

Blinky's Island
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN

EXT. A TROPICAL ISLAND - DAY

Lucas Lemon, a kid in tattered clothes, green skin and purple hair, runs for his life on the slope of a volcano.

Lucas hears a roar of threat from behind; he runs faster, pants hard, looks dead ahead.

Behind a thrush of trees a giant dragon appears, the PUFFMONSTER--a slimy, oversized dragon.

Lucas scurries behind a log and loads his Puffblaster--a long tube-like weapon he's never without.

He lays low and hears the Puffmonster step into a puddle. He squints one eye, takes aim.

He catches the monster's nose with a hard force of water.

We hear A SIZZLE as the monster shrieks in pain.

Lucas runs up the side of the steaming volcano.

He reaches a rocky plateau at the top. Bamboo sticks form a cross.

Tied with vines to the cross is Princess Winkala, a beautiful girl with pinkish skin and a crown of flowers in her lavender hair.

Lucas unties her even as the Puffmonster's thunderous footsteps get louder.

Lucas fumbles with the vines some more, but it's too late--the Puffmonster is on top of them.

Lucas slings his Puffblaster on his shoulder and takes one shot which hits the Puffmonster on the chest.

The Puffmonster screams in agony and falls backward, doing one flip then another as it falls back down the volcano.

LUCAS

Ha, take that, Puffmonster!

PRINCESS WINKALA

You're my hero!

Lucas tries to answer but all that comes out is a cough and wheeze.

INT. BEDROOM OF LUCAS LEMON - DAY

As an alarm buzzes, LUCAS, skin and hair normal, sits up in his race car bed coughing.

He reaches for an asthma inhaler at his bedside and puffs.

A small, skinny 12-year-old, his train pajamas make him look deceptively young.

He gets up and passes stuffed animals and a cloud mural to get to a calendar tacked to the wall.

INSERT - CALENDAR

"September 19th - my 12th birthday"

BACK TO BEDROOM

LUCAS

Yes!

INT. LUCAS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Next to the calendar hangs an ad ripped out of a magazine. Lucas touches the ad and gazes longingly.

INSERT - AD

a full-color graphic of BLINKY, a handsome teen with green skin and purple spiky hair. Dressed in a loincloth, he shoots the Puffmonster with a puffblaster.

INT. LUCAS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lucas hears his mom call.

MRS. LEMON (OFFSCREEN)

Lucas, are you awake? Time to get ready for your party!

EXT. LEMON BACKYARD - LATER, DAY

Lucas sits with a party hat on his head in a small chair surrounded by little kids.

Nearby, a clown makes balloon animals. Kids hit their balloons and each other.

A LITTLE KID smiles up at Lucas. Lucas smiles back halfheartedly.

Then Lucas sniffs the air and makes a face.

Little Kid giggles.

LITTLE KID

I made a poo poo.

Little Kid runs off. The table is piled high with gifts.

Lucas opens a gift: a stuffed spider. He looks grossed out and drops the toy.

MRS. LEMON, over-dressed and coiffed, walks over.

MRS. LEMON

Remember to say thank you, Lucas.

LUCAS

Thank you, Aunt Marge.

AUNT MARGE, an older woman, smiles.

AUNT MARGE

Oh, I was just having a little fun.

I know you always hated spiders.

(takes another gift
from off the stack
and hands it to him)

Here's my real gift.

Lucas opens the gift: the Blinky's Island game.

LUCAS

Cool! Thanks Aunt Marge! This is the coolest gift ever!

Mrs. Lemon snatches the game and hands it back to Marge.

MRS. LEMON

We don't allow him to have video games yet.

AUNT MARGE

What 'yet'? He's 12 years old, Lois.

INT. BRADEN LIVING ROOM - DAY

Erica Braden, a 12-year-old girl, plays a video game on the couch.

She could be beautiful if not for her backwards baseball cap, unkempt hair and scowl.

On the screen is a pixelated version of Blinky and Winkala as they run from the Puffmonster.

Erica's father, JERRY BRADEN, a computer programmer in a Wall Street suit, walks in and sees Erica.

MR. BRADEN

Erica, what have I told you about playing that game?

Erica throws the controller down and crosses her arms.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)

Why don't you take a ball outside and get some fresh air?

Erica rolls her eyes and gets off the couch.

Mr. Braden pops the Blinky's Island game out of the game system and walks to the front door, taking his keys out of his pocket.

Before he can get out the door, Erica comes up with a football.

ERICA

Want to play catch, Dad?

MR. BRADEN

Later, I have some business to do.

Mr. Braden brushes past his daughter and out the door as she lets the football drop from her hand.

EXT. LEMON FRONT YARD - DAY

Lucas stands on the driveway, arms folded. Lucas' father, MR. LEMON, a balding guy with glasses, walks slowly up.

MR. LEMON

What are you doing out here, sport? You're missing all the fun.

Lucas scowls silently.

MR. LEMON (CONT'D)

Your mother means well, Lucas.

LUCAS

Really? Then why wouldn't she let me keep Blinky's Island?

MR. LEMON

Some things are more important than video games, son.

LUCAS

Yeah? Like what?

MR. LEMON

Like friends.

LUCAS

I don't have any friends.

MR. LEMON

What about that kid across the street.
What's her name--?

LUCAS

Erica? She thinks I'm a dork.

Lucas glances at Erica across the street on her porch playing on a tablet.

MR. LEMON

Well, you know the old saying, if
you want to make a friend, you've
got to be a friend.

INT. ORANGEVALE COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Middle-aged women sit at tastefully decorated tables.

There is a stage with a screen and LCD/computer set-up.

Mr. Braden walks out on stage. Women applaud.

MR. BRADEN

Thank you for letting me speak at
your PTA luncheon, ladies. I'm here
today to talk to you about the single
biggest threat to the American family
today.

Women murmur and look at each other.

On the screen is a picture of a video game system.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)

Video games outsold every toy last
year but at what cost?

Screen switches to a picture of a zoned-out kid with a
controller in his hand.

Women look guiltily at each other.

Mr. Braden taps a few keys on the laptop. On the screen behind
him appears CAPTAIN KILGORE, a gritty soldier and FRANK, a
scruffy bad guy in a non-descript foreign military uniform.

Frank farts. Kilgore laughs mischievously. Frank farts again
and this time Kilgore strikes a match and sends Frank up in
a ball of flames.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
Look at this...it's disgusting.
But our kids can't seem to get
enough of it, right? But wait--

Braden taps a key and Frank reappears on screen next to Kilgore, unscathed.

Mr. Braden takes out a disk and inserts it into the laptop.

Kilgore and Frank freeze as the message "Elimination Commencing" appears on the screen.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
In a few minutes, we'll have no more
bad guys and no more good guys.
Without them, what's the fun of the
game?

A SKEPTICAL MOM shakes her head.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
Now, some of you are thinking, why
buy these games at all--why not burn
them?

Skeptical Mom looks interested.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
Even if you smashed every video game,
your child would still smuggle this
smut back into your home.

Mr. Braden holds up a software box.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
But with my Vidliminator, the
characters themselves will disappear
forever.

Women murmur.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
Who knows, your kid might go outside
and play some ball?

Mr. Braden chuckles and so does the audience.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)
For \$29.95 plus tax, you can prevent
obesity, poor grades and
incarceration. All major credit cards
accepted out in the lobby.

En masse, women get up and head for the lobby. Mr. Braden smiles and follows them out.

EXT. LEMON FRONT YARD - DAY

Lucas looks across the street as Erica plays her video game.

Lucas gives a friendly nod. Erica glares at him and continues her game.

Lucas puts one foot in the street. A car comes and Lucas scurries back to the curb, coughing.

He looks at Erica again and runs across the street.

He trips and lands near Erica's feet. Erica barely glances at him.

Lucas gets up and peers at the game in Erica's hands.

LUCAS
Whatya playing?

ERICA
Blinky's Island.

LUCAS
Cool! Can I play?

ERICA
No.

LUCAS
Oh.

ERICA
I'm at level 27 and if I let you play you'd send me back to zero.

LUCAS
No, I wouldn't.

ERICA
Here, this might be more your speed.

Erica taps a few keys on her tablet and hands the game over to Lucas.

LUCAS
Thanks.

On the game screen, a giant smiley face bubble slowly moves up the screen, surrounded by smaller bubbles.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Ok, what do I do?

Lucas pushes some buttons.

ERICA
Eat the bubbles.

LUCAS
What? Oh no.

On game screen, smily face floats down to the ground where it disappears. Erica grabs the tablet.

ERICA
That's why dorks shouldn't play video games.

INT. ORANGEVALE COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

The place is empty and the tables are laden with half-eaten plates of food.

Kilgore and Frank, still frozen on the screen, start to glow.

The glow bulges through the screen as they fall onto the auditorium stage.

Seeing Kilgore, Frank immediately lunges at him.

KILGORE
Wait! Where are we? Look at all those plates of food!

FRANK
Huh?

Frank looks around as Kilgore rolls off the stage onto the floor. He stands up rubbing his belly.

KILGORE
God I haven't eaten for days!

Kilgore tries to pick up a sandwich but his hand passes right through the bread.

He looks puzzled and tries again.

KILGORE (CONT'D)
Bah, there ain't nothin' but a lotta sissy food here anyway. I'd kill for a nice juicy steak.

Kilgore shoves Frank off of him and darts through the door.

Frank stumbles then follows after him.

INT. BRADEN HOUSE - NIGHT

Mr. Braden walks into his dark entryway carrying a briefcase.

He is about to turn on the light switch when he sees a light coming through his office door.

He throws the office door open and steps inside.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Erica sits at his computer playing Blinky's Island.

She whirls around, sees her father, then turns back around trying to turn off the monitor.

MR. BRADEN

Don't bother. I've caught you red-handed! How many times have I told you not to play on my computer?

ERICA

Sorry, Dad, it won't happen again, honest...

MR. BRADEN

You're right it won't happen again. I should have done this a long time ago.

Mr. Braden reaches into his briefcase and takes out a disk. He puts it in his computer and the words "vidlimination commencing" appear on the screen.

ERICA

What's happening? What does "vidlimination" mean?

MR. BRADEN

It means Blinky and all his mind-numbing friends will never appear on this computer again.

Mr. Braden turns to leave the office.

ERICA

But you can't do that...

MR. BRADEN

I just did. Put your shoes on and let's go get some dinner.

ERICA
 (sits back down at
 the computer and
 folds her arms)
 I'm not hungry.

MR. BRADEN
 Well you can't stay here alone so
 move it.

ERICA
 Dad, I'm almost a teenager!

MR. BRADEN
 You're twelve and as long as you
 live under my roof, you'll do what I
 say!

Mr. Braden exits the office.

Erica, crying, stands up and throws a pen at the wall.

The pen hits a framed photograph which crashes to the floor.

ERICA
 Oh no!

She runs to the picture and examines it.

INSERT PICTURE

A younger, smiling Erica with her mother and father.

BACK TO OFFICE

Erica carefully puts the picture back on the wall and wipes
 her tears.

MR. BRADEN (O.S.)
 Erica!

ERICA
 Coming!

Erica sighs and exits the office.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN

Blinky and Princess Winkala stand on the shore. The words
 "Vidlimination Commencing" floats above their heads.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - DAY

Blinky and Winkala are on a rocky peninsula staring at a
 whirlpool on the surface of the water.

PRINCESS WINKALA
If we jump in, we can be free.

BLINKY
How do you know?

PRINCESS WINKALA
It came to me in a dream. I jumped
in and was pulled toward a light...

BLINKY
And if you are pulled toward death?

Behind them in the distance, the Puffmonster roars.

Winkala steps toward Blinky, takes his face in her hands,
looks at him tenderly, then turns and jumps into the water.

She swims toward the whirlpool and is slowly sucked in.

BLINKY (CONT'D)
Princess Winkala! No, come back!

Blinky jumps in after her.

He treads water and fights the pull of the vortex.

He ducks under the water and surfaces quickly, looking for
the princess.

BLINKY (CONT'D)
Winkala! Winkala!

Finally, Blinky is also sucked in.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER, NIGHT

The computer shakes and glows as Blinky's shape protrudes
out of the screen. He falls on the floor. He looks around,
startled.

BLINKY
Winkala? Princess?

He gets up and repositions his Puffblaster at his hip.

He walks around the room marvelling at the books on the
shelves. He bumps into the chair and jumps as the chair
swivels a quarter turn.

He goes back to examining he shelves but stops when he sees
a photo of Erica and her parents.

He touches the frame, sees Winkala's crown of flowers on the
floor near the door.

He picks the crown up, looks for a way out of the room.

He stares at the door, a device which doesn't exist on his island.

He tries to shove the door open, but his hand passes through to the other side. He takes his hand out quickly and stares at his palm.

He sticks his head through the door and peers out into the entryway, as if he's looking out a window.

He looks around then hears JANGLING KEYS and yanks his head back into the office.

INT. ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Erica and Mr. Braden come through the front door with bags of take-out. Mr. Braden hands his bag to Erica.

MR. BRADEN

Here, take this to the kitchen.
I'll just be a minute.

Erica exits to the kitchen. As Mr. Braden walks towards his office he steps in a puddle.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)

What have I told her about soda in
the hallway...
(calling)
And get a towel!

