

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**

"THE BOX"

Written By

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FIRST DRAFT

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"THE BOX"

FADE IN:

ON ERIC'S CLOTHES

but no Eric. His clothes are blowing on a clothesline in the noonday sun. CAMERA WIDENS to reveal Eric standing beside his clothes, holding his shield before him, wearing only his embarrassed look. Presto is beside Eric, the running water of a brook beneath them. They both hold their noses. The others are nearby, reacting to the smell.

DIANA

Next time you make friends with a black cat, Eric, make sure it doesn't have a white stripe down its back!

UNI

(a smile and a chuckle)

CLOSER ON ERIC AND PRESTO

ERIC

(holding nose)

Very funny!

(to Presto)

Can't you find something in that hat of yours to make this smell go away?

PRESTO

(holding nose)

I sure hope so!

PUSH IN as Presto takes off his hat, holding his nose with his other hand. Unwilling to let go of his nose, Presto waves his "elbow" over the open end of the hat.

PRESTO

(still nasal)

Abracadabra, quick as a wink, conjure me something to get rid of this stink!

Presto reacts as his hat begins to rumble. He falls backwards as a magical puff of smoke erupts from his hat.

WIDER ANGLE - ALL

They all react as the smoke clears to reveal a giant aerosol can of deoderant. The can gives a spray, raining on Eric and his clothes.

SHEILA  
That's the biggest can of  
deoderant I've ever seen!

ON BOBBY AND UNI

BOBBY  
Yeah! Big enough for dinosaur  
armpits!

Uni gives Bobby a funny look. (Saroyan gives Scott a  
funnier look!)

WIDE SHOT

They all react as the scene shakes with the ominous  
RUMBLING of an earthquake.

ERIC  
Hey!

HANK  
It's an earthquake!

ON SHEILA, BOBBY AND UNI

Uni's legs go out from underneath her.

UNI  
(panicked bleat)

A large tree uproots and starts to fall toward the three  
of them.

BOBBY  
Sheila! Look out!

Bobby clubs the tree before it reaches them, splintering  
it. As the scene continues to shake we cut to:

ERIC AND PRESTO

Eric is in the midst of putting his clothes back on. He  
and Presto react as the giant aerosol can topples between  
them. Eric blocks it with his shield, falling in the  
water, soaking his dry clothes.

ON HANK AND DIANA

Suddenly the ground splits open, threatening them. Diana  
makes a skillful back-flip, escaping the deep fissure.

ON UNI

as the fissure opens up beside her. She drops over the  
edge, hanging on with her front hooves.

UNI  
(frightened bleat)

CLOSE ON BOBBY

BOBBY

Uni!

BACK TO HANK

as he draws his bow, trying to steady himself as the ground rumbles and the fissure widens before him. He fires a flaming bolt.

UNI

falls off the edge. The flaming arrow catches her, whisking her to safety and depositing on firm ground.

BACK TO HANK

As the scene rumbles he slips, falling into the fissure.

HANK

Aaaaahhhhh!!

CLOSE ON DIANA

DIANA

Hank!

WIDER ANGLE

as the quaking subsides. The others move in around the fissure, look in. PUSH IN...

PRESTO

Can you see him?

INSIDE THE FISSURE - LOOKING UP AT KIDS' FACES

SHEILA

(echo)

There he is!

REVERSE DOWN ANGLE - ON HANK

lying unconscious at the bottom of the craggy fissure. PUSH IN on his lifeless body. The MUSIC STINGS!

BACK TO OTHERS

DIANA

Come on!

Diana leaps into the fissure. Bobby slides down the sloping edge.

## INSIDE THE FISSURE

Diana and Bobby land on the bottom. Eric, Presto and Sheila climb down a moment later. PUSH IN as they move in closer to Hank.

DIANA

Hank! Are you alright?

## CLOSER - FAVORING HANK

as he comes to, shakes off his daze, looks up at Diana.

HANK

Yeah. I think so.

## UP ANGLE - UNI

standing on the upper edge, looking down into the fissure. She gives a relieved smile.

## BACK IN THE FISSURE

The others are gathered around Hank, now on his feet. Bobby is out of shot.

BOBBY (VO)

Guys! Look at this!

As the others react we cut to:

## FAVORING BOBBY

The others move closer to him as we PUSH IN to reveal a strange looking black box (about the size of a large trunk) half imbedded in the rocky fissure wall.

SHEILA

What is it?

## CLOSER ON PRESTO AND ERIC

They examine it, dust it off.

PRESTO

Looks like some kind of box.

Eric tries to pull it out. No go.

ERIC

Unnuh! It's imbedded in the rock.  
We'll never get it out.

## WIDER ANGLE

as Bobby takes a few practice swings like Rod Carew.

BOBBY

Bobby the Barbarian will get it  
out! Stand back!

Bobby swings back, then lets go. POW! The others duck  
as the rock splatters, clearing to reveal the box,  
resting on the fissure floor.

CLOSER ON BLACK BOX

as the guys poke their curious faces about it.

DIANA

I wonder what's inside it.

ERIC

Let's open it and find out.

SHEILA

(cautious)

But what if there's something...  
evil inside?

ERIC

Aw, relax, Sheila! It's probably  
filled with gold and jewels.

Eric grabs at the strange looking latch, starts to pull  
at it...

DUNGEON MASTER (VO)

Mold and ghouls is more like it!

Eric freezes. His fingers jerk back from the lock.

WIDER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE DUNGEON MASTER

standing beside the kids.

BOBBY

Dungeon Master!

DUNGEON MASTER

I wouldn't touch that box if  
I were you.

SHEILA

I told you it was evil.

ERIC

Evil schmevil.

(points at DM)

He probably wants to keep all  
the riches for himself.

(looks at box)

There's something valuable in  
there. I can feel it in my bones.

CLOSER - FAVORING DUNGEON MASTER AND ERIC

DUNGEON MASTER  
The Cavalier is right. There is  
much of value in that box...

Eric smiles knowingly, grabs for the latch again.

DUNGEON MASTER  
...and just as much pain and horror!

Eric releases the latch faster than before.

CLOSE ON ERIC

ERIC  
Will you make up your mind!

FULL SHOT - ALL

DIANA  
What is in the box, Dungeon Master?

DUNGEON MASTER  
Nothing.

ERIC  
Nothing!? First there's something  
valuable in it. Then there's pain  
and horror in it. Now there's  
nothing in it?  
(mutters to Presto)  
I think there's nothing in his head.

ON DUNGEON MASTER AND BOX

DUNGEON MASTER  
There is nothing in it. And something  
in it, as well.  
(off kids' confusion)  
It is Zandora's Box.

FULL SHOT

PRESTO  
Any relation to Pandora?

DUNGEON MASTER  
Third cousin on Zeus' side of the  
family.

CLOSE ON DUNGEON MASTER

as he runs his hand over the black box thoughtfully.

DUNGEON MASTER

(almost sad)

Zandora was a good sorceress, and  
an even better friend.

WIDER ANGLE

DUNGEON MASTER

Many years ago Venger banished her  
into another realm of existence  
where she has been trapped ever since.

SHEILA

That's awful. I wish there were  
something we could do.

