. ROOFTOP - MORNING

Luca JOLTS AWAKE, on the ROOFTOP. IT WAS A DREAM--

                  LUCA  
Oh no! I fell asleep!

                  ALBERTO  
                  (groggy)  
Hmm--whaa?

Luca hurries to the steps and runs off--

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luca sneaks into his room--

His GRANDMA is snoring. WHEW.

But--WHIP PAN to DANIELA, arms folded, in the doorway--

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Luca sits guiltily at the table, holding his tail nervously.  
His alarm clock and playing cards are on the table.

Both parents hover over him. Daniela maintains a stony  
silence. Lorenzo, ever conflict-averse, hems and haws--

                  LORENZO  
Daniela, do we really need to go  
through with this?

                  LUCA  
                  (very worried)  
With... what?

                  LORENZO  
                  (struggling to take the  
                  lead)  
Son, you're in big trouble. You  
need to promise us that you'll  
never sneak off to the surface  
again.

                  LUCA  
I'm really sorry.  
                  (trying for good news)  
                  (MORE)



LUCA (CONT'D)

But you know--it's not that dangerous up there. Maybe I could show you!--

DANIELA

(erupting)

I told you. Our son has a death wish!

LUCA

But Mom, we're always careful--

Luca covers his mouth, realizing his mistake--

DANIELA

"We"?

LORENZO

"We?"

LUCA

Me and my friend. Alberto. But it's okay! He's one of us--

An angler light behind Luca switches on to reveal--

UNCLE UGO, Lorenzo's twin brother. He's been lurking here this whole time.

UNCLE UGO

Yes, there's usually a bad influence.

He is like Lorenzo but transparent-skinned, milky-eyed, and generally horrifying to behold.

UNCLE UGO

Good thing you sent for me when you did.

LORENZO

Luca, this is my brother. Your Uncle Ugo.

DANIELA

Thanks again for coming all this way on such short notice.

UNCLE UGO

Of course. Hello, Luca. It is nice to--

Ugo FREEZES. His heart has visibly stopped.

LORENZO  
Luca, punch his heart.  
(off Luca's hesitation)  
The red thing. Punch it.

Luca gives Uncle Ugo's chest a little NUDGE.

LORENZO  
Oh, way harder than that.

Luca socks Uncle Ugo in the heart. He jolts back to life.

UNCLE UGO  
(coughing)  
Thanks for that. Too much oxygen up  
here. Not like the deep. As you'll  
learn!

LUCA  
(horrified)  
...what?

UNCLE UGO  
(rambling)  
Sure, there's no sunlight. But  
there's nothing to see anyway! Or  
do. It's just you and your  
thoughts. And all the whale carcass  
you can eat. Little bits of it just  
float into your mouth. No way to  
stop it. Your mouth is open, the  
whale carcass goes in.  
(beat)  
Well! Come on! No time to waste!

LUCA  
(panicked)  
Mom? What does he mean?

DANIELA  
You're going to stay with Uncle Ugo  
for the rest of the season.

BOMBSHELL.

LUCA  
No! I can't--

DANIELA  
TWO seasons, then! Wanna go for  
three?!

LUCA  
Why are you doing this?!

DANIELA  
(terrible, vulnerable)  
The world is a very dangerous  
place, Luca! And if I have to send  
you to the bottom of the ocean to  
keep you safe--so be it!

LUCA  
You don't know what it's like up  
there!

DANIELA  
I know YOU. And I know what's best  
for you. It's done.

Luca fumes bitterly. Daniela's heart breaks a little as she  
watches him--she needs for him to understand--

DANIELA  
Hey. Look me in the eye.  
You know I love you, right?

Luca refuses to reply--instead he whirls and heads off to his  
bedroom, furious.

INT. LUCA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luca paces his bedroom.

He glances at the window, then back at his bedroom door--

He makes a decision--and escapes out the window.

PAN TO GRANDMA:

Who saw the whole thing.

She chuckles. Go get em, kid.

EXT. ALBERTO'S HIDEOUT - MORNING

LUCA (O.S.)  
They're sending me to the deep!

INT. ALBERTO'S HIDEOUT

Luca paces, furious, as Alberto listens in disbelief--

LUCA  
To live with my weird see-through  
uncle!! What do I do?!

ALBERTO  
(hoping it's this easy)  
...Stay?

LUCA  
Up here? They'll come looking for  
me!

ALBERTO  
(panicky, stalling for  
time)  
Okay. Yes. That may be true. But---  
(getting the best idea he  
has ever had)  
--will they come looking for you  
over there?

Alberto is pointing to the HUMAN TOWN, across the water.

LUCA  
No way. That's crazy.

ALBERTO  
I mean, that place must be full of  
Vespas. There's gotta be one for  
us.

LUCA  
(excited)  
A real Vespa.  
(second-guessing himself)  
But could we even survive over  
there?

ALBERTO  
You and me? We can do anything.  
We'd swim right over to Vespatown,  
track down Signor Vespa--

LUCA  
Wait. Do you really think there's a  
Signor Vespa?

ALBERTO  
Makes sense, right?

LUCA  
Yes. Continue.

ALBERTO

And we say: "Signor Vespa! Build us  
one... of THESE."

Alberto pulls out a boyish SCHEMATIC of their custom Vespa drawn on a torn-out page from a book. The drawing has outlandish embellishments and an extra long seat.

LUCA

This is the greatest drawing I've  
ever seen.

ALBERTO

Yes. I know. Luca, think about it:  
Every day we'll ride someplace new.  
And every night we'll sleep under  
the fish.  
No one to tell us what to do.  
Just you and me out there. Free.

EXT. ALBERTO'S HIDEOUT - DAY

The boys run toward a cliff--

ALBERTO

TAKE ME GRAVITYYYY--

Alberto CLIFF DIVES--

Luca gets to the cliff, and as always--HESITATES. He looks  
out toward the human town.

LUCA

(to himself)  
Silenzio Bruno.

He JUMPS--

EXT. OPEN WATER - CONTINUOUS

Luca and Alberto swim at TOP SPEED WITH MAXIMUM EXCITEMENT--

They are heading for a rock--Luca is about to avoid it but  
Alberto grabs him, and pulls him OUT OF THE WATER--

They ARC GRACEFULLY OVER THE ROCK, TRANSFORMING for a moment  
before plunging back into the water--

CUE A GLORIOUS KINETIC SEQUENCE OF LUCA AND ALBERTO swimming  
to town, leaping out of the water, skimming and skating  
across the waves--

Alberto leading the way, Luca following, coming into his own.

EXT. PORTOROSSO HARBOR - LATER

Luca and Alberto surface near a buoy.

In front of them--the human town is beautiful.

But they don't get long to admire it--a fishing boat motors by and they DIVE, but not before a girl on the boat sees something--

CHIARA  
Papá? What's that?!

UNDERWATER:

LUCA  
How do we get in?

They both glance down at the SUNKEN BOAT beneath them.

EXT. COVE

An overturned boat walks out of the water, with sea monster feet underneath that quickly turn to human feet.

They've made it onto land. Alberto, all confidence, leads Luca towards town--

ALBERTO  
This will be a breeze. Just don't get wet.

But Luca's panic overtakes him at the first sight of humans--two FISHERMEN strolling toward them.

LUCA  
Actually, this town seems a little crowded.

Luca tries to turn around and leave. Alberto grabs him--

ALBERTO  
Hey. Silenzio Bruno.

And drags Luca past the fishermen--

ALBERTO  
(inflected like "Good day  
to you!," flourishing  
with one hand)  
What's wrong with you, stupido?

The fishermen stop but are too puzzled to confront them.

ALBERTO  
See? You just gotta follow my lead.

The kids round the corner into the piazza--

And we stay with LUCA as his WONDER takes over.

He is awestruck by the sights and sounds of Portorosso:  
Barflies sharing gossip and enjoying caffè;  
A group of kids playing soccer in the PIAZZA;  
Young girls eating watermelon from a balcony;  
Two old guys playing cards;

CARD PLAYER  
SCOPA!

It's all very ITALIAN, and very everyday. But the mundane is,  
to Luca, enthralling.

ALBERTO  
Classic human town. Pretty cool,  
right?

Luca spots a couple of OLD LADIES (the ARAGOSTA SISTERS,  
Pinuccia and Concetta) eating two beautiful GELATO CONES.

ALBERTO  
(to Luca, encouragingly)  
You do it now. Just say the thing.

LUCA  
(trying his best)  
What's wrong with you, stupido?

Beat.

The Aragosta Sisters pummel the boys with umbrella and purse.

HARD CUT TO:

Luca and Alberto keep walking, stiffly, with gelato cones on  
their heads.

LUCA  
Maybe I... said it wrong?

But now Luca begins taking in the ominous FRESCOES and STATUES around them, all featuring the same mustachioed man (SIGNOR GIORGIO GIORGIONI) SLAYING VARIOUS SEA MONSTERS--

Oh no. This town hates sea monsters.

LUCA  
Alberto, this is too dangerous!  
Let's get out of here!

Luca grabs Alberto's arm and starts dragging him away.

ALBERTO  
(protesting)  
And go where!?

BUT BEFORE LUCA CAN GET THEM OUT OF THERE:

They hear the unmistakable sound of an ONCOMING VESPA.

(Driven by ERCOLE, 16, lots of product in his hair.)

ALBERTO  
*Signor Vespa.*

ERCOLE  
Buongiorno a tutti!!

Ercole is a massive narcissist. He believes everyone in town is overjoyed to see him, which, the adults at least are not.

(He is attended by CICCIO and GUIDO, his faithful goon-like friends, who jog behind him with a large sub sandwich.)

MAGGIORE  
(rolling eyes)  
Mannaggia. Here we go.

PRIEST  
(begging Ercole to stop)  
Mamma mia. Please, no more revving.

OLD WOMAN ON BALCONY  
(furious)  
CHE PUZZA, ERCOLE!

ERCOLE  
CIAO, CIAO!! Beep beep!! Pride of Portorosso, coming through!!  
(flirty, to the Aragosta Sisters)  
Ciao, belle! You're making me blush!



PINUCCIA ARAGOSTA  
Blech.

CONCETTA ARAGOSTA  
Disgraziato!

The kids are afraid of him but in most cases trying not to show it, lest he start bullying them.

Ercole comes to an acrobatic stop, revs a few more deafening times, dismounts and saunters to a caffe table, where Ciccio and Guido are hastily setting up his lunch.

ERCOLE  
Now! Who wants to watch me eat a big sandwich?

Luca and Alberto gaze at the Vespa, RAPT.

ALBERTO  
There it is! That's how we're gonna see the world.

Luca walks toward it, in a trance--

A soccer ball rolls in front of him.

SOCCER KID  
Hey! Little help?

Luca winds up and KICKS it. Unfortunately, it is pretty off target. It bounces off a few things and hits the Vespa--

WOMAN ON BALCONY  
E basta!!

The Vespa begins to TEETER--

ERCOLE  
(panicking)  
AAAH! LA MIA BAMBINA!

At the last moment, Ciccio DIVES underneath it, cushioning the fall with his body.

Ercole runs over, full of concern--

ERCOLE  
Oh, mamma mia--  
Talk to Ercole, are you hurt?!

CICCIO  
Well, my head kinda hurts--

ERCOLE  
Not you, Ciccio! Out of the way!

Oh. The "Are you hurt?" was meant for the Vespa, not for his friend Ciccio, who has definitely sustained some minor injuries protecting it.

ERCOLE  
(looks over Vespa)  
Oh piccolina, if there is so much  
as a scratch...

Fortunately, the Vespa is completely unharmed.

ERCOLE  
Someone got lucky today. Hmm?  
WHO GOT LUCKY?!

