

Cyclone of Fire

By

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FADE IN TO A QUOTE WRITTEN IN GOLD LETTERING AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND:

"The ambitious will always be first in the crowd; he presses forward, he looks not behind him. It is more anguish to his mind to see one before him, than joy to leave thousands at a distance."

-King Akhenaton of Egypt, 14th Century BC

EXT. - DAYTIME - EGYPTIAN DESERT, APRIL, 1873

The morning sun is hotter than anything Henry Shaw has ever experienced in his travels so far. Even the humid air of the Dutch East Indies, where he had been stationed a few years earlier, is nothing compared to the inferno the young Englishman is experiencing this day. Looking up at the brutal sky and wiping his head and neck, he's amazed at how their camels stand the blistering heat. He wishes the caravan would find an oasis, but he also knows that time is of the essence - the sun will be high at late morning soon enough, and then midday, and they'll have to stop to put up the tents - enjoying as much shade and rest as possible until the evening, when they set out across the desert once more. So until then, the caravan will press on, desperately taking their only relief from a dry desert wind that's blowing in from the west. At that moment, however, Henry's thoughts are interrupted by the voice of his colleague, Dr. Sam Foster - another, older Englishman - making conversation with him.

FOSTER

(After slowing his camel down
from ahead in the caravan in
order to pull up to Henry)
How're you holding up, my young
friend?

HENRY

(Chuckling slightly)
I'm holding up.

FOSTER

(Also with a smile and a
slight chuckle)
I know, it's not easy your first
time out.

Henry looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

FOSTER

The desert, I mean. Believe it or not, it does get a little more bearable the more you travel it. I'm not going to say it isn't difficult. But you do learn to handle it better.

HENRY

I hope so.

FOSTER

Well, that's the way it's always been for me, anyway.

They continue moving, silently for a moment, until Foster speaks up again.

FOSTER

So what prompted you to take this job? You were a sailor, weren't you?

HENRY

Yes. Five years in Her Majesty's Navy.

FOSTER

Very impressive. Good experience.

HENRY

Yes, it was. Hard at times; very hard. But as you say about the desert; you get used to it.

FOSTER

(Smiles)

I think you'll do fine out here, my lad. (He looks around for a moment) But still, why the desert?

HENRY

My intent isn't just to write about my experiences at sea, Professor. I'd like to travel around the whole world. You hired me to document your work out here. But as I do that, I also write a book of my own accounts as well.

(CONTINUED)

FOSTER
And you wish to travel the world
doing this?

HENRY
Yes, sir.

FOSTER
(Smiles again)
You have a great life ahead of you,
son.

HENRY
I hope you're correct,
Professor. Because if that's true,
then my book will be complete and
I'll leave my mark with future
generations.

FOSTER
You sound very serious about that.

HENRY
I believe it's my purpose in
life. It's all I wish to do.

FOSTER
Well, I hope you fulfill that
purpose.

HENRY
Thank you, Professor. So do I.

Just then, the desert guides up ahead start to become
restless. Immediately, the lead guide - who speaks English
- pulls up to Foster.

FOSTER
What's the problem?

GUIDE
This is the hottest part of the
desert, Professor.

HENRY
I don't doubt that.

FOSTER
Tell them not to worry. The
village is only about one more day
away, isn't it? We still have
enough water to last until we get
there.

(CONTINUED)

GUIDE

No, you do not understand. (He looks ahead at the other guides, then turns back to Foster and Henry.) It is said that in the hottest part of the desert, the sand itself will stretch out its' arm and consume you. That is why this is the fastest way to the village, but no one ever takes it. Many travelers have come through here in the past. But many have also never returned.

HENRY

(Slightly alarmed, but also intrigued)
How many travelers?

GUIDE

Thirty. Perhaps forty. Maybe more.

HENRY

(Starting to write in his notes)
And people say that the desert consumed them...like a sandstorm, perhaps?

GUIDE

(Motioning with his arms while giving the description)
More than that. It is said that the sand rose up as high as the clouds and swallowed them whole.

Just then, Foster speaks up, skeptically dismissing the legend.

FOSTER

Nonsense. The mind can play tricks on you when it's as hot as this, gentlemen. The travelers that disappeared were probably stricken by the heat. We'll make it through here just fine.

Suddenly however, the wind rapidly picks up again around the caravan, kicking up sand and creating a panic among the guides. Immediately, Henry turns to Foster.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

Professor - what is this?

FOSTER

I must admit, I'm confounded. It doesn't seem like any storm I've ever experienced out here.

Just then, as the wind really starts to pick up, the lead guide speaks with an obvious look of concern on his face.

GUIDE

(Yelling above the noise of the roaring wind.)

Professor! We must leave this place! It is not safe here!

HENRY

Professor! I think I'm going to have to agree! We should leave!

FOSTER

(Looking around with concern)

Yes, you're right! (He turns to the guide) Turn the caravan away! We need to head west, over the dunes!

GUIDE

Yes, Professor!

As the guide proceeds to follow Foster's directions, Henry can feel the wind blowing even stronger. Looking ahead, he can see the camels in front of him starting to run, so he kicks his camel to start running as well. As the caravan heads toward the dunes, Henry can feel the sand around him starting to kick up more. Just then, he looks back into the distance and sees that the blowing sand is actually starting to form a sandstorm. Looking up and back as his camel continues to run, he also sees a giant shape forming as the sand actually begins to turn, faster and faster. Hoping his camel can outrun the storm, he sees the sand behind him continuing to spin, faster and faster, creating a funnel that reaches into the sky. As it does this, the sand explodes, looking almost like a cloud on the ground. The force of the explosion knocks Henry off his camel and onto the top of a dune, while the camel continues to run, leaving Henry to face the danger alone. A few feet ahead, as the caravan makes it over the dunes, Foster looks back and sees Henry's camel running without its' rider. Immediately, he turns forward.

(CONTINUED)

FOSTER

(Yelling above the wind)

Stop! Wait! Stop the caravan!

As the caravan stops behind the dunes, Foster jumps off his camel and runs toward the direction that Henry's in. Suddenly however, the lead guide runs up from behind and tackles Foster, with both of them falling onto the sand.

FOSTER

What are you doing?! Let go of me! We need to go back!

GUIDE

(Trying to restrain Foster)

No, Professor! It is too dangerous!

As the guide struggles to keep Foster from running into danger, Henry, who is still down on the other side of the dunes, tries to escape the sand that's now converging on the whole area from every direction; almost like a circle, closing in toward the storm itself. As this happens, the explorer tries to climb up the side of one of the dunes, but keeps slipping on the sand as the wind blows it out from underneath him. Falling down onto the dune and rolling onto level ground again, Henry feels himself being covered by the blowing sand; which, to his surprise, is keeping him from blowing away. Suddenly however, as he tries to stay low and ride out the wind, Henry looks to the side of the sand cloud and sees something. Carefully stretching slightly forward in his position, he starts to see that the strongest winds seem to be kicking up a wave of sand on the largest dune. Looking closer, he can see clearly now that inside the wave, sticking out of the sand, is a large, stone object. Crawling slightly closer, Henry can see more and more clearly that the object has markings on it - ancient markings that seem to be pointing the way to something. Trying to get ever closer, the explorer inches his way toward the object despite the growing danger as the wind grows stronger. Continuing to push forward, Henry knows that if he can get just a little closer, he can reach the object. More and more, he tries to get over toward the dune, feeling the power of the wind as it starts to lift him away from the last of the sand that covers him on the ground. Finally however, just as he gets toward the object - feeling at the same time like he's about to blow away - he looks beyond the object into a vast expanse of swirling sand and for what seems like minutes, he sees what appear to be the hazy, transparent images of hundreds, possible thousands of people. Looking straight ahead, he watches as the people, who seem to be ancient Egyptian, look straight back at him. Seeing this, he is both, astounded and assured,

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somehow understanding that these people mean him no harm, yet, knowing also that their presence is some kind of a call for help. Suddenly, as the scene before him fully materializes, Henry hears a voice echo the word, "See," through his mind. Moments later however, just as the image of the people begins to fade out of sight, Henry feels something grab his ankles from behind. Turning around to look, he can barely see the guide and Foster, hanging over the closest dune - both attached to a rope - and trying to keep him from blowing away as the sandstorm overtakes the whole area.

FOSTER

Hold on, lad!

HENRY

I can't! I'm slipping!

As the lead guide looks closer, he can also see Henry starting to rise off the ground.

GUIDE

Professor! Lie on top of him! Quickly!

Immediately, Foster jumps forward, struggling against the wind, and falls on top of the explorer. Right away, the explorer can feel himself digging further into sand, which stops him from blowing away. Suddenly however, he becomes concerned that Foster might blow away instead.

HENRY

Professor! Hang on to me!

Just then, Henry looks back and sees the lead guide signaling over the dune as he also tries also to avoid blowing away. Suddenly, the rope that the lead guide and Foster are attached to tightens and the explorer feels it pulling all three of them back toward the dune. As they continue to head away from the cloud, Henry looks back and sees nothing but the wave of sand blowing back over the object, burying it in the dune once again. Frustrated but still thankful to be alive, Henry finds himself, the lead guide and Foster being pulled back one final time, this time onto the other side of the dunes, where he sees the rope attached to one of the camels and being pulled by the camel and some of the other people in the caravan, who are also struggling to withstand the sandstorm. As Henry, Foster and the lead guide - with the help of the people in the caravan - stand up and untie the ropes, they can feel the wind getting stronger. Finally, after mounting their camels again, they take off as quickly as possible across a straightaway of sand while in the background, the gigantic

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sandstorm gets even stronger once more until finally, it pulls the converging circle of sand in with a jerk, then explodes with a deafening clap of thunder, blowing the dunes apart and covering the entire area with another deep layer of sand.

CUT.

OPENING TITLES

EXT. - DAYTIME - WELLSBOROUGH, ENGLAND, AUGUST, 1945

More than seventy years later, the relatively small town of Wellsborough, which was used as a regional supply hub in southwestern England during the recently-ended Second World War, suffered heavy damage in The Blitz and has struggled ever since. Now that the war is over, the task of a full recovery is at hand - and it's going to be an uphill battle. No one knows that better than twenty-year old Colin Moore, a young British soldier who was raised by his grandparents in Wellsborough until they were both lost in the German bombings. Feeling that the only way to respond was by joining the army, Colin did just that, fighting valiantly across Europe until the end of the war. But now, as everything settles down, Colin returns home to find only a shell of the place he once knew. As he stands at the entrance to the town, still in uniform and fresh from the army, he looks around at the ruins of the once pleasant little community. Just then, a man with a slight limp crossing the street about twenty feet away looks at him and stops. The man is local blacksmith Harry Mills.

HARRY

(Looking a little closer)
Colin?

COLIN

How are you, Mr. Mills?

HARRY

(Moving closer to Colin)
Doing okay, considering. Glad to see you made it back; although I didn't get to see you before you joined the army. Sorry to hear about your grandparents.

COLIN

(Shaking hands with Harry)
Thank you, sir.

(CONTINUED)

HARRY

Anytime. They were fine people,
both of them.

COLIN

That they were. How's your family?

HARRY

Coping. Trying to survive since
the bombings hasn't been easy;
especially after my nephew was lost
in Normandy.

COLIN

I heard about that. You have my
sympathies. I understand he was a
good soldier.

HARRY

Yes, he was. Served for a long
time, he did. Provided a valuable
service to the Crown, much like
yourself.

COLIN

You flatter me, Mr. Mills.

HARRY

Well, you should be commended, my
boy. Serving your country is a
noble thing to do.

COLIN

After the bombings, Mr. Mills, it
was the only thing to do.

HARRY

I couldn't agree more, son. (He
taps on his bad leg) I would have
loved to fight myself, but after my
injury the first time around, the
army felt that my services would be
more beneficial here.

COLIN

Well, that was probably a wise
idea, sir. You are the only
blacksmith in town.

HARRY

I agree, it was important for me to
be here during that time. I've
been quite busy these recent years.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

In a town that's rebuilding, sir, a blacksmith is a valuable commodity.

HARRY

Thank you, lad. (He looks around a bit) So what are your plans, now that you're back home?

COLIN

I was actually hoping to join in the rebuilding effort. There's a lot of work that needs to be done here. I'm not a bad carpenter so I'm sure I'll have no trouble finding things to do.

HARRY

That's a fact. We can always use a good strong back. The more useful help we have, the faster we can get back on our feet.

COLIN

I hope so, Mr. Mills.

As the two of them part company, Colin heads down the street and over to the town recovery office.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE WELLSBOROUGH RECOVERY OFFICE,
WELLSBOROUGH, ENGLAND

Walking into the town recovery office, Colin can see that even the office itself is getting some work done. After noticing this however, he sees the secretary sitting at her desk across the room. Looking a little closer, he notices that she looks familiar. Immediately, he walks up to her.

COLIN

Mary...

MARY

(Immediately looking up from
her desk)

Colin!

Colin starts laughing, obviously happy to see Mary as she runs out from behind the desk and gives him a hug so big that she almost knocks him over.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
(Looking at Colin)
When did you get back?

COLIN
Just a little while ago.

MARY
It's so good to see you,
cousin. Have you seen anyone else
yet?

COLIN
Yeah, I just spent a few minutes
talking to Harry Mills. How is
everyone?

MARY
Doing well. Father's been home for
close to a year now.

COLIN
Yes, I heard he was injured.

MARY
He was, but thank God, he's doing
better now.

COLIN
Good. That's good to hear. What
about you; what have you been up
to?

MARY
Just keeping busy here; trying to
help with the recovery.

COLIN
Yeah; that's actually what I'm here
for also. I wanted to see what
kind of help you needed.

MARY
(Heading over to her desk)
Well, what can you do?

COLIN
Carpentry work,
mostly. Woodworking, frames, some
cabinet making. Things like that.

MARY

Wow...well, you'll have no trouble staying busy here then. There was a lot of structural damage to many of the buildings and homes.

COLIN

Well, then I'm here at just the right time.

MARY

That you are. We've had a lot of help working on everything, but we can always use more. We can't pay you a lot, but-

COLIN

(Politely interrupting)
Don't even mention the money. That's not what I'm here for.

MARY

(Surprised)
But how will you live?

COLIN

I've saved a reasonable amount during the time I was in the army. Plus my grandparents left me some, as well as the house, so I'll be all right for a while.

MARY

Good. We really appreciate your wanting to volunteer your time, Colin. This town needs to save as much money as it can.

COLIN

I'm sure.

MARY

The government hasn't' been able to send us much so we've really been struggling.

COLIN

I think everyone has. The war took a lot out of the whole world.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
Yeah, too much.

COLIN
(After a slight pause)
Well, if you'll just tell me where
to start...

MARY
(Looking at a small stack of
papers)
Yeah...Twenty-seven Longley
Street. You can start there.

COLIN
Sounds good.

MARY
Okay then.

With that, Colin starts heading toward the door. Just then,
Mary stops him.

MARY
Colin...

Colin stops just before walking through the door and looks
at Mary.

MARY
It's good to have you back.

Colin smiles at her.

COLIN
I'm really glad to be back here,
Mary. Especially seeing you.

The two of them smile at each other, then Colin heads out
the door.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - 27 LONGLEY STREET, WELLSBOROUGH

As Colin gets to his work address a little bit later on, he
immediately sees a few familiar faces in his friends Jack,
Charlie and Jack's cousin David, all working on the house
together.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(Walking up to the house)

You know, I thought Mary was my loyal cousin; a loving family member. But then she sent me to work here. Maybe I should go back to France.

Right away, the three of them all run and jump on Colin, smacking him and howling with joy at the fact that he's finally home.

DAVID

When did you get back?

COLIN

Just a while ago.

JACK

It's about time. I was starting to wonder if the three of us would be the only blokes who made it back. Sure took you long enough. And why didn't you come see us as soon as you got back into town?

COLIN

(Shoving Jack playfully)

I didn't know you were over here; although if I did know, I probably would've avoided coming to this part of town all together.

They all start laughing and harassing each other for a few moments, then get back to their conversation.

CHARLIE

So, are you here to stay or just visiting?

COLIN

Here to stay, of course. Well, that is the plan, anyway. How far along is the recovery effort?

DAVID

Not far enough.

JACK

It just seems like for every place we repair, there are five more to be done afterward.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(Looking frustrated)

The Nazis really did a job on this place, didn't they?

CHARLIE

Aye, but we did a better job on them.

COLIN

You're damn right.

DAVID

That's right. The bastards.

COLIN

So now what?

CHARLIE

(Picking up a hammer and handing it to Colin)

Now we keep rebuilding. You didn't come here just to say hi, did you?

COLIN

Of course not. Something of substance had to drag me back to your ugly faces.

As the four of them head to work, they continue to harass each other, and Colin can't help but think about how good it is to be home.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHTTIME - 27 LONGLEY STREET

Later on that evening, as the four men, and most other people in the town, finish working and disperse for the night, Colin leaves his friends and heads back to his late grandparents' house; the same place he was staying at before he left for the army. The house is further toward the outskirts of town and wasn't really damaged during the bombings. After entering through the main doorway, Colin looks around briefly before heading up to his old room. Being there alone is still difficult for Colin, even these years after losing his grandparents. After a minute or so however, he smells something interesting in the air. Stopping, he listens for a moment and realizes that someone else is there with him. Quietly walking through the house, he moves from room to room, peering around every corner with his hand on his pistol - until finally, he hears a creak in the kitchen. Walking in softly, he can see that

(CONTINUED)

the light is on. Step by step, he moves further in until finally, he sees a woman - her back turned to him - working at the stove. Standing there for a moment, Colin slowly peers to the side, trying to see if he can get a glimpse of her face. Just then, he realizes it's Mary. Immediately, he takes his hand off his gun. Just then, Mary realizes he's there and quickly turns around with a gasp.

