

THE OASIS: PROJECT BRIEF

Format

Feature Film

Genre / Tone

Drama / Thriller

The Florida Project meets *Hell or High Water*, with the third act terror of *Twister*.

Budget / Buyer Lane

Mid budget / grounded ensemble drama with a major disaster set piece

Searchlight, FilmNation, Topic, Netflix, Bleecker Street lane

Core Hook

A forgotten Texas trailer park is already coming apart under heat, poverty, poisoned water, eviction pressure, addiction, old grudges, and exhausted people doing their best. Then an F4 tornado turns every private struggle into one shared fight for survival.

One Sentence Pitch

Over the course of one brutal heatwave, the residents of a neglected Texas trailer park are pushed to the edge by failing infrastructure, poverty, addiction, resentment, and personal crisis, only to be forced together when a catastrophic tornado tears straight toward the only home most of them have left.

Why It's Timely

It speaks to climate instability, rural poverty, poisoned infrastructure, housing insecurity, addiction, domestic violence, and the way disaster does not create inequality so much as expose who was already living without protection.

Main Characters

Nicole: A tired diner waitress trying to keep her family alive one shift at a time. She is not looking for heroism. She is trying to make rent, protect her kids, and get through one more impossible day.

Harper: Nicole's twelve year old daughter, tough, observant, and forced to act older than she is. She has become a caretaker before she has had the chance to be a kid.

Jed: The reluctant park manager, stuck between the residents he knows and the eviction notices he is expected to deliver. He is not heartless, but he has survived by telling himself his hands are tied.

Roy: A bitter, broken down union framer who has turned his own failures into resentment toward everyone around him. He blames Luis for taking the kind of work he believes used to belong to men like him, looks down on the meth users, snaps at the teenagers, and treats the whole park like proof that the world has passed him by. In the end, when the tornado hits, he saves Matias's life, doing the one thing that cuts through all the blame he has been carrying.

Luis and Carmen: A hardworking couple trying to keep their son Matias safe in a place that keeps punishing them for staying. Luis becomes the focus of Roy's resentment, but when the storm separates him from his son, that resentment is forced into a moment of reckoning.

Matias: Luis and Carmen's young son. His survival becomes one of the clearest tests of whether this place is still a community or just a collection of people trapped beside each other.

The Teenagers: Kids who have grown up with too little supervision and too few options. They bring danger, humor, recklessness, and the feeling of a generation learning survival before adulthood.

The Meth Users: Not villains, but residents caught in the same collapsing ecosystem as everyone else. Their chaos adds volatility to the park, but the storm forces even the most written off people into moments of fear, need, and unexpected humanity.

Cage: Nicole's violent ex husband. His arrival raises the immediate danger around Nicole, but he is not the story's central threat. He is one more storm arriving just before the real one.

Story Snapshot

1. The Last Oasis Mobile Home Park is baking under a brutal Texas heatwave. The air conditioners are failing, the water is running brown, tempers are short, and everyone is one bad moment away from snapping.
2. Nicole is trying to scrape together a birthday for her son while Harper cares for her bedridden grandmother. Around them, Jed hands out eviction notices, teenagers stir up trouble, the meth users bring chaos, Luis and Carmen try to keep Matias safe, and Roy sits in judgment of everyone, especially Luis.
3. The park becomes a pressure cooker. Brown water, failing oxygen machines, unpaid bills, drug use, family wounds, old insults, and Roy's resentment toward Luis all begin pushing the residents into open conflict.
4. Cage arrives and turns Nicole's private fear into public danger, but before that conflict can become the whole story, the weather changes. The heat breaks, the sky goes wrong, the sirens start, and an F4 tornado heads straight for the Last Oasis.
5. The residents race for the old earth berm storm shelter. People who had been fighting minutes earlier have to decide who they are willing to save. Roy, who has spent the story blaming Luis for what he has lost, risks himself to save Luis's son. The park's worst day becomes the first time it fully behaves like a community.

Ending / Final Image

The tornado wipes the trailer park off the map. When the survivors climb out of the shelter, everything they owned is gone. Matias is alive. Luis and Carmen find their way back to him, and Roy and Luis share a quiet moment of grace across the wreckage. On the edge of the berm, Nicole, Harper, and Noah look at the empty dirt lot where their trailer used to be. Noah asks where his cake went. Harper tells him it is gone, then laughs softly when he says it looked bad anyway and remembers his balloon is gone too. She brushes the wet hair from his eyes and says, "But we're alive, Noah." Nicole wraps both children in her arms and answers, "Yes we are, darlin'. Yes we are." The golden sunlight washes over the ruined park and the people holding onto each other.

Theme in One Line

You can lose everything and still be holding the only thing that matters.

Positioning

It's a grounded ensemble survival drama about a forgotten trailer park where poverty, addiction, resentment, violence, and bad infrastructure have already made life dangerous before the sky finally tears everything open.

Materials Available

One-pager and full screenplay available upon request or through the private script library.

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