

## Eye of the Storm -

### Cast

Emmie	Erin Dolan
Bud	Campbell Wallace
Ched	Sion Russell Jones
Angela	Llinos Daniel
Mr Church	Joey Cornish
Walt	Kieran Bailey
Lloyd	Elis Myers-Sleight
Thomas	Campbell Wallace
Griff	Sion Russell Jones
Chris	Joey Cornish
Karen	Jenna Dyckhoff
Consultant	Campbell Wallace
Louis Michaud	As himself

Action set in the South Wales Valleys - Penywaun, Aberdare.

Tells the story of **EMMIE**, an independent, bright 14 year old girl who has a passion for science and in particular climatology and meteorology. She dreams of escaping her life in the valleys, and becoming a storm chaser in the US.

Emmie is a young carer and looks after her mother, **ANGELA**, who suffers from bipolar. She has cared for her for the last 8 years since her father left and her older half sister, **KAREN**, who is 22, moved out.

Because her mother cannot work, they lost their home and have moved into a mobile home on a residential park - Montana Heights on the outskirts of a valleys town.

Emmie is torn between fulfilling her dream of succeeding and her duty and responsibility of being her mother's sole carer

### CHARACTER LIST

3 Female 10 Male

Emmie	16 year old schoolgirl, intelligent & independent
Bud	American Anchor man for K259 TV
Ched	American weather correspondent K259 TV
Angela	Emmie's mother 42
Mr Church	Son of the manager of Montana Heights, early 30's
Walt	Jaded teacher in a valleys Comprehensive, late 40's
Lloyd	A likeable 16 year old, very enthusiastic
Thomas	16 year old, a cool, laid back kid
Griff	16 year old, very smart, but thinks he's cleverer than he is
Chris	16 year old, obsessed with gaming
Karen	Emmie's sister 24 year old, very smart, well dressed.
Consultant	Hospital consultant
Louis Michaud	The inventor of the Atmospheric Vortex Engine

## SONG LIST

1. **Alive**
2. **Emmie Don't Talk**
3. **Lloyd's Song**
4. **Needing Me**
5. **If You're Gonna Win**
6. **Motif Power of the Storm arrangement of Alive**
7. **Pie in The Sky**
8. **Days**

Throughout the show the songs are reprised and rearranged for certain scenes

## **SECTION 1** **SCENE 1**

A huge cyclorama is lit with the sun setting over a wide expanse of land. In the foreground is the silhouette of a small mobile home.

Penywaun. South Wales Valleys. A residential mobile-home park -  
MONTANA HEIGHTS. Late at night. There is a Country band on stage.  
Lights pick up the band as they begin to play what is in essence the ***Overture, of the motif for weather/storm.***

On the cyc the sky starts to darken, and a tornado grows in the distance and travels towards us during the overture. As it gets closer and closer it vanishes just as a laptop light comes on and we see Emmie...(Music segue into **ALIVE (Intro plays)**...swinging on her crappy little office chair, eating a huge bag of basic value doritos, and drinking out of a cup with a straw, in front of her are two basic LCD monitors one repeatedly showing weather systems travelling across the Pacific, and one across the Atlantic.

She is engrossed in a news report coming in from America which plays on her laptop. She writes the data into a programme.

All images are projected on to the cyc for the audience.

BUD

And a K259 News alert to begin happening  
now on Hurricane Donald. That storm already  
slamming into Cuba. Now, we have brand new  
tracking which shows where this massive  
system may be heading next, and it is not good  
news for those living in the South east of the  
America...

EMMIE

*I got lost inside a hurricane  
I've been turned upside down  
Inside out and back again  
And oh my world won't ever be the same*

BUD

...And if we just look at this weather system coming right on its rear end it is going to create all types of destruction. Lets go over to Ched, who's on the tip of the eastern seaboard. Ched Wachowski. Wachowski for that storm Ched!

A weather reporter steps forward into the path of a wind machine he is barely standing up. (This could possibly be filmed)

CHED

(struggling to talk over the huge gusts of wind)

It's getting pretty windy out here on the boardwalk, and that's just gonna help that storm surge. We're going to be facing waves of around 33ft.

BUD

Whoa! 33ft, well you're making me as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rockin' chairs there Ched...

CHED

Sorry bout that Bud, but its time like these you hope these folks have kept up their house insurance payments...

BUD

And if you need life insurance call State Farm, sponsors of K259...

EMMIE

*I've been taken by a tidal wave  
I've been dragged back under  
Thrown back up  
Then washed away  
But oh my world wont ever be the same*

CAST

*Cos you can't find the answers  
If you haven't heard the question  
If you're looking for disaster  
better look in my direction  
When clouds fill up the sky  
And the rain it falls on you and I  
When the storm it rages on outside  
I won't mind  
Cos at least I feel alive*

The electricity cuts out and everything powers down. Bud and Ched exit.

## SECTION 2

Silence. Then suddenly we here weeping, that sounds like a child.

ANGELA  
Emmie? Emmie?

It's her mother, Angela.

EMMIE  
It's a power cut again.

ANGELA  
It's too dark. I'm scared... Is it a storm?

EMMIE  
No Mam, it's OK Mam... I'll fix it...

ANGELA  
What would I ever do without you?

EMMIE  
Nos Da Mam...

During the verses Emmie reaches for her phone to light her way to a huge Tupperware box that is full of medication. She examines two of the bottles, and opens one and hands her mother, two sleeping pills.

EMMIE (CONT'D)  
*Oh the wind may blow the earth may quake  
We don't learn or grow from all of those  
mistakes we make  
And all I know is something's got to change*

As her mother goes back to bed Emmie steps outside her home, leaving her all on her own.  
Blackout.

## SECTION 3 SCENE 2

The next morning. Beautiful Sky.  
Lights up on the mobile home. Putting on her school tie over her head. She picks up her school jumper, smells it. It's fine. Puts it on. She gets a slice of bread and goes to the toaster, she then remembers that they have no electricity.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Oh god!

She grabs the bag of doritos, peers in not many left, so she lifts the bag to her mouth and pours the bits in. Crumples up the bag. She gets the straw from the cup and starts blowing the crisp bag around the table. She tries to keep it in the air. It fails.

Emmie opens a cupboard and gets a box of cereal out she lifts out a tin. Opens it and empties the contents - a fiver and a couple of coins.

She puts the tin down.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Mam, have you taken the money from the tin?

Suddenly her mother appears. - Angela - beautiful woman, early 40's. She has a childlike quality to her.

ANGELA

I'll put it back.

Emmie aware that that's not going to happen.

EMMIE

We can't keep spending the emergency money  
Mam...

Angela goes over to the barometer that hangs on the wall and taps it.  
Emmie finds her phone and starts to text.

Rainy day, remember?

ANGELA

Every cloud though...

Emmie is exasperated.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Have you had breakfast?

EMMIE

No, Mam, the electricity cut out remember.  
I'm texting Mr Church now to sort it out...

ANGELA

Oh him! Jumped up nerd!

EMMIE

Mam!

ANGELA

Well he is.

(glances at the clock)

God, is that the time? I need to get ready.

She cwtshes Emmie.

EMMIE

Where you off?

ANGELA

I'm thinking of going for that job?

EMMIE

Job?

ANGELA

You know the one I was telling you about.

Emmie looks blank at her

ANGELA (CONT'D)

The one in Cardiff, office manager, at the insurance firm.

EMMIE

I don't remember Mam, sorry...

Angela agitated

ANGELA

Oh why doesn't anyone listen to me anymore?

EMMIE

Oh I must have forgotten, tell me about it after school.

ANGELA

How could you forget? It's a great chance for me - new beginning and everything.

Emmie is aware of her mother becoming a little agitated

EMMIE

Don't forget we've got an appointment to see Dr Thomas tomorrow.

ANGELA  
What for?

EMMIE  
Check your meds.

#### **SECTION 4**

From outside we hear Mr Church calling Emmie (the wrong name)

MR CHURCH O/S  
Emma

ANGELA  
Who's that now, at this time?

EMMIE  
It's probably Mr Church

ANGELA  
Well I don't want him to see me. He'll just  
report me, bloody snake!

EMMIE  
Mam no one is going to report you, please...

MR CHURCH  
Emma!

ANGELA  
Tell him to go away.

EMMIE  
He's helping us out ...We have no electricity.

ANGELA  
Why is that?

EMMIE  
It's cutting out all the time.

ANGELA  
Who's using our electric?

EMMIE  
We are.

ANGELA

No, I think someone else is. We couldn't possibly be using that much...

MR CHURCH

Hello. Emma?!

Emmie turns back to calm her mother down. But she has disappeared into her room. Emmie goes to open the door.

Mr Church, a 27 year old man who dreams of being a property developer, but is merely managing the site for his father who owns MONTANA HEIGHTS.

MR CHURCH (CONT'D)

It's going to pour down now.

EMMIE

No it's not.

She goes over to the barometer. Taps it

MR CHURCH

What's that?

EMMIE

A barometer.

MR CHURCH

I though that was an ornament.

EMMIE

It's not. It measures atmospheric pressure, used to forecast the weather.

MR CHURCH

Oh. Who'd have thought?

Pause, as he looks around.

MR CHURCH (CONT'D)

Keeping it nice!

