

MODERN MONARCHY
"KINGDOM WARS"

Written
by
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Based on the Modern Monarchy: The Caveman King Comic Book Series by
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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A dark expanse of outer space. Several extraterrestrial ships quickly soar past.

We slowly descend to a clear night sky on Earth.

EXT. EARTH - NIGHT

A spaceship launches upward. A large airplane glides through the sky. The faint hum of a bustling metropolis rises from below.

We move through the sky in the opposite direction—away from the modern city—and a few miles away, a huge pterodactyl flies over a lush, prehistoric jungle.

PRINCESS EVE (V.O.)

Long ago, the world split. Some rose into towers of light. Others remained with stone and fire. And ever since—there has been war.

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCESS EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A lavish magenta stone chamber, glowing with oil lamps.

A young PRINCESS EVE (10), Black, dressed in a cheetah-print garment sleeps soundly in her bed. Her hair is shoulder-length and golden, much like her tiara that resembles the shape of leaves.

A THUNDEROUS CRASH!

She JOLTS out of bed.

BOOM! BANG! THUD!

It's coming from downstairs. Outside.

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

She enters the hallway and pauses.

Loud footfalls echo from around the corner of an adjacent hall.

She can hear the GOLDLEAF SENTRIES—fearless protectors—young, well-built Cavemen wearing red smock-like garments—yelling from a distance. Their voices grow closer and louder.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY A (O.S.)
The queen is secure! Find the princess!

Two Sentries turn the corner, strapped with swords, arrows and blasters.

They spot her.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY A (CONT'D)
Princess! You must get to safety!
NOW!

A Sentry rushes toward her—but Eve pulls back.

PRINCESS EVE
What's happening?!

The Sentry hesitates—no time.

He scoops Eve up, rushing to her room.

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCESS EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He sets her down, his hands on her shoulders.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY A
Stay here! Don't go near the balcony.

Eve nods—but her eyes drift toward the railing anyway.

He locks the room door from the outside.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY A (CONT'D)
(to the other guard)
I'll guard this door. Find the prince!

GOLDLEAF SENTRY B
On it!

Eve creeps toward the balcony. She hesitates—then pushes the curtains aside. Steps out.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCESS EVE'S BALCONY - NIGHT

The sounds of battle swell—SCREAMS, METAL, CHAOS.

Eve grips the railing—

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Her POV — The battlefield below erupts into chaos.

A massive, formidable fortress of golden brick looms above the battlefield—Goldleaf Castle.

The Goldleaf Sentries are amid a vicious combat with the Silverstone Cavemen—ruthless conquerors.

Looks like another attempted invasion—two of the most powerful kingdoms of the cave worlds clashing once again.

INTERCUT: BATTLEFIELD/BALCONY

Eve scans the battlefield: warriors, fire, movement. Then, she spots someone. A boy.

PRINCE CHAD (12) crouches behind a boulder, clutching a tiny wooden spear. He trembles, frozen, watching the chaos.

Suddenly, their eyes meet. For a brief moment, the sounds of war seem to disappear.

Then it all comes back. Screams, war cries, and thunderous footsteps fill the air.

COMMANDER GRULK (25), Black, the Caveman King's ruthless second-in-command, sprints ahead valiantly. Grulk, a towering brute with bone armor strapped across his chest, notices Chad cowering in his path.

COMMANDER GRULK

(disgusted)

Move it, runt!

He SHOVES Chad aside. Chad hits the dirt hard; his pale skin smudges.

Chad's blond hair falls into his eyes. His tiger-striped tunic flaps as he scrambles for cover. The tiny crown on his head tilts, almost sliding off.

He watches Grulk charge into battle—swinging a jagged club. Humiliated. Small. His grip tightens on the spear.

Eve spots a few Silverstone Cavemen climbing toward her balcony.

She staggers back in terror as their eyes lock on her—

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN A
 Oh, Princess. You have visitors!
 (snickers)
 There's nowhere to run!

END INTERCUT.

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCESS EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eve swallows heavily. She thinks. She rushes to her bed, crouches, and reaches for something.

There it is! A small blade.

She runs back to the balcony. A few Silverstone Cavemen are about to climb over.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN B
 Time's up! Just come quietly. We
 won't bite.

PRINCESS EVE
 Well, I do!

Eve charges at one. She bites his hand viciously.

He screams, stumbling back, falling, BUT catches hold of the vine he mounted before completely plunging.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN B
 You little bug! I'll crush you!

PRINCESS EVE
 Get away from my home, you
 monsters!

Quickly, she severs all of the vines. They wail, vanishing into the darkness below.

Eve drops the last vine. The attackers writhe in the mud below.

She glances down—Silverstone cavemen are closing in fast on the battlefield.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

GOLDLEAF SENTRY C
 (staggering back, firing
 arrows)
 They're stronger than before!

GOLDLEAF SENTRY D
 (recharging laser blaster)
 Not a step inside!

The battlefield erupts into chaos—swords clash, arrows streak through the sky, and catapults hurl massive boulders as warriors grapple in the mud.

Some Goldleaf Sentries fire high-tech freeze guns and laser blasters. Silverstone Cavemen swing giant wooden and metal clubs.

Men from both sides fall—some bruised, others unconscious. The Silverstone Cavemen appear to gain the upper hand as they push back the Goldleaf Sentries closer to the entrance of the Goldleaf Castle.

CAPTAIN IVAN (19), head of the Goldleaf Sentries, taller and stronger than many of his subordinates, military hard hat over his copper hair and a brown cheetah-print garment, stands mightily behind the front lines.

CAPTAIN IVAN
 Hold your ground!

HEAVY WHIRRING above - His eyes dart to the sky - a news chopper.

CAPTAIN IVAN (CONT'D)
 (grumbling, rolling eyes)
 Here we go again...

EVE'S POV
 She squints at the sky, rotor blades whirring above.

The chopper from the modern town hovers above the war at an unsafe distance.

INT. NEWS CHOPPER - NIGHT

FLIP, (30s), Black, high energy, news anchor with a nice suit and tie, points to the intense war below. The PILOT and a CAMERAMAN look too.

FLIP
 (to the Pilot)
 That's it—get us closer!

EXT. GOLDFLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

The CAVEMAN KING (34), White, ruler of the Silverstone Cavemen and twice the size of his men, steps forth from the trees valiantly in a lion fur tunic.

His unkempt, dirty blond hair falls to his shoulders as he raises his fist mightily in the air.

He easily overtakes the few Goldleaf Sentries that charge his way.

CAVEMAN KING

Onward, my savages! This kingdom,
too, will soon be ours. Show no
mercy!

The Silverstone Cavemen lasso long tree vines, latch onto the rooftop rails, and begin to scale it effortlessly.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Secure the rooftop! No one gets
through.

Goldleaf Sentries unleash a relentless volley of arrows at the Silverstone Cavemen. The attackers are struck—and fall, screaming.

Others are cut down as Goldleaf swords sever the vines they cling to, sending them crashing to the ground.

INT./EXT. NEWS CHOPPER - NIGHT

The news chopper swerves wildly, avoiding the incoming shower of fired arrows and catapulted boulders.

FLIP

(to the Pilot)

Easy! Easy! That was close!

PILOT

We should pull back!

FLIP

Not a chance. This is my ticket to
prime time.

Flip turns to the CAMERAMAN.

FLIP (CONT'D)

Rolling?

CAMERAMAN

Three... two--

FLIP

Good evening, folks! This is Flip live from Cone City - in what looks like the final battle for the Goldleaf Kingdom.

The chopper jolts again. Flip stumbles, barely steady.

FLIP (CONT'D)

Let's get closer- to these spectacular savages!

Ivan turns-

Sees PRINCE ADAM (9) Asian, short black spiky hair, royal blue leopard-print garment, gold crown like Eve's carried over the shoulder by a Silverstone Caveman.

PRINCE ADAM

Let me go!

PRINCESS EVE

Adam!

She presses herself against the balcony railing, helpless, panic flashing across her face.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Release him!

Ivan tackles the Caveman. Goldleaf Sentries swarm.

Adam is freed. Ivan kneels, steadying him.

CAPTAIN IVAN (CONT'D)

Are you hurt, Your Highness?

Adam shakes his head-shaken, but okay.

KING ANDREW (36) Asian, a herculean man of jet black hair, royal blue leopard print tunic, slowly approaches-imposing, furious.

Adam lowers his gaze.

PRINCE ADAM

Father, I -

KING ANDREW

I don't want to hear it. A prince is never taken.

Adam's eyes well. He nods.

Andrew turns to the nearby Goldleaf Sentries.

KING ANDREW (CONT'D)
Take him inside.

Sentries escort Adam away.

Adam trudges past, escorted back into the castle. He glances up briefly at Eve. She meets his eyes, expression softening into quiet relief. He looks away, embarrassed.

Andrew turns to the captured Caveman. The Caveman sneers, on his knees, hands bound behind him with gold shackles.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN C
All hail the Cav-

Andrew silences him with a single, brutal strike. The Caveman collapses.

KING ANDREW
Remove him.

The Sentries drag the Caveman off.

INT./EXT. NEWS CHOPPER - NIGHT

A MASSIVE STONE SLAMS the chopper. Alarms BLARE.

PILOT
We're hit! Brace yourselves!

FLIP
Looks like that's our exit, folks!

The chopper SPINS-

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

The wrecked chopper skids across the ground. Smoke billows.

Flip crawls free, injured, dazed.

The chopper EXPLODES behind him.

EVE
Jumps at the deafening blast, eyes darting down at the smoking wreckage of the chopper on the battlefield below.

Flip looks up-

Grulk looms overhead. He raises his club and prepares to clobber him.

COMMANDER GRULK
Wrong place, storyteller.

FLIP
Please—I don't want trouble!

Flip crawls away helplessly, bracing for impact.

COMMANDER GRULK
(laughs)
You came looking for it.

Ivan aims his laser gun at Grulk.

CAPTAIN IVAN
Back away! Now!

Grulk eyes Ivan with disdain, keeps his club raised.

CAPTAIN IVAN
DO IT NOW, Grulk. Last chance!

Grulk grunts and kicks Flip across the ground before Ivan.

COMMANDER GRULK
Grown soft, I see. You were better
with us.

CAPTAIN IVAN
(gesturing with his gun)
Move along.

Grulk scowls and charges back into battle. Ivan lowers his weapon and helps Flip up.

FLIP
(shaking)
Th-thank you...You saved me.

CAPTAIN IVAN
I've told you before—This war isn't
a spectacle.

Flip winces, ashamed.

FLIP
I just wanted a story.

CAPTAIN IVAN
My men died defending your rights.
Yours died for ratings.
(MORE)

CAPTAIN IVAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

That's the story.

Flip frowns. Sentries arrive.

CAPTAIN IVAN (CONT'D)

Take him to the infirmary. Then get him out of here.

The Sentries escort Flip away.

Ivan turns back to the battle.

Andrew refocuses on the war around him, cutting down several Silverstone Cavemen with ease.

The Caveman King's forces are soon surrounded—Goldleaf Sentries on the ground, roofs, and balconies all aim arrows, swords, and blasters at them.

KING ANDREW

Halt!

Andrew pushes to the front line, standing bold before the Caveman King. A tense stare-off.

Eve holds her breath, gripping the rails again.

KING ANDREW (CONT'D)

You've failed again. These invasions are pointless. You will never claim this kingdom.

CAVEMAN KING

(snickers)

I wouldn't celebrate yet.

Grulk hands him a tiny gourd. The Caveman King prepares to drink—

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

Behold true power!

CAPTAIN IVAN

Don't even try it!

A laser BLAST — Ivan shatters the gourd.

CAVEMAN KING

(exhales)

Ivan, boy. You once had such potential.

KING ANDREW

Retreat. Next time, I will not be merciful.

The Caveman King bristles.

CAVEMAN KING

You may have won today, but your army weakens with every clash.

He surveys the Sentries, then locks eyes with Andrew.

CAVEMAN KING

The fall of the Goldleaf Kingdom is coming. My son and I will rule it.

Chad emerges from behind the Caveman King timidly, eyes glued to the ground.

Eve, still observes from her balcony and notices him.

She freezes.

PRINCESS EVE

(whispers to herself)

...CHAD?

Chad's eyes lift from the ground gradually and float up to meet hers. He partially smiles, awkwardly.

The Caveman King glances back, catching Chad mid-wave. His face twists in disgust.

Chad quickly drops his hand, eyes darting away, nervously falling back in line. Eve forces an uneasy smile back and quickly looks away.

CAVEMAN KING

And soon, nothing will stop me from wiping out those disgusting modern towns you coddle.

KING ANDREW

I will never allow you to harm those innocent people.

CAVEMAN KING

They're parasites—lost to corruption and violence.

KING ANDREW

Takes one to know one.

CAVEMAN KING
You once shared my vision.

KING ANDREW
Those days are long gone.

CAVEMAN KING
(snickers)
And soon, so will you. Let's see if
modern medicine can save you again...
after I'm through with you.

The Caveman King turns to leave with Chad and the remaining Cavemen.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)
Next time, boy, you will *lead*, not
stand there like a useless twig.

Chad avoids his father's gaze, lingers behind them, stealing one last glance at Eve before walking off. She has tears in her eyes.

As Eve watches Chad disappear into the darkness—
her victory doesn't feel like one.

PRINCESS EVE (V.O.)
The night of the failed invasion
made everything clear to me. Chad
and I could never be friends. We
were both caught in a world of
warfare neither of us asked to be a
part of. I thought for sure this
would be the last time I ever saw
him..
(beat)
I was wrong.

Behind her, the Goldleaf flag, a white banner bearing a golden leaf at its center whips wildly in the fierce wind.

INT. GOLDFLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - ROYAL COUNCIL MEETING ROOM -
DAY

SUPER: 13 YEARS LATER

King Andrew (49), QUEEN EDITH (47) Black, a tall, beautiful woman with long, shiny hair, rosy cheeks, and an elegant leopard print gown and the other ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBERS sit at a round table.

Eve (23) and Adam (22), now older, are present too.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER A
Your Majesty, it's been 13 years
since the last invasion attempt,
and we still haven't secured
allies.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER B
If we want to remain sovereign, we
must strengthen ties with other
kingdoms. The Caveman King's forces
are growing.
(beat)
And without the Kingdom Wonders,
we're more exposed than ever.

Adam rises, defensive.

PRINCE ADAM
I've spent four years strengthening
our forces – we've doubled our
numbers. We don't need any
allyship.

KING ANDREW
Adam, don't be naive. Even with
your hard work, it still won't be
enough for us to stand on our own.
Do I need to remind you that you
were almost taken the last time?

Adam frowns and slowly sits down.

KING ANDREW (CONT'D)
It's time we stopped sending
messengers. Edith and I will go
ourselves to meet with other royals
of the Cave Worlds.

QUEEN EDITH
They, just like the modern cities,
also want nothing to do with us.

PRINCESS EVE
I disagree. There may be some hope
in our relationship with the modern
people.

QUEEN EDITH
How so?

PRINCESS EVE

I requested a consultation with the
Cone City mayor.

QUEEN EDITH

Without permission?

KING ANDREW

Edith, please. Let's give her a
chance to share.

(pause)

Go on, Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

I broke protocol – not to provoke,
but to understand.

(beat)

His office expressed interest to
meet.

QUEEN EDITH

We don't have time for negotiation.

PRINCESS EVE

What would you suggest instead?

QUEEN EDITH

(beat)

Maybe it's time we call for a
mandatory conscription of the
modern people to serve in our
military.

PRINCE ADAM

May not be a bad idea... if it comes
to that.

PRINCESS EVE

No, mother. A forced alliance will
backfire. People need the freedom
to decide.

QUEEN EDITH

Eve, what you did was careless! Not
only did you violate kingdom
guidelines, but you were -

KING ANDREW

Brave!

QUEEN EDITH

What?

KING ANDREW

What Eve did was courageous. A true sign of her growing leadership.

(beat)

Well done, Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

Thank you, father.

KING ANDREW

(beat, mutters)

Now... the Caveman King.

PRINCE ADAM

I'll organize some stealth operatives and plan an ambush on their castle.

KING ANDREW

No! Do not engage them while we are gone. It's too risky.

(beat, thinks)

Eve, why don't you develop a proposed military strategy on how we can secure more intel and plan a future strike. I'll review it upon my return.

A new fire lights up in Eve's eyes. Adam's jaw drops.

KING ANDREW (CONT'D)

(beat)

In the meantime, if you can do that and maintain watch over things here, you will be awarded the next pillar you need to one day rule this kingdom independently.

Five ancient crests line the council chamber wall. Two shine fully: Valor, Wisdom One glows – faint, incomplete: Strategy – Two remain dark: Harmony, Sacrifice.

Eve studies the unfinished symbol, then steels herself.

The faintly glowing crest pulses as Adam and Eve exchange a look.

Edith scowls at Eve. Eve avoids her eyes.

PRINCESS EVE

I won't let you down, father. And I can help with the prep for your departure event, too.

Andrew nods.

PRINCE ADAM

Me too.

Adam shares a smile with Eve.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)

Can't let you take all the credit.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM BEACH SHORE - DAY

SUPER: A FEW WEEKS LATER

A clear blue morning sky and bright shining sun overlook the beach shore. A vivacious beach party, crowded with Goldleaf citizens takes place.

People congregate and take part in food and drink and others dance and play games. A trio of Cavemen musicians play something traditionally festive.

The Goldleaf flag is planted proudly at the center of the shore, rippling steadily in the coastal wind.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - COASTAL TRAIL / BEACH OVERLOOK - DAY

A small group of MODERN TOURISTS trek along a cliff-side trail overlooking the Goldleaf Kingdom.

At the front: MARIA (22), Hispanic/Latina - confident, lively, wearing a stylish leopard-print tour outfit and a hat that reads TOUR GUIDE.

