

The Sword by the Tree

by  
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FADE IN

EXT. GRADE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

A bell rings. Students burst from the school's front doors with their usual laughing exuberance.

ASHLEY, 8, cute, and long blonde hair, is dressed in a pretty sun dress. She bursts out the door in a large group of laughing girls.

ASHLEY

No more school till Monday!

A cheer rises from the exiting kids.

DAVID, 8, dark-haired, frowning, and lumbering under a water-stained bookbag, emerges behind them. He sticks out from the other kids like a sore thumb.

Where all of the kids are wearing the latest fashions, David is wearing a ratty, old wind-breaker with big pockets. He is never seen without it.

His jeans are worn through in areas. They are clean, but they show dirt stains that never seem to wash out. His jeans are floods. His sneakers are cheap, and discolored.

Even though he has a heart of gold, and enjoys being in warm sunshine like the day offers, he frowns dejectedly at the world.

Kids ride away on some bikes. He watches them ride away with both loathing and longing.

He walks dejectedly down some

STAIRS

He sneaks from tree to tree down a

SIDEWALK

Even though other kids walk down the sidewalk near him, David is alone. No one speaks to him.

He looks longingly at some kids laughing. He kicks a stone, then hides behind a tree. He peeks out and scans the street for something.

He watches a lone kid riding away on his bike.

All's clear.

A group of girls walk by. Ashley laughs.

ASHLEY  
Grow some balls, will ya?

The other girls roar with laughter. David frowns at their backs as they walk away.

CHARLES, 6, pasty-faced, and with sandy-blond hair, walks by David.

CHARLES  
You should fight back.

David turns red. He looks at his cheap sneakers.

DAVID  
Yeah.

Charlie walks away.

David steps out from behind the tree. He sprints down the sidewalk in a madcap dash.

Sprinklers, splashing away, create muddy pools by the sidewalk. They race by as David runs.

Six kids ride up on bikes. BRANDON, 9, chubby, and large for his age, leads the pack. They skid to a halt in front of him.

David is forced to stop.

BRANDON  
Loser baby alert!

The kids laugh. DEVON, 9, and a wanna-be Brandon, has a pinched face like he constantly smells something fowl.

One of Devon's hands is muddy. He is holding a hand full of something.

DEVON  
The rain is gone. The land is dry.  
Why do you wear your pants so high?

Other kids walking home from school gather around. They know a fight is coming.

Brandon sniffs the air.

BRANDON  
God! He stinks!

DEVON  
That's cuz he's so dirty!

DEVON  
I bet he has worms in his hair!

All the kids laugh. A tear runs down David's cheek. He wipes it away on a clean sleeve.

DAVID  
Do not!

Devon throws what he holds in his muddy hand. David is pelted with worms. They stick everywhere. One sticks to his face. It squirms.

DEVON  
Do too!

The girls all make disgusted faces. Everyone ewws.

David picks the worm off his face. He looks devastated.

DAVID  
Just go away.  
(beat)  
Please.

Brandon gets off his bike.

BRANDON  
Did I give you permission to talk,  
loser baby?

KIDS  
Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

David backs away.

DAVID  
Can't you guys just leave me....  
(Defeated)  
...not again....

Brandon shoves David hard. He lands in a pool of mud. All the kids laugh.

DEVON  
The loser baby wet his pants!

BRANDON  
He wet his pants! Good one!

Brandon climbs on his bike.

BRANDON

Next time, I'll bring you some  
soap.

They all ride away, laughing. The rest of the kids frown at David, then continue walking home.

David spits a mouth full of muddy water out of his mouth. He pulls a leaf out of his hair.

DAVID

Open your mouth, walk home wet.  
Open your mouth, walk home wet.  
Why can't I seem to get that?

A spider, floundering in the puddle, is close by David's face. He frowns down at it, then scoops it out. He places it gently beside the puddle.

DAVID

Looks like we're both walking home  
wet.

David climbs out of the puddle.

DAVID

Again.

He down looks at his knee. Blood is running from a scrape.

He looks at his backpack. It is floating in the puddle. Bubbles blow out one side. It settles to the bottom as water rushes in.

David picks it up. It's soaking wet. He unzips it, and dumps water out. His books are soaked.

David limps away, a sad little boy in his own painful little world.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A small manufactured home, in disrepair, lies on the edge of a great wood. A rusting hulk of a car lies imbedded in weeds in the front lawn.

David walks up to the front door and enters.

DAVID

Mom! I'm home!

Diane, David's mom, is heard, but not seen.

DIANE (O.S.)  
You're wet again? What the Heck has  
gotten into you, young man?

DAVID (O.S.)  
I slipped.

DIANE (O.S.)  
You slipped again, huh. Everyday,  
you slip. Well, straight into your  
bedroom with you and get changed.  
I'm not dealing with wet furniture  
again.

DAVID (O.S.)  
Sorry, Mom.

DIANE (O.S.)  
I don't know why you insist on  
playing in those puddles on your  
way home. Every other kid seems to  
be able to come home from school  
dry....

Diane's voice fades away.

EXT. BIKE SHOP - DAY

David is standing in front of a bike shop window. A new dirt-bike is featured prominently in the window. David places a hand on the glass. He traces the bikes sleek lines with a finger.

DAVID  
Wow!

David's mom, DIANE, early thirties, brunette, thin, attractive, and wearing cheap, but conservative clothes, steps out of a door just down from David. She is carrying a bag with a shoe box in it.

Diane wants to spoil her son rotten, but their financial position won't allow anything but charity when it comes to toys. This appears as a sadness that has set into her face whenever she looks at her son.

She looks at David, says something, but we can't hear it. Her face turns cross. She repeats what she said.

DIANE  
Are you ready?

David comes out of his daydream.

DAVID  
Mom! Look at this bike! It's  
awesome!

She sighs, looks at her watch, then walks over and looks in  
the window.

DIANE  
What do you need a bike for?

David looks longingly in the window.

DAVID  
For school. My feet hurt from  
walking all the time.

She studies the bike.

DIANE  
That is a nice bike. How much is  
it?

She peers at the price tag. She makes a strangled sound.

DIANE  
I'll talk with your father about  
it, ok? But don't get your hopes  
up. If your father decides you need  
a bike, we'll have to search for  
one we can afford.

David places a hand on the glass again. Diane sighs.

DIANE  
Come on. You're going to miss your  
show if we don't leave now.

David follows his mom away, never taking his eyes off the  
bike.

DAVID  
OK, Mom.

They climb into an older model car. Rust shows through in  
multiple areas. The belts squeal for a few moments as Diane  
starts it up.

The car pulls away, trailing smoke from its exhaust pipe.

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Diane pulls into the home's dirt driveway. David hoots as he races inside. Diane walks into the house slowly. She looks tired.

The sound of a popular kids show is heard. The sun races across the sky and sets.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A bus rumbles down the street and stops in front of the house.

ROBERT, early thirties, defeated look on his face, and dressed in a mechanic's overalls, steps off the bus. His fingernails are black with engine grease.

Robert walks toward the house. He picks up a plastic glider lying in the driveway. It is more tape than actual plane, having obviously been repaired countless times.

He places the glider carefully beside the house with a few other cheap home-repaired toys. He looks at the pathetic little group for a moment, shakes his head sadly, then walks

INSIDE

Robert walks in the front door.

ROBERT  
I'm home!

A TV blares from a small living room on the right, but no one is in there watching it.

Robert sticks his head into a door on his left. It leads to a

BEDROOM

The walls are covered with shelves. The shelves are covered with clay animals. Those figurines closest to the door are obviously amateurish, but as you move deeper into the room, the figurines become more and more life-like.

David is busy at his desk. He is working with clay, and making a horse. It looks amazing!

Robert shows the first sign of life at the sight of his son. A smile grows on his face.

ROBERT  
You're getting very good, Son!

DAVID  
Hi, Dad. Thanks!

ROBERT  
We should enter you into a contest  
or something. You'd win first  
prize!

DAVID  
There are no clay forming contests,  
Dad.

ROBERT  
Oh. Well....we'll have to invent  
one, then.

Robert crosses the room and hugs his son.

ROBERT  
How was your day?

David gets excited.

DAVID  
Awesome! Mom took me shopping for  
shoes, and I saw a bike in the bike  
shop window, and I need it for  
school! Can I have it? Please?

Robert laughs.

ROBERT  
Sounds like it made quite an  
impression on you.

Diane walks in.

DIANE  
It sure did. He hasn't stopped  
talking about it all day. I told  
him we'd discuss it.

Robert smiles. He kneels down.

ROBERT  
It's a tough world out there, Son.  
Nothing's for free. You'll need to  
earn the money for it by helping  
your mom around the house.

DAVID  
I'll do it! I'll do anything!

Diane sighs at her husband.

DIANE  
Honey, it's very expensive.

Robert looks at his son.

ROBERT  
It is, huh?

He ruffles his son's hair.

ROBERT  
Well, he can have at least one toy  
lying around the house that isn't  
held together by tape.

DAVID  
You mean that, Dad?

ROBERT  
I sure do.

DAVID  
Yes! Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!

Robert smiles at his wife.

ROBERT  
Why don't you make a list of extra  
chores he can do. We'll find the  
money for the bike from somewhere.

DIANE  
Well, maybe it will keep him from  
playing in puddles on his way home  
from school. He's taken that up on  
a daily basis, you know.

Robert tickles his son.

ROBERT  
You have, have you?

David turns red. He looks at his shoes.

DAVID  
No.

DIANE  
Come on, you two. Dinner's ready.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sounds of David, Robert, and Diane, eating and laughing during dinner.

The moon races across the sky. The sun rises. It is low on the horizon.

SUNRISE

The sound of running feet pounding through the house.

INT. BEDROOM - SUNRISE

A door bursts open. David runs in still dressed in his PJ's. He hops on his parent's bed.

DAVID  
Did you make it? Did you make it?

DIANE  
Hmmm....?

ROBERT  
What....what's going on?

DIANE  
Mmmm....It's David.....

Yawn.

ROBERT  
David? Go back to bed, Magilla Monster. It's too early.

DAVID  
No! No! Wake up!

DIANE  
Mmmmm....make what....?

DAVID  
The list!

ROBERT  
Oh....the list. I see.

DIANE

Mmmmmmm....It's on the table....

Sound of kisses.

DAVID

Yes! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Diane giggles.

DIANE

Hold your horses, Mister Misters.  
You need breakfast in you.

DAVID

Aw, ma!

DIANE

No, aw mas. This is non-negotiable.  
To the table, young man. March.

Robert rolls over.