COLIN

(Putting his hand up,
reassuring her that she's
safe)

Mary! Mary! It's me! It's me...

MARY

(Trying to relax)

Colin...you startled me...

COLIN

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to
frighten you. What are you doing
here?

MARY

Actually, I wanted to surprise you
with a home-cooked meal.

COLIN

(Surprised)

Well...it worked. (He walks over
to the stove to look at what she's
making.) That smells great.

MARY

Thank you. I figured you probably
haven't had real food in some time,
so I wanted to do this; knowing
you'd probably be here alone.

COLIN

Well thank you. I do appreciate
it. I'm pretty hungry.

MARY

I figured you would be. When was
the last time you actually had a
home-cooked meal?

COLIN

(Thinking for a moment as he
sits down at the kitchen
table)

Last year, I believe.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

(Continuing to make the food)
Really? That long ago?

COLIN

Absolutely. There's not a lot of time for pork and vegetables in the middle of a war zone.

MARY

Did you miss it?

COLIN

Yes. But it wasn't just about the food, though.

MARY

How do you mean?

COLIN

Most of the time, before I joined the war, no matter where I was or what I was doing, I would always make sure I was home in time for dinner with my grandparents. Every night, we'd all sit around the table and eat, discussing what each of us had done earlier that day. (Chuckles) Grandfather would joke with us after the war started about how he'd frequently walk down to see the Army recruiters about letting him join up to fight the Germans, but they wouldn't let him because it wouldn't be fair to the other troops who wanted to get a chance to fight as well.

MARY

(Smiling)

Your grandparents were good people. I always loved coming to visit them.

COLIN

They always liked having you around.

MARY

(Shutting off the stove and starting to get the food together)

Really?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(Getting up to help her)
Yeah. They tried not to play favorites, but truth be told, I think they did favor you.

MARY

(Surprised)
I didn't know that.

COLIN

(As the two of them bring the food to the table)
Yeah. They loved us all, but they always talked about how sweet and helpful you were. (As he's putting the food down) What do you want to drink?

MARY

(As she puts down the food she was holding and turns around)
Don't you worry about that. I'm making dinner for you. I'll get the drinks. Just go ahead and sit down.

COLIN

(As he complies)
I really do appreciate this, Mary.

MARY

I know you do. (Continues to get the drinks) It is really good to have you back, Colin.

COLIN

(After a slight pause, once Mary looks at him as she's bringing their drinks over)
Thank you, Mary. It's like a dream come true.

At that moment, Mary smiles at Colin, who sends a moderate smile back. Just then, Mary sits down next to Colin, places the drinks accordingly, and the two of them bow their heads for Grace.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - 27 LONGLEY STREET, WELLSBOROUGH

The following day, sometime around mid-morning, Colin and his friends are out working at 27 Longley again when Jack suddenly speaks up.

JACK

So how was your first evening at home, Colin?

COLIN

Quiet. Mary surprised me with a home-cooked meal.

JACK

That's always good. How was it?

COLIN

Very good.

DAVID

I've heard Mary's a good cook.

COLIN

She is.

JACK

I've always liked Mary. Sweet personality, and always fun to be around. She's been quiet recently though.

COLIN

(Surprised)

Quiet?

JACK

Yeah. Not her usual self.

COLIN

She didn't seem that way last night.

DAVID

She wouldn't then, would she?

COLIN

What do you mean?

DAVID

I mean that if she was trying to give you a nice first evening at home, then if something was

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)
bothering her, she wouldn't have
let it show.

COLIN
Perhaps. I wonder what's bothering
her then...

JACK
(He looks all around them)
This...

COLIN
What...the town?

JACK
Yes. You know she's lived here all
her life.

COLIN
Yeah, I know. We all have,
remember?

JACK
Yes, but unlike us, this town is
all she knows. She's been away
from it maybe...three or four times
in her entire life?

COLIN
That's true. She's never really
been the adventurous type.

DAVID
Exactly. She took the job at the
Recovery Office for a reason.

COLIN
So then I guess, if the town
doesn't recover...

JACK
...Neither will she. Like a lot of
people here.

CHARLIE
And with the way the economy's been
since the war, much of this town,
as it was, might not recover.

COLIN
(Trying to think for a moment)
There's got to be something that
can be done.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
(Chuckling)
Yeah...find some buried treasure.

After a momentary pause, Colin looks at the other three.

COLIN
I think I might have an idea...

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - WELLSBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

A little while later, Colin, David, Charlie and Jack arrive at the town's public library. Heading inside the old but majestic building, the four of them make their way past the rotunda and into an obscure section that sits quietly off to the left-hand side of the main room.

JACK
What are we doing here?

COLIN
There's a book in this section I remember seeing when I was a kid...

DAVID
What kind of book?

COLIN
(Looking on the shelf very carefully)
It's an old book by a local author...

CHARLIE
Local?

COLIN
(Still looking)
Yeah; fairly local. He was from Stockbridge.

JACK
What do you mean, "Was?"

COLIN
He died a few years back. I heard he was really old.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
What was his name?

COLIN
Henry Shaw.

DAVID
Henry Shaw? I've heard of him.

JACK
Yeah. Wasn't he an explorer or something?

COLIN
(Still looking)
Yes. Well, yes and no. He was more of a writer than an explorer. He just loved documentation so much that he traveled as much as possible, writing about everything he experienced.

CHARLIE
Okay...

COLIN
(Standing up after looking fruitlessly on the bottom shelf for the book)
It doesn't look like it's here any more.

DAVID
Why do you want it?

COLIN
Have you chaps ever heard about any of his experiences?

The other three shake their heads with a bit of uncertainty.

COLIN
Well, I have. I remember looking at the book a few times, as a matter of fact. And the very first story he wrote in it was about the "Cyclone of Fire."

JACK
(Surprised but intrigued)
The what?

COLIN

The "Cyclone of Fire." That's what he called it.

DAVID

What is it?

COLIN

(As they all start walking out of the room)

It's originally an Egyptian legend. But the story in his book is about something that really happened to him regarding the legend.

CHARLIE

All right, but what does it have to do with us?

COLIN

I'm thinking that the answer to this town's financial issues might be in this legend.

JACK

How would an Egyptian legend have the answers to this town's financial problems?

COLIN

Just trust me.

DAVID

Okay...

CHARLIE

So, where is the book at now?

COLIN

I'm not really sure.

DAVID

Well, what are we gonna do?

COLIN

(Stopping under the rotunda)

I don't know.

The four of them look around for a moment. Just then, Jack has an idea.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

We could ask the librarian if she knows where the book might be at now. It could still be here somewhere.

COLIN

That was a pretty obscure book. This library was the only place I ever saw it in, and through all those years, there was only one copy. I'd be surprised if it was still here, to be honest.

JACK

But you don't know for sure.

COLIN

(After a moment)

I guess it's worth a try.

As the four of them walk over to the librarian's desk, she looks up at them from her work.

LIBRARIAN

Can I help you?

COLIN

Yes. There was a book that used to be in here a long time ago - in the "Local Authors" section.

LIBRARIAN

All right. Do you remember the name of the book?

COLIN

No, I don't.

LIBRARIAN

Do you remember anything about it?

COLIN

I remember it's written by Henry Shaw.

LIBRARIAN

(Suddenly remembering)

Oh, okay. Yes, "The Traveler." The only book we've ever had in here by Henry Shaw.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
(Remembering)
That's it.

JACK
"The Traveler?"

COLIN
Yes.

Colin turns to the librarian.

COLIN
It doesn't seem to be here any
more. Might you have it in the
back?

LIBRARIAN
I'm not sure. I haven't seen that
book in years.

COLIN
Neither have I.

LIBRARIAN
Let me go and check. I'll be just
a few minutes.

As the librarian heads to the back, the four friends stay up
near the desk talking.

DAVID
So Colin...exactly what does this
story have to do with us?

COLIN
You know how the economy is so bad,
right?

JACK
Yeah...

COLIN
Well, according to the legend in
the book, there's something in the
hottest part of the desert that has
taken a number of travelers.

DAVID
Something...you mean,
the..(Thinking)...what was it?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
The "Cyclone of Fire."

JACK
And this is in the hottest part of
the desert?

COLIN
Yes. Which is why it's referred to
as being made of fire.

CHARLIE
But what about the cyclone part?

COLIN
Well, it was actually a monster
sandstorm that Shaw encountered
when he was in that part of the
desert once as a young explorer.

DAVID
All right...so what's the big deal
about that? There are sandstorms
in the desert all the time.

COLIN
Yes, but not like this. Shaw said
that it formed some kind of a
funnel - a funnel that reached into
the sky.

CHARLIE
A funnel? Like, a tornado?

COLIN
Or a cyclone. Yes.

CHARLIE
And it reached into the sky...are
you kidding?

COLIN
Not at all.

CHARLIE
That's got to be some storm. I
know that sometimes these
sandstorms can form small
tornadoes, but for this one to
reach into the sky...

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

I've never heard of anything like that.

COLIN

I don't think anyone has.

JACK

Anyway, go on...

COLIN

Anyway, Shaw somehow lived to write about it. While he was there, he saw something under the sand as the storm kicked it up; something like a stone tablet of some kind. And after doing some extensive research into the history of that part of the desert...

DAVID

(After Colin pauses cautiously for a moment, hoping his friends will believe what he's about to say)

Well?

COLIN

He found out that, supposedly, the tablet is said to reveal the location of an ancient city believed to contain such immense treasure that the city itself was even rumored to be made almost entirely of precious stones.

CHARLIE

Precious stones?! Go on!

COLIN

No kidding...

DAVID

Could you imagine that?!

CHARLIE

How much would a place like that be worth, I wonder...

COLIN

I doubt you could put a value on something like that.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

So then, what're you thinking? You want to try and find this place?

COLIN

That's the idea. I know it sounds a bit far-fetched, but ever since, David, you suggested before that we find some "buried treasure," something woke up in me and I just really feel like I should go for this. It's like, something inside is telling me that this needs to be done, you know? Besides, what other viable options do we have right now? Continue the recovery effort and hope for the best? Who knows how far that'll get us? Money isn't made by just hoping, you know?

DAVID

That is true but still, how are you supposed to help the town by finding this place? I mean, I was just teasing about that, but also, even if you did find it, it's not like you can bring the whole city back here, and you know that by the time all the powers that be decide what can be done with the place and how much to pay you for being the one who discovered it - as long as they don't try and shaft you out of it politically, seeing as it's an actual city and all - when everything's said and done, it might be too late to help the town.

COLIN

That is true, which is why our primary objective is what the book calls, "The Golden Sea."

DAVID

What is that?

COLIN

The Golden Sea is apparently a treasure that's supposedly located underneath the city - a vast treasure that the splendor of the city is built around.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

(After thinking for a moment)
So what's the name of it? The
city, I mean.

COLIN

I'm not sure. That's what I'm
hoping to find out in the book -
the exact name and location in the
desert.

CHARLIE

Okay then. Well, even if we do
find out where it's at, we'll have
a big job ahead of us.

COLIN

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

I mean that it isn't like going for
a stroll through the park.

DAVID

He's right, Colin. Even if we do
find out where it is, and we decide
to do this, we're gonna need to do
a lot of preparation first.

COLIN

We?

JACK

Of course. You don't think we'd
actually let you do something like
this alone, do you?

COLIN

But...you just returned home. You
want to just pick up and leave
again?

DAVID

You just returned as well, Colin.

COLIN

So?

DAVID

So, this is important. If you're
gonna do something to save the
town; especially something this
big; it's gonna be something we all
do together.

(CONTINUED)

Colin thinks for a moment, astounded at his friends' loyalty, then speaks up again.

COLIN

I appreciate it, mates. I really do.

JACK

Don't even mention it. So now, where are we gonna start?

Just then, the librarian comes back up front.

LIBRARIAN

I'm sorry sir. It seems like we no longer have the book anywhere in this library.

COLIN

Do you have any idea where it might be at?

LIBRARIAN

No sir, I don't.

COLIN

Thank you.

LIBRARIAN

You're welcome.

With that, the librarian heads back to her desk while Colin and the other three try to figure out what to do next.

CHARLIE

Any other ideas?

COLIN

Yeah. Stockbridge isn't all that far from here.

DAVID

You want to go there?

COLIN

Why not? That's where Shaw used to live, right? Stands to reason then that if there could be another copy of the book anywhere near here, it could be there.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
That makes sense.

JACK
(As the four of them make
their way toward the door)
Okay then. Stockbridge it is.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - STOCKBRIDGE, ENGLAND

The following day, as the four of them ride into Stockbridge in Jack's 1940 Austin, they can see clearly that this area hasn't suffered any of the damage like what was sustained in Wellsborough and for a moment, they all feel a sense of relief.

COLIN
Wow. This is a far cry from home.

JACK
(Who's also driving)
It's like we're not even in the
same country.

DAVID
(Seeing some of the sandbags
still out on the street from
during the war)
You can tell they were prepared
here.

CHARLIE
Thank God...

JACK
Amen to that.

DAVID
So what are we looking for, anyway?

COLIN
The library, for starters.

CHARLIE
Another library?

COLIN
We have to find this book.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

What makes you think it'll be here? In this library? We're not that far from Wellsborough and they didn't have it there.

COLIN

Well, why'd you think we came here?

DAVID

I don't know. I guess I thought maybe we could go to the Hall of Records or something. You know, because the guy used to live here...

COLIN

Yeah, but how much would the hall of records tell us?

DAVID

I don't know. I just thought it might be worth a shot.

COLIN

Well, maybe it would be. But we should look in the library first. After all, because he used to live here, there might be more of a chance of finding the book in the Local Author's section here.

With that, the four of them proceed up the street until they see the library at the very end on the left-hand side.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A few minutes later, as the four of them walk into the library, Colin wastes no time in going up to the front desk.

COLIN

(To the Stockbridge librarian, Sarah, who looks not much older than Colin)
Hello. My name is Colin Moore. I was wondering if you could help me.

SARAH

(Cordially introducing herself as well)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SARAH (cont'd)
A pleasure, Colin. I'm
Sarah. What are you looking for?

COLIN
A book by a local author. It's
called, "The Traveler."

SARAH
Yes, Henry Shaw.

COLIN
You know it!

SARAH
Yes. We have one copy.

COLIN
Terrific. Is it in now?

SARAH
Yes. It's rarely asked about,
actually.

COLIN
I wonder why it's so obscure.

SARAH
I think because it was never
mass-published.

COLIN
That's strange. Do you know why?

SARAH
Well, Mr. Shaw finally finished it
not long before he died.

COLIN
Really? Why'd it take him so long?

SARAH
Because while he spent much of his
early life traveling, he spent most
of the latter part collecting his
writings as a well-informed
book. Just before he died, a
publisher picked it up, but then
went bankrupt shortly after his
death because of war damages
sustained during the earlier
bombings. Because of that, only a
relative few copies were ever
published.

COLIN
Wow, that's too bad.

SARAH
That is too bad. I've actually read it.

COLIN
Really?

SARAH
(Laughing)
Yes, I know, one of the few people who have.

COLIN
So what did you think of it?

SARAH
Well, as one who considers herself the foremost authority on the work of Henry Shaw, but without bias, I would have to say, it's easily one of the greatest books I've ever read.

COLIN
Wow. I've only read bits and pieces of it over the years, but from what I've seen, it is really good. Very good, actually.

SARAH
It's a real guide to the many travels he went on in his life. That was actually his life's goal. To complete that book. He really wanted to leave his mark.

COLIN
I'd say he did.

SARAH
It sure seems that way. He would have been happy if even one person was affected by the writings in his book.

COLIN
Well, if his book is as great as it seems to be, then someday, it'll touch more than just the life of one person.

SARAH

I certainly hope so. But let me get that book for you.

COLIN

It's not in the Local Author's section?

SARAH

No, not at all. It's in a special section in the back we have reserved for rare books.

As the librarian heads to the back to get the book, Colin waits out front. Just then, the rest of the guys, who were waiting a few feet behind while Colin spoke to the librarian, approach him as he waits.

JACK

So, we seem to getting somewhere...

COLIN

Yeah, thank God. It's about time. To be honest, I was almost starting to get a bit discouraged.

CHARLIE

Do you really want to do this, mate?

COLIN

Do what?

CHARLIE

This whole...expedition you're considering here. Are you serious about it?

COLIN

You know I am.

CHARLIE

Well then, you might want to consider asking this librarian if she's interested in participating.

COLIN

(Looking at Charlie with a bit of surprise)
Participating?!

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Yes.

COLIN

Hmm. I hadn't thought about that.

DAVID

Charlie's right, that's a pretty good idea.

JACK

Yeah. You know, she really seems to know quite a bit about this guy, and about his work.

CHARLIE

Yeah. She might be pretty valuable to have along, you know.

COLIN

That's a good point. We should ask her.

CHARLIE

We? No, not we. You talk to her.

COLIN

What, just me?

CHARLIE

It's your plan, mate. We're on board with you, but you have to pitch it to her.

Just then, the librarian heads back out to the counter, carrying the library's only copy of "The Traveler."

SARAH

Okay, here you go. (She shows him a picture of Henry Shaw on the back cover, who we clearly see was considerably older when the picture was taken) See? Here he is. Henry Shaw.

COLIN

He looks like an explorer. Or, well, at least, someone who spent a great deal of time traveling.

SARAH

That he was - in his younger years. (She hands the book to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SARAH (cont'd)
Colin) I am sorry, but I can't allow you to take the book out of the library. That's our policy with rare books. But you're more than welcome to look through it as much as you like at one of our tables.

COLIN
(As the librarian hands the book to him)
Thank you. I'd love to. Um, would you mind helping me out with something?

SARAH
What do you need?

