

SPIRITED AWAY

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Adapted by Thomas Streed

This is a fan-made screenplay adaptation of the 2001 Studio Ghibli film *Spirited Away* (*Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi*). The reference for dialogue is Disney's English dubbed version.

FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY

FADE IN:

A bouquet of pink flowers wrapped in plastic, with a hand drawn note embellished by crayon flowers and hearts.

CHIHIRO (V.O.)
"I'll miss you, Chihiro. Your best friend, Rumi."

INT. CAR - DAY

A VOICE interrupts from the driver's seat.

FATHER
Chihiro? Chihiro! We're almost there.

CHIHIRO, a ten-year-old girl with a sulking face, is laying still in the backseat, staring at the car ceiling. She is holding the bouquet on her lime & white striped shirt, and resting her yellow Velcro shoes on a moving box.

MOTHER
This really is in the middle of nowhere. I'm gonna have to go to the next town to shop.

FATHER
We'll just have to learn to like it.

She slowly turns her head toward the front seat.

Her FATHER, a tall, brawny man in a sky blue polo, looks excitedly out the window, then turns back to Chihiro.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Look, Chihiro, there's your new school. Looks great, doesn't it?

MOTHER
It doesn't look so bad.

With hardly any interest, Chihiro slowly pulls her frame to the backseat window, stares dispassionately for a moment, then sticks her tongue contemptuously at the school before laying back down.

CHIHIRO
It's gonna stink, I liked my old school.

She panics as she notices her wrinkling flowers, then hurriedly leans to her MOTHER in the passenger seat.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Mom! My flowers are dying.

Her Mother is prim, with gold earrings and a clean bob haircut, but serious, disapprovingly eyeing the bouquet.

MOTHER
I told you not to smother them like that. We'll put them in water when we get to our new home.

Chihiro retreats to the back seat.

CHIHIRO
I finally get a bouquet, and it's a goodbye present. That's depressing.

MOTHER
Daddy bought you a rose for your birthday. Don't you remember?

CHIHIRO
Yeah, one. Just one rose isn't a bouquet.

Mother sees the dropped hand drawn note, looks it over, and hands it back to Chihiro.

MOTHER
Hold on to your card, I'm opening a window.

The window opens and the wind blows through Chihiro's hair.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
And quit whining, it's fun to move to a new place. It's an adventure.

Chihiro stares out, through the passing power lines, at a towering forest ahead.

EXT. ROAD

The car waits for a truck to pass before turning onto a road which ascends a sloping forest to a hilltop city.

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EXT. HILL ROAD

At the side of the mountain track, an old wooden Torii gate is leaning against a massive, beaten tree.

The road continues into a shrouded forest, but the car stops.

FATHER

Wait. Did I take the wrong turn?
This can't be right.

MOTHER

Look, there's our house.

FATHER

Huh?

THEIR POV

A cute two-story blue house on top of the hill, at the end of a suburban neighborhood.

MOTHER

It's that blue one on the end.

FATHER

Oh, you're right, I must have missed the turnoff. This road should get us there.

MOTHER

Honey, don't take a shortcut, you always get us lost.

Father neglects this and drives into the forest.

FATHER

Trust me, it's gonna work.

As they look ahead, Chihiro stares curiously at a chaotic pile of small stone houses laid on the forest floor.

CHIHIRO

What are those stones? They look like little houses.

MOTHER

They're shrines. Some people think little spirits live there.

Chihiro looks at the shaded dirt road.

CHIHIRO

Dad, I think we're lost.

FATHER

We're fine, I've got four-wheel
drive.

They hit a bump and Chihiro is knocked back and forth.

MOTHER

Sit down, please, sweetie.

The car passes onto a curving stone path and Father only
speeds up as the bumping intensifies.

Chihiro stares mystified as they pass a round, smiling
Dosojin statue hidden behind the trees.

The car violently thumps over a hole in the stone road and
tree branches batter the windshield.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Honey, honey, honey! Slow down!
You're gonna kill us.

Father notices another statue ahead and slams the brakes.

FATHER

What's that?

The car EEKS to a stop a mere foot from the Dosojin.

The family looks ahead in awe at a looming red building with
an arching hallway, its breadth hidden by the forest.

Father opens the door and steps out, inquisitively
approaching the dark hallway.

MOTHER

What's this old building?

FATHER

It looks like an entrance.

MOTHER

Honey, get back in the car, we're
going to be late.

Chihiro follows her Father's lead, exiting the car and
running to catch up.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Chihiro. Oh, for heaven's sake.

Father runs his hand against the chipped paint.

FATHER

This building's not old, it's fake.
These stones are just made of
plaster.

The pitch-black hallway appears to lure them in. The leaves
by Chihiro's feet slowly roll toward it. She notices.

CHIHIRO

The wind's pulling us in.

Mother steps out and joins them at the threshold.

MOTHER

What is it?

FATHER

Come on, let's go in. I wanna see
what's on the other side.

CHIHIRO

I'm not going. It give me the
creeps.

Father looks forward eagerly.

FATHER

Don't be such a scaredy-cat,
Chihiro. Let's just take a look.

MOTHER

The movers will get to our house
before we do.

FATHER

It's all right, they've got the
keys. They can start without us.

MOTHER

All right, just a quick look.

Mother crosses her arms and shrugs.

CHIHIRO

Forget it, I'm not going.

Chihiro runs back toward the car. She stops to plead--

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Come on you guys. Let's get out of
here.

FATHER

Come on, honey. It'll be fun.

CHIHIRO
I'm not going!

Chihiro stares in fear at the Dosojin, its two faces staring blankly in either direction.

MOTHER
Chihiro, just wait in the car then.

Chihiro dances anxiously, takes one more look at the statue and chases the pack.

CHIHIRO
But, Mom! Wait for me!

INT. OLD BUILDING PASSAGEWAY

They start down the dark hallway, Father leading.

FATHER
Everybody, watch your step.

Chihiro catches up to her Mother and grabs her arm in fear.

MOTHER
Chihiro, don't cling like that,
you'll make me trip.

A light appears at the other side, and the passageway opens into a room with high, vaulted ceilings supported by columns. The plaster walls are cracked and bare.

CHIHIRO
What is this place?

A faint RUMBLING begins, hardly perceptible.

MOTHER
Oh, do you hear that?

CHIHIRO
It sounds like a train.

The Mother and Daughter share a glance and smile.

MOTHER
We must be near a train station.

FATHER
Come on. Let's go check it out.

Father leads the girls toward the open archway ahead.

EXT. FIELD

The sun beams down on an open, hilly field of unkempt green grass, with smaller abandoned buildings and more Dosojin scattered about.

A travelled dirt path leads to a collection of buildings peaking over the hill.

CHIHIRO

What are those weird buildings?

FATHER

I knew it. It's an abandoned theme park. See?

Father looks up and behind and they follow his gaze to the building they just exited. A clock tower sits atop the building, with another clock facing the park.

FATHER (CONT'D)

They built them everywhere in the early 90s. Then the economy went bad, and they all went bankrupt. This must be one of them.

Father starts up the path, Mother leaving Chihiro to follow him.

CHIHIRO

Where are you going, you said just a quick look! Now let's go back.

The parents neglect to respond, continuing.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Hey!

The wind blows from behind, sending a stream of leaves forward, urging Chihiro to continue. She cowers under the imposing clock tower, then runs to catch up.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Did you hear that building? It was moaning.

MOTHER

It's just the wind. Oh, what a beautiful place. We should have brought our lunch. Then we could have had a picnic.

Father steps onto a collection of boulders which run through the field like a river.

FATHER

Look, they were planning to put a river here.

He reaches his hand back to help Mother across, but something distracts him and he turns his head the other way.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Huh?

He takes a few whiffs of the air. Mother nearly trips, but latches onto him.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Hey, you smell that? Something smells delicious.

She smells, too.

MOTHER

Yeah, and I'm starving.

FATHER

Maybe this theme park's still in business, let's go.

He continues and Mother turns back to Chihiro.

MOTHER

Chihiro, hurry it up.

Chihiro is on all fours, struggling to cross.

CHIHIRO

Wait a minute.

Panicked, she jumps to the next rock, crosses, and follows them up a staircase.

INT. GHOST TOWN

An abandoned street of tall, colorful shops and attractions. A stone staircase leads to another level of buildings.

Father reaches the top and sniffs. He points down the intersecting street.

FATHER

Over there.

Mother and Chihiro catch up and follow.

They meet another intersecting road and Father sniffs, looks left and right, and decidedly turns left.

FATHER (CONT'D)

This way.

Mother and Chihiro walk behind, looking at the buildings.

MOTHER

How strange, they're all
restaurants.

CHIHIRO

Where is everybody?

Father stops, spotting something ahead.

FATHER

Ah, there it is.

A pillar of smoke leaves a street restaurant. Father runs to it and turns back.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Hey, I found it!

EXT. RESTAURANT

Father pushes through decorative flaps and into the streetside buffet. There is food cooking and mountains of savory, prepared cuisine lined on a bar, but no one in sight. Father looks over the buffet in awe.

He steps out of the pavilion to alert Mother and Chihiro--

FATHER

Hey, you gotta see this, in here.

Mother joins him and looks in yearning at a fish head and saucy meat dumplings. Chihiro stays behind, reluctant.

MOTHER

Ah, look at this.

Father looks behind the bar.

FATHER

Hello in there, does anybody work
here?!

No response. Mother sits on one of the stools.

MOTHER
Come in, Chihiro. It looks
delicious.

Chihiro shakes her head, stays put behind the wooden pillars.

FATHER
Anybody?!

Father nervously scans the dark, empty kitchen.

MOTHER
Don't worry, Honey, we can pay the
bill when they get back.

Father smiles and turns his gaze to the buffet.

FATHER
Good plan-- Hey, that looks great.

He walks off and Mother grabs a winged dumpling.

MOTHER
I wonder what this is called.

She sniffs and pulls the skin with her teeth. With a smile,
she turns back to Chihiro, still chewing.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Oh, it's delicious! Chihiro, you
have to taste this.

Chihiro, clinging to her shirt in fear, shakes her head.

CHIHIRO
I don't want any. We're gonna get
in trouble, let's just get out of
here!

Father uses chopsticks to fill three plates with every food
on the line.

FATHER
Don't worry, you've got Daddy here.
He's got credit cards and cash.

He sets the plates down and sits next to Mother, who takes
another bite and "Mmms" in delight.

MOTHER
Chihiro, you have to try this, it's
so tender.

CHIHIRO
 (shaking her head)
 Mm-mmm!

Chihiro glances frightfully to the side. Mother and Father chew faster, groaning and snorting in gluttonous delight.

FATHER
 Mustard?

MOTHER
 Thank you.

Father speedily inhales a full dumpling, bites an egg roll and chomps a sausage.

CHIHIRO
 Come on, you guys, you can't!

Oblivious, they continue gobbling. Chihiro gives up and walks away.

EXT. GHOST TOWN

Chihiro turns onto the street and stops to scan the town. She spots a tall red shrine-like monument atop another staircase.

She looks back at her parents, then approaches.

AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRCASE

Chihiro climbs the last step and stares at the monument.

She looks past it and her eyes widen when she sees--

A grandiose red building with green roofing and gold accents, standing innumerable stories tall, jetting from the shallow water below.

CHIHIRO
 That's weird.

She walks to the edge of a red, wooden bridge linking the cliff-top ghost town to the behemoth bathhouse.

She gets a closer look-- the high, massive windows facing in all directions rattle into the wind, and steam rises from a garden hot spring at the bottom.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 It's a bathhouse.

She walks to the red rails of the bridge and looks several stories down, where a train exits a tunnel at the bottom of the cliff.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 There's the train.

She runs to the other side and jumps on the rail to follow its track and gasps upon spotting a BOY in a short, white kimono, stopped dead in his tracks.

He glares frightfully at Chihiro with steely green eyes. As he hastily approaches her, the sun sets rapidly.

 HAKU
 You shouldn't be here, get out of
 here now!

Chihiro steps down from the rail, frightened and confused.

 CHIHIRO
 What?

Haku points for Chihiro to turn back.

 HAKU
 It's almost night. Leave, before it
 gets dark.

The sun falls faster and the bathhouse lights turn on. Haku grabs Chihiro and pushes her back.

 HAKU (CONT'D)
 They're lighting the lamps. Get out
 of here.

Chihiro runs off the bridge and toward the staircase.

 HAKU (CONT'D)
 You've gotta get across the river.
 Go, I'll distract them!

Haku turns toward the bathhouse and blows glowing white shards from thin air.

Chihiro looks back as she runs, still perplexed.

As she runs down the staircase, the red paper lanterns hanging from the shops illuminate the dark street.

She stops and rubs her face, as if in a dream.

 CHIHIRO
 What's up with him?

She runs again and the town comes to life-- the red lanterns lead the way for translucent, vague black ghosts to roam.

EXT. RESTAURANT - SUNSET

The parents have made a mess of plates, grime, and bones on the counter and surrounding floor. They are massive, their back skin bulges from their clothing.

CHIHIRO

Mom! Dad! Come on! Quit eating!

She shakes her hunchbacked, gobbling father and a humanesque pig turns to face her. She gasps at her animal parents.

They turn back to continue eating, so pudgy that they knock plates to the ground, shattering the dishes.

A frog-like creature extends its warty arm from the hazy yellow smoke to smack Father across the face with a fly swatter, knocking the slob to the ground.

He stands up and spews grime from his mouth as he SQUEALS. Chihiro scream and runs away.

EXT. GHOST TOWN

She looks around and yells into a street full of wandering spirits.

CHIHIRO

Mom, Dad, where are you?

The bloblike, inexpressive spirits hardly acknowledge her.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Mommy!

She runs down the street and descends a staircase.

EXT. FIELD

She reaches the first staircase, where a frog statue spews water from its mouth. Chihiro descends the staircase only to fall waist-deep in the water.

CHIHIRO

Water?

She climbs out of the water and looks ahead-- the field has filled with an enormous lake. On the other side, the clock tower and various buildings are lit up in the night.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

 What?

She closes her eyes and hits her head with her fists.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

 I'm dreaming! I'm dreaming! Come
 on, wake up, wake up!

She squats on the ground and curls into a ball.

A ferry, bursting with hundreds of lights, approaches the staircase.

Chihiro rocks back and forth.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

 It's just a dream, it's just a
 dream, go away.

Her body fades slightly, and she is partly translucent.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

 Away. Disappear.

She removes her head from her hands and stares at them, shocked. Through her hands, she sees the incoming ferry.

 CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

 I'm see-through! It's just a bad
 dream.

The staircase rumbles as the ferry reaches shore and lowers its gate. The doors fly open and invisible figures with decorated paper masks and robed shadows step out in a line.

As they step onto shore, they become visible and proceed up the staircase. More bloblike spirits climb out of the water.

Chihiro turns around and runs away, climbing the grassy hill.

INT. GHOST TOWN OUTSKIRTS - DUSK

Haku runs thorough the dark edges of the town.

He stops at the top of a hill and scans the area. He spots something and continues.

On the far side of a building, Chihiro is curled in a ball. The spirits enter the bright city, chatting in the distance.

VOICE

Looking forward to a relaxing time.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Quite a long journey.

VOICE (CONT'D)

I hope they have something...

Haku puts his arms around Chihiro, frightening her.

HAKU

Don't be afraid, I just wanna help you.

Chihiro, nose running, shakes her head.

CHIHIRO

No, no, no!

Haku pulls a tiny red ball from his pocket.

HAKU

Open your mouth and eat this. You have to eat some food from this world, or else you'll disappear.

CHIHIRO

No!

Chihiro tries to shove him away, but her ghostly arms push through his body. She pulls her arms back.

Haku gently places the ball in her mouth.

HAKU

Don't worry, it won't turn you into a pig. Chew it and swallow.

