

THE MUMMY
CURSE OF THE DRAGON

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FADE IN:

THE UNIVERSAL PICTURES GLOBE

CAMERA SHOOTs towards Earth, SWEEPS over the Pacific and ZEROES in on a massive expanse of land which is emblazoned with the word "CHINA". The CAMERA DIVES LOWER and finds

A PHALANX OF 50 HU WARRIORS

riding like there's no tomorrow. Their faces are streaked with war paint, their leather armor is trimmed with white fox fur, and their hair is intricately woven and knotted. The HU CHIEF reins to a stop and smirks across the valley where a SMALL PLATOON OF HAN SOLDIERS awaits. They are headed by a warrior, whose face is etched with grim purpose.

THIS IS THE EMPEROR OF HAN.

His loyal general, MING GUO, is by his side. Outnumbered, the Emperor reluctantly nods to Ming Guo, who holds up a white banner of surrender. The Hu Chief smiles as the Emperor and Ming Guo ride forth to parley. When they are halfway across the valley, the Hu Leader drops his hand. The sound of HORNS ricochets across the hills and

HUNDREDS OF HU HORSEMEN

flood down from the flanking hills. It's a trap. As the Hu swarm towards them, the Emperor charges to meet the onslaught with Ming Guo by his side. It looks like certain death until the Emperor raises his golden sword, signaling

THOUSANDS OF HAN WARRIORS

to charge from the hills behind him and the left and right. With their silk battle banners flapping HAN PIKE MEN, ARCHERS and CROSSBOW CAVALRY swarm. Outsmarted, the Hu wheel in retreat only to find more HAN WARRIORS charging from the rear. As the Han converge in a slaughterous wave,

THE EMPEROR

sees the Hu Chief spur his horse through an opening. The Emperor draws his longbow and gives chase. He fires a bladed arrow which WHISTLES like a supercharged hornet and SHATTERS the Hu Chief's spine. As the Hu Chief topples, the Emperor dismounts at a canter and draws his sword. He strides towards the crippled Chief and with sadistic calmness hacks off his head with a single stroke. A FEMALE NARRATOR, with a lilting Chinese accent, begins...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Long ago, in a time forgotten by
the scrolls of history, the Emperor
of Han defeated the barbarians of
the North in one savage victory.

As the Emperor holds up his bloody trophy, CAMERA SWIRLS UP
TO REVEAL 50,000 Warriors CHEERING across the battlefield.

EXT. WALLED CITY - NIGHT

Flames lick the night sky. Siege engines ring the walls
while the SCREAMS and WAILS of the defeated echo. Legions of
ENEMY SOLDIERS are being led out in neck stocks and chains,
their backs raw with whipping. CAMERA TRACKS the Emperor as
he rides past bonfires of burning scrolls.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

No kingdom was spared as the
Emperor's army washed across the
land like a merciless killing
machine.

The streets are littered with bodies and his Warriors are
going house to house killing and pillaging with heartless
abandon. A TRIO OF WARRIORS rips a MOTHER from her CHILD and
drags the terrified woman into an alley.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor did not stop until he
ruled all under heaven.

He passes a cart overflowing with human heads and watches
with the cruel detachment of a dictator as a LINE OF ENEMY
GENERALS is callously executed.

SMASH CUT TO:

AN AXE -- hacking into the trunk of a tree. PULL BACK to
REVEAL HUNDREDS of AXEMEN felling a forest. CAMERA TRACKS
over the stacks of logs to REVEAL they are being used to line
the foundation pits of a construction site. A cart stops and
dumps its SCREAMING OCCUPANTS into a pit.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He enslaved his vanquished enemies
and forced them to build the Great
Wall or buried them beneath it.

As WORKERS shovel dirt into the pit, the CAMERA GLIDES past
an ARMY OF EARTH RAMMERS, DRIFTS PAST TEAMS OF BRICK LAYERS
and CREWS swinging giant granite blocks into place until the
partially completed

GREAT WALL OF CHINA

is revealed stretching as far as the eye can see. Its ramparts are vigilantly patrolled by the Emperor's Warriors.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

A REGAL PROCESSION wends its way from the palace below. The Emperor is carried on a huge red-lacquer litter which is hauled by 50 EUNUCHS. DRUMMERS, in dazzling silk robes, lead the retinue of GENERALS and MYSTICS. The procession heads down the monumental stone ramp that angles into the Foundation of the Great Wall.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The twisted corpses of the Emperor's enemies protrude from the doomed roof of the cavern like a macabre bas-relief. The Emperor watches as his MYSTICS gather around a large, circular stone altar in the middle of the space.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He ordered his mystics to doom
these blighted souls to hold up the
Wall for eternity.

The Mystics UTTER AN INCANTATION, causing the altar to glow and a wave of rippling blue-white light to fan out. CAMERA FOLLOWS the light as it sweeps through the dirt, revealing THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS buried beneath the Wall.

INT. WAR ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

OVERHEAD SHOT: A TERRA-COTTA MAP OF ANCIENT CHINA. The Emperor stands with Ming Guo studying the 20x20 map that stares up from the floor. It is lined with a network of roads and canals that connect with a grid of new cities.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor had grand ambitions but
he realized his goals could not be
achieved in one lifetime. He had
to overcome the one enemy that no
man had defeated -- death itself.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

The Emperor watches as a GRIZZLED APOTHECARY is escorted in.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He summoned the Imperial Apothecary
and demanded that he find the
answer to eternal life.

As the Apothecary reacts with fearful trepidation...

INT. APOTHECARY'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

It's a dank den. The stone shelves are lined with jars of minerals, Chinese herbs and dissected animal parts. The Apothecary stirs a boiling concoction while his ASSISTANTS measure out a wild assortment of ingredients. As the Apothecary ladles a spoonful of the brew into a golden cup.

INT. BED CHAMBER - EMPEROR'S PALACE - NIGHT

The Emperor is sharing his opulent bed with TEN NAKED CONCUBINES. A EUNUCH escorts the Apothecary in. Trembling, the Apothecary hands the Emperor the golden cup. The Emperor offers it to the most beautiful Concubine. The Girl tentatively takes a sip and instantly clutches her throat. The Emperor watches impassively as she drops to the floor, her skin bubbling, and expires in jerking agony.

MATCH CUT TO:

THE APOTHECARY'S FACE. PULL BACK TO REVEAL his head is now pickled in a jar on the shelf of his chambers. His NUMBER 2 is now giving the orders.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor learned of a powerful wizard in a distant province who was versed in the secret languages of antiquity.

EXT. PALACE GATES - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He sent Ming Guo, his most trusted General, to find him.

The towering doors open and Ming Guo canters out.

EXT. SACRED LAKE - DAY

Ming Guo gallops across a bridge towards a pavilion that is nestled on an island in the middle of this mirror-still lake.

INT. PAVILION - DAY

Ming Guo steps inside this ancient laboratory that is filled with smoking vats and billowing vials. Suddenly, he hears a CREAK behind him. He spins to find ZIJUAN -- a serene beauty. He sweeps up his sword just as she swings up hers.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Ming Guo discovered that the wizard
had died and that his daughter,
Zijuan, had taken up his mantle.

As they face off, there is an instant electric attraction.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Ming Guo presents Zijuan to the Emperor, who lifts her chin
with his finger, clearly struck by her radiance.

ZIJUAN

*I do not possess the answer you
seek, but I know where it may be
found.*

EMPEROR

Bring it to me.

As she bows and exits, the Emperor leans into Ming Guo's ear.

EMPEROR

*Escort the wizard's daughter. No
man is to touch her. She is mine.*

OFF Ming Guo's troubled reaction...

EXT. MONASTERY OF TURFAN - DAY

Ming Guo and Zijuan kick clouds of dust as their horses
gallop towards the gates of an enormous minareted structure.
This is the monastery of Turfan. The ancient architectural
wonder lavishly borrows from Chinese and Islamic traditions.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They travelled the Silk Road to the
Monastery of Turfan, whose monks
had spent thousands of years
gathering ancient manuscripts from
around the world.

INT. LIBRARY - MONASTERY OF TURFAN - DAY

Zijuan sits at a circular desk in the middle of this colossal
chamber, poring over boxes of scrolls.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She spent her days studying the
ancient texts, and her nights...

INT. BED CHAMBER - MONASTERY OF TURFAN - NIGHT

Zijuan and Ming Guo are entwined in a passionate embrace.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
... wrapped in Ming Guo's arms.
They thought they could keep their
passion a secret, but the Emperor
had eyes everywhere.

THE CAMERA FINDS one of the Emperor's EUNUCHS watching
through a window.

INT. LIBRARY - MONASTERY OF TURFAN - NIGHT

Zijuan empties a box of documents and finds a dusty puzzle
box key. She flowers it open, then steps to a shelf and
matches it to the opening on the front of an ominous black
tome. As she cautiously inserts the key...

NARRATOR (V.O.)
After months of searching, Zijuan
had almost given up hope when she
discovered a copy of the fabled
Book of the Dead.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

Fog swirls as Ming Guo and Zijuan ride through the legions of
Warriors who are training in the massive courtyard.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Zijuan enters alone and kneels at the Emperor's feet. She
holds up the copy of the Book of the Dead.

ZIJUAN
Your answer, my lord.

EMPEROR
*You have served me well. I will
grant you anything you wish.*

Zijuan eyes him tentatively.

ZIJUAN
*I have only one wish -- to spend
the rest of my days with Ming Guo.*

The Emperor betrays nothing.

EMPEROR

*Of course, he is waiting for you in
the courtyard.*

He ushers her to the balcony. But as she looks at the fog-drenched courtyard below, she reacts in horror.

WHAT SHE SEES: MING GUO IS TETHERED TO FOUR CHARIOTS.

The lovers exchange desperate glances.

EMPEROR

*Read from the book, make me
immortal and I will let him live.*

MING GUO

Don't do it!

Tearful, Zijuan opens the Book and reads an INCANTATION.

ZIJUAN

It is done.

The Emperor smiles and gives the signal. The chariots take off in four different directions. Zijuan looks away as Ming Guo is ripped apart. The Emperor stares at her lustfully.

ZIJUAN

*Now I shall live forever with you
as my queen.*

Zijuan glares at him, eyes blazing with fury.

ZIJUAN

Never!

Enraged, the Emperor unsheathes a Dragon Dagger and plunges it into her side.

EMPEROR

Then join Ming Guo in hell.

As she drops to her knees, the Emperor utters an INHUMAN WAIL. He stares at Zijuan in shock.

ZIJUAN

*I did not grant you eternal life, I
cursed you and all those who spill
blood in your name!*

The Emperor tears open his robe, looks at his chest as his skin becomes translucent. The Eunuchs cower as the Emperor's heart starts to pump

BLACK BLOOD.

The poison courses through the Emperor's body from the inside out. Black veins viper up his arms, legs and neck and fissure across the whites of his eyeballs. The ooze seeps out of his pores, coating his flesh and clothes. Like molten clay, it sheets across his face, sealing his lips and silencing his agonized cry. When he's fully coated,

ULTRA-BRIGHT RODS OF WHITE LIGHT

needle out of his body. The Emperor jerks upright and his arms swing to his sides as the light fuses his bones and SUPERHEATS the clay shell, hardening it in seconds. When the light dies, the Emperor has been transformed into

A TERRA-COTTA MUMMY.

A VOLLEY OF BANSHEE SCREAMS echoes from outside. Zijuan peers out as the curse washes over the Emperor's Warriors like a wave. Their horses SHRIEK as they succumb to the unholy curse, too. Finally, they are all wracked by the blinding spindles of light and are violently snapped to permanent attention as their bodies are entombed in clay.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

Fog whips as the wounded Zijuan rides across the courtyard. Tears freeze on her cheeks as she passes the rows of terra-cotta soldiers who stand like a clockwork army.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Zijuan rode off into the night and
was never seen again.

EXT. ROLLING PLAINS - DAY

A 30-foot stone statue of the Emperor stares back at his palace and the Great Wall beyond.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As for the Emperor, the palace
Eunuchs buried him and his
warriors.

The Emperor's EUNUCHS conduct a ceremony at the foot of the Colossus as the terra-cotta Warriors are carried into...

INT. MAUSOLEUM - DAY

The last of the Warriors is set into place. CAMERA SWOOPS OVER the rows which have been arranged in an circle facing an empty dais engraved with the Emperor's seal.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Over the centuries, grave robbers
and treasure hunters sought the
tomb -- but none ever returned to
tell the tale.

The Eunuchs parade into view, CHANTING, as the entrance slab
is rolled into position, locking them in. They look up
fearfully as the skylights are sealed, one by one, until the
tomb is finally plunged into utter and absolute blackness...

TRANSITION TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: AGRA, INDIA. 1946

Clouds of billowing steam. As it disperses, RICK AND EVY
O'CONNELL are revealed. They're in the middle of a
passionate kiss. They finally come up for air, look into
each other's eyes, clearly still very much in love.

O'CONNELL

Happy anniversary, Evy.

EVELYN

Seven days with nothing to do.
Thanks, honey, this is exactly what
I needed.

O'CONNELL

I figured we should have one last
fling before Oxford chains you to a
lecture hall.

EVELYN

Rick, it's a professorship, not a
death sentence. We'll still have
vacations and sabbaticals to
gallivant around the world.

O'CONNELL

It's not going to be the same.

EVELYN

I know this won't be an easy
adjustment for you, but academia
has always been my first passion.

O'CONNELL

I thought I was your first passion.

They smile and kiss again.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TAJ MAHAL - DAY

CLOSE ON: AN UPSIDE-DOWN IMAGE OF THE TAJ MAHAL.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Evy peering through the viewfinder of a Baby Brownie camera.

EVELYN

Did you know the Taj Mahal was
built by a grieving maharajah to
honor his dead wife.

Rick considers the gleaming edifice, impressed.

O'CONNELL

Wow, she must have been great in
bed.

She playfully swats him as she looks in the guidebook.

EVELYN

So much to see, where do we start?

O'CONNELL

(casually)

The travel agent mentioned we
should check out the peacock
chamber. Said the marble reliefs
were breathtaking.

As they head away, CAMERA FINDS a CHINESE MAN watching them from the other side of the reflecting pool. He wears distinctive horn-rimmed specs and goes by the name CHOI.

INT. PEACOCK CHAMBER - DAY

Rick and Evy step inside. The walls are covered with marble reliefs of Indian wildlife. Elephants, monkeys, tigers and peacocks. Evy gasps with admiration.

EVELYN

Look at the detail.

When her back is turned, Rick surreptitiously begins to push and prod at the menagerie.

O'CONNELL

Yeah... incredible.

As Evy begins taking photos, Rick tugs at an elephant statue. He yanks down on a tusk, breaks it off. As he tries to reattach it, Evy spots something through her viewfinder.

EVELYN
Pinch my cheeks.

Rick quickly slips the broken tusk in his pocket.

O'CONNELL
Honey, can't you wait 'til we check
into the hotel.

EVELYN
Look through the viewfinder.

She hands him the camera and points to a design inlaid on the wall above a relief of a peacock. Its tail feathers glint with semiprecious stones. As he peers through the camera...

WHAT HE SEES: VIEWED UPSIDE DOWN, the abstract design now appears to spell out a phrase.

EVELYN
Those symbols are actually
Sanskrit, except they're upside
down and backwards. They spell,
"Pinch my cheeks".

Evy reaches across, pinches the peacock's cheeks, causing its "feathers" to fan back into the floor, revealing a steep stone staircase. Rick feigns surprise.

O'CONNELL
Wow. Looks like a secret
passageway. Let's check it out.

Evy slowly turns to him, her suspicions aroused.

EVELYN
Rick?

O'CONNELL
Yeah.

EVELYN
The travel agent told you about the
peacock chamber?

O'CONNELL
Wild, huh?

EVELYN

Did this travel agent happen to
work for the State Department?

O'CONNELL

(busted)

It's one last favor.

EVELYN

You said that five favors ago. We
agreed after the war no spying.

O'CONNELL

This isn't spying, we're retrieving
an ancient artifact. Your favorite
part.

EVELYN

Ancient artifacts usually involve
ancient booby traps.

O'CONNELL

That's Egypt, who knows if the
ancient booby trap craze made it to
India.

EVELYN

Did the State Department tell you
exactly what you're searching for?

O'CONNELL

Something really, really old.

EVELYN

So you're flying blind here.

O'CONNELL

No, because I've got my incredibly
beautiful wife with her
encyclopedic knowledge of all
things ancient.

EVELYN

You're pouring it on very thick,
Mr. O'Connell.

Rick flashes her a boyish grin.

O'CONNELL

Come on, Professor, where's your
sense of adventure?

OFF Evy, her curiosity clearly getting the best of her...

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

It's illuminated by old brass lanterns. Rick and Evy slowly descend and find it opens into a vast subterranean colonnade leading to a cupola in which towers a 40-foot metal statue of the Hindu elephant god Ganesh...

EVELYN

The Lost Temple of Ganesh. The final repository of the "Eye of Shangri-La".

O'CONNELL

What's the deal with this "Eye"?

... with a potbelly and long tusks and giant ruby eyes. Two arms are folded across his massive chest; two arms arc above, one of which clutches a razor-sharp sword.

EVELYN

If you believe the legend, the "Eye" can point the way to Shangri-La and the Spring of Eternal Life.

O'CONNELL

As much as I'd like to take a swig and stay this ruggedly handsome guy you married forever -- that fountain-of-youth stuff's a crock.

EVELYN

You used to feel the same way about mummies.

