THE BELL WISHERS

by Emmett O. Saunders III © 2001

WGI0250600

With music by composer Tim Janis

Contact information: <u>emmett71755@hotmail.com</u> 715 Sommers Street Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-485-3128 www.youtube.com/emmett71755

This material was registered with the Writers Guild of America in 2001 by Emmett O. Saunders III. All rights reserved. No part of this material may be reproduced, copied, or sold in any form without the written permission from the owner of the copyrights. Writers Guild of America: WGI0250600

FADE IN:

MUSIC BEGINS: A beautiful rendition of "Rushing Wings of Dawn" by Tim Janis, found on the *Music Of Hope* CD featuring the New York Philharmonic and conducted by Kurt Masur.Opening credits superimpose on a beautiful overhead shot of a national forest preserve, seen at dusk as VO narration begins:

> Each evening before the shadows close in on everyday things that most of us tend to forget, two small children remember, but what they recall is seldom ordinary and mostly about journeys that few would ever begin. This is the story of their first travel, how it began and where it took them.

TITLE appears:

THE BELL WISHERS

SUBTITLE appears as title vanishes:

A LAND REMOTE: The first journey

EXT. HIGHWAY ROAD - DUSK

A brightly lit mobile home is visible cruising slowly along a back road path of a national forest preserve.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - EARLY EVENING

The vehicle hits a pothole.

INT. MOBILE HOME

Two children, nine-year-old JEWEL ADAMS and eight-year-old JASON HENDERSON, sit engrossed in magnetic chess, scarcely noticing the road hazard.

VO

JEWEL Aren't you tired of this, Jason? (squirms uncomfortably) Mother said we'd be there soon. Why don't we play I Spy instead?

JASON None of that, Jewel! I gave you time to move.

JEWEL Silly, what are you talking about?

JASON You're just trying to break my concentration.

JEWEL

Nonsense!

The mobile home grinds to a halt.

JASON You may be older, but at least I'm smarter.

She stares back with the barest trace of amusement curling the corners of her mouth.

JEWEL Is that why you lost the game?

JASON'S DAD (calls from front) Everybody out, we've had a flat!

JEWEL Great ... and it's getting dark outside, too!

EXT. MAKESHIFT CAMPSITE - LITTLE LATER

Fire crackles brightljy as the parents work on dinner and getting preparations made for an early departure in the morning.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST

Jewel and Jason explore thick underbrush along a thin path.

JEWEL We'd better get back. If they have to start looking for us, we'll be in trouble.

JASON

Wait! Look at this.

He uncovers a tiny wooden box from under a small stone monument. A little golden crown is etched in the face of the lid. Rusted hinges and a locked clasp at the side hold the top in place.

> JEWEL Don't open it. It might be some sort of dead animal inside.

JASON

Out here? I doubt it.

He gently pries the top off as a wisp of wind blows, momentarily startling them.

JEWEL Stop! We'd better get back.

JASON

Afraid?

JEWEL

No. I just think it'd be better to take it back to camp. Open it where our parents can see.

JASON

Well, too late.

He folds the top back to expose a blue metal bell inside. Intricate engravings with all sorts of intriguing figures and symbols surround the perimeter.

A piece of neatly folded parchment, lies with the musical instrument. Jason unfolds the note, but the lower half of the parchment crumbles away, scattering as dust in the wind.

Jewel shines her flashlight at the inscription.

JEWEL

What's it say?

JASON

"Ring the bell, call the cloak, Travel far to a land remote…"

JEWEL Where's the rest of it?

JASON

Wind took it.

JEWEL

We'd better get back.

JASON Wait! Aren't you curious?

JEWEL It probably doesn't mean anything anyway. Just a poem.

JASON Don't worry. I'll be here to protect you.

Jason raises the bell and rings it once. The softest, clearest note sounds in the stillness.

JEWEL

Now what?

JASON I don't know. Call the cloak, I guess.

JEWEL

How?

JASON

Cloak ...

They stand shivering for a moment. Nothing moves.

JEWEL

See? It's just a joke.

JASON

CLOAK, COME ...

A round, dark green object appears, spread across the ground. It looks like a thin blanket, no bigger than the width of a baby's crib. The edges are spun in golden thread and the outline of a bell, surrounded by a circle, is sewn directly in the center.

JASON

Not much space to do a lot of traveling.

Jason steps onto the surface. Eerily, the edges begin spreading outward, expanding to twice the cloak's original size.

JEWEL

I really don't think this is such a good idea. We can't both fit on it.

She tries pulling away as he tugs her to sit beside him.

JASON

Oh, but look we can.

He points to the rapidly growing boundaries of the cloth.

JEWEL

It's just pretend.

JASON Nonsense. CLOAK...TO THE LAND REMOTE!

The cloak grows again, surrounding both children in its folds. Jewel screams as the cloak RISES into the air and begins spinning around them.

EFX as the cloak GLOWS bright green. Billions of emerald sparkles flow around them. Jewel clings tightly to Jason as they begin moving forward.

Wrapped in the cloak, neither child can tell in which direction they're headed. With a sudden, but gentle bump, the cloak stops, earth bound once again as the cloak opens. EXT. BEACH SHORELINE

Waves of purple-green ocean wash against endless palm trees.

In the distance, pink clouds dot a pale orange sky. The colors mix together in a confusing rainbow array.

The strange sight stirs the urge to explore in Jason. He steps off the cloak, while Jewel's hand holds his own tightly.

JEWEL

No, we should get back. Our parents will be looking for us.

JASON Just look at it, Jewel. Have you ever seen anything like this?

He drags her from the cloak onto the dark, glittering grey surface of the ground. A soft TWITTERING sound draws his attention.

JASON That's a bird. Want to bet?

JEWEL

Not exactly.

As they step from the cloak, it fades into dust at their feet. Her sudden gasp freezes Jason in mid-step.

JASON

What's wrong?

JEWEL

The cloak is gone! Now we can't get back.

JASON

I've still got the bell. I can always call it again.

JEWEL Please, let's just go then. I don't think we should be here. This was a mistake. JASON All right, we'll go back. If that's what you want.

He tugs the bell from his pocket and rings it once.

JASON

CLOAK, COME ...

The traveling cloak immediately appears in its original form. They step onto it and seat themselves quickly.

> JEWEL Hurry ... something's moving through the bushes.

JASON No problem. CLOAK, HOME...

JEWEL Jason, it's getting closer.

EXT. FOREST - SAME TIME

A large dark form bounds through the thick underbrush.

Jason begins to panic, realizing they could be overtaken in a matter of seconds.

JASON

CLOAK, HOME ...

The cloak makes no response. Jason grabs Jewel's arm as they run for cover in the opposite direction.

JASON We have to reach the trees.

JEWEL The cloak dissolved again.

JASON

Good, at least we can call it back with the bell. Even if we can't use it to get home.

back?

JEWEL

Speaking of which ... how are we going to get

JASON

Shh ... First things first.

Jason whirls around, as a lion, the size of a Clydesdale horse, plunges into view.

Jewel remains glued to her spot in the slightly muddy grey earth. Jason snaps a large tree branch beside him.

JASON When it attacks ... run and don't look back.

JEWEL

I'm not leaving you.

The lion bares its teeth, growling to clear a throat covered in dust. Its demeanor changes from frightening to merely curious.

LION Excuse me, were you trying to avoid me?

JEWEL

A talking lion? Whoever heard of such a thing?

JASON Can't be any stranger than the rest of this place. We thought you were trying to eat us.

LION I don't think that would be the wisest choice for either of us. (pats his stomach) No, not wise at all. I could do to lose a few pounds but here it isn't that easy.

JEWEL

A dieting lion?

She claps both hands to her mouth to stifle a giggle.

LION

I don't really think you'll be doing much walking past the predicament you're already in. It's squishy stuff that most inhabitants here call a marsh.

JASON

Like quicksand?

Jason tries tugging either one of his feet free. He is completely mired in the black, granular mud.

LION Everyone usually avoids the stuff. Except, of course, lower minded creatures and visitors like yourselves.

Jason searches desperately for something to pull them closer to the edge of the marsh. All overhead vines are just out of reach.

> JASON We can't get out of here by ourselves.

LION

Probably not.

JEWEL

Well, help us!

LION

What's in it for me?

JASON

What do you mean? You could save our lives.

LION

And in return? What do I get for my mercy on such poor helpless creatures?

JEWEL

Why do you have to get something in return?

LION

No one gives anything for nothing. That wouldn't be prudent for survival. (pauses to savor the moment) MORE

LION (CONT'D) What are you willing to give me in return for my saving your lives?

JASON

What about a magic bell?

LION

Say again?

JEWEL

Jason, no. It's our only chance out of this place.

JASON

A magic bell.

(whispers to Jewel) If we don't get out of here, we'll never get home anyway.

LION

I might be interested. Let me see it, first.

JASON NO! You get us out of here. Then I'll hand it over to you.

LION (paces back and forth on the sand)

How do I know you really have it?

JEWEL

How do you think we got here in the first place? Geez, for a ruler you sure have some king-sized doubts.

LION

Well, I'm not the one up to her knees in quicksand either. Just show me the bell, and I promise to help.

Jason slides his hand into the muck and feels for his pocket. He draws forth the bell, covered in gritty sand.

LION That's it? A little bell ... and you expect me to believe it's magical?

JASON

It is. Anyone who holds it possesses great power.

LION

All right.

The lion bounds through the brush, returning with a thick, strong vine.

LION Grab hold of this and I'll pull you both to safety.

JEWEL

Thanks.

The lion tugs with all his might, yanking both children through to the shallowest end of the mire. Regaining their feet, Jason and Jeewel bow respectfully to their rescuer.

> LION (waves away the adulation) Enough of that. Hand me the bell. It's rightfully mine now.

Jason places the small bell in the leader's paw.

The lion rolls the bell first one way, then the other, examining the strange symbols on its surface.

LION

How does it work?

A swift SHUSHING sound overhead draws their attention.

In the distance, a dark cloud of fluttering wings begins descending through the trees, heading straight for them.

LION

It's the work of Devonika. You'd better take cover while I drive them back.

JEWEL

Who's Devonika?

The lion pushes her into the underbrush where she remains shaken but unharmed.

LION An evil enchantress and there's no time to explain. Lie still and don't run. They attack anything that moves.

JEWEL

What are they?

The lion heaves a magnificent challenging roar at the descending raiders. The swirling grey mist surrounding them doesn't obscure eight legs of each attacker landing on the ruler, completely obscuring him for a moment.

> JASON They're giant flying spiders. Big as eagles.

JEWEL He'll never be able to fight them alone. We've got to help him.

JASON No. He told us to stay put. That's his battle.

The lion manages to shake off the winged insects. Then, the monarch swats at the remainder with the bell clasped tightly in his free paw.

The spiders begin a furious tug of war with the bell. Swiftly dislodging it, they take off back into the sky with the prize.

The lion is drawn to his knees by the insects' weight. A thousand feet crawl through his mane and over his torso, seeking a vulnerable spot to drive home deadly venom.

JEWEL Jason, they took the bell!

Jason grabs a stout tree branch and runs to help the fallen monarch. Instantly, sensing motion, the insects turn their attention to Jason.

Jason swings valiantly and brings down several of the larger spiders before his legs become covered in swiftly spun webs.

A bright FLASH of light blinds everyone. Jewel swings viciously back and forth with a flaming tree branch. The lion's look of amazement is immense.

The monarch shakes the rest of the spiders toward the burning branch as Jewel backswing boots them in all directions at once. The insects retreat into the air.

> JEWEL We won ... and don't come back!

> > LION

(paces cautiously in front of her) Oh, they won't. Not against a superior weapon like that.

JASON

You've never seen fire?

LION

No, but I can feel its power from here. Are you an enchantress, little girl?

JEWEL What do you mean? Like a witch?

LION If that's how you look at it, yes …

JEWEL

Heaven's no. My parents always make us carry a few camping essentials. One of them just happened to be a lighter.

JASON

How'd you know it would work here? You could have caused a tremendous explosion if the atmosphere hadn't been similar to our own.

JEWEL

I didn't know, but I didn't want you both eaten by the spiders either.

LION You mentioned your atmosphere. So, you're not from around here, and parents ... what are they?

JASON

Look, lion ...

LION

The name is Lord Alessandro Balthezar de Iglesias Panthadere.

JASON

Well, how about we just call you Ali for short?

LION

You may call me Lord. You may call me King, but never call me Ali.

JEWEL I think Ali's a delightful name, and so much easier to remember. My name's Jewel.

ALI Pleased to meet you, I'm sure. Very well, then, Ali it shall be.

JASON

Mine's Jason.

JEWEL

And I'm Jewel.

Ali offers his paw and the three exchange handshakes.

JEWEL

As to your question, we're not from around here. No, not at all...

JASON

What she means is, we're not quite sure where we are.

ALI

That's easily remedied. You're in the Land of Remote. A wonderful place to explore and filled with adventure.

JEWEL

If it's like what we've already been through, I've had about enough.

ALI

Oh, that's nothing. Once Devonika sees that her plan to destroy me didn't work, she'll send something far greater to do the job.

Jewel shivers, wondering what could possibly top the already menacing nightmare they had just experienced.

Jason pats her shoulder reassuringly.

JASON It's okay. We've got to get back to Mom and Dad. They won't leave without us.

JEWEL

How do you know?

ALI

Mom and Dad?

JASON

Our parents would never leave us alone in a place like this.

ALI Evidently, the choice wasn't theirs to make.

JEWEL You're right about that.

ALI

Well, in any event, I must admit my curiosity has been aroused. These people you speak of ... are they important in your lives?

JASON

The most important in anybody's life. Without them, it'd be hard to get through a single day.

ALI

But not impossible, because in the Land of Remote we've gotten through a great many without them.

JEWEL There are no parents here?

ALI

None whatsoever.

JEWEL

We're in big trouble.

ALI

With a big adventure ahead.:

MONTAGE BEGINS

- 1) M iles of jungle searing in the afternoon heat.
- 2) Beautifully plumed birds soar high overhead. A chorus of song in four and sometimes five-part harmony can be heard faintly in the distance of the birds' trail.

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. A SMALL CLEARING

JASON

I'm hungry.

ALI What exactly do you eat? I know what I like. But you're a different story.

JEWEL

He eats just about anything ... anytime ... anywhere.

JASON

Don't think so. I like a lot of stuff, just not too crazy about veggies.

Ali's face bears a quizzical stare, seeing a new slant on his kingdom. A lack of parents seems a great loss. A place called home seems another mystery. The children have shown him that being without people who care about you is something to be avoided. The two travelers have given him a lot to think about.

JASON

I guess you like veggies?

JEWEL

His mom makes him eat them.

She balances on one foot, emptying a shoe full of dark grey sand.

ALI

Then it's a good thing. To force people into doing something they don't like?

JASON

Not always.

JEWEL

But sometimes it is ... ometimes trying new things can be good.

JASON

If I didn't eat stuff like veggies that I don't like, then I'd never appreciate other things that I do.

Jason swats at a buzzing noise near his ear.

FARINA Hey! Watch out who you're slapping!

Jewel blinks twice, unable to believe the tiny voice that yelled beside Jason. It pealed like the tones of a small wind chime caught in a breeze. But the amazing thing was the creature it emanated from, the smallest girl airborne by a set of tiny wings.

JASON

What is this?

ALI

That, my boy, is a flyscout. Farina, by name.

JEWEL

What's a flyscout?

Jewel holds out the palm of her hand. The winged creature lands nimbly between thumb and forefinger. Then looks wonderingly at the girl.

FARINA has never seen creatures like this before. The flyscout realizes they must be strong and stouthearted for her friend Ali to tolerate them.

ALI Allow me to introduce my companions. This is Jason and the one holding you is Jewel.

FARINA

She's not holding me. (tosses her red haired curls disdainfully) Her hand was just a convenient landing area. That's all.

Farina paces back and forth across Jewel's palm.

ALI

Flyscouts aren't known for their manners. Just fierce trust and loyalty.

FARINA

We have heard of Devonika's deceit within the kingdom.

JEWEL

Flying spiders carried off our bell. We can't get home without it.

FARINA

I know.

(flutters her wings) Sorry, have to beat away the sad feelings. We can't tolerate those.

JASON

You know about the bell?

FARINA

Yes. My brother carried the bell with him by request of the Grand Vizier. It never left his side until his last battle with Devonika.

JASON

Devonika, Schmonika...I'm not interested in hearing any more about her. Or the stupid tricks she pulls to keep everyone here scared.

ALI It's more than fright, I assure you.

JEWEL

Jason, her brother died at the hands of this witch. We should have some respect for her loss.

JASON

I'm sorry. But just how do we get the bell back?

FARINA

That is up to you.

JASON

Hey, wait a minute. I thought you were going to help us?

FARINA

That, too, depends on how bad you want my help.

Farina flies from Jewel's hand to alight on anearby tree branch.

ALI

We do need your wisdom, my friend. There's no telling what she will do with the bell.

JASON

Well, she could be the most powerful witch in the Land of Remote, but she doesn't know the poem that goes with it.

FARINA

Poem?

JASON

A little poem that got us here in the first place. Without it, the bell means nothing.

ALI

Ah, I see, nothing.

Farina's small tinkling laugh escapes her lips before she flies off into the forest. Jewel's eyes narrow on Jason, disgusted at his arrogance.

ALI

My friend, look at this plant here.

A large, strawberry-colored leaf waves gently in a soft breeze.

Jason runs a finger over the top of the plant.

JASON

What is it?

ALI

Food for you and Jewel. It's been here all along.

JASON

Why didn't you say so?

ALI

Things are not always what they seem, and don't be deceived by mere appearance. The most useful items seldom have roots at the surface.

Jewel gingerly tastes the small plant.

JEWEL

It tastes like strawberries, but it's so filling. (sets aside the larger portion of the plant) I'm done.

JASON Cool, that leaves more for me.

ALI

Careful with that. It only takes a little to fill you up.

Jason ignores the warning and greedily eats the rest of the Plant. Before the last bite, his stomach begins rumbling.

Jewel gasps as Jason's belly starts growing to three times its original size. She clamps a hand over her mouth stifling a giggle.

JASON

Oh no. I should have stopped eating when you told me.

ALI

Yes, you should have.

JEWEL

What are we gonna do? We can't go on like this. He'll never fit through the trees.

ALI

(nods toward a tall mountain ahead) Guess that's our only alternative now. Since someone couldn't control an appetite.

JASON

We'll never make it up that.

JEWEL

We have to ... or we'll never get the bell back.

JASON

Or get home again. Maybe the exercise will work some of this off. I can't see my feet. I should have listened.

ALI

Then hear me now. We're going up that mountain. It would have been far easier to travel through the forest, but that's no longer an option. So we have to make the best of it. Put one foot forward and let's get started.

JASON

What if I fall over? I may not be able to get back up.

JEWEL We can help you, but you have to make the effort, Jason. We've got to get home.

JASON

I'll try.
 (puts one foot in front of the other)
This isn't too difficult. And I feel the
same as I was ... thin. There's just more of
me to get moving.

Clouds blow across the sun as a cooling shadow falls over the three friends.

An ominous VOICE sounds overhead. Jewel glances skyward instantly. A four-winged raven cocks its head haughtily at her.

RAVEN Not one of you will survive the journey.

JEWEL

You're wrong.

RAVEN

We'll see.

The raven flies swiftly off into the clouds, reigniting the afternoon sun around them.

EXT. WELL WORN PATH UP SIDE OF MOUNTAIN

Jewel tries keeping up with Ali's loping gait.

JEWEL Ali! Jason can't keep going like this. We need to rest.

ALI Take a break, then. I'll check out the trail ahead. Make sure Devonika hasn't set any more traps for us.

JASON Good idea. This isn't a good time to deal with her evil plans.

JEWEL Well, when do you think a good time would be?

JASON

I'm sorry.

JEWEL

Don't start that. You didn't know what we were getting into.

JASON

I should never have rung that bell. We would be back with our parents right now, if I hadn't dragged you onto that cloak.

JEWEL

You didn't drag me anywhere. I was just as curious as you were. Besides, we're here now, and we just have to deal with it.

The faint sound of RUNNING WATER reaches their ears. Jewel points to a small clearing through the trees.

JEWEL Let's get a drink before Ali gets back.

JASON I can't fit in there, but see if you can bring me back some.

JEWEL

Do my best.

She disappears into the underbrush for a few seconds, then a piercing SHRIEK chills Jason to the bone.

JASON

Jewel! Hang on, I'm on my way ...

Jason pummels through the trees, cracking them away by his onslaught. He reaches her almost instantly, but freezes when he sees her staring into a small pool of water.

Jewel's face reflects back from the water. Her beaming blue eyes have sunken into folds of flesh that almost cover them completely. And her skin has dried to a pasty grayish color.

She begins crying, pushing into the surrounding growth.

JEWEL Don't look at me! I don't ever want anybody seeing me again.

JASON

Hang on... You can't go tearing off into the woods. We don't know what's out there.

JEWEL Can't be any worse than this.

Jason giggles momentarily, then stops himself.

JEWEL

You're laughing at me!

JASOCN

No, I'm not. You're just different, that's all.

JEWECL I can't go home looking like this, Jason.

JASON

Well, neither can I. They'd have to adjust the shocks on both sides of the van.

JEWEL This isn't funny. I can't face anybody.

JASON

And you think I enjoy weighing my alternatives like this? (slaps his belly in dismay) Somebody's planned all of it, and I think we both know who.

JEWEL

Devonika?

JASON Exactly. Now we have to find a way to beat her at her own game. And the first step is acceptance.

JEWEL You're okay with the weight gain?

JASON

I don't like it, but I have to accept it for the moment.

JEWEL Maybe we can find a way to reverse it?

JASON

And if not... perhaps we get to see who we are beneath everything.

Both children smile at each other.

JEWEL Let's get going. We need to find Ali. He's probably given up trying to find us.

JASON

Kinda doubt that. He needs us to defeat Devonika. There's no telling what she's cooking up for the three of us.

Farina calls from a branch high above them.

FARINA

Four!

The flyscout swoops down to the children.

FARINA Hurry, or we'll be stuck in the worst part of the island after dark.

JECWEL But everything's so beautiful here. Except the way we look now.

Farina's expression changes as she realizes what has happened to them.

FARINA More of Devonika's handiwork.

JASON That and our own gluttony.

JEWEL And need for refreshment.

FARINA

In any event ... Ali's waiting, and he's found shelter to stay the night.

EXT. LARGE, DARK CAVE - SAME TIME

Ali, nostrils flaring, searches for any trace of enemies.

ALI Good to see you. I retraced my steps but you were gone.

JEWEL It's a long story, and as Farina pointed out, it's getting dark. ALI Fine, then. This should do for one night.

JASON

Have you slept here before?

FARINA

Ali is the strongest, most powerful ruler we have. If he's checked this out, you can be sure.

ALI

Thanks for the vote of confidence, but there's really no need at this point. It's safe here. You don't get to be king of the forest without knowing a few things. Protect what you have at all costs.

JEWEL

That's comforting.

JASON Hey, Ali saved us from the marsh.

JEWEL He wanted the bell's magic.

FARINA

Decide among yourselves. I've got work to do.