Suddenly however, as Colin takes the book, he stops and stares forward. Looking ahead, he gets a vision of what seems to be an ancient battle, possibly Egyptian, going on through a hazy, windy sandstorm. Feeling himself tensing up, Colin starts to breathe heavily, his heart racing faster and faster. Watching this battle from a distant viewpoint, he can see thousands of people involved, brutally fighting against an enemy that Colin just can't seem to clarify. Suddenly however, he snaps out of the vision to the sound of Sarah's voice, trying to get his attention.

SARAH
...Excuse me? Hello?

COLIN
(Startled and confused for a moment)
Yeah...um, yeah. Hello.

DAVID
Colin, you okay, mate?

COLIN
(Regaining his thoughts)
Yeah. I'm okay. (He looks around for a moment.) I'm all right.

JACK
You sure?

COLIN
Yeah, I'm sure. Just got lost in my thought for a moment is all. (He turns to Sarah) I'm sorry. What were you saying?

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

(Looking at him suspiciously
for a moment, as if to
possibly have some idea that
something is going on with him
regarding the book)

You said you needed my help with
something.

COLIN

Yes, actually, I'm trying to find
out as much as I can about Henry
Shaw's work in Egypt. You seem to
know a lot about him, so I was
wondering if you could go over this
book with me and perhaps give me a
bit more insight.

SARAH

(Surprised but clearly
honored)

I don't see why not.

Finally, as the other three guys pass the time finding their
own books to read in different parts of the library, Colin
and Sarah spend what seems to be forever going through the
book and discussing all they know and read about Henry Shaw
and his experiences in Egypt.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - STOCKBRIDGE, ENGLAND

As the four guys head back out of town, Colin discusses with
the others how his research and discussion time went with
the Stockbridge librarian.

JACK

Well?

CHARLIE

How'd it go, mate?

COLIN

Pretty well, actually. She knows
quite a bit about Shaw and his
adventures.

DAVID

What about his work in Egypt?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

She and I went through quite a bit of it. There was a lot of information about it in that book.

JACK

Okay. So then, for starters, what's the name of the city?

COLIN

Tannadryus.

DAVID

Wow. Tannadryus.

COLIN

That's right. It existed during the age of the Middle Kingdom, up until around 1,800 B.C.

CHARLIE

What happened then?

COLIN

Well apparently, around that time, it was...buried by a sandstorm. (He smirks uneasily) That's a scary coincidence.

JACK

(Having momentary second thoughts)

Colin, are you sure you want to do this?

COLIN

What other choice do we have, Jack? I don't know of any other way for us to get a hold of the kind of money that the town needs.

JACK

I know, but still...

COLIN

We need to do something. Right now, this is it. As crazy as it sounds, going on an expedition to Tannadryus is the only way for us to save the town.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

I know. You are right. It's just one hell of a risk to take.

COLIN

This is our home, Jack. If saving our home isn't worth the risk, I don't know what is.

CHARLIE

What about the librarian? She interested in going?

COLIN

I don't know. I haven't asked her yet.

DAVID

I thought you were going to.

COLIN

And I will. But right now, we don't even have a plan...or the funding.

JACK

Well, maybe we should go back to ask her anyway. I mean, you never know. She might know a way to get things together that we don't have yet.

COLIN

I don't know. (He thinks for a moment.) I just don't want to bring anyone into this without knowing for sure that we're gonna do it yet.

CHARLIE

It's up to you, mate. You're the salesman here.

COLIN

(After thinking for another moment)

Okay. Fine, let's go back. I just hope she doesn't expect more than what we have right now.

With that, Jack turns the car around and the four of them head back to the Stockbridge Library.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A short time later, as the four of them head back into the library, they discuss how they're about to handle Colin's proposal.

COLIN

(As they walk through the lobby and toward the front desk)

Okay, I'm gonna ask her, but I could use some testimonials, so remember chaps - emotion is key. We want her to know that we're doing this for a good reason, not just the usual quest for riches that one might be otherwise doing this for. So even if we have to get into personal accounts of life in the town, share whatever you think might persuade her. She can be a valuable asset to this quest, so we want her to know this is for real.

Just then, the librarian surprises them by walking out from the back, this time with a group of about twelve people. As Colin and the others stand slightly confused, the leader of the group; a dashing, middle-aged man; extends his hand to Colin.

VICTOR

You saved us a trip to Wellsborough, Mr. Moore. My name is Victor Shaw. It's a pleasure to meet you.

COLIN

(Shaking Victor's hand)
Victor Shaw...as in-

VICTOR

-Henry Shaw, yes. He was my father.

COLIN

(Still surprised)
Your...father?

VICTOR

Yes. (He gestures toward the librarian) And I believe you've met my daughter, Sarah.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
 Sarah... (He looks at her and
 realizes her family association)
 Shaw? Henry's granddaughter.

VICTOR
 That's right.

COLIN
 (Curious)
 So...I saved you a trip to
 Wellsborough then?

VICTOR
 That's right.

COLIN
 (Sarcastically)
 Why, what's going on? Are we
 having a party?

VICTOR
 (Smiling)
 No party, Mr. Moore. More of an
 inquisition.

COLIN
 Please, call me Colin. (He looks
 around for a moment, then back at
 Victor.) What sort of an
 inquisition?

VICTOR
 Nothing to be worried about, I can
 assure you. (He looks at all four
 of them.) Would you all like to
 sit down in the main room?

With that, the whole group proceeds to the main room as
 Sarah goes and locks the front door to the library.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE MAIN ROOM OF THE STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC
 LIBRARY

A short while later, the whole group is sitting in
 confidence in the main room of the library, engaging in a
 discussion that Colin and the the other three never
 expected.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

All right...the reason we're here is because of you.

COLIN

Because of us?

VICTOR

Yes.

COLIN

What do you mean?

VICTOR

We are the Shaw Foundation. Set up specifically to search out those parties who are, in a manner of speaking, the most deserving of our support in embarking on the quests that have been made public in my father's book.

COLIN

Exactly what kind of support do you offer?

VICTOR

Everything that's needed to go on one of these quests.

Right away, Colin and the other three look at each other with a subtle kind of excitement before looking back at Victor a moment later.

VICTOR

(Continuing)

You see Colin, my father didn't want to just tell people about things that he did with his life. He wanted to inspire them to do the most they could with their own lives. As it turned out, he ended up going on a series of adventures that revealed to him different mysteries about the world that still needed to be solved - mysteries that could really make a difference in the lives of many people - especially those who did manage to solve them.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
Like the Cyclone of Fire.

VICTOR
Exactly.

COLIN
So then, how does your foundation work in relation to this?

VICTOR
If someone expresses a real, active interest in one of these quests, and are serious in wanting to actually go on one of them for a decent, virtuous reason, we make it happen.

COLIN
So, what exactly do you provide?

VICTOR
Funding, supplies, maps and route information, even manpower. And we usually join the quest ourselves

COLIN
Really?

VICTOR
Yes.

COLIN
Have you gone on any of these quests before?

VICTOR
Once in a while. But nothing of this magnitude.

COLIN
I see. It is probably a good idea for you to go as well, I suppose. You probably know more about the writings and information your father put in his book than anyone else. You would come on this one as well, right?

VICTOR
Most likely. But again, you would need to be approved for support first.

COLIN

I understand. Well, we are interested in going to Egypt.

VICTOR

Yes, Sarah commented on that. She thought you seemed to be pretty interested judging by the questions you were asking when you and she were going over the book before.

COLIN

So, what would you like to know from us then?

VICTOR

Frankly...what is your reason for wanting to do this?

COLIN

Our town is our home. And it's been hit pretty hard by the war. There's a consistent restoration effort going on there, but with the economy being in the shape it's in right now, we're not going to have the money to fully recover. We're already running out of supplies and with this country being stretched thin as it is, there's really no one that we can borrow the money from. So the town really doesn't have much time.

VICTOR

I see. So what makes you think that searching out a lost city in Egypt will help your town?

COLIN

Mr. Shaw, you know just as well as I do that Tannadryus is supposed to be the most valuable of all the lost cities in North Africa.

VICTOR

Yes, I do.

Victor thinks for a moment.

VICTOR

Are you prepared to do whatever it takes to find Tannadryus,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)
though? Because the concept of riches and grandeur is appealing to most people. An entire city made of precious stones? The Golden Sea? It's enough to stagger the imagination. But to actually go to such great lengths; such perilous risks, to acquire a wealth of this magnitude - that's something different. Is your town so important to you that you're willing to risk your life to save it?

COLIN
This is our home, Mr. Shaw. Believe me, I'm willing to do whatever it takes to save it.

VICTOR
Then you'll do it.

COLIN
(Surprised)
What...I beg your pardon?

VICTOR
You're going to do it. You have your support.

COLIN
(Still surprised)
Thank you. Wow.

JACK
(Also surprised)
Really...just like that?

VICTOR
Just like that. Remember, that's the purpose of our foundation. To support those who wish to conquer the mysteries of my father's book with the most virtuous reasons possible.

COLIN
But...if you don't mind me asking...how do you have the money for this kind of support?

VICTOR

My father worked on his book as a lifelong project, but it wasn't the only thing he did. He wrote freelance articles for a number of publications, mostly on travel and adventure. And even though he did that to support his family, he ended up staying busy for most of his career because he was such a good writer - he was almost always in demand. Because of this, he frequently had more money than what was required to support us, so he invested much of it. After some time, the return started to build. Once he retired, I took over management of the investments, and now, not only is the Shaw family very well-connected to businesses across southern England, but our foundation can afford to support whatever causes we choose.

COLIN

Wow. (He looks confused for a moment.) But then, if you have this kind of funding available, why of haven't you published "The Traveler" yourselves?

VICTOR

That's a good question. As a matter of fact, we're hoping to do that now that the war is over. But before now, we've been trying to focus most of our resources toward helping with the war effort.

COLIN

All right. (Switching subjects) So what happens now?

VICTOR

Now, we sit down and discuss exactly what you're going to need for this quest.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - CHILBOLTON RAF AIRFIELD, CHILBOLTON,
ENGLAND

A couple of weeks later, as Colin, Jack, Charlie, David and certain members of the Shaw Foundation prepare with the rest of the party selected for the quest, Colin talks to Mary, who's come to the airfield to see them off.

COLIN

(Excitedly looking around as he moves some of the luggage and equipment toward their plane - a privately chartered cargo plane that was previously used for war purposes)

I can't believe we're actually doing this.

MARY

(Uneasily)

I can't believe it either.

COLIN

(Noticing her uneasiness)

Why not?

MARY

(Smacking his arm)

Why not?! You know how dangerous this is?

COLIN

Probably no more dangerous than fighting the war. Even less, in fact.

MARY

That was different.

COLIN

(Stopping to look at her)

How was that different?

MARY

Because at least in the war, you knew what you were looking for. You knew what you were fighting.

COLIN

Mary, this is a trek across the desert. That's all.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

That's not all, Colin. What if you come across this cyclone; this, tornado thing that supposedly happens out there? What then?

COLIN

(Sarcastically)

Then we run the other way.

MARY

(Hitting his arm again, this time a little harder, while Colin laughs)

I'm serious, Colin!

COLIN

So am I, cousin. Look, everything's going to be fine. Trust me, I can take care of myself. I will get back here safely; I promise.

MARY

You'd better.

COLIN

I will.

MARY

I'm still not completely comfortable with this.

COLIN

Please Mary, try to relax.

Just then, Victor and Sarah walk over to them.

VICTOR

Believe me Mary, you have nothing to worry about. The Shaw Foundation is well-prepared to handle whatever situations come our way.

MARY

Have you been on quests like this before?

VICTOR

Not at this level; not yet.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

So how do you know what to expect then?

VICTOR

We don't.

MARY

You...what?

VICTOR

We don't. Not with any certainty.

MARY

(Uneasily)

But...you said you were prepared.

VICTOR

Mary, you never really know for sure what to expect in a situation like this. But we have been on smaller quests before, and we've learned that the best thing to do is make sure we're prepared for anything and everything that we can and cannot think of.

MARY

I see...

SARAH

In other words Mary, we are prepared for everything we can possibly imagine.

MARY

Well, I guess I feel a little better.

SARAH

Besides, I don't think I have to tell you that Colin and the boys are more than capable of handling anything that comes our way.

MARY

(As she notices how Sarah smiles affectionately toward Colin)

Yes, it's true. Colin has always been very brave.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(Embarrassed)

Well, I do appreciate the flattery-

VICTOR

No flattery at all, Colin. Just the fact that you want to do this shows what kind of person you are.

COLIN

(Still embarrassed)

Thank you. Now let's change the subject.

Victor smiles.

VICTOR

Good idea. If we embarrass Colin any more, he might actually decide not to go.

As everyone shares a light laugh, the pilot of their aircraft; an adventurous-looking, forty-something man named Brandon McKeever; walks up to the group. Right away, Victor notices and introduces him.

VICTOR

(Extending his hand to shake)

Brandon, good to see you. Everyone, this is Captain Brandon McKeever. He'll be flying us down to Cairo.

MCKEEVER

(Shaking hands with Victor, then everyone else as Victor introduces him)

Hello Victor; everyone. Good to meet you all.

COLIN

(Shaking McKeever's hand)

Captain, nice to meet you.

MCKEEVER

Well, it seems we're just about set to head out. All the luggage and equipment are loaded onto the plane so as soon as you're ready...

VICTOR

Just about, Brandon. Only a few more things to tend to out here and we'll be good.

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

(Lighting a cigarette)

No rush...

As McKeever heads back toward the plane, Victor turns to the rest of the group.

VICTOR

Captain McKeever, for those of you who don't know him, flew all of our support missions after he came back from service with the RAF. He also did some work for us before the war. We wouldn't hesitate to trust him with our lives, believe me. When you need a real pilot at the controls, they don't come much better than him.

COLIN

He seems very capable. I just get that about him.

VICTOR

Your instincts are right, Colin. (He looks over at the plane momentarily, then turns back to the group.) Shall we?

As everyone starts toward the plane, Mary accompanies them across the airfield. As they walk, she addresses Colin, Jack, Charlie and David.

MARY

I do admit, I'm glad you guys are all doing this together. At least you can watch each other's backs.

JACK

Come on now, Mary. You know it's always been the lot of us, since we were kids. You actually think we'd allow ourselves to be separated again? The only reason it happened before was because we had no choice. We were each ordered to fight in a different unit, so that was what we had to do.

CHARLIE

That's right. But this time, it's different.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

This time, no one's gonna separate us. If one's in danger, the rest of us have his back. It's as simple as that.

COLIN

So don't you worry, cousin. Everything's gonna be fine.

MARY

I hope so.

COLIN

Remember what I was saying before. I can take care of myself. (He looks at the other three.) We all can. We have before. And again, we have each other's backs. We'll be fine.

Just then, Victor signals from the plane as its' propellers start to turn.

COLIN

Time to go.

MARY

(Giving the four of them loving, affectionate hugs)
Please be careful.

COLIN

We will.

JACK

We promise.

Just as they all start to board the plane however, Mary stops Colin.

MARY

Hey...that one girl...Sarah...

COLIN

What about her?

MARY

She seems nice.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
(Smirking a little bit)
Yeah? So?

MARY
I think she feels the same way
about you.

Colin just smiles and shakes his head as he boards the plane. Mary smiles back, watching as the passenger door closes. Moments later, as Mary sends them off with a hopeful wave, the plane turns south, speeds down the runway and takes off, beginning its' passengers' quest toward the sands of Egypt.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE CABIN OF THE EXPEDITION'S FLIGHT TO
CAIRO

A short while later, Colin and the other three are sitting in their seats, discussing with Victor, Sarah and the rest of the expedition party how things are going to go once they land in Cairo.

VICTOR
Okay, first things first, I want everyone here to get to know each other. (He starts to direct everyone's attention to each other individually in a circle from left to right.) You all know my daughter, Sarah. Sarah has a working knowledge of all the equipment needed for this quest based on what my father described in his book, as well as everything we brought with us, down to the smallest detail. So there's really no question regarding this quest that she couldn't answer. Next, we have Ahmed Jabbar al-Magqari; although with us, he usually just goes by Jabbar. Jabbar is probably the best guide in all of Egypt. His childhood was spent mostly traveling with his family across the desert, and I can tell you that no one knows the desert like he does. He was invaluable to the allies in North Africa during the war, and we also used his

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)

services to bring relief supplies to many of the smaller villages that were caught in harm's way. He's been up here for the past week, helping us to prepare for this quest by making sure that we bring with us everything he knows we'll need to survive in the desert. Next to Jabbar, we have Professor Samantha Meyers. Professor Meyers is an American Egyptologist who actually jumped at the chance to accompany us on this mission. She only graduated from university about five years ago, but despite her young age, she is one of the top minds in her field. After Professor Meyers, we have our medic, Dr. Steve Patterson. Dr. Patterson spent the entire war doing field work across Europe and North Africa, and before that, he spent more than a decade teaching at Oxford. Next to Dr. Patterson, we have our communications expert and documentarian, Ray Griffith. Ray did a vast amount of intelligence work for England during the war, and before that, he spent eight years doing freelance documentation and communications work across Europe. Of course, you know me; I'm financing this quest through the Foundation. (He motions toward Colin, Jack, Charlie and David.) Here, we have Colin Moore, David Norval, Jack Swanson and Charlie Walsted. The four of them are the originators of this quest. They all come from the same town and are doing this in hopes of being able to recover enough treasure to save their town from economic collapse due to the war. And of course, you all know our pilot, Captain Brandon McKeever. Captain McKeever and his co-pilot, Ryan Greenwalt, are also accompanying us as our munitions experts. The two of them have a tremendous amount of experience in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)
combat and survival situations and
will be a sure asset to the safety
and success of our mission. (He
sits back) Everyone acquainted?

