True Colors

TRUE COLORS Written by Ed Kowalski

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FADE IN

POV - LOOKING DOWN FROM SKY AT ROWS OF SMALL HOUSES

Houses are in a circular pattern around a central building with a recreational center and a large fountain. A construction site is off to one side next to a canal.

ANGLE ON - SIGN OVER STONE GATE WAY

which reads Great Repose Retirement Community. Angle sweeps down from the sign to ground level, passing houses, weaving between senior citizens' legs on the sidewalk. Angle cuts sharp right to the side of one house and into a bush in the back yard.

INT. HALLWAY OF GREG'S HOUSE - MORNING

POV first person view of hallway

Moving through the hallway into a bedroom.

MYRA (O.S.) Greg! Wake up. You'll be late for your first day!

ANGLE ON, GREG, a teen gecko, slowly rising from bed.

GREG

Coming, Mom.

Greg grabs his book bag. As he leaves the bedroom he trips on a bat and falls flat.

> GREG Oof! I thought I put you away.

Greg grabs the bat and tosses it in the corner of the room. He runs down the hallway into the kitchen. (O.S.) a crash comes from Greg's bedroom. Greg's mom, MYRA, makes breakfast. Greg grabs a piece of fruit off the kitchen table and kisses Myra.

> MYRA Stop and eat, honey!

> > GREG

I'll be late.

MYRA Enjoy your first day, honey! See you after school!

GREG Sure. Bye mom, love you.

LEOPOLD groggily enters the kitchen.

LEOPOLD What's all the commotion?

GREG

I'm late!

LEOPOLD Don't be late for your first day. Have a good day, son, and remember-

GREG Be the best gecko I can be!

LEOPOLD Right! You're the son of the gecko king! Make me proud!

GREG I'll do my best, Dad. See you after school!

Greg hurries out.

LEOPOLD

Did he have any problem this morning?

MYRA

I didn't see him long enough to find out. Don't worry, Leo. It's nothing to be ashamed of.

Leopold sits at the kitchen table.

LEOPOLD Who says I'm ashamed? Embarrassed maybe, but more for him than for myself!

MYRA

How do you think he feels? You know how mean kids can be.

LEOPOLD

I know. Grownups aren't much better. You know how people talk. I'm the king! My opponents spread rumors about my son, the freak.

MYRA

(kisses Leopold's forehead) Relax, your kingliness. You haven't had an opponent in twenty years. Greg's problem has nothing to do with how you run the colony. The intelligent geckos know that.

LEOPOLD

It's not the intelligent geckos I'm worried about.

EXT. - SIDE OF CANAL

Greg runs through the grass behind houses, alongside a canal where he meets his friends, MERCUTIO and MONGO. Mercutio is a thin gecko with a wide smile, the joker of the group. Mongo is a large, heavy gecko, slow in body and mind.

MERCUTIO

Top of the morning, Greg! Or should I say, top of the school day? We'd better get moving.

MONGO Mongo hate school.

MERCUTIO School's not fond of you either, Mong. GREG Give him a break, Merc. He's entitled to first day blues. Hold on a sec.

Greg walks to the edge of the canal. KHAN, a poor-sighted pelican sits on a nearby post. Alligators float lazily in the canal eyeing Greg.

KHAN

Careful! A few more steps and you'll be on the edge!

MERCUTIO He is on the edge, Khan! You're a fowl with foul eyes.

Khan turns to look at Mercutio and Mongo.

KHAN That's not nice, Mongo.

MERCUTIO

`Zound's wounds! I'm
Mercutio. Are your ears
going to?

KHAN

Oh, it's not easy being a pelican in a retirement community.

MERCUTIO Seems like the perfect place for you.

KHAN I've always wanted to see the Antarctic.

MERCUTIO (to Mongo) Going senile too.

MONGO (laughing)

He thinks he's a chicken!

MERCUTIO Close enough, Mongo.

KHAN Well stay away from the edge any way!

ALLIGATOR Ignore that crazy bird. Take a swim before school? You'd make a fine morning snack!

Greg gulps and backs away from the wall. He hears a scream and KIRK, a beetle, hits Greg in the head and knocks him over the wall.

ANGLE ON SIDE OF CANAL WALL

Greg holds on to a reed in the side of the wall.

GREG

Help!

KIRK

I'll save you!

Kirk flies to Greg and tries to pull him up but Greg is too heavy.

KIRK

I can't save you! Help!

Mongo hurries to the wall and pulls Greg up.

GREG Whew! Thanks, Mong.

ALLIGATOR

We'll take a rain check on that swim.

MONGO Mongo doesn't like alligators. Kirk shakes Greg's hand forcefully.

KIRK Thank you! You stopped me from falling in the canal. I'm indebted to you!

(O.S) Laughter

ANGLE ON - Wall of house

DUANE appears leaning against the wall. His color changes from that of the wall to gecko green. FLASH AND BUBBA appear with Duane. Flash is a fast talking, fast moving gecko. Bubba is slow like Mongo.

> DUANE Give us back our ball!

GREG You threw (beat) a beetle at me!

KIRK How do you think I feel?

Flash and Bubba laugh.

GREG That wasn't funny. You could have killed me!

DUANE Khan warned you not to stand on the edge.

Greg and Duane step angrily towards each other. Mercutio steps between them.

MERCUTIO

How now, gents. Greg is not the late Greg, but we shall all soon be late for school.