The flyscout flits away, beating a hasty retreat in the gathering darkness.

ALI

Though we disagree on many things, I must agree with Farina on this one. We have a very large day of travel ahead tomorrow. Sleep would be a blessing at this point.

Both children nod sheepishly and follow Ali. They settle in the cave before Jason speaks again.

JASON

Hey, Ali.

ALI

Yes?

JASON What was the second item you based this choice on?

ALI Survival, my boy. Plain, pure and simple.

JEWEL

It's a good choice.

JASON You're sure there's no bugs in here?

JEWEL Bugs? I think we better change the subject.

ALI And I think we should all sleep.

JASON Wait. Something moved.

JEWEL Jason, stop it! We need to rest. Right, Ali?

Jewel's searches for Ali's shadow, but he has vanished.

JEWCEL

He's gone.

JASON

No, he's in the corner, locating the noise.

Ali assumes his most regal stance as the RUMBLING sound draws closer.

ALI Come forth and identify yourself!

A slight shuffling of rock greets the command.

JEWEL

Jason, stay close.

JASON

I'm not going anywhere, until I get the word from Ali.

ALI

Stand and name yourself!

A sound of rock-hewn feet slowly drags across the dirt floor.

STONEHIGH

I am called Stonehigh.

STONEHENGE standing nearly fifty feet tall, dwarfs Ali in its shadow.

ALI

What manner of creature are you?

STONEHIGH

I am a mountain's strength, forged in the depths of mighty forces battling beneath the surface. I have lived here all my life, and will continue my existence long after your kind has vanished from memory.

Jewel peeks cautiously over Jason's shoulder. She strains to see the two dark luminous eyes staring downward at them.

A slight shower of pebbles hits Ali's head as the creature grinds to a halt. There are no discernible arms and Stonehigh shuffles on large boulders for feet.

> JEWEL I'm Jewel. This is Jason and Ali, my friends.

> > JASON

Are you dangerous?

STONEHIGH Only to my enemies, and there are many of those on this island. (nods to Ali) Wouldn't you agree, my four-footed friend?

ALI

Most decidedly so.

STONEHIGH

What brings you to my cave? Were you seeking fortune in the depths of the earth?

JEWEL

We were just looking for a night's shelter. We've walked a long way and we're very tired. If we could just rest a few hours, we'd be out of here by daybreak.

STONEHIGH You may stay, then ... under those conditions.

JASON

Thanks.

ALI We appreciate your kindness.

INT. CAVE - LATER THE SAME NIGHT.

Jewel's flutter open, staring toward the entrance.

Several pairs of bright eyes are staring in at them. She nudges Jason until he groggily responds, then rouses Ali the same way.

Stones drop into place at the entrance as the exit is sealed. Ali rises and paces to the vanished opening.

ALI

We have been trapped.

STONEHIGH They know you are here.

JASON You watched them do this? And never warned us?

Jewel flashes a warning glance at Jason. She didn't want anything to antagonize Stonehigh when he might be their only chance of escape.

Stonehigh shifts uneasily.

STONEHIGH

What could I do? I can't leave the cave, and you certainly couldn't handle a tribe of Tugg-Ugglies.

JEWEL

A tribe of what?

STONEHIGH

They're called Tugg-Ugglies. A great many years ago, they existed as normal as you or I.

JASON Right. What did they look like then?

STONEHIGH As I said, the tribe wasn't particularly appealing to me, but they were a normal enough looking bunch of creatures.

Ali pauses in his pacing near the blocked entrance. His patience holds his temper in check.

ALI

What changed them?

Stonehigh moves a single rock finger to point at the children. STONEHIGH Probably the same process that changed these two into what we see here. I'm quite sure neither appeared this way when they first arrived on the island.

ALI

How could you know that? I thought you couldn't journey outside the cave.

A glistening small light flies from one of the side caves to the main area. Jason smiles, recognizing Farina's return. Jewel remains unconvinced that the flyscout's reappearance bodes well for any of them.

Farina spins around, sending excess moisture swirling in all directions.

WIDE SHOT as Farina lands on Ali's shoulder.

FARINA

I told Stonehigh about the visitors. I thought being a recluse, he might shed some light on our surprise guests.

JEWEL

I'll surprise you the next time you throw water all over us. Damp as it is, we could catch pneumonia on top of everything else.

ALI

Is there value in catching it?

JASON

Will everyone please let Farina finish? She might know a way out of here. Especially since she didn't come through the Tugg-Ugglies.

FARINA

Well spoken, lad, and to finish your queries...the tribe was smitten with the same feature change as Jewel. It affected all of them, down to the last small child.

Now, all of them hide in fear and shame, only coming out at night to gather small berries and vegetation for food.

JEWEL

Please, Farina. Tell me the Tugg-Ugglies know of a cure.

FARINA

That I couldn't say, but perhaps their leader might know the answer.

ALI

And just how do we do that? The whole tribe's outide. We're in here, unless you know another way out.

Farina flies to a spot in front of a side cave.

FARINA

Follow and see, mighty comrade. It will be dangerous, but to achieve freedom, risks are required.

Jason rises immediately and joins her. Ali and Jewel follow.

STONEHIGH

Best of luck in your quest!

JEWEL

Thanks and goodbye, Stonehigh.

FARINA

Hurry! I'm not even sure the Tugg-Ugglies haven't already found a way to block my exit.

They turn a final corner in the bleak stone wall, as a sparkling lake emerges into view with a shore of gem-encrusted sand. A single tear of gratitude trickles down Jewel's cheek, but she hurriedly wipes it away.

JASON

A lake in the middle of a mountain? This place gets stranger all the time.

FARINA

Only to visitors. Living somewhere doesn't always mean you've seen everything it has to offer.

ALI

Very true, but tell me, Farina, how can we cross the water? It's not in my nature to swim.

Farina pauses to ponder, then flies in ever-widening circles around the three travelers. The circles shimmer like a curtain of woven firelight. Jewel reaches out to touch the curtain, passing through the aerial protection.

FARINA

Don't disturb the surface. It must last just long enough to get us through. The underground passage. That's how I found you. JASON I don't see any openings to pass through.

ALI

Nor I.

FARINA

Trust me, monarch. There's too much to lose if something happened to any of you, and much to gain in our combined strength for survival.

Farina finishes weaving a small line of light. She attaches it to the large sparkling orb that engulfs Ali and the children.

ALI

What are you doing? By my royal crown, you can't be thinking of dragging us into the lake.

Jason and Jewel exchange nervous glances.

FARINA

Hold your breath, everyone!

The makeshift bubble of light rises steadily into the air, then swiftly plunges into the water, deep into the enormous depths. Jason peers into the darkness, silently praying for a swift flight back to solid ground.

ALI

Don't worry, Jason. If Farina can transport us like this, she knows how to get us out of here.

JEWEL

I just hope it's in one piece. What if...

ALI

No! We don't deal in possibilities here. The Land of Remote is firmly based on reality.

JASON

Yeah, right. If this is real, maybe I ought to have my head examined.

JEWEL And if not, you wouldn't have one. At least not in this depth underwater.

Farina speeds the bubble forward as a long, slippery eel-like creature darts toward them.

Four tentacles rip the light bubble in two. Separate air pockets form, leaving Jewel unattached to the bubble being guided forward by Farina.

Inside the first bubble with Jason, Ali is roaring loudly, trying to get Farina's attention.

Farina continues onward. The second bubble, containing Jewel, floats downward and out of sight. Farina manages to get the bubble through the portal and to the surface where it dissolves on shore. Leaving Ali and Jason, she turns and heads back down through the water to save Jewel.

EXT. UNDERWATER - SAME TIME

The eel swims toward Jewel in the light bubble. She is screaming, but no sound issues from the pocket of air. The monster latches its tentacles tightly around the bubble, dragging it deeper into the inky depths.

INT. BUBBLE.

Despair threatens to overwhelm Jewel.

JEWEL Why did I ever let Jason drag me into this? Mom and Dad will never know where we've been. Or what happened to us! And I don't

She hears a calming voice.

MURRANZO

want to be eaten by a great ugly fish.

I'm not going to eat you.

Jewel looks around, panic-stricken. She hears a quiet swishing sound as the bubble continues plunging deeper into the darkness.

JEWEL

Great! Now I'm imagining voices before I get eaten.

MURRANZO

I told you, I'm not going to eat you. But I might be tempted to bounce you off the nearest coral reef, if you keep carrying on like that.

JEWEL

Can anyone hear me?

The bubble shimmers slightly at the reverberations from her voice.

Two coal-black eyes press against the bubble's surface, staring in at Jewel, almost as if the creature is trying to communicate with her.

> JEWEL You aren't talking to me, are you?

MURRANZO Not exactly talking, but you do hear and understand me, don't you?

JEWEL

Of course, but how is this possible? We must be two miles under the surface.

MURRANZO

Three and a half, to be exact. But, that's not important. I want you to know, I'm here to help.

JEWEL

Help? How can I believe you when you've brought me to this?

EXT. ENORMOUS UNDERWATER CAVERN

he eel and the light bubble approach the entrance. The sides of the cave glisten in wet purplish algae that clings to every outcropping.

Jewel peers out at the expanse.

PAGE 37

JEWEL

If you really want to help, get me to the surface before the bubble dissolves.

MURRANZO

No problem.

Murranzo pulls the bubble into the cave and deftly ascends to the surface. Above water, a myriad of gnarled and twisted trees outline the edges of a brightly colored forest.

As the bubble touches shore, it dissolves, bursting into a million sparkles of light and then blown to the four winds. Jewel steps onto the dark sandy beach in fear.

JEWEL

Where have you taken me?

MURRANZO

It's the barrier between my world and that of the Tugg-Ugglies.

JEWEL

Why bring me here?

MURRANZO

Let me introduce myself, first. I am Murranzo, noble son of the high Vizier, and heir to the throne of Twoda.

JEWEL

Very nice. I'm Jewel.

MURRANZO

I know. I heard that you and your friends were headed this way.

JEWEL

From who?

MURRANZO

The Tugg-Ugglies know every strange occurrence on this island, besides, I was expecting someone anyway. The bell is a strong incentive.

JEWEL

You've got the bell? We need it to return home.

MURRANZO

I know, but I don't have the bell. I sent it to your world for help. You evidently answered the call.

JEWEL

Jason found it. He opened the box, called the cloak and wished us here.

MURRANZO

I'm well aware of how it works. I designed the bell myself, unfortunately, Ferenko wrote the instructions.

JEWEL

Wait! Who is Ferenko?

MURRANZO

I don't want to endanger your life, young lady, in fact, I probably shouldn't have mentioned anything about the bell.

JEWEL

But you did, and obviously, there was a reason for sending the bell to my world.

MURRANZO

A very good reason. All right then. Listen well, for there may not be another chance to tell what you need to know.

Jewel seats herself on the sand.

MURRANZO Ferenko was brother to Farina.

JEWEL

MORE

The flyscout?

MURRANZO Exactly. He and I fought Devonika's evil in many battles. In our final one MURRANZO (CONT')

together, the sorceress summoned her greatest ally. What you see left of me is the result.

JEWEL

A sea creature.

He slaps the water with a tentacle.

MURRANZO

No, my dear. My people are far different from this superficial form. The Tugg-Ugglies are my people. I am their rightful ruler.

JEWEL

Why don't you resemble them more closely, then?

MURRANZO

That was the power of Devonika's ally. It changed me into this form and banished me to the nether world of a watery grave. The Tugg-Ugglies were of beautiful form and voice until that moment.

Then they became what you saw last night. A hideous race condemned to wander, separated from the light of understanding and commerce.

Jewel pauses, taking a deep breath to absorb all of the information. She feels sorrow washing over her for the exiled monarch. Knowing that a loving, caring race of creatures has been reduced to shunning daylight and fending for themselves without a leader.

When Murranzo speaks again, he has read her thoughts, but she knows his as well. His heart is pure in its intensity and compassion.

MURRANZO You are the one to help us. Your appearance has been altered, much like our own. In that, we share a common bond. PAGE 40

Jewel winces from the acknowledgement of her appearance.

Murranzo swims placidly back and forth.

MURRANZO

I have offended you. I apologize. I didn't mean to call attention to the difference, but, together we may be able to restore what has been changed. The Karmen is not omnipotent and its alterations are not always permanent.

JEWEL

The Karmen is Devonika's ally, then? What type of creature is this monstrosity?

MURRANZO

It is nothing ... and everything. Darkest fear...weakest strength.

JEWEL

I don't need riddles. We need facts, not fantasy, to defeat it.

MURRANZO

But that is the anomaly. It alters shape and form at will, to become your greatest enemy, your biggest fear. That is how it attacks, and kills.

JEWEL

Then I need to learn how to defeat it. Because if I don't, rejoining Jason and Ali may not matter. We could suffer the same fate.

MURRANZO

I will relate all I know, on condition that you meet with my people and tell them everything that I've told you.

JEWEL

Why haven't you told them yourself, before now? As their ruler, they should have listened to you.

MURRANZO

Shoulda, woulda, coulda. They should have listened. They would have listened, if I weren't in this form, and they could have defeated the Karmen, if the damage hadn't been so extensive.

Murranzo looks forlornly at the forest, thinking of all that he'd lost years ago, then rears up as straight as he can in the water.

MURRANZO

Jewel, my friend, I am hunted for sustenance at the hands of my own people. They don't see me for who I am. Because of their own denial of what they have become. If there is any hope for redressing this agony, it lies with you, and what you might accomplish in defeating Devonika and the Karmen. You, better than anyone else, can appreciate what lies beneath the outer shell of appearance.

Murranzo dives under the waves momentarily, resurfacing almost immediately with a necklace made from entwined seaweed around a small silver shell. It glistens and shines in the dying light of day.

He tosses the necklace to Jewel.

MURRANZO Carry the necklace with you at all times. Blow into it only when you need to hear truth surrounding you.

JEWCEL Thanks. I won't forget, and I won't fail you, Murranzo. I promise!

Murranzo disappears back under the waves. Jewel looks around, realizing she's totally alone in descending darkness.

EXT. UNDERWATER.

Farina flies swiftly into the underwater cavern. She searches desperately for any sign of Jewel, then returns to shore.

EXT. SHORELINE.

Ali sits regally stone faced, prepared for the worst. Jason nervously paces up and down the beach. The roar of the waves muffles any sound of Farina's return.

Ali and Jason finally notice the flyscout's small beacon of light as she lands on a boulder at the edge of the water. Sadly, she shakes her head.

ALI

(roaring at the waves) Hear me! We will meet again, monster! Someday, somehow ... I will avenge myself against you.

Jason turns and grabs the lion's neck tightly.

JASON We'd better make camp.

FARINA

Yes, rest. Get an early start in the morning.

Farina eyes Jason carefully. He has begun to lose weight from the travel and peril.

FARINA

(to herself) Keep on, guy, and you'll be back to normal size in no time.

EXT. CAMPSITE

The fire's embers die as Jason awakes. He rises, holding his head gingerly. He is tortured by pictures of Jewel's face.

He passes Farina's dim glow in the hollow of a tree trunk.

He then stalks off into the forest to be alone. A damp wind blows gently against his face, and the first beams of two morning suns begin the faintest stream of a rainbow across the horizon.

Suddenly, a slight movement catches Jason's eye. Trees begin bending as though a steady wind were moving between them. Top leaves rake in all directions, but the grass and underlying foliage lay bare of any disturbance.

A thin, grey mist appears, circling halfway from earth to sky, gradually thickening until a single strand beckons the boy closer. Jason glances back toward the campsite, but follows the mist.

Jason is lured deeper into the forest along a small, overgrown trail. A large clearing suddenly becomes visible, shrouded in mist. A circle of stone arches surround an enormous tree. Branches interlock thirty feet overhead, rising out of sight.

Two flying messengers, wings beating furiously, swoop into sight. They are tall, about six feet, with wing spans of about ten feet. They have visages resembling an eagle's face, but the bodies are human. The messengers carry long slender branches held loosely at their sides in delicately featured fingers.

Both step toward Jason, raising their branches, in defiance of his visit. His presence is an intrusion on their sanctuary.

JASON Whatever is in the mist told me to come. I didn't mean to disturb this place.

One of the messengers shakes its upraised branch overhead. A blue flame bursts forth, illuminating Jason's blanched features.

As the grey mist forms into a large, cylindrical ball, lit from within, the gaseous orb begins to circle around, spinning on an imaginary axis, apparently in all directions at once. Some portions move faster than others.

A beautiful grey feminine face forms along one side of the rotating fog ball. Both messengers turn slightly and kneel. Jason decides to follow suit and kneels.

LADY OF THE MIST Rise, Champion. I am the Lady of the Mist. You are given permission to approach the inner circle.

JASON

I'm no hero. I don't even know how I got here.

LADY OF THE MIST

The bell brought you, and the bell will take you home.

JASON

How did you know about that?

LADY OF THE MIST

Truth isn't built in a day. I cannot say all I know. That would be too presumptuous. I don't weave myself in the fabric of time as you do. I merely observe its passage, and effects.

JASON A convenient way to look at things, for someone who doesn't want to get involved.

Surprise echoes across the creature's pale ashy features.

LADY OF THE MIST

What do you mean?

JASON

Let's stop the games. I don't have time for them. My two companions and I are on a quest to regain the bell.I've got to get home, for many reasons.

LADY OF THE MIST No more games then. You are the one sent to free us from Devonika's evil. I am prepared to assist you in that challenge.

Lit from within, the lady's face begins to glow. All of the grey pallor seeps away. A pink rosy complexion is seen, radiating with genuine human warmth.

LADY OF THE MIST What is your name, Champion? Your name must be noble to undertake such a challenge. PAGE 45

Jason cautiously moves nearer.

JASON

Jason.

LADY OF THE MIST (voice explodes in the stillness) Behold then, Champion Jason. Your weapon for justice!

The orb of fog spins furiously. Lightning crackles from within then shoots outward around the stones as thunder rocks the ground.

A myriad of voices begin softly as a chorus inside the mist, then elevates to a roar.

The fog dissipates swiftly into a thick circle of cloud, forming a complete dome over the stones.

A single stroke of lightning sparks from the cloud, showering a rainbow of colors between earth and sky.

Jason's feet begin to shake as a deep rumbling sounds beneath the earth.

Jason blinks in total disbelief. A long golden handle rises partially from the dark ground. It shines brighter than the sun at first, white hot, then cools immediately.

> LADY OF THE MIST Take the hammer! There has never been one like it. Nor will there be another. Forged in the depths of the earth for one champion. One leader. Behold, ... Teathergund! The hammer of justice. It is yours, Jason, Wield it well!

Jason grasps the leather strap encircling the handle, pulling it loose from the surrounding earth with all his strength.

Jason's arm changes, the body fat melting away, as he begins pulling. Strong, sinewy tendons cover his arms, tight muscles locking into place over the rest of his body.

Hey! What's happening?

LADY OF THE MIST

The Master of Teathergund holds great power. That requires great strength. As long as the hammer remains in your control, you shall be nearly invincible. It commands the elements of earth, wind and fire.

JASON

What of the fourth, water?

The for dome condenses back into its original orb. A thin ray of dawn creeps over the clearing as the two messengers leap into the air on savagely beating wings. The lady's voice sounds distant in her reply, beginning to fade.

> LADY OF TCHE MIST Nothing in earth, time or space is perfect. Except the One who created them. In that alone, lies your answer.

JASON But how do I call forth the elements?

The ball of fog begins thinning, spreading itself over the width of the clearing. This time, its density vanishes.

LADY OF THE MICST A true champion learns control ... before adversity.

As the dual suns rise in the heavens overhead, Jason lifts Teathergund easily with his newfound strength. Then starts back to the campsite.

Thin raindrops dropping from petals to leaves, hover briefly in the air before settling on Jewel's closed eyelids.

Lush branches move gently as she rises from her hiding place. She fingers the silver shell, and eyes surrounding sweet smelling berries for breakfast. Reaching for a juicy specimen, a small hand breaks from the fronds to slap her fingers.

JEWEL

Hey! Who did that?

She pauses, hearing only a stifled grunt in return. Cautiously, she reaches out again and once more, she gets slapped, harder this time.

JEWEL

Who are you?

Something furry moves slightly under the grassy cover. Two dark eyes stare up at her towering presence. Jewel, in response, stands amazed at a small brown hedgehog matching her gaze.

> HIGGLES My name's Higgles. What are you?

> > JEWEL

I'm a girl, of course. You've never seen one?

HIGGLES

(begins to laugh) Oh no. Not here. Never. Would have remembered. Couldn't forget something like you.

JEWEL

What's so funny?

HIGGLES

You.

(admires her shoes) Nice traveling material. Must come from other side.

JEWEL (believes he meant her home) You know about the other side?

HIGGLES Been there many times.

JEWEL Can you show me the way?

HIGGLES

Maybe for a price. (eyes the silver shell) How about shell for a map?

JEWEL

A map? What does a map have to do with getting off the island?

HIGGLES Nothing off this island.

JEWEL

No deal. I don't suppose you've even been around the entire island, have you?

HIGGLES

Do have map. All major landmarks included. Reach any point on island with it. Any point at all.

JEWEL

Thanks.

She plucks a berry and starts to pop it into her mouth. Instantly, the hedgehog leaps deftly between her mouth and fingers, grabbing the berry. He lands on a large flat rock and shakes the small piece of fruit at her.

HIGGLES

What thinking? Everyone know these dangerous.

JEWEL

My breakfast? I wasn't going to eat the whole thing. Only part. I had one yesterday. Completely filled me up.

HIGGLES

Not this one.

He holds the berry above his head. Dashing it against the rock and sidestepping the splattering juice, both watch as the fruity liquid jells across the stony surface. A thin wisp of smoke rises from the mixture. The rock sizzles, then cracks in two.

JEWEL

I don't understand. The other one never did that.

HIGGLES

Depends on side of island.

JEWEL

How could that be? Stuff becomes something else from one side of the island to the other?

HIGGLES

Everything on island has two sides. Berry plant gives food to one side. Poison to other. Must learn difference before continuing journey.

JEWEL It looks the same as the other one.

HIGGLES

Surface reflects like mirror. You look like ordinary traveler, but carry wisdom of another around neck.

Instinctively, she grasps the shell in her fingers.

JEWEL What do you know of this?

She raises the shell to her lips.

HIGGLES

Nothing.

Jewel blows into the main curved side of the shell. No audible sound is heard. Then she blows again, tightening her lips into a thin directed stream, but there is still no effect.

HIGGLES

Show you how to use?

Jewel stops him from reaching for the shell. She was unsure of what would happen if anyone else used it.

PAGE 50

JEWEL

You can tell me. I'm not supposed to let anyone else use it.

HIGGLES

Prediction or opinion?

JEWEL

As a matter of fact, a water beast named Murranzo gave it to me.

Higgles freezes, playful smile vanishing. His eyebrows knit together instantly. He tries to figure out what her encounter with Murranzo meant.

> HIGGLES You met him? Actually still alive?

JEWEL Yes. He claimed to be the Tugg-Ugglies leader.

HIGGLES

No claim. Definitely is leader. Oh, most definitely.

He claps both hands together in glee. Glancing off to the other side of the island, he speaks softly.