ROBERT

I'm going back to sleep.

DIANE

You're doing no such thing, bub!  
You're cooking him breakfast. This  
is your doing, remember?

Robert sighs.

ROBERT

Rats.

MONTAGE

David vacuuming the living room.

David scrubbing out a bath tub.

David beating out carpets over a line.

David sweeping out the garage.

David, dejected and bored, pulling weeds.

David mowing grass with a push mower.

David whips around the house in high speed. The afternoon sun sets rapidly.

SUNSET

A tired David drags the last of four big lawn bags full of weeds out to the curb.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

David walks in. He looks tired. His hair is a sweaty mat. Diane, frying chicken on the stove top, takes one look at him and squawks!

DIANE

Out! Out! Straight up to the bath with you, young man! You're a mess!

DAVID

Not till I'm done! What else is on the list?

DIANE

You've finished the list. Great job! Now, clean up for dinner!

DAVID

Yes!

David races upstairs.

LATER

Robert, Diane, and David are seated around the table and eating dinner.

DAVID

....living room, and I cut the grass, and I cleaned out the garage too!

DIANE

He sure did! He's been a little dynamo today!

ROBERT

Wow! Sounds like you had a busy day.

DAVID

Sure did! Mom says I'm done the list! Can we go get the bike? Can we? Can we? Please?

Robert chuckles.

ROBERT

You certainly are a man of your word. Alright, tomorrow night, when I get home from work, we'll all head out and get you your bike!

DAVID

Yes! Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sounds of David, Robert, and Diane, eating and laughing during dinner.

The lights of the house go out. The moon races across the sky. The sun rises.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

David exits the front door, once again loaded down with his bulging bookbag. He walks down the driveway to the

SIDEWALK

David whistles as he walks.

EXT. GRADE SCHOOL - DAY

A bell rings.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

David sits in class, tapping his feet with impatience, and watching the clock. It reads 2:29.

Click. 2:30

DAVID

Yes!

Kids storm from the classroom.

EXT. GRADE SCHOOL - DAY

Kids boil from the front doors of the school again. David laughs as he exits. He jumps down some....

STAIRS

And runs down the....

SIDEWALK

Sprinklers have created a muddy pool by the sidewalk. Other kids walk down the sidewalk. David races around them.

Brandon's pack of kids ride up behind David as he runs.

BRANDON

Look a the loser baby running!

The kids laugh.

DEVON

Yeah, where's the fire, loser baby?

BRANDON

He's probably had an accident in his pants!

All the kids laugh. David stops running.

DAVID

Did not!

Brandon gets off his bike. David backs away.

BRANDON

Did I give you permission to speak, Loser baby?

All of the kids gather around again.

KIDS

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

DAVID

Do your worst! I'm getting a bike tonight! The fastest one around! Faster than all of yours put together! You're never going to catch me again!

Brandon shakes his head.

BRANDON

Loser babies don't get bikes!

DEVON

Yeah. And you're the biggest loser baby of them all!

Brandon shoves David hard. David lands in the pool of mud again. All the kids laugh.

DEVON

The loser baby wet his pants!

BRANDON

Again!

They all laugh. Brandon climbs on his bike.

DAVID

You'll see! I'll have the fastest bike ever!

They all ride away, laughing.

BRANDON

You'll see!

The crowd disperses. More frowns for David. Charles remains for a moment.

CHARLES

I'm glad I'm not you.

He takes a few steps away, then turns back.

CHARLES

I'd hate to walk home wet like that everyday.

Charles turns and walks away.

David climbs out of the puddle. He looks at his knee. His scrape wound has reopened. Blood drips on the sidewalk.

David dumps water out of his bookbag again. He limps down the sidewalk looking determined.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

David walks up to his house. He walks in the front door.

INSIDE

Robert is sitting in the living room across from his wife. Diane has been crying.

ROBERT  
Hey, Magilla Man, can you come in  
here for a second?

David frowns. He walks into the room.

DAVID  
Sure.

Robert frowns.

ROBERT  
I'm sorry, Son, I have some bad  
news. I....I lost my job today.

Diane starts crying again.

DAVID  
You're not going to work at the  
garage anymore?

ROBERT  
No, son, I'm not. And that means we  
have to pull together as a family.  
I'm afraid we're going to all have  
to make some sacrifices until I can  
find another job.

DAVID  
Like what?

Robert sighs.

ROBERT  
We can't afford to buy you a bike.

David's mouth drops open. A look of panic takes root in his  
face. A tear runs down a cheek. He shakes.

ROBERT  
Hey. It's OK, Son. You continue to  
walk to school for a few more  
weeks, no big deal, then we'll get  
you your bike. Everything will be  
OK. You'll see.

Tears stream down David's face. He mouths the words "loser  
baby." He nods.

DAVID  
I am! I'm a loser baby!

He turns and runs from the room.

DIANE  
A loser what?

ROBERT  
Davey? David?

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The back door bangs open. Crying, David runs across a small patio and out among the

TREES

Trees flash by. We hear Robert and Diane calling David's name.

VOICES ECHO AROUND HIM

DEVON (O.S.)  
Loser baby!

BRANDON (O.S.)  
Loser babies don't get bikes!

DEVON  
And you're the biggest loser baby  
of them all!

David, still crying, is out of breath. We don't hear David's name being shouted anymore. He's still running through the trees.

He steps out of the woods on the edge of a huge....

LAKE

Swans swim gracefully by. David wipes his face with his sleeves. He watches the swans.

He sits down on a fallen

TREE

He looks bleak. He swings his feet. He reaches down and grabs some clay from the earth at his feet. He starts working it into the shape.

LATER

The sun is setting. David now has a beautiful swan made from clay in his hands. He shivers. He looks around as if waking from a dream.

He looks shocked the sun is so low on the horizon. He stands and walks back into the

WOODS

David squints as he walks deeper into the trees. It's very dark under the canopy. He stumbles, and walks with his hands held out.

Sounding scared, he calls out into the darkness.

DAVID

Mom! Dad?

Wind blows through the trees. David starts crying.

LATER

David spins in circles.

DAVID

Mom! Dad! Anybody!

Shivering, David lies down by a massive tree. He wraps his arms around himself and closes his eyes. He cries himself to sleep.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tiny snores escape from David.

Above, the moon races across the sky. Then dawn lights the East. Then the sun pops up.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Birds sing in the sunshine. The trees have the thick and tall look of deep woods. David sits up.

DAVID

Mom? Dad?

He looks around, wiping sleep from his eyes.

DAVID

Oh no!

David starts crying again. His stomach growls. He holds a hand to his tummy. He walks through the woods.

A stick cracks out in the woods. David follows the sound.

DAVID

Mom?

The sound repeats. David runs after it.

DAVID

Mom?

David catches up with the sound. He sees a deer among the trees. It sees him, and runs away.

David looks around. He is crying. He spins in circles yelling for Mom and Dad. All we hear is the wind in the trees.

David walks through the trees. He stumbles on a root. He falls, and re-opens his skinned a knee.

DAVID

Ow!

He examines the wound. From behind him, and down wind, a loud howl erupts. David looks horrified. He limps over and hides behind a tree.

David hears urgent whispering. He peaks out from behind the tree.

TIBBLE

The wolf will get him!

BIBBLE

Why won't he leave us alone?

FIBBLE

He's coming! He's coming!

BIBBLE

We can't save him! We have to save ourselves!

David looks around for the voices.

A muscular rabbit, TIBBLE, covered with white fur, hops out from behind a tree. A scrawny, brown furred rabbit, FIBBLE, is trying to hold Tibble back. Tibble is dragging Fibble.

A fat rabbit, BIBBLE, follows them out.

TIBBLE

We have to help him!

FIBBLE

No! No! NO! We have to run!

David blinks in amazement.

DAVID

Wow!

Fibble squeaks.

FIBBLE

He sees me!

Fibble lets go of Tibble. Tibble tumbles forward into the dirt. Fibble leaps back behind a tree. His rabbit tail can be seen shivering. On the other side of the tree, a weed that Fibble rests against, shivers too.

Tibble stands up and brushes dirt from his fur. He frowns at Fibble, then looks at David.

TIBBLE

We have to hide! Babel is coming!

DAVID

Who's Babel?

TIBBLE

A wolf!

BIBBLE

A terrible wolf!

Babel howls, louder than before. Fibble leaps out from behind the tree, shivering hard.

FIBBLE

He's coming! He's coming! Run!

BIBBLE

Run!

TIBBLE

Run! Follow me!

The rabbits run. David limps after them. He grits his teeth in pain, then runs. He has difficulty keeping up!

The rabbits leap a fallen log.

BIBBLE

Where shall we go?

FIBBLE

Our hole! Our hole!

David struggles over the log.

TIBBLE

No! No! He's too close! Too close!

BIBBLE

To the tree!

Fibble turns pale!

FIBBLE

No!

Behind them, BABEL, black furred, mangy, and huge, leaps out from behind a tree. He is in hot pursuit!

TIBBLE

Not the tree! Not the tree!

BIBBLE

No time! No time! Follow me!

Bibble takes the lead.

TIBBLE

Anywhere but the tree!

Babel is right behind them. Drool leaks from his mouth.

The rabbits run up to a wall of pickers.

BIBBLE

We're here! We're here! Jump!

TIBBLE

Jump!

FIBBLE

Jump!

One by one, they leap over the pickers. The pickers seem to lower to allow them entrance. David dives over the wall last, just as Babel snaps at his legs.

Snap. Miss. David soars over the wall of pickers unscathed.

Babel slides into the pickers. He yelps as he gets tangled. He struggles, then frees himself.

EXT. THE CLEARING - AFTERNOON

The clearing is surrounded by a wall of pickers. There is a large tree standing in the middle of the clearing.

The tree looks magical. Butterflies dance around it. Birds sing in it. Rays of sunshine, breaking through the surrounding trees, highlight it.

A large boulder rests to one side of the tree. The boulder is covered with brown moss. Spring water, pouring out of a crack at the top of the boulder, creates a waterfall that drops to a small pool.

Jutting from the earth in front of the tree, in its own beam of sunlight, stands a sword.

David hasn't noticed the tree, boulder, or sword yet.

Babel howls with disappointment.

David scans the picker wall wildly. He back-pedals away from the pickers. He falls on his butt.

DAVID

He's out there! He's going to get us!

TIBBLE

Nope!

BIBBLE

Nope! Nope!

FIBBLE

Nope! Nope! Nope!

TIBBLE

He can't get through the pickers.

David looks at the rabbits.

DAVID

He can't?

