

THE HAND OF A FRIEND

by

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HAND OF A FRIEND

TAG: WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO LOCATE THE ENEMY - ONLY TO FIND THAT THE ENEMY WAS TIME ITSELF.

TREATMENT: FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'HANDFUL OF NAILS' FOUNTAIN OF LIFE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS STEVE SLOAN'S 'HAND OF A FRIEND'. SCIENTIST DARYL ALBRIGHT IS WORKING ON A SPECIAL PROJECT, THE WORLDS FIRST BIBLE TIME MACHINE. IN AN UNFORTUNATE MISHAP, HIS DAUGHTER JENNIFER AND SON BEN, ALONG WITH THEIR NEIGHBOR AND FRIEND ALEX, BECOME VICTIMS OF A TIME WARP AND ARE CATAPULTED INTO THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. ALONG THE WAY THEY FIND THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. THEY ALSO BECOME FRIENDS WITH A MAN WHO HAS CHOSEN TO BE A THIEF AS A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. TOGETHER THEY BECOME VICTIMS OF THEIR OWN PAST. THEIR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AS THEY FIND THEMSELVES TRANSPORTED TO PLACES THEY'VE NEVER DREAMED. HELD CAPTIVE THEIR ONLY HOPE OF FINDING THEIR WAY HOME IS LEARNING TO PLACE THEIR TRUST - IN THE 'HAND OF A FRIEND'. WITNESS AS NEVER BEFORE THE RELEVANCE OF CHRISTMAS. INSPIRED BY THE ALMIGHTY. WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY STEVE SLOAN

MUSIC UP: orchestral WARM :30 SEC

ANNOUNCER: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WELCOME. TONIGHT FOUNTAIN OF LIFE PRODUCTIONS IS PROUD TO PRESENT - THE ORIGINAL THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE, 'HAND OF A FRIEND'. WE ASK THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF ANY AUDIO OR VISUAL RECORDING DEVICES OR ANY EQUIPMENT THAT MAY CAUSE A DISTRACTION DURING THE PERFORMANCE. PLEASE REMAIN SEATED THROUGH OUT THE ENTIRE PERFORMANCE AS THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - AND NOW! STEVE SLOAN'S HAND OF A FRIEND.

ANNOUNCER: OUT

MUSIC IN: HAND OF A FRIEND OVERTURE

CREDITS ROLL ON VIDEO SCREEN

FADE IN:

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

1 INT. DINING ROOM - TABLE - MORNING 1

BEN AND JENNIFER ARE SEATED AT THE TABLE.
JENNIFER IS DOING HER NAILS AND BEN IS DOING
HOMEWORK. MOM BRINGS FOOD BEFORE SEATING
HERSELF.

VIDEO: IN THE LIVING ROOM ON THE TELEVISION
VIDEO SCREEN DAD IS IN THE GARAGE WORKING.

MUSIC UP: OKAY KIDS

MOM

Okay kids you can call your dad to the table now.

JENNIFER AND BEN GO INTO A FRENZY AND RACE TO
THE MONITOR IN THE LIVING ROOM. AN
ACROBATICS SHOW TAKES PLACE AND JENNIFER
WINS, SHE PRESSES THE MICROPHONE BUTTON.

JENNIFER

Daddy! Breakfast000's ready.

JENNIFER TROUGHS THE REMOTE ON THE COUCH AND
DOES A FOOTBALL TOUCHDOWN VICTORY DANCE.

VIDEO: DAD ACKNOWLEDGES AND LEAVES THE GARAGE
WITH A ROLL OF PLANS IN HAND AND ENTERS THE
DINNING ROOM. EVERYONE SITS AT THE TABLE.
DAD FINDS A PLACE AND SITS.

DAD

(holding hands)

Lord Jesus thank you for my family. For the love we share
and the protection you provide. And for guiding my hands and
giving me wisdom through the final phases of the construction
of TROT. We pray that TROT's power will always be used to
glorify your name and never be used for evil. In Jesus name
we pray, Amen.

JENNIFER

So dad - it's true? You're almost finished? We get to have
our dad back like a real family?

BEN

No more weird noises coming from the garage in the middle of
the night?

1

1

MOM

No more excuses why we can't ALL go to the movies, together - at the same time?

DAD

A few minor adjustments to the fluctuation release valve, some fine tuning and I'm back to my old self. The City of Northville will take delivery and I'll be a real dad again.

MOM HEARS NEWS CAST ON RADIO IN KITCHEN, SHE GOES OVER TO TURN UP THE VOLUME.

JESSICA

We're live at the Stanton University Science Lab. Somewhere behind these walls is where Professor Daryl Albright just may have opened the port hole to time travel the likes of which we've never known. After five years in development, the word TROT will soon become a household name. Through the invention of TROT or 'Timebased Realm Of Travel', Professor Albright may have solved the transportation dilemma of the 21st Century. Soon the public will witness the trial test of the TROT Prototype. Will the project prove its self worthy of the multi-billion dollar investment? Only time, will tell. I'm Jessica Valdez, WJLZ news.

DAD GETS UP AND TURNS THE RADIO OFF AND GUIDES MOM TO THE TABLE.

DAD

It will all soon be over!

JENNIFER

Is that why you made us promise not to tell anyone that TROT is really being built in our garage dad. So you wouldn't be mobbed by news people?

BEN

Of course, silly. He can't let those news vultures effect his momentum. And that's being smart. But you wouldn't know anything about that would you?

JENNIFER

I really hate being the only child with brains around here. Don't forget who's the oldest my dear...

DAD

Working on TROT here at home affords me the ability to work at my own convenience and to be with my family. Now! I have to go to the lab and pick up some parts. The machine is not passing Standard Safety Certifications. I promise to be home before dinner tonight hun.

1

(2)

1

MOM

I've waited five years to have my husband back, I guess a few more hours wouldn't hurt. I'll put your plate in the frig.

DAD KISSES MOM AND THE KIDS GOOD BYE. AND
HEADS TOWARDS THE DOOR.

DAD (O.S.)

Don't forget kids. Mums the word about TROT. And no fair using my portable x-ray invention on your Christmas presents.

THE KIDS RESPOND HOLDING THEIR CROSSED FINGERS
TO THEIR MOUTHS. DAD EXITS.

BEN/JENNIFER

Mums the word!

MOM

Well, did I hear you two have something special planned for tomorrow?

JENNIFER

We're going hiking with the Jonesburgs.

BEN

Down by the lake.

MOM

That sounds like fun. Aren't they the parents of that geeky kid named Allen, Alien...

JENNIFER

Alex! He's just curious about life that's all.

BEN

Mr. Jonesburg says we may even do some serious treasure hunting.

MOM

As long as you stay with the parents at all times.

BEN/JENNIFER

Oh yeah mom.

BEN

Alex is going to come show us his camping gear. We want to make sure we have all the right equipment.

MOM

Well that's...

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS

1

(4)

1

BEN

(Jennifer finishes)

Sure! Just think, our dad built a time machine. Wouldn't it be nice to learn about Christmas straight from the horses mouth?

JENNIFER LEAVES TO GO TO HER ROOM, HER HANDS
OVER HER EARS.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS GOING UP STAIRS

BEN (Continued)

I mean, we could ask Jesus himself about...

A MOMENT LATER.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS COMING DOWN THE STAIRS

JENNIFER RETURNS WITH HER BACK PACK. SHE
FUMBLES WITH HER IPOD TO FIND THAT THE
BATTERIES ARE DEAD.

JENNIFER

(suspicious)

No! It would not be nice. We do our homework just like any average red blooded American kid on the block. You got any batteries?

JENNIFER, SKEPTICAL, HEADS BACK UP THE STAIRS.

BEN

(to himself)

Top drawer inside my underwear. Dad always takes my batteries. But still, wouldn't it be nice to know the truth about Christmas.

SFX: DOOR BELL

BEN GETS UP TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 2

ALEX ENTERS PLAYING A VIDEO GAME. A GAS MASK
DAWNS HIS HEAD.

ALEX

I just saw your moms taking off on runway 45 left dude. You
seen the new Barbarian Ps3? Puts GameZone in check - Radical
Dude! So what's the recourse for your parental freedom
tonight?

BEN

Got to finish a book report on Christmas and what it's all
about.

JENNIFER COMES DOWN THE STAIRS.

JENNIFER

Hey Alex!

ALEX

Hey Jenny.

ALEX NOTICES THAT THE PICTURE ON THE T.V. DOES
NOT CHANGE, IT'S SHOWING THE TIME MACHINE IN
THE GARAGE.

ALEX (Continued)

Dude your T.V. has brain freeze. Those satellite images do
that some times.

JENNIFER SCURRIES OVER AND TURNS IT OFF.

ALEX (Continued)

I was just showing your bro here the dawn of discovery, the
PS3 rocks. Get your gear let's compare life support
equipment for the trip tomorrow.

BEN HEADS UP THE STAIRS.

JENNIFER

Ben bring my brush down will ya?

BEN

I might touch a contaminated hair.

JENNIFER HEADS UP THE STAIRS.

2

2

ALEX

(yelling)

I heard about your Pops invention at the university. You must be having celebrity withdrawals big time.

ALEX STARTS TO LOOK AROUND. HE TURNS THE MONITOR BACK ON IN THE LIVING ROOM.

ALEX (Continued)

Hey! Where's the head?

AFTER NO ANSWER ALEX LOOKS AROUND FOR THE REST ROOM, HE DISAPPEARS.

BRING UP VIDEO IN GARAGE - WE SEE ALEX ENTER AND BEGIN EXAMINING THE TIME MACHINE.

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

3 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

RETURNING TO THE LIVING ROOM WITH HIS BACK-
PACK ON, BEN NOTICES ALEX IS GONE. HE SEES
HIM IN THE GARAGE ON THE MONITOR.

BEN

Alex! Al...

BEN SEES ALEX ON THE MONITOR.

BEN (Continued)

Alex!

BEN RUNS TO THE GARAGE.

ACT ONE

SCENE FOUR

4 INT. GARAGE - DAY - VIDEO 4

THE MONITOR SHOWS BEN AND ALEX.

ALEX

Dude! You've got the TROT Prototype in your garage. The news report was a decoy. You rule!

BEN

Alex - You're not suppose to be seeing this. No one can know absolutely...

ALEX

Word dude word. I just got to know the principle. The knowledge, dude, don't let me go out like this. Please, just tell me how does it work? Just the principle. I promise, just -

(on his knees)

I Don't want to die without knowing dude - dude.

BEN

Look all I know is that the TROT is not quite ready. There are still a few bugs to be worked out.

BEN GOES TO THE COMPUTER AND PUTS IN A DVD.

BEN (Continued)

This is what Dad shows other scientists. I don't understand it all but.

BEN PLAYS THE DVD.

FX: TROT PRESENTATION PLAYS ON SCREEN

ACT ONE

SCENE FIVE

5 INT. GARAGE - DAY - COMMERCIAL 5

VIDEO: TROT COMMERCIALS

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

What if we lived in a world, where you could be on any part of the planet, in just a matter of time.

A MAN HUGS HIS GRANDMOTHER.

6 INT. REST HOME - MORNING 6

GRANDMA

Jr. why did you waste your vacation to come see me 4000 miles away.

JR.

I'm on my lunch break mom, I just had to come tell you how much I love you.

GRANDMA

Thank you lord for giving my son TROT!

ANNOUNCER

A world where waiting in lines for transportation - is a thing of the past.

7 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY 7

A WOMAN WALKS PAST SEVERAL PEOPLE WAITING IN LINE AT THE BUS STATION. SHE DISAPPEARS LEAVING THE NEWSPAPER ON THE GROUND.

MR. DURKEY

Hey lady! What do you thank your doing. The line starts...

THE CROWD WITNESSES THE LADY DISAPPEAR.

TABETHA

Look mommy - that lady disappeared!

ANNOUNCER

The technology is here, and now you have access to TROT - your global freeway to the universe.

GRAPHIC: TROT

ANNOUNCER (Continued)

TROT - For education!

8 INT. BED ROOM - EVENING

8

A DENISE WONG IS AT HER DESK DOING HOMEWORK,
HER MOTHER WALKS IN.

DENISE

Mom I need more geological information on the Three Gorges.
May I go to China to visit Granny Wong?

KIM

Couldn't you have chosen a subject here in California?

DENISE

Of course not! I just want to expand my horizon.

KIM

Okay but - I want Granny Wong to call me as soon as you get
there.

THE CHILD GRABS HER BOOKS, MOM KISSES HER ON
THE FOREHEAD.

DENISE

Thanks mom!

9 INT. CLOSET - NIGHT

9

THE GIRL OPENS HER CLOSET AND STEPS IN.
DENISE HITS A SWITCH ON THE INSIDE WALL AND
SMOKE BEGINS TO EMIT FROM THE CEILING. THE
LITTLE GIRL DISAPPEARS. A LIGHT FLASHES THEN
A SPLIT SECOND LATER MOM'S CELL PHONE RINGS.

SFX: CELL PHONE RINGS

KIM

Hello!

(laughing)

Hi mom, thank's for receiving Denise, she just wanted to get
another 'A' in geometry. Just transform her back when she's
done. Of course she can stay the weekend, but she has to
finish her project. I love you to mom!

GRAPHICS: TROT

ANNOUNCER

TROT - when its absolutely necessary that you be on time.

10 INT. TAXI CAB - EVENING

10

A WOMAN IS IN A TAXI CAB IN HEAVY TRAFFIC.
SHE LOOKS AT HER WATCH.

10

10

JESSABEL

(to the cab driver)

You idiot! I just missed the most important luncheon of my life. This one was mister right!

CAB DRIVER

He should be glad I came to his rescue.

JESSABEL

What did you say?

CAB DRIVER

I said next time try TROT its just for you.

GRAPHICS: TROT

ANNOUNCER

Your key to the universe is just moments away. TROT - Timebased Realm Of Travel. In every home, in every neighborhood, on every planet. TROT.

ACT ONE

SCENE SIX

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 11

JENNIFER COMES DOWN STAIRS TO FIND NO ONE
THERE.

JENNIFER

Ben! Alex!

SHE NOTICES BEN AND ALEX ON THE MONITOR.

JENNIFER (Continued)

Oho my God!

SHE STOMPS TOWARDS THE GARAGE.

ACT ONESCENE SEVEN

12 INT. GARAGE - DAY - VIDEO 12

BEN AND ALEX COMPLETE THE VIEWING.

ALEX

You said the machine is not ready. It looks perfect, what's left to do?

BEN

I don't know, and we don't want to know.

ALEX

Dude, I'm dying here.

BEN

Dad said something about the machine's focal Parameter needs to be adjusted. He went to get parts this morning...

JENNIFER

And should be home any minute now. What do you two think you are doing, snooping around in here? This is forbidden territory.

ALEX

(looking at the plans)

Focal Parameter - The distance from the focus, or one of the two foci, to the directrix.