HIGGLES

Still a chance to stop Devonika if Murranzo lives. Say no more. Forest has many ears. Must learn concealment from prying eyes as well. Follow and learn. Give what you need to stop Devonika.

Jewel blinks and Higgles vanishes. Not a single leaf is moving. Several seconds pass as Jewel looks around and then Higgles' head pops up at the clearing's edge. He motions for her to join him and she does so quickly.

MONTAGE BEGINS

Jewel TRAINS with Higgles. His dark fur blends in completely at times with tree trunks. He watches her exact duplication of his moves for concealment. Gradually, a steady flow of moves

PAGE 51

produces the needed results. It is late afternoon as they finish the procedures.

MONTAGE ENDS

Higgins suddenly appears behind her.

HIGGLES

Learned well.

She leaps into the air in a double somersault. A tree branch is heard rustling louder than her landing behind Higgles. She turns him around to give him a sincere hug.

> JEWEL How can I ever thank you?

HIGGLES

(somewhat embarrassed by her gesture) Thanks come when hearts are safe. Devonika's realm spreads far and wide. No one dared challenge her before. Now, you can.

JEWEL

I still don't know how the shell works. Do you?

HIGGLES

No. Murranzo should have told you.

JEWEL

He didn't have a lot of time to explain. But you saw the shell as more than just a trinket. How did you know its power?

HIGGLES

(wrinkling his face in thought) Read it. Yes, that's it. Bantuk's papers.

JEWEL

Who is Bantuk?

HIGGLES

Silly! Bantuk not somebody. It's a place Not far. Writings about everything on island.

JEWEL Take me there. I've got to see it.

HIGGLES

Ok. This way.

They start toward the densest thicket in the sparkling afternoon sun. Rainbow colored rays dance through the leaves, reflecting all around them.

The scene reflectS in the hungry eyes of a camouflaged Tugg-Ugglie scout.

The Tugg-Ugglie motions to five others who join him. He rubs his stomach, then makes a fanning motion and they spread out in a semi-circle to follow Jewel and Higgles.

EXT. JASON'S CAMPSITE - EARLY MORNING

Farina watches Jason as he strides into view. The early morning sun glints against Teathergund's shining silver head by his side.

Jason's face tightens in anticipation of her questions. Ali bounds from the edge of the lake to greet him.

ALI

I thought perhaps you'd gone back for another rescue attempt. I'm pleased that you're safe.

FARINA

What's happened to you? And where did you get that hammer?

Jason unhooks the gold-handled weapon from his belt, and lifts it for their inspection. Ali is suitably impressed with the workmanship and shakes his mane forcibly.

ALI

If you've taken that from the Tugg-Ugglies, We need to break camp now. They know these area forests better than anyone. I'd rather we not deal with them until our bearings are more certain.

Wait. You don't understand. I didn't take it from anyone. Teathergund was given to me.

Farina's concern etches in her face. A vision appears on overlay in front of her eyes.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

Swirls of clouds part to show her brother, his bright golden hair flowing as they fly toward Devnonika's realm of destruction in the distance.

A small pond catches his attention below. He signals for her to join him, alighting on the highest tree. A thousand glistening sparkles of light play across the liquid surface, his voice whispering in her memory.

FERENKO

Remember the legend, Farina. When the cause is right, a mighty warrior will emerge from watery depths. Wielding a mighty weapon. Named Teathergund. Vanquishing all opposition to the realm of happiness built here so many years ago.

FLASHBACK ENDS

Farina shivers.

FARINA

Who gave it to you?

JASON

A lady of the mist. She called me Champion. I didn't understand it.

ALI

Now you do?

JASON

I believe so. When we arrived here, Jewel and I, ... I thought it was by accident, but there's a reason we're here. This world of fantastic beauty also holds something else. An indescribable fear that it won't last. ALI

Ridiculous.

(pounces against a tree) This is solid. Everything here is animal, mineral or vegetable. How more real can it get?

JASON

It's true, Ali, and I've got Teathergund to prove it.

FARINA

(whispers hopefully) That's the hammer's name?

JASON

The lady of the mist named it. In my hand, it makes me nearly invincible. Commanding earth, wind and fire.

ALI Exactly how does it work? Do you throw it? Does it magically open up and let all the elements loose at once?

JASON To tell the truth, I don't know.

ALI

Fine then. If you prefer to blunder along, so be it.

JASON

Do you know how it works?

Ali is torn between his unquenchable thirst for power and a growing compassion for Jason. The monarch firmly believes that Teathergund belongs in the hands of a ruler, not a would-be warrior.

ALI I will show you exactly how it works. Just place it on the ground and step away.

All right, but be careful, Ali. Teathergund was meant for me. I'm not sure if anyone else can handle it.

Jason sets Teathergund down. Immediately, Farina's wings begin twitching.

A cool wind blows against her face, causing her to turn toward Jason. She gasps horrendously as a large, thick grey mist forms above the treetops, dropping rapidly over Ali as he reaches for Teathergund.

FARINA

Jason, save him!

A stiff, crackling sound fills the air. The ruler's right front paw freezes.

Suspended in mid-air, the lion's body assumes a statuesque pose. Teathergund rises, flying straight into Jason's hands.

LADY OF THE MIST

(sounds thunderously) Never release the hammer's power to another. You alone, Champion, are destined to save The Land of Remote.

Jason watches in terror while the mist rises, leaving the lion encased in stone.

JASON

Wait! I won't do it again. Please, let my friend go!

Farina, hiding under Jason's shirt collar, peeks out warily at the departing cloud. She realizes this magic was far greater than any she could summon and knows only Jason could save Ali now.

> LADY OF THE MIST His intent for the hammer wasn't just. Until the last day dawns on Devonika's rule, the lion remains where he stands.

The cloud rises and disperses. Daylight regains its hold on the clearing.

That's just great! Ali was the only one who knew the path to reach Devonika.

FARINA

Not exactly. There is one who travels all paths in memory.

Jason scratches his head, then lifts his arm for a perch. Farina flies swiftly to the offered landing spot.

JASON

Who is it?

FARINA

Pipercall knows the safest route. Come, there's no time to lose.

She flies straight up and motions for Jason to follow. He shakes his head in disbelief.

JASON

I can't fly.

FARINA

Use the hammer. If Teathergund commands air, earth and fire, flying should be easy, and it's much faster than walking the distance to Pipercall.

Jason draws forth the gold-handled hammer from his side. Lifting it to arm's length, he glances at the silver-burnished head. There are no markings to indicate precisely how to activate its immense power.

JASON

Teathergund, fly!

Jason releases his grip, leaving the hammer suspended in air at eye level. Carefully, he moves around it, scanning and probing.

FARINA Hurry, Jason. We don't need to meet any Tugg-Ugglies that might be scouting the area.

I know. Give me a minute. There must be a way to learn control.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. MOTOR HOME

The chess match continues between Jason and Jewel. Jason studies the chess board intently. Then Jewel's voice echoes eerily.

JEWEL Aren't you tired of this? Mother said we'd be there soon. Why don't we play "I Spy" instead?

Jason's face as enlightenment brightens his smile.

FLASHBACK ENDS

He reaches assuredly for Teathergund.

JASON

Let's go!

FARINA (amazed)

You figured it out that quickly?

Jason swings Teathergund in an upward arcing motion. It flies noiselessly, drawing him behind it to the uppermost branch of a giant tree. He surveys the landscape below.

PANORAMA SHOT

The Land of Remote's beauty is almost completely within visual range. Lush tropical rainforests spread out along the easternmost shore. A roar of crashing waves sounds faintly in the distance.

Large mountains rise majestically halfway on the horizon. Bending northward, their peaks stretch into high cloud banks. Snow-streaked crags overlook treacherous drops into the valleys below.

Jason's face grows concerned as Jewel's face appears in his memory again. His expression changes to guilt over her loss.

PAGE 58

Farina notices the far away look in Jason's eyes. She knows his thoughts are not on the journey and realizes she must keep him focused on the dangers surrounding them at every moment.

Instantly, a stiff wind sends her reeling head over heels.

Tree branches part, ripping Jason from his reverie. He falls against tree limbs in a crazy, spiralling descent. He grabs frantically at snapping twigs, clawing desperately at the tree's massive trunk, hoping anything will slow his fall speed. A crashing tree top narrowly misses his head.

Jason swings Teathergund outward. Propelling himself straight into the crook of another giant tree where he regains his balance.

JASON (yells to Farina) Are you all right?

FARINA

Safe for the moment!

Fifty yards away, a thunderous footstep sounds against the forest floor. Both travelers can see treetops parting like matchsticks in the wind.

Farina cowers in fright, hiding under a large leaf. Jason flies to her side with Teathergund.

INT. BANTUK'S LODGE - SAME TIME

Higgles peers over Jewel's shoulder in the dusk. Stacks of books lie everywhere in monumental piles. Leather-bound tomes, covered in strange scribblings, line endless shelves.

JEWEL

Do you know how much info is here? You've got records dating back to the start of the island. Doesn't say anything about how it got here, but everything else I've seen so far is listed in the index.

HIGGLES

The way it was. Before Devonika changed everything.

JEWEL

How could she change it all?

HIGGLES

Don't know. Don't want to know. If I did, she might come after me. I'd be a threat to her plan.

JEWEL

You know, I've heard just about all I want to regarding her. All she's evidently done is cause trouble for everyone, and nobody wants to stop her.

HIGGLES

You don't get it, do you? (wrinkles his brow) What we're up against. Why, every living thing on the island fears her.

JEWEL

She's a witch. Nothing more than a sham. It's time somebody backed her into a corner. Showed her what life's all about.

HIGGLES We may not have the opportunity. If she finds us first.

JEWEL

Oh right.

She notices a scant shadow behind him at the open window.

JEWEL Somebody's out there. What do we do?

HIGGLES

Remember your training.

Higgles vanishes under a pile of books.

JEWEL (sternly under her breath) Great advice!

She reaches for the shell at her neck, but her hand brushes against the smallest book in the mound surrounding her. Her eyes widen in recognition. Embossed on the cover is a familiar bell symbol surrounded by a circle.

Quickly, she tucks the book inside a jeans pocket and scrambles in the direction she'd last seen Higgles. Before she travels two steps, the lodge door bursts open.

Four sets of violent dark eyes glare at her. Eight arms lock together to form a circle. Gnashing teeth, dripping with saliva bear down on her.

Jewel lets a primal scream burst forth. She leaps high over their heads and spins through the thatched roof of the hut.

> TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER (guttural growl) Quick! We lost the grunt. She's our last chance, or we go back hungry.

EXT. BANTUK'S HUT - SAME TIME

Jewel fumbles in her jeans and draws forth her waterproof lighter and makes a torch. She holds it forth as the Tugg-Ugglies emerge from the hut.

> TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER What are you? And what manner of weapon is this?

Jewel is surprised momentarily by coherent speech from such a primitive race.

JEWEL Stay back! This can cause great damage. And I'm not afraid to demonstrate.

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER Understood. Why would you use such a thing against us? We mean you no harm.

Her eyes narrow, suspicious of the Tugg-Ugglies. Instinctively, she draws the shell to her lips. A strange, unearthly sound fills her ears. It sounds like the crashing of waves on a shore.

The effect of the shell on the Tugg-Ugglies is immediate. They cover their ears and manage small whimpering sounds. The growing roar continues in their minds.

> TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER All right, make it stop!

The leader sinks to his knees, drawing both arms over his face.

JEWEL

You must speak the truth. Tell me exactly what you planned and the pain will stop, but it must be the truth, no lies, or it continues.

Jewel smiles, confident in her newfound ability to use the shell.

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER Deal! We were going to eat you for dinner. Then take the remainder back to our tribe.

COMPANION Grunt got away. Or it would have been a bigger meal.

Jewel blows into the shell again, sounding a single tone. It reverberates in waves toward the suffering attackers, calming the previous note's effect in their heads.

JEWEL

Thank you. That seemed a good choice. So, what are your plans now? Am I still on tonight's menu?

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER

Of course not. We don't treat our own kind that way.

PAGE 62

JEWEL

But I'm not your kind. Why would you think that?

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER

Easy.

(points to her face) If you weren't one of us, you'd be considered...

JEWEL

Don't say it. I know my beauty's gone.

The leader's expression changes. He realizes he'd touched a nerve inside her, but he also begins to understand that he could use the emotional response to his advantage. He can break down the courageous façade and destroy her internal resistance.

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER

Oh, not at all. In our tribe, you'd be considered of exceptional beauty. Any Tugg-Ugglie would be proud to fight for your affections.

JEWEL

A comforting thought.

She feels a sense of dread creeping over her, disliking his deadpan glare of innocence.

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER

Why don't we head back to our camp? We can introduce you to our other members. Get you situated before we head out on our nightly rounds.

JEWEL

Thanks for your hospitality. Please, lead on.

TUGG-UGGLIE LEADER

(manages a cautious smile) Come. I will show you the way to our camp, and my name is Tristan.

JEWEL

I'm Jewel.

Jewel sees Higgles leap silently above their heads. The hedgehog is scurrying swiftly through tree branches that register no sound of his surveillance or pursuit.

Jewel follows Tristan through the forest. The two companions bring up the rear guard, scanning for the slightest irregularity in normal forest activity.

As they round a bend in the trail, an oozing, glistening liquid drips from every tree branch. The tree limbs are pasted together in all directions from the liquid, and indicate a clear path forward.

> JEWEL What do you think caused this?

Tristan points a finger to his lips for silence, then makes a sweeping motion all around. He indicates they may be watched by whatever made the trail. Jewel clutches the shell around her neck. She looks overhead to locate Higgles, but he is nowhere to be found.

A deep-throated ROAR sounds all around them.

Two thick tentacles snake into view, wrapping around tree trunks almost ten feet apart. Additional tentacles appear, completely encircling the huddled group. The creature's roar sounds again, rattling Jewel's teeth.

> TRISTAN Stay together! This will be to the death.

INT. TREE HOLLOW - SAME TIME

Farina circles Jason, her wings beating furiously as sparkles of light transform Jason down to Farina's size. Teathergund, unaffected, lies full sized in the crook of the branch.

JASON

No! I can't leave Teathergund unprotected.

Jason remains diminutive, but his hand plumps back out to its previous shape. His muscles turn instantly back to their previously fat, under-worked shape.

Farina flies to encircle Teathergund with her power, and the gold and silver hammer blurs once, then twice more before altering into a large tree branch covered in thick leaves. Jason settles back in the hollow of the tree, satisfied that the hammer is safe for the time being.

FARCINA

It's the best I could do, given the time we had to work with.

JASON

It's perfect. Now, let's hope whatever's coming this way doesn't find us.

Farina notices for the first time his physical transformation. She knows his ego must have undergone just as much change in the process.

FARINA

(whispers in his ear) Right. We need to be deeper in the tree before it gets here. Even the bravest on the island fear the unknown. Now, be silent or we may not have another chance.

JASON For what? To be crushed inside a giant tree?

FARINA

No, silly to study the adversary; strengths, and more important, weaknesses to use for our advantage.

JASON

Okay. Let's get a better vantage.

He climbs toward a bigger knothole in the tree trunk. Misjudging his altered lack of strength, he slips nimbly off a worn perch point. Slick as glass, it affords no sure grip to keep from plummeting off.

Farina screams as he falls into the inky darkness below. His small yell of shock and fear vanishes quickly after him in the deep root system.

Farina begins her pursuit, but is instantly stopped by a thunderous rocking motion. The tree sways dizzily at a 120

degree angle, then snaps back to an almost upright position. She is flung back against the stiff bark, knocking the wind from her lungs. Then, she is rocketed forward as the tree rights itself. Her head hits solidly against the opposite side of the tree's interior, knocking her unconscious.

Jason scrambles through a slight opening in the roots toward the outside. He clings tightly to one of the larger roots, but the movement doesn't go unnoticed. The hovering menace above sweeps all underbrush aside with a twisting powerful wind which threatens to blow Jason away with the swirling debris.

JASON

(shouts hoarsely)

Hey!

KARMEN (thunderous voice) What speaks in the path of my pleasure?

Jason clutches both of his ears tightly. The voice was louder than a jet ten feet from his head.

A blinding flash of light descends.

Branches are shoved aside as an immense ball of light hits the forest floor. The resultant thud rocks matter in all directions.

Jason flies head over heels into a nearby rosebush, narrowly missing deadly ominous thorns. Rainbow-hued rose petals blanch white in the light's glare. Shielding his eyes, Jason sees the gigantic spinning orb. It stands almost eighty feet tall, a matrix criss-crossing in clouds of white. At the center an intense cobalt blue emanates. The ball raises once more and smacks down harder in its second contact with the ground.

Reverberating shock waves send Jason flying once more into a nearby flower stalk. His handhold brings the stem to earth.

JASON

My name is Jason!

The orb ceases spinning for a moment.

KARMEN What is the bell's power? Noting the tone's effect on Jason's hearing, the ball lowers volume accordingly.

JASON

It's the Karmen!

A hand suddenly forms from cloud and light, pointing downward at Jason.

KARMEN

Disclose the bell's power!

JASON

It doesn't know the bell's secret. That means Devonika doesn't have the bell. I've got to turn the Karmen against itself. (drawing himself up and calls loudly) Here I am! I know the bell's power, and how to use it.

The hand of light and cloud draws back inside the orb. A mouth appears, then two enormous eyes, burning with hatred.

Jason raises his eyes defiantly at the creature. Seeing the fires of hatred flaming against him, he kneels and braces himself for the onslaught, but the simple act of obeisance softens the Karmen's intensity. Its eyes change hue, calming interior rage.

A misty finger extends toward Jason.

KARMEN I am waiting. Tell me the bell's secret and you shall live.

JASON I'm considering the alternative. Never like hasty decisions.

The creature's shape fluctuates slightly for a moment. Jason notes the immediate change as a strong wind blows through the trees overhead.

The defining outer boundary of Karmen's cloud outline dissipates very minutely, then reassembles. In its normal passage through the forest, wisps of the creature's border had been affected by solid objects passing through. Small pockmarks of various spots

across the surface attested to that. Jason smiled, knowing this simple observation could be the enemy's greatest weakness.

JASON

Being so close to the ground and all, I can't decide. Maybe if I could see what's beyond the forest. Yeah, that would definitely be enough for me to choose.

KARMEN

Then raise yourself up!

JASON

I'm sorry. I can't. It's too far to imagine being that high off the ground.

KARMEN

Then tell me what I want to know. My patience is at an end.

JASON

If you could lift me up to that high branch, I could probably decide very quickly. It's not that hard for you to accomplish, I'm sure.

The sound of wind being expelled from the cloud almost knocks Jason back into the dangers of the rosebush. A deep, hearty laugh echoes and then bursts forth from the Karmen, rattling tree bark and the very fiber of the roots surrounding them.

KARMEN

It is but a small thing.

The boy is lifted upward by Karmen into the nearby crook of tree he'd just left. Straining to regain his footing, Jason soundly grasps a stout leaf-laden branch.

JASON Now, we'll see how well you survive a champion's attack.

EXT. FOREST BATTLE - SAME TIME

Tristan and his band of Tugg-Ugglies move swiftly to the left of the slimy, translucent creature which continues wrapping itself around trees to pull itself inward toward them.

A sucking sound, like some huge vacuum cleaner draws loose leaves and dirt whirling toward Jewel. Turning her head away to keep most of the grit from her eyes, she doesn't notice a moderately-sized branch whirling toward her. It strikes the back of her head, almost graying out her vision.

Jewel focuses on the monstrosity confronting them. She tries sizing up the situation and the monster's weaknesses. The crawling half-jellyfish, half-octopus continues slithering closer. Sensing her indecision, the creature strikes, snapping a tentacle around Jewel. She screams and looks down.

Her stomach gets pricked at her mid-section by a thousand tiny sharp needle-like stingers.

As suction cupped tentacles wrap around her legs, they immobilize her arms. All fight vanishes from her in the grip of entrapment. A single tear drops from her eye and bounces off the edge of the shell around her neck.

The tear almost falls to earth, but instead, encounters an invisible shoulder. An inherent roar building deep inside the monster silences as the moisture enlarges, outlining an unseen warrior.

The figure of an old Tugg-Ugglie tribeswoman materializes from thin air.

TRISTAN Sageus! She's saving the girl!

SECOND TUGG-UGGLIE Not with me. She has no power over such a creature.

SAGEUS, deeply concerned with Jewel's plight, prepares to die for her.

Tristan realizes the extent of Sageus' concern.

TRISTAN

(to his companions) Come on. She counseled Murranzo before he was taken from us. Now she champions the girl. We must help them.

The others agree, but before they can move, Sageus raises her arms wide, exactly matching the creature's descending tentacles to engulf her. The wise woman throws a glittering handful of dust at the beast's single eye.

SAGEUS

(intoning)
Ere the turn of timely hand,
Where sea meets shore on bed of sand,
Return you now to prior plan,
Of form before you stepped on land.

A twinkling shimmer of light engulfs Jewel and the monster. Tristan and his companions turn away from the unbearably bright light.

As the light fades, nothing remains of the creature except a slow moving slug on the forest floor. Sageus hugs Jewel tightly to her as the girl returns the hug with all the gratitude within her.

SAGEUS

There now, dear. That will do nicely. Mustn't overdo anything in the face of adversity. You might need reserves later.

JEWEL

I might at that. Where did you come from? How did you know exactly how to handle that thing?

TRISTAN

That creature happens to be one of Devonika's dark servants, and we're well rid of it. That's all you need to know.

SAGEUS

For now, but next time she will need the power herself.

TRISTAN

(grimly) We don't teach outsiders our ways.

SAGEUS

You are uncertain, Tristan. You ought to trust more, young one.

TRISTAN

Trust lost on strangers gives no reward.

Sageus says nothing more to Tristan, merely smiles. She remembers when all Tugg-Ugglies used to greet each day as a new beginning. Now their daily struggle just to survive kept everyone from seeing the desperate situation. Without hope for eventual peace with neighboring tribes and animals, their doom was sealed, and Sageus had vowed never to abandon hope for change.

SAGEUS

Come, princess. Open your mind to a new opportunity.

She leads Jewel off into the forest.

TRISTAN Wait! You mustn't do this. It isn't right.

SAGEUS

In whose opinion?

Sageus draws a small, grey elastic headband from her right pocket. Swiftly stretching it over her forehead and hair, she then draws forth a single white feather from her other pocket, nimbly placing it at the back of the headband.

A thousand sparkles of shimmering light, every color of the rainbow, engulfs her. As the light dims, Jewel sees the largest white goose she'd ever laid eyes upon, standing in Sageus' place.

> SAGEUS Climb aboard, quickly! We must fly to escape the earthbound prejudice of my own people.

> > JEWEL

How sad.

Jewel quickly climbs aboard Sageus' back.

SAGEUS

But fortunate for freedom to soar above the obvious. Hold tight or we won't make it past them.

The Tugg-Ugglies run fiercely forward at Tristan's command, but they are too late as the goose takes three sure-footed steps and beats a strong northern arc into the brilliant orange sky overhead.

Jewel clings tightly upon takeoff, then relaxes once they're airborne. Sageus flies west, knowing the safest air routes for crossing the island.