Flash runs between Mercutio and Duane.

FLASH You think you're so funny, Mercutio. You wouldn't be laughing if you fell in the canal!

MERCUTIO Nice burn, Flash. You're quick of foot, but not quick of brain.

BUBBA Are you quick of foot, Mercutio?

Bubba runs at Mercutio. Mongo steps between Mercutio and Bubba. Bubba and Mongo fall to the ground.

MERCUTIO I don't need to be. I have a Mongo.

MONGO Mongo's head hurts.

MERCUTIO (helping Mongo up) Thank you, Mong.

DUANE Lucky your loser friends are here, Greg. One day they won't be.

Greg glares at Duane and turns red.

MERCUTIO Steady, my friend. You don't want an, uh, incident, on the first day back to school.

MONGO Greg make pretty colors.

Greg turns red, then suddenly turns from red to a bright silver.

POV KHAN'S VIEW

Khan sees Greg as a blurry, silver object, shaped some what like a fish.

KHAN Fish! Fish! Yum!

Khan swoops off the post towards Greg, opening his mouth.

GREG

Khan, no!

MERCUTIO

Stop!

Greg jumps to the side and Khan hits the ground. Greg changes back to green. Khan gets up and rubs his head. He looks at Greg up close and recognizes him.

> KHAN Did I try to eat you again, Greg?

> > GREG

KHAN

Yup.

Sorry.

GREG That's the fifth time this month.

KHAN I said I'm sorry. (flies away)

DUANE See you at school, chumps.

Duane, Flash and Bubba walk away.

KIRK I've got to get going. (to GREG Don't mention it. See you around. We better get going too.

Greg, Mercutio and Bubba run to school.

EXT. SCHOOL BUSH - MORNING

A number of geckos hurry under a large bush. The school bell rings. Greg, Mercutio and Mongo hurry into the bush down a hallway to their first class.

MERCUTIO

Let's hope it's a rewarding, but uneventful school year!

KATIE passes them with some other girl geckos. Katie smiles affectionately at Greg.

KATIE

Hi, Greg.

GREG

H...hi, Katie.

Greg's face turns pink then blue with gold spots.

MERCUTIO

Greg!

Mercutio stuffs a hat on top of Greg's head, nearly over his face.

MERCUTIO (CON'T) These hallways are very chilly, don't want to catch a cold.

The girls giggle.

GREG Thanks, Merc!

MERCUTIO So much for uneventful.

CUT TO CLASSROOM

Greg and friends take their seats. Another gecko passes Greg a folded note. He unfolds it and reads.

ANGLE ON note.

Dear Greg, I missed you while we were on summer vacation. Let's meet for a study session soon.

Love, Katie

Greg quickly folds the note and puts it away.

GREG (to himself smiling) She wrote love.

Greg looks across the row of desks to Katie. Katie smiles at him. Greg smiles back, blushing red, then turns yellow and blue stripes. MRS. FERNLICKER enters the room and stands in front of the class.

> MRS FERNLICKER Welcome, students. Settle down and let's get started. Greg, are you going to stay like that for the whole class?

GREG (gulps) I don't know.

Students chuckle.

MRS FERNLICKER

Let's begin class, with an oral presentation on what you did over summer vacation. This will be followed by a written essay on the subject, due on Wednesday.

MONGO Work already?

MERCUTIO

Oration! Sorry, Mongo, it's only work to you.

MRS FERNLICKER Duane, why don't you go first?

Duane passes Greg on the way to the front of the class. He bumps Greg's back as he passes him.

DUANE

Over the summer I helped my dad survey areas around the colony for the new expansion project. He says we're growing at such a large rate current land our can't sustain us. He decided Twilight retirement Haven community would be the best area to annex.

GREG

Twilight Haven is already inhabited by a gecko colony. Your dad has no authority to invade them! He's my dad's advisor and answers to him!

DUANE

He says your dad is scared to move on them. He says Twilight Haven can join our colony or find some where else to live. We need the land. (jumping out of his seat) We've been friends with them for years! My dad's not scared, you don't invade friends!

DUANE

(stepping towards Greg) Other cabinet members agree with my dad. Maybe it's time for new leadership, some one who's not afraid to take action for the good of the colony.

GREG

(stepping towards Duane) A war is good for the colony?

DUANE

Not a war, a larger colony. You and your dad refuse to see the big picture.

GREG

Like you and your dad? Your big picture will get a lot of geckos hurt!

MRS FERNLICKER

Boys! This is a summer vacation report, not a political debate! Both of you sit down!

Greg and Duane glare at each other and take their seats.

DUANE

If my dad was king, you wouldn't be so smug!

GREG

Your dad would never be king! The people love my dad. He knows exactly what they want. INT. LEOPOLD'S HEADQUARTERS - LATER IN SAME MORNING

Leopold sits at a large table with stacks of letters in front of him.

LEOPOLD

I have no idea what the people want! They all ask for some thing different! This one wants a monthly festival at the great fountain. This one wants me to do some thing about the noise at the southern canal.

IAGO, Duane's father, stands by the table. Other advisors stand nearby.

IAGO

The people don't know what they want, your highness. Without your guidance and direction they'd be fighting among themselves for a piece of fruit.

LEOPOLD

Iago, you're my top advisor and oldest friend, but I'm in no mood for a debate about the peoples' mind this morning. It's my job to govern them but to hear them too.

