YELLOW FEVER

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INT. CAVE - DAY

BLACK OUT

The SOUND of several people breathing heavily is heard. They seem to have been running.

CAPTAIN(O.S.)

Where is it? It came here.

SUNRAY slowly breaks through the darkness from A HOLE ABOVE and illuminates THE CAVE FULL OF TREASURE.

A GROUP OF PIRATES stand by the entrance and look around. One of them is wearing an eye patch. He is the CAPTAIN.

GOLD, SILVER, DIAMONDS and other JEWELS spill over the RIMS of CHESTS and litter the cave floor.

Pirates' EYES twinkle with excitement.

One of them rubs his EYES with his palms, then notices a SKELETON in a corner.

PIRATE #1

(pointing at the skeleton)

Look captain.

Distracted from the treasure, they look around and see SKELETONS of men all over the cave. Some skeletons have been beheaded, some crushed and others cut into pieces.

A crooked line of skeletons leads to a magnificent THRONE in the center of the cave.

Upon the throne sits a skeleton wearing a golden, jeweled CROWN, and a young black CROW sits on the top rail of the throne holding a golden RING in its TALONS.

CAPTAIN

There it is. On the throne.

Captain runs towards the throne. The others go for the gold.

Crow watches them and "CAWS"

Captain reaches the throne. Crow takes off and sits on a ROCK above.

Captain takes the CROWN off of the skeleton, puts it on his own head and throws the skeleton off the throne.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You don't need these anymore... I do.

Then he sits on the throne like a king, and watches his pirates split the gold.

Each one makes their own PILE of booty. The fiercer pirates have larger piles.

One of them looks up at captain and is confused.

PIRATE #2

Captain. Don't you want some?

CAPTAIN

King. Not Captain. King... The
king.

PIRATE #2

Sit a little longer and you'll loose your kingdom... Your kingdom of cave.

Pirates laugh. Captain chuckles.

Captain gets off the throne grinning, and comes down to the pirate who made the joke. All the others sit on their PILES and watch him.

Captain opens his ARMS and waits for the pirate to hug him.

Pirate gives him a reluctant hug.

CAPTAIN

(hugging the pirate)
Do you know what the punishment for moving the king off his throne is?

Captain takes the pirate's KNIFE from its SHEATH and stabs him in the back.

This sets off the other pirates, and a brawl breaks out. Everybody fights.

Captain cleans his bloody HAND on the JACKET of the deceased pirate, and calmly walks through the chaos to his throne.

The pirates fight their way to the throne, and as men fall their bodies form another crooked line.

The last pirate alive lunges for the captain, and stabs him in the WAIST just as he is about to reach his throne.

Tough Captain turns back, pulls the KNIFE out of his waist and stabs it into the man's NECK. Man falls down on the ground and dies.

Captain looks around at the dead BODIES and at the PILES of treasure.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You dirty rats... thought you could split my gold?

Captain goes back and pushes all the treasure back into one PILE.

CROW watches him from above.

The PILE is big now. Captain throws the last COIN onto the STOCK and tries to go back to the THRONE.

After a few STEPS he falls down, but doesn't give up. He CRAWLS his way to the throne and gets on it.

Satisfied Captain chuckles.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

It was supposed to feel good up here.

Crow flies back to the throne. Captain looks at it and smiling extends his hand.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Come here...

Crow looks at him.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Come. I ain't gonna hurt you.

Crow jumps on his hand.

Captain looks at the RING in its TALONS. Ring sits unevenly.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You wanna wear it. Don't you?

Captain takes the ring out and puts it around the Crow's LEG properly.

Crow flies back to the ROCK and watches Captain die.

Then it flies back to his body and starts to eat.

INT. CAVE - DAY

SUNRAY streaming in from a HOLE above illuminates the CAVE.

The CROW, now old and fat, sits on top of a CROWN and picks on the SKULL that wears it.

THE GOLDEN RING on her leg shines.

After picking several times on the meatless skull, dissatisfied Crow looks around and flies out through the HOLE.

Crow "CAWS."

EXT. MOUNTAINS - SKY

Crow soars high looking for prey. It turns its WINGS right and left until it sees A TENT.

Crow swoops down to the tent.

EXT. MOUNTAINS

THREE MIDDLE AGED BUDDIES sit on the cliff and drink beer. They are HENRY, 45. Henry is a big man and a leader, but cheap. JUSTIN, 40, laid back and a push over. And TONY, 47, the brain of this trio.

