

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Written by

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INT. TOY STORE - CHRISTMAS TIME

The camera TRACKS across shelves filled with various dolls, cars, Legos, and every other assortment of toy that can be crammed into them.

A MUZAC version of "jingle bells" plays overhead as we...

QUICK CUTS -

Toys being pulled off of shelves.

Toys being rung up at the register.

Toys being wrapped in colorful paper.

This is Christmas time at its most commercial.

CUT TO:

INT. TOY STORE - CUSTOMER SERVICE

A bespectacled EMPLOYEE sits behind the CUSTOMER SERVICE desk, oblivious to the world around him. He stares down at a comic book when SHELLEY THOMAS, early 30's, appears in front of him.

He doesn't notice. She stands politely by, even giving a cough to try and rouse the employee.

SHELLEY

cough

Nothing. He is either too engrossed with his book or he's just being rude.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)

Pardon me.

The youngster doesn't even look up while acknowledging Shelley.

EMPLOYEE

Can I help you?

SHELLEY

Yes. I'm looking for something called...

Shelley looks down at her phone.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)

An... Adventure Buddy?

Still not looking up.

EMPLOYEE

I'm sorry, we're sold out.

Shelley looks desperate.

SHELLEY

Please. Could you look in the back?
It's for my son. He's had a rough
year. I started working again after
my divorce and my husband... ex-
husband, well don't even get me
started there. Please, he's going
into fourth grade and he's been
such a trooper. I just... please.

There's something in her voice that makes him look up. He
sees Shelley for the first time, PLEADING with her eyes.

He closes the comic, sighing.

EMPLOYEE

Sure.

As he leaves the counter Shelley's phone RINGS.

SHELLEY

Hello? Hi, honey.

INT. THOMAS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nine-year-old LUKE THOMAS speaks into a cell phone rapid
fire, while stirring a pot of spaghetti. His NANNY stands
near, washing dishes while Luke speaks to his mom.

LUKE

Hi, Mom. When are you coming home?

SHELLEY

Soon. Just had to make a quick
stop. Did you get your homework
done?

LUKE

Yup. Did you know that back in the
olden days people used to line up
and shoot at each other? Like, they
would just **line up** and point guns
at each other, rather than hiding
behind stuff, you know?

SHELLEY

That doesn't seem very smart.

LUKE

Nope. But Miss Sherill said that in the Revolutionary War we used something called gorilla tactics to fight back. I guess they would hide in trees or something. Who knew that monkeys were so smart?

SHELLEY

(bemused)

Guerilla tactics, not gorilla. They sound the same, but are spelled different.

LUKE

Really?

SHELLEY

Look it up.

LUKE

Good idea. Oh! Mom! Dad called. He said that he had something to talk to you about. Can you ask him if he's coming over for Christmas morning?

SHELLEY

Honey, I...

LUKE

Pleeeaaasssseeeee!

Defeated.

Shelley spies the employee walking back toward the counter.

SHELLEY

Yes. Of course. Listen Luke, I have to go, but I want to hear where "Guerilla" comes from by the time I get home, capiche?

LUKE

Cool.

SHELLEY

Love you, Luke.

LUKE

Love you too, Mom.

Shelley closes her phone.

SHELLEY

Good news?

EMPLOYEE

You're in luck... sort of.

He SLAPS a bonafide ADVENTURE BUDDY up on the counter. This doll looks like a characterized version of the Crocodile Hunter meets Indiana Jones meets a Cabbage Patch doll. He's got a safari hat, khaki shirt, a green vest and cargo pants with an ASSORTMENT OF POCKETS. On his wrist is a paracord bracelet and a FAKE KNIFE stuck into his vest.

Shelley is ecstatic!

SHELLEY

You are a life saver!

EMPLOYEE

Weelllll, this guy's a little beaten up.

He points to the packaging, a couple of TEARS in the clothing, and a few marks on the doll itself.

SHELLEY

Oh. I see. I thought it was supposed to look like that. Are there any others?

EMPLOYEE

This is it.

Shelley looks at the Adventure Buddy, thinking.

SHELLEY

I don't know... It kind of adds character, right?

Softness creeps into the Employee's face.

EMPLOYEE

I'll tell you what. What if we gave it to you for half off?

Shelley smiles.

QUICK CUTS

Adventure Buddy is rung up with a 50% discount.

Wrapping paper is pulled across a large roll and wrapped around the doll.

She hands over a credit card to the cashier.

SHELLEY
Can I borrow your pen?

He hands it to Shelley and she scribbles into a birthday card before handing the pen back to the cashier. She licks the envelope and sticks the card on top of the present.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)
Thanks.

INT. SHELLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Shelley opens the door and sets the wrapped Adventure Buddy in the passenger seat.

Her phone rings again.

She starts up the car and simultaneously answers it.

SHELLEY
Go for Shelley. (pause) Oh, hi Ray.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

She pulls out into the street. It's slick with melted snow. The clouds hang low and dark.

SHELLEY
Ray, he's been looking forward to seeing you for the last two months. (pause) Whose fault is that?!

She's obviously getting upset.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)
No. No! I'm sure it *is* important. (pause) He's your son! You should want to see him. He hardly knows you, Ray. (pause) How long are you going to be gone?

She turns on her blinker, merging into traffic. She's moving down the street. Windshield wipers are moving back and forth catching the flurry of snowflakes.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)

A year!? Are you crazy? No way. No way! You can call him and tell him yourself. I'm not going to be the bad guy again. (pause) Fine. Bye, Ray.

She hangs up the phone SHAKING her head.

SHELLEY (CONT'D)

Idiot.

INT./EXT. BIG RIG - CONTINUOUS

A truck driver listens to local talk radio while moving through traffic. He looks down for a SECOND to change the dial. When he looks up the car in front of him has SLAMMED on the brakes. The startled trucker puts his foot to the floor.

The big rig's tires LOCK on the frozen ground causing its trailer to slide out of control and SWING into oncoming traffic.

INT. SHELLEY THOMAS'S CAR

Shelley sees the giant trailer swinging into her lane, but there is nothing she can do.

SHELLEY

Luke...

BLACK:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOM

TEAR-STAINED, sniffing, but SAYING NOTHING, Luke sits inside this small office, staring at the wall.

Outside we can hear the commotion of a busy police station. Never pretty, but always entertaining.

The door opens and in walks a frazzled looking CPS WORKER. She sits down in the seat across from him, concern evident on her face.

CPS WORKER

Hi, Luke.

Luke's focus shifts to her face.

CPS WORKER (CONT'D)

I'm Margarite. I'm going to take you someplace safe for the night. Your... father is coming in tomorrow and will pick you up. Do you understand?

Luke nods, weakly.

CPS WORKER (CONT'D)

Good. (pause) Luke. There was something in your Mom's car. Something she wanted to give you. Can I give it to you instead?

Luke doesn't say anything. Margarite nods.

CPS WORKER (CONT'D)

I'll take that as a yes. Hold on.

She gets up from the desk and opens the door. Reaching outside she grabs the wrapped present from Shelley and sets it in front of Luke. It's ripped up and dented, but the wrapping paper is mostly intact.

CPS WORKER (CONT'D)

Here you go, Luke. I'll be back in a few minutes and then we'll swing by your apartment to pick up your things, okay?

Luke's eyes are FIXED on the present. Margarite gives a heartfelt glance at Luke, but knows from experience, there isn't anything she can do. She leaves him alone with the package.

Luke stares at the present for a little bit. Reaching up, he finds the note card attached. He rips the back and opens it up.

SHELLEY (V.O.)

Dearest Luke. I know how tough this year's been, so, here's someone to keep you company when I can't. Just know, I love you more than anything. Love, Mom.

Big TEARS form in Luke's eyes. He puts the card to the side and rips the wrapping paper, revealing ADVENTURE BUDDY.

He stares at the doll, its lifeless eyes staring back at him.

He opens the top of the box and pulls it out, giving it a mighty HUG.

That's when the water works start and Luke SCREAMS and CRIES into the last present his Mother will ever buy him.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - LATER

RAY THOMAS - 40's - Glasses and wearing a semi-wrinkled suit. He is shaking hands with a priest when an older woman passes by, headed for the door. This is JACKIE STEVENSON, Luke's grandmother.

RAY
Jackie, can I have a word?

JACKIE
Of course, Ray. What is it?

He looks shame-faced and pulls her to the side.

RAY
I can't... I'm not equipped to do this.

JACKIE
And you think you're 65 year old ex-mother-in-law is?

RAY
He's your grandson.

She eyes him.

JACKIE
And he's *your* son.

RAY
I just... Where I'm going, it's not exactly the best place for a kid like Luke.

JACKIE
Like Luke? How would you know what Luke is *like*? He sees you once a year, if he's lucky.

RAY
(exasperated) Jackie... I...

JACKIE
Ray. I never liked you. When Shelley first brought you home I knew it was not a matter of "if" but "when" it would end.

RAY

Well, that was honest.

JACKIE

I'm too old for anything else. For better or worse, you and I are the only family that boy has. And he needs you. Now more than ever. It's time to put on your big boy pants, Ray and take care of your son.

RAY

What if it doesn't work? I'm not cut out for--

JACKIE

If, and I do mean IF, Luke wants to come back in the next couple of weeks, then I will take him.

Ray looks RELIEVED.

RAY

Really? Oh Jackie, that's amazing, I--

JACKIE

I'm not finished. If he comes back to stay with me, you will sign over *all* parental rights.

Ray's smile disappears. The words are sobering. He stares at her, not sure what to think.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Do we understand each other?

Ray isn't happy, but Ray is a jerk so...

RAY

Yeah.

JACKIE

Good. Now. Take good care of my grandson.

He leaves her in the cold as he jogs out of the funeral home and toward a beat up car sitting in the parking lot.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Call when you can.

RAY

We will.

JACKIE
 (sotto) Shelley, I pray I'm doing
 the right thing.

He opens the door to the car. Luke sits in the passenger seat wearing a small black suit. Next to him sits ADVENTURE BUDDY. The car is CRAMMED with luggage. Ray looks over at him.

RAY
 Wave to your grandma, she's
 freaking out.

Luke leans forward, looking out toward his grandmother. He raises one hand in a goodbye gesture before leaning back.

RAY (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry we have to leave so soon,
 but this is a great opportunity for
 me, I mean for the both of us. It's
 going to be fun. Now, seat belts
 on!

Luke pulls his seat belt on with a CLICK.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Passports handy?

Luke FLIPS Adventure Buddy, unzipping his backpack and pulling out his passport.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Then off we go!

Ray turns the key and the car ROARS to life, right before it putters and dies out.

RAY (CONT'D)
 You're kidding me?

Ray tries again, but this time nothing. This is Ray's type of luck. He sighs before rolling down the window, calling out to Jackie.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Jackie? Could you give us a lift?

Ray gives a sheepish smile as we...

INT. PLANE - LATER

Ray rests his head on his rolled up jacket, trying to get some sleep. Next to him, Luke has a pair of earbuds in and is plugging a cord from Adventure Buddy into his small laptop.

The laptop SPRINGS to life and an ANIMATED Adventure Buddy pops onto the screen. His voice is high, very KID-FRIENDLY, almost Care Bear like.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Hi there! I'm Adventure Buddy. The only buddy you'll need while adventuring!

The animation MORPHS, showing a SCHEMATIC of the doll.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

I've got a bunch of gear we can use as we explore the world around us!

The schematic of Buddy SPINS. It ZOOMS into his wrist.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

For instance! I have a watch, that not only tells time but if you flip it open you'll find a COMPASS! That's to help make sure you never get lost.

The cartoon schematic ZOOMS back out before ZOOMING into his other wrist.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

On my other wrist I have a PARACORD band. You can use it too! What's mine is yours after all.

Zooming out again we take a look at the NECKLACE that Adventure Buddy has around his neck.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

In case of real emergencies I have a WHISTLE that can help people find you, or scare off small animals!

Again we ZOOM OUT and the doll SPINS. The backpack UNZIPS and out pop FOUR ITEMS.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Also located in my waterproof backpack are some other tools that might come in handy while you are exploring the wild. First is a handy dandy mirror!

The mirror GLOWS, we zoom in to get a closer look. It SHINES with sunlight.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

It can reflect light and signal your friends. Next we have a magnifying glass.

The mirror shrinks back to normal size and we zoom into the magnifying glass to get a closer look.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

It will let you get up close and personal with all manner of critters.