She walks backward as she talks, practiced and smooth.

MARIA

Please remember - photos are welcome, but try to be respectful. We are real people. Not exhibits.

A few TOURISTS nod. Others keep snapping photos anyway.

Maria sighs - used to it. Her eyes drift past the kingdom.. To the distant Cone City skyline. Glass towers shimmer in the sun. A flicker of longing crosses her face.

She snaps back into tour-guide mode.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Alright, everyone, if you'll follow
 me—

She backs up—and nearly collides with Two Goldleaf Sentries marching past.

One of them — handsome — flashes her a quick grin.

Maria clocks it. Misses a step. She STUMBLES—then CATCHES HERSELF, smoothly. Plays it off instantly.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 And that is why we don't moonwalk
 through prehistoric terrain.

A few TOURISTS chuckle.

The Sentry smiles, impressed, and keeps moving. Maria blushes.

INTERCUT WITH:

Eve stands at the edge of the shore with Andrew and Edith who looked pleased with the event.

QUEEN EDITH
 What a fascinating display you all
 have prepared today. Adam, did a
 great job with the special
 attention to detail.

Eve frowns.

PRINCESS EVE
 I did the decorations.

Edith rolls her eyes.

QUEEN EDITH
 Oh...I see.

Eve grimaces.

KING ANDREW
 (to Edith)
 Oh, stop it, my love.
 (beat)
 (to Eve)
 Everything looks great. Wonderful
 job, my dear.

Eve smiles.

PRINCESS EVE

Thank you, father.

Ivan approaches them with two Sentries dressed in white smocks, and golden sashes, armed with polished swords and blasters.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Your Highness, the ship is prepared and ready to go at your direction.

KING ANDREW

Very good, Captain. Well, I suppose that's our cue.

(to the Queen)

Shall we, my lady?

Edith smiles and they lock arms. She is about to step away with the king when she just remembers something and turns back to Eve.

QUEEN EDITH

Before we go... what is your status on finding a prince?

Both Eve and Andrew share a sigh.

PRINCESS EVE

(irritated)

Mother!

QUEEN EDITH

The hands of time are not in your favor.

PRINCESS EVE

I don't need a man to help me run this kingdom.

Edith scoffs and looks up at the sky.

QUEEN EDITH

There she goes again with her non-traditional thinking.

KING ANDREW

Honey, let her figure things out on her own. You don't want to push her to marry the wrong man.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)

Oh rubbish. There are plenty of nice, handsome guys in this kingdom. What about Captain Ivan?

Ivan and Eve exchange awkward looks. She shakes her head and groans.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)

She needs to choose someone—or I will.

KING ANDREW

Edith, please!

(to Captain Ivan)

Ivan, will you please have our men board the ship and prepare for departure?

Ivan bows.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Yes, sir. I also must warn you there's been a surge in kidnappings and pirate attacks across the eastern sea... Some signs point to a new threat—a ruthless marauder known only as Captain Crush.

(beat)

He leaves behind shattered ships... and no survivors.

KING ANDREW

Thank you, Captain. Good to know.

Ivan nods and briskly leaves his presence.

Andrew turns to Eve with a look of concern.

PRINCESS EVE

Don't worry. Adam and I will be careful.

QUEEN EDITH

Where is your brother, by the way?

Edith examines the attendees of the party. No sign of Adam.

PRINCESS EVE

He was supposed to be here by now.

Andrew exhales.

KING ANDREW

That boy is always daydreaming.

Edith scans the crowd again. Adam is nowhere in sight.

A beat.

Andrew places a hand on Eve's shoulder.

KING ANDREW (CONT'D)

Take good care. We love you.

Eve exchanges a brief, uneasy hug with Queen Edith and embraces King Andrew longer.

PRINCESS EVE

Love you, too.

QUEEN EDITH

Don't forget what I said.

PRINCESS EVE

Goodbye, mother.

Andrew turns back quickly to address Eve.

KING ANDREW

Remember, under no circumstances, are you to engage with the Caveman King. He's not to be underestimated.

(beat)

The history between him and I. It's-it's complicated.

PRINCESS EVE

I know.

(pensive)

But, what if -

KING ANDREW

Eve, I mean it! I know your fierce ambition. But you will face trouble if it goes unchecked.

PRINCESS EVE

Okay, okay. I won't. I promise.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - COASTAL TRAIL / BEACH OVERLOOK -
LATER

Andrew and Edith walk down the middle of Goldleaf Sentries who form two lines that face each other and stand at attention.

The Sentries play a ceremonious tune on gold trumpets as Andrew and Edith board the boat.

They board the boat, waving back at the gathered crowd on the shore who also wave back emotionally.

The Sentries lower their trumpets, walk single file, and board the ship as it set sails off to sea.

Maria resumes walking backward – when–

A HORN BLASTS from the beach below.

Maria turns. Across the waters, Andrew and Edith's boat floats towards the horizon. A ceremonial send-off. Guards, banners, movement.

Maria's eyes light up. Opportunity.

The boat slowly disappears from view and eventually out of sight.

She looks back at the TOURISTS. Professional smile... slightly forced.

MARIA

Okay, folks! That's actually going to conclude our tour a little early today.

Confused murmurs.

TOURIST

Early?

MARIA

Sorry, everyone. Royal event. Invitation-only. Thanks for coming.

She gestures toward the forest path.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Our castle guards will escort you back through the woods safely.

Two Sentries step forward, already ushering the group along.

The tourists grumble but comply, drifting off. Maria watches the tourists disappear into the trees. She turns back toward the beach – toward the royal departure.

She joins Eve.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Whew! I thought they'd never leave.

PRINCESS EVE

What do you mean?

Maria puts a friendly arm around Eve.

MARIA

Come on, it's time for you to have some fun. Three whole months. Make it count.

Maria pulls out a long scroll, presenting a list of fun ideas scribbled in neat, black cursive.

PRINCESS EVE

Deep sea diving? Forbidden caves? An unsupervised castle party— Maria!

MARIA

Don't forget hot stone massages.

A beat. Eve grimaces.

PRINCESS EVE

We don't have hot stone massages.

MARIA

Not YET. But it's something you can implement — for when we get tired of living on the edge.

PRINCESS EVE

Oh, no, no, no! We are not doing any of these shenanigans. My parents would kill me— if one of these doesn't first.

MARIA

Okay, okay. Baby steps. How about we just go for a walk?

PRINCESS EVE

(thinks)

Maria, I don't know. I really sh-

MARIA

Come on, it'll be quick. I promise. No one has to know. It's just off the Red River trail.

Eve pauses and her tone changes with sudden consideration.

PRINCESS EVE

Near Silverstone?

MARIA

Uh...yeah. I think so. Why?

PRINCESS EVE

(beat)

Okay, but it has to be fast.
Nothing crazy.

MARIA

YAY! You won't regret it.

Maria scans the shore quickly and notices all Sentries are distracted. She pulls Eve along toward the forest.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We gotta move before anyone sees.

They power walk towards the trees but are immediately confronted by a group of Sentries, sparked with suspicion and concern.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY G

Princess! Did you need us to walk you somewhere?

PRINCESS EVE

Um...no, we're just going for a quick walk alone.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY H

I'm sorry, Your Highness. You know the rules. Your father would have our heads if something happened to you.

MARIA

(muttering)

Well, that's just gonna be a sacrifice we're gonna have to take.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY G

Excuse me?

MARIA

Look, she doesn't need a babysitter.

PRINCESS EVE

I understand your concern...but can't you at least provide me five minutes of reprieve.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY I

I'm afraid not.

Maria sighs dramatically. She screams hysterically and points at the sea behind them.

MARIA

Oh my goodness! There's a vicious water dragon coming near shore!

The Sentries clench their weapons tightly and spin around
READY FOR DEFENSE.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY H

WHERE?

The Sentries observe a benign scene in the crystal clear waters. A few children splash and play in the shallow end.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY I

Hey...there's no -

The Sentries slowly turn back around. Eve and Maria are gone.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY G

Ugh! We should've seen that coming.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY H

We are so dead.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OFF THE GRID LOCATION - DAY

A cool, secluded green area blanketed by the shade of tall, massive trees. A foot away is a cliff overlooking a beautiful waterfall, the splashing of the spring water sounds peaceful from up above.

Colorful birds sing and fly overhead. Eve and Maria sit against one of the trees and soak in the nature around them. Eve finally sits back and lets her full hair down.

PRINCESS EVE

Wow. As much as I hate to admit it. You were right. This is nice.

MARIA

See! I told you. I come here all the time. I even take my guests here on their tours.

PRINCESS EVE

You take your visitors here? But it's completely off the map. I'm pretty sure that's against the rules.

MARIA

(sighs)

When are you going to learn that rules are meant to be broken?

PRINCESS EVE

Maybe in your world. But in my world, there's nothing but rules. And pressure. And expectations.

(beat)

Like finding a prince.

MARIA

(chuckles)

Sounds like a good problem to me. What about that Chad guy you used to see when you were younger. Is he still around?

PRINCESS EVE

I don't know. I haven't seen him since we were kids.

Eve looks off into the distance of the waterfall in deep reflection.

INSERT FLASHBACK:

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCESS EVE'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: 13 YEARS AGO - WEEKS BEFORE THE ATTEMPTED INVASION

Eve (10) presses her ear to her bedroom door.

KING ANDREW (O.S.)

Edith, are you sure it was that Silverstone boy that you saw?

QUEEN EDITH (O.S.)

Do not insult my intelligence. I know the offspring of that foul Caveman King when I see him.

The door creaks open. Adam (9) pokes his head in.

PRINCE ADAM

(chuckles)

Ooh...someone's in trouble!

PRINCESS EVE

Shut up, Adam! Go away!

PRINCE ADAM

You're just mad cause mom likes me more!

PRINCESS EVE

And dad likes *me* more! Get out of my room!

She shoves him out.

A rock suddenly CLATTERS through the open window, skidding across the floor.

Eve picks it up. Written on the back: "DANGER COMING"

She rushes to the window. Below, Sentries patrol the grounds.

In the bushes – Chad. Bashful. Worried. He waves. After a beat, Eve waves back.

KING ANDREW (O.S.)

Even so...is it right to punish her?

Eve slowly waves back.

QUEEN EDITH (O.S.)

She needs to know who the enemy is. Any friendship with that boy will surely doom this kingdom!

The Sentries hear a rustle.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY J

Did you hear that?

Chad ducks out of sight.

Eve crawls onto her bed, clutching a silver-stone bracelet. Tears slide down her cheeks as she pulls the covers tight.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OFF THE GRID LOCATION - DAY

PRINCESS EVE

We're from different worlds. We were never meant to—

She glances down at the stone bracelet on her wrist.

MARIA

No distance is stopping me from
true love. One day I'm moving to
the modern city.

PRINCESS EVE

(sighs)

Must be nice. To dream that freely.

MARIA

Please. My father still thinks fun
is illegal.

Eve smiles – then absently scribbles in her pad. Maria
notices.

MARIA (CONT'D)

What's that?

She snatches the pad.

INSERT - PAD: "*Proposed Locations for Silverstone Siege.*"

Maria's smile vanishes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Seriously, Eve?

PRINCESS EVE

It was a coincidence. I promise.

MARIA

I just wanted to do something nice
for you.

A sudden WIND cuts through the trees. The forest goes quiet.

A faint RUSTLE.

PRINCESS EVE

Did you hear that?

MARIA

Don't try to change the subject!

Another sound. Closer.

Eve stands.

PRINCESS EVE

We need to go. Now.

FOOTFALLS thunder behind them. Large SHADOWS stretch across
the forest floor.

Two Silverstone CAVEMEN explode from the trees.

Silverstone Caveman E grabs Eve and hoists her over his shoulder.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E
(snickers deviously)
Got'cha princess!

PRINCESS EVE
Put me down!

She slams her fists against his back – useless.

Silverstone Caveman F snatches Maria in a crushing bearhug, lifting her off the ground.

MARIA
Get your hands off me!

She kicks wildly.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN F
(grunts)
Quit fighting back!

They drag the girls into the trees as their SCREAMS echo through the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLDFLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - DAY

A lost MARCO (24) Hispanic/Latino – sinewy, with medium-length indigo hair, wearing a cheetah-print tunic paired with worn leather shoulder pads and oversized wrist bracers. The gear looks secondhand – outdated and too big for him.

He wanders the forest, confused and frustrated.

MARCO
I swear I've passed this tree a dozen times.

He leans against a tree, defeated. His stomach GROWLS.

MARCO (CONT'D)
The party's probably over by now.
(beat)
Man... I was really looking forward to that fire-roasted squid.

Beat – He hears screams, looks around.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Hello? Is someone out there?

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM - THE SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - DAY

A silver stone fortress rises from the prehistoric jungle, encircled by weed-choked fields and piranha-infested swamps. Eerie mist drifts through tall grass as massive catapults loom nearby.

Skulls and bones carpet the ground. Silverstone Cavemen patrol the perimeter with clubs while others scan the jungle from the rooftops. Above it all, a black flag bearing a gray stone snaps in the wind.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Eve and Maria are forced into a dark, expansive room of mud floors and stone walls.

Aside from a row of wall candles that dimly light the room and a large fireplace, revealing grotesque, Jurassic-sized insects scurrying about, the rest of the space appears pitch-black.

MARIA

(shrieks)

Eww! This place is disgusting!
Almost makes Marco's bedroom look half-decent.

PRINCESS EVE

(to the Silverstone Cavemen)

Where are we? What is this place?

The Cavemen remain silent.

A sinister bellow echoes. The Caveman King (47) steps from the shadows.

CAVEMAN KING

After all these years. Greetings, Princess Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

Well, this isn't a very pleasant welcome! Who are you?

Silverstone Caveman E hands him Eve's notepad.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E
We found this, Sir.

The Caveman King skims it, laughs, and hurls into the fire pit.

CAVEMAN KING
You insult my reputation. But I suppose it's been over a decade since I last visited your kingdom. I am the Caveman King.

Eve's eyes widen. Now she remembers!

INSERT FLASHBACK:

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE - BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

The Caveman King surveys the Goldleaf Sentries. He locks eyes with Andrew.

CAVEMAN KING
The fall of the Goldleaf Kingdom is coming. My son and I will rule it.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

MARIA
Caveman King? Don't you have a real name?

CAVEMAN KING
(hotly)
SILENCE! Names hold no weight once they've been crushed.

PRINCESS EVE
(thinking)
It's been 13 years since he last attempted to overthrow our kingdom.
(beat)
To this day to be exact.

CAVEMAN KING
Ah, right. Now your memory returns. Soon, your kingdom will be mine. With your king and queen gone, Goldleaf is defenseless.

PRINCESS EVE

Not without a fight! My brother and I will never let you take our home!

CAVEMAN KING

Your brother?

(scoffs)

It was easier to remove him than you. I'm already two stone skips ahead. Nothing can stop me!

PRINCESS EVE

My brother?! What have you done to him? You monster! I swear—

Silverstone Caveman E tightens his grip, holding her still.

CAVEMAN KING

Take them away!

Eve and Maria are dragged off.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

In one hour, my secret weapon will be completed. First, the modern towns. Then your kingdom.

MARIA

Secret weapon?

PRINCESS EVE

Hey! You won't get away with this!

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - PRISON CELL - DAY

Eve and Maria are shoved into a small, dark cell. A sliver of light spills in from the open doorway.

In the corner: a dusty miniature juggling ball and a dented dog bowl.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN F

(laughs)

Make yourselves at home!

He steps back into the hall.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E

(to Silverstone Caveman F)

Let's finish up the boulder catapult and prepare it for launch.

Silverstone Caveman F nods. They walk off.

The door SLAMS shut.

MARIA

We have to get out of here. They're going to level the metropolis.

PRINCESS EVE

That's what the council feared. They've been building this weapon for years. That's why he never attacked again.

Eve's eyes briefly settle on the strange items in the corner.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Caveman King looms before three henchmen standing shoulder to shoulder.

CAVEMAN KING

Search the area! Lock away any witnesses.

The Cavemen nod and march out.

The Caveman King remains, eyes fixed on the throne.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST, OFF THE GRID LOCATION - DAY

Silverstone Cavemen search the forest, moving carefully between the trees. Silverstone CAVEMAN G leads them.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN G

Stay sharp. We can't let any Goldleaf bugs know what's coming.

High above, Marco balances on a thick tree branch, watching.

MARCO

(whispers to himself)
Oh no... I gotta warn the others before it's too late.

His stomach RUMBLES. Marco freezes, clutching his gut.

The Cavemen stop.

Slowly... their eyes scan the trees. Caveman G looks up.

Marco ducks behind the leaves.

MARCO (V.O.)
 Dang, I should've eaten breakfast.
 Come on, stomach – not now!

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN G
 Did you hear that?

A tense beat.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMEN F
 Probably an animal. Let's move.

They all turn to head back in the direction they came from.

MARCO
 (sighs, relieved)
 (whispers to himself)
 Whew! That was a close one!

They turn and walk away.

Marco exhales in relief. As he shifts his weight –

CRACK!

Marco slips and PLUMMETS, crashing to the ground with a loud THUD.

He groans, patting his shoulder pads.

MARCO (CONT'D)
 Heh... knew these would come in
 handy. Thanks, Dad.

His blurred vision clears.

The Silverstone Cavemen stand over him in a semi-circle.

Marco gulps.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E
 Looks like we've got ourselves a
 little fly on the wall.

MARCO
 (nervous laugh)
 Uh... hey, fellas. Pretty nice day,
 huh?

No response.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN G
 You're coming with us, kid!

They grab Marco's arms and legs, hauling him off.

MARCO

No—wait! Please! I wasn't spying!
HELP! HELP!

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE YARD - DAY

Chad (25) stands impatiently, flip phone in hand, near the surrounding forest.