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER, NIGHT

Mr. Braden looks at the computer screen which now displays the message "Vidlimination Completed."

Mr. Braden smiles.

Behind the open door, Blinky plasters himself against the wall.

He loses his balance and disappears as he falls into the entryway.

INT. ENTRYWAY - SIMULTANEOUS, NIGHT

Blinky regains his balance and looks around wildly at his strange new surroundings.

Exiting the kitchen, Erica comes toward Blinky, her eyes focused on the enormous plate of food in her hands.

ERICA

Hey, Dad, would ya hurry up,
everything's getting cold...

Erica looks up, sees Blinky and drops the plate which crashes to the floor, sending food everywhere.

Blinky dissolves into the front door and disappears.

ERICA (CONT'D)

(runs to door)

Hey, where'd ya go?

She opens the door and sees Blinky scurry off into the night.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Wait, come back!

Mr. Braden comes out of his office.

MR. BRADEN

What the-- (sees food) Oh, great,
now you've made an even bigger mess.

ERICA

Dad, I saw him.

MR. BRADEN

Who?

ERICA

Blinky, he was right there, then he
went through the door and he didn't
even open it!

Mr. Braden bends down, scoops up food with his hands

MR. BRADEN

Uh-huh, now I'm positive you've been
playing too many video games. Go get
that towel.

ERICA

But Dad--

MR. BRADEN

Hurry up!

Erica rolls her eyes and exits to the kitchen.

Mr. Braden drops the food and puts his hands on his hips.

He goes to the door, opens it and peers out.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)

Crazy kid.

He closes the door, shaking his head.

INT. LUCAS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas lays in bed in his dark room with the covers almost up to his eyes. He glances at his wall and gulps in fright.

LUCAS

Mom...mom!

His mother's poodle runs in and YAPS.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

MOM!

Mrs. Lemon enters.

MRS. LEMON

For heaven's sake, Lucas, what is it!

LUCAS

There's a spider on that wall over there.

Poopsie growls at the window.

MRS. LEMON

Don't be silly, Lucas. Come on, Poopsie.

LUCAS

No, you have to kill it.

Mrs. Lemon examines the wall and picks up something black with her fingers.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

No, mom, don't touch it, it might bite you!

MRS. LEMON

It's just a piece of black string. Look, it must have fallen off your curtains.

Lucas takes the covers off his face and sits up, relieved.

LUCAS

Oh, thanks...hey, Mom, I'm sorry I was kind of a jerk at your party.

MRS. LEMON
(looking out window)
You weren't a jerk and it wasn't my
party, Lucas, it was all for you.

LUCAS
Oh, good, does that mean I get to
keep my game?

MRS. LEMON
Lucas, you know how I feel about
those things. They're filled with
shooting and violence...

LUCAS
But it's just a game--it's not like
I'm really gonna start shooting people
if I get one.

MRS. LEMON
(sits down on Lucas'
bed)
Can't you just wait a little longer
before you start growing up?

LUCAS
Aw, mom...

MRS. LEMON
(leans over and kisses
Lucas)
Good night honey.

Poopsie resumes his barking. Mrs. Lemon grabs the dog and
lifts him into her arms.

MRS. LEMON (CONT'D)
As for you mister, it's time you
hush so people can get some sleep
around here.

Mrs. Lemon exits with the still-growling dog.

Lucas hears other DOGS OUTSIDE BARKING . He gets out of bed
and looks out his window.

Lucas sees Blinky runs across his yard in the darkness.

LUCAS
Mom! Mom!

Mrs. Lemon runs back in.

MRS. LEMON
Don't tell me, more spiders?

LUCAS
Someone's out there.

MRS. LEMON
For heaven's sake.

Mrs. Lemon looks out the window at the deserted yard.

MRS. LEMON (CONT'D)
Go back to bed, Lucas.

EXT. A BACKYARD - NIGHT

Blinky runs from a dog. The dog clamps down on its own teeth as it bites Blinky's leg.

The dog backs up, whimpers and runs away. Sprinklers come on.

A NEIGHBOR MAN comes out of his house into the backyard.

NEIGHBOR MAN
Hey you!

Blinky runs right through the fence.

Neighbor Man does a double take.

NEIGHBOR MAN (CONT'D)
I've got to lay off the rum fruitcake!

EXT. ORANGEVALE SCHOOL - MORNING

Kids spill out of cars and buses. Lucas trudges beside his mother. He sees Erica and stops.

LUCAS
I can find my way from here, Mom,
bye.

MRS. LEMON
I guess I should be going. Well,
goodbye Lucas.

Mrs. Lemon tries to kiss the top of Lucas' head but he pulls away.

She sniffs like she's about to cry, then walks away. Lucas gives a sideways glance toward Erica then walks over to the drinking fountain.

Erica comes over and pushes the drinking fountain handle down and water goes in Lucas' face.

LUCAS
(wiping face)
What'd you do that for?

ERICA
Lucas Lemonhead, has to have his
mommy walk him to school...

LUCAS
Yeah, well, at least I have a mother.

Erica shoves Lucas then grabs him by the shirt.

ERICA
Shut up, punk.

LUCAS
Sorry, that just came out--

ERICA
Yeah, well, you'd better put it back
in.

The bell rings. Erica glares at Lucas as he heads for class.

EXT. ORANGEVALE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Lucas comes out of the school carrying his backpack, sees
his mother and heads in the other direction.

He bumps into Erica and drops his backpack. Erica picks it
up.

ERICA
Well, what have we here?

LUCAS
Come on, Erica, give it back.

ERICA
Make me.

Erica darts off. Lucas follows.

EXT. ORANGEVALE STREET - MINUTES LATER

Lucas runs after Erica who still clutches his backpack.

Erica makes a detour into a field, Lucas follows.

EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas follows Erica through the field toward a rocky hill.

INSERT - SIGN

Lucas follows as Erica trots past the sign.

EXT. ORANGVALE QUARRY - MOMENTS LATER

Erica veers off the pavement toward the steep pile of rocks.

She climbs it easily but Lucas stops, breathing heavily, he stares up.

Erica stands at the top of the hill, dangling the backpack.

ERICA

Come on, Lemonhead, you don't want
to lose all your precious homework.

Lucas swallows. He climbs a little way up the hill then looks down and gulps as vertigo grips him.

Erica swings the backpack in circles over her head.

Lucas ascends, then stops.

LUCAS

Come on, just give it to me.

ERICA

Ok.

Erica slides down the hill sending an avalanche of rocks straight toward Lucas.

Lucas tumbles and slides down with the rocks. Erica tosses his backpack at him on the way down.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, and just so you know, I
have a mom, she just lives in Hawaii.

Erica walks off as Lucas lays there and moans.

Lucas sees a shock of purple hair rising above a boulder.

Blinky peers over the boulder and stares at Lucas then slowly walks out toward Lucas, Puffblaster at his hip. Suddenly, Lucas sits up.

LUCAS

Whoa!

Blinky runs away. Lucas jumps up and scrambles after him.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hey, don't run away!

Blinky swiftly runs through the rocks.

Lucas doubles over panting as Blinky disappears behind another mound of stones.

INT. LEMON KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Lemon is on the phone.

MRS. LEMON

What do you mean I can't file a
missing person's report it's been a
whole hour!

Lucas walks in and she hangs up.

MRS. LEMON (CONT'D)

(grabs Lucas by the
shoulders)

Where have you been? You're dirty
and your shirt is torn! Are you
okay?

LUCAS

I'm fine, Mom.

MRS. LEMON

Why did you walk the other way when
I came to pick you up today?

LUCAS

I'm 12, mom, I can walk home by
myself.

MRS. LEMON

Not if you come home late and stinking
of...of dirt! Now you march upstairs
and get yourself cleaned up.

LUCAS

Alright...

Lucas trudges out of kitchen.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas fills the sink with water and starts to soap up his hands.

He notices some movement outside the window and pulls the curtain.

He looks out the window but nothing is there.

EXT. ORANGEVALE SCHOOL - NEXT MORNING

Lucas walks up about ten paces ahead of his mother.

MRS. LEMON

Now you come home straight after
school, do you hear me Lucas.

Lucas ignores her and keeps walking.

MRS. LEMON (CONT'D)

(louder)

Did you hear me Lucas?

LUCAS

I heard you!

Lucas bumps into IAN, a big, tough-looking sixth grader.

IAN

Hey, Lemon, have a good time walking
to school with your mommy.

LUCAS

She just wanted to make sure I didn't
get attacked.

IAN

Attacked by what, cooties?

LUCAS

No, haven't you heard? There's this
weird guy roaming around the
neighborhood...he has green skin and
purple hair--

IAN

Yeah, right, and then he takes you
for a ride in his spaceship.

LUCAS

No, he doesn't have a spaceship.

Erica saunters up.

ERICA

What up, Lemonhead?

Lucas takes a step away from Erica, fearfully.

IAN

This clown claims he saw some guy
with green skin and purple hair.

ERICA

Wait a minute, did you say green skin and purple hair? Where did you see him?

LUCAS

Yesterday at the quarry.

ERICA

Did he talk to you?

LUCAS

Nope. He just looked really scared.

IAN

Don't tell me you believe him.

ERICA

What? Ha, crazy Lemonhead.

The bell rings. As Ian walks to class, Erica stays behind with Lucas.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Did this guy have a long tube thing with him, sorta like a gun?

LUCAS

No, yeah, I don't know-- why?

ERICA

The guy you saw, he was at my house last night.

LUCAS

He was? What was he doing there?

ERICA

I can't explain that right now...

LUCAS

You know, this is going to sound crazy but he reminded, no, I mean, he looked exactly like--

Erica quickly puts her hand to Lucas' mouth.

ERICA

Not another word. Meet me here after school, we'll talk about it somewhere safe. In the meantime, mum's the word, okay?

With Erica's hand still on his mouth, Lucas nods his head.

ERICA (CONT'D)
(takes her hand off
his mouth)
Okay, later Lemonhead.

Erica walks off as Lucas touches his lips with his hand.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Lucas sits in class as his teacher, MRS. BOBBLER, drones on.

He stares out the window then does a double-take: Blinky floats above the swings fast asleep.

MRS. BOBBLER
Lucas? Did you hear the question? I
asked what is the capital of Zimbabwe?

Lucas pauses a moment to think.

LUCAS
I don't feel so good. Can I go to
the office?

MRS. BOBBLER
Alright, take the nurse's pass.

Lucas gets up, take the nurse's pass from a peg on the wall and walks out the door.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

Lucas walks slowly up to the snoring Blinky.

Lucas stares a moment, then reaches out his hand to touch him.

Blinky snorts and Lucas withdraws his hand quickly.

Blinky goes back to a dull snore and Lucas reaches out his hand again slowly.

Blinky jerks awake with a start. He sees Lucas and jumps up then floats to the ground.

LUCAS
Wait, don't run away! I won't hurt
you.

Lucas holds out his hand. Blinky stares at it.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Shake?

Lucas tries to grasp Blinky's hand but it is like trying to grip a shadow. Blinky draws his hand away quickly.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Wow, you're the real deal.

MR. SHARP, the principal with bottle-thick glasses, walks up.

MR. SHARP

Boys, get back to class.

Mr. Sharp peers near-sightedly Blinky.

MR. SHARP (CONT'D)

Say, are you the student aide from Orangevale High?

LUCAS

Yes he is. I was just giving him directions.

MR. SHARP

Well, you'd better get over to Mrs. Bobbler's class and next time stop by the office first and read our dress code!

INT. MRS. BOBBLER'S CLASS - DAY, MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. Bobbler solves a long problem on the white board.

Students copy it onto their papers.

MRS. BOBBLER

And so you bring down the zero and divide by eight...

Lucas and Blinky walk in. All students stop writing and stare at Blinky. Erica's eyes grow wide.

Mrs. Bobbler turns and her jaw drops.

LUCAS

Um, Mrs. Bobbler, this is your student aide from Orangevale High.

Mrs. Bobbler is speechless a moment as she stares at Blinky.

MRS. BOBBLER

My--my--what--from Orangevale Who?

Lucas pulls on Mrs. Bobbler's sleeve and takes her to the far side of the white board.

LUCAS

He was born with a mysterious illness...slimerticulitis. It causes the strange skin tone and hair color. His parents spend so much money on medical bills, they, can't afford to buy him clothes.

A look of sympathy comes over Mrs. Bobbler.

MRS. BOBBLER

I see.

Mrs. Bobbler gulps and takes a step toward Blinky and holds out her hand.

MRS. BOBBLER (CONT'D)

I'm Mrs. Bobbler. Welcome to our class um, er--I'm afraid they didn't give me your name...

BLINKY

Blinky.

LUCAS

He means Billy. Blinky's just sort of a nickname.

Mrs. Bobbler realizes Blinky hasn't shaken her hand. She lowers her hand and wipes it on her skirt.

MRS. BOBBLER

Well, I have some papers over there on that table for you to grade if you'd like.

Blinky stands staring at her for a moment.

BLINKY

Have you seen the princess?

MRS. BOBBLER

What?

LUCAS

It's his favorite all-girl rock band--

Lucas pushes Blinky over toward a table piled high with papers, then takes his seat.

MRS. BOBBLER

Thank you, Lucas, you've been very helpful.

