

SFX: The CLATTER of an old-time film projector.

EXT. SHIP - DAY (1963)

60s, jazzy commercial music plays.

Grainy footage of a ship. It's gleaming white, halfway between a ferry and a cruise ship, THE NEW HOPE shining on the side.

The announcer, CLARK, speaks in a confident, ad-man-style voice.

CLARK (V.O.)
Welcome to the New Hope! A cutting
edge, floating --

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A busy ward. Smiling Senegalese PATIENTS fill the beds.

CLARK (V.O.)
Hospital!

CLARK MASTERSON (35), a very 60s mix of Steve McQueen and Frank Sinatra, walks into frame and addresses the camera.

CLARK
I'm Clark Masterson. Thanks for
joining us here at the edge of the
known world...

He walks over and points to Africa on a world MAP inexplicably hanging in the hospital ward.

CLARK (CONT'D)
Africa!

Clark moves so the patients are in the scene behind him. They wave at the camera.

CLARK (CONT'D)
We're providing free surgeries to
those who have no other option.
And we want YOU to volunteer with
us!

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

A 60s style lounge, a row of typewriters are set up by the porthole windows.

CLARK
 We have all the luxuries of home
 --

He cuts off as two kids, HENRY MASTERSON (6) and SAMBU BANGURA (6) run up to him - this is clearly rehearsed. Sambu has an apple sized TUMOUR coming off his cheek.

CLARK (CONT'D)
 Oh look, it's my son Henry, just one of the many children who live on board and attend our state-of-the-art school! Hello Henry, who's your little friend?

HENRY
 Gee Dad, this is Sambu! You're going to help him look normal!

CLARK
 Well isn't that swell!

HENRY
 Sometimes I can't believe you're a famous surgeon, the captain and the founder of the entire ship!

CLARK
 Oh Henry, didn't I teach you not to brag? Now you two run along and have fun now!

The kids run off. Clark turns back to the camera.

CLARK (CONT'D)
 Still not convinced?

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Clark, in full scrubs, walks down a narrow hall, pointing into rooms as he passes them.

CLARK
 Our revolutionary hospital has got two operating rooms, three wards and a ground-breaking blood lab!

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Clark stands in a cafeteria, PEOPLE eating around him.

CLARK

Behind me are just some of our 300
crew including doctors, engineers,
cooks, schoolteachers...

He pauses as a MAN in a white crisp shirt walks by.

CLARK (CONT'D)

And one busy barber! It's like
living in a floating village!

The crew all turn and WAVE together.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

Clark stands outside, the ship rising impressively behind
him.

CLARK

Come and join a ship so modern,
it's been dubbed the first wonder
of the third world!

The camera turns and cranes up to show the entire CREW
standing together. Clark takes his place at the head of
them.

CLARK

This could be your new
neighbourhood...

EVERYONE

The New Hope!

The video PAUSES. Zoom out to reveal this is playing in
YOUTUBE.

INT. CAMERON'S APARTMENT - DAY

A modern 2020s style living room. CAMERON CLARK (25), a
short brunette, sits with DUSTIN MESSER (25), bearded,
stocky.

CAMERON

(triumphant)

See! It's terrible!

(beat)

And they haven't made anything
else since the 60s. This is the
best they've got!

DUSTIN

Okay... are you sure it's still a thing?

CAMERON

Yeah, and this year they're going to be in Madagascar.

(beat)

Think about it Dustin, this is an untapped goldmine! People love this heart-wrenching stuff - did you not see that kid's tumour?

DUSTIN

I saw it.

CAMERON

I go, make a mini-documentary, they're grateful because they have proof they survived the turn of the century and I can use it to apply for fellowships and maybe even somewhere like NYU!

(beat)

Plus, my dad is always talking about how he went to Africa after college.

DUSTIN

That's true. But what if he doesn't approve...

CAMERON

I don't care Dustin!

(beat)

Something about this feels different. Like I'm supposed to go!

DUSTIN

(sighs)

I'm willing to admit it has potential...

CAMERON

Good, because I leave on the first.

DUSTIN

Leave where?

CAMERON

Madagascar. I need you to drive me to the airport.

DUSTIN

But - but - what about your dad?

CAMERON

I'm not going to tell him. And you're not going to either. I'll only be gone for two weeks - he doesn't have to know until he sees the finished doc.

DUSTIN

Cameron that's crazy! He's my boss, what am I supposed to tell him!

CAMERON

You tell him nothing.
(beat)
Promise me Dustin.

DUSTIN

I... I don't know Cam. I guess... we'll see.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

A small commercial airplane touches down on a runway lined with wild grass. Dark, jungle trees flourish 50 feet away. A huge, hot sun bakes the African stillness.

A lone WORKER positions a rickety stairway and the airplane's door opens.

Cameron, beaming, emerges. She looks around like she's been anticipating this for years... or at least for the 50 hours, three layovers, and four flights it took to get here.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Chaos. A mass of people crammed into a space the size of a gymnasium. Makeshift stores crowd the walls, each playing music louder than the next. An airport security machine stands in the middle of the activity, unused and ignored.

Cameron, pulling a large red suitcase and wearing a backpack, stands at the entrance. There is no hint of a line or checkpoint. She heads towards the exit --

And is grabbed, a strong hand on her arm.