EMMIE

Thank you.

MR CHURCH

I wish I could say the same about the other condos.



EMMIE

Condos?

MR CHURCH

Mobile homes.

EMMIE

It's a tourer at best.

He's been insulted.

MR CHURCH

Pardon.

EMMIE

It's not a condo. It's a touring caravan. On a static sight

MR CHURCH

Do you want your electric back on?

EMMIE

Yes.

MR CHURCH

Right. Take the compliment and be grateful.

EMMIE

I'd be grateful if you just put the power back on

MR CHURCH

I'll need the payment tonight.

EMMIE

Fine.

MR CHURCH

I can't be seen to be having favorites. Perhaps you should have it on a higher ampage.

EMMIE

Why would we need that? We are only using - washing machine, 10 amps; Toaster 9 amps, microwave 5 amps. We don't need anymore, and we can't afford anyway.

MR CHURCH

(pointing to the monitors)

If you can't afford the electricity, you may need to rethink all these screens.

EMMIE

Why?

MR CHURCH

Well they must be pulling at least, Ooh, what's the voltage on that?

EMMIE

It's wattage.

MR CHURCH

Whatever.

EMMIE

(she continues)

A 22 inch... LCD display... using thirty watts for five hours a day at twenty pence per a kwh is roughly ninety- one pence a month, that's £10.95 a year.

MR CHURCH

I got a plasma. Fifty inch!

EMMIE

That' s £110 a year.

MR CHURCH

Well if you can't afford it, you may not be able to stay here, you know that don't you.  
It's not a charity

EMMIE

No I know that.

MR CHURCH

I need to keep an eye on my portfolio.

EMMIE

What portfolio?

MR CHURCH

My properties. My investments.

EMMIE

You look after this site for your dad.

MR CHURCH

I could always call social services if it's getting too much for you...

EMMIE

It's not.

MR CHURCH

Right.

Pause.

MR CHURCH (CONT'D)

How's your mother?

EMMIE

Like I said she's fine.

MR CHURCH

She's up and about then?

Pause

EMMIE

I have to get to school.

MR CHURCH

I don't know how you do it?

EMMIE

Do what?

MR CHURCH

Look after your mother. Schoolwork. It's a full time job you've got here.

EMMIE

So I've been told.

Mr Church is looking around the home, trying to find fault in something.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Now, if you don't mind can you sort the electric out.

He turns to leave

MR CHURCH  
I'll need the payment first.

## SECTION 5

He goes. Emmie sorts out the tablets and the food for her mother for the day, and sets them out carefully on the breakfast bar.

EMMIE  
Mam. I'm off. Food and meds are out. I'll text you to remind you.

Angela appears

ANGELA  
Aren't you coming home lunchtime?

EMMIE  
I can't Mam, I've got work to finish. I've got this physics assignment to hand in and if I don't, it won't be one of my options.

ANGELA  
Options?

EMMIE  
I need to take physics to get what I need for Uni...

ANGELA  
Uni? bit young to be thinking of university?

EMMIE  
Well, I was hoping...

ANGELA  
God it's all about you isn't it, all the time.

EMMIE  
Mam...?!

ANGELA  
And look at this place it's like a bomb has hit it...

EMMIE  
Mam ..!

ANGELA

Well if you think I'm going to do it, you've got  
another thing coming... you know I'm not  
well...Selfish!

As Emmie watches her go back to her room. She picks up her bag and turns to go to school. She turns back to face the room...

EMMIE

*When the storm it rages on outside  
I won't mind  
At least I feel alive*

Music

The wind picks up and takes hold of the clothes on the line and creates a tornado effect with the washing. Music underscores this as a precursor for later on.

Emmie is transfixed.

School buzzer rings out. And the wind dies down.

She's late.

## **SECTION 6**

### **SCENE 3**

Classroom in a rundown comprehensive. Year 12 physics class. Four boys, they all wear ridiculously sized watches -

**Lloyd**, a likeable kid ,very enthusiastic, he has to work really hard to get an average mark.

**Thomas**, a posh swotty kid from England, who's father lost money on his investments and so they've had to move to Wales.

**Griff**, the kid who thinks he's cleverer than he is. He has lots of extra lessons paid for by his parents.

**Chris**, average kid, who doesn't really care about school. Obsessed with gaming, beyond the average obsession. Cardiff City Supporter

And one girl, Emmie.

**"Walt"**, their science teacher, he is in his late forties, jaded and resents teaching children who will ultimately achieve more than him. He doesn't know any of the kids names - ever.

WALT  
Put your phones away. Lloyd Evans?

LLOYD  
Here Sir?

WALT  
Chris Squire

CHRIS  
Here Sir?

WALT  
Thomas Chessington Smythe?... Where have you been?

THOMAS  
Double Banjo.

WALT  
Music? Do we still do music here?  
Griff O'Connor? What about You?

GRIFF  
Double Bass...

WALT  
Right, you horrible little shower, if I can have your complete and undivided attention, a couple of important notices before we move on - Options. Forms need to be in by the end of the week. When do they need to be in by?

THOMAS  
Next week sir.

GRIFF  
You can fill them out online Sir.

WALT  
I know that, but I want you to print them out.

GRIFF  
What for?

WALT  
So we can check them first.

GRIFF

What for?

WALT

So we can check you are not overreaching

CHRIS

It's alright, sir, I only want to be a physics teacher.

Walt goes to clip Chris around the head. Chris blocks him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Hey. Child protection Sir.

WALT

And I don't want any of this Chat GPT+

THOMAS

You use it, Sir.

(to the other kids)

My parents said the half term report sounded like an AI bot

WALT

AI what?

Emmie rushes in...

EMMIE

Sorry sir?

WALT

You're late, again.

She presents her Young Carers ID Card.

WALT (CONT'D)

What's that?

EMMIE

It's my ID card.

WALT

Not that again, we don't recognise those now, its not Covid.

EMMIE

But...

WALT

Coursework?

EMMIE

Sorry Sir, I'll get it to you tomorrow.

WALT

Tomorrow is too late. You'll do it lunchtime. Sit down. When will you realise that your portfolio coursework is part of your final mark. I need to get us, you, through these exams. As I was saying, before I was rudely interrupted, for those of you reaching for the dizzy heights of further education and ultimately debt for life, you need to get those options in for your 'A' levels and then college. I am Obi Wan Kanobi, I am your only hope and this is your only chance to get it right.

Emmie reaches into her bag and starts texting.

GRIFF

Phones not allowed in class.

EMMIE

I'm allowed.

WALT

(to Emmie)

Just put that away, will you? You've missed enough lessons as it is without disrupting my class too.

WALT (CONT'D)

Remind me of your options again?

THOMAS

Early Baroque Music Oxford University.

CHRIS

What? On a Banjo?

WALT

You are not on University Challenge, son. I said options.



LLOYD  
(interrupting)  
Sir, I'm thinking of Cardiff Uni...

GRIFF  
Stay close to Mam is it?

CHRIS  
Yeah you don't want to lose that job in your  
mam's garage do you butt?

LLOYD  
I like Cardiff.

WALT  
The metropolis!

LLOYD  
Where did you go Sir?

WALT  
Plymouth.

GRIFF  
Oo errrr!

CHRIS  
Is there a Uni there sir?

WALT  
Yes. Now there is. Where are you going  
Christopher after you get out of prison?

CHRIS  
Sheffield. Gaming, Sir.

WALT  
Gaming?

CHRIS  
Game development.

WALT  
What, there's a course in that?

CHRIS  
Yeah I get to use PlayStation labs, develop kits  
and Oculus Rift ...

WALT  
Is that in Zulu?

CHRIS  
What?

LLOYD  
Cool. Have you played FF15?

Chris looks at him in disdain.

CHRIS  
Its ok if you like anime...

THOMAS  
Or Japanese role-playing...

The boys start talking about gaming.

GRIFF  
It works well, although the camera and lock-on  
system are not the most reliable and it fails to  
show the action properly.

WALT  
Alright, alright, and there's a degree in that?

CHRIS  
BA Honours.

WALT  
Well I wish you all the best - Pacman!

The boys have no idea what he's talking about

CHRIS/GRIFF  
Pacman?

LLOYD  
(To Emmie)  
Where do you want to go Emmie?

EMMIE  
Indiana.

LLOYD  
Pardon?

EMMIE

Indiana, USA

GRIFF

What will you study there?

CHRIS

The Temple of Doom!

EMMIE

Storms.

CHRIS

Storms?

EMMIE

Extreme weather systems.

GRIFF

Like tornados?

THOMAS

Like twisters?

LLOYD

What like typhoons?

EMMIE

No. Typhoons happen at sea.

GRIFF

How will you afford it?

EMMIE

Bursary or...

CHRIS

What's that?

THOMAS

If you can't afford to go they'll pay.

EMMIE

Or a scholarship, if you show you are really good at something they'll offer you a scholarship.

WALT

OK, we'll discuss that after this lesson. OK, next announcement, the almighty head of department the Sith Lord has informed me to give over the next two week sessions to this Crest Award for Scientific Invention thing.

THOMAS

Is it because the school is hurtling down the league tables Sir?

CHRIS

Yeah we are like Cardiff City of schools...

GRIFF

More like Swansea City!

