

The Schoolapeep

by
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Based on true life events of the Brooklyn Flash

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I Lucked It

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EXT. MONTANA - TOWN OF PEEKABOO, PRESENT DAY - MORNING

Present day. We can hear the morning, silence, and its beautiful. The only distraction is a distant rapid clicking. The sound approaches.

A child breezes past us on his bike, this is Ollie. Ollie is eleven years old, he races hard on his vintage cruiser bicycle, an old playing card clothespined to the frame flipping off against the spokes.

Ollie wears a necktie around his head like a bandana and has an old satchel over his shoulder. He looks dusty and there is some colored paint about his arms and rest.

Ollie rips off the road into the woods, racing without concern of injury.

Skid out, the bike is thrown onto the ground in a heap of dust.

Above is a rickety old tree house. Nicodemus pops his head out the side window and hollers down.

NICODEMUS

You got it Ollie?

OLLIE

Yeah yeah, I gots it.

Nicodemus is Ollie's younger brother. He has the look of a little brother.

Ollie climbs the tree house steps and enters through the trap down in the floor.

NICODEMUS

So? Lets have a lookie.

OLLIE

Hold your breath fart stain.

Ollie takes the satchel off from his shoulder. Lays the satchel down and unties the ends. Inside, an old journal rests. The front reads "our finest days."

NICKELBE

What's it say Ollie?

OLLIE
Our finest days.

The two brothers stare at the cover only being able to slightly imagine what is to come on the inside.

NICODEMUS
You think we'll get answers this time Oll?

OLLIE
Cross those twiggy fingertips and lets hope real hard.

Ollie opens to the front page and we fade out.

INT. THE PEN SHOP - TOWN OF PEEKABOO - EVENING - 1952

The Pen Shop is an old bar that attracts most townies of all ages. The town is called Peekaboo, and it is tucked away in the mountains of Montana.

Although many parts of Montana are remote and desolate, Peekaboo is a hairball of local boodies. Boodies being the townies, They call unwanted outsiders, Peekers.

All though some of the town camaraderie is in tact, something's missing.

It' a quiet night and the mill is only about a quarter filled. The bartender, rattle, is leaning over the record player, swapping vinyls.

Mickey walks in. Mickey is in his mid twenties, medium in height, skinny and friendly. A friend to all.

The weather is cold out, Mickey is bundled.

We hear a couple 'hey Mick's,' and 'how you been' Mickey's as he walks over to the counter where rattle has changed the music.

MICKEY
Hiya Rattle. How you be?

RATTLE
Howdy Mick. Not Gunna complain.

MICKEY
And if you did...

RATTLE MICKY TOGETHER
Who'd listen?

They share a laugh together.

RATTLE
Whatall it be?

MICKY
Let's see. How about a warm milk.

RATTLE
Sure thing.

Mickey turns and looks around the mill to all the friendly faces.

There is a blonde by herself, tall and skinny. Louisiana.

She sits with a daisy, every leaf picked off but one.

They each freeze when they see one another but Mickey collects himself cooley.

LOUISIANA
Hi Mickey.

MICKY
Salutations Louisiana.

LOUISIANA
Where you been hiding out? Digging for buried treasures again.

MICKY
You never know lulu, you just never know.

There is an awkward pause. These two seem to have a lot to talk about. Nothings being said.

LOUISIANA
I had a birthday a couple weeks back, was pretty keen on the idea that you would show up for a milk. Give me some birthday punches.

MICKY
I am sorry about that darling. How young did you turn?

LOUISIANA
Two dozen.

MICKEY
My favorite.

LOUISIANA
Why's that cowboy?

MICKEY
It was when I learned of my
aptitudes.

LOUISIANA
And what's that?

Mickey gets up and walks in another direction, talking as he
strolls away from her.

MICKEY
Another time Blondie, another milk.

LOUISIANA
So long Mickey.

MICKEY
Audios Lou.
(under his breath)
If you only knew Lou, if only you
knew.

Mickey walks over to a table where an older man sits, Banjo.
A ten gallon hat down low in his eyes.

His old pup named Pepper by his side.

Banjo looks dangerous, a few scars litter his thorny face.

MICKEY
Banjo?

Banjo doesn't move in his seat.

Pepper's old tired eyes and ears creep up.

Mickey looks back towards Louisiana for a moment.

MICKEY
Pepper?

Pepper raises her lids.

MICKEY
 (Mickey holds his hands
 like two pistols towards
 pepper)
 BANG BANG!

Pepper plays dead onto her back.

MICKEY
 Good pup.

BANJO
 Back with nothing?
 (his voice grinds)

MICKEY
 You don't always get a tan when you
 go to the beach.

BANJO
 How's Josie? That ol' battle-ax.

MICKEY
 Mighty. She misses the old days of
 rollin round with pepper.

BANJO
 Your blasphemous sibling almost got
 a eye full of bruise for stepping
 on pepper here's foot and not
 turning to square with me.

Mickey looks disappointed.

MICKEY
 Well I'm sorry Banjo, he didn't
 mean nothin by it.

BANJO
 He never means nothin.

MICKEY
 Alright banjo.

BANJO
 And another thing about that
 kinsman of yours...

Banjo is cut off.

MICKEY
 Can I get you another one Banjo?

Banjo twists his head, knowing it isn't any of Mickey's fault.

BANJO
Tomato juice, no stalks.

Mickey makes his way back over to the counter. Before he gets there someone pokes him in his back.

KIRBY
Stick 'em up.

Mickey gets the smile back on his face.

MICKEY
If you want my gold captain, your gonna have to chop off these hands.

KIRBY
As you wish!

Kirby spins him around and grabs hold of his hand, shaking it.

Kirby is old enough to be Mickey's father. He seems a little slow and mostly harmless.

MICKEY
Kirby Pickens!

They give one another a smash hug, dust comes off of Kirby's back in a cloud.

MICKEY
Kirby, you dirty old bug.

KIRBY
Hey there Mr. Maddox. Home already?

MICKEY
For now Kirby, and call me Mickey.

KIRBY
I've got a few to show ya Mr. Maddox.

MICKEY
Is that right?

KIRBY
That's right. At my roost. Later on perhaps.

MICKEY
Yeah Kirby, sure.

KIRBY
I took your advice, started off
small you know? Bore a hole here,
cleave a tree there.

MICKEY
That's downright dynamite Kirby.

KIRBY
I used them ancient tools that you
offered to me, and the doc says my
memory has improved a bit more than
a bunch. I even remember that
fishin' hole you took me to that
time some seasons back.

MICKEY
Catch and release Kirby.

KIRBY
Oh, oh of course Mr. Maddox. Of
course.

RATTLE
Milk Mickey?

MICKEY
Catch up in a little, alright Kirb?

KIRBY
Sure thing palooka.

Mickey finally gets back to the counter.

RATTLE
Crazy Kirby Pickens.

MICKEY
Maybe it's us that's crazy Rattle.

Rattle laughs with him.

RATTLE
You know Mick? Your probably right.

Rattle has prepared a bowl of popcorn for Mickey.

RATTLE
Some popcorn?

MICKEY

Thanks Rat.

Mickey takes a handful.

MICKEY

Mmm, buttered.

RATTLE

Of course.

From the other end of the bar. Sandy, a young lady.

SANDY

Hot chocolate Rattle. Two of them.

RATTLE

Coming up Sandy.

Mickey takes a look around the joint.

MICKEY

(to himself)

Feels good to be back.

Mickey turns around and rests his elbows on the bar.

To the right side of him sits a young couple. Mickey has no choice but to listen in on their conversation.

The young lady acts as if she is telling a horror story to little children, and the boy looks at her goofy.

GIRL #1

It was a score ago. A time when this village was overflowing with life. A time when no door came with lock and key. On one peaceful evening as the sun was headed north, an outfit of evil men, that call themselves Gunpowder, swept in and snatched up the greatest jewel of peekaboo.

BOY #1

What was it?

GIRL #1

It was the tree.

BOY #1

A tree?

GIRL #1

The tree.

BOY #1

The tree?

GIRL #1

This tree, was no humdrum of a tree.

BOY #1

Humdrum?

GIRL #1

Righty-o. No passable, commonplace, garden-variety, boilerplate of a tree. No you see, this was Penny's tree. Penny Peekaboo.

BOY #1

Ohhhhhh.

GIRL #1

Many many years ago this town was in great peril, there was no jobs to be had, no food to be eaten. Little children suffered and parents gave up the scramble and began letting go.

BOY #1

Ah, letting go.

GIRL #1

Penny was a girl no bigger than a pile of fresh snow. Took her time and made sure everyone in town got the same old letter. Penny was organizing a town meeting. On the old peabody farm.

BOY #1

The peabody farm.

GIRL #1

Now what nobody in town knew was why, but Penny made em all pinky promise that they'd be there. Well pinky promise they did, and on that morning they all arrived, crumpled faces and all. Penny held a tree tall and skinny, not much to it.

(MORE)

Penny explained the meaning of the tree and how together they would put life into the earth and watch life grow together. Then she vowed, she vowed a vow that many didn't swallow.

BOY #1
Whud she vow?

GIRL #1
She vowed to be there.

BOY #1
To be there?

GIRL #1
From every sunrise to every sunset.

BOY #1
For what?

GIRL #1
Good company.

They both share a smile.

GIRL #1
She had each and every boogie either dig a shovel full, or sprinkle some water in. And by the end, the town together had planted a tree. Penny's tree.

The boy has a blank expression on his face, jaw slightly off beat.

GIRL #1
Soon the town became magnificent. People began to have more and more faith in Penny's tree.

BOY #1
coincidence?

GIRL #1
Camaraderie.

There is a pause.

GIRL #1

The legend grew like pole beans.
And eventually many many moons
after the tree had been planted and
bounteous boobies who had laid the
dirt under that tree had sprouted
wings, Penny passed.

BOY #1

She died?

GIRL #1

Yes, she died. But the tree, the
tree lived on. And the boobies never
let go.

BOY #1

Then what?

GIRL #1

Well, a great time after that, a
town far away, hidden deep in the
hills faced catastrophe, malice and
mouths full of venom. They believed
that the tree would bring them the
same luck it brought to Peekaboo
years earlier. And on that day, the
darkest day Peekaboo has ever
faced, well they ripped the roots
like they were our arteries right
out of the earth.

BOY #1

Has there been anyone brave enough
to go after it?