The soccer kids point to Alberto and Luca. Ercole sizes them up.

ERCOLE  
Out-of-towners, eh? Let me welcome  
you. Benvenuti a Portorosso.  
...Ciccio.

He removes his SWEATER, places it without looking into the waiting arms of Ciccio, and saunters up to his latest victims.

ERCOLE  
I am delighted to meet you, number  
one and number two, I love your  
stylish clothes. Where did you get  
them? A dead body?  
--HA! I'm kidding!

CICCIO  
Ha. "Dead body."

Alberto is not sure what to make of this guy.

ALBERTO  
Uh, ha ha. Yeah. Well, look, Signor  
Vespa, I--

ERCOLE  
Signor Vespa? Hoho. These guys are  
funny.  
I am Ercole Visconti, five-time  
winner of the Portorosso Cup.

ALBERTO  
The Portorosso what?

ERCOLE

The Portorosso Cup! Per mille  
sardine--how do you think I paid  
for my beautiful Vespa?

The gears start going in Luca's head, as he looks at the  
Vespa--but his train of thought is interrupted by Ercole--

ERCOLE

Hey. Stop looking. She's too  
beautiful for you.

Poor Luca can only stammer and shrink away from him.

LUCA

Ah...I, I, uhhh...

ERCOLE

(mocking)

I, I, uhhh--oh, I love it. The  
little guy can't even get a word  
out.

(waving a hand in front  
of his nose)

Ugh, And he smells like behind the  
pescheria.

This is too much for Alberto.

ALBERTO

HEY, MY FRIEND SMELLS AMAZING.

ERCOLE

Sorry, sorry, I'll make it up to  
him.  
Ciccio? Guido?

Guido and Ciccio grab Alberto and hold him back while Ercole  
grabs Luca and marches him to the FOUNTAIN--

LUCA

What are you doing?!

ERCOLE

I'm giving you a little bath! It's  
funny. Eh?

Ercole SHOVES LUCA'S FACE TOWARD THE WATER--

DROPLETS begin to hit Luca's face--tiny little green flecks  
begin to appear on his skin--

LUCA  
(struggling)  
NO NO NO--

Ercole clocks that something a little strange is going on--  
But before he sees it definitively--

GIULIA (O.S.)  
HEY!

A girl on a BIKE attached to a CART FULL OF FISH rides to the rescue.

This is GIULIA, 13, brainy, competitive, intense, and a bit awkward. She is 100% incapable of being anyone other than herself.

GIULIA  
Ercole, basta!

She comes BARRELING through, Ercole jumps out of her way.

ERCOLE  
(unexcited, cutting)  
Oh, look who's here. Spewlia.  
Wow. That's how you're training for the race?

GIULIA  
Si certo! Your reign of terror is coming to an end--

ERCOLE  
(overlapping, has heard this before)  
"...coming to an end." You mean, like a year ago? When you quit in the middle of the race? Because you couldn't stop throwing up?

GIULIA  
I didn't quit. They MADE me stop.

ERCOLE  
I think that is worse. Now go away. I'm having fun with my new friends.

GIULIA  
They're coming with me.  
(to the boys)  
Hop on. I could use the extra weight.

The boys, relieved, hop on the back of her cart.

ERCOLE

Fine! Go start a club! For losers!

As he is giggling at his own brilliant joke, a fisherman runs up to the MAGGIORE (a policewoman)--

GIACOMO

Maggiore! Another sighting--in the harbor this time--

MAGGIORE

(holding a poster)

I know. We're setting up a reward. Someone's gonna win a nice prize...

ERCOLE

Me! Me! I win the prizes!!  
Ciccio, get your daddy's harpoon.  
We're gonna catch a sea monster!!

Across the piazza, the boys, hearing this, give each other looks of alarm.

Meanwhile Giulia, stung by Ercole's parting shot, pedals them around the corner--

GIULIA

(ranting)

Sto IMBECILLE! Thinks he can be a jerk cuz he keeps winning the race which he shouldn't even get to do anymore cuz he's too old and too much of a JERK!

(to the boys)

Hey. We underdogs have to look out for each other, right?

The boys are completely baffled by her.

ALBERTO

What's under the... dogs?

GIULIA

UNDER-dogs. You know. Kids who are different... dressed weird...

(defiantly exposing  
sweaty armpits)

Or a little sweatier than average.

Beat. Giulia knows she can be a little much for people sometimes.

GIULIA  
Too much? Too much.  
So are you in town for the race?  
(beat)  
The Portorosso Cup?

The boys remain absolutely silent and perplexed.

GIULIA  
Well, uh... good talk. But I gotta  
deliver these. Always be training,  
you know?

And she pedals away, hitting a STOPWATCH.

But Luca has realized something.

LUCA  
We should ask her about this  
Portorosso Cup race. That's how the  
loud scary human said he got his  
Vespa.

They look back at...

Giulia, now rapidly performing her first delivery--

GIULIA	SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE
(racing through	Giulia! Buongior--
transaction)	Oh.
Buongiorno, Signora	Uh...
Marsigliese.	Grazie.
Due sogliole, perfetto,	
okaygreatciao!	

As she sets off to the next door, Luca and Alberto run  
alongside her--

ALBERTO  
Hey, uh, Spewlia--

GIULIA  
GIULIA. My name is Giulia.

ALBERTO  
Sure. So when you uh... race... in  
a cup... what do you get?

GIULIA  
Soldi. Prize money.

ALBERTO  
Oh.

GIULIA

Oh..kay.

Giulia pedals away, but Luca knows there's more to learn--

LUCA

(whispering)

No no! Keep going! Ask her about the prize money! Maybe that becomes a Vespa! Just ask her!

ALBERTO

(whispering)

What? Why? But that stuff is useless! How would that become a Vespa!? Fine fine fine.

ALBERTO

Hello, again.

GIULIA

(wary)

Ciao.

ALBERTO

So, can we turn the money into something else? Something like--

As the three of them turn the corner, they see a MECHANIC'S GARAGE with a beautiful Vespa in front--

LUCA

(pointing to the Vespa)

--THAT!

GIULIA

Pfft. No.

(afterthought)

But it could get you that.

She redirects the boys' gaze to an EXTREMELY RUSTY AND DECREPIT USED VESPA next to the new one.

It is the WORST VESPA YOU HAVE EVER SEEN IN YOUR LIFE.

But...

DISSOLVE TO LUCA'S IMAGINATION: He and Alberto are triumphantly riding it through a sea of golden coins.

BACK TO REALITY:

The boys have a muttery sidebar, gazing at the Vespa.

LUCA

It's so beautiful.

ALBERTO

Yes. We need it.

(to Giulia)

Great! So we'll just win the race.

His cockiness rubs Giulia the wrong way.

GIULIA

You'll have to beat Ercole.

ALBERTO

Okay, so we'll beat Ercole.

GIULIA

Ha. Thinks he'll beat Ercole, this guy. First of all, GET IN LINE.

Every summer that jerk makes my life miserable. So no one's taking him down unless it's ME.

Even Alberto is cowed by this.

GIULIA

Second, this isn't any old race. It's an epic, grueling traditional Italian triathlon: swimming, cycling, and eating pasta. So, you'd need a teammate.

ALBERTO

Well, we'll figure it out. Thanks, human girl.

Giulia heads off once again, and Alberto heads in the other direction. But Luca senses an opportunity.

LUCA

Alberto--what if we join her team?

Alberto frowns. But then something occurs to him.

ALBERTO

Better idea: What if SHE joins OUR team?

He yells to Giulia, who's pedaling away--

ALBERTO

Hey! Spew--

(remembers that's not her name, but can't remember her name)

Uh! Girl!



GIULIA  
(exasperated)  
Santa Mozzarella.

ALBERTO  
Congratulations! You're joining our  
team!

GIULIA  
You wish. I race alone.

As she says this, her cart gets stuck--the boys help get the  
wheel free--

LUCA  
But we could be under the dogs too!

ALBERTO  
It's okay, Luca. She'd rather do  
the whole race alone again. Maybe  
this time she won't throw up as  
much!

Giulia frowns. She studies them.

GIULIA  
You wanna be on my team, eh?  
...Let's see what you got.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE PESCHERIA - DAY

Luca sits on GIULIA'S BIKE, now disconnected from the cart.

Giulia looks on expectantly.

Luca tries to pedal it. Unfortunately, he has never ridden a  
bike in his life before this moment.

HE CRASHES.

Alberto tries to give some pointers about a thing he also has  
never ever done even once.

ALBERTO  
Try jumping onto it!

Luca tries this, and crashes again.

ALBERTO  
No no no. You gotta show it you're  
the boss.

Another crash.

GIULIA  
Santa Mozzarella.  
(to Luca)  
Eyes up! Looking down is what's  
making you fall.

Luca tries this advice--almost crashes again--

But this time, manages to stay upright.

He rolls around the piazza, wobbly but exhilarated--

LUCA  
WHOA. I'm doing it!

ALBERTO  
So can we be on the team?

Not so fast. Giulia needs to see more.

GIULIA  
Aspetta! Can you dodge obstacles?  
What if an old lady crosses your  
path? Hmmm?

She pretends to be an old lady, tottering in his way--Luca barely manages to dodge her--

GIULIA  
Can you withstand PASSIVE-  
AGGRESSIVE VERBAL ASSAULTS?!  
(imitating Ercole)  
Nice bike, number one and number  
two, I was kidding, your bike is a  
disgrace! HA HA HA HA.

She swiftly leans some planks on some barrels to create a difficult TIGHT ROPEY SITUATION for Luca to negotiate--

GIULIA  
Can you handle the course's  
fiendishly difficult terrain?!

Luca grimaces, but rallies himself--

LUCA  
(to himself)  
Silenzio Bruno.

He WOBBLES his way up and starts across the plank--

But then he sneaks a look down. It's his undoing. He CRASHES.

GIULIA

Hmm.

Luca struggles valiantly to his feet. He's gonna try it again. She stops him.

GIULIA

(to Alberto)

What about you? Can you swim, at least?

ALBERTO

Yeah. I'm amazing.

(Luca elbows him)

-LY baaad at swimming.

GIULIA

You can't swim, you can barely ride a bike... siete un disastro! I mean, where are you even from?

ALBERTO

We're not telling you our secrets!

(immediately)

We're runaways.

GIULIA

Runaways? I dunno, ragazzi...

LUCA

Please!

Luca, still tongue-tied from nervousness, powers through it:

LUCA

My family was gonna send me somewhere horrible. Away from everything I love. But if we win this race, well... we can be free.

Beat. Giulia is moved. She turns to Alberto.

ALBERTO

My life's great. I'm just helping him out.

This is less moving to Giulia. She narrows her eyes and purses her lips, thinking.

LUCA

Just give me one more chance.

GIULIA

No.  
You guys want it just as bad as I  
do. You have the hunger. That's the  
most important thing.

ALBERTO

I'm definitely hungry.

GIULIA

Perfetto. You eat, you bike, and I  
swim. ...Underdogs?

ALBERTO

(overjoyed)  
Underdogs!

LUCA

(overjoyed)  
Underdogs!

A TRIUMPHANT GATHERING OF HANDS MOMENT--

GIULIA

Now we just need money for the  
entry fee.  
(beat)  
From my dad.

Uh oh.

INT. MASSIMO'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DINNER

MASSIMO, Giulia's enormous, terrifying, tattooed, one-armed  
dad SINGS OPERA as he preps dinner.

MASSIMO

*Per un barbiere di qualità, di  
qualità! BRAVO FIGARO, BRAVO,  
BRAVISSIMO, BRAVO!  
LA LA LA LA. LAAAAAA.*

Giulia leads the boys into her dad's cramped little working-  
class home.