They cross to the base of the god, "the remover of obstacles". The statue is decorated with a glittering collection of jewels. Rick stares at the gems, unsure.

O'CONNELL

How do we know which is the "Eye"?

EVELYN

In the Hindu cosmology, the third and sixth chakra are considered the most powerful. That would mean the navel or the third eye.

O'CONNELL

Let's start with the navel, shall we?

EVELYN
(meaning something else)
You always do.

They share an intimate CHUCKLE. There are no hand-holds on the slick protuberant stomach. Rick flicks out his butterfly knife and hands it to Evelyn.

O'CONNELL
Here, you do the honors.

He cups his hands like a stirrup. Evy gives him her foot. He hoists her up.

O'CONNELL
Use my shoulders.

It's awkward but she manages and, from this perch, she can just reach the jewel. Using the knife, she pries it loose.

O'CONNELL
You got it?

Evy examines the stone.

EVELYN
It's not the right one. It should
be attached to a cylindrical box.

From inside the Ganesh comes a RUMBLING MECHANICAL SOUND.

O'CONNELL
I had a feeling that was too easy.

Like a giant clockwork toy, the statue grinds to life.

TWO MORE ARMS TELESCOPE INTO VIEW. AT THE END OF EACH ARM,
DIFFERENT WEAPONS SPRING-LOAD OUT!

The steel sword begins to swing. A whirring buzz-saw blade, a stabbing dagger, a spiked mace, a chopping cleaver, and snapping scissor blades complete the cutlery.

O'CONNELL
Way too easy.

But Evy has her eye on the prize.

EVELYN
It must be up there. The third
eye!

Now all six arms begin to swing like an octopus ride at a carnival. Each arm sweeps in a unique arc ready to bisect anyone violating its space.

With Evy still on his shoulders, Rick leaps three feet in the air as the sword arm sweeps under him like a jump rope. But here comes the sword arm swinging madly.

O'CONNELL

Evy, watch out!

To avoid the blade, Evy jumps higher up on the arm. It carries her away. Rick ducks under the swinging mace arm, but jumps onto the arm as it revolves away in pursuit of his wife. The two arms converge.

O'CONNELL

Give me your hand. Jump!

Like a trapeze artist, Evy grabs Rick's wrist and swings across and now dangles beneath him. A second before THE BUZZ SAW slices her in two...

O'CONNELL

Let go!

Evy screams and drop onto the SCISSOR ARM below! It makes short work of her dress, turning it into a mini-skirt.

The arms are moving faster now!

The elephant tusks spit out two 3-foot-long blades, forcing Rick to dive onto the twirling mace arm. It nearly takes his head off. He lands hard, right on his balls. As he GROANS, Evy is swung past him high in the air by the scissor arm.

EVELYN

Rick, get the Eye!

O'CONNELL

What do you think I'm doing?

Right near his crotch, spikes pop out of the tubular arm. He pops back. Another set. He pops back further, jumps up and gangy-dances closer to the trunk. A blast of scalding steam rips under him as he jumps to the tusk. He looks down.

O'CONNELL

Now what?

On all four sides at the base of the statue, the floor slides back, revealing pits full of water and crocodiles.

O'CONNELL
Who thinks of this stuff?

As the scissor arm swings up, Evy lets go and dives onto the other tusk. They both hang side by side on the Ganesh's huge face while the arms swing harmlessly around them.

EVELYN
We're safe as long as we hang on.

At that moment, the whole statue begins to sink.

O'CONNELL
No, we're not.

Rick looks down into the crocodile pool below.

O'CONNELL
We're going to be up to our asses
in alligators in a minute.

EVELYN
Those are Indian crocodiles. Much
more vicious.

He rolls his eyes and surveys their situation. Here comes an opportunity.

O'CONNELL
I'll be right back.

Three arms align and Rick bounds up them like a staircase, then dives onto the elephant's head and slides down, getting a purchase on the crease where the ear meets the skull. It's like the pachyderm version of "North by Northwest." Directly across from him, embedded in the forehead, is the Eye of Shangri-La, a half-dollar-sized diamond set in a platinum box decorated with hissing snakes and Sanskrit writing. He tries to pry it loose but it is stuck.

The Ganesh has sunk up to its belly now. The crocs are awake. All of them are looking up.

EVELYN
Rick, hurry!

The water is now three feet from her feet. One croc bursts out of the water and makes a grab.

Rick leaps onto the Eye using all his weight. It snaps off in his hand. The arms come to a GRINDING halt, but Rick goes sliding down the head right past Evy.

He crashes onto one of the motionless arms and the impact knocks the Eye out of his hand -- right into the MOST MASSIVE CROC'S open mouth. It SNAPS shut and sinks below the surface while others vie to take its place.

The Ganesh continues to submerge. Rick climbs back up the arm to Evy's side on the tusk.

O'CONNELL

Evy, climb!

They find enough footings and hand-holds to help each other to the crown. But the Ganesh is now sunk to its tusks. They are one step ahead of the waters and the hungry crocs.

O'CONNELL

I thought Ganesh was the remover of obstacles.

EVELYN

Actually, he's the god of wealth, travel and...

Just then the giant croc resurfaces and HISSES. Rick sees the Eye box is still on its tongue.

EVELYN

... and good luck.

Rick gets an idea, pulls the broken marble tusk from his jacket. They now stand on a little island of Ganesh head. The reptiles glide into position completely surrounding them.

O'CONNELL

Be ready to go.

EVELYN

Go? Go where?

As the big croc moves in, Rick thrusts the tusk into its mouth as it SNAPS shut and snatches the Eye from the jaws held back by the stone tusk.

O'CONNELL

Now!

He grabs her arm and pulls her onto the croc's head. They leap off this massive platform and, using the reptiles like stepping stones, dash across the trench and dive onto the floor, crocs snapping at their heels. They are safe. The frustrated crocodiles lunge and SNARL. Arms around each other, the O'Connells head for the stairs.

INT. LOBBY - IMPERIAL HOTEL - AGRA - DAY

A sumptuous temple of luxury, with potted palms and a STRUMMING HARPIST. All eyes turn as Rick and Evy enter. They look like they've been dragged to hell and back. Rick holds his shoulder as they step to the front desk. The INDIAN RECEPTIONIST, SANJAY, stares in shock. Rick's shirt is ripped and his face is streaked with dirt and blood.

O'CONNELL
Checking in.

Rick slides their passports across to Sanjay.

SANJAY
Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell, of course.
Welcome to Agra. It looks like you
had a rough trip. Anything you
need during your stay, Sanjay is at
your service; restaurants, tailors,
perhaps a private tour of the Taj
Mahal.

Rick and Evy look at each other.

O'CONNELL/EVELYN
We'll pass.

As Sanjay hands them their room key, he holds up a telegram.

SANJAY
This arrived for you.

Evy takes it and beams when she reads the sender's name.

EVELYN
It's from Alex.

O'CONNELL
Great. He only wires when he's in
trouble or needs money.

EVELYN
Maybe he just misses us.

She rips it open with excited anticipation.

O'CONNELL
If he's been kicked out of another
college, he can pay his own way
back from Boston.

Evy's face falls as she reads the telegram.

EVELYN
He's not in Boston.

Rick snatches the telegram, scans its contents, then turns to Sanjay, simmering.

O'CONNELL
Sanjay, we're going to need two
tickets to China.

As Rick balls the telegram in his fist...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

TWO MALEVOLENT STONE EYES

FILL THE SCREEN. They belong to the Emperor of Han. PULL BACK TO REVEAL the partially excavated head of the colossus statue built near the Emperor's mausoleum.

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA. 1946.

ALEX O'CONNELL is dwarfed by the head as he supervises A CREW OF CHINESE DIGGERS. He's a young man, square-jawed handsome, with a sunburned face and a ragged five-day beard. He shouts to A SECOND CREW who are scattered across the plain.

ALEX
(in perfect Mandarin)
You find the door to the tomb yet?

CHINESE DIGGER
(in Mandarin)
No, boss. Still looking.

Alex sees ROGER WILSON, puffing into view. He's an American, about Rick's age, with deep-set eyes and a permanently worried brow.

ALEX
(to workers, in Mandarin)
Mr. Wilson will give a hundred dollars to whoever discovers the door first.

All the Chinese Workers let out a CHEER. Wilson looks around, surprised, as he steps to Alex.

WILSON
What was that for?

ALEX

Nothing, they're just happy to see you.

Wilson gulps water from a canteen.

WILSON

My colleagues at the Smithsonian were thrilled when I told them you discovered the colossus.

ALEX

But they want to know when we're going to get into the tomb?

WILSON

They did mention that, yes.

Alex shrugs as he consults an old, leather-bound journal.

ALEX

Don't worry, Mr. Wilson, the Emperor's not going anywhere. We'll find him.

There's an EXCITED SHOUT from the plain. Alex looks up and sees a Chinese worker pointing to the ground. Alex grins as he slides the journal in his satchel and turns to Wilson.

ALEX

Grab the dynamite!

WILSON

Why?

ALEX

They found the door.

(re: worker)

By the way, you owe that guy a hundred bucks.

OFF Wilson's reaction as Alex charges off...

SMASH CUT TO:

A CIRCULAR GRANITE DOOR

Alex and Wilson watch as a gaggle of Workers lay explosive charges around the excavated slab. Wilson looks over and sees six Workers running away across the plain.

WILSON

Where are they going?

ALEX

They got spooked. Something about
a curse and a tomb guardian and
nobody getting out alive.

(in Chinese to Workers)

More dynamite!

Wilson shakes his head.

WILSON

You remind me of your father.

ALEX

Try not to hold that against me.

Alex and Wilson take cover in a dry creek bed. The Workers retreat from the pit and hand Alex the detonator box. Alex grins at Wilson.

ALEX

Ready to make history.

Alex plunges the handle. A MASSIVE EXPLOSION knocks them back and a 100-foot geyser of dirt and stone mushrooms into the sky. As the dirt clears, the gaping entrance to the Mausoleum is revealed.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. MAUSOLEUM ENTRANCE - DAY

Alex anxiously watches as the Workers clear the debris. As one of the men pulls a broken chunk of granite from the base of the entrance, GO TIGHT as a stone trigger pops up and a

CLOUD OF NOXIOUS MERCURY GAS

explodes out from a row of holes in the floor.

ALEX

(in Mandarin)

Take cover!

He tackles Wilson, but three of the Workers are blasted by the gas cloud. They hold their faces in agony as their skin blisters and they fall to the ground dead. As the cloud dissipates, Alex stands.

ALEX

Mercury gas. Just the first of
many surprises.

As he tosses Wilson a flashlight and they cautiously enter the Mausoleum, GO TO

MYSTERIOUS POV: Someone is watching them...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MAUSOLEUM - DAY

Alex, Wilson and four Chinese Porters descend into the vast subterranean cavern. The stairs are littered with skeletons, several have their arms futilely outstretched to the door, their once-glorious silk robes are shredded with age.

WILSON

Who are these guys?

ALEX

Eunuchs, buried alive with their Emperor.

They arrive at the bottom of the stairs and gaze in wonder at the awe-inspiring phalanxes of terra-cotta Warriors. Some have been crushed by falling beams and lie shattered.

ALEX

(to Workers in Mandarin)

Stay close and don't touch anything.

The Chinese fearfully nod and follow as Alex and Wilson head down an aisle, their flashlights scanning the Warriors.

WILSON

Look at the detail. They must have taken years to carve.

Alex pulls the journal from his satchel.

ALEX

According to this, they weren't carved, they were cursed.

WILSON

You don't actually believe all that mystical hullabaloo, do you? There were always wild tales flying around Cairo about your parents raising mummies.

Alex betrays nothing, clearly a family secret.

ALEX

You know my dad, never met a story
he didn't stretch. Usually casts
himself as the hero.

The beam of Alex's flashlight washes across a clutch of
desiccated SKELETONS. Their clothes and tools reveal they
are from different eras.

ALEX

Grave robbers. Looks like we're
not the first to come knocking.

But then his beam finds one dressed in Western clothes. The
remains are crumpled at the foot of a Warrior holding a
longbow. They cautiously approach and lean down over the
horribly pruned corpse. Alex notices a gold signet ring,
engraved with the initials "CB", glinting on one of its
wrinkled fingers. His eyes flash with recognition.

ALEX

Sir Colin Bembridge. Founder of
the Bembridge Scholars. He went
searching for this tomb 120 years
ago and never came back.

WILSON

How do you know that?

Alex holds up the journal.

ALEX

Because this is his journal.

WILSON

Must have been offed by some
ancient booby trap.

As Alex gingerly turns the corpse over, Bembridge's horribly
shrivelled head falls back and a cascade of maggots tumbles
out from a gapping slash in his neck.

ALEX

No, his throat was slit.

Wilson looks around, suddenly on edge.

WILSON

Maybe there really is a tomb
guardian.

As they cautiously continue, GO TO:

MYSTERIOUS POV: Stalking their progress from behind a regiment of terra-cotta Warriors.

One of the Porters heads down a row, his foot depresses a flagstone which triggers

RACKS OF CROSSBOWS

which are neatly stacked onto opposite facing weapons carts. As three of the Porters are lanced in the hailstorm of bronze-tipped arrows, Alex grabs Wilson and limbo-slides between the shields of two Warriors a second before they are pincushioned with arrows.

One of the dead Workers tumbles back onto a Warrior and sets off another booby trap. Alex looks down as dozens of narrow slits in the floor slide open.

ALEX

RUN!

GO TO SLOW MO as Alex and Wilson sprint down the aisle, serrated bronze discs, the size of dinner plates, spin up from the floor like circular saws from hell!

ALEX AND WILSON

sprint for their lives. The last Porter isn't so lucky as a disc splits him up the middle like a hot dog bun. It's a terra-cotta massacre as the bronze discs slice off the arms, legs and faces of the warriors. When the carnage finally ends, Alex shakes his head.

ALEX

Got to give them points for ingenuity.

Wilson is a mess. They continue to the center of the room which is curiously empty.

WILSON

All the warriors are facing this way -- so where's the Emperor?

Alex doesn't answer, grabs his canteen and starts sloshing water across the sand-covered floor, revealing a teacup-sized bowl which is engraved with a Chinese character. Alex drops to his knees, frantically wipes away the sand, revealing four more bowls. Each is engraved with a different symbol and together they form a circle in the middle of the empty space.

WILSON

What is it?

ALEX

The key to the Emperor's crypt.
The Eunuchs locked him in using the
five Chinese elements.

(pointing to characters in
each bowl)

Water, earth, metal, wood and fire.

Wilson motions to a Chinese inscription that's carved in the
middle of the circle.

WILSON

And the inscription?

ALEX

You don't want to know. It's bad.

WILSON

How bad?

ALEX

My ancient Chinese is a little
rusty, but in a nutshell -- if the
Emperor rises, he'll be an
unstoppable, shape-shifting force
of evil intent on conquering the
entire world. You know, the usual
bad-guy disclaimer.

He looks back at Wilson who is ashen with fear.

ALEX

I thought you didn't believe in
mystical hullabaloo?

WILSON

I don't.

ALEX

Good, let's open this puppy up.

Alex sloshes some water in the first bowl, pours a handful of
sand in the second, snaps the bronze tip off an arrow, drops
it in the third, and a piece of its wooden shaft in the
fourth. He pulls out his lighter, torches a strip of fabric
from his shirt. Wilson nervously grabs his arm.

WILSON

What if it's another booby trap?

ALEX

Then we'll probably die a horrible,
painful death.

Alex drops the flaming rag into the last bowl. There's a loud GROAN and the bowls drop into the floor and a 4x4 square hole slides open behind them, revealing a set of stone steps.

INT. PASSAGE - DAY

Flashlight beams illuminate the faded Technicolor frescoes of mythical Chinese beasts that decorate the walls.

MYSTERIOUS POV: FOLLOWING Alex and Wilson as they cautiously head down the passage.

INT. EMPEROR'S CRYPT - DAY

PUSH IN ON: Alex and Wilson as they step through the door of this circular chamber and stare in wonder.

WHAT THEY SEE: A giant chariot drawn by four oversize bronze horses. The Emperor's ornate sarcophagus sits on a carriage harnessed to the back of the chariot. It is carved out of red jade and is inlaid with his dragon insignia. A large stone statue of the Emperor stands upright at the front of the chariot holding the reins.

As the duo circles the chariot, Alex aims his flashlight over the dozens of SILK-ROBED SKELETONS that are scattered across the floor.

ALEX
Concubines.

WILSON
(re: Emperor)
Horny old devil, wasn't he.

As Wilson bends down to pluck a ruby bracelet from one of the withered bodies, a ROBED FIGURE rises behind him. As he spins to face it, A FOOT flies into his face. As Wilson crashes back into the wall, knocking himself out,

THE ASSASSIN

darts toward Alex. The Assassin wears Chinese fighting garb. His head is wrapped in a tight-fitting turban and his nose and mouth are masked under a scarf. With lightning reflexes,

ALEX

reaches for his gun, but the Assassin flick-whips the weapon out of his hand with the sleeve of his robe, sending it skittering across the chamber. The Assassin unsheathes a

DRAGON DAGGER

from his belt. It looks exactly like the one the Emperor used to stab Zijuan all those centuries ago. But before he can strike, Alex takes a running jump. In an incredible Parcour move, he tick-tacks up the wall, 180s off the ceiling and lands on the roof of the chariot, bounces onto a bronze horse, rebounds onto the floor, and without stopping, bodyslides over to his gun which he plucks up and starts

BLASTING.