GIRL #1

Sure, but none successful. Big
brave men, widdled men to, with
nothing to lose. The last attempt
was a crafty couple that the town
thought for sure would return. For
they left far to much behind. But
the tree was gone, and hope in town
faded, quickly descending we are.
Many a brave man has lost their
minds or their lives trying to find
that tree. But when Gunpowder wrap
their mighty mitts on something you
face more than that of just a
normal man.

There is a long long pause as the boy "gulps".

GIRL #1
Buuuuut, that's all hearsay. No one
much believes in that old tale
anymore.

Hollers to rattle.

GIRL #1
Couple more punches rattle.

Mickey seems a bit shook up and speaks under his breath.

MICKEY
You'll find no lock and key on this
Booies door.

Rattle returns as Mickey finishes the last of his milk,
wiping away the milk mustache. He puts some coins on the
counter.

RATTLE
You know Mick...

He pauses as if he doesn't know how to say it.

MICKEY
Ga head Rat. What's it pal?

RATTLE
Well you see... Your brother was in
here earlier and...

Mickey once again has to bow his head.

RATTLE
He ordered a honey sandwich and...

MICKEY
How much Rattle? No you know what?
I'm sorry, just take this.

Mickey puts some heavy coins on the counter.

RATTLE
Now wait a minute Mick.

MICKEY
Now now Rattle, I insist. Heavy are
the clouds comith for my brother.

Mickey turns and starts for the door. He glances and catches
eyes with Louisiana but takes them away and exits.

RATTLE

Don't tell him I said nothing!

The Pen Shop door closes behind Mickey.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PEN SHOP - EVENING

The snow is slowly falling onto Peekaboo like a paper towel would a wet kitchen floor. The Pen Shop door opens.

LOUISIANA

Mickey wait.

Mickey has lost some of his cool, tries to keep his grin from slumping.

There is sadness in Louisiana's eyes.

LOUISIANA

Oh Mickey.

Mickey smiles at her a quiet smile. She throws her arms around his neck.

MICKEY

I'm sorry Lou.

When she lets go we see that she has shed some tears.

LOUISIANA

No letters or nothing?

Mickey doesn't feel the need to explain himself.

The snow has fallen over Louisiana's shoulders. Mickey brushes it off.

MICKEY

I'm sorry Valentine.

Mickey turns and walks across the empty street.

LOUISIANA

Don't Valentine me mister!

(under her breath)

Don't you Valentine me.

Louisiana holds onto her stomach and gazes downwards. Sparse clouds of smoke billowing from scattered chimneys of the quiet homes across the frigid mountains.

INT. TOWN HALL - EVENING

A meeting is being had.

People seem angry and ready for war. The sheriff, sheriff Little Jon, who isn't little at all is standing about face at the podium.

MR. DOLLARSEN

Sheriff little Jon, we can't just have these Maddox boys running this town a muck for the rest of our lives can we? My son came home last month covered in seaweed head to toe, telling me, Mickey Maddox told him that that's how he got started.

MISS GLORIA

Mickey Maddox is as sweet as the morning air, we all know that.

MR. DOLLARSEN

Well his brothers crooked as a crickets legs. He is reason enough.

MR. HIGGY

Enough for what Mr. Dollarsen?

MR. DOLLARSEN

To get rid of them!

MR. HIGGY

Get rid of them? Why because they like to explore? Because they have adventure in their hearts. You Mr. Dollarsen, your heart, your mind, your impervious to anything outside of Peekaboo. Your nothing but a no good, down low, busted up, deadbeat washout. Your a Peekawho!

The crowd is shocked, and hushs, noise comes from everyone and everywhere.

SHERIFF LITTLE JON

ENOUGH!!!

The crowd quiets down.

SHERIFF LITTLE JON

I don't wanna hear another dirty word about those boys again.

(MORE)

I know He ~~SHERIFF DITTMER~~ ~~is a trouble maker~~ (cont'd)
 know he has stolen a thing or two
 from a couple of you, and I know
 the black and blue eyes he has
 shelled out over the years. We all
 know of their tragic story. Now if
 I said it once I've said it sixty
 seven times, NOBODY and I mean
 NOBODY bothers Mischievous Maddox.

EXT. MR. PIES CONVEINIANT STORE - NIGHT

The snow is falling down in bundles but slowly through the street lights. Old hanging street lamps scatter the street randomly spotlighting certain areas. Mr. Pies is one of those areas.

Two young men are walking into the store hands in their pockets.

INT. MR. PIES CONVEINIANT STORE - NIGHT

Mr. Pies expression changes from a smile to concern when he sees the two. They approach the counter.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY

Mr. Pie?

Mr. Pie doesn't say a word. The kid behind Brickhouse Billy chuckles a bit.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY

I'm a talking to you Mr. Pie.

MR. PIE

What do you want Brickhouse.

Brickhouse Billy is about five foot eight with wide shoulders and a wider mustache.

Mr. Pie is an older fragile looking Asian man, bald in the middle.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY

I want two of those choice
 sandwiches that you make so good.
 Only problem amigo, I'm a little
 short on the green leaves.

The second kid chuckles again.

Mr. Pie Reaches behind the counter and hands over to Brickhouse a broom, offering that if he sweeps, the sandwich will be his.

Brickhouse swats the broom into orbit.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY
Don't insult me Pie. Don't.

Brickhouse approaches the counter and Mr. Pie Backs up against the coffee maker, scolding himself forward into the hands of Brickhouse. Face to face now.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY
Butter sandwich, with pickles. Lots of them.

Mr. Pie turns his face away from Brickhouses breath.

MR. PIE
How bout I make you a toothpaste sandwich? Barracuda!

Brickhouse doesn't take kindly to the words and winds up to throw a punch when the front door bells chime.

A young man walks in, clean shaven and unharmed looking.

He doesn't seem fazed by the situation, actually the situation cools, and the faces of the company looks rather worried.

This is Mischievous Maddox.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Butter sandwiches Pie, extra pickles.

Brickhouse Billy lets go of Mr. Pie and shuffles with his head down away from Mischievous.

Mr. Pie quickly gets to work. Brickhouse Billy chimes in.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY
H- h- hiya Mischievous.

Mischievous turns to see who it is. As he stares brickhouses cold eyes turn down.

Mr. Pies arm holding sandwiches enter.

Mischievous grabs it and heads for the door.

They all look at one another like little kids that got yelled at by dad. Brickhouse seems inspired and as we follow Mischievous we hear.

BRICKHOUSE BILLY
SANDWICHES PIE, NOWWWW!

MR. PIE
Ha.

EXT. HILL TOP - NIGHT

Mickey stands atop the hill overlooking peekaboo. To his right side, an old weathered hole in the ground. The hole that once homed the sacred tree, left alone since the thieving of it.

Mickey stares at it.

INT. TREE HOUSE - PRESENT DAY - DAYTIME

NICODEMUS
Ollie?

OLLIE
What's it?

NICODEMUS
You think that there's a chance that the two boopies killed defending peekaboo was our great grandparents?

OLLIE
I would say your spot on Nicodemus.

NICODEMUS
Why wouldn't Poppa -

OLLIE
I don't know kid brother, I don't know.

We fade out as Ollie puts a finger on the words of the journal and continues reading.

INT. LOUISIANA'S ROOM - NIGHT - 1952

Louisiana sits in a rocking chair which is next to her window. She looks sad and to be waiting for something. She holds a book on her lap. The cover reads. The Secret of Nihm.

EXT. OUT FRONT OF THE MADDOX FARM

Mickey turns his old Model-T into a long and wide driveway. He calls the car Shelia.

A loyal pack of dogs, that all look to be hunters, rise up and watch as he pulls Shelia to a stop.

Josie the leader of the pack greets him warmly.

MICKEY

Hiya girl.

He gets on his knees and rubs her neck. As soon as he takes a knee the pack and Josie take one as well.

He stands back up as they all rise along with him. Mickey gives them all a good long look, and a good long smile and heads into a side door.

INT. THE MICKEY'S WOODSHOP - NIGHT

Mickey sits in a wooden handmade room. Most everything looks to be made of wood. Wooden ships, bird cages, fishing lures, jars, baseball bats and other scattered wooden objects.

We can smell the wood.

A picture of Louisiana is in a wooden frame.

A picture of two adults, filthy from head to toe sit adjacent to Louisiana's picture. Mickey's mother and father.

Mickey sits on a wooden stool and with his magnifying glass and is looking at a scroll.

The sounds of nature are heard over the old radio. Birds and ducks and a waterfall in the background. He's concentrated.

Mischievous walks in.

Holding the two sandwiches, one of which he is already eating and the other still wrapped up. He takes off his coat and heads over to Mickey.

He peers over Mickey's shoulder. Chewing loudly in His brothers ear. He decimates his sandwich, A buttery pickle falls. Trickling over Mickey's shoulder and onto the scroll.

Mickey puts down the magnifying glass and Mischievous puts on a sheepishly nervous face.

Mickey slowly turns to look at his brother. Mischievous stops chewing, and with a mouthful.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

I got you one too.

He hands it to Mickey. Mickey hasn't taken his eyes off of Mischievous. Mickey gets up and walks to the other side of the room and is tinkering with some tools. Blowing in a pipe and holding it up to the light.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Something wrong brother?

Mickey has Sixty seven things he'd like to say to him, he bites his tongue.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

I wanted to tell you i ran into-

He is cut off.

MICKEY

Where did you get the sandwiches from Mischievous?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

I Got them from Pie's.

Mickey stops what he is doing and glares at him.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Mr. Pie's on Sutton street.

The glare gets worse.

MICKEY

Bring it back Mischievous.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Bring it back Mick? Bring it back? After what that fossil has done to our town?

Angry.

MICKEY

What Mischievous?! What has he done
to our town?! Tell me!

Mischievous looks nervous.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Well. Well. He's done nothing.

MICKEY

Bring it back slug.

Mischievous puts his head down like a puppy.

MICKEY

You have to be kinder Miss. It's no
way to make a friend.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Yeah well Mick, I just plum don't
want no more friends.

MICKEY

(Under his breath)
Witless turd.

Mischievous hears him.

MICKEY

Make yourself useful. Go and make
me a malted.

Mickey gets back to what he is looking at.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

What are you peering at there
brother?

MICKEY

Its just a lead Mischievous,
nothing important yet.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You on a path?

MICKEY

Same old Miss.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Well where's that artery headed?

Mickey is getting agitated.

MICKEY
Mischievous please.