As everyone nods and responds "yes," Victor opens a map and
lays it on the table in front of them.

VICTOR
(Pointing to the map)
Okay, well as you all know, we're
landing in Cairo. Once we get
there we'll be taken by transport
to Minya where Jabbar's caravan of
diggers will be waiting with our
camels and a whole supply of water
and tents that will last us through
the entire quest. Now, the reason
why we're beginning in Minya is
because that is where the old,
uncharted road to the hottest part
of the desert - home of the
"Cyclone of Fire" - begins. From
Minya, it's about 1-2 days at a
steady, healthy, pace.

COLIN
If I may ask, how many hours a day
are we looking to travel?

VICTOR
Actually, none.

COLIN
(Confused)
None?

VICTOR
No. We're traveling at night.

COLIN
Really?

VICTOR
Absolutely. Sundown to sun up.

COLIN
Huh. That's a good idea,
actually. I never thought of that.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

That's the best way to do it. That's actually the way my father did it when he was out there.

JABBAR

That is the only way to do it. The heat in the desert this time of year can be unlike anything you've ever experienced, being out in it for so long during the day. At night, it is much cooler, and we can save water that way.

VICTOR

Exactly, thank you, Jabbar. That's why it'll be better to travel at night. We'll make better time that way as well, not having to worry about exhausting ourselves.

SAMANTHA

And we have enough food to last the whole way?

VICTOR

We have enough food to last the whole way on this plane, and the caravan has a reserve of food as well.

CHARLIE

What kind of food?

VICTOR

All non-perishables.

CHARLIE

Oh, okay.

DR. PATTERSON

And we have enough medical supplies to cover the whole trip, including treatments for any possible animal encounters we might have to deal with as well.

DAVID

Like what?

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Snake bites, scorpion stings...a variety of possibilities.

JACK

How often does that happen?

DR. PATTERSON

As often as people don't watch we're they're going. So be careful.

VICTOR

Overall people, the whole idea is that if we do this intelligently and watch each other's backs, we should be fine.

COLIN

What if we actually come across the cyclone?

VICTOR

That's one of those situations we'll have to learn how to deal with if and when we come to it. But if we do come to it...above all...we have to make sure we don't panic. Because then, and only then, will we make it out alive.

As the plane heads south across the sky over Europe, Colin relaxes, trying to keep his fears out of mind.

CUT.

After a few hours, the plane lands in Cairo. Immediately, the group steps out into the hot desert sun and begins loading their equipment from the plane to the transport vehicles that Jabbar's diggers have waiting for them.

COLIN

(As he helps to move the equipment)

Wow, I can't believe how hot it is out here.

JACK

(Also helping)

How can people live in this heat all the time?

(CONTINUED)

JABBAR

(Heading toward the transport vehicles)

It's actually not like this all the time.

COLIN

(Surprised)

It's not?

JABBAR

No. In the winters, it can be very cold.

CHARLIE

Well, I'm glad we're doing this now.

JACK

I agree.

CHARLIE

Personally, I've always thought it's easier to cool off than it is to warm up. Especially in an open setting like the desert.

JABBAR

Either way, traveling in the desert is something you must be prepared for - especially if you've never done it.

Just then, Victor calls out to everyone.

VICTOR

Okay, we're loaded up! Everyone into the trucks! The sun's gonna be setting soon so we don't want to lose any travel time!

Upon Victor's announcement, everyone boards the trucks and begins their drive south, down to Minya.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE BEGINNING OF THE UNCHARTED DESERT ROAD, MINYA, EGYPT

Later that afternoon, as the sun is beginning to set, the caravan is loaded up and ready to go. Victor and Jabbar do a last minute check of everything until finally, after

(CONTINUED)

seeing that all the necessities are there and set, everyone mounts their camels and begins heading across the desert.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHTTIME - THE UNCHARTED DESERT ROAD, EGYPT

Later that evening, after the sun has gone down, the caravan moves steadily down the desert road. Looking up at the stars, Colin feels like he's in a whole different world.

COLIN
(Looking up)
Wow...

DAVID
What's up?

COLIN
Look at the stars.

DAVID
(Looking up as well)
Look at that...

JACK
(Also looking up)
I've never seen the sky so clear...

CHARLIE
(Also looking at the stars)
Yeah...day or night.

JABBAR
It's beautiful, isn't it?

COLIN
Very.

JABBAR
It's like, when you're out here at night, there's just the sand and the stars.

DAVID
You grew up out here?

JABBAR
I did.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

And it was like this every night?

JABBAR

Mostly, yes.

CHARLIE

This is amazing.

Just then, the faint sound of camels can be heard in the distance ahead of them.

COLIN

What is that? Are there other people on this road?

JABBAR

Yes. Nomadic tribes.

RAY

How often do they travel out here?

MCKEEVER

Quite often. They make sure not to stay in one place for too long.

JABBAR

Correct. In fact, we are traveling the same way they often do. Most of the diggers in our caravan are from these tribes so like me, they know the desert.

COLIN

Do the diggers know why we're out here?

JABBAR

Yes, they do.

COLIN

And they're still with us even though they know we're searching out the cyclone?

JABBAR

Yes.

COLIN

Being from out here, you'd think they'd be hesitant about that.

(CONTINUED)

JABBAR

Normally, they would. But considering why we are doing this, they're actually making it a point to be involved.

RAY

Why is that?

JABBAR

Because since they are from nomadic tribes, they only like to help people out here who they know have good intentions. It is the nomad's way.

JACK

That's actually pretty interesting.

JABBAR

It has been that way for many generations.

RAY

Why?

JABBAR

Because there are many secrets out here - many that, when discovered, reveal the existence of valuable, life-giving resources. The nomads know this better than anyone.

MCKEEVER

That's right. And if they know you're out here with negative intentions...

JABBAR

...Then why would they want you to know the secrets of the desert?

JACK

Good point.

JABBAR

Life is very important out here. And the things that preserve it are just as important.

SAMANTHA

That's very true. The people out here understand life in ways that many of us never even consider.

(CONTINUED)

JABBAR

That is because for most of them,
it is all they have. (He looks
across the desert) This...if you
do not respect life...this will
swallow you whole.

As the caravan heads west across the vast desert, Colin looks around, feeling a new sense of appreciation for the little things that most people take for granted every day.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHTTIME - THE UNCHARTED DESERT ROAD, EGYPT

Later on that night, as the caravan continues to head up the road, A peculiar sound is heard coming from a moderate distance off the road.

VICTOR

(Listening attentively)
Did anyone hear that?

CHARLIE

Hear what?

COLIN

I heard it.

SARAH

What did it sound like?

COLIN

Horses. Galloping horses.

SAMANTHA

(Surprised)
Horses?!

VICTOR

Yes.

SAMANTHA

Out here? At this time of night?

JABBAR

(Turns around and looks at
Victor)
Bandits!

Suddenly, a whole group of them comes riding over the dunes. Immediately, the caravan starts to scatter as the

(CONTINUED)

nomads ahead in the distance notice the commotion and do the same. Just then, each person in the caravan who has a weapon draws it after seeing that the bandits are also armed. As gunfire is heard repeatedly, we see Jabbar slicing one of the bandits with a sword. A moment later, we see McKeever shooting one of the bandits off his horse. Immediately after that, we see David being knocked off his camel by a bandit who pulls a sword and is ready to strike. Suddenly however, the bandit is shot down by Colin, who is about ten feet behind David. Surprised, David checks himself for bullet holes, then looks back at Colin.

DAVID

Good shooting, mate! A bit close though, wouldn't you say?!

COLIN

Don't complain; you're alive!

DAVID

(Getting up quickly as he and Colin separately head in to help the others)

Barely!

As the fight continues, we see a couple of the diggers being shot or stabbed, as well as some of the bandits. Suddenly, as Colin is about to be fired on, McKeever's Partner, Ryan Greenwalt, pushes Colin out of the way just as the bandit's gun fires, with the bullet striking Greenwalt in the arm. Immediately, Colin fires back, blowing the bandit right off his horse, then gets up and runs over to Greenwalt.

COLIN

(Quickly getting to Greenwalt)
You okay mate?! You saved my ass there!

GREENWALT

(Wincing in pain)
Don't mention it.

COLIN

(Looking at his arm)
Bastard got you, though.

GREENWALT

(Chuckling slightly; though still uncomfortable)
Just a flesh wound, believe me. (Wraps it quickly and crudely) It'll heal up in no time.

(CONTINUED)

Just then, Colin glances over and sees Sarah trying to fight off three of the bandits who are going for the water supply. Just then, as one of the bandits grabs Sarah from behind and lifts her off her feet, one of the other ones pulls out his sword and prepares to stab her. Suddenly however, Colin tackles him by surprise while Sarah elbows the one behind her in the face, causing him to let go of her. Immediately, Sarah delivers a side kick to his stomach, then a crescent kick to his face, knocking him out cold. At the same time, Colin struggles with the one he tackled, rolling over and straddling the bandit, then knocking him out cold with a swift and powerful right to the side of his face. Suddenly however, the third bandit of the group that went after the water makes a run for Colin, but Sarah intercepts him, knocking him out cold with a flying side kick to the chest. Surprised, Colin looks over at Sarah.

COLIN

Wow.

SARAH

(Out of breath and trying to look capable)

What?

COLIN

Not bad. I'm impressed.

SARAH

(Smiling as she reaches to help him up)

What, you don't think a librarian could fight?

COLIN

(Taking her hand and getting up with her help)

Thanks. Yeah, I know there are librarians out there who can fight. I've just never seen one who could fight like that.

SARAH

Well, twelve years of martial arts training does have its' benefits.

COLIN

(As the two of them head over to the rest of the group, which has managed to fight off the rest of the bandits)

I can see that.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR
(As the group reconvenes)
Is everyone all right?

JABBAR
Mostly. We lost a few of our
diggers though.

MCKEEVER
(As Greenwalt inspects his
injury a little closer)
...And Ryan took a hit.

GREENWALT
(Looking around momentarily as
Patterson heads over to treat
Greenwalt's injury)
It's really nothing.

PATTERSON
Hold still.

VICTOR
Okay well, even though that wasn't
the most pleasant experience, it
also could have been worse. So
thank God it wasn't.

SAMANTHA
Was anything taken?

VICTOR
No.

RAY
That's good.

CHARLIE
So what do we do now?

VICTOR
Now, we tend to the dead. After
that, we'll walk a little further,
but morning's going to be here
soon, so we should set up camp not
too long from now.

As the group follows Victor's directions, each one of them
gives their own moment to think about how thankful they are
to still be alive.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE EXPEDITION'S CAMPSITE, JUST OFF THE UNCHARTED ROAD, EGYPT

Later on that day, as everyone sleeps in their tents and the afternoon sun begins to head toward the western horizon, Colin sits alone outside his tent, just looking at the desert sand as the wind blows it across the dunes. Suddenly however, Colin starts to feel almost like he's in a dream, while knowing he's still awake. Looking out over the western portion of the desert, he gets another vision similar to the one he had in the Stockbridge Library. This time however, he can actually see the city of Tannadryus from a distance, in all it's splendor. After a moment, he realizes that he can see closer into the city now, as if he were there. What he sees is what appears to be multiple lions - females in fact, that are charging around a spectacular courtyard, herding people together into the center of the courtyard with threatening lunges and roars until finally, the people of the city are all in the center, lying on their faces as if to be worshipping something. After a few moments, as the lionesses prowl the courtyard making sure that everyone is face-down in reverence, a jewel-laden, multi-colored, diamond-shaped door system opens at the front of what seems to be a temple at the front of the courtyard, with four different, triangular-shaped pieces starting at a center position of the door, then each simultaneously moving back in their own direction until the whole doorway is wide open. After a moment, an entourage of lionesses emerges from the darkness behind the doorway, at the center of which is a beautiful woman, adorned in robes and painted like a majestic cat. Finally, she takes her place at the center of a platform above the main staircase into the temple itself. As she does this, the crowd proclaims her entrance.

CROWD

Hail Qashara! Mother of life and
hand of Bastet the protector! You
give strength to all things!

As the woman, Qashara, scans the ocean of followers across the courtyard, she seems to almost notice Colin, looking straight at him. Suddenly, she addresses him and even though she's speaking in ancient Egyptian, Colin somehow understands what she's saying.

QASHARA

He who has never seen me - let him
look upon me now, or feel my wrath
as it rides on the desert wind!

As she completes her command, Colin hears a clap of thunder so loud that it startles him out of the vision. Just then,

(CONTINUED)

Sarah comes walking out of her tent and sits next to Colin, looking at the dunes for a moment as well, then back at Colin.

SARAH

Hi.

COLIN

Hi.

SARAH

Are you all right? You look bothered.

COLIN

(Regaining his thoughts)

Yeah. Yeah, I'm all right. Just lost in my thoughts again.

SAMANTHA

(Smiling)

That seems to happen to you a lot.

COLIN

(Smiling back)

Well, I tend to be a deep thinker.

SARAH

(Smiling again in a sarcastic way)

Ah, I see. (She looks out at the desert again.) So, did you sleep at all?

COLIN

Yes. But my body doesn't usually let me have more than six or seven hours of sleep at a time, so I've been up for a while.

SARAH

Ah, okay.

COLIN

What about you?

SARAH

I slept for a while, but I guess I've just had so much on my mind recently that it finally woke me up. You know, as if to say, "Come on, time to think again."

(CONTINUED)

Colin smiles. Just then, their attention is interrupted by what seems to be the faint sound of horses in the distance. Momentarily, the two of them listen, concerned that the bandits might be coming back. After a few moments of hearing nothing but the wind however, they return to their conversation.

SARAH

So what do you think so far?

COLIN

Of what?

SARAH

The desert.

COLIN

It's dry.

They both share a momentary smile, then Colin continues.

COLIN

Seriously though, it's really interesting.

SARAH

(Looking around again)

That it is.

COLIN

It's plain, but there's this incredible beauty to it at the same time.

SARAH

You know, I've actually wanted to come here for a long time.

COLIN

Here? Really?

SARAH

Yes. I've been to a lot of places, but although many of them were really amazing, still, they were also similar in so many ways. But this...

COLIN

This is different.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

Exactly.

COLIN

So what other places have you been to?

SARAH

The Riviera, Greece, Scotland, even New York.

COLIN

Wow. You enjoy traveling?

SARAH

Very much. I always have. Only thing is though, I've spent most of the time traveling with my family.

COLIN

So? What's wrong with that?

SARAH

Well, nothing really...

COLIN

Except...

SARAH

Except for the fact that after a while...

COLIN

You kinda feel too old to be traveling with your family all the time.

SARAH

Exactly.

COLIN

I understand what you mean.

SARAH

You do?

COLIN

Absolutely. When I was younger, I would travel to different places in England and Scotland with my grandparents.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH
That sounds nice.

COLIN
(Thinking back fondly on the trip)
It was. Once, we even went to Ireland for a week. We had a great time.

Sarah smiles.

COLIN
(Continuing)
After a while though, I also began to think about what it would be like to travel, you know, on my own. Independently. (Pauses) Little did I know I would soon be completely without them.

SARAH
I'm sorry. How'd it happen, if you don't mind.

COLIN
The bombings.

SARAH
I am sorry. That's terrible.

COLIN
Thank you. (He looks at her.) I appreciate your sympathies. (He pauses again, momentarily.) Still though, now I am traveling alone.

SARAH
Not completely alone. You have us.

COLIN
I know. I just mean-

SARAH
-I know what you mean. (She smiles again.)

COLIN
You are right though. (Sarah looks at him) I have you. (They both exchange a mutual smile.)

Just then, as the sun sets over the dunes and a desert breeze kicks up, shifting the sand around them, Colin and

(CONTINUED)

Sarah share a gentle kiss. Moments later however, we see the sinister-looking leader of the remaining bandits watching the caravan - unnoticed - from on top of one of the dunes about a half-mile away. As he watches, he's joined a moment later by the rest of the bandits who watch along with him, knowing that there's something different about the caravan - something about their reason for being there.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHTTIME - THE UNCHARTED DESERT ROAD, EGYPT

Later on, as the caravan heads down the desert road, Jabbar notices that the wind really seems to be picking up.

JABBAR

This wind...I don't like it.

VICTOR

You don't like the wind?

JABBAR

No.

VICTOR

(Confused)

Why?

JABBAR

It is the dangerous wind. The kind that brings sandstorms.

RAY

Sandstorms?!

COLIN

(Nervous but annoyed)

Great. That's all we need.

As the caravan moves up the road, everyone grows more and more concerned whenever the wind starts blowing.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHTTIME - THE UNCHARTED DESERT ROAD, EGYPT

Many hours later, the caravan is miles down the road when Colin notices something. Immediately, he stops his camel.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

(Stopping her camel to look at
Colin)

What's wrong, Colin? What are you
doing?

COLIN

(Listening attentively)

There's a sound...

JABBAR

Yes, I hear it too.

SARAH

What kind of sound?

COLIN

A big one!

Suddenly, as the sound they're hearing becomes a thunderous
roar that everyone can hear, they can see that it's actually
the wind, forming a monster sandstorm not too far ahead of
them.

JABBAR

Everybody run!

As everyone immediately turns and kicks their camels to run
in the other direction, straight down the road, Victor
addresses a concern.

VICTOR

Jabbar, we can't out run this storm
forever! Isn't there someplace we
can go to for shelter?!

JABBAR

Look around us! There is nothing
but sand!

COLIN

There has to be someplace! This
thing's going to eat us
alive! (Just then he looks up in
the sky above them, unable to
believe what he
sees.) Look! Above us!

Just then, the whole caravan, with their camels still
running as fast as they can from the approaching sandstorm,
notice that the wind is furiously blowing the sand in a
swirling motion as it rapidly climbs toward the sky.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

What is that?!

MCKEEVER

That's trouble!