LUCAS
You're welcome Mrs. Bobbler.

Mrs. Bobbler turns back to the board and continues solving the math problem. Erica clears her throat. Lucas looks over.

ERICA
(mouthing)
No way!

LUCAS
(Mouthing)
Way.

Blinky stares at pile of worksheets on the table.

He picks one up and stares at the maze of numbers. He picks up a pencil and notices its point.

He begins stabbing the paper with the pencil. Mrs. Bobbler turns around, catching Blinky with the pencil raised in midair.

MRS. BOBBLER
Is everything alright, Billy?

Lucas jumps out of his seat and dashes over to Blinky, taking the pencil from him.

LUCAS
Do you want me to give Blink-uh Billy
a red pencil, Mrs. Bobbler?

MRS. BOBBLER
Yes, that would probably be
best...thank you Lucas.

Mrs. Bobbler turns back to her problem. Lucas finds a red pencil and paper and hands them to Blinky.

LUCAS
(whispering)
Take this pencil and rub it over the
paper like this.

Lucas demonstrates, hands pencil to Blinky, who clumsily makes some random marks.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Good. Now sit down.

Blinky sits on the floor.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
No, in the chair.

Lucas pulls out a chair and pushes Blinky into it.

Blinky, alarmed at first, wiggles his bottom and smiles.

Lucas gathers up the papers and hides them under his shirt.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Don't move until the bell rings.

Lucas goes back to his seat and corrects the papers.

Blinky moves the pencil around on the paper, then he discovers the eraser on the other end.

He erases with gusto until he makes a hole in the paper. He holds the paper up and looks through the hole.

Mrs. Bobbler stares at Blinky. Blinky smiles weakly and the bell rings.

Alarmed, Blinky jumps out of his seat, whips out his Puffblaster.

Erica, who is the first one to notice, leaps over to Blinky and stands in front of him before Mrs. Bobbler can see the weapon.

MRS. BOBBLER

Class dismissed.

Erica grabs her backpack and opens it up.

ERICA

(nods at the
Puffblaster)

You're going to have to put that in here.

LUCAS

She's right, you're going to get in trouble.

Mrs. Bobbler glances over at the three of them, looks over her glasses as she tries to see what's going on.

ERICA

If they take it away you'll never get it back. Just like the slingshot I brought last year.

Blinky reluctantly collapses the Puffblaster into a short tube and drops it into Erica's backpack.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Oh, portable, how cool.

Mrs. Bobbler walks up to them suddenly.

MRS. BOBBLER
Did the three of you need help with anything? Perhaps Billy here needs a ride back to high school?

ERICA
No, we're fine. Come on, guys, let's go.

As the three of them file past Mrs. Bobbler, Erica smiles and waves, Lucas smiles nervously and Blinky stares and frowns at Mrs. Bobbler who frowns and stares back.

After they exit, Mrs. Bobbler walks over to her phone and picks it up.

MRS. BOBBLER
Hello, Agnes? It's Edna. What do you know about this new kid they sent to us from Orangevale High?

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Kids do jumping jacks while the very pregnant P.E. teacher, MRS. DINSMORE, sits in a folding chair and counts.

Lucas walks up with Blinky and hands her a note. She reads it and sighs with relief.

MRS. DINSMORE
Student assistant? Thank the lord.

She hoists herself off the chair.

MRS. DINSMORE (CONT'D)
Have them take 10 laps. If you need me, I'll be in the lounge.

Mrs. Dinsmore walks off. P.E. kids stare at Blinky.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - MOMENTS LATER

Blinky runs on the field as kids follow.

Blinky climbs up a ladder and walks across the top of the monkey bars jumping and twisting in the air.

When he gets to the end, he spirals down to the ground, then through the ground, digging a hole as he goes.

The kids circle around and stare.

Erica walks up.

ERICA

We have to get him back to my house.

Behind them Blinky rotates 360 degrees on the swings.

LUCAS

Your house, why?

ERICA

My dad he designed this program and
I think it caused this to happen...

Erica glances at the swings.

Blinky prepares to do a backflip.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Uh-oh.

Lucas turns around just in time to see Blinky start the backflip.

LUCAS

Stop!

Startled Blinky drops from the very top of his arc down to the ground. Lucas rushes over to help him. Erica follows.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Sorry about that but we aren't
supposed to do backflips off the
swings here.

BLINKY

Back...Flips?

LUCAS

Yeah, what you were going to do,
only, oh, nevermind. Look, I think
you'd better go home now...

BLINKY

I can't go home.

LUCAS

Why not?

BLINKY

I haven't found the princess.

ERICA

The princess is here, too?

BLINKY

She left the island, through the circling waters. I followed her but all I could find was her crown.

Blinky takes crown out of his pocket.

BLINKY (CONT'D)

Can you help me find her?

LUCAS

Sure.

ERICA

No. Look, you go back to Blinky's Island and we'll send Princess Winkala back when we find her.

BLINKY

No, I must find her.

Blinky gets up walks toward the parking lot.

LUCAS

Blinky, come back!

Blinky continues walking.

ERICA

Why don't you go after him?

LUCAS

I'll get in trouble for ditching.

ERICA

No you won't. I do it all the time.

Erica runs toward the front gates, takes off after her.

LUCAS

Hey, wait for me!

EXT. ORANGEVALE STREET - DAY

Blinky opens a mailbox and sticks his head in.

Erica runs up, followed by Lucas who is out of breath.

ERICA

There you are.

Blinky takes his head out of the mailbox.

ERICA (CONT'D)
We're going to help you, but you
have to listen to us.

LUCAS(PANTING)
Yeah, stop and listen!

Blinky focuses on a purplish pile of dog poop on the sidewalk.
He bends down, about to pick it up.

ERICA
No, don't!

BLINKY
(stands up)
I am so hungry and that looks just
like Puff-fruit.

LUCAS
Trust me, you don't want to eat that.

BLINKY
If I don't find food soon, I will
shrink and then I'll die...

LUCAS
I'm sorry, Blinky, but you're not
gonna find any Puff-fruit around
here.

ERICA
Wait, I know where he can find
something he can eat.

LUCAS
Where?

ERICA
Follow me.

BLINKY
No, I must continue my search for
the princess.

ERICA
Relax, I'm sure she's fine.

INT. ORANGEVALE MALL - DAY

Princess Winkala walks through the mall marvelling at the
window displays. She stops shocked by a mannequin with no
head sporting a scanty bathing suit.

She stops by a Candy Kiosk and gazes with childish delight
at hundreds of different candies in see through containers.

She sees a hair extension display and touches a lavender brain with fascination.

A PINK-HAIRED TEEN passes by.

Winkala stares after the Teen, then rushes up and touches her arm.

WINKALA

Excuse me--

PINK HAIRED TEEN

Get off!

Winkala shrinks back.

An old lady passes by, clutches her purse and gives Winkala a dirty look.

EXT. PRINCESS PARADISE STORE

Winkala gazes at a window display tiaras, gowns, wings, wands, dolls. etc.

INT. PRINCESS PARADISE STORE

Winkala walks in and stares in wonder at the merchandise. A snippy SALESCLERK eyes her suspiciously.

SALESCLERK

Can I help you, ma'am?

Winkala rushes over to the salesdesk in breathless relief.

WINKALA

Oh yes! I left my island today because
I thought this world would be better
but now that I'm here it's just so
strange...

Winkala stops herself and sees the Salesclerk's jaw-open expression. Salesclerk stares at her for an uncomfortable moment then lets out a loud guffaw.

SALECLERK

You had me going. I was about to
call the funny farm, but now I get
it, you're supposed to be Winkala,
right?

WINKALA

Yes, that is my name.

Salesclerk bends down and picks up a heavy cardboard box, slams it on the counter, stabs it open with scissors and pulls out a pink box. Inside is a Princess Winkala doll.

SALESCLERK

(hands her the doll)

Your shift doesn't start til two but since you're here, you might as well get started...

Winkala takes the doll and gasps.

WINKALA

She is me?

SALESCLERK

Ok, you can drop the act. You people from promotions go a little far, don't you?

INT. BRADEN LIVINGROOM - DAY

Mr. Braden paces holding the phone.

MR. BRADEN

No, I don't want some dinky conference room, rent out the whole convention center. I want every parent in town at this meeting!

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS, DAY

On the computer screen, the Puffmonster stands on the beach with the message "Elimination in Progress" on the screen.

The Puffmonster looks at the whirlpool and dives in. He is propelled in the swirling waves, then disappears under the water.

On the screen, the message blinks to "Elimination Completed."

A huge bulge appears in the computer screen and the Monster materializes in the Braden's home office.

The Monster's head touches the ceiling and his tail stretches from one end of the room to the other.

INT. BRADEN LIVINGROOM - SIMULTANEOUS, DAY

Mr. Braden talks on the phone, oblivious to what is happening in the office.

MR. BRADEN

Print some posters...I don't know...something like Save Our Children, wait no, Save Our Children from Failure, Obesity and Premature Death.

Mr. Braden turns his back on his office door.

MR. BRADEN (CONT'D)

No, I don't think that's over the top.

Puffmonster comes out of the office and passes through the front door. Mr. Braden doesn't notice.

INT. SUBURBAN LIVINGROOM - DAY

TRISHA, young mother, walks in and sees her chubby son TYLER, 8, playing a race car driver game.

TRISHA

Tyler, don't you want to go outside and help mommy rake some leaves?

TYLER

No!

Trisha walks over to a desk and takes out the Vidliminator disk.

She walks over to the video game and inserts the disk.

On the TV screen, the race car freezes and the words "Vidlimination Commencing" appear.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Hey, what happened?

TRISHA

You are going to go outside and do your chores right this minute, young man.

As Tyler and his Mom leave the room, a bulge appears on the TV set, growing bigger and bigger until the entire race car and the car's driver DANTE RAPIDO, a handsome young Italian man, appear in the living room.

Dante sticks his helmeted head up out of his car and looks around, then he guns his engine and drives right through the wall.

EXT. TRISHA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

Trisha holds a bag as Tyler throws leaves into it. Tyler looks up just as the race car comes through the wall and out onto the street.

TYLER

Whoa.

Trisha looks up just as car peels out on the street.

TRISHA

I wish people wouldn't drive so fast
on our street.

Captain Kilgore walks up.

Trisha is momentarily flustered as she stares at Kilgore's tan bulging muscles.

CAPTAIN KILGORE

Can I give you a hand with that,
ma'am?

Trisha drops the bag.

Kilgore bends down and tries to scoop the leaves back in the bag but can't seem to scoop them up.

He is about to give up, when Frank runs up breathlessly.

FRANK

You!

KILGORE

(stands up)
We meet again my friend.

Frank lunges at Kilgore. The two begin wrestling on the lawn.

Tyler walks up and sees them.

TYLER

Cool!

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MINUTES LATER, DAY

Puffmonster lopes along sniffing garbage cans.

LADY kneels in her front yard weeding.

She freezes when she sees Puffmonster peering at her from between the bushes. She screams and runs into her house.

EXT. CORKY'S CASTLE ARCADE - DAY

A cheesy stucco castle complete with cupola and flag.

As Erica and Lucas walk up to the front door, Blinky stands back, awestruck.

BLINKY

Can we penetrate this fortress?

Erica yanks open the door and holds it open.

ERICA

After you.

INT. CORKY'S CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

The arcade is filled with rows of flashing, blaring VIDEO GAME SOUNDS.

Blinky does a slow 360 taking it all in.

He is overwhelmed yet soothed by the strange familiarity of the games.

Lucas pulls Erica aside.

LUCAS

What are we doing here? This place is freaking him out.

ERICA

There's probably a princess in one of these games...you've seen one you've seen 'em all, right?

LUCAS

But he wants Princess Winkala.

As Lucas and Erica talk, Blinky stares at a game screen.

INSERT - GAME SCREEN

A NEWSPAPER BOY delivers papers while A DOG, trees and mailboxes get in his way.

BACK TO ARCADE

Blinky fixates on a tree with shiny red apples.

Blinky reaches out his hand to touch one and is sucked into the game.

INSERT - GAME SCREEN

Blinky plucks an apple from the tree and bites into it. Newspaper boy rides by and hits him in the head with a newspaper. Blinky falls down.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

LUCAS

Well, let's just ask him. Blinky?

Lucas turns around and realizes Blinky is gone.

ERICA

(points at game)

Oh no, there!

INSERT - GAME SCREEN

Terrified, Blinky runs from a DOG toward the screen, the Dog follows him.

BACK TO ARCADE

Blinky and the Dog burst through the game screen.

Blinky runs through the arcade while Dog nips at his heels.

EXT. BRADEN HOUSE - DAY

Mr. Braden backs his car out of the driveway.

He taps his brakes as he sees something in the rearview mirror, gives a "go-ahead" wave.

The Puffmonster runs by.

Mr. Braden does a double take, then slams it into reverse and peels out of the driveway.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - MINUTES LATER, DAY

Two GOLFERS tee off.

One Golfer hits it into the bushes and goes to look for it.

As he searches, he comes upon two scaly feet. He looks up and sees the rest of the Puffmonster.

He throws his club down and runs off.

INT. CAR - LATER, DAY

Mr. Braden scans the horizon as he drives. He passes by the golf course. Something catches his attention and he skids into a U-turn.

