

Birth

Screenplay by

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Based on the short story "HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS" by Ernest  
Hemingway

Address  
Phone Number

FADE IN:

**EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY**

The train station is situated in between hills. The sun shines down and a gentle breeze blows through the trees. A purple mist hangs at cloud level.

A Caucasian MAN dressed in a black suit sits at a table with a beautiful women. Her name is DAISY. They are both in their twenties. They are surrounded by luggage.

DAISY

They look like white elephants.

MAN

What the fuck are you talking about?

DAISY

The mountains look like white elephants.

A WAITER walks over with a jug of water.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:**

**INT. BAR - NIGHT**

Daisy serves dinner with a smile to an old couple. She is dressed in a generic waitress uniform.

DAISY

Enjoy your dinner.

She walks towards a door and opens it.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

She walks past cooks preparing food, picks a bag up off the side and opens another door.

**EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

She sits down on the bonnet of a car, pulls a cigarette out of her bag, lights it and begins to smoke.

A young man comes out of the back door. He is dressed in white overalls. His name is JIM. He pulls a cigarette out of his pocket, walks towards a car and stands next to it. He holds a lighter to his cigarette and tries to light it.

It does not work. He tries a couple more times but it still does not work. He tosses it on to the floor.

DAISY (O.S.)  
Do you want a light?

He looks over at her and smiles.

JIM  
Yes please.

He walks over and takes her lighter. He takes a draw on his cigarette and gives it back to her.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Thanks.

DAISY  
No problem.

He looks up at the night sky.

JIM  
Do you ever wonder what is out there?

DAISY  
Not really. Do you?

JIM  
Yeah all the time.

DAISY  
So what do you think is out there?

JIM  
Other planets with people on for sure.  
(beat)  
My name is Jim by the way.

He holds his hand out. Daisy shakes it.

DAISY  
Daisy.

JIM  
I see you around the joint all the time.

DAISY  
Oh yeah?

JIM  
Yeah. It's good to put a name to a face.

DAISY

Likewise.

He stubs his cigarette out.

JIM

See you around.

Daisy smiles and Jim walks away.

**INT. BAR - NIGHT**

About twenty people sit drinking and talking. Christmas decorations are hanging up around the room and "ROCKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE" by Brenda Lee is playing through a stereo.

Close in on Daisy drinking a beer through a straw. She has a party hat on. A woman opposite her says something and Daisy starts laughing.

A man turns the music off and walks up to a microphone. His name is RAY, he is in his mid forties and his balding head has tinsel draped across it.

RAY

(into microphone)

Hey everyone!

GROUP

Speech! Speech!

RAY

(into microphone)

Okay. Well I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has come tonight.

WOMEN (O.S.)

Love ya Ray!

RAY

(into microphone)

Love you too!

(laughs)

Also, I would like to thank you all for making my fifth year here a breeze!

WOMEN (O.S.)

Your welcome!

RAY

(into microphone)

Let's get back to the music! Thanks again.

Everyone claps as "LAST CHRISTMAS" by George Michael blares out.

**INT. BAR - LATER**

Daisy puts her coat on and walks towards the exit. Ray sits at the bar. They are the only people left in the room.

DAISY  
You going to be okay to clean up on  
your own Ray?

RAY  
(drunk)  
Yeah, no problem.

DAISY  
Perhaps leave it until Tuesday?

RAY  
I'll be fine.

DAISY  
Can I call you a taxi?

RAY  
That would be great.

**EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

They are sat on a bench. Daisy holds a phone to her ear.

DAISY  
(into phone)  
Okay thanks.

She hangs up.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
It'll be about twenty minutes boss.

RAY  
I'm sorry.

DAISY  
Why are you sorry?

RAY  
That I couldn't hire out somewhere  
for you guys and you had to have  
the party here.

DAISY  
No worries! Everyone came, it was  
great.

Ray grabs her breast.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
Come on Ray let's not be stupid.