IAGO

As you wish, your highness. But as you say, they all want some thing different. They neither know what they want, nor know what they need. For example, I wonder how many of them worry about our need for more space?

LEOPOLD

We've discussed this, Iago. Where would we go? This has been our home since before I was born; canals to one side of us; the geckos of Twilight Haven to the other.

IAGO

Your highness, I took the liberty this summer of conducting a survey of the lands around us. I'm afraid we have no choice but to annex Twilight Haven.

LEOPOLD

Annex? Don't you mean invade? We've been friends with Twilight Haven for years. I'm not going to go to war with them!

IAGO

Believe me, your highness, if I saw another way, I would recommend it.

LEOPOLD

This colony has lived in peace for well over three generations. I will not be remembered as the king who brought us to war!

IAGO

Your highness, if we do not do some thing soon we will be fighting amongst ourselves for what little the colony has. Do you want to be remembered as the king who led us into civil war?

LEOPOLD Then you're telling me it's war either way! Annexation
of our neighbors, or civil
war within. No! There must
be another way.

IAGO

I am your humble advisor, your highness. My job is to advise you of your options, not to tell you what to do.

LEOPOLD

(suspicious) You refer to options, but speak as if I have no choice.

IAGO

Were I you, I would annex our neighbors before I would watch a civil war unfold. But you are king. The people have lived happily by your wisdom.

LEOPOLD

Do not forget that! Now, leave me. I should respond to some of these letters, and I must think.

IAGO As you wish, my liege.

Iago claps his hands. The other advisors follow him out of the room. Most of them leave down a hallway. A few of them follow Iago to a side chamber.

> ADVISOR ONE Iago, how much longer will we suffer the king's indecision!? You know you have the support of enough of the cabinet to take control!

> IAGO Patience. My plan is in motion. I will assume my

rightful place as king soon.

ADVISOR TWO What plan?

IAGO

I have the support of the cabinet. Now we need to work on the people. We must publicly embarrass Leopold enough to that they turn on him.

ADVISOR ONE How will you do that?

IAGO Through his freak son, of course.

ADVISOR ONE A smear campaign, family humiliation, you are sly, Iago. But how will you use his son?

IAGO Don't worry about that. Let's just say the sly apple doesn't fall far from the sly tree.

Iago begins laughing. Advisors laugh with him. They laugh for an exaggerated long time. Advisor Two starts choking, they all stop laughing. Another advisor slaps him on the back until he stops choking.

> IAGO (to Advisor Two) Way to kill the moment.

Iago walks away annoyed. Advisor Two chuckles nervously. Advisors follow Iago.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Greg, Mercutio and Mongo walk along food line.

ANGLE ON poster on wall. Poster advertises the fall festival this weekend.

Duane, Flash and Bubba walk past Greg and friends. Greg and Duane glare at each other. Mongo sniffs a slice of cheese on the counter.

MONGO

Mongo likes cheese.

MERCUTIO

(looking at Duane and friends) Then eat it before the rats do.

GREG

Don't start any thing, Merc. I just want to eat lunch in peace and get this day over with.

MERCUTIO Start some thing? I'm not an instigator, Greg.

GREG

(sarcastically) No. Not you, Merc.

Greg, Mercutio and Mongo walk to a table with their trays and sit down. Greg sips milk. Katie walks over.

> KATIE Hi, Greg! How was your summer?

GREG (nervously) Not bad. How was yours?

KATIE Not bad. I couldn't wait to get back to school though. GREG

Really? Why's that?

KATIE

Well, silly, let's just say it wasn't for the homework. (Katie smiles and winks at Greg)

MONGO

Mongo hates home work!

MERCUTIO

Quiet, Mong. We're witnessing a moment here.

KATIE

(to Greg) When are we going to have our study date?

GREG (sipping milk, chokes on it) Soon?

KATIE

This weekend?

GREG

Well, we don't have any tests yet, but sure.

KATIE

Great! It's a date! Hey, meet me at the fall festival and we can go from there.

GREG

Sounds great, (beat) Kate! See you then.

KATIE

You'll see me this afternoon in Social Studies, silly.

GREG Right. See you this afternoon.

Katie walks away. ANGLE ON Duane's table.

DUANE

Isn't that cute, Greg's talking to my girlfriend!

FLASH

Your girlfriend? She turned you down five times last year.

BUBBA

Six. Don't forget at the ice cream shop.

FLASH

Eesh, right. I've never seen such a mess.

DUANE

Who cares how many times! She's obviously too nervous to say yes. A gecko like me, heir to a powerful father, destined to rule the colony one day.

FLASH

Your dad isn't powerful. He works for Greg's dad. Greg is destined to rule the colony. She's not too nervous to talk to Greg.

DUANE

(temper rising) Not for long! Greg thinks he'll make time with my girl. When I'm done, he won't be able to get a date with a frog from the swamp school.

BUBBA

I like the swamp school. They have good meatloaf.

Duane approaches Greg's table. Flash and Bubba follow.

DUANE

(to Greg) Embarrassing, trying to talk to a girl so obviously out of your league.

GREG

If she's out of my league, she's way out of yours, Duane! And if you didn't notice, she came to me.

DUANE

Oh sure, every now and then a prom queen will grant a total zero a few minutes of sympathy time.

GREG

Did you come over here for a purpose? Or just to annoy me?