A few Silverstone Cavemen linger near the forest.

High above, field technicians from the modern town finish installing discreet cell towers in the tall treetops.

The SERVICE MANAGER, a formally dressed man, stands next to Chad.

PRINCE CHAD

Are you sure these newly installed cell towers are discreet enough in the trees? My father can't know of this.

SERVICE MANAGER

Ye—yes, sir. Everything blends in with the nature around it. You shouldn't have any more signal issues.

The signal bars on Chad's flip phone increase from two to four.

PRINCE CHAD

If I have to call again, our contract won't be the only thing ending.

SERVICE MANAGER

(swallows)
Understood.

Chad turns to walk away. The Service Manager clears his throat. Chad slowly turns around.

SERVICE MANAGER (CONT'D)

(shakily)
Um...sir, we still haven't received payment.

The Service Manager holds up a credit card reader machine.

PRINCE CHAD
 (scoffs)
 Payment?

Chad closes in on the manager, towering over him. The manager staggers back.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
 How about I get to play my mobile games. And you...

Beat.

Chad snatches the machine, throws it to the ground, and crushes it to pieces under his barefoot.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
 (eyeing him up and down)
 You get to stay mobile.

SERVICE MANAGER
 (hesitates)
 Yes, Your Majesty.

The Service Manager hurries away with his men. Chad turns his focus to the trio of Silverstone Cavemen who emerge from the forest in the distance and carry Marco off into the castle.

PRINCE CHAD
 What's going on? Who is that?

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN H
 Probably another Goldleaf spy. I heard there's two more of them inside.

Chad raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - PRISON CELL - DAY

Silverstone Caveman E shoves Marco into the room and steps back to join Silverstone Caveman F.

Eve and Maria breathe a sigh of relief.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E
 Is it even worth locking the door?

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN F
 Don't bother. These fools are too weak to try and escape.

They chuckle and walk away.

Marco dusts himself off, readjusting his tunic.

MARCO

Hey, we heard that! Jerks! And I don't appreciate being manhandled!

(mumbles)

I swear, if I was just a bit bigger, I'd teach those clowns a lesson they wouldn't forget.

Maria punches his shoulder.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Ow!

MARIA

Marco! Where have you been? You missed the send-off event.

MARCO

Sorry, I got lost... been going in circles for hours.

Marco's stomach growls again.

MARCO (CONT'D)

(sighs)

And worse, all on an empty stomach.

MARIA

Ugh! You always get lost! And you're always hungry! What else is new?

Maria smacks him upside the head.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Now, look. You got yourself captured, too!

MARCO

Will you stop hitting me? It hurts! I was on my way to get help when those behemoths whisked me away!

MARIA

Here comes the excuses.

MARCO

You know what -

PRINCESS EVE

Okay, both of you, calm down. We need to work together to escape. They have Adam!

MARCO

(confused)

Adam's here?

PRINCESS EVE

Yes. They got to him before us. It must have happened last night at the shore.

MARCO

That explains why I haven't seen him. If we're going to act, it's now.

MARIA

Hello? I don't know if you've noticed but none of us stood a chance against those barbarians. They'll crush us! Isn't there another way?

MARCO

What, flirt with them and hope they fall in love with you?

Maria scowls at him.

MARCO (CONT'D_

I'm not gonna run out the clock 'til we get murdered. I'm done letting anyone push me around. Let's go!

Marco steps toward the exit, glancing back at the girls—fear in his eyes. He swallows hard... and moves forward anyway.

Eve and Maria exchange impressed looks.

MARIA

What's gotten into him?

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - THE WAR PIT - DAY

An expansive center room with wall-lit candles and extensive corridors. In the middle is a massive catapult and next to it is a pile of immensely huge asteroids.

An open sunroof reveals the ORB, a sleek, silver Orb-shaped spacecraft hovering silently, lowering more and more rocks through a tractor beam onto the pile.

The Caveman King spots Chad entering the room.

CAVEMAN KING

Ah, there you are, son. Just in time to witness the rain of ruin on those digital degenerates. Behold.. the mighty Skybreaker!

PRINCE CHAD

Father, what are you doing?! We can't destroy the modern towns. I've spent years working with those people. They're useful.

CAVEMAN KING

(scoffs)

You've always befriended the enemy. Ever since you were a child — especially that Goldleaf girl. But today is a day of correction.

He looks up at the ORB.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

With the right allegiance in the Moonlight Kingdom, the offworlders have agreed to aid my conquest — as long as I keep my end of the bargain.

PRINCE CHAD

What bargain?

CAVEMAN KING

That's none of your concern.

(beat)

Do I need remind you that those contemporary jokers are responsible for your mother's death?

Chad lowers his eyes.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

They've corrupted us with their foolish philosophies. Mocked our traditions. Poisoned the sky with their machines.

(beat, pacing around the catapult)

(MORE)

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

Now, the warriors of the skies have gifted me a machine to bury their cities in ash—and let the old world rise again.

Chad's flip phone BUZZES. Caller ID: "MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATOR"

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

(hotly)

What are you still doing with that wretched device? One day I'll smash it myself. Who's calling?

Chad slowly looks up to meet his father's eyes.

PRINCE CHAD

No one.

(beat)

Please, father. I'm begging you to reconsider. We'll lose everything. Please don't do-

The Caveman King strikes Chad — sending him to the ground.

CAVEMAN KING

What did I tell you about empathy? Were your years in exile not enough?

Chad clutches his face.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

Leave my presence — now.

PRINCE CHAD

At least tell me who you're holding in prison.

Chad slowly rises. The Caveman King turns away.

CAVEMAN KING

Guards. Escort the prince to his room — before he becomes a part of the trial and error testing.

The Cavemen move in.

PRINCE CHAD

Get off me!

He shoves past them and exits.

CAVEMAN KING
And keep him from probing around.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

Chad is escorted into the hallway. He stops to talk to the guards.

PRINCE CHAD
Who are the prisoners? Tell me.

The Cavemen exchange looks amongst themselves.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN I
Sorry, Your Highness. Only the king's top soldiers know. We're not allowed to ask.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
Forget it. I'll find out myself.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - DETENTION WING ENTRANCE - DAY

Chad is blocked by a wall of six guards. Former Commander Grulk (38) stands at the front.

PRINCE CHAD
Let me through! NOW!

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN J
We can't, sir. Strict orders.

PRINCE CHAD
Did you not hear me?

GRULK
Your Majesty, return to your room.
We don't want this to get messy.
Stand down, or I'll put you back in your place.

A TENSE stare off.

PRINCE CHAD
I could say the same for you...
commander. Or should I say, former
commander. Rumors work wonders,
don't they?

Grulk scowls.

A moment passes.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
 You're lucky my spear is defective.
 (beat)
 Once my father's gone, no one will
 ever deny me again.

Chad storms off in the opposite direction.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - ANOTHER HALLWAY - DAY

Marco, Eve, and Maria sneak through a dark, wide stone hallway, the floor damp with mildew. Marco strides boldly ahead, chest out, while Eve and Maria follow close behind.

MARCO
 Alright, this place is huge and
 heavily guarded. You girls stay
 back. I'll protect you from these
 savages.

Maria rolls her eyes. Eve giggles.

Marco approaches the corner. Eve spots a large shard of sharp-edged glass a few steps ahead. She leaps forward and pulls him back just in time.

MARCO (CONT'D)
 Hey! Eve, What are you doing?

Two Cavemen around the corner hear them and begin walking their way.

Chad, nearby, overhears the voices and heads toward them.

Marco stumbles back, catches his balance. Eve picks up the glass and shows him.

PRINCESS EVE
 You should be careful. You almost
 stepped on this.

MARIA
 (mutters)
 Protect us...can't even protect
 himself.

MARCO
 (scoffs)
 Look, that was just a fluke.

Marco walks toward the corner again. Eve tugs him back by his tunic, holding the glass to reveal the approaching Cavemen in its reflection.

PRINCESS EVE

Two for two.

MARCO

You're enjoying this, aren't you?

Eve smirks. Maria peeks out a nearby window. The ground is far below – at least 200 feet.

MARIA

Well, doesn't look like the window's an option.

PRINCESS EVE

Come on. Let's go through that door.

Eve points across the hall. They hurry over. As they run, Eve notices a large watercolor painting of Chad on the wall. She stops, captivated.

INSERT FLASHBACK:

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OPEN GRASS FIELD - DAY

Weeks before the attempted invasion, Eve (10) and Chad (12) paint watercolors on a canvas. They laugh, splash each other with paint.

END FLASHBACK.

Maria calls from behind.

MARIA

Eve, come on!

Eve snaps out of it.

PRINCESS EVE

Coming!

Eve runs into the room and shuts the door behind them.

The Cavemen round the corner to find an empty corridor, puzzled.

Chad turns the corner and runs into them.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN K
Everything okay, sir?

Chad looks around suspiciously.

PRINCE CHAD
Yeah... all good.

He walks away.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Eve, Marco, and Maria enter a large storage room. Tall cabinets line the walls, shelves dusted and cluttered with antiques and artifacts.

PRINCESS EVE
What is this place?

Marco spots a water gourd on a shelf and opens it eagerly.

MARIA
Do you even know what that is?

MARCO
Ah! Finally, something to drink.
I'm so thirsty!

He tilts his head back and chugs. His stomach rumbles strangely.

MARCO (CONT'D)
Whoa! I don't feel so good.

MARIA
I told you not to drink that! It could have been poison for all you know!

MARCO
(chuckles)
Well, it was good poison for what it's worth.

The room trembles. Objects rattle on the shelves, clatter to the floor, shattering.

PRINCESS EVE
(looks around)
Wha-what's going on?

MARCO
Whoa! What's happening to me?

The floor beneath Marco cracks violently. His body expands and stretches, muscles bulging, height surging... until he towers 15 feet tall.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCE CHAD'S BATHROOM - DAY

Sleek black stone walls etched with ancient tribal designs contrast with golden fixtures and a digital mirror. A massive stone basin and lava-rock shower dominate the space.

Animal hides serve as rugs. Torch-like sconces flicker beside motion-sensor lighting.

Chad lounges in a marble hot tub, one eye flicking open at the buzz of his phone. He yanks a wireless earbud from his ear and checks the screen.

ON SCREEN - TEXT MESSAGE FROM MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATOR:

"We think we found a new lead." "Hello, are you still there?"

Chad sets the phone aside with a sigh. Across the bathroom, a tiny sand timer drips steadily. Its lower chamber is nearly complete. Tears glisten in his eyes.

Suddenly, the bathroom quakes with the rest of the castle.

PRINCE CHAD

Weird..

Perplexed, he steps from the tub, wraps a towel of stitched animal skins around himself, and heads to his bedroom.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCE CHAD'S BEDROOM - DAY

A twisted blend of savage royalty and insecure rebellion. Animal pelts and skulls line the stone walls, while a hidden flatscreen flickers behind a tapestry. A radio hums faint static beneath a pile of dirty tunics.

Above a bone-framed bed, a crude mural depicts Chad crowned king, holding a Goldleaf crown like a trophy. On another wall, a family portrait shows Chad, the Caveman King, and a woman whose face has been torn away.

A mini fridge fully stocked with rocky road ice cream hums quietly.

Chad peeks into the hallway. No one is there.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - STORAGE ROOM - DAY

MARIA

Okay, what just happened? You're a giant!

Marco examines his enormous body and flexes, grinning ear to ear.

MARCO

(laughs)

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger! This... is incredible! Now it's time to teach those ruffians a lesson.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

Eve and Maria step cautiously into a long stone corridor. Two Silverstone Cavemen at the far end spot them immediately.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN L

Hey! What do you girls think you're doing? You shouldn't be here!

Eve and Maria exchange sly smirks, unfazed. The Cavemen growl and stomp toward them.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN M

HEY! You two hard of hearing or someth'n?

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN L

Don't make us repeat ourselves!

MARIA

I wouldn't go threatening us, if I was you.

Marco saunters around the corner, towering over the Cavemen, radiating menace.

MARCO

Leave them alone!

With effortless strength, Marco scoops up both Cavemen and hurls them out a nearby castle window. They scream as they plummet far below.

MARCO (CONT'D)

(waving)

Have a nice trip!

(MORE)

MARCO (CONT'D)

(beat)

I could get used to this.

INSERT MONTAGE:

A Silverstone Caveman charges. Marco punts him like a kickball, sending him soaring out a window.

He grabs two Cavemen by the necks, smashes their heads together, and drops them without remorse.

Another Caveman attacks. Marco slams him into the floor repeatedly like a ragdoll, then flings him into the wall.

Marco lifts one overhead, bends him across his knee with a crack, and hurls him down the corridor.

The last three Cavemen charge with clubs. Marco swats down the first two like flies. The third freezes, meets Marco's wild-eyed glare... and bolts in fear.

MARCO

(scoffs)

Yeah, that's what I thought.

END OF MONTAGE.

Eve, Maria, and Marco move down another hallway with several doors. Marco mimics a boxer's movements—bouncing, jabbing, spinning, punching imaginary foes.

PRINCESS EVE

(sighs)

He just had to drink that weird stuff. Now he's really getting a big head.

MARIA

Trust me. He's always had a big head. Unfortunately, there's still not much inside it.

Marco overhears, stopping mid-move.

MARCO

Hey, I heard that! You know, a little thank you would go a long way from you ungrateful ladies.

MARIA

Just keep moving and worry about clearing our path.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

We still haven't found Adam. And quit bouncing around like a deranged bunny rabbit!

MARCO

I can't! This is exhilarating! For once, I feel like I can take on an army. I bet the rest went incognito when they heard the rumors of me kicking butt.

Marco practices a few combat moves—a jab, uppercut, spin—and delivers a massive KICK. The nearest door crashes open, revealing Adam, bound and gagged with thick jungle vines.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Well... that worked out.

PRINCESS EVE

ADAM! You're okay!

MARIA

(to Marco)

Finally, your stupidity paid off.

Eve rushes in, unties Adam, and helps him to his feet.

PRINCE ADAM

Eve! It's good to see you!

He exchanges a brief hug with Eve.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)

Those guys snuck up on me in the forest and dragged me back to this filthy citadel.

(beat, grimacing as he stands)

I hate being stuck and helpless.

(looks at Eve and Marco, sighs)

Thanks for getting me out.

PRINCESS EVE

They got to us, too. I'm just happy you're alright.

MARCO

Good to see you, bro!

(chuckles)

So you weren't strong enough to fight them off either, huh?

PRINCE ADAM
 (annoyed)
 I was ambushed.

MARCO
 (teasingly)
 Yeah...sure.

MARIA
 Don't mind him. He's just full of
 himself now that he's a freakishly
 large titan.

PRINCE ADAM
 Right...and why is he a freakishly
 large titan?

MARCO
 Allow me to demonstrate!

He whips out the same water gourd, still half full, and hands
 it to Adam.

MARCO (CONT'D)
 Here. Take a sip of this!
 (grins)
 I could use a sidekick.

Adam raises an eyebrow.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - INVENTORY ROOM - DAY

Marco and Adam—now a 15-foot GIANT as well— fight side-by-
 side, plowing through a squad of Silverstone Cavemen.

The oval-shaped room is lined with towering shelves of
 weapons and artifacts.

Adam takes down twice as many Cavemen as Marco, finishing off
 the last few with ease.

PRINCE ADAM
 Wow... you were right. This power—
 (grinning)
 —it's amazing.

MARCO
 Told you! These guys don't stand a
 chance against us.

MARIA

Nice moves, Adam! Even as a giant,
you're still much better than
Marco.

Adam chuckles. Marco scowls.

Cavemen litter the floor, groaning.

Eve notices something glinting on a nearby shelf.

Behind Marco and Adam, two Cavemen stir, gripping their
clubs, preparing to strike – Maria grabs a wooden club and
CRACKS both of them across the head. They collapse again.

Marco and Adam turn, impressed.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You're not the only ones who can
get things done.

Eve pulls a long, golden spear from behind a stack of dusty
books. She wipes it clean, momentarily awestruck by its glow.
The spear hums softly—responding to her touch.

Another pair of Cavemen rush Maria.

PRINCESS EVE

Maria—look out!

Eve instinctively hurls the spear.

Midair, it SHIFTS—transforming into a BOOMERANG—and slams
into the Cavemen, knocking them unconscious. It whips back
into Eve's hand, reforming as a spear.

MARIA

Whoa... okay. That was awesome.

PRINCE ADAM

Where'd you get that?

PRINCESS EVE

It was just sitting on the shelf.
(beat, surprised herself)
It felt... natural.

Marco folds his arms.

MARCO

Great. High-tech weapons. Because
being a giant wasn't impressive
enough.

MARIA

Can it summon a handsome prince?

Marco rolls his eyes. Adam is confused.

PRINCESS EVE

(laughing)

Maybe after we escape.

(then, serious—gripping
the spear)

I don't know how powerful this
thing is... but I hope it's enough to
get us out of here.

Two more Cavemen rush in, one SLAMS a wall lever.

A HEAVY IRON GATE begins DROPPING behind Marco and Adam.

MARIA

That looks bad.

Adam braces against the gate—it's too strong.

PRINCE ADAM

I can't stop it!

The Cavemen CHARGE.

Eve steps forward, raises the spear— It GLOWS and SPLITS into
three spinning segments. Eve reacts on instinct—SWINGS.

The segments SNAP around the Cavemen, SLAMMING them into the
wall. They DROP unconscious.

The gate JAMS mid-fall.

Silence.

The spear snaps back into place. Eve stares at it, unsettled.

PRINCESS EVE

This thing keeps changing..

Marco exhales.

MARCO

Yeah. And it's clearly on your
side.

They move on.