A small ANT appears in the animated magnifying glass and WAVES.

The magnifying glass shrinks and a picture of a canteen appears. We zoom in.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

I also have a CANTEEN! You can get mighty thirsty while adventurin'.

Last but not least, the canteen shrinks and out comes a PIECE OF CHALK. We zoom in to get a closer look.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

And lastly, chalk! A great way to help navigate the woods by marking where you've been!

We ZOOM OUT one last time. The schematic slowly spins as the MENU pops up with several options. They read "KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT," "SURVIVAL TIPS," "WARRANTY."

He clicks on the "Know your environment" and Adventure Buddy disappears, as a picture of the WORLD comes to the forefront.

There is a small search bar and Luke starts to type.

"Amazon rain forest"

We ZOOM into a picture of a jungle near BRAZIL, encyclopedic writing SCROLLS along the side.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world covering over 1.4 billion acres. It's also home to millions of insects and a variety of dangerous animals including the cougar, jaguar, and anaconda!

Small animations of a cougar, jaguar, and anaconda slide in from offscreen.

Luke's eyes widen. He looks out the window at the country below. It is just GREEN for as far as the eye can see.

EXT. BRAZIL AIRPORT - LATER

Ray and Luke walk out of the airport, small bags in tow. Luke carries his Adventure Buddy on his back like a backpack.

RAY

You don't happen to have any cash, do you? Maybe grandma slipped you a twenty?

Luke shakes his head NO.

RAY (CONT'D)

Ah, man. Ok. I gotta find an ATM and then we can grab a taxi, I--

DONNY (O.S.)

Mr. Thomas? Mr. Thomas!

Ray spins around, zeroing in on DONNY MARSCONIE. This weasly looking gent wears a small white hat and has a piece of cardboard with "Ray Thomas" written on it.

RAY

I'm Ray Thomas.

DONNY

Nice to meet ya.

He SHAKES Ray's hand before turning his attention to Luke.

DONNY (CONT'D)

And this is...?

RAY

My son, Luke. Luke, shake his hand.

Luke looks frightened but extends his hand which Donny pumps (a little TOO HARD). Luke pulls his hand back, cradling it.

DONNY

Mr. Pierce didn't say nuthin' about no kid.

RAY

Mr. Pierce sent you?

DONNY

Yeah. Told me to pick you up and
take you to basecamp. Said you were
going to make us all rich.

Donny's creepy smile makes its first appearance. Luke moves a
step closer to his Dad.

RAY

That's the plan.

DONNY

Well, no time like the present.
Come on.

Ray and Donny throw their baggage in the back of Donny's
small truck and head for the truck cabin.

Luke is attempting to lift his bag over his head and into the
truckbed, but it's too heavy. He heaves it up, but it comes
back down on top of him, causing him to land on the dirt with
a THUMP.

He looks to Ray who is busy climbing into the cabin,
oblivious to Luke's plight.

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Ray slides into the seat next to Donny. Donny stares at him,
unbelieving.

RAY

What?

DONNY

Forgetting something?

Ray pats his pockets, his shirt.

RAY

No, I don't think so.

DONNY

Little guy, same colored hair as
you?

Realization.

RAY

Luke!

Ray jumps back out of the car.

EXT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Luke tries again to get the bag into the bed of the truck.
Ray rushes over.

RAY
Here, let me help.

Ray tosses the bag into the truck bed, then he and Luke head back to the truck's cab.

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Donny looks at Ray and then to Luke, shaking his head. He starts the engine and takes off like a rocket into the Brazilian traffic.

EXT. BRAZIL - LATER

We pass through the city with its hustle and bustle, moving further and further outward to the less inhabited regions.

Night falls and Donny is still driving. Luke pulls off his Adventure Buddy and lays his head on the plush doll. His eyes get heavy as he falls asleep.

EXT. BASECAMP - DAY

RAY (O.S.)
Luke. Wake up, we're here.

Luke opens his eyes. It's morning and the truck is moving down a rocky road toward a clearing punctuated by tents and day laborers moving back and forth with various supplies.

Donny stops the truck and everyone piles out. A HUGE, bald, monster of a man, BURNS, greets Donny as he walks over.

BURNS
Took you long enough.

DONNY
Pfft. If you'd gone, we'd be sending out a rescue party.

Burns GROWLS at Donny, who snickers as he walks past.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Mr. Pierce! Mr. Pierce, we're back.

From one of the tents comes DAMIEN PIERCE, 40's, intelligent eyes. He's speaking into a SATELLITE PHONE.

DAMIEN

No... I know. I assure you, the shareholders will get their money.
(pause) Yes, whatever it takes.

He folds the phone up and walks over to Donny.

Donny is whispering something in Damien's ear. Damien's gaze darts over to Luke, he isn't pleased.

Luke tugs on Ray's shirt, pointing in Damien's direction.

RAY

Him? He's my... uh, partner. Kind of sensitive, so try to keep a low profile, ok?

Luke nods as Damien heads over to Ray.

DAMIEN

Ray, it's good to see you. I trust the flight was pleasant?

RAY

Yeah. It was great.

DAMIEN

Good, good. And this is...?

Damien eyes Luke like a predator sizing up his prey.

RAY

It's my uh... son, Luke. He... **we**, just lost his mother.

DAMIEN

My condolences. Be that as it may, I hardly think this is the environment for a boy his age.

RAY

That's what I said!

Luke looks up to his Dad, hurt.

RAY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, he's just going to be here for a few weeks and then he's headed back to his grandmother's.

Luke looks surprised and saddened to hear this.

DAMIEN
A few weeks?

RAY
Two... three tops.

Damien TUSSELES Luke's hair, much to Luke's annoyance.

DAMIEN
Maybe he'll bring us some luck. How
about that, son? Are you our good
luck charm?

Luke just STARES at Damien, frightened. Ray leans in to
Damien, whispering.

RAY
He hasn't spoken since his Mom
died. Doctor said it was some form
of post-traumatic stress.

DAMIEN
Ahh. I see. (to Luke) No one ever
said life was going to be fair, did
they? Ray, we've been digging in
the area you specified. We haven't
found anything yet, but I thought
I'd move the crew south.

RAY
No, no, no. It's there. I'm sure of
it.

Damien's visage changes, from nice guy, to steel in his eyes.

RAY (CONT'D)
What I mean is... just another day.
That's all.

DAMIEN
Fine, another day. By the way, I
need to have you sign some forms.
My investors are getting a bit
antsy and they need assurances.

RAY
Sure...

He walks with Damien toward the tent, forgetting about Luke.

Luke takes in his surroundings. The jungle around him is
DENSE. Mountains surround their basecamp, all a constant and
vibrant green.

His revelry is broken when Donny reappears, handing him his luggage.

DONNY

Some dad you've got there kid.
Real father-of-the-year material.
Follow me. Your tent is over here.

Donny leads the way into camp. Luke follows.

Luke passes Damien's tent. Inside, Damien and Ray stare at a map on a small table.

RAY

I'm certain of it. The soil
composition is a match...

As Donny escorts Luke through the camp, we catch a glimpse of the operation.

The tents sit on the outskirts of a large EXCAVATION SITE being dug out by scores of native workers; small trucks, back hoes, and wheelbarrows line the edge.

It's the type of operation that would cost MILLIONS upon millions of dollars, but this, this looks all kinds of shady.

Burns sits in a chair outside his tent with a GIANT KNIFE, sharpening it on a stone.

He looks up at Luke and STARES, mad-dogging him as he walks past.

Luke walks a little faster, matching Donny's gait.

Donny points to a small tent near the edge of camp.

DONNY

That's yours and Ray's. Make sure
you sleep *inside* the mosquito nets.
Don't want you dyin' of malaria.
(pause) On second thought... do
what you want.

Donny cackles before turning on his heel and heading back the opposite way.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Luke walks into the small tent. There are a couple of cots surrounded by mosquito nets. Books and parchment are strewn everywhere.

Near the head of the biggest cot he sees a framed picture of himself, Ray, and his Mom. He sits down on the cot, pulling the picture from its place, staring at it with sad eyes.

RAY (O.S.)
Hey, squirt!

Ray comes into the tent. He stops, seeing Luke staring at the picture. He moves to Luke's side, unsure of what to do.

RAY (CONT'D)
Happier times Luke. You guys were the best thing that ever happened to me. Your Mom... was the best thing that ever happened to me...

Luke looks up at him. His eyes a little teary.

RAY (CONT'D)
I know you miss her... I miss her too. But... it'll be okay. We'll be okay... I promise.

Luke HUGS Ray, but Ray can't handle it for long. He puts an AWKWARD arm around Luke's shoulders and PATS it.

RAY (CONT'D)
There... there.

The walkie talkie SPRINGS to life.

DAMIEN (O.S.)
Ray, they've found something. Meet us at the ATV.

Ray stands up, ignoring the fact that Luke is not done with his hugging.

He grabs the walkie.

RAY
We'll be right there... (to Luke)
Want to come with Dad and see what he's doing?

Luke doesn't say anything.

RAY (CONT'D)
Trust me, you're going to love it.
Come on.

Ray leaves the tent. Luke wipes his eyes on his sleeves. He grabs his Adventure Buddy, throwing it on his back and follows.

EXT. CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Outside, Damien, Donny, and Burns are sitting inside a small ATV like car.

Donny sees Ray and Luke before they are in earshot.

DONNY

He's bringing the kid. What are we going to do about that, boss?

DAMIEN

Nothing changes. Is that a problem?

BURNS

Not for me.

DONNY

Yeah me either, just askin'.

Luke and Ray jump in the back.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Hold on tight, jungle floor express is on the move!

EXT. EXCAVATION HOLE - CONTINUOUS

Donny puts the pedal to the floor and the ATV flies forward. The small off-road vehicle rumbles along the dirt path leading down to the excavation floor.

Ray points to a giant DIG SITE next to them.

RAY

Damien, was doing some...
exploratory digging for diamonds...
oil... actually I'm not sure... It
doesn't matter. Instead of jewels,
they found something else...

Ray pulls out his PHONE and flips to a picture of a battered piece of parchment. It shows some sort of Mayan KING, and behind him a GIANT MONSTER STATUE - THE GUARDIAN. ZOOMING IN we notice a shining JEWEL in the Guardian's head. Piled on either side are GOLDEN TRINKETS.

Luke looks at Ray, confused.

RAY (CONT'D)

Yeah, that was my look too. This was a piece of parchment they found in some sediment at the mine floor.

(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)
 So, they called me. (proudly) I'm
 kind of an expert in this area.

The vehicle hits a BUMP causing Ray to hit his head.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Ow!

Donny SMILES as he drives.

DONNY
 Sorry 'bout that. Hold on tight,
 things are a bit bumpy down here.

RAY
 Anyway, where was I?

BURNS
 You were telling him you were an,
 "expert."

Ray rubs his head and goes back to telling Luke the story. He points to the picture of the king.

RAY
 Right. From what I can piece
 together, this king was supposedly
 a mighty wizard. The people of the
 jungle were his slaves and he used
 them to gather a horde of
 treasure...

Luke notices the natives hauling and mining, punctuating the imagery.

RAY (CONT'D)
 ... which he hid somewhere in the
 mountains of the Amazon.

Donny YELLS from the driver's seat.

DONNY
 How much treasure doc?

RAY
 More than you could ever wish for.
 More than the Pharaohs of Egypt or
 King Solomon... I think.

DAMIEN
 That's what I'm betting on, Ray. I
 don't care if you are the laughing
 stock of Archaeological - you're
 going to make us rich, I know it!

Luke looks at his Dad, wondering.

RAY

I wouldn't say laughing stock, I mean, just because I can't prove my theories, doesn't mean they aren't true.

BURNS

Like the one about the Guardian?

DAMIEN

Yes, Ray. Tell the kid about the Guardian.

They've reached the excavation floor. The vehicle zips past Native workers filling trucks with dirt.

RAY

(off Luke's look) So, the wizard made a four armed statue that guarded his treasure.

Ray points to the picture of the Guardian.

RAY (CONT'D)

But it was cursed. This statue would come to life if anyone tried to take the treasure. It was unstoppable!

Luke looks scared.

RAY (CONT'D)

Pretty scary, huh?

The ATV stops.

DAMIEN

Ground floor. Jewels, gold, eternal youth!