Chihiro winces, struggling to eat the bitter ball. She swallows, and her anxious shoulders drop.

HAKU (CONT'D)

There you go, you're all better. See for yourself.

Haku holds out his hand and Chihiro presses hers against it.

CHIHIRO

I'm okay.

HAKU

You see?

Haku holds her hand and stands up.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Now, come with me.

Chihiro grabs his arm, worried.

CHIHIRO

Where are my mom and dad? They
didn't really turn into pigs, did
they?

HAKU

You can't see them now, but you
will.

Haku senses danger and looks to the sky behind him. In a
panic, he covers Chihiro with his body.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Don't move.

IN THE SKY

A dark, winged creature with a bird's body and an old woman's
head circles like a vulture, patrolling the area.

HAKU & CHIHIRO

watch silently.

THE BIRD

flies out of sight, behind a building.

HAKU

The coast temporarily clear, he stands up.

HAKU (CONT'D)

That bird's looking for you, you've
gotta get out of here.

He tries to pull Chihiro up, but she is unable to stand.

CHIHIRO

My legs! I can't stand up. Help!
What do I do?

She pulls his hands, trying to rise. He kneels to her level.

HAKU

Calm down, take a deep breath.

Chihiro closes her eyes and slowly inhales. Haku puts his glowing hand over her leg and chants--

HAKU (CONT'D)

In the name of the wind and water
within thee, unbind her.

Haku stands up.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Get up.

She immediately stands and he runs, pulling her behind.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

He rushes her through a dark alley, extends his hand toward a sliding door at the end.

INT. SAKE BREWERY

A shovel jamming the door glows and flies to the side, door slides open and Haku quickly leads Chihiro, past enormous barrels and towering storage vases--

INT. BUTCHERY

--past a grotesque scene of piled dead fish, squid, hanging sausages, chickens, and cow ribs--

INT. FREEZER

--through an icy room full of hanging meat--

INT. PIG PAVILION

--past innumerable feeding, squealing pigs. As they reach the end and leave, Chihiro looks behind, searching.

EXT. BATHHOUSE - NIGHT

The bathhouse is fully illuminated, welcoming the night-faring monsters as they cross the bridge to enter.

VOICE

Welcome. Welcome. Always nice to see you, welcome back.

HAKU

opens a gate and walks Chihiro down a stone path toward the bridge.

HAKU

You have to hold your breathe while we cross the bridge. Even the tiniest breath will break the spell, and then everyone will see you.

Chihiro clings to Haku's arm, but he remains postured.

CHIHIRO

I'm scared.

HAKU

Now just stay calm.

Haku opens another gate by the bridge threshold, where two short, olive-skinned frog-human creatures bow to the spirits.

GREETER

Welcome, welcome, always nice to see you. Welcome back, welcome, welcome.

HAKU

I'm back from my mission.

GREETER

Ahh, welcome. Welcome back, Master Haku.

Haku and Chihiro pass the greeters.

HAKU

Take a deep breath.

Chihiro's eyes peeled in fear, inhales deeply.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Hold it.

Chihiro covers her mouth with her hand.

They cross the bridge threshold and the test begins.

They walk by human-sized Ootori-Sama chicken-ducks and robed spirits with straw masks. A translucent BLACK SPIRIT with an expressionless mask stares curiously at Chihiro as it passes.

Chihiro's cheeks inflate like bubble gum, ready to explode.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Hang on. Almost there.

Just as they approach the finishing threshold, a tiny, kimono-clad frog-human runs excitedly toward them. AOGAERU jumps up, trying to level with the human's height.

AOGAERU

Master Haku! Where have you been?

This shocks Chihiro, who removes her hand from her mouth and gasps for air, immediately catches herself and covers up.

But Aogaeru noticed and stares at her, stock-still.

AOGAERU (CONT'D)

Wha, a human?

The loud little creature jumps up to continue the conversation, but Haku catches him in mid-air in a paralyzing black bubble, grabs Chihiro's hand, and runs.

HAKU

Let's go!

They speedily fly near the ground, leaving a gust of wind in their wake which sends a group of women's skirts flying.

They hold the skirts down and giggle. Haku opens a hidden, knee-high door and leads Chihiro through.

AOGAERU

The black cloud surrounding the frog disappears and he drops to the ground, confused.

EXT. GARDEN

Haku runs Chihiro through an empty garden and ducks behind a bush. Through the see-through sliding doors, we see workers inside running about like headless chickens.

WORKERS

Master Haku!

WORKERS (CONT'D)

Oh, Master Haku?

WORKERS (CONT'D)

Hurry, boy, boy, boy, it stinks up
the place!

HAKU

They know you're here.

CHIHIRO

I'm sorry, I took a breath.

Haku, arm around Chihiro, leans in to her.

HAKU

No, Chihiro, you did very well.
Listen carefully to what I tell you
to do. You can't stay here, they'll
find you, and you'll never get to
rescue your parents. I'll create a
diversion while you escape.

Chihiro grabs Haku's kimono.

CHIHIRO

No, don't leave me, I don't wanna
be alone.

HAKU

You don't have any choice if you
want to help your parents. This is
what you have to do.

Chihiro's brow droops.

CHIHIRO

They did turn into pigs, I wasn't
dreaming.

Haku puts his hand on Chihiro's forehead.

HAKU

Don't worry.

Her forehead glows, and--

IMAGES TRANSFER--

The garden back gate unlatches and opens; a steep staircase
protruding from the building ends at a dirty green door; the
door opens into a smoky boiler room.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Now, when things quiet down, go out
through the back gate.

(MORE)

HAKU (CONT'D)

Go all the way down the stairs
until you reach the boiler room,
where they stoke the fires. There
you'll find Kamaji, the boiler man.

HAKU

pulls his hand from Chihiro's forehead.

CHIHIRO

Kamaji?

Haku nods.

HAKU

Tell him you want to work here.
Even if he refuses, you must
insist. If you don't get a job,
Yubaba will turn you into an
animal.

CHIHIRO

Yubaba. Huh?

HAKU

You'll see. She's the witch who
rules the bathhouse. Kamaji will
try to turn you away or trick you
into leaving, but just keep asking
for work. It'll be hard work, but
you'll be able to stay here. Then,
even Yubaba can't harm you.

Through the sliding doors, the workers continue to panic.

WORKERS

Master Haku?

WORKERS (CONT'D)

Master Haku, where are you?

HAKU

I have to go, and don't forget,
Chihiro, I'm your friend.

Haku stands up.

CHIHIRO

How did you know my name's Chihiro?

HAKU

I've known you since you were very
small. Good luck, and whatever you
do, don't make a sound.

Haku lets go of Chihiro's hands and steps out from the bush.

WORKERS

Master Haku?

HAKU

Calm down, I'm coming.

The humanesque workers open the door.

WORKER

Master Haku, Yubaba wants to see you.

Haku sheds his shoes and reluctantly enters.

HAKU

I know, it's about my mission, right?

They shut the door and Chihiro sticks her head between her knees for a moment. Then she crawls off.

EXT. STAIRCASE

Chihiro closes the gate behind her. She clings to the side of the building, keeping from the rail-less edge.

She stares down, past the jagged, wooden staircase at a passing train which seems small so far below.

She takes a fearful gulp, sits down, and inches herself toward the first step.

She sets her feet down, and lowers her body to the next step. She tries another, and slides down, managing to stop herself.

She extends her foot to the next step and when she presses down, the nails give way to a snapping plank and she SCREAMS while a ceaseless momentum carries her downward. She barely stays on the rounding steps, then finally smacks flat into a cement wall at the landing.

She peels herself off the wall and breathes.

A worker opens a window above and pokes his head out for a cigarette, blowing his smoke into the night air.

Chihiro slowly moves around the corner to avoid detection. She walks down the next flight and reaches the green door. She opens the door, enters, and gently shuts it behind her.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Chihiro slowly walks through a dark passageway with thick, steaming pipes.

An enormous metal furnace opens its jaw-like doors every few seconds for a legion of tiny, wiry-legged SOOTBALLS to throw lumps of coal bigger than their own body into the flames, and run off.

A hunchbacked old man with an enormous moustache uses his six long arms to simultaneously grab jarred herbs, crush them in a mortar bowl, itch his bald head, and pull a hanging token above. This is KAMAJI.

Chihiro retreats to the passageway in fear, and jolts when steam jets from a nearby pipe. She peaks into the boiler room and sees Kamaji turning a metal wheel.

He notices her, stops wheeling, pounds a wooden mallet on his stone workplace and the Soot Sprites immediately retreat into their mouse-like holes.

Chihiro walks in and nervously approaches Kamaji.

CHIHIRO

Hello, excuse me.

Kamaji looks at Chihiro through his dark sunglasses, takes a sip from his teapot, and returns to his work.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Uh, hello?

She walks to his station.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Uh, hello, are you Kamaji?

The grumbling man brushes crushed herbs into a chute, then peaks under his arm to look, confused.

KAMAJI

Eh?

Kamaji groans and turns his body towards Chihiro, moving his head in to get a better look.

CHIHIRO

Haku told me to come here and ask you for work. Could you give me a job please?

A bell RINGS and four red tokens drop from a chute above.
Kamaji growls.

KAMAJI
Four bath tokens at once.

He grabs the mallet, clangs the wheel, and yells back.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)
Come on, get to work, you little
runts!
(to Chihiro)
Yeah, I'm Kamaji, slave to the
boiler that heats the baths.
(yelling again)
Move it, ya stupid soot balls.

Chihiro desperately interjects--

CHIHIRO
Please, I've gotta get a job here.

KAMAJI
I don't need any help. The place is
full of soot, I just cast a spell
on them and I've got all the
workers I need.

The sootballs come out, carrying the coal toward the furnace
door. Chihiro tries to step out of the way, but the sootballs
run into her feet, causing a jam.

CHIHIRO
Wait, just a second.

Chihiro steps out of the way, careful not to step on any
sprites. She finds a corner and leans against a wall of
wooden drawers running ceiling-high.

One of Kamaji's arms extends to the wall and signals Chihiro
to move.

KAMAJI (O.S.)
Out of the way.

Chihiro jumps out of its path and Kamaji's hand opens a
drawer, pulls some stems, reaches to grab herbs from a high
drawer, and brings them back to his station.

Chihiro curls up in defeat.

A sootball exits the hole and drops the coal on themselves.
They squirm beneath it and Chihiro lifts the coal up. The
sootball detaches from the coal and runs back to the hole.

CHIHIRO

What should I do with this? Should
I leave it here?

KAMAJI

Finish what you started, human.

The sootballs move out of Chihiro's path as she slowly carries the heavy chunk to the furnace, nearly dropping it.

The furnace doors spit fire as they open, and close, open. Chihiro waits as they close again, then open, and she throws the coal in and runs away.

The spectating sootballs walk toward Chihiro and all drop their pieces on themselves.

Kamaji clangs the mallet again.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

Hey, you runts, you wanna turn back
into soot?

(to Chihiro)

And you, back off, you can't just
take someone else's job. If they
don't work, the spell wears off.
They turn back into soot. There's
no work for you here, ya got it?
Try somewhere else!

The sootballs stand up, raise their coal pieces in protest, and pile on Chihiro's feet.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

You soot balls got a problem? Now
get back to work!

A sliding door opens at the other side of the room and a woman enters with a bowl of food and a basket.

LIN

Chow time, what's going on? Are you
guys fighting again?

LIN walks to Kamaji, who calms down at the sight of food.

LIN (CONT'D)

Where's your other bowl?

Kamaji moans at the sight of the rice and butterfly shrimp.

LIN (CONT'D)

From yesterday?

Kamaji looks around his hectic station full with toothbrush, tissues, scattered cigarettes, and finds the dirty bowl. He hands it to Lin and she walks off.

LIN (CONT'D)
I keep telling you to leave it out,
Kamaji.

Kamaji shouts to the soot balls.

KAMAJI
Meal time, take a break!

The soot balls hop happily from the coal pile at Chihiro's feet to Lin, who reaches into the basket and throws colorful Konpeito candy to the dancing sprites.

Lin turns to the side and gasps upon seeing Chihiro. Chihiro stares in fear and Lin points at her.

CHIHIRO
A human! You're in trouble. You're
the one everyone's looking for.

Kamaji takes a bite of his shrimp and calmly interjects.

KAMAJI
She's my granddaughter.

LIN
Granddaughter?

KAMAJI
She said she wants to work here,
but I've got all the help I need.
Will you take her to see Yubaba?
She's a tough little girl. I think
she can handle it.

LIN
No way, I'm not gonna risk my life.

Kamaji extends a hand holding a small, charred lizard.

KAMAJI
What if I give you this roasted
newt, hmm?

Lin, shocked at the sight of it, considers this.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)
It's a good one.
(turning to Chihiro)
(MORE)

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

If you want a job, you'll have to make a deal with Yubaba. She's the head honcho here.

Lin snatches the newt.

LIN

Give me that. Come on little girl, you better follow me.

Chihiro climbs out of the coal pile and runs to Lin.

LIN (CONT'D)

Can't you even manage a "yes, ma'am" or a "thank you"?

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

LIN

What a dope. Hurry up.

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

Chihiro grabs her shoes and follows Lin, who grunts.

LIN

You don't need your shoes or your socks. Just leave 'em.

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

Chihiro takes off her socks, places them in her shoes, and sets them on the ground. The soot balls flock to them.

Chihiro crouches through the sliding doorway and Lin whispers to her--

LIN

Thank the boiler man, you idiot. You know he's really sticking his neck out for you.

Chihiro turns around and bumps her head on the low doorway. She yelps in pain and bows to Kamaji.

CHIHIRO

Thank you, Mr. Boiler Man!

Kamaji gives her a thumbs up.

KAMAJI

Good luck.

Chihiro crosses under the short doorway and slides it shut.

INT. HALLWAY

Lin leads Chihiro through a dim hall.

LIN

We have to go all the way to the
top floor. That's where Yubaba
lives.

INT. SHAFT ROOM

Lin enters a room with colossal gears pulling ropes. She signals Chihiro to follow her in.

Chihiro stops and stares curiously above:

CHIHIRO'S POV

The ropes reach past several dark stories, into the bright, seemingly endless floors above.

LIN (O.S.)

Get over here.

Chihiro snaps out of her curious gaze and rushes to meet Lin on a doorless elevator, just stepping on before it ascends.

INT. ELEVATOR

Chihiro rests her head on a wood plank, just inches from the passing wall.

LIN

You wanna lose your nose?

Chihiro jumps away from the side in fear.

SEVERAL STORIES ABOVE THE SHAFT ROOM

Opulent red wooden beams run from the dark floors below. Servants carry plates and trays of food through the well-lit hallways of this wide-open area. The elevator zooms upward.

INT. HALLWAY

Lin and Chihiro exit the elevator and pass through a hallway of painted floral walls and resting piles of containers.

They pass by a busy kitchen, where frog-humans in sanitary face masks fill rows of bowls with snacks and soup.

WORKER (O.S.)
They're not spicy enough.

A woman with hikimayu eyebrows and a pile of trays exits an elevator. Lin and Chihiro sneak around the corner and enter behind her.

INT. ELEVATOR

Lin pulls a lever and the elevator rises.

LIN
We're halfway there, just stay close.

CHIHIRO
Okay.

Open slats in a passing wall let in light. Chihiro looks through and sees vague blobs lounging in the baths.

LIN
Here we go.

The elevator slows, stops, and the door opens.

Waiting outside is a chubby, towering white creature, humanesque with its large breasts and stomach, but inhuman with its tusk-like face flaps, wearing only a red loincloth and large bowl as a hat.

Lin gasps, surprised and faux-enthused.

LIN (CONT'D)
The Radish Spirit.