Mr. Braden sees the Puffmonster chewing on a flag.

MR. BRADEN

Oh my God! It can't be--

Mr. Braden parks the car, then jumps out with his laptop.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Mr. Braden walks slowly toward the Puffmonster holding his laptop open like a shield.

MR. BRADEN

Nice monster, come to papa.

The Golfer calls out from behind a nearby tree.

GOLFER

Is that your animal? For heaven's sake, get it off the green!

The Puffmonster roars and runs off.

Mr. Braden snaps his laptop shut and runs after the Puffmonster.

INT. CORKY'S CASTLE - DAY

Blinky runs from the Dog, then trips. The Dog jumps on top of him.

BLINKY

Help, get it off!

Lucas and Erica try to push the Dog off but their hands pass through Dog's fur. The ARCADE MANAGER comes up to them.

ARCADE MANAGER

What's going on here? Get that dog out of here!

BLINKY

Get it off!

LUCAS

It's just a dog, Blinky, it won't hurt you. Sorry, mister, come on boy, let's go.

Lucas walks away and slaps his leg for the Dog to follow but it just sits there and wags its tail, looking at Blinky.

Blinky stands up and darts behind Lucas, the Dog follows him.

Blinky runs right through the arcade window. The Dog follows him out. Kids in the arcade stop and stare.

ERICA

Ha, trick photography folks. (to Lucas) Come on, let's get out of here.

Lucas and Erica run out.

EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF ARCADE - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

Blinky runs from the Dog as it playfully chases him.

Lucas and Erica run after them, then stop, out of breath.

Lucas whistles. The Dog turns around and comes to him.

Lucas tries to pet the Dog but his hand passes through its fur. The Dog wags its tail.

LUCAS

Come over, Blinky, it's friendly.

Blinky walks over slowly.

BLINKY

What is it?

ERICA

It's a dog, silly.

BLINKY

What is its purpose?

LUCAS

Purpose? I don't know, to be your friend.

BLINKY

Friend?

LUCAS

Yeah, don't tell me you don't know what a friend is.

ERICA

Okay, a friend is someone who has fun with you, who helps you--

BLINKY
Like you're helping me find the
princess?

ERICA
Exactly.

BLINKY
You are both my friend?

LUCAS
We sure are. And so is this dog,
now. Hey, he's even got a tag.
(reads tag)
Fido. Well, Fido, looks like you've
got a new owner...

A police car turns onto the street. OFFICER DUDLEY slows
down and eyes Blinky.

ERICA
Uh-oh. We've gotta run.

LUCAS
But where?

ERICA
The mall, where else are you gonna
find a princess?

EXT. GO-CART TRACK - DAY

Dante in his race car, turns into the Go-Cart place.

He circles around the track alongside the go-carts to the
amazement of the kids in the carts and the GO-CART MANAGER.

GO CART MANAGER
Hey, get off my track you maniac!

Dante gives a worried look into his rear view mirror and
pulls off the track, passing through a fence and foliage.

Dante comes to a stop and stares in amazement at the front
entrance of the mall with its fountains and sculptures.

DANTE
Mama mia!

INT. PRINCESS PARADISE STORE - DAY

Princess Winkala stands next to a table piled with boxes of
Princess Winkala dolls. A LITTLE GIRL tugs her MOTHER over
to the display.

LITTLE GIRL
Mommy, look, it's Princess Winkala.

MOTHER
Oh, yes it is.

LITTLE GIRL
Can I have your autograph, Princess
Winkala?

WINKALA
What is an autograph?

MOTHER picks up box and shoves it and a pen at Winkala.

MOTHER
Just sign it.

Princess Winkala stares at the pen and box, puzzled.

INT. MALL - DAY

Dante walks through the mall holding his helmet. He stares in fascination at displays of men's clothing, jewelry and cotton candy.

He comes to the Princess Paradise store and stops, transfixed.

Dante sees Winkala drop the box she's trying to sign.

INT. PRINCESS PARADISE STORE - DAY

MOTHER
Oh, forget it, I'll get you a Betsy
Wetsy instead.

LITTLE GIRL
What's that? It sounds gross...

Mother drags Little Girl out of the store.

Salesgirl notices Winkala and walks over. She picks up the box and puts it on the table.

SALESGIRL
I'm paying you to sell. If some little
brat wants you to autograph a box,
you do it, understand?

WINKALA
But--

SALESGIRL
No buts. Another stunt like that and
you're fired.

Salesgirl walks away.

Dante walks into the store. He looks at Winkala with fascination and lovestruck concern. After a few seconds he gets up the courage and walks over to Winkala.

DANTE

Hello

WINKALA

Hello. Would you like to buy a doll?

DANTE

(still staring)

No.

Winkala glances worriedly toward the Salesgirl.

DANTE (CONT'D)

What's a bella like you doing in a place like this?

Princess smiles shyly.

EXT. ORANGEVALE STREET - DAY, LATER

Blinky strides down the street with robotic relentlessness, jumping high over hydrants and spinning himself over bushes.

Fido runs after him as Erica and Lucas jog to catch up.

LUCAS

Blinky, come on, slow down!

ERICA

Hang on, I've got an idea, but you're going to have to keep up.

Erica sprints ahead to Blinky. When he jumps in the air, she tries to grab onto his foot and hitch a ride, but she can't get a grip.

LUCAS

(catches up)

Let me try.

Lucas grabs Blinky's foot. For a split second, his hand and Blinky's leg glow as they make contact.

Lucas hangs on as Blinky sails up in the air over a sleeping cat.

Lucas reaches out his hand to Erica.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Grab on!

Erica grabs his hand and together they sail up into the sky as Blinky jumps up onto a rooftop.

At the last minute, Fido latches onto Erica's shirt and the four of them go sailing off from rooftop to rooftop.

EXT. MALL - LATE AFTERNOON

The exterior of the mall is a typical suburban shopping mecca with a fountain, trendy sculptures and huge glass doors.

Lucas, Blinky, Erica and Fido walk up to the doors.

BLINKY

What is this place?

LUCAS

A mall, it's where people come to buy stuff.

BLINKY

Buy?

LUCAS

It means--

ERICA

It means you give people what they want so they give you what you want.

BLINKY

And I can get anything I want at this "mall"?

LUCAS

Well, not anything...

Blinky, entranced, walks up to the glass doors and floats through them.

A few shoppers stare. The Fido follows Blinky in the same manner.

ERICA

Cool!

Erica opens the door and goes in.

LUCAS

Wait for me!

Lucas forgets he has to open the door and crashes into it.

INT. MALL - DAY

As Lucas, Erica, Blinky and Fido walk through the mall, Blinky is captivated by every store window and display.

He walks toward a bubble machine and sticks his finger in the bubble. It does not pop. Fascinated, he sticks his whole arm inside it, then his whole body. Soon he is floating in a huge bubble.

Shoppers stop to stare.

Lucas looks alarmed, then runs over and pops the bubble.

Blinky falls to the floor.

INT. MALL MUSIC STORE - DAY

Erica walks in and Blinky follows him. Lucas tags behind followed by Fido.

LUCAS

I don't think we're going to find
the princess in here.

Erica picks up a guitar and makes a feeble attempt at playing.

Meanwhile a GUITAR STORE EMPLOYEE in the corner of the store rocks out on a solo.

Blinky goes over and listens. Lucas follows.

BLINKY

I think he's hurting that animal.

LUCAS

It's not an animal, it's a guitar.

Blinky taps his foot, then his whole leg begins to move in time to the music and soon he does a jerky, spasmodic dance to the overblown guitar solo.

As Employee hits a high note, Fido begins to howl.

GUITAR STORE EMPLOYEE

Hey, no dogs in the store.

Blinky continues dancing and Erica stays put and laughs.

LUCAS

Come on boy, let's go.

Fido ignores Lucas. Lucas goes over to Blinky and puts his hand on Blinky's shoulder.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Let's go, we're going to get into trouble.

Lucas looks at his hand as it makes contact with Blinky's shoulder.

Blinky jumps as if he's been shocked. He pushes Lucas down.

Lucas rubs his shoulder where Blinky touched him.

ERICA

I don't think he likes being touched.

GUITAR CLERK

You guys have about two seconds to get out of here before I call security.

ERICA

Come on, guys. I wouldn't want anything from this junky store anyway.

Erica heads for the exit. Blinky, Fido and Lucas follow.

INT. MALL - DAY

Blinky, Lucas, Erica and Fido walk past stores eliciting a few stares.

BLINKY

I'm sorry I pushed you, Lucas, I sensed danger.

LUCAS

It's Ok.

ERICA

Hey, anybody order a princess?

Erica stops in front of the Princess Paradise storefront.

Blinky looks puzzled, then sees the Princess Winkala display inside the store and suddenly rushes inside.

LUCAS

Slow down, Blinky!

INT. PRINCESS PARADISE

Erica rushes after Blinky. Lucas turns to Fido.

LUCAS

Sit.

Fido sits.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Now stay here til we come out.

Fido wags his tail and Lucas enters the store.

Fido hears a POPPING SOUND. Fido turns and sees a popcorn machine, bounds toward it.

INT. PRINCESS PARADISE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Blinky stares, transfixed by the Princess Winkala Doll display.

Erica walks past him and goes to the register. Lucas follows.

LUCAS
We're looking for a girl.

SALESGIRL
Aren't you a little young for girls?

ERICA
(points at doll display)
He means a girl that looks like that.

SALESGIRL
Oh, that girl! Yeah, you just missed her. She left.

LUCAS
Where did she go?

Erica notices something and walks off.

SALESGIRL
How should I know? But if you see her, tell her she's not getting her severance package.

ERICA
Uh, Lucas, I think you need to come here.

Lucas walks over to Erica, near the store's entrance.

Erica points at Fido inside the popcorn machine.

Fido tries to eat the popcorn while the yelling POPCORN VENDOR tries in vain to lift him out.

LUCAS
Oh no!

INT. MALL - DAY

Lucas and Erica rush over to the popcorn stand just as the MALL SECURITY GUARD walks up.

SECURITY GUARD

So you guys were dumb enough to bring your dog inside the mall. Get it out now before I call your parents.

LUCAS

No, please, don't call my parents.

INT. LEMON KITCHEN - DAY

Mrs. Lemon sits at the kitchen table biting her nails.

She picks up the telephone receiver, then puts it back, then picks it up again.

MRS. LEMON

Hello, 911? I'd like to report a missing child. Yes, I know I called yesterday, but this time he's been missing for a whole two hours!

INT. MALL - MOMENTS LATER

LUCAS

Here, Fido, come here Boy...

Fido ignores him and continues to snap at the popcorn.

Blinky comes out of the Princess Paradise store.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Blinky, help, do something!

Blinky stands there dazed, staring at Fido. Lucas rushes over.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Blinky, you're the only one who can get that dog out of that popcorn machine! Do something now!

BLINKY

Okay, Lucas, you are my friend, so I will help you.

Blinky floats up into the air and over the popcorn machine, sticks his hands through the glass and lifts Fido out.

He floats down to the ground with Fido in his arms.

A crowd has gathered. Oooh's and aaahhh's erupt over Blinky's feat.

Security Guard and Popcorn Vendor stare flabbergasted. A KID rushes over and tries to touch Blinky. Blinky flinches away.

LUCAS

No, don't touch him.

A tight circle of kids forms around Blinky, Lucas and Fido.

Kids try to touch Blinky or Fido. The Dog jumps out of Blinky's arms and runs. Blinky also bolts.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Blinky, stop!

ERICA

Here we go again.

As Lucas and Erica take off after Blinky, Security Guard speaks into his walkie-talkie.

SECURITY GUARD

Maverick to headquarters. I've got a situation here by the popcorn stand and I'm going to need some backup.

..

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE MALL - CONTINUOUS

Fido runs through mall as Blinky races after him. Fido skids into a display of hairpieces and looks silly as he sits underneath a mop of blonde hair.

Fido runs toward a FAT GUY with a triple-decker cone. Fat Guy's eyes widen as Blinky and Fido come straight toward him. He stumbles and dumps his cone just as Blinky and Fido whizz by.

Fido and Blinky pass by a toy kiosk where a GAMER is playing a fishing video game. Fido jumps into the game and swims across the pond, followed by Blinky. Gamer looks astonished as Fido comes out wet, shakes and runs off.

A few seconds later Blinky emerges soaking wet, then takes off.

EXT. MALL - CONTINUOUS

Skateboarders do tricks around the fountain.

Fido bursts soundlessly through the glass mall entrance with Blinky behind him.

Fido runs into a SKATEBOARDER who jumps off his board. Fido runs off but Blinky lands on the skateboard. The skateboard sails through the air with Blinky still on it.

INT. MALL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

The Puffmonster stomps through the parking lot, causing cars to crash.

Mr. Braden steps out of his car, laptop in tow. A MOTORIST gets out of his car.

MOTORIST
Did you see that thing?

MR. BRADEN
Yeah.

MOTORIST
What is it?

MR. BRADEN
Your worst nightmare.

Mr. Braden runs after Puffmonster as Motorist stands there, astonished.

EXT. TRISHA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

Captain Kilgore and Frank continue to wrestle on Trish's lawn.