The Assassin springboards behind the Chariot as bullets spark with DEAFENING PURPOSE.

CAMERA FOLLOWS A BULLET: As it SHATTERS a jade screen and severs the rope of one of the huge granite counterweights that is revealed behind.

A DEAFENING GRINDING resounds as the entire floor suddenly begins to rise, chariot and all, and the ceiling irises open. Undeterred, Alex keeps FIRING until his clip runs dry.

As he creeps around the chariot, the Assassin swings out from between two of the bronze horses. The fight is on! The duo battle in a martial arts tour de force.

Alex almost gets his head crushed by a falling counterweight but finally gets the upper hand when he grabs the Assassin's foot, and twists him to the ground. Alex thrusts the Dragon Dagger to the Assassin's throat. Alex rips the scarf off the Assassin's face, revealing a radiant Chinese beauty. Her name is LIN. Alex looks into her defiant eyes, stunned.

ALEX

You definitely don't fight like a girl.

He hears a GROAN, turns and sees Wilson. He's barely conscious and his head is about to be crushed by the rising floor of the crypt which is almost level with the mausoleum!

Lin uses the distraction and viciously scissor-kicks Alex in the crotch. As Alex falls back, winded, the Dagger flies out of his hand. Lin plucks it out of midair and leaps up the side of the crypt.

Alex wants to follow, but has to save Wilson. He vaults over the chariot and wrenches Wilson's head from the stone jamb, a millimeter before it is crushed. The platform rocks to a stop on the floor of the mausoleum. The chariot is now in the center of the space and the Emperor statue faces the rows of Warriors. OFF this image...

SMASH CUT TO:

AERIAL VIEW of a twinkling metropolis. CAMERA SURFS PAST magnificent hotels, SWOOPS over market-choked streets and alleys zigzagged with lanterns and washing lines.

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: SHANGHAI, CHINA. 1946.

It doesn't stop until it FINDS a bubble-gum-pink neon sign. It's flashing above a glitzy nightclub "IMHOTEP'S -- COCKTAILS AND DANCING. OPEN 10 'TIL LATE!" CAMERA PUSHES RIGHT THROUGH the "O" of Imhotep and INTO the window of...

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - NIGHT

It's decorated like an Egyptian fantasy. The GORGEOUS ASIAN BARMAIDS are body-painted like Anck-su-namun. JONATHAN is holding court at the bar. He lifts his drink in a toast.

JONATHAN

To Imhotep, may the bastard
actually stay dead.

At that moment, Alex strides down the stairs. To say he cleans up well is an understatement. Every woman in the place turns and stares. He's in a tailored white dinner jacket and flashes a million-dollar smile.

JONATHAN

Alex, my boy. Let me buy you a
drink.

Alex makes eye contact with a GORGEOUS BRUNETTE.

ALEX

Thanks, Uncle Jon, but I'm a little
busy at the moment.

Jonathan follows Alex's gaze.

JONATHAN

Yes, of course, happy hunting.

Jonathan watches approvingly as Alex crosses to the Woman and introduces himself. As they disappear into a back room...

JONATHAN

Chip off your uncle's block.

As he turns back to the bar, he is slapped across the face. He stares in surprise at Evy.

EVELYN

How long has Alex been in China?

JONATHAN
Alex is in China?

She slaps him again.

O'CONNELL
You may want to rethink your
answer.

EVELYN
Last time we checked, he was at
college in Boston.

Jonathan starts LAUGHING.

JONATHAN
Don't blame me, he's your son, it's
not like you two have been role
models for playing it safe.

O'CONNELL
Where is he?

As if in answer, Alex comes flying out of the back room,
smashes onto a table and crashes at their feet. He grins up
at them in surprise.

ALEX
Rick. Evy. What brings you to
this part of the world?

O'CONNELL
It's still Mom and Dad to you,
kiddo.

EVELYN
We got your telegram.

ALEX
That's funny, I didn't send you
one.

He climbs to his feet just as an UNRULY GROUP OF PILOTS steps
out of the back room. They are a ragtag of nationalities,
including Chinese. They are lead by an Aussie, OUTBACK.

OUTBACK
That drongo had his hands all over
my Sheila!

ALEX
To be fair, Sheila had her hands
all over my drongo.

Outback lunges for Alex. Rick instinctively steps in front of his son. The two men stare off. Jonathan intervenes.

JONATHAN

Rick, this is Outback. He and the boys flew more missions over the Himalayas than any other squadron in the war.

(leaning in)

He also happens to be drunk and Australian -- a lethal combination.

Rick processes that, looks over at the crew of pilots and realizes they are seriously outnumbered.

O'CONNELL

Outback, unfortunately this is my son. As much as I'd like to let you and your boys kick his ass and teach him a valuable lesson, his mother would be upset.

ALEX

Come on, Dad, we can take them.

Rick elbows him in the ribs, smiles at Outback.

O'CONNELL

Why don't you and your boys head over to the bar and drink for the rest of the night on the house.

JONATHAN

On the what?

Evy elbows Jonathan.

JONATHAN

Yes, of course, anything for family.

Outback breaks into a broad grin and shakes Rick's hand.

OUTBACK

You're alright in my book, mate.

As Outback and his men step to the bar, Rick turns to Alex.

O'CONNELL

I'm not here five minutes and I'm already pulling your fanny out of the fire.

ALEX
I had it under control.

O'CONNELL
No, you didn't.

ALEX
So it's the great Rick O'Connell to the rescue again. You really need to work on your hero complex, Dad.

Evy steps between them.

EVELYN
Enough!
(to Rick)
You back down.
(to Jonathan)
You get us a drink.
(to Alex)
You have a lot of explaining to do.

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - NIGHT - LATER

Rick, Evy and Alex are awkwardly sitting in a booth ignoring the extravagant floor show behind them. Jonathan approaches with a bottle of champagne.

JONATHAN
Champagne to toast the family reunion.

He POPS the cork and starts pouring.

JONATHAN
When was the last time we were all together?

O'CONNELL
Dover, 1942. We pulled Alex off a bomber five minutes before it took off. He said he'd never forgive me for embarrassing him. Found out later the plane got shot down over Berlin.

JONATHAN
Ah yes, to good times.

He downs his glass, but nobody else does.

ALEX

I do one stupid thing and you're never going to let me forget it, are you?

O'CONNELL

For the record, you've done a lot of stupid things I've forgotten. And wanting to serve in the war wasn't one of them.

EVELYN

But lying about your age to do it was.

Sensing the tension...

JONATHAN

I'm going to let you three catch up.

Jonathan slides out and heads away.

O'CONNELL

(to Alex)

I thought we had a firm "no-digging-up-mummies" rule in this family.

ALEX

That's your rule, Dad. I'm not planning to raise this one.

EVELYN

I don't understand how you got Sir Colin's journal. I thought it was locked in the bowels of the Bembridge Society.

ALEX

There was a lovely young librarian. She offered to give me a private tour of the stacks. You'd like her, Mom. Although I discovered she does have a wild side.

Before Alex can continue the story, Evy holds up her hand.

EVELYN

We get the picture.

(beat)

Where's the Emperor now?

ALEX

The Shanghai Museum. We're waiting for official verification. There's a Chinese New Year celebration there tomorrow night. You can get a look at him then.

O'CONNELL

Great. Can't wait.

But Evy beams with pride.

EVELYN

You realize with a discovery of this magnitude, the British Museum will be knocking down your door. I predict you could become its youngest curator.

ALEX

(gently letting her down)
Mom, that's your dream, not mine.

EVELYN

You used to love it there.

ALEX

Yeah, when I was nine. I also loved my slingshot and had an English accent -- both of which are long gone.

EVELYN

Don't remind me.

O'CONNELL

So what's your big plan then?

ALEX

Haven't got one. I like to play things by ear. I was thinking I might travel the world, seek my fortune, just like you did.

O'CONNELL

The world's a lot more dangerous than when I was your age.

ALEX

I'll take my chances.

O'CONNELL

You're going back to college first.

Alex smiles, shakes his head as he looks at Rick.

ALEX

Dad, I'm sorry, but the days of you showing up and telling me what to do are over.

As he stands, he pecks Evy on the cheek.

ALEX

See you tomorrow, Mom.

OFF Rick watching as Alex heads into the crowd...

EXT. ROOF - "IMHOTEP'S" - NIGHT

Evy stares at the neon-drenched skyline as Rick steps out.

O'CONNELL

That went pretty well.

She shakes her head.

EVELYN

Somewhere along the line, my sweet little English boy became a macho American male whose only interests are girls and guns.

O'CONNELL

So what you're saying is that Alex started off as you and has now turned into me?

EVELYN

I shouldn't have let you teach him how to box.

O'CONNELL

He was getting the crap kicked out of him at school for telling lame pharaoh jokes.

EVELYN

I thought they were very funny.

O'CONNELL

You coddled him. You let him suck his thumb until he was seven and sleep with that stuffed camel until he was twelve.

EVELYN

He loved Tutankhamun.

(off Rick's burning look)

I knew sending him to America was a mistake.

O'CONNELL

There was a war on, Evy, we didn't have much choice.

She looks out across the city, resigned.

EVELYN

I guess now we have to live with those choices. For better or worse, he's a young man.

O'CONNELL

I know. I just want him to live to be an old man.

She looks at him.

EVELYN

Watching you two tonight reminded me of the time we took Alex to the running of the bulls.

Rick smiles at the memory.

O'CONNELL

Must have been 15, even back then he wouldn't listen. He jumped right into the fray. It took me two miles to catch him.

EVELYN

I remember seeing an old bull and a young bull lock horns. The old bull anticipated the young bull's every move. But the young bull had the strength to just keep coming.

O'CONNELL

Who won?

EVELYN

It was a stalemate. Just like you and Alex. You need to figure out how to break it, Rick. Or else you're going to lose him, no matter how hard you try to hold on.

Rick nods his understanding. As she puts her arm around him, the CAMERA PLUNGES DOWN the side of the building and FINDS

CHOI,

the Chinese man from the Taj Mahal, watching from the shadows of the alley opposite. OFF his enigmatic face...

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

A sleek, black Mercedes speeds down a narrow track that cuts through the middle of nowhere. As it heads over a rise, an encampment comes into view hidden in the grassy valley below. It consists of a dozen circular yurt tents and a collection of WWII vintage Jeeps and military vehicles.

EXT. TRAINING CAMP - DAY

PLATOONS OF ASIAN MEN, wearing black paramilitary uniforms, are engaged in a variety of training exercises. They are not Chinese military but a mercenary force. The Mercedes eases to a stop and a CHAUFFEUR leaps out and opens the passenger door. A distinguished CHINESE GENTLEMEN emerges. His name is TAO. He stares around the camp with shocked disgust.

INT. YURT - DAY

An intense ASIAN MAN with chiseled feline features stands in front of a map of China. This is WU YANG. The interior of the tent is equipped like a general's strategy room. The flap opens and Tao stands in the threshold.

YANG

*You're a long way from Peking,
old man. What are you doing here?*

TAO

*I heard stories of this place, I
had to see it with my own eyes.*

He picks up an ancient Mongolian sword that sits proudly on Yang's desk.

TAO

You fancy yourself a warlord.

YANG

*My ancestors would spit on you and
your generation. You kowtowed to
the Japanese, allowed them to rape
and pillage our country, then let
your sons pay for your sins.*

As Yang steps around the desk, CAMERA REVEALS that his right leg is METALLIC. The appendage consists of an intricate network of cables and gears. Three raptor-like, articulated steel claws sprout from the end of the prosthetic.

TAO

*The war's over, Yang. It's time to
look to the future.*

YANG

*That's exactly what I'm doing. I
plan to unite China and make it
stronger than ever.*

Tao LAUGHS mockingly.

TAO

*With what? Your force of two
hundred.*

YANG

*Believe me, I'll have more than
that.*

With shocking suddenness, Yang sweeps up his metal foot and vice-grips Tao's neck. Tao looks at him pleadingly, but Yang SNAPS his neck with a vicious grin.

YANG

*That's the last time you
underestimate me.*

As Tao drops to the floor, cold stone dead, Choi is revealed in the open doorway.

CHOI

The O'Connells are in Shanghai.

YANG

Do they have the Eye?

Choi nods. Yang smiles as he casually steps over Tao's body.

YANG

*(re: Tao)
Show my father to his car.*

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

Strings of red FIRECRACKERS explode as Jonathan's custom-white Bentley crawls through the streets, which are colorfully jammed with New Year's REVELLERS.

EXT. SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

The Palladium-style building sits in a lushly landscaped botanical garden. Jonathan's Bentley CRUNCHES to a stop in front. Rick, Evy and Jonathan step out. Evy wears an elegant gown while Jonathan and Rick are in tuxes. Jonathan hands the VALET the keys.

JONATHAN

I've memorized every inch of this beauty. One scratch and we're going to have an international incident.

As Jonathan heads up the steps...

INT. FOYER - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

WILSON (O.S.)

Take a wrong turn at Cairo?

They turn and find Wilson. Rick grins.

O'CONNELL

Roger Wilson. When Alex told me you'd gone legit, I couldn't believe it.

Wilson shrugs.

WILSON

Now I pillage tombs in the name of preservation.

EVELYN

Congratulations on your latest discovery.

WILSON

Alex deserves all the credit. Hell of a kid. He's like the son I never had.

O'CONNELL

Well, he's the only one we've got,
so the next time you want to send
him globe trotting, give us a heads-
up first.

As they step inside...

INT. MAIN HALL - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

ELEGANT CHINESE HOSTESSES serve the mixed CHINESE and EXPAT CROWD milling around the collection of Asian antiquities. Wilson exits as Rick and Evy join Alex and Jonathan. A Hostess approaches with a note on a tray. Evy reads it.

EVELYN

It's from the American Ambassador.
He wants to meet us in the East
Rotunda.

JONATHAN

You two in trouble again?

O'CONNELL

Just need to hand off a package
from India.

ALEX

We're heading there anyway, that's
where the Emperor's stashed.

Evy scribbles a note, hands it back to the Hostess. As she heads off, Alex leads Rick and Evy through the throng. He sees Jonathan ducking away.

ALEX

Uncle Jon, the mummy's this way.

JONATHAN

I've seen enough mummies to last a
lifetime, but I never tire of a
well-stocked bar.

As they exit down a hall, CAMERA FOLLOWS the Hostess as she weaves her way over to Yang, who is sipping a martini at the bar. She nods to him and moves on. He finishes his drink and stands just as Jonathan steps over.

JONATHAN

(in bad Chinese)
Guo nian hao.

YANG
Happy new year to you, too.

As Jonathan innocently takes Yang's seat...

INT. ROTUNDA - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

A dusty chandelier hangs from the room's glass dome. Crates of artifacts are stacked against the walls which are pocked with bullet holes. The Emperor's chariot sits in the middle of the space and its six bronze horses tower over the rows of metal work tables which are cluttered with restoration tools.

ALEX
The museum was pretty badly damaged during the war, they've turned this wing into a makeshift restoration center.

Alex helps Evy up onto the back of the chariot. Rick watches uneasily as Evy circles the Emperor's sarcophagus.

EVELYN
(re: sarcophagus)
Very impressive. When do you get to open it?

ALEX
After the official red tape has been cut.

O'CONNELL
Does the phrase "rest in peace" mean anything to you two?

ALEX
Mom, why don't you stick around for a few days, we can open it together, unless you have to run off on another mission.

Evy holds up the Eye of Shangri-La.

EVELYN
As soon as we hand this over to the Ambassador, our spying days are officially over.

ALEX
Seriously? Then what? Back to Egypt?

EVELYN
England. I'm taking up a position
at Oxford.

Alex looks at Rick.

ALEX
And you're okay with this?

O'CONNELL
Yeah... sure. We've had enough
adventures.

ALEX
(not buying it)
What are you going to do?

O'CONNELL
You know... stuff.

ALEX
Like what? Put a white picket
fence around the estate and take up
fly-fishing?

O'CONNELL
Need I remind you this gun is
loaded.

Alex smiles, puts up his hands good-naturedly.

ALEX
See you after the fireworks.

As he exits...

INT. MAIN HALL - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

An EXCEPTIONALLY HOT HOSTESS slides a drink across to
Jonathan. He reaches for it when another hand beats him to
it. He looks over and sees Alex.

ALEX
Thanks, Uncle Jon.

He's about to take a sip when through the crowd he spots

LIN,

the beautiful Assassin from the Emperor's tomb. She looks
stunning in a red, mandarin-collared silk dress. He watches
as she steps out into the garden.

JONATHAN

It looks like you've seen a ghost,
old chap.

ALEX

Just a beautiful woman who tried to
kill me.

JONATHAN

Welcome to the club.

Alex downs the drink and darts off after Lin. Jonathan
shakes his head, gestures for a refill when the MUSEUM
DIRECTOR HUSHES the crowd.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Ladies and gentlemen, if you will
please proceed to the garden, the
fireworks are about to begin.

INT. ROTUNDA - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

Rick has the Eye and impatiently checks his watch.

O'CONNELL

Where is this guy?

WILSON (O.S.)

The Ambassador's not coming.

Evy and Rick turn in surprise and find Wilson.

O'CONNELL

Wilson?

WILSON

We came to collect the Eye.

EVELYN

We?

Suddenly, a METALLIC FOOT spins up and vices Rick's neck.

IT'S YANG.

He is flanked by THREE HOSTESSES who have daggers poised in
their hands.