DUANE

Well, although I'm enjoying that side bonus, yes, I did have a purpose. I have a message for you.

GREG

A message?

DUANE

Yes. Don't get too cozy with Katie. She's mine!

GREG

Is that why she spoke to me and not you?

DUANE Oh, she'll choose me soon

enough. Why would she possibly choose a freak like you?

GREG

(leaps out of his seat)
I am not a freak! I'm just
(beat) different.

Other geckos in cafeteria begin to collect around table, watching Greg and Duane argue.

DUANE

Yes, that's always what the freaks say. You're an embarrassment to your father! You're an embarrassment to the whole colony!

FLASH

Embarrassment! Freak!

BUBBA

Freak! (wipes sauce off his mouth with his shirt sleeve and burps)

GREG

Stop it! I am not a freak! It could have happened to any of you!

DUANE

But it didn't. It happened to you, freak boy, and you alone. (laughs)

GREG Cut it out! I'm warning you! (Greg clenches his fists)

Greg pants angrily, steps towards Duane, raises his fist. For a second his skin turns dark red. Then it turns light blue with red polka dots and stays that pattern for a few seconds. Then it turns orange and white horizontal stripes. Then it turns brown with yellow plaid and stays that way. The crowd laughs. DUANE Ha! Look at the freak! I told you!

FLASH What a freak show!

BUBBA My mom had a dress like that once.

DUANE

How can you control the colony? You can't even control your colors!

GREG

I am not a freak!

DUANE

And how can the colony trust your father, when he'd let a freak like you take control?

Greg looks around the cafeteria embarrassed. Geckos are still laughing at him. He lowers his arms and slumps.

GREG Stop it! Leave me alone!

Greg runs out of the cafeteria. He passes Katie.

KATIE

Greg!

Greg, still plaid-colored, looks at Katie and runs past her.

MERCUTIO

(to Duane) What do you do for an encore, trip a blind man?

DUANE No, but I could knock down a funny man.

Mongo steps between Duane and Mercutio.

MONGO Mongo knock you down!

DUANE

(takes a step back) Take it easy, big guy. I've made my point. Who'd want to date a freak like that? He couldn't even take her to a school dance. They might mistake him for the disco ball.

The crowd laughs again. Duane and gang walk away. Duane smiles smugly at Mercutio.

MONGO

Duane is mean!

MERCUTIO

For once, Mong, well said. Let's go find Greg. By now he's probably changed thirty colors and hiding in the broom closet.

MONGO I go to the closet when I need to think.

Mercutio looks at Mongo skeptically.

MONGO

I don't go there often.

INT. GREG'S KITCHEN - SAME EVENING

Leopold, Myra and Greg sit at the table. Greg plays with his food.

MYRA What's the matter, dear? You've hardly touched your dinner, except to push it around.

GREG Oh, nothing, mom, I'm not that hungry, I guess.

LEOPOLD How was your first day, son? Did you make us proud?

GREG (wincing) Uh, well, I stood out.

LEOPOLD

(concerned) Stood out?

MYRA

Oh, Greg, did my poor boy have another episode?

GREG

It was awful, in the cafeteria, the whole school was laughing at me!

LEOPOLD

In front of every one? That's terrible! The king's son can't lose control of his colors.

Myra coughs.

LEOPOLD

I mean, that's terrible, son. You must have felt so embarrassed.

GREG

I'm sorry, dad.

LEOPOLD Sorry for what, son?

GREG

I let you down. I embarrassed the family in front of the whole school.

MYRA

Greg, you could never let us down. You could never embarrass us.

Myra looks at Leopold who's conspicuously quiet.

LEOPOLD

Uh, yes, listen to your mother, son. Every one has some thing about them they wish was different. It's gecko nature.

GREG

What do you wish was different dad?

LEOPOLD

(chuckling)

Me? Well, I'm the gecko king. The people have chosen me because of my near perfection.

MYRA

Your father could lose a few pounds, more than a few (beat) and he could work on his humility.

LEOPOLD

I suppose I'm not as trim as I once was. The point is don't be ashamed of who you are! Don't be ashamed to be different. If I wasn't a little different from the average gecko, I might not be king.

MYRA

Being born into the royal family didn't hurt either.

Leopold gives Myra an annoyed look.

LEOPOLD

Any way, Greg, like your mother said, we could never be embarrassed by you. And you'll see. This color problem you're having is just a phase. You'll grow out of it sooner or later. And one day you'll take your place on the throne. You'll be the lizard king.

GREG And I'll be able to do any thing?

LEOPOLD Well, more or less.

GREG

(noticeably cheered)
Thanks, Dad. Maybe you're
right. It's just a phase.
What's a little teasing at
school?

LEOPOLD

That a boy!

Greg gets up from the table and leaves the room. Myra stands behind Leopold with her hands on his shoulders.

MYRA You're a good father, Leo.

LEOPOLD

I hope it's just a phase. You know how people are. If they judge Greg, they're also judging me.

MYRA

Leo, you're the king. Shouldn't you be the one judging? And shouldn't you be judging the narrow minded people, instead of your own son?

LEOPOLD

You're right, honey. I really meant what I said. I can already see it in him. He'll be a better king than I ever was.

MYRA

Do you really think the color thing is just a phase?

LEOPOLD

I hope so. I don't know.