VICTOR

A lot of it...Jabbar, where do we go?!

JABBAR

I do not know...I've never seen anything like this!

Just then, Colin looks off the road and sees a stone object in the sand down near one of the dunes. Remembering what Henry Shaw's book said about the stone object he saw when he encountered the Cyclone of Fire, Colin puts two and two together.

COLIN

Wait...I think I know what this might be!

JACK

What...the cyclone?!

COLIN

I think so!

MCKEEVER

I don't think we'd be lucky enough for it not to be!

CHARLIE

(Noticing that the storm is getting closer))

So what do we do then?!

JABBAR

(Suddenly noticing that the cyclone is pulling in a circular wall of sand from around the whole area.)

There's no place else for us to go!

Just then, Colin looks back toward the stone object and sees something else beyond it, being illuminated in the moonlight.

COLIN

(Pointing just past the stone object)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COLIN (cont'd)
Look! Over there!

Jabbar looks in the direction that Colin is pointing in.

JABBAR
I see it...a cave!

VICTOR
A cave?! (He looks toward it for a moment, then points to it) Everyone head in that direction!

COLIN
But we don't know what's in it yet!

VICTOR
It can't be any worse than what we're facing out here! Everyone, into the cave! It's probably our only chance to make it through this!

As everyone complies, Colin glances over at Sarah, whose hair has come out of the pony tail she had it in and is now blowing so furiously in her face that she can't even see where she's going. Immediately, Colin turns his camel in her direction and heads over to help her. As he gets to her, he grabs her camel by the reins and directs it while steering his own camel toward the cave.

COLIN
I've got you!

SARAH
(Struggling with her hair, which is catching a large amount of sand as it blows wildly in her face)
I can't see anything!

Just then, she tries to use both hands to control her hair but then starts to feel herself getting blown off the camel. Immediately, she grabs the saddle for support.

COLIN
Hold on, Sarah! I mean it, don't let go! Let your hair blow until we get to the cave!

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

But it's whipping the sand into my
face!

COLIN

I know, but if you let go, you'll
fly into the cyclone! Just hold
on!

As Colin directs Sarah's camel, along with his own, toward the cave behind everyone else, Sarah hangs onto the saddle while her face continues to get whipped furiously by the sand that her hair is catching. After a few moments, she notices that blood is starting to trickle onto her left arm.

SARAH

Colin, I'm bleeding!

As Colin looks back at her, he can see that blood is indeed starting to splatter mildly on her arm, as her face is lashed by the sand that her hair is catching. At that moment, he lines up with her camel, ties the rein around his wrist, then quickly jumps onto the back of her camel, kicking his own camel hard enough to where it speeds even faster toward the cave. As it goes, Colin wraps his arms around Sarah and grabs her hair, pulling it behind her and steering the camel toward the cave at the same time. Finally, as they make it to the cave - being the last ones in - they arrive just in the nick of time as the cyclone pulls the circular wall of sand into itself with a furious jerk, then explodes thunderously with such force that it blows a cloud of sand into the cave, knocking Colin and Sarah off the back of the camel just as they get through the entrance.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE INSIDE OF THE DESERT CAVE

As everyone tries to catch their breath and clean themselves off at the same time, Colin makes his way over toward Sarah, who's also still on the ground.

COLIN

(As he reaches her)
You all right?

SARAH

(Cleaning the sand out of her
hair)
I think so.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(Moving the hair out of her face)

Let me look at you...yeah, pretty lashed up. (He looks over at Patterson) Doctor, could you come over here?

SARAH

Is it bad?

COLIN

Not bad...just needs to be cleaned and patched a bit.

PATTERSON

(As he gets to Sarah)

Hmm...all right, just let me get some supplies.

VICTOR

(Noticing what's going on with Sarah)

You all right, darling?

SARAH

Yeah Dad, I'm all right.

Just then, McKeever looks around.

MCKEEVER

Is everyone else all right?

As everyone answers, confirming that they're all okay, Jabbar looks around at the cave, which is barely lit by the sunlight coming in from outside, but still gets darker as it goes further back.

JABBAR

I've never seen a cave like this in the desert before.

VICTOR

There are other caves out here, aren't there?

JABBAR

Not like this. Not this big.

Looking over toward the other end of the cave, Greenwalt can see that it leads to what looks like some kind of natural ledge. Immediately, he shouts toward the ledge.

(CONTINUED)

GREENWALT

Hello!

To everyone's surprise, there's a powerful echo that ventures off into the cave as Greenwalt shouts. Greenwalt turns and looks back at everyone else.

GREENWALT

That's strange.

Just then, as Patterson, Victor and Colin tend to Sarah and everyone else starts gathering supplies from packs on the camels' saddles, McKeever and Jabbar walk over toward Greenwalt. Immediately, McKeever raises a flashlight and turns it on, shining it ahead of them. After a moment, McKeever pulls a flare gun out of a pack on his side. Firing it straight ahead and slightly above the height of their position, he watches as the flare itself illuminates the rest of the cave. Immediately, McKeever, Greenwalt and Jabbar are stunned by what they see before them.

MCKEEVER

Wow...I don't believe it!

Below them, stretching as far down the cave as they can see, is what looks like an ancient, dust-covered city, surrounded by thick walls but with its' streets and buildings still visible from the ledge on which the three of them are standing. Immediately, McKeever looks back toward the others near the entrance to the cave.

MCKEEVER

Victor...all of you, you may want to see this.

As Patterson finishes tending to Sarah, the rest of the group head toward the back of the cave to see what McKeever, Greenwalt and Jabbar are looking at. Upon reaching the ledge, they're struck nearly speechless at first sight of the city which, despite being covered in many areas by sand and dust, clearly shows itself - at least on the outer portions visible from the group's position - to be made predominantly of a variety of desirable stones.

COLIN

(Amazed at how Tannadryus looks exactly the way it did in his visions, even though he'd never seen it before now)
Is that what I think it is?!

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

(In a soft, almost
disbelieving tone)

If you're thinking it's Tannadryus,
you're right.

JACK

An entire city...in this one cave?

SAMANTHA

Well, the cave hasn't always been
here. This is the result of the
sandstorm that the city was
initially buried under, plus
thousands of years of more sand
being pushed over it and eventually
carved out as a cave by the wind.

DAVID

So, how do we get down there?

RAY

Good question.

SARAH

(Noticing something down just
off the right side of the
ledge)

What about that?

VICTOR

(Looking down off the ledge)

What?

SARAH

(Pointing)

That. The path to the right.

PATTERSON

I don't know...it doesn't look too
stable.

MCKEEVER

No, but I think it's the closest
thing we're going to find to a
staircase down here. At least,
until we get into the city.

VICTOR

All right. So, we're going to try
it then?

After a moment of looking around at the others and seeing
that no one disagrees, Victor continues.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Good. We're all agreed then. So, first things first. We need to gather the equipment.

CHARLIE

What are we going to do with the camels?

VICTOR

Keep them where they are, a few feet in from the main entrance. They'll be fine there. We'll just have to take what we're going to need when we need it and carry it down into the city.

MCKEEVER

Do you want to set up a base camp here, though? Or down closer to the city?

VICTOR

No, let's set up here. We'll go down in shifts, but the base camp will be here, near the ledge. That way, we'll always know what's going on in here and be able to see down into the city at the same time.

With that, the group sets up enough portable lights to clearly light the cave, then starts unpacking their supplies and setting up the base camp.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHTTIME - THE INSIDE OF THE DESERT CAVE

Later on, after the base camp is set up, everyone gathers together to figure out what they're going to do next.

COLIN

All right...so what's the plan?

VICTOR

Now, we start the first shift.

MCKEEVER

(Testing out a set of field radios)

We'll keep in contact with these. There are three field

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER (cont'd)

radios and a base unit all together. The base unit will stay here, while the three field radios will go down with each shift. That way, if the shift has to split up, we can all still maintain contact.

COLIN

So who's going down in the first shift?

MCKEEVER

I'll go.

SAMANTHA

So will I.

VICTOR

Good idea, Samantha. With this being the first shift - knowing what you know - you'll be a good asset to have as we become acquainted with whatever's down there. And McKeever, I can take the next shift, so you lead this one.

MCKEEVER

All right.

PATTERSON

I'll go as well. With this being our first time in the city, in case we run into any unexpected issues and someone's injured, I'll cover it.

VICTOR

All right, good. Who else?

COLIN

I'll go. Being the originator of the quest, I should be there the first time.

JACK

So will I. (He looks at David and Charlie) You two want to come now or go in the second shift?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

We'll handle security in the second shift.

JACK

All right. That works.

VICTOR

Anyone else?

RAY

I'll go. I'm going to want to document everything right off as it's discovered.

VICTOR

All right, plus we have four diggers, so two can go now, and two in the next shift.

MCKEEVER

Sounds good.

VICTOR

And also, I think just for safety purposes, every time a shift goes out, they should check in every half hour. Someone will always be on the radio here, so that'll be a good security measure.

MCKEEVER

Right, and if any of the shifts split up, then each section needs to check in every half hour.

VICTOR

Yes, good idea.

COLIN

And, I hate to be the one who brings up the negative possibilities, but what if, God forbid, something happens to the shift that's down there?

MCKEEVER

What, you mean the whole group?

COLIN

Yeah. Like, something unexpectedly catastrophic?

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Then that shift won't check in and the shift up here will know something went wrong. And if it's safe enough for the shift up here to go down and find any possible survivors, then three of them will stay up here and man the radio while the others go down into the city.

JACK

What about if just the opposite happens?

VICTOR

As in, the event that something happens to the shift up here?

JACK

Yes.

VICTOR

Then the whole shift that's down in the city comes right back up here - carefully. All right?

JACK

Got it.

VICTOR

(Looking around at the group)
All right then, let's get moving. First shift, you already to go?

MCKEEVER

Ready.

VICTOR

(Looking at his watch)
It is now, just about 04:00 hours. Check in at exactly 05:00, not a moment later, all right?

MCKEEVER

(Checking his rifle to make sure nothing's jammed)
Got it.

VICTOR

(Addressing the group that's heading down)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)
All right, everyone. Good journey
- and please, above all, be safe.

COLIN
We will.

SAMANTHA
(To the second shift)
You be safe as well. Don't
hesitate to get in touch with us if
something goes wrong up here.

VICTOR
Don't worry, we won't.

With that, everyone in the first shift, along with a few of the diggers, packs up their supplies and immediately heads down into Tannadryus.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE DEEPEST PART OF THE CAVE, JUST OUTSIDE TANNADRYUS

Later on, as the first shift heads down into the city, using portable lights and flashlights to see what's around them, Colin looks at the wall that surrounds Tannadryus. As he does that, he notices something running along the outside wall.

COLIN
(Heading toward the wall)
Hey, what is that?

MCKEEVER
(Also looking)
Wait a minute...

Immediately, McKeever finds that the object is actually a torch situated on the wall. After a moment, he strikes a match and lights the torch. Unexpectedly however, the flame on the torch not only lights the torch itself, but also lights a line that's connected to other torches up ahead, running along the entire outside of the wall. As the other torches flare up rapidly, they completely illuminate the rest of cave.

JACK
Well this is convenient.

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

To say the least.

COLIN

(As they all start walking
again)

I still can't believe this whole
city is in a cave.

SAMANTHA

Most of the ancient Egyptian cities
that have been discovered in modern
times have been buried out here.

COLIN

Yeah, but in caves?

SAMANTHA

Not really, that is true. But it
just amazes me that so many entire
cities just sat here in the desert
for so many years, without anyone
having any idea that they were
here.

MCKEEVER

Well, no one but the locals.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, but even they knew only about
these places through history, you
know? Word of mouth.

COLIN

However they knew about these
cities, I'm glad we're the first
ones to actually find Tannadryus.

RAY

So am I. Especially regarding
exclusivity.

COLIN

Exclusivity?

RAY

Yeah. I know we're here primarily
to find this treasure, but have you
thought about the story itself?

SAMANTHA

What, you mean the actual news of
us finding this place?

(CONTINUED)

RAY

Exactly. Victor hired me to document this trip, just as his father was hired to document some work that was being done in the desert when he initially encountered the cyclone.

COLIN

All right...

RAY

Well, try to imagine what it's going to be like when the world hears about this incredible lost city that was recently discovered in Egypt - the legendary Tannadryus, with its' treasure and its' unimaginable grandeur. Try to imagine all the interviews and the publicity and the publishing offers...this trip is just the beginning.

JACK

Speaking of publishing, how exactly are you planning on documenting this expedition?

RAY

How do you mean?

JACK

I mean, in what form?

RAY

Oh...a book, of course.

COLIN

A whole book on this trip?

RAY

Of course. Well, at first it'll start as an article. I'll write up an article about it and send it to various big-city news agencies. Then, as the story is being optioned I'll start working on the book. Then, once story is broken, that's when the interviews will start. And as the interviews are going on, that's when I'll start advertising the book.

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Advertising?

RAY

So to speak.

COLIN

Well Ray, it sounds like a pretty decent idea.

RAY

Thank you.

COLIN

I just hope nothing prevents it from happening.

RAY

Like what?

COLIN

Like us not making it out of here.

MCKEEVER

Come on now, Colin. That's no way to think.

COLIN

I'm just trying to consider every possibility.

MCKEEVER

(Smiling confidently)

They have been considered, Colin. That's why we brought guns (Loads his rifle).

As the first shift continues on, Colin looks around the cave, uneasily noticing that the breeze flowing through the cave seems to get stronger as the first shift gets closer to the city.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE BASE CAMP NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE

As the rest of the expedition sleeps at the base camp, Victor and Sarah man the radio together, relaxing as they feel the breeze blowing through the cave.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

So, you and Colin get along pretty well, then?

SARAH

(Mildly surprised at the question her father just asked)

Pretty well...why do you ask?

VICTOR

(Smiling)

I've got eyes, haven't I?

SARAH

(Beginning to smile shyly)

So?

VICTOR

So, I can tell when my daughter is in love.

SARAH

(Very surprised)

Love? Come on now, Dad...don't you think you're being just a bit presumptuous?

VICTOR

(Laughing)

All right then, you're going to deny it.

SARAH

It's just that...well, I don't really know him.

VICTOR

You know him fairly well. I mean, the two of you are building quite a memory being on this expedition together.

SARAH

Yes, we are. But that doesn't mean I have to be in love with him to find...

VICTOR

What?

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

(Thinking)

I don't know...a kindred spirit, of sorts. We seem to have a lot in common.

VICTOR

Exactly, which is why you're in love with him. You see, love doesn't have to follow any set pattern. It happens when it happens. And with you two, it seems to have happened.

SARAH

The two of us?

VICTOR

Yes. Two kindred spirits. You're both naturally drawn to one another.

SARAH

What do you mean, the "two" of us?

VICTOR

I mean, he feels it as well.

SARAH

Dad, how could you possibly know that? You hardly know him.

VICTOR

I know him the way one man knows another. And as a man, I know when I see a young man in love. Especially when the woman he's in love with is my daughter. The way he looks at you is the same way I look at your mother whenever I see her. Not to mention that the way he saved you before...believe me. He's in love with you

SARAH

Well, I sure hope this isn't the jealous father in you speaking then. Because that would just drive Colin away.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR
(Smiling)
Not at all. This is the approving
father.

Sarah smiles.

VICTOR
Colin is a good man.

SARAH
Yeah, he seems to be.

After a peaceful moment however, Victor changes his focus.

VICTOR
(Looking around and noticing
the breeze as it gets stronger
though the cave)
That wind is picking up. There
must be a storm brewing outside.

SARAH
(Noticing the strength in the
breeze as well)
I don't know, Dad. It feels like
it's coming from inside the cave.

VICTOR
Only thing is, if it was coming
from inside the cave, that would
mean that there must be another
entrance somewhere past the city.

SARAH
But there isn't one as far as we
can see...and besides, it would
have to be really close in order to
still being this strong after
flowing through the cavern where
the city is.

VICTOR
So what, are you suggesting that
something in the cave might be
creating this wind?

SARAH
Perhaps...I just can't imagine
what.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

I don't know. But I think we should get in touch with the first shift. I just don't have a good feeling about this.

As Victor reaches for the radio, Sarah continues to inspect the breeze, also feeling uneasy about what might be going on.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE DESERT CAVE, EGYPT

As everything is going on inside the cave, the bandits gather outside a few yards away. As the leader and his subordinates wait on horseback for the rest to finish gathering, one of the subordinates speaks up to the leader.

SUBORDINATE

(Speaking in Arabic and pointing to the cave entrance that's still partially exposed by the covering of sand)

This is the cave they went into. I saw them heading toward it during the storm.

LEADER

(Also speaking in Arabic)
And you're sure they made it?

SUBORDINATE

Yes. They made it just in time.

LEADER

Good.

SUBORDINATE

So what do you want to do then?

LEADER

Follow them still.

SUBORDINATE

Into the cave?

LEADER

Yes. As long as they're alive, we need to follow them. I believe they're searching for Tannadryus.

(CONTINUED)

SUBORDINATE

Do you think they'll find it?

LEADER

With any luck, they may have already found it by the time we catch up to them. That would make things easier for us. Is everyone here?

SUBORDINATE

Yes.

LEADER

Good. Send someone down to the cave to see how far in they may be.

As the subordinate complies, the leader waits patiently with the rest of the bandits.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE DEEPEST PART OF THE CAVE, JUST OUTSIDE TANNADRYUS

A short time later down near the city, McKeever is on the radio with Victor, discussing the steadily growing breeze.

MCKEEVER

...No. There's no other entrance down here. Not as far as we can see, anyway.

VICTOR

(On the radio)

Well, I don't know where this wind is coming from then. Do you see anything down there that could be causing it.

MCKEEVER

No. Not so far.

VICTOR

Well keep your eyes open. We don't need another cyclone to deal with.