MARIA

Well, whatever it is— I like it
better in your hands.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - NARROW CORRIDOR - DAY

Adam, Marco, Eve, and Maria move cautiously down a long, barren corridor that seems to stretch endlessly.

MARIA

(sighs)

Does this hallway ever end? We're never getting out at this rate.

PRINCE ADAM

Yeah. And we haven't seen a guard in a while.

(beat, smirks)

Starting to miss beating up Marco.

Eve and Maria laugh. Marco shoots Adam a glare.

MARCO

Hey...not funny.

They turn a corner—revealing a massive doorway ahead, light spilling through.

PRINCESS EVE

Look! That could be our way out. Hurry!

MARIA

Finally, Some hope.

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - WAR PIT ROOM - DAY

The Orb spaceship lowers the last batch of asteroids and blasts off.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN E

Sir, all ammunition is ready.

CAVEMAN KING

Excellent. Prepare for launch.

Caveman E and F begin to lift a few asteroids and load them into the catapult.

The Caveman King approaches Caveman G.

CAVEMAN KING (CONT'D)

Once the operation is complete, prepare to hand the prince over to the Moonlites as agreed. They will be on standby.

Caveman G nods.

The Caveman King and his minions turn their attention to the Goldleafers who enter far on the other side of the room.

MARCO

..Yeah. Definitely not an exit.

He stares at the giant catapult in the middle of the room.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Whoa! What sicko's medieval fantasy is this?

MARIA

He's planning to level the modern cities with those things! We have to stop him!

MARCO

Why? Who even cares about those people?

MARIA

I do!

MARCO

(scoffs)

Of course you do! You wanna be them while they laugh at us.

MARIA

That was a misunderstanding.

MARCO

Sure it was.

(beat)

Maybe the Caveman King is right.

PRINCE ADAM

Look, as much as I agree with you, Marco—which I never thought I'd say, our orders are to protect the modern towns. This isn't up for debate.

Eve scans the room—uneasy.

PRINCESS EVE

However, this does feel like a trap.

The Caveman King steps from the shadows, flanked by his warriors.

CAVEMAN KING

Right you are, Princess Eve.
Welcome to my War Pit- your final destination.

(beat)

Fools. You didn't really think you could steal my growth formula and walk out.

MARCO

We already crushed half your guards.

CAVEMAN KING

(chuckles)

Then allow me to introduce reinforcements.

Two Silverstone Caveman GIANTS—N and O—enter. DOUBLE Marco and Adam's size. Caveman N holds the WATER GOURD.

PRINCE ADAM

...That's not good.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN O

(snickers)

You left this unattended.

MARCO

Whoops...that was my bad.

The ground SHAKES as the giants advance.

CUT TO:

Marco, Adam, Eve, and Maria—BOUND—lying in the catapult bowl. Marco and Adam are shrunken back to their original size.

The Caveman King watches with delight.

CAVEMAN KING

(chuckles)

This is the end! The sky will take you, the ground will break you, and your kingdom will bow to me!

MARCO

Wow, that was disturbingly poetic.

Caveman O raises an asteroid.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN O
It's over!

MARIA
This can't be happening! I can't
die before I find true love!

Everyone shoots her a confused look.

MARCO
Well, it was fun while it lasted.

PRINCE ADAM
Eve, please tell me you can figure
a way out of this!

Eve struggles to get her hands free.

Caveman O's grip loosens more and more.

PRINCESS EVE
I - I don't know. I'm sorry. I
should have just followed the
rules. This is all my fault. I let
us down. I let the kingdom down.

PRINCE ADAM
No, you didn't.
(beat)
You never have.

Eve smiles back emotionally at Adam. Then a clever smirk.
Adam raises an eyebrow. She finally digs her fingers into her
pocket.

PRINCESS EVE
It's like you don't know me at all.
Did you forget about the spear?

Adam smiles.

She uses the sharp edge to cut her ropes.

CAVEMAN KING
WHAT?! Where'd you find that?

PRINCE ADAM
There ya go. I knew you'd think of
something, sis!

MARCO
 (cheers)
 Alright, Eve!

She flicks it— The spear SHIFTS into a BOOMERANG, slams into Caveman O's head.

He stumbles—DROPS the rock on his foot.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN O
 Argh!!!

The boomerang whips around—dropping guards, knocking the Caveman King flat— and RETURNS to Eve's hand, reshaping into a spear.

She frees the others.

PRINCESS EVE
 Move!

Marco spots the gourd, sprints over, and picks it up.

MARCO
 Still got juice!

The Caveman King and his minions slowly return to their feet.

CAVEMAN KING
 NO! Stop them!

Marco drinks—tosses it to Adam.

They GROW—now 30-FOOT GIANTS.

PRINCE ADAM
 It's good to be back!

Maria grabs a club—takes down a charging Caveman.

MARIA
 That's for earlier.

Eve faces another guard—her spear shifts mid-strike, dropping him clean.

Eve and Maria take down Silverstone Caveman G together.

Marco and Adam clash with the enemy giants—TEAMWORK. Adam finishes one. Marco struggles—Adam jumps in.

MARCO
 Hey, I had him!

PRINCE ADAM
 Didn't look like it.

CUT TO:

The defeated Cavemen are TIED in the catapult, enemy giants returned to normal size.

Marco and Adam drop the rock— LAUNCHING them into the sky.

MARCO
 Enjoy your flight!

They scream as they disappear into the sky above.

MARIA
 Whew! I am so glad that wasn't us.
 That did not sound fun at all.

CAVEMAN KING
 NO! What have you done?!

PRINCE ADAM
 Not to worry, Your Highness. You're
 next in line!

Marco and Adam charge— But SHRINK BACK to normal size at the last second.

MARCO
 Uh-oh.

PRINCE ADAM
 Crud, I forgot this stuff isn't
 permanent.

The Caveman King LAUGHS.

CAVEMAN KING
 Now fight me like real men.

Adam charges at the Caveman King.

PRINCE ADAM
 Marco, stay back! Let me handle
 this!

Adam trades a few blows with the Caveman King but is overtaken and tossed to the ground.

CAVEMAN KING

(laughs)

Is that all? Even my disgrace of a son—is stronger than you.

Marco charges forth.

MARCO

I got this!

PRINCE ADAM

Marco, no!

The Caveman King stops Marco's punch.

CAVEMAN KING

You wear the armor of a warrior,
but you fail to fight like one.

He leans in close, his breath hot and rancid.

MARCO

(wincing, fanning)

Phew! Is toothpaste too progressive
for you, too?

He CRUSHES Marco's hand—hurles him toward an open window.
Marco catches the ledge.

EVERYONE

MARCO!

Marco struggles to climb up. The Caveman King stomps toward
him.

CAVEMAN KING

Your recklessness will be the death
of you. Farewell, boy!

MARIA

Get away from him!

Maria charges, swinging her club. The Caveman King catches it
mid-swing, snaps it in half, and grabs her by the arm.

CAVEMAN KING

Don't embarrass yourself, girlie!

He hurles her across the room.

Adam sprints over and catches Marco's arm just as his grip
slips.

PRINCE ADAM

I got you!

He pulls Marco back inside.

MARCO

Aww, Maria! You do care!

Maria groans as Eve helps her up, brushing herself off and rolling her eyes.

PRINCE ADAM

Hey! I'm the reason you're not
jungle jelly right now.

MARCO

Yeah, yeah, thanks, Sir Save-a-Lot.
I'm just surprised she didn't let
me die!

MARIA

Don't read into it.

But she can't help a small smile. Marco grins back. Eve
Charges forth.

PRINCESS EVE

This is the end for you! Your reign
of terror is over!

She swings her spear at him, he dodges. He lifts her by the
throat and tosses her spear across the room. He walks towards
the window ledge.

CAVEMAN KING

Your determination is admirable.
But now your fire will die with
you.

PRINCE ADAM

Eve!

MARIA

Let her go, you disgusting creep!

Maria grabs the spear. It shifts into a boomerang with
spikes. She throws it at the Caveman King, striking his hand
and releasing his grip on Eve. His hand gets cut.

CAVEMAN KING

Gahh!

Eve drops to the ground, gasping for air. Marco lifts an
asteroid, straining. Adam joins in.

PRINCE ADAM
Let's do it together!

Marco sighs, pauses and nods.

MARCO
Okay.

The Caveman King raises a foot over Eve about to crush her.
She cowers.

CAVEMAN KING
Don't worry. I'll tell your father
you died an honorable death.

PRINCE ADAM
Now!

Marco and Adam hurl the asteroid powerfully through the air
charging at the Caveman King.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)
Eat asteroid, you oversized
Neanderthal!

The Caveman King turns—too late.

The asteroid SLAMS into him—launching over the edge, falling
to his doom.

Eve, Marco, Maria, and Adam peer over the edge. Marco waves
and shouts.

MARCO
Bye, bye, Barbarian Breath! Hope
the afterlife has mouthwash!

Eve steps to the catapult. Her spear GLOWS—shifts into a
PLASMA BLADE.

One clean SWING— The catapult SPLITS IN TWO.

PRINCESS EVE
Good riddance.

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE YARD - NIGHT

Adam, Eve, Maria, and Marco exit the castle. Eerie swamplands
stretch out before them. The jungle breathes with unseen
life.

MARCO

Whew! That was too close. Let's never do that again.

MARIA

For once, I agree with you. That place was a dump and a death trap. Mani-pedi. Immediately.

Eve shoots her a look.

PRINCESS EVE

What's the matter, Ms. Living Life on the Edge? Too much for you?

MARIA

Okay—maybe I pushed things a bit.

PRINCESS EVE

A bit? We were kidnapped. Almost killed. Because you wanted an adventure.

Maria stiffens.

MARIA

Don't pin this all on me. You came so you could survey the land for your royal project.

She locks eyes with Eve.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(beat)

You weren't here for me. You were using me.

PRINCESS EVE

That's not— I—

PRINCE ADAM

Project?

(beat)

You started without me? I thought we agreed to collaborate.

PRINCESS EVE

We were. I just wanted a head start.

Adam looks away. Hurt, quiet.

MARCO
 Ooh, this is awkward.
 (beat)
 Don't worry, Eve, I still like you.

Eve glares at him.

PRINCE ADAM
 Forget it. Let's just get home.

They turn toward the dark forest.

MARIA
 Any ideas where home is?

PRINCE ADAM
 None.

A BLINDING WHITE LIGHT sweeps over them.

PRINCESS EVE
 Get down!

They duck as the ORB spacecraft ROARS overhead, weaving through the treetops before vanishing.

MARCO
 ...What the heck was that?

The light continues upward—through the treetops—through a narrow tower window—

INT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - PRINCE CHAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The light washes across Chad's sleeping face.

His eyes SNAP open.

Disoriented, on edge, he sits up. He crosses to the window, pulls the curtain aside—

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Below, the jungle sways. The light fades.

Nothing.

Chad scans the darkness, frustrated. Whatever just passed... it's gone. He tightens his grip on the stone ledge.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE YARD - NIGHT

Far below, Eve, Adam, Maria, and Marco slip into the shadows of the jungle – exhausted, bruised, alive.

Unseen. Unnoticed, just missing Chad's scope of vision.

The Orb spacecraft's echo fades into the distance.

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

FAINT SHOUTS echo somewhere deep within the castle.

Indistinct. Urgent.

GUARD (O.S)
(distant)
–The prisoners–

ANOTHER VOICE (O.S.)
–They're gone–

A THIRD VOICE (O.S.)
Sound the alarm!

Chad SNAPS his head back toward the door, suddenly alert.

Listening.

The distant clamor swells – overlapping voices, feet pounding – then bleeds into chaos.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ivan scans the dark forest through binoculars. Sentries march below with oil lamps, scattered across the jungle.

A Sentry with an oil lamp in hand approaches him at his side.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY I
Sir, the search parties still
haven't found the royal heirs—or
their friends.

CAPTAIN IVAN
Have you checked in with Jenny?

GOLDLEAF SENTRY I (CONT'D)
Yes, Captain. Neither she nor her
brother, Riley, has seen them since
this morning.

Ivan exhales.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Increase the number of foot soldiers and expand the search perimeter. We have to find them—now.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY I

Yes, sir.

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM FOREST - NIGHT

SUPER: SEVERAL HOURS LATER

Deep inside the forest.

A large crowd of Silverstone Cavemen stand shoulder-to-shoulder, beating conga drums in ritual rhythm as Cavewomen dance in a circling formation.

A large, grey tombstone engraved with the words:

"THE CAVEMAN KING CROTHAR SILVERSTONE"

The tombstone is planted firmly in the soil in the center of the commotion. His broken crown lies at the foot of the tombstone.

Behind the stone are the remnants of his tunic burning in a blazing campfire. The inferno burns brightly as the only source of light for the night.

Grulk approaches with a heavy lion-fur tunic draped in his arms. The fur is thick, regal, and symbolic of power—once worn by the Caveman King himself.

He halts in front of Chad—stiff, reluctant. His jaw tightens. A long beat.

Then, with clear effort, Grulk kneels.

He drapes the lion fur over Chad's shoulders, the weight pulling Chad slightly down as he adjusts. He kneels again.

The other Silverstone warriors follow suit, kneeling slowly—tense, unsure. One or two cast uneasy glances.

CUT TO:

Chad stands rigid a few feet from the tombstone. Fire dances in his cold eyes. Tears threaten to fall, but he holds them back.

He clenches his fists.

Something darker settles in.

EXT. SILVERSTONE JUNGLE - NIGHT

Eve, Adam, Maria, and Marco wander deep into the dark jungle—lost, exhausted, and terrified.

MARIA

(exhales)

Ugh. Where the heck are we? I once led a group through the Dinosaur Desert. But this? I got nothing.

Maria wipes the sweat from her face. Eve studies the endless jungle expanse around them.

PRINCESS EVE

Agreed. It doesn't appear that we're getting any closer to home. We need to get back to the kingdom before something out here gets to us.

PRINCE ADAM

We're in the heart of the jungle and the belly of the beast.

(beat)

Kingdom Wonders who could grant wishes used to live in the forests beyond the crystal caverns... but they vanished years ago.

(quiet)

They would've helped.

MARCO

Nerd stuff again, huh?

Adam grimaces at Marco.

MARCO

You guys are going about this all wrong. Instead of looking for help, we should bring it straight to us.

Marco stops in his tracks and faces the group. They cease in their movement and stare at him puzzled. Maria rolls her eyes.

MARIA

(sighs)

Marco, what are you talking about now?

MARCO

Watch this!

Marco howls strangely.

MARIA

What are you doing? Stop that! You're gonna draw attention to us!

MARCO

That's the whole point! I'm summoning a bird to fly us back.

PRINCESS EVE

I'm no wild bird expert, but that doesn't sound like the correct call.

PRINCE ADAM

She's right. You should be careful. You might call forth the wrong animal.

MARCO

Relax. I took hunting class. Animals and me? We get each other.

He howls again.

Adam does a distinct bird call. A silver bird lands on his shoulder. The bird chirps quietly.

PRINCE ADAM

You were saying?

MARIA

Oh, she's so precious!

Maria strokes the bird gently.

MARCO

(growls irately)

That's it! Why do you always have to one-up me, man!

PRINCE ADAM

I wasn't. I was just trying to make a point!

MARCO

Yeah, well no one asked you! We get that you're amazing at everything! You don't have to prove it to us every single second.

Everyone is silent for a moment. The air is tense.

PRINCESS EVE

Look, I think we all just need to take a breath.

MARCO

(scoffs)

Whatever. I'll be over there if anyone needs me...

Marco begins to walk away from the group.

MARCO (CONT'D)

(mutters)

Not that anyone would...

(screams)

Ugh! Will something get us out of this stupid jung-

A pterodactyl swoops down and snatches Marco by the hair, lifting him into the air.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Ahhh! Help! Help!

EVERYONE

MARCO!!!

PRINCE ADAM

Quick! Everyone grab on!

They all grab onto each other and are lifted high above the trees. They scream as they struggle to hang on, swinging wildly.

PRINCESS EVE

Try and hold on!

MARCO

Like we have a choice?! Ugh, this thing is ripping out my hair!

Maria looks down to only see the treetops.

MARIA

I really don't like this. Where's
it taking us?

MARCO

Hey, bird brain! Can you ease up on
the grasp? You're messing up the
bangs!

Marco smacks the pterodactyl. The pterodactyl screeches and
lowers them back towards the ground.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Ha! Ya see that? It's listening to
me. Told you I had it handled.

PRINCE ADAM

Yeah, or you just provoked it.

MARCO

No way! We should be back on the
ground any minute now.

The pterodactyl lets go of its grip on Marco.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Oh man!

MARIA

You were saying?

They all begin to free-fall, plummeting toward the trees
below. They crash through the thick leaves, vines, and
branches until they hit the forest floor.

They all land face-first in a tremendous pile of dewy grass
and leaves.

Everyone is dazed and slowly rises up to their feet. Marco is
the first one up.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Wow, that was sick! Minus all the
leaves that got stuck in my hair.

Marco uses a twig to comb out the leaves from his hair.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Everyone else good?

The others moan in pain and glare at Marco in rage.

MARIA

No, we're not okay! You could've killed us with your Jurassic Park stunt! What's the matter with you?

MARCO

How's this my fault? I didn't know some terrifying dino demon would snatch me up like that!

Marco begins to turn and walk in the other direction.

MARCO (CONT'D)

I'm done with this spoiled group.

Marco trips over something hidden beneath the leaves, triggering a net trap that yanks them all into the air.

MARIA

And here we go again.

PRINCE ADAM

You should really refrain from griping out loud. Nature doesn't seem to like it, and it's not doing us any favors.

MARCO

How about you do me a favor and keep the advice to yourself, bro? I don't recall asking for your superior insight on everything?

Adam sighs.

Eve spots movement in the bushes. Her spear, now in compact mode, slips from her tunic and falls through the net.