This is the RADISH SPIRIT and he points a finger upward while grumbling incomprehensibly.

LIN (CONT'D)
Sorry, sir, this elevator doesn't go any higher. You'll have to take another one, thank you.

Lin leads Chihiro past him and raises her eyebrows contemptuously.

The inexpressive Radish Spirit follows them with long, booming footsteps as they cross a red and gold bridge.

ON THE FLOOR BELOW

Smiling servants-- near-human women with wide faces and stocky bodies-- massage and pamper the soaking spirits, from inexplicable, diverse creatures to tentacled humanoids to Ootori-Sama.

LIN AND CHIHIRO

stepping off the bridge. Chihiro looks behind at the tailing Radish Spirit.

CHIHIRO
He's following us.

LIN
Just don't look at him.

They reach a closed elevator and Lin presses the button. As they wait, the slow Radish Spirit catches up. The tall spirit's lumpy, bare breasts rest just at Lin's eye level.

She closes her eyes.

The door opens and three tusked Ushioni-sama monsters with colorful stringy hair step out.

A frog-human SERVANT escorts them.

SERVANT
Step out to the right, please, gentlemen.

MONSTER
(mumbling to the others)
I don't think they're big enough.

SERVANT
Your rooms are right this way.

He sniffs something and turns around.

SERVANT (CONT'D)
Hmm, Lin?

Lin pushes Chihiro into the elevator and the Radish Spirit follows her in, hiding the small girl.

LIN

What?

SERVANT

What's that smell? It's human. You smell just like a human.

LIN

Oh, really?

SERVANT

Where's it coming from, Lin? Come on.

Lin appears annoyed, refusing to respond.

SERVANT (CONT'D)

You're hiding something, aren't you? Show it to me.

Lin reaches into her pocket and grabs the roasted newt.

LIN

Is this what you smell?

The servant's eyes widen and his face perspires in awe.

SERVANT

Roasted... newt!

He snaps his hands to grab it, but Lin pulls it up.

LIN

No way, frog, I'm saving every last bite for myself.

SERVANT

Please, just a little bit, just give me a leg.

The short frog grabs at it, but Lin holds it out of reach. She turns to the elevator.

LIN

If you wanna go up, pull the lever on your right.

The Radish Spirit grumbles and nods his head.

SERVANT (O.S.)

Gimme, gimme, gimme, how could you be so cruel? Can't you share?

Chihiro squeezes between the Radish Spirit and elevator wall and pulls the lever, closing the door.

The servant continues to reach for the newt.

SERVANT (CONT'D)

Let me suck on the tail, please!
Let me just...

He gasps as Lin eats the entire newt and smiles.

INT. ELEVATOR

The elevator carries the adverse pair upward.

It stops, the doors open. A long hallway with sandals resting by closed shoji doors upon which spirits' shadows move.

Chihiro and the Radish Spirit stay put, the elevator closes.

Chihiro, wedged against the wall, stares up at the spirit. He slowly meets her gaze and she turns away quickly.

INT. HALLWAY

A tall, dark hallway with fluted columns and floral relief carvings. The elevator door opens and the Radish Spirit steps out to scan the area.

Chihiro steps out and looks at the red doorways ahead, illuminated by mounted kerosene lamps. The Radish Spirit steps back into the elevator and bows to Chihiro.

She bows back and the doors close. She walks along the patterned tile floor, past tall, ornate vases, and stops in front of a short staircase.

She sees an engraving of the bird-bodied old woman.

She slowly ascends the stairs and reaches for the door handle, but a door knocker in the shape of a face yells at her:

DOOR KNOCKER

Aren't you even going to knock?

Its eyes rolls to the back of its head, return and glare.

DOOR KNOCKER (CONT'D)

You're the most pathetic little girl I've ever seen.

Chihiro winces as the door opens, revealing another room, where another set of doors open, revealing another and another and the apparent mise-en-abyme continues...

INSERT:

The old woman's smirking mouth.

YUBABA
Well, come in.

BACK TO:

CHIHIRO

clings her shirt, afraid and still.

INSERT:

The old woman's hand, covered in vibrant, bulbous rings with pointed red fingernails, waves her in.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
I said, come in.

BACK TO:

CHIHIRO

is pulled through the doors, which shut and lock behind her, past the golden rooms of engravings and potraiture, hallways with spotlighted, painted vases, and into--

INT. YUBABA'S OFFICE

Chihiro is tossed on the ground, rolling and landing on her face. She sits up, looks up after hearing approaching GRUNTS.

Three tough-looking green, bearded heads (KASHIRA) jump and roll along the patterned carpet, then circle around Chihiro, who cowers in fear.

The old woman, with a massive, wrinkled face, imposing nose, thick violet eyeshadow, and a large, bushy head of yellow hair, looks down as she writes.

This is YUBABA.

YUBABA
Quiet down, you're making a racket.

The Kashira retreat behind Yubaba's desk.

CHIHIRO

Excuse me, I was wondering if you
could give me a job?

Yubaba slowly looks up and waves her hand, shutting Chihiro's
mouth like a zipper. The young girl tries in vain to open it.

Yubaba laughs and returns to her work.

YUBABA

I don't want to hear such a stupid
request. You're just a stinking,
useless weakling.

Yubaba places a bag of gold into a small chest and closes it.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

And this is certainly no place for
humans. It's a bathhouse for the
spirits. It's where they come to
replenish themselves.

Yubaba puts a long cigarette in her mouth.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

And you humans always make a mess
of things. Like your parents, who
gobbled up the food of the spirits
like pigs. They got what they
deserved, and you should be
punished, too.

She makes a small fire with her finger, lights the cigarette.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Hmm.

She inhales and blows jets of smoke from her nostrils.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

You could be a piglet. Or, maybe
you'd prefer a lump of coal.

Chihiro trembles, on the verge of crying. Yubaba laughs.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

I can see you shaking. Actually,
I'm impressed you made it this far.
But I'm sure you didn't do it on
your own. Let's thank whoever
helped you. Just who was it dear,
why don't you tell me?

Yubaba waves her hand, unzipping Chihiro's mouth.

CHIHIRO

Please! Can't you give me a job?

Yubaba yells back angrily--

YUBABA

Don't start that again!

Chihiro scream desperately--

CHIHIRO

Please, I just want to work.

Yubaba grows angrier, sending the papers and treasures flying off her desk, and she takes off into the air.

YUBABA

Don't say that!

She stops in front of Chihiro, pressing her massive nose in the girl's face as she speaks--

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Why in the world do you think I should give you a job? Anyone can see you're a lazy, spoiled crybaby, and you have no manners.

Yubabe pokes Chihiro's stomach with her pointed nails.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

This is a high-class place I'm running here. So there's no job for you, now get out. I've got all the lazy bums I need.

Chihiro is stock-still, afraid for her life. Yubaba wraps her disproportionately large hand around Chihiro's chest, working her nails up her side until she digs them against the terrified girl's throat.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Or maybe I'll give you the most difficult job I've got, and work you until you breathe your very last breathe.

Yubaba stops upon hearing a distant RUMBLE. She GASPS. A divider falls down and the books fall off her desks.

The sound of a WEEPING baby precedes a giant foot kicking through a wooden door.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Oh, dear, you woke up the baby.

The terrified witch picks up her dress skirt, runs to the door and pokes her head in. She uses her baby voice--

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Mommy's here. Be a good boy now.

She grimaces back at Chihiro.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Why are you still here? I told you to leave.

CHIHIRO
(yelling)
I want you to give me a job, please!

YUBABA
Quiet down, you're scaring the baby!

Just then the foot kicks through the door, pummeling Yubaba's face.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Hi, sweetie. Don't be angry. That's a good boy.

Chihiro stays put.

CHIHIRO
I'm not leaving till you give me a job!

YUBABA
Okay, okay, just be quiet.
(turning to the baby)
Here comes Mommy, I'm coming to get you.

Chihiro and the Kashira wait silently.

A paper flies out of a fallen stack, followed by a pen, and floats to Chihiro, who grabs them. The Kashira jump up and down.

YUBABA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's your contract.

Yubaba reenters, pulling broken wood planks from her hair.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Sign your name away, and I'll put you to work.

She waves her hands and the scattered papers, books and valuables fly neatly back to their place.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

If I hear one little complaint out of you, you'll be joining your parents in the pigpen.

Chihiro points to a spot on the paper.

CHIHIRO

So I-- do I sign my name here?

YUBABA

Just sign it, do you want the job or not?

Chihiro searches around, kneels at the tile floor by the fireplace and begins signing.

Yubaba continues waving her arms, restoring flying pens and jewelry.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

I can't believe I took that oath. To give a job to anyone who asks.

She fixes a fallen lamp shade and turns the light on.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Ridiculous, I hate being so nice all the time.

The Kashira are watching Chihiro sign.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Are you done yet?

The paper flies into Yubaba's hands before Chihiro finishes. The old woman inspects it.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

So your name's Chihiro?

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

YUBABA

What a pretty name.

Yubaba waves her hand above the inked name and three character float into her hand, leaving only one.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

And it belongs to me now. From now on, your name is Sen, you got that?

Chihiro stares silently.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Answer me, Sen!

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

HAKU (O.S.)

You called for me?

Haku is standing at the entrance.

YUBABA

This girl signed a contract. Set her up with a job.

Haku, straight-faced, turns to Chihiro.

HAKU

Right, what's your name?

CHIHIRO

What, Chih-- oh, it's Sen.

HAKU

Okay, Sen. Follow me.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT

The elevator zooming down the shaft.

INT. ELEVATOR

Haku and Chihiro are staring forward, wordless, until--

CHIHIRO

Haku, uh...

HAKU

Don't talk to me, and address me as Master Haku.

Haku's long black bangs leaves his blank eyes in shadows. Chihiro turns away.

EXT. THE BATHHOUSE

The bathhouse, lit in the grey night, spews small smokestreams.

INT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Curious, chattering servants in pajama kimonos are watching the silent Master and the timid human walking down a staircase.

A peach-colored frog-human at a front desk smiles slyly.

CHICHIYAKU

I don't care if Yubaba gets angry
with us.

CHICHIYAKU's taller assistant, ANIYAKU completes him--

ANIYAKU

We're not taking humans.

The servants crowd around, watching the conversation.

HAKU

She's already under contract.

CHICHIYAKU and the onlookers GASP.

CHICHIYAKU

What?

CHIHIRO

I promise to work very hard.

An onlooking WOMAN speaks from behind her folding fan.

WOMAN

We are not gonna take her in our
department.

ANOTHER WOMAN

She'll stink up the whole place.

FROG-MAN

We don't want her.

HAKU

Three days of eating our food, and
her smell will go away. And if she
doesn't work hard, roast her, boil
her, do whatever you want.

The crowd smiles in approval.

HAKU (CONT'D)
Now get back to work, where is Lin?

The crowd disperses and passing woman smirk at Lin, who is leaning against a wooden column.

LIN
What, don't you dump her on me.

HAKU
You said you wanted an assistant.

CHICHIYAKU
(smiling jokingly)
That's perfect, give the girl to Lin.

Haku turns to Chihiro--

HAKU
Sen, get going.

-- who runs to an angry Lin.

CHIHIRO
Right.

LIN
Why are you picking on me? You owe me one, Haku. You hear me?

ANIYAKU
(sardonically)
Have a nice day.

LIN
Hmph.

Lin walks off. Chihiro is still staring at Aniyaku. Lin turns back.

LIN (CONT'D)
Come on.

Chihiro bows to the managers and runs off.

INT. HALLWAY

Lin, apparently angry still, rounds a corner and turns to Chihiro with a smile.

LIN
I can't believe you pulled it off.

CHIHIRO
Huh?

LIN
You're such a dope, I was really worried. Now, keep on your toes, and if you need anything, ask me. Okay?

Sen answers timidly.

CHIHIRO
Okay.

LIN
Hmm? What's wrong?

Chihiro is trembling, cheeks reddening.

CHIHIRO
I don't feel so good.

EXT. BATHHOUSE

A train chugging along the tracks.

INT. WOMEN'S BEDROOM

Lin leads Chihiro into an open room, where a few woman lie asleep on comforters. Lin opens a sliding door closet and searches around.

LIN
So, this is our room. A little food and some sleep and you'll be fine.

Lin hands Chihiro a blue apron--

LIN (CONT'D)
Here's your apron. You have to wash it yourself.

-- some pink pants--

LIN (CONT'D)
Your pants.

Lin rifles through the clothing baskets, pulls a large shirt.

LIN (CONT'D)
You're so puny. Way too big.

CHIHIRO
Lin, you know Haku?

LIN
What about him?

CHIHIRO
There aren't two of him, are there?

LIN
Two Hakus? I can barely stand one.

She pulls another shirt and looks at it.

LIN (CONT'D)
Too big. He's Yubaba's henchman,
don't trust anything he says.

She throws the shirt on the floor and Chihiro sighs. She drops, curls into a ball and MOANS.

Lin holds up a shirt happily, but kneels down when she notices Chihiro is crying.

LIN (CONT'D)
Ah, here we go... wh-- what's wrong
with you? Are you feeling okay?

A WOMAN wakes up and pulls down her comforter.

WOMAN
Quiet down. What's your problem?

LIN
It's the new girl, she doesn't feel
so good.

INT. TOWER

Haku ascends a rail-less, spiral stone staircase snaking the walls.

EXT. BATHHOUSE ROOFTOP - DAWN

A small bird, with a head resembling Yubaba's, is perched on the railing of this out looking balcony. The doors open from the inside and Yubaba is standing at the threshold.

Haku and Kashira standby silently as Yubaba wraps a black cloak around her face and body, and walks out.

She leaps onto the railing, rocks a few times before flapping her newly formed cloak wings and taking off with her mini-me.

The fly over a marshy field which the train tracks run through, extending for as far as the eye can see.

INT. BATHHOUSE ROOFTOP

Haku turns off the lights and the Kashira hop away.

OUTSIDE

Massive clouds of fog cloak the bathhouse. The sun is rising.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - MORNING

The morning sun hits the shop rooftops. The lanterns turn off.

INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS

Rows of women asleep beneath bright patterned comforters.

CHIHIRO

shivering under her covers.

The door quietly opens.

Chihiro opens her eyes.

Silent feet walk across the scattered blankets.

Chihiro closes her eyes in fear, but a hand comforts her.

HAKU (O.S.)
Meet me at the bridge, I'll take
you to your parents.

He leaves and the door SHUTS. Chihiro rises, wearing her blue apron. She holds up her pink shirt, looking it over.

INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - HALLWAY

A soft morning sun shines through the windows. Chihiro crawls into the hall, stands up, looks around, and turns a corner.

INT. SHAFT ROOM

Chihiro is walking down the stairs.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Kamaji is asleep, SNORING, his many arms wrapped around his blankets. Chihiro looks around the quiet, empty room.

CHIHIRO
My shoes are gone.

THE SOOT BALLS

peak out from their holes, collectively pull out the yellow shoes and set them by Chihiro.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She pulls her balled socks from the inside, slides the shoes on, tap her toes against the ground for good measure, and runs off.

She puts her hand on the handle, but stops to look back at the chirping, hopping soot sprites. She waves, opens the door, and steps into the daylight.

EXT. STAIRCASE

Chihiro calmly climbing the jutting stairs. She looks across a valley to a distant cliff, where the long pigpens lay.

EXT. BRIDGE

Chihiro steps through the garden gate and approaches the bridge, where a translucent black spirit is standing alone.

NO-FACE has a long, white, expressionless mask and peers silently at Chihiro.

She pauses before crossing the bridge, ducking her head to avoid contact with the strange spirit. Once she passes, she runs to the end of the bridge, turns around, and finds No-Face is not there.

She turns around as Haku approaches from the other side.

HAKU
Come with me.

He walks away and she runs after him.