JENNIFER

Look - Alex we could get into big trouble if anyone finds out about us being here so lets just...

ALEX

Think - just think. Dude - you could go treasure hunting with real pirates.

ALEX NOTICES THE TIME CLOCK ON THE MACHINE AND GOES TO THE CHALK BOARD AND EXAMINES THE SCIENTIFIC SKETCHES ON THE WALL.

ALEX (Continued)

The time is set for December no specific year, that's odd.

JENNIFER

That's enough! Dad would kill us if he knew someone else knew what they shouldn't because you, when... nevermind. Come on lets go back inside.

MUSIC: ATMOSPHERE

12

12

ALEX

Sure, be right there.

JENNIFER

Ben - side bar! You know this isn't right. He's your friend and...

ALEX (V.O.)

There it is. The chronic section, it's paradoxical time continuum, it should be hyperbolic. Programmable 24 hour clock. Just like the books I read.

ALEX PRESSES BUTTONS AND TURNS KNOBS.

JENNIFER

Aah excuse me, but would you please keep your inquisitive hands to yourself. I'm leaving and if you two zap yourselves to oblivion I'm not going to be responsible and I'm telling Mom when she gets home.

BEN

Jennifer's right Alex...

ALEX

It's fully remote, synchronized with this clock. This must be the preference hold button. And here the ratification dominance. In combination these should coincide with this red pull switch...

JENNIFER

You're on your own buddy. Men are so stupid!

ALEX

Lever half way.

ALEX PULLS A LEVER, THE DOOR TO THE MACHINE
OPENS. JENNIFER ATTEMPTS TO EXTRACT ALEX.

JENNIFER

That's it you're out of here. Help me Ben! Get away!

SFX: TIME MACHINE

LIGHTS GLOW, HOUSE LIGHTS FLICKER. THE THREE
ARE WHISKED AWAY DISAPPEARING BEFORE OUR VERY
EYES. ON SCREEN WE SEE THEM SPINNING AND
TURNING. HISTORY REVISITS ITSELF, IMAGES
FROM THE PAST TAKE ON SHAPES OF DIFFERENT
SIZES. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND SOUND BITS OF
HIS SPEECH. ABRAHAM LINCOLN FLIES BUY IN 3-
D. MALCOLM X, PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THE BOSTON
TEA PARTY.

12	(2)	12
SFX: LIGHTS FLASH, COMPUTER SOUND ECHO WITH ELECTRONIC SOUNDS OF THE TIME MACHINE IN OPERATION.		
13	INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER	13

ACT ONE

SCENE EIGHT

14 INT. CAVE - NIGHT 14

INSIDE A COLD SHALLOW CAVE, DARKNESS HIDES THE INTERIOR FROM SITE. A FLASHLIGHT EXPOSES THE INTERIOR FOR JUST A MOMENT. A HUMAN HEAD INVESTIGATES THEN A ROPE FALLS. THREE INTRUDERS DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS. GOLD AND SILVER TREASURE SPARKLES AS THEIR FLASHLIGHTS FIND THEIR MARK.

BEN

Oho - my - God! The coast is clear.

BEN FOLLOWS, JENNIFER REMAINS BEHIND. ALEX AND BEN INVESTIGATE.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

I am NOT sliding down no rope. I told you dumbos not to play with that machi...

SFX: CRASHING, FALLING, DUST

JENNIFER FALLS TO THE GROUND.

ALEX

(to Jennifer)

I hate when that happens. See I told you! You wanted treasure?

ALEX LOCATES A TORCH AND LIGHTS IT.

JENNIFER

I hate you!

THE CAVE IGNITES WITH BRILLIANCE. THEIR JAWS DROP TO WITNESS THE ELEGANCE OF THE CAVES CONTENTS. GOLD, SILVER, ART, MARBLE STATUES.

BEN

Wow! We must be inside an Egyptian pyramid. Treasure - everywhere!

THEY PLAY IN THE TREASURE A MOMENT.

BEN/ALEX

We're rich! Rich! Filthy Rich!

BEN

Dad won't mind at all when he sees what we bring home.

THEY PREPARE TO FILL THEIR PACK PACKS.

ACT ONESCENE NINE

15 INT. CAVE - NIGHT

15

THE SOUND OF RUNNING IS HEARD OUTSIDE THE CAVE.

SFX: FEET APPROACHING

ALEX

Wait - listen!

THEY ZIP THEIR BACK PACKS THEN SCURRY TO A DARK AREA. A MAN ENTERS WITH A HUGE BAG. HE GLANCES AT THE LIGHT THEN BACK TO HIS BAG. JENNIFER SLOWLY READJUST HERSELF AND HER BACKPACK SCRAPES THE WALL. HER IPOD IS ACTIVATED. FLASH LIGHTS EVERYWHERE.

SFX: MUSIC 'WHO LET THE DOG'S OUT?'

THIEF

I was going to pay it back truly I was. I only stole because I was hungry. I have family to feed. Both my parents, dead. It was terrible. There we were working in fields doing what ever they could to assist - the king. When suddenly out of nowhere this huge boulder came rolling down. It had to be big as a maiden's quarters. My mother, God rest her soul, grabbed me and pushed me to the side." Run my child run, the boulder, the boulder". My father, the brave man, jumped in front but it was too late. Splat, splat, one for my mother and one for my father. You wouldn't kill an only child just trying to survive would you?

(Turning to the intruders)

Why... you're not the ones who were chasing me. Who are you and what are you doing in my palace?

JENNIFER

Aah, I'm Jennifer and this is my half brained brother Ben and this is our idiot neighbor Alex. I tried to tell him not to come down here but nooooooo, they had to find treasure, 'real pirates, talk to Jesus.' I suppose you would like to get back to counting your lute sooooo. Don't spend it all in one place.

THEY ATTEMPT TO FIND AN EXIT.

THIEF

Don't move. I know your plan and it wouldn't work. You're thieves, you wait until us hard working, law abiding citizens leave our humble dwellings then you strike like a snake in the rocks. I can't believe that there are people like you in the world how would...

15

15

JENNIFER PICKS UP SOME OF THE GOODS AND DRAGS
IT TO THE THIEF.

JENNIFER

Excuse me, I suppose you got these at Best Buy? Maybe we should just ask the local authorities where they came from. I'll be right back.

SHE HEADS FOR THE EXIT.

THIEF

Aah-rah - that won't be necessary. It's one thing to steal in front of someone but another thing to steal from behind ones back.

JENNIFER

Excuse me, may we please have a Side bar!

JENNIFER PULLS BEN AND ALEX TO THE SIDE. THE
THIEF BEGINS TO INVESTIGATE THE AREA WHERE
THEY MADE ENTRANCE.

JENNIFER (Continued)

Look, you guys, we shouldn't be here and you know it.

ALEX

I got it all under control. I set the timer to bring us back in 24 hours.

JENNIFER

24 hours, 24 - you don't think mom and dad won't notice us missing for another two thousand years?

BEN

Chill, 24 hours in time travel is only a few moments in our world.

JENNIFER

We don't have a world. Ben, get a grip, our great, great, great, great, great, great, grand parents aren't even born yet. Now look...

THIEF (V.O.)

Three thieves that carry fire in their bare hand. They move through the earth, as moles, undetected. They even use secret codes, "Best Bear, Side Beer" They release dogs out of their bags. With such ability I could have the greatest band of thieves in all the land.

THE THIEF INTERRUPTS THEIR CONVERSATION.

JENNIFER

So somebody better do something...

15

(2)

15

Join me!

THIEF (V.O.)

What?

BEN/JENNIFER

Join me, together, we shall be the envy of all thieves. You shall have the larger cut of all our profits.

THIEF

Oh Lord, now you sir - are a man of great dissolution.

JENNIFER

I like your style. You move through walls, hold sticks of fire. Beckon wild dogs on command. How about it? The hand of a friend.

THIEF

The hand of a friend?

BEN

THE THIEF PLACES HIS HAND OUT.

I knew it - you're not from around here are you?

THIEF

Oh! Brilliant!

JENNIFER

Hand of a friend, to show agreement and brotherhood. The most powerful action the heart can reveal. The bondage of one. The hand of a friend.

THIEF

Somehow this sounds like the type of bondage you pray to be loosed from.

JENNIFER

What have we got to loose, only a few more hours to go.

ALEX

THE THIEF PLACES HIS HAND OUT, ALEX PLACES HIS HAND ON HIS, BEN PLACES HIS HAND ON HIS BUT JENNIFER REFUSES.

The hand of a friend.

BEN

Lord have mercy, sweet Jesus. Do you even hear that little voice telling you 'you're about to make one of those classic mistakes again'. Excuse me may we have another side bar please.

JENNIFER

15 (3)

15

JENNIFER GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO BEN.

THIEF

Yes! Let the dogs out, send them to best buy, we will drink a side beer together. I shall learn this secret language and you shall learn to be thieves.

JENNIFER

Jesus take us now before we sin!

BEN

Don't pay her any attention. She's very hard to convince sometimes.

THIEF

Well, maybe she just doesn't understand the significance of our new partnership.

MUSIC: IT TAKES A THIEF

THIEF (Continued)

It takes a thief, in every hierarchy. It takes a thief, a thief like you and me, help others know, there's too much over flow. It's such a relief to be a bona fide thief. It takes a thief...

ALEX

It takes a thief no matter who you are.

BEN

It takes a thief, whether it's near or far.

THIEF

Let others know.

BEN/ALEX

There's too much over flow.

BEN/ALEX/THIEF

It's such a relief to be a bona fide thief.

BEN

A thief is like a dog chasing his own tail.

JENNIFER

I sure hope you can chase it when that tails in jail.

ALEX

A thief is like a cat climbing his own tree.

JENNIFER

You can climb all you want but don't you fall on me.

15

(4)

15

BEN

Such a relief, to find out who you are.

ALEX

It takes a thief, we travel near and far.

THIEF

And when we go?

BEN

We share the stuff we find.

JENNIFER

When daddy finds out his gonna whoop your...

THIEF

Behind the scenes of life. Something you should see.

BEN

The way of a thief could bring you royalty.

THIEF

Behold my dwelling - where you belong.

JENNIFER

Not living by the bible something's bound to go wrong.

THIEF

When you a thief, you can sleep in.

BEN

You can sleep in.

ALEX

You can sleep in.

BEN/ALEX/THIEF

You can sleep in all day long.

THE THIEF AND BEN JOIN IN THE HANDS OF A
FRIEND SYMBOL. THEY CAN'T SEEM TO GET
JENNIFER TO JOIN IN. THE THIEF TELLS THEM OF
A PLAN. THE THIEF, ALEX AND BEN EXIT.

SFX: WOODS, OWL, WILD ANIMALS.

AFTER SECOND THOUGHT, JENNIFER RUNS OUT.

MUSIC OUT: IT TAKES A THIEF

ACT ONESCENE TEN

16 INT. CAVE - NIGHT 16

THE THIEF, ALEX AND BEN ENTER THE CAVE
CARRYING BAGS OF GOODS. THEY BEGIN EXAMINING
THE LOOT.

BEN

Wow! Smell this!

THIEF

Myrrrh, very expensive.

ALEX

I should have set the time return dial for three days instead
of one.

THIEF

We shall set the time dial return together for more loot.
Where is your sis...

JENNIFER ENTERS THE CAVE, OUT OF BREATH AND
PRAYING.

JENNIFER

Ohoooo sweet Jesus, dear Lord please forgive us. For we have
sinned... Forgive them Lord for they know not what they do.

SHE BEGINS WALKING AROUND MUMBLING TO HERSELF.

THIEF

That's about the worst case of NTJs I've ever seen.

BEN

NTJs?

THIEF

New Thief Jitters. It happens to all of us at one time or
another. She'll do better next time.

JENNIFER

Next time. Swinging through windows, jumping off tables,
running from the authorities. That's not jitters - that's
stupid. We should all be in jail.

THIEF

But you ran like a mighty warrior. I love the way you dodged
that brick sailing through the air at you. You ducked and
swerved just in time to allow the brick to knock out the guy
blocking our escape path, brilliant. Hand of a friend?

16

16

JENNIFER TAKES THE THIEF'S HAND AND SMASHES IT
AGAINST HIS OWN FACE.

JENNIFER

Ducked, swerved, brick - what brick? I was trying to scrape
the goat pooh-poo off my shoe so I could run faster. You
three really deserve each other. I wouldn't give you the
hand of a freak.

JENNIFER GIVES HIM BACK HIS HAND.

JENNIFER (Continued)

(to Alex)

How much longer?

BEN

(Looking at his watch)

Aah, 20 minutes.

JENNIFER GATHERS HER BLANKET AND STORMS OUT OF
THE CAVE.

THIEF

20 - She only wants 20% of the taking. I like her style.
You know - It could be dangerous out there I'd better go...

BEN

She does this all the time when she doesn't get her way.
She'll be back in a minute just as if nothing happened.

SFX: ATTACK OF A TERRIBLE ANIMAL

JENNIFER SCREAMS AND THE THIEF GOES TO
INVESTIGATE.

THIEF

Wait here.

THE THIEF RUNS OUT. FOR A PERIOD OF TIME THE
FIGHTING INTENSIFIES. THE THIEF RETURNS
CARRYING JENNIFER HIS CLOTHES ARE TORN AND
BLOODY, HE SETS JENNIFER ON THE GROUND.

BEN

Oh my God, Jennifer? This is all my fault. I never should
have brought you with me.

ALEX

No dude - it's my fault. I killed my best friends sister. I
hate when that happens.

16

(2)

16

THIEF

She'll be alright, the blood is not hers nor mine. It is of the animal. She was frightened badly. The injured lion ran off even more afraid. Watch her, I must retrieve the bloody blanket, or it will draw other animals.

JENNIFER COMES TOO. BEN POURS WATER, ALEX ATTEMPTS TO MAKE HER DRINK. THE THIEF RETURNS, BALLS THE BLANKET IN THE CORNER AND GOES TO HER SIDE. JENNIFER COMES TO.

JENNIFER

You, you risked your life to save me.

THIEF

I would have given my life to save you.

JENNIFER

Why?

THIEF

Because that's what friends are for.

THE THIEF GOES TO A BAG OF GOODS AND REMOVES A RING.

THIEF (Continued)

Let this ring be a sign of our bondage for life, nothing shall ever separate us. You rest now. All of you, tomorrow is a new day.

THE THIEF PLACES HIS COAT OVER HER. JENNIFER STOPS HIM FROM GETTING UP AND REACHES HER ARM OUT.

THIEF (Continued)

Hand of a freak.

SHE PLACES HIS HAND IN HERS.

JENNIFER

Hand of a friend.

AFTER KNOWING THAT HIS SISTER IS FINE. BEN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF HIS FRIEND THE THIEF. ALEX TURNS OVER TO SLEEP.

BEN

You OK?

THIEF

Oh yes, fortunately that mountain lion wasn't as hungry as he thought. I can tell, you two really love each other.