She pulls his hand off her breast. He goes in for a kiss, she dodges.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
Stop it!

He forces himself onto her. She kicks and struggles.

JIM (O.S.)  
Hey!

Jim runs over and pulls him off her, he punches Ray in the face which makes him fall to the floor.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Motherfucker!

He stands above Ray and grabs him by the scruff of the neck. Daisy gets up and pulls Jim away.

DAISY  
Come on let's just go.

They walk away.

JIM  
Fucking scumbag!

Daisy walks to her car.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

Daisy frantically tries to open her car door without her car keys.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Daisy stop.

She falls to her knees and begins to cry. Jim kneels down next to her and puts a hand on her shoulder.

JIM (CONT'D)  
It's okay. I'm here.

**INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Jim lays sleeping on his sofa.

**INT. APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Daisy sleeps in his double bed.

**INT. DINER - DAY**

Jim and Daisy sit eating bacon, eggs and beans.

JIM  
I am still looking.

Daisy sips a coffee.

DAISY  
Thank you.

JIM  
For what?

DAISY  
For just being there.

JIM  
Have you found a house?

DAISY  
Yeah.

JIM  
Oh great! Where?

DAISY  
Just an apartment on fourteenth  
boulevard.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry.

JIM  
For what?

DAISY  
That your still looking for a job.  
I feel responsible.

Jim puts his hand on hers.

JIM  
That asshole deserved it.

They stare into each others eyes. Jimmy picks up a piece of her bacon with his fork.

DAISY  
Hey that's mine!

She throws a bean at him. They laugh.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

Jim and Daisy lay on the grass under an oak tree. Dappled sunlight shines onto the scene making pretty patterns on the ground.

DAISY  
Do you ever stop and think how  
beautiful the world is?

JIM  
Yeah sure.

DAISY  
No, I mean really think.

JIM  
Yeah.

DAISY  
What is your favorite thing about  
the world?

JIM  
Snow.

DAISY  
Really?

JIM  
Yeah. I like snow because each  
flake is individual like a human.  
And I think it's amazing how snow  
is actually frozen water.  
(beat)  
What about you?

DAISY  
I love the sun. It is crazy to  
think one day it won't actually be  
here. The sun is half way through  
it's life cycle, did you know that?

JIM  
Of course!

DAISY  
(laughs)  
Silly question.  
(beat)  
I like hills too, especially white  
ones, I think they look like  
elephants.

JIM  
Hmm, I guess they do.

Jim stretches.



JIM (CONT'D)  
You just need to stop and look  
sometimes. It puts everything into  
perspective.

They look at each other.

**EXT. FIELD - NIGHT**

They are still laying there looking up at a cloudless sky.  
Stars are shining brightly.

JIM  
You don't really get single stars,  
they are usually in pairs.

He reaches for her hand. She turns and looks at him. He moves  
his head towards hers.

Suddenly a flash of purple light that covers the whole sky  
for four seconds.

DAISY  
What was that?!

JIM  
(confused)  
I don't know.

**EXT. OUTSIDE BAR - NIGHT**

Jim and Daisy sit at a table watching a thin purple strip in  
the sky.

DAISY  
What is it?

JIM  
I don't know.

DAISY  
Has there been anything on the  
news?

JIM  
No.  
(beat)  
Let's drink beer.

DAISY  
Big ones.

JIM  
Yes two big ones.

**INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Daisy opens the door and is greeted by Jim who is holding a takeaway meal.

JIM

Hey.

DAISY

Hey.

**INT. APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Daisy sits on a bed while Jim puts a CD into a stereo.

"NEVER BE MINE" by Angel Olsen starts to play.

He walks over to her and sits beside her on the bed. They stare at each other. Jim puts his arm around her neck and they begin to kiss passionately. They lay on the bed together.

**INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT**

Jim and Daisy stand next to each other holding hands. He is dressed in a suit and she is in a wedding dress. A CHAPLIN stands in front of them holding a book.