TIBBLE

Nope!

BIBBLE

Nope! Nope!

Fibble opens his mouth, but Tibble yells at him.

TIBBLE  
Stop that!

Fibble crosses his arms, and looks disappointed.

DAVID  
You're sure?

TIBBLE  
Yep!

BIBBLE  
Yep! Yep!

Fibble opens his mouth, but shuts it again when he gets a mean look from Tibble. Fibble grunts in anger at Tibble.

David frowns at the rabbits.

DAVID  
How come you guys can talk?

TIBBLE  
It's magic!

BIBBLE  
(Eerie voice)  
Magic! Magic!

FIBBLE  
We're magic!

TIBBLE  
We are not!

FIBBLE  
Well, we found magic!

TIBBLE  
That's true. We found it in the  
Dragon's layer!

BIBBLE  
(Eerie voice)  
The Dragon's layer!

David's eyes fly wide.

DAVID  
Dragons?

Tibble glances at the tree and shakes his head.

TIBBLE  
 Nope! Not Dragons, Dragon. Only  
 one. Below that tree.

David follows Tibble's gaze. He sees the tree for the first  
 time. David looks stunned.

DAVID  
 Wow!

Sunlight glints off the sword.

DAVID  
 Is that a sword?

TIBBLE  
 Yep.

BIBBLE  
 Yep. Yep.

Tibble holds up a paw at Fibble. Fibble sticks his tongue  
 out.

FIBBLE  
 Yep! yep! yep.

DAVID  
 Cool!

He walks toward the sword. Tibble jumps in front of him.

TIBBLE  
 Stop!

Fibble joins Tibble.

FIBBLE  
 Beware!

Bibble joins Fibble and Tibble.

BIBBLE  
 (Eerie voice)  
 Beware! Beware!

TIBBLE  
 If you take the sword, your path  
 will be filled with roguish  
 adventure!

BIBBLE  
 (Eerie voice)  
 Adventure! Adventure!

Tibble turns on Bibble.

TIBBLE  
 Cut that out!

BIBBLE  
 (Eerie voice)  
 Cut that out! Cut that....  
 (Normal voice)  
 Oh, sorry.

DAVID  
 Adventure? What's wrong with  
 adventure?

Tibble scratches his head.

TIBBLE  
 Hmm, I don't know. That's what  
 Ruin said. A life of adventure. He  
 made it sound like a bad thing,  
 though.

DAVID  
 Who is Ruin?

FIBBLE  
 A horrible ghost!

TIBBLE  
 He's not horrible!

FIBBLE  
 Well, he is to me!

BIBBLE  
 Have to give him that.

TIBBLE  
 Alright! Alright! I'll give him  
 that.

Fibble sticks his tongue out at Tibble again.

DAVID  
 Ruin also lives under that tree?

Tibble points.

TIBBLE  
 Yep! Down that hole, and under that  
 tree.

David looks where Tibble is pointing. There's a dark hole in  
 the ground. David walks over to it and looks in. There are  
 stairs leading down.

He shivers.

DAVID  
 Looks scary!

TIBBLE  
 It is!

BIBBLE  
 (Eerie voice)  
 It is! It is!

David looks closer.

DAVID  
 We have to go down here?

BIBBLE  
 Down.

TIBBLE  
 Down!

FIBBLE  
 Down!

TIBBLE  
 To the Dragon!

FIBBLE  
 To adventure!

TIBBLE  
 To treasure!

BIBBLE  
 To food!

TIBBLE  
 There's no food down there!

BIBBLE  
 Well...I wish there was. I'm  
 hungry.

TIBBLE  
You're always hungry!

BIBBLE  
Am not!

TIBBLE  
Are to!

BIBBLE  
Am not!

TIBBLE  
Are to!

FIBBLE  
Knock it off!

DAVID  
There's treasure down there?

The rabbits jump up and down.

TIBBLE  
Tons!

BIBBLE  
Mounds!

TIBBLE  
Heaps!

FIBBLE  
Zounds!

Tibble frowns at Fibble.

TIBBLE  
Zounds?

Fibble shrugs.

FIBBLE  
What?

DAVID  
And there's a Dragon guarding it?

FIBBLE  
It his treasure!

Fibble shivers with fear.

FIBBLE  
He's ferocious!

Bibble nods so much, it looks like his head's going to fall off.

BIBBLE  
A hundred feet tall! With huge  
teeth, and red scales!

FIBBLE  
Yeah! And he'll disintegrate you  
into a million, trillion, little  
pieces!

TIBBLE  
Oh, he will not!

FIBBLE  
Turn him to stone?

TIBBLE AND BIBBLE  
No!

FIBBLE  
Give him the hiccups?

TIBBLE  
No!

BIBBLE  
Well, maybe.

Fibble thinks really hard.

FIBBLE  
Then what?

TIBBLE  
Breathe fire on him, and eat him up  
in one bite!

Bibble puts a paw to his nose and makes a popping sound.

FIBBLE  
Oh yeah.

DAVID  
He'll eat me?

Bibble nods.

BIBBLE  
He does have a rather sore  
disposition.

TIBBLE  
(sarcastic)  
You think?

DAVID  
I really don't want any treasure. I  
want to go home.

The rabbits are all shaking their heads no.

TIBBLE  
Oh...uh....Uh uh, Sorry.

BIBBLE  
The pickers won't let you out.

Fibble nods his head so much, he falls over.

TIBBLE  
Great for keeping wolves out! Bad  
for keeping us in.

David frowns. He walks over to the pickers. They bunch up in  
front of him.

DAVID  
We can just jump over them. We did  
it a moment ago, remember?

TIBBLE  
They're magic pickers!

BIBBLE  
(Eerie voice)  
Magic pickers! Magic pickers!

FIBBLE  
They have sleepy pricklers! If you  
get jabbed, they'll put you to  
sleep for a million, zillion years!

TIBBLE  
Oh, they will not!

FIBBLE  
Well...they could!

TIBBLE  
Not even close.

DAVID  
What will they do?

TIBBLE  
Stick you, and hurt you, and  
finally place you right back where  
you started.

FIBBLE  
It happened to me.

BIBBLE  
And to me.

Tibble sounds the most depressed. Like his strength failed him.

TIBBLE  
And to me.

TIBBLE  
That's why we went down the whole  
last time.

BIBBLE  
To get out.

Fibble shivers.

FIBBLE  
We had no choice!

Bibble looks David over.

BIBBLE  
He's too big to hide. He'll get  
eaten for sure.

Tibble joins Bibble.

TIBBLE  
That's true. You're a lot larger  
than us.

FIBBLE  
He's fat!

TIBBLE  
Oh, he is not!

FIBBLE  
Fat compared to me!

BIBBLE  
He's got you there.

Tibble crosses his paws and glowers at Fibble. Fibble gloats.

FIBBLE  
Na, na, na, na, na, na!

DAVID  
I guess I don't have a choice.

TIBBLE  
We'll come with you. We need to get out too.

DAVID  
Aren't you guys afraid?

BIBBLE  
I'm not afraid!

TIBBLE  
Yes you are!

BIBBLE  
Am not!

David walks over to the sword. He pulls it from the earth. The sword comes out with the scabbard attached.

TIBBLE  
Are too!

BIBBLE  
Not!

TIBBLE  
To!

David draws the sword. Its blade gleams in the sun.

DAVID  
Wow!

David sheathes the sword with difficulty. He fastens the scabbard's belt around his waist. He walks back to the bunnies.

BIBBLE  
Not!

TIBBLE  
Too!

BIBBLE  
Not!

TIBBLE  
To!

Fibble finally gets fed up!

FIBBLE  
Knock it off!

BIBBLE  
Well, that was a first.

TIBBLE  
Hey, yeah.

BIBBLE  
You decided to bring the sword?

DAVID  
There is a Dragon down there. We  
might need it for protection.

BIBBLE  
We didn't need it last time.

DAVID  
You didn't get caught last time.  
What happens if we do, and we have  
to fight?

TIBBLE  
Good point.

BIBBLE  
Rabbits don't fight.

FIBBLE  
We might.

BIBBLE  
But we don't. That's my point.

TIBBLE  
Of course you're right.

Fibble frowns in thought, then nods. He hops over to the  
Boulder and the tiny waterfall.

FIBBLE  
We should get a drink before we go.

BIBBLE  
 Good idea.

Tibble scratches his chin.

TIBBLE  
 That is a good idea.

They all bend over and drink. Three rabbit's tails, and a little boy's butt, sticks up in the air.

Tibble wipes his mouth on his furry arm.

TIBBLE  
 Ahhhhhhhhhhhh! That's good water!

David wipes a sleeve across his mouth.

FIBBLE  
 It's magic water!

They head for the whole in the ground.

DAVID  
 It is?

TIBBLE  
 No its not.

FIBBLE  
 Is too!

TIBBLE  
 Not!

FIBBLE  
 Too!

Their voices echo as they walk down the stairs.

TIBBLE  
 Not!

FIBBLE  
 Too!

TIBBLE  
 Not!

FIBBLE  
 Too!

BIBBLE  
 Shhhhhhhhhhhh! The Dragon? Eaten up  
 in one bite? Remember? Any of this  
 ringing a bell?

Whispered.

TIBBLE  
 Not!

FIBBLE  
 Too!

TIBBLE  
 Um, what are we arguing about  
 again?

FIBBLE  
 Uh....Hm! I can't remember.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The tunnel is lit by strange, glowing, mushrooms that cover  
 the walls and ceilings.

David and the rabbits sneak down black stone stairs. They  
 emerge into a small

CAVERN

Water drips from the ceiling. Roots from trees above dangle  
 from the ceiling as well. Water flows along the floor and  
 disappears down a hole in one side of the cavern.

David wanders over to the edge of the water.

DAVID  
 Where do we go from here?

Tibble points to the black hole the water is flowing down.

TIBBLE  
 We slide down the water chute.

BIBBLE  
 It's fun!

FIBBLE  
 It's terrifying!

TIBBLE  
 It's OK.

David points to the whole.

DAVID  
We slide down there?

Tibble nods. Bibble hops into the water.

BIBBLE  
Don't worry. It's really shallow.

David laughs. He walks out behind Bibble.

TIBBLE  
Oh yeah. You might want to be....

David slips. He falls, and slides down into the whole.

TIBBLE  
....careful.

BIBBLE  
Good timing with that one, Ace.

TIBBLE  
No need to be rude.

FIBBLE  
Well, we'd better go after him, or  
he'll wake the old man.

TIBBLE  
Oh, yeah!

BIBBLE  
Lets go!