Jewel surveys the scenery below. Northward, a heavy mist clings to every object, obscuring even the tallest tree. Squinting, Jewel sees a single spire rising ominously from an icy mountaintop. A cold shiver runs down her spine.

SAGEUS

Don't look that way. She may take notice of a single flight-laden traveler.

JEWEL

Devonika?

SAGEUS

Exactly. We aren't ready to confront her yet. When the time comes, then we head north, but there are friends and survivors to the west. There we will rest and prepare you for battle.

JEWEL

Hey, I never said anything about fighting her. It's a beautiful island and I'm tired of seeing everybody living in fear, but I can't stop the evil on my own.

SAGEUS

You'll never be on your own here. There are too many friends you've yet to meet. They will be your army, and you will lead them to victory!

JEWEL

What if I can't?

Sageus' eyes twinkle at Jewel, before turning back to the horizon.

SAGEUS

There is much to learn but courage to face challenges must come from within.

JEWEL Fly on, then. I can't abandon my only chance to see my parents again.

SAGEUS

A wise choice.

Jewel studies the island's layout. Several distinct regions are visible.

MONTAGE BEGINS

- 1) EASTERN REGION: Lush, tropical rain forests blend into a wide, far-reaching plain.
- 2) SOUTHERN REGION: Strange small shadows scurry into secure hiding places amid tall, strong grass. Golden sheaves bend in the shallow wind below.
- 3) WESTERN REGION: Sunlight beams across the horizon, dancing against sandy, rock-hewn cliffs.
- 4) NORTHERN REGION: Frosty clouds hang over a shadowy grey silhoutte of mountainous dotted valleys.

MONTAGE ENDS

Jewel feels peace slowly spreading through her and she closes her eyes for a short rest.

Sageus swoops toward a waiting camp far below in the brightening dawn.

EXT. JASON'S FOREST BATTLE AREA

Jason's hand touches the edge of the hidden, oversized Teathergund. He instantly regains his former size. Fat vanishes from every muscle, leaving him restored to champion status.

KARMEN

You shall perish at my hands for this!

Jason leaps into the air, swinging the hammer of justice. Teathergund slices completely through the Karmen's midsection.

Treetops behind the opening sway from the force of the blow. Instinctively, Jason continues slinging Teathergund in a circling motion, mimicking a helicopter blade. The magical weapon keeps him airborne.

The Karmen DISSOLVES into two complete shapes, then three, then four, and continues dividing itself into eight. All resemble the original, except none are as tall as the original. Jason notes the size reduction immediately.

JASON

(to himself)
Strength in numbers doesn't mean
multiplication of force. I don't think
you're invincible any longer.
 (yelling at Karmen)
It won't work. You're no match for
Teathergund!

He swings mightily, dispatching two of the duplicates. They fall solidly to the ground, dividing into two smaller creatures.

Jason's eyes narrow to slits, consternation written on his face.

JASON

This isn't good.

A deep silence falls, each of the Karmen's duplications pause, cocking an ear toward the sky.

A soft, haunting melody begins building in intensity.

A crackling BURST OF LIGH forms a giant curtain. Despite a lack of color, it appears similar to the Aurora Borealis. All of the Karmens move back from the atmospheric disturbance as it closes behind Pipercall.

Ten bright fingers draw back the light curtain. A dark-haired, bearded figure appears. He stands about five foot high, dressed in an interwoven cloak of leaves and branches. He is thin,

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

emaciated, and rather tall compared to the other inhabitants of the island.

Two bright green eyes focus on Jason, instantly taking in the situation and the numerous splitting Karmens. The slender-limbed man draws forth a wooden pipe and raises it to his lips.

The instrument is a primitive style of flute. Holes cover a long base with open spots for trained fingers. One hole at the center is closed by a handmade key, blocking one of the central tones.

Great gusts of wind begin swirling around them. The divided Karmens begin sucking enormous amounts of air into their lungs, preparing for an attack.

PIPERCALL

(calls to Jason) Back away! And hold your ears.

JASON

Right!

Pipercall begins playing his flute. A soft clear tone sounds, turning all attention to its unspoken message. The instrument causes memories to surface and stirs long forgotten emotions in anyone who listens.

Jason realizes the musical charm hides a powerful tool in its tones and keeps both hands clamped tightly over his ears.

The Karmens begin changing. Every succeeding note from the flute sends their attention spinning into the blank nothingness of their creation. There was nothing to remember for them. Total isolation surfaces in each creature. Their cries of despair sound above the flute's sad song.

The main Karmen tries to reach Pipercall, but Jason intervenes. The boy swings Teathergund directly at Karmen's head, striking solidly.

A horrible scream fills the air, then all duplicate Karmens begin re-entering the original, reassembling for full power and assault capability.

> PIPERCALL Use Teathergund! Isolate the Karmen before they're all back together.

How?

PIPERCALL

Stamp Teathergund on the ground. Head up to summon fire, down to summon earth.

Jason immediately stamping the hammer's handle to the ground. A wall of flame appears amid a harsh stench, completely surrounding the Karmen. It blocks any more duplicates from rejoining the monster.

The Karmen begins circling inside the column of fire, shaking trees to their roots. Pipercall continues playing, sending duplicate Karmens reeling off into the underbrush.

Jason switches the hammer's grip in his hand, pointing the head earthward. As he slams it down full force with every ounce of strength, a deafening rumble drowns out all sound. A cracking, groundswell opens, separating the wall of flame in two.

Pipercall, smiling, is knocked to one side by the force. He's confident that Jason has followed his instructions to the letter.

Jason clings tightly to a huge grey boulder as the land tilts upward.

The Karmen clings desperately to the side of an immense chasm opening beneath its feet. Weakened, it roars once more then slides into the depths of the earth as the canyon-like edges slam back together.

The wall of flame burns itself out quickly, leaving only faint wisps of smoke where the Karmen last stood.

JASON (shouts exultantly) We did it! Destroyed for good.

PIPERCALL It would appear so, but there are many things about this island that you need to learn.

JASON

Like what?

FARINA

(sounds behind them) For one ... how about tending to injured old buddies?

Jason whirls to find Farina trying to straighten her hair. Her wings are beating furiously to keep herself aloft. Offering his hand, she gratefully accepts and lands.

JASON

I thought you were a goner.

PIPERCALL

(to Farina) It's been a long time. Farina, you're still as beautiful as ever.

FARINA

How gallant of you to notice, Pipercall. Of course, you must forgive me for not joining your battle.

PIPERCALL

Nonsense. We managed on our own, didn't we, Champion?

FARINA

Pipercall, this is Jason.

PIPERCALL

I know. He got in a spot with the Karmen. That's when I was notified.

JASON

By who?

FARINA

I'm not the only flyscout, and I think it's high time Jason knew a major secret about the Land of Remote.

PIPERCALL

Everyone here could be at risk if he can't handle it.

PAGE 77

JASON

Stop the suspense and just tell me. I've had enough excitement for one day.

PIPERCALL

This is only the beginning. Even as we consider options, news of your victory travels far.

JASON

More flyscout handiwork?

FARINA

We have nothing to do with that. Devonika would never hear of such defeat from our lips.

JASON

Who then? Are there even stranger enemies we haven't encountered yet?

Pipercall draws a finger to his lips as Farina muffles a faint giggle at Jason's ignorance.

PIPERCALL

This island is way too big for you to have met every type of creature in so short a time. Let's find a safe haven to discuss the path that lies ahead.

FARINA

Definitely.

She flies directly upward, pausing just short of the treetops.

FARINA Hurry before the nightwings arrive.

JASON

Nightwings?

PIPERCALL

Head out.

Pipercall points through the trees to a large lake, just visible in the evening mist settling in.

PIPERCALL We can camp on the bank of that lake.

FARINA

Hurry! I see movement from the far side.

They move stealthily through the underbrush, intent on keeping their trail well hidden from prying eyes.

A small dark puddle of liquid OOZES from a crack in the ground behind them. It begins to move and glide, following the direction of their footsteps into the woods.

INT. COTTAGE HAVEN - AFTERNOON

Sageus thanks tribe members for their hospitality. The Landmovers are taller than Sageus, even in their younger ages. Tugg-Ugglies would never be higher than the rib cages of fullgrown Landmovers. Both tribes are remarkably similar in height during childhood, but differences in complexion and stature surface during teen years.

Depending on exposure to elements of light, earth and wind, Landmovers bear the same chiseled features of well-worn travel with high peaked foreheads framed in golden hair. They are blessed with tight, honed muscles from months, sometimes years of struggle to reach maturity. Theirs is a fighter tribe; yet peaceful enough if left unprovoked.

SAGEUS

Thanks very much for the peace and quiet of your village. Jewel will meet with you all a little later.

Sageus closes the door and turns to see Jewel sleeping in a comfortable feather bed at one end of the room. A cheery fire is burning with a steaming pot of vegetable soup hung over the coals.

JEWEL

DAre they friends?

SAGEUS

Yes, my dear. In the dim mists of early island years, I traveled with them. Several times I was ordered by Murranzo to defend and protect the tribe, and I still know many tribal elders.

A sudden cry of fear sounds outside the cottage. Sageus places a finger to her lips for silence.

She motions for Jewel to join her at an opening in the wall, suitable to be called a window had it been glassed in. Screams of fright continue as neighboring doors clang shut.

EXT. COTTAGE - SAME TIME

A shuffling mass of Landmovers can be seen trying to keep a solid front against something, positioning themselves between loved ones and the menace confronting them.

INT. COTTAGE

Sageus "sights", forming a mental image of the danger in her mind. She pushes Jewel back and draws a grey elastic headband from a pocket deep in her robe, placing it in the young girl's hands. Then, Sageus holds Jewel at arm's length.

SAGEUS

There is no need to take this with me. If Devonika is here, this alone will prove no help. It's merely a means to an end.

JEWEL I don't understand. What does this do?

SAGEUS

Place it upon your head with a sample of what you need to become. The element must touch the band's edge. You then become the chosen element.

JEWEL

What? Nothing can change someone like that.

Sageus bends to kiss Jewel's forehead and gives her a quick hug before releasing her.

SAGEUS

You've already seen me do it twice. Don't always rely on what you see ... to believe.

JEWEL

(clutches the headband tightly) I'll remember.

SAGEUS But one warning! Assuming the form of another element means embracing its limits as well.

JEWEL

What do you mean?

SAGEUS

I used a leaf from the forest to appear invisible in its depths, but I couldn't hear your cry for help. Merely sense it with the leaf's basic nervous system.

JEWEL

And the goose? You used a feather to transform yourself.

SAGEUS

Exactly. You can change form to any bird, animal or element.

JEWEL

But their abilities with their limits become mine as well?

SAGEUS

Yes, with one plea.

(intones) Power of form, stranger to me, Lend thy shape, in time of need.

JEWEL

Got it!

SAGEUS

Good!

JEWEL

Let me go with you.

SAGEUS

Your time will come. This may be nothing more than another of Devonika's schemes to locate you. Remain hidden no matter what happens. Listen to your heart. It's the compass for your destiny.

Sageus strides into the midst of the nearing crowd. The wise woman is keenly aware of the eyes focused from every angle. The elder Landmovers allow her passage through their midst.

Thick dark clouds of ice and fog encompass the gaunt figure of a woman. DEVONIKA stares balefully at the assembled mob, fiery red eyes blazing at each face, searching to find the weakest link among them.

Locating a middle-aged Landmover named ERIC, Devonika's demeanor softens. Eric a grey-haired tribesman, had been a fine specimen in his youth. The ravages of time and survival did little to wear on the man's strength of will.

The dark clouds suddenly part. Thin, angry features melt away into a glistening, youthful form. Shining inwardly with the worst of intentions, Devonika's callused heart warms ever so slightly to appear as a perfect mirror of deceit.

She is the image of Eric's long-lost daughter with golden hair falling in soft curves down to shoulders of milky white skin.

DEVONIKA (in child's form) Papa, it's me! Don't you remember your own daughter?

ERIC

Danielle!

The other Landmovers begin drawing apart, reforming into a half circle and surrounding the pale vision of beauty.

ERIC You vanished, leaving me only a letter.

I wanted your blessing to explore the island, Father, but you wouldn't give it. I had to go out on my own.

ERIC

I knew you wouldn't survive. I couldn't bless that! We looked for you, long and hard, but you left no trace. It's been years.

Sageus steps between them.

DEVONIKA

You have no place here. These are not your tribesmen.

SAGEUS No, and you're not this father's daughter either.

Sageus raises her arms, grasping an almost invisible curtain of fog surrounding Devonika. The wise woman tears, rips and rends the illusion, helpless in the light of reality.

SAGEUS

Behold the dark queen of the North!

Danielle's voice gives way to the shrillest, grating sound any Landmover has ever heard. It is vicious, slicing the air with pure venom.

DEVONIKA

You're out of your league, old woman! You have no part with these people, or my purpose for being here.

SAGEUS

Oh, I know why you're here, and it won't work. The Landmovers are way beyond your feeble attempts at deception.

DEVONIKA

This one wasn't. This Landmover misses his daughter. I could return her to him.

PAGE 83

SAGEUS

Of that, I'm certain, but to what end? He's learned to cope, get on with his life. Why open old wounds? Just to torture a parent with memories? I never thought such evil existed on this island, before I heard about you.

DEVONIKA

My reputation precedes me then. I'm flattered.

SAGEUS

Hold that thought!

Sageus raises her arms, creating a giant stone column from thin air. She turns it sideways, motioning forward with her hands and the beam obeys, completely smashing into the dirt, then rolling over the sorceress. As it dissolves back into air, Devonika's flattened figure rises from the ground.

DEVONIKA

Did you think such trickery could destroy me? You don't stand a chance against my power.

Devonika's thin lips open flatly. A snake's tongue slithers out of the two dimensional image, tasting the air in all directions. Then a snapping, cracking sound pops the sorceress back into full three-dimensional reality.

Sageus ponders the pending all-out battle about to ensue. Devonika draws forth a twig covered staff with ultimate evil beginning to glow from one end.

EXT. JASON'S CAMPSITE.

Jason taps Teathergund lightly in gathered brush to spark a warm fire. Gentle waves play against the soft sand by water's edge, following Pipercall's entrancing song. Faint calls from nightnested birds answer at intermittent intervals.

Farina is nestled at the piper's feet, wearing a somber but hopeful expression.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

JASON

We break camp at dawn.

FARINA

I'm sorry I can't get us across the lake, but the battle with Karmen was very draining.

JASON

That's okay. We should be safe here by the fire.

PIPERCALL

Why don't you two rest? I'll take the first watch.

(indicates his flute) Windwood will keep me company.

JASON

Windwood?

PIPERCALL

That's my flute. Named by an old friend, a very long time ago.

JASON

First watch it is then. Just don't let the fire go out. Keep adding leaves and small branches to it.

FARINA

He doesn't need that as long as he has Windwood. If you noticed, none of the original twigs have burned up. The flute's song reinforced their structure and burning capability.

PIPERCALL

(nods back) It's true enough.

JASON

Interesting. Well, you can keep playing as far as I'm concerned. The music will help me sleep.

Farina flies off to a safe resting spot in a nearby tree.

EXT. EDGE OF LAKE - DAWN

Jason rises first, heading to the edge of the lake. The sun dances along the surface of the water.

His parents' reflection becomes visible in the depths of the lake.

JASON

Mom! Dad!

Jason waves at the reflections and they wave back. Bending closer to the surface, he sinks his lips into the water, drinking greedily for a moment.

Jason sees a pair of fish lips reflecting back at him. As he opens his mouth to call out, four elongated tentacles erupt from the depths.

Jason struggles to free himself. He manages to grasp one last breath of air before vanishing beneath the gentle lapping waves.

He feels his body changing, melting into a more compact form, sleek and swift. He finds no trouble breathing from newly formed gills, but he cannot see anything without turning his head from side to side. Glancing back at the surface, he sees his own reflection as a fish.

As he is drawn deeper into the depths, water plants brush lightly against his sides. Once at the bottom, the tentacles relax and free him to explore on his own.

Frantically, he tries to signal his abductor for guidance with two small fins. This sends him swimming in circles in shock and dismay. Finally, he manages a controlling bump against the soft underbelly of the giant eel abductor.

> MURRANZO Hey! One more like that and I'll send you back to the Karmen.

JASON

What?

MURRANZO The Karmen almost reached you

JASON

I never saw it.

MURRANZO

Exactly what it had planned all along. The Karmen cannot be defeated by any known method. It strikes in a warrior's mind and heart. Compromising those two defenses gives it victory over any opponent.

Jason treads water, amazed by the whole situation.

JASON You're telling me the Karmen survived?

MURRANZO

Yes.

JASON

And it keeps coming back, again and again?

MURRANZO

Yes.

JASON

Then that means there's no death on the island. Just eternal life, struggling between good and evil. Your life forms change, but the essence of creatures remains the same.

MURRANZO

Very good. Your train of thought in assessing things is very logical, well considered. Perhaps it will yield better results than my own many years ago.

JASON How did you lose your battle?

MURRANZO I haven't yet. Unless you fail.

JASON What am I to learn here?

Murranzo points downward with a tentacle. Jason sees a small, hidden cave at the edge of the lake bed shelf.

JASON

There's the answer?

Murranzo swims quickly away, leaving Jason to ponder his predicament. Giving one last look upward toward the surface, Jason swims toward the cave.

Nearing the entrance, a light begins glowing inside. Jason turns one way then another, trying to get a better view. Optical visibility is like looking through a giant kaleidoscope with colors constantly changing and shifting.

INT. CAVERN'S ENTRANCE

Jason's mother is seen crying, desperately searching for any sign of his reappearance at the mobile home campsite. Jason moves forward slightly as his father becomes visible as well.

Then, a horrible vision of the Karmen shoves Jason forward while surging water inside the cave spins into the largest dark whirlpool.

EXT. LANDMOVERS CAMPSITE - SAME TIME

Devonika snarls at Sageus and the Landmovers. The dark queen points the thin, reed-like branch at Sageus.

DEVONIKA

Who did you think would stand with you, old woman?

SAGEUS

No one here could defend against such evil in your grasp, but another will come to destroy your plans.

DEVONIKA

Pity you won't be here to see that prediction fail as well. Many have tried over the years.

SAGEUS Enough of your vile threats.

You've given me enough trouble yourself. I'll have your heart for this.

SAGEUS

You wouldn't know what to do with one. Let's see what's really inside that vindictive head of yours.

Sageus mutters an incantation under her breath.

Devonika's head begins swelling, distorting her features. Almost bursting at the seams, the sorceress' entire skull grows to ten times its original size.

The evil witch now appears as a giant, demented jack-in-the-box, completely oversized for the body supporting it.

Devonika's image blurs, compresses, then expands back to its original form.

DEVONIKA

How dare you think your power exceeds mine? You're nothing more than amateur!

SAGEUS

From the time this island appeared, you wanted control of it, and you've done your level best to strike fear in the hearts of all who live here.

But what accomplishment is that? You live alone. Abhorred by every tenant that walks the same earth. Infuriated by every act of kindness between them. Did you ever stop to consider the complete emptiness you've created for yourself? A vacuum that sucks all charity, peace and love from others. Then grinds it all into nothing, the same nothing that's replaced your own heart.

Enough!

(intones) You will be the form I see, feathered, wide-eyed in a tree.

A huge black cloud envelops both women. A mighty CLAP OF THUNDER echoes in all directions as lightning flashes upward. The Landmovers stand stunned in disbelief at the sight.

Jewel peers out at the spectacle. The force of the transformation rocks all the cottages. Then, a bright blue glow emanates from within the cloud, dimming to a deep purple.

As the smoke dissipates, Devonika reaches for Eric with a long, slithering octopus arm. Trying to fight against the suction cups, he is lifted into the air.

DEVONIKA

No more nice queen! You'll tell me where the girl's hiding. Now, or you won't touch ground again ... alive.

Jewel steps out into the dim light, raising the shell of truth to her lips. Swiftly she begins blowing, approaching Devonika.

> DEVONIKA What is this? The girl who would be queen?

Jewel continues blowing, the tone increasing with each step.

DEVONIKA Why don't you answer? Don't you know my power?

Jewel approaches closer, ignoring the request. Devonika's wand suddenly splits in two.

Sageus' voice begins echoing inside Devonika's skull.

SAGEUS (V.O.) The same nothing that replaced your own heart.

The volume increases with each step of Jewel's approach.

Stop this! I can't concentrate on anything. I must have quiet to think! Put the shell down, girl, or you'll be sorry you were ever born.

Devonika sweeps a vast dark cloak around herself and vanishes into the fading gloom.

DEVONIKA

We will meet again!

The Landmovers check on Eric who has been dropped into a nearby haystack. They rush to congratulate Jewel on her victory, but she shrugs them away.

She searches for Sageus, then a FLASH of feathers overhead catches her attention. A large grey and white horned owl swoops into view, landing at her feet.

JEWEL

Sageus?

SAGEUS

Yes. She's not quite as powerful as she thinks either. You can't exactly ignore the rules around here.

JEWEL

What do you mean?

SAGEUS

In whatever form we assume on the island, there is a prime consideration that must be fulfilled. You must do everything in your power to help others no matter the cost.

JEWEL

If everyone works together for the same goal, then Devonika's dream of destruction will be obliterated.

SAGEUS

Exactly.

JEWEL

She's gone back to her palace.

SAGEUS

Yes, and we need rest for ourselves, then, a fresh start in the morning.

The great owl flies back to the cottage. Two Landmovers take up a guard watch at the entrance.

One of the younger men is smitten with Jewel's courage. He is barely fourteen years of age, but born of hard work and a familial determination to survive. His name is GABE and he stands nearly a foot taller than Jewel. He is muscular, sincere, patient and willing to do anything to ensure her safety. She brushes by him, smiling.

GABE

Don't worry. Nothing will get past me to hurt you.

JEWEL

I'm sure.

GABE

My name's Gabriel, but my friends call me Gabe.

JEWEL

Then I shall call you ...

GABE

Anytime you need me.

JEWEL

And this ... (points to her distorted features) is worth fighting for?

GABE Your name matches the jewel of a person inside.

JEWEL (momentarily taken aback) You're too kind.

GABE Rest easy, I'll be right outside.

I will.

INT. COTTAGE - MORNING

Jewel closes the door behind her, a faint smile still apparent on her lips. Joining Sageus in front of the fireplace, both stare into the firelight.

EXT. VILLAGE - SAME TIME

The group of Landmovers has prepared a light breakfast for Sageus and Jewel before their departure. Jewel eats small cooked eggs with sausages and with a controlled voracious appetite. It is the first familiar meal she's eaten in her travels. Sageus picks absently at her food.

JEWEL

Aren't you going to eat?

SAGEUS

I'll be fine. Remember, we must adapt to what life changes we embrace.

JEWEL

Right. I'll never understand why my friends back home ...

Jewel stops, brushing away a tear.

SAGEUS

Your friends back home, what? (pauses) Come, warrior. Don't let the past overwhelm you. There's a lot to be said for the future.

JEWEL

Teach me! Show me how to keep the past in place.