Everyone empties out of the car and follows Damien through a cut path in the jungle.

Luke is in the rear and BUMPS into Burns. Burns looks down at him with a GROWL. Luke skitters to the side and runs in front of Ray.

EXT. GRAVESITE - CONTINUOUS

RAY

Look, Luke.

In front of them, NATIVE WORKERS clear dirt away from a SKELETAL CORPSE incased in dirt.

RAY (CONT'D)

Wow.

Ray is excited. He LEAPS into the pit, examining the body. It's pretty much all skeleton, small pieces of fabric still on its body.

RAY (CONT'D)

I need a light. Can you hand me a flashlight?

Everyone turns, staring at each other.

DAMIEN

A flashlight. No one has a flashlight?

Luke pulls off his Adventure Buddy and pulls out the reflecting mirror. He points it up toward the sun, and the reflection SHINES on the corpse.

Everyone looks to him.

RAY

Perfect Luke, thank you.

DONNY

<mimicking> Perfect Luke, nyah, nyah.

Ray leans close to the corpse, looking it over with care.

DAMIEN

Who was it?

RAY

"It's" a she. This fabric looks highly woven... maybe she was royalty, a consort?

The reflection from the mirror causes something to SPARKLE in the corpse's hand.

RAY (CONT'D)

Hold on... Luke, over here.

Ray points to the hand, Luke points the mirror reflection in that direction.

Ray reaches out, pulling the skeletal hand OPEN.

Inside is a JEWEL the size of a SILVER DOLLAR, and a few GOLD COINS!

Donny is JUMPING up and down with excitement.

DONNY

It's real! It's real! We're gonna
be rich!

Ray reaches in and lifts the jewel into the light from the mirror.

DAMIEN

Excellent work, doctor.

Luke's mouth DROPS. He POINTS behind Ray.

The light from the mirror shines INTO the Jewel, creating a PROJECTED IMAGE on the grave wall.

Ray turns to see the image.

RAY

Amazing.

DONNY

What is it?

DAMIEN

It looks like--

RAY

A map.

PULL OUT to get a better look at it. It IS a map.

It shows a RIVER, a small waterfall. There are markings of skulls. And near the top, a TEMPLE.

DONNY

I'll be damned...

Damien sees the kid.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry.

Ray is looking at the map and the Jewel. He pulls out his phone and flips to the picture of the Guardian.

CU: on the picture. He ZOOMS IN to the head of the Guardian and the jewel that lays in its center.

RAY

The eye of the Guardian. The ghost that protected the wizard king and his treasure room. She must have tried to escape with it... died in the jungle, hit a mudslide, maybe a poisonous animal... I'll need to examine it further.

DAMIEN

And the treasure? What about the treasure?

Ray looks back to the Jewel. He lifts it into the light once again, transfixed by the map.

RAY

The treasure? I think, the jewel is going to lead us right to it.

A cloud PASSES OVERHEAD, dimming the light, breaking Ray's revelry.

RAY (CONT'D)

But in the meantime...

Ray reaches down and picks up the coins. He tosses one to Damien.

RAY (CONT'D)

This should whet your appetite.

Damien eyes the coin, Burns and Donny SMILING over his shoulders.

Ray pockets the jewel before offering his hand to Luke who helps pull him out of the hole.

INT. BASECAMP - LATER

Luke sits on a crate inside their tent pointing a FLASHLIGHT AT the Jewel.

Ray is taking pictures of the map with his phone.

RAY

Just a few more seconds... done!
Great work holding that flashlight
Luke. Maybe someday you'll be as
accomplished as your old man, eh?

Ray puts down his phone while Luke turns out the light.

Luke TUGS on Ray's pant leg.

RAY (CONT'D)
What's up?

Ray turns to Luke who is hopping on one leg doing the PEE-PEE dance.

RAY (CONT'D)
Oh. The latrine? You're... umm...
potty trained, right?

Luke just looks at him.

RAY (CONT'D)
Of course you are. That was stupid.
Here, follow me.

INT. BASECAMP - LATRINE

Luke and Ray walk through the basecamp to the latrine. As they pass Damien's tent they hear voices.

DAMIEN (O.S.)
If Ray is right, we'll be to the
treasure in less than a week.

Ray stops, putting a finger to his mouth in the "be quiet" gesture. Luke and Ray move closer to the tent, listening in.

DONNY (O.S.)
Is that enough time?

DAMIEN (O.S.)
Before the government finds out
about our... operation? It better
be.

BURNS (O.S.)
If we get caught... it doesn't end
well for people in prison here.

DAMIEN (O.S.)
By that time we'll have enough
money to buy the government.

DONNY (O.S.)
And Ray?

DAMIEN (O.S.)
He and that mute kid are loose
ends.

(MORE)

DAMIEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Besides, there's no reason to split
the treasure four ways when we can
split it three.

Ray's eyes go wide. He grabs Luke and they step back into the
jungle.

SNAP!

Ray steps on a twig, breaking it.

BURNS (O.S.)
Did you hear somethin'?

Ray and Luke make a break for the jungle.

The tent flap opens and Burns, Damien, and Donny exit just in
time to see Ray disappear into the foliage.

DAMIEN
After him you idiots! I'll take the
ATV and cut him off.

Donny and Burns run after Ray and Luke.

INT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Ray and Luke RIP through the jungle on foot. Behind them
Burns and Donny are in hot pursuit.

RAY
Hurry! Hurry!

BURNS (O.S.)
Doctor! I don't know what you
heard, but I'm sure it was a
misunderstanding.

As Ray and Luke move further into the jungle we can hear the
ROAR of the distant waterfall.

Donny and Burns are gaining. Burns pulls out a PISTOL and
FIRES it toward Luke and Ray. It blows apart a tree limb near
Ray's head.

Donny grabs Burns's arm.

DONNY
No, you idiot! We have to take him
alive. He's the only one that can
get us into that temple!

From ABOVE we can see Ray and Luke make their way toward the waterfall. Burns and Donny are moving fast to catch them and above them all, on a ridge, is Damien on an ATV.

EXT. JUNGLE - SNIPER'S PERCH

Damien skids to a halt and unslings a RIFLE, aiming toward the running Ray.

INT. JUNGLE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Ray pauses and grabs Luke by the shoulders.

RAY

Listen Luke, uh, you stay here.
I'll go get help. They wouldn't
hurt a kid, I'm sure of it...

EXT. JUNGLE - SNIPER'S PERCH

POV rifle scope. We see the crosshairs land on Ray as he talks to Luke. They hover over his head and then Damien dips them, aiming for his LEG.

BLAM!

The gunshot ECHOES through canyon.

EXT. JUNGLE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Burns and Donny stop and look up at Damien who brandishes his rifle.

THWIP!

The bullet flies through the air and hits Ray in the leg. He FALLS to the ground with a yelp. He can't go on and he knows it.

Luke turns to see his Dad grasping at his leg.

RAY

New plan. Here...

Fishing the jewel out of his pocket, he tosses it to Luke. Luke catches it, not sure what to do.

RAY (CONT'D)

Take it to the authorities, police,
army, whoever!

(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)

The map will lead you to where
they'll want to go. Bring help,
fast!

A rustle of leaves indicates Burns and Donny are almost upon them.

RAY (CONT'D)

You should have stayed with your
grandma. Now, go!

Scared out of his brains, Luke turns and runs just as Burns and Donny show up.

DONNY

I'll stay with the doctor, you get
the kid!

RAY

Go! Go!!!

Luke bolts through the underbrush. He pulls off his Adventure Buddy as he runs and puts the jewel inside it before slipping the doll back on his back

EXT. JUNGLE - SNIPER'S PERCH

Still in his sniper perch, Damian takes aim again. This time zeroing in on Luke.

EXT. JUNGLE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Luke has reached the edge of the waterfall.

Huge torrents of water cascade downward into a smoky mist. Luke SKIDS to a halt, kicking dirt over the edge. He spins around, unsure of what to do.

Out of the jungle and into the line of sight of Damian's scope is Burns.

Burns menacing grins spreads from ear to ear as he stomps forward. He pulls a DIRTY KNIFE from his waist ban.

BURNS

Come on little boy. There's no
where left to go.

Luke is sweating. He backs up, his heel hanging over the edge of the cliff.

Then, out of nowhere, he hears another voice. It's the sound of a man, strong, sure.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (O.S.)
Looks like your only option is the
waterfall!

Luke cranes his neck around, coming EYE TO EYE with Adventure Buddy. He stares directly into his eyes and smiles.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Hey, kid. Time to go!

Adventure Buddy is talking. It's a SHOCK to Luke, enough so Luke and Adventure Buddy FALL BACKWARD, dropping into the mist below.

Burns stands in shock, a little dumbfounded. He rubs his eyes, unsure of what he just saw. He slowly walks to the edge of the cliff and looks down into the mist. A horrible smile CREEPS onto his face.

BURNS
Problem solved.

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

SPLASH! Luke hits the river like a cannonball. He struggles against the substantial current, trying to reach the surface for air.

He bobs up and down, never getting a clear picture of anything. Through his watery eyeline, he catches a glimpse of Adventure Buddy. He reaches out and grabs a hold of Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Hold onto me, I'm waterproof!

LUKE THOMAS
Oh... Ok.

It's too much for Luke. His eyes roll into the back of his head and he PASSES OUT.

EXT. BASECAMP - NIGHT

Donny ties a bandage around Ray's leg. Ray looks up at Damian who sits in a chair across from him.

RAY
Let's be reasonable...

DAMIEN

The time to be reasonable has long passed, Ray.

RAY

What about my son?

DONNY

Let's not pretend you care about your son, Ray.

Damien pours himself a drink.

DAMIEN

I really wish you didn't hear... whatever it is that you heard. But you did, and now... Ray, do you know why we hired you?

RAY

Because I'm an expert in--

DAMIEN

Expert? Come on Ray. You're knowledgeable, yeah. But there are a lot of experts with a lot more credibility than you. No, Ray...

Damien stares at Ray.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

It's because you're a coward and you're stupid. You didn't think it strange we were digging in the middle of the Amazon with no officials, no government approval?

RAY

I just thought--

DAMIEN

You didn't **think**, Ray. It's a shame really, how bad you've screwed up your life.

Ray is downcast.

RAY

If you're going to kill me anyway, why would I help you?

DAMIEN

Everything is negotiable. You find me that temple and maybe... just maybe, I let you live.

Burns comes into the tent. Damien looks at him with a silent questioning glance. Burns replies with a NOD.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

You find me that temple by morning Ray, or you'll be joining that corpse at the bottom of the mine.

Damien stands to his feet. He pushes a MAP towards Ray.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Looks like you have some work to do.

Damien leaves the tent, Burns following behind. Donny stays in, standing guard.

EXT. DAMIEN'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Outside the tent Damien grabs Burns by the collar. A testament to Damien's power, Burns COWERS from his grasp.

DAMIEN

What happened?

BURNS

I don't know... he backed up and fell right off the cliff.

Damien pushes Burns backward - letting go of him. Burns stumbles to the ground.

DAMIEN

Huh. That kid's had a hard week. Take the truck and find his body. We'll bury him with his Dad when he gets us that treasure. It's the least we can do.

Burns NODS and heads off to the truck, while Damien glances back into the tent to see Ray looking at the Map of the surrounding mountains.

INT. RIVERSIDE - LATER

Luke is unconscious, laying on a small pile of jungle leaves. We hear the sound of something burning nearby. Smoke WAFTS over Luke's face causing his nose to twitch.

Involuntarily, his nose SNIFFS, then sniffs again. Finally Luke's eyes slowly open, giving him a look at his surroundings.

In front of him sits a blazing fire. Across it, spitted and smelling delicious, is a giant fish, brown and dripping.

Luke scrambles forward reaching out to grab a piece of the tasty meat.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (O.S.)
Be careful. It's hot.

Luke SWINGS around and for the first time we really get a good look at the walking and talking Adventure Buddy. He has a bundle of firewood in his hands and tosses it to the ground.

Luke's eyes crank open as wide as they can go. He tries to run away but trips over the jungle floor.

He flips onto his back, lifting his head to STARE at Adventure Buddy.

LUKE
Am I going crazy?

Adventure Buddy smiles as he moves towards the fish. Luke crab walks backwards, away from the impossibility he sees before him.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
No reason to freak out, Luke. You aren't going crazy. At least I don't think so.