DUNGEON MASTER

There is! The black box you have  
discovered holds the only key to her  
freedom.

CLOSER ON DUNGEON MASTER

He holds up his hand and a parchmentlike map appears in  
it, unrolls. DM points at a spot on the map.

DUNGEON MASTER

You must take the box to Skull Mountain,  
place it under the shadow of the  
skull at high noon, then open it.

PUSH IN CLOSE as Dungeon Master takes on a solemn look.

DUNGEON MASTER

But you must never, never open  
the box anywhere else!

ON ERIC

ERIC

(sarcastic, rapid)

Oh, I get it! There's something in  
the box and nothing in the box. The  
nothing is valuable, but the something  
is horrible, and if we open it in the  
right place we get nothing, which  
is good, but if we open it in the  
wrong place we get something, which  
is horrible.

WIDER

to reveal Dungeon Master is gone.

SHEILA

He's gone!



ERIC

One of these days that guy is gonna drive be crazy.

WIPE TO:

THE BLACK BOX

PAN with it as it slowly rises. CAMERA WIDENS to reveal Hank and the others standing on the upper edge of the fissure, hauling up the box with a rope. They get it to the upper edge, then relax.

PRESTO

Whew! The nothing inside this box sure is heavy.

FAVORING DIANA

holding the map before her.

DIANA

According to the map we've got one day's journey...

CLOSE ON MAP

It's a strange looking map with all sorts of symbols on it. There is an "X" beside a skull shaped mountain.

DIANA (VO)

...to where Dungeon Master told us to open it up..

WIDER ANGLE

to reveal the others standing before the black box, holding ropes that are attached to it. Uni stands atop the box. The scene might remind us of the cannon pulling scene of "The Pride and the Passion." Eric drops his rope.

ERIC

I'm no manual laborer. If Dungeon Master wants to haul this box half way across the world let him call a moving company.

HANK

We are the moving company. And if you don't want to help just don't get in the way.

Hank and the others start to haul the box away. Eric watches, waits a beat, then moves back to his place, takes up his rope.

ERIC

Oh, okay! But I take fifteen  
minute breaks every mile.

DIANA

Yeah, yeah. And vacation pay!

As they haul away the CAMERA PANS to a nearby dead tree.  
PUSH IN on a large hole in the hollow trunk where two,  
sinister eyes peer out, following the o.s. kids.

CLOSER ON EYES IN TRUNK

The eyes move out of the hole in the trunk, taking the  
whispy black form of Shadow Demon with them.

SHADOW DEMON

(sotto, sinister)

Soooo! The young ones have found  
Zandora's box. I must tell Venger.

As he drifts off the MUSIC THROBS and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR: WIDE ON SWAMPY COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

In the distance, moving through the strange, forboding  
terrain, we can see the kids painstakingly hauling the  
black box over the muddy ground.

CLOSER ON OUR GUYS

straining as they pull the box along.

SHEILA

(exhausted)

I think we're lost.

Presto releases his rope, falls face first into the mud.  
PUSH IN as he picks his muddy face up.

PRESTO

I think I'm exhausted.

ANGLE ON SURROUNDING BUSHES

as they rustle and several pairs of mean looking eyes  
look out from them. The MUSIC BUILDS...

FULL ON OUR GUYS

Hank and the others drop their ropes.

HANK

We'll rest for a few minutes,  
then head up that mountain slope  
to the north.

ERIC  
Oh, no we won't!

The others react.

DIANA  
What's the matter, now, Eric?

ERIC  
The matter is Hank! We're lost  
because of him.  
(stands heroically)  
It's time a real leader took  
charge here. All those in favor  
of my being the new leader of the  
group raise your hands.

Suddenly a half dozen BULLYWUGS stand up from behind the  
swamp bushes, raising their hands high, spears clenched  
in their fists.

BULLYWUGS  
(ferocious growls & croaks)

CLOSER - FAVORING ERIC AND HANK

ERIC  
(panicked)  
On second thought, you can be  
the leader, Hank.

Eric races away, leaving the others behind.

ON OTHER BUSHES

Eric dives into the bushes. He suddenly pops out as  
another bullywug appears in the bushes before him.

BULLYWUG  
(angry croak)

ERIC  
YAAHHHH!!

Eric scrambles back o.s.

ON HANK AND THE OTHERS

They react as several bullywugs drop, leap and hop into  
shot, surrounding them.

BULLYWUGS  
(misc. angry croaking)

ON HANK

HANK  
Let 'em have it!

He draws back his bow, firing a flaming bolt.

ON THREE BULLYWUGS

They stop in their tracks as Hank's arrow shoots into shot, erupting before them like a Roman candle. The bullywugs tumble over backwards, splattering in the mud.

DIANA

extends her javelin, then tosses it o.s. like a boomerang.

ON MORE BULLYWUGS

As they raises their spears the javelin swirls into shot, knocking the spears out of the bullywugs' hands. They react in panic.

BULLYWUGS  
(frightened croaks)

BACK TO DIANA

as the javelin swirls back into shot and into her hand.

ON SHEILA

A bullywug approaches her.

SHEILA  
Pardon me while I change into  
something more comfortable.

She pulls up her hood, vanishing.

SHEILA (VO)  
And less visible!

The bullywug reacts, feeling the air before him like a blind man.

BULLYWUG  
(curious croak)

Sheila lowers her hood, appearing behind the guy.

SHEILA  
Looking for me?

BULLYWUG  
(panicked croak)

He freaks out, spinning in panic, falling over into the mud with a splash.

ON PRESTO

surrounded by bullywugs. As they move in, Presto takes off his hat, "aims" it at them.

PRESTO

Don't come any closer or I'll  
blast ya!

CLOSER ON BULLYWUGS

as they move right into camera...

MEDIUM - PRESTO

PRESTO

You asked for it!  
(holds out hat)  
Hocus pocus, alacazam...zap  
these warheads and make 'em  
scram!

Presto's hat lets out a comical BURP as several mud pies fly out.

BACK TO BULLYWUGS

as they get the mud pies right in their warty kissers.

UNI

runs along the bank. Suddenly a bullywug reaches into shot, grabs her. WIDEN as Uni struggles in his hands.

UNI

(frightened bleating)

As the bullywug looks at her evilly we cut to:

BOBBY

standing at the base of a large palmlike tree.

BOBBY

Bombs away!

Bobby bats the tree trunk with his club.

UP ANGLE ON PALM FRONDS

as several cocoanuts drop off, o.s.

ON BULLYWUG AND UNI

The cocoanuts drop into shot around him. He releases Uni, covering his head, then trips, falling into the mud. Uni races o.s.

BACK TO BOBBY

as Uni races into shot, leaps into his arms, licks him.

BOBBY  
It's okay, Uni!

CLOSE ON DIANA

She reacts to something she sees o.s.

DIANA  
The box!

FULL ON BLACK BOX

PUSH IN as several bullywugs move around it.

CLOSE ON LEAD BULLYWUG

He is bigger and meaner looking than the rest.

BULLYWUG LEADER  
(croaky)  
Bullywugs take treasure!

CLOSER ON BLACK BOX

One of the other bullywugs places the end of his spear under the box's latch, snaps it open. Another bullywug slowly lifts the lid.