WILSON

I'd like you to meet my friend Wu
Yang. He's the one who financed
Alex's dig.

Yang takes the Eye out of Rick's hand and viciously flings him at Evy's feet. Rick rubs his neck and glares at Wilson.

O'CONNELL

Wilson, you treacherous slug. How much did this guy pay you?

WILSON

Enough for me to pull some strings at the State Department and get you to India.

EVELYN

You sent the telegram from Alex, too, didn't you?

YANG

Actually that was me.

O'CONNELL

What the hell do you want the Eye for?

YANG

Inside is a vial of water from the Spring of Eternal Life.

O'CONNELL

Tired of people calling you peg-leg?

Evy looks over at the sarcophagus, puts it together.

EVELYN

No, he's going to use the Water to wake the Emperor.

YANG

And his terra-cotta army.

O'CONNELL

Guys, raising one mummy is crazy, raising an army of them is insane.

Yang impatiently grabs Evy.

YANG

I need you to open the Eye, Mrs. O'Connell.

O'CONNELL

Evy, don't do it!

As Rick tries to move in, Wilson pistol-whips him.

WILSON
Easy, cowboy.

EXT. GARDENS - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

BOOOOOOM! A CASCADE OF FIREWORKS EXPLODES overhead. Alex catches a glimpse of Lin through the crowd. He darts after her but sees no sign. Some petals drop in front of him. He looks up and sees Lin climb off a wisteria lattice and onto the roof. As Alex pulls a gun from the small of his back and stealthily clambers up after her...

EXT. ROOF - ROTUNDA - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

Lin is crouched, staring down into the room below when --

ALEX
You never called after our last date. I was beginning to think you didn't like me.

She spins and finds Alex with his gun drawn.

LIN
I don't have time for games, Alex O'Connell.

ALEX
You know my name but I don't know yours.

LIN
It's Lin.

Alex holds his gun higher.

ALEX
Well, Lin, does this look like I'm playing? We're going to climb down and you're going to explain why you tried to kill me.

LIN
We could do that or we could save your parents.

She gestures to the room below.

ALEX
Nice try. I lean in and you kick me through the skylight.

Lin puts up her hands and backs away.

LIN
I'd take a look if I were you.

Something about her tone convinces him. He steps closer and cautiously peers down.

WHAT HE SEES: Wilson has Rick at gunpoint while Yang stands with Evy by the chariot.

ALEX
Unbelievable, I can't take them
anywhere.

INT. ROTUNDA - SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON THE SARCOPHAGUS: The lid slowly grinds open. The Emperor's terra-cotta mummy is revealed in the purple glow of a firework. PULL BACK as Yang turns to Evy, who is staring at the inscription on the Eye.

YANG
I am losing patience.

EVELYN
This isn't my area of expertise.

YANG
Let me give you a little
encouragement.

Yang nods to Wilson, who pulls back the hammer of his gun and aims it at Rick.

O'CONNELL
They're going to kill me anyway,
Evy!

Evy offers Rick an anguished glance before succumbing.

EVELYN
The inscription says that only a
drop of blood from a person of pure
heart can open the Eye.

Yang smiles at Evy.

YANG
Your husband was right.
(to Wilson)
Kill him.

EVELYN

No!

Evy dashes forward, races in front of Rick before Wilson can fire. Yang grins.

YANG

Only the pure of heart would
sacrifice themselves for the one
they love.

Yang motions to two of the Hostesses, who grab Evy. As they drag her back to Yang...

CAMERA REVEALS Lin and Alex shimmying down the chain of the monumental chandelier above.

The Hostesses hold Evy's hand over the Eye. Yang slices her palm with a knife. As blood drips...

CLOSE ON THE EYE: Like acid on lead, the droplets HISS as they hit the surface and are absorbed into the Eye. A heartbeat later, a cloud of blood swirls up inside the diamond pupil, which begins to glow ruby-red and the metallic snakes that wrap around the box writhe free, forming a chain. As the light dies, Yang gingerly takes the snake-chain and detaches the newly formed Eye pendant from the box. Tendrils of steam rise as he stares at the delicate white jade vial that is revealed within.

Yang pockets the pendant.

YANG

(to Wilson)

They're of no more use.

As Yang heads over to the sarcophagus, the Hostesses shove Evy back over to Rick and Wilson.

ON CHANDELIER ABOVE: Lin whispers to Alex.

LIN

The Spring Water can't touch the
Emperor's lips.

WILSON -- smiles at Rick and Evy with his gun trained.

WILSON

At least you'll die knowing you've
aided a great cause -- my bank
account.

But as he squeezes the trigger, Alex, who is now crouched above, Parcour-leaps onto a table, then rebounds and sledgehammers his feet into Wilson, sending him CRASHING.

As Yang turns, Lin backflips down in front of him and whip-kicks him in the face, sending the vial skittering across the floor. Enraged, Yang flicks up his leg, grips her with his claws, then viciously hurls her 20 feet across the room. She ROLL-SMASHES across a work table.

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!

The three Hostesses unleash a volley of daggers. Rick grabs Wilson's fallen gun and vaults for cover behind a crate with Alex. Evy dives the other way and ducks behind a giant vase as the projectiles whiz.

In the chaos, Wilson crawls across the floor and retrieves the vial.

Hostess #1 comes at Evy. They trade blows. Evy clips her with a hook, then spins to see Lin. Thinking she's another hostess, she throws a punch which Lin expertly catches.

LIN

I'm on your side.

Evy pivots her out of the way, then pile-drives her foot into Hostess #1, sending her crashing into the vase. As Hostesses #2 and #3 hurl daggers, Lin pulls out her Dragon Dagger and in a flurry of strokes uses the blade to deflect the daggers right back at Hostess #2 and #3 -- who drop dead.

Rick and Alex, meanwhile, are pinned behind the crate, trading BULLETS with Yang. Rick peeks out and sees Wilson standing over the sarcophagus with the vial.

O'CONNELL

Cover me.

ALEX

No, cover me!

Before Rick can stop him, Alex leaps up and launches himself into a kamikaze dive. GO TO SLO MO as Wilson holds the vial over the Emperor Mummy and Alex FIRES.

CLOSE ON A BULLET: It twist-spins through the air and SHATTERS the vial, spraying the Spring Water onto the Mummy's terra-cotta torso.

BACK TO REAL TIME as Alex CRASHES back to earth and rolls behind a column.

Suddenly, a FIERCE WIND WHIPS through the space. Wilson smiles at the spectacle until Yang spins him around.

YANG

You had to pour the water into the
Emperor's mouth!

WILSON

What's your problem? It worked
anyway.

With lightning speed, Yang clenches his talons into a spike and impales Wilson in the chest. Wilson drops, with a surprised look on his face. Yang steps back as

THE SARCOPHAGUS

is cocooned in CRACKLING tongues of white-hot light. Alex is about to charge Yang when Lin tackles him.

LIN

Take cover!

A heartbeat later, a blinding ring of energy fans out and

THE EMPEROR MUMMY

springboards out of the sarcophagus. He spider-webs the floor as he lands and ROARS as he gulps his first breath of air in centuries. His hardened lids pop open, revealing eyeless sockets. *(Note: when the Emperor moves, his terra-cotta body constantly cracks, fissures and reforms).*

PUSH IN ON RICK AND EVY:

O'CONNELL/EVELYN

Here we go again.

PUSH IN ON ALEX AND LIN:

ALEX

He didn't drink it, why is he alive
and kicking?

LIN

Because the Spring Water touched
him.

ALEX

Thanks for leaving out that little
detail.

LIN
He's still not immortal.

Alex considers that, then swings up and opens FIRE. The bullets DRILL right through the Emperor Mummy's torso in a spray of desiccated bone and maggots, forcing him back against the bronze horses. As the Emperor Mummy's palms touch the metal,

A FIRESTORM OF LIGHT ERUPTS

which blasts Alex off his feet. Bolts of energy cloak the horses which

ANGRILY BEGIN TO MOVE!

They STOMP their hooves and whip their metallic heads. Yang races to the Emperor's side.

YANG
(in ancient Chinese)
Come with me.

They climb into the chariot and the Emperor Mummy grabs the reins and whips the horses into motion. As the chariot powers forward, Alex and Lin roll between the wheels and clutch onto the undercarriage.

Rick and Evy race after it as the bronze steeds STEAM-ROLLER through tables and crates accelerating towards a set of French doors.

O'CONNELL
Alex! Wait!

But there's no way they can catch it. As Evy grabs Rick's sleeve, pulls him in another direction...

EXT. SHANGHAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

Jonathan looks around, irritated.

JONATHAN
Where the hell is everybody?

He's crossing back to the museum when the chariot powers through the French doors in an EXPLOSION of wood and glass. Jonathan dives free and stares at the Emperor Mummy, who's holding the reins, as the chariot barrels past.

JONATHAN
Oh no.

Terrified GUESTS scatter as the four horses stampede across the perfectly manicured lawn. The chariot's 2-foot wheel spikes amputate the legs off a row of statues. Then Jonathan sees the chariot is headed for a row of parked cars. His Bentley is smack in the middle!

JONATHAN

Watch out for...

He winces as the horses SMASH right over it, their metallic hooves trampling it to the ground.

JONATHAN

... my beautiful, brand-new Bentley.

A canvas-roof truck SKIDS to a stop next to him. Evy is behind the wheel.

EVELYN

Get in! You're driving!

JONATHAN

Where are we going?

O'CONNELL

We have to save Alex.

Before he can protest, Evy tosses him the keys and scrambles into the back with Rick. As Jonathan takes off in pursuit, we see the words "DRAGON FIREWORKS CO., SHANGHAI" painted on the truck's back flap.

THE CHARIOT

speeds down the drive. Like an ancient battering ram, the horses blast through the massive gates. Alex and Lin cling desperately as the gates SLAM to the ground in a shower of sparks and the chariot bursts out into...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

It's like a demolition derby. The chariot destroys everything in its path. Rickshaws, bicycles and market stalls are SMASHED to smithereens. It plows through an open-air restaurant, sending New Year's REVELLERS scrambling.

JONATHAN -- turns on the wipers as a deluge of Buddha's delight and dumplings splatters across the windshield.

RICK AND EVY -- are jackhammered around in the back.

O'CONNELL
Jonathan, keep it steady!

JONATHAN
God! You two are like mummy
magnets.

As Rick and Evy crack open the crates of fireworks...

EXT. UNDERCARRIAGE - CHARIOT - NIGHT

The twisted remains of a bicycle grind by as Alex and Lin scramble up onto the back of the platform.

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Rick RIPS a section of the canvas away, giving them a view over the cab. Evy ignites the end of a firework and aims it at the chariot like a shoulder-held rocket launcher.

EXT. CHARIOT - NIGHT

Alex and Lin stalk towards the front when they hear the FIREWORK streaking towards them! They dive into the open sarcophagus just as the projectile HISSES over their heads and SPARKS between the Emperor Mummy and Yang. The Emperor whips the horses to go faster as TWO MORE rockets follow.

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Rick grabs the biggest firework. It's a 4-foot monster. He lights the fuse and heaves it onto his shoulder.

O'CONNELL
Happy new year!

KABOOOOOOOOM! The concussive force sends him flying back. The rocket SCREAMS down the street, misses the chariot, and impacts with a parked car, causing it to EXPLODE. The flaming vehicle is launched 10 feet into the air and flips as it CRASHES into the road right in front of

THE FIREWORKS TRUCK!

Jonathan frantically jerks the wheel and violently lurches the truck up a narrow alley which is clear of the New Year's festivities and floors it.

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

As they are tossed around, Evy angrily turns to Rick.

EVELYN

I'd like to get our son back in
one piece.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Alex peeps up over the lid, sees the Emperor Mummy and Yang.

ALEX

I'll go after the Emperor. You
get Yang.

He's about to make a move when Lin yanks him back down.

LIN

I'll go after the Emperor.

ALEX

Trust me, I've got a little more
experience with mummies than you.

Lin pulls out the Dragon Dagger.

LIN

And I've got the only weapon that
can kill him.

Suddenly, the chariot speeds over a pothole and they are
thrown into each other's arms. They're nose to nose. The
romantic chemistry palpable.

ALEX

First you want to kill me, now you
want to kiss me.

LIN

Don't flatter yourself.
(back to business)
We go on my signal.

ALEX

I usually do these things on
instinct.

LIN

It's amazing you're still alive.

Alex grins.

ALEX

I was born in the year of the cat.

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

The chariot hurtles along the cobblestones when the fireworks truck bursts out of the alley 10 feet in front of it! *It was a shortcut.*

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Rick peers out the back, gets an idea. Evy watches, uneasy, as Rick lowers the tailgate and prepares to jump.

EVELYN

Rick, you're not seriously...

Before she can finish his thought, Rick sprints forward...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

... leaps into the air. As the bronze horses storm towards him, nostrils flaring, Rick reaches out, grabs one by the neck and precariously holds on.

INT. CAB - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Jonathan has the pedal to the metal, trying to stay ahead of the chariot, as Evy climbs in through the window.

JONATHAN

Where's Rick?

EVELYN

Where do you think?

Jonathan glances at the side view mirror, sees Rick clinging to one of the horses THUNDERING towards him.

EXT. CHARIOT - NIGHT

With one gigantic effort, Rick hauls himself up onto the horse's back. As Yang OPENS FIRE, Rick swings up his gun and BLASTS off one of the Emperor Mummy's ears. Rick ducks as Yang's BULLETS ricochet off the metal steeds. One hits the harness strap that tethers Rick's horse and severs it! No longer constrained, Rick's horse gallops free.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Alex and Lin are about to make their move when Rick powers across the sidewalk. His horse kicks up showers of sparks.

LIN

Is that your father?

ALEX
Yeah, it's kind of embarrassing.

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

Rick bounces in nut-numbing agony as the chariot speeds off behind him. His horse beelines for an ornamental moon door that's way too small!

O'CONNELL
Whoa!

Rick ducks as the horse SMASH-DRIVES through and out into...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

A New Year's parade is in full swing. A 60-MAN ceremonial dragon is weaving its way down the packed street. DRUMMERS pound and an entourage of STILT-WALKERS amaze! Rick's horse "dissects" the dragon in three, plows through the stilt walkers, knocking them over like dominos, then leaps over the heads of the COWERING CROWD and into an alley.

EXT. ANOTHER SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

The chariot hurtles up next to the fireworks truck. Evy leans out, gun BLAZING. Yang RETURNS FIRE, one of his rounds SHATTERS the truck's windshield and RIPS through the partition and into...

INT. BACK - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

The bullet ignites a CRATE OF FIRECRACKERS, setting off a chain reaction.

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

As a CACOPHONY of fireworks EXPLODES through the truck's canvas roof, the chariot pulls away.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

As fireworks WHIZ overhead, Alex and Lin dart out. He has his gun, she has the Dragon Dagger.

EXT. CHARIOT - NIGHT

They stalk up to the front of the chariot. However, as Alex raises his weapon, Yang's leg spins up, wrenches it out of his hand, and pistol whips him across the face. As Alex tumbles off the back of the chariot, Yang flips Alex's gun into his hand and SHOOTS Lin point blank! As she falls back, the Dragon Dagger flies out of her hand.

CAMERA FOLLOWS

as it bounces off the back of the chariot, but is snatched out of the air by Alex, who is holding on with one hand!

EXT. ALLEY - SHANGHAI - NIGHT

Lines of wet laundry whip Rick's face as the horse careens down the cobblestones. He desperately pulls on the reins, trying to get it under control. He yanks a pair of bloomers off his face and sees he's headed straight for a -- DEAD END!

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

FIZZING rockets are still bursting through the fireworks truck's canopy as it speeds after the chariot. Suddenly, the wall in front of the truck EXPLODES OPEN and

RICK AND THE HORSE

burst into view. Rick looks over at Evy and Jonathan, can't believe he made it. They point, only when Rick swings back does he see that *the horse's head has been ripped clean off!* As more BULLETS fly, Rick grabs the reins.

EXT. THE BUND - NIGHT

The chariot powers onto the famous riverfront boulevard which is festooned with New Year's banners. Alex is still desperately clinging to the back with one hand. His feet are inches from the cobbles and his fingers are losing their grip. But just as he lets go, A HAND clutches his wrist and drags him back onto the platform. It's Lin.

ALEX

Couldn't stand to let me go, huh?

She snatches the Dagger from his hand.

LIN

Just wanted my dagger back.

ALEX

I could have sworn he shot you.

Before she can answer -- BLAAAM! BLAAAAM! BLAAAAM! Rick gallops up, gun BLAZING. Alerted, Yang turns to fire but sees Lin and Alex -- who dive for cover in the sarcophagus. As Yang returns Rick's fire, he pulls the bolt attaching the sarcophagus carriage to the chariot with his clawed foot.

THE CARRIAGE

separates, the jade sarcophagus slides off the end and the carriage itself is catapulted into the air. It flies right over the sarcophagus, which bob-sleds down the street, and cartwheels towards

RICK'S HORSE.

In the second he has, Rick leaps up and grabs an overhanging banner. As he dangles, the carriage and horse collide head on! The giant horse is knocked off its feet and tumble-rolls straight for -- the fireworks truck!

INT. CAB - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Evy and Jonathan react in horror.

EVELYN/JONATHAN

Jump!

They dive out opposite doors as the behemoth SLAM-ROLLS into the truck, which DETONATES in a BLISTERING EXPLOSION. As a MASSIVE FIREBALL billows and bronze horse parts rain down, the Emperor Mummy and Yang CLATTER into the night.