Empty BOTTLES scattered around.

Henry finishes his beer and reaches for more, but the BOX is empty.

HENRY

You guys drink too much for people who don't pay for the beer.

TONY

That is because a free drink tastes better.

Justin and Tony laugh. Henry glares at Justin.

HENRY

What are you laughing about?.. Go get another case.

Justin goes to the tent and brings a case of beer.

Friends have fun drinking, joking, laughing loud.

Crow comes close to them and sits on a ROCK nearby. THE RING in her leg shines.

JUSTIN

Shh... (whispering) look at that.

Henry and Tony look over and see the ring and their EYES grow wide.

Henry's beer falls from his hand. He stands up and tiptoes to Crow.

TONY

Stop. You'll scare it.

HENRY

I got it... It's mine.

Henry gets closer and jumps high trying to catch it, but Crow flies away and sits on a small THREE nearby.

Henry stands up and tiptoes to it again.

JUSTIN

STOP. We'll lose it.

Henry doesn't pay any attention to them and jumps again to get Crow, but it escapes him a second time and sits on a BRANCH of another TREE.

Henry gets angry. He stands up, breaks a STICK from a tree and chases Crow.

Tony and Justin pick up some ROCKS and follow them.

Jumping from tree to tree, rock to rock and pretending that it cannot fly far, Crow reaches the CAVE and sits on a ROCK right by its entrance.

Henry approaches the cave and runs towards Crow.

Crow flies into the darkness of the cave and disappears.

Henry follows her in.

Justin and Tony reach the cave too. They look around and see no Crow, or Henry.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I think they entered the cave.

TONY

Then hurry in. You know Henry, if he gets the ring first, he's not gonna even show it to us.

Tony enters the cave followed by Justin.

INT. CAVE

They walk through THE DARK, NARROW TUNNEL.

The SOUND of Henry breathing rough is heard.

JUSTIN

Where are we going?

TONY

We are just following Henry's breathing.

They come out into the bright, wide CAVE where Henry stands motionless staring at something.

JUSTIN

Where is... My God. Look at that.

They see the GOLD and their MOUTHS open in wonder.

Then Justin looks around and sees the SKELETONS all over the place.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Dead bodies.

HENRY

They are not dead bodies... they are just skeletons.

Justin walks around cautiously and checks every corner.

TONY

(calling)

Anybody here? Hello?

HENRY

There's nobody... Nobody, but us. And this, this is <u>our</u> gold.

JUSTIN

There are a lot of skeletons.

HENRY

Dead skeletons.

JUSTIN

Where is the crow?

TONY

Don't worry about it. It only had one ring. I... We have all this!

CROW sits in the shadows on a LEDGE and watches them play with the GOLD.

Henry goes to the THRONE, carefully takes the golden CROWN off the SKELETON, and pushes the skeleton off the throne.

Then he sits down and puts on the CROWN.

Tony pulls out a big golden KNIFE from between the RIBS of another skeleton.

Justin takes the NECKLACE off the third one and puts it on.

TONY (CONT'D)

Let's split the gold.

HENRY

Good idea.

They start spliting.

JUSTIN

How do we split it?

HENRY

Hmm... I'll count to three and we run to get as much as we can. Is that okay?

Tony and Justin look at each other then NOD their heads.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Okay. Get ready... ONE... TWO --

TONY

NO, no. \underline{I} will do the counting.

HENRY

Okay. Go ahead.

TONY

ONE... TWO... THREE.

They run and start collecting the GOLD.

Each one makes a PILE of his own.

CROW watches them from above.

Henry is the fastest one and is getting more then others.

Smart Tony is getting only DIAMONDS.

Justin is frustrated and tries his best to keep up with his friends.

INT. CAVE - LATER

Each one sits on his PILE breathing heavily.

Henry's PILE is the biggest one. He looks at the others' and smiles. Tony wipes sweat from his forehead.

HENRY

So. Justin. What you gonna do now?

TONY

What you mean?

HENRY

Now that you're rich. How you gonna spend your wealth?

TONY

I don't know. I wasn't planning for this.

JUSTIN

I know what I'm gonna do... I am gonna go to a nice candy shop and try every chick they have on their menu.

Laugh.

TONY

Oh. I'm gonna by a huge house with a big couch and a home theater.

HENRY

My craziest dream is very normal. I wanna be the richest man.

TONY

Well that shouldn't be hard for you.

HENRY

What do you mean?

