

**1 EXT. PIONEER VILLAGE - NIGHT****1**

An old pioneer town empty of children. We hear the voiceover to the poem of the Water Babies.

NARRATOR V.O.

The winter was harsh, and outgrew  
other seasons.

(beat)

As the food ran out, so did their  
reason.

ELIZABETH exits one of the cabins carrying a fake baby. The fake baby is sleeping and wrapped in an old blanket.

NARRATOR V.O.

Rather than watch the young suffer,  
mothers took babes to the lake.

(beat)

To release them from hunger.  
A merciful fate.

NARRATOR V.O.

But the pain created a curse  
although good intentions remain,

(beat)

The sprits long for the return of  
mother, but they wait forever in  
vain.

**2 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT****2**

ELIZABETH passes the DEAD TREE with treasures of all the children that have been lost to the lake. ELIZABETH enters the water and walks until she is completely submerged under the water taking the wrapped fake baby into the lake.

NARRATOR V.O.

For their souls shall be trapped,  
until someone can bring her

(beat)

Their hunger continues to grow, and  
the curse still lingers.

Wide shot of the DEAD TREE where we see the old wet blanket the baby was bundled crumpled next to the tree.

TITLE CARD

## 3 INT. BABY NURSERY - DAY

3

Smash cut - LIZZY is decorating the baby's room. She is folding a new baby blanket similar in color to the one that was hanging in the tree but modern. She is listening to music, happy and enjoying laying out all the new baby toys and clothes. JAKE pops in the doorway.

JAKE

Hey, they need help at work. Want me to pick anything up on my way home?

LIZZY turns down the music.

LIZZY

No, I think we're alright. Thank you, though!

JAKE

No problem! I'll be back as soon as I can.

JAKE exits.

LIZZY

Alright, love you!

JAKE

(Offscreen) You too!

LIZZY's phone rings. She answers.

LIZZY

Hello?

DOCTOR V.O.

Hi, is this Lizzy Tate?

LIZZY

This is Liz.

JAKE appears in the doorway again, giving Lizzy a look like, "Is this THE call?", Lizzy nods. They've been waiting for this call.

DOCTOR V.O.

Hi, I'm calling from Dr. George's office. I'm sorry but it does not look like we will be able to proceed with the process...

LIZZY

Wait but I... I thought you said everything looked good? I don't

understand.

After the voice says "I'm sorry" the voices start to fade away. LIZZY drops to her knees holding the new baby blanket, then drops the phone and begins to sob. Jake runs to her side to try and console her, but she is in hysterics and pushes him away. The camera is slowly dollying back as the background disappears around her.

**4 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

**4**

SMASH CUT- to LIZZY on the couch in the same position as the last shot (match cut). The background comes back into focus to reveal Lizzy in a new room. Her husband JAKE is bringing in some tea. She is still holding the new blanket.

JAKE

I called into work. I'm going to take the rest of the week off.

LIZZY looks up as though she is coming out of shock.

LIZZY

What? Why?

JAKE sits close to LIZZY.

JAKE

Well...I would rather spend the rest of the week with the love of my life than with Stinky Steve at the warehouse.

The joke goes flat as LIZZY does not react. The silence is long and uncomfortable.

JAKE

I was watching one of those shows the other day and they were talking about how the best way to bounce back from something you can't control is to get busy doing something you can.

LIZZY looks up at Jake.

JAKE

How about we give it another try?

LIZZY is sure Jake is talking about sex to make a baby.

LIZZY

You know it can't work.

Lightly teasing Lizzy with his words.

JAKE

Oh, you were thinking the fun stuff!?

Lizzy rises an eyebrow as if to say, "and you weren't?"

Jake is attempting to push the conversation to something they can control so his delivery is more performance than genuine. They are both hurting from the news.

JAKE

I was thinking we get changed and go out on the water. Maybe finally learning to swim is the distraction you need right now.