GIULIA

(whispering)  
All right. Just let me do the  
talking. And act casual. He doesn't  
do well with fear.  
(calls out)  
Hey, Papa!  
I brought some friends for dinner.  
Is there enough for four?

Massimo turns and clocks the boys, MASSIVE CLEAVER in hand.

He looks them up and down, silently.

ALBERTO

What's wrong with you, stup--

Luca jams his hand in Alberto's mouth before he can finish.

Massimo narrows his eyes. But he turns and continues to prep dinner. Giulia gives a reassuring signal to the boys.

HARD CUT to the boys sitting at the table.

Luca is terrified. Alberto clocks the HARPOONS on the wall.

ALBERTO

(whispering to Luca)

What do you think he kills with those?

MASSIMO

(overhearing)

Anything that swims.

Luca feels DREAD. Alberto feels DREAD, but also PROFOUND AWE.

MASSIMO

Did you see the paper today?

GIULIA

That photo's a fake, Papa.

(to the boys, a little embarrassed)

Everyone in Portorosso pretends to believe in sea monsters.

Giulia hands a newspaper to Alberto, who studies it. It has a BLURRY PHOTO of a sea monster, tail visible above the water--

MASSIMO (O.S.)

I'M not pretending.

Massimo takes the clipping from Alberto's hands and VIOLENTLY PINS it to the wall with a knife--

Adding it to a VAST "BEAUTIFUL MIND"-TYPE BOARD OF SEA MONSTER ARTICLES AND PHOTOS--

Luca, drinking a glass of water, SPIT-TAKES onto Alberto.

Half of Alberto's monster turns sea monster.

Oh sweet Jesus no. Luca TACKLES Alberto to the floor, before Massimo and Giulia can see him.

Alberto hastily dries off under the table, where no one can see them. No one, that is, except:

MACHIAVELLI, the Marcovaldo family's imposing cat. He growls.

The boys scramble back into their seats.

LUCA

Slipped!

An uneasy beat.

MASSIMO

Dinner's ready. Trenette al pesto.

(beat)

Mangiamo.

Clearly the boys are supposed to start eating. But they have no idea how the utensils work.

So Alberto just grabs a handful of pasta and sticks it in his mouth. Then another.

Luca, hesitantly, follows suit.

The food is delicious. Pretty soon both boys are cramming it into their mouths with the worst manners that you have ever seen.

GIULIA

Uhh. Okay.

MASSIMO

Where did you boys say you were from?

GIULIA

(needing to rescue them)

They're classmates! From Genova.

Luca and uhhh---

LUCA

(muttering)

Alberto.

GIULIA

--hhhhlberto.

MASSIMO

And what brings you to Portorosso?

GIULIA

Funny you should ask! They came for the race.

MASSIMO  
(darkening)  
The race, huh.

Giulia can feel this is going badly--

GIULIA  
Yeah. You know what? Don't worry  
about it.

MASSIMO  
Don't worry about it?

GIULIA  
Don't worry about it.

Massimo sets down his glass.

MASSIMO  
Giulietta? A word?

Massimo and Giulia confer privately:

MASSIMO  
I don't want you doing the race  
again. You get so upset.

GIULIA  
Papà, per favore! I have a team  
now!

MASSIMO  
There's also the entry fee. Money's  
tight.

GIULIA  
I'll work double shifts at the  
pescheria--whatever you need--

MASSIMO  
(with a painful smile)  
I can't sell what I don't have.  
What I need is more fish in my net.  
Mi dispiace, Giulietta.

LUCA (O.S.)  
...Umm, excuse me?

PULL OUT to show that Massimo and Giulia are just a few feet  
away from Luca and Alberto. Because this house is very small.  
Anyway, the boys heard the whole thing, and:

LUCA  
We could help!

MASSIMO  
(doubtfully)  
You know fish?

ALBERTO  
We know lots of fish.

Giulia puts on her most winning smile--

GIULIA  
Can this face lose?

Beat. Then Massimo sighs heavily and shrugs in resignation--

MASSIMO  
You want to work, I'll put you to  
work.

The boys celebrate--Giulia is giddy with excitement--

GIULIA  
Grazie, Papà!!

Luca turns to see the cat inches from his face.

LUCA  
OH NO.

GIULIA  
(stern)  
Machiavelli! No! NO--

The cat LEAPS--

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. GIULIA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

The boys hurry into the yard, scratched up from the cat.

GIULIA  
I'm so sorry about the cat. I don't  
know what got into him!

LUCA  
(woozy)  
It's fine. We're gonna head back  
to, uhh...



He's not sure how to finish the sentence and Giulia realizes--

GIULIA  
Do you guys need a place to stay?

CUT TO:

INT. GIULIA'S TREEHOUSE

Luca and Alberto sit on a platform in a tree--Giulia's treehouse. Lights are strung in the branches. Books are scattered here and there--Giulia picks them up--

GIULIA  
Oops. Sorry. This is my--

ALBERTO  
Your hideout.

GIULIA  
Heh. Yeah. My hideout.

She walks along a branch and jumps, not super gracefully, through a window into her bedroom.

GIULIA  
...Buonanotte, boys.  
See you in the morning!

As soon as she is gone, Luca EXHALES in RELIEF--

LUCA  
That was close.

ALBERTO  
How big was that dad human?!  
That guy kills things, for sure.

LUCA  
I thought we were gonna die like a hundred times.

ALBERTO  
Hey. Relax. We're incredible at this humaning stuff.

Luca smiles, starting to come around.

LUCA  
Did you see me on the bike? Giulia said "look up" and then all of a sudden, I was riding it!!--

Alberto doesn't love hearing about how Luca learned something from a person who wasn't him.

ALBERTO  
(interrupting)  
Yeah yeah yeah. Our Vespa's gonna be even better than a bike, though. Because the moment we get it, we're OUTTA here.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

Like middle-aged commandos--

DANIELA and LORENZO sneak out of the ocean and onto shore, under cover of early-morning darkness. They are here to get their son back.

DANIELA  
How could my mother tell him about this town of bloodthirsty lunatics?

LORENZO  
I still can't believe he would do this. It's not like him.

Daniela TRANSFORMS while speaking:

DANIELA  
Just keep your guard up. There's gonna be land monsters everywhere--  
AAIIGH!

Daniela turns to see a land monster (Lorenzo) and attacks him, knocking him to the ground and slapping his face.

DANIELA  
NOT [SLAP] TODAY [SLAP], LAND MONSTER. [SLAP]

LORENZO  
DANIELA! WAIT! IT'S ME!

DANIELA  
OH.  
You scared the scales off of me.

Lorenzo rubs his cheek.

LORENZO  
Jeez, you're strong.

DANIELA

Sorry. I'm just a little on edge.

LORENZO

No. I needed that. It really woke me up. Wow! We look horrifying.

Daniela inspects her BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

DANIELA

Ugh. Gross.  
(resolute)  
Come on. Let's find our son.

EXT. GIULIA'S TREEHOUSE - MORNING

Luca wakes up in the treehouse. Its branches drip gently--it rained in the night.

He smiles, for the moment oblivious to the fact that the RAIN HAS TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A SEA MONSTER.

He turns to look at Alberto, who has also transformed.

Oh snap.

LUCA

Oh no. Alberto! Wake up!!

ALBERTO

What? --AAAAH!! The sky's been leaking!

Giulia slams open her shutters, cups her hands to her mouth like a trumpet, and plays a REVEILLE--

GIULIA

Papapparapaa papparapaaa!

The boys SCRAMBLE OUT OF THE TREE before she can see them--

Then they scramble AROUND THE TREE as the BACKYARD DOOR opens and Massimo leans out, harpoons in hand.

Hastily, they manage to dry off before anyone sees them, except for an agitated Machiavelli.

MASSIMO

All right, ragazzi. You want that entry fee, you gotta earn it. Giulietta, you make the deliveries--

GIULIA  
(snatching the list,  
heading out)  
Already makin' em.

MASSIMO  
And you two are coming with me.

Luca is anxious; Alberto, intrigued, clocking Massimo's MANY KNIVES--

ALBERTO  
Which knife do I get?

MASSIMO  
You don't.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - MORNING

Out on the water, Massimo exchanges greetings with Tommaso, on a passing fishing boat--

TOMMASO  
Buongiorno Massimo! You'll keep an eye out for those sea monsters, right? We're all counting on you!

MASSIMO  
Don't worry, Tommaso, I've got my eyes peeled. They won't get away.

Massimo taps his TRUSTY HARPOON by his side.

Meanwhile the waves are jostling the boys to and fro--they keep almost flying out of the boat and into the water--

MASSIMO  
This isn't a joyride.  
Make yourselves useful.

The boys hastily get to work pulling up NETS.

Machiavelli stalks Luca. Some Hitchcock fun and games that results in Machiavelli POUNCING ONTO LUCA'S FACE.

He is really clamped on there. Luca staggers around, trying to get him off, rocking the boat a little--

MASSIMO  
Hey! No goofing around back there!



Then clocks Massimo and the boys returning with a truly EPIC AMOUNT OF FISH.

GIULIA  
(in quiet awe)  
Santa Pecorino.

MASSIMO  
(to Giulia)  
Your friends do know fish.

Massimo pats Alberto on the back. Giulia is relieved--

GIULIA  
Let's go sign up!!

EXT. PORTOROSSO - DAY

LAUNDRY hangs on a clothes line.

Two pairs of hands whisk it off.

EXT. SEAWALL NEXT TO GIULIA'S BACKYARD - DAY

DANIELA and LORENZO, wearing the pilfered clothing, sneak into town--

DANIELA  
Okay, okay. Now what's our plan.  
Think, Daniela!--

LORENZO  
Hey. Everything's always on you. I  
want to step up.

DANIELA  
Uh... you sure?

LORENZO  
(confidently)  
Oh yeah. I got this.

And he saunters over to a kid (not Luca) sitting by himself on the seawall enjoying a gelato cone.

LORENZO  
Well, hello there, young man.  
You're not fooling anyone.

The kid licks his gelato, blank-faced and confused.

DANIELA  
(under breath/through  
teeth)  
Lorenzo. Uh-uh.  
Nope. Lorenzo. Nuh-uh.

LORENZO  
Did you really think you  
could get away with this?  
You thought we wouldn't find  
you? Well, guess what.

LORENZO  
It's time for us to go *home*.  
  
Lorenzo PUSHES the kid into the water.  
  
He is about to follow, when Daniela grabs him.  
  
The kid has not turned into Luca.  
  
Awkward beat.  
  
The kid begins to cry.

LORENZO  
(trying to recover)  
And... let that be a lesson to you!

DANIELA  
RUN. Before its mother gets here.  
  
The adults FLEE--

LORENZO  
It turns out I don't got this.

DANIELA  
No. But I do. I'll know my son when  
I--

--into the PIAZZA, which contains MANY KIDS.

DANIELA  
--see him.

Daniela gazes around. This is going to be pretty difficult.

DANIELA  
Aw, sharks.

EXT. PIAZZA - DAY

Giulia, Luca, and Alberto walk up to a LINE OF KIDS waiting  
to submit their entries to the PORTOROSSO CUP.

A WOMAN in an ELABORATE COSTUME and MUSTACHE addresses them  
from a little makeshift stage:

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
Fellow Portorossans! It is I!  
GIORGIO GIORGIONI!!  
(hamming it up)  
Slayer of sea monsters. And beloved  
purveyor of pasta!

In the crowd, Luca is alarmed:

LUCA  
Slayer of sea monsters?!

GIULIA  
That's just Signora Marsigliese.  
She works for the sponsor for the  
race.  
(exasperated sigh)  
This is gonna take forever.

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
The finest pasta in Liguria. At a  
price every family can afford!--

GIULIA  
GET TO THE RULES.