(MORE)

16

(3)

16

THIEF (Continued)

(Alex is asleep)

That's a very powerful weapon you know. Love, has the power to heal, the power to protect. So simple, and all you have to do is believe. Time for you to sleep now my friend.

MUSIC UP: WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE

WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE IT'S TRULY LOVE WHEN
YOU'VE MADE A FRIEND ALONG THE WAY IT'S TRUE.
THERE'S NO GREATER LOVE THAN UP ABOVE. THE
ONLY WAY TO - MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE IS
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE. ONCE A STRANGER, THEN
THE WALLS BEGIN TO PART. FACING DANGER JUST
TO WIN A BROKEN HEART. WHEN YOUR DREAMS COME
TRUE AND ALL YOU DO SETS YOU FREE FROM EVER
DOING WRONG. YOU'LL SEE THAT YOU'VE WON THE
RACE AND FOUND A PLACE. WHEN YOUR HEART IS
TRUE AND FRIENDS WELCOME YOU - THAT'S WHEN
YOU FALL IN LOVE.

MUSIC OUT: WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE

THE THIEF TAKES HIS PLACE AT THE FOOT OF THE
THREE. HE LOOKS TO VERIFY THEY ARE ASLEEP.
HE REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND PLACES
SOMETHING INTO BEN'S BACK PACK.

ACT ONE

SCENE ELEVEN

17 INT. CAVE - MORNING 17

THE THIEF WAKES UP TO HEAR PEOPLE APPROACHING.

THIEF

Someone is coming. Quickly, gather your things. Come with me.

THE THIEF TAKES THEM TO A HUGE WHOLE IN THE WALL OF THE CAVE WITH A ROCK HIDING IT.

THIEF (Continued)

I built this for my own hiding. Alas, my chance to try it out.

THE THIEF OPENS THE HUGE STONE.

THIEF (Continued)

Come quickly get in.

JENNIFER

What are you gonna do?

BEN

Come on, we can all fit.

ALEX

Not necessarily so. According to my calculations...

BEN/JENNIFER

Shut up!

THE THIEF PUSHES THEM IN ALONG WITH THEIR POSSESSIONS.

THIEF

There is not room for all of us.

JENNIFER RESISTS GOING IN.

JENNIFER

What happens to you happens to us. Hand of a friend we're a team - right?

JENNIFER HOLDS OUT HER HAND BUT THE THIEF DOES NOT REPLY. THE VOICES AND FOOTSTEPS GET LOUDER. THE THIEF RESISTS TAKING THE OATH.

THIEF

I lied to you. Stealing is never the right thing to do.
(MORE)

17

17

THIEF (Continued)

Besides - it was never in you to do wrong. There is no excuse; you should never have listened to me.

JENNIFER

But you said I would make a good thief. And we could work together.

THIEF

(attempting to close the rock)

You could never make a good thief. I never thought you could be any good at it. I was only pretending to be friends with you, now go.

THE THIEF CLOSES THE ROCK, BRUSHES THE FOOT
PRINTS AWAY AND RUNS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE
CAVE.

ACT ONE

SCENE TWELVE

18 INT. CAVE - MORNING

18

MERCHANTS ENTER THE CAVE.

MAN 1 (O.S.)

I know where they are hiding. This is where those cowards hibernate.

GUARDS AND CROWD OF PEOPLE ENTER THE CAVE.

GUARD 1

There he is the leader. You there, don't move!

THIEF

I was going to pay it back truly I was. I only stole because I was hungry. I have family to feed. Both my parents, dead. It was terrible. There we were working in the field doing what ever we could to assist - the king. When suddenly out of nowhere this huge bolder came rolling down. It had to be big as a house. My mother, God rest her soul, grabbed me...

THE GUARDS GRAB EACH ARM.

GUARD 1

Enough! Is this the man?

MAN 1

Yes that's him. He's the one who stole my goods there were three other rats with him. See, here is the evidence.

THE THREE BLANKETS LAY ON THE GROUND.

GUARD 1

Where are your companions?

THIEF

They are dead. Eaten by a lion, not long ago, a three course meal.

GUARD 1

You lie! Search the cave!

A GUARD FINDS THE BLOODIED BLANKET IN THE CORNER.

GUARD 2

Sire - He's speaks the truth. Behold, there is blood all over the place, signs of bodies being dragged by an animal.

18

18

GUARD 1

Bring him, we shall place him in holding and nail him with the others.

GUARD 2

Soon, you will wish you had been eaten for dessert.

THE GUARDS TAKE THE THIEF AWAY.

THIEF

I will never forget you cave.

THIEF (O.S.) (Continued)

I will always love you cave. Hand of a friend cave!

SFX: THE VOICES SUBDUE

ACT ONE

SCENE THIRTEEN

19 INT. CAVE - MORNING 19

BEN AND ALEX PUSH THE STONE OPEN JENNIFER
FOLLOWS.

BEN

Did you hear that. They're going to kill him.

ALEX

(looking at his watch)

In a few hours, it wouldn't matter anyway. We'll be back home. My guess is, we won't even remember him when we get back.

JENNIFER STARTS GOING THROUGH HER BACK PACK.
SHE STARTS PULLING OUT STUFF.

BEN

What are you doing?

JENNIFER

We have to help him. We're going into town.

ALEX

Are you crazy? The moment we step foot in town they will kill us too.

JENNIFER

Maybe, maybe not.

BEN

Now dat's the sista I been praying for. Transformer mind with a terminator attitude. I'll be back!

ACT ONESCENE FOURTEEN

20 EXT. JERUSALEM - CITY STREETS - DAY 20

LIGHTS UP. IN TOWN OUR GUESTS WALK THE STREETS LOOKING FOR THERE FRIEND. DRESSED IN BEACH WEAR AND SUNGLASSES. ALEX WEARS A GAS MASK ON HIS HEAD. BEN AND JENNIFER NOTICE A MAN WORKING ON HIS FENCE.

BEN

Excuse me sir. I'm sorry to trouble you on this fine day but we are looking for a friend.

JENNIFER

We think he may have contacted the local authorities. Can you tell us where the nearest police station is?

LAZARUS

I am not familiar with a town called police station. But if it's a friend you need then I'm a friend in deed. Names Lazarus, from Bethany.

BEN

How do you do sir. I'm Ben and this my sister Jennifer and our neighbor Alex. We're from - the land of Cali.

LAZARUS

Always a pleasure to meet new comers. Now tell me more about your friend.

JENNIFER

Well he's tall. About 200 pounds.

BEN

Wears the clothes of a thief.

ALEX

Because it's comfortable.

JENNIFER

He is a sloppy dresser, never could get him to buy the right size.

LAZARUS

Are you afraid he will not return on his own?

BEN

Actually he may be sick and if we don't find him in
(looking at Alex's watch)
- 3 hours and 15 minutes, he may die.

20

20

LAZARUS

Now there is a familiar subject. It's not so bad you know.

BEN

What's - not so bad?

LAZARUS

Being dead. I was dead myself once.

JENNIFER

Next!

BEN STOPS HER FROM LEAVING.

LAZARUS

I became victim to an incurable disease. A very dear friend came to my rescue. Jesus is his name.

JENNIFER

Then it's true. That would mean that the whole bible is true. I knew it!

BEN

Tell us what happened?

SONG: LAZARUS COME FORTH

CAUGHT BY A SICKNESS ONE DAY, CURSE
OF THE DARKNESS TOOK ME AWAY. THE
BREATH OF LIFE WITHIN ME, NO MORE.
AWAY FROM ALL SOCIETY IN THE TOMB
OF DEATH. I FELT A TINGLE IN MY
SOUL, THE EARTH BEGAN TO SHAKE, MY
MIND BEGAN TO TAKE CONTROL. THE
STONE THAT KEPT ME CAPTIVE WAS
ROLLED AWAY, I GOT UP FROM THE
TABLE ON FORTH DAY. AND THEN I
HEARD THE VOICE, LAZARUS COME
FORTH, SUCH A SWEET SWEET SOUND TO
ME. LAZARUS COME FORTH. PEOPLE
FROM ALL AROUND THAT PLACE, LOOSED
ME FROM THE BANDAGES ON MY FACE. I
SAW MY LORD WAS STANDING THERE I
HAD TO SAY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GLORY EACH AN EVERY DAY. WE TOOK
THE TIME TO CELEBRATE ON THAT DAY.
MY HEART WAS FILLED GLADNESS DEATH
HAD GONE AWAY. SCRUBBY DUBBIE DO
DOW. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT I
HEARD MY FATHER SAY. WHEN I HEARD
THE VOICE. LAZARUS COME FORTH,
SUCH A SWEET SWEET SOUND TO ME,
LAZARUS COME FORTH, MEANS SO MUCH
TO ME. WHEN I HEARD THE VOICE,
LAZARUS COME FORTH, NO GREATER LOVE
FOR ME. LAZARUS COME FORTH, SOUND
THAT SET ME FREE. FIFTEEN

LAZARUS

I have a strange suspicion where your friend may be. But your garments may draw unwanted attention. Wait here, I shall check down the street. I will meet you here in one hour.

JENNIFER

Thank you for your help. We'll see you in an hour.

THEY CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PERSON. THEY STOP
ANOTHER MAN ON THE STREET.

BEN

Excuse me. Sir?

PETER

(eyeing them closely)

Yes!

BEN

We've lost a very dear friend. Now he is gone and we were wondering if you might have seen him.

15

PETER

You - were unfaithful to him?

JENNIFER

Yes - at first. But then we realized that he was only trying to help us.

PETER

I know of your friend!

(whispering)

He is being sought after by the authorities.

JENNIFER

Yes! I'm afraid - that's my fault I...

BEN

I have to take the blame for this...

ALEX

I'm the one who started the time machine...

PETER

I denied even knowing him.

JENNIFER

Excuse me sir but aah - would your name just happen to be Peter?

PETER

Have we met before? He has sent you to find me? To confirm the destruction of our friendship.

JENNIFER

No, no not at all. I'm sure everything will workout fine. You'll have a chance to re-establish your friendship just stay away from any roosters. Here is my Ipod to preoccupy your mind. I use it when ever I have done something wrong. Merry Christmas!

JENNIFER TAKES OUT HER IPOD AND HANDS IT TO HIM.

PETER

A gift? This is a gift of great value? I-pood, what is this i-pood. And how can these people possibly survive in such a small box?

HE PUTS THE EAR PLUGS TO HIS EAR.

PETER (Continued)

What strange movements, what is wrong with them.

JENNIFER LOOKS INTO THE I-POD

15

15

(2)

15

JENNIFER

The electric slide its how we...

BEN

Exercises, to be healed. Remove bad things from the body.

PETER

And the sounds the people in the tiny box make?

JENNIFER

Rap music - energizes the mind. Cordial vascular.

ALEX

It's a proven fact, by doing what the little people do, you can live longer.

PETER

I think I like this i-pood. I shall tell the towns people. I hope you find your friend, as I have found my new friends. You have brought me great joy.

JENNIFER

Thank you! Hand of a friend?.

WALKING AWAY.

JENNIFER (Continued)

Wow, they're never going to believe this in bible study on Sunday.

ALEX

What about her? Ma'am, excuse me ma'am. Can you help us? We're looking for a friend. Would you happen to know where people go to be - well - Crucified?

MARTHA

You mustn't say that word - Crucified! I know of your friend. I once cleaned and prepared dinner for your friend.

BEN/JENNIFER

Martha!

MARTHA

Have we met? He brought my brother back to life.

JENNIFER

He saved he saved my life. The hand of a friend.

MARTHA

I shall help you look. We must hurry. Before the final sentence is determined. Our friend is said to be the lover of children. Let us ask one of these.

15 (3)

15

THEY APPROACH A GROUP OF CHILDREN.

BEN

Hey! What's up?

(holding out his fist)

CHILD 1

Why would you ask me what is in the sky and then strike me with your fist.

BEN

Listen, we're looking for our friend. Big guy, about 200 pounds, shabby clothes. A little on the adventurous side but he'd give you the coat off his back.

CHILD 2

We know the man. The man who stood up for us in the field. Saying Suffer the little children for we belong to the kingdom of God.

A CHILD RUNS TO THE TRAVELERS.

CHILD 5

Not an hour ago I saw the guards taking a man in the direction of the Skull Hill.

BEN

Cool - then lets go bust a move "G" are you DOWN with us?

CHILD 4

(to child #3)

Down, can he not see that we are standing.

CHILD 1

These new comers have a strange language. Nevertheless their friend is in trouble. We must do everything we can to help.

CHILD 5

Stranger - I just passed by the place of judgment. There are men in holding. One of them must be the friend you speak of.

ACT ONE

SCENE SIXTEEN

21 EXT. JAIL - DAY 21

THE TRAVELERS GATHER THEIR THINGS AND RUN TO THE JAIL. BEN GATHERS ROCKS AND TOSSES THEM INTO THE CELL TO GET THE THIEF'S ATTENTION.

THIEF

Now, I know they didn't find you.

BEN

We came to get you out.

BEN PULLS OUT A ROPE AND ATTEMPTS TO TIE IT TO THE BARS BUT HE IS STOPPED BY THE THIEF.

JENNIFER

What are you doing? We have to get you out of there!

THIEF

This is not the way out my friends. This is the reward for the life I've lived. I even tried to lead you down the wrong path. What kind of friend is that?

SFX: THE SOUND OF KEYS AND GUARDS VOICES COMING TO GET THE PRISONERS. THE KIDS BEGIN TO WEEP.

JENNIFER

I'm not leaving without you!

THIEF

Shhhhh! They are coming. Do not weep. Go! Do not let them find you. I will always remember you. Hand of a friend.

ALL

Hand of a friend.

SFX: THE WATCH ALARM GOES OFF

ALEX

The time machine is about to shut down. We don't have much longer.

JENNIFER

He would never have left us.

THE GUARDS ENTER AND GRAB THE THIEF. BEN GRABS JENNIFER. A TUG-OF-WAR TAKES PLACE.

21

21

GUARD 1

It's time to schedule the last day of your breath, but don't worry, you won't be alone.

ALL THREE SLIDE DOWN THE HILL AND RUN BACK TO TOWN. THE TOWNS PEOPLE ARE HUDDLED AROUND PETER. PETER NOTICES THEM AND CALLS OUT.

PETER

Friends! These are the ones I was telling you about. The ones who give the gift of the ipood. Look - I have taught the whole town how to live long. Everyone has seen the ipood people behold.

MUSIC CUE IN: MAN FROM GALILEE

SONG: MAN FROM GALILEE

I met a man from Galilee - He taught me all that I should be. Like how to live my life in victory - and how to be set free, from, sin, sin, sin, sin, sin, sin, sin.