THE SARCOPHAGUS

slowly grinds to a stop -- Lin and Alex peer out and see the street is littered with smoking bronze body parts, some of which are still twitching. Evy and Jonathan approach.

O'CONNELL

Everybody, you okay?

They look up and see Rick hanging from the banner.

ALEX

Dad, what the hell were you doing?

O'CONNELL

Saving you -- as usual.

ALEX

We almost had him.

O'CONNELL

Are you kidding? He almost killed you.

ALEX

It's bad enough you and Mom managed to raise another mummy, but don't get in my way when I'm trying to clean up your mess.

O'CONNELL
Who ran off and dug him up in the
first place?

ALEX
Now this is my fault.

LIN
No, it's mine.

They all turn to Lin.

ALEX
Guys, this is Lin.

EVELYN
Thanks for your help tonight.

ALEX
Yeah, thanks. Now you want to tell
us what you're doing here?

Lin nods, finally ready to come clean.

LIN
For centuries, my family has been
charged with watching over the
Emperor's tomb to ensure he was
never found.

EVELYN
Like the Medjai in Egypt.

ALEX
That explains why you tried to kill
me.

EVELYN
(shocked)
She did what?

ALEX
It's okay, Mom, I fought her off.
(to Lin)
Don't take it too hard. You're not
the first tomb guardian to be
bested by an O'Connell.

LIN
Are you always so arrogant?

O'CONNELL
It's in his genes, he can't help
it.

LIN
You got lucky.

ALEX
(flirtatiously)
Maybe there's another reason you
couldn't kill me?

LIN
I wouldn't count on it.

As Lin heads off, Alex, Evy and Jonathan follow. Rick calls
after them.

O'CONNELL
Hey, you just going to leave me
hanging?

SMASH CUT TO:

A MAP OF CHINA -- PULL BACK TO REVEAL the Emperor standing
before it, studying it with his empty eyes. He is...

INT. YANG'S YURT - DAWN

Yang enters and respectfully bows.

YANG
*Welcome to the 20th Century, my
lord.*

EMPEROR MUMMY
*You are the one who raised me from
my slumber.*

Yang nods.

YANG
*China is in chaos, I knew only our
greatest Emperor could restore it
to its rightful glory.*

EMPEROR MUMMY
*What do you hope to gain in this
endeavor?*

YANG
To serve as your general.

EMPEROR MUMMY

The last general I trusted betrayed me.

YANG

I won't make that mistake.

The Emperor accepts that.

EMPEROR MUMMY

What is your name?

YANG

Wu Yang.

EMPEROR MUMMY

General Yang, explain this to me.

The Emperor steps to a large globe of the world that is mounted into a wooden stand.

YANG

It's the world my lord, as you can see, it's gotten bigger since you last ruled all under heaven.

The Emperor spins the globe with his finger and watches as the myriad of different colored countries flicker past.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Who are our most powerful adversaries?

YANG

The countries of the west. They have been infected with the belief that people should be free and the government is there to serve them.

The folds of his neck fissure as the Emperor shakes his head.

EMPEROR MUMMY

People need to be controlled, they must live in fear of reprisal. Their every move watched, their every action questioned, their every infraction punished ten fold. They are free only to serve me.

YANG

I agree, my lord, that is why they must be conquered.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Conquest requires an army. I can't
raise my warriors in this state.*

YANG

*I found the answer you spent a
lifetime seeking -- the secret to
eternal life.*

(holding up Eye)

This will point the way.

The Emperor Mummy's mouth curls into a cracking smile.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*History begins today, all that has
gone before will be swept away.*

As he touches the globe, a carpet of FIRE spreads out from China and quickly engulfs the sphere. OFF this image...

EXT. TRAINING CAMP - DAWN

Yang's Paramilitaries are loading machine guns, ammunition, grenades and other weaponry onto two DC-3 cargo planes that gleam on a dirt airstrip that's been cut into the valley.

YANG

*It's called an airplane. It flies
through the sky. Don't be afraid.*

EMPEROR MUMMY

Nothing in your century scares me.

The paramilitaries fall to their knees and bow as the Emperor Mummy and Yang pass. But ONE can't resist and sneaks a peak. Sensing this, the Emperor Mummy stops and turns. He glares at the terrified Man with his empty eye sockets and holds up his hand. The Emperor Mummy's fingers morph into

FIVE WRITHING COBRAS

which whip out and lash around the terrified Man's neck. The Man SCREAMS as the snakes attack in a blur of fangs and engorge themselves on his face. The Man falls dead as the Emperor impassively retracts his fingers into his hand.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*No man gazes upon me without
permission.*

Choi approaches Yang.

CHOI
The weapons are almost loaded.

YANG
*Change of plan. Take one of the
planes. I'll meet you at the tomb
in twenty-four hours.*

As Choi heads off, Yang and the Emperor Mummy walk on.

YANG
*I'm going to make sure your men
have the latest weapons.*

EMPEROR
*It's not about the might of the
weapon, but the strength of the
warrior.*

As they head up the stairs of one of the cargo planes...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - DAY

The O'Connells, Jonathan and Lin are sitting in a booth.

JONATHAN
How the hell did the Emperor bring
those horses to life?

LIN
He has mastery of the five
elements: metal, water, fire, earth
and wood.

Jonathan LAUGHS to himself.

JONATHAN
What's a mummy without super
powers?

ALEX
Wait 'til the shape-shifting kicks
in.

JONATHAN
Great, now he's going to raise his
army and we'll have thousands of
these creatures to deal with. When
are people going to learn, don't
curse them, kill them!

EVELYN
They've had a setback.

O'CONNELL
Thanks to Alex, the Emperor isn't immortal.

ALEX
Wow, that almost sounded like a compliment.

The two men exchange smiles.

JONATHAN
He can already animate metal horses, why not terra-cotta warriors?

LIN
Because they are cursed souls just like him. He needs to drink from the Spring of Eternal Life.

O'CONNELL
Which means he's headed for Shangri-La.

Evy takes a deep breath and gets back to business.

EVELYN
All the legends of the Eye mention a Gateway. But its location and name are a mystery.

JONATHAN
Typical! Why do the people who dream up these legends have to be so obtuse with their information? Just spit it out for once. Maybe throw in a map or directions.

LIN
It's called the Gateway of Shangri-La. It's in the Himalayas. Once the Eye is placed in the stupa, it points the way to Shangri-La.

They all look at her, stunned.

JONATHAN
I like her.

EVELYN
Can you lead us to this Gateway?

LIN
Yes.

JONATHAN
She's definitely a keeper.

ALEX
How do you know all this?

LIN
Kicking your ass isn't my only talent.

She smiles, he smiles back. Evy notes the romantic sparks.

O'CONNELL
The Emperor and Yang have a head start. Now that we know where they're going, we've got to beat them to the punch.

JONATHAN
I know just the man for the job.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. AIR FIELD - DAY

CAMERA TRACKS DOWN a row of seven faded WWII fighter planes, the noses of which are painted like stylized birds of prey, and FINDS the O'Connell clan and Jonathan huddled around a map with -- *Outback*.

OUTBACK
Any self-respecting pilot with half a brain would land on this floor of the valley.
(he grins)
But I don't have any self-respect and never had much of a brain.

O'CONNELL
How close to the Gateway can you get us?

OUTBACK
That depends on how much moolah you're talkin' about.

JONATHAN
We're talking about saving the
world here.

OUTBACK
War's over, mate. It's every man
for himself these days.

Rick and Evy look at Jonathan, who reluctantly pulls a thick
wad of bills from his pocket. He begins to count them out
but Outback takes the whole stash.

OUTBACK
This is good for starters.
(re: map)
I'll fly you right over the range,
cross-currents be damned, and get
you onto this snow plain halfway up
the mountain.

EVELYN
That will give us a good half-day
advantage.

OUTBACK
'Course, I can't guarantee we're
going to land alive.

O'CONNELL
We'll take our chances.

Outback stares over at their pile of luggage.

OUTBACK
It's going to take more than five
of you to get all that equipment up
the mountain.

ALEX
Lin's got that covered.

JONATHAN
She does?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Outback is at the controls. In the back, Evy is next to Rick
and Alex is next to Lin.

ALEX

How are you doing back there, Uncle
Jon?

Only now is Jonathan revealed squeezed up next to a

A VERY HAIRY YAK

in the back of the plane.

JONATHAN

Just peachy.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

PAN ACROSS lines of whipping prayer flags TO REVEAL Yang, the Emperor Mummy and a PARTY OF YANG'S THUGS trekking through the snow. Yang's cargo plane incongruously glints in the pristine valley below. As they trudge on, the CAMERA ROCKETS into the sky, BLASTS through the clouds and ZOOMS TOWARDS Outback's plane. It SPEEDS through a porthole and into...

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Outback SHOUTS over the DIN OF THE PROPELLERS...

OUTBACK

I'd tell you to fasten your seat
belts, but I ain't got any. So
hold on, it's going to be a bitch
of a landing.

As he banks the plane into a hair-raising decline...

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The aircraft sweeps between two jagged outcroppings and drops towards a narrow strip of snow. Its wheels kick up a blizzard of ice as they touch down and the plane begins violently BUMP-SKIDDING down the improvised runway.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

It's jaw-shatteringly rough. Jonathan hugs the yak. Outback cracks a maniacal grin as he grips the controls.

OUTBACK

Come on, you little ripper!

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The plane flails into a wild 180 and finally spins to a stop.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Outback grins.

OUTBACK

Well, that wasn't so bad.

He turns and sees they're all ashen-faced. Evy sniffs something foul.

EVELYN

What's the God-awful smell?

JONATHAN

The yak yakked.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Alex, Rick and Jonathan are loading the last of the luggage onto the yak as Outback approaches.

OUTBACK

I have to get back in the air
before the engines freeze. I'll
swing by tomorrow and pick you up.

JONATHAN

(under his breath)
If we're still alive.

O'CONNELL

Let's see how far we can get by
nightfall.

SMASH CUT TO:

MONTAGE - EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

The pristine peaks pierce the indigo sky like shark's teeth.
PAN DOWN TO REVEAL the O'Connells, Lin and Jonathan and the
overloaded yak.

A SHEPHERD BOY -- stares with amused wonder as the gang
trudges past, headed towards the cloud-capped mountains.

A ROARING WHITE-WATER RIVER -- the Emperor Mummy and Yang head across a flimsy bamboo-and-vine footbridge while the entourage of Yang's Paramilitaries follows.

MOUNTAINSIDE -- sharp snowflakes cut the O'Connells' progress as they wade through banks of pure-white powder. They're now wearing heavy fur-lined coats and boots. Evy watches as Alex flirts with Lin.

YANG'S CARAVAN -- is silhouetted against the sky as they traverse the treacherous snow-covered spine of a mountain.

THE SUN -- is setting as the O'Connells emerge through the scarlet clouds and head up a twisting path towards the ruins of an ancient monastery that are crumbling on the side of the windswept hillside.

END MONTAGE.

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - RUINS - NIGHT

Except for a table and an overturned chest, the place is a shell. Rick, Alex and Jonathan unpack supplies while Evy stokes a FIRE. Lin approaches with a stack of wood.

LIN

If we leave at first light, we
should be at the Gateway by noon.

EVELYN

For someone who spent all their
life in the Hebei province, you
certainly know an awful lot about
this area.

LIN

I studied the map in the plane.

Evy stands and faces her.

EVELYN

It doesn't explain how you knew the
Gateway was up here.

LIN

Tomb guardians tend to pick up a
lot of legends.

Evy doesn't let her off the hook.

EVELYN

I just hope whatever secret you're protecting doesn't jeopardize the rest of us.

LIN

Please know that my intentions are as noble as yours.

EVELYN

I certainly hope so for Alex's sake.

LIN

Alex?

EVELYN

He's spent this entire trip trying to impress you.

LIN

I can assure you I don't have any feelings for your son.

EVELYN

I told myself the same thing about Rick when we first met and look where that led.

LIN

Mrs. O'Connell, I swear there's nothing between us.

Evy smiles, clearly doesn't believe her.

EVELYN

Fine -- but if you hurt him, you're going to have to answer to me.

As Lin heads away, rattled, Rick approaches.

O'CONNELL

What was that all about?

EVELYN

Just girl talk.

Rick studies her face, knows her too well.

O'CONNELL

More like mama cat protecting her Alex cub.

EVELYN

I don't believe he's as experienced
as you think.

O'CONNELL

I think he's more experienced than
you care to admit.

EVELYN

Maybe that would be different if
I'd had the "birds and the bees"
talk with him. But you insisted.

O'CONNELL

It's a classic father/son
conversation.

EVELYN

Except you took him to see a belly
dancer in Cairo -- who showed Alex
more than her belly.

O'CONNELL

Nothing wrong with visual aids, it
cleared up a lot of confusion.

EVELYN

You should have left it to me.

O'CONNELL

(flirtatiously)

You could always give me a
refresher course right now. Great
way to generate body heat.

EVELYN

You're still incorrigible.

As they kiss, Alex looks over and smiles to himself -- his
parents never change. Suddenly, an OTHERWORLDLY HOWL pierces
the night. They all stop and look around.

JONATHAN

That was no wolf. I'm going to
check on Geraldine?

As he exits in a hurry. Rick and Evy look at each other,
confused, then step to the window and watch as Jonathan
comforts the terrified yak. As Rick rolls his eyes...

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN CAMP - NIGHT

Yang and his men are camped under an overhang and are huddled around a blazing fire. They instantly stop talking as the OMINOUS HOWL reverberates. The Emperor stands apart, staring out across the mountains, his cheeks spider-webbing in the freezing night air. OFF his enigmatic face...

EXT. RUINS - NIGHT

Snow whips the edifice which glows ethereally in the blue-gold moonlight.

INT. UPPER CHAMBER - RUINS - NIGHT

A FIRE burns in the middle of the room. Alex is silhouetted in the window when Lin enters with a stack of blankets. She hands him one and wraps another around her shoulders. There's a moment of awkward silence.

ALEX

I saw you talking to my mom
earlier.

LIN

We had an interesting conversation.

ALEX

If she told you embarrassing
stories about my childhood, you
should know she exaggerates.

LIN

She's under the impression that
there's something... between us.

ALEX

Something romantic?
(off her nod)
The woman's used to a desert
climate. This thin mountain air is
clearly messing with her head.

LIN

I told her the chances of us
getting together were zero.

ALEX

Absolutely.
(beat)
Look at us, we're complete
opposites. You guard tombs, I raid
them.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
You like ancient knives, I dig
guns. These are pretty
insurmountable odds.

Lin smiles with relief.

LIN
I'm glad we cleared that up. Now
we can focus on taking down the
Emperor.

ALEX
Couldn't agree more. Keep our eyes
on the prize.

Silence falls. Finally, Alex turns back.

ALEX
You're not my type anyway.

LIN
Obviously, you don't like a woman
who can kick your ass.

ALEX
You partially kicked my ass, let's
remember who had you pinned.

In one swift martial arts move, Lin pins him to the ground.

LIN
You must be losing your touch.

With equal dexterity, Alex spins up and pins her.

ALEX
You got lucky.

They stare into each other's eyes. With sexually charged
inevitability, their faces inch closer.

LIN
This is a bad idea.

ALEX
The worst.

As they dive into a passionate kiss, the CAMERA TRACKS out
THROUGH the window and into flurrying snow. It DRIFTS across
the darkness until it FINDS TWO EMERALD-GREEN EYES watching
from the shadows. As it opens it's mouth and HOWLS...

SMASH CUT TO:

THE SUN

rising across the saw-tooth peaks, blushing the snow.

EXT. RUINS - DAWN

Rick, Evy and Jonathan load Geraldine as Alex and Lin hustle out. Evy eyes their dishevelment.

EVELYN

Where have you two been?

Alex stammers for an answer.

O'CONNELL

Let's get going.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - DAY

Yang's men lead the ascent up a crumbling stone staircase which switchbacks up the cliff face. It's a 2,000-foot drop straight down. A section of the steps BREAKS AWAY, sending four of Yang's men plunging to their deaths. Unfazed, the Emperor Mummy puts his hand on the cliff and replacement slabs ERUPT out of the stone. As they climb on...

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Lin leads the party single file along a narrow snow-covered path. It snakes around the near-vertical face of a gorge. As the group heads around a bend,

THE GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA

suddenly comes into view. The colonnaded stone structure forges the gap between two mountains and is accessed by an ice-encrusted suspension bridge.

EVELYN

The Gateway of Shangri-La.

As they head across the bridge...

INT. COURTYARD - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

The golden stupa sits in the middle of an open courtyard. Rick and Alex are unloading Geraldine. Alex plonks a trunk down next to Rick's. Rick proudly flips the lid of his trunk, revealing an impressive collection of vintage weaponry: guns, ammo belts, knives, etc.

O'CONNELL

Okay, the toy box is open. Alex, you and Jonathan load up, save a few for your old man.

ALEX

Thanks, Dad, but I dig up relics, I don't shoot them.

Alex swings open the lid of his trunk. Rick peers at the array of state-of-the-art firepower, floored.

O'CONNELL

What did you do? Rob an armory?

ALEX

Won them in a poker game.

O'CONNELL

When did you learn to play poker?

ALEX

Boarding school. I got kicked out for it, remember?

O'CONNELL

After nine schools in three years, the stories all blended together. Although you never topped getting caught with the headmaster's daughter after lights out.

ALEX

We were cramming for a test.

O'CONNELL

Naked?