PRINCE ADAM

Okay, whatever, man.

MARIA

Why don't you actually listen to Adam for once instead of always being in your feelings? He actually knows what he's talking about.

The shadow of a large, ominous being emerges from the bushes. His gigantic, fungi-infected feet trudge across the forest floor. He grips a sizable wooden club in his fist.

PRINCESS EVE

Um...guys...

MARCO

Yeah and I don't, right? I'm just a weak, shaggy-haired, simple-minded, idiot who can't do anything right.

PRINCESS EVE

You guys...

PRINCE ADAM

(chuckles)

You said it, not me.

A robustly built, 7-foot OGRE with large black eyes, misshapen ears, and a big horn on his head stands before them with a fur cloth tied around his waist.

MARCO

That's it! You know what?

Marco lunges at Adam. They scuffle, tangled in the net.

PRINCE ADAM

Hey, get off me!

MARIA

Will you two quit it already?!

PRINCESS EVE

(yelling)

GUYS!

Marco and Adam cease in their brawl and turn to Eve.

MARCO WHAT?!

PRINCE ADAM WHAT?!

The Ogre roars ominously that sends a chilling breeze across the forest and raises his club in the air.

The group falls silent, and slowly turns their gazes toward the beast.

The Ogre's mouth salivates uncontrollably as he beats his chest powerfully.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

THAT!

MARCO

(swallows)

Okay...maybe I do make everything worse.

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM FOREST - NIGHT

Chad stands in the middle of the forest with several dozen henchmen divided into different groups.

A few supply trucks from the modern cities unload boxes of modern weapons and devices that the Cavemen collect and play with: walkie talkies, remote-controlled flying drones, mini blasters, magnetic mines, etc.

Chad is on the phone with the Missing Person's Investigator (MPI) from the modern towns.

PRINCE CHAD
(on the phone)
Yes, I can talk freely now.

MPI (O.S.)
We believe we are getting closer to narrowing the search. Our sources say she's likely to be living in the arts and entertainment district.

PRINCE CHAD
Okay, thank you. I'm working on another search at the moment. I'll check in again when I'm finished.

MPI (O.S.)
Sounds good. And, um..

PRINCE CHAD
What is it?

MPI (O.S.)
(hesitates)
It's just that with all this additional work, there may be-

PRINCE CHAD
Don't worry. Your overtime pay will be doubled.

MPI (O.S.)
Pleasure doing business. I'll be in touch.

Chad gets off the phone and turns to his men who stand at attention.

PRINCE CHAD

The prisoners who escaped are responsible for my father's death. We can't let them get away.

GRULK

Sir, we've been scouring the cliffs all night. At some point, we need rest.

PRINCE CHAD

(coldly)

What did you say?

GRULK

I said—this hunt is pointless. Your father would've had them in chains by now.

(beat)

Not playing hide-and-seek with these ridiculous toys from the world of spoon-fed thinkers.

Chad grimaces. He looks at the sky and exhales. His eyes drift to the volcano in the distance, a low orange glow pulsing at its core. His jaw tightens. He turns back to Grulk.

Grulk swallows.

CUT TO:

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM FOREST - CLIFF EDGE - NIGHT

A few Cavemen hold a terrified Grulk at the edge of a cliff. He peers down — a volcano churns far below.

Chad stands before him, eyes cold and unblinking.

PRINCE CHAD

This will be your last demotion.

Chad turns his back and walks away.

GRULK

No, wait, please! I misspoke. I was wrong—

PRINCE CHAD

(coldly)

Toss him.

They hurl Grulk over the edge. His screams echo briefly... then vanish.

Chad faces the remaining warriors.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
Anyone else need a break?

Silence.

PRINCE CHAD
My father is gone. Anyone who
questions my rule will join him.

The warriors stiffen.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
Split into subgroups. They can't
have gone far.

The men nod and disperse into the forest.

EXT. SILVERSTONE JUNGLE - NIGHT

The Ogre roars and charges, club raised like a piñata stick.

PRINCESS EVE
Brace for impact!

They scream - struggle -

WHAM!

BRAD (26), tall and strapping with long white hair and a green wolf-fur tunic, bursts from the bush and SLAMS into the Ogre.

BRAD
Stay away from them, you filthy
oversized brute!

They crash into the dirt.

MARCO
Whoa! Who is this guy? He makes
Adam look like me-
(beat)
Wait, that came out wrong.

MARIA
Who cares who he is—he's hot!

Eve grabs for the spear on the ground. It's too far.

PRINCE ADAM
Judging by his build, posture, and
confidence, he's got this.

Brad straddles the Ogre, raining punches – until the beast
kicks him off.

The Ogre lunges back, pinning Brad to the ground and clamping
both hands around his throat.

Brad gasps, legs kicking as the grip tightens.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)
Okay...maybe I was wrong.

MARCO
So much for your expert assessment.
He's a goner and we're next!

Brad flings dirt into the Ogre's eyes, then lunges, trapping
it in a headlock as it thrashes wildly.

BRAD
Grr—hold still, and make this easy
on yourself!

The Ogre hurls Brad into the dirt and pins him in a bearhug.
Brad head-butts its nose, sending it staggering. He rises,
ready for more.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Alright, beastie—playtime's over!

Brad spins, kicks the ogre off balance, then smashes the club
across its skull. It collapses. Brad plants a foot on its
chest, club ready.

BRAD (CONT'D)
And stay down!

Brad glares down, tightens his grip, and raises the club for
one final strike.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Just to be sure!

PRINCESS EVE
NO! That's enough! Please—don't
kill him!

Brad hesitates, glancing at Eve. He sighs and lowers the club, shaking his head.

CUT TO:

The Goldleafers, back on solid ground, untangle themselves from the shredded netting.

In the distance, the Ogre's limp body is bound to a thick jungle tree.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

Thanks again for saving us. We would've been a campfire roast if you hadn't shown up.

BRAD

Don't mention it. Just look'n out for my fellow mates in the kingdom.

PRINCESS EVE

I'm Princess Eve. That's my brother Adam, and these are our friends— Maria and Marco.

Everyone gives Brad a wave or nod.

BRAD

Princess Eve—knew I recognized you. An honor to be of service.

Brad takes a bow before her.

PRINCESS EVE

Oh please, no need to be formal.

BRAD

Are you kidding? Your father's a legend. His battles are epic. A real force—ruthless to his enemies.

Brad's eyes light up. He throws a few playful air punches.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Always dreamed of meeting him.

PRINCE ADAM

(coldly)

You know what they say. Never meet your heroes.

(beat)

(MORE)

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)
I wouldn't get caught up in all the
hype.

BRAD
(clears throat)
Right... uh, Brad Rockford.

Brad shakes Eve's hand firmly.

BRAD (CONT'D)
It's nice to meet all of you.

PRINCESS EVE
Likewise.

Maria holds her ankle in pain.

MARCO
(concerned)
You alright?

Maria waves him away.

MARIA
(grumbling)
I'm fine.

Brad approaches Maria.

BRAD
That looks bad. Are you sure you're
okay?

Maria instantly softens her tone, feigning helplessness.

MARIA
It does sting...I don't think I can
walk on it.

BRAD
No worries—I've got you.

Brad scoops Maria into his arms and walks on, holding her
close.

MARCO
I thought you said—

MARIA
Oh, hush, Marco! I'm much better
now.

BRAD
So, where ya guys headed?

MARIA (CONT'D)
Anywhere with you.

Brad chuckles.

PRINCESS EVE
Back to Goldleaf.

BRAD
Okay, not too far from here. If we take my boat, we can get there by sunrise.

MARIA
(gasps)
You have a boat? Is it strong- like you?

Brad blushes. Marco rolls his eyes.

MARCO
(grumbling)
Should've let the ogre eat me.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - BEACH SHORELINE - DAY

Eve, Adam, Marco, Maria, and Brad all approach the shore in a wooden canoe. The shore is quiet and peaceful. They all step foot onto the sand.

BRAD
Here we are-welcome home, everyone!

Maria inhales the morning air.

MARIA
Finally-home sweet home! Time to pick up the party where we left it.

Marco stretches his legs with an exaggerated groan.

MARCO
Yeah, right before the Caveman King went all conquest-crazy and tried to kill us.

SOMEONE watches them all from the bushes of the nearby forest and eavesdrops on their conversation.

BRAD

So, you really took him down—for good?

PRINCE ADAM

Hey! Don't sound so surprised. We can hold our own, too.

BRAD

No doubt. I just wish I was there to dig his grave. You have my utmost respect.

MARIA

Don't be silly. You were amazing wrestling that ogre.

Maria squeezes the bicep on Brad's arm.

BRAD

Yeah, but a mere jungle beast doesn't match the Caveman King and his army.

MARCO

Got that right!

Marco puts a friendly arm around Adam.

MARCO (CONT'D)

(snickers)

And thanks to us. The hairy pest got put to rest!

PRINCE CHAD (O.S.)

So it was YOU!

Chad and his army appear from the forest, carrying him in a royal chair.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

You're the ones who murdered him!

Everyone freezes.

PRINCE CHAD

No one will commit such atrocities against my family's kingdom and get away with it!

MARCO

Okay, pal—don't get your tunic in a twist.

(MORE)

MARCO (CONT'D)

Who died and made you king to throw
this annoying little tantrum so
early in the morning?

Chad rises out of his chair and glares at Marco.

PRINCE CHAD

I DID!

(beat)

I am the honorable Prince Chadrion
Silverstone, and you Goldleaf rats
are at the mercy of my burning
vengeance.

MARCO

Ah, okay...that makes more sense.

Beat. Camera on Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

Chad?

Eve looks on in shock. Her memories of the past flood her
mind.

INSERT FLASHBACK:

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - DAY

SUPER: 13 YEARS AGO - MONTHS BEFORE ATTEMPTED GOLDLEAF
KINGDOM INVASION

Eve (10) wanders anxiously through the forest bushes.

Edith calls from a distance, flustered.

QUEEN EDITH (O.S.)

Eve! Where are you? Get back here
this instant!

Eve freezes. She ducks lower, scrambling backward—

Too late.

She slips down a steep embankment and SLAMS into the trunk of
an enormous golden-leafed tree. She cries out, clutching her
scraped knee.

Above her, a massive BEEHIVE breaks loose— It CRASHES at her
feet and SHATTERS. A SWARM OF BEES erupts violently into the
air.

Eve panics.

From the bushes nearby, Chad (12) watches—concerned, conflicted.

The QUEEN BEE separates from the swarm, hovering inches from Eve's crown, mesmerized by its shine.

PRINCESS EVE

Shoo! Get away!

She swats.

The Queen Bee STINGS her and darts off.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

OUCH!

Tears well. Eve limps toward a nearby clear river, gritting through the pain. She lowers her leg into the water. It stings—then slowly soothes.

Eve stares at her reflection. Something heavier than pain sits behind her eyes.

She removes her crown and sets it beside the riverbank. She breaks down, wiping her face over and over.

A SHADOW appears beside her reflection. She looks up.

Chad stands there, hesitant but gentle. He crouches and holds out a crushed plant, sap oozing between his fingers.

PRINCE CHAD

This should help your leg.

She eyes him—then the sap—then nods. She rubs it on her leg.

The pain fades almost instantly. Her eyes widen.

PRINCESS EVE

Wow, it worked!

(beat)

Thank you.

PRINCE CHAD

I got hurt here once, too. My father said I was weak for getting hurt. You're not weak.

He smiles, she smiles back. He offers his hand.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

(confidently)

I'm Prince Chad.

She shakes his hand. He gets to his feet and helps her up.

PRINCESS EVE

Eve. Pleasure to meet you.

Chad notices her crown on the ground. He picks it up, places it carefully back on her head.

PRINCE CHAD

Don't you mean *Princess* Eve?

PRINCESS EVE

(embarrassed)

Um...yes.

PRINCE CHAD

You should always know your title, or else those beneath you will never respect you.

Eve looks at him confused and offended.

PRINCESS EVE

No one's beneath me.

He hesitates, as if this challenges what he's been taught.

PRINCE CHAD

Whatever. Now that I saved you—be my princess!

He extends his hand like it's obvious.

Eve SMACKS it away.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

Ow! Hey—what was that for?

PRINCESS EVE

It's gonna take a lot more than a bee sting to be worthy of me—or my kingdom.

Chad blinks. Confused. Hurt.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a silver-stone bracelet.

PRINCE CHAD

At least take this. It was supposed to be for my mom... but she's been gone for a while.

He forces a smile.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

Please?

Eve hesitates—then gently takes it, slipping it onto her wrist.

PRINCESS EVE

Thank you.

(beat)

Here.

She removes a bone necklace and places it around his neck.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

My father made this for me.

Chad touches it, surprised.

PRINCE CHAD

It's nice.

QUEEN EDITH (O.S.)

EVE!

Edith storms into view with TWO SENTRIES.

She sees Chad—and stops cold.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

She yanks Eve away.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)

You are *not* to speak with that boy.
He's from the rival kingdom. You
know better.

PRINCE CHAD

She didn't do anything wrong!

QUEEN EDITH

(coldly)

You have no authority here, boy.

Chad clenches his jaw.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)

(to Eve)

Come. We have much to go over.

She drags Eve away.

PRINCESS EVE
Mother—he was helping me—

QUEEN EDITH
He can't help you!

Edith notices the sting on Eve's knee.

QUEEN EDITH (CONT'D)
I don't know what's worse—that bee,
or that boy.

Chad freezes. Eve looks back one last time.

Their eyes meet. Tears fill Chad's.

Eve is pulled out of sight. Chad stands alone in the forest,
gripping the necklace.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - BEACH SHORELINE - DAY

PRINCE CHAD
From this point on, you are all
prisoners of the Silverstone
Kingdom.

PRINCE ADAM
Your father came after us. We
defended ourselves!

Chad's eyes flare.

PRINCE CHAD
Shut up! Don't try and justify your
crimes! Seize them!

Silverstone Cavemen surge forward.

Marco, Brad, and Adam instinctively fall into fighting
stances. Maria leans toward Eve, uneasy.

MARIA
Eve, isn't that the guy we were
talking about earlier?

Chad hears it. His attention snaps to Eve.

PRINCE CHAD
 (quiet, stunned)
 ..Eve?

Memory hits.

His hand tightens around the bone necklace beneath his armor.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
 Take them.
 (beat)
 Except for her.

He points directly at Eve.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
 Bring her to me.

Marco swallows hard.

MARCO
 Yeah... I don't think we can take
 these guys. There's too many of
 'em.

BRAD
 Hate to admit it... but I think
 you're right.

Brad steps back, fists still clenched.

Adam doesn't move. A distant echo in his mind—

KING ANDREW (V.O.)
 A prince is never taken.

Adam tightens his grip.

PRINCE ADAM
 No way! I'm not getting captured a
 third time.
 (shouts)
 Come and get some!

He charges. Brad exhales.

BRAD
 ..Oh, what the heck. May as well
 try.

Brad barrels into three Cavemen at once. Adam tackles one—but
 is immediately swarmed. Three Cavemen slam him down.

He goes limp.

Brad lands a few heavy blows—but numbers overwhelm him. They force Brad to his knees.

Chad steps forward, towering.

PRINCE CHAD

You two are strong. I could use warriors like you. Pledge your allegiance... and I'll let you live.

BRAD

And betray my village?

Chad raises an eyebrow—confused

BRAD (CONT'D)

(spits, laughing)

Never.

(coughs)

You can forget it, you arrogant blonde bozo.

Chad studies him. Cold. Disappointed.

PRINCE CHAD

So be it.

He nods.

A Caveman STRIKES Brad from behind.

Brad collapses unconscious.

PRINCESS EVE

ADAM! BRAD! Chad—why are you doing this?! This isn't who you are!

Chad snaps toward her.

PRINCE CHAD

Quiet! You know nothing about me.

He turns back to his men.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

If they won't surrender, they'll learn through brute force.

Marco raises his hands, trembling.

MARCO

Message received! Loud and clear!

Cavemen advance.

MARCO (CONT'D)
 Hey—no need for brute force, I
 surren—

A Caveman punches him mid-sentence. Marco drops.

Another hoists him over his shoulder. Adam and Brad are carried off the same way.

Eve pulls out her spear. It's dull. Lifeless.

She shakes it—nothing.

A Caveman grabs Maria. Maria SLAPS him, knees him hard.

MARIA
 Don't you dare touch me!

Another Caveman scoops her up from behind and marches off.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Hey! Let go of me! You can't do
 this!

PRINCESS EVE
 Maria!

Eve rushes forward—

Two Cavemen seize her and bring her before Chad. He exhales, almost tired.

PRINCE CHAD
 (sighs)
 Why won't you just comply?

PRINCESS EVE
 Excuse me? Who do you think you are
 all of a sudden?

PRINCE CHAD
 The ruler of this kingdom. And you...
 will be my queen.

Eve scoffs.

PRINCESS EVE
 Yeah. No. I will *never* stand by
 your side.

Chad's smile fades.

PRINCE CHAD
 We'll see.

He turns to his remaining guards.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
Prepare the route to Cone City.
Begin phase two.

The Guards bow.

Eve is forced into his royal lounge chair. Chad sits beside her.

Four Cavemen hoist the chair onto their shoulders and begin marching down the shore, surrounded by guards.

Eve turns away, arms crossed, furious. Chad stretches back casually.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
You were right. I wasn't worthy of
your kingdom. But now, I don't need
your approval.

Chad reaches for her hand—

He stops. Notices the silver-stone bracelet still on her wrist. A flicker of something dangerous crosses his face.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
You kept my gift.

Eve SLAPS his hand away.

PRINCESS EVE
Don't even think about it.

Chad doesn't react. He simply leans back, watching her—calculating.

The march continues.

EXT. CONE CITY PARK - ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT FEST - DAY

A lively inner-city park buzzing with life.