Bibble leaps slides down.

TIBBLE  
Go!

Tibble slides down.

FIBBLE  
Go!

Fibble hops down the slides.

INT. TUNNEL SLIDE - DAY

David whips around bends and turns. Riding a wave crest, Bibble looks like a fish in water. The wave crests over David, and Bibble winds up using David as a surf board .

Bibble hangs ten.

BIBBLE

Look, ma, no hands!

David laughs. Bibble steps off into another crest, and whoosh, off he goes.

Fibble, coughing, washes up onto David's chest. He gives David the thumbs up sign, then whoosh, back into the water.

Tibble washes up next.

TIBBLE

Did you see Fibble come through here? He passed me!

DAVID

He went thatta way!

TIBBLE

Thanks!

Tibble takes a wave, and whoosh, he's gone!

TIBBLE

YeeeeeeHaaawww!

INT. WATERFALL CAVERN - DAY

On a wave, Bibble washes out of a small tunnel like an Olympic gold medal figure skater. He slides gracefully into the middle of a large cavern.

He winds up facing a huge, wizened, old man's face, carved from the stone. The face is so huge that it covers one whole wall.

The stone face is snoring loudly, it's mouth opening and closing with its rumblings. Its stone mustache blows with every exhalation. His mouth is full of razor sharp teeth.

To Bibble's right, the cavern ends in a wall of falling water. There doesn't seem to be any other exit from the cavern.

Bibble quietly does a little dance, now looking slightly awkward again.

Fibble washes up, spinning to a stop in the middle of the floor, and looking like a shipwreck victim.

Tibble washes up, and is left coughing on the edge of the water. Tibble looks back from the way he came, and his eyes fly wide. He squeaks and leaps away, just as David washes in laughing.

David winds up in the spot Tibble just vacated.

DAVID  
That was awesome!

Fibble is crossing his throat with a paw. Bibble is jumping up and down, and pointing at the sleeping stone face.

TIBBLE  
Shhhhhhhhh!

David's mouth drops open at the sight.

DAVID  
(Whispering)  
What is that?

TIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
The gate keeper.

BIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Very nasty! Don't believe a word he says!

FIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Not one word!

David nods.

DAVID  
Where do we go from here?

Fibble points to the Gate Keeper's mouth.

FIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Through there.

David blinks at all of the sharp teeth. His mouth drops open with fear. He shakes his head no.

Tibble nods yes.

TIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Watch.

Tibble hops up and down, timing the old man's snores, then dives through.

DAVID  
No way!

The old man twitches in his sleep. David winces. Bibble scrunches his face in fear of the old man waking up. The old man smacks his lips, then lets out another loud snore.

FIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Shhhhh! Sure. Watch this.

Fibble turns around and hops up and down while looking over a shoulder. Timing the old man's snores, Fibble does a perfect back flip through.

BIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Show off.

Bibble waves for David to try to jump through. David frowns at the Gate Keeper's mouth. He takes a couple steps back. He times the old man's snores, then runs forward and dives through into a

TUNNEL

He scrapes his foot along a tooth. It rips his jeans.

Back in the

WATERFALL CAVERN

The GATE KEEPER wakes! His voice sounds like loud grinding stone.

GATE KEEPER  
What....? What was that? Who's  
there?

The Gate Keeper blinks. He looks around. Bibble squeaks. He leaps and hides against a wall.

The Gate Keeper harumphs. His mustaches blow outward.

GATE KEEPER

Come on out! My eyes are old, but they still see. I saw you jump away.

Bibble swallows hard.

GATE KEEPER

I won't hurt you. That's not my job.

Bibble frowns. Shivering, he steps out.

BIBBLE

I....I'm Sorry to disturb your slumber, Sir. I never meant to.

GATE KEEPER

Hmmm, You again?

BIBBLE

Yes, Sir.

GATE KEEPER

What is your name? Scribble? Dapple?

BIBBLE

Bibble, Sir.

GATE KEEPER

Well, Bibble, who is your friend that has already leaped through?

Bibble swallows hard.

GATE KEEPER

Come now. Speak up! I heard him land!

BIBBLE

A...a friend of mine.

GATE KEEPER

Another rabbit like you?

BIBBLE

Uh, yes, Sir.

The Gate Keeper eyes Bibble.

GATE KEEPER

Why have you returned? You're not here to steal my lord's treasure, are you?

Bibble shakes his head fearfully.

GATE KEEPER

Hmmm. I smell a lie here somewhere. Have you told a lie to me, Bibble?

Bibble shakes his head fearfully again.

GATE KEEPER

Then I suppose it's OK for you to pass. Mind you don't wake the master. He's been asleep for a long time, and won't enjoy a wake up call.

BIBBLE

Yes....Yes, Sir!

GATE KEEPER

Off with you then.

His stone mouth opens wide. Bibble squeaks.

BIBBLE

You won't bite me?

The old face shakes no.

BIBBLE

Promise?

The teeth seem to grow sharper. The face nods yes.

BIBBLE

It was very nice to meet you, Sir.

Bibble fakes a leap through. The old man's teeth snap shut with a thunderous slam. They snap open again, but Bibble catches him by surprise. He leaps through while his teeth are still opening. He lands in a

TUNNEL

Bibble scampers and hides behind David. David's hair is blown back from the force of the Gate Keeper's yell.

GATE KEEPER

Visitors!

His shout echoes down the tunnel. David and the rabbits grit their teeth. The yell echoes away. Silence falls. Then snoring can be heard again.

TIBBLE

Run!

They all run down the tunnel. The tunnel ends abruptly, dumping them out into the biggest and widest....

CAVERN

....anyone has every seen. It looks like the Grand Canyon with a black volcanic roof over top. Far ahead, a huge lava fall on one side of the cavern lights everything in a fiery glow.

A down-sloping hill of 2" high mushrooms lies before them. The hill ends in a cliff where the top of some stairs can be seen.

DAVID

Wow! Where are we?

FIBBLE

The path to the Great Stair!

They step forward. The mushrooms in their path run out of the way, tiny feet shuffling for all they're worth. David looks at them with an amazed look on his face.

He walks toward a wall. All the mushrooms flee before him. All except one. It remains, shivering in fear. David squats to take a closer look at it.

The little mushroom cowers. It squeaks once. Help! The other mushrooms shake their heads no. They squeak back twice. No! No!

The little mushroom squeaks twice. Help! Help! The other mushrooms squeak four times. No! No! No! No! They shake their heads violently. They look like they're shivering.

BIBBLE

I think you're scaring them.

Fibble nods so much, he falls over again. David looks at Bibble, then back at the little mushroom.

DAVID

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

David stands up. They head down hill, the mushrooms fleeing before them. Behind him, the little mushroom faints. The rest of the mushrooms surround the fainted one.

David and the rabbits walk down to the edge of a great

STAIR

They stand at the top, looking down at the view before them. The stairs lead down to a huge black tower of rough standing stone. It looks like it could fall over at any minute.

Leading out from the tower, and far below, a black bridge runs out to an island of volcanic stone.

The island sits in the center of a vast field of flowing lava, which is fed by the lava falls on one side of the cavern. Everything is lit by its fiery glow.

Fire giants, massive in size, lumber around in the lava fields far below, working at something unknowable from this distance.

Lying in a carved out bowl in the top of the island, the Dragon rests upon a mountain of gold. He rolls over in his sleep.

Past the island, the stone bridge continues on, but has crumbled half way across to the other side, leaving heaps of tiny stone islands in the lava.

The bridge used to connect to a raised field of flat stone containing a Stonehenge look-alike ruin. This ruin lies at the foot of a second, massive, volcanic stone tower.

Above, pointed stalactites hang from the ceiling.

David squints down at the sleeping form of the Dragon.

DAVID

I don't think the door's yell woke the Dragon.

Fibble laughs.

FIBBLE

You're lucky you have six rabbits feet with you! Can't get any luckier than that.

TIBBLE

Rabbits feet aren't lucky.

FIBBLE

Well, we're still alive, and the Dragon is still asleep. I'd call that lucky.

BIBBLE

He's got you again.

TIBBLE

Alright, alright. I'll give you that.

DAVID

So what now? How do we get out?

Bibble sighs.

BIBBLE

We go down into that tower. Cross the bridge. Sneak by the Dragon. Avoid the Fire giants. Hop from island to island across the lava. Go through the ruins. Climb that far tower. And exit through a cave on the far side. Simple.

David is stunned. He makes a funny face, and grabs his tummy.

DAVID

I think I'm going to throw up!

FIBBLE

Oh, it's not that bad.

TIBBLE

Yes, it is.

DAVID

No! I'm really going to throw up! I don't feel so good!

Bibble frowns.

BIBBLE

You must have swallowed some of the water during our slide back there. We all drank some last time. It made us really sick.

Fibble is nodding his head like crazy.

DAVID

Well, you could have warned me!

Tibble shakes his head no.

TIBBLE  
There wasn't time. You slipped  
before I could tell you.

DAVID  
I feel terrible!

David's feet lift off the ground. He starts to float away!

DAVID  
Help! Help!

The rabbits all leap up and grab hold of him.

TIBBLE  
This happened last time too! You  
have to push down against the  
ground!

David's fear turns to wonder as he lowers to the ground.

DAVID  
That was weird! Thanks for saving  
me!

TIBBLE  
All in a days work.

David floats off the ground a little.

BIBBLE  
You have to concentrate!

DAVID  
It's hard!

FIBBLE  
It gets easier. I don't even have  
to think about it anymore.

They walk carefully down the

STAIRS

DAVID  
You don't?

FIBBLE  
Not one bit!

DAVID  
That's a relief.

LATER

One landing above the top of the tower, they stop and hide, observing the empty ramparts below. The only feature that breaks the flat tower's surface is a hole by one edge.

The hole has stairs leading down into the tower.

DAVID  
(Whispering)  
I don't see anything moving.

TIBBLE  
A terrible army of ghosts lives  
there! They're invisible.

BIBBLE  
Lets sneak by them.

Everyone nods. They sneak down the stairs.

EXT. THE RAMPARTS OF THE TOWER OF DREAMS - DAY

They sneak off the stairs and head for the stairs. They freeze and shiver in place as two voices are clearly heard, but the speakers can not be seen.

Ruin speaks with a rough voice. Kobald draws out his "S's" like a snake.

RUIN (O.S.)  
I saw him first.

KOBALD (O.S.)  
I saw him first!

The rabbits huddle together. David is looking in all directions.

RUIN (O.S.)  
Alright, I'll race you.