TRISHA
Stop! Stop!

Kilgore stops struggling.

KILGORE
She's right. This is crazy. I can't even remember why we're fighting.

FRANK
You may not remember why you're fighting, but I remember--

KILGORE
Oh yeah, why?

FRANK
Because...

TYLER
You're the bad guy and he's always trying to get you.

FRANK

Why am I the bad guy?

TYLER

I don't know, that's just the way
the game goes.

KILGORE

Wait a minute, did you say game?

EXT. MALL - DAY

Lucas and Erica run out the mall entrance just in time to see Blinky skating around the fountain.

Security Guard comes out of the mall. Lucas runs up to Blinky who clings to the top of the statue in the middle of the fountain.

LUCAS

Blinky, get down from there. We're
in enough trouble.

BLINKY

(pointing)
Princess!

EXT. TABLES - CONTINUOUS

Princess Winkala is seated across from Dante Rapido at a table. She smiles and laughs.

Blinky climbs down from the statue and runs over to her.

Blinky comes up from behind her and puts his hand on her shoulder.

BLINKY

Winkala, at last I've found you!

DANTE

Who's-a this guy?

Winkala turns around and looks slightly annoyed at seeing Blinky.

WINKALA

What are you doing here?

BLINKY

I traveled half a world to find you.
The question is, what are you doing
here?

DANTE
 (extends his hand)
 Permit me to introduce myself. My
 name is Rapido, Dante Rapido.

Blinky stares contemptuously at Dante's hand.

EXT. NEAR STATUE - DAY

Security Guard walks up to Lucas and Erica.

SECURITY GUARD
 OK, where'd your friend go? It's
 time for you two to pay a little
 visit to headquarters.

ERICA
 You're taking us downtown?

SECURITY GUARD
 I meant mall headquarters.

Security Guard takes Erica by the arm.

ERICA
 Let go of me.

EXT. TABLES - DAY

Blinky hasn't moved from his spot near Winkala's table.

BLINKY
 It's time we go and return to our
 land, Princess.

PRINCESS
 I don't want to go back to our land.
 I like it here.

BLINKY
 This place is dangerous
 (looks at Dante)
 And strange.

PRINCESS
 At least I don't have to spend all
 my time tied up to a stake waiting
 for you to rescue me.

Dante stands up.

DANTE
 I am a wild and passionate man, but
 even I would never tie a woman to a
 stick!

Dante swings at Blinky, but Blinky ducks, then aims a kick at Dante. Security Guard walks up with Erica and Lucas in tow.

SECURITY GUARD

Alright break it up, time to join your pals in the room with the two-way mirror.

BLINKY

Winkala, I can't bear for us to be apart.

Security Guard makes a grab for Blinky but his hand passes right through.

SECURITY GUARD

What the--

WINKALA

What's happening to you, Blinky? your eye...

A single tear runs down Blinky's cheek.

LUCAS

It's just a teardrop. It happens to everyone at one time or another.

Suddenly the ground shakes and a look of horror comes over Lucas' face.

The Puffmonster tromps across the courtyard. As the Puffmonster steps on tables, screaming shoppers scatter.

The Security Guard takes some mace out of his belt and runs toward the Puffmonster.

He sprays the Puffmonster. The monster breathes fire at the Security Guard who screams although the fire hasn't harmed him. Guard runs away, throwing down his mace, hat and badge.

SECURITY GUARD

They don't pay me enough to put up with this!

Winkala turns to Blinky.

WINKALA

Blinky, do something!

Blinky whips out his Puffblaster and fires at the Puffmonster, but misses.

The Monster raises his huge foot over Blinky, about to stomp, but Blinky moves away just in time. Fido is not so lucky.

The Monster's foot lands squarely on top of the pooch.

LUCAS

No!

Lucas runs toward the Monster but the Monster reaches out a claw and bats Lucas with the back of his hand. Lucas goes flying.

The Puffmonster closes in on Winkala, and seizes her around the waist. Just as Blinky is about to shoot a blast of water at the monster, Dante gets in the way, shaking his fist at the monster.

DANTE

Put her down!

BLINKY

Idiot!

The monster lumbers off and Blinky leaps up and flies after it.

Dante stares after them and suddenly remembers something. He takes his car keys out of his pocket and runs off.

Lucas rushes back to Fido who lays on the ground. Lucas puts his head on Fido's belly. Erica looks on sadly.

LUCAS

You can't be dead--you can't be. We didn't even get to name you.

Mr. Braden runs up with his laptop, glasses askew.

ERICA

Dad, what are you doing here?

MR. BRADEN

You guys didn't see a big dragon go running by, did you?

ERICA

Yeah, how'd you know?

MR. BRADEN

I don't have time to explain right now.

ERICA

Dad, you never have time.

MR. BRADEN

Alright, you know the program I put into the computer last night.

ERICA

That vidlimination thing, yeah.

MR. BRADEN

I think it's malfunctioned and instead of making video game characters disappear, it brings them to life.

ERICA

You don't say...

MR. BRADEN

Look, I've gotta go...

ERICA

Alright, but I'm coming with you!

MR. BRADEN

No, Erica, this could get dangerous. I want you to go straight home, right now.

Mr. Braden hurries off.

ERICA

But Dad!

Erica turns and sees Lucas tending to Fido.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Now what are we going to do?

LUCAS

Come on, boy--

Lucas tries to pick Fido up. His hands pass through his fur, then suddenly, Fido's body begins to glow as it makes contact with Lucas' hands and Lucas lifts Fido up in his arms.

EXT. SKY OVER ORANGEVALE - DAY

Blinky flies over the town as the Puffmonster flaps ahead of him, still clutching Winkala. Blinky pants, slows down and loses altitude.

INT. TRISHA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Kilgore, Frank and Tyler are seated at a table. Trisha serves Captain Kilgore and Frank plates of steak.

CAPTAIN KILGORE

Thank you for your kindness, ma'am.

TRISHA

Oh, it's nothing.

CAPTAIN KILGORE

So I'm not really a Captain in the United States Army, that I'm really just a character in this so-called game World Warriors?

TYLER

Uh-huh.

CAPTAIN KILGORE

Unbelievable.

Kilgore tries to pick up his fork but it won't budge.

He looks over at Frank who is trying to pick up his steak with his hands.

Puffmonster runs past the kitchen window with the screaming Winkala in his claw.

Kilgore does a double-take and stands up.

KILGORE

Well, I may not be a real army Captain but I know a situation when I see one and that my friends is a situation.

EXT. ORANGEVALE MALL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER, DAY

Lucas sits on the curb with the barely conscious Fido in his lap. Erica sits glumly beside him.

The race car skids to a stop in front of them. Dante rolls down the window and sticks his head out.

DANTE

Hey, kid, do you know where that monster went?

LUCAS

No.

DANTE

Hop in! We'll find it together.

ERICA

Thanks, mister.

Erica and Lucas, still carrying Fido, get in.

EXT. ROCK QUARRY, DAY

Puffmonster carries Winkala up the hill.

WINKALA

Put me down!

The Puffmonster gives a roar and continues up the hill.

He gets to the top and holds Winkala above his head and bellows in triumph.

The Puffmonster looks down into the hole at the top of the hill. When he sees only rocks instead of lava he gives a puzzled snort. He stands staring for a few seconds, befuddled.

WINKALA (CONT'D)

Ha! It isn't a volcano, so you can't throw me in!

Puffmonster snarls in fury and takes a step forward as if to pitch Winkala, but Blinky suddenly comes flying down and sprays Puffmonster in the nose with his Puffblaster.

Puffmonster falls back and loosens his grip on Winkala.

BLINKY

Winkala, run!

WINKALA

What about you?

BLINKY

I'll be fine!

Puffmonster regains his balance and takes a swipe at Blinky that knocks him to the ground.

Puffmonster tightens his grip on Winkala but she sinks her teeth into his scaly skin and bites down hard. Puffmonster releases her and she falls to the ground.

Blinky flies up lands a shot of water at the Puffmonster's head.

BLINKY (CONT'D)

Winkala, go!

WINKALA

Alright, I'll bring back help.

Winkala stumbles down the hill as quickly as she can go.

EXT. ANOTHER ORANGEVALE STREET - DAY, MINUTES LATER

Kilgore and Frank walk down the sidewalk.

FRANK

I don't understand why we left. We were about to bite into a nice, juicy steak!

KILGORE

Don't you understand? There is a clear and present danger. It is my duty to defend this country.

FRANK

And what country is that? You heard the kid, we aren't even real!

They arrive at an intersection. Kilgore starts to cross the street when Race Car comes speeding up.

INT. RACE CAR - DAY

LUCAS

Watch out!

Dante slams on his brakes, but he is already on top of Kilgore.

EXT. STREET

Kilgore rolls out of the away just as Race Car zooms by and comes to a stop. Kilgore lays on the ground as Lucas hops out of the car.

LUCAS

Are you ok?

Kilgore stands up slowly, marches angrily up to the driver's side window.

KILGORE

Do realize you almost ran over a member of the Special Forces Elite Squadron?

Dante stares at Kilgore.

DANTE

Don't I know you from somewhere?

KILGORE

I don't think so...

DANTE

Yes...your name is Gianni and you used to drive the black car in lane three!

KILGORE

Look, buddy, I'm a member of the Special Forces--

DANTE

Gianni...ciao bello...get in the car!

KILGORE

Well, Ok, but my name is Captain Maxwell T. Kilgore!!!

Kilgore gets in the car. Lucas and Fido pile in alongside him.

As the car takes off, Frank runs after.

FRANK

Hey, wait for me!

INT. RACE CAR - DAY

DANTE

Want me to pick up your friend?

KILGORE

Nah, he's a bad guy.

Dante floors it.

EXT. ORANGEVALE STREET

Frank hangs on to the hood for dear life as Dante takes off.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY, MINUTES LATER

Puffmonster roars and paws at the air.

Blinky flies in and punches him in the nose.

Blinky laughs as Puffmonster momentarily backs up and sneezes.

Puffmonster backhands Blinky and sends him flying into the rocks.

INT. RACE CAR - DAY, MINUTES LATER

Lucas sits up front with Fido and Dante while Erica sits in the backseat sandwiched between Kilgore and Frank, who is shooting daggers with his eyes at Kilgore.

KILGORE

Does anybody have any idea where
we're going?

EXT. ORANGEVALE STREET - DAY, MOMENTS LATER

Winkala stands in the middle of the street, flagging down
help. Race Car slows to a stop.

DANTE

Bella! I've found you!

WINKALA

Help! Blinky's up on that mountain.

DANTE

Why should I save your boyfriend?
He tried to kill me!

Erica leans forward.

ERICA

Let the chick in or I'm letting all
the air out of your tires!

DANTE

Oh, all right.

WINKALA

Thank you!

Winkala runs around and gets in next to Lucas.

Dante takes off.

INT. LEMON LIVINGROOM - DAY, SIMULTANEOUS

Mr. Lemon watches TV.

On TV Screen there is an ANCHORWOMAN at the Quarry.

ANCHORWOMAN

Dave, I'm hear at the old Thompson
Quarry where neighbors have reported
a 20-foot monster who seems to be...

Puffmonster appears behind Anchorwoman and she drops the
microphone and runs off.

Mrs. Lemon comes in carrying a pitcher of ice tea. Seeing
the TV screen, she screams and drops the pitcher.

MR. LEMON

Lois, what the devil's gotten into
you?

MRS. LEMON

Our little boy is out all alone with that...that thing on the loose!

MR. LEMON

Now, Lois, that's way up the quarry, and we've always told Lucas never to go there.

MRS. LEMON

Yeah, well, I told him never to walk home by himself and that didn't stop him.

Mrs. Lemon gets her coat and walks toward the door.

MR. LEMON

Where are you going?

MRS. LEMON

If that monster thinks it's going to lay a claw on my baby, it's got another thing coming.

Mrs. Lemon exits through the door with a slam.

Mr. Lemon sits in his easy chair for a moment, then gets up.

MR. LEMON

Wait a minute, Lois, I'm coming with you!

EXT. QUARRY - DAY, MINUTES LATER

Blinky hides behind a large boulder as Puffmonster rages about. He checks his Puffblaster, his water's running out.

Anchorwoman spots Blinky and darts over to his hiding spot.

ANCHORWOMAN

Excuse me, sir, do you have any information about the monster?

BLINKY

(whispers)

No, go away!

Puffmonster hears them and thunders toward the large boulder.

Blinky runs away.

Puffmonster takes a swipe at Anchorwoman who screams, but his claw passes right through her.

ANCHORWOMAN

And this is Andrea Andrews signing
off for Channel 12 news. Come on,
Bob, let's get the heck out of here.

Anchorwoman runs away with her Cameraman.

Mr. Braden pulls up in his car. He jumps out with his laptop
and runs up the rock hill toward the Puffmonster.

Puffmonster stares curiously at Mr. Braden.

Suddenly the Race car pulls up onto the gravel.

ERICA

(from inside car)

Daddy!

Erica hops out and hugs her Dad. Mr. Braden pushes her away
as the Puffmonster leans down for a closer look.

MR. BRADEN

Erica, go hide behind that rock.

ERICA

Lucas, come on get out!

LUCAS

I'm not leaving til I find Blinky.