MUSIC OUT: MAN FROM GALILEE

ALEX LOOKS AT HIS WATCH AND MOTIONS THE KIDS TO HURRY TO THE CAVE.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

22 INT. CAVE - DAY 22

BEN, JENNIFER AND ALEX ENTER THE CAVE, THE LIGHT FROM THE CAVE IS GLOWING THE SOUND OF THEIR MOTHER'S VOICE IS HEARD FROM ABOVE.

MOM

Ben, Jenny, Alex dinner time. You three wash up your dad will be here in a minute.

ALEX CLIMBS INTO A HOLE IN THE CAVE. BEN AND JENNIFER TAKE ONE LAST LOOK AROUND. THEY FOLLOW INTO THE HOLE IN WHICH THEY CAME. UP THE ROPE GOES AND AN EARTHQUAKE SEALS THE ENTRANCE.

FX: THEY TUMBLE THROUGH SPACE

23 INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER 23

ACT TWO

SCENE TWO

24 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

24

MOM IS IN THE KITCHEN PREPARING DINNER. THE KIDS SNEAK FROM THE GARAGE TO FIND A PLACE AT THE TABLE.

MOM

Oh my I thought I told you to wash up. I thought the camping wasn't until tomorrow. You guys look like you just came back from grave digging. And you just lost your best friend.

JENNIFER

You could say that.

MOM

Well I guarantee you'll soon find another. Jenny turn the monitor off. We know where your dad is. Did you do your homework Ben?

BEN

Kind of sort of.

MOM

Well - what part of kind of sort of did you not do?

BEN

The writing it down on paper part. I spent most of my time doing research.

KEYS ARE HEARD IN THE FRONT DOOR.

MOM

There's your dad. You're staying for dinner aren't you Alex?

ALEX

Yes ma'am.

MOM

Good!

DAD COMES INTO THE DINING AREA. THE KIDS START EATING.

MOM (Continued)

Good timing honey your just in time to say grace.

THE KIDS STOP EATING

DAD

How's everyone doing, did you get all your gear ready for tomorrow?

24

24

KIDS SHAKE THEIR HEADS YES.

JENNIFER

I gave my i-pod to a needy friend, may I have another?

DAD

Absolutely - that sounds like a worthy cause.

MOM

Oh my I forgot to take the dessert out of the big freezer.
Honey go ahead with grace so you guys can get started.

DAD

Dear Lord Jesus - we are truly thankful for this food we are
about to receive...

MOM WALKS INTO THE HALLWAY BUT STOPS COLD IN
HER TRACKS AND JUST STARES. DADS PRAYER IS
INTERRUPTED WHEN HE NOTICES MOM BACKING INTO
THE DINING AREA. THE THIEF APPEARS, HE IS
VERY CONFUSED. THE ENTIRE ROOM IS A HUSH!

ACT TWO

SCENE THREE

25 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING 25

DAD IS FIRST TO BREAK THE SILENCE. MOM IS
BACKING INTO THE ROOM.

DAD

Honey - walk slowly towards my voice.

MOM BACKS TOWARDS DAD BUT TRIPS.

DAD (Continued)

Sir - we don't have anything of value. Let's be sensible
about this. You kids get under the table!

SFX: THE KIDS SWALLOW THEIR FOOD.

THE THIEF LOOKS AROUND THEN NOTICES THE KIDS.

THIEF

Friends! Are you alright.

THE THIEF GOES TO THE CHILDREN AND PULLS HIS
SWORD TO PROTECT THEM. DAD GOES TO ASSIST
MOM.

DAD

Friends - You kids know this man?

THE KIDS UNDER THE TABLE BEGIN TO DISCUSS.

JENNIFER

May we have a side bar?

MOM/THIEF

How how do you know this man?

DAD/THIEF

Who are you?

DAD

What are you doing here?

THIEF

Where am I?

MOM

I'm calling the police.

MOM HEADS TOWARDS THE PHONE.

25

25

DAD

You can't do that dear.

MOM

Daaaa, telephone, finger, intruder, 911!

DAD

Get up!

THE KIDS CLIMB FROM UNDER THE TABLE.

DAD (Continued)

I think I know what's happened.

(to the kids)

You disobeyed me didn't you?

DAD LOOKS OVER THE THIEF AS IF HE IS A PRIME SPECIMEN.

DAD (Continued)

Kids - What you did was a very bad thing. But what I did was worse. Forgive me for putting you in harms way.

(to the thief)

It seems you speak english. This might seem hard to understand, but it's my fault that you're here. And I'm going to do everything in my power to get you back where you belong. Honey - no one can know about this. Kids - we'll talk later. I need to shut the TROT down.

MOM

You're going to leave us alone with a perfect stranger?

DAD

He is perfect isn't he?

BEN

That's my dad Daryl. And this is my mom.

THE KIDS SURROUND THE THIEF AND INSTANTLY BEGIN ASKING QUESTION. DAD GOES TO THE GARAGE. THE KIDS MOVE THE THIEF INTO THE LIVING ROOM...

JENNIFER

You're gonna love it here. We're going to take you to this way cool place called Disneyland.

ALEX

In a fruit cart that rolls without a donkey.

BEN

You'll fit right in with the pirates of the Caribbean!

25

(2)

25

THIEF

You did not tell me you lived in a palace.

JENNIFER

You did not tell us you were coming for dinner.

MOM

Ahaa! Excuse me! But if you're going to talk to my kids do you at least have a name?

THIEF

I am - the thief!

MOM

Aha great. Daryl! Kids - come with me to get your father.

JENNIFER

Mom we'll be okay really. He's a friend.

MOM BACKS AWAY TO JOIN DAD IN THE GARAGE BUT
STOPS HIDDEN TO OBSERVE.

THIEF

This is far more beautiful than any palace I've ever seen.
How dare you not tell me you were royalty.

JENNIFER

Come see, we have a window that lets you see around the
world.

SHE PULLS THE THIEF TO THE TELEVISION AND
SWITCHES CHANNELS. THE LAST CHANNEL SHE
LEAVES ON DAD IN THE GARAGE.

THIEF

So that's how you pick where you want to go as a mole? A
much bigger i-pood.

ALEX

Not exactly - but close.

RECOGNIZING THE CONNECTION OF THE GROUP MOM
LEAVES THE KIDS AND GOES TO DAD IN THE
GARAGE.

ACT TWO

SCENE FOUR

26 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT -VIDEO

26

WE SEE MOM ENTERING THE GARAGE ON THE MONITOR.
SHE PICKS UP A SCREWDRIVER AND HEADS FOR THE
MACHINE.

MOM

This is all because of TROT isn't it?

DAD

No! It's all because of me. TROT is just a machine. It does what I programmed it to do. That's why when this is all over - I'm going to destroy it. The university will probably have me arrested but...

MOM

So we're going to have an out of this world house guest?

DAD

As far as I can see, he's got a few people who don't mind taking care of him for now.

MOM WALKS TOWARD THE DOOR AND TURNS.

MOM

You know. I went through the last ten years, watching my husband create something that he truly believed in. At times I even got jealous. Once I even prayed that the thing would just blow up. But now I realized how selfish I was. You have generations that could be changed for the better. That man didn't ask for this and your the only one who can help him. I just want you to know how proud of you I am and I'll make him feel as comfortable as possible.

DAD SITS WITH HIS HAND IN HIS HEAD. MOM EXITS
THE GARAGE TO THE KITCHEN.

ACT TWOSCENE FIVE

27 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

27

THE KIDS ARE EXPLAINING EVERYTHING TO THE THIEF. MOM ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM.

MOM

Well Mr. Thief. My husband is going to help you get home. We will try to make your stay as comfortable as possible but when that machine is fixed - you're out of here!

MOM PUTS BLANKETS ON THE COUCH.

MOM (Continued)

Kids, I think it's time we all get some rest. Jennifer you sleep with me, Alex you're in Ben's room if you.

EVERYONE HEADS FOR THEIR PLACES. FINDING THE COUCH TOO SOFT, THE THIEF PUTS THE BLANKET ON THE FLOOR AND LAYS DOWN.

BEN

Mom - would you mind if we stayed down here, with our friend.

MOM

(hesitating)

Absolutely not!

ALEX

If it's any consolation Mrs. 'D' I can vouch for this man's character, he's cool.

MOM

Oh well then in that case. UP STAIRS EVERY BODY NOW!

SUDDENLY DAD BURSTS INTO THE ROOM.

DAD

I've got it. The convection filter was off kilt. My guess is that you kids didn't even have to be in the machine to get zapped.

(to the thief)

In the morning you'll be able to go home.

MOM IS THE ONLY ONE RELIEVED!

DAD (Continued)

By all rights you shouldn't have come back to this place and time. And that's what puzzles me. Tell me - Where is the last place you remember being - just before you walked into this room.

27

27

THIEF

The guards, they were taking me away. They took me into town past the hill of the skull for final judgment. I was placed in a cold dark chamber. When a bright light came on, I was in this palace. And my friends were here.

DAD

Which leads me back to my original thought. Why you? Why now?

(Dad gives the thief a good look over.)

Tell me something, you wouldn't happen to know a man by the name of - nevermind. The important thing is that we get you home.

MOM

Honey - the kids need to sleep.

BEN

Dad, can we stay down here with our friend.

MOM

You're friend the thief - I thought I...

DAD

Maybe that's a good Idea. Let's camp out right hear. We'll all get some rest its been an interesting day.

MOM ASSISTS THE CHILDREN GET UNDER THE SLEEPING BAG. SHE TAKES OFF JENNIFER'S COAT. SOMETHING IS WEIGHING IN HER POCKET. EVERYONE GETS COMFORTABLE. MOM DIGS THROUGH THE POCKET THEN REMOVES THE RING.

MOM

Jennifer - What is this, where did you get this from?

THIEF

It is the ring of Goliath. Removed after he was slain by David in a challenge to the death. It is - was, the only possession I did not steal. Given to me by my father.

JENNIFER

His father was run over by a rock?

THIEF

My father worked in the kings castle. After proving himself as a loyal cook, the king offered him the ring as a sign of dedication to the bearer. It was most precious to him, as it is to me. That is why I placed it in your possession - just before I was apprehended.

27 (2)

27

DAD CONTEMPLATES THEN PUTS IT ALL TOGETHER.
DAD EXAMINES THE RING.

DAD

So this ring - is of sentimental value to you?

THIEF

Sentimen...

DAD

You wouldn't give this ring away to just anyone. You would only give it to someone most dear to you.

THIEF

Oh - to give that which I cherish most, is proof of a dedication worth dying for.

DAD

That's it! The connection! Don't you get it. You were willing to sacrifice a gift of great importance. The machine was able to register the spiritual significance and miss interpreted the emotion as a human being. And then connected that emotion to the origin, re-configured and manifested that emotion in a different place and time. That's why you were allowed into the porthole.

ALEX

What does all that mean Mr. 'D'?

DAD

Nothing Alex it's just a safety measure I built into the machine. To keep the time machine from separating the human soul from the body during transport.

THIEF

I simply wanted to show my...

DAD

No! No - it's okay! It just changes things.

BEN

How dad?

MOM

Honey?

DAD

Well - we have a spiritual issue now. We can send you back alright. But you'll have to take our children with you.

MOM

What! Wait - wait a minute.

27

(3)

27

DAD

Honey - I know this is very difficult to understand!

MOM

Its not difficult - not at all! I understand that our children are with us now, they are safe at home now. And I am not going to allow you or anybody else to send them into a state of oblivion scattered into billions of molecules shot through some sea of space activated by a garage door opener Nahaaa I don't think so!

DAD

Honey - listen to me you don't understand.

MOM

I understand we come from a dangerous past - and this ain't no back to the future movie.

DAD

Baby!

MOM

Don't baby me! These are our children, they exist because God gave them to us. They were meant to exist in our lives, right now! They're right here at home safe and sound - touch em, touch em.

DAD

If we don't...

MOM

If we don't what!

DAD

The TROT has somehow combined the importation of the spiritual with physical emotions. The two remain in the same time and space continuum. We have to send them back in exactly the same state as when they arrived. They must travel back together or the future will change as we know it! You're going to have to trust me. Unless we send them back to deliver the thief...

MOM

What!

DAD

We never meet, and they never exist.

MOM

What are you saying?

27 (4)

27

DAD

I'll explain it all to you in the morning. Right now I have to get to work.

DAD LAYS ALL SLEEPING BAGS ON THE FLOOR. THE
KIDS GET INTO THE SLEEPING BAGS.

ACT TWO

SCENE SIX

28 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT -VIDEO 28

VIDEO: DAD WORKING IN GARAGE

SFX: V.O. OF ALL IMAGES BELOW.

SONG?

MONTAGE: DAD USING TOOLS - ADJUSTING KNOBS -
LOOKING AT PLANS - TESTING GAGES - TIGHTENING
NUTS - WIPING SWEAT FROM BROW - LOOKING AT
NOTES WRITTEN ON HIS HAND - THE PAST PRESENT
AND FUTURE EXPLODES ON SCREEN - OBAMA,
CHILDREN GROWING UP, MOM AND DAD PLAYING WITH
THEM, THE FIRST HOUSE, DELIVERY OF THE CHILD,
DAD HELPING WITH HOMEWORK, MOM COOKING IN THE
B.K. PREHISTORIC ANIMALS, CHRIST BEING BORN,
DAD'S FACE BIBLE CHARACTERS, THESE ARE THE
THOUGHTS OF DAD BEING FIRED, NEWS CASTERS
SAYING DAD IS FIRED FOR MISSUSES OF THE TROT,

ACT TWO

SCENE SEVEN

29 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 29

WHILE SLEEPING IN A CHAIR, MOM IS AWAKENED BY
DAD OBVIOUSLY WEARY FROM THE NIGHTS WORK.

DAD

Honey - it's time. Wake the kids - and our guest.

MOM

Kids - wake up! Jennifer - Ben. Listen to your father.
I'll get the sandwiches I made for you.

MOM GOES TO THE KITCHEN.

DAD

Gather everything you had when you last arrived, it must be
taken back with you. We don't want to take a chance of
causing a paradox.

ALEX

An incident that changes what we know to be the present.

DAD

That's why you can't take any food with you.

JENNIFER

Why dad?

MOM ENTERS WITH A TRAY OF SANDWICHES.

ALEX

If we take those ham sandwiches in the time machine with us
one of two things will happen. One - our molecules would
scramble with the ham and when we materialized on the other
side - well you know the saying 'You are what you eat'. Or
two - when we get to the other side, we'll be walking around
with a whole pig between two pieces of bread.

MOM

They can eat before they go.

EVERYONE GRABS SANDWICHES.

DAD

Now I've added some features that should help...

MOM INSTANTLY STARTS FLIPPING OUT ON THE COUCH
VERY DISGUSTED WITH WHAT EVER DAD HAS DONE TO
ENHANCE THE MACHINE. SHE ENDS UP SLIDING
ONTO THE FLOOR.

29

29

DAD (Continued)

In case there is more than one transmission.

MOM CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, SHE GIVES THE TALK
TO THE HAND AND SCURRIES INTO THE KITCHEN.