CHRIS

Leave it! At least we are in still in Championship.

GRIFF

Yeah, only just.

THOMAS

Mother says football is a gentleman's game played by hooligans.

WALT

Anyhow! Now for this Crest award. We need to invent something like the Large Hadron Collider by the half term.

LLOYD

That bloke went to school with my grandad.

CHRIS

What's his name now?

LLOYD

Lyn Evans, I think.

THOMAS

He's Welsh?

CHRIS

Yeah. One of ours.

THOMAS

And he came from Aberdare?

CHRIS

Yeah, just off Bro Deg in Cwmbach...

GRIFF

Evans the Atom they used to call him...

WALT

Thank you Wikipedia. Where is he now? Hey?

ALL THE BOYS

Switzerland. Sir.

WALT

Now then you need to work in groups or pairs. The winning team goes on to represent the school in the National Championships. Sort yourselves out...

EMMIE

Do we have to work in a team, can't we work independently?

WALT

No you need to work in pairs.

WALT (CONT'D)

OK Jimmy Neutron you can join Dora the explorer.

WALT turns to the White Board and writes

WALT (CONT'D)

Now then back to reality. What we've all been waiting for - Newton's First Law. Yes, there is more than one. Anyone want a stab at this?

Silence

EMMIE

An object stays in a state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line unless acted on by an external force.

WALT

Correct. His Second Law...

GRIFF

The change of momentum is the same as the force applied...

EMMIE

The **rate** of change Sir, and is in the direction of the external force...

WALT

Correct. The rate of change and is in the direction of the external force.

Griff looks at her with contempt. Lloyd is smitten.

WALT (CONT'D)

...Newton's Third Law...

LLOYD

I know this sir, I know this...

WALT

Come on then...

All the class look to him

LLOYD

When two objects interact they... umm...

GRIFF

Come on Stephen Hawkins.

LLOYD

Umm...oh what's the word now?

EMMIE

Exert

LLOYD

Pardon.

EMMIE

They exert equal and opposite forces on each other.

She looks to Lloyd.

The buzzer for the end of lesson goes. Emmie packs her things away.

## SECTION 7

WALT

Make sure you get this stuff down.

They exit. Lloyd goes to say thank you to Emmie for helping him, but instead Walt cuts in...

WALT (CONT'D)

Emmie, a word. Your head of year and I have been talking and we both think that moving you from Physics to a less demanding subject like general science will help you.

EMMIE

But I need physics to get into Indiana.

WALT

Biology is a more popular subject for girls. Or Geography, its humanities with a bit of science thrown in.

EMMIE

What?

WALT

We are concerned that...

EMMIE

I'm not struggling with the subject, am I?

WALT

Your coursework is always late and without it you'll fail you'll fail final exam.

EMMIE

But I'm the best in...

WALT

You are not the best, you are average, like them all. Now I need to get all the class through the exams. 100%. The decision is made. You're changing subjects after half term. We are doing this for your own good. You'll thank me in years to come.

Emmie is left on her own. Lloyd enters.

LLOYD

Hiya. I just wanted to thank you for helping me on the 3rd law... I thought I knew it...

(MORE)

LLOYD (CONT'D)

"they exert equal and opposite forces on each other..."

Emmie ignores him.

LLOYD (CONT'D)

So, do you want to meet up

EMMIE

No.

LLOYD

For the award?

EMMIE

No

LLOYD

We've got to work in teams...

EMMIE

I'm not doing the award...

LLOYD

Why not?

EMMIE

He won't let me take Physics. So what's the point?

Emmie leaves.

## SECTION 8

### SONG- LLOYD'S SONG

LLOYD

*That summer of my discontent  
When holidays were always spent  
In terror as September  
Came back round  
Starting school was always hard  
But then these things  
They always are  
It's always me that stands out  
From the crowd.*

*But then I saw her waiting by the doorway  
And I knew that she was different from the start*  
(MORE)



LLOYD (CONT'D)

*I don't have the courage  
Even now to say  
She won my heart*

Emmie enters.

EMMIE

What?  
I forgot my bag.

LLOYD

*Cos I'm hoping the laws of gravity  
Means one day she might fall for me  
And it's about relativity  
If I give her time and space  
Who knows?  
Maybe*

*I was trying desperately  
Hoping that she'll notice me  
Then I got to sit by her in class  
I was hoping Chemistry  
Would turn into biology  
Then Physics came  
And kicked me in the arse*

*Cos she had all the answers to the questions  
While I just sat there hoping for a chance  
She would talk to me outside the lesson  
Give me a second glance*

*Cos I'm hoping the laws of gravity  
Means one day she might fall for me  
And it's about relativity  
If I give her time and space  
Who knows?  
Maybe*

*Cos maybe just a little time together  
Doesn't have to mean  
That really you are not that clever*

*Cos I'm hoping the laws of gravity  
Means one day she might fall for me  
And it's about relativity  
If I give her time and space  
Cos I'm hoping the laws of gravity  
(MORE)*

LLOYD (CONT'D)

*Means one day she might fall for me  
And it's about relativity  
If I give her time and space  
Who knows?  
Maybe*

**SECTION 9**  
**SCENE 4**

Emmie returns home to Montana Heights to see her home, the caravan lit up. Mr Church stands outside with his clipboard. Emmie rushes past him...

EMMIE

I'll drop the money off tomorrow...

MR CHURCH

No need. It's been paid...

EMMIE

How?

MR CHURCH

Your sister.

EMMIE

Half sister.

MR CHURCH

She paid the bill.

EMMIE

How much did she pay you?

MR CHURCH

The full amount.

EMMIE

What? All of it?

Emmie is furious and turns to go.

MR CHURCH

She hasn't got a permit mind.

EMMIE

Permit?

MR CHURCH

Parking on site.

EMMIE

She's not staying.

MR CHURCH

Well anything more than 2 hours and she's going need a permit.

EMMIE

I'll tell her.

Emmie turns to go

MR CHURCH

(handing her a large envelope)

Hey this came for you. Someone needed to sign for it, and with your mother being...

EMMIE

Thank you.

MR CHURCH

Ball State University, Indiana. US of A

EMMIE

Did you open it?

MR CHURCH

No. It's on the postmark.

EMMIE

Thank you.

## SECTION 10

Emmie enters the mobile home, there are a couple of empty bottles of wine with one half drunk. Karen, her older sister is sitting with her mother.

ANGELA

Here she is!

KAREN

Our very own Rachel Riley!

EMMIE

What is she doing here?

ANGELA

Don't start...

KAREN

She used to be such a lovely little girl.

EMMIE

I'm surprised you can remember

ANGELA

You used to curl and plait her hair. Didn't you?

KAREN

(pleased with herself)

I thread eyebrows now.

EMMIE

(under her breath)

What a life goal.

Emmie takes the empties and puts them in the bin.

ANGELA

Ooh look, I told you this one has LCD...

EMMIE

OCD...

ANGELA

...I told you didn't I? Told you... always clearing up, can't stand mess, can you?

EMMIE

(to her sister)

You know she's not supposed to be drinking...

ANGELA

I'm only having one with your sister.

KAREN

It's the best I've seen her.

EMMIE

(ignoring Karen)

She's got the doctors tomorrow.

KAREN

I think those tablets make her a little out of it.

EMMIE

What would you know?

You don't take care of her.

ANGELA

Don't start now.

KAREN

Yeah well, I'm too busy aren't I.

Karen is uncomfortable.

EMMIE

What with your mobile disco that your Daddy bought you?

KAREN

Its a salon.

EMMIE

In a van.

KAREN

Mobile salon.

ANGELA

Why do you have to have a go all the time?

KAREN

No wonder I don't come round here.

EMMIE

You don't come round here because you are ashamed...

ANGELA

Ashamed? Of what? Of me? Are you trying to insinuate something again...

Emmie notices that the tablets have not been touched.

EMMIE

Mam, you haven't taken these...!

ANGELA

Well I can't take them if I'm going to drink, can I ?

EMMIE

That's the point. You are not supposed to drink? I texted you...

KAREN

You are better off without them anyway.

EMMIE

No she's are not.

ANGELA

Yes I am. Karen says they make me fat, I'll never find a father for you, looking like this?

EMMIE

(to Karen)

You need to leave now.

ANGELA

That's right spoil everything!  
I called her, and she came round first thing.  
She's paid for us to have the 'lectric back on.  
Every time I try to have a life you have to ruin it! Just like your father, sucking the life out of me. And if you think I'm going to the doctors tomorrow you can think again!

Angela storms into her bedroom and slams the door.

## SECTION 11

Silence as Emmie is desperately trying to compose herself.

KAREN

Look, I came round because Mam needed me...

EMMIE

Yeah when it suits you!

KAREN

Don't speak to me like that...

EMMIE

Why not?

KAREN

You know I'm not in the right person to care for her...

EMMIE

...And I am?

KAREN  
It's different with you.

EMMIE  
How is it?

KAREN  
You've known nothing else...

Music for **EMMIE DON'T SAY** begins

EMMIE  
I was 8...