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
(dry)  
Enthusiasm. Love to see it.  
(regaining momentum)  
To win my famous race, your team  
must be the first to:  
Brave the treacherous waters of the  
bay!!  
Devour a mystery bowl of my  
delicious pasta!!  
And ride to the top of Mount  
Portorosso--and back!!!

LUCA  
That all sounds pretty hard.

ALBERTO  
Yeah. Hard to LOSE.  
We're going to win!

GIULIA  
I love your confidence. But don't  
forget. We have to go through--

ERCOLE  
Champion coming through!  
Ciao, ciao!



--Ercole arrives, Ciccio and Guido trailing behind as usual.

GIULIA

--Ercole.

Ercole plonks down his entry fee.

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE

Aren't you a little old, Ercole?

ERCOLE

(pretend outrage)

Signora! I'm sixteen!

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE

You said that last year.

ERCOLE

But this year it's true!

(walking away, addressing  
the kids)

You might want to save your money,  
ragazzi, this year Ercole is gonna  
break the record and make it six in  
a row--

He notices, with delight, that Giulia has teamed up with Luca and Alberto.

ERCOLE

Oh no. I don't believe it. Spewlia,  
you teamed up with these vagrants?!

GIULIA

(irritated)

Ignore him.

ERCOLE

(mock-apologetic)

I wish for you that you could.  
I'm afraid your friends still need  
to pay the Out-of-Town Weirdo Tax.

Ercole snaps his fingers--Ciccio snatches the money out of Giulia's hand and gives it to Ercole--

GIULIA

HEY!

Ercole--you HAVE to give it back!

ERCOLE

Ercole doesn't have to do anything.  
He's the Portorosso Cup champion,  
number one, and number two, his  
life is amazing and everyone loves  
him.

GIULIA

They don't love you! They're afraid  
of you!

ERCOLE

(intimidating, to the  
crowd)  
Raise your hand if you love me.

EVERYONE in the crowd, terrified, raises their hand.

ERCOLE

See? Everyone.  
(to Alberto)  
Even you.  
(booping Alberto's nose)  
Boop.

This is too much for Alberto. He raises his fists.

ALBERTO

That's it. Come on, Luca.

ERCOLE

Ooh! The vagrants want to fight!

LUCA

(unsure)  
Alberto...?

ALBERTO

(hushed, to Luca)  
Silenzio Bruno. Remember this is  
for our Vespa!

ERCOLE

A Vespa? Pfft. Trash like you can't  
ride Vespas.

Giulia gets in the way before the fight can begin.

GIULIA

Stop.

Every eye watches the STANDOFF:

GIULIA

Ercole, you're just afraid we're gonna put an end to your evil empire of injustice--

ERCOLE

(bored, overlap)  
"evil empire of injustice."  
Got anything new?

GIULIA

Yeah! HERE'S a new one.  
You... look like a...

Beat. She's got nothing. Ercole smirks.

LUCA

(whispering)  
A catfish.

GIULIA

(loudly, triumphantly)  
A CATFISH!

This only confuses the crowd. And Ercole. They are not impressed--until--

LUCA

(timidly)  
Uh, they're bottom feeders and they also have two sad little whiskers.

Now the crowd starts snickering. Even Guido lets out a little involuntary giggle.

Ercole fumes. He smacks Guido with a sandwich.

Then he turns to Luca, towering over him.

ERCOLE

(advancing)  
Listen, Piccoletto. I eat kids like you for breakfast. I dunk them in my cioccolata and GNAM! Finiti!

Ercole leans in and creepily puts an arm around Luca, who cowers.

ERCOLE

So, here. Sign up. I'll make it my mission to destroy you.

He lets this sink in. Then, suddenly, BRIGHTENS--

ERCOLE

Ha ha ha!  
(leaving, joking with the crowd)  
It's gonna be some race, huh?  
Sorry, no autographs today!  
(to a little boy who is still raising his hand)  
You. You can put your hand down.

Luca is absolutely terrified. But then Giulia puts an arm around him--

GIULIA

HA HA! Luca!  
Bravo, we did it!

Luca remembers to breathe. Giulia drags him away--

Alberto lags behind, strangely let down.

AT THE TABLE:

Giulia slaps the cash down on the table.

GIULIA

Giulia Marcovaldo!

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE

Ciao, Giulia. Team of one?

GIULIA

Not today!

She parts to reveal Luca and Alberto.

LUCA

Luca Paguro.

ALBERTO

(slightly reluctant)  
Alberto Scorfano.

EXT. MASSIMO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

GIULIA (O.S.)

Ok, ragazzi! We have one week to train!

BUT TRAINING GETS OFF TO A ROCKY START:

INT. MASSIMO'S HOME

Giulia puts a BOWL OF LINGUINE in front of Alberto.

GIULIA  
(ready, set, go!)  
Pronti, ai posti, via!

Alberto is about to start when Luca comes in with an ARMFUL  
of DIFFERENT PASTA DISHES:

ALBERTO  
Wait, what!?

GIULIA  
Every year they change the pasta.  
You have to be ready for anything!  
Could be cannelloni, penne,  
fusilli, trofie, EVEN LASAGNE!

Alberto shrugs and is about to grab a handful when Giulia  
raps his knuckles with a fork--

GIULIA  
And you have to use a forchetta.  
It's the rule.

ALBERTO  
Rules are for...  
(frustrated)  
...rule people!

EXT. PORTOROSSO STREETS - UPHILL

NEXT: Luca struggles uphill on the bike as Alberto and Giulia  
slowly walk behind him.

They are passed by a VERY OLD MAN.

Alberto slaps his hand to his forehead in frustration.

CUT TO:

AT THE TOP OF THE DOWNHILL--

Luca nervously looks down the STEEP INCLINE.

LUCA  
Holy carp. No. I can't.

Of course Ercole, breezily riding by, hears this--

ERCOLE

I know, I know. Ha ha ha ha!  
And remember, Piccoletto:

He draws a finger across his neck menacingly as he rides off.

GIULIA

Forza! Luca, don't let him get in  
your head. You can do this!

LUCA

Okay. Silenzio Bruno! Here we go!  
(he pushes off)  
NOPE. I CAN'T.

He hits the brakes, the front wheel locks up, and he CRASHES.

EXT. SEA

AND FINALLY: Giulia swims in the sea as Alberto and Luca  
paddle behind.

They watch her, unimpressed.

LUCA

I guess that's how humans swim?

ALBERTO

Man, that's embarrassing.

IN A MOTORBOAT IN THE DISTANCE: Ercole looks through  
binoculars as his henchbuddies WIELD HARPOONS hopefully--

CICCIO

Any sea monsters?

ERCOLE

(lowering binoculars)  
No... but I see some bait.

He GUNS THE MOTOR--

Giulia spots the boat speeding toward them--

GIULIA

Oh no. It's Ercole--

Alberto and Luca start rowing FURIOUSLY. But they are rowing  
in opposite directions and the boat just goes in circles--

ALBERTO

LUCA! FASTER! FASTER!

LUCA  
WHY AREN'T WE MOVING?!

Ercole's boat is bearing down on them--Ercole grins maniacally--

GUIDO  
(worried)  
Ercole--?

At the last minute, Guido grabs the steering and averts collision, instead sending a WAVE over Luca and Alberto--

--splashing Alberto, who turns SEA MONSTER and DUCKS into the boat with Luca--

Fortunately, Ercole missed it. He's too busy berating Guido.

ERCOLE  
Guido?!

GUIDO  
I--I slipped!

ERCOLE  
Ciccio! Slap Guido!  
Again! Like you mean it!

Giulia furiously doggy-paddles to confront Ercole. Meanwhile, Luca tries to throw a tarp over Alberto but instead hits Alberto in the face, KNOCKING HIM OVERBOARD--

The commotion draws Ercole's attention--he turns to see Luca by himself.

ERCOLE  
Where did the other one go?

He spots something purple in the water--he squints--

But then TOPPLES OVER--a FURIOUS GIULIA has rocked the boat by hanging onto the sides to yell at him.

GIULIA  
Ercole! Cosa stai pensando, eh?!

Ercole's sweater has fallen into the water. This now occupies 100% of his attention.

ERCOLE  
Insane girl! It is wool! It cannot be moistened!

While Ercole is distracted, Luca pulls Alberto on board. Then hastily throws a tarp over him before Giulia, also clambering on board, can see anything--

GIULIA  
Well, I think that's enough  
training for today--

LUCA  
Yeah! Agreed!

ALBERTO  
Yup!

As the kids begin to row home, Ercole notices them--

ERCOLE  
BAHH! Ciccio! The motor!  
They are slowly getting away!

Ciccio fumbles with the motor.

ERCOLE  
Guido! Slap Ciccio! With contempt!

EXT. PORTOROSSO - PIAZZA - DAY

Lorenzo and Daniela's search for Luca is not going so well, either. Daniela pulls the hat off a kid. Nope. Not her son.

A SOCCER BALL rolls to Daniela, from the kids playing nearby--

SOCCER KID #1  
Hey! La palla!

SOCCER KID #2  
Kick it!

Daniela KICKS it. She is pretty strong. It knocks a kid into the fountain. She stares at the kid, thinking.

DANIELA  
I have an idea.

LORENZO  
Uh. Honey?!

DANIELA  
Hey guys! Can I play too?!

A kid with the ball tries to JUKE her out. She instead deftly steals the ball and HIP-CHECKS him into the fountain.

DANIELA  
Oops! Sorry. I'm not used to legs.



LORENZO  
(catching on)  
Ohhhhhhhh.

SOCCER KID #3  
PRENDILA! THE BALL!

DANIELA  
Come and get it.

Another kid approaches Daniela, who now has the ball. She deftly sidesteps and the second kid, too, TUMBLES into the fountain.

She is basically LIONEL MESSI. She DRIBBLES through a few more kids, TRIPPING, CHECKING, JUKING them all into the fountain--

Where Lorenzo checks to see if they're Luca--

LORENZO  
(muttering)  
Not our kid.  
Not our kid.

Daniela approaches the goal, takes a shot, but skies the ball instead--knocking a watering can out of a neighbor's hand--and drenching the kid below.

Daniela CELEBRATES by hurling another kid into the fountain.

DANIELA  
(out of breath)  
Let's see Bianca Branzino do THAT!  
(dolphin impression)  
ECK ECK ECK ECK ECK ECK

NEAR THE PESCHERIA:

Luca HEARS his mother's distinct DOLPHIN CALL. He looks over and sees two adults who look like the human versions of his parents over by the fountain. Uh oh.

He ducks into the yard after Giulia and Alberto--

GIULIA  
Good effort, team. You've earned your pasta tonight.

ALBERTO  
(desperate)  
Can I *please* eat with my hands.

--as the parents regroup, still having not found their son.

LORENZO

Well at least you won! ...I think!

EXT. GIULIA'S TREEHOUSE - EVENING

Luca and Alberto confer in the treehouse--

LUCA

Uh, Alberto? I think I might've seen my parents...

ALBERTO

No way. I told you, they're not coming here.

Luca doesn't know how to push past Alberto's dismissiveness--

LUCA

But what if they did? They're gonna send me to the deep!--

ALBERTO

Relax! It's never gonna happen.

Giulia arrives.

GIULIA

(determinedly positive)

All right, boys. Pretty good today, but let's talk technique--

Massimo arrives, too.

MASSIMO

Hey, ragazzi! I need some help with the nets.

(looking to Alberto)

You! The big strong one. Andiamo.

Alberto is reluctant to leave. But he does like being the big strong one.

ALBERTO

I'll be right back.

Alberto exits with Massimo, leaving Luca and Giulia. She sees he's rattled, and ventures to comfort him.