SAGEUS

(hoots, then ruffles her feathers) My dear girl, if I knew that, I'd be truly wise. Jewel sets down a small hand-carved wooden goblet Its steaming liquid, similar to tea, splashes gently from side to side around the rim.

Sageus nods toward the visual phenomenon, indicating she wants Jewel's attention focused on it for a moment.

SAGEUS Do you see how the grog swirls from one area of the cup to another?

JEWEL

Yes.

SAGEUS

That is the way of life. Balance is achieved in understanding this simple principle. Surface and depth of the liquid contain exactly the same density. There is no heavier or lighter area to consider. It's all the same.

Contained within yourself are exactly similar levels of consciousness. They blend into each other, yet still are contained in the same vessel. Life can move you from side to side. Up and down.

Backward and forward. This sloshes consciousness around, bringing various levels of the liquid to its surface. None are greater or lesser than the whole, though. Never consider memories more important than applying their lessons to help others.

JEWEL

Thank you. I can handle remembrances now.

SAGEUS

You must, for what lies in the future could well depend on it.

Footsteps approach from outside. Sageus' head snaps around and a solid knock at the door draws both warriors' attention.

JEWEL

What now?

A mighty shove forces the door from its hinges.

Two giant fingers push the wall inward. The thatched roof blows away in a single puff of wind. Gabe shouts overhead.

Jewel's looks upward to see Gabe clutched tightly in the hand of a tremendous giant Cyclops.

INT. WATERY CAVERN - SAME TIME

Jason beats his fins furiously against the outer rim of the endless watery chasm. Thrusting himself into the center of the whirlpool, he becomes mired in the inner rim of the swirling water.

The Karmen ROARS behind him, realizing what he's done. Reaching for him through the suction, Jason sees a tentacle brush his side. The slight impact only fixes him more securely along the inner rim.

Relinquishing his prey in disgust, the Karmen vanishes, swimming speedily back to the surface. The creature is satisfied the vortex will eventually claim Jason.

Jason's attention focuses entirely on the huge tornado of water surrounding him. A horrible despair begins settling on his heart, fearing no escape from the underwater prison. He finally gives up and begins to spin, end over end, into the depths of the whirlpool, before a faint sound catches his ear.

A blending of tone and melody is heard. Then, a lifting motion begins, stabilizing him in the water. All the flurry of motion ceases from the whirlpool.

He starts rising, inches at first, then feet. Finally, separated from the whirlpool altogether, he continues surfacing, gradually depressurizing, and regaining his bearings. The melody continues, filling every inch of his being. MONTAGE BEGINS

Shots of wheat fields blowing in the wind
 Miles of clouds sweeping by overhead
 Sunshine beams in all directions
 Beautiful mountains and canyons race by
 Green fields
 Sandy sparkling shores of sand

MONTAGE ENDS

Jason focues back on his reality of bobbing along the surface of water as a fish.

EXT. SHORELINE - SAME TIME

Pipercall plays Windwood, drawing Jason closer to shore.

Farina keeps darting back and forth, out over the water, then returning to the shore's edge.

FARINA

I've got it! Bring him in, Pipercall. I know the chant to change him back.

Jason gets scooped up by a low flying pelican. He sees the outside world vanish as the beak closes over him.

The bird doesn't swallow, keeping Jason's scales moist and providing oxygen to his lungs for a few more moments.

JASON Please let me be unconscious before I get eaten.

The bird swoops toward a huge nest perched on the side of a cliff. Then, drops him beside two large cream colored eggs. Jason's breathing becomes shallow and a misty glaze starts filming over his eyes.

Glancing up, he sees his father's face. The parent's voice booms gladly in his ears.

FATHER Jason, what are you doing out here in the woods?

Jason's mother clasps him gently as both parents help him to his feet.

MOTHER

We were so concerned! We've been searching for days.

Jason stretches and suddenly realizes his former fish appearance is gone. He has arms and legs along with his entire body transformation.

JASON

We found this bell, then met a lion that talked...

MOTHER

There are no lions here, son. You must have fallen and hit your head.

FATHER

No problem. I noticed a small clinic in the last town we passed through. Only take about fifteen minutes to run back that way.

JASON

DDad ... Mom ... you've got to listen to me. There's a box with a bell in it, somewhere around here.

FATHER Son, what happened to Jewel?

MOTHER

Yes, dear. Where is she? Her parents are frantic with worry.

Jason manages to struggle from his father's grasp. He runs back to the edge of the clearing where the box was originally hidden. It lies partially exposed in the tall field of grass.

JASON

Here it is! The bell's still in it.

He gently opens the wooden cover and glances inside. The blue bell lies nestled in the plush velvet interior, with a complete set of folded instructions. Jason draws in a gasp for breath as he realizes the importance of handling the page with care this time.

FATHER

Come on, son! We need to get you to the clinic as quickly as possible.

JASON

I'm not going anywhere, until I straighten things out in the Land of Remote. Too many people are depending on me there. I have to fight Devonika. Set peace in motion for the island.

He opens the familiar instructions, studying the final part of the inscription with deep interest.

FATHER What is it, son? What does it say?

Jason's father reaches for the page, only to have it crumble in his hands. The paper shreds go flying in all directions on the wind.

JASON

Dad, no!

FATHER

What did it say?

Jason's eyes blur once, then twice more before finally clearing.

EXT. SHORELINE - SHORT TIME LATER

At water's edge Jason sees the giant form of the Karmen stretching from earth to sky. Jason is back in his regular form, but no cliff is visible and no pelican.

He looks back at the water again and sees his father's reflection fading among ripples reverberating from the beast's roar.

JASON

YOU WICKED BEAST! You used my parents against me. I'll destroy you once and for all.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

The Karmen's expression changes from mere amusement at the empty threat to a vicious rage against such an inferior creature daring to confront him as an equal.

Jason reacts, narrowing his thoughts to a single purpose. Teathergund, more than fifty feet away, flies through the air to Jason's grip.

> JASON (grinning back at the Karmen) Evil's done. Time to run!

Jason whirls Teathergund overhead and lets it fly into the air. Obeying the circular motion, the hammer continues an upward arch, rotating around the Karmen.

A steady drone fills the air as it slices directly into the creature's head, splitting the monster in two, right down the middle.

A mighty GROAN escapes as the creature separates, falling with a mighty crash into the lake.

Teathergund returns to Jason's hand. He kneels and looks into the lake's depths for any sign of final escape by the Karmen.

A thin buzzing about his ears makes him slap absently at the sound, narrowly missing Farina, who flies back and hovers at a safe distance.

FARINA

Hey, what's the big idea?

JASON I had a battle with the Karmen again.

FARINA

I bet you did, and judging from your reaction just now, I think you probably won.

JASON It didn't happen. None of it.

PIPERCALL

Who's to say? We can't be sure the creature's demise is certain.

JASON

But, I already destroyed it. I sent it into the earth and closed the ground behind.

PIPERCALL

Two things I should have warned you about. This is no ordinary water. It's the Lake of Forget. Even touching the surface can have dire consequences. That's why we must find a way around it, instead of going across.

JASON

Understood, and the other thing?

PIPERCALL

Nothing ever perishes on this island. We merely change form to higher or lower levels. Depending on the lessons to be learned from each.

JASON

That's incredible. (pauses) I don't know how the Karmen stole my memories, or how that lake made everything seem so real with my parents, but I do know Devonika's evil must be destroyed, and it's my quest to get it done.

PIPERCALL

Have you learned anything else?

JASON

Yeah. I know the entire chant for the bell, so I can get home anytime now, but I'm not going without Jewel, and somewhere, I know she's alive. EXT. LANDOWNER'S COTTAGE - SAME TIME

Gabe yells helplessly from thirty feet in the air. Falling from would risk death, but the Cyclop's interest isn't focused on the captive guard. His main interest now is Jewel.

CAPHUS

I will trade you for her. I, Caphus, leader of our tribe was sent for her. It was foretold.

SAGEUS

Then you're not from Devonika?

CAPHUS

A logical conclusion, but really none at all from a bird.

SAGEUS

You see form, not substance. That's why you've remained at odds with your neighbors for so many years.

JEWEL

Well spoken.

CAPHUS

You would be neighbors? You seized our land. Made us seek another home.

GABE

Is that what you believe?

CAPHUS

You drove us from our homes. We had nowhere left to settle until Stonelight found new caves, beside the shore.

JEWEL

Sir? Can you hear me?

CAPHUS

Yes, little one, I hear you clearly Though hidden in the forest.

The Cyclops sets Gabe aside on a tree branch twenty feet from ground level.

JEWEL

What is Stonelight?

CAPHUS

Come, I will show you.

The Cyclops moves off with Jewel. Sageus flutters her wings uselessly in warning. She knows it would be folly to oppose the Cyclops' plan.

Gabe grabs the side of the tree trunk and begins a quick descent from the high perch.

SAGEUS You'll never find them. By the time you reach the ground, they will be far from here, almost to the shore.

GABE It's not far, and I will find them.

SAGEUS I'll keep track of your progress, and theirs.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE BEGINS

Sageus flies off to keep Jewel and Caphus in sight. Soaring skillfully over the highest treetops, she carefully keeps a safe distance, never venturing nearer than several hundred yards.

Caphus moves in deep, purposeful strides, directly toward a distant roar from the shoreline. It would take the better part of an hour for them to reach the sandy beach. Crashing waves grow louder at their approach.

EXT. LANDMOVERS VILLAGE - SAME TIME

Gabe briefly returns to the village and gathers his hunting gear while eluding neighbors and friends. Each passing second puts Jewel and Caphus that much farther away and the quest is his alone. He will not ask for volunteers to accompany him, especially when he might not return. EXT. CAPHUS' HAND.

Jewel peeks at the giant's footprints crushing foliage into rocky paths at every step. Tree limbs bursting with colorful petals get swept aside, whirling into rainbow-like configurations against the dark green backdrop of leaves.

Sageus circles above. She drops once in a downdraft, but manages to quickly regain altitude. Warm sea winds are seen sending the wise owl soaring loftily back to her higher vantage point.

Jewel glancing back, tracking Sageus' intense pursuit. She realizes the extreme danger posed by any rescue attempt at this point. Nothing could be done until Caphus' reaches his destination.

Jewel says nothing. She notes the Cyclops' labored breathing beating against her skin like a hot desert wind, chapping what is left of her face. She buries herself in the beast's palm, unwilling to consider the final damage to her features.

MUSIC INTERLUDE ends.

Caphus feels her tears and pauses to bend his head so that she can dry her tears in his hair.

JEWEL

Thank you.

CAPHUS

No problem, little one. I know Stonelight will find a way to restore your outer beauty. There is much to learn from such wisdom.

JEWEL

Even if Stonelight doesn't know and can't help, I appreciate your concern.

CAPHUS

Thinking isn't doing. Stonelight knows which is which.

JEWEL

Which is what?

CAPHUS

No. Which is which.

They grin at each other, aware of the healing power in their play on words. A vital bond slowly forms between the two.

CAPHUS

We're almost there. Soon, you will meet the others.

JEWEL

Who is Stonelight? What's he like? Is he big? Small?

CAPHUS Stonelight isn't a person. It lives in water.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING THE SHORELINE

Jewel glances quickly down the opposite as sea green waves roll gently against a sparkling sandy beach. It is a bit more barren than the island's other side, lacking trees or any type of small vegetation, but its own unique beauty fascinates her as she sees a length of foaming tides in the distance.

She sees an enormous grey object nestled in the water at the very edge of a small inlet. Cooling curtains of water spray drench it from every angle. It appears securely anchored under a small waterfall that cascades in rivulets on the face of the object.

JEWEL

If that's Stonelight, it's not even alive. Now I'll never get my face back.

She cries, realizing that Stonelight holds no promise of restoring her beauty. Pity breaks into Caphus' mind for the first time. He feels emotions for her safety welling up inside.

Sageus flies unerringly toward Stonelight, intent on discovering the mystery behind its cold grey surface. Two blinking yellow eyes watch the owl's approach.

Fluttering through the water spray, Sageus lands carefully. She notices a strange symbol painted on Stonelight's forehead, next to a backlit directional pointer.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Moving closer, the yellow eyes blink shut. A green indicator light clicks on. Red fiery numerals light up on a side panel, beginning a countdown from twenty three hours, fifty nine minutes and sixty seconds.

Sageus shakes her head in disbelief. There is now less than a day to figure out what makes Stonelight tick.

EXT. LAKE SHORELINE - LATE MORNING

Pipercall, Farina and Jason thread their way along the shoreline, keeping a safe distance from the water. Jason is relating all of his startling morning events.

PIPERCALL

We don't even know for sure the Karmen is following us. The lake is very unforgiving. It never matters who enters or what the person's troubles may be. All the water does is cleanse memories from visitors.

JASON

How much farther is it to get around the lake?

PIPERCALL

Not long now. Going around instead of over the water probably added two hours to our trip.

JASON

But at least we can still recall the journey.

Farina flies slightly ahead, then circles back. She is determined to keep them together. United, they stand more chance against all adversaries.

A CHATTERING sound fills the air from several directions. The flyscout's wings freeze momentarily as the sound increases. She falls motionless onto Jason's shoulder, clinging tightly to his collar.

JASON

What now?

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Pipercall motions for silence. The clicking sounds begin reverberating, but they aren't staying in one place. The sound moves, taking on a distinctive marching military tone. It is gradually nearing.

Pipercall peers through a break in the trees. He draws back quickly, his eyes narrowing to slits as he indicates a swift retreat.

Jason shakes his head stubbornly. Fleeing or running from peril isn't an option for him. Farina, still hiding under Jason's collar, begs him to reconsider.

> PIPERCALL We have to get out of here now!

FARINA

Jason, please! Listen to him.

Jason's answer is to push aside the foliage.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW Every square inch of a small valley ahead is covered by flying spiders. No speck of grass escapes the insects' notice at feeding time. The spiders feed on a beast resembling a giant roach.

Jason refocuses on a large cavern about twenty feet back from a huge waterfall. Resultant spray from the cascading water continually changes to a rainbow of colors. A bright circular orb glistens directly in the center, lying almost hidden in the curtain of water. He points to the shiny round mystery device.

JASON

What's that?

PIPERCALL

I call it a travel disk. If you reach them in time when they materialize, you can journey from one point of the island to another.

JASON

Cool!

FARINA How do you know it can be done?

PIPERCALL

I have used the orbs. That's how I happened upon Jason in his battle with Karmen.

JASON

I thought your flute brought you. I heard music playing before you appeared in the flash of light.

PIPERCALL

Light is normally faster than sound. That's why we see lightning before rolling thunder in storms on the island, but are you sure you heard music before the curtain of light opened?

Jason thoughtfully scratches his head, glancing sideways at Farina. She squinches her eyes, trying to remember exactly.

FARINA

Yes, it was exactly that way.

PIPERCALL

Then something's wrong. It could be a small discrepancy, but great discoveries often hinge on just such things.

JASON

I think we'd better face these spiders first, then get to the travel disk.

PIPERCALL

The spiders are no problem. I've just the melody for them.

Pipercall instantly fills the air with a lively reel. The marching sounds stop at once. A strange silence hovers in the air as hundreds of spiders drop from low overhanging tree branches. Thousands more begin falling in line with the initial onslaught.

Pipercall moves off, surrounded on every side by the hideous insects. Farina shudders, hiding again under Jason's collar.

Pipercall heads steadily to the cliff's edge, overlooking the valley. Continuing the lively song, he watches the spiders fling

PAGE 107

themselves off into space, their wings frozen in place by the music.

EXT. VALLEY BELOW.

Landing in the midst of the feeding frenzy already in full swing, the spiders fall on each other, gnawing, gnashing each other into oblivion.

The three travelers continue heading down to the valley.

JASON Now! We need to reach the cavern before they turn on us.

FARINA

Not much chance of that. They're all finished with each other. Nobody's moving.

Pipercall finishes the reel and places Windwood back in its worn leather pouch. Surveying the scene, they see that all of the flying spiders have been demolished.

PIPERCALL

Not a bad tune. We've nothing to fear from the ones that are here.

JASON

There's more?

PIPERCALL

I'm not a betting man, you understand, but I'd lay pretty good odds in favor of this being a type of nursery. Someplace the older ones drop off their children before joining the daily quest for food.

FARINA

So where exactly does that leave us? When the others return, we'll be the main course. Right?

JASON

Let's check the cave. Maybe our answer's inside.

PIPERCALL

(keeping an eye on the opening) Maybe so.

FARINA

Or we could be heading into an even bigger group of them. They like big dark places.

JASON You're welcome to scout ahead.

FARINA

Oh no. I think we ought to explore it together.

Pipercall silently cuts them both short. Motioning toward the cave's mouth, he crouches. They join him in the half-hidden lookout.

JASON

What's wrong? Did you see something?

PIPERCALL

Wait and see. I think we have company in the cave.

They sit silently for several moments. Then a gasp escapes Farina. A flutter of giant wings announces a slimy airborne predator heading toward them.

FARINA

Frygund!!

She dives for cover among overgrown tree roots.

JASON

What?

The beast shoots forward at a cheetah's speed with slick fangs bared. It opens a wolf mouth, howling a fierce attack cry.

Pipercall barrels into Jason's side, knocking him safely into the underbrush. The flutist regains his feet and draws forth Windwood, but before he can play the first note, Frygund roars a battle cry and swoops in front of Pipercall, knocking Windwood off into denser foliage. THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Frygund's surgical-sharp fangs sink fiercely into Pipercall's head twice. The attack continues until Pipercall slumps unconscious to the forest floor.

Farina's SCREAM draws the beast's attention away from its downed prey. It lets loose with another howl to the darkness.

EXT. FOREST FLOOR - SAME TIME

Gabe sweats profusely as he struggles through dense undergrowth. Sandy-blonde wisps of wet hair cling tightly to his head. His emerald green eyes flash angrily at the thought of Jewel still in the grip of Caphus.

Heaving a sigh of remorse, he settles himself for a moment on a tree stump to rest. Just as his eyes flicker shut, Sageus soars into view, alighting on a nearby branch.

SAGEUS Hurry! We're almost out of time.

GABE

I'll try, but I've covered eight miles already. I only stopped to rest a moment.

SAGEUS

I know you never asked for the quest, but you're the only hope Jewel can count on. Her life now depends on a machine the Cyclops don't understand.

GABE

How close are we, Sageus? Can we reach her in time?

SAGEUCS

Good questions, young warrior. Your first one is easy. We're only three miles away from the shore.(pauses) Your other inquiry depends entirely on fate and the hand it deals you.

GABE

Let's go, then!

SAGEUS

Wait! You can't face the Cyclops with no energy.

GABE This is the only path I know to get from here to there. It's the best I can do.

SAGEUS Yes, but not the best I can do.

Sageus twists on the overhead branch, blinking her large owl eyes pensively. Shaking a number of feathers loose onto the ground below, she begins chanting quietly.

SAGEUS

(intones)
Alone, apart, no help can start
Faint hope in every feather
Together, though, their help can grow
Balloon strength for any weather

As the feathers connect, they instantly interweave with each other to form a giant balloon. Sageus motions its direction toward Gabe.

SAGEUS

Grab hold, and don't let go. There's no time to waste. You must reach Jewel within the day or all is lost.

The Landmover warrior grabs the airborne transport and feels himself gently lifted off the ground. Low hanging clouds drift around him as he soars straight up.

GABE

How do I go forward?

SAGEUS Tilt it in the direction you wish to travel.

He complies, and it moves steadily along.

Jewel?

GABE Do we really have only a day to rescue

SAGEUS

The Cyclops depend on a device named Stonelight. It's a dangerous machine with an activated timer running a countdown.

A sudden loud CLAP of thunder signals a stiff wind springing up. It blows the feather balloon apart and leaves Gabe desperately clutching thin air.

He plunges downward at an increasing rate of speed.

GABE

Help, Sageus!

Sageus manages to cast one spell to summon a cushion of leaves below. Even with the soft landing, Gabe hits solidly, knocking the wind from his lungs.

Gasping, he sits up, trying to restore his breathing rhythm. Sageus soars higher, trying to find familiar air currents to stay aloft, but she is forced to the ground.

GABE Over here, there's a small cave.

Rain pelts both of them unmercifully as they duck inside.

Adjusting to the dim light, Gabe sees a slight indentation in the rock wall, along one corner of a passageway. A cylindrical orb GLOWS at his approach.

SAGEUS

Don't touch anything. I've got enough to deal with as it is.

GABE

Don't worry. The lightning from outside makes this thing shine.

Sageus flies to a better vantage point where she scrutinizes the object.

SAGEUS Not very impressive. Probably has some internal power supply. In here, light can't be the source for its energy. Low RUMBLINGS fill the cavern.

A snakelike bolt of lightning shoots blindingly around her. Stunned, she falls, landing hard against the back wall.

SAGEUS

Gabe! Help me!

Gabe is nowhere to be seen.

SAGEUS

I know he didn't abandon me. We need to stay together and rescue Jewel.

A slight flicker from the orb draws her attention. The glow has all but subsided, resuming its former shape of burnished gold.

Another crack of lightning sends dark billowing smoke across the cave's mouth. A moment of silence echoes eerily in the gloom.

Then, a steady rumbling overhead grows to thunderous proportions. Sageus rolls backward as stones supporting the cave entrance crumble away.

The dark fury of the storm obliterates the cave opening. Regaining her feet, she hops to where the cave entrance had been moments before.

A voice from behind sends a startling chill through her.

KINDGARDEN Come now, it's not that bad!

Sageus spins around, seeing a faint form in the darkness. KINDGARDEN, a small man, no more than five foot two feet high, with thin-rimmed glasses and a totally unruly head of white hair, faces her.

SAGEUS

Who are you?

KINDGARDEN People call me a lot of things, but my real name is Bernard C. Kindgarden. SAGEUS

Nice to know I'm not alone here. I'm Sageus.

KINDGARDEN

I'm a professor. Though my credentials don't mean much here.

SAGEUS

What do you teach? I hope it includes geology.

KINDGARDEN

Afraid not, but I do know another way out of here. Follow me.

SAGEUS

Thought you'd never ask.

He leads her past the orb to a hidden cut-out portion of the stone wall. Kindgarden taps twice in a secret spot, which opens a wide hole.

Together, they descend a long and winding stairwell that ends in a cavern at least ten times the size of the previous one. Brightly-lit balloon-sized fixtures cast a daylight glow throughout the cave.

Sageus sees rows of wooden workbenches stretching as far as the eye can see. They are piled high with experiments in various testing stages.

SAGEUS

What is all this?

KINDGARDEN

I've been here quite a long time. Not hiding, mind you. Just like keeping to myself.

SAGEUS

That would be difficult, especially on such a small island.

KINDGARDEN

I am a professor of astrophysics: with a very strong interest in anthropology, psychology and many other studies too numerous to mention, but I never expected to wind up here, apart from my world...my family ... my friends.

SAGEUS

How did you get here? You didn't just wake up one day and find yourself here, in the middle of a field on the far side of life.

KINDGARDEN

Heaven's no! I was exploring fairly deep water one afternoon. A huge tidal wave hit my boat broadside, sent me tumbling end over end. Snapped on my experimental displacer replacer by mistake and wound up here.