DIANA AND HANK

react to:

THE BULLYWUGS

as they break open the box, look inside, react.

BULLYWUGS  
(curious croaks)

THEIR POV - INSIDE THE BOX

There is nothing inside, then suddenly a stairway appears out of nowhere, leading down, apparently into the ground.

ON BULLYWUG LEADER

BULLYWUG LEADER  
Me get treasure now!

The bullywug leader moves o.s.

FULL SHOT - ALL

Hank and the others react as the bullywugs climb into the box, clambering down the stairway and disappearing. Perhaps half-a-dozen bullywugs enter the box, making the scene look a bit silly as they all climb into the box, without our seeing the stairs from this angle.

INTERCUT THE KIDS' REACTIONS

as they give one another surprised takes.

CLOSER ON BLACK BOX

Eric rushes into shot, slamming the lid closed, latching the latch.

ERIC

Ha! I got 'em!

Hank and the others enter shot, surrounding the box, their weapons at the ready.

PRESTO

Boy! And I thought you could get a lot of guys into a phone booth.

BOBBY

(raises club)

Let 'em out, Eric! I could use a little batting practice.

PUSH IN as Eric unlatches the box. He and Presto stand behind it, start to push it over (toward camera, on its side). They strain a beat, then the box falls over sideways, the top springs open. The others react as the CAMERA PUSHES IN, revealing the box is empty! The MUSIC STINGS.

ON SHEILA

SHEILA

They're gone!

CLOSER ON BOX

as Presto looks inside. He feels around inside the box, checking it out like a magician would check his top hat.

PRESTO

Hey! Neat trick!

FAVORING DIANA

She holds up the map, checks it over.

DIANA

Now I get it! This must be a map of all the holes in the fabric of space.

CLOSE ON MAP

Diana points to some of the various marked locations (each with a different symbol).

DIANA (VO)

When Zandora's magic box is placed directly over these spots it opens a stairway into another dimension.

FULL SHOT - ALL

Sheila looks at the empty box.

SHEILA

I wonder where those poor bullywugs ended up?

ERIC

The other side of the Milky Way, I hope.

CLOSE ON HANK

HANK

We've got to get the box to Skull Mountain and free Zandora. Come on!

Hank moves o.s.

FULL ON KIDS

They holds the ropes to the box once again, start to haul it through the swamp.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR: CREEPY LOOKING CASTLE - GLOOMY DAY

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the castle as a wispy looking black cloud enters shot, moving into a castle window...

INSIDE THE CASTLE

CAMERA FOLLOWS the wispy cloudlike form as it moves down a cold, stone corridor, stopping outside a heavy, closed door on which icicles hang. The wispy cloud reforms into Shadow Demon. He puts his "ear" to the door, listens, then slips in under the crack in the door.



## INSIDE THE DUNGEON CHAMBER

The CAMERA PANS the icicle filled room. The air is heavy and cold. HOLD on several huge blocks of ice in which are frozen a goblin warrior, a troll, an dwarf, etc. Venger stands before one of the blocks, speaking to the frozen form inside.

VENGER

Next time perhaps you'll think  
twice before you plot behind  
my back.

PUSH IN on the frozen face in the ice, then cut to:

ANOTHER ANGLE - VENGER

Shadow Demon moves up behind him, shivering. As he speaks, steam comes out of his mouth.

SHADOW DEMON

(shivering)

V-V-Venger!

Venger reels around.

VENGER

What is it?

Shadow Demon reacts in panic, shooting backwards into the icy wall, a pile of icicles break off, covering him. Shadow Demon shakes off the ice.

SHADOW DEMON

I b-b-bring news...about the  
young ones.

CLOSE ON VENGER

as his eyes focus with evil interest.

VENGER

What about them?

WIDER ANGLE

SHADOW DEMON

(nervous)

They've found it, they have. And  
they're taking it somewhere.

PUSH IN as Venger grabs Shadow Demon's ethereal form right out of the chilled air. He squeezes. Shadow Demon's eyes begin to buldge.

VENGER

(screaming)

Found what? You'd better start making sense before I lose my temper!

SHADOW DEMON

Z-Z-Zandora's box!

CLOSE ON VENGER

as the significance of what Shadow Demon said sinks in. He releases Shadow Demon.

VENGER

So! It appears I did not hide it well enough. Dungeon Master must have sent his young pupils to free the old witch.

Venger grabs an icicle that hangs before his face. It steams, melting in his hand.

VENGER

But instead, they shall be trapped as well!

WIDER ON VENGER AND SHADOW DEMON

Venger holds out his hand and a map, like the one the kids have, magically appears in his grasp. He opens it, looks it over.

VENGER

(to Shadow Spy,  
rhetorically)

What's the best way to keep them from getting to their destination?

SHADOW DEMON

(thinks hard, then:)

Eat them?

VENGER

NO!

Shadow Demon reels back under the force of Venger's shout. PUSH IN on Venger as he smiles with self-satisfaction.

VENGER

Make them think they're already there!

Shadow Demon smiles, nodding with approval. PUSH IN as Venger looks at his map once again.

CLOSE ON MAP

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Diana holding the map, walking behind the others, who continue to haul the black box. They are in the middle of a jungle that is so dense all we see are fronds and ferns. Bobby and Uni walk ahead of the pack.

DIANA

I don't understand it! There's no jungle anywhere on this map.

CLOSER ON ERIC AND PRESTO

PRESTO

Well, there's a jungle here!

Presto passes a large palm frond, lets it fly back, slapping Eric in the kisser.

ERIC

Hey! You don't have to convince me!

ON BOBBY AND UNI

Uni finds a spot of sunlight shining through the leaves. She points with her horn.

UNI

(bleats)

BOBBY

I think Uni found the way out of the jungle.

Bobby swings his club, chopping down some ferns.

REVERSE ANGLE

as Bobby chops a hole in the jungle wall. The others appear in the opening, look out, react.

BOBBY

Look!

THEIR POV - JUNGLE CLEARING

Before them, in the large clearing, is the towering Skull Mountain. There are several huge skulls carved into the top of the peaks like Mt. Rushmore. CAMERA ZOOMS IN on the towering peaks.

SHEILA (VO)

It's Skull Mountain!

WIDER ANGLE

to reveal the kids, standing just inside the clearing, the black box beside them.

BOBBY

But Dungeon Master said it was supposed to be a whole day's journey.

PRESTO

That's right. And it's only been a few hours.

ERIC

Quit complaining! You want to drag this thing another twenty miles?

Presto shakes his head "no."

ON HANK

HANK

We don't have much time!

HIS POV - SHADOW OF SKULL

The shadow of one of the skulls is on the ground before the mountain.

HANK (VO)

There's the shadow of the skull.

BACK TO OUR GUYS

as they drag the black box to the shadow, stopping.

DIANA

Okay! Let's open it!

CLOSER ON BOX

Hank and Bobby grab the lid, open it up. They all look inside.

THEIR POV - INSIDE THE BOX

It is empty. Suddenly the stairway appears again.

WIDER ANGLE

PRESTO

I don't see anyone.  
(leans in, echoing)  
Hello down there!