Karen goes to get her bag and coat and turns to leave

### **SONG 3 - EMMIE DON'T SAY -**

EMMIE (CONT'D)  
*I'm not sure I signed up for this  
not sure that I said that I'd miss  
every single little chance I was given  
I'm not sure I agreed to be  
content with never being me  
did I say yes did I agree  
I'm pretty sure I didn't  
  
you took your time and wasted mine  
and all I'm supposed to do is say  
is, I don't mind*

KAREN  
*Emmie don't talk  
Emmie don't say  
Emmie don't talk, complain  
or walk away  
Emmie don't say  
Emmie don't feel  
Emmie don't cry  
Emmie no don't you ever wonder why  
Again, no way  
Emmie don't say*

Karen exits. Emmie starts her routinely chores, of sorting out meds and clearing up. Picks up and tidies away the hair dryer and curling tongs left out by her sister.

EMMIE  
*I'll wash dishes make the beds  
Make sure she takes her meds  
(MORE)*

## EMMIE (CONT'D)

*Never let you see inside my head cos  
in there I'm hoping  
for a different life than this  
where smiles and laughter still exist  
not one lost out in the mist  
Just barely coping*

*you took your time and wasted mine  
and all I'm supposed to do is say  
is, I don't mind*

*Emmie don't talk  
Emmie don't say  
Emmie don't talk, complain  
or walk away  
Emmie don't say*

*Emmie don't feel  
Emmie don't cry  
Emmie no don't you ever wonder why  
Again, no way  
Emmie don't say  
And oh it sucks  
That I'm stuck here at the bottom  
And oh it sucks that I have been forgotten*

She opens the envelope of the course in Indiana. She reads

## EMMIE (CONT'D)

Dear Ms Price, Thank you for your  
correspondence regarding your interest in Ball  
Sate University. Please note that your course  
will require the equivalent of A grades at A  
Level in mathematics, computer science and  
physics.

## CAST

*Emmie don't feel  
Emmie don't cry  
Emmie no don't you ever wonder why  
Again, no way  
Emmie don't say  
Emmie don't say*

Emmie sits and gets her laptop out and we are back with Bud and Ched the  
news update of the storm hitting America.

**SECTION 12**



BUD

After all the goodwill messages from you viewers at home, so over we go to the man himself Ched Wachowski.

CHED

Well, Bud there is no end in sight for this storm dissipating. I'm just sorry I can't be out there, in the centre of it all.

BUD

Have you ever travelled to the eye of the storm Ched?

CHED

No no one has, so we never really know how much power is in one of those twisters. We can only guess

BUD

So, how much power do they think is in these destructive forces of nature.

CHED

Well, the latest estimate is an average tornado has about 10,000 Kilowatts

BUD

Well pickle my dill! How many light bulbs is that Ched?

CHED

Well with my rough calculation Bud... thats...say...

EMMIE

...100,000 light bulbs.

Emmie is transfixed by the report. Her gaze fixes on the pendant light above her head.

Suddenly everything electric within the house comes to life.

### **SECTION 13**

A projection of a storm gathers around her. The projected images of the storm take over.

SCENE 5

Crossfade to 24 hour garage on Penderyn Rd.

Lloyd is behind the counter. A beeping alarm sounds out.

Lloyd goes onto the microphone

Beeping sounds out from the console.

LLOYD

Number six you haven't put the nozzle back correctly. The nozzle. The nozzle. No, not you number five, you are fine, That's right. Thank you both.

Lloyd punches the buttons to stop the beeping.

Emmie enters.

LLOYD (CONT'D)

Oh hello. Can I help you with anything? If you buy the Aberdare Leader you get a free Callipo

Awkward pause

EMMIE

I really need to do this award...

LLOYD

OK...

EMMIE

...with you...

LLOYD

OK, like a team. So do you have any ideas?

EMMIE

Yes. An artificial tornado...

LLOYD

Oh...

EMMIE

For renewable energy...

LLOYD

Oh..

EMMIE

To make electricity...

LLOYD

From a tornado...?

So, we get the electricity, from the tornado - in  
Aberdare...

EMMIE

Look, are you going to help me or not?

LLOYD

Yeah, go team!

Music for Lloyd's song begins

She turns to go. He calls her back

LLOYD (CONT'D)

So you think winning the award will get you to  
America?

EMMIE

Win the award, get back on the physics course,  
get into Indiana.

LLOYD

No one from our school has ever done  
anything like that.

EMMIE

Like what?

LLOYD

Go to America to study.

EMMIE

Doesn't mean it can't happen.

LLOYD

No, no.

EMMIE

I just have to prove it to Walt.

LLOYD

And your Mam?

EMMIE

What?

LLOYD

Well what about your mam?

EMMIE

That's my business.

Emmie turns to go, choosing not to answer the question

Lloyd realises he has said the wrong thing.

She then comes back.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Thank you, Lloyd.

Emmie leaves.

### **SONG - LLOYD'S SONG (REPRISE)**

LLOYD

*I'm hoping the laws of gravity  
Means one day she might fall for me,  
its about relativity if I give her time and space,  
who knows, maybe?*

Music takes us on to the residential park, it's dusk and as the sunsets, we see the warm glow of the lights inside the mobile home.

### **SECTION 13**

#### **SCENE 6**

Emmie enters her home, and it's all clean, the table is laid for tea and her mother is there in an apron, putting a huge plate of Lasagne on the table.

ANGELA

Oh darling you are home just in time.  
I've got your favourite - Lasagne and garlic  
bread

EMMIE

Mam, this looks amazing.

ANGELA

I'll just warm it up for . We haven't spent much  
time together recently. I've really missed  
cooking.

(MORE)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

You know I think now that we have sorted out the doses, I think things may be looking up for us.

EMMIE

Yeah.

ANGELA

I'm sorry about all that nonsense with Karen. She means well, but I just think some people can care and some just can't. I'm just sorry that it all falls on you. You know that don't you.

EMMIE

Yes.

ANGELA

I feel as if I've been in a fog for weeks but you know things are getting clearer for me. So what's your news?

EMMIE

Nothing much.

Pause.

ANGELA

What's this is then?

Angela hands Emmie the envelope from Indiana.

EMMIE

It's only a dream Mam.

ANGELA

It's always good to have a dream love. Do you think you'll get in?

EMMIE

I'm going to try Mam. Got to get my physics qualification first...

ANGELA

Well more reason then for me to start sorting myself out then. I have only wanted the best for you.

EMMIE

I know Mam. I know.

## SONG 5 - NEEDING ME.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

*There may be windows  
There may be doors  
When I'm here feels like  
There's no way out at all  
And if a world exists  
Something more than this  
Then it's hard to see it  
From behind these walls*

*Maybe I don't know why it is  
That I can't walk away  
Maybe you won't know what I've missed  
If I don't say*

*But if I took this chance for me  
To find out who I'm supposed to be  
If I didn't have to wait  
To start my life another day  
And if I said I'm done  
Never look back and just run  
Would I be free  
Could I really live  
Without you needing me*

Suddenly the electric goes off and we are in blackout.

The lights come back on and we see that Emmie is on her own. There is no supper laid out for her. All of it was just her wishful thinking. Her dream.

We then hear crying.

Her mother appears in the doorway as in the first scene.

ANGELA

Emmie? Emmie?

EMMIE

It's a power cut again.

ANGELA

It's dark, I'm scared...Is it a storm?

EMMIE

No Mam, it's ok, Mam...I'll fix it.

ANGELA  
What would I ever do without you?

EMMIE  
Nos da mam.

**SONG-ALIVE (REPRISE)** (Needing Me music)

EMMIE (CONT'D)  
*When the rain it falls on you and I, I wont mind,  
at least I'll feel alive.*

Blackout.

**SECTION 14**  
**SCENE 7**

Beautiful sky over Montana Heights. Rumbling of distant thunder.

**Instrumental reprise of Emmie Don't Say.** Emmie is asleep, still in her school clothes, on the settee. Electricity comes back on, which powers up her laptop.

Mr Church is on his way over.

MR CHURCH  
Emma! Emma! Emma!

EMMIE  
Hang on a minute...

She gets up and answers the door.

MR CHURCH  
Is it back on?

He walks right in.

EMMIE  
Yes, now it is, but it went out again last night.  
Why does it keep cutting out?

MR CHURCH  
I don't know. Perhaps it was a surge

EMMIE  
What?

MR CHURCH

Well it's like when everyone is watching telly  
and in the adverts they all go and put the kettle  
on ...

EMMIE

There was nothing on last night.

MR CHURCH

Masterchef

EMMIE

There will never be a power surge during  
Masterchef

MR CHURCH

Thirsty work cooking...

EMMIE

Mr Church, a power surge requires the  
equivalent of a million kettles turned on at  
once.

MR CHURCH

Gogglebox?

EMMIE

(Ignoring him)

So, I think of something else may be drawing  
our power, I'd like to know.

MR CHURCH

I'll look into it.

He turns to leave

EMMIE

You do that.

He's gone.

Angela appears from her room, smartly dressed and made up.

ANGELA

Has he gone?

EMMIE

Yes, where are you going?



ANGELA

The doctors?

EMMIE

Oh mam, I forgot. I'm late for school again and its physics, and we are doing the invention today.

ANGELA

Thats ok, I'll go on my own.

EMMIE

You sure?

ANGELA

Yes. Now go.

Emmie grabs her school bag kisses her mam, and leaves.