Joggers pass by. Families picnic. Music pulses through the air.

A CROWD GATHERS IN A CIRCLE, kids perched on shoulders, adults leaning in.

At the center: NICK (17) – wiry, energetic, wearing a star-patterned orange cap and mismatched circus gear. Beside him, GROVER, a floppy-eared dog with theatrical flair.

Nick bows. Grover follows suit.

The crowd cheers.

INSERT MONTAGE:

– Nick and Grover balance on rolling balls, casually juggling as if it's second nature.

– Nick ignites miniature flaming hoops. Grover sprints and leaps cleanly through, landing with a proud pose. Applause erupts.

– Nick sets up three cups, hides a biscuit, shuffles fast. Grover sniffs... taps a cup. Correct.

Nick lifts the cup – empty.

The crowd gasps.

Nick grins – opens his mouth. The biscuit drops out. Laughter explodes.

– A rope stretched between crates. Grover balances, pausing for dramatic flair, then executes a clean flip dismount.

– Nick and Grover perform a simple synchronized dance.

Their shadows lag behind – then move differently, stretching just a beat too long before snapping back into sync.

Nick notices. Subtly adjusts.

Grover tilts his head, alert.

END MONTAGE.

Thunderous applause. Kids cheer. Phones go up.

Nick bows again, breathless but smiling. Grover soaks in the praise.

For a moment – Nick scans the crowd.

Someone watches from farther back. A MAN in a dark coat and brimmed hat watches from the edge of the crowd – sunglasses on, earpiece barely visible, eyes locked on Nick.

Nick's smile flickers... then returns.

CUT TO:

Nick signs a BOY'S ball with a marker. A short line of KIDS and PARENTS waits nearby.

NICK
There ya go, buddy.

He hands it back.

BOY
Can I take a picture?

NICK
(smiles)
Of course.

Nick crouches. The Boy's MOM snaps a photo.

BOY
Thanks, Mr. Nick!

The Boy hugs him, then runs back to his parents. They wave.

Nick straightens – still smiling – until his eyes catch something O.S.

His smile fades.

Chad and his men PUSH through the park, shoving people aside.

PRINCE CHAD
Move! Outta the way!

PARKGOERS scatter, panicked. Nick swallows.

NICK
Uh—sorry, everyone. That's all for
today.
(to Grover)
Time to go.

Nick takes off. Grover follows close behind as the crowd disperses.

Chad continues forward.

He stops.

Across the park, near an ICE CREAM STAND, he spots a BLONDE, MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN from behind.

Chad's breath catches. He approaches slowly... taps her shoulder.

PRINCE CHAD

Excuse me—

She turns, holding rocky road ice cream. Not who he thought.

WOMAN

Yes?

Chad stiffens. Masks it.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

Sorry...

(beat)

Never mind.

She walks off.

Chad remains — alone, unsettled. He watches the crowd... then clenches his jaw and turns in the direction Nick fled.

EXT. CONE CITY PARK - ALLEYWAY - DAY

Nick hides with Grover behind a dumpster in a narrow, eerie backstreet. Nick peeks over the rim. Clear.

He kneels, pats Grover's head.

NICK

You stay here, boy. If anything happens to me—run. Okay?

Grover whimpers.

NICK (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I'll be back.

Nick slips around the corner into an adjacent alley.

Still clear.

He hugs the wall, moving cautiously. Then— he stops.

Ahead, yellow CAUTION TAPE blocks off part of the alley. Orange cones surround a CRATERED IMPACT ZONE in the pavement. Five massive holes. Cracks spiderweb outward. Debris still scattered.

Nick ducks under the tape, crouches.

Among the rubble— a torn piece of fur-lined, tiger-striped tunic, dirty and half-buried.

Primitive. Not from this world. Nick exhales, brow tightening.

NICK (CONT'D)

No way... they really hit this far
(mutter)
Guess they didn't stick the
landing.

He lets the fabric fall. Glances skyward.

Realization hits. This is where they landed.

Nick backs away— his foot CLANGS against a trash can. The sound ECHOES.

Nick freezes.

A massive SHADOW creeps up behind him. Nick turns—

A Silverstone Caveman looms over him, grinning.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN Q

There you are!

He SNATCHES Nick off the ground, locking him in a brutal reverse hold. Nick thrashes.

NICK

Hey! Let go of me! You can't—!

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN Q

Hold still!

Grover bursts from hiding, barking wildly.

NICK

No! Grover—stay back!

Grover lunges—BITES the Caveman's leg.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN Q

Ahh! Dirty mutt—!

The Caveman KICKS Grover. He flies through the air, landing in an open dumpster.

Nick SCREAMS.

EXT. CONE CITY PARK - SIDEWALK - DAY

Chad stands at the mouth of the alley, arms folded, simmering.

Caveman Q emerges, dragging Nick forward.

PRINCE CHAD

So... you thought you could hide from me?

NICK

You can't keep doing this! I told you already, I don't want to be part of your pathetic little pipe dream to conquer the world! Just leave me alone!

Chad steps closer, calm... amused.

PRINCE CHAD

You still don't understand, my little miracle maker. No matter what world you run to—prehistoric or modern— you're still in *my* world.

(beat)

And I always get what I want in my world.

Nick struggles, furious.

NICK

I won't continue being your pawn.

Chad's smile fades.

PRINCE CHAD

You don't get a choice.

(to Caveman Q)

Take him.

Caveman Q hauls Nick away.

Nick locks eyes with Chad as he's dragged off—pure defiance.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OFF THE GRID LOCATION - TINY

SHED - DAY

Marco, Adam, Brad, and Maria sit in a tiny, dark, dingy metal shed. One small window lets in a crack of light.

MARCO

That little punk! Who does he think
he is?

Marco presses his back to the wall, slides to the floor,
burying his face in his hands.

MARCO

How long is he gonna keep us
trapped in this dump?

Maria massages her ankle.

MARIA

This is almost as bad as the
Caveman King's dungeon. Wish you
and Adam had that size-boost stuff
again so we could teach that
pompous pig a lesson.

Brad pauses mid-crunch.

BRAD

Size-boost?

PRINCE ADAM

Back in Silverstone, we had some
power water that made us huge.
Those dirtbags didn't stand a
chance.

BRAD

Wow... that's next-level beast mode.
Definitely something we could use
about now.

PRINCE ADAM

There's gotta be a weak spot
somewhere. Maybe the door?

Brad inspects it.

BRAD

(shakes handle)
Solid. Reinforced metal. No way
we're busting through without a
battering ram.

PRINCE ADAM

(groans)
Sitting ducks at the mercy of this
clown!

Adam punches the wall.

MARIA

Calm down, Adam. Eve will figure something out. She always does.

Brad stretches near Marco.

MARCO

(to Brad)

If you can't get us out, we're doomed.

BRAD

Don't say that. You're just as useful as I am.

MARCO

Yeah, right. You're literally Tarzan. I can't fight ogres or Chad's army. The most I do is get my butt handed to me.

BRAD

I wasn't always this way.

MARCO

Don't try to make me feel better.

BRAD

Seriously. I couldn't always protect the people I cared about.

INSERT FLASHBACK:

EXT. FOREST VILLAGE - NIGHT

Young Brad (8) runs from fire-breathing beasts engulfing his village. His family falls behind. A monster closes in.

BRAD

MOM!

BRAD'S MOTHER

Brad! Run!

A fireball wipes out much of the crowd and his family.

CUT TO:

Brad stands on a hill, surveying the destroyed village.

BRAD (V.O.)
I was the only survivor.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Brad (13) builds weapons and boats from scratch.

BRAD (V.O.)
I had to survive on my own. The
jungle became my home and training
ground.

A giant carved statue of King Andrew washes ashore.

BRAD (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That statue inspired me.

CUT TO:

Brad (18) wrestles small dinosaurs and saber-tooth tigers.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OFF THE GRID LOCATION - TINY

SHED - DAY

BRAD
Until this day, I've never lost to
a jungle predator.

Marco observes Brad's scars.

BRAD (CONT'D)
I gained a reputation: the Wild
Guardian.

MARCO
Wow... I'm just the laughingstock
jock back home.

BRAD
(laughs)
That's rough. But at least you have
a community. The jungle doesn't
judge... but it doesn't laugh with
you either.

MARCO

Guess I never saw it like that.
Sorry for your loss, dude.

BRAD

No need. It forged who I am.

MARCO

My dad's my inspiration. He earned
this armor.

(beat)

I'm just playing dress-up.

Brad punches Marco's shoulder playfully.

BRAD

Keep at it, Marco.

Marco nods, smiles.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - DIRT PATH - DAY

Chad and his army march through the forest.

Eve watches helpless Nick, slumped over Caveman Q's shoulder.

Chad lounges next to Eve, casually plucking grapes from a
low-hanging branch. He pops a few into his mouth, then offers
her the vine.

PRINCE CHAD

Want some? They're really good.

Eve turns away, arms crossed.

PRINCESS EVE

Is this what you do? Use and abuse
innocent people to satisfy your
twisted wishes?

Chad exhales.

PRINCE CHAD

You know, I didn't think it was
possible back then... but you've
really grown to be so much more
beautiful over time.

He reaches toward her face. Eve recoils.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

Ugh, you're just like your father.

PRINCE CHAD

My father also thought you were pretty?

PRINCESS EVE

No. Conceited. Cold-hearted. Misguided. Uncivilized. He never cared about the suffering he caused generations of kingdoms.

PRINCE CHAD

Don't compare me to him. I'm nothing like him.

PRINCESS EVE

Oh, right. You're just doing everything he did. My mistake.

PRINCE CHAD

Look, I'm trying to be nice to you, okay?

PRINCESS EVE

By kidnapping me? Imprisoning my friends? Trying to overthrow my kingdom? You're really setting the bar high for "citizen of the year."

Chad grimaces, annoyed.

PRINCE CHAD

It could be much worse.

PRINCESS EVE

I don't doubt that.
(murmurs)
Everything gets worse with you around.

Chad scowls, sinks back, and stares off in the opposite direction.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OPEN FIELD - DAY

Chad stands in the middle of a tall grass field.

A pair of Chad's minions drag Nick to the center of the field and toss him to the ground before Chad. Eve and Chad's men stand far away in the distance.

Nick gets to his feet and dusts himself off.

PRINCE CHAD
Okay, let's get to it.

NICK
Get to what?

PRINCE CHAD
Don't play dumb, brat. You're going to grant me three favors—I'm not asking twice.

NICK
(sighs)
Okay...what are they?

Chad thinks and paces back and forth.

PRINCE CHAD
First — make me stronger. Stronger than anyone else.

Nick rolls his eyes.

NICK
(mumbles)
Of course.

PRINCE CHAD
Then I want an army. As many as it takes.
(thinks again)
I'll have to give my final favor some more thought.

Chad slowly looks back at Nick who remains idle.

PRINCE CHAD
What are you just standing there for? Do it already!

NICK
Okay, okay! Relax.

Nick snaps his fingers and a white light engulfs them and the entire field. A beam zaps Chad and a few of his men.

The light slowly fades and reveals Chad as a 45ft giant and dozens more henchmen appear around him.

PRINCESS EVE
(sighs)
Front-row seats to a full-blown ego.

Nick collapses to his knees and holds his side in pain.

As he lifts his head, his pupils flicker unnaturally – a rapid glitch of light pulses across his eyes, like a brief malfunction. He clenches his jaw, trying to hide it. He holds his pounding head.

NICK
(straining)
Alright, it's done. Happy now?

Chad observes his new body, much larger and toned.

PRINCE CHAD
(laughing)
Oh... this changes everything.

Chad observes Nick in pain.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
(amusing)
What's the matter? Can't handle
your own power?
(to his minions)
Take him. He'll be useful later!

A group of Chad's new Cavemen capture Nick and carry him away.

Chad's phone rings in his pocket. He digs into his pocket and pulls it out. He opens it and sees *81 missed calls and 38 voicemail messages from Princess Aira*. He grumbles.

PRINCE CHAD
Ugh. Why won't she give it a rest
already?

He turns to a few of his minions nearby.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
I'll be back.

He walks off into the trees to be alone.

Eve looks over at Nick who sits up against a tree with his head slung over and hands in his face. A few Cavemen stand in front of him with their backs to him.

She attempts to walk toward the forest trees. Two Cavemen step in front of her.

PRINCESS EVE
I need to relieve myself.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN R
Make it quick!

Eve nods and walks towards the trees.

Caveman R turns to Caveman S.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN R (CONT'D)
Watch her.

Caveman S nods and trails Eve closely behind. She eyes him and sees that she is being followed.

Eve finds a cluster of bushes near Nick and steps into them.

Silverstone Caveman S stops to watch her. Eve glares at Silverstone Caveman S and clears her throat.

PRINCESS EVE
Excuse me? A little privacy,
please.

Silverstone Caveman S's face reddens.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN S
Uh...right.

He takes a few awkward steps back.

Eve slips into the cluster of bushes near Nick.

A beat.

Caveman S squints—he hears faint running footsteps nearby. Something's off. He steps closer, peering into the brush.

Empty.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN S (CONT'D)
Hey!

His eyes widen. He turns—

WHAM.

Eve steps from behind and CRACKS him with a fallen log.

He crumples to the ground, out cold.

Eve glances back at Nick. The other Cavemen are distracted, chatting amongst themselves.

PRINCESS EVE
Psst!

Nick slowly looks up and over at her. Eve motions him to come over. Nick tiptoes over to her and they both crouch down behind the bushes.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)
Hello, I'm Princess Eve.

NICK
Nice to meet you. I'm Nick, a...
(stammers)
Kingdom Wonder.

They exchange a brief handshake.

PRINCESS EVE
Kingdom Wonder? I thought they went extinct a few years ago.

A beat.

NICK
(hesitates)
Nope. I'm... uh the last one of my kind.

PRINCESS EVE
Wow, my parents would love to meet you.

Nick forces a small smile, avoiding her eyes.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)
Are you okay? I saw what Chad made you do.

NICK
I'll live. Big favors like that drain me pretty badly.

PRINCESS EVE
Forgive me for asking. But I don't understand. If you have such great power, how was Chad able to capture you so easily.

NICK
Why do you assume it was easy?

PRINCESS EVE
Was it not?

NICK
(exhales)
Yes...

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

(beat)

Look, the reality is that I've been running from iron fist tyrants like Chad and his father for years.

(looking over his shoulder)

Someone like Chad doesn't stop hunting until there's nowhere left to run. It's like he said. No matter where I ran, he would eventually find me. I was just delaying the inevitable.

PRINCESS EVE

I'm sorry you had to spend all your life running. That's no way to live.

NICK

Without my people, my power's limited. And if I continue to exploit it, I may attract more powerful people who seek to abuse it.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - INNER FOREST - DAY

Chad shouts loudly over his flip phone.

PRINCE CHAD

(on the phone)

For the last time, I want no part of this! I don't care how badly she wants it to work. It's not happening. Tell Aira she'll have to hunt me down first!

Chad hangs up and shoves it back in his pocket.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

(mumbling)

Insufferable Cretans.

He exhales, shifts his stance - presses his thighs together.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

Perfect timing.

He scans the forest, rolls his eyes, and heads deeper into the trees.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - BEHIND THE BUSHES - DAY

NICK

So, are you like his girlfriend or something?

PRINCESS EVE

Ew, don't be ridiculous. He's forcing me to be with him.

NICK

(sighs)

He's such a jerk. I'm so sorry. That's terrible. I guess we're both prisoners. Hopefully, he keeps his word and lets me go after I grant his third favor.

PRINCESS EVE

Third? There's still one left?

Nick looks at Eve curiously.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

Look, I know this is bad timing, but do you think you could grant me one?

Nick hesitates.

NICK

I-I really shouldn't.

PRINCESS EVE

Please! You're the only hope I have.

Nick thinks for a moment.

NICK

(exhales)

Okay. Sure.

PRINCESS EVE

Thank you! Chad's holding my friends hostage someplace but I'm not sure where. Do you think you can teleport them back to the Goldleaf Kingdom?

NICK

Sorry, I can't in my current condition.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
 I can bring them here, but we'd
 have no time to get them away from
 Chad's army.

Another set of bushes rustles nearby them. They both tense up.

Grover leaps out of the bushes, runs toward Nick, and jumps into his arms.

NICK (CONT'D)
 Grover! You found me! I'm so glad
 you're okay, boy!

Grover commences to lick Nick uncontrollably.

PRINCESS EVE
 This is your dog? He's so adorable.

Eve pats Grover smoothly on the head.

NICK
 Yup! And just in time. Here's the
 plan: I bring your friends here,
 and Grover handles the rest.

PRINCESS EVE
 I'm sorry but how is this tiny
 little guy supposed to do that?

Nick laughs.

NICK
 You'll see.

Nick snaps his fingers and the forest around them is engulfed in a whimsical shine.

Chad's men begin to look around confused. Chad finishes urinating.

PRINCE CHAD
 What the—

He spins around, eyes wide at the flash of light.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - OFF THE GRID LOCATION - TINY

SHED - DAY

Brad and Adam take turns and ram the door of the shed with their bodies. It barely budes.

MARCO

Seriously, just stop. We're trapped here.

MARIA

At least, they're trying. What are you doing?

PRINCE ADAM

I don't give up!

BRAD

Me neither. Let's give it another go.

Adam runs at the door one more time. Nothing. He shouts and turns to punch the wall.

PRINCE ADAM

Darn it! When are we gonna get out of this rat box!

Right before he can land a blow, they all disappear in a flash of light.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM FOREST - BEHIND THE BUSHES - DAY

Adam, Marco, Maria, and Brad all appear before Nick and Eve.

Adam, still mid-punch, falls to the ground clumsily.

MARIA

Eve, it's you! I knew you'd rescue us!

Maria runs to hug Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

It's good to see you again—but thank our Kingdom Wonder, Nick. He got you out.