Adventure Buddy pulls the spit off the fire and lays it on a rock between Luke and himself.

He sits cross legged facing Luke.

LUKE
But you're... you're...

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Alive?

Luke NODS.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
 Isn't it a kick? One moment you're
 being stitched together by a nice
 ole lady in China and then...

Adventure Buddy SLAPS his hands together causing Luke to JUMP
 backwards.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
 Sorry. Mosquito. You're a jumpy
 sort aren'tcha? Where was I? Oh
 yeah... Alive. At least I think so.
 I've never been alive, so I'm not
 sure.

Luke LEANS FORWARD. His finger reaching out, POKING Adventure
 Buddy in the forehead.

Ow.
 ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Luke loses it and screams. He jumps up and turns, SLAMMING
 his head into a tree that is right behind him. He drops onto
 his back.

Adventure Buddy enters his peripheral, looking down at him.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
 You finished?

Luke rubs his head and sits up, facing the live doll.

LUKE
 But how?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
 Haven't worked that out yet. But
 lucky for you I was around. That
 big guy... The one with the knife?
 He didn't look like he was going to
 play patty-cake.

Luke STANDS to his feet. Too fast.

LUKE
 My dad!

He grabs his head, his body wobbling. Adventure Buddy is up,
 steadying him back to the seated position.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Woah, woah. Relax. Sit down. You took a nasty fall off of a ten story waterfall. That and you almost drowned.

Adventure Buddy pats Luke on the shoulder before moving over to the fish. He pulls out his patented ADVENTURE BUDDY ACTION KNIFE and tries to cut into the fish.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Of all the rotten...

The knife blade BENDS. It's plastic. And not the very good kind.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

I know a kid could get hurt if I came with a real knife but, come on! What type of adventure can you get into with a plastic knife?

He works through the fish and flips a chunk of it toward Luke. Luke catches it and is gobbling it down in no time, obviously famished.

Adventure Buddy takes a bite out of the fish, eyeing the boy in front of him.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Luke. You're going to have to make a choice.

Luke looks up. Unsure.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

We can get out of here... (points to his surroundings)... the jungle I mean. I can get you to civilization.

LUKE

Then we can get help?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Sure kid. The problem is, it may take days, maybe even a week.

LUKE

The other option?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

We go back and get your Dad. Steal a car. Drive out of here. But the choice is yours. I'm yours.

Luke, scared out of his mind, doesn't know what to do.

LUKE

What do you think we should do?

Adventure Buddy shakes his head.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Nope. It's not my call. It's yours. Lesson number one kid. Life is full of tough choices, and no one can make them for you.

LUKE

I don't know Adventure Buddy...

ADVENTURE BUDDY

... Just Buddy, please. Adventure's just my past time.

LUKE

Okay... Buddy. I don't know.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

What does your gut say?

Luke thinks for a moment.

LUKE

Is there more fish?

Buddy smiles.

VROOOOOM!

Nearby the sound of a truck can be heard getting closer.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Maybe it's help!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Or maybe it's the guys that came after you in the first place.

Buddy is up in a flash. He rushes over to the fire and KICKS dirt into the pit, putting out the flames.

He turns to look, ushering Luke forward.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Come on! Let's go see what we can
see.

Adventure Buddy SMILES and marches off into the jungle.

LUKE
Wait! What if it's...

Buddy is already gone into the foliage. Luke looks frustrated
but decides to follow.

EXT. BASE OF WATERFALL - CONTINUOUS

The truck pulls up to the water's edge.

Buddy reaches into his backpack, coming up with his
binoculars.

POV - BINOCULARS

Out steps Burns. He is surveying the scene. Pulling out a
walkie-talkie, he speaks into it.

BURNS
I don't see anything. He could have
washed further down stream.

DAMIEN (O.S.)
Then go down stream. Find him.

Burns gets closer to the edge, looking for something,
anything...

Buddy hands the binoculars to Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
It's the big guy. Here, take a
look.

Luke looks through the binoculars.

Burns is close to the edge of the water, walking down the
side of the river coming closer to Luke and Buddy.

LUKE
He's coming this way.

Buddy is SQUINTING, staring out over the water, toward the
truck.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

We'll need to slow him down. Come on.

Buddy slinks off, Luke right behind.

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Burns is still walking close to the edge of the river. He sees a small spiral of smoke up ahead.

Moving fast, Burns runs towards the campsite of Buddy and Luke, right past...

REVEAL Buddy and Luke, hiding in some weeds along the side of the road.

They stare after Burns as he disappears into the jungle.

Buddy gets up.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Come on.

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Buddy and Luke reach the truck.

Buddy has opened the passenger side of the truck and gotten in. Lucas isn't sure what to do.

LUKE

What are you doing? He could be back any minute.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

So you better get in before he gets here.

Buddy has pulled the wiring out of the ignition and is currently HOT-WIRING the car.

SPARK.

The spark takes, causing the car to start.

LUKE

Did you just hot-wire that car?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Yeah, who knew? Now, come on!

Luke scrambles into the car.

EXT. RIVER - CAMP SITE

Burns has crept up to the campsite. A small strand of smoke still lifting into the air.

He pulls out a MACHETE and LEAPS into the camp site.

BURNS
I've got you now!

Nothing. The camp site is empty.

VROOOM!

Burns WHIPS his head toward the place where he left the truck.

BURNS (CONT'D)
My truck!

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Buddy looks down at the peddles.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Hmmm.

LUKE
Hmm? What Hmmm? What does that mean?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Lesson number two. Improvise.

Luke looks up from his seat and he can see Burns in the distance, running through the brush and back toward his truck.

LUKE
Well, improvise fast, because he's coming back!

Buddy looks over the wheel.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Okay. Not a problem. Alright. Luke, you sit here and push the peddles.

LUKE
I'm not tall enough to drive!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

I'll drive, you just use your legs
to hit the gas!

Burns is closer. He looks up, not sure what is going on in his truck.

Luke scoots over and Buddy jumps on his shoulders.

Buddy grabs the gear shift and throws it into "D".

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Alright, hit it!

Luke SLAMS on the accelerator with his foot.

The truck PEELS OUT, sending dirt everywhere.

The force causes both of them to WHIPLASH backwards for a minute, but Buddy struggles with the wheel and gets it back.

The truck rockets forward STRAIGHT FOR BURNS.

Burns can see the animated doll behind the wheel and BLINKS, hoping that will help the reality of the situation make sense.

BURNS

What in the...

Nope. It's still there, and it is aiming the truck straight for him.

Burns LEAPS out of the way, INTO the river.

The truck continues to head down a small dirt path, away from the river.

Burns POPS up from the river, SOAKED.

BURNS (CONT'D)

What just happened?

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The truck is speeding down a faded, jungle road.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Woo hoo! We did it! Did you see that? He just jumped straight into the river.

LUKE
How could I have seen it? I'm
sitting down here.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Good point.

In front of them, the road leads to a dead end of jungle
overgrowth.

LUKE
What do we do now?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Brake.

LUKE
What?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
BRAKE!!!

Luke slams his small feet on the brake. The truck SCREECHES
to a halt, right before it hits a mess of jungle vines that
swallow the small road in front of them.

Buddy puts the car in park and opens the door. Luke follows
him outside.

The truck idles as they stare at the growth.

LUKE
We could go back?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Tall and ugly is back there. We go
back, he might be able to stop us.

LUKE
What do we do then?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
That's up to you. What is your gut
telling you now?

LUKE
I don't know...

ADVENTURE BUDDY
What would your dad do?

Luke looks a bit sad.

LUKE
He'd save himself. At all costs.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Is that what **you** want to do?

LUKE
Yeah... I guess it is.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Then we go through the jungle. See
if we can't follow the trail to
some sort of civilization.

Buddy moves back to the truck and pulls himself up onto the wheel well and then into the truck bed.

We can hear him rummaging around.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Perfect!

Luke can't see. He stands on his tippy toes.

LUKE
What's perfect?

Luke looks a little more excited. From his vantage point we see Buddy's arm LIFT into the air, and with it, comes a MACHETE!

ADVENTURE BUDDY
EXCALIBUR!!!

Buddy pops his head up from the truck bed.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
This baby is going to save our
bacon. (pauses) Oh man, I could use
some bacon right about now.

Buddy leaps over the truck bed, landing next to Luke.

Brandishing the Machete, Buddy MARCHES straight into the jungle. Luke looks back the way they came.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
We're burning daylight, let's go!

He turns to see Buddy ushering him forward.

LUKE

I'm following a doll into a jungle,
carrying a machete... I really have
gone crazy.

Luke follows him into the jungle.

INT. DAMIEN'S TENT - DUSK

Ray and Donny sit the in the background. Donny brandishes a
gun, while Ray studies the map in front of him.

Damien's walkie crackles to life.

BURNS (O.S.)

Boss. He got away.

Ray looks in Damien's direction. He smiles to himself. Damien
takes the walkie outside the tent.

EXT. DAMIEN'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

We see a FLASH of anger.

DAMIEN

What do you mean he got away!? He's
a kid for heaven's sake!

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Burns is out of the river, soaking wet and not happy.

BURNS

There was... there was something...
someone with him.

EXT. DAMIEN'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

DAMIEN

More loose ends? I'm sending Donny
down to you. Find him and whoever
he's with and bring them back to
me. I want the kid alive. Whoever
else is with him... I don't even
need to say it, you know what to
do.

INT. DAMIEN'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Damien walks in and hands his walkie over to Donny.

DAMIEN

I need you to help Burns.

DONNY

Right away boss. See ya Ray.

He PUSHES Ray's head as he runs out of the tent. Ray turns to face Damien, smiling.

RAY

He got away didn't he? (sotto) As stubborn as his Mom.

DAMIEN

And as stupid as his Dad!

Damien is having none of it. He RUSHES Ray, slamming him into the desk. He pulls out his gun and puts it to his forehead.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Do you know what's in the jungle Ray? Jaguars, pythons, and insects that can kill you with one bite. You better pray we find your kid before they do.

He UNCOCKS the gun, pulling back.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Either way, you're job is simple. Find me the entrance to that temple... and soon. If you do that... maybe the kid will leave here alive.

Ray turns back to his work... no longer smiling.

INT. JUNGLE - DUSK

Buddy SWIPES and HACKS at the leaves in front of them. Sweat POURS off of Luke.

LUKE

Can we stop for a minute. I'm exhausted.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Good call, Luke.

Buddy pulls off his pack and rifles inside to pull out the canteen. He opens it to take a drink and notices there is nothing inside.

He turns it upside down, SHAKING it for small drops before looking inside with his eye.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Luke, what's the point of having a canteen if you aren't going to fill it?

LUKE

I didn't know we were going to be lost in the jungle!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Fair point.

Buddy looks around, spying some low hanging vines. Luke follows his gaze.

LUKE

What are you looking for?

Buddy ignores him.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Aha! Luke, come here.

Luke comes to his side. Buddy takes the machete and HACKS the vine in half. He lifts it up, water POURS out onto Luke's face.

He gulps some of it, and then laughs.

LUKE

That's amazing!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

It is, isn't it? That's a water vine.

He hacks another one and takes a gulp himself. He looks over at Luke who gives him a SMILE back. They both drink from the vines, enjoying their moment of peace.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

It's going to be dark soon. We need to set up camp.

Luke takes another swallow of the vine before following Buddy back into the jungle.

EXT. RIVER - DUSK

Donny rolls up to the abandoned truck on a small ATV. Burns stands in the faded path, staring at the jungle in front of them.

DONNY
So, the kid got away from you, huh,
Burns?

BURNS
Not just a kid. Something else was
with him.

DONNY
What, like a dog?

BURNS
No.

Donny comes up to the side of Burns. He stares with him into the jungle.

BURNS (CONT'D)
Just... something else.

DONNY
Ooooohhhhkayyyy. So, let's go get
him.

Donny heads for the jungle. Burns grabs his shoulder.

BURNS
No. It's getting dark.

DONNY
So, I have a flashlight.

BURNS
Is that flashlight going to help
you if you get bit by a Wandering
Spider, or crushed by an anaconda?
You go into that jungle at night,
most likely you won't be coming out
alive.

DONNY
The kid?

Burns stares at the jungle.

BURNS
We'll get his body in the morning.

Burns turns around and heads for the truck. Donny stares into the jungle as we...