CHAPLIN

Do you take...

**EXT. PRIVATE GARDEN - NIGHT**

Jim and Daisy dance closely together. The song "BOUND" by Ponderosa Twins Plus One is playing.

**INT. DOCTOR'S ROOM - DAY**

Daisy sits on an examination bed with Jim by her side. A DOCTOR scans her belly and the image of a baby can be seen on a screen next to the bed.

DOCTOR

Would you like to know the sex?

Daisy nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

One less thing to think about right Mom?

The Doctor continues to scan.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
It's a...

**END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.**

**EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY**

The Man pours himself a glass of water.

DAISY  
They're great hills. I didn't mean  
they look like actual white  
elephants, just the color.

MAN  
Have another drink.

DAISY  
Jim used to agree.

He slides his glass of water along the table to her.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:**

**INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

A man dressed in a suit holds out his hand to Daisy. Another  
Man also in a suit stands behind her.

MAN #2  
You must come with us.

DAISY  
No. Where is my husband?

MAN #2  
You must come now.

DAISY  
No! You are scaring me!

The Man behind her grabs her around the neck. She screams and  
kicks out.

MAN  
Stand still!

She screams.

The Man in the suit puts some handcuffs on her.

DAISY  
No! Get off me!

MAN  
Stand fucking still!

MAN #2  
You will hurt the baby.

DAISY  
Get off me!

MAN  
Inject her now!

MAN #2  
Is it safe?

MAN  
Do it fucking now!

The Man pulls a needle out of his pocket and pierces her neck with it. She slowly relaxes and closes her eyes.

#### **INT. VAN - DAY**

Daisy's eyes are shut. Suddenly they open. She jumps forward in her seat. Someone catches her. She looks up to see Jim.

DAISY  
What's happening?!

JIM  
I don't know sweetheart but we need to stay calm and do whatever they say.

DAISY  
But our baby!

JIM  
Nothing is going to happen to her!  
I'm here!

They sit down and hold one another.

JIM (CONT'D)  
It's okay I'm here.

#### **INT. BUILDING - DAY**

There are two lines of people walking side by side down a corridor. Jim and Daisy are near the front of one of the queues. In front of them are two armed soldiers and a man holding a scanner. He scans one person at a time.

MAN WITH SCANNER  
(to a person)  
Left.

The person walks down a corridor to the left.

MAN WITH SCANNER (CONT'D)  
 (to the next person)  
 Left.

The person goes left.

Jim and Daisy are next. He scans Jim.

MAN WITH SCANNER (CONT'D)  
 Left.

He scans Daisy. The scanner begins to beep loudly.

MAN WITH SCANNER (CONT'D)  
 Right.

DAISY  
 No!

MAN WITH SCANNER  
 Right please maam.

Jim tries to follow her but is forced to the left. Daisy is forced to the right.

DAISY  
 Jim!

JIM  
 I'll find you! I will!

# **INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

Daisy sits at a table with a clipboard and a piece of paper on it. Her hands are cuffed to the table leg. The door opens behind Daisy and in walks a man in green scrubs who taps her on the shoulder, sits down opposite her and begins to read from the piece of paper.

GREEN SCRUBS  
 Daisy Weir?

DAISY  
 Yes.

He continues to read.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
 What is happening?

GREEN SCRUBS  
 It's really an awfully simple operation, It's not really an operation at all.

DAISY  
 I'm sorry?

GREEN SCRUBS

I know you won't mind it. It's really not anything, We just let the air in and then it's all perfectly natural.

DAISY

I don't know what you mean?!

GREEN SCRUBS

I'll go with you and I'll stay with you all the time.

DAISY

Where?!

The man gets up.

GREEN SCRUBS

Wheelchair!

The door opens and a man pushes a wheelchair into the room. He unlocks the handcuffs and helps her into the wheelchair.

DAISY

What is happening?

She is wheeled out of the room.