EXT. GARDEN

Haku leads Chihiro through a sensational walkway of vibrant azaleas, blooming rhododendrons, and striking perennials.

Chihiro holds up her arms as the pair whooshes by, careful not to brush against the dazzling display.

HAKU

We don't have much time. If you're found here, you'll be turned into a pig yourself.

They reach the end of the bushes and descend a hill toward the pig pens below.

HAKU (CONT'D)

You must never come here without me, understand?

CHIHIRO

I understand.

INT. PIG PAVILION

The pigs, crammed into fenced pens, are standing calmly. Two isolated pigs sleep on the muddy cement floor.

Chihiro looks away from them, to Haku, who nods. The unnerved young girl runs to the fence and shouts to the snoring pigs.

CHIHIRO

Mom, Dad, are you alright? It's me, Sen, hey, wake up! Mom! Dad!

The resting pigs are oblivious. Haku walks to Chihiro.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

What's wrong with them, are they sick?

HAKU

No, they ate too much, they're sleeping it off. They don't remember being human. So look hard. It's up to you to remember which ones they are.

Chihiro tears up, but passionately belts--

CHIHIRO

Don't you worry, I promise I'll get you out of here. So just don't get any fatter or they'll eat you!

She immediately turns around and runs out of the pavilion.

EXT. GARDEN

Chihiro is curled in a ball, head between her knees. Butterflies flutter above the nearby orchids.

Haku, standing above, reaches into his kimono, pulls her green t-shirt and shorts, and extends them to her.

HAKU

Here are your clothes. Hide them.

Chihiro's eyes widen, she grabs the clothes, hugs them tight.

CHIHIRO

I thought they'd been thrown away.

HAKU

You'll need them to get home.

Haku pulls a small package from his kimono and Chihiro pulls the handwritten card from her shorts.

CHIHIRO

My goodbye card's still here.

She reads it.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Chihiro, Chihiro. That's my name, isn't it?

HAKU

That's how Yubaba controls you, by stealing your name. So hold on to that card, keep it hidden. And while you're here, you must call yourself Sen.

CHIHIRO

I can't believe I forgot my name. She almost took it from me.

HAKU

If you completely forget it, you'll never find your way home. I've tried everything to remember mine.

CHIHIRO
You can't remember your name?

 HAKU
 (smiling)
No, but for some reason, I remember
yours.

He unravels the package and offers Chihiro a rice ball.

 HAKU (CONT'D)
Here you go, eat this, you must be
hungry.

Chihiro turns her head away, saddened.

 CHIHIRO
No.

 HAKU
I put a spell on it so it'll give
you back your strength. Just eat
it.

She takes the onigiri in her hands and takes a small bite.
She chews, realizes her hunger and takes massive chomps.

The rice sticks to her face and she sheds a deluge of tears.
She eats the rest of it as pools drop off her chin.

She puts her hand in her balled fists and WEEPS.

Haku puts his arm around her and extends the other onigiri.

 HAKU (CONT'D)
Have some more, you'll be all
right.

She grabs both and fills her mouth between the sobs.

EXT. BRIDGE

Chihiro, leading the way, opens the garden gate and steps
through.

 HAKU
I've got to go now, I'll be back to
help you soon. Just stay out of
trouble.

Chihiro turns to him, a smile on her face.

CHIHIRO

Thank you, Haku, you're a good friend.

Haku nods and Chihiro runs off, crosses the bridge. When she reaches the other side she turns around, looks to the sky and gasps.

A bright dragon with a long, white, snaking body is flying among the clouds. Chihiro stares in awe.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku. He's a dragon?

Haku flies out of sight and Chihiro runs toward the bathhouse.

The strange masked spirit reappears as he steps off the bridge, then disappears just as fast.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Kamaji snoring in his sleep. He wakes up, reaches to grab his tea pot, and takes a sip. He notices something--

KAMAJI

Huh?

-- Chihiro is lying asleep on the wood floor, curled up with her t-shirt and shorts as a makeshift pillow. The soot balls are congregated by her shoes.

Kamaji extends his lengthy arms to grab a blanket and cover the sleeping girl.

EXT. MARSHES

Dark grey rain clouds are crawling over the marshes, blocking the daylight. The cloaked Yubaba and her mini-me fly through the storm unaffected, returning to the bathhouse roof.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - DUSK

Darkness covers the town and the lanterns turn on.

EXT. BATHHOUSE - NIGHT

The bathhouse lights turn on.

INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS

Chihiro is handing comforters to Lin, who puts them back into the closets. Nearby women clean up and comb their hair.

LIN

Where were you, Sen, I was really worried.

CHIHIRO

I'm sorry.

INT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Women and frog-men ascend the staircases and travel the halls.

LIN AND CHIHIRO

follow and line of workers, grabbing tokens on a wall. Sen takes too long and a woman bumps into her from behind.

WOMAN

Out of my way.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM

Chihiro and four other girls run wet cloths across the wooden floor, Chihiro quickly falling behind the fast pack.

Chihiro falls down, but gets back up as the girls lap her.

LATER - CHIHIRO

struggles to squeeze the wet rag above a bucket.

LIN

Gee, Sen. Haven't you ever worked a day in your life?

Aniyaku approaches them, a notebook in hand.

ANIYAKU

Lin and Sen, you get the big tub today.

LIN

What? Hey, that's frog work.

ANIYAKU

Orders from the top, so quit your complaining!

EXT. GARDEN

Inside, Chihiro carries the bucket to the glass sliding doors, opens them and pours the water outside. Something outside catches her attention--

No-Face is standing in the rain, staring blankly at Chihiro, who bows.

CHIHIRO

Hello, aren't you getting wet out there?

No response.

LIN (O.S.)

Sen, hurry up!

CHIHIRO

Coming!

(turns back and smiles)

I'll leave the door open for you.

Chihiro picks up the bucket and walks off.

No-Face turns invisible as he approaches the door--

INT. BATHHOUSE

-- and reappears at the threshold. He steps inside, and fades away again as he walks deeper in.

LIN AND CHIHIRO

walking past cubicles, where servants are filling baths with water from wooden chutes from the ceiling. A WOMAN steps out of one to joke Lin--

WOMAN

Heard you got the big tub, Lin.

LIN

Leave me alone.

IN A MASSIVE BATH ROOM

A particularly large bath is covered in weeds, with a thick layer of brown grime. Lin and Chihiro are standing at the entrance, looking in.

LIN (CONT'D)
 Those jerks, they haven't cleaned
 this tub in months.

A few frog-men peak behind corners to watch. Lin walks forward and Chihiro trips, dropping her bucket and broom. The frog-men GIGGLE at her expense.

LATER

-Lin is sweeping the pile of weeds while Chihiro carries a bushel off.

-Inside the emptied tub, Chihiro and Lin use large rags and all their strength to scrub the filthy walls.

LIN (CONT'D)
 We only use this tub for our really
 filthy guests. Disgusting, this is
 so caked on, it'll take days to
 scrub off.

Aniyaku peaks his head in.

ANIYAKU
 Lin, Sen, you've got some customers
 on the way.

LIN
 Wait! Give us a minute, this is
 clearly harassment.

Lin angrily throws her rag on the ground and walks off.

LIN (CONT'D)
 We'll have to soak it off.

Lin lifts Chihiro out of the tall tub.

LIN (CONT'D)
 Get an herbal soak token from the
 foreman.

CHIHIRO
 A what?

Lin hoists Chihiro over the side of the tub and the young girl topple over, rolling down the slope and falling on her face. Lin pokes her head over the side--

LIN
 An herbal soak token.

Chihiro rubs her head and runs off--

CHIHIRO

All right.

-- but she runs back a moment later.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Hey, Lin, what's a foreman?

INT. YUBABA'S OFFICE

Yubaba is peering through a magnifier, inspecting an emerald, a pile of jewels and crystal ball laying on the desk below.

She looks up, sensing something.

YUBABA

Hmm, something's coming, I wonder what?

She stands up and rakes the jewels into a chest before running to the window and looking out.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

What useless scum is sleeking around in the rain?

EXT. GHOST TOWN

The bloblike spirits retreat to the shops, slam the doors, and turn off the lights.

Only the lanterns stay lit, leading the way for a sad, oozing MONSTER, a pile of black sludge which is making its way down the street.

INT. BATHHOUSE

Chihiro is standing by the FOREMAN, who is speaking from behind his elevated desk.

FOREMAN

I can't waste a token on you.

He smiles while he hands a red token to an approaching woman.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Relax, good morning.

He passes another to a woman escorting a tall orange monster.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Enjoy. Have a nice bath.

Chihiro hasn't moved. Another woman approaches.

WOMAN
For the Radish Spirit.

FOREMAN
One sulfur soak.

He hands her a token and turns to Chihiro.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Why are you still standing here?
Scrub it yourself. I'm not giving
you a token.

He smiles at a passing big-eared, pink monster.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Relax, good morning.
(to Chihiro)
I said scrub it yourself!

CHIHIRO
But I was told it has to have an
herbal soak.

FOREMAN
Well, that's too bad.

As he hands a token to another servant, No-Face appears at the foreman's side.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Mugworth bath, relax and enjoy it.

Chihiro stares at No-Face and bows. Foreman turns to see what she's looking at, but No-Face disappears.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Hmm?

The phone RINGS, and the foreman picks it up to answer--

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Foreman speaking-- oh, yes, what?

A bath token floats up and the foreman tries to grab it, but it flies into Chihiro's unsuspecting hands.

She smiles, bows, and runs off.

CHIHIRO
Thank you very much.

 FOREMAN
Get back here! Hey! Wait a minute.

 YUBABA (ON THE PHONE)
What's going on?

Foreman puts the phone back to his head--

 FOREMAN
Nothing, everything's fine.

INT. YUBABA'S OFFICE

Yubaba is holding a tiny skull under her hand.

 YUBABA
We have an intruder.

The skull's jaw chatters as the foreman responds.

 FOREMAN (ON THE PHONE)
Is it a human?

 YUBABA
I'm not quite sure. Figure it out
and report back.

INT. BIG BATH ROOM

Lin is looking at Chihiro's token, impressed.

 LIN
Wow, Sen, you got a really good
one.

Lin clips the token onto a cord coming from an open plank an
open door in the wall.

 LIN (CONT'D)
Clip this on, then let go.

Lin pulls the cord down and it springs up. She closes the
door.

 LIN (CONT'D)
It goes straight to Kamaji, then he
sends us our water.

A wooden plank on the beautifully painted wall rustles, then a chute suspends downward, above the tub.

Lin walks up the side of the tub and puts her hand on a rope hanging from the chute.

LIN (CONT'D)

You pull on this to start the water flowing, give it a try.

Chihiro walks up the side, grabs the rope, but before she can pull, she slips, yanking the rope down and summoning a stream.

The warm, greenish water begins filling the tub. Chihiro stands on her feet.

LIN (CONT'D)

Uh, you're such a klutz.

Chihiro looks at the filling tub.

CHIHIRO

Yuck! What's in this water?

LIN

Dried worm salt, it's supposed to be good for you. And with water this murky, you can't see all the sludge in the tub.

Lin walks down to the ground, turns back to Chihiro.

LIN (CONT'D)

Yank it again when the bath is full, it'll stop. You can let go of the rope now, I'll go get us some breakfast.

CHIHIRO

Okay.

Chihiro slowly releases the ropes, smiles at the job she's done. She turns around, sees No-Face lurking in the corner.

She loses her footing and tumbles down the side again, hitting her head. She sits up, holding it, moaning in pain.

No-Face approaches her, and she stands up.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Uh, sir, the bath's not ready yet.

No-Face extends his hands, offering a bounty of bath tokens to a surprised Chihiro.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

There's so many.

No-Face extends them forward more, urging Chihiro to take them.

NO-FACE

Uh... uh... uh...

CHIHIRO

What? And they're all for me?

NO-FACE

Uh, uh...

No-Face nods.

CHIHIRO

Thanks, but I don't need any more.

No-Face keeps holding them out.

NO-FACE

Uh...

CHIHIRO

No. I only need one.

No-Face's mask frowns and he vanishes, the tokens dropping to the floor. The bath overflows, carrying the tokens.

INT. BATHHOUSE

Yubaba rushes down the stairs, passes spectating servants, and stops at Chichiyaku's side.

CHICHIYAKU

Oh, Yubaba.

YUBABA

It's a stink spirit.

CHICHIYAKU

And apparently, it's an extra smelly one.

A groups of panicked servants rush up to them.

SERVANT

He's headed straight for the bridge.

EXT. BRIDGE

Servants run to the edge of the bridge and try to wave the incoming stink spirit away.

SERVANT

No no, we're closed, go away! No no, hey, we're not open! Go, please, go leave us. There's no one here.

The frog-men cover their noses with their sleeves. AOGAERU passes out from the smell and falls backwards.

INT. BATHHOUSE

Yubaba senses something, furrowing her brow--

YUBABA

Hmm. Something's fishy. That doesn't seem like a stink spirit to me.

She turns to the side.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

But we have no choice. Go greet him.

EXT. BRIDGE

The huge, unstoppable spirit slowly inches along, the bridge leaving a path of sludge which drips off the bridge.

YUBABA (V.O.)

Just give him a bath and get him out of here as fast as you can.

INT. BATHHOUSE - CUBICLES

A stir of rushing women, panicked frog-men, and fast-walking spirits. A SERVANT yells out--

SERVANT

Everybody go back to your rooms! I repeat, back to your rooms!

Chihiro peaks her head from the big bath room and Aniyaku approaches her.

ANIYAKU

Sen, Yubaba wants to see you.

CHIHIRO

Yes, sir.

BY THE ENTRANCE

Yubaba waves a stick in Chihiro's face while speaking.

YUBABA

Sen, don't mess this up. Take this guest to the big tub and take care of him.

CHIHIRO

Bu-- but I--

YUBABA

No buts, or I'll turn you into coal. You here me?

Panic strikes Chichiyaku's face, he and Aniyaku back up.

CHICHIYAKU

Ah, it's here.

Frog-men burst through the entrance, running away from the spirit, which slowly oozes toward the entrance.

Servants scream in PANIC, Yubaba winces from the smell and Chihiro covers her nose.

YUBABA

Hands down, you'll insult our guest.

The spirit pushes through the entrance curtains, soaking them in a brown film.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Look, a valued customer, welcome to our baths.

The spirit oozes as it walks, filling the entrance with a pool of sludge. It extends a balled fist to Yubaba, who is trying to stay polite despite the debilitating odor.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Oh, it's money. Sen, take the nice customer's money.

CHIHIRO

Yes, ma'am.

The spirit drops gold coins and a pool of sludge into Chihiro's hands. A disgusted shiver travels up her body.

YUBABA

Don't make him wait, get him to the bath.

Chihiro slowly tip toes along the floor, leading the spirit.

Onlooking servants covers their noses, fumbling as they run out of the path.

SERVANT

Get out of my way!

Lin walks out with two bowls of rice and groans in disgust at the smell.

She sees Chihiro and runs forward--

LIN

Sen!

But she can't join her, as the spirit is blocking the hall. She winces as the white rice shrivels into a black pile.

LIN (CONT'D)

Our food!

ON THE BALCONIES ABOVE

Yubaba runs through the halls, shouting to the frog-men--

YUBABA

Open your windows, all of them!

FROG-MAN

Quickly!

Yubaba looks down, to the big bath below. Chihiro leads the stink spirit, who crawls up the side and dives into the bath, sending waves of sludgy water in all directions, knocking Chihiro off her feet.

The spirit rises from the water and looks at its long, sludgy arms. It looks at Chihiro and breathes brown, smoggy breaths.

CHIHIRO

What? Just a minute, sir.

Chihiro looks at the bucket of tokens in her hands, and slowly walks through the thick, mucky pool.

Yubaba LAUGHS above.