Kilgore hops out and begins shooting at Puffmonster.

Unscathed, the Puffmonster picks up the race car.

INT. RACE CAR

Dante looks out the window and sees a scaly claw holding the
side of his car.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY, SIMULTANEOUS

The Puffmonster holds the race car in his claw while Erica,
Mr. Braden and Kilgore stand by.

Kilgore readies another shot.

Blinky runs up to them.

BLINKY

No, don't shoot!

Kilgore lowers his weapon.

Mr. Lemon pulls up. Mrs. Lemon hops out. Lucas sticks his
head out of the race car window.

LUCAS

Mom!

Mrs. Lemon runs toward Puffmonster.

MRS. LEMON

Lucas!

Mr. Lemon grabs her.

MR. LEMON

Lois, get back.

Puffmonster roars and shakes car. Lucas, Fido, Frank, Winkala and Dante are tossed about inside.

MRS. LEMON

Louis, do something!

MR. BRADEN

I'll handle this. Stand back!

Mr. Braden steps forward aiming his laptop at the Puffmonster. Mr. Braden pushes a button on the laptop and something on it flashes. The Puffmonster, the car and everyone inside it disappear.

MR. LEMON

What the devil just happened?

MR. BRADEN

I don't know, this is a digital eliminator, it's not supposed to work on real people!

Mrs. Lemon grabs Braden by the arm.

MRS. LEMON

You bring my son back!

Mr. Braden furiously punches buttons on his laptop.

MR. BRADEN

I'm trying, I told you this wasn't supposed to happen!

MR. LEMON

Wait, look!

Mr. Lemon points to the screen.

The Puffmonster stands on a sandy shore waving the race car around in his fist.

BACK TO QUARRY

MRS. LEMON

Oh no, don't tell me he's inside the--
oh, Louis, I feel faint.

Mrs. Lemon swoons as Mr. Lemon steps into catch her.

Blinky steps forward, entranced by the action on the screen.
He reaches his hand out.

His fingers dissolve into the screen, then his whole body is
sucked in.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Blinky appears on the shore.

He runs away from the Puffmonster, who still holds the race
car and all its occupants in his clutches.

EXT. QUARRY - CONTINUOUS

Kilgore has his eyes on the screen.

KILGORE

Why that yellow-bellied coward...

Kilgore sticks his gun into the screen.

MRS. LEMON

What are you doing?

The tip of Kilgore's gun begins to dissolve into the screen.

KILGORE

I'm going to rescue your kid, ma'am.

As Kilgore's gun is absorbed into the screen, he dives
headfirst into the computer.

ON SCREEN

Kilgore appears on the sand, charges toward the Puffmonster,
gun blazing.

The screen goes black

BACK TO QUARRY

MRS. LEMON

What happened?

MR. BRADEN

My battery went dead.

ERICA

Oh, Dad!

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - DAY

Puffmonster shakes the car.

Dante, Winkala and Frank shriek at the top of their lungs.

LUCAS

Shut up you guys! Winkala, tell the dragon to put us down.

WINKALA

He'll never listen.

LUCAS

Please, what have we got to lose?

Winkala calls in Dragonspeak to Puffmonster who stops its own roaring long enough to listen.

Puffmonster cocks its head to one side and slowly starts to lower the car down. Puffmonster has almost lowered the car to the sand when a bullet races by his head. He stands up to full height and angrily bellows.

Kilgore runs toward the monster and fires rapidly as Puffmonster swats away the bullets like flies. The Puffmonster still holds the car in one hand and carelessly shakes it while swatting away the bullets.

INT. RACE CAR - DAY

Lucas, Fido, Dante, Winkala, and Frank lurch back and forth and scream in unison.

Screams stop as Puffmonster momentarily stops shaking the vehicle.

FRANK

Well, I've had enough of this.

Frank wriggles out the window.

LUCAS

What are you doing?

Frank jumps out the window down into the ocean below. Lucas watches him go, horrified.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hey!!!

Frank drops into the drink then resurfaces spitting water out of this mouth.

Fido sticks his head out the window and lurches as if to go after Frank but Lucas holds him back.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Easy boy!

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND SHORE - CONTINUOUS

Kilgore watches through his binoculars.

KILGORE

Drat, he's not going to get away that easy!

Kilgore runs off in pursuit of Frank.

INT. RACE CAR - DAY, SIMULTANEOUS

LUCAS

Are we gonna have to jump out like that guy? I'm not such a good swimmer.

DANTE

Of course not, I'll never abandon my car.

The cars shakes and the three of them jostle around.

LUCAS

Doesn't this thing have jet propulsion or something?

DANTE

No.

LUCAS

You can't even do a wheelie?

DANTE

Oh a wheelie, why didn't you say so?

Dante guns the engine.

LUCAS

Wait, not here! Let's get a little closer to land first...Winkala, make the monster walk closer to the sand.

WINKALA

How?

LUCAS

I don't know, tell him there's a pretty dragon waiting for him.

Winkala nods, then cups her hands around her mouth.

DANTE

Wait!

Winkala stops. Dante turns to the back seat, grabs her hand and kisses it.

WINKALA

What was that for?

DANTE

In case we don't make it.

Winkala gives an earth-shaking yell. Puffmonster takes a step, then another.

INT. RACE CAR - DAY

LUCAS

Now!

Dante guns the engine.

Race car accelerates off Puffmonster's claw and into the air.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

We're not gonna make it, can't you make this thing fly any faster?

DANTE

I'm at maximum speed.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND SHORE - DAY

Race car comes in for a landing just shy of the sand and lands with a splash in the water.

The car immediately begins to fill up. Lucas manages to get out the window. He tries to go back for Winkala, but the car is sinking.

Dante swims to Lucas' side.

LUCAS

You've got to get her, she's still inside!

Dante dives back under. Lucas treads water worriedly as neither of them comes up.

Dante finally surfaces out of breath.

DANTE

It's no use. I can't get to her or the dog.

LUCAS

Wait a minute...Fido? No!

Lucas plugs his nose, starts to dive.

DANTE

No, wait...look!

Fido surfaces pulling Winkala by the dress with his teeth.

LUCAS

Good boy.

Lucas and Dante swim over to help Fido.

All four of them manage to make it to shore, but Winkala is still unconscious.

Dante holds her head in his hands tenderly.

DANTE

Bella...talk to me.

LUCAS

Wait a minute, I saw this in a movie once.

Lucas pushes both his hands firmly just below Winkala's rib cage. Winkala spits out water and comes to.

She opens her eyes and sees Dante. A faint smile passes her lips.

Dante caresses her cheek with his hand.

WINKALA

Where am I? Did I die?

DANTE

No, silly. Dante's here and that's all that matters.

Blinky walks up with his Puffblaster.

BLINKY

Unhand her!

DANTE

What, you again!

WINKALA

Blinky, where have you been?

BLINKY

Trying to reload my
Puffblaster...where have you been?

LUCAS

Um, guys--

The Puffmonster is just a few yards away from them.

Blinky fires his Puffblaster as Lucas, Dante and Winkala
stumble up and start to run.

Blinky remains, firing blasts of water at Puffmonster as
Fido cowers behind him.

INT. BRADEN HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Braden, still holding his laptop, steps inside and fumbles
for the light switch.

Mr. and Mrs. Lemon and Erica rush in behind him.

MRS. LEMON

I still don't understand how this
happened...

MR. LEMON

He was trying to make money by making
video game characters come to life.

Mr. Braden boots up his mainframe.

MR. BRADEN

No, I was actually trying to destroy
them.

ERICA

Which was a totally stupid idea.

MR. BRADEN

Oh, baby, if you'd seen how those
PTA moms were whipping out their
checkbooks--I was gonna make enough
to fly you to Hawaii every other
weekend.

ERICA

I don't care about Hawaii. I just
want you to get Lucas out of there
before he gets eaten by that monster.

MR. LEMON

Ditto for me mister, or you're going
to need someone to bring you to life.

MR. BRADEN

(clicking the mouse
on his desktop)

Don't worry, I'm sure it's just a
small glitch in the software.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - DAY

Lucas, Dante and Winkala hide behind a palm tree.

Blinky shoots a spurt of water at the Puffmonster's snout.

Puffmonster puts up his claws but some of the water catches
him and he shrinks by a few feet.

LUCAS

What happened?

WINKALA

Blinky's Puffblaster shrinks the
monster.

LUCAS

Great, then when it's one inch tall
I'll smash it with my foot!

WINKALA

No. You can never kill it. The
cycle just keeps repeating.

LUCAS

So we could end up doing this forever!

DANTE

Forever? I have to be at Raceopolis
by sundown or I forfeit the race!

WINKALA

Blinky didn't understand why I wanted
to leave, why I wanted to find another
world. He lives to fight the
Puffmonster. But he wasn't the one
who had to stay tied up by that stupid
volcano.

LUCAS

(points)

Look!

Blinky fires at Puffmonster but nothing comes out.

Fido steps forward and growls at Puffmonster.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

He ran out of ammo!

WINKALA

The magical waters of the pool of Sirunik. It's the only thing that will shrink the Puffmonster...

LUCAS

Oh no!

Puffmonster picks up Blinky and walks off toward the volcano. Fido scampers after them.

WINKALA

No!

Winkala steps out from behind the tree, but Lucas grabs her by the shoulder.

LUCAS

Where are you going?

WINKALA

To help Blinky! It should be me that thing is carrying, not him!

LUCAS

What good can you do? You already said we need the waters of Seerneck.

WINKALA

Sirunik.

LUCAS

Whatever. Let's get some of this water and then take it to Blinky. He's got Fido to help him 'til then.

WINKALA

Fido is just a creature...

LUCAS

He saved your life, didn't he?

DANTE

You should listen to the kid, sounds like a good plan to me.

WINKALA

Very well, then.

Winkala comes out from behind the tree and walks toward the volcano.

LUCAS

Uh, I thought you said we were gonna get the magical waters. You're heading straight for the volcano.

WINKALA

Yes. The pool is beside the volcano.

LUCAS

Oh...me and my big mouth.

DANTE

Maybe if we stay far behind, that thing won't see us.

LUCAS

Yeah, and maybe I know what the capital of Zimbabwe is.

DANTE

Huh?

Winkala walks ahead of them.

LUCAS

Nevermind, let's catch up to her.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND INLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Frank runs, trips over vines and bushes. He glances furtively behind him and sees Kilgore close on his heels. Frank runs faster but Kilgore gains on him.

Frank, panting from exhaustion, bursts forward in one last sprint, then trips grandly over a tree root and lands flat on his face.

Kilgore runs up and places his boot on Frank's back.

KILGORE

Freeze!

FRANK

Why are you always giving me such a hard time?

Kilgore takes his foot off and scratches his head.

KILGORE

I don't know, I guess cause you're a bad guy?

FRANK

What have I ever done that was so bad?

KILGORE

Well, first you....and then there was that time you...

FRANK

A-ha! You don't even know why you're pursuing me!

KILGORE

(pokes his gun in Frank's back)

Enough of the jaw-flapping! I have orders to take you in and I'm stickin' to em.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO - DAY

Puffmonster sets Blinky down by a stake and rope-like vines.

BLINKY

Ha! You're done for, now, you can't tie me up with those big clunky claws.

By themselves, the vines rise up into the air and pull him back toward the stake, tying themselves in knots tightly around the wooden pole. Puffmonster roars in triumph.

BLINKY (CONT'D)

I bet you're thinking the princess will try to rescue me. Well you're wrong. She cares more about the one who drives that strange machine than she does about me.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND INLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Winkala marches steadily up the vine-covered slope. Dante almost matches her pace, but Lucas straggles behind.

DANTE

Say, maybe when this is all over we could--

WINKALA

I have to help Blinky. I was wrong to leave him.

DANTE

But he tied you up to a stake and--

Winkala stops and turns toward Dante

WINKALA

He didn't tie me up, the Puffmonster does it with his powers. Blinky has spent his whole life trying to rescue me and now I repay him by--

Winkala bursts out in a sob and covers her face with her hands.

Dante walks up to her, alarmed.

DANTE

Hey, Bella, are you OK? What are you doing? What's that stuff coming out of your eyes?

WINKALA

It's just a teardrop. It happens to everyone sometime or another.

INT. BRADEN HOUSE, LIVINGROOM - DAY

Mrs. Lemon sobs on the the couch.

MR. LEMON

Stop crying, Lois, it's not doing anyone any good.

MRS. LEMON

But to think our boy could be stuck in that machine for the rest of his life!

Erica walks into the room from the office.

ERICA

Good news.

MRS. LEMON

You found Lucas? Where is he?

ERICA

Oh, he's still on Blinky's Island, but at least he got away from that monster. He's just walking through the jungle, now.

MRS. LEMON

Walking through the jungle? With snakes and spiders... there aren't any spiders, are there?

ERICA

Not unless he goes to the maze.

MRS. LEMON
The maze? What's that?

ERICA
It's just a part of the jungle that's
really hard to get out of and--

MR. LEMON
I think we get the idea, Erica. Do
you think you could bring Mrs. Lemon
a glass of water, please?

ERICA
Sure.

MR. LEMON
Don't worry, Lois, it's just a game.
I'm sure this won't turn out to be
any more serious than when he got
his finger stuck in the back of the
television set.