JENNIFER

Dad what do you mean more than one transmission?

DAD

Well you see sweetheart. At this point - the TROT is
incapable of transporting to a specific place and time.

SFX: DISHES CRASH IN THE KITCHEN

MOM APPROACHES WITH ARMS CROSSED

DAD (Continued)

That's not to say that we don't know where you will be at any
given place and time it's just that, well. It's like a
submarine that sends out a ping. It's not until the ping
comes back that the pilot knows how to maneuver from the
dangers ahead. I'm sure that you'll arrive safely - I just
need you to tell me where you are. I can fine tune
calculations from there.

MOM COMES BACK WITH MILK, THE KIDS DRINK IT
DOWN. THEY ALL HEAD FOR THE GARAGE.

MOM

This milk better not turn into cows in there tummies!

BEN

So dad - how will we let you know where we are?

DAD

That's what I was getting to. I have installed a
communication device that will be transported along with you.
It operates within your inner ear. I can only speak to one
of you at a time.

ACT TWO

SCENE EIGHT

30 INT. GARAGE - MORNING - VIDEO 30

DAD GIVES HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS.

ALEX

Mr. Albright. How long should the process take?

DAD

Well - for you it will seem like hours but for us only a few moments. At least you should be back long before your check-in with your parents.

MOM

Did you take a toothbrush the first time?

BEN/JENNIFER

Yes mom!

DAD

Now don't do anything out of the ordinary. Remember I'm the submarine and you're the ping. I can only contact you once you've landed. Should we lose communication, find a safe place to hide until I can figure things out.

MOM

(to the thief)

I am placing you personally responsible for the well being of our children.

THIEF

I shall protect them with my life.

DAD

Okay! Let's get to work. The clock starts now!

AFTER HUGS AND KISSES. DAD OPENS THE DOOR TO THE MACHINE. HE POWERS UP THE SWITCHES AND IT COMES ALIVE WITH SMOKE AND LIGHTS. MOM KISSES THEM AND RELUCTANTLY, THE THIEF. DAD CLOSES THE DOOR AND TAKES THE HELM.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Countdown to transformation. 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1. Transformation commencing.

31 INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER 31

WE SEE THE FOUR STANDING. SUDDENLY THEY BEGIN TO SPIN AND TURN. SLOWLY TUMBLING THROUGH THE AIR.

ACT TWO

SCENE NINE

32 INT. GANGSTER CLUB - 1920 - NIGHT 32

AT A GANGSTER HANG OUT GUESTS WEAR TOP COATS AND SPATS. THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IDENTIFY THE SEASON. THE BAND IS PLAYING. DANCERS ARE ON THE STAGE PERFORMING A CHRISTMAS TUNE. THE ORCHESTRA LEADER TAKES CENTER STAGE TO ANNOUNCE THE NEXT SINGER.

SFX: THE VISUAL SHOWING MOM AND DAD GOES IN AND OUT OF NOISY VIEW.

DAD (V.O.)

Ben! Jennifer! Alex! Can you hear me?

MOM (V.O.)

Mr. Thief!

MOM COMES TO REASSURE DAD.

THE BAND IS JUST COMPLETING A SONG.

POP

That was one of our most popular tunes entitled 'Why should I be lonely'. Well good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Pop's Precinct. I'm Pops Sinclair and this is my orchestra. At this time we would like to present to you a special number for the Christmas Holidays, featuring a young lady who has made a name across the globe. Please welcome, the very talented, the very lovely. Miss Strawberry Rouge!

MUSIC IN CUE: CHRISTMAS SONG

STRAWBERRY ROUGE APPROACHES THE STAGE AND BEGINS HER SONG.

STRAWBERRY

My man took my present back to the store...

STRAWBERRY FINISHES THE SONG

MUSIC OUT CUE: MY MAN SONG

33 INT. GARAGE - VIDEO 33

DAD PUSHES KNOBS AND BUTTONS THEN RETRIES TO TRANSMIT.

DAD

Ben! Can you hear me?

33

33

TRAFFIC IS AT THE BAR. THE KIDS ARE NOW UNDER
THE BAR UNBEKNOWN TO THE BAR TENDER.

BEN

Dad - dad is that you?

DAD (V.O.)

Ben - are you alright, how's everyone else?

BEN

We're okay dad. We're all okay you did it.

DAD (V.O.)

We did it son. Honey - the thief is home. What's that sound
in the back? You are in the cave aren't you?

BEN

Not exactly dad!

DAD (V.O.)

What do you mean not exactly? What's wrong?

CUT TO:

34 INT. UNDER BAR - NIGHT

34

THEY ALL LOOK AROUND TO SEE LEGS AND FEET.
ALEX'S EYES FOLLOW A FIFTH OF BOOZE BEING
CARRIED TO A TABLE.

BEN

The clothing is not quiet right.

ALEX

Tell him I don't think we're old enough to be here.

DAD (V.O.)

Ben what is it. Describe the scene.

ALL FOUR POP UP FROM BEHIND THE BAR.

JENNIFER

(into Ben's ear)

Dad - do you remember when you helped me with my book report
on Bonnie and Clyde?

DAD (V.O.)

Yeah!

JENNIFER

I could have got an 'A' if I would have come here first.

34

34

DAD

Oh my Gawd, they're only in the early 1900s. We under shot a little. Listen Ben, I don't feel safe with you there. Can you get outside without being noticed?

BEN

I think so, we...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE TEN

35 INT. BAR - EVENING 35

THE BARTENDER NOTICES THE KIDS HIDING.

BARNEY

Hey what are you slime bags doing down there?

THE FOUR STAND TO THEIR FEET.

BARNEY (Continued)

You don't have to hide we knowed you was comin. Looks like you're already in costume, I likes people whos come prepared. Everything is all set, come on I'll shows yas the green room. Buggy's sure gonna be surprised this time.

JENNIFER

Bugsy - Buggy Malone?

BARNEY

Yeah sure. Ya didn't know this was gonna be the most important gig on your life did ya.

BARNEY WALKS THE KIDS THROUGH THE CROWD TO THE DRESSING ROOM.

36 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 36

MOM AND DAD ARE LISTENING TO THE ACTION.

DAD (V.O.)

Honey - Look up Buggy Malone, see if there is any reference to something news worthy on Christmas Eve in the 1900s.

MOM GASHES AT DAD WITH DISCONTENT.

DAD (V.O.) (Continued)

Honey please!

MOM GOES TO THE COMPUTER AND STARTS SEARCHING THE NET.

37 INT. GANGSTER CLUB - NIGHT 37

ARRIVING AT THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR.

BARNEY

Here ya are, we gots a little food and drink for ya. You're on in a little while sos take a load off. Buy the way, what's the name of that entertainment company your wit?

37

37

THIEF

Best Buy!

BARNEY

I'll write chas out a check.

(walking away)

Boy is dis gonna be a party to remember. I'll calls ya when it's time to come out.

BARNEY WALKS OVER TO THE CONDUCTOR AND LETS HIM KNOW THE NEW ACT HAS ARRIVED.

AN ENTOURAGE OF PEOPLE ENTER. IT'S BUGSY MALONE AND HIS GANG. THEY ARE ESCORTED TO A TABLE, THE BARTENDER APPROACHES. THE WAITRESS SETS NAPKINS. BARNEY ADDRESSES THE NEW GUESTS AS THE SONG ENDS.

BARNEY (Continued)

Mr. Malone. It is my honor to welcome you to our humble establishment - even if you do own it. We got a big surprise for ya! Da drinks are on Buggsy Malone - What ill it be boys?

TWO WAITRESSES TAKE THE ORDERS.

ACT TWOSCENE ELEVEN

38 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - VIDEO

38

MOM

Honey - you need to see this.

DAD GOES OVER TO HER COMPUTER

MOM (Continued)

Bugsy Malone - the most notorious gangster of the early 1900s. Exploited in Chicago during the prohibition era. Like Al Capone, he ruthlessly took the lives of people who got in the way of his diabolical plans. Are our children in his plans?

DAD TAKES OVER THE READING.

DAD

His plans for the biggest heist ever were foiled on Christmas Eve 1921 when he and his gang were shot down when they were surprised by police while celebrating at the Pop's Precinct Bar, a well known hide out for thieves, and murderers.

MOM

Daryl, get our children out of there now.

DAD

I'm... Let's see now - let me think!

MOM

Think, what's there to think about. Get them out now

DAD

Yes dear I aah!

DAD GOES TO THE MICROPHONE.

39 INT. GANGSTER CLUB - GREEN ROOM -
NIGHT

39

DAD (V.O.)

Ben, Jennifer?

JENNIFER

Dad - this is Jennifer - you got me this time.

DAD (V.O.)

Did you get outside?

JENNIFER

No dad - we're stuck in a room. There's gangsters everywhere. We...

39

39

SFX: A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

BARNEY (O.S.)

You's got one minutes. You're`` on stage in one minute.

ALEX

Tanks - tanks a lot.

DAD (V.O.)

There's tanks now?

JENNIFER

Not you dad. Dad - we have to go now. We're on stage in one minute.

DAD (V.O.)

On - what do you mean on stage? You're suppose to be getting out of there.

40 INT. GANGSTER CLUB - NIGHT

40

MUSIC OUT CUE: DANCING GIRLS

POP

At this time we would like to send out a very special dedication to Santa Claus himself.

BARNEY

Okay - youse guys are on. Lets go!

EVERYONE EXITS THE ROOM AND ENTERS STAGE WING.

POP

This song goes out to the man who is the reason why there is more people at the bottom of the Chicago river than boats on top of it. We hired the best entertainment in the city just for you Buggy Mary Christmas. Please welcome 'The Harlem Scape Goats'.

THE BAND STRIKES UP THE MUSIC. BEN WHISPERS INTO EACH EAR. THEY BEGIN TO SING JINGLE BELLS. THE CROWD BEGINS TO BOO THEM. THE MUSIC IS STOPPED, ALEX CALLS A HUDDLE. HE GOES TO THE DRUMMER AND COACHES HIM INTO A RAP BEAT. BEN AND JENNIFER TAKE THE LEAD.

BEN

Won't you fly with me. In my time machine. We can visit anyplace that you want to see. Blink your eyes and we are there. Don't forget your underwear, Won't you fly with me, in my time machine.

THE THIEF BENDS DOWN TO JENNIFER.

40

40

THIEF

What a strange thing to say. Of what language is that?

JENNIFER

It's called rap. All you have to do is make all your words rhyme and look like you want to kill somebody.

BEN

So if you want to pop a blister, just listen to my sister.

JENNIFER

Fee fee fy fy foo foo fum. My teacher gets mad when I'm chewing gum. I act like I put it in the tree-ash-can - but instead I hold it in my hand.

THE CROWD IS REALLY CONFUSED AND UPSET. BOOS
ARE YELLED FROM EVERY CORNER. GUNS ARE
DRAWN.

JENNIFER (Continued)

My teacher says I'm going to ruin my teeth, if you don't like me listen to the thief.

THE KIDS ATTEMPT TO SHOW HIM SOME MOVES.

THIEF

I couldn't sleep one night, knowing how I feel. I knew right away that I had to steal. I went into town, broke into a store. I took a gold ring then was out the door.

THE CROWD BEGINS TO SETTLE DOWN AND AGREE.

THIEF (Continued)

The authorities came, they thought I had stayed. But all they found was the mess I made.

THE CROWD CHEERS AND GOES BACK TO ENJOYING THE
PARTY.

THIEF (Continued)

They came to my cave and arrested me. Next thing I knew I was free.

A GROUP OF GANGSTERS ENTERS AND APPROACHES
BARNEY.

HARVY

Listen mac we're the Harlem Scape Goats here to do some special entertainment. Sorry we got held, our train was late, where do we set up?

BARNEY

Who did you say you guys were?

40

(2)

40

HARVY

The Harlem Scape Goats!

BARNEY

If yous da Scape Goats then who are they?

HARVY

How should I know. We just got here.

BARNEY

Wait just a cotton picking minute!

THIEF

(really into it)

One day I saw a lion, I grabbed him by the mane. The towns people said - that I was in sane. My friend dodged a brick, I wish it was a stick...

BARNEY GOES TO THE POP AND ORDERS THE MUSIC TO STOP.

BARNEY

Hold up! Stop the music! Where did yous guys say yous was from?

THIEF

Best buy?

BARNEY

How did you get in dis place?

THIEF

Like moles - we travel through the earth.

BARNEY

True da... I knowed someums was screwy about you guys. Okay boys - get your toys out.

JENNIFER

Ah! You kind people really don't have to POINT GUNS AT US!

41

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

41

MOM (V.O.)

Guns! Did they say guns? Daryl!

DAD (V.O.)

Almost there honey! Stall em.

THIEF

May we please have a side bare?

41

41

BARNEY

You can have anything you want. Let's just make it's your last request.

42 INT. STAGE CURTAINS - NIGHT

42

THE THIEF AND THE KIDS GO BEHIND THE STAGE CURTAINS.

THIEF

Now would be a good time to become moles.

JENNIFER

Mom - Dad are you getting this?

DAD (V.O.)

Yes sweetheart we're doing everything we can. If you could just stall them a little bit...

BARNEY

Das enough stalling. Get ready to meet your maker. Ready boys!

DAD (V.O.)

Honey - switch the rectifier to minus 3 degrees.

MOM (V.O.)

I would if I knew what a rectifier was.

DAD (V.O.)

The blue knob to the right. Turn it counter clock wise to the left.

43 INT. GARAGE - MORNING

43

MOM AND DAD BEGIN TO MATERIALIZE IN GARAGE

SFX: VIDEO NOISE

MOM

I don't know why I ever let you talk me into this.

BARNEY

Okay boys - let's gives these moles a new hole to live in. On tree - Lets em have it boys!

DAD

That silver knob - push it down on my count.

BARNEY

One!

43

43

DAD

Two!

BARNEY/DAD

Three!

BULLETS FLY THE CURTAIN IS RIDDLED WITH HOLES.

THE SMOKE CLEARS AT THE CLUB. BARNEY GOES TO
INVESTIGATE THE CURTAINS, NO ONE IS THERE.

BARNEY

Well I'll be. Days really was moles.
(to the crowd)

Ah! I told you I told you there wes gonna be a big surprise
Bugsy. One class act aha? Lets gives a round of applause for
Da - Ah - Da Chicago Moles Actors Review. Mary Christmas
everybody - the drinks is on da house!

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE

44 INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER 44

THE TRAVELERS ARE SPINNING THROUGH SPACE TO THEIR NEXT DESTINATION.

45 INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER 45

DAD LOOKS AT THE SCREEN, MOM RUNS OVER. A SIGH OF RELIEF TO SEE THEIR OKAY.

MOM

(yelling into the screen)

Jennifer - Ben are you okay!

DAD

Honey, they can't hear us while they're in transition.