Miss gets the hint.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
And that one over there by the
apple tree farm.

Mickey puts down the magnifying glass and slowly turns to glare at his brother.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
So just a malted then? That's all?

Mickey doesn't have to say anything.

Mischievous nods and walks off.

Mickey taps his pencil on the table and looks his eyes around the room.

He walks over to the picture of Louisiana and takes it off the wall.

We fade out.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP - DAY

Mickey is sound asleep with his face laying on Louisiana's picture. The sun wakes him up.

He brushes wood chips off the side of his face.

MICKEY
Waking up next to you sweet pea,
feels like that first breath you
take after being under water for
moments to long.

We hear the pack growling and getting anxious. Mickey gets to his feet.

Before he can see what's happening there are a few clamoring knocks on the window, half frozen with ice, Mickey peers through. Kirby waves with uncontrollable excitement.

MICKEY
Kirby? What in...

Mickey runs to the door and swings it open.

KIRBY

Mr. Maddox. Good Morning

MICKEY

A pleasant morning tide to you as well Kirby, and call me Mickey.

KIRBY

I couldn't wait to show you.

Kirby walks over to a wooden desk and pulls a spot light a few inches above his hand, he speaks softly.

KIRBY

You told me Mr. Maddox, you told me that if I put in my time, if I searched and searched and searched under those old apple trees that I would come up with my own Kangaroo stone.

Mickey has a smile on his face.

KIRBY

I never gave up. Not for one second. Momma called me for supper. Not for one second Mr. Maddox. I never gave up. And you know when the sun went down...

MICKEY

Not for one second?

KIRBY

Not for one second.

Kirby leans closer to the light, Mickey leans in with him.

Kirby's hands dirty like an old floor mat, chapped and dry with blisters, slowly opens.

His face gleams with anticipation.

His hand opens now and we see the Kangaroo stone. No larger than a small potato the kangaroo stone is flat in color and looks to have a pouch in the front of it. Hence Kangaroo.

Mickey does the best he can do to show his uninterested excitement.

MICKEY

Fantastic Kirby, really first rate.

KIRBY

I knew you would like it Mr. Maddox
I knew you would.

MICKEY

It's quite priceless Kirby, well
done.

KIRBY

Mr. Maddox? I had many an extended
thought about this and I wont take
no for an answer. You must have
this. As a gift from my sinking
heart, to your loving one.

MICKEY

Kirby? I could never...

KIRBY

I insist.

MICKEY

But I...

KIRBY

Stop! Please Mr. Maddox. I want to
do this. All that you have taught
me over the past few years. Please.
It's what I want.

Mickey's eyes are sad. He generously accepts the stone.

MICKEY

Thank you Kirby. Thank you.

There is a quiet moment. Kirby looks around the room and
spots the map on the table.

KIRBY

Wow! What's this? Something new?
Can I have a look.

How can Mickey say no.

MICKEY

Sure Kirby, have a look.

Kirby stares intently. His face is serious.

Mischievous enters.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Blast you!!!

KIRBY

What a minute Mischievous, just
wait a minute.

Mischievous wastes no time and grabs him up by the collar of
his shirt.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Get moving you lemon.

MICKEY

Hey Miss!!! Let em' go.

Mischievous drops quick.

Kirby runs for the door and exits, he runs a few paces and
turns back quick for the window.

KIRBY

Thank you Mr. Maddox.

Mickey smiles and hollers back.

MICKEY

Call me Mickey!

The pack begins growling and barking. Mickey yells to them.

MICKEY

Easy girls!

The brothers look at one another.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You just let that knucklehead
rummage around on top of our most
promising map.

MICKEY

Keep your trap plugged brother.

Mischievous looks frustrated and turns to walk out.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Montana made cherry sandwiches when
your ready.

The door closes behind him.

Mickey walks over to a chest on the floor, looks at the
kangaroo stone Kirby had given to him and opens the chest.

Thousands of kangaroo stones.

He wraps Kirby's in a cloth and drops it in.

INT. THE MADOX HOUSE - NIGHT

Mischievous sits eating. Montana is cleaning the dishes.

Mickey walks in and grabs a cherry sandwich, has a seat next to Mischievous.

MICKEY
Little brothers?

They both turn a head towards him.

MONTANA
Big brothers?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Muttonheads?

MONTANA
Hey Mickey? I had dialogue with
Magnolia this morning.

Mickey looks up at him.

MONTANA
You know? Louisiana's Little sis.

Mickey's very quiet.

MONTANA
She's written a book Mickey.
Firecracker's the name.

MICKEY
Now Montana what are you gettin at?

MONTANA
Nothing at all Mick.

MICKEY
When the moment presents itself
little brother. That's all I can
tell you.

MONTANA
You mean maybe when you get back
from Lotus?

MICKEY

Lotus? Why would I be headed to
Lotus?

MONTANA

Your map, it's lotus.

Mischievous and Mickey spring up out of their chairs.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP

The three boys stand over the map.

MONTANA

See this bedrock? Shaped like a
elephant? I recognized that mineral
from when me mom and d-

(he stops himself short)

Well I was there many years ago.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Many years ago? Your ten years old.

MONTANA

Uhh, plus four hot shot.

(puts his arm on
Mischievous's shoulder)

But thanks for keeping track.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

How am I supposed to remember your
carousel? When I have so many other-

Mischievous is cut off by Mickey.

MICKEY

It's not what's important Miss.
Monty tell me, where in Lotus is
this?

MONTANA

Gee Mickey, I would have to be
there and case it with these two
blue eyes.

Mickey looks at Mischievous, a long pondering look.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Are you sure as silver Monty?

MICKEY

Of course he is Miss.

MONTANA

Sure as silver.

Mickey gets up and walks to the door. Opens it and stands back to his brothers in the doorway.

MICKEY

We leave at first cockcrow. All of us.

Montana gets excited.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

But Mick.

MICKEY

No buts Mischievous. Just be primed before the sun rises.

INT. THE PEN SHOP - NIGHT

The usual crowd is gathered inside.

Louisiana sits alone, reading a book called "martyrs".

MICKEY

You should read firecracker, I hear it's matchless.

LOUISIANA

Back already Romeo? Is there a sun-tea special that I don't know about?

MICKEY

That's not it pickle.

LOUISIANA

Did rattle make grass muffins again, I know how you love those.

MICKEY

Counterfactual. I'm here for you.

Louisiana doesn't know what to expect.

MICKEY

I come to say farewell. You see I'm gonna be -

He is cut off.

LOUISIANA

Take me along Mickey? Please?

It kills Mickey to look at her, thinking this may be the last time.

MICKEY

Sweet potato. If I could.

Louisiana lets out the most sincerest please the world has ever known.

LOUISIANA

Please?

Mickey walks to her, puts his hands around her rosy cheeks and kisses her on her lips.

LOUISIANA

I've always been able to die while looking into your eyes.

Mickey knows better and steps away.

LOUISIANA

I have to tell you something Mickey.

MICKEY

Trap that thought Cotton, I will be right back.

Louisiana is left standing alone, no one else knows a thing that has happened.

INT. THE MADOX HOUSE, MONTANA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Montana is packing a box. Decks of cards, random books, soap, yo-yo, flashlight, ukulele, bow and arrow, slingshot and others. He packs a picture, frame and all, looks like a family photo.

INT. THE MADOX HOUSE - MISCHIEVOUS'S ROOM

Mischievous is laying on his back tossing a rubber ball up towards the ceiling.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP - NIGHT

Mickey stares intensely at the map. His eyes glowing.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE MADOX HOME - DAWN

The day is fresh and full of life. Mickey rests with his back against the car looking out over the house, towards the farm chewing on a peach.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You need put some peanut butter on that peach.

Mischievous packs the car.

Montana struggles with a box bigger than his body. The older brothers laugh at him.

MICKEY

Little brother, little brother hold on.

Mickey open the box, looks puzzled.

MICKEY

You can take one item from this square. One.

Montana gives no guff and totes it back to the porch.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You gonna miss Peekaboo?

MICKEY

Who says we ain't returning?

From a far Montana asks Mickey

MONTANA

Can I bring Poppa's arrows?

MICKEY

Yeah Mont.

Montana runs off towards the arrows.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Well Mick, let's just say, we run into a couple more than a few rivers that need crossing. Or, or a half a dozen of them nasty storms like the last try? We could run into whatever in Gods green earth is in those lotus woods. You listening Mick?

Charlie is a young farm girl, about Montanas age. Her smile is almost hidden by the cotton hat upon her head. Bigger than a basket, the hat looks to be consuming her.

MICKEY

I'm trying not to Mischievous.

MICKEY

(to Charlie)

You brought the marquee.

CHARLIE

All three cowboys.

MONTANA

Oh why hello Charlie.

CHARLIE

Taller than me now huh Monti?

Montana straightens himself.

MONTANA

I'm as high as Mickey.

CHARLIE

Long time no see Mischievous.

Mischievous keeps packing the truck. Charlie knows its personal.

MICKEY

So Charlie come this way, I'lla show you where the feed and what else you need is.

MONTANA

(to Mischievous)

Did you see the way Charlie was flashing that glad eye at me?

Mischievous stares at him idiotically.

MONTANA

The way she twirled her hair in a knot? Did you notice that? Did you see the way she saw how tall I've gotten? Saw that? Did you see th-

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Shut-up.

MONTANA

So Miss, you think like, were gonna battle a giant snake in a swampy muddy bog? Or, or like, climb through trees to avoid some unwanted adversary?

Mischievous continues packing the car not paying all that much attention to his little brother.

MONTANA

Mickey told me that this one time you guys were crossing a bridge, one made of twigs practically, and and then, the whole bridge started to crumble, and the ropes all around you started snapping. And Mickey told me that he fell but you grabbed him, you grabbed him up and saved him. Sthat true Miss?

Mischievous cocks a small smile on his face but doesn't let anyone see.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Something like that Mont.

Mickey walks back. Clapping his hands together.

MICKEY

Time to get boys.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Mickey I can't fit everything in here.

(Looks hard at Montana)

There's to much stuff.

MICKEY

Now now Miss, lets not be upset that little brother cracked the map before you could.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Even a broken clock is right once a day.

MICKEY

Lets head out.

MONTANA

Micka, I found this here resting on the rocker out front.

A letter.

The letter reads, "My Mickey."

Mickey smiles at the thought.

Louisiana. He opens his shirt and keeps it as close to his heart, inside pocket.