Cross fade to...

## **SECTION 15**

### **SCENE 8**

Physics class. The boys are all working on their inventions for the award but Walt isn't there. Griff is putting Chris into their "invention" - a remote control wrangler, which is basically a ski mask with Velcro which holds a variety of remote controls - "the perfect device for never losing a remote control ever."

Lloyd is busying himself with a list of things he has been given by Emmie to prep for their invention - Kettle, dry ice, tongs , gloves, and four desk fans.

CHRIS

Hey, Lloyd where's your girlfriend then?

LLOYD

She's not my girlfriend.

CHRIS

Did Walt drop her from Physics?

LLOYD

Yeah, but she thinks that if she does this award, he'll let her stay on to do the course. What's you invention?

GRIFF, THOMAS, CHRIS

A remote control wrangler.

GRIFF

You will never lose your remote control again?

LLOYD

What if you lose the wrangler thing?

GRIFF

Shut up.

Emmie rushes into the class

LLOYD

Hiya...!

GRIFF

You are late!

EMMIE

(ignoring Griff)

Where's Walt?

CHRIS

Union rep wanted to see him.

THOMAS

My Mam says it's because they've got to make redundancies in the school.

CHRIS

That's him out of a job then.

EMMIE

How do you know?

THOMAS

Look around -

He looks around

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There is only five of us in the class.

GRIFF

Four, now she's been dropped.

CHRIS

Everyone wants to take Chinese.

THOMAS

I'm not surprised with that exchange student.

CHRIS

*"Women shì ta zuìhòu de xiwàng"*

They all look at Chris.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

*"We are his only hope."*

GRIFF

I didn't know you could speak Chinese.

CHRIS

I don't, it's a phrase from this game "Mark of a Ninja." Chinese bootleg.

Emmie ignoring the boys, and turns to Lloyd

THOMAS

What's your invention?

LLOYD

A tornado

The boys laugh.

GRIFF

I think Mother Nature may have got there before you...

EMMIE

Did you get the stuff?

LLOYD

Yes, but my Mam was a little suspicious when it all got delivered. She thought I was a cooking Meth from her craft room...

Emmie starts to set up her experiment. The boys gather round to watch her.

EMMIE

It's an artificial turbelence machine to make electricity from renewable energy

GRIFF

That sounds like a fart!

CHRIS

You look ridiculous in those gloves. They are massive on you.

EMMIE

Goggles. Fans

THOMAS

What's that?

EMMIE

Carbon dioxide.

CHRIS

The gas?

EMMIE

In its solid form, yes.

GRIFF

Dry ice.

CHRIS

Doesn't that break your fingers off?

EMMIE

That's why I've got these.

GRIFF

Oh having a picnic are you?

CHRIS

Its like phantom of the opera by 'ere.

He starts singing. Radio comes on.

## SECTION 16

EMMIE

Renewable energy...

GRIFF

How does that work

EMMIE

We've simulated a tornado to creating energy to power the radio.

GRIFF  
Won't it destroy homes?

WALT  
...and kill people?

EMMIE  
Not a real tornado. An artificial one.

Emmie then connects the artificial tornado to a small turbine underneath the base and that is connected to a small radio which starts to play the intro into Song 5 If you Gonna Win

Walt enters

WALT  
What the bloody hell is going on here.

CHRIS  
It's Emmie and Lloyd's invention

LLOYD  
You harness the power for electricity.

WALT  
Look at the state of my classroom.

LLOYD  
But look what we've made?

WALT  
A bloody mess...

They are in awe.

THOMAS  
Sir, if they enter this into the competition they've won.

GRIFF  
What about ours?

They all look to Chris, who now looks like someone suffering from a head injury

WALT  
You lot clear off.

Chris, Thomas and Griff leave the classroom.

WALT (CONT'D)

Well there's no data for this.

EMMIE

We can show that Sir.

LLOYD

How will you do that?

EMMIE

You write a code for a programme.

WALT

An artificial tornado, I don't know!

EMMIE

What have you got to lose?

WALT

Everything.

EMMIE

Please sir, we won't let you down.

WALT

I've heard that before from you...

LLOYD AND EMMIE

*"Women shì ta zuìhòu de xiwàng"*

WALT

What the hell are you talking about now?

EMMIE AND LLOYD

We are your only hope...

CHRIS O/S

It's actually.. *"Women shì nǐ wéiyī de xiwàng"*

WALT

How on earth did you get this idea?

EMMIE

I don't know it just came to me I suppose.

WALT

A eureka moment?

WALT (CONT'D)

A eureka moment?

EMMIE

We could save the planet here.

WALT

Don't be so ridiculous...

EMMIE

If I could scale this up, just imagine how much renewable energy it could produce...

EMMIE (CONT'D)

We could eliminate global warming Sir!

WALT

In Aberdare?

EMMIE

You just have to have be brave Sir

WALT

Don't talk to me about brave. I teach at a Valleys comprehensive.

He looks at Emmie and then back to the invention

## SECTION 17

### SONG 5 - If You Gonna Win

EMMIE singing

*Just because you always failed  
Doesn't mean I will*

WALT (CONT'D)

You'll have to present it, mind?

Emmie singing

*And just because you scared of running  
Doesn't mean I must keep standing still*

WALT (CONT'D)

There is a lot at risk, like my job. Now clear this mess up now!

Emmie

*If you think that it's better just to shut us down  
Well I got other storms to weather  
So whatever you say won't bring me round*

*People gonna say what they gonna say  
It's not like I ever listened any way  
And even if I end up falling on my face  
Then hell it was my still choice in the first place*

Chorus

*If you're gonna win  
If you're gonna win  
Sometimes you'll have to fight  
When you feel like giving up  
Feel like giving in  
Sometimes you'll wonder why  
Just start at the bottom of the mountain you're  
climbing  
Every now and then you might be hit by  
lightning  
But you won't know if you don't even try*

*Don't know if I can change the world  
but I won't know unless I live and learn*

Chorus

*If you're gonna win  
If you're gonna win  
Sometimes you'll have to fight  
When you feel like giving up  
Feel like giving in  
Sometimes you'll wonder why  
Just start at the bottom of the mountain you're  
climbing  
Every now and then you might be hit by  
lightning  
But you won't know if you don't even try*

End of song

LLOYD

Team.

EMMIE

Team.



LLOYD

That was pretty awesome

EMMIE

I'd love to get close to a real one.

LLOYD

Why would anyone want to do that?

EMMIE

It's random, and dangerous. You can't predict what it will do. This extreme weather destroys everything in its path, and if we could, measure it, define it, understand it, then we can learn so much more about its energy.

We see the most amazing storm system travelling across the cyc and surrounds the two kids.

***Reprise of Alive in an electrical version as opposed to acoustic***

Huge, swirling clouds, constantly changing and morphing, never ever the same, and lit by bolts of electricity that charges down and jolts the earth, as if it's releasing all the tension that has been building up inside, like a spark, a flash that brings it to life and the only thing you can do is be bold enough, take a step inside it, experience it, and reach the eye of the storm for peace, serenity and silence.

LLOYD

Even if it scares the living life out of you?

The weather system that had been projected dissipates quickly, and the music carries on quietly underscoring.

EMMIE

Because then you know you are alive.  
You would have succeeded in finding something that no one else has ever found before.

LLOYD

The final frontier.

EMMIE

Yes.

LLOYD

You are like a force of nature, Emmie Price.

She smiles at him.

LLOYD (CONT'D)

So, shall I pop round to yours...

She retreats

EMMIE

No.

LLOYD

Well, do you want to come round to my house?

EMMIE

No.

LLOYD

To do the coding?

EMMIE

No, I can do it.

LLOYD

I don't mind?

EMMIE

No but I do.

She realises she is being too abrupt

EMMIE (CONT'D)

It's ok. I know what I need to do.

LLOYD

Ok. But if you do need help. You know where I am at the garage...

Lloyd leaves.

### ***Reprise of Alive***

We see Emmie go to her computer and start coding the programme to show the exponential growth of the tornado.

Data and coding projected onto the screen.

Blackout

**SECTION 18**

**SCENE 9**

Lights up on the caravan park.

Bud and Ched appear once again. This time they are in her home. She's not aware of them and she starts her usual routine of getting food and medication ready for her mother.

BUD

It's great to have you back with us Ched.

CHED

Well it's great to be back.

BUD

And how's that weather looking out there today?

CHED

It seems that, that system is now moving north. I think we will probably see some fine weather coming our way...

BUD

You sound a bit disappointed there Ched?

CHED

Well you know me, I just want to chase those storms.

BUD

Is it me Ched but do you think there are more storms now or are we just getting a hell of a lot better at reporting them?

CHED

Well one thing is for sure they are definitely getting stronger Bud, and some say that's all to down to good ole global warming...

BUD

Do you give any mind to this Ched...?

CHED

Well things are changing Bud, that you cannot deny...

BUD

Ahh, well I sure hope we don't get more of those hot sticky summers we've been seeing, I'd be sweatin' like a sinner in church.

## **SECTION 19**

### **SCENE 10**

Presentation Day.

Emmie comes out from her bedroom, ready for school. She is wearing pyjamas and her school shirt. She goes over to the washing machine, and she can't open the door.