LIGHTING: UP ON THE MANHATTAN SCENE

ACT THREE

SCENE TWO

46 EXT. MANHATTAN - STREET - EVENING 46

SNOW COVERS THE GROUND IN THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN. IN THE B.G. LOVERS ICE-SKATE, CHILDREN ARE PLAYING IN THE SNOW. THE STREET LAMPS DECORATED WITH CHRISTMAS RIBBONS ILLUMINATE THE TINNY STORE FRONTS OFFERING SPECIALS ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS. CAROLERS CROSS THE STREET TO JOIN THE SINGING AT THE GAZEBO WHICH IS ROMANTICALLY LIT.

MUSIC UP: CHRISTMAS MEDLEY

SFX: CAROLERS

THIEF

(amazed)

I feel like I'm inside my own dream.

JENNIFER

Dad - are you there?

ACT THREE

SCENE THREE

47 INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER - 47
VIDEO/STAGE

MOM STOPS PACING AND LEAPS TO THE MONITOR
SCREEN.

MOM

Yes honey I'm here are you alright?

JENNIFER

We're okay mom where is dad?

MOM

He's right here!

DAD

Hi sweetheart. Describe the situation.

JENNIFER

Situation! It's very cold and snow is on the ground.

SFX: HARBOR SHIPS

JENNIFER (Continued)

I think I hear boats. People wearing long hats.

DAD

Top hats? Long coats and streets made of brick?

JENNIFER

Yeah - that's it!

DAD

They're only in the early eighteen hundreds.

MOM

What does that mean?

DAD

We undershot again.

MOM

We!

DAD

Keep talking to her. I need to make some adjustments.

MOM

Honey - is there anyway you can get something hot to drink?

47

47

JENNIFER

We don't have any money.

THIEF

Money?

BEN

What you use to buy things?

JENNIFER

He wouldn't know anything about that.

DAD

I need about ten minutes.

MOM

Your dad needs some more time, try to find a warm place to stay dear. Daryl! Can't we send in some soup and a blanket?

THEY WALK PAST A PERSON SELLING HOT CHOCOLATE.
A MAN BUYS A CUP, PUTS A FEW BILLS IN HIS
WALLET AND PLACES IT IN HIS POCKET.

BEN

I wasn't getting cold until now.

ALEX

I could sure use some hot grub.

THE THIEF ACCIDENTALLY BUMPS INTO A PERSON
WALKING ON THE SIDE WALK.

JENNIFER

Oh! He's sorry, please forgive our friend. You're suppose to say excuse me when you accidentally bump into someone.

BEN

When you do something you didn't mean to do.

THIEF

But I meant to - bump!

JENNIFER

What! But why?

THE THIEF REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND PULLS
OUT A WALLET.

THIEF

Grub?

47

(2)

47

JENNIFER

You have to give that back.

ALEX

(whispering)

Hey mister - you dropped your wallet. He's to far gone.

THIEF

I promised I would take care of you.

JENNIFER

But that doesn't make it right to steal.

DAD

Honey I've almost got it. Ask them what's the nearest intersection. I have to be precise.

MOM

Jenny - have Alex find the nearest intersection.

JENNIFER

Alex! Mom needs our exact location.

ALEX IDENTIFIES THE STREET.

ALEX

We're on Third Avenue and - um. Hold on I'll have to run down to the corner.

ALEX TAKES OFF RUNNING. HE EXITS OFF STAGE.

JENNIFER

He's going to the corner.

DAD

Tell him never mind they should all stay together.

MOM

Tell Alex never mind. Stay together!

ALEX

I got it! Third Avenue and East 23rd Street.

MOM

Third Avenue and East 23rd Street.

DAD

Got it! We can transport as soon as Alex joins the group.

MOM

Hear that honey you're coming home.

47 (3)

47

JENNIFER

We're going home.

A POLICE OFFICER ON THE BEAT EXITS FROM ONE OF
THE STORES.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Not tonight you're not!

LOOKING TOWARD THE VOICE A POLICE OFFICE IS
STANDING WITH A MAN AND WOMAN.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (Continued)

Are these the culprits ma'am?

WOMAN 1

Yes officer, the big one there. I saw him with my own eyes.

JENNIFER

What's the problem Police Officer em McMalley #4424. Why are
you questioning us?

MOM

Daryl do something.

DAD

We have to depend on the kids right now. Jennifer don't
answer me just do what he says and try to let us know exactly
what's going on.

WOMAN 1

I saw him officer - with my own eyes. He put this man's
wallet in that pocket right there.

THE OFFICER REACHES INTO THE THIEF'S POCKET.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Let's just see what santa has for us.

HE PULLS OUT THE MAN'S WALLET.

MAN 1

That's my wallet!

WOMAN 1

You should be ashamed of yourself. Some example for these
kids you are.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Alright - let justice take it's course. All y'all come along
with me.

47

(4)

47

JENNIFER

The thief stole someone's wallet to feed us? And now you're taking all of us to jail? And Alex is heading this way!

POLICE OFFICER 1

Young lady - do you have to repeat every thing that happens to ya in life? Let's go.

ALEX RETURNS TO SEE THEM BEING TAKEN AWAY.

DAD

Jennifer just do as your told I'll get back to you.

JENNIFER

Yes dad.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Always wanted a police officer for a father did ya?

THEY WALK OFF TOWARD THE JAIL.

ACT THREESCENE FOUR

48 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - VIDEO 48

DAD SWITCHES THE DIAL TO ALEX'S RECEIVER.

DAD

Alex!

ALEX (V.O.)

Mr. 'D' the police just...

DAD

Yes Alex we know. Listen, stay where you are. You're wearing the same clothing, the police may connect you with the thieves.

(a look from mom)

I mean they may assume you're an accomplice.

ALEX FOLLOWS OUT OF SIGHT.

MOM

I have a feeling our neighbors are never going to let their kids come to our house again.

(sarcastically)

Oh hello Janice - you've come to pick up Alex. I'm sorry, he's in jail in the 18th century. Could you come back in let's say - about 200 years.

DAD

I'll figure this out honey I promise. Would you mind making us some coffee dear, it's going to be a long night?

WITH ARMS FOLDED MOM HEADS FOR THE KITCHEN
TALKING LOUDLY TO HERSELF. SHE PRETENDS TO
TALK ON THE PHONE.

MOM

Hello Evelyn? I just called to inform you that your child was eaten by a dinosaur today and thank you for trusting us with your loved ones, have a nice day.

ALEX REMAINS HIDDEN, MOM GOES TO THE KITCHEN,
DAD PACES THE FLOOR.

DAD (V.O.)

Father! I really messed up. This is all my fault. What I thought was a blessing from you was probably never meant to be. I'm just believing you to turn this thing around. Bring back our children safely. Show us what to do.

ACT THREESCENE FIVE

49 EXT. MANHATTAN - STREET - NIGHT 49

ALEX LOCATES THE POLICE STATION.

ALEX

Mr. Albright!

DAD

Yes Alex.

ALEX

They're at the police station on 43rd St. between Broadway and 7th.

DAD

Thank you Alex. Alex!

ALEX

Yes sir!

DAD

I am so sorry I got you into this mess. I had no right to subject someone else's child too...

ALEX

Are you kidding me. Dude - this is the radist day of my life.

DAD

I'm gonna get you out of there. God is with us, no matter how far apart we are. Listen at least I know the kids will be safe. Can you find a place to keep warm until I get this figured out?

ALEX SEES AN ALLEY WITH A FIRE IN THE TRASH
CAN.

ALEX

Yes sir. I think I see a fire and people crowded around.

DAD

Go to the people Alex. And remember, I won't rest until I have you all safe and home.

ALEX

I know Mr. 'D' - but if you ask me. You can take your time.

DAD

Thank you...

ACT THREE

SCENE SIX

50 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

50

MOM ENTERS THE ROOM WITH THE COFFEE.

MOM

Beverly! Your daughter was captured by Indians today! No need for that college tuition.

DAD

Sweetheart! God is going to make everything alright. My shortcomings will be to his favor. Now I need you to work with me, not against me.

MOM

Yes dear. I know your doing everything you can. And I got your back.

DAD

Then lets bring our kids home.

DAD AND MOM HUG THEN GO TO THE MICROPHONE
COUNSEL. DAD TURNS THE RECEIVER TO THE
THIEF.

DAD (Continued)

Mr. Thief, can you hear me? I know you're being held captive but if you can, give me some kind of sign that you can hear me without giving yourself away.

ACT THREE

SCENE SEVEN

51 INT. JAIL - NIGHT

51

THE POLICE OFFICER IS NEAR BY SO THE THIEF IS FORCED TO SING HIS COMMUNICATION.

THIEF

Hearing you now is a welcome sound.

DAD (V.O.)

Good. How are the kids.

THIEF

One left behind! The others are fine.

DAD

That's what I needed to hear. Listen, I'm aware that Alex is not with you. My guess is that they will be bringing you food and at least you'll all be safe for the night. Meanwhile I'll be working on things here. By the way, what you did with the wallet was wrong - but I do appreciate why you did it!

THIEF

Thank's for revealing, no more stealing when I get back home.

DAD

Tell the kids I love them.

THIEF

Your dad says Hand of a friend?

ACT THREE

SCENE EIGHT

52 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

52

ALEX APPROACHES A TRASH CAN WITH FIRE TO WARM HIMSELF. DAD SWITCHES TO ALEX'S RECEIVER.

DAD (V.O.)

How are you doing Alex?

ALEX

I'm fine sir. There are people around.

DAD (V.O.)

Can you talk?

ALEX

Oh yeah! There's a lot of people talking to themselves.

DAD (V.O.)

Do you think you'll be Okay for a few hours?

ALEX

This is nothing, my english class was tougher than this.

DAD (V.O.)

Okay! I'm going to sign off to conserve power. I'll contact you as soon as I get things in order here. Okay?

ALEX

Gotcha Mr. 'D' - Listen, aha... no matter how things work out. I think you're the coolest neighbor on the block.

DAD (V.O.)

Thank you Alex.

ACT THREESCENE NINE

53 INT. JAIL - EVENING

53

IN JAIL THE KIDS HAVE TIME TO TALK TO THE THIEF.

BEN

So - have you always been a - in the same professional occupation?

THIEF

You mean have I always been a thief. Not at all, I was a singer. My father and I would perform on the streets. I would sing to gain monetary favor of the patrons. But it was never enough. We found it more profitable to form a rather lucrative business.

JENNIFER TAKES A SEAT CLOSE TO HER FRIEND.

JENNIFER

There is something I've been wanting to ask you - since we first met. This is probably the first time I've ever asked this question and really expected someone to . . .

BEN FIGURES SHAKES HIS HEAD WARNING HER NOT TO ASK!

JENNIFER (Continued)

Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?

MOMENTS GO BY. BEN PACES BECAUSE OF HIS SISTERS DISOBEDIENCE.

THIEF

I know of the man. My father showed me the house of Joseph and Mary his parents. The one place I was never allowed to visit. My father and the man you speak of once worked together. The carpenter and the tent maker. Yes indeed, I know of the man.

THIEF (V.O.) (Continued)

My father told of the most amazing story. The story of a child, born in a manger.

VIDEO: FATHER TALKS TO THE SON

THIEF (V.O.) (Continued)

First told as prophesy of three men who set out to prove it true. The prophesy first being delivered to one Zechariah. The father of John. He once chased me through a corn field for taking berries without permission. It's a long story.

53

53

VIDEO: ANGEL TASK TO ZECHARIAH

THIEF (V.O.) (Continued)

Zechariah did not believe an angel who told of a child soon to be born of his aged wife Elizabeth. Because of his disbelief, he was stricken silent, made mute until the child was to be born. Eight days after the child's birth, Zechariah confirmed the name of the child would be John. Immediately his mouth was opened and he began to prophesy of the coming Messiah.

THIEF (V.O.) (Continued)

Months before the birth of his son, an angel of the Lord had told Mary of her favor with God and that she to, though still a virgin, would soon have a child, conceived of the Holy Spirit Himself. She was to name that child Jesus. The child was born in the city of David - Bethlehem. Then three men followed a star leading them to the manger. My father spoke of the angel being joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased. The three shepherds told of what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. And all who heard the shepherds story were astonished.

LIGHTS UP IN JAIL SCENE

THIEF (Continued)

His cousin John grew to baptize others into a kingdom in the name of the Lord. I could never bring myself to go down to the river. He may have remembered me from the cornfield. To this day he walks from town to town doing miracles and telling others of salvation and forgiveness of sins. My only desire is to speak with the man Jesus face to face for one last time. I am in need of great forgiveness.

MUSIC OUT CUE: CHRISTMAS SONG

JENNIFER

Listen, there will come a day when...

A POLICE OFFICER COMES IN WITH FOOD.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Alright now that's enough of that discussion for one night. The mission sent ya dis special Christmas Eve dinner sos ya bess ta be tankful. And gets use to dis place. Tamaras Christmas ain't no court houses open soes if yas was expectin a Christmas present, looks around and the first rat cha see, tie a ribbon around it's neck. And gives em to one an other - Mary Christmas!

53 (2)

53

THE KIDS BEGIN EATING, THE THIEF CLAIMS NOT TO
BE HUNGRY.

BEN

Friend. Eat something!

THIEF

My desire to be home is much stronger than my desire for
food.

JENNIFER

Dad will get you back home. He never lets us down.

THIEF

I have no doubt - your father is a good man. And your
mother, a loving caring woman.

THE KIDS FINISH EATING.

JENNIFER

Man - I'm stuffed. I couldn't eat another bite if you
offered to get me out of this rat trap. How bout you Ben?
Ben!

BEN HESITATES BUT REALIZES WHAT HIS SISTER IS
UP TO.

BEN

Ah yeah! Stuffed. Well I guess they'll take this food and
toss it to the dogs.

THIEF

Well - no need to give grub to free dogs. Give it to the
caged dogs.

THE THIEF DEVOURS THE FOOD! BEN AND JENNIFER
GIVE A HIGH FIVE.

ACT THREE

SCENE TEN

54 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

54

ALEX IS CUDDLED AGAINST THE BRICK WALL.
SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH
SOME WARMING THEMSELVES BY THE FIRE OTHERS
USING THE ELEMENTS AROUND AS INSTRUMENTS. A
HOMELESS WOMAN INQUIRES OF HIM.

WOMAN 2

You're new here aren't ya sweetie?

ALEX

Yes ma'am!

WOMAN 2

Well - we're all in this together. Are you hungry?

ALEX

Starved!

WOMAN 2

Hey Charley! Gimme one of dose hot cans a-beans.

THE MAN GRABS A CAN WITH AN OLD SHIRT AND
JUGGLES IT TO THE WOMAN.

WOMAN 2 (Continued)

Thank God for the new pull tab openers. I haven't broke a
nail sense.

SHE PULLS A OLD SPOON OUT OF HER BRA AND HANDS
IT TO ALEX. HE DIGS INTO THE BEANS.