Mickey gets to the front of the car. The car is as old as the hills. Looks like a Model -T. Bare and bruised. Mickey cranks the engine crack at the foot of the car.

Montana more excited than electricity hops in the front seat. Miss gives him a look and Montana skulks in to the back.

Josie, Mickey's pup runs up for a long farewell. She's a pointer and a strong looking one.

MICKEY

Ohhh, Josie. No need to sweat my girl.

Josie whimpers as Mickey hurdles into the drivers seat.

They all await a dream ahead. Mickey takes a long hard look at his home, a deep breath. The car heads off away from the farm down a wide open dirt road.

EXT. LOUISIANA'S PORCH - AFTERNOON

Louisiana sits on a porch overlooking a grass field that seems to never end. Her pooch Chopper, a battered looking Rhodesian Ridgeback sits guard alongside her, still as a stone, watching the property attentively. Magnolia, her little sis, takes a seat adjacent to her. Hands and face dirty as the dirt. She carries two ice cold drinks.

MAGNOLIA

Want one cold sis?

Louisiana takes hold of the drink. Magnolia can see that Louisiana ain't her same self.

MAGNOLIA

Something nagging your heart?

LOUISIANA

I'm middling.

MAGNOLIA

Wanna chew about it?

LOUISIANA

When your young you get sad.

They breath together looking out over the peace and quiet.

MAGNOLIA

No use in worrying about him now
sis.

LOUISIANA

Worrying about who?

MAGNOLIA

I may just be a kid but I've got
two working eyes, and two working
ears Lou.

LOUISIANA

I guess your growing inside as
well.

They sit silently.

LOUISIANA

What do you mean? 'No use in
worrying about him now.'

MAGNOLIA

I mean you might as well wait till
his return.

Louisiana straightens, looks surprised.

LOUISIANA

How do you know he gone away.

MAGNOLIA

I move lips with Montana, he's a
peach.

LOUISIANA

What was said Magnolia? Did you
find out where he is going?

MAGNOLIA

All three, yeah. Some place I never
heard of before. Kotus, or
Lowglass.

Louisiana seems a bit curious.

LOUISIANA

Lotus?

MAGNOLIA

Spot on sis.

Louisiana sits back turning the wheels.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - AFTERNOON

The Maddox boys stand in front of woods thicker than sand on the ground of a beach. Trees growing out of one another and higher than the clouds. There doesn't seem to be one single entrance.

They have packed bags and strapped them backside.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Around?

Three boys stretching their necks as far as possible look both left and right.

MICKEY

Over.

Mischievous and Mickey begin taking things out of their bags. Montana watches not knowing what to do.

Within a moment they have strapped spikes to their own and Montana's feet.

MONTANA

Do I need to know anything?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Climb.

They grab hold of a tree each and begin the upward travel.

Mickey and Mischievous seem to be old pros at this, moving up at an alarming rate leaving Montana in the bark below.

MICKEY

Rise and shine Gardner snake.

Mickey and Mischievous are perfectly along side each other and seem to be racing.

MICKEY

Did you step on Peppers foot in the pen shop?

Mischievous looks shocked. He could care less.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Did that old pile of skin tell you that?

MICKEY

You know Momma named that dog.

Mischievous looks away.

Mickey races past him into the brush. Mischievous follows closely behind.

MICKEY

So this is Lotus?

The woods are dark and suspect.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Pretty hairy.

Cracking sounds and ominous noises are heard.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

This could be it Mick?

MICKEY

Could be Miss.

The brothers share a smile together. Montana crawls up from behind them.

All three sit straddling different branches looking out over what awaits them.

Montana has a smile on his face, dirty already, takes a drink from his canteen.

MONTANA

That was it? That is why I can never come with you guys? That wasn't even a tree, it's like a plant to me.

Mischievous has a mug on as Mickey smiles with Monti.

MONTANA

I thought it would be a little more-

CRACK

Montana's branch snaps from below him. Mickey and Mischievous spring into action. Helping one another like acrobats down the tree at inhuman speeds.

They reach for Montana who is reaching back, they continue slipping fingertips all the way down. Finally Montana lands on a sturdy branch. Everyone freezes.

MICKEY
NOBODY MOVE!

Nobody moves.

Montana's branch makes hungry sounds. Concern takes over Montana's face.

MONTANA
Mickey?

Mickey looks at Mischievous.

MICKEY
GET 'EM!

Montana's branch snaps once again, and once again the routine is on. Like two ice skaters Mickey and Mischievous weave the branches of the tree effortlessly.

Montana crashing his back into everything in his way, when finally...

MICKEY
NOW!

Mickey grabs hold of Mischievous's legs and whips him forward grabbing Montana's hand.

They got him. Everything's still now.

Montana looks up, scattered slices across his face. Mischievous gives him an obnoxious look and lets go.

Montana panics momentarily until half a foot later he hits the ground.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Twerp.

MICKEY
You on the level?

Montana is stunned.

MICKEY
What were you saying back yonder?
You thought it would be a little
more?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Twiggy?

MONTANA

I'm on the level.

Mickey slings his arm around him and brushes him off a bit.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Let's shuffle out.

MICKEY

You need two shakes to park it
Monti?

MONTANA

I'm on the level.

MICKEY

You heard the man.

The Maddox's take their first steps into the Lotus forest.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS, MARSH - LATE AFTERNOON

The Maddox boys are trucking through an impervious forest.
Rays of light are shining from up ahead.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Spot that?

MICKEY

Certainly.

Their machetes' work hard. Vaulting over busted trees and
braided brush. Like teleporters they slice away and dance
through it all.

Mickey pushes through and reaches an open area.

MICKEY

It's open.

The three boys help one another get to the other side. A
marsh thicker and stinkier than all the rotten dead fish in
the world. Worse then vomited vomit.

They hold their noses.

MONTANA

Appetizing.

To the left and to the right nothing but bog. There is no other way around.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Don't see much choice.

Mickey mulls it over, grabs a nearby stick and snaps it off the tree. Fishes it around the swampy water. Pokes left, right and out about 4 feet. Seems shallow.

MICKEY

Hold your breath.

Mickey takes a step in. Follows is Mischievous. Montana hesitantly creeps forward.

MICKEY

Side by side Montana.

Montana walks in. The oily murk bubbles gassy greasy bubbles. Slimy, sticky and stinking.

The boys travel two steps ahead and all plummet under, dropping off of a ledge.

They spring up and take in the air, filth cover their bodies like never before.

MONTANA

That's not what you meant by hold your breath is it?

MICKEY

That was unscheduled.

The pit is long and far to the other side. They truck it side by side the best they can. Swimming through parts, walking through others, the journey is a long one and when they reach the other side all three hit the dirt, breathing in the grounds sent.

MONTANA

We have to find another way out of here.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Maybe we won't have to.

MONTANA

You think you scare me Mischievous?
I'm scared of nothin.

MICKEY

Breath. Stop it and breath.

Mickey and Mischievous take a breath, and get to their feet. Montana stands a few feet away, eyeballing Mischievous.

His feet change position and within an instance he charges Mischievous, propelling him into the bog again, not hesitating Montana jumps in after him and gets upon his back, throwing his forearm around Mischievous's neck.

Mickey watches from aside.

Mischievous gets to his feet and grabs hold of Montana's arms. Eases the grip around his neck and walks with him on his back out of the pit.

In a moment he flips Montana over his shoulders and onto his back underneath his bulky chest. Montana is ready. Mischievous stands above him and extends his hand.

Montana hesitates a moment and grabs hold.

They stand side by side staring at each other. Mickey has a slight smile on his face. Mischievous cracks one as well.

Picking up his bag and walking in the other direction. Mickey pats Montana on the back, as he finally starts to realize he may just have been accepted by his brother Mischievous.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - LIGHT WOODS - AFTERNOON

Mischievous and Mickey are Hunched over a large boulder looking at the map. Montana has found a tree to tip his hat over his eyes and drift for a moment.

MICKEY

What say we crosscut to this avenue here?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Could be another swale that way.

MICKEY

Bona fide.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

We could snake around this here alp and...

He looks towards Montana.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Hey Monti!

Montana lifts his hat.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Lend a thought.

Montana proud to be included springs to the center of the map.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Got conviction?

Montana studies the map.

MICKEY

Possibly we can ramble this way.

Montana looks behind him towards the last bog.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Or we can try this way with the eminence in the way.

MICKEY

One turn askew and our daily rations will be at steak.

Montana thinks a good long while, looking ahead. He follows the river on the map with his tiny dirty finger.

MONTANA

The eminence.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You sure?

MONTANA

You asked?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Glitter.

The boys stand to their feet and follow a compass through the woods.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

So, Monti? Who's your fancy?
Magnolia? Or Charlie?

Montana rears back his tongue and begins on a tangent that he never thought he would be allowed on with Mischievous. The talk goes on and on and on.

We fade out.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - LIGHT WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON

The boys are full of dry dirt from the bog and from the looks of things have been through more than we know about. Mischievous has a slice across the side of his cheek that seems to still be bleeding.

Montana continues to talk.

MONTANA

Again then as I was leaving the farm Charlie said something about Indiana.

MICKEY

So.

MONTANA

Indiana, Montana.

Mischievous and Mickey look at one another laughing.

MONTANA

They rhyme.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Makes no sense.

MICKEY

Whatever the circumstances, they are two little peanuts, the both of them.

MONTANA

Another thing...

MICKEY

There it is.

A mountain larger than life rests in peace among some fog. The boys stop in their tracks.

MICKEY

Bigger than had been calculated.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Bigger than Peekaboo.

A small river sits at their feet. Mischievous splashes water into his face.

The journey continues.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - FOOT OF THE GIANT MOUNTAIN - LATE
AFTERNOON

The mountain is it's own earth. Jagged rocks and slopes so steep they create acute angles.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Any more ideas ablazed twerp?

MICKEY
That's enough.

Mischievous storms off muttering to himself.

Montana has a cool head on his shoulders. Looks curiously around.

Mickey has taken out the map and is leaning against the massive rocks.

Montana watches the small stream and how it runs off. He also notices how some of it has trickled away and skulks under the mountain. He drops to his hands and knees to examine this.

Mickey continues to study the map, Mischievous is back.

MICKEY
Detach yourself.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
(heated)
You want me to...

MICKEY
Stay assured. Breath in.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
We won't make it back in time. Only the tree will feed us Mickey, you know that. Show some sweat. I know you know this.