LIZZY

Jake, I ..

JAKE

(persuading)

I have new lifejackets and patched the holes in the boat.

Lizzy grabs Jake's hand.

LIZZY

I appreciate you trying I really do.

(Beat)

But I need some time to process.

Jake squeezes Lizzy's hand.

LIZZY

I know in my heart that we are going to have a family. But after all the roadblocks with the doctors and adoption agencies I can't help but feel...broken.

JAKE

You're not broken.

LIZZY

(Letting out some of her frustration, slightly distancing herself from Jake)

Really? Normal women my age are having kids. That's what is natural.

If I can't do what biologically I  
was built to do how am I suppose to  
feel?

Jake is about to respond but stops short. Silence for a few  
beats. Lizzy breaks the tension.

LIZZY  
Jake, I love you, and I appreciate  
you trying to make me feel better.  
And I know I will, eventually, but I  
need some time to process this.

Jake kisses Lizzy.

JAKE  
I love you.

LIZZY  
I love you too.

Jake gets up and leaves the room.

Lizzy lays back and we smash cut to.

**5 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**5**

Lizzy finishes laying down on her bed. Lizzy lifts up her  
phone. We see she is googling "in vitro fertilization". She  
is still holding the new baby blanket.

She sits up.

As we dolly back we see that Jake is laying next to her on  
his side with his back to Lizzy. He is asleep.

The window is open. A breeze moves Lizzy's hair.

Lizzy gets up off the bed and walks to the window to shut it.

We hear the sound of a baby crying in the distance and it  
fades away.

Lizzy stops to listen harder.

**6 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT**

**6**

Drone shot showing the lake with a full moon in the sky.

**7 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT**

**7**

She hears the crying again along with splashing water.

Lizzy gets worried that a baby may have gotten out of its home and crawled out into the water. She runs out of the room.

A door slams waking up Jake.

Off screen we hear Lizzy running away from the house toward the lake.

LIZZY  
(off screen)  
Help! Somebody Help! There is a baby  
in the water!

Jake is confused and groggy. He gets up and walks to the window.

**8 EXT. PATH BY THE LAKE - NIGHT 8**

Drone shot of Lizzy running down the path.

**9 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 9**

Jake see's Lizzy running toward the lake.

JAKE  
Lizzy?!

**10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 10**

Jake runs out of the room.

**11 EXT. PATH BY LAKE - NIGHT 11**

Drone shot - We see Jake running down the paved trail.

**12 EXT. PATH BY LAKE - NIGHT 12**

The sound of a baby smashing and crying in the water is louder here. Lizzy runs down the path and takes a hard right when she passes the DEAD TREE which has no treasures, and is sprinting toward the lake.

Jake is running down the same path but does not see Lizzy make the sharp turn and keeps running down the path.

**13 EXT. PATH BY THE LAKE - NIGHT 13**

Jake runs toward the camera.

JAKE  
Lizzy!

Lizzy does not respond. But we start to hear water splashing as Lizzy enters the waters edge.

Jake turns toward the sound of the water.

JAKE  
Lizzy!

Jake runs back the way he came.

**14 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 14**

Lizzy is running into the water and is waist deep.

LIZZY  
(wild audio)  
Help! Help! Somebody help! There is  
a baby in the water!

**15 EXT. PATH BY LAKE - NIGHT 15**

Jake runs back down the path to the turn at the DEAD TREE with no treasures. He passes the dead tree and makes his way to the water.

**16 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 16**

Jake reaches his boat with life jackets in it as he see's Lizzy go under the water. He pushes the boat into the water, ties a rope attached to the boat to his waist and rushes in to save Lizzy.

Jake is swimming with all the strength he can.

Jakes dives under the water and the scene goes quiet with only the sound of the water lapping on the boat.

After a few seconds Jake and Lizzy break the surface of the water as Jake gasps for air. Lizzy is unconscious.