I've been up all night many times trying to figure out exact coordinates for the island. Until I do, the displacer replacer must never be turned on. I created little gold orbs with the same principle. They get me around the island quicker, but so far no luck on the big one.

SAGEUS

Where did you put the displacer replacer?

KINDGARDEN

The Cyclops moved it to a safe place for me by the shore. Under a waterfall.

SAGEUS

What happens if it gets activated?

KINDGARDEN

It would simply disappear with no set coordinates, and I'd be marooned on this island forever.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

PAGE 116

EXT. SPIDER BATTLEGROUND - AFTERNOON

Pipercall lies unconscious on the ground. Jason focuses his concentration to Teathergund. The hammer flies to his hand.

Frygund is totally unprepared for the attack as Jason swings at the creature. The hammer's gold head sinks deep into the beast's side. The creature leaps for Jason.

Jason hurls himself into the air with Teathergund. The hammer whirls like a helicopter blade as Jason flies to a higher attack position.

Farina twirls swiftly in circles, spinning earth and branches into a fierce controlled tornado. Centering herself inside the wall of fury, she slings it directly at the fanged monster.

JASON

Don't do it!

Frygund leaps into the center of the wind, snaring Farina in its paws. Continuing onward through the opposite side of the windstorm, the beast regains its footing and roars a victory call back at Jason.

JASON

Let her go!

Jason returns to the ground and the whirlwind dissipates in front of him.

A sudden crackling noise draws everyone's attention. Sparkling folds of light begin forming behind Frygund. The curtain of displacement opens swiftly, hurling Gabe to the ground.

Still holding Farina tightly, the beast flees into the changing colors of light and the curtain closes, fading away into transparent form, then vanishing completely.

JASON

(yells at Gabe) How could you give that thing a chance to escape?

Gabe is dazed, showing no signs of recognition of Jason or his surroundings. Everything is as strange as the cave he'd left only moments before.

GABE

Hey, I didn't plan this! I was in a cave. There was an orb. I moved it to get a closer look. Then a flash of lightning hit.

A low moan from Pipercall draws Jason's attention back from the edge of his anger. Rushing to Pipercall's side, he gently lifts the flutist's head. Bruised and greatly battered from Frygund's attack, the musician motions weakly for Windwood.

PIPERCALL

I need Windwood.

Gabe kneels to hold Pipercall while Jason rises to search the underbrush.

GABE What's going on here? Why were you two fighting that creature all alone here in the forest?

Jason makes no answer, merely continues searching for Windwood.

GABE I'd like an answer. I'm trying to be civil, but I'm just as lost out here as the both of you. I'd like to get my bearings straight.

JASON I'm trying to find Windwood for him. Your answers can wait.

GABE

Oh, you think so?

Gabe releases Pipercall's head. Carefully lying him back against a soft carpet of leaves.

GABE I've had enough of your attitude.

JASON Try it, and you'll wish you hadn't. PIPERCALL Fight together ... not against each other.

GABE

He's right. Separately we don't stand a chance of finding Frygund.

Gabe locates the wooden flute peeking out from a leaf cover.

GABE

(handing Windwood to Jason)
Here, is this what you're looking for?
 (extends his hand to shake)
My name's Gabe.

JASON

Thanks. Friends then ... I'm Jason. Let's focus on getting my friend back to health.

Windwood returns to its master's hands. Pipercall cautiously fingers a series of well-worn notes. He struggles to summon enough breath to play, but it proves too much effort. He sinks back against the leaves again.

JASON

Rest, Pipercall. Save your strength. You can play later.

PIPERCALL

You don't understand. If I don't play now, I won't survive.

GABE

You're Pipercall?

PIPERCALL

Yes.

GABE

My people followed someone by that name when they traveled west across the island. That was over a hundred years ago. You can't be the same person. PAGE 118

PIPERCALL

I assure you, we're one and the same. I know your tribe well. They bear strong features with good hearts. A very caring and giving people.

GABE

And, you're held in the same high regard now as then. I never thought I'd actually meet a legend.

JASON

Whoa, hold on. How can anyone live to be over a hundred years old? That's impossible.

PIPERCALL

Actually, it's closer to four.

JASON

Wait a minute. Who are you really?

PIPERCALL

I will tell you all about myself later, but first, I must play. The Guardian is the only one who can save me now.

JASON

Who's the Guardian?

GABE Wait. He will die without the Guardian's help. Let him call.

Pipercall begins to play. A strange, other-worldly melody fills the air, sad yet hopeful, with sustained high notes at the very end of the song. It has a pleading sound, as if struggling to be heard over everyday sounds of life, begging aid in the deepest need to survive.

An ice blue glow shimmers around the flutist. He smiles, comfort filling every fiber of his being. The pain is gone. There is no discomfort. The blue sheen turns a vibrant pink, then a soft translucent white.

Then a bright golden circle horizontally encompasses the musician. It spins faster and faster. Pipercall's lips move

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

noiselessly, as if talking to some unseen person within the circle of light.

Jason tries to step closer, but Gabe holds him back. Jason accepts the guidance and holds his stance.

The sound of wind chimes fills the air and the Guardian moves from Pipercall toward the boys. Standing completely still, they wait for the chance to meet the Guardian.

The globe of light moves to within hearing distance. The Guardian's voice tones aren't completely audible at first, sounding masculine and feminine at the same time.

GUARDIAN

You must achieve your mission. Your help will determine the island's future.

JASON

We can't even protect ourselves, much less the whole island! Frygund kidnapped Farina. We almost lost Pipercall. What kind of Guardian allows that?

Silence greets the accusation for a moment. Gabe bites his lower lip, wondering if Jason has gone too far.

GUARDIAN

Many events happen on the island. True, I am responsible for putting everything in place, but how various life forms react to each other is up to them. That's the freedom given to each individual.

JASON

Seems a good plan.

GUARDIAN

Think of it in terms of planting a garden. A gardener can select a spot. Gather the right soil. Put beautiful plants together. Yet, there will always be weeds to control.

Sometimes hard weather and climate. Even the best gardener is hard-pressed to control these things.

GUARDIAN (CONT'D)

Still, the final beauty of the garden is worth all the effort, in both creation and nurture. Don't you agree?

JASON

Yes.

GUARDIAN

You are my workers in the garden.

The shimmering globe begins rising, breaking the connection with them.

GUARDIAN

Work with the plants you've been given. They will show true beauty when grown and viewed together.

Gabe places hands under Pipercall's shoulders, helping him to his feet. Joining Jason, they watch the brightly spinning globe as it shoots into the air against the path of the mid-day sun. In a moment, it vanishes against the double star track of clouds and sky.

PIPERCALL

Now we find Farina. Every second Frygund runs loose lessens our chance of getting her back.

JASON

And how exactly do we do that?

Pipercall looks around, then points to an orb hidden in the hollow of a nearby tree. He retrieves the travel disk, moving it expertly in hand to activate the golden globe.

> PIPERCALL Here's a good start. It can take us to Farina in an instant.

GABE No! We could wind up on the far side of the island, days from here. We don't have time to go in two directions.

PIPERCALL

What's more important than saving Farina?

GABE

Stonelight, a terrible force, is already counting down to destroy the island. If we don't stop it before sunrise, we won't save Farina or my friend, Jewel.

JASON

Who?

GABE

The bravest girl I've ever known. She saved our village from Devonika.

JASON

I bet she did. (feels warm faith spreading through himself) She's alive!

EXT. SEASHORE - MID-DAY

Water spray splashes against Jewel's cheeks as she finishes a light lunch of small herbs and sea leaves. She is seated on a large boulder overlooking Stonelight. Her blonde hair, drenched by the waterfall, then dried by the sun, frames her face in ringlets, but she still avoids all contact with reflections from the pool of water. Her hope of recovering any of her former beauty from the mysterious object had long vanished.

JEWEL

What is it?

CAPHUS

Can't be certain. A timer is running, though. Could be very dangerous.

JEWEL

We'd better leave.

CAPHUS

A meeting should be called. All Cyclops should agree on what to do. Stonelight did find this place for us. PAGE 122

Jewel shivers, unsure of what the final outcome would be from a convened council of giants. Caphus steps forward onto the beach. His footstep sends gentle waves swirling against the large boulder. Foam eddies leave small water patterns as they recede.

CAPHUS

You have no worries. My tribe is nonviolent, unless provoked beyond measure. I will protect you from them. You have my word on that.

Jewel tugs the shell around her neck.

JEWEL

Tell me again, please.

As Caphus begins speaking in earnest tones, Jewel blows gently into the shell. Every word he speaks echoes back truthfully.

CAPHUS I will protect you. You have my word on that.

Jewel lowers the shell, allowing its power to subside.

JEWEL

I will trust you, Caphus. Call the meeting. But do it quickly. The timer leaves us only till dawn and it's now mid-afternoon.

CAPHUS

Stay here, then. You will be safe until I return.

He heads off in the direction of enormous caves along the cliff wall. They are home to the Cyclops.

Jewel watches a small speck outlined against enormous puffy clouds of mixed colors, all interwoven with various threads of the rainbow.

The airborne object begins dropping. It descends rapidly as Caphus disappears into one of the larger caverns. In earshot range, Jewel's heart skips a beat, recognizing Sageus.

> JEWEL Sageus! You're alright!

SAGEUS

And you as well, my dear! You don't know how I've worried about you, or if I'd ever see you again.

Sageus lands gingerly beside Jewel.

JEWEL

Oh, Sageus, I'm so glad you're here. I've been hoping you'd return. So many things have happened since you left.

SAGEUS

I know, but don't worry. I've found a solution. Stonelight's creator is on the way to help!

JEWEL

How soon can he get here. There isn't much time.

SAGEUS

His name is Professor Kindgarden. He can stop the timer. There's an elaborate web of travel disks planted throughout the island, and he invented them to get from one place to another quickly. He's just on the other side of the cliffs. Should be here shortly.

JEWEL

Above the caves? I hope he doesn't run into the Cyclops. They're calling a meeting about Stonelight right now.

The boulder TREMORS beneath them.

JEWEL

What was that?

SAGEUS

Something moved under the rock. Run for the caves!

Stonelight rocks a second time by a stronger tremor. They jump from the surface as an incoming wave shoves the device up against the shoreline. Just as quickly, the device is sucked back in the opposite direction, farther out into deeper water.

JEWEL Sageus, do something! If we lose Stonelight, it could blow up. Destroy the island in a tidal wave.

Sageus flies swiftly to Stonelight.

It continues drifting father away from the shore with each passing second. Landing on the surface, she notices a top panel has been knocked loose, exposing intricate circuitry crisscrossing inside.

Frantically, but calmly, Sageus studies the maze of wires, oblivious to the darkening waters around her.

EXT. SHORELINE.

Professor Kindgarden clears the last hill just as the Cyclops council emerges from the canverns.

Thunderous footsteps shake loose several large trees, knocking the professor over the side of the cliff into Caphus' outstretched hand. His jolted landing keeps Kindgarden's sudden appearance hidden from the other Cyclops.

CRENUM, one of the tribal leaders, scans the horizon.

CRENUM We have no way to reach it that far out.

CAPHUS

If we form a chain, we might. The land doesn't drop off for some ways below the surface.

An immense ROARING begins. The sea floor opens wide in a giant chasm.

Waves crash down either side of steep cliff walls. Cracks splintering off, circle in front of Jewel, dropping the seabed completely around her. She can no longer reach the caves across a hundred-foot abyss.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Two towering waterfalls stand at her back. Sageus and Stonelight have vanished in the midst of the uproar.

Jewel takes a step toward the separated canyon of water and notices a set of sand stairs, leading downward. Grimly determined to locate Sageus, she descends.

She follows a simple wide footpath on the first level. Moving cautiously, she tries to block out the cascading water phenomena on both sides.

As Jewel reaches the second level, she looks back to find the sand steps behind her have vanished. They have smoothed into a hill, gently sloping to the surface she's just left.

JEWEL

No point in going back anyway. The canyon's still there and I'd never reach Caphus over that.

Continuing her descent, she reaches another six levels before a huge cube, carved from sand, erupts into view. It is a massive structure, tall as a mountain.

She pauses a moment to view the marvel. It is covered on all four sides by tremendous rows of seaweed and dark, tentacled vines, stretching from top to bottom. This prevents it from being observed from anyplace other than the current level of sea floor.

A RUMBLING sound sends her running down the remaining two levels. She covers several hundred feet in a matter of seconds. She looks upward to view the spectacle above her.

Crests of green sea foam begin trickling over the tops of the waterfall pillars, rushing rapidly across a loam-soaked sea floor toward her. As she reaches the outer edge of the cube, a crack separates the sand structure across its top half. The front half cracks again along its mid-secton. Then, both sides swing outward, leaving a lightless entrance beckoning safety.

She runs for the invited haven. Groping carefully forward in the darkness inside, she hears only the sound of her own breathing, exhaling in quick short bursts. She is determines to find any escape from the pursuing water. Hearing a massive crunching sound, she turns in time to see the separated sections closing

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

behind her. She screams but the sound is muffled, vanishing in the thick blanket of sea air as the sand partitions slam shut.

A pale white light GLINTS directly opposite the previous entrance. Heading for the beacon, she notices its source lies hidden through a small hole in the sand wall.

JEWEL

How can I get through that? There's no other way out of here.

A single sparkle of light glints against a moisture drop sliding down the wall.

JEWEL

That's it!

She draws forth the worn grey headband and places it on her head. Standing in line with the light reflecting against the sandy wall, she recalls the plea from memory.

JEWEL

(intones) Power of form, stranger to me, Lend thy shape, in time of need.

Her body disappears into shimmering sparkles of light. Every movement now becomes a source of illumination in the dark, lighting every nook and cranny. As Jewel moves, her form thins itself into a single stream of glittering iridescence. Then, it slides nimbly through the small opening to the room beyond.

She reassumes her human form and removes the headband. Jewel tucks it carefully back in her pocket and begins examining her surroundings. A wondrous, almost blinding light gleams from the sides of an enormous castle made entirely from sand.

Four round turrets flank the major structure. A thick drawbridge lies poised across a wide moat of gently lapping sea green water. Drawing nearer, her face breaks into a smile at the reflection staring back at her from the water.

The water's surface reveals her beauty has been restored in changing to light and back again.

A deep voice RESOUNDS inside the castle.

VOICE Enter, Princess. Do not delay!

Jewel steps haltingly onto the drawbridge, amazed at the tension of the bonded sand in its almost wooden appearance. The sparkling walls outside the castle give way to a more somber display inside.

Dark hallways stretch in every direction. Quizzically, she studies her options. Then, the haunting voice booms again, cajoling and wheedling her.

VOICE

(sharply) Come forth! My patience wearies.

JEWEL I don't know which hall to enter. Tell me and I'll be on my way.

A strange, eerie LAUGH ECHOES, growing in intensity. It unnerves her and unsettles her strongest resolve to remain calm. It is the sound of a hunter stalking prey.

JEWEL

Such beauty outside, and such evil inside!

She ventures down the nearest corridor to her right.

JEWEL No matter. I'll find you, no matter where or what you are.

The faint tinkle of crystal sounds in the distance.

JEWEL

It's the bell! We can leave the island!

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Gabe's fingers clench the sides of the golden orb, then relax, over and over again. Jason stands adamantly weighing the odds of their choice in destination.

JASON

So, Jewel survived the underwater attack. That's amazing ... then again, she holds her own against me over a chessboard, but Farina ... there's no way she could escape Frygund. Not that monster with a wolf's head, eagle's wings and the speed of a cheetah! That thing can attack by air or foot in seconds.

GABE

We must agree on where we're going before I activate the orb.

PIPERCALL

Might I suggest something? Take a good hard look at what we're up against.

GABE

What do you mean?

PIPERCALL

Farina was kidnapped against her will.

GABE

So was Jewel!

PIPERCALL

We know both Farina and Jewel are intelligent and resourceful, but did you see the Cyclops mistreat Jewel in any way?

GABE

Well, no. He was interested in getting her back to their camp in one piece. Can't say what happened after that. Sageus never returned with any updates.

PIPERCALL

All right, then. We know Frygund snatched Farina and then vanished into the curtain as you entered. She can't defend herself against a creature that vicious.

GABE

True enough.

PIPERCALL

Farina is a friend to Jason and myself. You don't know her, but her powers could be of great benefit in rescuing Jewel.

GABE

What you say is true, but there's an even greater danger. A countdown is running on a device to destroy the whole island. We have less than a day to stop it.

JASON

Farina's rescue is important, but Gabe's right. We do need to save Jewel first.

PIPERCALL

Vote then! We must be in agreement before entering the curtain. Or we may wind up in several different locations. That's a definite possibility in using the orb.

GABE

Save the island.

JASON

I agree.

PIPERCALL

Then, it's settled.

Pipercall takes the orb from Gabe.

PIPERCALL Here we go. (pauses) Do you smell that?

The wind begins picking up. Pipercall listens, his face assuming a deep grimace.

GABE

What's wrong?

Clouds gather overhead, blocking both suns.

PIPERCALL There's no sound. No birds. No animals moving. Nothing. JASON

Perhaps they rest? Everything doesn't move all the time.

PIPERCALL

Oh, but it does. There's no life without motion. Always changing. Forever in flux. Without it, creation becomes decay. Progress fails. Time as we know it stops. No reason to move forward. No challenge.

Gabe stares bleakly. He feels something probing his mind.

GABE

Something is here.

PIPERCALL

Do you feel it, too? We are being examined for clues.

JASON

More than that. I've felt this before. Underwater. In almost total isolation. That's where this creature lives.

Each companion looks at the other with fiery eyes. Hatred burns at the discovery. Hope starts rising in each to flush out the intruder. As one, they join hands. Looking skyward they feel the ground begin to rock violently under them.

A shape begins forming in the middle of the circle. A ponderous, cloud-like mass erupts, formless at first. Then expanding higher with each passing second.

Thunder rolls as the Karmen's dark, dreadful shape appears. In the smoky cloud, the creature towers upward, touching the sky.

KARMEN You puny would-be heroes! Give me the bell and I will release you from further torment!

Gabe's eyes narrow, eyeing the monstrosity.

PAGE 131

GABE

(to Jason and Pipercall) He's not solid. We can't battle smoke! And we can't lead him to Jewel. We don't need another problem before Stonelight detonates.

JASON

I'm open to suggestions.

GABE The flyscout Farina has it!

JASON

What are you doing?

PIPERCALL

(squeezes Jason's hand tightly) Wait! We can use the Karmen's strength against himself.

KARMEN

WHERE IS SHE?

Hundred-year-old trees, rocked by the sound, begin splitting in two to crash all around them.

GABE See, that's the thing of it, she's not here.

Two colossal cloud arms clear a path on either side of them. Pipercall strains to keep Jason in check. The young champion's tendons bulge at containing his fury against the monster.

CKARMEN

BRING HER TO ME NOW!

Gabe holds the orb aloft over his head.

GABE

The flyscout you seek, escaped using this. We don't know which direction it took her.

A horrid face immediately materializes within the cloud. Two enormous dark eyes bead down at him as its lips sneer menacingly at the small gold object.

PAGE 133

GABE

No problem, though.

Gabe twists the top half while turning the side, activating the device. Pipercall grabs Jason and Gabe forcefully, then jumps into the wall of light just as it snaps shut, leaving the Karmen behind.

EXT. ICY LANDSCAPE

Biting winds send all three companions tumbling against each other as they emerge onto the surface of a vast landscape of ice.

An immense ice castle reflects the rays of the two afternoon sun. Everything lies frosted solid.

> GABE We've got to find shelter.

> > PIPERCALL

It won't take long to freeze out here in the open.

Jason stomps off toward the castle. Never glancing back, he is soon joined by the other two.

GABE Where are you going? You can't be thinking of fighting Devonika now!

JASON

I haven't heard any better suggestions. Think about it. Who created the Karmen? The flying spiders? For all we know, she might have sent the Frygund to kidnap Farina, daring us to take the bait and fight on her home ground.

PIPERCALL

Yes, that does make sense. I can draw the Frygund here, whether he still has Farina or not.

GABE

Do it. I'd rather deal with a thousand Frygunds than the witch who lives in this frozen lair.

A tree bough, crusted in ice, snaps overhead. It falls directly between them and begins separating on the ice.

It reassembles into Devonika's form.

DEVONIKA The feeling is mutual, Landmover!

Her breath shoots out in short quick gasps, freezing into drops of ice as they hit the ground.

DEVONIKA You are all intruders here and will be destroyed.

Jason steps forward, drawing Teathergund into battle-ready position. He is unsure of her power, but filled with faith in his own strength of purpose.

PIPERCALL

We mean you no harm. Our search is for a flyscout named Farina.

DEVONIKA

I know. The Frygund brought her to me as I planned. It was the only way to lure you here. Now it will be simple to deal with all three of you at once.

She raises her hand and transports them instantly inside the ice castle. They stand amazed at the moment's journey.

INT. ICE CASTLE

Jason glances quickly around and sees Farina trapped inside a moderately-sized crystal at one end of the room. He gives no notice of the discovery to the others. Pipercall tries secretly drawing Windwood from his shoulder pouch. THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

The queen's fierce gaze tears it loose, sending the entire pouch spinning against the far wall. Jason's tight grip on Teathergund keeps the hammer from a similar fate.

The dark witch begins lets loose a SHRILL SCREECH at the top of her lungs.

Huge, ice-hardened stalagmites rise from the floor. Meeting descending stalactites, they interweave with similar icy lances sliding into place from the side walls.

They are now trapped within a waffle of thick ice. Unable to move, they feel the cold frost spears spreading numbress through every organ and limb of their bodies.

Farina screams soundlessly inside her crystal prison.

Jason's fingers droop from the numbing cold. The half-foot thick ice bars block any movement, making defense impossible.

Jason's face glares at Devonika as he runs through options for an attack in his mind.

JASON

Stalemate!

DEVOCNIKA

You fool! Trapped in a prison of ice and you still think to confront me as worthy enemies? You're nothing!

JASON

Hear me out, if you want to keep your castle.

DEVONIKA

Speak then. Choose your words well. Your fate lies in them.

Pipercall and Gabe lose consciousness.

Jason struggles to get words from his frozen lips.

JASON

You don't have the bell. That's the reason for getting us here. Without it, you've nothing to use against the island.

DEVONIKA Clever boy! But no one here knows that.

JASON

Yet.

DEVONIKA

Well, you're in no position to tell them. Don't let me stop you, I'm not holding you back.

JASON

You don't care if the whole island is destroyed?

DEVONIKA

Why should I? No one's ever cared about me; besides, why would I believe the word of some trapped would-be hero? You have no proof this device can obliterate the entire island.

The queen stares out at the vast icy wasteland beyond the palace.

Jason's eyes gloss over in one final blink and a single tear falls to the floor.

Devonika's gaze snaps back to attention. She focuses on the single tear in mid-air. It hangs motionless, frozen in descent but not in substance or intent. Born from the last realization that Jason failed to stop the destruction and the return home would never happen.

The glistening drop of moisture reflects every color of the rainbow inside. Shifting shades of regret in a single expression of grief.

> DEVONIKA What is this? What have you done?

JASON

Pity for you.

The queen's eyes widen in horror as her power wanes. She searches the boy's face for the truth in his response.