EXT. - FALL FESTIVAL - FOLLOWING SATURDAY DAY

Crowds of geckos converge on a large open lawn to the side of a large fountain in the center of Great Repose. The festival is set up carnival style with rides, games and food booths setup in bushes on either side of the field. Greg and friends and Kirk walk through the field, Greg looking around nervously.

> MERCUTIO She'll be here. Don't worry, Greg.

GREG (sweating, gulping, eyes bulging) Who said I'm worried? Do I look worried?

MERCUTIO

Yes!

MONGO Have a snack. It will help you relax. Mongo hungry too. (eyes Kirk) Could go for big, fat bug.

KIRK (backs away) Who are you calling fat?

Mercutio picks up some fruit from a stand and hands it to Mongo.

MERCUTIO Now, now, Mongo, it's bad manners to eat a friend. And contrary to your belief, food is not the cure for every ailment. (grabs Mongo) Methinks Greg needs the cure of a kiss from a certain princess (mock kisses Mongo).

MONGO Cut it out, Merc. Not until an hour after I've eaten!

KIRK That's just wrong.

ANGLE ON Duane and friends

They walk towards Greg and friends.

DUANE

Mercutio, why don't you invite him to dance next? It's probably as close to a real date as you'll ever get.

BUBBA

(to Flash) Why don't you ever kiss me?

FLASH

(slaps himself in the face)
I've got to make some new
friends!

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MERCUTIO

Is that an attempt at wit, Duane? Your prowess at making jokes is similar to your prowess with the girls clumsy and embarrassing.

DUANE

You want clumsy? (nods to Flash and Bubba)

Flash scurries behind Mongo and gets on all four legs. Bubba pushes Mongo who falls backwards onto Mercutio. Mercutio and Mongo fall to the ground.

DUANE

Now that's clumsy.

Flash and Bubba laugh. Greg helps Mercutio and Mongo up.

MERCUTIO

(to Duane) Your slapstick needs work too.

DUANE

Yours doesn't. (to Kirk) Ready for a swim now?

Kirk runs behind Greg and hides.

GREG

Did you come to the festival just to pick a fight, Duane?

DUANE

I've got more important things to do. I'm here to meet Katie.

GREG

You're meeting Katie? Does she know that?

DUANE

Does it matter?

GREG Well yes, since she's meeting me here!

Greg and Duane step to each other, eyeing each other angrily.

DUANE That's what I like about Katie, likes to do charity work.

MERCUTIO Then why isn't she with you, Duane?

DUANE Don't make me drop Bubba on you again, funny man.

BUBBA (Looking past Greg and Duane) Oo.

Katie approaches the group dressed in a beautiful fall dress with makeup and jewelry on, by far the prettiest girl at the festival. She approaches Greg.

> KIRK Growl, if I wasn't married!

KATIE Hi, Greg. Hi, boys. What are you all up to?

GREG I'm uh, we, we, we're, uh, K, k, Kat-

MERCUTIO (nudges Greg) Eloquence, Greg!

GREG

Katie! Hi! We're not up to any thing. I was just looking for you. The guys were waiting with me.

MERCUTIO

Yes, and now you've found one another, so we bid you a fine afternoon, and we're off.

MONGO

But we just got here!

MERCUTIO

We're not leaving the fair! Come on, Mongo, I'll buy you another whatever you're eating.

Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk walk away.

GREG You look (beat) amazing, Katie.

KATIE

Thank you, Greg. I hoped you'd like my new outfit. So what should we do first?

DUANE

Hi, Katie. You look great! The first thing you should do is come with me.

KATIE

Why would I ever do that?

DUANE

For starters, so you're not embarrassed being seen with this loser.

KATIE

Embarrassed? I asked him to meet me. Duane, why don't you make like a tree and leave?

GREG I told you, Duane, your presence here is not wanted.

DUANE (visibly angry) Not wanted? I'll show you who's not wanted, freak! (to Bubba and Flash) Get him!

Bubba and Flash step towards Greg. Duane grabs some darts from a nearby game booth.

DUANE Don't worry, Greg, I'm not going to hurt you (beat) much.

KATIE Duane, stop! Greg, run!

Greg runs. Duane, Bubba and Flash chase him. Duane throws darts at Greg while chasing him. Duane hits Flash by mistake in the leg.

> FLASH I'm hit! I'm going down!

Flash falls to the ground and tumbles under a nearby bush. Duane and Bubba keep chasing Greg. Darts fly past Greg.

ANGLE ON a GECKO standing on a rock.

GECKO

Run!! Human!!

From the other end of the field AMY, an eight year old human girl, appears, excitedly watching all the geckos.

AMY Look at all of you!

Amy hurries across the field chasing geckos.

ANGLE ON Mercutio, Mongo, Kirk

Some distance away from Greg, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk leap into a bush. They watch as Amy hurries across the field. Geckos scatter, running and hiding in bushes.

ANGLE ON Bubba and Duane chasing Greg

Bubba looks back and sees Amy and runs into a bush. Greg and Duane don't notice Amy.

DUANE Keep running, you scaredylizard.

KATIE (hiding in a bush) Greg, Duane, look out! Human!

They don't hear Katie. Duane catches up to Greg and trips him. Greg falls to the ground. Amy casts her shadow on them. Duane turns around and sees Amy and jumps into the closest bush. Amy sees Greg.

AMY

I've got you!

Amy reaches down for Greg.