YUBABA
Disgusting.

CHICHIYAKU
I don't think it's very funny.

YUBABA
Let's see what she'll do next.

Chihiro struggle to pull open the token door.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Look, she wants to refill the tub.

CHICHIYAKU
Oh, dear, she's gonna waste all our good water!

Chihiro manages to open the door, slamming it into her head in the process. She rifles through the bucket of tokens and pulls one.

She tries to clip it to the cord, but drops it down the shaft. She grabs another, clips it and sends it up.

Yubaba leans over the railing above, upset.

YUBABA
Who gave her all the bath tokens?

CHICHIYAKU
Don't look at me, I didn't do it.

The chute opens out, Chihiro wades through the muck, climbs up the side, barely pulls the rope before falling into the tub. A greenish-blue water flows out, filling the room.

Chichiyaku looks panicked, Yubaba is angry.

CHICHIYAKU (CONT'D)
Oh no, that's our best herbal formula!

UNDERWATER

Chihiro is head-first in the muck, waving her legs, unable to break free. The spirit extends his arm and pulls her out.

ABOVE WATER

Holding her in his palm, the spirit lifts Chihiro above water. She opens her eyes, looks around and reaches her arm into the flowing stream.

She feels around and rests her hand on a rod jutting from the spirit. She gasps and looks up.

LIN

weaving through the cubicles, which are partly submerged in the overflowing water.

LIN

Sen! Sen, where are you?

CHIHIRO

Over here!

LIN

Don't worry, stay right where you are. I'm coming to help you. You're gonna be fine, I won't let him hurt you.

CHIHIRO

I think he needs help, it feels like there's a thorn in his side.

LIN

A thorn?

Chihiro pulls--

CHIHIRO

It won't come out!

Yubaba, Chichiyaku and a crowd of servants and spirits are watching from above.

YUBABA

What's that, he has a thorn, hmm...
(turns to Chichiyaku)
Get the staff down there, step on it!

CHICHIYAKU

Right, right, right, get downstairs, help her, you!

Yubaba jumps down, descending several stories before suspending in mid-air by Lin and Chihiro.

YUBABA
Listen to me. That's no stink
spirit we have on our hands...

Yubaba claps her hands together and summons a rope from thin
air, which she throws to Chihiro.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
Grab onto this rope.

CHIHIRO
Right!

Chihiro catches the rope. She reaches into the stream, ties
the rope around the rod.

LIN
Mmm. Hold on tight.

CHIHIRO
Got it.

BY THE ENTRANCE

Yubaba is standing atop the cubicle wall as the workers rush
to grab the rope.

YUBABA
Hurry up, now.

CHICHIYAKU
Get in there!

YUBABA
Everyone get in there and help
them.

CHIHIRO

looks at from the stream.

CHIHIRO
We've got it tied on!

YUBABA

extends a folding fan in each hand and directs the workers--

YUBABA
Everyone, ready on my command.
And...

She pushes the fans to the side--

ALL

Heave!

The workers pull the rope in unison as they chant--

ALL (CONT'D)

And, heave! And, heave! And, heave!

At the front of the line, Chihiro falls back as the rope pulls a sludgy bicycle from the spirit, goop flying about.

CHIHIRO

A bicycle?

YUBABA

Thought so.

(to the workers)

Get ready, now!

They pull again--

ALL

Heave!

The bicycle breaks free, and Lin and the other workers run out of the way as it is followed by a sludgy garbage wave of refrigerators, iron beams, tires, and miscellaneous waste.

As the workers recoil, Chihiro pulls a fishing line from the spirit. It makes a POP as it is pulled out, followed by a squirt of water, and an alleviated BREATH from the spirit.

Chihiro screams as the water grabs her, sending a small gusting wave toward the workers. Lin holds the wall.

LIN

Sen, Sen, where are you?

CHIHIRO

floating in a comfortable bubble, staring curiously forward.

From the golden water, the mask-like face of a wrinkled, toothless old man emerges, his eyes squinted happily, his jaw hanging from small ropes. He speaks to Chihiro alone.

RIVER SPIRIT

Well done.

He fades away and the blob of water releases Chihiro, who groans in confusion and checks her hands, which are holding a gifted, chalky green ball.

She is standing on the edge of the tub, and the room is silent. Yubaba looks at the wood planks on the floor--

As the sediment settles, the clear water shows pieces of gold collecting in the plank ridges.

The workers GASP and rush to grab the small, shining pieces.

SERVANTS

Gold!

Chichiyaku struggles to hold them back.

CHICHIYAKU

Hey, wait, that's company property!
Stop!

YUBABA

Back off! Our guest is still here,
you idiots!

SUDDENLY the big tub bubbles, and something begins to form. Yubaba rushes to Chihiro.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Sen, you're in our guest's way,
step aside.

CHIHIRO

Yes, sir.

Chihiro bows to the spirit and descends the side of the tub. Yubaba shouts back--

YUBABA

Open the main gates! Make way!

The spirit, a long, light blue, translucent dragon with the mask as its face, emerges from the water and circles the bathhouse bridges, LAUGHING in delight.

The other spirits CHEER and bid the enormous spirit farewell as he flies out of the front doors and takes off into the night sky.

The Radish Spirit and other guests wave their hand fans excitedly and the servants CHEER.

Yubaba rushes to Chihiro and hugs her.

CHIHIRO

Sen, you did great, we made so much
money! That spirit is rich and
powerful--

(MORE)

CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)

(turning to the rest)
everyone learn from Sen. Sake's on
the house tonight.

(clapping from servants)
But first, hand over all the gold
you picked up.

The crowd COMPLAINS. Chihiro smiles to herself.

SERVANTS

That's not fair!

WOMAN

How stingy, that's no fair!

No-Face reappears at the back of the crowd, then vanishes.

EXT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - BALCONY

Chihiro is hanging her legs over the side, looking out. Lin joins her, a plate of dumplings in her hand, and shares one.

LIN

Here. I swiped a dumpling for you.

CHIIHIRO

Thank you.

LIN

What a day. Mmm.

Chihiro leans over the balcony edge and takes a bite. Lin lays on her side and eats, relieved.

CHIIHIRO

Lin, have you seen Haku?

LIN

Not Haku again. He just disappears
sometimes. Rumor has it he runs
around doing Yubaba's dirty work.

CHIIHIRO

Does he really?

WOMAN (O.S.)

Lights out, Lin!

LIN

Fine.

The lights shut off, but the moonlight brightens, bouncing off the calm waters which have covered the fields.

The train steams ahead through the shallow sea.

CHIHIRO

There's so much water, it looks like a sea.

LIN

What'd you expect after all that rain? I've gotta get out of this place. Someday, I'm getting on that train.

Chihiro looks at the green ball in her hand, a glow in her eyes. She takes another bite of the dumpling and looks up at the moon.

CHIHIRO

Mmm...

She sniffs the ball, confused by the smell. She takes a small bite and winces, disgusted. She GROANS and balls her toes.

LIN

What's wrong?

Chihiro takes several bites of the dumpling to negate it.

INT. HALLWAY

In a dark hallway, Aogaeru checks the area before sneaking along.

INT. BIG BATH ROOM

Aogaeru turns on a small light, enters, and hunches down to search the cracks. He uses a pen to scrape between and dislodge a small piece--

He inspects it, but throws it to the side, displeased.

SUDDENLY a piece of gold drops from above, into view. Aogaeru leaps forward to grab it.

AOGAERU

Huh? Ahh! It's gold!

He looks up--

AOGAERU (CONT'D)

Huh?

--where No-Face is standing in the bathtub, looking down.

AOGAERU (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?
You're not allowed in there. The
bath's closed. Get out, you! Get
out of there!

No-Face puts his hand out and creates gold pieces, which drop
to the floor and Aogaeru quickly grabs.

 AOGAERU (CONT'D)

Oh! More gold! Are you, are you--
are you giving them to me?

No-Face forms more gold and signals Aogaeru to approach.

 AOGAERU (CONT'D)

Wait, you can make gold?

 NO-FACE

Ahh... uh...

Aogaeru stares, transfixed, and climbs up the tub.

 AOGAERU

Gimme!

When Aogaeru reaches him and grabs for the gold, No-Face's
hand squeezes the frog and throws him in the open mouth
beneath his mask.

ANIYAKU

walking through the cubicles, angry.

 ANIYAKU

What's going on in there? It's way
past bedtime. Come on!

Aniyaku looks around, and gold drops to the ground.

 ANIYAKU (CONT'D)

Wh...

Aniyaku looks to the top of the cubicle wall, where a bloated
No-Face is crouched, holding a handful of gold, using
Aogauru's muffled VOICE to speak.

 NO-FACE

Hey, boss, up here, I'm hungry,
starving! And I want you to serve
me.

ANIYAKU
 (terrified)
 I know that voice.

NO-FACE
 Here, I'll pay you up front. And I
 wanna take a bath, too. Why don't
 you wake everyone up?

INT. GARDEN - DAY

We're rushing through the dizzying array of flowers.

INT. PIG PAVILION

Chihiro rushes in and up to the fence, holding out the chalky green ball.

CHIHIRO
 Mom, Dad, I got a gift from the
 River Spirit! Maybe if you eat it,
 it'll break the spell.

All the pigs look up and approach Chihiro for the treat.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Which ones are you?

The slobbering pigs SQUEAL for Chihiro's attention.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Mom! Dad!

INT. WOMEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Chihiro awakens, gasping, looking around. She lays back down, sighing.

CHIHIRO
 Bad dream. Lin?

Chihiro turns to her side, but finds Lin is not there. She looks around the room, but the women have abandoned the mess of blankets and clothes.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Where is everybody?

She puts her hair up--

EXT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - BALCONY

-- and exits, dressed in her work kimono. She looks out at the sparkling sea.

CHIHIRO

Wow. It really is a sea.

She look at the pigpens on the neighboring cliff.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

There's Mom and Dad's pigpen. I sure hope they're doing all right over there.

She looks up at to a pipe chimney, spewing black gas into the bright blue sky.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Kamaji lit the boiler already? How long was I asleep?

INT. BATHHOUSE

Women and frog-men race up and down the stairs in a panic.

FROG-MAN

Hurry up!

INT. KITCHEN

A room full of cooks hastily prepare huge bowls of fish, wings, dumplings, ribs, Aniyaku overlooking the process.

ANIYAKU

Come on, he's starving, can't you cook any faster?

INT. HALLWAY

Chichiyaku directs the flow of servants carrying big bowls of rice. A team of frog-men carries an enormous fish.

CHICHIYAKU

Serve everything you've got, even leftovers if you have to. Hurry up! He's starving!

INT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Chihiro steps into the main hall. Lin walks up the stairs to meet her.

LIN
Hey, Sen.

CHIHIRO
Oh, Lin.

LIN
I was just coming to wake you up,
look.

Lin holds up a gold nugget for Chihiro to see.

LIN (CONT'D)
It's real gold, there's a new guest
here who's loaded. He's giving gold
away by the handfuls.

INT. BIG BATH ROOM

No-Face chomps down a bowl of leftovers and throws it to the side before inhaling a tray of rice and sides, spitting out the bowl, and devouring a large fish.

The servants are crowded around, holding heaps of food for him. He is a black blob now, submerged in the running bath.

NO-FACE
Just keep the food coming, I wanna
eat everything!

He throws handfuls of gold to the crowd.

INT. SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Chihiro is thinking--

CHIHIRO
Hmm. Who is the guest?

LIN
Oh, who cares? Come on, before
Yubaba wakes up.

Lin walks off, but Chihiro stays put.

CHIHIRO
I'm going to go look for Haku.

LIN

Oh, would you quit worrying about Haku? Come on, Sen. Let's go get some gold.

Two GIRLS walk by and grab Lin.

GIRL

Come on, Lin! Let's go get some more!

LIN

You bet!

Another TEEN GIRL chases after.

TEEN GIRL

Hey, wait for me!

Chihiro stares, uninterested, and walks off.

EXT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - BALCONY

Chihiro walks to the edge and looks at the pig pen.

CHIHIRO

Where is Haku? He better get here before I forget what my parents look like. I sure hope Dad hasn't gotten too fat.

She leans her chin on the rail and sighs.

FAR BELOW, the water beats lightly against the cement base of the bathhouse. Groups of fish swim slowly over the submerged tracks.

SUDDENLY, Dragon Haku, surrounded by a swarm of white creatures, flies by.

CHIHIRO

hears this, opens her eyes and looks up.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Hmm?

She gasps when she sees--

Haku's bloodied, snake-like body writhing in the air, unable to shake the white swarm. He loses energy and falls into the water below, the white creatures staying above surface.

CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 It's Haku! He's back!

Haku swims through the water, still pursued by the swarm.

THE SHIKIGAMI

are small, possessed, humanoid paper cut-outs, flying extremely fast--

 CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Are birds chasing him?

Haku emerges from the water and flies up the side of the bathhouse, in front of Chihiro, who jumps back.

Haku continues to struggle against the Shikigami.

 CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Haku, fight 'em, come on!

Haku, short of energy, falls down before catching himself.

 CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 He's hurt! Haku, this way!

Haku flies toward Chihiro, who SCREAMS and moves out of the way for the dragon to fly through the doors.

Chihiro slams the doors as the Shikigami chase after, and many batter into the doors, but some hit Chihiro, and fall to the ground. She SCREAMS, then looks down, relieved.

 CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Huh? It's just paper.

The paper spirits fly up and out the doors. The stream of Shikigami travel calmly out to sea.

Dragon Haku tries to drag his bloody body up, but struggles.

 CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Haku, you're bleeding. Hold still,
 those paper things are gone now.
 You're going to be all right.

Haku suddenly lunges forward and flies out of the doors, spraying blood across the walls and dripping down the rails.

Chihiro looks up and sees Haku batter a wall, before rounding the side of the bathhouse.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

He went in that top window. I've
got to get there before he bleeds
to death!

A one-armed Shikigami stands on its pointed leg and follows
Chihiro through the hall, clinging onto her back.

INT. BATHHOUSE - HALL

Servants holding boxes, lining a pathway, down which Aniyaku
dances with folding fans, chanting--

ANIYAKU

*Welcome the rich man,
He's hard for you to miss.
His butt keeps getting bigger,
So there's plenty there to kiss.
Haha!*

Aniyaku turns around to welcome the terribly obese, bloated
No-Face, slowly ascending the stairs.

ANIYAKU (CONT'D)

Oh, everybody, bow down.

WOMEN

(bowing)
Welcome, rich man.

ANIYAKU

*Beg for tips, this is the time.
Beg for tips, make yourselves a
dime.*

The servants raise their boxes, begging for gold.

CHIHIRO rushes through the crowd, pushing between the
oblivious workers.

SERVANT

Give me some gold, give me some
tips! I'll do anything for you,
just give me some tips!

Chihiro runs for the elevator, but a FROG-MAN stops her.

FROG-MAN

Hey, what are you doing?

CHIHIRO

Going upstairs.

FROG-MAN
No, you're not.

He notices Chihiro's bloody hand.

FROG-MAN (CONT'D)
Huh, ah blood!

He lets go of Chihiro to look at the blood on his hand and she runs off, stopping in front of No-Face and Aniyaku.

ANIYAKU
Get out of the way, our guest is coming through here!

Chihiro bows to No-Face.

CHIHIRO
Thank you for helping me earlier.

ANIYAKU
Don't talk to him, you stinking hum-

No-Face picks up Aniyaku and throws him to the side, onto unsuspecting servants.

ANIYAKU (CONT'D)
Whoa, hey!

All are quiet as the massive No-Face crouches down to Chihiro and offers her a stupendous pile of gold from his hands.

Chihiro shakes her head.

CHIHIRO
I don't want any, but thanks.

This saddens No-Face, whose masks frowns and hands shake.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but I'm in a really big hurry.