Jake gets into the boat first while he still has a hand on Lizzy. He pulls her into the boat.

Back in the boat Lizzy sputters out water and starts to breath.

LIZZY  
 (Trying to talk but still  
 trying to breath)  
 The Baby! In the water!

JAKE  
 (Exhausted, adrenaline  
 pumping, angry and  
 concerned at the same  
 time.)  
 What are you talking about? What  
 where you thinking?!

We hear a baby giggle.

LIZZY  
 (Stopping Jake)  
 Shhhhh

We hear water lapping up on the boat on one side.

LIZZY  
 Did you hear that?

JAKE  
 Hear what, Lizzy? Are you okay?

Jake is trying to make sure Lizzy isn't hurt. The baby makes a cooing sound on the other side of the boat and this time Jake hears it.

LIZZY  
 That!

JAKE  
 What was that?

Jake and Lizzy get quiet to hear the sound again. We see a low wide water shot looking at the boat.

Close up on the couple in the boat.

JAKE

Where did it go?

LIZZY  
(Shushing him)

Back to a wide shot we see the silhouette of two babies under the water. Slowly the Camera pans up, then back to reveal a lot of babies under the water.

(Using a fish tank half way submerged with the camera inside to show this angle. Everything under the water is CGI.)

A baby starts to cry further away from the boat but gets louder as if something under the water is crying and getting closer.

The boat slightly jerks, startling the two of them. Jake holds Lizzy in an attempt to comfort her. (BEAT)

Low wide of the two in the boat, the camera swiftly zooms towards them.

The boat jerks again, then jerks more violently in the other direction. They continue to be jerked back and forth (Jaws opening scene for movement reference). We hear several babies crying and giggling at the same time all around the boat.

Jake hands a life jacket to Lizzy.

JAKE  
Put this on!

Lizzy puts on the life jacket as Jake helps.

LIZZY  
What's happening?

The boat lifts up on one end, then drops abruptly. Several baby hands break the surface of the water as they try to tip the couple out of the boat. Once from one side, then again from the other. On the second try, they succeed.

The boat flips over and the couple fall into the water.

We hear the baby's voices move away from the capsized boat.

After a few beats Lizzy comes up and breaks the surface of the water wearing her life jacket.

LIZZY  
Jake!

She looks around but can't see Jake.

LIZZY

Jake!

No sign of Jake, Lizzy paddles toward the boat.

Lizzy reaches the boat and the scene is silent other than the water lapping on the boat.

Suddenly the boat starts to get pulled under water. (Maybe we can have them "pop" the raft? I think we could get this idea across without damaging the prop.)

Lizzy has no way to keep the boat above the surface and is helpless as it goes under.

Lizzy is alone floating in the water. Silence except for the sound of her breathing fast.

Lizzy starts to doggie paddle to the shore after a beat. She's crying and desperate.

After swimming hard and making very little progress, she stops to catch her breath.

A long beat. Lizzy is looking around frantically, trying to see if anything is around her.

Nothing is happening... Is she safe? She begins to make her way towards shore again.

Suddenly, Lizzy is pulled under the surface of the water.

The water surface is calm and silent like nothing ever happened.

After a few beats the life jacket resurfaces without Lizzy.

**17 EXT. PAVED PATH BY LAKE - NIGHT 17**

Cut to the dripping wet new baby blanket on the rope swing facing the water next to the Dead Tree.

TITLE CARD

**18 EXT. PROVO CENTER STREET - NIGHT 18**

Fade to credit scene where we are panning back there are missing posters of the cast and crew on them.

**19 EXT. PAVED PATH BY LAKE - NIGHT 19**

Whip pan to dead tree with no blankets or treasures looking out at water. We hear water begin splashing around.

**20 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT**

**20**

A Water Baby stands, water pouring from the sockets where its eyes once were. (BEAT) Then, the baby lunges towards the camera, killing the camera man. Red fills the screen.