

The Assistant pulls down a backdrop of the HIROSHIMA MUSHROOM CLOUD. BOOKER doesn't look happy about it.

CUT TO:

-DANIEL HEWITT (30s). A dirty man in a striped jumpsuit. He's covered in grease stains. Under his arm he carries a box labeled: TNT.

The Assistant pulls down a backdrop showing a score of coal miners.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Certified demolitions expert,  
"Dynamite" Daniel Hewitt. It's hard  
out there and sometimes the only  
way through is with a fistful uh  
powder.

Another backdrop of a building being leveled with dynamite.

Dan smiles. FLASH.

-Sunday Jr. stands in front of a backdrop of an oil field.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Will Junior be leading this  
expedition?! Yes, of course! But  
not alone...

CUT TO:

Start

-Sunday Jr's press conference.

A reporter raises his hand and Sunday Jr. points to him.

REPORTER 1

Joshua Picker, San Antonio Times.  
You'll be leading the charge here,  
I assume?

SUNDAY JR.

I'm glad you asked. 'Course I will  
be leadin' this expedition. But the  
real brains of the operation is  
gonna be the very own daughter of  
Hollis Bannister... Miss Ellie  
Bannister.

A dozen hands shoot up and questions are shouted out.

6

INT. ELAINE "ELLIE" BANNISTER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

6

The sound of the newsreel pours out of a small radio.

REPORTER 1 (V.O.)

(Radio)

Ellie Bannister! What about her leg... And what about the accident with her family at Mount Mckinley-

SUNDAY JR. (V.O.)

(Radio)

A little hitch in the giddy up ain't gonna stop her...

We see a pair of legs walking over to the radio. A metal brace on the right leg, a bad limp.

REPORTER 1 (V.O.)

(Radio)

You can't honestly expect-

END

A HAND reaches in and turns the knob, changing the radio station. "Moonglow" by Benny Goodman plays.

The office is packed. Maps of the sea floor, mountain ranges, and vast terrains of lands afar are scattered.

ELAINE "ELLIE" BANNISTER (30s) hobbles back over to a massive drawing of the Alaskan territory laid out on the floor. She sits down in front of it.

She picks up a charcoal pencil and starts to sketch on the map.

After a beat, she SLAMS her pencil down - her mind elsewhere. She stares at a newspaper clipping on the wall. 'FAMILY HORROR IN THE KILL ZONE.' It shows a picture of a young Ellie with her famous explorer parents, Hollis and Eleanor Bannister.

The sound of a BUZZER snaps her out of her trance. She looks over at the door to see a silhouette through the glass window. The buzzer stops and then starts again. She lets out an exasperated grunt.

ELLIE

(Yelling)

Come in, dammit! Just stop pushing that buzzer.

The door opens slowly and in walks BELLE PARKER (20s), Sunday Jr.'s assistant. She wears a tweed suit and a nervous, wide-eyed expression.