

FADE IN:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

DIRT -- a blinding ray of sunshine shines on a tiny WHITE WORM.

Then - the BEAK of a HARRIER violently grabs the helpless white worm.

The harrier spreads his wings and soars into the clear blue sky.

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE - DAY

The harrier flies along FIFTH AVENUE, performing BREATHTAKING MANEUVERS between the magnificent buildings -- the worm still safe in his beak.

But then -- he gets dangerously close to the ground -- in the middle of rush hour traffic.

CARS HONK and he almost collides with a car -- but he manages to pull up in the last second.

REVEAL: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING in all its unfinished glory.

The year is 1929.

The harrier soars vertically along the unfinished skyscraper.

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - TOP - DAY

The harrier reaches his NEST a few feet below the top. TWO BABY HARRIERS instantly grab the worm and start devouring it. Next to them - an UNHATCHED EGG.

Above the nest CONSTRUCTION WORKERS are positioning two heavy STEEL BEAMS.

One of the steel beams hangs on an old ROPE -- a rope that is about to snap.

The two baby birds are still chewing on the worm. The harrier looks at his offspring and smiles proudly.

SUDDENLY, a SCREAM.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
(unintelligible)
Watch out!

The rope snaps.

The steel beam falls.

A BLACK SHADOW is cast over the nest. The harrier looks up, fear overcomes him.

The steel beam hits the nest and knocks it down. There is no hope for the harrier and his family.

The nest falls, faster and faster towards the ground.

The baby birds are long gone -- but somehow the unhatched egg is still safe and sound inside the nest.

Way down a WORKER is putting in a window. The nest falls on his head, knocking him almost down. This slows down the fall a little bit but also separates the egg from the nest.

The egg keeps on falling, the ground comes closer and closer.

DOWN ON THE STREET a TRUCK CARRYING PILLOWS drives along 5th Avenue.

A SUNSHADE -- a jumping sheet -- the egg gets further slowed down.

A MILK TRUCK turns into the street -- driving too fast - MILK BOTTLES RATTLING.

The pillow truck crashes into the milk truck -- milk bottles break. A wave of MILK fills the street.

The egg hits the street -- missing the pillow truck -- the shell breaks in half -- a miracle -- the very cute, helpless BABY HARRIER is still alive. This is DAVE.

The spilled milk washes part of the shell with little DAVE in it into the SEWERS.

INT. THE SEWERS - DAY

The "EGGSHELL BOAT" floats in a stream of stinking SEWAGE. Dave is just a passenger in his raft.

A vicious RAT spots the easy prey -- the rat jumps -- and misses Dave by a few inches.

The journey continues -- a LOW RUMBLE -- a WATERFALL ahead.

Dave still in his shell falls down -- he vanishes in the rapids.

There -- the shell resurfaces. Empty.

But then -- bubbles -- Dave resurfaces. He is very weak but he flaps his wings and manages to stay afloat, barely.

EXT. THE LAKE - DUSK

The sun sets behind the impressive New York skyline.

Dave lies unconscious on the shore of the THE LAKE in CENTRAL PARK. He is barely breathing.

A SOUND in the BUSHES. TWO DARK CREATURES slowly emerge from the bushes and approach baby Dave.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

A close up of DAVE's face. He has grown. He is an adolescent harrier with light colored feathers and a heart of gold. It is impossible not to like him.

He is moving very fast, the wind blows through his feathers. He is on the hunt.

SKIP, a cocky little squirrel with a "do first think later" attitude, is running for his life.

Dave has his eyes set on him, he is close -- very close.

REVEAL -- Dave is not flying, he is running. Then -- Dave trips and falls over.

Skip stops, turns around and starts his victory dance.

SKIP

Ha, ha! I win again? I am a winner,
You are a loser. I am a winner,
You are a loser.

DAVE

(to himself)
I'm fine Skip, thanks for asking.

Skip walks a few steps back and helps Dave back on his feet.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

SKIP

It's the least I can do after...
what was it?... The four times I
beat you today.

DAVE

It was only three times and we
really have to get going now. I
don't want a sermon from dad again
for being late.