MCKEEVER

Right. Talk to you in a bit then.

As the two of them end their conversation and McKeever puts his radio away, he turns to the rest of the group.

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

They're concerned about this wind as well. They have no idea where it's coming from.

COLIN

Yeah, same here. But we should really try to get inside the city before it gets any stronger.

MCKEEVER

I think it's actually getting stronger by the minute.

COLIN

(Noticing that the wind is starting to pick up so much that it's becoming difficult to walk)

Yeah...I think you're right...

JACK

(Seeing the main gate of the city just a few yards away, and at this point, having to yell above the wind)

Let's move before we get blown across the cave!

As the group starts to head as quickly as possible toward the gate, Samantha looks over and notices something out of the corner of her eye.

SAMANTHA

Did anyone just see that?!

RAY

(Looking in the same direction)

See what?!

SAMANTHA

(Pointing)

Something moved just over by that corner of the cave!

PATTERSON

(Looking around with a perplexed look on his face)

I don't see anything, but this wind is starting to feel a little strange!

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

Yeah, I notice it also! It's like the wind is...

COLIN

Uneven!

SAMANTHA

Yeah...that's about right! I feel it as well!

JACK

What the hell is going on here?!

SAMANTHA

I don't know, but I don't like it!

Suddenly, Ray notices something moving in the corner as well. Immediately, he brings it to everyone's attention.

RAY

Bloody hell, look at that!

Just then, the group notices the sand on the floor of the cave as it starts to shift and swirl violently, finally forming a group of what look like human-sized, snake-shaped sandstorms.

MCKEEVER

What the hell?!

Suddenly, the storms grow to full intensity, looking like hooded cobras, and immediately start to lunge in the direction of the explorers.

COLIN

Look out!

Immediately, the explorers scatter as the sand snakes attack, blowing sand into the wind so furiously as they move that it becomes hard for the explorers to see where they're going. At that moment, Colin and Samantha find themselves taking refuge behind the same large rock near the wall of the cave.

COLIN

(Out of breath and remembering his last vision)
"Or feel my wrath as it rides on the desert wind!"

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

(Confused)

What are you talking about, Colin?!

COLIN

The way this is all happening!

SAMANTHA

The WAY it's happening?! I don't even know WHAT'S happening!

COLIN

Well, whatever it is, we have to do something! We can't just sit here!

SAMANTHA

Well, do you have anything in mind?! Because I sure as hell don't! How do you fight the wind?!

Sitting there for a moment, Colin tries to figure out what to do. Suddenly, he gets an idea.

COLIN

(Pulling out two guns)

We can shoot them!

SAMANTHA

What?!

COLIN

Shoot them!

SAMANTHA

Colin, how are you gonna shoot sand?!

COLIN

(Standing up)

Really, really fast!

Immediately, Colin stands up and starts firing both guns at the cobras as rapidly as possible. Also standing up, Samantha notices that even though, as expected, the cobras aren't actually stopping, because of how quickly Colin is firing, the force of the bullets is managing to slow the snakes down. Upon seeing this, Samantha pulls out her guns and also starts firing, as do everyone else in the group, banding together and firing from a straight line in order to try and do as much damage as possible.

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

(Looking over at the gate to
the city as they all continue
to fire)

Hey! Everyone move toward the
gate!

JACK

Why?!

MCKEEVER

Because these snakes are powered by
the wind - but the wind can't go
through walls!

With that, everyone continues to fire as they head toward
the gate as quickly as possible. Getting there however,
they find another roadblock - the gate to the city is
locked.

COLIN

You've got to be kidding me!

JACK

Of course...it couldn't just be
open, right?!

SAMANTHA

(Still firing at the cobras)

Well, is there something we can
do?!

MCKEEVER

I think so!

SAMANTHA

Well, can we do it then?!

At that moment, McKeever reaches into his pack and pulls out
a stick of dynamite.

PATTERSON

Is that what I think it is?!

MCKEEVER

(Lighting the stick and
throwing it at the base of the
gate)

If you're thinking dynamite, then
yes! Take cover!

As everyone stops shooting and runs for cover, the stick
explodes, blowing the gate off and sending out a blast wave

(CONTINUED)

that temporarily blows apart the cobras, even though the wind is still blowing so everyone knows the snakes will be back shortly.

COLIN

(Coughing as he and everyone else comes out of their hiding spots and makes their way through the dust and smoke)
Everyone into the city before those sandstorms come back!

As the group rushes over the wreck of what was the gate to the city, the wind starts to blow stronger and stronger again. As this happens, the storms begin to re-form, hissing their way over toward the group as they try to make it past what's left of the gate. With Jack taking up the rear to make sure everyone gets in safely, the first sandstorm takes complete shape of a cobra again and lunges toward Jack as he jumps through the gateway just as the snake makes it to his position. As he jumps through however, the snake just misses him and dissipates onto the floor of the cave - along with the rest of the storms - as the wind suddenly dies down following the group's successful escape behind the walls of the city.

MCKEEVER

(Out of breath)
Now what the hell was that all about?!

COLIN

(Also out of breath)
I don't know...but I've never seen anything like that before in my life!

SAMANTHA

I've never even heard of anything like that!

JACK

(To Samantha)
You mean to tell me that with everything you know about ancient Egypt, everything you've read about and studied, all your expertise, you've never heard of the Egyptians being able to do something like that?

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

No...never.

RAY

So what was that, magic or something? Some kind of ancient curse or what?

SAMANTHA

I honestly have no idea.

RAY

Okay, well, do you at least have an idea of what other surprises we might have to look forward to here?

SAMANTHA

Believe me, I wish I did.

Suddenly, Colin happens to look past them into the main part of the city. As he does this, he can't believe what he sees.

SAMANTHA

(Noticing Colin's expression and turning to see what he's looking at)

Colin, what is it...

Suddenly, as everyone else turns around as well, they're all stunned at what they see.

MCKEEVER

What the...?

As the rest of the group looks, they're amazed at the sight of thousands of dead ancient Egyptian citizens and warriors scattered across the city.

SAMANTHA

(Amazed)

This is...

COLIN

(Also amazed, remembering the battle he saw in the vision at the library)

Yeah. I agree.

MCKEEVER

It looks like a battlefield.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

A real ancient Egyptian
battlefield.

RAY

I have to admit, I never thought,
in all my life, that I would ever
see anything like this.

SAMANTHA

(Excited)

This is the kind of thing someone
like me dreams about seeing! I
mean, do you realize what kind of
an archaeological treasure trove
this is?! I know the city itself
is a treasure - especially being
made of precious stones and
all. But this...this is just...

MCKEEVER

...Like looking back into an actual
day of ancient Egyptian history.

SAMANTHA

Exactly.

Just then, Victor radios down to them.

VICTOR

(On the radio)

Hey...is everyone still there?!

MCKEEVER

(Replying to Victor's
transmission)

Amazingly, we are.

VICTOR

What's going on! We heard a lot of
shooting and a blast that shook the
whole cave!

MCKEEVER

Yeah...I had to light off some
dynamite to get into the city.

VICTOR

Dynamite?!

MCKEEVER

We were in a hurry. There was a
booby trap in front of the city
that almost ended us.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

A booby trap?! How bad was it?

MCKEEVER

It was unlike anything we knew could even be done, to be honest. And now that we're in here, we've come across another surprise. This place seems like it might just be full of surprises.

VICTOR

All right, maybe splitting up into shifts isn't the best way to go then. We're coming down there.

MCKEEVER

Hold on, we don't want you to run into the problem we ran into. Let us see if there's another way into the city before you come down.

VICTOR

Okay, but hurry.

MCKEEVER

I will. Give us about ten minutes.

VICTOR

Ten minutes at the most.

MCKEEVER

All right. Talk to you soon.

As McKeeper gets off the radio, he turns to the rest of the group.

MCKEEVER

Okay well, let's see if we can find that entrance.

As everyone starts looking for the entrance, they take great care not to step outside the main gate out of fear of encountering the sandstorms again.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE BASE CAMP NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE

Up at the base camp, everyone is up and getting ready to head down to the city. In the middle of the activity, Victor turns to Jabbar.

VICTOR

Jabbar, has anyone from the desert ever searched for Tannadryus? I mean, anyone from your tribe or tribes that you knew?

JABBAR

No. They never wanted to come to this part of the desert because of the cyclone.

VICTOR

What about anyone else? Have you heard of anyone coming down here? Anyone looking for this city, ever?

JABBAR

No, never. Too many people disappeared while traveling down the road we took to get here - again, most likely because of the cyclone. Why?

VICTOR

I was just wondering - especially with us apparently being the first people to find this place - what the odds might be against us actually making it out of here.

As the two of them look at each other with expressions of concern at the concept Victor just brought up, the second shift, along with their diggers, continue getting ready to head down into the city.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - TANNADRYUS

Down in Tannadryus, everyone continues to look for a different entrance into the city, but not with any success. Frustrated, Colin walks up to McKeever.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

This is starting to really get aggravating. I haven't seen any other entrances around here anywhere.

MCKEEVER

I'm starting to wonder if there even are any.

RAY

There has to be. There couldn't just be one entrance to this whole, entire city.

JACK

Well if it is here, then we have to find it or else the second shift is gonna run into just as much trouble as we did.

Just then, they all hear Samantha yelling for them from the wall at the western end of the city.

SAMANTHA

Hey! I think I found something!

As everyone rushes over to her position, Colin is the first to arrive.

COLIN

What is it? What'd you find?

SAMANTHA

(Pointing up toward the top of the wall)

Look...there seems to be some kind of a ladder or something built onto the wall itself.

PATTERSON

(Looking up at where she's pointing)

A ladder?!

RAY

For what?

JACK

Maybe as an escape route. Like, just in case someone was trying to storm the main gate.

(CONTINUED)

RAY

(Looking around at the all the
corpses)
Obviously that was a realistic
concern.

PATTERSON

All right, so then, maybe we should
get up there and make sure that
there's an end to this ladder which
could be extended outside the city.

COLIN

That's right. Because if it only
goes up on this side...

SAMANTHA

...Then it's not much good to us.

MCKEEVER

(Starting to climb the ladder)
All right then, let's head up
there.

COLIN

(Climbing behind McKeever)
Be careful once you get up there,
McKeever. We don't know what to
expect at the top.

MCKEEVER

Well, I'm sure we're not going to
run into anyone.

COLIN

Honestly, you never know at this
point.

After a few more moments, as McKeever gets to the top of the
wall, he stops as he looks forward. Immediately, he sees
that the entire wall in that part of the city is littered
with dozens of dead archers.

COLIN

(Noticing McKeever's
hesitation)
What is it? What's wrong?

MCKEEVER

(As he gets going again and
steps off the top of the
ladder, onto the wall)
Look...

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

(As he and everyone else begin reaching the top of the wall as well, immediately noticing the archers)

Wow...

JACK

This is unbelievable. There must have been some battle going on when that big sandstorm hit.

COLIN

Yeah, tell me about it.

Just then, Samantha notices that there is indeed another ladder on the outside of the wall at that spot.

SAMANTHA

Here we are. Perfect.

MCKEEVER

(Looking down to see bottom of the outside ladder and shaking it a bit)

It seems to be stable.

COLIN

All right then. Shall we call the other shift?

MCKEEVER

(Looking around at the whole scene, still a bit unsure about everything they've found)

Yeah.

As everyone continues to look around at the city below their position, McKeever gets on the radio to let Victor know where they can enter the city at.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - TANNADRYUS

A short while later, as the rest of the explorers climb the ladder into the western part of the city, none of them can believe the majesty of Tannadryus.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

(Looking down on the
dust-covered but still clearly
beautiful structure of the
city)

Look at those columns! Are they-

SAMANTHA

Gold? Absolutely.

VICTOR

It's incredible! Solid gold
columns! Even the size of the
pillars themselves is unbelievable!

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Bigger than the ones at
Karnak, actually. I know. I've
been there.

COLIN

I've heard of Karnak. You've been
there? Really?

SAMANTHA

Yes. And believe me, as amazing as
it is, this place rivals it.

COLIN

I definitely believe that. I've
never even dreamed of something
like this before.

MCKEEVER

(As the last of the second
shift makes it up to the wall)
Well it's real. And if that first
booby trap is any indication of
what's to come, then we can't allow
ourselves be distracted by the
grandeur of this place for one
moment - because one moment is all
it takes.

VICTOR

That's right. He's right
everyone. We need to stay on our
toes. For every moment that we're
here.

COLIN

All right then. So, where do we go
next?

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR
Down into the city.

With that, the entire group starts to head down the other side of the wall and into the spectacular creation that is Tannadryus.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE BASE CAMP NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE

While the explorers make their way down into Tannadryus, the bandits quietly make their way into the entrance to the cave. Finding the base camp temporarily abandoned, the leader of the bandits heads toward the other end of the cave and sees the city. Immediately, he turns to his subordinates.

LEADER
It seems as if we've been given a day of good fortune today.

SUBORDINATE
(Seeing the explorers as they start to venture into the city)
Indeed. And it looks as if our work is even being done for us.

LEADER
Not yet, but soon. We're going to wait until they find The Golden Sea before we move in.

SUBORDINATE
So we're going to follow them down then?

LEADER
Yes, but from a considerable distance. They must not find out we're here. We will need the element of surprise when they get to The Golden Sea.

With that, the bandits dismount and wait at the base camp, looking down on the city for any signs that the explorers have recovered the treasure of Tannadryus.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - TANNADRYUS

A short while later, the second shift has joined the others down in Tannadryus. As the members of the first shift help them climb the ladder up onto the wall, Sarah greets Colin, then looks behind him at the vast expanse of the city.

SARAH

Wow...this is
incredible! Wait...are those-

COLIN

(Turning to look as well)
Corpses? Yes, they are. This was
the other surprise we came
across. It seems to be some kind
of a battle. Or, it was, anyway.

VICTOR

(Looking around)
I wonder what battle it was.

SAMANTHA

I don't know, but it looks like it
was a big one.

CHARLIE

It also looks like it was the last
thing many of them did. Samantha,
do you have any idea who the army
was that Tannadryus was fighting?

SAMANTHA

Not at all.

JABBAR

There have been many great battles
fought here over the
centuries. But even I have never
heard of anything like this. It
look as if they just died where
they stood.

RAY

I wonder what it is they were
fighting over.

SAMANTHA

Could have been anything. Land,
treasure, politics...

(CONTINUED)

RAY

I don't know about this one though. This seems like it was a battle of...almost desperation. Like they were fighting over something they had little time to acquire.

COLIN

Well, it was what it was at this point. I personally am still amazed that we're even standing here.

DAVID

It's quite surreal actually, to know that us being here came out of a simple street conversation back in Wellsborough.

VICTOR

That just goes to show that you never know what life has in store for you.

COLIN

Well, as amazing as this place is, just being here isn't enough. I hope The Golden Sea really is here. I know this place is a treasure in itself, but we need something we can actually bring back to help the town with, preferably as soon as possible

VICTOR

Hopefully that'll come shortly.

MCKEEVER

(After making sure that everyone's accounted for)
All right then, everyone's here. Shall we head into the city?

With that, everyone starts to head one by one down the other ladder, and onto the main path through the city.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - TANNADRYUS

A short while later, everyone is walking down through the main courtyard of the city, inspecting everything around them. The more they look, the more they're amazed at the vast collection of precious stones they see embedded in the very structure of the city.

SAMANTHA

(To the others in the group as they're escorted by the guards)

These stones...

VICTOR

(Looking around)

This place is incredible...

SAMANTHA

No - it's more than that. This city really is made of precious stones. Just as the legends say.

The walkways - as well as the staircases and even the foundation of the city itself - are made of such materials as gold, carnelian, amazonite and lapis lazuli. Knowing what these stones meant to the ancient Egyptians, Samantha is not surprised to see them here, but still amazed at how much of them are displayed.

SAMANTHA

I've never, in all my studies, heard of a city that contained this much splendor. If you look at these stones, you can see they all have some kind of significance to the culture of the city but yet, there's almost an over-abundance on display here.

VICTOR

So what exactly did these people believe?

SAMANTHA

(Slightly confused)

I'm not really sure. Looking at some of these displays, it looks like they served a woman named Qashara, who was apparently the high priestess of the Temple of Bastet here. (Immediately, she sees an inscription written across

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
the top of the front wall of the temple.) Look, it says right here, "Hail Qashara, mother of life and hand of Bastet the protector. You give strength to all things."

COLIN
(Remembering hearing the multitudes recite that very line in his last vision)
Did you say, "Qashara?!"

SAMANTHA
Yes. Bastet was a protective goddess; but also a goddess of family, fertility and various forms of celebration, among other things. She was worshiped mostly in the city of Bubastis, although there were other places as well - but I never knew she was worshiped here. As far as this Qashara goes, it seems like she was some kind of leader; higher than a high priestess would normally be, since they apparently served her as if she were Bastet incarnate.

COLIN
So it was a kind of, theocratic dictatorship then.

SAMANTHA
It seems so, although I've never actually heard of such a government having existed here before.

COLIN
But obviously, she held a vast amount of control here, which is probably why there was a trap of such magnitude at the main entrance.

VICTOR
Yeah, probably.

JACK
But then, they just ended abruptly. Like, this sandstorm almost instantly swallowed all life throughout the whole city.

SAMANTHA

Pretty much, yeah. That's what seems to have happened.

JACK

Wow. That must've been one hell of a sandstorm.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, bad enough for them to know that the end was near. Which means that they prepared for it. And what is the first thing a civilization like this would do in preparing for their end?

COLIN

(Realizing where Samantha's going with the conversation)
-They would tend to the one they served!

SAMANTHA

Exactly. And if the people of Tannadryus served Qashara the way it seems like they did-

MCKEEVER

Then once we find Qashara's tomb, we'll probably find The Golden Sea!