GIULIA

Hey. We're gonna win.  
And you'll get your Vespa.  
...Why do you want a Vespa again?

LUCA

Oh--because it'll be amazing. Every  
day me and Alberto are gonna ride  
someplace new. And every night  
we'll sleep under the fish.

He indicates the STARS that are starting to come out. Giulia  
is thrown for a loop. She decides to just go with it.

GIULIA

The, uh... fish. Yes! Good.

LUCA

What'll you do when you win?

GIULIA

Ohoho. I'll get up in front of  
everyone and say, "TOLD you I'd  
win!!"

LUCA

Yeah!  
(beat)  
And then what?

GIULIA

I don't know. That's it!  
Look. During school, I live with my  
mamma in Genova. And every summer,  
I come here, and everyone thinks  
I'm just some weird kid who doesn't  
belong.

This really lands with Luca.

LUCA

I think I know how you feel.

GIULIA

Right?! That's why we gotta win!!  
The town will cheer our names--  
(a little too excited)  
ERCOLE'S LIFE WILL BE RUINED--  
(stopping herself)  
Sorry. Too much? My mom says  
*sometimes* I'm too much.

LUCA  
No way! Not for me.

Giulia smiles. She watches Luca look at the stars, that he might think are fish.

GIULIA  
(unable to let it go)  
You know those aren't fish, right?

LUCA  
Of course they are! Alberto told me  
all about it.

GIULIA  
Come with me.

EXT. ROOFTOPS - MOMENTS LATER

Luca follows Giulia up onto the roof and across PORTOROSSO'S BEAUTIFUL ROOFSCAPE. A night stroll above a lovely sleepy little town.

They finally arrive at a little balcony.

Giulia uncovers a TELESCOPE and makes adjustments--

GIULIA  
This is a telescope. Old Man  
Bernardi lets me use it. It makes  
faraway things seem close. Look.

She hands it over to Luca--who looks through it--

AT A GALAXY.

LUCA  
WHOA.

GIULIA  
See any fish?

LUCA  
Then what are all those?!

GIULIA  
Stars. Like the sun. Giant, raging  
balls of fire!

LUCA  
(to himself, realizing)  
Alberto was wrong.

GIULIA

And stars are circled by planets.

Through the TELESCOPE, she shows him SATURN--

GIULIA

That's Saturno. It's my favorite.

(geeking out hard)

It's the lightest of the planets.

They say if there was an ocean big  
enough to hold it, it would float--

As she speaks, his imagination takes hold--

BEGIN IMAGINATION SEQUENCE--

Luca runs on the ring around SATURN--

Giulia FLIES by on a DA VINCI FLYING MACHINE--Luca joins her  
on a second one--

PILOTS his way through the STARS and above ROMAN RUINS--

They fly over PINOCCHIO, on his way to school--

PULL OUT FROM IMAGINATION to:

INT. GIULIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Luca is utterly absorbed in Giulia's SCHOOLBOOKS--that's  
what's been firing his imagination this whole time. He is  
electrified, peppering her with questions--

LUCA

So this is how machines fly?  
And there are big towns  
called cities?  
Like even bigger than  
Portorosso?

GIULIA

Sì sì!  
Sì! Like Genova!  
Literally twenty times  
bigger!

LUCA

(back to the space book)  
And we're all on a big round rock,  
floating around a star, in the...  
"solar system"?

GIULIA

So cool, right?!

Luca pages through excitedly--the UNIVERSE gets BIGGER and  
BIGGER before his eyes as he asks her--

LUCA

And is there anything *beyond* the solar system?

GIULIA

Only a galaxy FULL of solar systems!

LUCA

Then what?!

GIULIA

A universe FULL of galaxies!!

LUCA

AND THEN WHAT?!

GIULIA

And THEN...

(beat, realizing)

...I don't know.

But next year in Advanced Astronomy I'm gonna use my school's telescope. So maybe I'll find out! That thing's HUGE. I wish I could show it to you.

LUCA

JUST PROMISE YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU SEE!!

(catching himself)

Sorry. Too much?

GIULIA

(overjoyed)

Never.

They're interrupted--

ALBERTO

(in the window)

Hey, Luca! I've been looking everywhere for you.

LUCA

Oh! Sorry--

ALBERTO

Come on, let's go.

Luca turns to Giulia, clutching the book.

LUCA  
Could I maybe--borrow this?  
Just for tonight--

Giulia opens the book, CROSSES OUT her name, and writes  
"Luca" on the first page.

GIULIA  
You can have it.  
The universe is literally yours!!

LUCA  
(blown away)  
Wow. Thank you!!--

ALBERTO  
Luca!!

EXT. PORTOROSSO STREETS - NIGHT

Alberto leads Luca through the nighttime alleyways to a  
destination of his own--

LUCA  
Where are we going?

ALBERTO  
I got something to show you.

Luca is still buzzing with excitement.

LUCA  
Alberto, you won't believe this--  
(pointing to the sky)  
Those aren't fish!

ALBERTO  
What?

LUCA  
Yeah! Giulia explained it to me.  
They're fires. But like a million  
times bigger--

ALBERTO  
(dismissively)  
No, they're not.

EXT. MECHANIC'S GARAGE

They arrive outside the MECHANIC'S GARAGE and look in the window at the beat-up VESPA they want to buy, the FOR SALE sign still on it. Alberto slaps a drawing on the window--

ALBERTO

Take a look. I thought of every single thing we're gonna need. Also I added flames.

LUCA

That's so cool.  
(realizing)  
And we can bring a telescope too!

Luca draws a TELESCOPE on Alberto's drawing.

ALBERTO

YEAH! That shoots lightning!

Alberto adds LIGHTNING coming out of the telescope.

Luca ERASES Alberto's lightning, to Alberto's irritation--

LUCA

No, no, no. You look through it. Giulia says there's an even bigger one at her school.

Luca stops. Getting a BIG IDEA:

LUCA

Wait! What if we visit her there?

ALBERTO

Why would you want to do that?!

LUCA

It... kinda sounds interesting?

ALBERTO

The whole reason we're getting a Vespa is to live on our own! We don't need school! We don't need anybody!

LUCA

Couldn't we just try it?  
Just for a few days...?



ALBERTO

Luca--sea monsters can't go to school! What do you think is gonna happen when they see your fish-face?

Luca is deflated. But before he can reply:

THUNK!

Ercole's harpoon SLAMS into a nearby SEA MONSTER RELIEF.

Ercole, Ciccio, and Guido saunter towards our boys--

ERCOLE

Hey. Look who it is. And with no Giulia to hide behind.

Luca is nervous but Alberto insists on standing their ground.

LUCA

C'mon, let's go--

ALBERTO

Nah.

ERCOLE

Something's fishy with you two. I mean besides the smell. You're hiding something.

ALBERTO

Is it... that we're smarter than you? I mean, we're not really HIDING that, it's just kinda obvious.

ERCOLE

You know, people think I'm a nice guy. Always joking around.

Ercole SHOVES Alberto against a wall.

ERCOLE

But really, I'm not.

Ciccio and Guido keep Alberto PINNED to the wall.

LUCA

STOP!

Ercole SHOVES Luca to the ground.

ERCOLE  
Wait your turn, Piccoletto.  
(to Alberto)  
I want to make myself very clear.  
This is my town, number one--

He SOCKS Alberto in the stomach--

ERCOLE  
--and number two, I DON'T WANT YOU  
IN IT--

LUCA  
I said STOP!

They turn. Luca, TREMBLING, is AIMING THE HARPOON at Ercole.

Ercole smirks. He takes a step toward Luca.

ERCOLE  
(disdainful)  
Put that down, Piccoletto. You'll  
hurt yourself.

LUCA  
(terrified)  
Let him go.

Ercole nods to Ciccio and Guido, who release Alberto.

ERCOLE  
Go. NOW. Before I change my mind.

Luca and Alberto back away--then break into a RUN--

Luca throws the harpoon down as they round a corner--

ERCOLE  
(calling after them)  
Nobody wants you here, idioti! Keep  
running!

EXT. OUTSIDE MASSIMO'S HOME - NIGHT

At the door to Giulia's backyard--

LUCA  
Why did you make him mad? We should  
have left!--

But Alberto again is in absolute denial of reality.

ALBERTO

We're fine! I had it under control.  
All you gotta do is follow my lead,  
remember?

He heads into the backyard before Luca can respond--

EXT. GIULIA'S TREEHOUSE - NEXT MORNING

The boys are DEAD ASLEEP.

Giulia does her patented TRUMPET IMITATION--

GIULIA

Papapparapaa papparapaaa!

The boys are JOLTED upright into wakefulness:

--BEGIN TRAINING MONTAGE, AS THE DAYS COUNT DOWN TO THE RACE--

INT. MASSIMO'S KITCHEN

Alberto struggles with the fork--

EXT. STREETS OF PORTOROSSO

Luca pedals uphill, past kids eating watermelon--

Who are abruptly DRENCHED with water balloons--

Dropped by Daniela and Lorenzo, on the balcony above them--

INT. MASSIMO'S KITCHEN

Luca and Alberto placate Machiavelli--

EXT. GIULIA'S TREEHOUSE - EARLY MORNING

The boys are dead asleep again. This time it's Massimo who  
wakes them up--cart for Luca, BUTTER KNIFE for Alberto--

EXT. MASSIMO'S FISHING BOAT - MEANWHILE

Massimo pulls up FISHING NETS one-armed;

Alberto sees a SEA MONSTER-SHAPED SHADOW in the water;

Before he can do anything, Massimo sees it too--he grabs his harpoon and PLUNGES it into the shadow--Alberto is HORRIFIED;

Fortunately, when Massimo pulls the harpoon out of the water--REVEAL--it was only a CLUMP OF SEAWEED. Massimo is disappointed;

Alberto, FRAZZLED and TWITCHY-EYED because he thought for a second he had just witnessed a murder, EXHALES--

EXT. HARBOR - EVENING

LORENZO and DANIELA sneak up behind two kids eating gelato--

But are distracted by a MONSTER MOVIE POSTER. Is that guy Ugo? That guy really looks like Ugo.

EXT. MASSIMO'S BACKYARD - MORNING

The boys, dead asleep as usual, are awoken by Giulia--

GIULIA  
Rise and shine! Only two days till  
the race!

They are so tired they can barely move. But Giulia gets an idea--

INT. MASSIMO'S KITCHEN - MORNING

And gives the groggy boys two cups of...

GIULIA  
Espresso.

The boys sip it. And perk the heck up.

EXT. STEEP PORTOROSSO HILL - DAY

Luca BOOKS IT up the hill, as the watermelon-eating kids cheer him on--

GELATO KIDS  
Go, Luca! / You got it!  
Vai, Luca!

ERCOLE  
(walking past)  
Hey! Don't cheer for him!!

EXT. HARBOR - STAIRS

Lorenzo shoots a SPRAY BOTTLE with abandon, failing to impress Daniela and drenching an infuriated bystander.

MAN (O.S.)  
MA CHE FAI?!!

INT. MASSIMO'S KITCHEN - DINNER

Alberto struggles to get TRENETTE AL PESTO onto his fork.

Massimo notices. He holds up his fork for Alberto to see. And demonstrates twirling a forkful.

Alberto carefully imitates Massimo...

And manages to capture a forkful of his own. Finally!

He turns to Giulia and Alberto for approval. But they're preoccupied with another stupid book.

Alberto eats, irritably. Stupid Giulia.

--END MONTAGE--

EXT. PIAZZA - FOUNTAIN - DAY

DANIELA and LORENZO sit at the fountain, DEFEATED.

(A passing kid recognizes them as the adults that are throwing kids into fountains, turns, and runs away.)

DANIELA  
I don't know, Lorenzo. Was I too hard on him?