KOBALD (O.S.)  
OK, but make it a fair start this  
time. You always cheat!

RUIN (O.S.)  
Do not! Hey! You're ahead of me.  
Take a half step back.

KOBALD (O.S.)  
 Alright? Is that good enough  
 for....

RUIN (O.S.)  
 ReadySetGo!

KOBALD (O.S.)  
 Hey!

David is blasted backwards a few steps. His pupils fade to a dead white. David now speaks with his usual voice, but with Ruin's rough voice over top of it.

David does a victory dance. The rabbits run and hide.

DAVID/RUIN  
 Yes! Beat you!

A ghostly figure of a Knight in full armor, KOBALD, appears beside David. Kobald is seven feet tall, and snarls down at David/Ruin.

KOBALD  
 Cheater!

DAVID/RUIN  
 That was a fair race. I said ready,  
 set, and go, and won fair and  
 square.

KOBALD  
 You cheated and you know it!

DAVID/RUIN  
 Well, I'm here now. Let's see what  
 we can learn from this warrior.

KOBALD  
 Fine.

Kobald frowns at David.

KOBALD  
 He's awful small to be a warrior.

David spits.

DAVID/RUIN  
 Hmmm. Ow! He's not a warrior! He's  
 just a scared little kid!

KOBALD

He doesn't know anything about fighting?

DAVID/RUIN

Hmmm. Nothing. Nothing at all. He's pathetic. He doesn't even know that he can fly from the water he drank.

KOBALD

Why not?

David thinks hard.

DAVID/RUIN

Let me see. Hmmm. OK, it appears moss has grown over the boulder by the tree. He never read the sign carved into it.

Kobald shakes his huge head.

KOBALD

Well, is he here to fight Bolg for the treasure, or not?

David/Ruin laughs.

DAVID/RUIN

Nope. He got lost.

Ruin makes David slap himself.

DAVID/RUIN

Why are you hitting yourself? Why are you hitting yourself?

KOBALD

Lost? Poor kid. What do you want to do with him?

David stops hitting himself.

DAVID/RUIN

Let him go. He only wants to leave.

Kobald scratches his chin.

KOBALD

You know what would be cool to see?

DAVID/RUIN

What's that?

KOBALD

The master lowered down a peg or two by a little boy.

DAVID/RUIN

Great High and Mighty lowered? Very interesting! Keep talking.

KOBALD

Well, suppose, just suppose, someone were to fill the boys head with some fighting techniques? You know, make things more interesting.

DAVID/RUIN

And to think I thought spending eternity with you was going to be boring. What shall we add?

KOBALD

Well, how to use that sword is a given.

David/Ruin concentrates.

DAVID/RUIN

Excellent! And maybe some (concentrates) agility.

KOBALD

And some instinct on the master's fighting techniques?

David/Ruin concentrates.

DAVID/RUIN

Perfect! And finally, some control over his (concentrates) flight ability. There.

KOBALD

Want to send him for that ring of fire resistance that Viking wore?

DAVID/RUIN

Naw! That's too much. Bolg would know for sure we were involved.

KOBALD

Want to give him a good start?

DAVID/RUIN

Naw. Let's go make Dravin pour lava down his shorts!

KOBALD

Magma. Magma is underground. Lava is above aground.

DAVID/RUIN

Whatever! Why do you have to be so literal?

KOBALD

I'm not literal!

DAVID/RUIN

(Imitates Kobald)

I'm not literal.

KOBALD

Are we going to pour magma down Dravin's shorts or not?

DAVID/RUIN

Race you?

KOBALD

Will it be a fair race this....?

DAVID/RUIN

ReadySetGo!

David slumps to the ground.

KOBALD

Hey!

Kobald disappears. Silence, then David moans. The rabbits come out of hiding. They look at David.

BIBBLE

Is he OK?

TIBBLE

He'll probably sleep for a million, zillion years.

TIBBLE

He's fine. Look. He's already waking up.

David's eyes flutter open. His voice is more gruff.

DAVID  
What...what happened?

TIBBLE  
You were...um...what do you call  
it?

FIBBLE  
Appropriated?

TIBBLE  
No.

FIBBLE  
Abbreviated?

TIBBLE  
No! Will you let me think?

Bibble looks bored.

BIBBLE  
Possessed.

TIBBLE  
Yeah! Possessed!

David holds up a hand to his head.

DAVID  
I feel funny.

FIBBLE  
When I feel funny, I laugh.

Fibble laughs. Bibble frowns at David.

BIBBLE  
Your voice sounds like Ruin's.

David looks down at the sword in his scabbard.

DAVID  
My sword....

He draws it out. He maneuvers the sword around like a professional soldier. It blurs about him so fast, we can barely see it.

FIBBLE  
Wow!

BIBBLE  
Um...that's new.

TIBBLE  
(Sarcastic)  
You think?

David sheathes the sword in a blur. He looks upward in deep thought.

DAVID  
And I can....

David leaps up into the sky. He rockets straight up!

DAVID  
...fly!

David flies around with a huge grin on his face. The rabbits are stunned, looking up.

BIBBLE  
Did you know he could do that?

TIBBLE  
I'm still trying to figure out how  
he's doing that.

David lands beside the rabbits. He smiles with confidence.

DAVID  
I feel like I can take on the  
world!

Tibble quakes under the power of David's voice.

TIBBLE  
Will you keep it down?

Two ghosts appear by the stairs. They are DRAIN and STEEL, both similar in appearance to Kobald. They rush over and grab David.

DRAIN  
You're late!

STEEL  
Late! Late! Late!

They hustle David toward the stairs leading into the tower. David looks very confused.

DAVID  
Late for what?

Drain laughs giddily.

DRAIN  
Why, for the Down the Stairs  
Celebration, of course!

STEEL  
Down the Stairs! Down the Stairs!

On the

STAIRS

DAVID  
What's a Down the Stairs  
celebration?

DRAIN  
Why, it's a race of course!

DAVID  
A race?

TIBBLE  
Uh oh.

DAVID  
What's uh oh? Uh oh's not good!

Before Tibble can answer, David is hustled into a

TOWER TOP ROOM

The room is a broad open space that contains some sparse  
ancient and rotting furniture. Stairs lead down on one side.

The room is filled with GHOSTS similar to the two hustling  
David along. The Ghosts erupt in a cheer!

The ghost leader, GOLDEN BROW, dressed in extravagant armor,  
and at least a foot taller than the rest of the crowd, steps  
toward David.

GOLDEN BROW  
The time has come for another race!

GHOST CROWD  
Down the Stairs! Down the Stairs!

David is hustled toward two large shields poised at the top of the stairs.

GOLDEN BROW  
Everyone get ready!

David is loaded onto a shield. The rabbits hop on with him.

TIBBLE  
Hold onto the strap!

David grabs the strap.

FIBBLE  
And hold on for dear life!

Drain and Steel climb onto the second shield beside them.

GOLDEN BROW  
Let's have a clean race this time!  
No cheating!

The crowd erupts in guffaws of laughter.

STEEL  
ReadySetGo!

Steel and Drain slide away down the stairs on their shield.

DAVID  
What...?

GOLDEN BROW  
Oh, for heaven's sake! It's a race!

Golden Brow pushes David off. Golden Brow's voice drifts down to David as he gains speed.

GOLDEN BROW  
If you win, we won't wake the  
Dragon!

David's eyes narrow.

DAVID  
They'll wake the Dragon if we lose!  
Come on! Help me push!

Whipping around a bend, David pushes off with his hands to gain speed. The rabbits help.

DAVID  
Now crouch down....

He crouches down to cut wind drag.

DAVID  
....like this!

The rabbits crouch. The shield takes off like lightning. They whip down the forever winding stairs.

The ghosts follow on all sides.

GOLDEN BROW  
That's it! You're catching them!  
You're catching them Lean! Lean!

The shield travels up a wall. David and the rabbits lean into the turn.

OUTSIDE THE TOWER

David's shield is blowing stones out of the tower's wall as he passes. Parts of the tower crumble and fall away.

INSIDE THE TOWER

The ghosts howl with delight! Up ahead, Drain and Steel come into view!

DRAIN  
You'll never catch us!

STEEL  
I'm going to wake the master personally!

DAVID  
Oh, no you won't! We're going to win!

The ghosts roar with pleasure! Steel leaps off the shield in front and lands in David's. Steel tickles David!

DAVID  
(laughing)  
Not fair! Not fair!

Tibble eyes fly wide. Up ahead, a huge gap in the stair can be seen. Tibble points at the gap.

TIBBLE  
Uh, David?

David keeps laughing, distracted by Steel. Up ahead, Drain soars out into the air across the chasm.

TIBBLE

David!

David looks forward. His eyes fly wide. The shield leaps out into the air. Filled with fear, Fibble leaps into David's pocket.

DAVID

(squeaks)

Mommy!

Steel holds onto David with a look of pure glee on his face as they arc through the air.

Drain lands on the stairs below and continues on. Laughing, Steel appears beside him. David and the rabbits land hard close behind them.

OUTSIDE

A whole section of wall falls away from the force of David's landing.

INSIDE

David and the rabbits rocket along right behind Drain and Steel.

DAVID

That's cheating!

The crowd of ghosts boo and hiss at David.

GOLDEN BROW

Oh, don't be such a spoil sport!

Tibble and Bibble are pushing off with their paws. David crouches lower. They rocket up beside Drain and Steel.

Drain and Steel slap at David as they rocket around bend after bend. The shields slide up and down the walls like Olympic luge sleds.

OUTSIDE

The wall of the tower is corkscrewed outward as the sleds pass. Round and round, the stones are blown outward and fall away. The tower begins to lean outward!

INSIDE

The crowd of ghosts are cheering! Their cheers get louder and louder!

DRAIN

We're going to win! We're going to win!

David pushes off with one final great shove. He takes the lead.

GOLDEN BROW

No! The ending! He's winning! He's winning!

A doorway letting in red light appears below.

TIBBLE

I'm getting dizzy.

Bibble is sick over the side.

BIBBLE

This is just like last time.

They race toward the door.

GOLDEN BROW

Catch them! Catch them!

Steel gets out and pushes their shield from behind. They gain on David!

GOLDEN BROW

Yes! Yes!

David and the rabbits whip out the door a scant inch ahead of Steel and Drain.

GOLDEN BROW

No!

Their shield whips out onto the

BRIDGE

Up above them, the tower tilts outward over them. Tibble looks up.

TIBBLE

Not again!

DAVID

What?

David looks up where Tibble is looking. The tower is dropping toward them!

DAVID

Oh no.  
(beat)  
Push!