Presto looks up at the others, shrugs.

HANK

I guess we'd better go down  
and check.

ERIC

(nervously)

Uh, you go down. I'll stay topside  
with Presto and keep a look out.

ANOTHER ANGLE

SHEILA

(looks into box)

What have we got to lose?

(thinks)

Don't answer that!

Hank steps into the box.

UP ANGLE - STAIRWAY

CAMERA SHOOTS UP the stairway, which is surrounded with a  
creepy blackness. All that is visible is the rectangle  
of light as Hank moves down the stairs. Diana steps in  
and follows.

BACK UPSTAIRS - ON BOX

Sheila and Bobby move in next.

ON UNI

as she tries to jump into the box, but she's too small.  
She tumbles comically onto her back.

UNI

(upset bleat)

FAVORING BOBBY

He leans out of the box, grabs Uni, steps down into the  
box out of sight. Presto and Eric give each other a  
nervous take.

PRESTO

(worried)

They'll be alright...won't they?

Eric shrugs, then PAN UP to the one of the giant skulls.

CLOSER ON SKULL

as Shadow Demon appears in one of the giant eye sockets.  
He looks down, an evil grin on his wispy face.

SHADOW DEMON

(sotto sinister snicker)

## ANGLE ON STAIRWAY

Hank leads Diana, Bobby, Uni and Sheila down the creepy looking stone steps, through the utter blackness and silence. The light from one of Hank's blazing arrows lights their way.

SHEILA

I don't like the look of this place.

DIANA

Yeah. Something tells me we're not heading for the "bargain basement."

## ANOTHER ANGLE

as Hank stops.

HANK

Shh! I think I heard something.  
(calling out)  
Zandora?

The word echoes eerily into the darkness. A beat, then:

DISTANT ECHO

(eerie airy words)  
Downnnnn heeeeere...

The kids give each other some nervous looks, then they follow Hank down the steps.

## ANGLE ON BASE OF STEPS

There is a creepy looking cylindrical stone chamber at the base of the steps. It might look like the inside of a tubular mine shaft with a wooden floor. Hank and the others step out onto the floor. There is nothing there but bare rock walls. No windows. No doors. Nothing!

BOBBY

There's nothing here!

## CLOSER ON UNI

She suddenly reacts as the wooden floor beneath her starts to CRACK.

UNI

(nervous bleating)

## WIDER ANGLE

as the floor splinters beneath them all. They drop into the shaft below, which looks the same as the shaft above.

HANK ET AL  
(misc. shouts  
of help)

TOPSIDE - ON ERIC AND PRESTO

standing beside the open box. They react to:

HANK ET AL (VO)  
(distant echoing cries)

PRESTO  
Did you hear that? The others  
are in trouble.

ERIC  
(nervous)  
Uh, d-don't jump to conclusions,  
Presto. They're probably just  
checking out the echo.

Presto gives Eric a funny look, then glances back into  
the box. Cut to:

HANK AND THE OTHERS

falling through the blackness.

PANNING WITH HANK

as he draws back on bow, firing a:

FLAMING ARROW

which sticks into the rocky shaft and:

HANK

swings to safety, grabbing Sheila in the process.

DIANA

skillfully tumbles through the air, catching onto a  
jagged rock on the other side of the shaft.

BOBBY

grabs onto a small root that protrudes from the same side  
of the shaft.

UNI

tumbles helplessly through the dark shaft.

BOBBY

reaches out with his club, catching Uni on the end of it.

BOBBY

Gotcha!

FULL SHOT - ALL

hanging onto opposite sides of the shaft.

DIANA

We almost bit the big one!

There is a sudden DEEP, RUMBLING ROAR from the depths of the bottomless shaft.

SHEILA

Something tells me the "big one's"  
about to bite us!

DOWN ANGLE ON SHAFT

Suddenly a fierce looking dragon flies up out of the pit, right into camera.

DRAGON

(fierce shrieking roar)

BACK TO OUR GUYS

They react as the dragon flies up between them, opening its fanged mouth and snapping at them. Our guys have all they can do to balance on the narrow ledges, let alone fight back.

BOBBY

hangs on with one hand, swinging his club with the other.

DRAGON

(more roaring)

BOBBY

Beat it, scaleface!

ON HANK AND SHEILA

The dragon moves in on them. Hank has his hands full holding on, and so cannot shoot his bow. Sheila pulls up her hood with her free hand, vanishing.

SHEILA (VO)

(shouting)

Presto! Eric!

BACK TO PRESTO AND ERIC

as they react to:



SHEILA (VO)  
 (distant echo)  
 Heeeeeeeeellllpp!

PRESTO  
 That was no echo test! They're  
 in trouble!

ERIC  
 Right! You go down and check out  
 the scene. Call me if you need me.

Presto reacts, then climbs into the box and disappears.  
 Eric listens nervously to some o.s. WILD ANIMAL SHRIEKS.  
 He looks about. All alone.

ERIC  
 (nervous gulp)  
 Wait for me!

Eric hurriedly climbs into the box, disappears.

PRESTO AND ERIC

nervously walk down the stone steps.

PRESTO  
 (softly, scared)  
 Hank? Sheila?

ANGLE ON BLACK BOX

as Shadow Demon wafts into shot, stopping beside the box,  
 looking down into it.

SHADOW DEMON  
 Soon Venger will be here to retrieve  
 the weapons of the devoured young ones.

BOTTOM OF STEPS

Presto and Eric stop at the base of the steps where the  
 wooden floor has broken away. The deep shaft drops into  
 darkness before them.

PRESTO  
 They must have fallen into that  
 bottomless pit.

They both react to the DRAGON ROARS from below.

ERIC  
 Uh, I think we better get help.

PRESTO  
 But we are the help!

SHADOW DEMON (VO)  
(sinister laughter)

Presto and Eric react, looking up the stairs.

UP ANGLE - PAST ERIC AND PRESTO

to reveal Shadow Demon looking in through the open box.

SHADOW DEMON  
Pleasant screams! Ha-ha-ha!

Shadow Demon closes the lid. The scene grows darker.

ERIC  
No! Wait! Don't close that!

CLOSER ON PRESTO AND ERIC

Suddenly the steps beneath them begin to crumble. They grab onto each other, then fall off into the dark shaft.

ERIC/PRESTO  
AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!

PANNING WITH ERIC AND PRESTO

as they fall through the dark shaft. A beat, then they suddenly land on a bumpy surface that looks like a rocky outcropping. Eric reacts, feels the rocks beneath him, smiles.

ERIC  
We're saved! We're saved!

CAMERA WIDENS to reveal they are sitting atop the fierce dragon's head. He looks up at them angrily, then:

DRAGON  
(ferocious roar)

Presto and Eric freak out.

ERIC  
We're dead!

Eric and Presto leap off the dragon's head.

FULL SHOT - ALL

Hank and the others are on the walls of the shaft beside the dragon. Eric and Presto land on the rocks (on opposite sides of the shaft), Presto with Diana, Bobby and Uni, Eric with Hank and Sheila. The dragon moves in on them, opens wide.

CLOSE ON DRAGON

DRAGON  
(threatening roar)

As he moves right into camera the MUSIC STINGS and we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

ON THE DARK SHAFT

as the dragon hovers before our guys.