DEVONIKA

No one has ever felt anything for me except hatred. You have changed the balance within (pauses) by this tear. Mutual abhorrence by everyone on the island for me, and I for them, has been destroyed forever.

She waves her hand and the tear continues its descent, splattering on the ice beneath her feet.

DEVONIKA

Ice, release them!

The frost-strengthened spikes instantly shatter into a million fragments. The three friends remain motionless on the floor until Devonika kneels, helping Jason to his feet. Then Pipercall and Gabe begin showing signs of life.

GABE

(turns neck slowly left and right) What happened?

PIPERCALL Her majesty saved us. She found her heart and the love locked inside.

DEVONIKA Rubbish! I was merely concerned for my castle.

JASON

Don't ever deny your feelings. (holds her hand to his lips and kisses it) They're all that matters in friendship.

DEVONIKA

Boy, you go too far, but you are wiser than your years. The legend is fulfilled in you.

JASON

Thank you.

SMALL TIME LAPSE

They quickly explain the purpose of their mission before the sun rises, a few hours later.

DEVONIKA You're positive of the danger?

PIPERCALL It is so. We now have the tender mercy of darkness to deal with in reaching Stonelight in time.

Twin beams of red and orange light the panorama outside. The ice palace's walls grow dim. Devoid of their reflective light source, they resume a cold, rigid façade against the night.

A slight smile crosses the queen's face. She begins leading them down an oversized passage, motioning for them to follow.

DEVONIKA I've located your friend Jewel, but she's in grave danger. We must hurry.

Gabe surges forward between Jason and Pipercall. Wisely, his companions hold him securely in check, waiting to see how far Devonika's help will extend.

She knocks on a fifteen-foot-high ice block, intricately carved by hand and invites them through the portal. They enter a ballroom-sized area filled with artifacts gathered from numerous travels across the island.

Tall strange objects twinkle from open-air starlight just visible overhead. Pipercall stands enraptured by the discovery.

PIPERCALL

Each one of these holds volumes of information about the different areas and people of the island. I could spend hours investigating these.

Devonika notices Pipercall's interest. Then realizes his beloved Windwood is missing.

DEVONIKA You seem to have forgotten something, musician.

She raises her arm and extends her palm. The coversack sails gently through the air to Pipercall.

DEVONIKA

I return that which was lost.

Pipercall opens the bag and his eyes tear up immediately. He spreads the pieces that remain of the instrument out in front of them.

PIPERCALL

Thank you, but it is finished. To be played no more.

DEVONIKA

Nonsense!

She picks up the pieces and returns them to the bag. Then she picks up a shiny tubular pipe inscribed in an ancient tongue. The instrument's metallic sheen glimmers.

It dissolves into a liquid mass in her hands. She pours the substance directly into the bag, completely covering the remainder of Windwood.

Chanting the former instrument's inscription in a strange tongue, she raises her voice slightly at the end.

Satchel begins GLOWING.

Devonika reaches inside the bag and draws forth a restored Windwood, glittering with spring-infused metal keys over former open holes. The hybrid instrument's mouthpiece now shines. Pipercall bows in awe.

PIPERCALL

You are too generous.

DEVONIKA

Come. We haven't a minute to spare.

She hurries them into the far corner of the room. A large, icehewn mirror has been carved into the wall. The room's reflection catches in its depths, expanding the space to twice its normal dimensions.

Jason checks to make sure Teathergund is at his side, then follows Gabe and Pipercall to join Devonika. He keeps glancing behind him, as though expecting something to materialize. THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Approaching the mirror, he sees no solid surface. Jason feels the softly-moving liquid plane and immerses his fingers in what lies beyond. A thin, gel-like substance, pleasant to the touch, greets his exploration.

GABE

What do you make of it?

JASON

Not sure. Never seen anything like this before.

DEVONIKA

Watch and see where your friend appears.

The queen points to the center of the mirror. At once, a long dark hallway materializes, glimmering against the other side of the reflective surface.

An invisible force knocks Pipercall and Gabe into the queen, sending Jason spinning directly into the mirror.

KARMEN

(thunderously) NOW I HAVE YOU AND THE BELL IN MY GRASP!

Pipercall, Gabe and Devonika immediately regain their feet.

DEVONIKA

Quickly! The Karmen has him!

They stride directly through the mirror's surface, determined to find Jason and the intruder.

INT. CAVE AT CLIFF'S EDGE.

Professor Kindgarden stares at the waves crashing against the shoreline.

KINDGARDEN

Thank goodness Caphus set me here. My nerves couldn't take much more of this.

He draws a small piece of worn cloth from his pocket to wipe sea spray from his forehead.

He sees a small glimmer of light shining down the beach at a distance.

KINDGARDEN

Now who could that be?

He watches as the light becomes a steady stream, separating into a hundred pairs of beating wings which reflect the moon's lavender hues. They surround him, casting a black light effect over his features. His eyes grow wide as he recognizes the forms of flyscouts.

KINDGARDEN

I heard you existed, but I never thought I'd actually see you.

FERGUSON

Only the gravest circumstances bring us forth in great numbers. I am Ferguson, head counsel to Farina, our leader.

KINDGARDEN

I am Professor Kindgarden. Why have you come?

FERGUSON

Farina is trapped by a creature known as the Karmen. The vile monster erased her capture from the minds of her traveling companions. She sent us warning and a plea for help.

KINDGARDEN

I vow my assistance as well, but I'm at a loss as to how to proceed. My friend, Sageus, is beneath the water with her, and I've no way to reach them.

FERGUSON

Oh, but you do. You hold Bantuk's cloak in your hand.

Kindgarden glances down at the scrap of cloth. It was smaller than a handkerchief with a small bell insignia surrounded by a circle in the center.

KINDGARDEN

This? I found it in the cave where I do experiments. Evidently it was carried there by some animal. I cleaned it and started using it to wipe down my tables.

FERGUSON

(points to the symbol) There is Bantuk's symbol. With this, you may travel anywhere your heart desires.

KINDGARDEN

I could go home.

FERGUSON Or with us to save your friend.

KINDGARDEN Of course. How could I have been so selfish?

FERGUSON Unfold it, then step into the middle.

Kindgarden lies the cloth down and it begins to expand. Ferguson motions for all the flyscouts to join them.

FERGUSON

Now repeat after me. (intones) In the heat of the morning, By the cool of the night, Cloak, take me now, For my wish, soar in flight!

The cloak nestles all of them in its folds. Closing tightly, it rises swiftly into the night sky. The cloak heads directly out to the farthest reaches of the horizon before plunging straight into the pounding waves.

Everyone within the cloak checks for leaks or water pouring in. There are no breaks in the cloth. They remain totally dry.

The cloak sinks deep into the sea's darkest dropoffs. It doesn't slow until the huge underwater cube looms ahead. Then the cloak turns transparent with its occupants and soars through the cube's immense front wall. Materializing inside, the cloak lands and opens, releasing the travelers. The scream of a small child rings out directly ahead of them.

FERGUSON

It's Farina! Follow my lead!

The flyscouts form a V-shaped wedge battle formation and speed down the hall, not waiting for Kindgarden's response. The professor retrieves the cloak that has shrunken back to its original size.

He looks up to see the trail of the flyscouts growing dim. Torches light only a small portion of the hallway, revealing only fifty feet ahead. Stairways lead in every direction. Kindgarden pauses, taken aback by a thin figure stepping cautiously from the shadows.

A young girl removes a worn headband from her hair. Her entire form, previously composed of sand shifts into her more normal appearance.

JEWEL

Don't be frightened. I'm glad you've come.

KINDGARDEN

I've no idea where we are, but whatever assistance I can provide is yours.

JEWEL

My name is Jewel.

KINDGARDEN

Mine is Professor Kindgarden. I'm in search of one friend and involved in saving another.

JEWEL

Seems to be the way of things here. Right now, I can only tell you we're under the sea in a sand castle of sorts. Its built by some monster who's holding the one item I need to get home.

KINDGARDEN

Do you live on the island?

JEWEL

Hopefully just a vist. I arrived with a friend, but we got separated. It's a long story.

KINDGARDEN

I hope we'll have time to exchange adventures later. Right now, we'd better face facts. We may be out of time to save our friends.

JEWEL

Don't even think it. Sageus taught me how to survive. I won't let her lessons be lost in the midst of such evil.

KINDGARDEN

I, too, came to rescue Sageus, and save my traveling device. The Cyclops call it Stonelight.

JEWEL

It is an evil thing, set to destroy the island at sunrise. We have only a few remaining hours to find and disarm it.

KINDGARDEN

Oh no, my dear. I built the device to open doorways of exploration. Never dreaming it would maroon me here.

JEWEL

You can't control it?

KINDGARDEN

Under normal circumstances, yes, but my trip here was unplanned an accident of fate. Once it's activated, the dials must be set to its original departure point, otherwise, it travels forever in the dimension outside space and time.

JEWEL

What if we just leave it alone?

KINDGARDEN

Not a good idea. If it vanishes with no one at the controls, there's no telling what might be drawn into the opening with it.

JEWEL

Just what I figured. Let's concentrate on one thing at a time.

KINDGARDEN

Agreed.

They round the final corner blocking the light. A horrifying sight greets them. A clear gelatinous mixture, extending two stories high, spreads out the length of the room.

All of the flyscouts are tightly embedded in the substance, unable to move or offer any defense against the glistening monstrosity.

JEWEL It's a giant jellyfish, without stingers.

A portion of the mixture reaches for her, forming a handlike appearance.

JEWEL

But, it does have hands.

She reaches for a torch on the wall as Kindgarden grabs her shoulder. He pulls her back around the corner to safety.

JEWEL

Leave me alone! I could've at least cut part of it away.

KINDGARDEN

Without knowing its composition? How wise is that? You might have set the entire creature on fire, and the flyscouts along with it.

JEWEL

I'm sorry. I didn't realize the danger.

KINDGARDEN

No harm done at this point, but whatever we do must be done quickly. I seriously doubt if the creature intends on keeping them around very long.

JEWEL

There was a dark object in its center. Maybe that holds the beast's central organs. If we strike at the heart, it might dissolve, freeing the prisoners.

KINDGARDEN

That wasn't its heart. You didn't see it from the same angle that I did. It looked like a young boy trapped in the middle.

JEWEL

Was he moving?

KINDGARDEN Breathing faintly was all I could tell.

JEWEL

I can't let it end like this. I've got to save him.

Yelling at the top of her lungs, she turns and ignores Kindgarden's attempt to restrain her. Dashing headlong back around the corner, she draws forth her headband and recites the transformation chant.

Diving headlong into the center of the liquid, she disappears into the very essence of the Karmen's deadly grasp.

INT. KARMEN - BELLY OF THE BEAST

Jewel swirls into the center of the creature, swimming for Jason's faintly breathing form. His eyes are closed.

Pushing through layers of the thick gelatin, Jewel grows weary. An ominous voice suddenly sounds directly behind her.

KARMEN

He is mine until I have the bell. You have served your purpose. Do not try my patience further. Resist no more!

JEWEL

No!

KARMEN

Foolish girl! If you were any smarter, you might have avoided my little trap altogether.

JEWEL

And leave my friend to perish at your hands? I don't think so.

The Karmen shifts slightly, sending a massive wave through the very center of its form. The image of Jason dissolves as shadows from the wall torches form a new image at one of the other corners of the room.

KARMEN

I am the Master of Shadows, and I believe you've fallen for one of them.

JEWEL

You don't even know where he's gone.

KARMEN

At the moment, I don't. But that will change when he finds that I have you in my power. You are the bait, and he will be here shortly.

Jewel strains from inside the substance to reach the sand wall. She feels the Karmen's gelatinous surface beginning to shake.

KARMEN

That won't work. It will destroy you and the flyscouts in the process.

JEWEL

Don't think so. This is your total composition. Not mine or the flyscouts. We won't be affected at all.

KARMEN

No! I won't allow it!

JEWEL

You don't have any control over me!

She manages to touch the sandy wall, muttering the chant again.

The headband GLOWS, turning her own composition entirely to sand.

A fissure the length of her torso splits the Karmen in half. Each side strives to regroup and regain its strength in the massive subdivision.

The Karmen's HOWL of despair sweeps through the cavern as its interior begins to liquefy into seawater. With no control over its own division, the monster totally dissipates into two immense puddles on the ocean floor.

Jewel removes the headband and changes immediately back to human form. She is greeted by cheers from the freed flyscouts.

Ferguson flies to her side, patting her shoulder in appreciation. His eyes hold reborn hope for their rescue mission.

FERGUSON

That was a fine piece of work, m'lady. You're definitely one of the champions legend foretold would battle great evil.

JEWEL

Thanks, but I don't consider myself one. I've got other reasons for getting rid of this creature.

She kicks absently at one of the nearer puddles. Separated by at least three feet of sandbed from its counterpart, it had been unable to rejoin the larger water mass. The few drops bridging the gap caused the divided puddles to join back as one.

The Karmen, shape-shifting, rises from the floor into a pale replica of the cavern wall.

FERGUSON

Our mission can continue as well. We're here to rescue one of our own, Farina.

JEWEL

I know her. She was with Jason and myself when we got separated.

FERGUSON

You must be Jewel. I am Ferguson. Farina sent word of you as well, but we must hurry or the delay proves disastrous for our leader.

JEWEL

Let's go.

They sweep into the hallway to find it empty and deserted. Jewel searches intently in both directions.

FERGUSON

What do you see?

JEWEL Nothing. Professor Kindgarden is gone.

FERGUSON

Hopefully, you'll meet again.

JEWEL

Yeah, maybe. (pauses) Wait a minute. Don't you think it's rather odd that we've all been drawn to the same spot?

FERGUSON

What do you mean?

JEWEL

Someone should have heard Farina's scream for help from different angles, which would put us in totally different areas, unless ...

FERGUSON

There was no scream at all?

PAGE 149

PAGE 150

JEWEL

Exactly. Maybe the Karmen did it through our thoughts.

FERGUSON

What?

JEWEL

We never heard the scream with our ears. He entered our minds.(pauses as another thought hits her) And if that's true, then what are the odds that such a creature can be defeated by merely splitting it in two?

She raises the shell of truth to her lips. Jewel waits, listening hard for any slight variation around them.

All of the flyscouts hover expectantly, ready to surge into battle at Ferguson's command. Finally, she lowers the shell slowly, and instantly the flickering flyscouts vanish one by one.

A tiny SUCKING sound accompanies each disappearance. Before Ferguson can react, Jewel whisks the shell back into place, blowing tones of truth outward through the hall.

A sudden GROAN announces the Karmen's menacing form as it reappears. It has changed into a black liquid cloud, churning incessantly over into itself.

Two piercing fiery-red eyes open at either side of the apparition, staring balefully at the gathered army. Its mouth opens, spewing forth noxious fumes.

KARMEN

You cannot defeat me. You will join me in my efforts to recreate the island with my kind.

FERGUSON

Now we understand your motives! You will know defeat at our hands.

Jewel continues blowing into the shell. Its inward power is aimed directly at the monster facing them. She would know every last detail of its plans before releasing the creature from her control. She knows there has to be a way to destroy it, once and for all.

KARMEN

Foolish land forms. You think this island is all of my mission? I could have destroyed you at any time. The true prize is yet to come. It will be my creator's greatest success. His crowning glory!

FERGUSON

What do you mean? Devonika will never rule this island.

The dark cloud begins igniting itself from within. Huge PEALS of thunder accompany lightning flashes as the Karmen begins growing, elongating, changing to its true self. It becomes an enormous, twisting serpent, preparing to strike.

KARMEN

I was not born of the dark queen, but a far greater power. One that has not been seen since the dawn of this island's first appearance. He holds the bell you seek and will find the cloak to escape this realm.

Jewel lets the shell drop back into place around her neck. She has heard everything she needed.

A tremendous CRACKING sound shakes the corridor. Ensuing air pressure from hidden rooms beyond tears loose with enough force to knock everyone against the far wall.

Jewel looks up in time to see a giant tentacle spring through a gaping hole, latching onto the Karmen's immense form with thousands of fleshy suckers like some enormous octopus. Dripping with dark, liquid adhesive, they seal the monster's mouth shut forever.

The Karmen is dragged back through the broken wall with the speed of an attacking shark. Ferguson and the flyscouts stand their ground, awed by the horrifying spectacle.

JEWEL Karmen was only a warm up for this! INT. CAVERN - SAME TIME

Professor Kindgarden blinks in disbelief at the stone wall sliding into place behind him. As his vision adjusts to the light change, a pair of large nocturnal eyes glare back at him from the cavern's farthest corner.

KINDGARDEN

Hello? Is anyone there?

SAGEUS

At last a rational mind in this place. Good of you to visit, Professor.

She flies to his side as his face breaks into a wide smile.

KINDGARDEN

Sageus, I was afraid you'd been swept away by the sea. Especially when Stonelight vanished under the waves with you.

SAGEUS

Not to worry. As the saying goes, there's bigger fish to fry here.

Sageus locates an inset sand block almost hidden behind her. She points and Kindgarden bends to examine it.

KINDGARDEN

What's this?

SAGEUS

The flyscout's final resting place. Unless we get her out of there.

KINDGARDEN

Sealed inside? That's a tremendous barrier for someone to construct.

SAGEUS

Not someone, Professor. Rather, some thing! It's a hideous creature that sealed Farina inside.

KINDGARDEN

Calm yourself. I've already met the beast. It trapped the flyscout rescue team.

SAGEUS

I wasn't drawn under the waves by any surge of air currents. I was flying just ahead of Stonelight, but a monstrous sea limb wrapped around it. There was adhesive spurting from the underside of the creature's tentacles.

I tried to turn back for the shore, but the wind and waterspouts stopped me. I had to follow Stonelight straight into the cube, and this sand castle.

KINDGARDEN

We must find Stonelight.

SAGEUS

We rescue Farina and we've found Stonelight. They're both in there.

Kindgarden begins clawing at the sand block with both hands, searching for some crack in its surface. None is evident.

KINDGARDEN

This proves nothing. It can't be invulnerable, impenetrable. If the opening admitted Farina and Stonelight, then it must be changed to an exit.

SAGEUS

I like your reasoning. It's like trying to force a square peg in a round hole. Can't be done.Expends a lot of energy to no end.

KINDGARDEN

Yes, it can be done. We're dealing with a solid element, sand, in a liquid environment. The castle's construction depends on knowing how to bind molecules in water. That's how the cube operates. Keeping air inside the castle, balanced against the water surrounding it.

SAGEUS

The balance must be preserved, but under control, we can use it against the sand barrier. Step back, Professor. I think it'S MORE

SAGEUS (CONT'D)

time to act.

(chants) Nature's force in liquid form, Fill our need for hope reborn Against the stone that holds our friend, Open wide its hidden bend.

a thin light stream forms in the middle of a small circle on the wall. Widening slightly, it focuses on the solid block opposite its position. Then, it begins rapidly drilling into the hardened solid block with enough force to send particles in every direction.

Kindgarden covers his eyes, and tries to protect Sageus, but she is unaffected. As quickly as the sand particles are blown away from the sand block, they disintegrate into thin air.

KINDGARDEN

Very smart work.

SAGEUS

Thanks. Almost through, so be careful. There's no telling what's on the other side of the barrier.

KINDGARDEN

Hopefully, we're in time.

The rapidly diminishing stone wears away to expose a dark chamber beyond.

Sageus flies to the opening as the focused water stream dissipates, sealing the sand wall crack behind its aperture.

SAGEUS

Can you see anything?

Kindgarden kneels, training his gaze upward. He sees an enormous opening above, dark and forbidding.

A GLOW begins forming around the perimeter of the towering hole. The first pale blue-violet rays of dawn reflect from the sea's surface, bounding through several hundred feet of water to illuminate the cube's outer shell.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

This, in turn, brightens the castle from every angle. A wide chasm separating Sageus and Kindgarden from Stonelight and Farina becomes visible, perched on a ledge directly across from the opening.

Farina still encased in the Karmen's crystal prison, now rests on top of the brightly ticking counter. Sageus takes one look, then flutters through the opening.

> KINDGARDEN Wait! We don't know if there are explosive devices planted around them.

Sageus pauses halfway across the chasm. Glancing down she sees nothing but emptiness below. Hovering silently, she scans the rock ledge.

Stonelight's counter is busily ticking off the final two hours on its display.

SAGEUS I'm sorry, Professor. We need Farina's help.

Flying forward, she lands beside Farina's prison. Distracted momentarily by the timer, Sageus takes a moment to adjust her balance, but inadvertently dislodges the crystal containing Farina.

It falls to the ledge's floor, shattering on impact. Kindgarden gasps. The flyscout is dazed, but starts breathing steadily.

SAGEUS

Hurry, Professor. I can't do anything for her like this.

KINDGARDEN

Nor I from here.

SAGEUS

You need a crossing point. Hang on. (chants) Water stream to meet this scheme, Cover air from here to there, By your thinnest force so strong, Build a bridge, to right this wrong.

A water bridge forms across the chasm.

SAGEUS

Haven't got a spare with me. Hurry! I can't hold the bridge very long.

Kindgarden starts to cross but sees the bridge begin to dissipate. He stops and returns to his original spot.

KINDGARDEN

I can't make it with the bridge, Sageus. Get out of here and save yourselves. I'll find another way to reach Stonelight.

The walls begin cracking length-wise around them and the water bridge erodes completely. Farina flies to the top of the flashing counter.

She tugs open the display with both hands, then dodges a maze of wires as she flies inside.

FARINA

This is for you, my brother! The island and its people must be saved, at any cost.

A THUNDEROUS sound sends her flying into an exposed connector. Sparks ignite, shooting from a major function board. She is flung head over heels against the timer.

Looking up, she sees a large dripping tentacle thrusting through the wall overhead. Farina hears Kindgarden yelling for Sageus before she blacks out.

INT. MAZE OF HALLWAYS - SAME TIME

Pipercall paces by the various corridors facing them. Devonika stares silently ahead, transfixed by the myriad of possible paths Gabe might have vanished down.

PIPERCALL

This is impossible. Gabe should be back by now. We're running out of time.

DEVONIKA

Agreed, but the Karmen isn't our only enemy here.

PIPERCALL

Maybe we should go look for him?

DEVONIKA

He will be here within moments. Prepare to follow him. Jason will need all the strength you can give to gain his freedom.

Pipercall places a hand on her shoulder as she turns away. She hesitates, uncertain how to respond to the gesture.

PIPERCALL Where are you going? We need to stick together.

DEVONIKA

I won't be far, but I must learn more about the unseen one before we meet again.

Her cloak DISSOLVES into a shadow, then fades from view. A torch on the wall CRACKLES, drawing Pipercall's attention to Gabe's return.

GABE

I found Jason. Where's Devonika?

PIPERCALL

She's gone. Thinks there's another enemy greater than the Karmen.

GABE Let's hope not. One's bad enough.

They retrace Gabe's route to a small archway at the base of a stairwell. A cold draft blows chilingly as they descend to an underground chamber.

Slick sand stones, thick with ice, threaten to send them sliding with each step. Frosty icicles hang from every angle of the cavern's ceiling.

Refracted light from somewhere overhead casts a bluish pall over the room's refrigerated twilight.