WOMAN 2 (Continued)

You're gonna be just fine kid.
(looking at his clothing)
You're not from around here are ya?

ALEX

No ma'am.
(looking around)
Have you been here long?

WOMAN 2

Seems like forever. But once we was on top of the world.

ALEX

We?

WOMAN 2

Me and da Cashmeres, we been together a long time.

54

54

ALEX

Cashmeres?

WOMAN 2

They may not look like much but You're looking at the most amazing singing group in all New York City. Da Cashmeres.

ALEX

So you're a singer?

WOMAN 2

Oh not me. Them! I was just the manager. For fourteen years we made the circuit. Town to town, club to club. Come Christmas time - we put the meaning of Christmas in the air.

ALEX

Only Christmas?

WOMAN 2

Dats all we did. Once a year we would hit the streets. Showing people what Christmas is really about.

ALEX

I bet a lot of people back home would like to see that.

WOMAN 2

Ya think so? I don't! Look at tem now. Tay lost the Christmas spirit. Da spirit of givin. Ta will to survive. The ability to rejuvenate memories from the past. And me - likes a wet dog, still believen in em so much. I lost everything I had just to be with wit em. I'd give anything for dees mugs. Now das what I calls friendship.

ALEX

Yeah! That's going around lately. I have some friends, I'd give anything to have them back.

THE WOMAN TAKES A FEW MOMENTS TO LOOK AROUND
AND REMINISCE.

WOMAN 2

Hey youse muggies. Front and center.

THE MEN PUT DOWN THEIR WINE BOTTLES AND CANS
AND APPROACH THE WOMAN.

WOMAN 2 (Continued)

Do yous guys remembers Christmas Time is here?

MAN 2

Boss - we can't remember our names let alone the gigs we had.

54

(2)

54

MAN 3

We ain't done nothin like dat in years.

MAN 4

Ain't done notin in years. Besides - wees ain't got no audience.

WOMAN 2

What ya talkin about ya bum face morons. Ya got the most important audience than ever before. Dis here kid needs to be rajjuvenated. Das what we do best remember?

MAN 2

Boss we just ain't got its no more. Don't cha rememorize. We got trown out of the last joint we was in 10 years ago. And ain't never done noten sense. Besides - nobody believes in us no more. No body believes in Christmas.

ALEX

I believe in you.

WOMAN 2

Dare yas go ya big fat moron. All yours need is one person toa believe n ya and you can rule the world. Gets the boys together. Show some love.

GATHERING ALL THE GANG TOGETHER HE BEGINS TO INSTRUCT THE TEAM. THE BAND BEGINS TO FORM, ITEMS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ARE COLLECTED AS INSTRUMENTS.

MAN 2

Okay boys it's show time. Just like the good old days. One last time. We can do it. Let's dedicate dis to - da new generation.

THE MEN GATHER IN A LINE, ORCHESTRATE THEIR MOVES. BAND MEMBERS TAKE THERE PLACES ON BOTTLES TRASH CANS AND LIDS KEEPING TEMPO.

MUSIC IN CUE: CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE BOYS

SONG: CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE BOYS, SANTA'S ON HIS WAY. THE MOON IS RIGHT EVERYTHING ALRIGHT BECAUSE WE SERVE THE LORD TONIGHT...

A CROWD HAS GATHERED TO SEE THEM SING. THEIR MANAGER PUTS AN OLD HAT DOWN TO COLLECT MONEY. ALEX USES HIS PHONE TO VIDEO TAPE THEM DANCING.

MUSIC OUT CUE: CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE BOYS

54 (3)

54

EVERY ONE GETS BACK TO THE ALLEY.

ALEX

You guys are great.

MAN 3

Tanks to you Alex, we gave it a shot and we still got it!

WOMAN 2

That's what I been tryin at tells you morons for the last 5 years.

MAN 2

Hey Alex - what was that you was pointing that little stick at us whiles wes was kickin our heals?

ALEX

Oh - I was making a music video.

HE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE, EVERYONE GATHERS
AROUND.

MAN 3

What's a - music vasoro?

ALEX

Music video

(he catches himself)

Ah, it's a game I play. To try to catch snowflakes so I can see what they taste like.

ALL

Oh - yeah - A game.

MAN 2

Get it. Vid-d-eo game!

MAN 4

I could have told ya dat stupid. I knowed what it was all the time.

EVERYONE GOES BACK TO THEIR CORNERS OF THE
ALLEY.

MAN 4 (Continued)

Just remember - don't eats no yellow snow.

ALL

Laughing.

DAD

Alex! Alex are you there?

54 (4)

54

ALEX

Yes I'm here!

MAN 4

Look-e-there, the kid is talkin to himself. He's startin to
fit right in wit us.

(laughing)

ALEX

Excuse me but what do you do about going to the head around
here? The bathroom?

MAN 3

You can use my fire hydrant. Just around the corner make a
left.

ALEX

Thanks!

ALEX GRABS HIS THINGS AND HEADS DOWN THE
STREET.

ACT THREE

SCENE ELEVEN

55 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

55

ALEX GRABS HIS THINGS AND HEADS DOWN THE STREET. RUNS PAST THE DANCERS BUT THEY ARE ALL SLEEP. HE CONTINUES OFF STAGE.

DAD

Did I hear laughing? Listen, we're ready to transport but we need to get all of you together. Can you get to the police station safely?

ALEX

I think so.

DAD (V.O.)

Okay - you're the man now. Get there as quickly as possible.

ACT THREE

SCENE TWELVE

56 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

56

DAD IS PACING, MOM COMES IN.

MOM

How are you holding up honey is there anything I can do?

DAD

No dear, I'm just depending on God. Waiting for Alex to get to the police station. I've really been undershooting the time zones. I've made some major recalculations.

MOM

Are you sure this time honey? It's just that every time you transport...

ACT THREESCENE THIRTEEN

57 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - NIGHT 57

ALEX APPROACHES THE STATION.

ALEX

Mr. Albright - I'm here. I'm at the police station.

DAD AND MOM GO TO THE MICROPHONE.

DAD (V.O.)

Yes Alex we're here. I don't suppose you can see everyone else can you?

ALEX

No sir they're inside.

DAD (V.O.)

I just can't take the chance that there not close enough together. Alex - I don't want to chance that your not within range for a group transport. I'm going to have to figure this out. Hold on just a minute Alex.

ALEX

Mr. Albright?

DAD (V.O.)

Yes Alex.

ALEX

Why don't I just turn myself in?

MOM (V.O.)

Daryl - we can't suggest that our neighbor's child go to jail. How would we ever explain...

DAD (V.O.)

He's right honey. It may be the only way to get them together. Okay Alex I'm leaving it up to you. We don't have long, you'll have to hurry. Remember you must be within touching distance...

ALEX

Mr. Albright - Mr. Albright. Hello?

DAD'S VOICE TURNS TO NOISE AND FADES OUT.

ALEX APPROACHES THE NIGHT SHIFT COP WHO IS SLEEPING AT THE DESK.

ALEX (Continued)

Excuse me sir. I have a confession to make.

57

57

POLICE OFFICER 4 (O.S.)

Hey charley cell block four is full up. Any new prisoners have to be transported to precinct 12 down the road.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Got it McCalski. What's this about a confession kid?

ALEX

Boo Hoo - Aha - Hee Boo Hoo. I need to see my family.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Where is your family and what are you doing on the streets this late it's after curfew.

ALEX

My mother was run over by a boulder. Split, splat that's that. My father grabbed my sister and brother just in time. And now I understand that you have what's left of my family in jail. All because they wanted food. Please - just let me say Mary Christmas to them. My aunt Judy is going to be taking care of me. Please just this one last time. To say Mary Christmas.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Well - alright since ya mother got flattened. But you'll have to be quick. I'm breaking the rules it's after visiting hours.

ALEX

Thank you, thank you!

THE OFFICER TAKES HIM TO THE CELL.

ACT THREE

SCENE FOURTEEN

58 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT 58

ALEX STARTS TO GIVE VERBAL MESSAGES TO CLUE
HIS FRIENDS.

ALL

Alex. Oh my God we're so glad to...

ALEX

My sister, my brother, my dear father, husband of my mother
who got flattened.

THIEF

By a huge boulder.

EVERYONE STARTS TO CRY, EVEN THE COP. HE
LEAVES THE CELL.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Remembers - makes it quick.

ALEX

We know, we heard. Just give us some time.

THE POLICE IS OUT OF SIGHT.

ALEX (Continued)

Listen your dad is ready to transport but something went
wrong. I think he lost the...

MOM

What do you mean you lost the signal. Those aren't T.V.
stations out there those are our children.

DAD (V.O.)

Honey please.

POLICE OFFICER 3

(yelling)

Alright times up down there. Say your farewells. And by da
wase, the judge is on his way to announce you prison sentence
he don't want to spoil his holiday wit chu mugs takin up cell
space.

BEN

There going to send us to prison without a trial? Alex, If
things don't work out. You've been a real friend.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Young man time is up down dare!

58

58

BEN

Do you remember that frizbee you thought you lost? It's under my bed. I always thought it was cool. It landed on our roof and I never...

MOM (V.O.)

Never thought to make sure this would work did you? Oh this is good, this is real good. Our son is about to go to prison because we decided to play with God's electrons.

ACT THREE

SCENE FIFTEEN

59 INT. POLICE STATION - DESK - NIGHT 59

JUDGE CONWAY APPROACHES THE FRONT DESK.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Hello Judge Conway. I understand yous wants to wrap things up early for Christmas.

JUDGE

My gift to the prisoners. I figure they may want to forgo the judgment and go straight to a nice warm prison.

POLICE OFFICER 3

Dats very hospital of you judge. Right this way.

60 INT. JAIL - NIGHT 60

BEN

(everyone in tears!)

Remember that skate board, the one you scribbled the naked lady on the bottom?

ALEX

(crying)

How could I forget?

BEN

It's in my bottom drawer.

ALEX

(crying loudly)

You dog!

POLICE OFFICER 3

Right in here judge. I have to admit, I bent the rules a little by letting em have a visitor.

61 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 61

MOM AND DAD ARE FRANTICALLY TRYING TO ACTIVATE THE MACHINE.

DAD (V.O.)

Hold the green button down, push the silver lever up NOW! HONEY NOW!

62 INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL - NIGHT 62

THE POLICE OFFICER OPENS THE DOOR. THE CELL IS EMPTY.

62

62

POLICE OFFICER 3

What in heaven's name! I swear day was just here a minute ago.

ACT THREE

SCENE SIXTEEN

63 INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER 63

THE TIME TRAVELERS ARE TUMBLING THROUGH SPACE.

BEN

I don't suppose you got Theodore do ya?

ALEX

Theodore?

BEN

My pet hamster. He disappeared about a year ago.

ALEX

Naa! Jerome!

THE TIME TRAVELERS SPINNING INTO OBLIVION.

BEN

Jerome!

ALEX

My Cat. Theodore put up a good fight though.

DAD

That's it. We got em! I had to really increase the velocity projection but there safe now and they are together.

MOM

Oh honey - I knew you could do it!

ACT THREESCENE SEVENTEEN

64 EXT. VORTEX FOREST - NIGHT

64

THIS IS A DARK WORLD FILLED WITH FUTURISTIC PLANTS, AND EERIE BACKGROUNDS. OUR TIME TRAVELERS ENTER THROUGH A CAVE DWELLING BROKEN IN HALF EXPOSING ITS INTERNAL ROCK FORMATIONS. FLORESCENT PIKES AND COLORED WITH REDS IGNITE THE PATH LEADING INTO DOME. HOT GUESSERS SPOUT HOT STEAM WHILE WATERFALLS FLOW MIXED WITH HOT LAVA SET THE MOOD. MINERAL SPIKES. OUR TIME TRAVELERS BEGIN TO WALK THE PATH TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN WORLD.

THIEF

(looking around)

I have seen this world before. Underground - as a child. We must be close to my home.

DAD

Ben, Jennifer, ah - thief. Are you there?

THIEF

We are here!

DAD

Describe your surroundings, buildings, forms of transportation, what are the people wearing?

THIEF

I see only spikes of mineral water, from years gone past.

DAD

Ben, Jennifer, Alex, I need a reference. What do you see?

BEN

Like he said dad. Colorful rocks, waterfalls, like what we saw at Knots Berry farm on the Calico Mine Train ride.

DAD

Oh my God. They're in a mineral mine, possibly prehistoric.

MOM

Oh great! Dinosaurs - and you just delivered lunch. Why don't you hop into that machine and supersize!

MOTHER FOLDS HER ARMS AND STORMS OFF TO ANOTHER PART OF THE GARAGE.

DAD

The good news is, were only 1000 thousand years away and we're all ready to transport you.

64

64

JENNIFER

The bad news dad?

DAD

I'm scanning some sort of rock formations. It's preventing me from getting a clear signal to transport. I need you to get clear of the overhead formation. It should only take a few minutes for the machine to register the signal. What are you seeing in that area?

JENNIFER

It's dark dad, and scary!

MOM PUSHES DAD ASIDE AND GRABS THE MICROPHONE AND BEGINS SWITCHING CHANNELS. AS SHE SWITCHES WE HEAR FEEDBACK AND EACH PERSON HAS AN INSTANTANEOUS HEAD ACHE.

MOM

Friend! I'm talking to you friend!

THIEF

I am here.

MOM

Do you remember what you told me before you left?

THIEF

About the lives of your children.

MOM

Yes! I want you to know that I don't hold anything against you. This is not your fault. All I can do is ask you - as a friend, to help get my children back home. No matter what I will always admire you and your courage and for being a true friend to my children.

THIEF

Hand of a friend?

MOM

Hand of a friend?

THE THIEF BEGINS TO CHOP DOWN BUSHES AND LOGS TO BUILD A RAFT. VINES ARE USED TO TIE THE LOGS. HE PLACES THE CHILDREN ON THE MAKESHIFT RAFT AND BEGINS PUSHING THEM DOWN THE SWAMP. SWATTING MOSQUITOES AND RIPPING BLOOD SUCKING LEACHES FROM HIS BODY HE MANAGES TO PUSH THEM DOWN THE RIVER. ABOUT HALF WAY THOUGH - THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS.

64 (2)

64

SFX: CREATURES IN THE MOUNTAINS BEGIN TO CLOSE
IN.

THIEF

What was that?

ALL

What was what?

THIEF

That! Something alive in the brush. It went swimming on the
dirt!

JENNIFER

Alrighty then.

ALEX

That's it. Time for warp drive.

ALEX GRABS A LONG REED, BREAKS IT OFF AND
BEGINS TO HELP PADDLE. JUST AS THEY GET TO
THE END OF THE POND THEY STOP.

JENNIFER

Shhhhh! Stop. Listen.

BEN

We don't have time to listen lets...

JENNIFER

Shhh! It sounds like breathing! Listen.