LORENZO  
No. You were just trying to keep him safe. It's my fault. I wasn't paying enough attention to him.

DANIELA  
But I was the one who tried to send him away.  
...I just never in a million years would have thought he'd do this.  
It's like I don't even know...

As she is talking, a boy (Luca) passes, pedaling a bike carrying his two other friends (Giulia, Alberto)--

GIULIA  
Dai forza! You can do it, Luca!

DANIELA  
(eyes narrowing)  
...who he... IS...  
LUCA?!

Luca SPOTS HIS PARENTS and pedals faster--

LORENZO  
LUCA!!!

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Luca furiously pedals up a different street.

GIULIA  
Where are we going?

LUCA  
Uh... a shortcut!

GIULIA  
Steeper, rough terrain. I like it!

Alberto rolls his eyes. Giulia turns to him--

GIULIA  
Why aren't YOU training?

Alberto pulls out a WAD OF PASTA from his pocket and eats it.

ALBERTO  
(irritably)  
I'm always training.

EXT. TOP OF THE HILL - DAY

They crest the top of the hill. Luca is absolutely exhausted.  
Giulia checks her POCKET WATCH.

GIULIA  
Bravo, Luca. That was your best  
yet!

Below them, a TRAIN heads out of the station, up the coast--

GIULIA  
Oh! Guys, look! That's the train to  
Genova.

LUCA  
That goes to your school?

Giulia nods. Alberto rolls his eyes.

LUCA  
I was wondering actually... is your school open to... everyone?

GIULIA  
Well, it costs a little money, but... I guess!--

Alberto hates where this is going. He takes over impatiently--

ALBERTO  
Great. Thank you, Giulia, for showing us the boring thing that takes you to the terrible place. Now can we focus on what matters? If we lose this race, we're not going anywhere!

Luca holds his bike and gazes down the hill.

LUCA  
Santa Mozzarella. The downhill.

GIULIA  
I know it looks scary. But here's what you need to know--

ALBERTO  
(interrupting)  
Would you stop bossing him around?

GIULIA  
WHAT is your problem?!

ALBERTO  
I'm his friend! I know what he needs!

GIULIA  
Oh yeah? Then what does he need?

Alberto straddles the front of the bike, Luca on the back.

ALBERTO  
ME.  
We'll just ride it like we did on the island: together.  
ANDIAMO!

GIULIA

No!

But Alberto has already kicked them off.

They careen wildly down the hill, way too fast and out of control, knocking things over, barely staying upright--

LUCA

ALBERTO, STOP!

ALBERTO

THAT'S BRUNO TALKING!

LUCA

NO--I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S JUST ME--

The boys UPEND A CHESS GAME--

CHESS PLAYER

Disgraziati!

Luca tries to gain control of the bike--

ALBERTO

Let it go!

LUCA

Look out!!

In their struggle, they go over a guard rail and SAIL OFF A CLIFF, into the sea.

EXT. HARBOR - MOMENTS LATER

Around the PROMONTORY, Ercole hears SCREAMS and a big SPLASH. He grabs his harpoon and jumps to his feet--

ERCOLE

Porca paletta! What was that?!  
Eyes on the water!  
Move, move!

EXT. UNDERWATER - MEANWHILE

Down in the water, Luca and Alberto can distantly hear and see Giulia high above them, calling out worriedly--

GIULIA

Luca?! Alberto?!



LUCA  
She'll see us--come on!

Luca furiously swims off--Alberto follows him--

EXT. ABOVE WATER - SUBSEQUENTLY - SUNSET

They exit the water down the coast where no one can see them.  
Alberto knows Luca's furious at him. He tries to explain--

ALBERTO  
Look, I was just trying to show you  
how to do it right--

LUCA  
You don't KNOW how to do it right!

ALBERTO  
I got us down the hill, didn't I?

LUCA  
You CRASHED! INTO THE SEA!

ALBERTO  
It's fine--

LUCA  
NOTHING is fine! My parents just  
saw me!

ALBERTO  
Luca--your parents aren't here.

Alberto's continued denial of the truth enrages Luca even  
further--

LUCA  
You don't! Know! What you're  
talking about!!

ALBERTO  
Look. This town is making you  
crazy. We just need to win that  
Vespa and get outta here.

LUCA  
It's not gonna be any different! I  
don't want to--  
(stopping and gathering  
himself)  
I want to go to school.

It now is Alberto's turn to get angry.

ALBERTO  
THAT again?!  
WE CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL!

LUCA  
You're just afraid you can't do it!

ALBERTO  
I'M NOT AFRAID.  
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GETS AFRAID.

Alberto SHOVES him. Luca SHOVES Alberto back!

LUCA  
Shut up!

THEY FIGHT!

LUCA  
OW!!

ALBERTO  
GRRRR!!

ALBERTO  
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE SEES YOU?  
WHEN ANYONE SEES YOU?

LUCA  
Get off me!!

GIULIA (O.S.)  
YOU'RE ALIVE!--

They turn to see GIULIA--she runs up and hugs them in relief.

GIULIA  
(playfully, to Alberto)  
You're never allowed on my bike  
again. Stick to food, big guy.

Alberto whirls away from her in irritation and fury. Giulia now begins to clock that something's wrong.

GIULIA  
Uh, what's going on?

ALBERTO  
Nothing. Let's just get back to  
training--

But Luca senses an opportunity.

LUCA

Actually, we have something to ask you. We were wondering... if we could come with you to your school?

Giulia is thrilled.

GIULIA

Santo Pecorino!  
That's the best idea ever!!  
Yes! Of course!!

Luca, overjoyed, takes Giulia's hand--and shows her the handshake that Alberto taught him.

LUCA

Piacere, Girolamo Trombetta.

Alberto, watching this betrayal, FUMES.

He has to stop this. However he can.

ALBERTO

Hey, ah, Giulia?  
Your school... does it take all kinds of people?  
I mean, what if some of them were... not human?

LUCA

Alberto--?

ALBERTO

What if some were... Oh, I don't know... sea monsters?

GIULIA

(confused)  
Sea monsters?

ALBERTO

I doubt your school would even accept sea monsters, right?

LUCA

(gritting teeth)  
Ha ha! That's a weird joke!

Luca urgently signals to Alberto to stop--but--

ALBERTO

Yeah, I know, it's kinda hard to imagine. So let me just show you.

And with that, Alberto DIVES into the water.

Luca gasps.

GIULIA

Ugh. Alberto, we don't have time to goof around--

Alberto emerges a SEA MONSTER.

Giulia SCREAMS. Luca is FROZEN.

GIULIA

HELP! --Don't hurt us!

ALBERTO

(forcefully)

SEE!? I knew this would hap--!

But Luca, in the moment, realizes there's something he can do, too--

And he points at Alberto and cries:

LUCA

SEA MONSTER!

To seem like he didn't know. Like he's a human, too. Like Alberto's the only one.

NEARBY BUT OUT OF SIGHT:

Ercole and his goons overhear--

ERCOLE

Did you hear that?

BACK TO SCENE:

Alberto is shocked, confused, betrayed:

ALBERTO

Luca?

But Luca just shakes his head, teary-eyed.

Protectively, Giulia gets between Luca and Alberto.

GIULIA  
(to Alberto)  
STAY BACK.

And before Alberto can say anything else, OVER THE ROCKS come Ercole and his awful friends, WIELDING HARPOONS--

ERCOLE  
SEA MONSTER! THERE IT IS!

ERCOLE comes CHARGING toward him--

Alberto realizes he has to get out of here. He gives Luca a truly miserable look--

ERCOLE  
NOW!

Alberto turns, and dives into the water, as Ercole and his goons take aim and THROW THEIR HARPOONS--

LUCA  
NO--!

--which miss, barely.

Luca, heartbroken, watches Alberto swim away.

ERCOLE  
(to Luca and Giulia)  
Idioti! You let it get away!  
(to Ciccio and Guido)  
To the boat!  
WE'RE GONNA KILL A SEA MONSTER!!

Ercole and his cronies race off--

Leaving Giulia and Luca, stunned.

INT. MASSIMO'S HOME

They return to Giulia's home to find Massimo preparing pasta for them--

MASSIMO  
There you are! I made your favorite  
--trenette al pesto--

Massimo stops, seeing it's just the two of them--

MASSIMO  
Where's Alberto?

Luca tries to cover--

LUCA  
Ah... he left, Signor Marcovaldo.

Beat.

Massimo puts down the bowl and puts on his coat.

MASSIMO  
Do you know where he went?

LUCA  
(nervous)  
No--but I don't think he wants  
anyone looking for him--

MASSIMO  
Maybe not.  
But just in case.

Massimo exits.

Giulia is silent.

Luca, needing to fill the silence, starts BABBLING--

<p>LUCA Okay. Well. The two of us can still do the race. You'll swim, you'll eat, you've done both before, and I'll do the ride, I mean that's allowed, right? It should be fine, we're still okay--</p>	<p>GIULIA (trying to stop him) Luca... Luca? LUCA!</p>
--	--

Finally, she grabs a glass of water and splashes it at him--  
he holds out his hands, which transform--

Giulia exhales. She knew it. He's a sea monster, too.

GIULIA  
"Sleeping under the fish"! Now I  
get it.

LUCA  
I... I can explain--

GIULIA  
Of all the places for sea monsters  
to visit--PORTOROSSO?! Have you  
SEEN this town?!  
(MORE)

GIULIA (CONT'D)

My father HUNTS SEA MONSTERS!  
Luca, you have to get out of here--

LUCA

(pleading)  
But I thought we were underdogs.

GIULIA

(anguished)  
Do you think I WANT you to leave?  
This is the happiest I've--

She stops herself.

GIULIA

Look. It's just not worth it.

LUCA

You don't understand!

GIULIA

No I don't. Risking your life? For  
a Vespa?

LUCA

My parents were gonna send me away.  
I was never gonna see him again.  
That's why we... did all of this.

A beat, as Luca realizes what he's done.

LUCA

(miserably)  
But it's over now.  
Goodbye, Giulia. I'm sorry.

Giulia SINKS.

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

Luca sits by the shore staring out at ISOLA DEL MARE.

Dimly he can make out a fire, burning on the roof.

He knows what he has to do. He heads into the water.

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

Luca approaches Alberto's hideout hesitantly--walking past  
some of Alberto's belongings, which now litter the ground,  
broken and scattered, the aftermath of a miserable outburst.

The rope ladder has been thrown down too.

So Luca scales the tower without it--

INT. ALBERTO'S HIDEOUT

And emerges into a hideout that is in ruins.

                          LUCA  
                          Alberto?

But Alberto is nowhere in sight. Everything has been ripped off the shelves, thrown to the ground, broken.

Even the VESPA drawing is on the floor, ripped in half.

                          ALBERTO (O.S.)  
                          What are you doing here?

Luca turns. Alberto is watching him from the steps to the roof.

                          LUCA  
                          (needing the words, but  
                          not having them)  
                          I'm--sorry.  
                          I never should have done that.  
                          I wish I could take it back--

                          ALBERTO  
                          Great. You're sorry. Now go away.

Alberto goes up to the ROOFTOP.

Luca gazes sadly around at the WRECKED HIDEOUT. His gaze settles on where the VESPA POSTER hung. It's been ripped off the wall--

And where it had been are TALLY MARKS IN THE STONE that Luca has never seen before.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SUBSEQUENTLY

Luca finds Alberto staring miserably into a CAMPFIRE.

                          LUCA  
                          Alberto? What are those marks on  
                          the wall?

Alberto shrugs but says nothing.



LUCA  
(insistent)  
Tell me what they mean.

ALBERTO  
I started when my dad left.

Beat.

LUCA  
You were living here alone for...  
that many days?