ANGLE ON Kirk

Kirk flies out of the bush to Greg.

KIRK

I'll save you!

Amy's hand gets close. Kirk flies away before he's caught under it.

KIRK

I'm sorry! I can't save you!

Amy picks up Greg and walks back across the field and leaves. Geckos slowly come out from under bushes.

Greg!

Leopold and Myra run out from bush.

LEOPOLD Is every one okay?

KATIE (to Leopold) She got Greg!

LEOPOLD Greg!? My boy! No!

MYRA My boy! My baby!!

Leopold holds Myra who's crying. Geckos surround them.

MERCUTIO He was a gecko among geckos. Not good bye, good bye for now.

MONGO Greg go bye bye?

KIRK I couldn't save him (beat) again.

DUANE (smiling, to self) Yes, good bye, Greg. Not good bye for now, just, good bye.

INT. HARRIET'S HOUSE

Amy sits at the dining room table looking into a shoe box. Her MOM is in the living room bringing suitcases to the front door.

> AMY You're so cute. I'm going to call you Cutie.

MOM Honey, who are you talking to?

AMY I'm talking to Cutie.

Mom looks into the dining room.

MOM

Who's Cutie?

AMY He's my new pet. I found him in the field.

Mom walks to the dining room.

MOM Oh no, not another pet, Amy. You have so many already.

AMY But none like Cutie.

Mom looks in the box. Greg looks up at her, scared. He changes from green to sky blue.

MOM (startled) Well, no, I'd say not. HARRIET^{*}, Amy's grandmother, enters the dining room.

HARRIET What's all the excitement?

MOM Amy found a new pet. He's (beat) different.

*featured in the screenplays "Rotten Day" and "Soundtrack" by E. Kowalski Harriet looks in the shoebox. Greg turns from sky blue to red and black stripes.

HARRIET

That's not natural!

AMY Please can I keep him, mom?

MOM

I don't know.

HARRIET He's probably sick!

MOM

He doesn't look sick. It must be an anomaly. He's special, one in a million. Like Amy! Oh, what's one more pet? He'll be in good company.

AMY Yay! You're coming home with me, Cutie. Thank you, Mom!

Amy hugs Mom and Harriet.

MOM You're welcome, honey. Now go finish packing. We're leaving soon.

AMY

Okay.

Amy puts the lid the on shoebox and skips out of the dining room.

HARRIET

He's probably diseased. Flush him when Amy's not looking! Don't forget to pack my sweaters and them to me when you get home. It's getting cold.

MOM Yes, a cold sixty degrees. Okay, mom.

ANGLE ON INSIDE OF SHOEBOX

Greg sits in near darkness. Air holes punched into box provide his only light.

GREG (to himself) Where is home? I've got to get home, but how?

INT. - MAIN HALL OF COLONY - NEXT WEEK

Leopold is slumped on his thrown, despondent. Iago and advisors and cabinet members stand around him.

ADVISOR ONE

Sire, the people grow restless. They need your guidance.

LEOPOLD Need? I need my son!

IAGO

Your highness, we all mourn for him, but it's been a week since he was taken and you've been unable to attend to any pressing matters. We've made no decision about a pending move into Twilight Haven.

LEOPOLD

Not now, Iago! I told you, we're not invading our neighbors!

IAGO

Not invading, annexing. We outnumber them by four to one. The inhabitants of Twilight Haven will have no choice but to accept us. They may even like it; two colonies combining to become even stronger.

LEOPOLD

Maybe, if we met with their king, held a summit, discussed the idea and reached a mutual accord. But not now, Iago!

Advisors, cabinet members talk in hushed tones to each other, disappointed at Leopold's comments.

IAGO

As you wish, sire. I only hope that when you are ready to take action, it is not too late.

Iago leaves followed by the majority of the group. Leopold slumps lower.

INT. - AMY'S HOME - NIGHT

Amy and her parents enter their home with their luggage. Amy holds the shoebox.

> AMY I'm going to put Cutie in his new home!

Amy walks to a table in the living room. The table has a shelf in the back. A hamster cage and a tank are on the table towards the front. Two tanks are on the shelf above in back. Amy opens the shoebox over the tank in the upper left and tips the box. Greg tumbles out and lands on grass in the tank.

> AMY Hey guys, you've got a new buddy. Night, night! (walks away)

Greg gets up, brushes grass off him.

ANGLE ON Plastic house in tank

A pair of eyes stare at Greg through the dark doorway of the house.

GREG Hello? Who's there? What are you, man?

Growling sound comes from the house. The eyes move closer to the doorway until GREENEY, an old gecko, steps out from the doorway holding his stomach.

GREENEY

I'm Greeney. Sorry, I haven't eaten yet.

Greg exhales a sigh of relief. Greeney slowly walks to his food bowl and picks a piece of fruit and takes a bite. He approaches Greg.

GREENEY

So I've got a new roomie, hm? GREG Hi, Greeney. It's nice to meet you. I guess so.

GREENEY

A pleasure, Greg, despite our captivity. Let me introduce you. (Nods to the glass tank next to them) This is Shelley.

SHELLEY, a female garter snake with long eyelashes, slithers off a branch and over to the wall of her tank.

SHELLEY Nice to sssee you, Greg.

GREG Same here, Shelley.

GREENEY Directly below us is Cheeks.