David, Tibble, and Bibble, push with all of their might. The shield gains some speed.

The tower crashes down behind them. With inches to spare, they just out-race the last of the tumbling rubble. The skid to a halt up against the Dragon's island.

Golden Brow appears.

GOLDEN BROW

Alright. You won. We won't wake the Dragon.

Laughing, he disappears. Golden Brow's words sink in. David's teeth grow into a tight grit. The rabbits are stepping to the side. They run.

A noise of falling gold is heard from behind David. He turns, and looks up, and up, and up. David's mouth drops open.

BOLG, rising to his full height of 100' high, spreads his wings wide. He is covered with red scales and golden horns.

Bolg's head snaps down like a cobra strike on the end of his incredibly long neck. He eyes David.

BOLG

You have brought the sword! I accept your challenge! Let our battle commence!

Bolg whips his head back, then forward. From off to the side....

TIBBLE

Move!

David blinks, then dives to his right. A wall of flame washes over the steps where he just stood.

David rolls up into a crouch, his sword drawn. He leaps in and swings the sword at Bolg's right leg. Bolg leaps backward, taking to the air.

BOLG

You are fast!

Bolg's tail whips around, the spike sthere streak at David. David blocks them with his sword, and rolls with the impact.

BOLG  
And agile!

Another stream of flame leaps at David. He takes to the air.

BOLG  
You are young! But greed affects  
all ages and sizes!

Bolg wings toward David. He snaps at David with a mouth full of teeth. David deflects the teeth with his sword.

The combatants part.

DAVID  
I did not come here out of greed!

Bolg turns. He flaps his wings. David is struck by a wall of air that blows him backward.

BOLG  
Fame then! Trying to make a name  
for yourself! As it has been from  
the beginning of time!

Bolg blows fire into the wind his wings are driving. A wall of flame rushes at David.

DAVID  
Yikes!

David turns and flies away as fast as he can. The fires singes his sneakers.

Bolg follows.

David flies over Bolg's island bed.

BOLG  
You are wise not to wear armor.  
Your speed almost nullifies my  
breath! But it also opens you up to  
projectile attack!

Gold leaps from Bolg's bed below. It slams into David from all sides.

BOLG  
A costly weakness!

Black and blue marks growing everywhere, David flees. He flies toward the Stonehenge like ruin.

DAVID

I was lost!

Bolg breathes a stream of flame at him. David arcs around the cone of flame.

BOLG

Run! Run all you want! You will not live out the day!

David lands in the Stonehenge-like ruins. He hides behind one of the great stones.

DAVID

I did not come here to fight you!

Bolg circles overhead. Fire lances downward. David rolls to a new stone. Fire blasts the stone where he was just standing. David cringes from the heat.

BOLG

Liar!

Bolg dives down and lands beside the ring of stones. He breathes fire at the stone David is behind.

Out of Bolg's sight, David flies straight back. He disappears behind a stone on the far side of the circle.

Bolg stomps slowly around the circle, his head swinging back and forth, searching for David among the great stones.

BOLG

Why would you think I would believe such a lie?

From somewhere in the stones....

DAVID

It's not a lie.

Bolg roars. Fire streams toward the source of David's voice. Silence. Nothing moves for a few seconds. Bolg continues to search, moving toward where he heard David's voice last.

Bolg heads toward a particularly large stone. A small hand reaches out from behind it. A clay Swan is placed out where Bolg can see it.

DAVID

For you!

Bolg frowns at the stone David is hiding behind. He looks down at the Swan.

BOLG

What do you mean, for me?

DAVID

I made it. I give it to you.

Bolg tilts his massive head as he studies the art.

BOLG

What is the creature it is meant to represent?

DAVID

It is a Swan.

Bolg's eyes narrow.

BOLG

What is a Swan? Is it a terrible beast of battle?

DAVID

No, Sir. It is a bird. Just a bird. They swim on ponds.

Bolg huffs smoke.

BOLG

You give me a rare gift, yet you carry the sword? Are you trying to buy your way out of the contest?

DAVID

What contest?

Bolg roars at the ceiling. Flame reaches high into the cavern.

BOLG

To the death! For all of my treasure! As it has always been!

DAVID

Uh, no, Sir. I'm just trying to get home.

BOLG  
What do you mean?

Hopping the islands of stone across the magma, the rabbits rush up. They stay hidden behind a stone near David.

DAVID  
Well, Sir, I got lost in the woods,  
and a wolf came, and he chased us,  
and we wound up in a ring of  
pickers that we couldn't get out  
of....

Bibble is running a finger across his neck.

TIBBLE  
Exnae on the Ewae!

Fibble is on his knees, pleading. He mouths the word "stop."

DAVID  
....and I was scared, so I brought  
the sword, and we....

Bolg looks about suspiciously.

BOLG  
There are more of you? Where are  
your companions?

The rabbits give David a flat stare. Bibble slaps his forehead in disgust.

FIBBLE  
We're dead!

TIBBLE  
Way to go, genius!

David works his mouth but nothing comes out.

BOLG  
I hear them. So, that much is true.  
Show yourself, so I may see the  
truth...or lies....in your eye!

BIBBLE  
No! Don't go!

FIBBLE  
Don't go! He'll bake you, and eat  
you, and, and, and....

David looks at Tibble.

TIBBLE  
It's your funeral.

Emotion wars on David's face.

DAVID  
I did not come here to fight.

David steps out.

DAVID  
I am here! I did not come to fight.

TIBBLE  
He's gone mad!

FIBBLE  
He's under a Dragon spell!

David walks out to the center of the Stonehenge ring.

DAVID  
Please do not hurt them. They are my friends. They are rabbits, gentle creatures, and mean you no harm.

BOLG  
Your voice sounds familiar. And you speak with experience greater than your years. How did this come to pass?

Tibble leaps out.

TIBBLE  
Ruin possessed him, and left a part of himself inside my friend!  
He....!

Bibble grabs Tibble and drags him from view. Bolg looks at David.

BOLG  
I do hear Ruin in your voice. Is that true?

DAVID  
I don't know. I don't remember what happened.

Bolg's head swivels to look at the location Tibble was seen last.

BOLG  
So, that is a rabbit?

DAVID  
Yes, Sir.

Bolg sniffs the air.

BOLG  
A rabbit....A new name for a scent  
I remember. They've been here  
before.

DAVID  
Yes.

Bolg rushes in faster than can be imagined. His face stops inches from David's. David winces.

BOLG  
These...rabbits...did they tell you  
of my treasure?

David averts his eyes.

DAVID  
No.

Bolg's head whips skyward. He roars, and blows flames high into the cavern again.

BOLG  
Liar!

The rabbits shiver. David drops to his knees.

DAVID  
OK! OK! They did! But I did not  
come down here to challenge you for  
it! I did not come here to steal  
it!

Bolg eyes David closely again.

BOLG  
You're not a thief?

DAVID  
No, Sir. Stealing is wrong!  
Everyone knows that!

Bolg frowns.

BOLG  
Well, not everyone, but I see that  
you believe it.

Huff of smoke covering David.

BOLG  
What is your name, young one?

David coughs.

DAVID  
David, Sir.

Bolg swivels his head over to examine the Swan.

BOLG  
It seems the world has moved on yet  
again. I do not recognize this....  
Swan. I will need a guide to help  
me adjust to this new world. Will  
you help me?

David blinks.

DAVID  
You need help?

BOLG  
I do.

David huffs his cheeks out.

DAVID  
Uh, Sure.  
(beat)  
Cool!

Bolg squints at David.

BOLG  
Cool? Does that mean yes?

DAVID  
It sure does.

BOLG  
Cool. It is agreed, then. As the  
contracts of old state, as my  
teacher, you are entitled to one  
fifth of all of my treasure.

Fibble faints.

DAVID

Thank you, Sir, but I did not come here for....

Tibble rushes out from behind a stone.

TIBBLE

He'll take it! He'll take it!

Bibble grabs Tibble and drags him back.

TIBBLE

Take it, you fool!  
(to Bibble)  
Let go of me!

Bibble and Tibble roll around on the ground as they fight.

Bolg roars over his shoulder.

BOLG

Dravin?  
(beat)  
Dravin!

A fire giant, DRAVIN, 30 feet tall, red skin, fire for hair, and dead red eyes, lumbers up. He's walking funny.

DRAVIN

Yes, oh great Bolg?

BOLG

Why are you walking strangely?

Dravin blows twin bursts of flame from his nose in anger.

DRAVIN

Ruin and Kobald dumped lava down my shorts.

Bolg chuckles.

BOLG

Magma.

DRAVIN

Yes, Oh great Bolg. Mag-ga-ga-ma.

BOLG

Magma.

DRAVIN

Mag-ga-ma.

BOLG

Close enough. Repair the bridge. We will have visitors coming and going soon.

DRAVIN

Yes, oh great Bolg.

Bolg frowns.

BOLG

And find me Ruin and Kobald!

DRAVIN

Yes, oh great Bolg.

Dravin lumbers slowly away. Bolg watches him with a frown.

BOLG

This will take forever!

MAGMA FIELD

A crystal bucket scoops up magma. The bucket sneaks toward a FIRE GIANT, similar to Dravin. The fire giant, skimming a glowing metal from the surface of the magma, is unaware of the approaching bucket.

The bucket is just about to tilt and pour its contents down the fire giant's pants when Bolg's voice thunders through the cavern.

BOLG (O.S.)

Ruin! Kobald!

The bucket is tossed about for a moment, then dumps all over an invisible shape. A snap is heard. RUIN, 8 feet tall, long handle-bar mustaches, and dressed in armor appears.

RUIN

Rats!

Kobald appears. He's the one covered with the magma.

KOBALD

Uh oh!

The fire giant huffs, and moves away wearing a frown directed at the duo.

RUIN  
Early vacation?

KOBALD  
Definitely.

RUIN  
The Mexican Riviera?

KOBALD  
I love Pina Coladas!

RUIN  
Pack?

BOLG  
Ruin! Kobald! Show yourselves! Now!

KOBALD  
Not on your life.

RUIN  
Race?

KOBALD  
Will it be a fair....?

RUIN  
ReadySetGo!

Ruin disappears.

KOBALD  
Hey!

Kobald disappears.

STONEHENGE RUINS

BOLG  
Someone find those two for me!

Bolg roars out into the cavern again.

BOLG  
Golden Brow!

Golden Brow, and the rest of the ghost hoard, appears before Bolg.

GOLDEN BROW  
Yes, your eminence?

BOLG  
 Must we crash the tower every time  
 we have visitors?