> PIPERCALL Can it get any colder?

GABE Hush! You'll bring the icicles down! He's just ahead, on the left.

They move forward to view a horrendous column of ice.

Jason stands solidly encased at the center.

PIPERCALL Oh no! How do we get him out of there?

GABE

You mean ... alive?

PIPERCALL

Natch! Chipping away at that would bring down the whole ceiling.

GABE

I know. That's why I was counting on Devonika to help. We need to figure out something quick. Dawn is bound to break within the hour. Then Stonelight becomes our biggest worry.

PIPERCALL

We can't just leave him. With Jason, we'd stand a better chance against the unseen one.

GABE

I have a feeling we'd better concentrate on what the Karmen's done, rather than something we haven't encountered yet.

PIPERCALL

There's something else to consider. We're not on the island anymore. The rules may not apply here.

GABE

What now?

PIPERCALL

Nothing dies on the island. Just moves from one state of existence to another.

PAGE 158

GABE

Everybody knows that.

PIPERCALL

Right.

GABE You mean we could perish for good here!

PIPERCALL

Exactly. I don't know how Jason was trapped inside that thing. The hammer should have protected him, unless it's vulnerable in some way, too.

GABE Like powerless against ice?

PIPERCALL Or its more basic form ... water.

GABE So what can we do? I'm fresh out of ideas.

PIPERCALL

Music never lacks for expression. Maybe sound will convey the help we need.

GABE

From where?

PIPERCALL

Inside himself.

Pipercall begins to play, drawing a few faint notes from his modified Windwood. Eerily, the vibrations peal from each low hanging icicle, converting the entire area into a chilly echo chamber.

Jason hears the new sound of Windwood and his eyes flutter open. Looking down he feels Teathergund still clutched in his hand.

A single drop of moisture drips from the hammer's burnished silver head in an air pocket. Another follows. In a matter of seconds, as the music continues, there is enough space for Jason's fingers to slightly lift the gold handle. He lets it fall, igniting the power of fire. Heat RADIATES in all directions from the head of the weapon, melting the ice column instantly. A gushing fountain of water pours down around Jason as he steps quickly from the refreezing ice at his feet.

Gabe and Pipercall leap to safety from the danger. Jason's clothes, singed from the heat, dry quickly from the watery deluge.

JASON Thank you both. Thought I'd seen my last battle.

PIPERCALL

Not yet.

GABE Save the praise. We've got a bigger threat than the Karmen.

JASON

Let's go.

They hear a low RUMBLING sound, growing stronger. Overhead icicles rattle unsteadily, like an enormous crystal chandelier.

GABE

MOVE NOW!

All three companions run for the frozen stairwell. Racing upward as fast as they dare, no one notices the top step ends in thin air, until they reach the breakpoint.

> JASON Wait! There's nothing here.

PIPERCALL

Or back!

Jason slings Teathergund overhead in its familiar helicopterlike rotation. The walls continue crumbling around them as Jason is lifted from the steps.

> JASON Grab on! Form a chain, it's the only way.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Gabe grabs Jason's legs, locking his own into place within Pipercall's grasp.

The stairway RIPS from its remaining foundation, tossing sideways into the cube's outside sandbed.

EXT. CASTLE.

They fly upward from the cascading remains of the castle turret.

An immense tentacle flails around them as a tremendous SUCKING sound warns of its dangerous capabilities.

EXT. GROUND LEVEL

The immense sand castle lies in ruins.

Above Teathergund's rising motion they see a towering dark creature, five stories high with three snake-like necks undulating in separate directions. Each neck is topped by horrifying fish heads with large open eyes, staring forever unblinkingly at its prey.

The tentacle join with seven others at the base of the monster. Its motion consists of sinking sucker-filled tentacles into the sand, then inching forward. Given its size, considerable distance is covered with each sand-filled step.

JASON

What is it?

PIPERCALL The Levidium. Up to now, only a legend.

GABE Looks pretty lively for a legend. How do we fight that?

JASON We can't from here. We'll have to land.

Tightening his grip on Teathergund, Jason aims for a landing near a larger part of the castle ruins. Dodging near hits by two tentacles, Jason successfully navigates the challenge. Back on solid footing, the three hear shouts of surprise. Ferguson and his group of flyscouts fly cautiously to their side.

A sand figure RISES from the ground at Jason's feet. He jumps back instantly positioning Teathergund for defense.

Jewel removes her headband and reassumes human form.

JEWEL

Don't be afraid!

JASON

I'm not. Just glad to see you again.

Each fights back tears of gratitude at having been reunited. As she hugs Jason, she gives Gabe a wink over his shoulder.

PIPERCALL

Hate to interrupt, but we do have a battle going on.

JASON

Divide and conquer. If we're in front, the beast can only use two heads against us.

FERGUSON

How do you figure that?

GABE Simple. Turn your head around. See what's behind you.

JASON

Why watch your back if two heads are already doing it?

Two tentacles snap dangerously close.

Suddenly, Devonika EMERGES at the corner of the ruins, forcing back two more of the Levidium's sea limbs.

JEWCEL Devonika ... on our side?

JASON Yes, and needing our help! Jason raises Teathergund; but before he can move, a tentacle whips around Devonika's throat.

DEVONIKA Don't look at the third head. It turns everything to sand!

As all oxygen is cut off from Devonika's windpipe, she chokes. Unable to free herself, she is drawn swiftly into the air, directly into the path of the third head.

INT. STONELIGHT - SAME TIME

Farina's eyes flutter open, unable to get any sense of direction until a shrill scream sounds nearby.

FARINA

Sageus, is that you?

The sound ricochets off metal on every side, forcing Farina to hold her ears.

The flyscout regains her footing and looks around. It is pitch black except for a thin sliver of light at the base of a panel in front of her.

She manages to lift it enough to slide under and lets it fall behind her. Then she claps both hands over her mouth in surprise as she looks at a giant blue bell with strange inscriptions directly ahead.

A giant hand reaches in to test the damaged maze of circuitry.

FARINA

Professor Kindgarden?

KINDGARDEN

Yes, it's me. There's been a bit of mess since you got knocked out. Glad you're okay, though.

Farina flies to the edge of the opening, peering out at the bizarre battle scene, no more than twenty yards away.

FARINA

I don't believe it! The Levidium exists. It was only a myth. A legend!

KINDGARDEN

Well, something brought it to life, and we don't have the firepower to combat it, yet!

Farina points to a circling bird of prey overhead. The bird edges downward carefully between the three snaking heads of the monster.

FARINA

That's Sageus!

KINDGARDEN

Yes, she flew to Devonika's defense. If you must, join her, but I could use your help here with Stonelight.

FARINA

It's safe. The counter's stopped.

KINDGARDEN I know, and we must start it again.

FARINA

Why?

KINDGCARDEN

No time to explain. You're the only one who can fit inside Stonelight. My hands aren't steady enough to make the connections work.

FARINA

All right. Tell me what to do.

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS

All the warriors converge on the Levidium. One of the front fish-faced heads leers downward at them.

The Levidium's mouth opens, emitting a hideous, ear-numbing tone. The cube's floor shakes abruptly, spilling each member across the sand.

PAGE 164

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Ferguson takes the lead, calling an ancient flyscout battle cry.

Circles of bright light focus in on each flyscout as the strength of their ancestors pours into the cohesive force lying within each airborne warrior. Banded together, they fly upward to the unblinking face, attacking each eye with sand.

The creature responds, sucking in enough air to fill several large hot air balloons, then blowing all of the sand into a freakish whirlwind. All the flyscouts are knocked into each other, battling to stay aloft.

Jason flies to the neck of the second head. He pounds Teathergund against the base of the neck. The fish face's mouth opens wide, snapping in all directions to escape the attack.

Tentacles writhe until one securely finds Jason's midsection. It slithers into place up and around his head. Jason tries raising Teathergund in defense, but it's too late.

He is swiftly forced into the head's gaping mouth, sliding down its throat. Jewel screams as she sees Jason disappear, then yells in anger.

Grabbing her headband tightly, she draws out her camping lighter. Chanting to transform, she changes instantly into a beacon of flame.

She flies on air currents to the creature's head. Fish scales begin dropping from the second face. Totally engulfed, it begins laboring for breath.

PIPERCALL

Die, monster!

The Levidium's first head turns its sandstorm onto the second head, extinguishing Jewel's flame, and knocking the headband off to the ground below.

She now clings in sheer terror on the back of the beast. Writhing tentacles begin aiming for her position. As a slithering sea limb snakes around her stomach, she screams.

Pipercall ignores the danger of tentacles around him and races to reach the headband. Before he's able to accomplish the task, Sageus dives for it and picks it up.

PAGE 166

SAGEUS

Stay your ground, Pipercall. We need your freedom on this side of battle.

Sageus flies to join Jewel, dodging tentacle attacks from left and right.

JEWEL

Sageus, be careful! It already got Jason.

SAGEUS

I know, and you're going to save him. But not without this!

The headband drops into Jewel's hand as Sageus flies by.

The first and second heads turn to address the fleeing owl. A howl of rage echoes from the Levidium as it swings its entire body around, exposing the third head to Sageus.

Jewel shrieks and is thrown into the second head's gaping mouth.

Jewel looks back to see Sageus turning to sand and dissolving to the wind. Then Jewel slides into a puddle of dark intestinal juices lapping at her feet as she hits bottom.

Several seconds elapse as Jewel's eyes grow accustomed to the darkness.

JASON

Jewel, I'm over here.

JEWEL

You survived!

JASON

For the moment, but we have to get out of here. And Teathergund's outside.

Jewel moves slowly toward the sound of Jason's voice in the twilight. She trips and falls once, then picks herself up and keeps moving.

JEWEL

Where are you?

JASON

Here!

Jason is securely lashed inside a pocket of skin attached to the side of the intestine. He appears to be straight-jacketed with no hope of breaking free.

JEWEL I'll have you out of there in a jiffy.

She feels in her pocket for her lighter.

JASON Careful. They're all around us.

JEWEL

What's here?

JASON I don't know, but they attacked and I woke up like this.

Jewel flicks the lighter on for only a second. Hundreds of glistening sac-like creatures are seen hurrying away into the dark.

JASON

They're like ants.

JEWEL Well, this ain't no picnic. Let's get ready for a barbecue.

EXT. CUBE FLOOR

Gabe is tugging furiously on Teathergund, unable to budge the hammer more than a few inches.

GABE A one owner weapon, for sure, but somebody's got to use it

FERGUSON It won't be us. First head's still acting up. PAGE 167

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

One of the dreaded fish faces dodges skillfully between its airborne adversaries. It snaps at first one then another flyscout target, but the sheer weight of its long neck keeps it from success.

GABE

Anyone seen Devonika?

SECOND FLYSCOUT Second head took her.

Gabe looks around and finally latches onto a battle plan in his head. He races for Teathergund and yells at the second head.

Just as he reaches the hammer, a tentacle grabs him and the hammer, hoisting them both into the air.

GABE Hey, you stupid monster! Over here…

Ferguson looks back in anger, realizing Gabe's sacrifice was done to protect the rest of the battle group.

FERGUSON

A noble warrior.

Pipercall dashes to draw forth Windwood. He starts belting a strange harmony into the air. It begins as no more than three or four notes thrown together, but then, a dark dangerous string of emphasis rears from the depths of its musical expression.

INT. STONELIGHT

A sudden spark of contact sends Farina flying from Stonelight's insides to its surface. She rejoins Kindgarden as the counter begins to blink once again.

FARINA Professor, did you Dfeel that?

Her feet jar loose from the surface and she sits down hard.

FARINA

(ignoring the pain)

It's moving!

KINDGARDEN

Yes. Almost time to do its work!

Farina flies from the surface as Stonelight begins sliding past Kindgarden. Then she realizes the professor no longer controls the machine's direction.

FARINA

Pipercall's got it.

KINDGARDCEN Yes, and godspeed to the musician's aim.

Stonelight obeys the musical summons for battle. The device floats past Pipercall to assume position for its next command.

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS

Gabe finds himself face to face with the Levidium's third head. Its blazing eyes bear down on the helpless Landmover. Gabe is completely powerless to move within the grasp of the giant tentacle.

Gabe stares directly at the creature, managing to keep Teathergund's silver-forged head directly in front of his own.

> GABE If this doesn't work, we've lost it all.

INT. LEVIDIUM STOMACH

Jewel frantically snaps the remaining supply of fluid in her lighter. Nothing ignites.

She manages to stifle a scream as a viscous mass slithers over the top of her foot.

JEWEL

Jason, what can we do?

JASON

First, get me off this wall restraint. Then we can plan a way out.

Shivering, she steps toward his last remembered position in the gloom. She kicks a small stone away at her feet.

JASON

There's a Swiss army knife in my front pocket. You can reach it through this stuff. Then cut the rest of it away.

Jewel plunges her hand into the fleshy restraint. It feels warm and slick to her touch.

A slight shudder runs along the entire intestinal tract. Dark, gooey liquid begins dropping puddles all around, sliding down the sides of the stomach lining.

JEWEL

Eww!

JASON Hurry. It's sending more acid to attack us.

JEWEL Jason, I can't get through this. It's too dense.

JASON Find something else to cut with. We're almost out of time.

She withdraws her hand from the fleshy obstruction. Bending down, she feels for the small stone that she just kicked away. It lies within arm's reach.

Jewel grasps it, turns and plunges her hand back into the solid restraint. Buried almost to her elbow, she slices a small opening in front of Jason's pocket. Immediately, a warm liquid starts pouring through her fingers. Withdrawing slightly, she refocuses her attention on reaching the knife.

JASON

It's just blood.

JEWEL

Thanks for the update.

JASON

Hurry, or we'll be caught when it clots.

Redoubling her efforts, she draws the blade free, then cuts decisively down the length of flesh holding Jason captive.

He is free in a moment as the floor begins an ominous rumbling motion.

JASON

We have to get out of here now!

She stares transfixed at the increasing number of sac-like creatures scurrying toward them in pitch blackness.

JEWEL

There's no way.

JASON Way! We just have to find it.

Jewel puts the small stone back in her pocket. The headband glows inside her pocket, and she draws it forth to place it on her head. Swiftly, she recites the transformation chant to herself.

JASON

What are you doing?

The only response he hears is a slight clicking noise in the darkness. Then, he hears the sound of a tiny amount of gas being released form her lighter.

A cushion of heavy gas forms under Jason's feet. He feels himself lifted from the floor, then moving with the speed of a cheetah, the gas cushion heads back up the throat of the Levidium's second head.

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS

The Levidium's mouth opens wide and Jason sails out. Farina and Kindgarden break into vocal cheers at Jason's return.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Pipercall notes the escape, but concentrates solely on sliding Stonelight into its final holding pattern for release.

Teathergund's burnished head catches the Levidium's third head in its own reflection. The head turns immediately to sand.

Shrieking in pain, the remaining two heads spread to attack. Ferguson's battalion, splitting to renew their attack.

Pipercall nods to the flyscouts, trying to disperse them before sending Stonelight's fury against the Levidium. Unable to get their attention, he stops playing for a moment to warn them.

> PIPERCALL Ferguson, get them out of the way!

A snaking tentacle knocks Pipercall spinning one way, and Windwood in the opposite direction.

Jason sinks through the thinning gas cloud and regains his footing. He sees a silver headband being drawn from Jewel's head.

She resumes human form in front of him.

JASON Powerful stuff, and thanks for the ride.

JEWEL

No problem. Now save the island. Everyone's counting on you.

She hugs him briefly. Jason brings his full attention on Teathergund.

The hammer flies from the tentacle overhead to his grasp. Jason swings Teathergund and rises to send a resounding blow to the tentacle, freeing Gabe and Jason flies him back to solid ground.

Jewel nervously fidgets with the stone she picked up to free Jason in the Levidium's stomach. The rock glints in the early morning rays from the island's double suns.

Peering closer, Jewel sees it is the most perfect diamond she's ever laid eyes upon. Refracting the dawn's early light, Jewel watches in awestruck wonder as a swirling rainbow of colors moves through the diamond's surface and transforms into Sageus' familiar form. In the next instant, they are joined by Devonika's change from diamond to human form.

JEWEL

I'm so glad you're back. (turns to hug Devonika) And you, as well, Devonika.

DEVONIKA

(slowly warms to the embrace) It's good to be back. I drew the sand of Sageus into myself to form a diamond, and it worked, saving both of us.

JEWEL

(shivers at the memory) Not to mention providing a way out of that creature's stomach.

Sageus reaches to grip Jason's forearm. He is wielding Teathergund, preparing to send Stonelight directly through the middle of the Levidium's two remaining heads.

SAGEUS

Did Kindgarden agree to this? It's his decision, you know.

JASON

He gave me his approval. It's the only way. Our last resort.

Sageus nods, joining Devonika who has sent a final warning to Ferguson. Swiftly, the flyscouts disperse, releasing both heads' wrath.

Vigorously snapping tentacles seek the assembled army, but as Teathergund's arc grows greater over Jason's head, everyone knows the monster can never withstand the force.

Jason releases Teathergund. It solidly connects with Stonelight's rear propulsion system, already beginning to hum as the counter winds down to its last few seconds.

> JEWEL Everyone back into the castle.

DEVONIKA

What's left of it won't protect us.

Devonika raises her arms in a tremendous sweeping motion.

A wall of sand hurtles at the beast, momentarily blinding the Levidium. She nods for Sageus to join her. Without hesitation, Sageus steps to her side.

DEVONIKA

We need a shield. Something to cover all of us.

SAGEUS There's nothing that big around here.

FARINA Yes, there is! The bell is in Stonelight. Use it to call the cloak.

JEWEL The cloak will expand. Protecting us all.

KINDGARDEN Call off the search then. It's right here in my pocket.

Kindgarden draws forth the cloth. Jewel realizes it's the familiar cloak with the bell's image in the center circle. She turns to Jason.

JEWEL

Jason! Time to go!

Jason fights for every step backward. He is almost mired in the same quicksand that first ensnared them when they encountered Ali. The Levidium's two heads angle for one final strike against him.

The two skulls crash together to destroy the boy, trying desperately to escape their final fury. Stonelight remains in its original position. Teathergund hasn't budged it an inch.

No numbers sow on Stonelight's counter.

Kindgarden is shouts behind Jason.

KINDGARDEN It's gone, Jason. Sound moves faster than light here. We can see the movement. You're too close to the source. Get back to the cloak now!

Jason turns and aims Teathergund for the group gathered behind him. The hammer's burnished silver head flies swift and true, sending him straight to the edge of the traveling cloak.

JEWEL

Everybody help get him on board!

All of the flyscouts, Sageus, Devonika, Pipercall, Gabe and even Kindgarden quickly loan their efforts to the task. The cloak expands once more to allow Jason inside its safe confines.

They look back to the ground below. Stonelight's final passage splits the Levidium in two, forever destoying it at the bottom of its water-filled tomb.

In the wake of the time displacement toward the island, Stonelight splits the entire ground structure in half, north to south, and slowly enough for every creature's safe retreat from the new seashore dividing the island.

Various tribes and animals run back from the beaches.

MAIN THEME MUSIC UP

SAGEUS We'll have to build a bridge between it.

DEVONIKA Since my castle was right in the middle, I'll cast the first chant for solidarity.

PIPERCALL Peace will reign again.

JEWEL Jason, we're going home!

A sudden jolt inside the enfolded cloak sends it spinning rapidly, throwing them all against each other.

THE BELL WISHERS – SAUNDERS

Jason clings tightly to Jewel, determined not to be separated again.

Jason and Jewel close their eyes as the cloak stops spinning, pausing to hover gently before landing.

Jewel cautiously opens one eye and sees Jason's smiling face above her.

JASON

We're home.

Glancing around, they see the familiar forest they'd left at the beginning of their adventures. Jason rises to his feet, drawing Jewel to him.

JEWEL We're back. We're really here!

KINDGARDEN

Yes, we made it home. Thanks to the wonderful traveling cloak, and a wish to get back.

He holds the worn cloth in his hands. It has returmned to the size of a small handkerchief.

JASON

Where are the others?

KINDGARDEN

Oh, they're here.

He holds up the blue bell with its strange insignia.

KINDGARDEN

Look closely at the sides.

All of their friends are imminently displayed around the bell's perimeter. A ring of flyscouts overlap a flutist, a queen, an owl, a strong Landmover warrior, a Cyclops, a lion, a headband, a shell necklace, a sand castle and a magnificently engraved hammer. JEWEL

But the bell was in Stonelight. Farina said so.

KINDGARDEN

Yes, but she didn't build Stonelight, or transfer its principles of motion into this!

Kindgarden holds up a glinting time displacement disk. Jason immediately recognizes the travel device, grinning at the professor's ingenuity for retaining it.

KINDGARDEN

I merely took the initiative of reaching Stonelight and retrieving the bell before the counter hit zero.

JEWEL So you can go back to the island anytime?

KINDGARDEN Precisely, and that time is right now. I've got to get back to my experiments.

JEWEL

How will you get there?

KINDGARDEN

Forgotten about the cloak so soon? (hands the bell to Jason) Here, you might need this if you decide to visit again.

JASON

Thanks. I will.

JEWEL

Not without me. We'll miss you, Professor.

KINDGARDEN

And all the others?

JASON

Definitely.

Farina's face hovers in front of him for a second, then dissipates.

PAGE 177

KINDGARDEN

Don't worry. It's only been a few minutes since you left here. That's the nature of the bell.

Kindgarden wipes a smudge from Jewel's cheek, brushing off a few grains of sand from her hair.

KINDGARDEN

Your parents will only notice a few nicks and scrapes from your journey. No more than you would normally get wandering through the woods,

(spreads out the cloak) but keep the memories in your hearts and you'll always find your way back to the Land of Remote.

JEWEL (tearfully)

We will.

JASON See you soon, Professor!

Kindgarden climbs aboard the traveling cloak. Its edges expand then hide him from view as it lifts back into the air. The cloak and its passenger disappear in the twinkling of an eye.

The bell sounds once, its tone meeting their parents' voices calling in the distance.

Jason grasps Jewel's hand.

JASON

Not a word!

JEWEL

Never.

They head back down the path toward the campsite.

MUSIC UP as Epilogue scrolls:

EPILOGUE

Jason and Jewel did meet Professor Kindgarden again on several trips back to the Land of Remote. They had many close calls in those adventures, but never forgot the first time they found the mysterious bell and its companion, the wonderful traveling cloak.

Today, both children are grown and have grandchildren of their own to pass down the morals and traditions of the island. For it's no secret that explorers have traveled to many parts of the globe we live on. Traveling into deepest ocean or farthest space for answers to the unending question of truth and its effect on our lives.

Without goals to achieve and friends to bond with, life holds little promise for dreams. In our lives, many people come and go, some having a more profound effect than others.

Yet, in the tapestry of life, we're all sewn in the same fabric. Such is the gift of the wonderful traveling cloak, protecting all who use it for peace and unity.

The lessons of the island are not so remote as its location. They're in the hearts and minds of every child. Listen to the call of working together. In unity, there is peace that surpasses all understanding.

Until the next adventure, my friends, farewell from the Land of Remote and safe journeys in all your days ahead!

FADE OUT

THE END