TONY

Because you're very cheap.

Laugh.

JUSTIN

OH GOD. Aren't you guys thirsty?..

HENRY

You are right... Why don't you go and get our beer, Justin?

JUSTIN

Why me all the time?

TONY

You didn't have problem with that before.

HENRY

Before I wasn't sitting on a pile of gold.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I'll give <u>ten</u> golden coins to the person who brings beer.

TONY

I can bring it... Ten golden coins right?

HENRY

Yes.

TONY

You promise? I have a witness.

Tony puts his golden KNIFE down and goes for the beer.

TONY (CONT'D)

(going out)

I'll go get you beer... Don't touch my gold. I know how much I have.

Tony leaves the cave.

Henry glares at Justin.

JUSTIN

What are you looking at?

HENRY

At you.

JUSTIN

I know you are looking at me, but I don't know why.

Henry comes and sits next to Justin.

HENRY

Let's share it between the two of us.

JUSTIN

What you mean?

HENRY

Let's get rid of Tony.

Justin stands up and walks away from Henry.

JUSTIN

Shut the fuck up man. What are you talking about?

HENRY

Don't be stupid Justin... Anybody in your place right now would agree with me... even Tony.

JUSTIN

But it is not --

HENRY

You know what? Forget it... I'm gonna do it myself and take all of his share... I won't even show you a dime of his... Now get your gold and fuck off.

Justin looks at his PILE and finds it very small compared to OTHER TWO. He thinks for a while, then gives in to temptations.

JUSTIN

Okay. What is your plan?

HENRY

(smiling)

That's my boy.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SAME

Tony runs to the TENT. He stops suddenly thinking about something.

TONY

(to himself)

Ten golden coins for a bottle of beer?.. From somebody like Henry?

Tony sits next to the beer box.

He opens a bottle and drinks.

After having a few SIPS he stops drinking and looks at the BOTTLE. An idea creeps into his mind.

Tony gets up, takes an empty BOTTLE, wraps it inside a piece of CLOTH, takes a ROCK and crushes it into smallest pieces.

Then he opens all the beer bottles, pours the glass CHUNKS in each of them and closes them back.

Then he takes the case of beer and runs back to the cave.

INT. CAVE

Sound of Tony's heavy breathing is heard.

Tony comes in and sees no one.

TONY

Guys, I've got the beer... Justin. Henry.

He looks at the gold and sees not three, but TWO BIG PILES.

TONY (CONT'D)

Oh. Come on guys. That is not even funny --

Suddenly Henry jumps on him from behind and chokes him.

CASE OF BEER falls from his hand, but none of the bottles break.

Tony punches Henry in the head and frees himself.

Justin comes from nowhere and stabs Tony with the GOLDEN KNIFE.

Tony turns back and chokes Justin. He is about to finish him, when Henry takes the CROWN and whacks Tony on the HEAD.

Tony falls to the ground.

Henry sits on top of Tony and continues beating him ruthlessly on the head.

Crow watches them from above and "caws."

Tony pushes Henry off his chest.

Justin pierces the KNIFE into Tony's chest, pushing and twisting it until he is dead.

Henry puts his bloody CROWN on and wipes sweat from his FACE. Justin sits with his back turned to Henry.

Henry looks at the NECKLACE on Justin's NECK.

Then at the two treasure PILES.

He looks back and forth a few times, then pulls the necklace from behind and chokes Justin to death.

Justin tries to escape, but Henry is too strong and the necklace is unbreakable.

Justin tries to fight him off with his hands and Henry's CROWN falls down.

Henry finishes Justin, then goes to the treasure PILES and combines them into ONE LARGE PILE.

Henry throws the last COIN onto his PILE and gives a satisfied smile.

Henry looks around and sees BEER BOTTLES.

He puts his CROWN on, takes a couple bottles and goes to sit on his THRONE.

Henry opens one bottle in rush and downs the beer.

Then he realizes there was something wrong with the beer.

Henry grabs his THROAT and coughs. First quietly, then louder and louder.

He coughs, throwing up a lot of BLOOD and dies sitting on the THRONE.

The THREE friends lay dead. Tony with the KNIFE in his chest, Justin with the NECKLACE on his neck, and Henry, on the THRONE with the CROWN on his head.

EXT. MOUNTAINS

CROW runs towards the CAVE pretending it can not fly. Four MEN chase after it and enter the CAVE.

BLACK OUT

The SOUND of people breathing heavily is heard.

FADE OUT.