#### **INT. OPERATION THEATRE - NIGHT**

Daisy lays asleep on a green bed. She has a facemask on which is connected to a ventilator that is breathing for her. A SURGEON pokes a tube into her pregnant belly and begins to make an incision.

#### **END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.**

#### **EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY**

The Man sits and watches Daisy drink water from a glass.

The Waiter comes out of the building.

WAITER

The train is coming in five minutes.

Daisy stands up and begins to walk away from him. He grabs her arm.

#### **EXT. TRAIN STATION - 10 MINUTES LATER**

The train has pulled into the station. The Man puts the cases on board.

The Waiter is pulling down shutters on the outside windows of the station.

**INT. TRAIN - DAY**

Daisy sits looking out of the window. She anxiously holds her bump.

**EXT. OUTSIDE GLASS DOME - NIGHT**

There is a large, glass, dome-shaped building in the middle of a field. People walk in and out of it through a revolving door. Also army vehicles are pulling up to it.

Daisy stands watching three men carrying her suitcases to a truck.

MAN

Follow me.

They walk towards the revolving door.

**INT. GLASS DOME - NIGHT**

Daisy walks along looking up out at the night sky. Stars are twinkling, every few seconds a rocket ship is launched from a pad outside the dome and a purple haze hovers over the building. The Man and Daisy stop outside a heavy duty door. The Man types a number combination into a keypad attached to it and the door opens.

MAN

Come on.

DAISY

Please no!

MAN

Come on.

DAISY

No!

MAN

Listen to me this is safe for you  
and your baby.

DAISY

I want my husband.

MAN

Only you can go.

The Man grabs her by the hand and drags her through the doorway to another door.

DAISY

Please!

MAN

Listen to me. You have a chance to  
live.

He taps a number combination into the keypad next to that door. It opens onto the launch pad outside the building. There is a silver rocket ship surround by a chain link fence in front of them. People are gathered around outside the fence.

**EXT. LAUNCH PAD - NIGHT**

Daisy and The Man walk towards the space ship. The people outside the fence scream for help and stick their hands through gaps in the fence. Soldiers use their rifles to bat them away. The door on the space ship opens.

JIM (O.S.)

Daisy!

Jim is standing at the fence. A soldier pushes him away but he just keeps running back to the fence. The Man grabs Daisy by the arm and leads her over to Jim. She drops to her knees and clings to his fingertips that are clutching the fence. Daisy begins to cry. Jim's eyes begin to water but he holds back the tears. Daisy taps her bump.

DAISY

It's the only thing that's made us  
unhappy.

JIM

We'll be fine afterward. Just like  
we were before.

DAISY

What makes you think so?  
(takes a deep breath)  
And you think then we'll be alright  
and be happy?

JIM

I know we will. Lots of people are  
having it done and afterwards they  
were all so happy.

She tries to smile.

JIM (CONT'D)

I think it's the best thing to do.



DAISY

And if I do it you'll be happy and things will be like they were and you'll still love me?

JIM

I will always love you!

DAISY

I know. But if I do it, it will be nice again. If I say things are like white elephants, and you'll like it?

JIM

I'll love it and always love it.

DAISY

Then I'll do it. Because I don't care about me.

Jim squeezes her hand.

DAISY (CONT'D)

I care about you.

She places her other hand on his hand.

DAISY (CONT'D)

We could have all of this.

She gestures towards herself and then towards Jim.

JIM

No we can't.

DAISY

We can have the whole world!

JIM

No we can't.

DAISY

We can go everywhere.

JIM

No, we can't. It isn't ours anymore.

Daisy looks to the sky.

DAISY

(shouts)

It's ours!

JIM

No, it isn't. And once they take it away, we'll never get it back.

(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)

(beat)

But what we can have is this!

He gestures towards her.

JIM (CONT'D)

This moment right now forever!

The Man pulls Daisy to her feet.

DAISY

I love you!

JIM

I love you!

She is taken to the ship. She looks back at Jim before being forced inside.