DRAGON  
(fierce roaring)

The bellowing roar practically shakes our guys off the vertical shaft walls.

CLOSER ON ERIC, SHEILA AND HANK

Eric almost loses his grip, barely hanging on.

ERIC  
(shouting o.s.)  
Presto! Quick! See if you can  
whip up some dragon repellent.

ON PRESTO, BOBBY, UNI AND DIANA

PRESTO  
I'll try, Eric!

PUSH IN on Presto as he takes off his hat with one hand, hanging on with the other. A puff of smoke shoots out of his hat o.s.

FULL SHOT - ALL

The smoke surrounds the dragon, obscuring him from view.

PRESTO  
Look! I did it!

The smoke clears to reveal there are now two dragons.

SHEILA  
You did it, alright! You doubled  
our trouble!

DRAGONS  
(fiercer roaring)

FAVORING ERIC

as the reverberating roars make the rocks crumble above him, He slips further.

ERIC  
And he calls himself a magician!  
HA! The only thing he ever made  
disappear was his brain!

CLOSE ON TWO DRAGONS

as they move their heads into camera...

DRAGONS  
(echoing roars)

ON DIANA, BOBBY, UNI AND PRESTO

They scrunch up close to the shaft wall as the dragons poke their fierce heads into shot, nipping at them. Bobby and Diana fend them off with their weapons, holding on with their other hands.

UNI  
(panicked bleating)

FAVORING HANK AND SHEILA

HANK  
I can't use my bow and hang on  
at the same time. That leaves  
me only one choice.

Hank lets go of the shaft wall, falling o.s.

SHEILA  
Hank!!

DRAMATIC DOWN ANGLE - PAST DRAGONS AND KIDS  
as Hank falls into the blackness below.

ERIC  
I knew he'd never hold up under  
pressure!

The dragons move closer to Eric...

DRAGONS  
(more roars)

ERIC  
AAAAAHHHHHH!!!

PANNING WITH HANK

as he falls through the dark shaft.

HANK  
Now that my hands are free I can  
stop those dragons!

He fires two glowing arrows up o.s.

## ON DRAGONS AND OTHERS

Just as the dragons are about to get our guys, Hank's glowing arrows streak up into shot, pinning the dragons wings together. They drop o.s. in panic.

DRAGONS  
(panicked shrieks)

BOBBY  
He did it! Hank saved us!

DIANA  
And he gave up his life to do it.

## CLOSER ON SHEILA AND ERIC

SHEILA  
What a hero.

ERIC  
(grumbling)  
Saved us? Ha! He only prolonged our agony! There's no way we'll ever get back up to the top.

## PANNING WITH HANK

as he continues to fall through the black shaft.

HANK  
I sure hope this works...

Hank holds up his bow, firing another glowing arrow. One end of it stays in his bow while the other streaks upwards like a lifeline.

## FULL ON OTHERS

as the glowing arrow lifeline streaks up past them, continuing to rise o.s.

PRESTO  
What was that?

## ANGLE ON TOP OF SHAFT

Hank's glowing lifeline streaks up out of the top of the shaft, securing itself to the bottom of the steps.

## BACK TO HANK - PANNING

He jerks to a stop on the end of the glowing line, starts to climb up, o.s.

## THE OTHERS

react as Hank climbs out of the blackness toward them.

DIANA  
It's Hank! He's alive!

HANK  
Come on, guys! Grab on!

## ON SHEILA AND ERIC

SHEILA  
You were saying, Eric...

ERIC  
He was just lucky.

## WIDER ANGLE

Hank swings back and forth, allowing the others to grab onto his glowing lifeline. They climb upwards, o.s.

## ANGLE ON BOTTOM OF STAIRWAY

as they climb up to safety.

HANK  
Let's get out of here!

Hank starts up the steps. The others follow.

## FAVORING TOP OF STEPS

Hank and the others reach the top. There is a ceiling of rock above them where the opening closed up.

BOBBY  
Hey! Who stole the opening?

ERIC  
Uh, I forgot to mention that  
Shadow Demon closed the box.

DIANA  
What!?

SHEILA  
We're trapped...in another dimension!

## FAVORING BOBBY AND UNI

BOBBY  
Don't sweat it, sis! One space  
warp coming up!

Uni ducks for cover as Bobby hauls back his club, smashing it into the rocky ceiling above them. The scene shudders, rocks and debris fall down over them.

EXTERIOR: ON SHADOW DEMON

standing beside the box. Shadow Demon suddenly reacts as the ground begins to shake. He stumbles back as the top of the black box flips open.

SHADOW DEMON

Huh?

DOWN ANGLE - INTO BOX

The stairway suddenly reappears.

WIDER ANGLE

as Hank and Bobby rise out of the box, weapons at the ready. Shadow Demon reacts in panic, shooting away.

SHADOW DEMON

YAAAAAAHHHHH!!

CLOSER ON BOX

Hank helps Diana and Sheila out. Eric and Presto come up behind them.

DIANA

(hugs Hank)

Thanks for saving us, Hank.

HANK

My pleasure, Diana.

FAVORING ERIC AND PRESTO

standing beside the open black box.

ERIC

Saving us, ha! Those puny dragons didn't have me worried for a second!

There is a sudden ECHOING ROAR from within the box.

ERIC

Yiiiiiii!!

Eric slams it shut, latches it, sits on it.

DIANA

checks the map, looks at the Skull Mountain above them.



DIANA  
I don't get it! According to  
the map this is exactly where  
Dungeon Master told us to open  
the box.

SHEILA  
He must have been...wrong.

ANOTHER ANGLE

to reveal Dungeon Master, seated on the box beside Eric.

DUNGEON MASTER  
I beg your pardon!

ERIC  
Aaahhh!!

Eric reacts with a startled gasp, falling backwards off  
the box. He peers up from behind it.

ERIC  
Can't you ever knock before  
entering?

FULL SHOT - ALL

DIANA  
(taps on map)  
We put the box right where you  
told us, Dungeon Master.

SHEILA  
Yeah! Right under the shadow  
of that giant...

Dungeon Master looks up as Sheila points to the huge  
skull on the mountain peak above them. It suddenly  
vanishes, along with the entire mountain, leaving them in  
a vacant jungle clearing.

SHEILA  
...skull?

CLOSER ON DUNGEON MASTER

DUNGEON MASTER  
Giant illusion you mean.

WIDER ANGLE

PRESTO  
Venger tricked us!

BOBBY  
I tried to tell them something  
was fishy, Dungeon Master.

DUNGEON MASTER  
 (pats Bobby on head)  
 Most fishy, indeed, Barbarian.  
 (to others)  
 If you had listened to your young  
 companion you could have saved  
 yourselves much time and trouble.

FAVORING ERIC

ERIC  
 If you'd just tell us how to get  
 out of this crazy world you'd save  
 us all a lot of time and trouble.

BACK TO SCENE

to reveal Dungeon Master is gone.

PRESTO  
 He's gone!

CLOSE ON HANK

HANK  
 Come on, you guys! Let's get  
 moving.

Hank moves o.s.