ONLY HEART BEATS CAN BE HEARD. SUDDENLY
SOMETHING POPS UP FROM THE GROUND BEFORE
THEM. IT SPITS THROUGH A TUBE. A DART HITS
THE THIEF IN THE NECK. PLANTS BEGIN TO COME
ALIVE, ON THE HEADS OF LITTLE PEOPLE. THE
ENTIRE FOREST COMES TO LIFE. WARRIORS FROM
EVERY DIRECTION NOW HEADING TOWARDS THE
TRAVELERS. A VICTORY SONG IS SUNG. THE DART
BEGINS TO TAKE EFFECT. THE THIEF IS ON A
HIGH.

ACT THREESCENE EIGHTEEN

MUSIC IN CUE: GIVE A GIFT

65 EXT. THE VORTEX COLONY - NIGHT 65

THE VORTS TAKE THE TRAVELERS CAPTIVE HEADED TO
A HUGE ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VALLEY.
MOTHER VORTEX COMES ALIVE. TRANSFORMING INTO
ROCK MOMMY SHE DEVELOPS BEFORE OUR EYES.
TWISTING - TURNING INTO ROCK WE SEE ROCK
MOMMY. THE VORTS APPROACH.

SFX: ATMOSPHERE

ROCK MAMA

Well, what have we here. It's been a long time since I've
seen the likes of humanoid stature.

THIEF

Speaking of statues.

ROCK MAMA

You can't be of this space and time. You are from the other
side aren't you.

(to the thief)

Excuse me! Ex-cues me!

THIEF

Why - what did you do? Ha - Ha - Haaaa!

HE FALLS BACKWARD OVER A LOG.

VORT 1

Sire - we felt this one would be a problem during capture so
we potioned him. It should ware off soon.

ROCK MAMA

Do you have any idea where you are?

THE THIEF CRAWLS UP OVER THE LOG.

THIEF

Do you have any idea what you look like?

ROCK MAMA

How did you happen to come to our land?

JENNIFER

Our Dad is a scientist. He built a machine that is capable
of sending people through time.

DAD GETS A GOOD SIGNAL.

65

65

Jennifer - are you okay? DAD
Who are you talking to?

Who am I talking to? JENNIFER

She's talking to volcano breath. THIEF

HE POPS HIS FINGER IN HIS MOUTH.

Honey can you talk? DAD

Yes, Dad I'm here. JENNIFER

Who are you talking to? ROCK MAMA

My father. JENNIFER

You can communicate? I once had someone to call my father. ROCK MOMMY

Your papa was a rolling stone. THIEF

Quiet. If you say another word I shall have you placed in prison. ROCK MAMA

THE THIEF BEGINS TO LAUGH UNCONTROLLABLY.

P... P... prison. Do you have any idea how many prisons I've been in today. That's how I get my grub. Ha Ha... THIEF

We aren't that different you know. ROCK MAMA

THE THIEF KNOCKS ON HIS HEAD, THEN KNOCKS ON THE ROCKS HEAD. THE SOUNDS ARE OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT.

Liar, liar, rocks on fire. THIEF

We are the result of your generation abusing what God created for you to take care of. You ruined our chance to be beautiful in the future. ROCK MAMA

65

(2)

65

THIEF

Please accept my most humble apology. I agree - your ugliness is all my fault.

THE THIEF STARTS LAUGHING OUT OF CONTROL.

ALEX

What are you talking about our generation. We're learning about the destruction our parents are doing to us every day. We will never see a Welfare check or Social Security.

BEN

Or know what it's like to retire.

JENNIFER

We don't know what's going to happen to us. But it's not our fault.

ROCK MAMA

Behold! Your future. We are the result of your unwillingness to protect the earth and the fruits their of. Your race ceased to exist as you know it over 1000 years ago. You left your trash, your dirty filthy air for us to breath. Contaminated seas and putrid water. We no longer grew any larger. Do you have any idea what that is called?

THIEF

(pointing at a vort)

He's a Pebble?

ROCK MAMA

It is called selfishness. Your generation is the cause of our demise. All because you would not consider those who meant the most to you, for you. These are your future, those you chose to fend for themselves. Your future generations. Left to die.

ALEX

I still fail to see what that has to do with us. You want to kill us because of something we have no control over?

THIEF

Rock Garden.

DAD

Alex, ask the person speaking what year it is.

ALEX

Excuse me! I don't mean to get you off track but could you please tell me what year this is.

65

(3)

65

ROCK MAMA

It is the time of giving in the year 3011. Here in the
vortex forest.

ALEX

3011 - Did you get that Mr. Albright.

ACT THREE

SCENE NINETEEN

66 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 66

DAD IS IN THE GARAGE WORKING OF THE MACHINE.

DAD

Alex - are you near the others is everyone together?

SFX: NOISE AND STATIC

ROCK MAMA

If you came from a different place and time. Through this machine, that would mean that your execution would change our future and possibly my fate for the better. Your death would be - The cure. Vortimites - dip your darts into the cure.

VORT 1

The cure, my lord the cure would definitely leave them paralyzed for life.

ROCK MAMA

Did they not paralyze our lives. Our world. Prepare to terminate the intruders.

VORTS SURROUND THE TRAVELERS. THE THIEF HAS COME OUT OF HIS STUPOR.

THIEF

What is going on. Who are these invaders?

JENNIFER

They are going to kill us, because of what our parents did.

THIEF

Lord - give me the strength to fulfill my calling.

HE PRESENTS HIS SWORD.

ROCK MAMA

How noble. The generation, protected by the generational curse.

THIEF

I have given my word. And I intend to keep it.

DAD (O.S.)

Got it! Hang on guys.

ROCK MAMA

Let us waste no more time on the selfish earth worms. Just think, maybe getting rid of you will bring life to a better breed in the future. Vorts, prepare. Ready!

66

66

THE VORTS CIRCLE THE TIME TRAVELERS.

ALEX

Oh - I see you're preparing poison darts. That's nice.

ROCK MAMA

Aim!

THE BLOW GUNS GO TO THEIR LIPS.

BEN

I guess I won't be around to finish my homework assignment like MOM! Told me.

DAD

Lock it! Now baby! The blue button.

ROCK MOMMY

Fire!

THE KIDS GO DOWN TO THERE KNEES. THE VORTS
BACK UP TO BLOW AND - THE FATAL BREATH IS
NEVER GIVEN.

ROCK MAMA

What's wrong you fools I said Fire.

THE VORTS BACK AWAY TO EXPOSE THAT THE
SUBJECTS ARE GONE.

ACT THREESCENE TWENTY

67 INT. TIME TRAVEL - MOMENTS LATER 67

ONCE AGAIN OUR TRAVELERS ARE TUMBLING THROUGH TIME.

FX: TIME TRAVEL

SFX: TIME TRAVEL ATMOSPHERE

68 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 68

MOM AND DAD COME UP ON THE SCREEN. THEY GIVE EACH OTHER HIGH FIVE.

DAD

We got em, we got em honey.

MOM

Thank you Jesus. Daryl - I don't know how much more of this I can take.

DAD

I know dear - me too. I'm doing everything I can but the best thing we can possibly do is keep praying.

EMERGENCY LIGHTS GO OFF AT THE CONSOLE.

AS THE TRAVELERS STILL TUMBLE THROUGH SPACE THE WATCH ALEX IS WEARING GOES OFF.

MOM

What is it dear?

DAD

We didn't figure on this.

MOM

You didn't figure what?

DAD

The 24 hour clock. I forgot to take into consideration the fact that time travel hours had already been used up during the first time the kids used the machine.

ALEX

I should have told your dad that...

JENNIFER

Are you saying we may have to become rock people for the rest of our lives?

68

68

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Termination countdown commencing.

MOM

If that woman does not shut up! Now explain to me what's going on.

ALEX

The time is up.

JENNIFER

What are you talking about?

DAD

The extermination period for the time machine is 24 hours of use. After that, the memory gets erased. It's a - safety feature, to keep rendering down to prevent crashes. Alex originally set the master timer for a few hours that began the 24 hour maximum mixed with the hours we've used which has depleted our user time to is just - about - over.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Time travel terminating!

ACT THREE

SCENE TWENTY-ONE

69 INT. CAVE - NIGHT

69

THE TRAVELERS HIT THE GROUND WITH A THUMP OF PAIN.

ALL

Oh, eeehhk, ofoewiuy, wooo.

THE TRAVELERS ENTER THE ORIGINAL OPENING OF THE THIEF'S CAVE. THEY GET UP HOLDING THEIR BODY PARTS.

ALEX

Dude - pops has really got to do something about those landings.

JENNIFER

Look! We're here! We're back - from the future.

BEN

That sounds familiar.

THIEF

My treasure is gone but, the most important treasure is here.

COMPUTER

TROT shut-down eminent. Scanning indicates subjects still in time travel. Warning! Possible paradox may occur. Subjects may not be received in original form.

THE TOWNS PEOPLE ARE COMING TO THE CAVE.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

GUARD 1

He has escaped from prison. Not an hour ago! No doubt he has returned to his haven of sin.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Commencing count down to final termination. 20, 19...

JENNIFER

Friend - I'm so sad, but I'm so happy for you.

THIEF

This day will never be forgotten.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

15, 14...

69

69

THIEF

Go my friends, you know the route.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

12, 11, 10..

THE KIDS DODGE INTO THE ROCK HIDING PLACE.

MOM (O.S.)

Daryl I swear I'm gonna take a wrench to that...

THIEF

Circumstance will never keep us apart.

THE THIEF CLOSSES THE ROCK AND RUNS TO THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE CAVE. THE AUTHORITIES
ENTER. MOM AND DAD ARE HARD AT WORK.

THIEF (Continued)

My cousin was run over by a boulder.

GUARD 1

Save it! We don't know how you managed to escape but rest assured, your escape will not happen again.

ONE OF THE OTHER GUARDS NOTICES FOOTPRINTS

GUARD 2

Sire, small footprints leading to this rock.

GUARD 1

Friends of your's possibly? Ready weapons - kill whatever is inside.

THE GUARDS CROWD AROUND. LONG SWORDS ARE
DRAWN. SPEARS POINT TO THE ROCK.

GUARD 1 (Continued)

Now! - open it!

THE GUARDS FORCE THE ROCKS APART.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

3, 2, 1 Transmission and termination.

THE GUARDS GAZE AT AN EMPTY TOMB.

COMPUTER (V.O.) (Continued)

Thank you for choosing TROT transportation systems.

SYSTEM SHUTS DOWN

69 (2)

69

GUARD 1

Aren't you the clever one. Take him away!

THE GUARDS TAKE HIM AWAY.

ACT THREE

SCENE TWENTY-TWO

70 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

70

THE TIME MACHINE DOOR OPENS. JENNIFER, BEN AND
ALEX EXIT. JENNIFER RUNS TO HER MOTHERS
ARMS.

JENNIFER

Mommy - They took my friend away. My only true friend.

MOM

I know sweetheart. He was my friend too.

DAD

Come on, let's get as far away from this machine as possible.
Everybody to the living room.

ACT THREESCENE TWENTY-THREE

71 INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

71

DAD TAKES EVERY ONE TO THE LIVING ROOM AND PRAYS.

DAD

Before we go any further. Hold hands - all of you! Heavenly father. Thank you! Thank you so very much for bringing us back together. It is only by your grace and guidance that we survive our daily experiences. Knowing that you are with us is the only true comfort. This house will always remember the day you proved your word. Amen.

ALEX

Mr. 'D' I want you to know this whole thing was...

DAD

My fault. All my fault, I hold no one to blame but myself Alex. In fact - I want to thank you for being there for Jennifer and Ben. I don't think they would have made it back without you.

MOM

Honey - can we just shut the machine totally off?

DAD

Of course dear. That's not a bad idea! I'll be right back.

MOM

No! Let me do the honors. I've been wanting to shut that chick up since the count down.

DAD

The knob that says AC...

MOM

I got this.

MOM GOES TO THE GARAGE.

DAD

I'm just glad you kids are home. If it's any consolation. You proved a lot of experiments that, well I could never have proved under controlled conditions. In fact - I'd say you were all a part of history today...

ACT THREESCENE TWENTY-FOUR

72 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

72

MOM PASSES THE COMPUTER AUDIO CONSOLE. SHE ATTEMPTS TO TURN THE MACHINE OFF BUT GETS A THOUGHT. SHE GOES TO THE MICROPHONE AND FLIPS THE SELECTOR TO THE THIEF.

MOM

Friend - friend are you there?

THIEF

I'm here. My friends - are they?

MOM

They're safe! Thanks to you!

THIEF

No time to talk, they are coming to move me to holding - I am to be crucified in four months. They say I will be with others.

MOM

I know.

THIEF

Do you think - my friends will remember me?

MOM

They will always remember you. And thousands of others will come to know your story.

SFX: THE SIGNAL BEGINS TO GET NOISY.
FOOTSTEPS, GUARDS, KEYS.

THIEF

Hand of a friend?

MOM

Hand of a friend!

THIEF

I have no gift to give you...

MOM

You've given me the greatest gift...

(to herself)

The lives of my children.

NOISE OVER TAKES THE SIGNAL AN THE SIGNAL GOES DEAD. SHE PULLS THE ACP SWITCH TO THE OFF POSITION.

ACT THREESCENE TWENTY-FIVE

73 INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

73

MOM RETURNS FROM THE GARAGE.

MOM

Well, that's that. Pulling that AC Power lever never felt so good.

DAD

AC Power lever - you turned it off?

MOM

Of course I did.

JENNIFER

What's wrong dad!

DAD

To turn TROT off you have to pull the plug from the wall. The AC Stands for...

DAD GOES TO HIS KNEES.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Assimilation Character Prevention off. All subjects now being reassimilated - transformation process complete. Now regenerating all previously transported objects. Welcome to TROT Technology.

ALL ACTORS EXIT FROM THE TIME MACHINE

COMPUTER (V.O.) (Continued)

The Crew - Make-up - Costumes & wardrobe - Special Effects - Voice Over - Orchestra - Extras - Guards - Gangsters - Policemen - Music - Winter Wonderland - Strawberry Rouge - TROT Commercial - The Vortex Colony - T The Cashmeres - Buggy's gangsters - The Jerusalem City players - Rock Mommy - Mom - Dad - Alex - Ben - Jennifer - Assistant directors - Computer, that's me - Ladies and gentlemen, writer, producer, director, announcer, choreographer, music score, atmosphere and the thief. Thank you for choosing TROT Technologies.

ANNOUNCER

We hope you've enjoyed tonight's presentation of 'Hand of a Friend.' On behalf of Fountain of Life Productions' Vision Testaments, thank you for your support. Be sure to pick up your copy of tonight's performance in the court yard for autographs. Thank you!

FADE OUT:

HAVE A KNOW THAT POINTS TO THE PERSON YOU ARE
ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT. EXAMPLE: JENNY,
THIEF, BEN, ALEX. YOU CAN USE THIS SHOT AS
CUT AWAYS.