Nick waves bashfully.

Adam twists his face in slight suspicion.

MARCO

Kingdom Wonder? How much did we miss?

Brad runs up to Nick and hugs him in a tight bearhug and lifts him off the ground.

BRAD

Thanks, little dude! I thought I was gonna die in there!

Nick struggles to breathe, forcing a strained smile.

NICK

(straining)

Yeah...no problem. I know the feeling.

PRINCE ADAM

(laughs)

Okay, don't break our secret weapon.

BRAD

Oh, sorry.

Brad puts him down and lets go of him.

Eve hears the Silverstone Cavemen talk amongst themselves in the distance, their voices sound closer.

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN T (O.S.)

Hey, where did the princess and the little fairy boy go?

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN U (O.S.)

Find them now! Prince Chad is on his way back.

PRINCESS EVE

They're coming. You have to go—now!

MARCO

How? We can't outrun Chad's men.

NICK

Grover, do your thing!

Grover spins around several times and transforms into a massive flying dog with red dragon wings.

They behold giant Grover, shocked.

NICK (CONT'D)

There's your escape route!

MARIA

Whoa! Okay, this day is just getting more and more bizarre!

SILVERSTONE CAVEMAN R

There they are! Stop them!

PRINCESS EVE

Hurry!

All four hop on Grover's back. Eve and Nick prepare to get on.

Chad arrives and kicks down a tall tree that falls and blocks their path to giant Grover.

MARIA

No! Eve!

PRINCESS EVE

Just go without us! We'll be fine!

PRINCE ADAM

I'll rally the troops.
(to Eve)
Hold on.

Giant Grover flies off into the sky.

Chad picks up a large boulder and hurls it at Giant Grover. It misses. He screams in frustration.

PRINCE CHAD

Ugh! Where are they off to? Tell me! NOW!!!

PRINCESS EVE

None of your business!

Chad stomps over to Nick. The forest floor quakes violently under his feet.

PRINCE CHAD

You're starting to cost me.

Chad raises his foot, ready to stomp Nick.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

I swear if you helped them!

Nick trembles. Eve jumps in front of him.

PRINCESS EVE

Enough Chad! Leave him alone. He gave you what you wanted.

PRINCE CHAD

Get out of the way, Eve!

PRINCESS EVE

No! You'll have to go through me first.

Chad stares intensely at her. He takes a breath, exhales, and points a finger at Nick.

PRINCE CHAD

Just get me some transportation, now!

NICK

Sorry, but she got the last favor.

Chad's eyes explode with rage.

PRINCE CHAD

I don't care! This isn't a request. Do it now... or I'll destroy you both!

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - CASTLE ROOF - DAY

Sentries on the roof and at the gates ready their bows and blasters at a fast-approaching shape in the sky.

CAPTAIN IVAN

(through binoculars)

Lower your weapons! It's them!

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - CASTLE ENTRANCE - DAY

Giant Grover lands at the castle entrance. Ivan and several Goldleaf Sentries greet them.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Your Highness, we've been looking all over for you. Are you okay? Our search parties are still scouring the forest.

Ivan bows before Adam as the Sentries genuflect on one knee. The Sentries escort Maria, Brad, and Marco inside.

PRINCE ADAM

I'm fine, Captain. Good to see you again.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Likewise, sir. Where's the Princess?

PRINCE ADAM

We were separated. Prince Chad took her.

CAPTAIN IVAN

What?! We must find her! I'll dispatch more squads and expand—

PRINCE ADAM

No!

CAPTAIN IVAN

No?

PRINCE ADAM

Prepare for palace defense. I anticipate they'll come to us.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Understood, sir.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - SKY - DAY

Chad and his army sail in winged boats above the treetops.

Eve slips her hand into her pocket, trying to retrieve the spear secretly. Chad catches the movement from the corner of his eye. Eve freezes, quickly shoving it back. She looks away, trying to hide her panic.

Chad eyes her suspiciously, then turns to Nick with a smirk.

PRINCE CHAD

This better be fast.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - CASTLE ROOF - DAY

Ivan witnesses Chad's fleet nearing the castle.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Battle stations!

Goldleaf Sentries grab swords, bows and arrows, blasters, and slingshots.

Chad's fleet lands at the entrance of the castle.

PRINCE CHAD

Attack!

Silverstone Cavemen leap from the fleet, charging the Goldleaf Sentries. Bodies collide, tumbling across the ground in fierce hand-to-hand combat.

A group of Sentries runs toward Eve and Nick, sneaking them away from Chad's presence.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY J

Princess, this way. Hurry!

Eve grabs Nick's hand, pulling him along.

PRINCESS EVE

Come on—let's get to safety!

They vanish into a secret passage at the far end of the castle.

Some Silverstone Cavemen scale pillars as flying drones buzz overhead, firing blasters at the Goldleaf Sentries.

The Goldleaf forces strain to hold their ground as Silverstone deploys mini blasters and magnetic explosives, shifting the tide of battle.

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - FOYER - DAY

The grand room is in chaos. Crystal chandeliers swing, marble floors are cracked, and red velvet furniture lies torn. Windows shatter and light fixtures dangle from the ceiling.

Goldleaf Sentries and Silverstone Cavemen clash violently. Some lie unconscious.

Chad, frustrated, stomps into the center.

PRINCE CHAD

Enough!

He leaps high and lands with a thunderous impact. The floor quakes. Sentries tumble, crashing into walls or each other.

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - PANIC ROOM - DAY

Eve, Adam, Nick, Brad, Maria, and a few Goldleaf Sentries huddle in a small room with brightly colored walls and shelves stocked with food and drinks.

A loud CRASH sounds nearby.

MARIA
That didn't sound good.

MARCO
It doesn't sound like we're
winning.

BRAD
I hate hiding. I can help.

Brad heads for the heavy vault door.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY K
NO!

He blocks Brad.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY K (CONT'D)
We'll go. You stay here.

As the Sentries move toward the door, it's slammed down with force, knocking them out cold.

A dozen Silverstone Cavemen storm in, surrounding the group.

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - FOYER - DAY

Chad stands amid his minions. Goldleaf Sentries lie chained or unconscious.

The captured Goldleafers are forced down the grand staircase.

PRINCE CHAD
I'm done with these cat-and-mouse
games. I'm gonna summon the most
powerful predator to finish you
all!

PRINCESS EVE
You're not using Nick again. We
won't let you!

Adam, Brad, and Marco form a protective wall around Nick.

PRINCE CHAD
I don't need him. You'll do just
fine.

A Silverstone Caveman snatches the spear from Eve's pocket and hands it to Chad.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

Hey!

PRINCE CHAD

You really thought I wouldn't notice?

The spear glows violently in Chad's grip.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

So this is how you defeated my father.

PRINCESS EVE

It's glowing again... I thought it was defective.

NICK

It reactivated because of me. The Caveman King forced me to build it— a weapon that mimics a fraction of my power.

(beat)

But it only stays active near its source.

Eve processes this.

NICK (CONT'D)

I also built in time limits... just in case.

Adam eyes Nick, suspicious.

PRINCE ADAM

You know a lot about tech for someone from the cave worlds.

NICK

(grinning)

Guess I'm just a quick learner.

Nick turns away. Adam lets it go—for now.

Chad raises the spear.

PRINCE CHAD

Time to forge Silverstone's champion.

His henchmen line up shoulder to shoulder.

The spear FIRES— A BLINDING FLASH consumes the room.

Silence.

The light fades to reveal—

QUAVO, A 70ft, shaggy green-haired, HERCULEAN CAVEMAN GIANT, towering over everyone.

The Goldleafers freeze.

PRINCESS EVE

Of course. It works for him.

MARIA

Please tell me that's AI.

MARCO

Okay... giants aren't fun anymore.

BRAD

I don't think the Wild Guardian can stop that.

Ivan barely moves, paralyzed by the size of Quavo.

Chad beams with pride.

PRINCE CHAD

Behold—Quavo. Crush these worthless worms!

PRINCE ADAM

RUN!

Everyone bolts toward the exit.

Adam glances back and sees Ivan frozen, eyes wide.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)

Ivan, snap out of it!

He grabs Ivan's arm and hauls him along, forcing him into motion.

Chad watches, amused.

PRINCE CHAD

Let's give 'em a tiny head start.
It's only fair, in an unfair fight.
(snickers)

(MORE)

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
I always love a good chase and a
slow kill.

Quavo nods—and lumbers after them, shaking the castle as he goes.

EXT. GOLDLEAF FOREST - INNER FOREST - NIGHT

The Goldleafers huddle in a circle a few miles away from the castle. Quavo searches for them way off in the distance.

NICK
Sorry, guys... I don't have enough
power left to stop that monster.

PRINCE ADAM
(mutters under his breath,
eyes averted)
I'm sure you don't.

Nick hears it. The others don't. He meets Adam's eyes for a second, then quickly looks away.

PRINCESS EVE
Whatever we decide, we need to move
fast. He'll sniff us out if we
wait.

CAPTAIN IVAN
I've got it! Let's head to the
Chamber — I think I might have a
plan!

INT. CHAMBER - CAPTAIN IVAN'S UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT - SUPPLY

ROOM - NIGHT

The Goldleafers huddle in a cave room. A wide vault is built into one wall.

Ivan opens several lockers, revealing rope, freeze ray blasters, zap guns, and power water, noticeably tucked away.

CAPTAIN IVAN
These should be effective against
Quavo. Pick whatever catches your
eye.

MARCO
 (grabbing the power water)
 Ah-ha! Here we go! Just like old
 times.

Ivan snatches it, hands trembling. Marco notices.

CAPTAIN IVAN
 No! Too much of that, too soon, and
 you'll fall ill. We'll give it to
 my soldiers instead.

MARCO
 (disappointed)
 Okay... noted.

NICK
 I can take it to them.

Ivan nods, handing it to Nick. They each grab a weapon.

MARCO
 Definitely, call dibs on the zap
 gun.

Marco grabs one. Maria and Eve each take a freeze ray
 blaster.

MARIA
 This should come in handy!

Maria spins the blaster on her finger, points at Marco, and
 makes a firing noise. Marco pushes her blaster out of his
 face.

MARCO
 Hey, be easy! Are you trying to
 freeze my face off?

MARIA
 (giggling)
 Wouldn't be the worst idea.

BRAD
 (winking, twirling his
 slingshot)
 I'll pass. My good ol' slingshot's
 got me.

Adam grabs some rope. Ivan equips a zap gun and slings rope
 over his shoulder.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Here's our play: Eve, Maria, Nick, and Grover head back to the castle to deliver the power water. Adam, Brad, Marco, and I will take on Quavo.

BRAD

Solid. Let's do it!

MARIA

Why do we have to head back? You don't think we're capable?

Ivan's face flushes, caught off guard.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Of course not, it's just um..

MARCO

That's a trap. Don't answer.

NICK

Would you rather face a raging larger-than-life man-beast? Not me. I'll let them handle it.

MARIA

(thinks)

Point taken. Have fun.

PRINCESS EVE

Alright, let's do this!

She thrusts her hand forward.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

For the kingdom.

They all place their hands on top.

EVERYONE

For the kingdom.

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - ROYAL QUARTERS - DAY

Chad wanders the castle halls alone. His footsteps echo. He pauses at a locked door and smirks, ramming it open.

PRINCE CHAD

(muttering)

There's gotta be something valuable in this Garbageleaf castle.

Dust glimmers in shafts of light filtering through tall, velvet curtains. Portraits of Eve's parents watch silently from the walls.

He steps into a walk-in closet. Gold-trimmed coats and gilded shoes line the shelves. He rummages through drawers—nothing of interest.

A small chest, hidden beneath a pile of shawls, catches his eye. Chad drags it out and rattles the lock. With a roar, he smashes it with his fist.

Inside: a delicate chain with a tiny golden feather. Beneath it, an old folded envelope.

He opens it. On the envelope, neat handwriting reads: "Zagra Silverstone 1213 Cone City Drive."

Chad freezes, stunned. Something shifts in him. Chad's eyes flicker with something softer—hope, maybe. A breath escapes him he didn't realize he was holding.

He quickly texts the address to the MPI and slips the envelope into his pocket.

EXT. GOLDLEAF FOREST - NIGHT

Eve, Nick, Maria, and Grover hide behind a large tree.

Grover whimpers; Nick shushes him.

Quavo prowls nearby, sniffing the air.

QUAVO

I could've sworn I heard something..
(growls)
Those bugs can't hide for long.

He storms off.

They all step out from hiding.

MARIA

Whew! We were this close to becoming giant food.

NICK

I thought he'd never leave. What a complete idiot!

Quavo appears out of the shadows.

QUAVO
What was that?

MARIA
It's him!

Grover barks.

Eve leaps up a tree, plants her feet on a branch, and blasts Quavo with her freeze ray.

PRINCESS EVE
Eat ice!

Quavo is blasted-trapped in a block of ice.

NICK
Nice one, Eve!

PRINCESS EVE
Come on! This little stunt won't last long.

They dash off.

Moments later, Quavo shatters the ice in a fury.

QUAVO
(shouts)
Gahhh! Where'd they go?

EXT. GOLDLEAF FOREST - DEEPER INTO THE FOREST - NIGHT

Marco, Adam, Brad, and Ivan stake out deep in the forest.

The others remain focused on their surroundings while Marco goofs off.

MARCO
That big block-headed oaf better watch out. When he crosses paths with me, it'll be game over, lights out!

Marco spins his zap gun in all directions.

PRINCE ADAM
Lights out for who?

Adam, Brad, and Ivan laugh.

MARCO

Yeah, laugh it up all you want to.
but I'll have the last one.

Marco struts back, bumping into something strange.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Hmm? This is one fleshy tree trunk.

A deep growl. Quavo's massive leg looms.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Why do I feel like I shouldn't turn
around?

CAPTAIN IVAN

Get back!

Quavo flicks Marco through the air; he crashes into a tree,
dazed.

QUAVO

Sorry to keep you waiting!

Quavo closes in.

Adam pelts Quavo with a large rock to the head.

PRINCE ADAM

Hey, BigFoot! Try and catch me!

Adam sprints between Quavo's legs in the other direction.

Quavo growls, chasing him. Adam lures him to a thick rope
tied between two trees. He hops over but Quavo trips, crashes
to the ground - just as planned.

Adam stands in front of Quavo, folding his arms. The others
gather.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)

I suggest you stay down and
surrender.

(to the others)

Help me hogtie him!

Quavo inhales deeply and unleashes his hurricane breath on
Adam. Adam is blown far off, unconscious. Quavo quickly
rises.

QUAVO

Fool. Quavo never surrenders.

Marco slowly rises.

BRAD

I was hoping you'd resist.

Brad begins to shoot at Quavo. Quavo dodges, trying to stomp him out. The ground quakes more, Brad falls.

Ivan, aims at Quavo, then freezes. He clutches his head. It pounds at the sound of the quakes. Marco puts a hand on his shoulder.

MARCO

You okay?

Brad shoots and rolls. He pelts Quavo. No effect.

BRAD

...Okay, maybe the ol' slingshot
isn't cutting it.

Quavo knocks over a tree, it falls on Brad. Brad struggles. Quavo seizes him by the throat.

QUAVO

Back to the dirt where all bugs
belong.

Quavo slams him brutally to the ground.

MARCO

No! Brad!

Brad turns his head to Marco, battered.

BRAD

(coughs)
You-you got this Marco.

Brad is out cold.

Ivan turns to Marco.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Hurry! Help me blast him, kid!

They blast Quavo. Quavo wails, staggering backwards. He steadies himself and laughs.

QUAVO

Weaklings! Those pathetic blasters
won't help you!

Quavo charges. The trees tremble. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. His thunderous footsteps pound through the clearing like war drums.

Ivan's vision blurs. Something in the rhythm stops him cold.

CAPTAIN IVAN
 (quietly, trembling)
 ...Not again...

SFX: distant echoes of shouting, alarms, and collapsing trees, layered softly to suggest chaos.

Ivan's eyes widen. His grip on his weapon loosens.

CAPTAIN IVAN (CONT'D)
 (staggering, head down)
 ...I can't...

He staggers, his stance faltering. Quavo looms ahead, unnoticed—until it's too late.

MARCO
 Ivan! Move!

Quavo's fist slams into Ivan, sending him flying.

QUAVO
 Looks like it's only you and me,
 mousey!

Marco quivers, running off and hides behind a tree.

QUAVO (CONT'D)
 Come back and face me!

MARCO
 (to himself)
 Come on, Marco! Think! Think!

Quavo knocks down trees, rips others from their roots. He rips the tree up that Marco hides behind, peering down on him.

QUAVO
 There you are!

Marco screams, running off and hides behind a large rock.

QUAVO (CONT'D)
 Get back here!

Marco spots a huge pond in the distance. He finds a few small pebbles.

MARCO
 Bingo!

Quavo's footsteps are close. Marco picks up a pebble and grips his blaster tightly.

MARCO (CONT'D)
Come on, just a little closer.

QUAVO
When I find you... I'm gonna snap you
in half!

Quavo arrives at the pond, pauses, and studies the quiet.

Marco tosses a pebble in the water. Quavo directs his eyes to the ripple in the water. He steps in.

QUAVO (CONT'D)
(snickers)
The water won't save you.

He arrives in the middle of the pond. He sees nothing.

Marco hops out with his gun drawn.

MARCO
Ha! I got you, big dummy! Surprise
mouse attack!

Marco zaps the water, electrocuting Quavo. Quavo wails, collapses.

Marco enters the pond cautiously with his gun still drawn. He studies Quavo's motionless body.

MARCO (CONT'D)
No way! I really did it! I put the
colossal creep to sleep!
(laughs hysterically)
Goldleaf Sentry promotion here I
come!