WIDE ON JUNGLE

A beat...then they enter shot, pulling the box again.  
 Bobby is in the lead with Uni, hacking away the dense  
 growth with his club.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR: VENGER'S CASTLE - GLOOMY DAY

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the castle as the WINDS HOWL...

INSIDE THE CASTLE CORRIDOR

Shadow Demon enters through a window. He drifts down the  
 passageway, looking about with caution.

CLOSER ON KEYHOLE IN DOOR

Shadow Demon drifts into shot, stopping beside the  
 keyhole. He peeks through, blinks. Suddenly Venger's  
 hand reaches into shot, grabbing him. The MUSIC STINGS.

SHADOW DEMON  
 (airy shriek)

CLOSE ON VENGER

as he brings Shadow Demon before his evil face.

VENGER

What bad news do you bring me  
this time?

SHADOW DEMON

(the words barely  
come out)

The young ones...they got away!

VENGER

STUPID FOOL!

Venger's scream is so strong that Shadow Demon reacts in fear, evaporates into nothing.

CLOSER - VENGER'S EYES

narrow with inner anger.

VENGER

If they free Zandora she'll show  
them the way back to their own  
world and their weapons of power  
will be lost to me forever!

WIDER ON VENGER

He whips his hand magically and the map reappears.

VENGER

Fortunately I know exactly where  
to find them...

PUSH IN on the map as Venger stares at it evilly.

CLOSE ON MAP

as it begins to burn, starting at the location of Skull Mountain. As the MUSIC STINGS we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR: BARREN WASTELAND - DAY

CAMERA PANS to reveal Hank and the others in the distance, hauling the black box across a flat wasteland of parched, cracked ground.

CLOSER ANGLE - PANNING

They're all sweating and tired. Uni is atop the box, sleeping. Bobby is now pulling with the others.

ERIC

(exhausted)

I'm tellin' ya, I can't go on!  
My feet are hurting. My hands  
are hurting.

DIANA  
And my ears are hurting from  
all your complaining!

CLOSER ON HANK - PANNING

HANK  
Hang in there, guys! We haven't  
got much further to go!

CLOSE ON ERIC

ERIC  
That's what you said three hours  
and eight blisters ago!

ON BOBBY AND UNI

Uni suddenly wakes up, reacts to something she sees,  
pointing excitedly.

UNI  
(excited bleats)

BOBBY  
(sees what Uni sees)  
Guys! Look!

WIDER - TO INCLUDE OTHERS AND BLACK BOX

They all stop, react as the black box begins to sink  
through the ground.

PRESTO  
The box!

Presto starts to sink with it.

PRESTO  
Help! I'm sinking!

The others try to hold it back.

DIANA  
We can't stop it!

BOBBY  
Help!

SHEILA  
Bobby!

Uni leaps off as they all are sucked into the ground with  
it. The MUSIC STINGS. Uni is left alone.

UNI  
(worried bleat)

She hesitates, then leaps onto the spot where they disappeared, sucked out of sight. CAMERA PUSHES IN and:

DISSOLVES THRU TO:

UNDERWORLD CAVERNS

It is a fantastic looking environment, with towering cavern peaks, stalagmites and stalactites, etc. Suddenly the box and our guys tumble out of the clouds that drift at the top of the caverns.

HANK ET AL  
(trailing screams)

ANGLE - SUBTERRANEAN RIVER

The kids and box drop into shot, splashing into the shallow water. Uni drops after them.

CLOSER ANGLE ON WATER

A beat, then Uni pops out of the river, spits water.

UNI  
(gurgling burp)

WIDER

as the others stand up in the shallow water, the box beside them. They look around.

BOBBY  
Now where are we?

SHEILA  
Good and lost, I'll bet!

Eric steps out of the river, onto the bank, starts to whip the water off his arms and shield.

ERIC  
We'll never find Skull Mountain,  
now!

Diana looks up, then at Eric, smiles.

DIANA  
You couldn't be more wrong if  
you tried, Eric.

Eric reacts, then looks up. The others do likewise.

THEIR POV - UP ANGLE - SKULL MOUNTAIN

The towering cavern peaks rise up into the clouds. Atop the tallest is the giant skull. CAMERA PUSHES IN on the hole they fell through as the sun moves into view, flaring the scene.

DRAMATIC ANGLE - SKULL MOUNTAIN

The sun moves into full view, striking the skull and casting a shadow on the river bank, just in front of our guys. There is a FLOURISH OF MUSIC.

CLOSE ON DIANA

DIANA

Quick! Get the black box!

She moves o.s.

FULL ON BANK

as they all drag the box to the shadow of the skull.

HANK

There! Now all we have to do is open it!

ERIC

Oh, no! Not me! I've had enough monsters for one day!

Bobby pushes past Eric.

BOBBY

Let a man do it!

PUSH IN as Bobby opens the box.

DOWN ANGLE IN BOX

The bottom of the box dissolves away into stairs. CAMERA PUSHES IN as a swirl of mist spirals up at us. The MUSIC GROWS CREEPY...

WIDER ANGLE

Eric ducks behind a stalagmite. The others react anxiously as the swirl of mist rises out of it, coalescing into an evil, humanoid shape.

ZANDORA

(echoing laughter)

ERIC

I told you it was a mistake!

CAMERA PUSHES IN as the mist condenses further into the solid form of a very benevolent looking old sorceress. If Dungeon Master had a wife this is what she'd look like. Just as pudgy. Just as cute. Perhaps a little more hair.

ZANDORA

Thank you for freeing me!

## WIDER ANGLE

The others approach her. Hank helps her out of the box where she stands. Eric steps out from hiding.

HANK

Dungeon Master sends his greetings!

## CLOSE ON ZANDORA

ZANDORA

I should have known he wouldn't forget me!

(wrinkles nose)

Such a cutey, he is!

## BACK TO SCENE

DIANA

Well, now that Zandora's free I guess we can get back to looking for a way home.

ZANDORA

Home? Perhaps I can lead you in the right direction.

PRESTO

But how?

ZANDORA

I'm a sorceress, aren't I? And a tad better than Dungeon Master, I might add!

## CLOSE ON ZANDORA

ZANDORA

You have freed me. Now it is my turn to free you.

## WIDER ANGLE

Zandora moves her hand in a magical circle and they all, including the box, disappear.

## EXTERIOR: NATURAL BRIDGE - DAY

The natural sandstone bridge passes over a very deep canyon. Suddenly our guys, Zandora and the box, reappear, on the midpoint of the natural bridge. Hank and the others react to their new surroundings. Eric teeters at the edge of the bridge, grabbing onto Presto as he reacts to the height.

ERIC

This isn't our home!

ERIC'S POV - EXTREME DOWN ANGLE

at the bottom of the canyon. The CAMERA ZOOMS IN AND OUT as Eric gets dizzy.

BACK TO SCENE

ZANDORA

Of course not. But if you'll open my magic box you'll find that the stairway will lead you back to your world.

Hank and the others exchange looks. They grin broadly, realizing that they've finally done it. Home is just around the corner.

SHEILA

(holding in excitement)

I don't believe it!

DIANA

Well, believe it! We're going home!

The natural bridge begins to shake, then crumble.

ZANDORA

Hurry!