INT. DAMIEN'S TENT - NIGHT

Ray is pouring over the map. Next to him he has his camera, flipping through the various photographs of the map they found.

Suddenly, he stops. He ZOOMS in on the picture and notices two small hills, next to a mountain.

RAY

Huh.

DAMIEN

What did you find?

Looking from the picture to the map next to him, he notices the two small hills and a mountain.

RAY

I think... I think I found it.

Damien smiles.

DAMIEN

Well then, I'm glad I didn't kill you yet after all.

INT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

CU on a large piece of bamboo FALLING to the ground. Buddy and Luke PULL the shaft of wood through the jungle and ONTO a small platform of other bamboo chutes.

Luke and Buddy climb up to the landing. We can see that it's been lashed together with the rope from his PARACORD BRACELET. The platform is about a foot above the ground.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

It's always important to make sure that when you are sleeping on the ground in the jungle, that you **aren't** sleeping on the ground in the jungle. There... done. Thank you Adventure Buddy paracord bracelet.

Luke looks around at their handy work, pleased.

LUKE

What now?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Ummm. Well... In order to make sure we deter any predators we have to umm...

Buddy scratches his head.

LUKE

What?

Buddy looks up at Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

We have to pee around the perimeter of our bed here.

LUKE

Can you do that?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

I'm not sure. Only one way to find out.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE FORT - NIGHT

From below we see TWO streams arc over the small bamboo bed they've constructed.

From a side angle on Luke and Buddy, they look at each other with surprised smiles.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Well, whatdoyouknow!

They both laugh as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MONTAGE

We get a MONTAGE of various scenes.

- Buddy finding a small insect on the ground and picking it up. He looks at Luke and smiles before POPPING THE INSECT IN HIS MOUTH. Luke looks disgusted.

BUDDY

Come on, try it! Lots of protein.

Luke shakes his head NO.

Buddy brings the insect closer and CLOSER to Luke, who shies away.

- Luke leaning in to get a closer look at a Poison Dart Frog. He reaches out, but Buddy grabs his hand. Buddy pantomimes touching the frog and then dying, his eyes rolling back and tongue sticking out of his mouth.

- Luke holds a bug in his hands, bringing it closer to his mouth.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Do it! Do it!

Luke closes his eyes and EATS IT! He chews QUICKLY and swallows just as fast.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

How does it taste?

LUKE

Awful.

BUDDY

Yeah it really does, doesn't it?
Come on, I saw some bananas a
little further back.

Buddy gets up and heads for the bananas. Luke is STUNNED.

LUKE

You saw some bananas and you forced
me to eat a bug? Why would you do
that?!

BUDDY (O.S.)

It was hilarious!

CUT TO:

INT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

- Luke filling the canteen from cut vines.

- Buddy on Luke's shoulders reaching for Bananas.

Luke and Buddy take their bananas back to their shelter. Luke is in the lead when Buddy stops and notices JAGUAR TRACKS on the ground. He looks around, worried.

LUKE

You coming?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Of course. I'll race you to the fort!

Buddy kicks the tracks clear and races forward after Luke who's already taken off for the fort.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Buddy and Luke lay on their wooden floor looking up at the night sky. It is barely visible through the canopy of trees, but there are a few stars that can be seen.

Buddy has the jewel out and is looking at it.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

As far as I can figure it's got to be this stone. Bringing me to life, I mean. Here, let's try something.

Buddy tosses the jewel to Luke who catches it. As soon as it leaves his hand, Buddy goes lifeless.

LUKE

Buddy? Buddy!?

Luke places the jewel back on Buddy's chest and Buddy's eyes POP to life.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Woah! That was intense.

LUKE

Are you okay?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Of course! I'm Adventure Buddy, I'm always okay.

Buddy takes another look at the jewel.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

A magic stone. Huh. Will wonders never cease?

Buddy stows the gem in his backpack before turning his attention back to Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
You're kinda quiet, kid.

LUKE
Not much to say.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
On the run with a doll that's come to life and you don't have much to say?

LUKE
Sorry, I just. I haven't talked much since...

Luke's eyes mist.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Since your mom?

LUKE
Yeah.

Buddy points to a star overhead.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
You see that star?

Luke nods.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Odds are that star has been dead for thousands, if not millions of years. The light it made is still seen on earth, even when it's gone. Your Mom is the same way kid. I see her light in you even though she's not here.

Luke pauses. His focus on the star.

LUKE
Do you believe in heaven?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Of course I do. Death is just another sort of adventure... one we must all go on. In fact, I bet your Mom is waiting for you up there to explore it together.

A shooting star flies past. Luke smiles.

LUKE
Thanks, Buddy.

Buddy PATS Luke's shoulder.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Not a problem. Now, get some sleep.
We have a long hike tomorrow.

Luke turns over and closes his eyes. Buddy turns the opposite way looking into the dark jungle. There, a few yards away, peering out of the foliage are two glowing eyes - CAT'S EYES.

The eyes disappear. Buddy sits up, putting his back to the tree.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
(sotto) This is going to be a long
night.

EXT. JUNGLE FORT - DAY

Buddy still leans up against the tree. His hat covers his face and he snores... LOUDLY.

LUKE
Buddy?

Buddy stands up with a start, brandishing his machete.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
What?! Stay low kid!

LUKE
No... It's morning. You were
asleep.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
I was? I guess I was.

Luke offers Buddy a banana.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Yeah. Thanks.

Buddy looks to the jungle. No Jaguar.

LUKE
Looking for something?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

No... I...

He sees something coming through the jungle.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Kid. Just act like I'm a doll.
Don't freak out and relax.

DONNY (O.S.)

Hey Luke, long time no see.

Luke SPINS to see Donny and Burns standing behind him.

He shuffles backwards on the fort, but Burns and Donny move closer. Donny grabs Luke by his arm.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Not so fast. My boss wants you
back, alive.

Burns stares at the Adventure Buddy doll. He tentatively reaches out and POKES IT.

LUKE

Leave him alone!

DONNY

Aren't you a little old for dolls?

Burns picks the doll up. Staring at it, he leans in to get a closer look.

He looks back to Donny, as he does, Buddy produces his magnifying glass and focuses the sun right onto Burns shirt.

BURNS

Donny, it's just a doll.

DONNY

Of course it's just a doll, what
else would it be?

Smoke curls up from his shirt until a small FLAME appears.

BURNS

OW!

Burns drops the doll, while patting the flames out on his shirt. He pats the flame out and looks down to see Buddy staring up at him.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Take a picture, it'll last longer.

Buddy rears back and KICKS Burns in the NUTS.

Burns, doubles over.

DONNY

What in the hell?!

Luke STOMPS on Donny's toes, causing Donny to let go of Luke. He screams in anguish, hopping on one leg.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

That's our cue to vamoose! Come on kid!

Buddy and Luke race off into the jungle.

Burns has recovered, and he's M-A-D!

DONNY

What was that thing?!

BURNS

A demon. A ghost. I don't know, and I don't care. Whatever it is, it's as good as dead. Come on!

Donny and Burns run off into the jungle after Luke and Buddy.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Luke is following Buddy. Buddy is staring at the ground.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

This way!

He turns left, Luke follows.

LUKE

Where are we going?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

To get some help.

Further back, we see Donny and Burns, they're catching up.

Luke can hear them coming behind him.

LUKE

Buddy, they're getting close.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

(sotto) So are we.

We look down and see that Buddy is following JAGUAR TRACKS. The tracks end at a nearby tree.

Luke bumps into Buddy.

LUKE

We have to...

Luke notices Buddy has his fingers to his mouth in a "shush" gesture. He points up and we see a JAGUAR sleeping in a tree.

Luke gulps, HARD.

Donny sees Luke up ahead.

DONNY

There they are, Burns. We have em!

Buddy pulls out the whistle from around his neck.

Luke and Buddy look back. Burns and Donny are almost there.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Wait for it... wait for it...

Just before Burns and Donny can catch up to them, Buddy puts the whistle to his mouth and BLOWS!

The Jaguar wakes up in a start and LEAPS INSTINCTIVELY. Buddy and Luke run UNDER the Jaguar as it jumps. The Jaguar lands on the other side of Buddy and Luke, facing Donny and Burns.

Donny and Burns STOP and SCREAM!

Burns and Donny turn tail and run away with all their might. The Jaguar is chasing after them.

Luke and Buddy turn to see the spectacle.

LUKE

How did you know?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Saw the prints last night. Figured if we followed them, we'd find the owner.

LUKE

It could have killed us!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Naw. Lesson three - animals are usually more frightened of us than we are of them. Remember that...

They watch as Donny and Burns YELP in the distance.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Pretty funny though.

LUKE
Totally!

They both smile and then hi-five each other.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Damian rides a donkey. Behind him, Ray, his hands tied, rides another one.

Two natives pull the donkeys through the jungle across a bridge spanning a ravine. Damian spins around to address Ray.

DAMIEN
Where to now?

Ray stares ahead, almost ignoring the question.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Ray?

RAY
There...

Ray nods in the distance where we REVEAL a giant bleached white CLIFF FACE, almost identical to the image on the map.

RAY (CONT'D)
The entrance is in the base of that mountain. I'm sure of it.

DAMIEN
You're proving to be useful Ray. I pray you stay that way.

They've reached the end of the bridge when the bushes RUSTLE in front of them. Damien swings his gun around at the ready. The natives brandish machetes.

The sound gets closer, and CLOSER, until...

Burns and Donny STUMBLE into the clearing in front of them. They don't look good. They have claw marks on their bodies. Their clothes are in tatters.

They run straight for Damien. Behind them the Jaguar appears, sliding to a halt at the edge of the clearing.

Damian lifts his gun in the air and fires off TWO SHOTS!

The Jaguar slowly backs away into the jungle, eyeing Donny and Burns as it disappears into the foliage.

Burns and Donny are on their feet, catching their breath and looking relieved.

DONNY

Oh thank you! Thank you! That was a close one, eh Burnsy?

Burns just nods his head.

DAMIEN

Donny, Burns, where's the boy?

BURNS

We...

DONNY

Boss, it was... you aren't going to believe me, but he has this doll. But it's not a doll. It's alive and...

DAMIEN

Did you two eat the wrong plant? What are you talking about?

BURNS

He's right. The kid has some... *thing* with him. Helping him.

Damien turns to Ray.

RAY

Don't look at me, the only thing that Luke has is a backpack. I think you're *friends* are suffering from heat exhaustion.

Burns moves toward Ray.

BURNS

It wasn't no heat exhaustion!

DAMIEN

Burns!

Damien's shout stops Burns in his tracks.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Get some water. We'll have to worry about the kid later. We have more pressing concerns, namely, we're near the treasure room entrance.

He points to the cliff. Both Burns and Donny follow their gaze. You can almost see the dollar bill signs in their eyes.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Buddy chops through foliage. Luke SLAPS mosquitos around him.

BLAM! BLAM!

We hear the gunshots in the distance. Buddy and Luke look up from their hiking.

LUKE

Was that...

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Yeah. Gunshots. Not too far either.

LUKE

You don't think... My Dad isn't...

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Naw. I mean they need him right?

Buddy slashes at a vine in front of him.

LUKE

What happens when they don't need him?

Adventure Buddy doesn't answer. He keeps cutting at the foliage.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

If we can get through here, we can turn due south and probably follow the river toward civilization. I'm thinking it'll take us another two days but...

Luke stops in his tracks.

LUKE

Two days?!

Buddy turns to see Luke looking frantic.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Sure, give or take. Why?

LUKE
My Dad doesn't have two days.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
I thought you said that's what your
Dad would do? Get to safety.

LUKE
It is, but...

ADVENTURE BUDDY
But what?

Luke sets his jaw.

LUKE
I'm not my Dad.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
So you want to try and save him?

Luke NODS.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
That a boy!

Buddy gives him an approving smile.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
And lucky for us, we know where
he's going. And if I'm right,
which, let's face it, I am, we just
have to cut across this small
ravine and...

He pushes some palm fronds to the side and in front of them
is a HUGE CANYON.

LUKE
Small ravine?

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Huh, that wasn't on the map.

LUKE
We could go around.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
It'd take too long.

Buddy searches the side of the canyon wall until he spots something a little further down.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

There!

We follow his gaze, revealing a giant, decrepit log. It has fallen between the canyon connecting both sides like a giant bridge.

LUKE

Uh uh, no way I'm going on that.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Oh come on, it'll be fine.