Marco does a victory dance in the water. Quavo hands twitches. The water vibrates.

MARCO (CONT'D)
Told them I'd have the last laugh.

The pond shakes. Marco slowly turns around to see Quavo standing again. Quavo growls and spits the water out on Marco. Marco is drenched. He steps back laughing nervously.

MARCO (CONT'D)
Okay... that was gross and totally
uncalled-for.

QUAVO
You. Little. ROACH!

MARCO
(giggles tensely)
I'm guessing you're not too fond on
forgiveness.

Quavo grabs a log in the water, stomping over to Marco.

Marco runs but trips over a stone. Quavo pulls back and swats him out of the water. Marco flies through the air, hits a tree, dazed, as Quavo closes in.

Quavo releases a deep bellow. Marco passes out.

QUAVO
Looks like it's lights out for YOU,
mousey.
(beat)
Pathetic.

CUT TO:

Quavo fastens ropes around Ivan, Brad, Adam, and Marco, lifting them upside down.

CAPTAIN IVAN
Well... that backfired.

Quavo stomps on the zap guns, crushing them.

He pulls all four of them close to his face.

QUAVO
Now, taste stone breath!

MARCO
Please tell me he's making that up.

He exhales thick gray dust—stone begins forming on the captured heroes. Quavo laughs and strides back toward the castle, holding the statues under his arms.

QUAVO
(laughing)
Too easy.

INT. GOLDFLEAF CASTLE - FOYER - NIGHT

Eve, Maria, Grover, and Nick rush in. Several Sentries hang from the ceiling, their hands in gold shackles, feet chained together, dangling helplessly.

NICK
Finally, we made it!

Nick hunches over, hands on knees, catching his breath.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY L
(relieved)
Oh, good! We thought we were
goners.

PRINCESS EVE
Hurry! Quavo's coming—any minute
now!

CUT TO:

The Sentries are now free, towering 15-foot giants, energized
from the power water they drank.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY M
Thanks for the drink! We feel...
unstoppable!

MARIA
(flirtatiously)
And you look unstoppable too.

Enter Chad.

PRINCE CHAD
So, you survived the Quavo chase?

Chad takes note of the blue vial in Eve's hand. He snatches
it and sniffs.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
What's this blue stuff?

PRINCESS EVE
(stammers)
It's a juice I got you. Drink up!

Chad eyes her suspiciously.

PRINCE CHAD
You really expect me to drink
something from you?

PRINCESS EVE
Fine. Don't.

MARIA
Yeah, she'll just give it to her
boyfriend.

Eve looks confused. Maria winks.

PRINCE CHAD
Boyfriend?! I don't think so!

He downs the vial. Belch. His stomach rumbles. He begins shrinking back to normal size.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)
Hey, hey! What's happening to me?
I'm small again! What did you do?

NICK
A little special serum designed
just for you.

Eve reaches into his pocket and snags back her spear.

PRINCE CHAD
Hey! Give that back!

PRINCESS EVE
Arrest him!

The giant Sentries shackle him.

PRINCE CHAD
Unchain me right now!

NICK
Finally, a taste of his own bitter
medicine.

PRINCESS EVE
Alright—let's combine forces!

She zaps the giant Sentries with her spear. They merge into a single 70-foot mega-giant.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT
Whoa... this is fantastic!

PRINCESS EVE
Now we have a fighting chance.

The foyer shakes. Footsteps thunder outside.

MARIA
It's him! Hide!

They duck behind pillars.

Quavo bursts in, dropping petrified Brad, Marco, Adam, and Ivan to the ground with a loud THUD.

QUAVO
Looking for me?

MARIA

Those statues look like the others.
Did he do that to them?

NICK
Yep. Stone powers. This is going to
be tough.

PRINCE CHAD
Good boy, Quavo! Time for payback—
destroy them all!

Quavo picks up Chad in his fist.

QUAVO
Silence! You are no longer in
charge! Quavo bows to no one—not to
kings, and definitely not to bugs.

PRINCE CHAD
What? I made you, you overgrown
imbecile, now do as I say and -

Quavo breathes stone breath. Chad instantly turns to stone,
dropped to the floor.

PRINCESS EVE
I think I'm starting to like Quavo.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT
You turned him to stone! What kind
of freak are you?

QUAVO
You're next.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT
Let's settle this outside!

QUAVO
Whatever. Everyone turns to stone
eventually.

They both exit the foyer and enter an open field near the
forest.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - FIELD - NIGHT

QUAVO

Let's get this over with.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT

Bring it!

Quavo charges. They trade quick, heavy blows. Quavo slams the Giant to the ground, straddling him with a triumphant laugh.

QUAVO

Ha! You're weak! Stop struggling—
it's useless.

The Giant finds a burst of energy, throws Quavo off. He lands on his back with a grunt.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT

Enough! This ends now.

The Giant grabs a gargantuan rock, slams it on Quavo, piling on more.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT (CONT'D)

That'll teach you!

The rocks explode violently. Quavo rises, eyes blazing with rage.

QUAVO

Time to power up!

He lifts the Goldleaf Sentry giant into the air.

QUAVO (CONT'D)

Taste stone breath!

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT

Stone... what?

PRINCESS EVE

Now!

Maria, Eve, Nick, and Grover charge in, tossing the statues of Marco, Brad, Ivan, and Adam into the haze of Quavo's stone breath.

The haze clears. Marco, Brad, Adam, and Ivan stand 70-foot giants, fully restored. They close in on Quavo, who stares, stunned.

QUAVO

No... how? That's impossible!

MARCO
Reverse-effect, baby! Remember us?

CAPTAIN IVAN
Time to take out the trash! Get
him!

The giants and Sentry giant grab Quavo and lift him high
above their heads.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - FOREST - EDGE OF THE CLIFF - NIGHT

Ivan, Marco, Brad, Adam, and the Sentry giant stand near the
edge, holding Quavo.

QUAVO
Let go of me, you morons! Put me
down -now!

MARCO
If you say so... You heard him, boys!

They heave Quavo over the cliff. He plummets into the
darkness. His last cries echo into the abyss.

BRAD
So long, ferocious freak!

MARCO
All right! We did it!

Marco pumps his fist. High-fives all around.

Adam turns to the Goldleaf Sentry giant.

PRINCE ADAM
You did well, soldier. Great
fighting back there.

He nods.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY GIANT
Thank you, Your Highness.

PRINCE ADAM
You too, Marco.

Marco looks at him surprised.

MARCO
Me?

PRINCE ADAM

Yeah. I underestimated you. You held your own longer than anyone against Quavo. I'm impressed. Seriously-nice work.

Adam rests a hand on Marco's shoulder.

MARCO

Oh...uh thanks. It was nothing.

(beat)

So... think I'm ready to be a castle guard now?

PRINCE ADAM

Don't push it.

MARCO

Right...

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - FOYER - NIGHT

Marco, Brad, Adam, and the Sentry giant stand around a shackled Chad. Eve, Grover, Nick, and Maria watch from nearby.

Adam snatches the crown from Chad's head and the phone from his pocket.

PRINCE ADAM

You won't be needing these anymore.

CAPTAIN IVAN

Take him to the slammer!

Two Sentries start Chad toward the exit. Chad stops and turns back to Eve.

PRINCE CHAD

You made a huge mistake. You should have just surrendered to my agenda.

(beat)

Next time, no mercy.

PRINCESS EVE

Your mistake was thinking your agenda would be fulfilled. Get him out of my sight.

The Sentries shove Chad forward.

PRINCE CHAD (CONT'D)

You'll regret this! All of you! My network extends far beyond the cave worlds. This is not over. You hear me?!

A Sentry gives him a firm push.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY N

Keep moving. Let's go.

MARIA

Ugh, what an entitled little troll! Lucky him—that serum reverses stone, too. Let's see how he likes being locked up.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM BEACH SHORE - NIGHT

Adam, Eve, Nick, Ivan, Maria, Marco, and Grover stand at the shoreline, waving goodbye to Brad.

BRAD

If Chad ever makes a comeback, you let me know—I'll personally rearrange that pretty-boy face of his.

Eve snickers.

PRINCESS EVE

Will do.

They share a quick high-five.

Nick extends his hand.

NICK

Nice meeting you again.

BRAD

Nah. Bring it in, little man.

Brad pulls Nick into a friendly bear hug. Nick laughs.

NICK

Hey—thanks for not crushing me this time.

Brad grins. He kneels and pats Grover's head. Grover happily licks his face.

BRAD
I'll miss you, buddy!

PRINCE ADAM
It was an honor fighting beside a true warrior.

They exchange a firm handshake.

BRAD
Likewise.
(pauses)
But you still owe me an introduction to the chief warrior himself.

PRINCE ADAM
(chuckles, sighs)
Fair enough.

CAPTAIN IVAN
If you ever wanna lead combat training at the castle you're welcome anytime.

They salute each other.

BRAD
I'd be honored.

MARCO
Thanks, man. We couldn't have done it without you.

BRAD
Right back at ya.

They fist bump.

MARCO
If you do run a training session, I'll be there.

BRAD (CONT'D)
(smiles)
I'll hold you to that.

Maria gently nudges Marco aside.

MARIA
You sure you can't stay? I could always use a co-tour guide. You definitely know your way around.

BRAD

I appreciate the offer—maybe one day. But the jungle's where I vowed to protect the vulnerable. I'm not done yet.

Maria looks past him—toward the glowing lights of the modern city in the distance.

MARIA

I understand when your heart is somewhere else.

(beat)

Just don't disappear.

BRAD

I promise.

She hugs him and gives a light kiss on his cheek. Brad blushes.

MARIA

Take care, tough guy.

BRAD

You too.

Brad steps into the canoe.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Guess this is it—until next time!

He rows away from shore, waving back.

EVERYONE

Bye!!!

They wave as Brad's canoe fades into the moonlit water.

INT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM - PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Chad sits on the edge of the bed in his detention cell.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the paper slip, staring at the name and address scrawled across it—his mother's.

PRINCE CHAD (V.O.)

I'm gonna find you.

He clenches the envelope in his fist, a determined glint in his eyes.

A beat.

A SHADOW crosses the barred window.

FONZO—a large black crow with sinister red eyes—lands on the outer ledge, tilting his head as his long beak slips between the bars.

FONZO
You called, Your Highness?

Chad rises, fire in his eyes.

PRINCE CHAD
I need reinforcements. Now. Go to the city—get help.

FONZO
(smiles with his beak)
Consider it done.

Fonzo spreads his wings and disappears into the night.

INT. GOLDLEAF CASTLE - MEMORIAL HALL - NIGHT

Dim torchlight washes over two opposing walls of framed portraits.

On one side: THE FALLEN—soldiers lost in battle. On the other: THE HONORED—retired veterans, remembered for their service.

Above the fallen, an inscription reads:

“THE BATTLE OF GIANT VALLEY”

Ivan stands alone before the fallen. His shoulders sag with the weight of memory. He removes his helmet, holding it to his chest as he exhales slowly, studying the faces of lost comrades.

Footsteps echo softly.

Marco enters—uncharacteristically quiet. He stops beside Ivan, gazing up at the same wall. After a moment, Marco's eyes drift across the hall —to the wall of the honored.

One portrait stops him cold. A younger version of his father, smiling proudly in full uniform.

Marco's expression softens. A small, emotional smile forms. He looks back to Ivan, who hasn't moved.

Marco gently places a hand on Ivan's shoulder—a silent gesture of gratitude, respect, and understanding.

Ivan turns, surprised. Ivan's eyes flick briefly to the portrait Marco was looking at... then back to Marco.

They lock eyes.

A long beat.

Then Ivan gives a faint, knowing smile.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Adam gazes out over the vast forest surrounding the kingdom.

Below, at the moonlit pond, Nick laughs as Grover trots back with a stick. Carefree. Normal.

Adam watches—unblinking. Something doesn't sit right.

At the far end of the rooftop, Maria flips through *Cone City Culture Magazine*.

Footsteps behind Adam.

A Sentry approaches.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY P

Your Highness. We've searched every book in the Records Hall. No sign of surviving Kingdom Wonders. All records agree—they're gone.

PRINCE ADAM

Your certain?

GOLDLEAF SENTRY P

Yes. Declared extinct since the Battle of Giant Valley. If I may ask... why the sudden interest?

PRINCE ADAM

Just checking.

(beat)

Thank you.

The Sentry bows and departs.

Adam glances over his shoulder—then back down to Nick below, still laughing with Grover.

Adam's eyes narrow.

PRINCE ADAM (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Then what *exactly* is he?

Adam continues to watch as the night settles over the kingdom.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE YARD - NIGHT

A gentle breeze ripples across the pond.

Nick sits at the water's edge, pant legs rolled up, feet in the cool water. Grover dashes across the grass, chasing a stick. Nick chuckles softly, letting himself relax.

Until two Sentries appear on the path.

The barcode tattoo on Nick's calf catches the moonlight:

"PROJECT W.I.S.H. - PROPERTY OF CONE CITY LABS - ID# 113T9"

Quickly, Nick splashes water on his leg and tugs his pants down, hiding the mark.

GOLDLEAF SENTRY O
 Just making our rounds. Everything
 alright?

NICK
 (grinning, casual)
 Yeah, yeah. Just taking a breather.
 All good.

The Sentry studies him a moment, then nods and moves on.

Nick's smile falters. He glances at Grover, still chasing the stick, then down at the pond. His reflection stares back at him, dark and unreadable.

EXT. GOLDLEAF KINGDOM CASTLE ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Eve joins Adam on the rooftop, gazing out over the kingdom.

PRINCE ADAM
 Pretty fun few days, huh?

PRINCESS EVE
Yeah... a little too fun.

PRINCE ADAM
Let's promise each other we won't
go wandering into the forest again.

PRINCESS EVE
Deal.

CUT TO:

Maria spots a shooting star shaped like a superhero streaking over the distant modern city. She closes her eyes, makes a wish, and exhales. When she opens them, Marco is beside her.

She jumps, startled. He playfully takes the magazine from her hands, grinning like an idiot.

MARIA
(sighs)
What do you want now, weirdo?

Marco's smile softens. He joins her, gazing at the stars.

MARCO
Back there, with the Caveman King..
you didn't have to save me. But you
did.

He smirks, almost teasing.

MARIA
Keep talking and I'll chuck you off
this roof.

Marco's grin fades slightly.

MARIA (CONT'D)
(beat)
You're my brother. No one gets to
kill you but me.

They share a smile and watch the stars.

A quiet moment passes.

MARCO
Maria.

She turns to him.

MARCO (CONT'D)

I know it's up to Dad, but... if you really want to move to the city, I support you.

Maria's face lights up. She hugs him.

MARIA

Thanks, Marco.

CUT TO:

Adam and Eve.

PRINCESS EVE

(beat)

Adam, about the assignment dad gave I -

PRINCE ADAM

It's okay, Eve. Don't worry about it. I was upset at first but I'm over it now.

(beat)

Guess, I just wanted to feel included.

(beat)

You do so many amazing things. Sometimes I feel like I'm barely trailing behind.

PRINCESS EVE

Adam, that's not true. Without your military expertise, our soldiers wouldn't have stood any chance against Chad.

(beat)

You inspire me.

Adam smiles warmly.

PRINCESS EVE (CONT'D)

Sorry, if I don't say it enough.

Adam sees Maria approaching.

PRINCE ADAM

Looks like you've got company. I'll catch you guys inside.

Adam departs. Maria joins Eve.

MARIA
You doing okay?

PRINCESS EVE
(beat)
Yeah...
(beat)
I just thought Chad would be
different.

MARIA
Well, he's definitely different.
He's a lot worse. A Grade-A
narcissist. You sure know how to
pick 'em.

They laugh.

PRINCESS EVE
I don't know...maybe it's not meant
to be.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Hey!
(beat)
What's meant to be will happen.
Don't stress. I keep telling you to
quit that.

A moment passes.

PRINCESS EVE
Maria, I owe you an apology—

MARIA
Girl, apologies are stressful. You
have nothing to be sorry for. We
were both selfish. And let's be
real—responsibility isn't my thing.
(beat)
But it *is* yours. That's why you'll
make a great queen one day.

Eve smiles.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Let's put it past us and enjoy the
night.

PRINCESS EVE
You're right. For now, we focus on
the kingdom. I have a feeling this
fight isn't over.

Behind them, the Goldleaf flag dances with the gentle wind.

EXT. CONE CITY BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Fonzo perches on a telephone wire, eyes fixed on FREEZE (24), (A.K.A MPI) a well-built bad boy with spiky blue hair. He leans against a brick wall, sharpening an icicle in his hand.

Behind him, his husky gang sips milkshakes, silent and wary, watching Fonzo.

FREEZE

(laughs)

First I'm looking for his long-lost mama, and now this? This guy's got serious issues.

FONZO

So... you'll do it?

Freeze pauses, hair flipping back, then curls a devious smile. The alley light casts a pale glow across his face.

FREEZE

Anything for the right price.

A cold breath rolls from his lips. Freeze and his men share a low, sinister chuckle.

THE END.

TAG

EXT. SILVERSTONE KINGDOM FOREST - MILES FROM THE SILVERSTONE

CASTLE - NIGHT

The Orb spaceship touches down softly, engines powering down. Its top hatch flips open.

Two Moonlites step out:

- OZZI, a slimy, two-eyed blue amoeba, slithers to the ground.

- BLIK, a tall, one-eyed, green-skinned soldier with four arms, dressed in a silver-sequin jumpsuit, grips a massive plasma rifle. The ground trembles under his feet.

Ozzi scans the quiet forest and flicks out a silver disc projecting a still hologram of Chad.

OZZI
All right, Blik. *Operation
BrideGroom Beta* begins now. You
know the target.

Blik adjusts the dial on his gun from KILL to STUN, aiming forward with steely precision.

BLIK
Roger that.

END OF TAG