#### **INT. ROCKET SHIP - NIGHT**

The Man straps her into a leather seat with a four way harness. He tilts the chair back so she is facing the ships ceiling, puts a pair of headphones over her ears, presses a couple of buttons, pulls down on a lever and closes the door of the ship.

"EARTH ANGEL" by Marvin Berry and The Starlighters begins to play through her headphones as the ship's thrusters roar and the engines whine. It blasts off into the air.

#### **EXT. OUTSIDE TAKE OFF AREA - NIGHT**

The crowds shake the fence violently. A man with a running circular saw walks through the crowd and begins cutting the fence. It rips a hole through the mesh which people run through to get into the take off area. Soldiers fire bullets at them, killing some and further enraging the others. They descend on the soldiers and began beating them. It is utter chaos.

But Jim just stands and watches the ship blast off into space with tears trickling down his face.

#### **EXT. SPACE - NIGHT**

The ship holding Daisy is speeding through the atmosphere and past purple orbs.

CUT TO:

#### **INT. ROCKET SHIP - NIGHT**

Daisy closes her eyes and grits her teeth.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPACE - NIGHT**

It begins to slow down until it is just floating.

**EXT. SPACE - LATER**

The ship is stationary against a back drop of distant dim stars. The lights on its hull twinkle and ebb soothingly.

**INT. ROCKET SHIP - NIGHT**

Daisy is still titled back in her seat looking at the ceiling. "DARK WAS THE NIGHT, COLD WAS THE GROUND" by Blind Willie Johnson plays through her headphones. A bright white light suddenly shines into the ship. Daisy closes her eyes.

**INT. OPERATION THEATRE - NIGHT**

Daisy sits bolt up right and gasps. She is connected to a sats machine. She is dressed in a green gown and is sitting on a steel framed bed. She feels her belly, the baby has gone!

Two female nurses walk into the room and over to where she is sitting.

NURSE #1  
She is safe Daisy.

DAISY  
Show me her now!

NURSE #2  
Okay follow us.

**INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Daisy and the Nurses walk along a corridor. There are windows on both sides and out of the window is just darkness and stars.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

In the room are about twenty five cots containing sleeping babies. Daisy is taken over to one of them.

NURSE #1  
This is your baby.

Daisy looks down at a beautiful looking baby in pink pyjamas. She reaches down for her. A Nurse grabs Daisy's hand.

NURSE #2  
You cannot touch.

NURSE #1  
Now if you will follow us.

Daisy blows a kiss to her baby and follows the nurses.

**INT. CRYOGENIC'S LAB - NIGHT**

Daisy looks around the room at frozen men and women standing in cryogenic chambers. There is a free one at the end. The nurses grab her and drag her towards it.

DAISY  
No! Please!

She is forced inside.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
I want to see my baby!

NURSE #1  
You will sweetheart.

NURSE #2  
Don't worry.

The door is closed on Daisy. She hammers on the glass. A nurse presses buttons on a keypad. Daisy is suddenly frozen. The nurses walk away. Daisy stands completely motionless.

**INT. CRYOGENIC POD - DAY**

**(The song "TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BABY" by Bobby Vee plays over the next four scenes.)**

Daisy's P.O.V - A woman and a little girl with gills on her neck are standing in front of the pod. The girl is about three years old. They wave at her.

**INT. CRYOGENIC POD - DAY**

Daisy's P.O.V - A man and a girl about ten years old wave at her.

**INT. CRYOGENIC POD - DAY**

Daisy's P.O.V - A teenage girl stands with her arms crossed looking at Daisy.

**INT. CRYOGENIC POD - DAY**

Daisy's P.O.V - A young women stands close to the pod and puts her hands against the glass then kisses it.

**INT. CRYOGENIC POD - DAY**

Daisy's P.O.V - The young women stands in front of Daisy. A man presses buttons on a keypad.

YOUNG WOMEN  
(to Daisy)  
Mom. It's time to go home.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**