

FADE IN:

EXT. PEAT BOG - NIGHT

A wild night in Southwest Ireland. The BOG MONSTER - a giant creature with the look of a prehistoric beast - emerges from a peat bog, mud sucking at its four limbs.

It crawls over the edge of the bog onto firm ground. Falling leaves catch in its nostrils.

The wind MOANS through the trees. In the nearby lake, shadows whip across the water.

An OWL hoots and a FIELD MOUSE blazes through the grass, running in terror.

The Field Mouse comes to a screeching halt when it sees the Bog Monster.

For a second, the two creatures look at each other. The Bog Monster leans in, sniffs, and then... SNEEZES!

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

A blustery afternoon. The schoolyard is in the green hills, within sight of the sea.

FINN KISSANE (11), small, shy, half-Irish and half-Indian, is being backed into a corner by a couple of boys - AIDAN and GRAHAM.

All three boys are wearing a school uniform. Finn holds a sketch book.

AISLING, a starling, circles far above them.

AIDAN

Come on, dung. Speak.

GRAHAM

You can do it. Open your lips, that's it, stick your fat tongue on the top of your mouth, close your teeth...

AIDAN

Breathe, dung! You're forgetting to breathe.

GRAHAM

Now all you have to do is make a little noise. Just a little one. Like a moan.

AIDAN

Let's hear it, dung. Let's hear you moan.

GRAHAM

Just the tiniest sound.

By now, Finn is with his back against a fence. He flails his arms and speaks in an East London accent.

FINN

Be off with you and your lousy lump! Tu'i ēkatā lēja kātā bānara! [You're a tail-less monkey!; Bengali] May the Devil make a ladder of your spine and splinters of your legs!

The two boys pause. Then they laugh in Finn's face.

GRAHAM

Finbarr Kissane, ladies and gents! Hear him roar!

Upon hearing the name Kissane, Aisling swoops in.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Finn runs home with the tune of "The Worst Day Since Yesterday" from Flogging Molly in his head.

He sticks his foot in a muddy rabbit hole and struggles to get it out.

In a nearby tree, Aisling sings a strand of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

Finn scowls at her. He yanks his foot out and stumbles toward town.

EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY

The town fronts a small harbor, with a number of pleasure yachts and fishing vessels tied up to the wharves (e.g. Dingle).