ALBERTO  
I just stopped counting after a  
while. He said I was old enough to  
be on my own. I just thought  
that... maybe he'd change his mind.  
(beat)  
Honestly, though, I get it. He's  
better off without me. You are too.

LUCA  
That's not true.

ALBERTO  
(gently)  
Yes, it is. You're not like me.  
You're the good kid. And I'm just  
the kid that ruins everything.

LUCA  
SILENZIO BRUNO. That's just a dumb  
voice in your head. You taught me  
that.  
And getting a Vespa--seeing the  
world--your ideas are the best!--

ALBERTO  
(exploding)  
Just let it go! Okay?  
You and I should have never have  
been friends in the first place.

LUCA  
(pleading)  
Don't say that.

But Alberto turns away from him.

LUCA  
Alberto...

ALBERTO  
GET OUTTA HERE!  
I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU AGAIN!

Tears well in Luca's eyes.

But an IDEA starts to form.

LUCA  
Okay, I'll go.  
--I'll go win the race.

ALBERTO  
What?

LUCA  
(realizing)  
And then the Vespa will be ours!  
And we'll ride away, together!

ALBERTO  
Luca, that's crazy.

LUCA  
(shrugging)  
Well... maybe I'm crazy.

And just like that--

Luca JUMPS OFF THE ROOF--

LUCA  
TAKE ME, GRAVITY!!!!!!!!!!

ALBERTO  
LUCA!!

He tumbles through the tree, lands on the ground in a HEAP--

ALBERTO  
What are you doing?!

LUCA  
I'll be back tomorrow!  
I'm gonna fix this!!

EXT. PIAZZA - RACE DAY

At the registration table, Signora Marsigliese is PERPLEXED--

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
You want to... split up your team?

REVERSE to Luca, holding a RUSTY BIKE:

LUCA  
Yes--if it's allowed--

Giulia, on her way to the starting line, spots Luca--

GIULIA  
Luca?!  
What are you doing here?

LUCA  
Don't worry! I'll race on my own!

Giulia turns to Signora Marsigliese in shock--

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
You can if you want--I don't  
*recommend* it--

But Luca's already headed OFF before anyone can stop him--

Giulia is horrified but also doesn't want to blow his cover--

GIULIA  
(calling after him)  
But--how are you gonna--I mean--  
what happens when--YOU CAN'T SWIM!!

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Meanwhile, Daniela and Lorenzo are still looking for Luca when a RACE JUDGE (the priest) confronts them--

PRIEST  
Volunteers! You're late.  
One cup for each kid.

They look down at a table full of CUPS OF WATER--clock that they're for the race--realize this is gonna work out pretty well for them--

DANIELA & LORENZO  
Yeah yeah yeah. One cup per kid.  
Got it.

The priest then hands them a BUCKET and SCRUB BRUSH--

PRIEST  
And here.  
(apologetically)  
(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)  
For when Giulia... you know.  
(mimes throwing up)

EXT. STARTING LINE

IN THE SKY: A storm is approaching.

IN THE STANDS: Massimo and Machiavelli hold an encouraging sign for GIULIA--

MASSIMO  
Forza, Giulietta!

Giulia smiles, apprehensive. Next to her, Ercole pours OLIVE OIL on Ciccio, who is stretching.

ERCOLE  
Ciccio, hold still.  
(explaining to Giulia)  
Olio d'oliva. He will cut through  
the water like a knife. *An oily  
knife.*

Then they SEE--

LUCA, CLOMPING up to the starting line in Alberto's FULL-BODY DIVING SUIT.

ERCOLE  
Oh, this makes me laugh.  
Even your terrible friends don't  
want to be your friends!

Luca glances nervously across at his COMPETITORS.

GIULIA  
(ignoring Ercole)  
LUCA! THIS IS A VERY BAD IDEA!

ERCOLE  
HEY! VAGRANT!  
CAN'T AFFORD A PROPER SWIMSUIT?!

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
(addressing crowd)  
Signore e Signori! The Portorosso  
Cup is about to begin!  
We know there's been a few  
sightings lately, but fear not! If  
any sea monsters show up today--  
we're ready for them.

She indicates the FISHING BOATS all around the harbor,  
brimming with FISHERMEN wielding HARPOONS AND NETS.

Luca is terrified. He glances over at Giulia.

She signals to him once more to GET OUT OF HERE--

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
Swimmers, take your mark!--

The STARTER BELL rings!

The swimmers TAKE OFF--

EXCEPT LUCA, PARALYZED BY FEAR--BY BRUNO--

Then he takes a deep breath.

And puts the DIVER HELMET on.

And sloshes into the water!

Giulia, swimming up ahead, PUSHES FORWARD--

But in front of her and everyone else, Ciccio is off to a  
great start.

The only problem is that the oil covering Ciccio's body is  
beginning to attract some HUNGRY FISH.

CICCIO  
OW! YOW--

Giulia passes him, rounds a buoy, and heads back to shore,  
over the head of--

LUCA, on the sea floor. He can see the swimmers outpacing him  
above, despite his best efforts--

To make matters worse, the glass on the diver's helmet  
SHATTERS--he has turned SEA MONSTER!--

Giulia is the first out of the water, passing Ercole, who is  
screaming at Ciccio, thrashing in agony--

ERCOLE  
Swim, Ciccio! Idiota! SWIM!!

Giulia finishes dressing into her street clothes and RUNS  
toward the PASTA-EATING STAGE, where the pasta is...

GIULIA  
HA HA! Trenette!

She twirls a forkful as Luca EMERGES from the water.

Ercole TRIPS him--the diver helmet goes FLYING--

Luca TURTLES inside it before anyone can see his scaly head.

And he scrambles headlessly to the pasta table, manages to dry off without anyone seeing him, and plops down--

--next to Giulia, who's thinking: Luca, you idiot, you're gonna get yourself killed.

He fumbles with the trenette.

LUCA

Come on...

Giulia, MUNCHING FURIOUSLY, can't not help him--

GIULIA

UUUGGGH.

Impatiently, exaggeratedly, she demonstrates to him HOW TO PROPERLY FORK THE PASTA--

LUCA

Thank you!--

GIULIA

(angrily)

DON'T THANK ME.

Ciccio finally runs from the water, wailing, little fish hanging from his oily skin.

ERCOLE

Stop crying and tag Guido!!

He does. Ercole FROG-MARCHES Guido to the pasta-eating stage.

As Giulia FINISHES her pasta and SLAMS the fork down:

GIULIA

FINITO!

She stands up, suddenly gripping her stomach, GROANING, and hobbles over to the BIKES. She's still in the lead!

Ercole angrily looks at Giulia pedaling off (though slowly).

ERCOLE

Per mille cavoli, Guido!

FASTER!

Luca hastily forks pasta into his mouth as other kids around him finish and tag their partners, who run off--

He's way behind. But so is Ercole, who is now physically SMUSHING PASTA into Guido's MOUTH--

ERCOLE  
Eat, idiota!  
Più veloce!

The kid sitting next to Guido, groans her protest--

PASTA KID  
Hey! That's not allowed!

ERCOLE  
HE'S DONE.

Ercole SLAMS the fork down for Guido, grabs his LIMP HAND, uses it to slap his own hand, and sprints to his bike.

Guido sinks his head into his bowl.

Finally Luca slurps down the last noodle.

He is the last kid at the table.

But he's still going. He high-fives himself.

LUCA  
(frazzled)  
DONE!

He drops the fork, runs to his bike, lets out an insane BURP, and speeds off after the pack.

As the STORM BREWS OVERHEAD--

EXT. STREETS OF PORTOROSSO

DANIELA and LORENZO, at the water table, are frightening the racers passing them, who recognize the adults who have been terrorizing them for days.

LORENZO  
Thirsty?  
Uh...  
Water, anyone?

RACE KIDS  
AAAAAAAHHH!  
NOOOO!  
PLEASE STOP!  
NOT AGAIN!!

Then Daniela squints at the last kid, who is bringing up the rear but closing in fast on the pack--

DANIELA  
That's him. That's him!  
LUCA! STOP!

They LUNGE FOR LUCA--he SWERVES, barely evading them--

LUCA  
Sorry Mom! Sorry Dad!  
I have to do this!!

Lorenzo is FURIOUS. Daniela is a little (or completely) distracted by how much human butt he is kicking.

LORENZO  
GET BACK HERE RIGHT NOW!!

DANIELA  
WOW, he's fast.

HE SURE IS--

Luca SURGES PAST one kid, then another, then another--

As the storm continues to gather overhead--

Up AHEAD, Giulia's lead is swiftly dwindling as Ercole gains on her--she covers her mouth, trying not to VOMIT--

Ercole passes her. Rudely SLAPPING HER HELMET to add injury to insult.

ERCOLE  
Oops! Scusa!

GIULIA  
(pure rage)  
Rrrrrrrgh!!  
I'LL CATCH YOU ON THE  
(wheeze, hiccup)  
DOWNHILL!!!

ERCOLE  
Oh, Spewlia. You've never even MADE it to the downhill.

Ercole takes a moment to slow down, luxuriate in triumph, perhaps fix his hair--

And as he does, LUCA passes HIM!

ERCOLE  
WHAT?!  
(huffing and puffing)  
(MORE)



ERCOLE (CONT'D)

Impossible!  
He's cheating!  
Arbitro!! Arbitro!!

Luca doesn't reply--just keeps CHUGGING UPWARD--he puts some distance between him and Ercole--

He's in the lead. He could win this thing!

And then, the rain finally begins to fall.

Little spots of transformation appear on his arm--

LUCA

Oh, no no no no...

AT THE WATER STATION:

Daniela and Lorenzo notice the RAIN--

And hastily duck under the TABLECLOTH--

DOWN IN THE PIAZZA:

Among the grownup onlookers, the UMBRELLAS come out.

Massimo watches, a little confused, as a CAFE UMBRELLA bobs along through the crowd.

It makes its way out of the crowd and up the road.

AT THE TOP OF THE HILL:

Luca pedals around the tower, trying to race the rain--

But there's too much. He'll transform. He stops under an awning, overlooking the downhill portion of the race--

Antsy, he waits out the downpour--

LUCA

Come on, come on! I'm so close!

ALBERTO (O.S.)

LUCA!!

Luca LOOKS UP--

Alberto is RUNNING toward him, clutching the CAFE UMBRELLA (that was him, down in the piazza)--

ALBERTO

Just stay right there! I'm coming  
for you--

Luca smiles.

But here comes Ercole--he's caught up with Luca and is now  
passing him--

ERCOLE

What's wrong, Piccoletto? Afraid of  
a little rain?

Ercole smacks Luca's helmet and continues, heading right for  
Alberto, who tries to scramble out of his way--

ERCOLE

For the last time, you two don't  
belong here. Get out of my town--

Ercole KICKS Alberto--

The cafe umbrella goes flying--

Ercole chuckles, then GASPS--

Alberto has transformed.

A sea monster scrambles to his feet on the cobbles of  
Portorosso, surrounded by dumbstruck, horrified onlookers--

ERCOLE

SEA MONSTER!!

TOWNSFOLK

MAMMA MIA!!! SEA MONSTER! STOP THAT  
THING!

ERCOLE

Ciccio! My harpoon! VELOCE!

Luca and Alberto are face to face--human Luca under the  
awning, sea monster Alberto in the rain.

LUCA

(aching)  
Alberto--!

And he begins to take a small step toward him.

ALBERTO

No! Stop!

Alberto backs away.

ALBERTO  
Just stay there. You're still okay.

The safety of his friend is all that's left--it's all he cares about now--

Alberto turns and makes a RUN for it, back down the hill--

LUCA  
ALBERTO, WAIT!

For a moment or two, it seems like he's going to make it. Then a net snags him.