Mrs. Lemon covers her face and continues sobbing as Mr. Lemon
pats her back.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - DAY

Lucas, Dante and Winkala hike along a flat trail surrounded
by tangled vines.

LUCAS
(out of breath)
Hey, if we're going to a volcano,
shouldn't we be going uphill?

WINKALA
I'm not sure...

DANTE
Oh magnifico, now we're lost!

WINKALA
No, we're not. This is the way to
the volcano, I'm sure of it.

LEAVES RUSTLE

LUCAS
What was that?

WINKALA
Nothing, keep walking.

MULTIPLE SIMULTANEOUS RUSTLES.

DANTE

No, now I heard it, too.

WINKALA

There are creatures in this
jungle...I'm sure it is harmless...

Lucas looks down and sees that the ground before them is covered in spiders, all heading their direction.

He screams and runs away back down the path.

Winkala follows as Dante stays and tries to stomp on the creatures.

Lucas spots a turn in the path and grabs Winkala's hand.

LUCAS

This way!

As spiders crawl up his leg, Dante gives up and follows.

DANTE

Wait for me!

Lucas and Winkala stop as they see a carpet of spiders approaching from the other direction.

They are surrounded.

Dante darts into some foliage.

DANTE (CONT'D)

(lifts branches)

Quick, in here!

LUCAS

Are you kidding? Those bushes are probably crawling with spiders.

DANTE

We can't stay out here, we're like sitting ducks.

The spiders surround the path.

Lucas and Winkala dive into the bushes.

INT. BUSHES - CONTINUOUS

Lucas scoots against a tree as spiders start to trickle in through an opening.

Lucas squeezes his eyes shut as a spider crawls up his arm.

Lucas' breathing speeds up to a rapid pace.

He takes his inhaler out of his pocket and PUFFS.

He notices that the spider jumps off his arm at the SOUND OF THE PUFFER.

He bends down and starts clearing the spiders with PUFFS from his inhaler.

He gets to an opening in the bushes and sees a flash of orange and a WHOOSH sound.

Kilgore, his face black, parts the bushes and peeks in.

KILGORE

What the Sam Hill are you guys doing in there?

LUCAS

S-spiders...

KILGORE

(pats his weapon)

Aw, nothing my little flamethrower couldn't deal with.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY, LATER

Frank trudges uphill as Kilgore keeps his gun at Frank's back. Lucas is next. Behind him are Winkala and Dante. They are all exhausted.

KILGORE

Well, looks like I saved your butts once again.

LUCAS

What are you talking about 'again'? Because of you, we almost drowned...

WINKALA

It does no good arguing.

KILGORE

Yeah, son, didn't your parents teach you not to talk back to your elders?

LUCAS

My parents haven't taught me squat.

Kilgore stops walking and turns to look at Lucas.

KILGORE

Don't ever let me hear you say that again, private! Your parents gave you a life and made sure you didn't get killed for the last 12 years or so, so don't you think you owe them a little respect???

LUCAS

(surprised)

Yeah, I guess I do.

INT. BRADEN HOUSE - DAY, SIMULTANEOUS

Mr. Lemon paces while Mrs. Lemon sits on the couch dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief.

MRS. LEMON

God, what are they doing in there?
Why is this taking so long?

MR. LEMON

I'm sure it's very
complicated...things with computers
usually are.

MRS. LEMON

I wish the darn things had never
been invented!

Erica walks in with some cans of soda.

ERICA

Here's some soda in case you guys
are thirsty.

MR. LEMON

Nevermind that! Just go into that
office and find out when the mad
doctor is going to bring our son
back!

Erica sets the soda down firmly on the coffee table.

ERICA

I might be out of line here, but I'm
going to say this anyway. Yeah, my
dad might have caused this whole
video games coming alive catastrophe
but even if he hadn't, Lucas might
have run away anyway. I know I would
have.

MR. LEMON

He would?

MRS. LEMON

You would?

ERICA

Yeah, you never let him take any risks. And if you never take any risks, you end up with nothing at all.

Erica shakes her head, picks up the sodas and takes them into the office as Mr. and Mrs. Lemon stare at each other.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ERICA

How's it going?

MR. BRADEN

Huh? Oh, I was just going to activate the Vid-eliminators program.

ERICA

But that's what got us into this mess in the first place.

MR. BRADEN

Exactly. The elimination program seems to open up some sort of portal. It'll let your friends through and then I'll close it forever.

Erica nods toward screen.

ON SCREEN

Puffmonster roars next to Blinky who strains against his binds.

BACK TO OFFICE

ERICA

Great. How are we going to get Lucas and Blinky back without getting the Puffmonster as part of the bargain?

MR. BRADEN

I'm afraid that part's up to your friends.

Erica is quiet as she thinks for a moment.

ERICA

Hey, can I play Blinky's Island?

MR. BRADEN

Erica, is that all you think about at a time like this?

ERICA

No, I'm an expert at defeating the Puffmonster. I've gotten to like Level 27 in that game.

MR. BRADEN

I don't know--you'd have to help Blinky get loose from those vines...

ERICA

Please, Dad, I know I could do it.

MR. BRADEN

Alright, how much worse could things get?

ERICA

Thanks Dad.

Erica grabs Mr. Braden in a hug. He looks surprised, then pats her head tenderly.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - DAY

Lucas, Winkala, Dante, Kilgore and Frank trudge through endless vines.

Winkala spots a lone flower growing amid the overgrowth.

WINKALA

Look! We must be close. This is the Sirunik Lily!

LUCAS

We're here? Thank God, I didn't think I could take another step.

Winkala is lost from view as she runs ahead of them through the jungle. WINKALA SCREAMS.

Dante and Lucas take off running ahead on the trail. Kilgore and Frank follow behind.

EXT. DRY LAKE BED - MOMENTS LATER

Winkala stands in the middle of the dry lake, yelling and clutching her hair.

Dante and Lucas run up and stop as they see her.

WINKALA

The water, it's all gone! No, no,no!

Kilgore and Frank walk up behind Lucas and Dante.

KILGORE

What's with her?

DANTE

Something about the water...

LUCAS

This must be the magical pool of Sirunik, the water that Blinky needs for his Puffblaster, it's all dried up.

FRANK

What's a Puffblaster?

DANTE

A thing her ex-boyfriend uses to shoot the dragon with.

KILGORE

You're trying to kill a dragon with a water gun? You've gotta be kidding me!

Frank sees a giant bean on the ground, picks it up and examines it.

KILGORE (CONT'D)

Put that down.

FRANK

It looks like food.

Frank opens his mouth, preparing to take a bite.

LUCAS

Wait, don't.

DANTE

Why not?

Frank suddenly grows six feet taller.

LUCAS

That's why.

DANTE

Well this is wonderful! If he's this size he can go beat that dragon up in no time.

LUCAS

I don't think he's going to beat up
the dragon.

Frank looks down on Kilgore with his hands on his hips.

FRANK

Hey short stuff.

Kilgore looks up at Frank

KILGORE

What the--

Frank takes a step toward Kilgore.

FRANK

It's payback time.

KILGORE

No!

Kilgore takes off running as Frank follows. Frank easily
picks up Kilgore and carries him off.

LUCAS

Great, now we've lost the only one
of us with a gun.

Lucas picks the jellybean off the ground.

WINKALA

If we can get this to Blinky, maybe
he won't need a gun. Come on, there's
no time to lose.

EXT. MOUTH OF VOLCANO - DAY

Blinky struggles to free himself from his ropy shackles to
no avail as the monster slumbers a few yards away.

Blinky eyes his Puffblaster laying a few feet away. He tries
to reach it with his foot, but he can't stretch far enough.

Fido walks over and sniffs the weapon.

BLINKY

That's it, bring it to me, creature...

Fido circles around the Puffblaster.

BLINKY (CONT'D)

Yes, now pick it up...oh, what am I
saying, that weapon does me little
(MORE)

BLINKY (CONT'D)
good without the magical waters of
Sirunik.

Blinky's eyes widen as Fido lifts his leg and pees onto the Puffblaster.

The water chamber in the Puffblaster begins to rise with a golden liquid.

Blinky smiles.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - DAY

Erica watches smiling as Fido finishes peeing on the Puffblaster.

ERICA
Well, that's one way to get more
ammo. Let's see if it works...

Erica grabs a game controller and presses down on a button as she guides the joystick.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Easy does it.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN
The Puffblaster rises in the air
towards Blinky's hands. Blinky tries
to grab on to the Puffblaster but
can't lift his bound hands high
enough.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

The Puffblaster clatters to the ground, awakening the sleeping Puffmonster who jerks up with a start. When he sees the Puffblaster at Blinky's feet, his eyes narrow in anger.

First he grabs Fido and tosses him aside like a toy, then he grabs Blinky by the waist and jerks him away out of his ropes.

Blinky cries out in pain.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE DAY - CONTINUOUS

Erica leans forward in her chair.

ERICA
Oh no, what have I done?

She presses some buttons on the controller.

ON SCREEN

The Puffblaster floats through the air toward Blinky's hand. At the last second, the Puffmonster bats the 'blaster away and the weapon falls down into the volcano.

BACK TO OFFICE

ERICA

No!

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Lucas runs through the jungle with the jellybean.

Dante follows with Winkala. Winkala falls. Dante stops to help her. Lucas looks back and notices them.

LUCAS

Come on guys!

Winkala pants and leans against Dante.

WINKALA (TO DANTE)

I can't go on...I'm not
accustomed....to so much...running...

LUCAS

I'm doing this without you!

Lucas darts through the overgrowth.

Dante heaves Winkala up onto his shoulder.

DANTE

For this, we meet one time for
capuccino at least.

EXT. MOUTH OF VOLCANO - DAY

Puffmonster dangles Blinky up in the air over the edge of the volcano with a TRIUMPHANT ROAR.

Lucas runs up with the jellybean.

LUCAS

Blinky! Down here! Catch!

Lucas throws the jellybean up to Blinky. Blinky misses the catch and the jellybean falls into the volcano.

Puffmonster notices Lucas and swats him with his tail. Lucas goes flying and lays motionless for a moment.

BLINKY

Lucas!

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - DAY

ERICA

Lucas! Get up!

Erica pushes buttons on her controller.

Lucas slowly lifts his head.

BACK TO OFFICE

ERICA

Yeah!

EXT. MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO - DAY

Blinky, still dangling, shouts down to Lucas.

BLINKY

Lucas, the Puff-fruit, it fell on a rock, just down there I can see it.

LUCAS

(groggy)

What's a Puff-fruit?

BLINKY

The bean, Lucas, get the bean, down there!

Lucas comes fully to and scrambles over to the edge of the volcano.

The Puffmonster takes a step toward him, lowering Blinky in his claw.

Fido rushes up and bites Puffmonster who loosens his grip on Blinky.

Blinky falls to the ground and joins Lucas on the edge of the cliff.

LUCAS

(looks down)

I don't see it.

BLINKY

Down there on that ledge.

The Puffmonster reaches his claw toward them.

BLINKY (CONT'D)

Come on jump!

Blinky jumps down onto the ledge and picks up the jellybean.

LUCAS

I can't. I'm afraid of heights.

The Puffmonster encircles Lucas in his claw.

BLINKY

You're not afraid of anything, Lucas!

Lucas thinks for a moment, then bites down hard on the Puffmonster's claw. Puffmonster lets him go and Lucas tumbles into the volcano.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - DAY

Erica sits up in her chair.

ERICA

No!

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Lucas falls past Blinky and latches on to the ledge with his fingers.

BLINKY

(reaches out his hand)

Here, grab my hand.

Lucas hangs on to the ledge for dear life with both hands.

LUCAS

I can't.

Above them, the Puffmonster roars and reaches his claw into the volcano.

BLINKY

You can do anything if you think you can...

As Lucas starts to slip, Blinky grabs his wrist.

The Puffmonster comes down perilously close to Blinky's head with his claw.

LUCAS

It's no use, he'll get us, even if you do save me. Let go and take a bite of the bean.

BLINKY
I won't let you go!

LUCAS
Wait, I have an idea...

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Erica watches enthralled as

Blinky rises up out of the volcano. He is now taller than the Puffmonster.

ERICA
Lucas?

EXT. MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO - DAY

Blinky climbs out of the volcano revealing Lucas, who is also now giant size.

Blinky hoists Lucas out of the volcano. Together they stand with their hands on their hips facing the Puffmonster.

Puffmonster takes a step back.

Lucas takes a remaining piece of the Puff-fruit out of his pocket. Lucas whistles.

Fido, who had been hiding from Puffmonster, trots out, sniffs the fruit and eats it.

Puffmonster takes another step back as Fido quadruples in size. Blinky looks over at Lucas.

BLINKY
Ready, friend?

LUCAS
Bring it on.

Blinky steps forward and punches Puffmonster in the jaw.

Puffmonster, momentarily thrown off his balance, comes back toward Lucas who punches him three times in the stomach.

EXT. BRADEN OFFICE

ERICA
Good punch, Lemonhead.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO

Dante carries Winkala to the mouth of the volcano and smiles as Blinky stomps on Puffmonster's foot and Lucas karate chops him on the back of the neck.

Fido bites Puffmonster on the knee.