ALEX

How else was I supposed to learn anatomy?

Rick shakes his head. Alex looks into his dad's trunk.

ALEX

Dad, you can't seriously face the Emperor with that antique collection. Does any of this junk even work?

O'CONNELL

I'll put these antiques up against
your newfangled guns any day of the
week.

Alex selects a gleaming snub-nosed pistol from his trunk.

ALEX

You ever seen a Walther P-38?

O'CONNELL

Looks a little puny compared to the
Peacekeeper.

Rick pulls out a classic long-barrelled .45 revolver.

ALEX

It's not about size, Dad, it's
about stamina. Your gun's spent
after six rounds, this puppy just
keeps pumping.

Feeling the pressure, Rick grabs a machine gun.

O'CONNELL

You want power, I defy you to beat
the Thompson submachine gun. 100
rounds a clip.

ALEX

Except the cocking mechanism always
gives out in the heat of battle.
Might as well be shooting blanks.

Jonathan ambles over, sets down a crate to catch his breath
as Alex pulls out a sleek black machine gun.

ALEX

Check out the Russian AK-47. It's
not even on the market yet. This
is the future right here.

O'CONNELL

That's your problem, Alex, you
think with your weapon, not with
your head.

(beat)

It's experience that saves the day,
not firepower.

ALEX

You keep telling yourself that,
Dad.

JONATHAN
Are we still talking about guns?

As Jonathan exits, Rick changes the subject.

O'CONNELL
I want to set up facing the bridge.
We have to hit the Emperor hard and
fast.

ALEX
Let's just blow it when he comes
across.

Rick points to a snow-packed mountain above.

O'CONNELL
This is avalanche territory, we'd
all go with him.
(before Alex can protest)
I appreciate the input, but I've
put down a few more mummies than
you. We'll do this my way.

ALEX
You've put down one mummy, Dad.

O'CONNELL
Yeah, twice.

Alex closes his trunk.

ALEX
If it was me, he would have stayed
down the first time.

Alex flashes a cocky grin and begins dragging his trunk
towards the front entrance. Rick tempers his anger as he
crosses to Jonathan, who's feeding Geraldine.

O'CONNELL
I swear to God, if he wasn't my kid
I'd shoot him myself.

JONATHAN
Congratulations, you've raised a
son who's independent, questions
authority and approaches life with
no fear.

O'CONNELL
Yeah, well, it's annoying.

JONATHAN

Of course it is, you're his father.
It must be like looking in a
mirror.

O'CONNELL

I wasn't that bad.

JONATHAN

You're right, old chap, you were
worse.

OFF Rick as Jonathan playfully slaps him on the back...

EXT. CLIFF FACE - DAY

The Emperor Mummy and Yang climb the last step and smile as they peer at the Gateway. As they trudge towards the suspension bridge, Yang's men follow.

INT. COLONNADE - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Rick, Evy, Alex, Jonathan and Lin are positioned behind the columns overlooking the entrance, their weapons trained. Rick gives the signal and they

OPEN FIRE!

CAMERA FOLLOWS a line of bullets as they SPIRAL towards the Emperor Mummy. The Emperor Mummy holds up his hand and the bullets freeze in midair. As their guns RATTLE empty, the O'Connells peer through the smoke in shock.

O'CONNELL

There's a neat trick.

The Emperor SNAPS his fingers, causing the bullets to spin back and rocket towards the Gateway. The gang dives for cover as the hailstorm of bullets HAMMERS the columns in a DEAFENING ECSTASY. As they scramble in retreat, Alex looks around and realizes Lin's gone.

ALEX

Where's Lin?

EXT. TURRET - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Lin puts a flame-shaped silver whistle to her lips and blows. A HIGH-PITCHED TONE echoes across the valley.

INT. COURTYARD - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Rick, Evy, Alex and Jonathan take cover as the Emperor, Yang and his men enter. They exchange FIRE. It's clear the O'Connells are outnumbered and outgunned.

YANG

This is where your adventure ends!

Rick and Evy exchange desperate glances until a paint-peeling HOWL reverberates. They look through the open back wall and the mountainside beyond. FIVE HULKING SHAPES emerge out of the snow, white-on-white, moving on all fours. They look like bears until they suddenly rise onto two feet and charge forward. The creatures are 9 feet tall and powerfully built.

JONATHAN

What on God's earth?

EVELYN

Yeti!

As their lethal saber-tooth jaws suggest, the Yeti are far from cuddly. The Yeti spring into the courtyard and go on the attack. A Yeti grabs two of Yang's men and effortlessly flings them into a wall, knocking them out.

A Yeti vaults in front of Rick and Alex, yanks them into the air, and is about to slingshot them when Lin issues it a SHARP GUTTURAL ORDER. It obeys, unceremoniously drops them to the floor, and springs away. Rick looks at Alex.

O'CONNELL

She speaks Yeti?

Alex is just as shocked.

ALEX

Apparently.

Lin sees the Emperor Mummy. She unsheathes her Dragon Dagger and hurls it. CAMERA FOLLOWS as it spins through the chaos. The Emperor Mummy sees it just in time, turns, snatches it out of the air, then whips it back at her. Lin dives away and the Dagger is impaled in a column.

Jonathan skulks towards the rear when he comes face to face with a Yeti. As he SCREAMS, the Yeti SCREAMS back and Jonathan is blasted by spit and noxious breath.

Alex sees the Emperor Mummy striding towards the stupa.

ALEX

Come on, Dad! We can't let him put
the Eye in the stupa!

Rick darts across the space. He's almost caught up to Alex when Yang steps out and slam-punches him. Unaware of Rick's predicament, Alex continues after the Emperor. The Emperor sees him, waves his hand, creating a

BALL OF FIRE

Alex ducks as the flaming orb comets into a column.

Lin and Evy are trading martial-arts moves with Yang's men. In an awesome display, Evy spin-kicks a guy into a Yeti, who javelin-throws him into a wall, narrowly missing Jonathan who is huddled with Geraldine.

Rick and Yang are at each other's throats. Rick swings a punch, but Yang catches it with his clawed foot.

YANG

Savor your last breath.

Yang pincers his claws into a spike and is about to deliver the death blow when a Yeti grabs him. Yang SCREAMS as the creature catapults him out through the colonnaded entrance.

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

Yang flies into view and clutches the side of the bridge with his metallic foot. As he dangles...

INT. COURTYARD - THE GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Rick grins up at his furry savior.

O'CONNELL

I owe you one, buddy.

EXT. STUPA - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

The Emperor Mummy races up the steps that are cut into the stupa. Alex gives chase, but when the Emperor Mummy reaches the top, he spins back and causes the steps to melt back into the stone. Like an escalator that has suddenly gone flat, Alex is sent sliding back down the stupa.

THE EMPEROR MUMMY

places the Eye into the depression at the top of the stupa's needle. The Eye instantly begins to glow and a rod of ruby light shoots out.

The beam ping-pings against a series of ancient, polished mica refractors until it finally pinpoints a distinctive lava tube at the top of the mountain opposite.

ALEX (O.S.)

Enjoy the view, you're never going to get there!

The Emperor spins and finds Alex with an AK-47 aimed. Alex begins BLASTING and riddles the Mummy with bullets. The Emperor's really taking a beating until Alex's gun JAMS. Alex looks at the gun, looks at the Emperor and knows he's a sitting duck.

ALEX

Oh shit.

The Emperor Mummy unsheathes his sword and hurls it at Alex just as Rick races into view.

O'CONNELL

Alex! Watch out!

Rick pushes Alex out of the way and CRIES OUT as he is impaled by the 3-foot blade.

ALEX

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

White with anger, Alex pulls out a stick of dynamite, torches its fuses and stands to face the Emperor Mummy.

ALEX

Go to hell, you son of a bitch!

He hurls THE IMPROMPTU BOMB. It SPIN-SPARKS through the air and right over the Emperor Mummy's head. He looks at Alex mockingly as it EXPLODES in midair and its BOOM ricochets across the mountains. But then a DEEP REVERBERATING CRACK echoes and a massive shelf of snow begins

AVALANCHING

down the mountain towards the temple. PUSH IN ON ALEX as he turns to protect Rick.

PUSH IN ON THE EMPEROR MUMMY as he realizes he's in seriously deep shit. He opens his mouth in a FURIOUS ROAR.

ANGLE ON AVALANCHE as a giant impression of the Emperor's roaring face appears out of the snow.

The Emperor Mummy slows the avalanche's progress, but weakened by Alex's assault, he grimaces in pain.

ANGLE ON AVALANCHE. The snow impression of the Emperor Mummy's face reacts in confusion, then CRUMBLES. Now the wall of snow speeds unfettered towards the temple.

INT. COURTYARD - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

As the sound of the avalanche RUMBLES, the Yeti freeze.

EVELYN

Avalanche! Take cover!

Evy turns and sees Lin heading for the Dragon Dagger that's still impaled in the column.

EXT. STUPA - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

As the Emperor stands defiant, Alex hugs Rick. A Yeti leaps up as the avalanche SLAMS through the fourth wall, scoops Rick under one arm and Alex under the other. It springboards away as the white tsunami sweeps the Emperor Mummy away.

EXT. COURTYARD - GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Jonathan and Geraldine stare in horror.

JONATHAN

Oh f--

His cry is lost as he is caught up in the torrent.

Lin plucks the Dagger free, but a second before the onslaught hits her, Evy slides over, grabs her and scissors her legs around a column. Evy battles to hold onto Lin as the freezing wave surges through.

The Emperor Mummy cartwheels across the courtyard, is SMASHED into one of the front columns and SHATTERS. The terra-cotta shards are swirled up into the tumult.

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - DAY

Yang has just hauled himself up onto the bridge when the avalanche vomits out of the colonnaded entrance towards him. His metal foot grips a plank as the bridge is ripped apart like a matchstick model. As the wave of snow, debris and terra-cotta body parts drops into the icy abyss below.

EXT. GATEWAY OF SHANGRI-LA - DAY

SILENCE descends. A Yeti sniffs the air with his bear-like nose. He takes three steps, punches into the snow, yanks out Jonathan by his leg with one hand and pulls Geraldine out with the other. As Jonathan dangles upside down...

JONATHAN

Well done, you big ugly brute. A St. Bernard couldn't have done better. Although I don't suppose you come with one of those little barrels of brandy, do you?

The Yeti SNARLS and drops them.

Evy and Lin stand. Lin looks at Evy, grateful.

LIN

Thank you.

But then over Lin's shoulder, Evy sees Alex cradling Rick; horrified, she runs over.

EVELYN

Rick! Rick!

Rick's deathly pale, and a circle of blood stains the snow.

ALEX

Come on, Dad! Say something!

Evy takes Rick from Alex, nestles his head in her lap.

EVELYN

You're not dying on me!

But his eyes roll back as he loses consciousness. Desperate, she puts her cheek against his.

EVELYN

Sweetheart, stay with us.

ALEX

We've got to get him to Shangri-La.

JONATHAN

That's going to be kind of hard without the Eye.

ALEX

I saw where it pointed.

Lin steps in, flanked by two Yeti.

LIN

The Yeti will carry him.

As the Yeti pick Rick up, Alex looks at Lin, confused.

ALEX
Who are you?

Evy studies Lin's face, it all starts to make sense.

EVELYN
She's from Shangri-La, Alex.

Lin nods.

LIN
The Eye was given to me to find my
way home.
(beat)
We must hurry.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Alex leads the party along the rugged mountain path. The Yeti carry Rick on a makeshift stretcher while Evy holds Rick's hand. Lin and Jonathan follow on behind.

JONATHAN
(to Evy)
How's he doing?

Evy looks at Rick, struggling to stay strong.

EVELYN
He's weak but holding on.

LIN
I'm sorry I couldn't be honest with
you. But I was sworn to keep
Shangri-La a secret.

Evy nods her understanding. Lin steps back, giving Alex some space as he approaches Evy. He is knotted with guilt.

ALEX
This is all my fault. Dad said I
was reckless, that I don't think
things through and he was right.

EVELYN
He protected you, Alex, that's what
parents do.

ALEX

He can't die for my mistake. All I ever wanted was to make him proud, and I keep letting him down.

EVELYN

Your father casts a long shadow. I know you've been fighting to get out from under it. But never for a moment think he isn't proud of you. He just doesn't want you to make the same mistakes he did. Believe me, he's made his fair share.

Alex takes in her words, grateful. Smiles sadly.

ALEX

At least he was smart enough to marry you.

They share a moment. Then Alex sees the outcropping. He races up towards it and shouts back.

ALEX

There's an opening.

The Yeti gently lay Rick down.

LIN

The Yeti watch over the valley, but they cannot enter the realm.

Lin and Jonathan carry Rick's stretcher up across the rocks towards Alex, who is standing by an inconsequential opening.

JONATHAN

That's it? That dirty hole is the entrance to Shangri-La. Well, color me underwhelmed.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The party emerges through the crack into a narrow sandstone gorge. The channel curves into the darkness and its soaring red walls are no more than 5 feet apart. They follow its twisting course and gasp as it opens out into

A VAST SANDSTONE AMPHITHEATER.

The natural wonder is epic in scale and the remains of a forgotten civilization are evident.

A giant Buddha reclines along one wall while an ancient dwelling is built into the sloping rock face opposite. They cross to the square-shaped pool that sparkles in the middle of the cavern.

EVELYN

The Spring of Eternal Life.

Lin cups a handful of water and gently splashes it across Rick's injury. Evy and Alex watch as Rick's wound miraculously heals and his labored breathing eases.

LIN

He's out of danger now, but he needs to rest.

Evy bends down, tenderly kisses Rick's forehead. She looks up at Lin with tearful eyes.

EVELYN

Thank you.

The two women share a moment, then--

JONATHAN

Bloody hell!

They turn and see Jonathan standing on the other side of the well staring in wonder. PUSH IN as Alex and Evy step to his side and peer out through the collapsed wall of the cavern.

REVERSE TO REVEAL WHAT THEY SEE: An exotic Technicolor paradise that is ringed with thousands of silken waterfalls. It's truly breathtaking.

ZIJUAN (O.S.)

My child, you are home.

Lin turns and stares at Zijuan. Except for a shock of white hair, she hasn't aged a day in over 2,000 years. Even so, there is something haunted about her. The two women warmly embrace. Lin breaks off, bows her head.

LIN

I have failed you, Mother. The Emperor has been awoken.

Zijuan reacts as she sees the O'Connells and Jonathan.

LIN

These are my friends. They fought by my side.

ZIJUAN

You were not to involve mortals in our affairs.

ALEX

Believe it or not, some of us mortals have experience in the mummy department.

ZIJUAN

No one knows the Emperor better than I do.

EVELYN

How is that possible?

ZIJUAN

Because I'm the one who cursed him. He murdered the only man I ever loved.

Alex looks over at Lin and puts it together.

ALEX

Your father.

She nods.

EVELYN

How did you end up here?

ZIJUAN

The Yeti found me dying in the snow with the Emperor's dagger in my side. They brought me to this cave. I knew I wouldn't survive the night, so I used the Book of the Dead to enchant the pool.

Evy reacts to that revelation, looks out over Shangri-La.

EVELYN

A Book of the Dead created all this?

Zijuan nods.

ZIJUAN

Lin and I were happy here. Safe. But I always feared that my sin would come back to haunt me and that the Emperor would rise again.

(MORE)

ZIJUAN (CONT'D)

So I enchanted his Dagger and sent
the only person I trusted to watch
over his crypt.

Overcome with emotion, Zijuan turns and stares out across the
valley. Alex looks at Lin, realizing...

ALEX

Then all those years... there were
no ancestors, it was just you out
there guarding the tomb?

Lin nods sadly.

JONATHAN

No offense, but why didn't you just
kill the Emperor the old-fashioned
way?

ZIJUAN

I wanted him to suffer for
eternity. Unfortunately, the ones
who ended up suffering were me and
my daughter.

OFF this emotional confession...

EXT. GORGE - DAY

Four Yeti patrol the ruins of the Gateway. One steps to the
edge of the cliff, where the suspension bridge stood, and
sniffs the air. He HOWLS to his friends. They bound towards
him. CAMERA FOLLOWS as they plunge over the side and begin
spidering down the sheer cliff face with their claws. They
move with agile speed. CAMERA RACES PAST the Yeti and FINDS

YANG.

He's using his metallic foot like a pick and is working his
way towards the blue-white glacier below. Chips of rock fall
and he looks up and sees the Yeti charging down the cliff
face towards him. He panics, loses his footing and tumbles
back. He drops 30 feet and lands hard. The ground shakes as

THE YETI

leap down and surround him. One steps towards him when two
giant hands formed of snow reach out of the ground, grab the
creature by its legs, and with shocking suddenness,

YANK

it straight down into the ice. In violent succession, the other Yeti are pulled under until they've vanished. The arms disintegrate and, like a living ice sculpture,

THE EMPEROR MUMMY

rises out of the snow. As he shape-shifts back to terra-cotta, his torso is crazed with cracks and half his face has broken off, revealing his maggot-infested skull and brain.

YANG

Thank you, my lord.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Come, the Spring awaits.

As they trek towards the mountain...

INT. SPRING - AMPHITHEATER - DUSK

The cavern is bathed in dying purple sunlight. As they stand guard at the Spring, Alex steals glances at Lin.

LIN

What is it?

ALEX

Nothing... it's just you look great for being two thousand years old.

LIN

Even though you know my secret, it doesn't change the fact that you and I can't be together.

ALEX

Because of the age difference? I have no problem dating an older woman.