TOWNSFOLK  
DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!

Alberto struggles, but he can't get free--

LUCA  
NO!!!

Luca knows what he must do.

He PEDALS OUT INTO THE RAIN to save his friend.

He turns SEA MONSTER--Giulia, watching, gasps--

GIULIA  
Santa Ricotta.

Luca plows straight through the crowd--

LUCA  
ALBERTO!

REACHES OUT A HAND to Alberto and HOISTS him onto the bike--

ERCOLE  
AAH! WHAT?!?

And they speed down the hill.

ALBERTO  
You really ARE crazy.

LUCA  
Learned it from you.  
Let's get to the water!

Behind them, FURIOUS ERCOLE finally gets his harpoon from Ciccio--he jumps on his bike to chase them down--

Giulia pedaling hard behind him--

CUT TO:

Luca and Alberto continue through the race--

ALBERTO  
(to racers, as they pass)  
Hey there.  
Excuse us.

ERCOLE  
OUT OF THE WAY!  
VIA! VIA!

Ercole HOISTS HIS HARPOON--

ALBERTO  
LUCA!!

Alberto gets Luca to swerve just in time.

Through a door, and into an apartment.

WOMAN IN APARTMENT (O.S.)  
AHHHH!!!!

LUCA  
SORRY SORRY SORRY

--then back onto the course, right between Ercole and Giulia--  
Ercole now in front of them--

ERCOLE  
HUH?

Daniela and Lorenzo, still under the tablecloth, spot Luca (FULLY SEA MONSTER) speeding by.

DANIELA  
Oh no! LUCA!!

LORENZO  
SON!

Ercole turns, balances himself, rides backwards, a showboat to the end. He hoists his harpoon and aims it at the boys.

ERCOLE  
You shoulda left when I told you.  
Now I gotta kill some sea monsters.

The boys have nowhere to go--

But Giulia does.

GIULIA  
So long, evil empire of injustice.

She SWERVES RIGHT INTO ERCOLE.

BIKES AND PEOPLE GO FLYING.

Giulia goes TUMBLING to the ground.

And the boys ride past to safety, into the PIAZZA.

But they see Giulia grit her teeth in pain--

And a few feet from the water, Luca hits the brakes.

The boys run back to make sure their friend is all right.

Meanwhile the piazza crowd is now reacting to the sight of two SEA MONSTER BOYS who have skidded into the square and are now running toward a fallen human girl--Massimo's daughter--

MASSIMO  
MOSTRI MARINI...!  
Give me that!

He SWIPES a HARPOON from a fisherman and runs to confront them--

LUCA  
(concerned)  
Giulia! Are you all right?!

GIULIA  
(dazed)  
Yeah... I'm, uh... okay...  
Thanks guys...

She smiles gratefully, as they pull her to her feet.

The three kids stand. They are surrounded by FISHERMEN and Massimo, blocking any escape with nets and harpoons.

MASSIMO  
(disbelieving)  
Giulietta?

GIULIA  
Papá... I--

Massimo can't believe his eyes. Alberto's smile fades.

The fishermen close in.

GIACOMO  
You're not going anywhere.

And Ercole comes running in from the other side, re-armed with his harpoon, pointing it at the kids--

ERCOLE  
I saw them first!  
The reward is MINE!!

Luca stands up to him.

LUCA  
We're not afraid of you!

ERCOLE  
(contemptuously)  
No. We're afraid of YOU.

Sure enough, the crowd looks pretty FRIGHTENED of what is happening.

ERCOLE  
Everyone is horrified and disgusted by you. You're monsters--

GIULIA  
STOP! They're NOT monsters!

ERCOLE  
Oh yeah? Who are they, then?

Massimo SILENCES EVERYONE--

MASSIMO  
I know who they are.

Massimo stands FIRMLY in front of the kids. HARPOON IN HAND.

MASSIMO  
They are...  
Luca and Alberto.

He DROPS his harpoon.

Then LIFTS ALBERTO'S SEA MONSTER HAND into the air--

MASSIMO  
And they won.

Everyone is STUNNED, even the kids.







LUCA  
(starting to come out of  
his shock)  
I love you, Mom--

She wraps him in a hug. Lorenzo, too.

The crowd watches in astonishment as SEA MONSTER PARENTS  
embrace their SEA MONSTER KID-

Signora Marsigliese walks up to our kids with a TROPHY.

SIGNORA MARSIGLIESE  
Signore e Signori, the winners of  
this year's Portorosso Cup...  
The underdogs!

And it finally sets in with the kids that THEY'VE WON.

LUCA & ALBERTO & GIULIA  
(jumping up and down)  
WE WON! I can't believe we won!!  
Underdogs! Woohoo!

The other kids start celebrating, too.

TOWN KIDS  
Go underdogs!!  
Ercole lost!!!  
Wow!  
I know sea monsters!

The ARAGOSTA SISTERS glance at each other, drop their  
umbrellas--and TRANSFORM too!

A priest sees them and FAINTS.

Portorosso struggles to come to grips with the sea monsters  
among them. Some people don't love what's happening, like the  
MAGGIORE, who clutches a sea monster BOUNTY POSTER.

But others are more open-minded.

BENCH LADY  
(to the Maggiore)  
Gimme that.

The BENCH LADIES take the poster and rip it up--

And HUMAN KIDS, so excited to know sea monsters, celebrate  
the new CHAMPIONS OF PORTOROSSO--

CUT TO:

A RICKETY WHEEL ROLLS ALONG THE COBBLES--

PULL OUT to show that it's our THREE HEROES on their LONG-DESIRED, VERY JANKY VESPA.

EXT. GARDEN - EVENING

They zoom into Massimo's garden, where a dinner party has already begun with both human and sea monster guests.

The Vespa makes a horrendous noise. Parts fall off.

ALBERTO  
(happily, proudly)  
It's so perfect.

Massimo serves pasta to LORENZO and DANIELA...

MASSIMO  
Trenette al pesto. Mangiate.

...and GRANDMA?!

GRANDMA  
Grazie.

DANIELA  
Mom?! What are you doing here?

GRANDMA  
I come to town most weekends.

Across the yard, Daniela watches Luca and Alberto and Giulia LAUGHING and GOOFING OFF on their VESPA.

DANIELA  
(quiet, reverent)  
What he did today was amazing.  
But...  
We can't let him stay in this world.  
(beat)  
Can we?

GRANDMA  
(seeming to agree)  
Some people will never accept him.  
(here's the turn)  
But some will.  
And he seems to know how to find the good ones.

BACK ON THE KIDS--

GIULIA  
So where will you go first?

ALBERTO  
Oh, we're gonna stick around here  
for a bit.  
(patting the Vespa)  
We gotta fix this thing up before  
we take it across the entire earth.

GIULIA  
(a little nervous about  
the boys spending their  
lives on this thing)  
Okay. Just don't forget to... pack.  
(realizing)  
SANTO GORGONZOLA--I need to pack!  
For school!

LUCA  
(realizing)  
--Oh yeah.  
(wistfully)  
School.  
(trying to be upbeat)  
You're gonna learn so much...

Giulia sees in his face how much he wishes it was him,  
learning all those things at school.

GIULIA  
I can leave you some books...?

LUCA  
(SUPER EXCITED)  
YOU CAN?!  
Come on, Alberto--

Giulia and Luca RUN into the house. Alberto smiles, watching  
them.

He is deep in thought. He is realizing something pretty  
important, about his friend. And about himself.

He looks down at the Vespa and knows what he has to do.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - EARLY MORNING

On the TRAIN STATION PLATFORM, Massimo says GOODBYE to  
Giulia, all packed up.

MASSIMO

...And you have your lunch for the train?

GIULIA

Si.

MASSIMO

Sweater if it gets cold?--

GIULIA

For the MILLIONTH time, si.  
I love you too, Papà.

She HUGS him--

And turns to the boys:

GIULIA

Santa Mozzarella. We did it!

ALBERTO

Well, Giulia--can't wait to race next summer.

GIULIA

Or we could just have fun.

She swoops the boys up in a BIG HUG. They both SMILE.

LUCA

Ciao, Giulia.

GIULIA

Ciao, ragazzi! A presto--

Giulia and Alberto exchange a WINK. Luca doesn't see it.

She heads into the train. Luca, tearful, trying to hide it, watches her disappear into it.

LUCA

Well--let's go fix up our Vespa--

But Alberto is holding a little slip of paper.

ALBERTO

Yeah, about that. Uhh, crazy thing.  
I...might have sold it.

Alberto hands it to him--it's a TICKET TO GENOVA.

Luca studies it.

Then turns to see his PARENTS AND GRANDMA arriving on the platform with a packed bag.

LUCA  
(confused)  
Mom? What are you all doing here?--

DANIELA  
IF.  
You promise to write to us EVERY SINGLE DAY, and be as SAFE as possible, and I mean SAFER than safe...  
(deep breath)  
You can go to school.

He can barely wrap his mind around this.

LUCA  
I CAN?!

LORENZO  
It's all arranged, actually. You'd stay with Giulia and her mom.

GRANDMA  
Your friend talked them into it. It wasn't easy.

Alberto smiles and shrugs, like, "Yeah, I guess I did."

DANIELA  
Luca? Do you promise?

LUCA  
YES! YES I PROMISE!  
THANK YOU--

Fighting emotion, Daniela reaches forward to fix Luca's hair, but stops herself.

DANIELA  
(tearful)  
Just remember. We are ALWAYS here for you. Okay?

LUCA  
Hey.  
Look me in the eye.  
You know I love you. Right?

DANIELA  
I know.

She gives her son a kiss... and lets him go.

LUCA  
(excited)  
--Come on Alberto! The train's  
gonna leave!

Luca, headed to the door of the train, realizes Alberto is standing back a little. And there's a funny look on his face.

Luca begins to put it together.

LUCA  
Where's your stuff?

ALBERTO  
Yeah, well. You see...

LUCA  
You are coming, right?

Alberto considers it.

ALBERTO  
I would.  
But.  
Massimo asked if I wanted to stick  
around, move in maybe... and I just  
thought, ah...  
I think he needs me.  
You know?

Luca begins to falter.

LUCA  
I can't do it without you.

ALBERTO  
But you're never without me.

Alberto hands him a scrap of paper that's been taped back together. His old DRAWING of the two of them on the Vespa. The greatest drawing Luca has ever seen.

ALBERTO  
The next time that you jump off a  
cliff, or tell Bruno to quit  
bothering you... that's me.

But it's not quite enough for Luca.

LUCA

But how am I gonna know you're  
okay?

Alberto's face crumples a little.

He wraps his friend in the hug to end all hugs.

ALBERTO

You got me off the island, Luca.  
I'm okay.

And as the train readies to leave,

Luca stands on the steps of the train, and does one last  
handshake with Alberto.

ALBERTO

Piacere, Girolamo--  
Trombetta.

LUCA

Seriously, what does that mean?

ALBERTO

No idea.  
Go find out for me, will ya?

The boys RELEASE THEIR GRIP, as the train begins to move--

Carrying Luca away from Alberto, who has to run now, to keep  
pace.

He reaches the edge of the platform.

He jumps off into the rain.

He TRANSFORMS--

ALBERTO

Go Luca!  
GOOOO!

Luca watches Alberto CHEER HIM OFF TO GENOVA.

Then loses sight of him for good, as the train enters a  
TUNNEL.

For a few beats, Luca is in the darkness, alone.

He comes out of the tunnel. He looks at the island.

He watches PORTOROSSO DISAPPEAR around the corner.

He is leaving everything he has ever known.

But he wipes away his tears.

He leans into the rain. He feels the wind on his face.

He transforms.

And he turns, and gazes into a BRILLIANT FUTURE.

...FINE. (THE END).