MICKEY
We will have to...
(Mickey is flushed out)
Maybe we can...

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Perish!

Mickey looks around.

MICKEY
Where's Monti?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
That sidewinder!

MICKEY
HEY!

Mickey shoots Mischievous a glare. Back to reality.

Mickey and Mischievous walk in similar direction a few feet apart. Montana is nowhere to be seen.

Mischievous follows a couple tracks on the ground.

MICKEY
Anything Miss?

Mischievous doesn't respond.

MICKEY
Mischievous!

Mischievous notices an odd hole in the earth. He closes in on it. Hands and knees now, slowly he approaches. Closer and closer. His face now right on top of the hole. Mickey's face directly behind his.

Steady. Steady. Quiet.

BANG! A hand emerges from the hole, grasping a fish squirming in the clutches. It frightens Mickey and Mischievous back.

MONTANA
Oo pesci?

Both Mischievous and Mickey are confused.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - UNDER MOUNTAIN - EVENING

Micky and Mischievous stick their heads into the hole and discover an entire uninhabited underground world.

Mickey and Mischievous have their eyes wide as the sky.

Montana acts as if this has been his home all along. Cool as a carrot.

The rivers run off has created an entire underworld cave, lined with beautiful rocks and lime. Thousands of years of dripping water has created this masterpiece.

It shines bright green.

The walls seem to be polished, untouched by man. Pure earth, in its most simple form.

The water is as blue as a baby's eyes. Slow moving, relaxed almost. The bottom can be seen anywhere you look.

Stones line the ground, small simple slick black stones, ones that you would skip over the surface of the world. The walls are lined with glimmer lime.

The fish are more colorful than that of a child's finger painting, stronger than that of a small propeller. They swim slowly against the current, rising to the surface for air every few moments.

Surrounding the water is soft ground enough room to fit two horses laying side by side.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You see what I see?

MICKEY

Yeah, a queen's feast.

Montana lowers himself over the water slowly. Below him, the rocks, the pure water, the lime and the fish. He snaps his hand like a snake's neck into the water.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Didja bag it?

Mickey holds his breath.

Out of the water is Montana's hand, grasping tightly is a root. Shaped like any other root.

MONTANA

Tetra root.

MICKEY

Magnificent.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

The brothers have created a fire and a camp. Resting their legs around the fire, they break.

Three small beds lay lazy behind the fire. Made of wood and soft leaves.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

I can eat a dozen more.

MICKEY

I can eat two.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

When your pail is empty nothing
does it like tetra root.

Mickey, on his back swings onto his belly and gets right along side the water. Cupping his hands he has himself enough drink to settle ten camels.

MONTANA

Can something be asked of you
Mischievous?

MICKEY

Head up Mis.

MONTANA

Why is your character so stormy?

Mickey perches a slight smile on his face, a wet cool smile.

Mischievous lays, arms bent around his head comfortably, beyond relaxed. He speaks slowly.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Montana?

He pauses

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

We don't know the simple love from
a parents heart. We have been
stripped of that. Disinherited.

(MORE)

Robbed of a natural cause. Someone's made a conscience effort to destroy us see? Our parents were pillaged fighting for our hope, our towns destiny. I have done my research from when I was younger even than you, and you know what I found? Nothing much. A few Boobies at one time or another have traveled outside Peekaboo to find them and never came back. The town abandon us. Turned there scared backs to us and went sadly about their business. Mom and dad deserve better than that.

Montana listens carefully. He stands to his feet and re-sits himself besides Mischievous. He responds with no caution.

Mickey Perches himself up against the rocks and opens his shirt pocket, takes out Louisiana's letter.

MONTANA

I miss mom and dad to Mis, I do. But what's done is done. Do you want people to look afrown to mom and dad because of your sourness? They were heros. You don't have enough faith in the boobies. They are a strong body, it's just their hope has faded a bit. I stroll down the streets everyday with a head high and the wind to my back, you'd feel better if you did the same.

Mickey's face is empty after reading the letter.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Wind at your back?

MONTANA

Wind at your back.

Mickey goes into his bag and grabs a leather bound book, opens and begins to write.

Mischievous nods for a moment and grabs the back of Montana's neck and presses his head firmly against his.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Wind at your back.

NICODEMUS (V.O.)

So it was our Grandparents wasn't
it Ollie?

OLLIE (V.O.)

Looks to be that way Nico.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

The boys rest in their beds along side the fire. Everything is kept quiet as the fire slows down. The water is still bright and glimmering, the fish are still in their routine.

Mischievous opens his eyes and notices the bright sunlight shining down into the hole. He breathes a deep breath of fresh air, has a stretch and hops out of the hole to the outside.

Mickey and Montana sleep soundly. The water becomes electric, like wild horses run underneath it.

The fish moves a bit frantic and as soon as a cough the fish swim far and fast and out of sight. The water lay quiet for a moment and then a shadow appears slowly creeping the rivers floor.

To the side now the image gets bigger, and out of the water slowly crawls the gnarliest beast earth has ever held a secret. The Wahza Bear.

The Wahza bear is long and low. Two front legs thick as a barrel of ice cream and stronger then a car jack. Its hind legs are twice that.

Quiet and stealth the beast moves slowly stalking its prey.

Montana is first in line.

The Wahza's long blood red tongue slips out of it's nefarious face, scarred and wicked, licking round it's eye balls. On the next step before landing it's paw upon the earth, it opens it claws. Claws that are not made for scratching or hugs. These claws are designed to latch. Another step and another set of latching claws.

Inches away now it moves it's face directly over Montana's, sniffing. The Wahza's face is four times the size of Montana's.

The Wahza rears back it's ugly lips to reveal not one but two rows of misshaped, black teeth.

Pulling it's neck back like an archer would his arrows, the Wahza can taste his victory. It's eyes widen, announcing it's cold merciless character.

The Wahza lets out a roar so loud the cave walls shake around them. The Wahza snaps it's ominous head forward, preparing to take in breakfast, when...

BZZZZZ!

A high pitched cry is heard and the beast drops atop of Montana, waking him in hysterics.

Mickey is up and on his feet faster than a balloon pops and grabs Montana under the arm and yanks him behind himself.

The beast has been speared straight through the mouth with a long widdled stick. Shocked and confused are the two, they look around for answers.

Mischievous stands nervously at the foot of the hole. In silence they stand, not moving. The water returns to its form and the fish are back. Speechless the boy's look around at one another.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - MONTAGE

We see the boy's traveling long and hard, over many ominous obstacles. Helping one another over timeless rocks, lifting off each others backs just making it to the other side of a wide river and climbing up cliffs that are angled at eighty degrees.

They pass by an old set of bones that looks like it belong to a great beast, a wooden arrow through the eye socket.

The brothers step over it one by one.

As Montana gets to the beast he kneels down along side it and studies the arrow and eye. Out from his bag his pulls his fathers arrow. Identical.

Montana smiles.

The traveling seems to all be in a days efforts.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - AFTERNOON

The Maddox's are at a dead end. The walls have closed in around them. They seem to be in a pit. The wall in front of them scales upwards until the black consumes it.

A very wide and long downward path the size of two statue of liberties laid atop one another has slowly taken them here. Surrounded by mostly rocks and dirt they stand pondering.

Mickey goes into Mischievous's bag while on Mischievous's back and grabs a tool from the depths of it. It looks like an antenna with a meter at the bottom of it.

Mickey pushes it into the earth above his head and hits the extend button. He holds pressure while the tool does it's job. The meter reads fifteen feet, than twenty, and then stops at twenty four.

MONTANA

What doing?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

What's the stone's throw?

MICKEY

A spot over two dozen.

MONTANA

Seem's like a long way away.

MICKEY

That it is Monti.

Mickey runs his fingers along the rock wall while Mischievous calculates something into a notebook. Mischievous put the pencil behind his ear, runs his finger along side one of the large protruding rocks and dips his fingers into his mouth.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Quartzite.

MICKEY

A bristly bunch at that.

MONTANA

What's it?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Quartzite's only one of the more impenetrable rocks on blue green earth.

MONTANA

Troublesome.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Savvy. Mickey? Grab for me the mineral cane, would ya?

Mickey rummages in Mischievous's knapsack and emerges with a pole the size of a pen. Mischievous grabs hold of it and extends it up the rock wall about ten feet. Scrapes the wall and retracts. Mischievous looks at the reading.

MICKEY

Quartzite?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Quartzite.

Mischievous raises the cane once again, much higher this time. Once more he scrapes the rock and retracts. He reads the meter.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Not yet.

Mischievous extends the cane as long as it will allow. Montana looks fuzed. Mickey stay's cool. A last time he scrapes the stones and retracts. Waits for the answer.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Sandaripus vulgaris. Soft rock made mostly of sand and ancient mud. Could burrow out in a thought.

Mischievous thinks about it.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Two thoughts.

MICKEY

A bird could flop their feather off trying to get up their Mis, how are we gonna?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

It's the only way Mick.

Montana walks off in the background.

MICKEY

Maybe delve out that area to your right and hope the mountainside is sloping that direction like it was out in the open-air.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Quartzite Mickey. Tougher than Chopper and Josie defending us five.

MICKEY

What say we use the Atom fork
and...

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Not enough juice Mick, just not
enough juice.

The both stand and ponder. Sounds are heard from behind them. They follow. Montana isn't in eye's view. They begin walking back up the hill they came in from.

At the peak of the hill Montana studies the earth on his hands and knees, back to his brothers, next to slow moving streams. Many of them that wind in odd directions, and fade into small puddles and pockets of water. Montana follows the patterns and turns his head to stare past his brothers. A smile brews upon his face.

MONTANA

One puff of air is just a breath,
but millions can be a hurricane.

Mickey and Mischievous look at the floor and at the same time. Grin. Mischievous gives Montana a wink as Mickey reaches into Mischievous's bag and takes out Three small ox plows, heaving one to Montana.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - THE DIG

The boys are on their hands and knees digging with their plows, making paths back down into the pit.

MONTANA

In the meantime we can gather more
greens and maybe have a snooze.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You nap a lot.

MONTANA

Sure.

MICKEY

How long do you suppose this will
take Montana?

MONTANA

About the length of a nap I think.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You would think that.

The boys are working their way to the long downwards hill that leads to the dirt rock wall. Montana stands up and points with his plow.

MONTANA

Just a little more there Mickey.

Mischievous get's up and out of the way.

MONTANA

And that should do it.