LIN

Alex, I'm going to live forever.

ALEX

Maybe I'll take a sip from the Spring myself, in my line of work it could be useful.

LIN

The last man I was involved with had the same idea and foolishly I trusted him.

ALEX

Last man?

LIN

He was a young explorer trekking across China. We had a passionate affair and in a moment of weakness I told him my secret about Shangri-La and the Eye. He said he'd drink the vial of Spring water and we could watch Earth's dying light together.

ALEX

Sounds like a real smooth operator, what was his name?

LIN

Marco Polo.

ALEX

Marco Polo was your last boyfriend?

Lin nods.

LIN

But he tricked me and stole the Eye. I was young and naive.

ALEX

Yeah, the mistakes we make at fourteen hundred.

LIN

I hired mercenaries to track him down, but all I learned was that he traded the Eye to a Maharaja for safe passage. That's the last I heard of him.

ALEX

So one guy screws you over and you swear off relationships forever?

LIN

I realized there's no place for me in the outside world, I can't experience life, only observe it.

ALEX

You know what I think, Lin? You're scared and you're using your immortality as an excuse.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
People can live an entire lifetime
in one look.

LIN
How do you know?

ALEX
Because I watch my parents do it
everyday.

Lin holds Alex's longing stare. When she finally turns away,
Zijuan is revealed standing behind them.

ZIJUAN
Alex, your father is awake.

Alex glances at Lin again, then heads up the rocky slope
towards Zijuan's dwelling. Zijuan steps to Lin.

LIN
How much of that did you hear?

ZIJUAN
Enough.

She looks at her daughter.

ZIJUAN
I should not have allowed you to
take on my burden and watch over
the Emperor's tomb.

LIN
It was my choice, Mother. You had
to guard the Spring. Neither of us
could ignore our duty.

She gently strokes Lin's cheek.

ZIJUAN
You are so much like your father,
he would have been proud of you.

LIN
I see the O'Connells, I wish the
three of us had gotten a chance to
be like that... a family.

ZIJUAN
Me too.

The two women share a moment.

ZIJUAN

You have paid for my mistakes for too long. You deserve to find love and have children that make you proud.

LIN

A normal life is beyond my reach.

ZIJUAN

But not mine.

Zijuan holds up a delicate blown-glass vial.

ZIJUAN

Once you drink this, there's no turning back. You'll be mortal.

Lin studies her mother's face.

LIN

Mother, why are you doing this?

ZIJUAN

Because I want you to have a lifetime of happiness, not an eternity of regrets.

As Lin nervously takes the vial and drinks it...

INT. ZIJUAN'S DWELLING - NIGHT

It's decorated with monastic simplicity. Evy and Jonathan sit on either side of Rick, who is lying in a wooden bed. As Alex steps in, Evy leans into Rick...

EVELYN

He feels terrible, go easy.

Rick nods, waits as Alex kneels by his bed.

ALEX

Look, before you say anything, you were right. The gun jammed, I left myself wide open, and I would have been dead if you hadn't stepped in.

O'CONNELL

Probably -- but if you hadn't improvised that avalanche, we'd all be dead and the Emperor would already be immortal.

ALEX

When I saw you lying there... I've never been so scared in my life.

Evy puts a hand on his shoulder.

EVELYN

But you held it together. You got us here and saved your dad.

O'CONNELL

I'd say you did okay, kiddo.

Alex smiles, grateful. Evy watches proudly as they hug.

O'CONNELL

Look at us, we're acting like a couple of chicks. We've got to go out and do what O'Connells do best -- save the world.

As Alex helps Rick up, Jonathan shakes his head.

JONATHAN

You really need a new hobby.

INT. AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

Lin and Zijuan are standing guard at the Spring when a fierce WIND WHIPS. Zijuan instinctively turns to the entrance.

ZIJUAN

He's here!

A heartbeat later, a COMET OF FIRE bursts out and scorches across the space. Zijuan and Lin dive out of the way as the comet OBLITERATES the stone canopy that covers the Spring.

INT. ZIJUAN'S DWELLING - NIGHT

Rick is just pulling his shirt on when a second fireball BLASTS through the wall in a shower of blistering sparks, knocking them all off their feet.

INT. AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

Yang and the Emperor Mummy stride towards the Spring as Zijuan and Lin defiantly rise to their feet. The Emperor's eyes flash with vengeful recognition.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Zijuan! You are as beautiful as the day you betrayed me.

ZIJUAN

*My only regret is that I didn't
kill you when I had the chance.*

Lin protectively steps in front of Zijuan.

LIN

Leave my mother alone!

The Emperor Mummy eyes her lustfully.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Ming Guo's daughter. Once I am
immortal, I will make you my own.*

LIN

Never!

Lin swings up the Dragon Dagger. But as she plunges it towards the Emperor's heart, he turns and the blade impales in his shoulder. The Emperor Mummy ROARS and light explodes out of his wound.

Zijuan launches herself at Yang and they begin trading martial-arts blows. Like her daughter, Zijuan is an awesome fighter and very much Yang's equal.

The Emperor finally pulls the Dagger from his shoulder and backhands Lin, sending her flying 30 feet into the cave wall.

ZIJUAN

Lin!

Using the distraction, Yang swings up his foot and brutally SNAPS Zijuan's neck with his claws. But instead of keeling over dead, she SNAPS her neck back into place and WHIP-KICKS the surprised Yang back into some smoking stone debris!

The Emperor Mummy slides the Dragon Dagger into his belt and wades into the pool and sinks below the surface just as

RICK, EVY, ALEX AND JONATHAN

race into view. They stare in horror as the Spring CRACKLES with energy and ominously begins to boil with terra-cotta slurry. The pool evaporates in a cloud of HISSING steam and

THE EMPEROR

strides out of the empty pool *in his restored human form.*

EVELYN

He's immortal now.

They watch in disbelief as the Emperor shape-shifts into
A GIANT METALLIC PIXIU.

It's a mythical Chinese winged beast with the muscular body
of a lion and the head of a dragon.

O'CONNELL
This keeps getting better and
better.

It stalks towards Lin, who is still lying by the wall.

ALEX
Leave her alone!

He leaps up, charges forward, GUN BLAZING. His bullets
harmlessly PING off the Pixiu as it picks up Lin in a taloned
hoof and violently flicks Alex with one of its wings, sending
him flying 20 feet. Evy reacts in horror...

EVELYN
Alex!

As she races to her son, Yang scrambles onto the Pixiu's
back. Lin SCREAMS as the Pixiu flaps its bat-like wings and
takes off. As it flies over, the beast opens its mouth,
revealing rows of vicious fangs, and unleashes

A 20-FOOT JET OF FLAME.

Rick pulls Zijuan out of the way as the river of fire
scorches the cavern. As the Pixiu sweeps past, Alex makes
desperate eye contact with Lin, but there's nothing he can do
as the beast flies out through the collapsed wall, soars over
Shangri-La, and disappears into the starlit night.

ZIJUAN
He's taking her back to his palace
to raise his army.

O'CONNELL
Not if we can help it.

EVELYN
We have to get back to the plane.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - DAY

Outback's plane is dwarfed by giant white clouds as it soars.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Alex sits next to Zijuan, who is staring out the window.

ALEX

I know Lin can hold her own against
the Emperor until we get there.

ZIJUAN

I pray that you're right, now that
she is mortal.

ALEX

Mortal?

ZIJUAN

It was her decision to make, Alex,
and she did it with clear eyes.

As he absorbs this...

JONATHAN

Call me curious, but what exactly
is our plan to fend off an entire
army of mummies?

Rick and Evy join the huddle as Zijuan reaches into her
satchel and pulls out her copy of the Book of the Dead.

ZIJUAN

This.

EVELYN

(shocked)

Oh my God. A Book of the Dead.

ZIJUAN

I wish I had never laid eyes on it.

O'CONNELL

Yeah, we know the feeling.

ZIJUAN

When the Emperor built the Great
Wall, he buried his enemies
underneath and cursed their souls
to hold it up. They formed a
foundation of spirits.

EVELYN

(putting it together)

We're going to use the Book to
raise them.

Zijuan nods.

O'CONNELL

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

ZIJUAN

Sun Tzu. I'm impressed, Mr. O'Connell.

O'CONNELL

Don't be. It's the only book I ever read cover to cover.

ZIJUAN

You and Ming Guo would have been fast friends.

As the plane banks, Alex sees the Great Wall stretching across the mountains below them.

ALEX

We're not far now.

Rick turns to Jonathan.

O'CONNELL

Drop us off as close as you can, then you and Outback go for reinforcements. We'll need all the help we can get.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The Great Wall looms in the distance. Choi and Yang's paramilitary force, which is 200 strong, are encamped by a cargo plane when a giant shadow sweeps across them. They look up and watch as

THE PIXIU

flaps out of the sky and touches down with Lin gripped in its talons and Yang on its back. The paramilitaries drop and prostrate themselves. Yang climbs off and the Pixiu transforms into the Emperor, who yanks Lin by her arm. Lin tries to break free, but the Emperor effortlessly grabs her and forces her to her knees.

LIN

I will never bow to you.

The Emperor Mummy thrusts Lin's chin up and sneers.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*I did not spare you to bow. You
will share my bed and pay for your
mother's sins.*

Yang grabs Lin by the shoulder and turns to Choi.

YANG

Guard her with your life.

Choi takes Lin. Yang looks back to the Emperor.

YANG

Come, my lord, your warriors await.

As Yang escorts the Emperor to a waiting Jeep, GO TO

BINOCULAR POV

Watching as the Emperor and Yang take off across the plain escorted by a paramilitary Jeep with a machine gun mounted in the back. PULL OUT TO REVEAL

RICK, EVY, ZIJUAN AND ALEX

watching this through binoculars. They are crouched in...

EXT. CREEK BED - DAY

The shallow gully dissects the middle of the plain.

O'CONNELL

Looks like he beat us here.

EVELYN

Zijuan, how do we unlock the
Foundation of Spirits?

ZIJUAN

There's a chamber underneath the
Great Wall.

O'CONNELL

Alex, why don't you wait up here
with the shortwave in case Jonathan
calls with news.

(waits a beat)

Alex?

He lowers his binoculars, spins to find Alex gone.

O'CONNELL

Great.

EVELYN

Where'd he go?

GO TO RICK'S BINOCULARS' POV: As they JERKILY FIND Alex. He's scurrying across the plain towards the encampment.

O'CONNELL

To save the girl.

EVELYN

He gets that from you.

Rick turns to Zijuan.

O'CONNELL

We haven't got much time. You head to the chamber, we'll go after the Emperor.

ZIJUAN

He has the Dagger, how do you plan on defeating him?

Evy and Rick look at each.

EVELYN

We'll just have to improvise.

As they head off in different directions...

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The convoy of Jeeps stops and the Emperor and Yang climb out and stride towards the head of the colossus, which Alex excavated. Suddenly, the ground RUMBLES and the massive statue begins to rise. Geysers of dirt ERUPT as the statue towers out of the ground. It sits on a two-tiered stone platform that is accessed by a series of steep granite steps. The Emperor unsheathes his sword as he walks up the stairs.

RICK AND EVY

stealthily approach the colossus platform and watch as the Emperor plunges his sword into the plinth at the base of the statue, causing a THUNDEROUS BOOM to echo across the plain.

ZIJUAN

has almost reached the ramp to the Foundation Chamber when she's knocked to the ground by a seismic quake.

The monumental walls of the Emperor's palace erupt out of the dirt 10 feet away. She darts up and doesn't look back as the entire palace rises out of the earth like the lost city of Atlantis. As she races down the ramp...

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Yang's paramilitaries watch in awe as the palace rises in the distance. CAMERA ZEROES IN on A PARAMILITARY standing by himself, guarding a stack of crates, when someone taps him on the shoulder. He turns and meets Alex's fist. As Alex drags the unconscious man out of sight...

EXT. BASE - COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

As the Emperor and Yang stride around to the back of the colossus, Rick and Evy break cover and sneak up to the base of the platform. As they head up the first set of stairs...

EXT. COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

Yang watches as the Emperor thrusts his sword into a second plinth and shouts...

EMPEROR MUMMY

AWAKE!

As the command BOOMS across the plain, the mouths of eight giant pits open like sinkholes.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Jonathan has the radio to his mouth.

JONATHAN

(into radio, in Chinese)

Yes, terra-cotta mummies. A whole army of them. You must send help!

He lifts his finger from the button, but all he hears is STATIC. He shakes his head, turns to Outback.

JONATHAN

This is a lost cause. What do you say, Outback, is your squadron up for one last hurrah?

OUTBACK

Depends on how much you're willing to fork over? Bloke's got to eat.

JONATHAN

But you've already bled me dry.
I'm broke.

Outback shrugs.

OUTBACK

Then I guess you're out of luck,
mate.

EXT. COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

Rick and Evy peer out across the plain as thousands of terracotta Warriors march up the ramps and out of the pits like storm troopers. There are tens of thousands.

O'CONNELL

The fun just keeps coming.

As they scurry closer to the Emperor and Yang...

EXT. TENT - CAMP - DAY

TWO PARAMILITARIES are on guard when a THIRD approaches with his head bowed. Only when he's a foot away does he lift his chin and reveal it's Alex.

ALEX

(in Chinese)

Sweet dreams.

Before they have time to lift their weapons, he spin-kicks them, knocking both out, and strides through the flap.

INT. TENT - CAMP - DAY

Choi is guarding Lin, who has her feet and hands tied, when Alex bursts in. As Choi spins to face him...

CHOI

I ordered you to--

Alex propellers a baton right into Choi's head, dropping him like a sack. He steps to Lin.

LIN

What are you doing here?

ALEX

Restoring your faith in the
opposite sex.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The sound of stone cogs REVERBERATES as the massive door rolls away and Zijuan steps into the chamber.

The centuries have left the cavernous space untouched.
Zijuan opens the Book of the Dead and steps to the altar.

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

CAMERA CRANES ACROSS the sea of terra-cotta Warriors. Called by their master, the different divisions are marching out and taking the field in lines: infantry, banner carriers, pike men, archers and cavalry. They are 50,000 strong and stride with fascist efficiency. CAMERA SWOOPS OVER the army until it FINDS the Emperor and Yang proudly watching from the...

EXT. COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

The Emperor waits until the phalanxes have come to a stop.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Today you awake to a world in the grip of chaos and corruption. We must restore order and the rule of law. We will slaughter without mercy, we will subjugate without compassion. I will teach this century the true meaning of power.

As the Warriors ROAR their approval, CAMERA FINDS Rick and Evy circling around the other side of the colossus.

EVELYN

Remember, Zijuan said the Dagger must pierce his heart.

O'CONNELL

Okay, let's get into position.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Zijuan finishes reading from the Book of the Dead.

ZIJUAN

(in ancient Egyptian)
... efday shokran ahmenophus!

As she places the tome on the altar, a fierce WIND WHIPS and a cascade of ultra-white light violently EXPLODES up through the stone, engulfing the Book, and fans out into the walls. CAMERA FOLLOWS as the light powers into the dirt and washes across the legion of agonized souls in a luminescent wave.

EXT. COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

Suddenly, the ground RUMBLES like an earthquake. The Emperor and the Warriors stop and look around, confused. PUSH IN on the Emperor as he realizes.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Zijuan!

As the Emperor and Yang stride back around the colossus,

RICK AND EVY

spring into action. Evy pile-drives the butt of a shotgun into Yang's face. As he tumbles back, Rick charges the Emperor and grabs the Dragon Dagger from its sheath. But as he tries to plunge it into the Emperor's heart, the Emperor backhands him 30 feet. Rick crashes over the stone balustrade and drops out of sight. The Emperor strides forward to finish Rick off when Evy swings up her shotgun.

EVELYN

Stay away from him!

She pulls the trigger and BLASTS half his head off (*note: immortal mummies don't bleed!*). As the Emperor reels back, Evy darts down the stairs after Rick.

EXT. BASE - GREAT WALL - DAY

A trench of dirt opens like a giant zipper along the base of the Wall, releasing an oscillating curtain of light and

THE FOUNDATION ARMY

bursts out of the light-filled trench by the thousands. This flood of tortured humanity is lead by a familiar figure --

MING GUO.

He holds up his sword.

MING GUO

Revenge is ours!

He leads the charge as the vast Foundation Army sweeps down the hill headed for the terra-cotta battalions.

EXT. COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

The Emperor GROANS as his wounded head reforms. He stares up at the Foundation Army, enraged, and SHOUTS to his men.

EMPEROR MUMMY

TO THE WALL!

As they storm forward like a plague, the Emperor looks over and sees Rick and Evy are gone. He ROARS at Yang, who is just climbing to his feet.

EMPEROR MUMMY
(re: Rick and Evy)
Kill them!

EXT. BASE - COLOSSUS PLATFORM - DAY

Rick and Evy scramble out of sight at the side of a staircase as the hordes of terra-cotta Warriors sweep past.

O'CONNELL
Well, that wasn't a total bust.

He reveals the Dragon Dagger in his hand.

O'CONNELL
Where's the Emperor?

As if in answer, they see the Emperor step onto the back of a waiting chariot. As he charges into battle, he passes Yang's Jeeps. Rick and Evy look at each other.

EVELYN
What do you want to do? Drive or shoot?

As they dash for the Jeep, Yang FIRES after them. Rick BLASTS the engine of the second Jeep, disabling it. Evy leaps into the driver's seat of the first and takes off as Rick piles into the back. OFF Yang's frustration...