Buddy marches over to the downed tree, searching for a way to climb up it.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

A hand here?

Luke makes a stirrup with both his hands and Buddy throws his leg up. Luke lifts him on top of the log.

Buddy puts a tentative foot forward. The log CREAKS.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

See, it's fine!

CRACK!

His foot goes through the top of the tree. He pulls it back out with a crunch.

LUKE

It's completely rotted through!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

I'm sure it's not *completely* rotted through, otherwise it wouldn't be sitting here, now would it?

Luke looks on disbelieving.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Listen, this is the only way. We can't go back, or we risk running into those two goons, or worse, that Jaguar. We've got to go forward, find this treasure room and somehow rescue your dad. Now come on! Suck it up and follow me.

Adventure Buddy starts across the log. He takes a peek down and we can see it's a LONG way to the bottom.

The log is full of small holes, the wood creaking with every step.

Buddy keeps moving until he makes it to the other side of the ravine.

He waves back to Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
See, I told you! Nothing to it.

Luke takes a DEEP BREATH.

LUKE
(sotto) Nothing to it. I can do this. Don't be a baby. Suck it up.

Luke is able to use the roots of the tree to climb onto it.

He stares at Adventure Buddy who waves from the other side.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
One foot in front of the other,
Luke. You can do this.

Luke takes a tentative first step. The log beneath him GROANS under the weight.

He grabs a gnarled branch that sticks out of the tree to steady himself...

SNAP!

The branch BREAKS. He falls to his stomach, watching the branch drift downward into the ravine below.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Luke!

Luke takes a deep breath and tries to stand to his feet.

LUKE
I can't Buddy!

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Yes you can. Come on now. Stand up.

Luke brings his knees underneath him and stands, his legs as wobbly as a newborn calf's. His hands are out to his side like a tightrope walker as he resumes his journey.

Buddy smiles at his progress, he's almost three quarters of the way there until he notices something at Luke's feet making his eyes go wide.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Uhhh... Alright Luke, you're doing great. Keep coming.

Below Luke, a giant SNAKE has just slithered out of one of the holes in the log. It slides over Luke's shoe and crawls UP his leg.

Luke feels something weird, and looks down. He STOPS, paralyzed with fear.

LUKE
There's a... a... a...

ADVENTURE BUDDY
It's okay. It's nothing. He's probably more afraid of you, then you are of it.

A second snake comes out of the same hole, moving along the same path, UP Luke's pant leg.

The first snake moves UNDER Luke's shirt.

Luke is not handling this well.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Luke? Luke! Listen to me. As long as you keep a slow pace, you'll be fine. Just keep walking.

LUKE
But... the...

One of the snakes comes out from his shirt collar, curling around his neck.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Walk Luke! One foot in front of the other.

Luke CLOSES his eyes. He puts one foot in front of the other.

The other snake comes out of his shirt sleeve, wrapping around his arm.

The log CREAKS, the middle of it bowing, ready to break.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Ummm, remember what I said about walking slowly? Scratch that. You need to run.

LUKE
But you said as, "long as I keep a slow pace..."

ADVENTURE BUDDY
I know what I said! But now I'm saying run! RUN!

The log is collapsing! Luke breaks into a run.

Just as the log SNAPS IN HALF, Luke LEAPS for the edge of the cliff, as the rest of the log topples into the ravine.

Luke lands in a heap. Buddy wastes no time and jumps on top of him, grabbing the two snakes, pulling them from his body.

Luke stands up, patting himself all over.

LUKE
Did you get them!? Did you get them!?

Buddy smiles, a snake in each hand.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Got them both! Look at these guys. Beautiful! You're lucky these suckers didn't bite you, wow, that would have been a disaster.

Luke BREATHES HEAVY trying to recover.

LUKE
Yeah... a disaster.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
And think about it, you actually saved these guys! They could have fallen to their doom with that log over there.

Buddy heads over to the jungle and lets the snakes down. They scurry away.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Welp, your good deed for the day is done. Come on!

Buddy heads off in the direction of the snakes.

LUKE

Umm, isn't that where you let the snakes go?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Errr... right.

He turns slightly to the right and heads into the woods.

LUKE

Sure. That's much better.

PULL OUT to see that Damien, Ray, Donny and Burns are not too far away, traveling on a parallel path a little further down from Buddy and Luke.

We ZOOM IN to...

EXT. CLIFF FACE - DAY

Damien, Ray, Donny and Burns, along with two natives arrive at the cliff face.

DONNY

It's just a cliff!

Damien KICKS Ray off the donkey. He falls down with a thump.

DAMIEN

Cut his ropes.

Burns walks over and pulls out his knife. He reaches down and cuts Ray's bonds.

Ray scrambles to his knees and rubs his wrists.

Damien gets off his donkey.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

What now?

RAY

I don't know. I... the map just got us here.

Ray looks up at the cliff.

DAMIEN

I needn't remind you what happens if you don't find the entrance. To you... and your son.

RACK FOCUS toward...

EXT. TREE LINE - CONTINUOUS

Near the tree line. Hiding in a tree near the edge of the forest are Buddy and Luke. Buddy hands his binoculars to Luke.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

I see your Dad.

Luke sees Damien threatening his Dad. Ray rambles toward the cliff.

LUKE

What are we going to do?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Stay here.

Buddy leaps down from the TREE.

LUKE

Where are you going?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

I'll sneak around the side. Maybe I can steal their guns, or find a walkie-talkie, call for help. Just stay here!

Buddy disappears into the jungle. Luke puts the binoculars back to his eyes, watching.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - CLEARING

Ray fixes his glasses as he walks toward the cliff, flipping through his notebook.

RAY

Where are you hiding...

The cliff looks normal, its sheer face reaching up toward the sky.

Ray moves closer, his hands caressing the cliff face.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - CLEARING

DONNY

He doesn't know nuthin'. This is a waste of time.

DAMIEN
Shut it, Donny.

Something catches Donny's eye. He SQUINTS, looking toward the tree line. From his POV we see a GLINT of light.

DONNY
Well, well. Burns, come with me.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - RAY

Ray scans the base of the cliff. It's littered with trees, vines, and a massive amount of foliage.

Further down he sees it, a MAYAN WORLD TREE.

RAY
A Ceiba tree... of course.

The nerd in him comes out, he moves toward the tree.

Damien drops his pack, walking after Ray.

DAMIEN
A what tree?

RAY
A Ceiba tree, called the World Tree
by the Mayans.

EXT. TREE LINE - OPPOSITE SIDE

Buddy is darting from tree to tree. Occasionally he pops his head out, looking to see if he's been discovered.

He dives on the ground and ARMY CRAWLS through the dirt to the edge of the tree line.

He pulls weeds back and takes stock of the situation.

From Buddy's POV we can see that Damien is near Ray, while Ray moves along the cliffside.

Buddy darts forward next to Damien's BACK PACK. He's just small enough to fit behind it, unnoticed by Damien and Ray.

He unzips the backpack and finds... A SATELLITE PHONE. He whistles with surprise.

Damien WHIRLS as Buddy SHRINKS behind the backpack, blocking his small body.

A bird FLIES up from a nearby tree.

DAMIEN

Damn birds.

He SLAPS his neck, killing a mosquito.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

And mosquitos... about as large as a bird. I hate the jungle. (back to Ray) What's so great about this World Tree?

RAY

The World Tree is traditionally a gateway between our world... and the underworld.

Buddy grabs the phone and sneaks back to the tree line. He turns back toward Damien and Ray.

BUDDY

Wait... where are the other two?

His gaze turns toward the opposite side of the treeline, where Luke is.

He sees a glint of light in the tree.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Luke!

EXT. TREE LINE - CONTINUOUS

Luke is staring out his binoculars when we hear an OFF-SCREEN - CRACK!

He FREEZES, lowers the binoculars and looks down.

Below him stands Donny and Burns.

DONNY

Look what we've found.

Burns reaches up as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF FACE - RAY

Ray stares at this massive tree in wonder.

Reaching the tree, Ray circles its base, making his way toward the part of the tree that is nearest to the cliff. A slight hint of wind brushes Ray's hair back.

He stops and looks closer at the tree, moving around the side of it.

The wind is more pronounced.

RAY
There. I think I found it! Damien,
I think I--

Ray turns, excited. His smile turns upside down as he sees Luke being held by Burns and Donny. Damien smiles.

DAMIEN
No... we found it.

Damien smiles.

EXT. TREE LINE - CONTINUOUS

Buddy comes back to the tree line.

He spots the binoculars on the ground and grabs them.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Luke! Luke?

Buddy looks out of the tree line, bringing the binoculars to his eyes.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)
Oh no.

POV Buddy - Luke is pushed forward. He RUNS to Ray, giving him a hug.

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Ray HUGS Luke, whispering in his ear.

RAY
Luke, were you able to get help?

LUKE
No... I'm sorry.

Ray is STUNNED.

RAY
You're... you're talking?

Ray SMILES.

RAY (CONT'D)
When did you... how?

BURNS
Ask him about the doll.

DAMIEN
Shut up you dolts!

DONNY
No, he's right Damien. There is
this doll. It's alive, and it's out
there... somewhere.

Burns and Donny stare out to the tree line, spooked.

Luke puts on his most "innocent" face.

LUKE
I don't know what you're talking
about. There's no doll.

Burns and Donny LUNGE toward Luke, but Damien stops him.

DAMIEN
Enough! Burns, Donny, shut up. Ray
here has found the entrance to the
temple. That means treasure. That
means we can leave the forsaken
jungle and live the rest of our
days drinking Pina Coladas on a
sandy beach. Now get the
flashlights. (to Ray) Ray, lead
away.

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - ENTRANCE

Ray stands back at the tree, where the wind was hitting him.
He reaches inside, his hands SEARCHING.

LUKE
What are you doing?

RAY
I'm looking for a... aha!

His hands hit a switch.

CRAAACKKK!

We hear the sound of stone MOVING. Everyone steps back.

Around the cliff near the base of the tree, the rock SPLITS, opening into a CAVERN ENTRANCE.

Ray can't help but be excited.

RAY (CONT'D)
(sotto) Who's the laughingstock now?

DONNY
Aren't these things filled with booby traps and stuff?

Ray goes into nerd mode.

RAY
Usually. Ancient civilizations would often guard their treasures by using poison tipped arrows, or false floors. Truly amazing.

DAMIEN
Guess who just volunteered to go first?

Ray GRIMACES before heading in. Damien's voice stops him.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
And Ray...

Ray turns, Damien has Luke by the collar.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Don't get any ideas, okay? Just be the coward we all know and love.

Ray turns back to the cavern, a frown on his face.

INT. CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The entrance opens into a LARGE CAVERN, crude mud stairs lead UP.

The cavern is covered in a labyrinth of COB WEBS. Ray looks them up and down.

DAMIEN
On with it Ray, they're just cobwebs.

Damien PUSHES Ray, who TUMBLES into the cobwebs.

The cobwebs RIP and we see the silken strands VIBRATE.

TICK! TICK! TICK!

Ray is pulling cobwebs off of his face, when he sees something above him. His eyes widen in HORROR.

DONNY

What's that noise?

RAY

Cover your faces...

DAMIEN

What?

RAY

Cover your faces!

Ray turns around, pulling his shirt up over his face.

RAINING DOWN from the cavern, crawling over cobwebs and dropping onto the floor are SPIDERS. Not just a few, a DELUGE of spiders. Donny SCREAMS bloody murder.

The spiders are dropping all over them. Donny, Damien, and Burns SWAT at them while Ray balls himself up, the spiders hitting him before crawling off.

Luke freaks out, his body shaking, but then...

LUKE

(sotto) They're probably more
frightened of me...

Luke stands up straighter, closes his eyes and DOESN'T MOVE.

Spiders creep and crawl all over him, but for the most part they leave him alone.

A spider slides down a small silken thread, toward Donny who is FLAILING.

It lands on Donny's head.

DONNY

Get them off me! Get them off me!

CU: On Donny's head. The spider rears back and BITES! Donny SCREAMS!

Ray notices torch SCONCES along the wall.

He scrambles to his feet and rips through the cobwebs to get to the sconces.

RAY
Fire! Damien, do you have a lighter?

Damien pulls out a lighter and hands it to Ray. Ray takes the lighter and lights one of the torches

FWOOOSH!

One by one the other torches along the wall LIGHT, destroying the cobwebs and causing the spiders to rush OUT of the cavern.