We see from over their dirty gravelly shoulders what they have built. Fifteen to twenty rocks block the flow of water into their brand new man made river. When the rocks are released the small streams will be redirected, merge as one and start down the hill, filling the pit to the area they can dig out of.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Should we lift.

MONTANA

Yank them teeth out.

The boy's begin taking the rocks off quickly, one after the other. After the last rock is plucked they stand back and watch as one joins the next. Stronger they grow, they switch paths like trains switch tracks. One after the other they come together, gaining a more ferocious force with every drip added, and then...

SPILL.

The water flows quickly down the hill with no stopping it.

MONTANA

Bully!

The water gets to the bottom in a hurry and smashes up against the wall. We can see the water level will rise in no time.

MICKEY

It's beautiful Monti, a real rocket of an idea.

There is nobody that Montana looks up to more, so the comment is one of great importance.

MICKEY

(To Mischievous)

Could have discarded you at the farm.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Lets get us something down these empty pipes of ours. I saw some cabbage high up a way back.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

Mickey is boarding Montana's shoulder's. He steadies himself and Montana begins to board Mischievous's shoulders. The three of them waving like a sail fighting the wind. Mickey on top reaches to his right and grabs hold of a protruding stone, that's shaped like an elephants tusks.

MICKEY

Tighten up!

Mischievous freezes, stiff as a bone, as does Montana. Mickey slowly releases the rock.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Where to then?

MICKEY

If you can get me within a whipping of that green patch up yonder.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Mickey I can't see up there, gimme a marking on the floor.

MICKEY

Right. Okay, do you see on the river's bank? That boulder shaped like your head? Skulk thata way.

Mischievous doesn't find it funny. Montana chuckles. He shuffles like a crab in the sand. Short heavy steps across the floor kicking up dust like a snapping wind. Mischievous comes to a halt just before the water.

MICKEY

GOOD!

Mickey has a brown leather whip that is extended to the floor plus some. What looks like cabbage is around twenty feet away.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Snap at it!

MICKEY

Hold still Mischievous.

MONTANA

Mickey?

MICKEY

What is it?

MONTANA

You think about Louisiana often do ya?

Mickey hesitates and momentarily forgets what he is doing. Snap's out of it.

MICKEY

What's that?

MONTANA

Louisiana? You should make more of it.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Tie them lips together Montana.

MONTANA

I mean, she's prettier than a fresh cut, smells better than one to. Magnolia say's her books a secret book all about her allegiance her idolatry and her weakness for you.

MICKEY

Well Monti...

Mickey gathers his whip preparing for a snap.

MICKEY

Nothing should ever be done that should be done.

Mickey snaps the whip forward and Mischievous's powerful legs fold like cardboard underneath him. Montana hits face first sucking the dirt. Micky tumbled as well but got to his feet quickly. The cabbage lay's scattered on the floor.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Sharp crack Mick. The old man's smiling, I'm sure of it.

Mickey has a smile on his face.

He walks past Montana who has gotten himself to a seated position and fans about the top of his head, then pats him on the shoulder. Montana grins upwards. Grabbing hold on his big brother's hand.

INT. TREE HOUSE - PRESENT DAY - EVENING

Ollie closes the journal.

NICODEMUS
What're you doing?

OLLIE
We have to hurry home for supper.

NICODEMUS
Lets see how it turns out.

OLLIE
Get up butt breath.

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' HOUSE - DINNER TIME

Ollie, Nicodemus and their parents sit at a round wooden table eating supper.

Nicodemus Plows through his mashed potatoes as if it were a contest.

POPPA
Nicodemus!

Nico slows.

They eat.

Silence.

OLLIE
Hey Poppa?

Poppa raises his eyes slowly.

Ollie gulps.

OLLIE

Can you show me and Nicodemus, I mean, Nicodemus and I how to camp this weekend?

Poppa hesitates.

POPPA

Not this weekend boys, there's just too much to do round the farm.

The boys look disappointed.

OLLIE

I see.

Poppa rises from his chair.

POPPA

Another time boys.

He pats them on the head.

There Momma looks sad downwards at her food.

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lined with Superman wallpaper the room is just that of a Childs. Baseball mitts and bats, playing cards, yo-yo's, and lots of mess.

Ollie lays on the top bunk Nicodemus on the bottom bunk.

There Momma hits the lights out.

MOMMA

Good night boys.

OLLIE

Night Momma.

NICODEMUS

Bye ma.

She slowly closes the door, then stops and opens it again.

MOMMA

You know boy's, this time of year is always hard on Poppa.

OLLIE

We know Ma.

MOMMA

Poppa didn't know his Momma and Pop
they way you boy's do, ya see?

She sighs.

MOMMA

This town is like an old novel that
burned away. Pieces of stories here
and there. Poppa smiles when he
hears them but feels disconnected.

Momma sighs again.

MOMMA

He'll teach ya's how to camp real
soon, I promise you.

NICODEMUS

We know Ma.

MOMMA

Well, then, good night boys.

Nicodemus get's out of bed to hug his Momma round the waist.

Momma smiles. Nicodemus jumps back into bed making a
explosion sound. PIQQQUUUUU!!!

Momma smiles and shuts the door.

Not a moment goes by that we hear some shuffling around in
the dark.

NICODEMUS

Watch your feet goofball.

More shuffling.

NICODEMUS

OWWW! Your on my hand Ollie!

OLLIE

Would you be quiet.

NICODEMUS

Oh. Sorry.

OLLIE

Your like a trumpet.

A small flashlight turns on.

Ollie and Nicodemus make there way under a small homemade tent in the corner of the room, which is actually just sheets being pulled from one dresser drawer to another.

Christmas lights light the inside of the tent.

Ollie opens the journal. He reads to Nicodemus

OLLIE

My brothers and I were getting
closer, In many more ways then one.

Ollie's reading continues as we fade back into the Lotus mountains.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

MICKEY

Well would ya look at that?

The water has almost completely filled the necessary area. A feet feet shy of the area they need it to be at.

MONTANA

Let's have at it for a rest and
some grub, she should be filled by
then.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

The boys are sitting back, chewing on their greens. It's quiet, it's peaceful.

Only the sound of them chewing and the constant quiet water filling the hole can be heard.

Mickey has a perfect smile on his face. He reaches into his pocket and takes back out the letter from Louisiana.

Smiles some more and hands it to Mischievous.

Confused, Mischievous opens the letter and reads to himself. A smile sneaks up on him as he realizes what he is delving. He rests back on his palms in the dusty ground that they all sit on and happily stares at Mickey, then hands the letter to Montana.

Ear to ear Montana grins. Puts his hand to his forehead as if to say 'I cant believe it.'

MONTANA

Your gonna be a dad like dad.

The brothers all rise and give a hug.

All three smiling proudly.

They have a breath together.

MICKEY

Let's take a dive.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

Splash! Splash! Mickey and Mischievous have dove in. Montana stands sheepishly on the side.

MONTANA

Is it cold?

MICKEY

Nah, it's okay.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

It's like ice.

MICKEY

Knock it off Mis.

Mischievous smiles.

Montana counts to himself.

MONTANA

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six.
Seven.

He leaps.

MICKEY

YEAH!

SPLASH!!!! Monti hit's the water. He rises quickly. Bob's up and down briefly and turn's back to land.

MICKEY

Hey! Don't give up.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Quitter.

Montana hops out of the water.

MONTANA

I'm a land fella.

He walks away.

MICKEY

Montana?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

It'll be a snap Mickey. Don't sweat.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

Montana is off on his own, drying himself a bit with a cloth. He is walking aimlessly.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - TUNNEL

Mickey and Mischievous are a few feet inwards already. Hardworking and quick they are.

CUT TO:

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN - MONTANA'S VOYAGE

Still stomping and storming Montana slows down as he see's something shinny in a dark corner against a wall.

MONTANA

What in the thunder?

He get's over it and looks down. It sparkles at him. He takes a knee and seems to be mesmerized. Its getting brighter, flashing more. The light is reflecting off his face. He is so happy.

He reaches for it and it slides away from him.

MONTANA

Huh?

Montana watches it go a few feet to his left into the light. Heavy ugly breathing is heard. He knows before he looks up what he will see.

Slowly his eyes rise in fear, legs shake under him like small ripples of water in a tub. When he lifts his head enough he is displeased to see the great beast.

On all fours the beast has the body of a lion, in that it is very muscular. The difference is in the texture of its coat, scales and slick patches of rough skin cover the beast. Long sharp feet like a dinosaurs, and the face of Pterodactyl, long, mean and hungry.

The shine that Montana was following is the tip of the beasts tail, now risen high above it's head.

Montana takes a breath and in a split second makes a run for it. The beast whips it's tail and takes Montana's feet out from under him, slamming his head on a rock. Montana's eyes are slowly beginning to close. The great beast is aware that he has snatched the consciousness from Montana and takes it's time wrapping its tail around his leg. Montana is dragged off as his eye's give way.

INT. THE MADDOX HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

We are seeing First person point of view. It is a child running through a house at full speed. In and out of doors, down steps and finally out into a front yard. We are spun around so see the child. Montana, years earlier.

EXT. THE MADDOX HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Mickey's car sits in the middle of the lawn, two sets of legs stick out from under it. Montana approaches as they slid out from under it.

MONTANA

What doing?

DAD

Hello Monti. I was just showing Mickey here a thing or two about this old battle-ax.

MICKEY

Thanks pop.

This is Maddox Maddox, their father. He is a little piece of all of them. Nothing fancy about him, just a good old man.

Dad sits up on the hood of the car and Mickey follows. Montana try's but needs a hand so dad reaches down and lifts him onto his lap.

Dad takes a deep breath of fresh free air.

A women comes out of the front door. This is Mickey, Mischievous and Montana's mom. She wails on a triangle bell, signaling for dinner.

MOM

Supper boy's!

DAD

You'll find no boy's out here
little lady.

Montana pops off his dad's lap, shaking his fist high in the air.

MONTANA

That's right!

Mom laughs as she walks back into the house. Montana struggles to get back on top the car with his Pop.

DAD

You 'men' wanna head in?

MICKEY

Sure thing pop.

Montana stares out far off over their field at an open area with a small tree in the middle of it, two people stand beneath it looking up.

DAD

Need a hand getting down son?

MONTANA

What's with that tree pop?

Dad looks over towards the tree.

DAD

Why don't ya head on in Mickey,
tell that Peekaboo peach that
poppa's gonna be a few bites late.
(To Montana)
C'mon son.