No-Face drops the gold to the ground and the servants rush to it. He looks up, sad.

Chihiro runs into a hallway.

Aniyaku whacks some servants with his fan, trying to restore order.

ANIYAKU
Hey, there, hey, get back, get back now! Everybody, out!

The servants disperse, leaving Aniyaku to wait on No-Face.

ANIYAKU (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm terribly sorry, sir. You'll
have to excuse the little girl,
she's just a human.

No-Face leans down to Aniyaku.

NO-FACE

Wipe that smile off your face.

ANIYAKU

What?

No-Face opens his mouth--

NO-FACE

You're still smiling.

ANIYAKU

No, I'm not.

No-Face picks up Aniyaku and a nearby woman and throws them into his mouth, swallowing them.

The servants runs away in fear and No-Face crawls around on all fours.

EXT. BATHHOUSE

Chihiro opens a high window, crawls out, jump down to a jutting roof top, but slips on the shingles and falls down.

She crawls up the side of the roof, uses the side of the building to hold herself up. She looks at her next obstacle-- a long, rusty pipe running along the building, to a ladder.

Chihiro looks, afraid, as bird fly below. She kicks the fear and looks resolute now.

She sees that her palm is scraped up, but balls her fist and continues, grabbing her hanging apron fabric, wrapping it around her shoulder, and pulling up her pants.

With little hesitation, she runs onto the pipe, which crushes and snaps off the wall, falling off the side of the building as she leaps onto the ladder, hugging it.

She begins climbing up the ladder, clouds passing below.

She stops for a break, and the Shikigami hops up to her hair. Chihiro looks behind her, hearing something, but instead finding the cloaked Yubaba flying through the clouds.

CHIHIRO
It's Yubaba!

Chihiro quickly continues climbing.

EXT. BATHHOUSE ROOFTOP

The bird-woman, wearing purple sunglasses and toting an orange coin bag, lands on the balcony, greeted by Mini-bird and the Kashira.

CHIHIRO

is crouched, standing on the ledge of a small, closed window. She pounds on the window, to no avail.

The Shikigami slips through the small crack, unlocks the window just as Chihiro readies pushing her hips forward, and smashes her back into the window, opening it--

INT. YUBABA'S BATHROOM

--and falling onto the checkered tile floor of the luxurious bathroom. She stands up and the Shikigami clings to her back.

INT. HALLWAY

Chihiro runs through the lavish hallway, finds a fork in the path, and turns left.

INT. BOH'S NURSERY

Chihiro wanders into a large room, floor and walls covered in green cushions with decorated pillows, unopened presents and toys scattered all around.

YUBABA (O.S.)
We're in a big mess. I found out who our rich customer is. He's a No-Face! It's all your fault. You're so greedy. You attract terrible guests-- all right, I'm on my way.

Chihiro walks back to the door, peaks into Yubaba's office, where the witch is speaking to the skull.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
 Don't let him eat anyone else till
 I get down there.

Yubaba turns to the side and GROANS.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
 Haku is bleeding all over the
 carpet. Get him out of here. He'll
 be dead soon anyway.

The Shikigami looks over Chihiro's shoulder. Yubaba looks toward the nursery and approaches.

Chihiro gasps, and runs back in, looking around and panicking before jumping into a large pile of pillows.

Yubaba pushes through the curtains, sees the giant pile, and starts pulling away pillows, finding a giant baby's head beneath. This is BOH.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
 Hi, sweetie, hiding under the
 cushions again?

Boh begins WEEPING, startled by the light.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
 Oh, I woke you, and you were sound
 asleep. I'm sorry, let me give you
 a kiss.

Yubaba leans into the pillows and give Boh a big kiss.

YUBABA (CONT'D)
 Go back to sleep now.

Yubaba puts the pillows back, cleans up some toys, flips a light switch and an installation on the ceiling turns from sunny day to moonlit light.

Yubaba leaves and Chihiro begins to crawl out, but Boh's hand grabs her wrist. She GASPS as he pulls her in.

INSIDE THE PILLOWS

Boh pulls Chihiro toward him.

CHIHIRO
 Ow! Let go of me!

She gets a better look of the huge baby, with a head half as big as Chihiro's body.

CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)

Wow, you're a big baby. Would you mind letting go of me? I'm in a really big hurry.

BOH

You came in here to make me sick.

CHIIHIRO

Huh?

BOH

You're a bad germ from outside, aren't you?

CHIIHIRO

I'm not a germ, I'm a human. Now, would you please let go of me?

BOH

You'll get sick if you go outside. So stay here and play with me.

CHIIHIRO

You won't get sick.

BOH

Yes, you will. That's why I've never left this room.

CHIIHIRO

Staying in this room is what'll make you sick. Listen, someone very important to me is terribly hurt. I've got to go right now, so please let go of me.

BOH

If you go, I'll cry, and Mama will hear me, and Mama will come in here and kill you.

Boh squeezes her arm with both meaty hands.

BOH (CONT'D)

Play with me, or I'll break your arm.

CHIIHIRO

That hurts! Please, I'll play with you later, okay?

BOH

No, I wanna play now!

Wincing, desperate, Chihiro shows Boh her dirty, scraped palm.

CHIHIRO
Germs! I've got germs, see?

Boh lets go and begins a panicked uproar, CRYING profusely. Chihiro crawls out of the crumbling pillow mountain, Boh kicking his enormous leg out.

INT. YUBABA'S OFFICE

Chihiro bursts in through the doors, finding the Kashira pushing Haku toward an open chute in the floor. She races toward them.

CHIHIRO
Haku! What are you doing? Get away!
Get back!

The Kashira hop out of the way and Chihiro kneels down to a beaten, bloody Dragon Haku.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Haku, are you okay? Can you hear me?

The Kashira bounce and GRUNT by Chihiro and Haku's head.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Shut your mouth!
(back to Haku)
Haku!

Mini-bird Yubaba SCREECHES as it flies by, then circles back, bearing its talon as it flies around Chihiro's head, distracting her as the Kashira nudge Haku toward the edge.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Get back!
(to Kashira)
Stop it!

She holds Haku's head as Mini-bird SCREECHES at her face.

BOH

pushing through the doorway, ripping down the curtains.

This captures the Kashira and Mini-bird's attention. Boh, wearing nothing but a red apron, slowly stumbles toward the group. He stops in front of them, angry, tears in his eyes.

BOH
I'm not afraid of germs. If you
don't play with me, I'll cry.

CHIHIRO
Please don't cry. Just wait.

BOH
Right now, or I'll start crying.

Boh begins shedding a waterfall and SOBBING.

CHIHIRO
Don't cry! Don't cry!

The Shikigami floats off Chihiro's back and in a voice much
like Yubaba's--

SHIKIGAMI
What a spoiled brat!

It flies to Boh's head. Boh stops crying, curious.

SHIKIGAMI (CONT'D)
Shut your big mouth! You're a bit
of a porker, aren't you?

The Shikigami rests on the ground and a translucent woman
appears in its place-- she looks nearly identical to Yubaba--
the same blue dress, wrinkled skin, and massive nose.

ZENIBA looks down at her translucent body.

ZENIBA
Hmm, still see-through.

BOH
Mama?

ZENIBA
You pea-brain. Can't you even tell
me from your own mother?

Zeniba taps her finger, casting a white glow towards Boh, and
the big baby transforms into a tiny, plump mouse.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)
There, now your body matches your
brain.

Zeniba turns to the group.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

Let's see, what else can we mess with?

The Kashira hop off and Mini-bird tries to fly away, but Zeniba waves her sparkling finger and turns Mini-bird into a small, buzzing, yellow-beaked Crow-Fly, which drops to floor aside Boh-Mouse.

The Kashira are stacked on top of each other and transform into an imitation of Boh. Zeniba laughs and turns to Chihiro.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

This is our little secret. You tell anyone else, and I'll rip your mouth out.

Chihiro stares angrily at the woman.

CHIHIRO

Who are you?

Zeniba approaches.

ZENIBA

Zeniba, I'm Yubaba's twin sister. It was nice of you to lead me straight to this dragon's hiding place. Now, hand him over to me.

CHIHIRO

What do you want with Haku? He's badly hurt.

ZENIBA

Too bad. He stole my solid gold seal. It's magic and powerful, and I want it back!

CHIHIRO

Haku wouldn't steal. He's a good person.

ZENIBA

Ha, do you know why he become my sister's apprentice? To steal her magic secrets, and now he's stolen my magic, too. He's a greedy little thief. There's nothing good about him.

Zeniba points her red nails in Chihiro's face.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

Step aside, little girl. I'm going to take my seal back from him. There's a spell on the seal, and anyone who steals it will die.

Zeniba reaches forward and Chihiro shakes her head furiously.

CHIHIRO

No, you can't!

A loud CRASHING-- The Kashira Boh crawls forward, smacking its hands as it chases Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly.

ZENIBA

You idiots! What's your problem? Keep quiet, I don't want my sister coming up here.

Zeniba walks to Kashira Boh while Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly crawl up Chihiro's kimono and perch on her shoulder.

Haku writhes and GROWLS, snapping the Shikigami with his tail, which cuts Zeniba's projection in half.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

Ow. A paper cut.

She slides apart and disappears.

Haku falls into the chute, pulling Chihiro down.

CHIHIRO

Haku, we're falling!

DOWN THE CHUTE

Haku falling, Chihiro hanging on. The featherweight Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly begin to float up and away, but Chihiro grabs them and holds tight as they fall through a deep, extensive chamber.

Chihiro checks on Haku, whose eyes are closed.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku!

FLASHBACK:

Chihiro underwater, holding on as Dragon Haku pulls her.

A BLACK SCREEN

From the black, glowing eyes appear, the rising bodies of dark spirits. Haku's eyes, dazed and white, open and he flies up just before slamming the ground.

He heads into a small brick chamber in the side of the chute.

INT. VENT

Haku flying through, sometimes grazing the narrow walls, moving lightning fast. At the end of the corridor, a ventilation fan. He heads straight for it--

INT. BOILER ROOM

--and bursts into the boiler room, breaking the vent, Chihiro flying into Kamaji's quick, open arms. Haku smashes into the drawer walls, the fan and debris fly across the room.

Crow-Fly carries Boh-Mouse safely downward. Chihiro crawls off of Kamaji, toward Haku, who's writhing to stay up.

KAMAJI

What's going on here?

CHIHIRO

Haku!

KAMAJI

Sen, be careful! Stay back!

CHIHIRO

Haku, are you okay?

Haku collapses.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku!

Haku tries to rise, blood pooling from his mouth.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you?

Chihiro reaches for Haku's face, but he GROWLS, immediately recoiling in pain, losing more blood.

Kamaji crawls down from his work station.

KAMAJI

This looks serious.

Haku falls again.

CHIHIRO
 Haku, don't give up!
 (to Kamaji)
 What do we do? Is he dying?

KAMAJI
 It looks like he's bleeding from
 the inside.

CHIHIRO
 From the inside?

KAMAJI
 I think so, maybe he swallowed
 something.

Chihiro pulls the chalky green ball.

CHIHIRO
 Haku, I got this gift from the
 River Spirit. Eat it. Maybe it'll
 help.

The soot balls watch from the holes as Chihiro pulls the
 dragon's flew up, finding closed teeth.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Come on! Open your mouth! Please,
 Haku! Eat it!

Chihiro bites off half, shows it to him.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 See? It's okay.

Kamaji looks closer, curious.

KAMAJI
 Medicine from the River Spirit.

Using both hands, Chihiro manages to inch Haku's mouth open.

CHIHIRO
 Open your mouth. That's it.

She reaches her arm in, places the medicine, retreat her arm
 from the closing cave of fangs and holds his head down.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 Now swallow.

Chihiro struggles to hold his head as he winces from the bitter medicine, lashing his tail, knocking drawers of herbs out and nearly hitting the soot sprites. Kamaji retreats to his station.

A lump travels up Haku's body and he pukes up a black sludge ball, which bounces across the room, sticking to the floor. Kamaji points to it.

KAMAJI

Sen, look there!

The sludge ball releases black gas as it melts down to the floor, leaving a small black slug sitting atop a solid gold seal with a frog design.

The slug looks around, a guilty look on its face, and scurries off.

CHIHIRO

The gold seal!

Chihiro rushes to grab the seal, but Kamaji points at the escaping slug.

KAMAJI

Get that black slug! Over there!
Get it, get it, get it!

Chihiro chases it with her feet, but the fast slug eludes her. It tries to escape to the soot holes, but the soot sprites build a wall and scare it off.

Chihiro stomps her feet repetitively, finally squashing the slug. She looks at the spattered black sludge, shocked.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

You killed it, those things are bad luck.

Kamaji chops one of his arms through the air.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

Hurry, before it rubs off on you!

Chihiro turns, on one leg, toward Kamaji.

CHIHIRO

Put your thumb and forefingers together.

She form a square with her two hands, and Kamaji reaches an arm to her, and chops the hands apart--

KAMAJI
Evil, be gone!

Chihiro is holding the seal in her hand.

CHIHIRO
Haku stole this seal from Yubaba's
sister.

KAMAJI
Zeniba's solid gold monogrammed
seal. That's as powerful as it
gets.

Chihiro runs to Haku, who shrinks from dragon to his usual
demi-human self.

CHIHIRO
Look! He's changed back.

Kamaji and the soot balls join her.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Help me. What do we do?

Chihiro flips Haku onto his back.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Haku, Haku, wake up!

Haku GROANS, eyes still closed.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Zeniba put a curse on the seal.

KAMAJI
That's strong magic, it's made him
gravely ill.

LATER

Kamaji is feeding Haku a bowl of soup. Chihiro rests his head
on a pillow, atop a blanket with a bowl and rag on standby.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)
That should make him more
comfortable.
(turns to Chihiro)
Poor Haku. He's had it hard ever
since he got here. He just showed
up out of nowhere, just like you
did.

The soot balls gather around the black footprint where the slug squashed.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)

But he got mixed up with Yubaba. He took a job as her apprentice.

Boh-Mouse looks up to Crow-Fly, who's resting on his head, and points to the soot ball crowd. Crow-Fly BUZZES and flies, Boh-Mouse in its talons, to the scene.

KAMAJI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I warned him it was too dangerous. "Just quit, go back home!", I told him. But he said for some reason he had no home to return to.

Boh-Mouse steps on the footprint and shiver travel up his body. He connects his forefingers, a soot ball chops them apart, and the soot balls celebrate the broken curse.

KAMAJI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Once Yubaba got control over him, his face turned pale and his eyes turned steely. He's never been the same.

CHIHIRO

Kamaji, what if I take the gold seal back to Zeniba? I could give back the seal and apologize to her for Haku. Can you tell me where Zeniba lives.

Kamaji scratches his head, surprised.

KAMAJI

You'd go to Zeniba's? It might help, but she's one dangerous witch.

CHIHIRO

Please? Haku helped me before, now I wanna help him.

KAMAJI

Hmm. I know how you can get there, but you'll have to get back on your own. Wait here.

Kamaji crawls to a wooden cabinet and searches through the hectic drawers.

KAMAJI (CONT'D)
 Let's see now, I know it's around
 here somewhere.

Chihiro approaches the soot balls and unties her kimono as he searches.

CHIHIRO
 Everyone, I need my shoes and
 clothes, please.

The soot balls, Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly disperse.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
 I guess my parents will have to
 wait.

The small door opens and Lin crawls through.

LIN
 Sen, I've looked everywhere for
 you.

She shuts the door, walks in, looking at the bloody scene.

CHIHIRO
 Lin!

LIN
 There's blood everywhere.

Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly fly onto Chihiro's shoulder.

LIN (CONT'D)
 What's going on here, who are those
 guys?

CHIHIRO
 I picked up some new friends, see?