GOLDEN BROW  
 Our job is to wake you. We woke  
 you. Do you wish to file a  
 grievance with the union?

Bolg grumbles.

BOLG  
 (disgusted)  
 Just rebuild it. Stone for stone.

GOLDEN BROW  
 Yes, your eminence! Let's get to  
 work, boys!

The ghosts disappear. Bolg looks at David.

BOLG  
 Would you care to see your share of  
 the treasure now?

DAVID  
 Boy, would I!

David smiles at the rabbits.

DAVID  
 Coming, guys?

BIBBLE  
 You have to ask?

FIBBLE  
 Heck, yeah!

Tibble looks sourly at David.

TIBBLE  
 Will you share it with us?

DAVID  
 Of course. The treasure is just as  
 much yours as it is mine.

Tibble's sour look melts into a smile.

TIBBLE  
 OK. I'm in.

The rabbits hop over and jump up into David's pockets. Bibble looks at Tibble.

BIBBLE  
What are you going to do with  
treasure?

Tibble looks embarrassed.

TIBBLE  
I want a bike like the one David  
described. My feet hurt too.

BIBBLE  
You can't ride a bike!

TIBBLE  
Well....A rabbit can dream can't  
he?

FIBBLE  
He's got you there.

BIBBLE  
Hey! That's my line!

FIBBLE  
Things change.

Bolg takes to the air. David follows him.

DAVID  
How long will I be able to fly?

BOLG  
The magic in the water you drank is  
permanent.

DAVID  
Sweet!

BOLG  
Why didn't you just fly out of the  
ring of pickers?

DAVID  
I didn't know I could fly then.

BOLG  
Didn't you read the sign?

DAVID  
What sign?

BOLG  
The one carved into the boulder.

DAVID  
Uh uh.

Bolg doesn't seem to buy that, but lets it pass.

BOLG  
Oh.

Bolg leads them toward a dark opening away from the island in the middle of the lava. David looks confused.

DAVID  
Weren't you sleeping on your  
treasure?

Bolg chuckles.

BOLG  
No. That is my bed. We Dragons have  
very itchy bellies. Gold makes the  
itch go away.

DAVID  
Wow. I had no idea.

They enter a vast cavern. Bolg blows flame to shed light.

The entire floor is covered with treasures beyond comparison. Bolg looks around.

BOLG  
This is my small treasure room. All  
of this is yours.

Tibble faints again. David blinks.

TIBBLE  
W....W....W....Wow!

BIBBLE  
(Whispering)  
Say thank you!

David shakes his head as if to wake up from a dream.

DAVID  
Bolg, thank you! Thank you so much!  
But this is far too much!

Bolg looks at all of the treasure.

BOLG

Take it. My fire giants scour the lava for gold. They work it into art. I have much more than I need.

Bolg nods at the treasure.

BOLG

Go ahead. Get a closer look.

David flies down and lands among the treasure. A small, golden angel, with beautiful wings spread wide, gleams. David walks over to it.

He tries to pick up the angel. It is too heavy to lift. He strains, but finally gives up.

DAVID

Wow! This stuff is heavy! How will I ever get it home?

BOLG

After we perform the Convergence Ceremony, it will no longer be heavy for you.

DAVID

Convergence ceremony?

BOLG

So I may learn from you. I will show you. Come.

Bolg takes to the air. David follows.

INT. THE ISLAND - NIGHT

The lava fall lights the cavern. Bolg lands on his bed. David and the rabbits land beside him.

Bolg holds up a ruby the size of his head. It's huge.

BOLG

This is my heart. Place your hands on it.

David does. It glows. David's pupils alter from blue to red. His body elongates slightly. He gains a much more confident stance.

BOLG

It is done. What you see and learn,  
I will now know.

David's voice sounds deeper.

DAVID

I feel...different.

BOLG

We are more than brothers, now.  
What you experience, I experience,  
and you have access to all I know.

David bows to Bolg.

DAVID

I am honored.

Bolg bows back.

BOLG

As am I. You have a good heart. You  
are lucky it overcame my mistrust  
of the sword you carry.

David looks down at the sword.

DAVID

I brought it for protection.

BOLG

Weapons carry a great price, and  
blood begets blood. If you had  
killed me, my brother, or my uncle  
would have come looking for  
revenge. And they may have taken  
more than just your life. All that  
you hold dear could have died the  
moment you picked up that sword.

David looks at the sword with horror.

DAVID

Holy cow.

BOLG

We must learn from each other, now.  
We are brethren. We are kin.

David fades into sadness.

DAVID

My family....I must head home. I'm sure they are worried sick about me.

BOLG

I will go with you. I would care to meet your parents.

DAVID

It would be my pleasure to introduce you.

BOLG

Select an item of treasure from my bed to take back with you. It will be my gift to them.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A police car sits in the dirt driveway.

INSIDE

Diane and Robert are sitting in the living room across from two POLICE OFFICERS. Diane is crying on Robert's shoulder.

OFFICER MCCONAHEY, Irish, late 20's, and dressed in full uniform, looks at a picture of David.

MCCONAHEY

We'll make copies of your son's picture and disburse them among the search team.

ROBERT

When will you everyone get here to begin searching?

MCCONAHEY

Tomorrow morning, early.

DIANE

Can't you start tonight? He's been lost in the woods for nearly two days!

MCCONAHEY

We need time to get organized.

DIANE

Why did you make us wait 24 hours before anyone would lift a finger to help?

MCCONAHEY

I'm sorry, mam, that's standard procedure. It allows the run-away time to return home.

The back door opens.

DAVID (O.S.)

Mom? Dad?

Robert and Diane are up like a shot.

DIANE

David!

ROBERT

Oh, thank God!

They run from the room. The officers follow them. They meet in the

HALL

It is dimly lighted here. Diane wraps David up in a huge hug.

DIANE

Thank you, God! Thank you!

Robert hugs them both.

ROBERT

I'm so sorry, Son. I had no idea that bike meant that much to you.

DAVID

Forget about it, Dad. It's not important anymore.

McConahey motions to his partner with his head toward the front door.

MCCONAHEY

I'm glad everything worked out for you folks. We're going to head out.

Robert turns to them.

ROBERT  
Thank you so much for all you've  
done.

MCCONAHEY  
Think nothing of it. Stay safe.

ROBERT  
(laughing)  
We will. We will.

The officers leave. Diane holds her son out at arms length.

DIANE  
Are you OK? Let me look at you.

David looks at the floor.

DAVID  
Mom. I've been through...an  
adventure. There's someone waiting  
out back to meet you.

ROBERT  
You left someone waiting out back?

DIANE  
You should have brought them in!  
That's very rude, David.

David blows his cheeks out.

ROBERT  
He's rather large. I don't think he  
would fit in....

Diane's mouth drops open. She takes David by the chin and  
looks into his eyes.

DIANE  
Your eyes! What's happened to your  
eyes.

Robert looks closely too.

ROBERT  
And your voice is deeper, Son. What  
happened to you out there?

DAVID  
There is much to tell. Come. I  
would like to introduce you to my  
friend.

ROBERT

Alright.

David leads his parents out the back door to the

PATIO

Robert and Diane look around at the dark woods. Nothing seems out of the ordinary.

ROBERT

Where is he? Hello? Is there anyone out here?

BOLG

Maybe you should warn your parents about me first.

Robert frowns at his son.

ROBERT

What does that mean?

David takes his parents by the hand.

DAVID

I wanted to wait until those police officers left. I didn't think they'd understand.

ROBERT

Understand what? What's going on here?

DAVID

I met a Dragon. He's out in the woods right now.

Robert looks angry.

ROBERT

David. It's been a long time, but maybe we need to have a talk about lying again.

BOLG

He's not lying.

Fiery eyes glow in the darkness among the trees. Diane gasps.

Bolg's head glides into the light, his long neck stretching in from the darkness.

BOLG  
I am a Dragon.

Robert's mouth drops open. Diane shrieks. She back-pedals, trips, then falls on her butt.

ROBERT  
Holy mother of God!

She crab walks backward.

DAVID  
Mom! Calm down! Calm down. It's OK.  
He doesn't mean us any harm.

ROBERT  
Your sure?

DAVID  
Positive. He's the one that brought  
me home.  
(beat)  
Mom, Dad, I'd like you to meet  
Bolg.

BOLG  
It is a pleasure to meet you both.

Robert holds out his hand as if to shake, then looks at it like he's never seen it before.

ROBERT  
I don't...uh...that is, I....What  
do we do? Shake hands? What?

DAVID  
Dad. Bolg brought you and mom a  
gift.

A long arm reaches out of the darkness holding a two foot high ruby stature. The statue is of a male angel with his head and wings lowered.

ROBERT  
It's beautiful!

Diane stands up. She looks at the statue.

DIANE  
Is it glass?

Bolg shakes his great head.

BOLG  
It was cut from a ruby.

DIANE  
It's stunning!

Robert sighs.

ROBERT  
Bringing our son home safe and  
sound is gift enough. I'm afraid we  
can't accept this.

Bolg looks at the angel, then back to Robert.

BOLG  
It is traditional for a student to  
bring his teacher's family a gift.  
Please.

Robert looks at his son.

ROBERT  
Teacher?

DAVID  
He's been asleep for a long time.  
I'm going to show him around.

Diane looks at her husband.

DIANE  
Later for that.

She looks up at Bolg.

DIANE  
Thank you. For both the gift, and  
for bringing my son home safe and  
sound.

BOLG  
You are most welcome.

Bolg looks at David.

BOLG  
I must return. Ruin and Kobald can  
get up to mischief if I don't keep  
a close eye on them. Come to me  
when the moon is full again?

DAVID  
I sure will.

BOLG  
Fare well, then.

DAVID, ROBERT, AND DIANE  
Bye.

Bolg's head whips out into the darkness silently. Nothing is heard from him during his departure. David turns to his parents.

DAVID  
I guess I have some explaining to do. But first, I need to tell you about the cavern of treasure Bolg has given me.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The moon wheels across the sky.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

A bell rings. Kids pour from the front doors with their usual exuberance.

David is among them. He is dressed in modern clothes. Everything about him shines crisp and new. He greets the afternoon sun with a smile that's been dying to get out.

He walks down some

STAIRS

A bunch of girls stand at the bottom of the stairs in a tight group. Ashley smiles at David as he walks by.

BLONDE  
Cool eyes!

David blushes.

DAVID  
Thanks.

The girls follow him, giggling.

David walks down a

SIDEWALK

Sprinklers have created muddy pools by the sidewalk.