Dante sets Winkala down. She smiles proudly.

WINKALA

Blinky!

Blinky has Puffmonster across his shoulders. He spins around, pro wrestler-style and throws Puffmonster toward the volcano's vent.

On his way into the hole, Puffmonster snags Lucas around the neck with his tail. The Puffmonster and Lucas are about to go over the edge together when suddenly all action freezes.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - DAY

Erica breathes heavily.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

"Game Paused" appears over the frozen image of Lucas and the Puffmonster

BACK TO OFFICE

ERICA

Dad! Dad, I need you to come in here...

The door to the office bursts open. Mr. Braden runs in, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Lemon. Mrs. Lemon takes one look at the screen and screams.

MRS. LEMON

My baby! Can't you push some button and get him away from that thing?

MR. BRADEN

I'm afraid I can't.

MR. LEMON

If my son falls into that volcano I will hold you personally liable!

ERICA

What if I just pushed reset?
That's what I usually do when I lose.

MR. BRADEN

I don't know if that would bring Lucas back, honey. He's not a video game character--

MRS. LEMON

That one with the purple hair...he's grabbing for Lucas' foot. Maybe he'll save him...

MR. LEMON

Lois--it's too risky...

MRS. LEMON

No, Louis, sometimes you have to take risks or you never gain anything at all.

ERICA

Should I unpause it Dad?

MR. BRADEN

Go ahead, maybe she's right.

Erica clicks the controls.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO - DAY

Blinky grabs for Lucas' foot and catches it.

The Puffmonster slides over the edge.

Lucas is stuck in the middle with the tail around his throat. He starts to choke as Blinky struggles to hang onto Lucas' foot. Lucas' foot starts to come out of his shoe.

BLINKY

This is why I don't wear shoes.

Lucas' foot comes completely out of the shoe and he starts to slide over the edge but suddenly a huge foot comes down on the monster's tail.

The tail uncurls and Lucas is free.

Lucas scrambles away from the volcano's hole and looks up to see the owner of the foot. It is Frank who is even bigger than when he first ate the Puff-fruit.

Frank takes Kilgore out of his pocket and holds him up to his face.

FRANK

Now, let's see, dragon or you?
(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

Oh, I know! Why don't I throw you both in.

KILGORE

No, don't do that. I swear I won't come after you. If you let me go, I'll go to my commander and guarantee you diplomatic immunity or whatever you call it--

FRANK

Who needs immunity? I'm 30 feet tall!

Frank moves his foot and the dragon falls completely into the volcano.

He sets Kilgore down next to the volcano.

LUCAS

(to Frank)

Thanks for saving my life.

FRANK

Hey, I'm not such a bad guy.

Lucas starts to shrink as does Blinky.

LUCAS

Hey, what's happening?

BLINKY

The effects of the Puff-fruit are only temporary.

Frank produces a whole handful of Puff-fruits from out of his pocket.

FRANK

Not if you know where to find them. Want some?

LUCAS

Maybe later...

Blinky notices something off in the horizon, the ocean with its large whirlpool formation.

BLINKY

I see the way back to your land.

Blinky points toward the whirlpool.

LUCAS

I don't see anything.

BLINKY

Come, I will show you.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE

Mr. Braden sits at the computer.

"Vid-elimination Commencing."

BACK TO OFFICE

Erica and Mrs. Lemon stand behind him while Mr. Lemon paces nervously.

MR. LEMON

How long did you say this part would take?

MR. BRADEN

Just a few minutes.

MR. LEMON

And you're sure he'll come out safe and sound?

MR. BRADEN

I'm not sure of anything anymore.

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - SHORE

Blinky and Lucas, now normal sized, walk toward the peninsula near the whirlpool. Winkala, Dante and Kilgore take up the rear. Blinky points at the whirlpool.

BLINKY

You just jump in there and it will take you back to Orangevale, USA.

LUCAS

Aren't you coming, Blinky?

BLINKY

My place is here. I don't belong in your world.

Winkala walks up to him.

WINKALA

You've defeated the Puffmonster before and he always comes back to hunt you. This time will be no different.

BLINKY

That is a fate I accept. I am a jungle warrior.

WINKALA

Very well, then, as your princess, I must remain at your side.

DANTE

Whoa, bella, what about that capuccino you promised me?

INT. BRADEN OFFICE

Erica sits at the computer. Mr. and Mrs. Lemon and Mr. Braden gather around her.

MR. BRADEN

There's no sense all of us standing here. I'll make you two a drink, Erica you stay here and let us know the minute anything changes.

ERICA

Ok, dad.

Mr. Braden and the Lemons leave.

Erica notices one of the cans of soda she had brought in earlier sitting by the computer.

She opens it and it gushes out onto the keyboard.

She tries to mop it up with his shirt sleeve.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh no!

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - SHORE

LUCAS

You can't stay, Blinky. What about what you told me, that I'm the first friend you've ever had?

WINKALA

(miffed)

You said that?

KILGORE

I think you recruits should jump in the aqua pronto. Look over there!

Kilgore points toward a huge tidal wave as it swells toward them.

DANTE

Ciaou, I'm outta here.

Dante dives in followed by Kilgore.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE

Dante and Kilgore burst through the computer screen in a torrent of water, knocking Erica out of her chair. Erica sits up and spits water out of her mouth.

ERICA

Cool!

Mr. Braden and the Lemons run in.

MR. LEMON

Who are these people?

MRS. LEMON

Where's Lucas?

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - SHORE

Lucas, Fido, Blinky and Winkala stand next to the whirlpool as the tidal waves comes nearer.

BLINKY

You can stay here with us. You've already proven yourself to be a fine warrior.

LUCAS

Come on Blinky, there's a tidal wave coming! Do you want to drown?

BLINKY

What's a tidal wave when you've defeated the Puffmonster?

LUCAS

Good-bye Blinky.

Lucas reaches out and embraces Blinky who looks like he might cry. Lucas releases Blinky and looks toward Winkala.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Good-bye princess.

WINKALA

Are you nuts? I'm coming with you.

Lucas turns to Fido.

LUCAS

Aren't you coming?

Fido whimpers and wags its tail.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I guess you were always were Blinky's dog, anyway. Take good care of him champ.

Lucas leans down and hugs Fido.

Winkala takes Lucas' hand and together they jump into the whirlpool.

Blinky looks after them with tears in his eyes then turns to Fido.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE

Lucas and Winkala tumble out of the screen, also in a stream of water.

Mrs. Lemon rushes over to Lucas.

MRS. LEMON

Oh, Lucas, I'm so glad you're OK.

LUCAS

You're not mad?

MR. LEMON

We'll talk about that later.

Erica notices that Lucas still holds Winkala's hand and gives a jealous glare.

Lucas snatches his hand away from Winkala.

LUCAS

Uh, mom, dad, this is Princess Winkala. Winkala, this is my mom and dad Mr. and Mrs. Lemon.

MRS. LEMON

Nice to meet you dear. Can we get you a towel, (looks at her dress) some new clothes perhaps?

WINKALA

Blinky! He's still on the island...

Erica points to the screen.

ERICA

There he is.

Blinky and Fido are about to be swallowed up by the huge wave.

MR. BRADEN

It's time, the portal's about to close!

LUCAS AND WINKALA

Jump, Blinky!

EXT. BLINKY'S ISLAND - WATER

As Blinky stares in awe at the tidal wave about to bear down on him, Fido head butts Blinky into the whirlpool and jumps in after him.

INT. BRADEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

LUCAS

Good dog, Fido!

The computer screen shatters as a flood of water comes through carrying Blinky and Fido.

A melee of water, arms and bobbing heads and office supplies ensues.

When the water calms, Winkala looks around at the chaos panicked.

WINKALA

Blinky?

Blinky's head pops out of the water. He swims over to Winkala who smiles in relief.

Blinky takes her in his arms and kisses her passionately.

WINKALA (CONT'D)

Oh, Blinky.

DANTE

(popping up out of water)

Oh, Brother.

EXT. LEMON KITCHEN - MORNING

Lucas shovels down pancakes while Blinky looks on. Mrs. Lemon cooks pancakes at the stove while Mr. Lemon reads the paper. Fido sits nearby begging for food. Mr. Lemon throws him a piece of pancake which goes right through his body and lands on the floor.

MRS. LEMON

I wish you wouldn't do that, Louis.
Are sure you don't want any pancakes,
Blinky?

BLINKY

No thank you.

Lucas stands up and picks up his backpack.

LUCAS

Come on, we have to pick up Winkala.

MRS. LEMON

And tell Aunt Marge she and Winkala are invited to the party tonight.

LUCAS

She knows.

Lucas and Blinky leave.

EXT. ORANGEVALE SCHOOL - LATER

Lucas, Blinky and Winkala walk in the hallway. Erica comes up to them. Gone is her grunge look, replaced with skirt and ponytail.

ERICA

Hey, Blinky, Winkala. Hey Lucas.

LUCAS

Erica?

Ian comes up and points at Blinky.

IAN

Nice hair, loser.

Erica socks Ian in the arm.

ERICA

Leave him alone.

IAN

Geez, okay!

Ian walks off rubbing his arm.

LUCAS

Oh, yeah, I forgot to tell you, Erica, you're invited to my party tonight.

ERICA

Really? I thought you already had a birthday party.

LUCAS

It's not a birthday party. My mom's throwing me a welcome home party. She'll probably hire two clowns instead of one.

ERICA

Well, it sounds cool...especially if you're going to be there...

LUCAS

Are you sure you're feeling OK?

ERICA

Yeah.

Erica suddenly leans over and kisses Lucas on the cheek.

Lucas' jaw drops in amazement.

ERICA (CONT'D)

See ya.

Erica runs off.

WINKALA

She seems kind.

BLINKY

Yes, she's what you would call 'a friend'?

LUCAS

I sure hope so.

EXT. ORANGEVALE SCHOOL BLACKTOP - LATER

Kilgore stands before a group of Students dressed in PE uniforms.

KILGORE

I am Corporal Max Kilgore. I'll be your commanding officer while your teacher is out on maternity leave. Now I don't know how she did things, but you will stand at attention when I talk to you!

Kilgore walks over to Ian.

KILGORE (CONT'D)

Do I make myself clear? Now drop and give me 20!

EXT. JIFFY SMOG STATION - DAY

Dante hooks a car up to a smog test machine. Trisha watches nearby.

DRIVER

I've got some bad news...your car didn't pass.

TRISHA

It didn't? Oh but it's just got to. I'm a single mother and I just don't have the money for any expensive repairs right now...

DANTE

Single? Let me try one more thing...

Dante disappears behind the smog check machine.

His hand dissolves into the screen and the word "FAIL" becomes "PASS."

He steps out from the machine and hands a smog certificate to Trisha.

DANTE (CONT'D)

There, all fixed. Say are you free for capuccino later?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Winkala, Blinky and Lucas are seated at desks. Blinky wiggles and looks uncomfortable as Mrs. Bobbler stands at the front of the room.

BLINKY

(whispers)

At least on Blinky's Island we didn't have to sit on uncomfortable chairs.

WINKALA

Yes, and on Blinky's Island we never learned anything, either.

MRS. BOBBLER

Lucas, what is the capital of Zimbabwe?

WINKALA

Oh, I know...Harare!

Lucas gives Winkala a look.

LUCAS
(to Blinky)
Girls!

EXT. LEMON BACKYARD - DAY

COOL MUSIC blares as kids jump on a trampoline, sing karaoke area, slide down a skateboard ramp and romp in an above-ground pool.

The Clown has returned but gives a break dance performance.

Blinky entertains kids with aerial stunts on the trampoline.

Winkala sprays lavender hair-spray on a friend, as lavender-haired girls sing karaoke.

Erica tries out the ramp on her skateboard.

Dante holds court with a group of ladies including Mrs. Lemon and Aunt Marge.

Kilgore lets Mr. Lemon check out his rifle.

Lucas sits at a table and opens presents: ipods, video games and other electronic devices.

Mrs. Lemon steps over to the table.

MRS. LEMON
Lucas, you have one more gift inside the house. It's from your father and me.

LUCAS
Thanks mom. You didn't have to do that, this party is great enough.

MRS. LEMON
We wanted to make up for all the years of...you know...I guess since you're my only child I just wanted to keep you little as long as I could.

LUCAS
It's Ok, Mom, I know.

Lucas goes in the house followed by his mom.

INT. LEMON LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

A Gamestar 3000 console is hooked up to the ribbon-adorned TV. The words Gamestar 3000 fill the screen. Lucas runs over to the game.

LUCAS

Wow! This is great! Thanks! I'll go out back and get one of the new games I got--

MRS. LEMON

No, there's already a game inside. We picked it out especially for you.

LUCAS

Really? Cool.

Lucas takes the controls and pushes a button.

The Puffmonster roars furiously. Frank rides on his back and laughs maniacally. Lucas backs away from the TV.

LUCAS

No, anything but that, no...

Lucas makes for the door and bumps into Mr. Lemon.

MR. LEMON

See Lois? I told you this whole video game thing was just a phase.

Lucas pushes past his father to go outside while Mr. Lemon shakes his head and smiles.

Mrs. Lemon gets a worried look on her face.

The Puffmonster and Frank get closer and closer until they fill the whole screen.

FADE TO BLACK