Dad slings Junior up on to his shoulders and heads off into the sunset towards the tree.

CUT TO:

EXT. PENNY'S TREE - SUNSET

Two Boobies are walking away from the tree, a man and women.

MAN
Evening Maddox.

Maddox kindly addresses them both.

DAD
Francis. Phillis.

The tree small in size but great in power sits to their side as Maddox allows Montana to climb down off from his shoulders and sit alongside him.

DAD
Son?

MONTANA
Yeah old man?

DAD
Have your ears ever let a sound in called Penny Peekaboo?

MONTANA
No pa.

DAD
Well son, this here's her tree. And she planted it for you.

MONTANA
For me pa?

Montana looks up at the tree. A Fairly small tree with a Crest linked around the bottom of the trunk that says, 'Peekaboo'.

DAD
For all of us. This plant adjacent to us is the soul and moxie of this here town. It brings our people happiness and hope.
(MORE)

That's why DAD (cont'd) always treasure
 her and protect her. And treat her
 as if it was our own heart.

MONTANA

Okay Old timer.

Maddox has a smile on his face now.

DAD

What's this old timer business.

He grabs a hold of Montana and tackles him lightly to the
 grass. With all of Montana's might he fights back.

MONTANA

Take this you ancient pile of dust.

Montana leaps through the air and lands on Poppa's back.
 Maddox plays along.

DAD

Oh no! I must have been cock-eyed
 to dig a brew-haha with the likes
 of you.

Montana get's his dad down on the ground when we hear the
 triangle bell sounding for dinner, Loud and clear. Both of
 them snap the heads upward, then towards one another.

DAD

If we don't hurry home there will
 be some real trouble waiting for
 us.

MONTANA

Race ya?

DAD

My stems are twice the length of
 those little string beans.

MONTANA

I'll give you a jump start.

DAD

Give me a jump start? I don't think
 s- GO!

Maddox takes off down the hill laughing. Montana is on his
 feet and racing his heart out.

The bells ring loudly and the thought begins to fade. Back to
 inside the mountain, Montana slowly opens his eyes.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

Montana eyes widen. The beast has it's spiny wirey back to him.

Digging a hole the beast is practically half way into. The exit looms just beyond the great beasts head.

In an instant Montana scrambles creating a ruckus.

INT. LOTUS WOODS - INSIDE MOUNTAIN

Mickey and Mischievous have excavated a small cave of their own, tunneling through the mountain.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Some cavity ain't she?

MICKEY
Who?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
The tunnel.

MICKEY
Right. Much more?

Just at this moment a ray of sunshine beams through onto their hands. They embrace it, hold it.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Nothing warms like the sun.

MICKEY
There are some things Mischievous.

There is a massive clatter from inside the mountain. Mischievous and Mickey rush to the start of the tunnel and Mischievous looks out. Montana darts out of the way from the great beasts clenches. From right to left and left to right, Montana outwits him.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Montana!!!

Hastily Mischievous blasts himself into the water. Faster than a fish he swims. Like a bottle rocket he spits out of the water and lands besides Montana. Grabs one hand on his whip and the other he brings Montana around his back, away from the beast.

The whip snaps into the air. The great beast takes more time with Mischievous, sensing his experience.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Montana? Go!

MONTANA
I won't leave.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Git your hid up next to Mickey.

MICKEY
Montana? Let's go!

Mickey extends his hand.

The beast gives none of them the time they want. He's blood thirsty, he dives for them. Mischievous winds up and snaps one good crack at the beast and pulls tight.

The hine legs of the beast are restrained. Causing him to hit the ground. Mischievous ties the whip to a root.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
Make great haste.

Montana dives into the the water as does Mischievous. The beast struggles on the ground. They reach the hole and Mickey pulls them in.

The whip snaps and the beast hits the water. The boy's scurry to the end of the line, where they begin to dig ferociously. The beast struggles to get through the to small an alley, as it claws and contorts it's body, it begins to gain.

The hole is big enough to exit to outside and Mickey slips through followed by Montana. Mischievous hustles out looking behind him noticing the great beast hot on his heels. Mischievous exits the hole and takes a spill.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - OTHER SIDE OF MOUNTAIN - DAYTIME

The Mountain side is steep. The boy's are tumbling down it. Branches slice their faces as dirt fills up their nostrils. Their fingernails peel backwards as they desperately attempt to hang on. It is a mean fall all the way to the ground, but they survive it.

At the bottom the three hear a horrible sound. A roar that could be heard in the nightmares across the world.

The three peer up the mountain to see the great beast, clinging to the side of the mountain next to the hole, bothered by the sunlight it retreats back into the mountain.

Montana, bruised and weak makes his way to Mischievous. And lends him a hand up off the ground.

MONTANA

I owe ya a turnip soda.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You owe me diddly check.

MONTANA

Mischievous?

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Okay Monti.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - MORNING - AFTERNOON - NIGHT

The Maddox's are not casually strolling along. They are moving at quite an alarming pace.

Trudging through swamps, climbing trees, helping one another. The bush thins out and a small dirt road appears. They stop.

MONTANA

What a ya make of it Mickey?

MICKEY

That's a marvelous question Montana. And the answer. I don't know.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Them thieves, them murdering maggots are at the end of this road is what this is. I feel it through my bones.

MICKEY

Cool down middle. Breath.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Let's ramble Micka!

MICKEY

Now Mis, slow your heart. Look into your brothers eyes and Hear. Many a Booie have come this far, why they haven't returned? I just don't know.

(MORE)

What I do MICKEY/cont'd If we riffle
through here well get a one way
ticket to the end of the line. We
need be aces, we needn't be wild
like the wolf. Follow?

MISCHIEVOUS MADDOX
Sure thing Mickey.

MICKEY
Savvy Montana?

MONTANA
Copy.

MICKEY
Now peel them eye's back behind
your heads, and open yer ears wider
than the sky.

They stare at one another.

MICKEY
Wind at your back. And if there's
no wind... I'll be at your back.

MONTANA
And us yours.

They begin to creep forward, with Mickey heading the line.

EXT. LOTUS WOODS - DAYTIME

The Maddox boys are creeping slow through the trees. One soft
step at a time.

MONTANA
Back out.

All three boys jar their backs against the nearest tree and
peak around them. Through the deep Forrest of timber a dingy
town is barely seen. The brothers squint their eyes.

MICKEY
Stick close.

They continue towards the town.

Mickey clenches his whip, Montana handles an old wooden club,
while Mischievous is equipped with his mighty hands.

The boys are out of the woods and are standing in what seems
to be a ghost town. Not a soul to be seen.

The town is a stretch of barren land enclosed in more woods on the other side.

Doors shutter, dry dirt blows aimlessly around the empty street. The wind whips heavy in other areas, tossing tumble weeds from side to side.

The Maddox's lower their guard a bit.

MICKEY

Lets have a look at that there map
Mischievous.

The map is on the floor between them all as they peer over it.

MICKEY

Where in God's name are we?

MONTANA

We have buttoned up Lotus. There's
nothing left of it.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

It's a cloak land.

MICKEY

Mischievous is right. This here's
lost soil.

MONTANA

Forlorn.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Penny's can't be here.

MICKEY

Lets finecomb this purlieu.
Splitsville.

The three young men walk forward through the town.
Mischievous stares straight ahead.

Mickey peeks his head through an old door, half broken. He
steps carefully inside.

Montana spots a dusty box of what looks like old toys. Yo-
yo's, boomerang, discus's. He kneels over it.

The wind blows heavy.

Mischievous continues his dead strait walk.

A squeaky door creates an eerie and alarming sound.
Mischievous turns fast.

Montana holding the boomerang looking upwards towards the sky
seems to be in his own world.

A sound is heard. A low, deep, threatening growl.

Montana lowers the boomerang and becomes still.

From around the side of the shanty that Montana stands along
side appears a worn dog. A junk yard dog.

MONTANA

Rotten.

The dog leans forward revealing it's busted and very
experienced teeth.

He Barks.

MONTANA

AHHHHHH!

Montana takes off. Launching the boomerang for full use of
his hands.

Mischievous runs toward Montana and the dog.

Mickey hops out from a side window of the house he was
raking.

The dog gains on Montana.

Gaining more.

Gaining more.

CRACK.

The boomerang has returned to knock the pup out cold.

He lucked it.

Mischievous grabs hold on Montana.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Hang loose.

Montana turns and see's the dog unconscious.

MICKEY

From where?

As soon as Mickey finishes his sentence, a choir of dark growls are heard. Slowly, one mangy mutt after another stroll out.

Still about a football field apart, there are no slow pokes in this dog pack.

MONTANA

Let's book.

MICKEY

On seven.

The first dog makes the first move and the rest all follow.

MICKEY

GO!

The Maddox's run hard through the town.

The dogs gain.

At the edge of the town is more woods. They slip through having no care for bushes, protruding sticks or holes in the ground.

They storm through.

The dogs enter.

The woods end quickly. They pop out into an open field like three pellets.

The lead of a football field has shrunk considerably, now down to about the forty yard line.

One lonely magnificent tree in the middle of the field is the only escape.

MICKEY

Scale to the top.

But when they get there, there's nothing to scale. No branches or knots close enough for them to reach.

The boys put their backs against the tree.

The dogs slow their step as they trap them.

MONTANA

Mickey?!

Montana quivers.

Even Mickey seems to be out of answers.

Montana puts his head down, not being able to bare the sight for a moment longer.

His eye's catch glance of something on the bottom of the tree.

It's the crest. The crest that used to sit comfortably around the trunk of Penny's tree. The tree has encompassed a fair portion of it, except for most of the word Peekaboo.

Montana tugs at Mickey and Mischievous's shirt tails.

Together they look and see a sight they never thought they'd see again.

The dog's close in. Their paws bore the ground below them with every skulking step.

Their lips pulled back, showing them everything they got.

The Maddox's turn back to absoluteness.

Just before the dog's make a move... A loud whistle is heard. Followed by a few short whistles.

The dog's withdraw.

The Maddox's turn to see who their savior is.

Mickey, Mischievous and Montana's eye's widen. The Gun powder crew stand behind them and the tree.

Kirby Pickens stands in front.

MICKEY

Kirby?

KIRBY

That's Mr. Pickens, Mickey.

Kirby's entire demeanor is changed. His eyes look stronger. He has confidence, and he speaks with his guts.

The pack of eight dogs, dips behind Kirby.