EMMIE

Damn this bloody place!

Her mother calls to her from the bedroom

ANGELA

You alright love?

EMMIE

My school jumper is still in the washing machine, and the power must have cut out and I can't open the door.

Her mother comes out of the bedroom looking immaculate, hair, make up.

ANGELA

Just give it a couple of minutes, it's on that weird timer thing probably.

EMMIE

No, there is definitely something wrong with the supply. We are only using 30 amps total...

ANGELA

Just borrow something of mine...

EMMIE

Like what? I'll have a row if I'm not wearing the uniform, and I've got that presentation for the award today. Why can't anything go right for me for once?

ANGELA

You really need to calm down love. It's fine.

Suddenly notices her mother all dressed up

EMMIE

Where are you going?

ANGELA

I'm off into Cardiff to see about that job. Look there's a navy v neck in the bottom of the cupboard.

EMMIE

It needs to be grey.

ANGELA

Tell them navy is the new grey. I got to go, got to get my bus.

Emmie is just about to ask her about her medication.  
Angela leaves. Emmie looks at her watch.

EMMIE

Damn it!

She grabs her bag and leaves. She returns for her USB which has all the information on it. She leaves. She returns again for the navy v-neck jumper.

Music

A storm is gathering the thunder is getting closer, and in the distance we see flashes of lightning.

## **SECTION 20**

### **SCENE 11**

We see Angela at her job interview.

ANGELA

Thank you for seeing me. Here's my CV. I know it looks like I haven't done much lately but I've been bringing up my daughter. What do you call it now - a career break.

## **SONG 7- *Pie in the Sky***

*For once in my life I could be a winner  
Be the perfect wife  
Cook the perfect dinner  
And get my thrills  
Paying bills  
On time.*

*This time I could be a kick- starter  
 Do everything now  
 And not leave it till after  
 Be in control  
 On a roll  
 Just fine.*

*I need no explanation for the change  
 Because underneath the madness  
 I was always this way  
 Because me I've been running all ways  
 And it's me that I'm trying to escape  
 No matter how hard that I try  
 Don't know why  
 It's always Pie in the Sky*

*For once in my life I'll be richer  
 Not on the outside I'll be right in the picture  
 And I'll win the race  
 Find my place  
 Right here  
 For once I need no explanation  
 I'll be the reason for the standing ovation, baby  
 On they feet  
 Because of me  
 Oh yeah!*

*I need no explanation for the change  
 Because underneath the madness  
 I was always this way  
 Because me I've been running all ways  
 And it's me that I'm trying to escape  
 No matter how hard that I try  
 Don't know why  
 It's always Pie in the Sky*

*Cos I'm the queen of this trailer park  
 Come see me dream when I sat here in the dark  
 And here in the rubble and dust  
 I'm going trust I can be someone  
 Because me I've been running all ways  
 And it's me that I'm trying to escape  
 No matter how hard that I try  
 Don't know why  
 Because me I've been running all ways  
 And it's me that I'm trying to escape  
 No matter how hard that I try  
 Don't know why?  
 It's always Pie in the Sky.*

Blackout.

## **SECTION 21**

### **SCENE 12**

Swansea University. In the university hall, there is a lectern on stage. Lloyd is pacing. Emmie hasn't turned up!

LLOYD

Its like bloody Hogwarts.

WALT

Stop swearing. Did you see the last invention?

LLOYD

The robotic probe?

WALT

What was I thinking?

An announcement is made for their school.

V/O

Mr Hodges to the stage please.

WALT

Right where is she?

LLOYD

She's on her way Sir.

V/O

Mr Hodges to the stage please.

WALT

I knew it. She cannot be trusted.  
Looks like you, Toto, will have to do this  
presentation on your own.

LLOYD

What? I haven't got any of the notes!

WALT

Front and centre. If I'm going down you are  
coming with me.

LLOYD

Sort of inappropriate Sir.

Lloyd follows Walt to the lectern, he taps the microphone. He is very nervous. He composes himself.

WALT

Good morning. My name is Mr Hodges, and I'd like to introduce our year nine pupil, Lloyd Evans.

Silence. Walt leaves Lloyd on his own.

He begins to speak.

LLOYD

Hello.

Feedback from the mic

LLOYD (CONT'D)

Oh sorry...What we are presenting...What I'm presenting to you today, is what we call an Artificial Turbulence Machine.

Sniggers from the audience.

Emmie rushes...

LLOYD (CONT'D)

Thank god for that! I'd like to introduce Miss Emmie Price, who is our expert and will now present.

## SECTION 22

Emmie makes her way to the lectern.

She is nervous, almost paralysed by what she has to present. We hear her breathing into the mic. We can almost hear her heart pumping. She looks to Walt who has his head in his hands. Lloyd looks to her, and gives his "team" gesture to her.

She places the USB stick into the laptop. On the white board we see a series of animations and diagrams, which coincides with her presentation.

EMMIE

EMMIE (CONT'D)

My invention is to create renewable energy using the power of a controlled tornado.  
(MORE)



EMMIE (CONT'D)

A tornado-like vortex is produced by admitting warm air into a circular arena. The air spins as it rises forming a vortex.

The work of convection is captured with turbines located at ground level around the arena. The power station could have a diameter of 200 metres and generate 200 Megawatts of electrical power at a cost as low as 3p per kilowatt-hour. As a comparison with other turbine power cost 10 times more Onshore wind farms cost one million pounds per megawatt.

The initial heat source can be solar energy, waste heat or warm water.

A source for this could come from the oceans that are getting warmer and warmer. In tropical regions with good geothermal resources such as the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Indonesia could be suitable locations for our invention. Especially as this is where extreme storms have had a destructive impact on these low-lying areas.

The actions we take as a species over the next ten years will determine whether we survive or not. Therefore as a young person my concern now is to save our planet and all who live on it.

The Artificial Turbulence Machine alleviates global warming by reducing the fossil fuel required to meet energy needs, and hopefully contribute to solving the planet's climate crisis.

A rapturous applause

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Thank you for your time.

Emmie is relieved. She looks to Lloyd and he goes to cwtsh her, but it's awkward and it ends up just being a pat on the back.

LLOYD

Thanks for saving me again!

EMMIE

It's what we do, we are a team.  
Where's Walt?

LLOYD

He's speaking to the judges. That must be a  
good sign. They called him over immediately.

EMMIE

Do you think Walt will allow me back on the  
course?

### **SECTION 23**

Walt comes over.

LLOYD

What did they say Sir?

WALT

A great piece of work.

LLOYD

Does that mean we've won?

WALT

You've been disqualified

LLOYD

What?

WALT

The invention has to be original for it to be  
worthy of submission.

EMMIE

It is original Sir.

Pause as WALT presents a piece of paper, and reads

WALT

Louis Michaud.

LLOYD

Who's he?

WALT

Louis Michaud. A scientist based in Quebec.

LLOYD  
The French speaking province in Eastern  
Canada?

WALT  
Shut up!

Emmie take the paper from him.

EMMIE  
(reading)  
He invented the Atmospheric Vortex Engine...

LLOYD  
...Better title...

EMMIE  
...in 2005.

LLOYD  
Why haven't we heard of it?

WALT  
Because you didn't do your research

LLOYD  
Did you know, Emmie?

EMMIE  
No, of course I didn't.

LLOYD  
Surely it's just coincidence.

EMMIE  
What does this mean?

WALT  
I suppose we thank our lucky stars that we are  
not being sued by this bloke! You've  
humiliated me, us, the whole school. Another  
example of you running before you can walk.  
I want you to return the text books and your  
laptop. You can forget about physics, my girl.

Walt exits.

LLOYD  
It was a great idea.

EMMIE

It was my only hope to stay on that course and now I've messed it all up.

LLOYD

No you haven't, you had an idea that a really brainy scientist had.

EMMIE

It wasn't original though.

LLOYD

You and him, independently thought of this madcap idea to help people have electricity from a tornado!

EMMIE

I failed. I wanted to better myself. I wanted out. What is so bad about that? Why can't I have that dream?

She leaves him on his own.

LLOYD

Bye.

Lights Fade as he is silhouetted.

Reprise of Lloyd's Song

During the Song we see Lloyd on his mobile.

LLOYD (CONT'D)

Bonjour... pardon...bonsoir... Je m'appelle Lloyd. Je habite a Penywaun. What it is, is.

## **SECTION 24**

### **SCENE 13**

Montana Heights. Emmie enters the mobile home. Her mother has cooked food for her, just like the last time, but this time it's real.

ANGELA

Just in time, careful now the plates are hot.

Angela places the food on the table. Turns to put the kettle on.

Emmie freezes as she waits for the image to disappear. She looks around as if any minute the electric will cut out

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Well sit down! Don't just gawp at it. It's not going to stay warm forever.

Emmie sits.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

You ok love?

EMMIE

Yeah.

ANGELA

Drink?

Emmie looks up. Angela has what looks like a wine bottle.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

It's Elderflower.

Emmie smiles and relaxes

EMMIE

Thank you.

Her mother buzzes around her.

ANGELA

How did the presentation go?

EMMIE

I don't really want to talk about it.

ANGELA

Do you want me to go down that school and have a word?

EMMIE

No, it's fine.

Pause

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Thanks for cooking tonight.