The soot balls carry the shoes and clothes from the holes.

LIN
 Everyone's looking for you, Yubaba
 is furious.

CHIHIRO
 Huh?

LIN
 The guy with all the gold turned
 out to be a monster called No-Face.
 And he says that you let him into
 the bathhouse.

Chihiro thinks, and realizes--

 CHIHIRO
I did let him in.

 LIN
Are you serious?

 CHIHIRO
Yeah, I thought he was a customer.

 LIN
What? He's a monster, he's already
swallowed three people.

KAMAJI

pulls a piece of paper from the drawers, ecstatic.

 KAMAJI
Found it! Here it is, Sen.

He rushes to Chihiro.

 LIN
Hey, we're busy, boiler man.

 KAMAJI
(ignoring her, to Chihiro)
You can use this.

Kamaji holds up four tickets, and hands them to Chihiro.

 LIN
You've got train tickets. Uh, how
did you get a hold of them?

 KAMAJI
I've been saving them for 40 years.
Now, listen carefully. The train
stop you want is called Swamp
Bottom.

 CHIHIRO
Swamp Bottom?

 KAMAJI
That's where Zeniba lives. The
sixth stop.

 CHIHIRO
Sixth stop.

KAMAJI

Make sure you get it right. The train used to run in both directions, but these days, it's a one-way ride. You still wanna go?

Chihiro nods.

CHIHIRO

Yep, I'll walk back along the tracks.

Chihiro walks to Haku.

LIN

Sen, what about No-Face?

CHIHIRO

I'll take care of that now.

Chihiro kneels by Haku's side.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku, I'll be back soon, just hold on.

Lin turns to Kamaji.

LIN

What's going on?

KAMAJI

Something you wouldn't recognize... it's called love.

EXT. BATHHOUSE

In the glass hallways, servants run around in panic.

INT. HALLWAY

Three WOMEN round the corner, stop to speak to a friend in a green kimono--

WOMAN

It just keeps getting bigger!

--before running off. The girl turns to her FRIEND.

GREEN KIMONO

I'm scared.

RED KIMONO

I don't wanna be eaten by it.

Another woman looks back contemptuously, spotting someone.

BLUE KIMONO

It's her.

It's Chihiro, walking calmly through the hall. Chichiyaku runs to her.

CHICHIYAKU

Oh, Sen, thank goodness. Yubaba can't hold him off much longer.

The room RUMBLES. Chihiro looks at nearby closed door, illustrated with a red demon. From inside:

YUBABA (O.S.)

There's no need to get upset. I'm sure they'll find Sen somewhere.

Another RUMBLE.

NO-FACE

Where is Sen? I want Sen!

Chichiyaku pushes Chihiro, ushering her to the door.

CHICHIYAKU

Hurry! This way!

He leans against the door and yells in.

CHICHIYAKU (CONT'D)

Madam, Sen is here now.

Yubaba opens the doors and immediately pops out.

YUBABA

Finally!

(turning back, softly)

Sen has arrived, sir. She'll be with you in just a few minutes.

She slams the door behind, GRUNTS, and puts her nose against Chihiro's face.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

He's destroying everything, it's costing us a fortune. So suck up to him and get every last speck of gold he's...

Crow-Fly carries Boh-Mouse toward Yubaba.

BOH-MOUSE

Choo!

Yubaba stops, disgusted by Boh-Mouse.

YUBABA

Eww, what's that dirty mouse doing here?

Crow-Fly rests the saddened Boh-Mouse on Chihiro's shoulder.

CHIHIRO

Huh? He's your... He doesn't look familiar?

YUBABA

Familiar? Don't be stupid. Now, get in there.

Yubaba opens the doors and pushes Chihiro in.

INT. HALL

Chihiro falls and Yubaba pokes her smiling face in--

YUBABA

Here's Sen.

-- before shutting the doors.

OUTSIDE THE DOOR

Yubaba listens, approached by Chichiyaku.

CHICHIYAKU

Will Sen be all right in there by herself?

YUBABA

You wanna take her place?

Chichiyaku shuts up, afraid.

CHICHIYAKU

Huh?

YUBABA

Hmpf!

Yubaba walks off.

INT. HALL

Painted dragons cover the walls of large room. There are messy piles of fish carcasses, meal grease, bowls and plates scattered everywhere.

Chihiro is kneeling in front of No-Face, who is gargantuan now, his black, lumpy body stretching, his mouth drooling.

He crawls on all fours toward Chihiro, holding a bowl of dumplings.

NO-FACE

Try this. It's delicious.

No-Face drops the bowl and moves closer, his belly RUMBLING.

NO-FACE (CONT'D)

What some gold? I'm not giving it to anybody else.

Chihiro is still, and silent.

NO-FACE (CONT'D)

Come closer, Sen, what would you like? Just name it.

CHIHIRO

I would like to leave, sir. I have someplace I need to go to right away, please.

No-Face recoils, offended and gorged.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

You should go back to where you came from. Yubaba doesn't want you in the bathhouse any longer.

No-Face shivers, backing up.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Where is your home, don't you have any friends or family?

No-Face retreats his mask into his blob-like body, his voice muffling.

NO-FACE

No. No! I'm lonely, I'm lonely.

He crawls toward Chihiro, who runs back to the wall.

CHIHIRO

What is it that you want?

His mask pops out from his body.

NO-FACE

I want Sen, I want Sen!

He summons gold.

NO-FACE (CONT'D)

Take the gold. Take it!

Chihiro backs up.

CHIHIRO

Are you going to eat me?

NO-FACE

Take it!

His hand wraps around her head, but before it can squeeze, Boh-Mouse bites down on him.

The small mouse does little, and No-Face pulls his hand back to his mask to look. He tries to swat them, but Crow-Fly flies off in time, and returns to Chihiro, who pulls out the other half of the green medicine.

CHIHIRO

If you want to eat me, eat this first.

She holds it out and approaches No-Face.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

I was saving this for my parents, but I think you'd better have it.

She tosses it into his large, open mouth, which he closes, and he GROANS in disgust.

He waves his large tongue and black goo seeps from his mouth. He circles around and pukes a pile of the gunk.

He faces Chihiro, who backs away.

NO-FACE

Sen, what did you do to me?

He throws up more, then chases her.

INT. HALLWAY

Chihiro opens the door and runs out. No-Face knocks two doors onto Chichiyaku and other unsuspecting servants, then chases.

CHIHIRO

rounds a corner and runs past women and frog-men, followed closely by No-Face, who bears his chomping mouth wide open.

Chihiro reaches the end of the hallway, where Yubaba appears and stands firm in place.

YUBABA

Enough, I don't care if he's rich!
This nonsense has gotta stop!

She summons a glowing ball in her palms and shoots it at No-Face, pelting his mask. The monster can't help but release a puke stream forward, covering the unwitting Yubaba.

He runs past her, slams into the rail, nearly pukes over the edge before hearing--

CHIHIRO (O.S.)

No-Face!

Chihiro is on a lower-level balcony, signalling No-Face to follow her.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Over here!

She runs off and No-Face crawls down the wall in pursuit.

CHIHIRO

running down a staircase, servants moving out of the way.

SERVANT

Run for your life!

Crow-Fly and Boh-Mouse fly closely behind as Chihiro crosses a landing and descends another flight.

No-Face reaches for her, but misses, losing much of his black, gooey mass as he bumps into wall and rails.

CHIHIRO

reaches the bottom, turns the corner, and starts down another staircase. No-Face slips on the turn, losing another goopile.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRCASE

Chihiro waits for the monster. As an elevator of servants stops, the momentous No-Face slams into it, knocking down the servants, who run away.

No-Face slowly stands up, squashed into a ball at the base. He leans against the elevator, and pukes up the woman and Aniyaku.

ANIYAKU

Now, that's an esophagus!

No-Face breathes heavily, winded.

NO-FACE

I'll get you for this, Sen!

INT. KITCHEN

The cooks duck behind the counters as Chihiro waits for the lethargic, skinny, No-Face to catch up.

A cook tries to look up, but another cook yells at them--

COOK

Duck!

INT. HALLWAY

Chihiro leads No-Face through the dim hallway. He leans against a wall and pukes again.

NO-FACE

Excuse me.

EXT. BATHHOUSE

Lin is waiting in a large bucket-like tarai-bune boat, floating on the water.

LIN

Sen, this way!

Chihiro is running down a cement staircase, waving excitedly. She jumps into the bucket, Crow-Fly and Boh-Mouse flying close behind.

Lin turns the handle to steer them away.

NO-FACE

skinny and calm now, walks along a pipe jutting from the bathhouse.

Chihiro turns to him as she takes off her pink kimono, wearing her lime striped t-shirt beneath.

 CHIHIRO
Hey, over here!

 LIN
Sen, don't call him over!

No-Face looks down from the steaming pipe.

 CHIHIRO
I think being in the bathhouse makes him crazy. He needs to get out of there.

 LIN
Yeah? And go where?

 CHIHIRO
I don't know.

No-Face jumps into the water.

 LIN
You don't know? Great, now he's following us.

No-Face travels along the tracks, underwater, his mask leading his small, translucent body.

 CHIHIRO
He won't hurt us.

No-Face stands out of the water, spits out Aogaeru, and continue walking.

The frog floats to the surface, looks up, and swims off.

Lin stops at the tracks.

 LIN
You'll have to walk from here.

 CHIHIRO
Okay.

Chihiro jumps into the shin-high water, holding her shoes in her hands.

LIN
The station's just down the tracks.

CHIHIRO
Thanks, Lin.

LIN
You better come back, you hear me?

CHIHIRO
I will.

Chihiro walks off, followed by Crow-Fly and Boh-Mouse. Lin paddles away, keeping her eyes on the girl.

LIN
Sen, I'm sorry I called you a dope before! I take it back!

Chihiro, already in the distance, looking as if she is walking on water, doesn't look back, but waves an arm.

LIN

continues paddling back to the bathhouse, passes No-Face, who is slowly following the tracks to Chihiro.

LIN (CONT'D)
No-Face, if you put even one scratch on that girl, you're in big trouble.

EXT. TRAIN STATION

Chihiro, walking through the water, spots a cement block standing above surface. She runs toward it.

CHIHIRO
There's the station.

She steps onto the platform and looks back at the bathhouse. Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly look down at the water.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Here comes the train, come on.

The train is forming in the distance, catching up to No-Face.

No-Face looks behind and the train rushes by him, sending waves which push the spirit back.

The train stops by the platform. Chihiro and the tiny pair rush to the door as it opens.

INT. TRAIN

The CONDUCTOR extends his gloved hand.

CHIHIRO
Oh, we'd like to go to Swamp
Bottom, please.

She reaches into her shirt, grabs the tickets and hands them to the conductor, who counts-- one, two, three-- he counts a fourth behind them.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Huh?

Chihiro looks behind, finding No-Face waiting.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Oh. You wanna come with us?

No-Face nods, uttering something resembling an "Uh-huh".

Chihiro turns back to the conductor.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
He's like to come, too, please.

The conductor runs the tickets through a paper shredder and steps out of the way.

Chihiro and No-Face step onto the train. The doors shut. It is a quiet car, with scattered riders, who are nothing more than translucent grey spirits.

THE TRAIN

takes off into the shallow sea.

INSIDE

The hanging handles bob side-to-side.

After some contemplation, Chihiro sits in the middle of a long, empty space between two sitting spirits.

No-Face stays put, GROANING lightly, confused.

Chihiro pats the seat next to her.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)
Sit here. Behave yourself, okay?

No-Face quietly sits next to her.

Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly look out the window at the passing sea, hopping excitedly. Chihiro smiles at them, looks out.

OUTSIDE

A house and tree on a small island, glowing in the sunset.

A faded father and child on a dirt mound, waiting for the train to cross. An larger island in the distance.

IN THE TRAIN

A man grabs his suitcase from the compartment above.

THE TRAIN

stops, and most of the passengers get off and walk down the station staircase.

THE SEA

is dark blue and striking purple from the sunset.

INT. THE TRAIN

is empty now except for our group of four. Chihiro and No-Face are sitting quietly, staring down as neon signs pass outside.

Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly are snuggled up, asleep in Chihiro's lap, the young girl cradling them with her hands.

OUTSIDE

The train continuing through dusk.

INT. BOILER ROOM

Haku, laying down, opens his eyes slowly.

Kamaji is sitting against his station, snoring in his sleep.

Haku rises, and rubs Kamaji's hand, waking the old man.

HAKU

Kamaji, wake up.

KAMAJI

(delightfully surprised)

Haku, you're all right.

HAKU

I'm fine. Where is Sen? Did she go somewhere, can you tell me what's going on?

KAMAJI

You blacked out, remember?

HAKU

Yeah, I remember being in darkness. Then I could hear Sen's voice calling out my name. So I followed her voice, and the next thing I knew, I was lying here, feeling better than ever.

KAMAJI

Pure love, it broke Zeniba's spell. Sen left to return the golden seal. She did it to save you.

INT. YUBABA'S OFFICE

Kashira Boh is stuffing their face with assorted chocolates from a box.

YUBABA (O.S.)

This gold doesn't even come close to covering the damage that stupid No-Face caused.

Yubaba's body and face are wrapped in towels as she dries by the fireplace, addressing the bowing Chichiyaku, Aniyaku, and Aogaeru.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Sen didn't get nearly enough, she'll have to be punished.

AOGAERU

Madam, you see, Sen was the one that saved us from No-Face.

ANIYAKU

(nodding)

Yes, yes.

YUBABA

So what, this whole mess is her fault! And now she's run away from here. She's even abandoned her own parents!

(MORE)

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Those pigs must be ready to eat by now. Turn them into bacon.

The servants back up in horror. Haku enters.

HAKU

Wait a minute.

The servants turn around, shocked at the sight--

CHICHIYAKU

Huh?

AOGAERU

Master Haku?

YUBABA

You're still alive? What is it you want?

Haku stops in front of her.

HAKU

You still haven't noticed that something precious to you has been replaced.

YUBABA

Don't get fresh with me, young man. Since when do you talk that way to your master?

Haku is silent, waiting.

Yubaba GULPS, panicked and picks one of the gold nuggets from a pile. That's not it.

She stares back at Haku, thinking.

RUSTLING grabs her attention and she turns to Kashira Boh, who are shoveling boxes of treats into their mouth.

Yubaba waves her finger at them, revealing a Kashira head atop the baby body. The baby turns back into the three Kashira, who hop to a door, press through it and leave.

Yubaba rises, in shock.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

My baby!

The gold shrivels into a brown pile, releasing smoke.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

No!

She slaps the pile of the table and rushes out of the room.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

My baby!

The servants catch the flying dirt.

AOGAERU

It's just dirt!

INT. BOH'S NURSERY

Yubaba pillages through the toys and digs through pillow mountain.

YUBABA

Where are you, sweetie? Come out,
please, come out! Where are you?

She looks behind the curtains as Haku walks in.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Sweetie, sweetie pie!

She turns to Haku, breathing heavily, her voice deepens and she fire spews from her mouth.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

You!

Her head towel flies off as her hair takes flight, waving furiously through the hair as she rushes to Haku.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Where is he?

She wraps her hair around his body--

YUBABA (CONT'D)

What did you do with my baby?

Haku remains calm.

HAKU

He's with your sister.

The fire subsides and smoke sizzles from Yubaba's mouth.

YUBABA

Zeniba?

She releases Haku, petrified, and walks to a chair, which lowers itself for her to sit.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Very clever, Haku, I get it. You'll get my baby back for me, but at a price.

(laughing)

So, what do you want?

HAKU

Tear up Sen's contract. And then I want you to return Sen and her mother and father back to the human world.

YUBABA

Fine, but on one condition. I get to give Sen one final test. If she fails, she's mine.