VICTOR

So where do we find her tomb then?

SAMANTHA

Well, probably in the Temple of Bastet.

JACK

And where would that be?

Immediately, Samantha looks around, but she doesn't have to look for long. Directly across a huge courtyard in front of them is a spectacular, jewel-laden temple, obviously made of solid gold; at the center of which is a multi-colored, diamond-shaped door system. In front of the temple are a vast row of what look to be sand-colored lioness statues. Looking at this building, Colin is stunned to see that even the temple is exactly as he saw in his visions.

SAMANTHA

Right there! That's it!

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

Are you sure?

SAMANTHA

Absolutely. The temple, in a city like this, would be the most beautiful building you could find. Not to mention those lioness statues - Bastet was depicted as having the head of a cat; and sometimes, a lioness, showing her as the protector of those who served her.

SARAH

(Looking at the magnificent building with a sense of awe)
The Temple of Bastet. Wow, look at that.

RAY

The ancient Egyptians really knew how to honor their leaders.

SAMANTHA

Absolutely. Some of these leaders were looked at as divinity.

GREENWALT

Like Qashara?

SAMANTHA

Apparently, yes.

PATTERSON

So, Qashara's tomb is in there?

SAMANTHA

Well, probably. I don't know for sure but, I would imagine so, being as she was the high priestess, and was served in such a reverent way.

VICTOR

Well, there's only one way to find out for sure.

With that, the group carefully heads toward the temple. After arriving at the main steps, they immediately start to look around for a way to open the door.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

So how the hell do you get in here?

JACK

Is there maybe a switch or something?

VICTOR

Or a lever...

SAMANTHA

(Feeling around the outside of the door)

You know, honestly...I don't feel anything here.

PATTERSON

(Who's also feeling around the outside of the doorway)

Neither do I.

COLIN

(Looking around, along with everyone else, and thinking aloud about his last vision)

I wish I could've at least seen how they got the damn door open.

SARAH

(Overhearing Colin's comment)

What was that, Colin?

COLIN

(Continuing to look for a way to open the door)

I was just talking to myself.

SARAH

Colin, are you all right?

COLIN

(Stopping and looking around for a moment, just to make sure that no one else can hear him)

Actually, something has been going on with me. I'd like to explain it to you in private though.

Suddenly, the platform in front of the doorway sinks a few inches. As this happens, the diamond-shaped door system opens at the front of the temple, with four different, triangular-shaped pieces starting at a center position, then

(CONTINUED)

each simultaneously moving back in their own direction until the whole doorway is wide open - exactly as Colin saw in his last vision.

COLIN
(Looking at the door)
You've got to be kidding me.

RAY
Well at least we found the way in.

VICTOR
(Looking down at the platform)
It seems like our combined weight on this platform opened the door automatically. Very interesting.

JACK
Okay. So why don't we head into the temple now and see what else is possible - specifically regarding the treasure?

DAVID
I agree.

VICTOR
All right everyone, let's get moving then. But remember, we need to be very careful. Considering the surprises we've experienced thus far, there could be a something else around every corner.

With that, the group carefully heads, one by one, through the doorway of the temple.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE TEMPLE OF BASTET

A short while later, as the group is walking through the temple, none of them can help but notice how spectacular the craftsmanship is, especially considering how every piece is made of a different precious stone or collection of stones. Shining their flashlights around the great hall, they get a sufficient but limited view of the decorative pieces situated throughout the hall.

VICTOR
I can't believe this...look at these statues. Are these all of Bastet?

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Yes, they are. They symbolize the different incarnations she had to the people of Egypt. (She looks around for a moment) Hmm...wait a minute. This is strange.

VICTOR

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

Most of these statues actually show the image of Bastet as a protector. You see how most of them have the head of a lioness?

VICTOR

Yes, as a matter of fact.

SAMANTHA

Well, that's what those images mean. A protector, you know? A warrior. The thing is, Bastet had many different meanings in Egypt, but the primary focus here shows her as a warrior. Between these statues here and the ones outside the temple, I've never seen any place in Egypt put as much emphasis on this version of her image before.

COLIN

Well regardless, they are amazing statues. I wish we could see them better though...

MCKEEVER

(Looking around)

I wonder if there's a lighting system like the one on the outside wall of the city. You know, the torches...

CHARLIE

(Heading toward the left-side wall of the room)

Hey, I think I see something!

COLIN

Charlie, wait...

(CONTINUED)

JACK

What are you doing?

CHARLIE

(From a dark corner of the wall)

Finding some better light for us!

Just then, Charlie strikes a match and lights a thin canal running along the wall. Immediately, the entire canal lights up, connecting to the right side wall as well through a series of small bridges over the doorways, illuminating the whole room.

CHARLIE

That canal has the same oil in it that the line of torches does outside the city. I recognize the smell.

COLIN

(Looking around, astounded at the grandeur of the room)
Good thinking, Charlie.

SAMANTHA

This has got to be the most fantastic temple I've ever seen.

RAY

I've been to a lot of different places before, documenting and things like that. And I'll tell you, honestly, this is the most fantastic building I've ever seen, period. This is incredible.

JABBAR

(Looking toward the floor and seeing more corpses like the ones out in the rest of the city)
Incredible, yes - but it seems as if the battle outside carried into here as well.

VICTOR

(Also looking)
Yes, you're right. I can't imagine what it could have been over.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

I looks like it was pretty bad though. (He turns to Colin) Colin, are you sure this place met it's demise by a sandstorm?

COLIN

That's what it said in the book.

SARAH

Colin's right - that is what it said in the book. And believe me, my grandfather did his research whenever he wrote something. That's why we was so successful at it. Accuracy.

VICTOR

Well, whatever the case was, we're here now, so shall we continue looking for this tomb then?

PATTERSON

(Looking around)

There have to be dozens of rooms in here, though.

SARAH

If we were to search room-by-room, that could take forever.

SAMANTHA

Well, in a city that served someone like Qashara the way they did, she would be the center of their existence, right?

COLIN

That's right. So then, it stands to reason that if they looked at her as Bastet incarnate, then she would also have to be at the center of the building that was erected to honor Bastet.

VICTOR

Exactly. So now, we just have to figure out how to get to the center of the temple.

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Well that should be easy - if her tomb is in the heart of this place, then all pathways should lead right to it. Just like in a body - the heart is the center of life, where all the blood flows to.

VICTOR

And if Qashara was considered to be the goddess Bastet incarnate, then she was looked at as the center of life, as it said out in the courtyard. Because Bastet was thought to be the giver of life, wasn't she?

SAMANTHA

Yes, that's right.

MCKEEVER

All right then. We should be on our way.

As the group starts to head down the main path through the temple, they continue avoiding the corpses of the city's ancient residents while still looking around at the majesty of the room and the building.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE TEMPLE OF BASTET

Later on, as the group continues down the main path of the temple, Sarah walks up next to Colin.

SARAH

So Colin, what were you saying before? When we were trying to get in here, remember?

COLIN

(Looking around, trying to be secretive)
Before I tell you, I need you to do something.

SARAH

What?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

I need you to promise me that you won't say anything to the others.

SARAH

All right...

COLIN

Not yet, at least.

SARAH

(Starting to become concerned)
Of course, but...

COLIN

What?

SARAH

Are you all right? I mean, all this secrecy...

COLIN

I don't want anyone to think I've lost my mind.

SARAH

Lost your mind?!

COLIN

Yes.

SARAH

My word, Colin - what's the problem?!

COLIN

Ever since the first time I touched the book at the library in Stockbridge, I've been getting visions.

SARAH

What sort of visions?

COLIN

Visions of this place. The first time, I saw a battle. An ancient battle.

SARAH

You saw this in a vision?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

Yes. That was the first time. The second time was just before you came out to me when we were at the camp last night.

SARAH

(Remembering)

Wait...are you talking about those moments when you told me you got lost in your thoughts?

COLIN

Yes.

SARAH

And what did you see in the second vision?

COLIN

In the second one, I actually saw the multitudes of this city worshipping Qashara. And when they worshiped her, at one point, they called out what Samantha read before. Remember what was written on the wall outside the temple?

SARAH

About Qashara being the mother of life?

COLIN

Yes, exactly. But it wasn't just that. At one point, she turned and looked straight at me and said, "He who has never seen me - let him look upon me now, or feel my wrath as it rides on the desert wind!"

SARAH

You really saw all of this?

COLIN

Yes. I saw it all.

SARAH

Was that it? I mean, have you gotten any other visions since then?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN
No. Nothing.

Sarah just looks at him as they walk for a moment.

COLIN
I really hope you believe me.

SARAH
Of course I believe you, Colin; and
as I promised, I won't say a
word. But you really should tell
the others.

COLIN
Like I said though, I don't want
them to think I'm crazy.

SARAH
I doubt they will, to be
honest. But there has to be some
reason as to why you received those
visions.

COLIN
Damned if I know what it is.

SARAH
Well regardless, you really need to
tell the others what's been going
on.

COLIN
(Slightly frustrated)
I know.

Just then, Victor notices the tone of Colin and Sarah's
conversation and walks up next to them.

VICTOR
Hey you two. Everything okay? I
noticed a little bit of tension
between you as I was walking back
there.

SARAH
Yeah, everything's okay.

COLIN
Actually Victor, there's something
I need to tell you.

Suddenly however, their conversation is interrupted by
McKeever's voice.

(CONTINUED)

MCKEEVER

Pointing to a vast room in front of them that's protected by a series of doors that open to pathways and corridors obviously leading there from around the temple.

Here! Right here! This is the center room!

VICTOR

(Looking around)
How do you know?

MCKEEVER

(Pointing around to the different hallways surrounding their area)
Look, all the pathways and corridors from different parts of the temple...you can see how they're all coming to this place - all surrounding this room.

VICTOR

All right then...

As the group carefully walks into the center room, they look around, noticing at first sight that, other than being empty with the exception of having more corpses scattered on the floor, the room also seems to be circular.

MCKEEVER

(Looking to both sides)
Which way should we go?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. Maybe to the...left?

As everyone decides to follow Samantha, they continue walking down the left corridor, realizing after a few minutes that it takes them right back to the main entrance of the room. Seeing that there doesn't appear to be any treasure, Colin turns to Samantha.

COLIN

All right. So now what?

SAMANTHA

To tell you the truth, I'm not really sure.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

(Looking around)

There's got to be more to this. As much as these people revered Qashara, this has to be just a part of what there really is.

As everyone looks around, thinking for a moment, David suddenly gets an idea.

DAVID

Wait a minute...Victor, you just pointed out how these people revered Qashara.

VICTOR

Yeah.

DAVID

Well, because she was the figurative center of the city, naturally, you would expect that her tomb would be somewhere around here, right?

COLIN

Yeah, that's right.

DAVID

But what if they revered her so much, that she still wanted to keep a certain distance between herself and the people?

COLIN

What, like she was afraid that someone would want to overthrow her position?

DAVID

No, I mean that she thought of herself as so divine that she couldn't be accessible to the general population.

SAMANTHA

Like a real goddess.

DAVID

Exactly.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

So then, where would her tomb be?

Immediately, the group looks around for any possible clues as to another room being anywhere near them. Just then, Sarah calls everyone over to the center wall.

SARAH

(Pointing to a small spot on the wall)

Look, right here...I think this is something.

COLIN

(Stepping forward to inspect it)

Yeah, but what? It just looks like a dent in the wall-

Just as he touches it, a fourteen-foot stretch of the wall opens up, revealing a much smaller room, also circular, but with a wall that's made out of what seem to be cat-shaped jewels, along with a golden column that stands floor-to-ceiling at the center of the room and a crude but ancient inscription apparently written along the diameter of the wall by those who the few corpses in the room belonged to.

SAMANTHA

(Stepping forward to read the inscription)

"Only those of purity and good will shall enter here, lest the wrath of the wind be unleashed."

COLIN

(Remembering what Qashara said in his last vision)

The wrath of the wind! Qashara!

VICTOR

(Looking at Colin)

What?

Suddenly, Colin gets another vision, this time, seeing himself placing his hands on the golden column as if to operate some kind of mechanism. Moments later, he's brought out of the vision, immediately, realizing what's going on.

COLIN

This is it! We're the ones who are supposed to be here!

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Colin, what are you talking about?

COLIN

This is not a dead city!

MCKEEVER

(Confused)

What?!

COLIN

(Very excited)

I...I know it sounds crazy, but please, just listen to me. I've gotten a small group of visions regarding this place since I first touched the book in Stockbridge - back when we first met.

VICTOR

Okay...

COLIN

Believe it or not, Tannadryus is alive. The people here have been, I guess you'd say, suspended, in time; dormant might even be a better word. They're alive, but they're stuck in one moment that originated thousands of years ago so even though to us, physically, they might seem long gone, in all other ways, they're here!

JACK

All right, Colin; you're one of my best mates so I'll give you the benefit of the doubt here. For argument's sake, let's just say this is true. How then, could they have possibly gotten that way?

COLIN

Qashara.

SAMANTHA

The high-priestess here? The one everyone seems to have revered so much?

COLIN

(As Colin explains everything, we also see images that support his explanation)

(CONTINUED)

Yes. But they didn't revere her. Not voluntarily, anyway. She pretty much sold her soul by serving Bastet the way she did - and as a result, she gained power over the city. And that eventually led to the battle.

RAY

What, the battle we've been wondering about?

COLIN

Yes, exactly. It actually wasn't a battle against some invading force-

MCKEEVER

It was an uprising.

COLIN

That's right. An uprising against the bondage of Qashara's so-called leadership. And what we see around us is how she responded. By suspending the people and burying the city under a sandstorm until no one even knew it was still here. The thing was though, because she was a part of the city, she couldn't do this to the city without doing it to herself as well, which is why all of Tannadryus - including her - is like this.

DAVID

But this uprising still looks like it ended in a battle. So who was it the people were fighting? Did Qashara have her own army or something?

COLIN

I'm not sure. I haven't really gotten a clear picture of that. But I can tell you that as powerful as she seems to be, I don't think she really needed an army.

SARAH

So then, is there anything that can set these people free?

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

Yeah. Us.

VICTOR

(Surprised)

And how do we do that?

COLIN

By taking her glory. Her treasure. Everything that makes her great, so to speak. That's why this inscription is written on the wall here - and that's also why I've been getting these visions. Everyone has a purpose, right? This was mine. To read that book, which triggered an ambition in me to find this place. That's why we're all here. We all have a part in this. We are the people of good will that this inscription speaks of. Our reasons for seeking out this treasure are generally selfless. Sure, we'd like to enjoy the spoils of our own shares, but the whole reason we're here is based on our efforts to try and save Wellsborough.

SAMANTHA

So in other words, by saving this community, we'll be saving yours as well.

COLIN

Pretty much, yeah.

Just then, after a momentary pause from the group, Ray steps forward.

RAY

Colin, are you losing your mind?

At that moment, Colin looks at the column, then walks up and places his hands on it, just as he saw himself doing in the last vision. Suddenly, as the diggers begin talking to each other with a sense of wonder, knowing that something is different about Colin as he's able to do this, the ceiling of the room completely opens up, revealing that the golden column actually stretches into what seems to be a gigantic chamber that's at least fifty feet high and encompasses the entire length of the temple. Just then, the whole room

(CONTINUED)

starts moving up the column with considerable speed, shattering its' wall as the cat-shaped jewels run off into the chamber, turning the room into a platform. Just then, Sarah looks at the rest of the group.

SARAH

Did you all see that?! Those jewels - was it just me or did they actually turn into cats?!

JACK

At this point, who knows? I'm done trying to figure this place out.

As the group continues to raise through the chamber, they immediately notice that they're heading toward an even bigger, seemingly more permanent platform with a large object at the center of it that stands at the top of the room. During the ascent, the chamber itself becomes systematically visible by an incredibly unique, fire-based lighting system that seems to be operating in conjunction with the raising of the platform, rapidly igniting various symbols and inscriptions on the walls that show what seems to be a cultural history of Tannadryus. Finally, as the platform reaches its' destination, the lighting system reaches its' apex, illuminating the entire chamber with such power that on first light, sparks fall from the ceiling like snow, revealing The Golden Sea - the most spectacular treasure mankind has ever known. For what seems like a structural eternity, silk tapestries, jewels, golden pieces, precious statues and other magnificent treasures adorn the vast chamber, dazzling the eyes and staggering the imagination. Immediately, Sarah takes Colin's hand and drops to her knees, with tears streaming from her eyes.

SARAH

(Nearly whispering)
I've never seen anything like it...

COLIN

(Stunned)
The Golden Sea...is this really here?

JACK

(Smiling, playfully smacking Colin on the back)
About as real as we are, mate. We did it!

COLIN

(Looks around, smiling)
We did it...WE DID IT!

(CONTINUED)

At that moment, everyone on the platform starts to cheer and laugh as if they didn't have a care in the world. After a few moments of celebration however, Samantha looks up at the object behind them. Noticing its' virtually flawless craftsmanship, utilizing every jewel and precious stone imaginable, and seeing the adornment of ritualistic tapestries over different parts of the object - all centering around the beautiful, golden image of a cat-like woman - Samantha knows right away what the object is.

SAMANTHA

(Still looking at the object)

Colin...

As Colin turns to look in Samantha's direction, he immediately notices what she's looking at.

COLIN

It's Qashara.

With that, everyone turns to look. Awe-struck by the majesty of Qashara's sarcophagus, Victor turns to Colin.

VICTOR

She really did think she was a goddess on Earth, didn't she?

COLIN

(Looking back at Victor)

She still does. Come on, let's check out the rest of the chamber.

DAVID

How do we get down there?

COLIN

Probably the same way we came up. (He points down to the entrance where they just ascended from) Look, you see how the column heads down toward the entrance? But then, it doesn't stop there. It goes a little further down, to the floor of the chamber. (He looks around) It everyone ready?