Other kids walk down the sidewalk.

Brandon and his pack ride up.

BRANDON

Hey! They found loser baby!

DEVON

What happened, did you pull your thumb out of your mouth long enough to yell for help?

The kids all laugh.

BRANDON

Where's the bike you were going to get? I bet your daddy laughed and said loser babies don't get bikes!

The kids laugh. David keeps walking.

DAVID

I've decided I don't need one.

Brandon gets off his bike.

BRANDON

Did I give you permission to speak?

DAVID

I don't need your permission. It's a free country.

Other kids walking home gather around.

KIDS

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

Brandon runs up and tries to push David into the mud puddle. David side steps, and leaves a foot out. Brandon trips and goes face first into the mud.

Everyone is stunned. Then everyone laughs. David stands there and smiles.

DAVID

You really should be more careful.

Brandon stands up from the mud.

BRANDON  
That's it! You're dead!

He charges. David just smiles.

Brandon throws a hard right hook at David. David isn't there anymore. He's now standing behind Brandon. Everyone is astonished.

David grabs Brandon's shirt collar and throws him back into the mud.

David looks at his hands.

DAVID  
Ew. Dirt.

Devon explodes.

DEVON  
Let's get him!

All of the bikers rush David.

David moves so fast, he becomes a blur. He wipes his hands on Devon's shirt to clean them of mud, then tosses him into the puddle. One by one, the rest of the bikers follow Devon in.

Everyone is laughing at them. David smiles.

DAVID  
It's so nice to be clean.

He smiles down at the soaked kids.

DAVID  
But I guess you guys wouldn't know that, would you?

BRANDON  
I'll get you yet.

David shrugs.

DAVID  
Well, I'll be here tomorrow. And the next day. And the next. Heck, I'll be here as long as you guys decide you want to swim in the mud.

David shrugs.

DAVID  
You catching my drift?

Brandon nods.

DAVID  
Good. Sayonara, suckers.

David turns and makes his way through the stunned kids.

A moment of silence, then all the kids cheer!

CHARLES  
Now that's what I'm talking about!

David whistles as he walks away.

HOME

David walks up the sidewalk in front of his home.

Workers are repairing the exterior of their home. Behind the house, construction is going on. A mansion is being built.

Robert is affixing a sign to the front of the house. The sign reads "Afflerbach Jewelers."

Diane is directing Robert as to the position of the sign.

DIANE  
A little higher.

ROBERT  
Here?

DIANE  
A little higher. Perfect!

Robert runs a screw into the sign's support. Diane notices David walking up.

DIANE  
The hero returns!

Robert brushes his hands off.

ROBERT  
Hey, Magilla Monster! How was school today?

DAVID  
Excellente!

Robert walks over behind their new sports car.

ROBERT  
Look what we got you!

Robert rolls out the bike David wanted. Diane throws her arms wide.

DIANE  
Ta da!

David smiles gently at the bike.

DAVID  
Thanks Mom. Thanks Dad. It's really awesome.

ROBERT  
Wanna try it?

DAVID  
Sure!

DIANE  
His first bike riding lesson! I'm so proud!

They laugh as David wobbles about as he rides his bike down the street.

ROBERT  
That's it! Pedal! Keep pedalling!

DIANE  
He's a natural!

Robert chuckles.

ROBERT  
I guess it helps if you know how to fly.

David straightens out and zips away!

DAVID  
Woohooo!

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Tibble, Fibble, and Bibble lean nonchalantly on a toppled log.

A loud howl is heard. Babel steps out from behind a large tree. He grins evilly.

Tibble smiles at him.

TIBBLE  
Come and get some.

FIBBLE  
Yeah! Come and get some!

Bibble raises a paw and beckons Babel forward.

Babel howls. The rabbits nonchalantly take up karate stances. Babel charges! He leaps into the air to pounce on them!

Wham! Something amazingly huge and quick swats him away. Babel skids to a halt in a heap of leaves 20 feet away. Stunned, he wobbles as he slowly gets up.

Babel looks from Bibble, to Tibble, to Fibble. He looks at the surrounding forest. Nothing out of the ordinary can be seen.

Babel howls again! He charges! Fibble dances around like a karate expert.

FIBBLE  
HeYah!

Slam! Back into the heap of leaves.

TIBBLE  
You want some more?

Babel does! Charge! Slam! Back into the leaves.

BIBBLE  
Not the sharpest stick in the forest, is he?

Wham! Babel slams against a tree.

TIBBLE  
About as smart as a rock.

Pow! Babel is tossed into pickers.

FIBBLE  
That's an insult to rocks, I think.

Baff! Babel is hurled against a boulder.

TIBBLE  
 Isn't any of this sinking in, yet?

Babel howls again! He charges! Wham! Back into the leaves.

This time his tail is smouldering, though. He chases his tail around for a few moments, then finally blows it out.

Tibble's mouth moves, but he doesn't say anything. Fibble speaks with a hand over his mouth. The total affect is that Tibble looks like he's the star of a badly dubbed martial arts movie.

FIBBLE  
 Your Rabid Wolf Technique is no match for my Smouldering Dragon style!

The rabbits all do back flips and other martial arts moves. The effect is stunning.

Babel walks back and forth, whining and looking at the rabbits.

Finally, he turns tail and runs.

TIBBLE  
 Sayonara, Sweetheart.

BIBBLE  
 Yeah!

FIBBLE  
 Yeah! Yeah!

Resting high above, Bolg fills the entire tree top. David sits on his shoulders, laughing.

BOLG  
 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Tibble frowns. Fibble and Bibble laugh.

Bolg's hand lowers from the tree. The rabbits all high five Bolg.

They all laugh together.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: Six Months Later.

The old house is 100% repaired, re-sided, and re-roofed. Gingerbread detailing has been added making it look quaint.

The old rusted car hulk that sat in the front yard has been removed, along with the weeds that surrounded it.

The land surrounding the house has been beautifully landscaped. The driveway out front has been paved and expanded into a large parking area.

Expensive cars of all kinds come and go from the lot.

Wealthy people of all sorts come and go from the quaint house, having purchased hugely expensive works of golden and jewelled art.

Diane, dressed in fashionable clothes, steps out the front door behind a customer. A bell on the door rings.

DIANE

Thanks again. Come back soon!

She disappears back inside. A moment later, she exits....

OUTBACK

...out the back door. She walks along a landscaped path toward a completed huge mansion. Water fountains make a soothing sound as she walks along.

The mansion rests by the edge of the great wood. Diane disappears into the front door of the mansion.

OUTBACK OF THE MANSION

Trees have been cleared away to provide a wide open area that is now filled by a huge

POOL

David, Tibble, Bibble, and Fibble, recline on deck chairs around the pool. They soak up the sun.

Tibble has a paw in a cast.

DAVID

This is the life!

Tibble scratches his cast back and forth on the chairs arm.

TIBBLE

My paw itches.

FIBBLE  
I told you you couldn't ride a  
bike.

TIBBLE  
Hey, it was worth a try.

BIBBLE  
Was it worth a broken paw?

Tibble frowns at his paw.

TIBBLE  
Heck yeah.

DAVID  
That's all that matters.

Diane walks out onto the back deck with a tray of food and  
drinks.

DIANE  
Lunch! And I brought carrots and  
lettuce for your friends.

Bibble is off his seat like a rocket.

BIBBLE  
Food!

DAVID  
Thanks, mom.

TIBBLE  
Sweet.

BIBBLE  
Sweet! Sweet!

FIBBLE  
Sweet! Sweet! Sweet!

TIBBLE  
Knock that off!

FIBBLE  
Sorry.

ROLL CREDITS

EXT. THE MEXICAN RIVIERA - DAY

SUPER: THE MEXICAN RIVIERA

The day is sunny. Vacationers enjoy the typical trappings of modern day vacation life. Everything looks wonderfully serene.

A bar tender makes two beautiful Pina Coladas. He turns around, grabs two of those tiny umbrellas, and turns back. The drinks are gone. He looks up and down the bar, then scratches his head.

The Pina Coladas float down and stop by two empty beach chairs that lie in the shade of palm trees. One of the chairs presses deeper into the sand.

A Pina Colada floats over to the second chair.

RUIN (O.S.)

Thank you.

KOBALD (O.S.)

Cheers!

RUIN (O.S.)

Cheers!

The glasses clink together.

The Pina Coladas are sipped down a bit before our eyes.

A MAN and WOMAN approach the empty seats. They are decked out in beach gear.

WOMAN

There's two empty seats over here.

A sudden sand cyclone erupts, spraying sand into their eyes and mouths. They leave spluttering.

Ruin is heard chuckling.

KOBALD (O.S.)

Aw man! You got sand in my Pina Colada!

RUIN (O.S.)

Well, they were going to sit on us!

KOBALD (O.S.)

I can't drink this now!

RUIN (O.S.)

What do you want me to do about it?

KOBALD (O.S.)

It's your turn to get us more drinks.

RUIN (O.S.)

I'm not thirsty. I'm bored.

KOBALD (O.S.)

You want to go have some fun in the sun?

RUIN (O.S.)

You read my mind.

KOBALD (O.S.)

Let's do it, to it!

#### MONTAGE

Volleyball players bat a ball back and forth over a net. The ball veers wildly and slams into some guy's crotch. He curls up into a little ball from the pain.

A beach ball, soaring gracefully back and forth between two laughing ladies, suddenly makes a right turn in mid air, and smacks a smiling life guard in the head as he walks by.

The lifeguard walks over to a group of girls and smiles at them. His smile turns to a look of shock as his shorts drop suddenly to his ankles. He covers up his shame.

Two MEN jog down the beach. The first trips over nothing and plows face first into the sand. The second looks like he's physically thrown face first into a huge onrushing wave. He's swamped.

A chef cooking burgers and hotdogs on a grill is knocked over. His soda flies high into the air and lands on his head. OW! The grill flops over into the sand. The chef sits up. He winces, picks up a sandy burger, and looks it bleakly.

A family is getting ready to eat sandwiches on a picnic lunch on the beach. There's no wind, but sand blows into the sandwiches. The family members bite into the sandwiches, sand crunches. They spit their bites out.

A wind surfer gathers speed. His board stops short. He slams face first into the water.

A water skier veers wildly off course and goes off a jump. He screams all the way to a wipe out showing a spectacular spray of water.

HIGH ABOVE

We look down on the beach and see balls veering into people, accidents happening, a para-sailer flies into some trees, and we hear oof! Ow! Ach! Hey! What the Heck? Eyuh! There's sand in this! How did that happen?

FADE OUT