FAVORING BOX

as Hank opens it up. He and the others look inside.

INSIDE THE BOX

the bottom dissolves into a stairway.

FULL SHOT - ALL

PRESTO

Thanks, Zandora!

DIANA

There's no way you can know how much this means to us.

CLOSER ON BOBBY, UNI, ZANDORA

BOBBY

I'll miss you, Uni!

Uni gives Bobby a lick. Bobby hands Uni to Zandora.

BOBBY

Take good care of her for me.

ZANDORA

I will.



UNI  
(sad but loving bleat)

WIDER ANGLE

The natural bridge shudders again. Hank leads the way into the box. They wave back to Zandora as they all march down, out of sight.

HANK  
So long!

The natural bridge stops rumbling. PUSH IN on Zandora as she waves back, a tear in her eyes.

ZANDORA  
So long.

ANGLE ON STAIRWAY

Hank leads the others down the stairs.

SHEILA  
(echoey)  
I don't see anything!

Suddenly the scene RUMBLES. They stops. The steps begin to crumble.

ERIC  
It's a trap! I knew that old  
witch couldn't be trusted!

The steps crumble away. Hank and the others tumble into the blackness.

HANK ET AL  
(echoing screams)

PANNING WITH KIDS

as they fall through the blackness. They suddenly land in a roller coaster car, the same kind that took them to this world. They react with shock.

HANK  
A roller coaster car!

The car starts to roll down its track.

DIANA  
It's not a trap! We're on our  
way out!

DRAMATIC ANGLE

as the roller coaster car takes a wild ride through the darkness. Presto hangs onto his hat.

PRESTO

Hang on!

BACK TO ZANDORA

ZANDORA

Enjoy your ride home, my friends.

She smiles softly, then starts to close the lid of the box. Suddenly a sinister shadow moves over her. The MUSIC BUILDS...

VENGER (VO)

They'll never reach their home!

WIDER ANGLE

as Zandora reacts to Venger, towering over her, on his steed, Nightmare.

ZANDORA

Venger!

VENGER

Out of my way, old woman!

CLOSER ON ZANDORA

ZANDORA

This old woman still has a lot left in her!

She holds up her hands, shooting out a magical blast.

ON VENGER

as the magic hits him, knocking him back, stunning him.

VENGER

Good...but not good enough!

CLOSE ON VENGER

VENGER

Without Dungeon Master, and the weapons of power, you'll never stop me!

FULL SHOT

Venger makes a throwing motion with his fist, sending a blast of energy that knocks Zandora away from the box.

ZANDORA

I'll finish you off when I return.

Venger whips Nightmare's reins, magically galloping right into the open box. PUSH IN on the box and cut to:

## OUR GUYS

still riding the roller coaster car through the blackness. The light grows brighter on their faces.

BOBBY

Look! We're heading for the exit.

As they gain o.s. we cut to:

EXTERIOR: ON TUNNEL - NIGHT

The roller coaster car speeds out of the tunnel. CAMERA FOLLOWS as it comes to a stop by the loading platform. Sheila has her hands over her face.

CLOSER ON OUR GUYS

They look about, unsure, half in shock. They look at one another in disbelief. (Note: They still have their weapons and costumes on.) Sheila's hands are still covering her eyes.

PRESTO

If I'm dreaming don't wake me up!

SHEILA

I can't look.

Bobby pulls her hands away.

BOBBY

Sure you can.

Sheila looks. Smiles.

WIDER ANGLE

to reveal they are home. The amusement park is as they left it, only it is night and so the place is empty.

HANK

We're home!

ANGLE ON PLATFORM

as Hank and the others dance about, happy as hell. Eric kisses the ground.

HANK ET AL

(misc. happy adlibs)

We did it! Home sweet home!

Thank you, Zandora. We love you!

Yippee!

Suddenly a glowing blast of magical energy shoots into shot, exploding beside them, shaking them out of their party. They look o.s. in surprise, reacting to:

## THEIR POV - ROLLER COASTER TUNNEL

Venger gallops out on Nightmare, firing another beam of magical energy.

## BACK TO THE KIDS

DIANA  
It's Venger!

HANK  
Duck!

They dive o.s. as the magical blast erupts beside them.

## ON TICKET BOOTH

as Sheila, Eric and Presto peek out.

SHEILA  
He must have come through the box!

PRESTO  
We've got to stop him!

ERIC  
We, nothing! I'm calling the cops!

Eric runs o.s.

## ANGLE ON PHONE BOOTH

Eric enters, picks up the phone, fishes for a dime.

ERIC  
Oh, no! I haven't got a dime!

## VENGER

shoots a blast of energy o.s.

## THE BOOTH

disintegrates under Venger's onslaught, leaving Eric standing in the midst of the smoking rubble.

## FULL ON VENGER AND OTHERS

Venger rears up on Nightmare before them.

VENGER  
Give me your weapons and I will  
leave you forever! Resist me  
and I will destroy you.

DIANA  
I don't think we have a choice,  
guys?

HANK

Right! We might as well give  
them to him!

Hank stands up, then suddenly pulls back on his bow,  
letting an arrow fly.

CLOSER ON VENGER

as he reels with the explosion of light.

DIANA

takes out her javelin, spins it like a rotor blade and  
lets it fly.

VENGER

is knocked back as it rips through shot.

BOBBY

bashes his club on the ground, causing a near earthquake.

BOBBY

Have a free ride on me, Venger!

ANGLE ON ROLLER COASTER CARS

as they are jarred lose from the platform, rolling o.s.

ON VENGER AND NIGHTMARE

Nightmare rears up as the cars roar past them. PUSH IN.

VENGER

Fools! I'll destroy your entire  
world if I have to!

He shoots a power bolt o.s.

ANGLE ON FERRIS WHEEL

The power bolt explodes beneath the Ferris wheel,  
knocking it off its standards. It rolls o.s.

ANGLE ON JANITOR

sweeping up the pavement. The Ferris wheel rumbles past  
behind him. He reacts, turns, scratches his head, then  
goes back to sweeping.

VENGER

fires another blast of energy.

## THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

explodes with light, starting up and spinning around rapidly, its MUSIC filling the scene.

## BACK TO VENGER

as he shoots another blast o.s.

## A HOT DOG STAND

crumbles as the street cracks open beneath it.

## ON HANK AND OTHERS

as some more explosions and flashes erupt o.s.

## DIANA

If we stay here he'll wipe out the place.

## PRESTO

And if we give him our weapons he'll go back and conquer Dungeon Master and the entire realm.

## ON HANK

## HANK

There's only one thing to do. We led Venger here...we'll have to lead him back.

## WIDER - TO INCLUDE OTHERS

## SHEILA

Back? But we just got here.

## PRESTO

I haven't even had time to play the latest video games.

## ON HANK AND ERIC

## ERIC

You're nuts? I wouldn't go back to that crazy place for a million bucks...tax free!

## HANK

Have it your way, Eric! I'm going, with or without you.

## WIDER ANGLE

as Hank runs o.s. Diana shoots a look to the others, then takes off after Hank.

PRESTO

Oh, well! When in loonyland,  
do as the loonies!

Presto runs o.s.

BOBBY

Wait for me!