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD SHOT

The two armies clash, like opposing waves, in a swirling odyssey of flashing weapons and death. Rick and Evy's Jeep charges through the ranks of terra-cotta Warriors, trying to catch up with the Emperor's chariot.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

It's dead smack in the middle of the battle zone. ALEX AND LIN creep through the camp. It's pandemonium as paramilitaries are cut down by the Foundation Army. Alex is unsure of his next move, until he sees the cargo plane. As he signals Lin towards it...

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

Evy is driving while Rick is on the back, FIRING the heavy-duty mounted machine gun. As he SPRAYS the terra-cotta Warriors, he watches as their shattered bodies reform!

RICK

Great! They're humpty dumpties
from hell!

Evy plows right over a Warrior and turns on her wipers to dislodge its maggot-infested head.

THE EMPEROR

looks back and sees them following. He turns and uses his hand to redirect a hailstorm of bronze arrows that are cutting through the sky towards him.

INT. JEEP - DAY - MOVING

Evy stares out in horror as the cloud of arrows changes course and torpedoes towards the vehicle.

EVELYN

RICK! INCOMING!

She hits the brakes, swerves and dives out the door. Rick jumps down beside her and takes cover a second before the Jeep is porcupined by 5,000 gleaming arrows.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

A battalion of terra-cotta Warriors is charging forward when they hear a ROAR of an engine. They turn and see

A CARGO PLANE

mowing through the ranks, its propellers SHRED the Warriors like weed-whackers. The shattered remains of a Warrior fly right at CAMERA.

INT. CARGO PLANE - DAY

Alex is behind the controls. As Warriors converge, he locks the control stick and darts back into...

INT. HOLD - CARGO PLANE - DAY

Lin is waiting next to two gleaming Triumph motorbikes. Alex grabs a machine gun and clips.

ALEX

Ready?

EXT. CARGO PLANE - DAY

Like locusts on a cob of corn, the plane is swarmed with Warriors. Some stride across its wings, others walk across the top, jabbing their swords through its metal skin.

INT. HOLD - CARGO PLANE - DAY

Lin THROTTLES her motorcycle to life, nods to Alex who activates the ramp. As it starts to lower, the windshield SHATTERS behind them and a flood of Warriors bursts inside. As the terra-cotta Warriors charge, Alex tosses a grenade.

ALEX

Catch!

As he follows Lin, one of the Warriors instinctively snatches the grenade out of the air. As he looks at it, confused...

EXT. CARGO PLANE - DAY

Alex and Lin ROAR off the ramp, fly right over the heads of a dozen Warriors, as the cargo plane DETONATES behind them in a grenade-fueled chain reaction of EXPLOSIONS. They duck as one of the propellers frisbees inches over their heads, then slices into a chariot that's charging right towards them.

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The Emperor Mummy cuts down a trio of Foundation Soldiers as he sweeps past in his chariot. But then he sees Ming Guo standing on a rise, waiting. The Emperor flips out of the moving chariot and faces his opponent.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Ming Guo!**(beat)**Your army is no match for my Warriors.*

MING GUO

Your hubris will be your downfall.

They race towards each other with their swords drawn. It's a clash of the supernatural titans. Their blades SPARK like super-charged light-sabers...

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

Rick and Evy are fighting an evil-looking crew of Warriors, Rick's gun CLICKS EMPTY, so does Evy's. Desperate, they pickup fallen swords. They cut down a trio of Warriors, but there are just too many.

O'CONNELL
God, I hate mummies.

They watch as the Warriors' shattered bodies reform. The Warriors are about to charge again when they are cut down by MACHINE-GUN FIRE.

ALEX AND LIN

SKID through the terra-cotta dust cloud on their motorbikes with the guns smoking.

ALEX
You okay?

O'CONNELL
Yeah, sure. No problem. Had it completely under control.

They smile. Alex tosses them machine guns. Rick climbs behind Alex and Evy climbs behind Lin.

O'CONNELL
Let's go get the Emperor.

As they take off...

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The Emperor and Ming Guo are still battling. It looks like it could go either way, but then Ming Guo comes at the Emperor with a dizzying series of strokes.

MING GUO
You never were that good with a sword.

Facing certain defeat, the Emperor superheats Ming Guo's sword, forcing him to drop the red hot blade. The Emperor swings up to deliver the death stroke when his sword is blocked by another. He spins and finds -- ZIJUAN!

ZIJUAN
It's me you want.

The ancient adversaries launch into a spectacular martial-arts sword battle. It's breathtaking to watch as the two masters swing their blades with lethal precision. As the Emperor slices his sword across her arm, she winces in pain and the deep cut begins to bleed. The Emperor realizes...

EMPEROR

You are no longer immortal.

Zijuan charges and, in a violent flurry of strokes, forces the Emperor to his knees. She holds the blade to his chest.

ZIJUAN

Surrender.

The Emperor smiles malevolently and in one quick motion, reaches up, grabs the blade, morphs the pointed tip into a handle and the handle into a blade. Then shoves the reconfigured sword into Zijuan's chest. As she stumbles back, she makes eye contact with Ming Guo.

MING GUO

No!

EMPEROR

Now she can join you in hell.

Zijuan looks at the Emperor, serenely confident.

ZIJUAN

You will never win.

At that moment, HEAVY-DUTY GUNFIRE strafes the battlefield. The Emperor looks up as

OUTBACK'S PLANE

streaks overhead, its two wing-mounted machine guns BLAZING.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Jonathan is manning the GUNS, grinning like a maniac as he squeezes the weapon's remote TRIGGERS.

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The Emperor ROARS as SIX MORE PLANES rocket overhead. Their familiar painted noses ID them as Outback's crew. The aircraft BUZZ across the battlefield, taking out scores of Warriors, giving the Foundation Army an advantage. Spurred by Zijuan's courage, Ming Guo rises to his feet and shouts.

MING GUO

Fight on!

As he charges back into the battle, the Emperor senses the tide is turning and shape-shifts into

A GIANT STONE NIAN,

a mythical Chinese dragon-dog. The beast HOWLS with vengeful rage and charges across the battlefield, shattering Warriors left and right, just as the two motorbikes ROAR into view and SMOKE-SLIDE to a stop.

ALEX

Where the hell's he going?

EVELYN

To the Foundation Chamber. If he destroys the altar, Ming Guo's army will be sucked back into the Wall.

Lin sees Zijuan lying on the ground, reacts in horror.

LIN

Mother! No!

She jumps off the motorbike, races to Zijuan's side and finds her mortally wounded. Zijuan calmly smiles.

ZIJUAN

I've lived more than my share of
lifetimes. Do not grieve for me.
(dying breath)
Now go, my child. Go!

Zijuan expires in Lin's arms. Lin cradles her for a moment, then rises, her face charged with a new determination. As she straddles the motorbike and they peel after the Nian...

EXT. SKY - BATTLEFIELD - DAY

The planes crisscross over the battalions of Warriors, MACHINE GUNS PUMPING. A catapult platoon takes aim, sending a volley of rocks into the air.

CAMERA FOLLOWS ONE OF THE PROJECTILES as it streaks towards Outback's plane, but in the last second, Outback 360 roll-dives out of the way.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Jonathan doesn't take his finger off the TRIGGER as the aircraft spins back around.

JONATHAN
Die! Mummy bastards, die!

He looks over at Outback, adrenaline-charged.

JONATHAN
I love the smell of terra-cotta in
the morning.

OUTBACK
Remember our deal. My crew gets to
drink for free for the rest of our
lives.

JONATHAN
You can have the bar for all I
care. I'm retiring.

Outback casually avoids another WHISTLING projectile.

OUTBACK
Where are you moving, mate?

JONATHAN
Someplace they don't have mummies.
I hear South America's nice.

EXT. RAMP - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Nian hurtles down the stone ramp leading to...

INT. ENTRANCE FOYER - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Nian's hooves SHATTER the flagstone floor, exposing a
series of giant stone cogs below, and torpedoes through the
monumental door in an EXPLOSION of stone.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Nian bounds up the stairs to the altar, which is
pulsating with light. But as the beast rams the stone
monolith, it is thrown back across the space.

EXT. RAMP - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The two motorbikes speed towards the ramp.

ALEX
So, Dad, what's the plan?

O'CONNELL
I thought you liked to play things
by ear.

They share a smile until GUNFIRE HISSES past their ears. Evy turns back and sees YANG and TWO PARAMILITARIES speeding towards them in a Jeep.

EVELYN

The plan is to divide and conquer.
You two go after the Emperor. Lin
and I will handle Yang.

As Alex and Rick power into the darkness, Evy SPRAYS the Jeep, taking out its front tires. The crippled vehicle flips onto its side and cartwheels down the ramp after them.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Nian rises to its feet, is about to launch itself back up the stairs to the altar, when Alex and Rick speed in. Alex aims the motorbike straight at the beast.

ALEX

Jump!

Alex and Rick dive off a second before the motorbike SMASHES into the Nian. Pissed, the Nian grabs the motorbike in its jaws, shakes it like a dog with a rat, and flings it against the side of the chamber where it DETONATES. Rick and Alex scramble up as the Nian bounds across the space after them.

RICK

ducks behind a column, pulls the dagger from his belt and lurches out as the Nian passes. He plunges the dagger into the beast, but just misses its heart! As the Nian drops, ROARING, it morphs back into the Emperor who plucks out the Dagger and angrily flings it back towards the altar platform.

O'CONNELL

This isn't good.

As Rick and Alex race for cover...

INT. ENTRANCE FOYER - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Guns in hand, Evy and Lin cautiously approach the burning wreckage of Yang's Jeep. The two Paramilitaries are sprawled, dead. Lin looks around, concerned.

LIN

Any sign of--

Before she can finish, Yang's metallic foot sweeps out of the shadows and sweep-kicks her. Lin flies 10 feet and SMASHES through one of the broken flagstones and drops into...

INT. COG PIT - DAY

It's like the inner workings of some ancient clock. Lin SMACKS down hard on a giant stone cog, sending her gun, skittering. As she lies dazed...

INT. ENTRANCE FOYER - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Evy swings up her gun but Yang effortlessly kicks it away.

EVELYN

Fine, we'll do this the old
fashioned way.

As Yang comes at her again, Evy knocks him back with an incredible wheelbarrow-kick. The girl's still got the moves! As the duo launches into a brutal martial arts duet...

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

A FLAMING ORB comets STRAIGHT AT CAMERA. Rick and Alex dive behind a column as the projectile EXPLODES in an orgy of sparks. As the Emperor strides towards them a river of ice flows out and freezes the stone. He spins his foot into a 360 propeller kick and SHATTERS the column.

RICK AND ALEX

dive out of the way as thousands of frozen shards rain down. They're sitting ducks. Rick plays the only card he has.

O'CONNELL

Okay, enough with the special
effects.

(to Alex)

Translate.

(to Emperor)

If you're such a great warrior, how
about you fight us like a man.

As Alex translates, the Emperor's face angrily twists. Rick smiles, knows he's taken the bait. The Emperor steps forward, morphs two new swords from his own and tosses them to Rick and Alex.

EMPEROR

Bring it on!

ALEX

He said--

O'CONNELL

No translation necessary.

As their blades CLASH in a martial arts extravaganza...

INT. ENTRANCE FOYER - FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Evy CRASHES back onto the flagstones, tries to struggle up but Yang is too quick. He hammers his foot into her chest. He lifts his metal appendage, spikes its three claws and is about to impale her when she rolls out of the way.

HIS POINTED FOOT

stabs the flagstone, SHATTERING it. A heartbeat later, the weakened floor collapses and Yang and Evy fall into the...

INT. COG PIT - DAY

Yang stands, dazed, stalks towards Evy when a foot swings out and SLAMS him in the face. It's Lin. Evy rises and the two women begin battling Yang across the network of stone cogs. Evy backflips over a gear and nails Yang with a particularly brutal kick. As he falls back, Lin looks at Evy in shock.

LIN

Where did you learn that move?

EVELYN

Nefertiti.

(off her surprise)

You're not the only one to live
more than one lifetime.

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

The Emperor is wearing Alex and Rick down. The Emperor SHATTERS Alex's blade on a stone statue. As he moves in for the kill, Rick blocks him.

O'CONNELL

Alex, the Dagger!

As Alex charges away, the Emperor viciously swings at Rick. He forces Rick to his knees.

Alex races around the side of the altar platform and finds the Dagger -- only problem is its blade has broken in two.

ALEX

We've got a problem, Dad!

The Emperor slices Rick's arm.

O'CONNELL

Can't be worse than this.

ALEX
The Dagger's broken.

O'CONNELL
Okay, you win.

The Emperor picks Rick up and effortlessly tosses him 20 feet, SMASHING him against the altar.

INT. COG PIT - DAY

Evy, Lin and Yang are in a battle royale. The combatants dart across the GRINDING cogs. Yang spots Lin's fallen gun, spinning towards him. He plucks it up with his metallic foot. He tosses it into his right hand, grabs Evy by the throat with his metal appendage then sweeps the gun into Lin's face. It's a tense standoff.

YANG
Who dies first?

EVELYN
How about you.

In one incredible move, Evy swings up her leg, connects with his crotch. As he GROANS in agony he instinctively lets Evy go. Lin kicks the gun out of his hand. Together, Evy and Lin chest-kick him into the cogs. His metal appendage gets caught in the stone teeth. He looks at them in horror, before he is sucked into the ancient cogs like a fly in a blender. They watch as the mangled appendage CLANKS into view. As they begin climbing...

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Rick has his back against the altar as the Emperor strides up the stairs to finish him off.

O'CONNELL
Alex!

ALEX
Hold on, Dad, I've got a plan.

As the Emperor steps to Rick with his sword raised--

GO TO SLO MO as Alex tick-tacks up the side of the altar platform. He dives over the balustrade and in an incredible Parcour move, launches himself over the altar. The Emperor turns just as Alex bursts through the curtain of light, with the broken Dagger blade wedged between his fingers. Alex

PLUNGES

the shard into the Emperor's heart. Stunned, the Emperor looks down at the wound as needles of white light FISSURE out and his skin veins with CRACKS.

ALEX

Give our regards to Imhotep!

The Emperor utters A PRIMEVAL SCREAM as he is ripped apart in a DEAFENING SUPERNOVA.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A blinding ring of light fans out and the Warriors SHATTER like clay pigeons. As the Foundation Soldiers rejoice...

INT. FOUNDATION CHAMBER - DAY

Evy and Lin race into the chamber as Alex helps Rick to his feet. Rick GROANS as he stands. Alex is totally pumped.

ALEX

Dad, you were incredible, the way you called him out!

O'CONNELL

How about you, pinging around the walls. You've got to teach me how to do that.

Father and son grin. Suddenly, the whole place RUMBLES and cracks snake across the roof, which begins to CRUMBLE.

EVELYN

Boys, can we finish the backslapping upstairs? The chamber's about to collapse.

Rick and Alex follow as Evy and Lin race for the stairs.

EXT. ROLLING PLAIN - DAY

The Foundation Army watches as the Emperor's palace and the colossus are swallowed back into the earth. The Warriors' broken shards are whipped up in eight long-tailed twisters.

INT. TURRET - GREAT WALL - DAY

The stone stairs fall away as the quartet races to the top.

EXT. TURRET - GREAT WALL - DAY

Evy and Lin burst into the sunlight. But as Alex and Rick race out, the turret COLLAPSES.

As they drop, Evy and Lin catch their hands and pull them to safety. The four heroes stand on the rampart and watch as the twisters are sucked back into the pits which seal shut in a BLIZZARD of dirt.

THERE IS NO SIGN THE EMPEROR OR HIS WARRIORS EVER EXISTED.

The Foundation Army cheers as calm is restored. As they raise their swords in victory, the Soldiers are transformed into ghostly blue-white spirits. The O'Connells and Lin watch in awe as the freed spirits spiral towards the heavens in a shimmering curtain. Lin turns to Alex.

LIN

When you killed the Emperor, you
broke the curse. The spirits are
finally free.

Alex sees something behind her.

ALEX

I think someone wants to say
goodbye.

Lin turns and sees the ethereal forms of Zijuan and Ming Guo standing on the wall. They look at their daughter proudly. Tears streak Lin's face. Then, brandishing his sword in one hand and Zijuan in the other, they shoot up into the sky and the magical LIGHT SHOW ends. Alex turns to Lin.

ALEX

I hear you're mortal now.

LIN

Somebody told me to stop living
life on the sidelines.

ALEX

Sounds like a smart guy.

LIN

He's definitely wise beyond his
years.

ALEX

You should know.

They share a smile.

ALEX

What about the age difference?

LIN
I have no problem dating a younger
man.

As she leans in and kisses him, CAMERA FINDS Rick and Evy.

EVELYN
Another mummy bites the dust.

O'CONNELL
You know, when we move back to
England, you can kiss this all
goodbye.

EVELYN
Maybe I'll put Oxford off for a few
more years.

O'CONNELL
I thought academia was your first
passion?

EVELYN
There's something incredibly
romantic about vanquishing the
undead.

Rick looks over at Alex and Lin.

O'CONNELL
Seems to run in the family.

As they kiss, Outback's plane triumphantly flies by.

INT. OUTBACK'S PLANE - DAY

Jonathan stares out at the kissing couples, shakes his head.

JONATHAN
Typical.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

Outback's plane BANKS OVER the Wall, RIPS across the war-torn
plain and rockets STRAIGHT AT CAMERA, BLACKING OUT THE FRAME.

FADE OUT.

THE END