

OVER BLACK:

Leaves rustle, laughter of children reverberates through the verdant forest night.

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY ISLAND'S EDGE - FLASHBACK, NIGHT

A sloped forest clearing leads to a sharp cliff, the resting spot for a small figure, flowing black hair. She turns, revealing a young PEREGRINE and blows a raspberry.

PEREGRINE

HaHA! Queen of the world!

Following behind, just north of 6 years old, PIPER. In contrast to the present, his hair is a deep black like Peregrine's.

PIPER

No fair! You cheated!

Peregrine sits on the island's edge, Piper starts tossing pebbles at her.

PEREGRINE

Oh don't be such a Baby!

PIPER

I'm not a baby!

He keeps missing, eventually he sits.

PIPER (CONT'D)

Hmmph

PEREGRINE

I didn't lie.

PIPER

You said you saw a light monster.  
Like Ms. Partridge talked about!

PEREGRINE

You didn't have to believe me! Mom  
and Dad said that Ms. Partridge is  
crazy.

PIPER

It's still cheating.

Piper pouts. A long pause. Peregrine and Piper start tossing rocks off the edge.

PEREGRINE  
You think there's someone down there?

PIPER  
On an island?

PEREGRINE  
Under the Clouds.

PIPER  
Pro'bly.

PEREGRINE  
Yeah... Aliens or something.

Some rock throwing.

PIPER  
I want to live there when I grow up. With the Aliens.

PEREGRINE  
Hmmm.

A pause.

PIPER  
Actually pro'bly not.

PEREGRINE  
Why?

PIPER  
Would pro'bly hurt.

PEREGRINE  
Why?

PIPER  
On account of all the people throwin' rocks.

More rock throwing.

PIPER (CONT'D)  
You think Mom and Dad are gonna be mad we snuck out?

PEREGRINE  
Mom and Dad won't know.

PIPER  
Ok but if they did?

Peregrine stands up.

PEREGRINE  
We'll just tell them you were going  
to the bathroom or something.

EXT. SKY ISLAND FOREST - SAME TIME

The pair reach a clearing. The night sky is filled with stars. Then... A LIGHT speeds through the stratosphere.

PIPER  
Look Perri, something's falling!

PEREGRINE  
That's just a shooting star Piper,  
come on.

They run off. The light streak continues through the sky... and then strikes the ground.

INT. PIPER AND PEREGRINE'S ROOM - SAME

The siblings slink through a ground floor window and return to bed. Then the light switches on. Cross armed and stern their Dad, DUNLIN (34) and their Mom, CALIDRIS (36).

PEREGRINE  
Uh... what are you doing here Mom  
and Dad?

PIPER  
I was going to the bathroom or  
something!

Calidris shakes her head.

DUNLIN  
Peregrine, come with us.

INT. DUNLIN AND CALIDRIS' ROOM - SAME

Both parents sit with Peregrine, who looks down in shame.

DUNLIN  
We're not angry at you Buttercup,  
ok? We're just worried.

PEREGRINE

Hmmph...

CALIDRIS

Sneaking out at night is dangerous, especially with some of the people around here, like Ms. Partridge.

PEREGRINE

Ms. Partridge is nice.

DUNLIN

Maybe, but Ms. Partridge's friends hurt people. Good people.

CALIDRIS

How far did you and Piper go? Up to the ridge again?

PEREGRINE

... no.

DUNLIN

It's not nice to lie Peregrine.

PEREGRINE

Yeah

DUNLIN

You could get hurt. Piper could get hurt.

CUT TO:

INT. PIPER AND PEREGRINE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Piper fidgets, and then pouts. He glances out the window... and then something catches his eye. A light flashes, the ground rumbles softly. He leans in, goes to open the window... then stops. Faintly the other room's conversation drifts in.

CALIDRIS

(off screen)

Piper can't take care of himself yet. He needs you Peregrine.

Piper, freezes, and then steels himself, opens the window, and crawls out.