EXT. SIXTH STOP - NIGHT

A marsh clearing in the forest. There is a mossy signpost standing atop the platform.

The train pulls up to the stop, halts. The door opens, Chihiro and No-Face step off, and the train heads off.

They look around the dim, quiet area. A dirt path above the marsh leads into the dark forest.

CHIHIRO

I hope this is the right stop.

Chihiro turns back to No-Face.

NO-FACE

Let's go.

Crow-Fly, with Boh-Mouse, flies off Chihiro's shoulder. No-Face and the pair follow Chihiro down the moonlit path.

Crow-Fly grows tired, and slowly drops, plopping Boh-Mouse on the ground. Boh-Mouse stands up and walks on, carrying his tuckered partner.

Chihiro turns around and extends her hand.

CHIHIRO

You can ride on my shoulder if you're tired.

Boh-Mouse, proud, turns his face away from her and continues walking. Chihiro smiles and continues.

Boh-Mouse stops, spotting something ahead.

BOH-MOUSE

Hmm?

From the forest ahead, a HOPPING LANTERN held by a long, curved pole extending from a grounded hand, approaches.

Crow-Fly flies themselves and Boh-Mouse back to Chihiro's shoulder, afraid.

The Hopping Lantern stops in front of them and bows.

Chihiro and No-Face bow in return.

The Lantern turns around and leads them through the forest, stopping frequently to ensure they are keeping up.

At the end of the forest, there is a small cottage resting beneath the stars.

EXT. ZENIBA'S COTTAGE

The Hopping Lantern reaches an arch made of branches, and hops up, wrapping itself around the top.

Chihiro and No-Face stop to look around, before continuing.

There is a white archway harboring the closed door, decorated with simple floral paintings and engravings.

Chihiro and No-Face approach the door, which suddenly opens on its own. A kind voice welcomes them from within--

ZENIBA (O.S.)

Come in.

Chihiro takes a deep breath before entering.

INT. ZENIBA'S COTTAGE

Chihiro walks in.

CHIHIRO

Hello?

But No-Face is hesitant.

ZENIBA (O.S.)
Hurry up, I don't have all day.

Chihiro turns to the timid spirit.

CHIHIRO
Come on.

As No-Face ducks under the archway and steps in, Zeniba closes the door, revealing herself behind it.

ZENIBA
So, you all made it.

CHIHIRO
Hmm?

ZENIBA
Sit down, I'll make some tea.

Zeniba walks to the kitchen and set a pot on the stove. Chihiro follows her and pulls out the seal.

CHIHIRO
Excuse me, ma'am, Haku stole this from you. I came to give it back.

Chihiro holds the seal with open palms, and Zeniba grabs it.

ZENIBA
I see. Do you have any idea what this is?

CHIHIRO
Yes, it's the golden seal you were looking for. I'm here to apologize for Haku, I'm very sorry.

Chihiro bows, her hair flipping forward, catching on Crow-Fly's beak. The small creature squirms.

ZENIBA
He sliced me in two, you know, and I'm still angry.

CHIHIRO
What?

Zeniba looks at the seal and GASPS.

ZENIBA
What! The protective spell is gone.

CHIHIRO

I'm sorry. You mean that black slug
that was on your seal? I think I
squashed it with my foot.

ZENIBA

Squashed it?

Zeniba laughs.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

That wasn't my slug. My sister put
that slug into Haku so she could
control him.

Zeniba can't help but crack up more.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

You squashed it.
(more laughing)
What happened to my spell? Only
love can break it, come now.

Zeniba leads Chihiro toward a dining table.

CHIHIRO

Can you please turn these two back
into their normal forms?

Zeniba looks at Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly, resting on Chihiro.

ZENIBA

The spell on those two wore off
long ago. Change back if you want.

They both shake their head.

LATER

Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly are running on a spinning wheel. They
take a quick break to rest before starting again.

At the dining table, there are tea cups, a cheese wheel and
desserts set out for No-Face, Chihiro and Zeniba.

The spirit sips his tea while Chihiro and Zeniba talk.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

I don't get along with my sister.
She's so obnoxious. You saw how
tacky her home is. We're identical
twins, yet exact opposites.

Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly fly onto the table. Boh-Mouse gnaws through a cookie, grabs two more, and they jump off.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry she turned your parents into pigs. But there's nothing I can do, it's just the way things are. You'll have to help your parents and Haku on your own. Use what you remember about them.

CHIHIRO

What? Can't you please give me more of a hint than that? It seems like I met Haku before, but it was a long time ago.

ZENIBA

That's a good start. Once you've met someone, you never really forget them. It just takes a while for your memories to return.

Zeniba walks away from the table. Chihiro looks into her tea, thinking.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

While you're thinking, the boys and I are going to make you something. And I want you to call me Granny from now on.

LATER

Zeniba LAUGHS as Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly take another rest from the spinning wheel.

ZENIBA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come on, keep at it.

They starting running again. No-Face is feeding thread from a broom into the wheel. Zeniba looks away from her knitting.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

No-Face, where did you learn to spin thread? You're really good at this.

Chihiro is balled up on a chair by the door.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

Now let's weave the threads together.

Boh-Mouse fumbles his needles through a pile of green yarn. Zeniba is instructing No-Face as he knits the red yarn.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)
Knit one, pearl two, knit one,
pearl two. Knit one, that's right.

Chihiro walks up to Zeniba, sad.

CHIHIRO
Granny, I can't remember anything
at all. Haku could be dead already,
and I'm just sitting around here.
My mom and dad could've been eaten
for dinner.

Zeniba looks back to cut and tie some thread.

ZENIBA
Wait just a little bit longer.

She hands Chihiro a tied purple thread.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)
Ahh. There we go. Use it to tie
back your hair.

Chihiro accepts the tie.

CHIHIRO
It's beautiful.

ZENIBA
It will protect you. It's made from
the threads your friends wove
together.

CHIHIRO
Thank you.

Chihiro pulls her red tie out of her hair. She holds it in her mouth as she puts her hair up with the new purple tie.

The windows RUSTLE, drawing Zeniba's attention.

ZENIBA
What good timing, we've got another
guest.
(to Chihiro)
Will you let him in?

CHIHIRO
Sure.

Chihiro walks to the door, opens it, and looks outside--

EXT. ZENIBA'S COTTAGE

-- finding Dragon Haku standing, his tail and whiskers
whispering in the wind. She runs to and hugs his head.

CHIHIRO

Haku!

She rubs her face on his snout.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku. Thank goodness. You're alive,
I can't believe it, how did it
happen?

Zeniba walks out, smiling.

ZENIBA

Ahh. That's love for you.

CHIHIRO

Look, Granny, Haku's alive!

ZENIBA

Haku, I will forgive you for
stealing my precious seal. But in
return, you must take care of this
girl.

Zeniba turns back to Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly, flying by her
head.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

Okay, you two, it's time to go
home. Come back soon.

Boh-Mouse gives Granny a kiss on her large nose and Crow-Fly
carries him off.

ZENIBA (CONT'D)

No-Face, why don't you stay with
me? I could use a good helper.

No-Face nods.

NO-FACE

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Chihiro runs to Zeniba and hugs her.

CHIIHIRO

Granny! Thank you so much, I'll miss you.

ZENIBA

Don't worry. You'll be all right, Sen.

CHIIHIRO

I want you to know my real name. It's Chihiro.

YUBABA

Chihiro. What a pretty name. You take good care of it.

CHIIHIRO

I will.

YUBABA

Off you go.

Chihiro runs off, a smile on her face.

CHIIHIRO

Okay. Bye.

Chihiro sits on Haku's back, Boh-Mouse and Crow-Fly on her shoulder. She looks back--

CHIIHIRO (CONT'D)

Granny, take care, thanks for everything!

Boh-Mouse waves and Crow-Fly BUZZES goodbye as Haku takes off, flying over the crops.

Zeniba, No-Face and the Hopping Lantern wave goodbye.

IN THE SKY

Haku flies through the clouds, lit up by the moonlight. Chihiro has another flash--

INSERT:

The Dragon pulling her through the water.

CUT BACK TO:

Chihiro holding onto Haku's horns as they whiz through the sky, WATER BUBBLING in the soundtrack.

INSERT:

A pink shoes swept along by the river current. A girl dives into the water. A younger, shirtless, Chihiro, fixated on something underwater.

CUT BACK TO:

Chihiro, holding tight, slides up to Dragon Haku's ears.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku, listen. I just remembered something from a long time ago. I think it may help you. Once, when I was little, I dropped my shoe into a river. When I tried to get it back, I fell in. I thought I'd drowned, but the water carried me to shore. It finally came back to me-- the river's name was the Kohaku River. I think that was you, and your real name is Kohaku River!

SUDDENLY Haku's eyes widen and his feathers turn to glass scales, which he sheds into the night air, transforming back into demi-human Haku.

He holds hands with Chihiro, smiling, as they fall through the sky.

HAKU

You did it, Chihiro, I remember. I was the spirit of the Kohaku River.

CHIHIRO

A river spirit?

HAKU

My name is the Kohaku River.

Chihiro tears up, full of joy.

CHIHIRO

They filled in that river. It's all apartments now.

HAKU

That must be why I can't find my way home, Chihiro. I remember you falling into my river, and I remember your little pink shoe.

CHIHIRO

So you're the one who carried me back into shallow water. You saved me. I knew you were good!

Chihiro's tears float up and Boh-Mouse reaches for them.

Chihiro and Haku fly toward the sea surface, but stop short and float just above. They fly off into the night, holding hands.

EXT. BRIDGE - MORNING

The morning birds CHIRP as the sun rises. Yubaba is pacing by the bathhouse entrance, a dozen pigs contained behind a rope.

Lin pokes her head over the garden wall, searching. She points up.

LIN

Hey, there they are!

Aogaeru, Kamaji, Chichiyaku, Aniyaku and the legion of servants pop up to look, excited.

Yubaba watches and Haku and Chihiro float to the ground on the other side of the bridge.

Crow-Fly flies Boh-Mouse toward Yubaba, who is oblivious to them. She yells at Haku.

YUBABA

I see you failed to bring my baby back.

Crow-Fly drops the mouse, who transforms back into the massive baby, THUMPING the ground as he lands.

BOH

Mama!

Yubaba rushes to hug him.

YUBABA

My baby! Are you traumatized? Did they do terrible things to you? You're standing all by yourself, when did that happen?

Haku takes a step forward.

HAKU

Don't forget your promise. You must return Chihiro and her parents to the human world.

YUBABA

Hmm, not so fast, Haku. I get to give Sen one final test.

The crowd JEERS at her. She turns to them.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

Shut up!

They retreat back.

BOH

Stop it, Mama, leave her alone. Send and I had a really good time.

YUBABA

But a deal is a deal, sweetie. I have to give Sen one final test.

BOH

If you make Sen cry, I won't like you anymore.

YUBABA

But?

CHIHIRO (O.S.)

Hey, Granny!

Yubaba gasps and turns around.

YUBABA

Granny?

CHIHIRO

You're right, a deal's a deal.

Chihiro steps forward, and crosses the bridge. She stops in front of Yubaba.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm ready, I'll take your test.

YUBABA

Hmm. You've got guts.

Yubaba holds out the paper, tied in a string.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

I've got your contract right here. Come this way.

Yubaba turns towards the pigs, addressing Boh first--

YUBABA (CONT'D)

This will only take a minute.

Chihiro smiles at the big baby and Crow-Fly on his shoulder.

CHIHIRO

Don't worry.

YUBABA

See if you can tell which of these pigs is your mother and father.

Chihiro looks at the dozen pigs, sticking their heads over the rope, bobbing for her attention.

YUBABA (CONT'D)

You get one try. If you get it right, you can all go home.

The onlookers watch nervously. Aogaeru SWALLOWS in fright.

Chihiro looks at the pigs again, then turns to Yubaba, confused.

CHIHIRO

There must be a mistake. None of these pigs are my mom or dad.

Yubaba waves the contract at Chihiro.

YUBABA

None of them, is that really your answer?

Chihiro takes a quick breathe before nodding her head confidently.

CHIHIRO

Mm-hmm.

The contract explodes in Yubaba's hand and the pigs transform back to smiling frog-men and women.

SERVANTS

Oh, you got it!

The crowd of supporters cheer, workers kiss and hug in celebration, the Radish Spirit and other guests wave their arms happily. Chihiro looks up with a big smile.

CHIHIRO

Thank you, everyone.

YUBABA

All right, you win. Get out of my sight.

Yubaba turns her face away, but Chihiro bows to her.

CHIHIRO

Thanks for everything, Granny. Good-bye!

Chihiro runs across the bridge, waving to the crowd as she goes.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Thank you!

Haku is waiting at the end of the bridge, his hand out. Chihiro meets him, grabs it, and they run off.

CHIHIRO (CONT'D)

Haku!

HAKU

Let's go!

EXT. GHOST TOWN

Chihiro and Haku are running down the staircase.

CHIHIRO

Where are my mom and dad?

HAKU

When you passed the test, they woke up on the human side of the river. They're there now, and they're looking for you.

They run through the empty town.

EXT. FIELD

Chihiro and Haku stop at the frog statue and look out over the lush, grassy field.

CHIHIRO

There's no water here. I can walk across now.

HAKU

But I can't go any farther. Just go back the way you came, you'll be fine. But you have to promise not to look back, not until you've passed through the tunnel.

CHIIHIRO

What about you? What'll you do?

HAKU

Don't worry, I'll go back and have a talk with Yubaba. I'll tell her I'm going to quit being her apprentice. I'm fine, I got my name back.

CHIIHIRO

Will we meet again sometime?

HAKU

Sure we will.

CHIIHIRO

Promise?

HAKU

Promise.

Haku points forward.

HAKU (CONT'D)

Now go, and don't look back.

Chihiro starts down the stairs and lets go of Haku's hand.

CHIIHIRO

descending the hill, slides down the dried out river path.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Chihiro!

Chihiro stops in her tracks upon seeing her shouting Mother and smiling, waving Father at the base of the clock tower.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Where have you been, hurry up!

Chihiro runs to them.

CHIIHIRO

Mom, Dad!

MOTHER
You shouldn't run off like that,
honey.

FATHER
You could get in big trouble.

The parents walk into the building.

CHIHIRO
Are you guys sure you're all right?

MOTHER (O.S.)
Let's go, I don't wanna miss the
movers.

Chihiro stays put. She starts to turn her head back, but stops herself. Resolute, she runs after her parents.

FATHER
Chihiro, hurry up.

INT. OLD BUILDING PASSAGEWAY

They're walking down the dark hallway, Father leading.

FATHER
Everybody, watch your step.

Chihiro is holding onto her Mother's arm.

MOTHER
Chihiro, don't cling like that,
you'll make me trip.

FATHER
Everybody, watch your step.

Chihiro frowns, skeptical.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK ENTRANCE

They exit the tunnel, into the bright forest clearing.

FATHER
We made it.
(spotting something ahead)
Hey, what happened?

Father runs forward. Chihiro looks at the human world in awe.

MOTHER

What is it?

Father brushes days' worth of fallen branches and leaves off the car, and looks inside.

FATHER

Look at that. It's all dusty inside, too.

MOTHER

Is this someone's idea of a joke?

FATHER

Looks like it.

Chihiro stares back at the entrance

MOTHER

I told you we shouldn't have stopped.

The car engine REVS off-screen as Chihiro takes one last look.

MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come on, Chihiro, let's get to our new home.

FATHER (O.S.)

You're not scared, are you?

MOTHER (O.S.)

Don't be afraid, honey. Everything's gonna be okay.

Chihiro runs back to the car.

As the car takes off into the forest, the Dosojin statue grows smaller in the distance.

FATHER (O.S.)

A new home and a new school? It is a bit scary.

CHIHIRO (O.S.)

I think I can handle it.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END