CHEEKS, a beige hamster with white spots, opens his cage door, climbs to the top, walks onto the shelf where Greg's tank is, and stands in front of the glass. CHEEKS (waves) Pleased to meet you!

GREG (to Greeney) He can leave his cage?

GREENEY Amy doesn't know.

GREG Why doesn't he escape?

SHELLEY

He's become institutionalized.

CHEEKS

Warm bedding, all the food and water I want. I wouldn't last a week on the outside!

GREENEY Lastly, next to Cheeks, is Mr. Toad.

ANGLE ON MR. TOAD'S TANK

In the tank diagonally below Greg's a pair of green-lidded eyes peek out from inside a water bowl.

GREENEY (CON'T) Mr. Toad, you have a new neighbor. This is Greg.

MR. TOAD eyes Greg, blinks and hops out of his water bowl. Mr. Toad is a bright green frog.

> MR. TOAD Oh. Hello, Greg. So Amy's got a new pet?

GREG

I guess.

MR. TOAD Well, no offense, but good! Maybe she'll leave me alone for a change!

GREENEY Mr. Toad was Amy's last capture before you arrived.

MR. TOAD I pee in her hand every time she picks me up, but she still picks me up.

SHELLEY I wouldn't pick you up!

MR. TOAD You don't have hands.

SHELLEY That hurts, Mr. Toad.

MR. TOAD How many times do I have to repeat? I'm a frog!

CHEEKS (laughs) Any thing you say, Mr. Toad.

Mr. Toad swallows some water and spits it over the top of his cage at Cheeks.

CHEEKS

How rude!

GREG So Amy captured all of you from outside?

GREENEY

Except for Cheeks.

CHEEKS She got me from the pet store where I was born. We were a happy family of ten.

SHELLEY

I was minding my own business lounging in her garden.

MR. TOAD

I was cooling in a puddle in the back yard after a summer rain.

GREENEY

I'm not from around here. visiting She was her grandmother. I'm from way down at Great Repose retirement community. I was picking berries. She caught me off guard. Before I could get under a bush she grabbed me. Next thing I knew, I was in a shoebox, and then this tank.

GREG

You're from Great Repose!? So am I!

SHELLEY

Small world.

MR. TOAD

(eyes Cheeks) It is for some of us.

GREENEY

I was an advisor to King Leopold!

GREG

You know my father? I'm Leopold's son! I don't remember you.

GREENEY

Greg!? My boy!

(steps closer to Greg and holds him by the shoulders) You were a baby when Amy captured me. Look at how you've grown! Tell me, how has your father been? How are things at Great Repose?

GREG Not so good. The people are losing faith in him, and it's my fault.

GREENEY How could that be? You're the light of his life!

GREG

That's just it. Let's just say I can be too bright at times.

Greg walks to a log in the tank and slumps down on it sadly.

GREENEY

I don't understand.

GREG

I've got (beat) a problem.

GREENEY

It can't be that bad.

As Greg gets sadder, his skin changes to a deep purple mixed with fluorescent yellow spots.

MR. TOAD Oh, dear. It's not good.

CHEEKS

I've heard of a colorful personality, but that's too much!

GREG That's the problem! I can't control it! Iago tells my father I'm an embarrassment, and I'm going to cost my father the kingdom!

GREENEY

(contemptuously)

Iago!

GREG

Yes. You know Iago?

GREENEY

Iago is the reason I'm here! He framed me for trying to steal the crown and convinced Leopold to banish me! I lived on the outer edges for years, until Amy caught me. I've been stuck here ever since.

GREG

That's terrible! My father had no idea?

GREENEY

Iago had your father's trust, and moved swiftly to banish me before I could tell your father about his plot. I vowed that I would return one day to expose Iago and protect your father.

(Greeney sits next to Greg and sighs heavily)

But I am an old gecko, and flight and fight are a young gecko's game.

GREG

He told my father I'm an embarrassment to the family and the community. My father is ashamed of me and my problem. Greg's color returns to normal.

GREENEY

Your father loves you! You're the pride of his life! If he has doubts, Iago planted them. What you see as a problem, some would see as a blessing. You've got a unique gift.

GREG

Sure, a gift for embarrassing my family and becoming the laughing stock of the colony.

GREENEY

It's up to each of us to find our own way, Greg. You can focus on your weaknesses, or focus on your strengths. Your father won't rule forever. Iago will take the crown. I'm surprised he hasn't already.

GREG

He has plans to annex Twilight Haven.

GREENEY

If Iago wants to invade Twilight Haven, you can bet he'll try to take the throne at the same time.

GREG

And I'm stuck here!

GREENEY

CHEEKS

That was better than Amy's t.v. shows! (scurries back to his cage) Good night, every one!

SHELLEY

Greeney means well. When he first arrived, all he talked about was his friend, Leopold, and his baby boy, the next great king. You'll figure things out, Greg. Good night.

GREG Thanks, Shell. Good night.

MR. TOAD It's times like this I'm thankful I'm just a simple frog. Good night, Greg.

GREG

Good night.

Greg walks to the wall of his tank and looks out the window to the moon outside.

GREG

Unique gift? Dad's better off with out me. But if the old man is right, dad's in trouble! How can I help him? I can't even control my own colors. I miss dad. I miss mom. I miss Katie. They all must be worried sick about me. (beat) Unique gift. (yawns) Find my own way.