Bobby runs o.s.

SHEILA

Bobby!

She runs off after them. PUSH IN on Eric as he folds his  
arms defiantly.

ERIC

Those saps can go back if they  
want to. Not me!

ANGLE ON ROLLER COASTER CAR

Hank and the others get in. It starts off.

ON ERIC

ERIC

Nope! I'm home...and I'm stayin'!

THE ROLLER COASTER CAR

dips down the tracks.

ON ERIC

ERIC

Noting could make me change my mind.

CAMERA WIDENS to reveal Venger towering over Eric on  
Nightmare.

VENGER

I'll take that shield!

Eric reacts in panic.

ERIC

YAAAAAHHHH!!

He rushes away. Venger fires his magical energy o.s.

PANNING WITH ERIC

his shield behind him, warding off the blasts of energy.

ERIC

Wait for me!

ON ROLLER COASTER CAR

as Eric leaps into it.

ON VENGER

VENGER  
They're going back!

He gallops after them.

ON ROLLER COASTER

as the car, and our guys, disappear into the tunnel. A beat, then Venger follows after them. PUSH IN...

INSIDE THE COASTER RIDE

Hank and the others speed down the tracks.

ANGLE ON GLOWING LIGHT

as the coaster car speeds right into it, disappearing. Venger gallops into shot, following it. PUSH IN...

EXTERIOR: NATURAL BRIDGE - THE BLACK BOX

The lid is open. Zandora and Uni stand beside it. She reacts to a magical rumble, then Hank and the others climb up out of it.

ZANDORA  
You've come back!

CLOSE ON UNI

as she reacts with a welcome smile.

UNI  
(excited bleat)

CLOSER ON NATURAL BRIDGE

as it starts to shudder and crumble again.

BACK TO SCENE

Hank and the others are all out of the box.

ZANDORA  
Hurry!

ERIC  
Wait! If we close the box  
Venger will be trapped forever!

Eric starts to close the lid. Hank stops him.



HANK

No way! He'll be trapped back home!

CLOSE ON PRESTO

PRESTO

Yeah! And by the time we get back he'd have his evil thumb on the whole planet, just like he does here.

BACK TO SCENE

Eric and Hank reel back as Venger, on Nightmare, gallops out of the box.

DRAMATIC UP ANGLE - ON VENGER

as he stops, rears up in mid-air.

VENGER

Now, I'll take your weapons of power and the magic box, unless you want me to return to your world...and turn it into a smoking cinder!

FULL SHOT - ALL

ZANDORA

You'll never get the weapons or my magic box, Venger.

Zandora stands off the natural bridge, on the top of the canyon ledge. She holds out her arms. Instantly all of their weapons of power are swept away from them and into Zandora's arms.

ERIC

Hey!

She puts another spell on the magic box.

CLOSER ON BOX

as it slides away from Hank and the others, moving o.s.

FAVORING ZANDORA

as the box stops before her. She dumps the weapons in.

ON VENGER

VENGER

Come back with those, you old hag!

Venger fires a flaming blast of energy.

FULL SHOT - ZANDORA AND KIDS

The energy blast streaks into shot, exploding beside Zandora, knocking her over, bumping the box several feet to one side.

ON HANK AND THE OTHERS

They react as the natural bridge they're standing on starts to crumble. They rush off as the bridge collapses into the deep canyon.

ON BOX

Zandora lies unconscious beside it. Venger enters, stops over the box. PUSH IN as he leans down, opens the box.

HIS POV - THE BOX

It is empty. Suddenly a stairway appears.

BACK TO SCENE

VENGER

At last! The weapons of power  
are mine!

Venger steps into the box.

HANK AND OTHERS

react in silent anticipation.

ON VENGER AND THE BOX

He moves down the steps, disappearing into the box. Suddenly Zandora rises alertly, slamming the lid.

ZANDORA

Gotcha!

WIDER ANGLE - ALL

DIANA

You tricked him!

SHEILA

But Venger's got our weapons!  
With that much power he'll be  
able to escape any trap!

CLOSE ON ZANDORA

ZANDORA

Escape, he will...but without  
your weapons.

BACK TO SCENE

BOBBY

But they were in the box!

ZANDORA

Yes, but not where Venger entered.

Zandora slides the box over to where it was before Venger shot the blast at her and knocked the box to one side.

ZANDORA

This is where it was when I put your weapons into it.

She opens the lid.

THEIR POV - INSIDE THE BOX

Their weapons are safe and secure.

WIDER ANGLE

as Hank and the others take their weapons out.

PRESTO

Nice going, Zandora.

HANK

I wonder where Venger wound up?

ON ZANDORA

as she holds up the map, examines it.

ZANDORA

Let's see. According to the warp-hole map he should be right about...here!

She pokes her finger at the map, and with that we cut to:

INTERIOR: DARK AND CREEPY CAVE

A stairway appears. Venger walks down, looks about.

VENGER

Those weapons must be here somewhere.

He moves to a huge door, opens it to reveal Tiamat. The five headed dragon roars furiously at him.

TIAMAT

(fierce roaring)

VENGER

Noooooo!!

As Venger backs up, trying to defend himself we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR: TOP OF CANYON - DAY

Hank and the others are with Zandora.

HANK

Thanks for all you've done,  
Zandora.

ZANDORA

And thank you, for freeing me.

WIDER - TO INCLUDE NATURAL BRIDGE

The bridge is destroyed.

ZANDORA

I'm sorry that Venger destroyed  
the natural bridge. It was the  
only spot from which you could  
have returned home through my  
magic box.

ON PRESTO

PRESTO

Maybe Dungeon Master can rebuild  
the bridge for us.

WIDEN to reveal Dungeon Master, standing beside Presto.

DUNGEON MASTER

I'm afraid not, Magician.

Presto reacts in surprise to the sight of Dungeon Master.

FULL SHOT - ALL

BOBBY

I guess we're stuck here, after all.

Uni nuzzles Bobby sympathetically.

UNI

(sympathetic bleat)

FAVORING ERIC

ERIC

Well, I don't believe it! There  
must be another warp hole that'll  
get us home.

Eric moves o.s.

WIDER

as Eric drags the magic box to the edge of the canyon cliff, beside the end of the caved-in natural bridge.

ERIC

There! That's close enough.

Eric opens the box, looks in.

HIS POV - BOTTOM OF BOX

The stairs appear.

ERIC (VO)

Aha! I knew it! The stairway  
to freedom!

FULL SHOT - ALL

HANK

Eric, wait!

Eric disappears into the box. A beat, then:

ERIC (VO)

(echoing scream)

YEEEEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

The others react as Eric clammers back out of the box. Three bullywugs climb up after him.

BULLYWUGS

(angry croaking)

Eric tries desperately to close the lid on them.

ERIC

Help! Somebody! Andbody!

Hank and the others start to LAUGH. Dungeon Master and Zandora give each other a wink. Eric struggles with the bullywugs, pushing down on the box lid, dodging their webbed hands.

ERIC

Quit laughing, you guys, and  
give me a hand! Help! Get  
away, wartbreath! Yuch! Don't  
touch me! Get down! Shoo!  
(trailing off)

FADE OUT

THE END