

ORIGINAL SGREENPLAY





JK ROWLING





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To the memory of Gordon Murray, real-life creature-healer and hero



Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Original Screenplay

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SCENE 1 EXT. SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE—1926—NIGHT

A large, isolated, derelict chateau emerges from the darkness. We focus on a cobbled square outside the building shrouded in mist, eerie, silent.

Five Aurors stand, wands aloft, tentative as they edge towards the chateau. A sudden explosion of pure white light sends them flying.

We whip round to find their bodies scattered, lying motionless at the entrance to a large parkland. A figure (GRINDELWALD) enters the frame, his back to the camera; ignoring the bodies, he stares out into the night sky, as we pan up towards the moon.

MONTAGE: we see various magical newspaper headlines from 1926 relating to GRINDELWALD'S attacks all





over the world – 'GRINDELWALD STRIKES AGAIN IN EUROPE', 'HOGWARTS SCHOOL INCREASES SECURITY', 'WHERE IS GRINDELWALD?'. He's a serious threat to the magical community and he's vanished. Moving photos detail destroyed buildings, fires, screaming victims. The articles come thick and fast – the worldwide hunt for GRINDELWALD continues. We push in on a final article displaying the Statue of Liberty.

TRANSITION TO:



SCENE 2 EXT. SHIP GLIDING INTO NEW YORK—NEXT MORNING

A bright, clear New York day. Seagulls swoop overhead.

A large passenger ship glides past the Statue of Liberty. Passengers lean over the rails, looking excitedly towards the oncoming land.

PUSH IN towards a figure sitting on a bench with his back to us – NEWT SCAMANDER, weatherbeaten, wiry, wearing an old blue overcoat. Beside him rests a battered brown leather case. A catch on the case flicks open of its own accord. NEWT swiftly bends down to close it.