As everyone complies, Colin places his hands on the column again, and immediately the platform heads straight down to the chamber floor. Upon their arrival, everyone steps off the platform and begins to inspect the immediate part of the floor, amazed by the spectacular beauty and historic wealth of the treasure. As Colin inspects a sword with a golden

(CONTINUED)

handle, he notices out of the corner of his eye that Sarah's next to him. Immediately, he turns to look at her.

SARAH

I'm glad you and I met now. At this time in our lives.

COLIN

So am I, Sarah. I couldn't think of any other girl I'd want to share this with.

SARAH

(Smiling sarcastically)
Well, there is Samantha...

COLIN

(Smiling back)
You know what I mean.

SARAH

(After a timely pause)
So what are you going to do with your part of the treasure once you've helped your town?

COLIN

I'm not sure, actually. I haven't really thought much about it. What about you? Have you thought about what you're going to do with your share?

SARAH

A little. I was thinking about starting with some more traveling.

COLIN

That sounds enjoyable. Any place in particular?

SARAH

Well, I was actually waiting to decide on that.

COLIN

Waiting for what?

SARAH

Waiting to see where you wanted to go.

As the two of them share a smile, Victor walks up.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Well, we should probably head out soon. We'll take what treasure we can carry, but the great majority will have to be recovered through a full-on project; crews, trucks, everything. We'll most likely need cooperation from the Egyptian government which means that some deal-making will have to be done, but that's not a problem. Jabbar and I can take care of it. But Colin, before we go, you and I are going to have to take a look at the treasure we're bringing with us to make sure that you have enough to give Wellsborough right away - at least so that they can buy whatever supplies they need right now. Then we'll give them more once the full recovery is in operation. How does that sound to you?

COLIN

Perfect, Victor. Really, I just want to say, thanks again for doing this.

VICTOR

No Colin, thank you. Remember, you're the chosen one here. We're just backing you up.

Suddenly, the group's period of joy is interrupted by gunfire that can be heard ricocheting off the chamber floor as everyone in the group ducks for cover. Moments later, they hear a sinister laugh coming from above them at the entrance. Looking up at the doorway, they can see that the desert bandits have followed them down there, and are now holding them all at gunpoint. Just then, in broken English, the bandit leader speaks up.

LEADER

This is quite an achievement. You've found The Golden Sea. Very good.

VICTOR

What do you want?

LEADER

(Looking out over the vast treasure)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEADER (cont'd)

This, of course. Thank you for leading us here. Now place your weapons on the floor and kick them in our direction.

VICTOR

(As the group complies with the bandit leader's order)
You know, there is more treasure here than even we could possibly spend. Isn't there, perhaps, an agreement that can be reached between us?

Just then, the leader fires, shooting Victor in the side and knocking him back onto the floor.

SARAH

(Running over to Victor)

Dad!

As Sarah looks at her father's wound, she calls to Patterson then turns to the bandit leader.

SARAH

(Lunging in the direction of the leader while Patterson tries frantically to treat Victor)

You bastard!

Immediately, Colin restrains Sarah who is crying and enraged at the same time.

COLIN

(To the bandit leader)

That was unnecessary! He made you an offer of peace!

LEADER

I do not negotiate. (He turns to three of the other bandits, speaking in Arabic) Gather as much as you can carry. We'll keep our weapons on them. After we've disposed of them, we'll come back for more.

SAMANTHA

What are you going to do with us?

(CONTINUED)

LEADER

I'm sure that others where you're from must know that you came out here, looking for this place; and the last thing we want is for anyone else to find it. So we're going to kill you all and leave you to be found on the road near Minya.

Just then, as the three bandits that the leader just commanded begin to climb down ropes to start recovering the treasure, Colin remembers the inscription that was on the wall in the entrance room earlier.

COLIN

"Only those of purity and good will shall enter here..." (He looks back at Sarah) Wait! (He turns to the bandit leader)
No...wait...don't do this! Your men! Call them back!!

SARAH

(Fearing for Colin's safety)
Colin...what are you doing?!

COLIN

The inscription in the entrance room before! "Only those of purity and good will shall enter here...(Pauses, then finishes the inscription, stressing on the end)... "Lest the wrath of the wind be unleashed!"

Suddenly, as the three bandits make it to the floor level of the chamber, a tremendous wind roars through the chamber and the entire room begins to shake. As stones from the ceiling above Qashara's sarcophagus begin falling like rain and fiery streams from the lighting system shoot out across various part of the chamber, both groups look up at the sarcophagus just in time to see it explode, shattering into a thousand pieces until nothing remains but the mighty and evil Qashara herself, reveling in the power she gained by selling her soul. Slowly ascending toward the growing hole in the ceiling of the chamber, Qashara rises in blazing glory while outside the temple, the cave itself begins to fall apart, collapsing onto the sand around Tannadryus and once again returning the city to the open surface of the desert. Inside The Golden Sea, no one can believe what they're seeing.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN

It's Qashara!

SAMANTHA

We have to get out of here, now!

PATTERSON

(Turning to Victor, as the rest of the group quickly recovers their weapons and heads toward the platform)

Are you strong enough to walk?!

VICTOR

(Struggling to get up)

Not by myself...

Immediately, McKeever rushes over and helps Patterson in assisting Victor. As the three of them join the rest of the group on the platform, Colin places his hands on the column once again, bringing it up to the entrance of the room just after the three bandits that were on the chamber floor climb back up to re-join their comrades. Suddenly, every bandit except the leader runs off toward the main entrance of the temple, leaving the leader alone with the explorers, who are also on their way out.

LEADER

(Looking back at his retreating subordinates and speaking in Arabic)

You cowardly dogs!

Realizing he's not going to stop the other bandits however, the leader turns and stops the explorers by placing his gun in Colin's face as he tries to lead the rest of the group out.

LEADER

Don't move!

COLIN

If we don't get out of here now, then whether you kill us or she does, we're all dead!

After a moment, the leader lowers his gun and walks toward the edge of the doorway, overlooking the chamber as the explorers take off past him, also heading toward the main entrance of the temple. Pointing his gun at Qashara, the leader begins to fire over and over again.

(CONTINUED)

LEADER

(Speaking in Arabic)

I did not come all the way down
here for nothing! This is MY
treasure!

Unaffected by the bandit leader's gunshots however, Qashara unleashes a stream of fire from in front of her hands that quickly overtakes the leader, instantly turning him to dust. Upon doing this, she rapidly starts to change form as she ascends through the ever-growing hole in the ceiling of the chamber, expanding and taking on a combined human/catlike appearance and looking more and more like Bastet with each passing moment. Meanwhile, as the group charges through the temple, they all start to notice that the corpses of the city's residents are actually turning to sand and blowing out with the wind, straight through the main doorway of the temple, which is still a considerable distance from the group's position. Moments later, Jack notices that something else isn't right.

JACK

Anyone notice something about these
statues?!

SAMANTHA

What, the lionesses?! You see it
too?! I thought it was just me!

DAVID

Bloody hell! Are they moving?!

They are indeed moving. As the group starts to slow down, they watch as the lioness statues that adorn the temple literally come to life, stand, and walk off their pedestals, taking forms similar to that of Bastet the protector: Lion-headed figures standing like humans, but each covered in warrior-style head dress and bearing muscular arms with sharply-clawed hands. Outside the temple, Qashara herself has grown to stand about thirty-feet high, looking almost exactly like Bastet in her most commonly-known form: The body of a woman and the head of a cat, but also wearing a warrior-style head dress and bearing cat-like claws and holding a long sword. Back inside the temple, the group realizes that the statues are actually an extension of Qashara's power, brought to life in their present form to keep the group, including its' diggers and also the bandits that left the chamber first, from ever leaving the temple. Immediately, the statues lunge forward, engaging in battle with the explorers and the bandits, who use various forms of defense including gunfire, swords and hand-to-hand combat against the statues. Outside the temple, as Qashara has just about fully taken on the form of

(CONTINUED)

Bastet, the sand that all the corpses changed into finishes blowing together to form a powerful, ancient Egyptian warrior, also standing about thirty-feet high, that rises, bears a sword of it's own and faces Qashara. Back inside the temple, the battle still rages as most of the bandits and a few of the diggers fall, but the others still manage to dispatch a surprising amount of statues, which blow apart in a windy, sand-filled explosion whenever destroyed. In the middle of the chaos however, Colin notices that for every one statue destroyed, it seems like two more arrive on the scene from both, inside and outside the temple.

COLIN

(To McKeever, who is trying fight off the statues while keeping Victor protected in the background at the same time)

We don't seem to be destroying enough of them!

MCKEEVER

Really?! So then what would you suggest doing?!

COLIN

I think we're gonna have to find a window of opportunity, then try and make a run for it!

MCKEEVER

(Sarcastically)

Yeah; good luck!

As this is all going on inside the temple, outside, Qashara and the warrior are fighting viciously, with the warrior narrowly avoiding Qashara's claws at one angle and her sword at the other. After each defense however, the warrior swings back with it's own sword but never manages to strike because of Qashara's apparently superior fighting skills. Brutally, the two giants go at each other, smashing through sand dunes and columns that structure the city while each tries desperately to overcome the other. Back inside the temple, the explorers are still fighting for their lives, trying to find a way out before the statues completely overtake them. Suddenly, Colin notices that not so many statues are coming in from out in the courtyard any more; and also that that Jack is closest to the entrance.

COLIN

(While continuing to fight off the statues that are still in the temple)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COLIN (cont'd)

Jack! Try and swing your back toward the entrance, then begin a retreat!

JACK

(Also fighting off the statues)

Why?!

COLIN

Because I don't see any more statues coming in from outside, and that's the only way we might have a chance of actually getting out of here!

JACK

All right; I'll try!

COLIN

Be careful though! There might still be some out there! Watch your back!

JACK

Yeah; right! Easier said than done!

As Jack complies while managing to fight off the statue that came at him, more people in the group begin heading toward the path that Jack's creating as he moves toward the entrance. Once making it outside, Jack looks to make sure there are no potential ambushes, then starts directing the rest of the group, which manages to evacuate the temple one-by-one. Suddenly however, one of the statues from inside the temple that made it out to a ledge above the entrance lunges toward Jack - until the head of the statue is suddenly blasted off. Lucky to be alive, Jack looks off to where the gunshot came from and sees Victor leaning on the base of the stairs in front of the temple, struggling to hold a shotgun that's still pointed in Jack's direction.

JACK

Wow! Thanks, mate!

VICTOR

(Smiling)

Just because I'm injured doesn't mean I'm useless!

(CONTINUED)

JACK

(As he runs down the stairs to help Victor as they re-join the group)

I can sure as hell vouch for that!

Just then, Sarah looks up above the city.

SARAH

What the...?!

With that, the whole group turns and sees the battle going on between Qashara and the warrior.

RAY

What the hell is this?!

COLIN

It's Qashara...and the people of Tannadryus!

As the group watches momentarily, the two giants continue to go at it, with Qashara still having the upper hand. Suddenly however, the warrior manages to avoid a swipe of Qashara's left claw, swinging it's sword around and cutting off her hand. Immediately, Qashara screams in pain. Down in the city however, the group has no time to celebrate as the rest of the statues from inside the temple come roaring out, bringing the battle that was raging inside, out into the courtyard. Meanwhile, an enraged Qashara continues to fight the warrior above the city, outmaneuvering and knocking her opponent to the ground, with her blade pointed straight at the warrior's neck. Just then, while fighting the statues in the courtyard, the members of the group notice Qashara's impending victory.

COLIN

There has to be a way to defeat her! These statues are under her control! If she dies, so do they!

SARAH

She's too strong, Colin! She has too much power!

Just then, Colin has an epiphany.

COLIN

Her power! That's it! The temple is the source of her power!

Right away, he looks at McKeever, who defeats the statue he's fighting and immediately knows what Colin's

(CONTINUED)

thinking. Without hesitation, McKeever reaches into his pack and tosses Colin a bundle of dynamite. Above the city, as Qashara prepares to strike the warrior down, she turns long enough to see Colin heroically charging the temple, with the others in the group covering him, until he gets close enough to light the dynamite and throw it with all his might through the entrance. Immediately, the entire group stops fighting and runs for cover. Suddenly, a series of monster blasts goes off inside the temple as the dynamite explodes, leveling the magnificent building to a pile of rubble. At that moment, the statues turn back into stone right where they stand and the once mighty Qashara screams, turns transparent, then vaporizes into one layer of existence at a time until finally, she blows away into nothing but sand and wind. After a few moments of getting up from their cover spots and dusting themselves off, the explorers look around at the priceless city, damaged but still intact and now, sitting out in desert sun for the whole world to see. Colin just takes it all in for a moment, even now, still amazed that he's standing there - until a commotion a few feet away captures his attention. Immediately, he runs to join the others as they crowd to Victor.

COLIN

What's wrong?!

PATTERSON

(Who's tending to Victor as he
lies on the ground)

He's lost a lot of blood. The
tourniquet I put on before kept him
from losing any more, but the
damage had already been done.

SARAH

(Trying to hold herself
together)

Is there anything you can do?

PATTERSON

No. Not at this point. (He looks
at Sarah) Only make him
comfortable. I'm sorry.

As Sarah gets close to her father, he slowly opens his eyes and smiles at her.

VICTOR

(Quietly)

You know, sometimes, I just like to
look at you...think about how proud
I am of the woman you've become.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

(Trying very hard to be strong)

I was brought up well.

VICTOR

So was someone else, I think...

He looks over at Colin.

VICTOR

(Turning back to Sarah)

He's a dying breed, Sarah. Don't let him go.

SARAH

(Starting to lose it)

I won't let him go...but you have to hang on also. I need you. (She looks over at Colin, then back to Victor) We need you.

Suddenly, as the group is preparing to mourn one of their own, a peaceful wind picks up, bringing an eerie sort of comfort to the entire group. Just then, David - who, along with others in the group, is facing Colin, Sarah and Patterson - firmly whispers to them.

DAVID

Look...look, behind you!

As the three of them stand up and turn around, they see the softly transparent images of the people of Tannadryus, gently materializing into the courtyard, facing the group. Right away, Colin steps forward, addressing a soldier; a warrior; standing in the forefront, as he is the one who seems to be the leader.

COLIN

It's been you, the whole time; calling me, talking to me. Showing me this place. It's always been you.

SOLDIER

(Speaking in ancient Egyptian, though Colin and the rest of the group can somehow understand what he's saying)

I am Osiris, commander of the army dispatched here by Pharaoh Amenemhet III to bring an end to the siege of Qashara the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLDIER (cont'd)
blasphemer. We led the people of
this great city in an uprising
against her after we
discovered that she had sold her
soul for power and claimed the city
as her own. We were close to
victory, but she would not allow
anyone to rule Tannadryus if she
could not, so she created the
sandstorm that banished everyone in
the city to the Endless Desert.

COLIN
(Realizing the truth of what
the soldier is saying)
The sandstorm...the Cyclone of
Fire!

SOLDIER
A hole in the sky that would
consume anyone nearing the city.

COLIN
But if you were in...the endless
desert, how could you still reach
people?

SOLDIER
Our voices were carried through the
air, our faces in the light of the
sun. We were always there, but
only those who would look or listen
could understand.

COLIN
But why me? Who am I?

SOLDIER
You are a warrior and an
explorer. You have ambition, but
you fight for what is right and you
allow yourself to use your gift of
understanding.

COLIN
(After a momentary pause)
So now, what happens?

SOLDIER
Now, you shall receive the rewards
of a righteous man.

(CONTINUED)

At that moment, the breeze picks up again, caressing Victor and healing his wound as the injury dissipates into the air, leaving only a place on Victor's side that looks as if nothing ever happened. Moments later, Victor sits up, feeling better than ever before. As Sarah embraces her father, crying tears of elation, Colin turns back to the people of Tannadryus.

COLIN

(Obviously grateful)

Thank you for that. Thank you.

SOLDIER

No Colin, thank you. The heart of a righteous man deserves many rewards, but seeks none. Such is the heart that lives within you. So now, take your city and all its spoils. There is much good to be done with it, and much to be enjoyed.

As the wind starts to blow once more, Colin stands back, taking Sarah in his arms and watching with the rest of the group as the people of Tannadryus vanish in a spectacular light. As the light dissipates however, Henry Shaw awakens from his momentary vision on that blistering day in 1873, still hearing the echo of the word, "See," as it now fades out of his mind, just as the image of the people of Tannadryus fades out of sight. At that moment, Foster and the guide tie the rope around Henry's ankle, proceeding with the rescue that Henry has already foreseen. Finally, a short while later, after the caravan has escaped from the hottest part of the desert and is once again traveling peacefully toward the next village, Foster turns to Henry.

FOSTER

That was a pretty amazing escape there, my lad.

HENRY

Yes sir, that it was.

FOSTER

Hell, after that, I'd say you were one of the luckiest fellows I know.

HENRY

Thank you, Professor. Although I do have to say, I don't think luck had anything to do with it. I think this was more than that.

(CONTINUED)

FOSTER
(Curiously)
Such as?

HENRY
Destiny.

FOSTER
Destiny?!

HENRY
Absolutely. I believe it was
destiny. Fulfilling a predestined
purpose. That was supposed to
happen to me, and I was supposed to
survive.

FOSTER
But why?

HENRY
(As he picks up his
notes) Someone needs to read
these. It won't happen until
many years from now. But
someone specific does need to
read this book. That's his
destiny, Professor. My
destiny is to write it.

FOSTER
(Pondering the idea)
Destiny. Hmm. Interesting.

As the professor continues to ponder the idea of destiny,
the caravan proceeds down the road, with only a matter of
time before they set up camp for the day.

CUT.

END CREDITS.