KIRBY

Your face reads gonzo.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

I told you this slime was noxious.

MICKEY

I don't understand Kirby.

KIRBY

Address me as Kirby one more time,
and you'll never find out.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

Yellow bellied slug!

KIRBY

Mischievous, Mischievous.

The Sheppards seem devoted.

KIRBY

The truth? Simply? Ahh. Okay. I
loved your mother, your mother
loved your father, I hated your
father because neither one of them
even recognized me. There, that's
it.

MICKEY

So you pillaged Peekaboo and stole
the tree? Why?

KIRBY

Your father asked your mother to
marry him under that tree. It meant
earth to him. I knew they would be
this way for it.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

You trapped em?

KIRBY

Something must have. I'm guessing
it was one of the great beasts in
the Lotus cave's.

They boy's are shocked.

MICKEY

You planted that tree. You helped
restore faith in Peekaboo. How
could you?

KIRBY

Was easy as pickle pie Mickey. This
is the end for you and your
brothers.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX
We won't go easy.

KIRBY
Yes you will.

Kirby calls for his two main dogs.

KIRBY
Buster?! Alvie?!

The Maddox's seem to be beat.

KIRBY
Any last words?

Mickey leans on the tree.

With a smirk.

MICKEY
If you want my gold captain, your
gonna have to chop off these hands.

KIRBY
As you wish.

Mickey, Mischievous and Montana stand like forty style
boxers. Ready for anything.

There is a ruckus coming form the woods behind them, from
where the ghost town lay.

Out from the sticks emerges Josie, Mickey's Pup.

Followed by Chopper, Louisiana's pup.

Followed by an entourage of dog's, meaner and more willing
than any of Kirby's.

Mickey's eye's open wide with wonder.

MONTANA
She sniffed ya out Mick.

MICKEY
Nope.

Louisiana fires out of the woods.

MICKEY
She did.

Peekaboo walks onto the open field with their beloved tree one after the other. The entire town.

They get closer and closer.

Relief comes over the Maddox's.

Panic sets into Kirby.

Kirby and the Sheppards are out numbered ten to one.

The boy's look around.

Rattle and Sandy are there. Banjo and pepper. Sheriff little John, Miss Higgy, Miss Gloria and even grumpy old Mr. Dollarson stand proud. Mr. Pie and Brickhouse billy are standing side by side.

Montana Notices Magnolia. They smile.

Mischievous nods a thanking head to as many people as he can. They are all returned.

MICKEY

The buck stops here Kirby.

Kirby's speechless.

The town begins to uproar. Shouting and bedlam is directed at Kirby.

MICKEY

Your exiled Kirby. Never to walk through the gates of Peekaboo for the rest of your ugly existence.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

To easy.

MICKEY

Now now Mischievous. Two wrongs don't make a right. We will finish what Momma and Poppa set out to do. Be gone Kirby, don't look back.

Kirby stands like a lost kid at the school yard. His time has come. He turns his back and heads out.

In a snap moment, he spins around. Hoisting a blade over his head, charging Mickey.

Ffft!

A quick quiet zip through the air.

Kirby hits the ground. An arrow piercing him from behind. A Gun powder member holds an empty bow.

Both Gun powder and Peekaboo stand in silence.

Gun powder turns and walks away

Peekaboo has joined together as a family once again. Their faces are muddied and broke, but they have won, and have spirit, and nothing can take that away from anybody. Nothing.

MISCHIEVOUS MADDOX

How on earth are we gonna get this
tree home?

Mickey makes his way to Louisiana. Puts his hand over her belly. They smile together. Mickey holds her by the face and gives her a loving kiss.

EXT. PENNY'S TREE - OUTSIDE LOTUS - DAYTIME

Roots are being dug by the hands of hard working boodies and peekers alike. Although at this point, it is safe to call the peekers, boodies as well.

The roots are out. The tree is leaned forward by a series of ropes tied around it, as it is laid level with the earth atop the population of Peekaboo.

Mickey. He watches. Grinning.

Fifty arms, shoulders, back, necks, fingers grab hold of the tree as they march to no slow pace back to Peekaboo.

It is an enormous site to be seen.

They return to the town of Peekaboo. Like a Caterpillar they march proud as applause begin to fill the dead air.

People run from their homes and lend hands to those so tired.

A small news crew with a recording device runs towards Mickey.

NEWS MAN

Mickey Maddox? Mickey Maddox?

Mickey is relieved from his duties under the tree and brushes off his hands, as townsfolk pat him on the back, as the smile and grab hold under the tree.

MICKEY

Yes, sir, I'm Mickey Maddox.

NEWS MAN

Your a hero sir.

MICKEY

Well, I wouldn't say that. It was my brothers mostly.

NEWS MAN

Were you scared out there Mickey?

MICKEY

I would be lying if I said no good sir.

NEWS MAN

How would you like to be remembered Mickey?

MICKEY

Well...

Laughter is heard and smiles are seen everywhere we look.

Montana and Magnolia chat, Montana looks to be demonstrating obstacles they had overcome. Magnolia looks impressed.

Mischievous wipes his brow with a hanky as he smiles to everyone that walks past him.

EXT. PEEKABOO - NIGHT

The final soil is packed onto the roots of Penny's tree. It sits magnanimous.

Only Mischievous, Micky and Montana stand at the tree.

The town has retired to their quarters.

The moon is bright and snow begins to fall. The brothers stand proud along side one another. Mischievous in the middle brings his arms around their shoulders.

They smile together.

There is a noise off in the distance, coming from the Maddox house.

The triangle bell rings for supper, as Louisiana and Magnolia stand on the porch. Josie, Chopper and the gang sits on the front yard on guard as always.

The brothers turn for the house.

Mickey reaches into his pocket for another look at the letter, but finds it missing.

He becomes concerned.

MICKEY

The letter.

He looks around the ground.

MICKEY

I must have dropped it along the way somewhere when we got back into town.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

We'll hunt it out in the morning Micka.

MICKEY

It could blow away. Don't wait up, I'm gonna find it now.

Mickey turns off and jogs out of sight.

Mischievous shouts to him.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX

We won't eat without ya Mick!

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ollie thumbs through blank pages.

NICODEMUS

What happened?

OLLIE

It just ended.

He comes across some scribble a few pages down.

OLLIE

Here we are.

He has a closer look.

OLLIE
This is written by Mischievous.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP - NIGHT

Mischievous sits in Mickey's chair writing in the journal.
His pen scratches the pages.

MISCHIEVOUS MADOX (V.O.)
It's been twenty two long days of
missing you Mickey. I last told
you, 'we won't eat without you.'
God if I had known those were to be
my last words to you I would have
chosen them much more carefully.
Peekaboo has put forth an attempt
greater than any attempt I could
have imagined in finding you, it's
as if you floated into thin air. I
searched all our steps back, I was
never as good at tracking like you
were, are. Hope is all I have left
now Micka. Hope and memories.

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ollie closes the journal.

The brother look at one another.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. PEEKABOO, PRESENT DAY - DAYTIME

Ollie and Nicodemus' father is spiking a steak with a sign
attached to it in the ground next to Penny's tree on the
hill. He steps away and we see the sign. A smiling picture of
Ollie and Nicodemus, arms slung around one another, a title
atop their picture reads. MISSING.

Ollie and Nicodemus' father turns and looks out over the
town. His face is sunken in, he looks exhausted.

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' HOME - NIGHT

Ollie and Nicodemus' Mom and Pop sit quietly over their
dinner staring blankly into their meals.

EXT. PEEKABOO, PRESENT DAY - DAYTIME

Ollie and Nicodemus' father is spiking more steaks into the ground.

INT. OLLIE AND NICODEMUS' HOME - NIGHT

Supper again. Silence.

Sadness has filled the home.

It is setting in that the boys are not returning.

EXT. PEEKABOO, PRESENT DAY - DAYTIME

Ollie and Nicodemus' father refuses to stop. Spiking more steaks into the ground. He peers out over the town.

In the distance two small boys walk proud.

The father twists his dusty hands into his eye sockets to clear his vision.

The boys have returned. They see their father and race towards him dropping their satchels on the ground and racing into his arms.

They all embrace and hold onto one another.

Ollie and Nicodemus smile over their Poppa's shoulder as he cries with joy.

The boys are filthy and worn. Scratches litter their tiny faces. Cloth is tied tight around Ollie's arm as a bandage.

We can only know what they must have been through.

Nicodemus goes into his shirt pocket over his heart and hands his Poppa two letters.

One letter reads, My Mickey.

The other reads, My Son.

Poppa is very confused. The boys stand proud and satisfied.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP - PRESENT DAY

Ollie and Nicodemus' Poppa sits in Mickeys chair over looking the letter.

It is old and weathered.

INT. A DARK SPACE

Mickey is alone and defeated, he writes a letter with everything left that he's got.

MICKEY (V.O.)

My son, I had looked forward to meeting you and to enjoying every moment after that. I don't believe I will return, the road has taken a turn for the worse. I can only sleep soundly knowing that one day this letter will find you well. Get interested in natural history if you can, it is better than games. Try to stay in the open air. Believe in God, it is comforting. Never be indolent. Read many books, eat things that scare you, and always buy your Momma daisies. Listen carefully at advice from others, than roll it up into a ball, throw it out the window, and do whatever you wanna do. I hope one day you will have brothers the way I have. Watch over one another and never take sides against them. Be well my son for I shall see you in another life.

INT. MICKEY'S WOOD SHOP, PRESENT DAY - DAYTIME

Ollie and Nicodemus' Poppa puts the letter down and sits back in the chair. He looks around the room with a smile on his face. His eyes are watered.

He reaches across the table to an old reel to reel device and hits a button.

It is the news cast from many years ago when the boys returned to peekaboo with the tree.

The quality is old and dusty sounding.

We continue hearing Mickey on the recorder as we leave the wood shop and drift up the hill towards Penny's tree, which has grown big and strong. The lights from the town glimmer as the snow falls quietly. The air is cool and fresh. A peaceful tranquil view, a truly royal sight.

NEWS MAN (V.O.)

How would you like to be remembered Mickey?

MICKEY (V.O.)

Well... I would like for them to say, 'He took a few cups of love, he took one tablespoon of patience, one teaspoon of generosity, one pint of kindness, he took one quart of laughter, one pinch of concern, and then he mixed willingness with happiness, he added lots of faith and he stirred it up well. Then he spread it over the span of his lifetime and served it to each and every deserving person he met.'

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.