Luke opens his eyes to watch the last of the critters scurry into the light.

Soon they are left alone.

RAY (CONT'D)
Fascinating... an interconnected light system. It must be triggered by hardened oil... they shouldn't have that type of technology.

DONNY (O.S.)
Yea.. Weel Fabinatin'.

BURNS
Donny, you okay?

Donny turns around, his face is SWOLLEN. He's almost unrecognizable.

Luke JUMPS back, frightened.

LUKE
Ah!

DONNY
Yea, I'm fimb.

BURNS
Donny, your face!

DONNY
Wha bout it?

Donny lifts his hands, they are SWOLLEN as well. He reaches up to his face and feels it.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 Mah fabice! My hams! Dey bit meh!
 Dey bit meh! I'm goin ta dibe!

He grabs Damien by the collar.

DONNY (CONT'D)
 I'm goin ta dibe!

DAMIEN
 Get it together, man! You aren't
 going to die.

RAY
 Not if you get some help. If you
 leave now--

DAMIEN
 No one is leaving. They're just
 spiders. You'll be fine. We keep
 going.

Ray is in front of Damien.

RAY
 (quietly) He needs help. If he
 doesn't get anti-venom...

DAMIEN
 You should be worrying about
 yourself, Ray. Now, go!

Ray pushes him forward.

The group continues to walk down the cavern. It gets LARGER
 AND LARGER as they move along. Luke is following Ray when Ray
 THRUSTS out his hand, stopping Luke.

RAY
 Wait.

Near their feet there is a piece of string, pulled across the
 corridor.

DONNY
 Wha ib it?

DAMIEN
 A trap.

DONNY
 I canna do mo' spiders.

RAY
No webs, it's something else.

Ray follows the rope as it moves along the wall and up toward the ceiling.

Perched high in the rafters is a GIANT TREE TRUNK.

RAY (CONT'D)
There. A pendulum trap. Genius. You hit this thing and the trunk comes swinging down, taking out anyone in the hallway.

Ray steps over the rope. He reaches out, lifting Luke over.

Damien, Donny, and Burns follow suit.

Behind them we notice a small SHADOW moving into the corridor.

INT. TEMPLE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The end of the corridor empties into a LARGE ROOM, at its center a statue of a KING. The King's hands are palm to palm, but the fingers are pointing DOWN.

DONNY
Is dis ib?

RAY
That's the king... I think... I don't understand.

DAMIEN
Don't understand? Where are we?
Where's the gold?

Burns grabs Ray and slams him up against the wall.

BURNS
You told us there would be gold.

RAY
I said their *might* be gold.
Archaeology isn't an exact science.

DAMIEN
An exact science? You don't get it Ray. The only thing keeping you alive is the promise of treasure. Without it, well...

RAY

I... I...

Damien pulls out his gun.

DAMIEN

You know what, Ray? I'm going to kill you and leave your rotting corpse in this empty tomb.

LUKE

Wait.

Everyone turns to Luke. He's eyeing the statue.

LUKE (CONT'D)

The statue. Dad... In your picture which way were the fingers pointing?

RAY

My phone. Do you have it?

Damien reaches into his pockets and pulls it out.

DAMIEN

Don't try anything, Ray.

RAY

For some reason I don't think I'll get reception down here.

Gun still pointed at him, Ray flips through the pictures until he reaches the picture of the King. He ZOOMS IN.

CU: PICTURE - The statue in front of them looks ALMOST identical to the statue in the room, EXCEPT in the picture his hands are pointing up, like prayer hands.

RAY (CONT'D)

Up... They were pointing up!

Luke reaches up and PUSHES the hands UP. They turn EASILY!

Suddenly the floor DROPS! Everyone falls, TUMBLING into a CHUTE.

INT. CHUTE - CONTINUOUS

Screams as everyone SLIDES DOWN a giant circular slide. It's like a theme park ride, but with cobwebs and hanging moss.

We follow everyone as they tumble through the chute, which deposits them into a large...

INT. TREASURE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Donny TUMBLES out onto the floor first. He stands up, only to be bowled over by Luke. Luke rolls out of the way just as Ray comes sliding down, hitting Donny once again.

Damien comes after, landing on the increasingly battered Donny's back.

DONNY

Ugh!

Damien gets up and dusts himself off. Donny turns over, his swelling and the continual impact from people obvious on his face.

He's about to stand when he sees Burns coming straight for him.

SMASH!

Burns lands on Donny's chest.

BURNS

That was kinda fun.

DONNY

Get op meh, ya ape!

Burns climbs off of Donny. Everyone is on their feet, looking around the darkened room.

RAY

Is everyone okay? Luke?

LUKE

I'm here. I'm fine.

DONNY

Whe awe weh?

They look out into the darkness... nothing.

Ray sees another sconce to the side. He walks over and LIGHTS it.

POOF!

Flash powder IGNITES along the sides of the wall, lighting torches through the center of the room, moving further and further back until the entire place is ILLUMINATED.

ON THE GROUP - We see GOLD reflected in everyone's eyes. Their jaws drop.

LUKE

Woah.

REVERSE ANGLE to reveal the TREASURE ROOM.

It's huge and filled with GOLDEN TREASURE. Vases, pots, an assortment of sculptures.

In the middle of the room is a MASSIVE STONE STATUE of a man/beast, four arms, and covered in metal SPIKES - The Guardian.

In the middle of its forehead is an empty hole.

RAY

Holy...

BURNS

We're rich! We're RICH!!!

Damien grabs Ray by the shoulders.

DAMIEN

Well done, Ray. Well done.

Damien, Donny, and Burns run out into the treasure room.

Donny is busy filling his pants with gold.

Burns is trying on a golden crown.

Damien just stares.

RAY

I found it... I found it.

DAMIEN

You did. That's the good *and* bad news.

Damien has his gun and points it to Luke and Ray, motioning for them to enter the treasure room.

RAY

You don't have to do this. I won't say anything, I promise! There's enough here for everyone.

LUKE

Or no one! We don't need anything,
just let us go.

DAMIEN

It's too late for that now.

They walk through the treasure room, Damien prodding them toward The Guardian statue that sits in the middle of the room.

RAY

I'm sorry, Luke. I'm sorry. This is
all my fault.

Luke does a DOUBLE TAKE, noticing something written IN CHALK on a GOLDEN PLATE as he passes by, it says, "Get Ready - B"

Luke smiles to himself.

CLINK! CLINK! Some gold coins fall down from a stack of treasure. A shadow CROSSES the camera in the foreground.

INT. TREASURE ROOM - LEFT SIDE

Donny and Burns turn toward each other, admiring their new golden outfits.

DONNY

You luk lik royalby! (You look like
royalty)

Burns BOWS, they both laugh.

INT. TREASURE ROOM - GUARDIAN

Damien directs Luke and Ray up against the giant statue.

DAMIEN

I have to say Ray, I had my doubts
about you. Any last words?

Ray is SWEATING. He turns to Luke, getting down on his knees, eye level.

RAY

Luke, I'm sorry. Let's be honest,
I've been a horrible Dad. I was a
horrible husband. Your Mom would be
so proud of you. You're so brave.
Nothing like your old man. I
just... if I had more time.

Luke TEARS UP. He HUGS Ray.

DAMIEN
Enough. Get up.

Ray stands, placing Luke behind him.

RAY
At least let my son go. Who's going
to believe him? Just let him go
Damien, I beg you!

Ray is pleading. Damien lifts his gun.

DAMIEN
Sorry Ray, loose ends and all.

Ray COVERS Luke, clutching him close.

BONG!

REVERSE ANGLE to reveal a golden bowl HITS Damien in the
head.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Ow!

Damien turns around and sees Buddy WINDING up with the golden
bowl again.

BONG!

It hits Damien again, knocking him out.

LUKE
Buddy!

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Hey, kid.

RAY
Buddy?

Ray stares up at Buddy, unbelieving.

RAY (CONT'D)
But that's... that's your backpack!

ADVENTURE BUDDY
Hurry! You have to get out of here!
I've marked the path in chalk so
you won't get lost, RUN!

BLAM!

A bullet hole appears in buddy's shoulder. Smoke CURLING upwards from the hole.

ADVENTURE BUDDY (CONT'D)

Ow.

Buddy falls off the pile of treasure.

REVEAL - Burns is holding the smoking gun.

BURNS

Donny! I got him!

LUKE

Buddy!

Luke DIVES forward but Ray catches him by his collar.

RAY

This is our chance! Come on!

LUKE

No! Buddy! We can't leave him.

Ray is physically pulling Luke away.

ON BURNS

Burns is moving around the treasure.

BURNS

I knew he'd show his weird face.

Donny! Donny! He's here.

Donny runs up, gold bulging from his pants, a crown on his head.

DONNY

Where?

Burns is pointing to the opposite side of a pyramid of gold plated vases.

Burns points to Donny, indicating they should both move around the pile.

INT. TREASURE ROOM - OTHER SIDE

Donny and Burns creep along the box of vases, coming from opposite ends.

They LEAP around the corner, ready for action, but Buddy isn't there.

BUDDY (O.S.)

Ahem.

They look up. Buddy puts his back into a pile of golden treasure, it FALLS, knocking Burns and Donny over.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

You think a bullet's going to hurt me? I'm 100 percent cotton, baby!

Buddy leaps from the treasure, landing on Donny's chest.

He grabs a nearby golden cylinder and whacks Donny in the face with it.

Behind him Burns scrambles to his feet.

Buddy turns to face Burns. Burns circles the animated toy, his hands curled into fists. Buddy CRACKS his knuckles and then matches him, by putting up his own dukes.

They circle each other until Burns SWINGS, but Buddy is so small, he runs under Burn's legs, turns, and KICKS Burns in the knees.

Burns drops to the ground and Buddy LEAPS onto his back. Before Burns can move, Buddy has a KNIFE to his throat.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Ah, ah, ahhh!

Burns's eyes go wide.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

Now... I'm going to walk out of here, and you aren't going to follow me. Got it?

Burns nods his head, but his nod is a feint. He reaches out, grabbing Buddy's knife hand and HEAD BUTTS the doll in the face.

Burns snags Buddy by the collar and flips him over onto his lap, this time with Buddy's knife at Buddy's throat.

BURNS

Say goodnight, doll.

Burns lifts the knife and PLUNGES it into Buddy!

Buddy's eyes close as he lets out a blood curdling scream.

Burns is so shocked he lets go of Buddy, who spins around FLAILING.

Buddy keeps screaming, to the point of silliness.

Finally, Buddy opens his eyes and lifts the knife up, wiggling it from side to side - it's the plastic one!

BUDDY

Thank you child safety laws.

Before Burns can react, Buddy winds up and PUNCHES Burns in the nose, causing him to fall to the ground.

Burns clutches his nose, in agony.

Donny is up now, his swollen face now replete with bruising.

DONNY

Why you wittle...

Donny KICKS. Buddy moves to the side, grabbing his leg as it goes up. He uses the momentum to FLIP onto Donny's chest. He PUNCHES Donny in the face ONE, TWO, THREE TIMES!

Donny goes cross eyed, KNOCKED OUT.

Buddy stands on Donny's chest, victorious.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Still the undefeated champion of the world!!!! Buddy!

WHAP!

Buddy is hit by a giant POLE, brandished by Damien.

Buddy flips through the air end-over-end before landing on one of the SPIKES protruding from the Guardian's body.

The spike RIPS through the backpack, causing the jewel to ROLL OUT. It ricochets off of the various spikes like Plinko from the "Price Is Right" before landing on the FOOT of the statue.

ON DAMIEN - Damien drops the pole. He looks up to see Ray and Luke headed for a dark passageway.

DAMIEN

Ray? Come back here Ray!

Damien finds his gun laying on the ground and grabs it, firing several rounds!

ON LUKE AND RAY - in front of them is a CHALK ARROW pointing up the stairwell.

The bullet hits near Ray's head, causing Luke and Ray to FREEZE.

Behind them, we can see Damien in the distance, pointing a gun.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
No more playing games Ray. This is
the end for you.

BACK ON DAMIEN

Donny and Burns, looking worse for wear, come to Damien's side.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Goodbye, Ray.

Ray PUSHES his son behind him, willing to take the bullet. Willing to be the father he's never been.

Damien's finger tenses on the trigger when...

SUDDENLY, behind everyone comes a HORRIFIC noise.