ANGELA

It's a sort of celebration.

EMMIE

Celebration?

ANGELA

My interview.

EMMIE

Oh Mam, I'm sorry. How did it go?

ANGELA

Well they didn't say anything, but I gave it my best shot. They said they'd call tomorrow, so we'll see.

EMMIE

Proud of you Mam.

ANGELA

Thanks love. Now come on, I spent nearly all day getting this ready.

EMMIE

You haven't cooked for so long

ANGELA

I know and I miss it, it's sort of therapeutic. I just don't do enough of it now. But I made loads today - Chilli, Bolognese, lasagne, enough for the next couple of weeks at least. Lakeland is closing down, and I bought those little foil takeaway things, you know, so I can freeze the food. Got them cheap. Save you in the long run having to cook, or snack on Doritos.

EMMIE

That's great Mam.

ANGELA

I saw Karen.

EMMIE

Was she alright?

ANGELA

Yes, she's fine.

EMMIE

Did you borrow money from her Mam?

ANGELA

Look love, it's her way of feeling like she contributing. After all she is loaded.

EMMIE

We don't need her Mam, and you shouldn't really be buying things we can't afford. We've discussed this before haven't we.

Yes, but what about this? We need to afford this.

Angela presents the American college prospectus. Emmie takes

EMMIE

It was just a dream...

ANGELA

It's always good to have a dream love...

EMMIE

It's not real though is it? This is real Mam. Being here with you. This is where I belong.

ANGELA

Of course it is. We are a team.

EMMIE

Yeah, team.

### **SONG - Needing Me**

ANGELA & EMMIE

*So we stay just the same  
We won't the change the silence  
In case it breaks  
The storms may rage  
Inside us but we wait  
And never say  
Never say*

Emmie cwtshes her mam, and goes inside.

( CONT ' D )

ANGELA

*If I took this chance for me  
To find out who I'm supposed to be If I didn't have to wait  
To start my life another day.*

Projection covers the stage with abstract images representing her state of her mind. She exits.

Blackout.

## **Section 25**

### **SCENE 14**

Next day, an empty class. Lloyd waits patiently.

Emmie enters

LLOYD  
Welcome to Science Club!

EMMIE  
Is it always this empty?

LLOYD  
Eh, no I postponed it today...

Pause

EMMIE  
Bell is going to go in a minute, so what do you  
want Lloyd?

Lloyd opens up his laptop, punches the keys and with a tone ringing out an image appears on the white board.

EMMIE (CONT'D)  
Who's he?

LLOYD  
(whispering)  
It's Louis Michaud

EMMIE  
Oh my god, Is he's going to sue me?

LLOYD  
Ssh, listen...



LOUIS MICHAUD

Great minds think alike, or fools never differ.  
Whichever one you think suits us best.

Anyhow, I love that our thoughts are in synergy.  
I like synergy. As you can see I am getting on,  
no longer a spring chicken and what we need  
here at our laboratories is new young blood to  
continue and share the work. We have been  
looking at inviting an intern to join the program,  
and I think we have found one.

Therefore we would like to offer you an  
internship here in Canada this summer. I know  
it's not Indiana, but we have tornados here too,  
and Canada is far more welcoming!  
We can pay a small allowance for living but you  
will need to find a way to get out here.

EMMIE

How are my going to do that?

LLOYD

Ssh...

LOUIS MICHAUD

Emmie Price this offer goes to you and you  
alone. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.  
Let me know so we can start organising things  
here for you. My company will be in touch.  
Merci. Au Revoir.

The image closes down. And the image on the white board is Emmie and Lloyd  
staring up at the board.

Emmie goes over to Lloyd.

EMMIE

You did that for me?

LLOYD

You needed someone to help you.

EMMIE

Thank you Lloyd.

LLOYD

All you need is someone who's loaded to lend  
you the money and you can go.

EMMIE  
(to herself)  
Loaded.

Emmie runs out.

LLOYD  
(to himself)  
Yes that's OK, no problem, anytime...the fact  
that I used all my credit to ring the flippin'  
bloke...

Emmie comes back in.

EMMIE  
Forgot my bag.

LLOYD  
What?

EMMIE  
Only joking.

She kisses him on the cheek.

Walt enters the classroom

## **SECTION 26**

EMMIE  
I won't be needing this sir

WALT  
And why's that?

EMMIE  
I'm off to save our planet.

Emmie exits

WALT  
Running before you can walk!

LLOYD  
That Monsieur Michaud has invited her out to  
Canada to work on their invention.

WALT

And how exactly is she going to get there?

LLOYD

I'm not sure.

WALT

Take it from me, its not good to give people false hope Lloyd. I've been doing it all my life and its got me nowhere.

LLOYD

She may have invented something that could save us all.

WALT

Oh don't be so ridiculous.

The rest of the class start coming in..

LLOYD

All I'm saying Sir is that it was her dream...

WALT

Well we all have them Lloyd, and then you wake up and look around, and see that you are still exactly where you started. Now sit down. Desks clear please.

He starts handing out pieces of paper.

WALT (CONT'D)

The only thing you need is a pen or pencil.

CHRIS

What's this sir?

WALT

Don't touch it.

GRIFF

Is it a test sir?

WALT

An exam.

THOMAS

Yess!

GRIFF

Us?

CHRIS

Or you?

WALT

Well as Greta Iceberg has gone off to save the planet. I have more pressing issues like my job...

LLOYD

But sir, we haven't revised for anything

WALT

(mimicking Thomas)

But sir! Nothing. You have 30 minutes to complete the paper. Begin.

He looks at his watch and relishes the power.

### ***Song 8 -Walt's Song***

WALT (CONT'D)

*Everybody else seems to know exactly  
Where they are going,  
Without ever really trying  
Without ever really knowing  
That its hard to keep on waiting  
Waiting  
Gets so damn frustrating  
And its so debilitating  
When you just keep failing.*

*Everybody else seems to get a little help  
Every single thought I had  
It only lands up on a shelf  
Its not the only way its back  
Never got to see the map  
There's no point  
And that's a fact  
I just keep failing*

*Everybody else but me  
Gets exactly where they need to be  
Everybody else  
Everybody else  
But me  
Everybody else but me*

*Sometimes it gets hard to see  
Life it gets lost in between  
But everybody else  
Everybody else can dream  
Everybody else  
But me*

*Its easier to stop  
Before, before you reach the top  
Sometimes its easier to run  
Than be told you are not enough  
You can regret it  
Just forget  
Wasn't yours  
So just don't let it  
Be the thing  
That keeps you waiting  
Better to keep failing*

*Everybody else but me  
Gets exactly where they need to be  
Everybody else  
Everybody else  
But me  
Everybody else but me*

*Sometimes it gets hard to see  
Life it gets lost in between  
But everybody else  
Everybody else can dream  
Everybody else  
But me*

*How come everyone else gets to dream  
Everybody else  
Everybody else  
But me  
Everybody else but me*

*How come everybody gets to be  
Exactly who they want to be  
Everybody else  
Everybody else  
But me  
Everybody else but me.*

The school buzzer goes. The boys hand in their paper

**SECTION 27**  
**SCENE 15**

Emmie goes to the mobile home

KAREN

Emmie...

EMMIE

Karen, I've been looking for you everywhere. I need to borrow some money.

KAREN

Emmie, listen Its Mam

EMMIE

Where is she?

KAREN

They took her in.

EMMIE

Who?

KAREN

Ambulance came. Took her to hospital.

EMMIE

What's happened?

KAREN

Mam came to the shop, ranting and raving, saying she needed money. I was doing Faye's nails. It was embarrassing. I tried to calm her down, but she was like a lunatic. Said something about being turned down for an interview.

EMMIE

But she said...

KAREN

She lies, that's what she does, You should know that of all people. She stormed out and then I got a call from that creep Church, said she had started going mental about the freezer not working or something. When I got here there was glass and blood everywhere and she'd cut herself, you may be used to all of this but I'm not.

EMMIE

Well perhaps for once you should...

KAREN

Look Emmie, you can't keep blaming me for leaving you and her. My dad took me out of that situation to save me, I'm sorry he couldn't take you, but it's not my fault. Stop looking for someone to blame all the time.

EMMIE

Where is she

KAREN

The hospital.

Emmie runs out

KAREN (CONT'D)

Do you want a lift?

## **SECTION 28**

### **SCENE 16**

In the hospital. Karen sits on a chair in the corridor. A hospital consultant comes to talk to her.

CONSULTANT

Excuse me. Are you Ms. Price's daughter?

Karen stands

KAREN

Yes, I am.

CONSULTANT

It looks like she hadn't been taken her meds.

KAREN

For how long?

CONSULTANT

A week, perhaps more.

She's very ill. Do you have the medication on you?

KAREN

No. I don't care for her.

Consultant checks her notes.

Emmie steps forward.

EMMIE

I care for her. Here's the medication she's been prescribed.

She hands over the tablets.

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Can I see her?

CONSULTANT

Yes.

CONSULTANT (CONT'D)

(to Emmie)

Why don't you go in while I speak with your sister.

EMMIE

Half sister...

Emmie goes to see her mother.

CONSULTANT

How old is your sister?

KAREN

Sixteen.