Ray and Luke's eyes go wide.

LUKE
Dad?

Damien, Burns, and Donny turn around.

The giant Guardian statue MOVES.

Centuries of dust cascade down around it.

It's hands CRACK, coming to life. One of its GIANT ARMS reaches down, grabbing the jewel.

It lifts the jewel placing it in the open spot between its eyes.

Luke notices Buddy, lifeless, on the spike of the Guardian.

LUKE (CONT'D)
(sotto) Buddy...

Damien FIRES his gun at the monster, ONE, TWO, THREE, CLICK! It's empty.

The bullets bounce off, doing nothing.

DONNY
Boss... I tink we shud go.

The Guardian turns its stony gaze on the three men. It's FEET rip from the floor, moving toward them, slowly at first, but gaining speed.

DAMIEN

Run... RUN!

Ray and Luke are already darting down the corridor. Donny, Damien, and Burns are not far behind.

The Guardian is DESTROYING everything in its path, rushing towards the trespassers.

Gold flies everywhere as the treasure room is destroyed by this ROCK BEAST rushing toward the would-be thieves.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Luke and Ray turn corner after corner, following the CHALK ARROWS left by Buddy, moving up through the cavern until they reach a dead end.

RAY

A dead end.

LUKE

No, Buddy left a clue.

Luke is looking around the edges of the wall.

Damien, Donny, and Burns have turned the corner.

DAMIEN

Open the door! Open the door!

Luke sees an arrow pointed with the words "Lever" on the side. Ray PULLS IT, the door SWINGS OPEN revealing...

INT. TEMPLE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door opens into the same room that turned into a slide - Now the entrance is on the other side.

DAMIEN

Coming through!

Damien, Donny, and Burns barrel through Ray and Luke, knocking them to the ground.

They skirt around the slide, making for the exit corridor.

Ray scrambles to his feet, helping Luke up.

They both limp forward, the world SHAKING behind them.

BOOM!

Before they can enter the corridor the giant GUARDIAN breaks through the door leading into the Temple Room. He's so tall that the room and cavern are beginning to fall apart around him.

Ray and Luke pour on the speed.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Damien, Donny, and Burns run with all their might. They LEAP over the rope that holds the trap.

Ray and Luke are about to do the same when Luke stops his dad.

LUKE

The trap.

RAY

Yeah, be careful! Come on!

LUKE

No, the trap! you said it was a...
what was it, a pendulum?

RAY

Yeah, I think so, come on!!!

Luke turns back toward the Temple Room, we can see the Guardian entering the corridor behind them, its size just large enough to fit in. The spikes around its body are tearing everything down around it, but it moves with purpose, towards the trespassers.

LUKE

I have an idea.

RAY

No, we have to go! We have to go
now!

LUKE

No Dad. Buddy saved my life, I have
to return the favor. It's time to
stop running away.

Ray is SWEATING. He wants to go, but this is his son. He's torn.

RAY
You're right, Luke.

He picks Luke up and puts him on the other side of the rope.

LUKE
No!

RAY
Hey kid, that's what Dads do. Now
go... I got this.

Luke has a tear drop in his eye, but he turns and runs toward the exit.

Ray turns to see the creature BARRELING toward him.

RAY (CONT'D)
(sotto) What are you doing, Ray?

The Guardian gets CLOSER and CLOSER.

Ray wipes the sweat from his eyes.

The Guardian moves FASTER until...

RAY (CONT'D)
Now.

Ray kicks the rope, ROLLING BACKWARD.

A giant LOG swings down from the ceiling SMASHING into the Guardian's face.

The jewel BREAKS from its forehead, dropping onto the ground, ROLLING to a stop near Ray.

The Guardian is LIFELESS, a heap of stone blocking the corridor.

Behind it, the temple is crashing around them.

RUMMMBLLLLLEEE!

Ray gets up and runs toward the Guardian, pulling Buddy from the rubble.

He grabs the jewel and takes off for the exit, throwing the gem in his backpack as he goes.

Buddy IMMEDIATELY comes back to life.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Wha? What hit me? Where am I?

RAY

Uh... hi! I'm Ray, Luke's dad, and we're trying to get out of this tunnel before it collapses.

Buddy looks up at Ray, then looks behind Ray to see the ceiling falling down and the roof cascading CLOSER and CLOSER.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Run man, run!

Ray PUMPS his legs until he reaches the exit and JUMPS!

EXT. CLIFF SIDE - CONTINUOUS

We see Ray and Buddy FLY out of the entrance as everything EXPLODES, covering everything in dust.

KABOOOM!!!

The dust CLEARS and Buddy and Ray stand.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

You're pretty fast for a scientist.

RAY

You're pretty talkative for a doll.

DAMIEN (O.S.)

And you're all going to be pretty dead.

Damien holds Luke by the neck. Burns and Donny stand beside him.

RUMMMBLLEE

The cliffside is VIBRATING around them.

Everyone looks UP.

Rocks DROP, the whole mountain behind them IMPLODING into a giant ROCK AVALANCHE.

Damien drops Luke and everyone except Burns turns to run.

Buddy runs forward, but Burns is there, RUSHING to intercept him.

BURNS

No! You aren't getting away from me
this time--!

A giant boulder LANDS on top of him.

No more Burns.

BUDDY

Ewwwwwww.

Ray, Buddy, Donny, and Luke are running. Buddy KICKS Damien in the legs as he scoots past, causing Damien to tumble to the ground.

Damien gets up, taking a moment to look behind him. There's an AVALANCHE of rock coming their way.

INT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is running through the jungle.

The leaves WHIP PAST, everyone huffing and puffing.

RAY

There's a bridge! We can make it to
the bridge!

Rocks are RIPPING THROUGH the trees behind them, almost as if they are chasing them.

Donny, despite all his injuries has taken the lead, he looks back to see Ray, Buddy, Luke and further back Damien, coming his way.

He can also see the rocks gaining on them.

EXT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Donny looks forward just in time to race across the rickety bridge spanning the giant ravine.

Ray, Buddy, and Luke are on the bridge now, RUNNING.

Donny has almost made it to the other side, when Damien makes it to the bridge.

Ray, Buddy, and Luke are near the center of the bridge when the rocks pour over the side of the ravine.

The ROCK AVALANCHE, RIPS out the stakes holding the rope bridge to the cliff face.

The bridge FALLS. Everyone SCREAMS as the bridge DROPS, swinging to the other side of the cliff wall.

BAM!

They all hit the canyon wall with a THUMP!

Donny can't hold on, his hands too swollen from spider bites and other abuse. He FALLS, flailing past everyone into the ravine below.

Luke loses his grip and FALLS, but Buddy THROWS out his arm and CATCHES HIM.

Buddy doesn't have the strength to hold on either, his little hand losing its grip. He is about fall when Ray grabs HIM.

Below, Damien climbs. Each hand hold bringing him closer to Luke.

RAY

Luke, I can't hold you! Grab onto the bridge.

Luke reaches out and grabs the bridge. Buddy does the same, all three of them climbing toward safety.

Ray makes it to the top, rolling onto his back, gasping for air.

Buddy is next up, rolling over and doing the same.

BUDDY

I can't believe we made it.

RAY

Me either!

They both laugh.

Luke is two rungs from the top when he is GRABBED from below. Luke screams!

Ray and Buddy scramble to the edge and look down at Damien who has Luke by the ankle.

DAMIEN

Oh no you don't! This is your fault! If you hadn't come we'd be rich! RICH!

He's PULLING Luke. Luke drops a rung on the bridge.

RAY

Luke!

Ray REACHES down, trying to grab Luke's hand. He can't reach.

Ray lowers himself further, his weight causing the top of the rope bridge to fray.

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Don't, it won't hold you.

RAY

I have to, it's my son!

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Yeah, but he's my buddy.

Buddy LEAPS over the edge, dropping like a stone.

At the last second he LANDS on Damien's face.

BUDDY

Come here often?

Buddy punches Damien, causing him to let go of Luke. He hangs on with one hand, while using the other to WRESTLE with Buddy.

Luke keeps climbing until Ray can grab his arm and LIFT him to the top. Ray HUGS him before they both look back over the edge.

Damien pulls Buddy off, holding him upside down by his leg.

DAMIEN

What are you?

ADVENTURE BUDDY

Buddy's my name! Adventure's my game!

Buddy SMACKS him in the face, causing him to let go.

Buddy grabs onto Damien's shoes, causing Damien to slip.

Damien is able to GRAB ON to the last rung of the bridge at the last second, but the JERK of that stop causes the jewel in Buddy's backpack to SLIP OUT.

CU on Buddy's eyes as they go LIFELESS.

The jewel DROPS into the ravine below, followed by BUDDY, dropping in SLOW MOTION.

LUKE
Budddyyyy!!!

Luke reaches out, but Ray holds him back.

They watch as the doll falls, OUT OF VIEW.

FOCUS on Damien who CLIMBS - MURDER in his eyes.

Ray and Luke get up, moving backward into the jungle.

They turn to run and STOP, seeing something OFFSCREEN.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

CU: on Damien's hand as it comes over the lip of the Cliff. Damien pulls himself up, rolling onto his back, catching his breath. He YELLS into the air.

DAMIEN
I'll find you! There's nowhere you
can run. I'll get you and your kid!
I'll make you pay!

Above him SOLDIERS APPEAR, guns POINTED at his face.

He sits up.

REVEAL - Soldiers SURROUNDING Damien.

Further back we see Ray and Luke, WAVING at him.

EXT. CAMP - LATER

Police cars and an ambulance idle in the campsite. We can see Damien being THROWN in the back of a police car.

DAMIEN
It was the doll! It's the doll's
fault!

A gurney with a groaning Donny in a full body cast rolls by.

We keep moving until we land on Ray and Luke. Ray is getting the finishing touches on his leg, talking to a GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
His name was Buddy. He alerted us
to the illegal excavation via
satellite phone. He gave us
coordinates where to find you.

RAY

I'm glad you found us when you did.
I don't want to think about what
else could have happened.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Si. Also, we'd like to extend an
offer to you. You seem to be the
most knowledgeable person in this
field, our government would like
you to help retrieve the artifacts
of our ancestors.

RAY

I don't know... my son and I just
went through something really
traumatic.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

You will be well-compensated.

Ray extends his hand SHAKING the official's.

Ray SMILES as he turns to Luke.

RAY

Did you hear that Luke? Your old
man is gainfully employed!

He notices Luke's somber mood. He gives him a SIDE HUG.

RAY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry kid. I don't know how it
was possible, but I know he meant a
lot to you.

Luke tears up.

LUKE

He was the last thing Mom gave
me... he was my friend.

Ray pulls Luke into a FULL HUG. They're both oblivious to the
world around them.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL (O.S.)

Excuse me...

Ray and Luke look up. There, in the Government Official's
arm, is Buddy.

LUKE

Buddy? Buddy!

He hands it to Luke who stares at Buddy's motionless body.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
My men found it in the ravine. I
thought you might want it.

Luke CRADLES the doll.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL (CONT'D)
Mr. Thomas, I have some forms for
you to sign.

RAY
Sure. Luke, you going to be okay
here?

Luke just nods. Ray and the official walk away.

Luke cradles his doll, staring into Buddy's lifeless eyes.

LUKE
I'm sorry I couldn't save you. I'm
sorry, Buddy. I'd give anything for
you to be here again.

Buddy BLINKS, a smile appearing on his face.

BUDDY
Anything?

Luke pulls Buddy back. Buddy SMILES at him.

LUKE
What? But... you fell!

BUDDY
Did I? I don't recall.

EXT. RAVINE BOTTOM - FLASHBACK

Buddy hits the RAVINE FLOOR with a THUMP. The Jewel SMASHES
against a nearby rock SECONDS later. It explodes into a cloud
of DUST that slowly settles, COVERING the doll.

The lifeless body of Buddy BLINKS, coming to life.

EXT. CAMP - PRESENT.

BUDDY
And from there, I waited until I
heard voices and played dead.
(MORE)

BUDDY (CONT'D)
I mean, I know your Dad is cool and
all, but the rest of these guys
might not take too kindly to a
talking doll <urk>!

Luke PULLS Buddy into a MASSIVE HUG.

LUKE
Don't leave me again, Buddy.
Promise me.

Buddy returns the hug.

ADVENTURE BUDDY
I promise.

FADE OUT.

THE END