CONSULTANT

She's been caring for her for 8 years.



KAREN

Yes I know.

CONSULTANT

Do you live close?

KAREN

Next valley over.

CONSULTANT

Have you ever thought of helping your sister?

Emmie comes out of seeing her mother.

EMMIE

She's fast asleep.

CONSULTANT

We've sedated her.

EMMIE

Can I see her tomorrow.

CONSULTANT

Of course.

Pause

As her primary carer, Emmie you must know that we are considering sectioning your mother under the Mental Health Act.

EMMIE

But I can look after her, she'll be fine. I'll give up school. I'll do anything.

CONSULTANT

Emmie she needs the correct care.

EMMIE

Please don't take my mam away from me.

KAREN

This is for the best, for both of you.

EMMIE

How do you know what is best for her? I know her better than anyone.

Turns to the consultant

EMMIE (CONT'D)

Please don't do this.

CONSULTANT

Emmie. Your mother needs this and we are afraid for her, and we have to make a thorough assessment.

Emmie is fighting the emotion back.

EMMIE

I'll try harder, please...

CONSULTANT

Emmie, you don't need to try anymore.  
You need help just as much as she does.

Karen leaves.

Emmie turns her away, not wanting to show the doctor her feelings.

CONSULTANT (CONT'D)

Lets talk some more tomorrow. How are you getting home?

EMMIE

Not sure.

CONSULTANT

Here. For the bus.

He hands her a five pound note

EMMIE

Thank you.

Emmie breaks down from the kindness shown to her, and cwtshes the doctor as if she never wants to let go.

## **SECTION 31**

### **SCENE 17**

Emmie goes back home. There is a light on in the mobile home. Mr Church is clearing up.

MR CHURCH

I thought I'd clear up the mess...

EMMIE  
Electric is back on then.

MR CHURCH  
Yes, I switched it over...

EMMIE  
Over to what?

Mr Church realises he has dropped himself in it.

EMMIE (CONT'D)  
Over to what?  
We are not getting the power we are paying for  
are we?

MR CHURCH  
What?

EMMIE  
The ampage! We pay for 30 amps.

MR CHURCH  
I don't know what you mean?

EMMIE  
You are putting us on less power, but taking the  
money for more - you little shyster.

She grabs him

MR CHURCH  
Please don't tell my dad.

EMMIE  
You are pathetic.

MR CHURCH  
Are you going to tell my dad?

EMMIE  
Get out.

He leaves.

Emmie looks around the mobile home. The silence unnerves her.

## SECTION 32

Karen enters with a dish of lasagne

KAREN  
I made you this - Lasagne.

Emmie starts to half cry and laugh

KAREN (CONT'D)  
Don't you like lasagne?

EMMIE  
I love it. Thank you.

Silence

KAREN  
When mam was well she'd cook it for us.

EMMIE  
Yes. She loves cooking.

KAREN  
And baking...

EMMIE  
Do you remember on Sunday afternoons we  
would make cakes together.

KAREN  
Yes. I loved those days. You were so cute in  
your little cooks apron.

EMMIE  
You bought it for me for my birthday.

As they sing we have videos of a family holiday projected on screen

KAREN  
Just around the corner  
There's a girl I've seen  
A little happier, a little smaller  
She looks just like me  
She's running for the hell of it  
And laughing till it hurts  
And doesn't think that just by being her  
She'll make it worse

EMMIE  
Why did you leave?

This comes as a shock to Emmie.

KAREN

I had to, to save myself.

EMMIE

Just around the corner  
There's a girl that dreams  
About the why's and all the wherefores  
And the in-betweens  
She's fearless and she's open  
to whatever life may throw  
And she's hoping that you'll tell her  
All she needs to know

EMMIE AND KAREN

Those were the days, that time before  
We had all the love we needed,  
and didn't ask for more.  
If I could go back. I'd like to tell her  
Enjoy it while it lasts  
because those times won't last for ever

KAREN

She was fine then. Happy. Then things  
changed after that Summer.

EMMIE

Just around the corner  
There's a girl who waits  
Always ready for the battle  
Fighting just in case  
Because maybe all the madness  
It is coming for her too  
If she keeps moving faster enough  
Then it may not get through

KAREN AND EMMIE

Those were the days, that time before  
We had all the love we needed,  
and didn't ask for more.  
If I could go back. I'd like to tell her  
Enjoy it while it lasts  
because those times won't last for ever

KAREN & EMMIE

She's still inside here somewhere  
I can feel her  
The little girl is screaming to be heard  
And if I could hold her hand  
maybe I'd heal her  
And shield her from the pain  
She'll going to feel  
But not deserve.

KAREN

Mam has always been proud of you, and she wants you to do well. She is going to be in hospital for the next couple of months, and when she comes out, I want her to come and stay with me.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Now it's not going to be easy. I know that, but I need to do this. For you.

EMMIE

Why?

KAREN

Because, we don't all get chances like this Emmie...and you have to take it. Don't worry about mam, I'll look after her.

Blackout.

### **SECTION 33**

#### **SCENE 18**

Outside the mobile home, Angela and Karen are busying themselves putting food out. Lloyd is trying to set up an image the whiteboard from school.

ANGELA

You didn't have any problems from school did you Lloyd.

LLOYD

No, it was fine, but I did get some funny looks walking down Park Rd with it.

ANGELA

I can't wait to see her little face...

Karen places the cup cakes out on the table.

LLOYD  
Did you make these?

KAREN  
Yes. It's mam's recipe

LLOYD  
How did you get the icing different colours?

KAREN  
I got some hair dye from the salon.

LLOYD  
Really?

KAREN  
No, it's just food colouring Lloyd.

LLOYD  
That's amazing!

Walt arrives.

WALT  
Have I missed her?

ANGELA  
No, not long though. Would you like a cup of tea?

WALT  
Yes please.

Angela goes over to put the kettle on. Everyone freezes. Waiting for it to trip out. Hold their breath. It's fine.

ANGELA  
It never trips out now. Milk?

WALT  
Yes please and two sugars.

ANGELA  
We are really grateful for what you did for Emmie...

WALT

It's fine. It was the least I could do - part of my redundancy. I spent the rest on a camper van. I'm going to explore the wild west...

ANGELA

America?

WALT

No, Milford Haven.

ANGELA

We are really grateful...

He turns to Lloyd.

WALT

How's school, Lloyd?

LLOYD

Its good Sir. I did well in my mocks. Got an A in physics.

WALT

Probably because the boundary grade is so low.

LLOYD

How's retirement Sir?

WALT

I took redundancy Lloyd.

LLOYD

Yeah, but you weren't that far off though were you?

WALT

Well...

Lloyd quickly changes subject. Angela passes the tea to him. The image of a news reporter comes on the big screen. They all settle down.

KAREN

Ssh...Here they are...



BUD V/O

Now we go over to Ched who is over the border in the southern Ontario Province where we are expecting some tornadoes making landfall any time soon. How are things there in Canada Ched?

CHED

Or at the moment there's a breeze picking up but we are about 20 miles from what we would call the second most likely place on the planet to experience this destructive force of nature.

CHED (CONT'D)

Here, I have a young student called Emmie Price

They cheer!

..who has travelled all the way over from Wales, England...

ANGELA

She looks all grown up

KAREN

Her hair is different

CHED

...to get to study storms for research. Hi Emmie.

Emmie looks self conscious on the screen.

EMMIE

Hi.

CHED

So are you going to chase this storm coming in?

EMMIE

We are going to try and get really close, yes. So that we can gather data for research.

CHED

How close will you get?

EMMIE

Not sure. What every storm chaser dreams of  
is to get into the eye of the storm...

LLOYD

She told me that...

CHED

Is there anything you want to say to the folks  
back home...

Emmie looks straight down the lens

EMMIE

Only that I love you and I'll be home soon.

CHED

It's made landfall. Come on everyone get into  
the cars. Come on Emmie! Lets go!  
Come on Emmie, quick!

She blows a kiss!

## SECTION 34

### Reprise of Alive

*I got lost inside a hurricane  
I've been turned upside down  
Inside out and back again  
And oh my world won't ever be the same*

*I've been taken by a tidal wave  
I've been dragged back under  
thrown back up  
Then washed away  
But oh my world wont ever be the same*

CAST

*Cos you can't find the answers  
If you haven't heard the question  
If you're looking for disaster  
better look in my direction  
Cos when clouds fill up the sky  
And the rain it falls on you and I  
When the storm it rages on outside  
You won't mind  
At least you'll feel alive*

## EMMIE

*Oh the wind may blow the earth may quake  
We don't learn or grow from all of those  
mistakes we make  
And all I know is somethings got to change*

*Cos you can't find the answers  
if you haven't heard the question  
If you're looking for disaster  
better look in my direction*

*Cos when clouds fill up the sky  
And the rain it falls on you and I  
When the storm it rages on outside  
I won't mind  
At least I feel alive*

## CAST

*Cos you can't find the answers  
if you haven't heard the question  
If you're looking for disaster  
better look in my direction  
Cos when clouds fill up the sky  
And the rain it falls on you and I  
When the storm it rages on outside  
I won't mind  
At least I feel alive*

As a projection of a huge swirling tornado travels across the backdrop engulfing the stage.

Blackout.

THE END.