Greg turns and tiredly walks inside the plastic house to go to sleep.

ANGLE ON moon in sky.

EXT. - GREAT REPOSE MAIN FIELD - THE FOLLOWING WEEK

TRANSITION from moon to round picture frame Katie is holding. She sits alone on a log outside the great field and looks sadly at a picture of her and Greg.

KATIE Greg. I miss you so much.

Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk stand a short distance away from Katie. Mercutio has his back to Katie and is doing some thing to Mongo's face.

MERCUTIO Katie! Look! It's Bigfoot!

Mercutio steps to the side so Katie can see Mongo. Mongo's face is covered with grass, giving his face a hairy, bearded look.

MERCUTIO

(to Kirk) Flap your wings and make a rhythm, if you please, some thing cheery and light.

KIRK To match this moonlit night?

MERCUTIO Leave the poetry to me, thank you.

KIRK

Sorry.

Kirk flaps his wings.

MERCUTIO Dance, Bigfoot, dance!

MONGO Roar! I am dancing bigfoot!

Mongo trips over a rock and falls in front of Katie. The grass falls off his head. Mongo gets back up.

MONGO

Bigfoot fall.

MERCUTIO

Yes, my formerly furry friend, perhaps we should have named you two left feet.

MONGO

(looks down at his feet) No. I have one right and one left.

MERCUTIO

I won't ask if you know the difference. Carry on, Mongo, my well-intentioned if badly dancing friend.

KIRK Should I keep playing?

MERCUTIO

(to Katie) Left foot's dance did not brighten your mood, did it?

KATIE

I'm sorry, Merc. You guys are sweet.

(looks at picture)

MERCUTIO

Smiles are like our dear, missing friend - distant and ne'er to find.

KIRK

Will I never repay my debt? (Sobs)

MERCUTIO

Kirk, go help Mongo find his feet.

Kirk flies away to Mongo.

KATIE

A week's gone by, and I miss Greg every day more than the last! Worse than missing him is knowing we'll never see him again! I hope he's alright!

MERCUTIO

I like to think he's in a great home, in a comfortable place, surrounded by new friends.

KATIE

(brightens up a little) Do you think so?

MERCUTIO

Did you ever hear the story of Old Greeney?

KATIE

My parents told me about him. He was a friend of Greg's dad, right?

MERCUTIO

His most trusted advisor. The story goes that he was snatched up one day by a She placed him human girl. in a shoe box full of soft grass with plenty of air holes and took him away. She was а caring, attentive human. He never came back, but the colony likes to assume she took good care of him, and he's happy where ever he is. And Greq was taken by a girl. And they say girls are gentler than boys.

Mongo comes running past with grass on his face. Kirk rushes behind him. Mongo falls again.

MONGO Bigfoot go ow-ey again!

KIRK Be careful you don't land on me!

Mercutio looks at Mongo and Kirk and slaps himself on the face.

MERCUTIO

As I was saying, girls are gentler than boys. If the story is true Greeney is happily living out his years with a loving human family. We have no reason to believe Greg isn't doing the same. Will we ever see Greg again? I never say never, Kate.

KATIE

Maybe you're right, Merc. We can always hope, can't we?

Mongo walks past again with Kirk flying ahead of him. Grass covers Mongo's eyes, and he holds out his hands to feel his way along.

> KIRK Left! Right! Left! Look out for the pebble!

> > MERCUTIO

(Nods at Mongo) Some cases are hopeless. Otherwise, yes, we can always hope, dear Kate.

KATIE

Thanks, Merc.

MONGO (O.S.) Mercutio? Bigfoot fall down again.

KIRK (O.S.) I told you to watch the pebble!

MERCUTIO

Alas, the duty of left foot's attendant is never-ending. Anon to help the hairy beast. Hope you feel a little better, Kate.

KATIE

Don't spend your whole night chasing after Mongo.

MERCUTIO

Fear not. As the moon eventually rests, so will he and so will I.

KIRK (O.S.) Ow! Don't crush me!

MERCUTIO

Pray our musical friend survives `til then! I bid you a good night, fair maid. (Mock curtsies like a woman in a gown)

KATIE

(Chuckles) And to you, good sir. (Bows like a gentleman)

Mercutio smiles widely at Katie and chases after Mongo and Kirk. Katie smiles after him but looks back at her picture.

KATIE

Maybe Merc's right. Maybe you're out there some where, Greg, safe and happy. And maybe I will see you again one day! We can always hope. (kisses the picture)

Duane walks over and stands next to Katie. Flash and Bubba walk a few steps behind and go chase after Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk.

FLASH (O.S.) Eating grass again, Mongo?

BUBBA (O.S.) Can I have some grass?

DUANE

KATIE I'm not hungry.

Duane sits down on the log next to Katie. Katie eyes him disapprovingly.

DUANE

I'm worried about you, Katie. I know you're sad about Greg, but he's gone. Life goes on.

KATIE

That's news, that you worry about any one except yourself?

DUANE

I know you're upset. I'll ignore that. Of course I worry about you. You know how I feel about you.

KATIE I'm not sure I know any thing any more. Duane puts his hand on Katie's on the log.

DUANE

Well let me tell you what I know. You're the cutest and smartest girl in the colony, and I'm crazy about you!

KATIE

Oh, Duane. That's sweet. Maybe you're not as bad as people make you out to be.

DUANE

There's a big difference between reputation and reality, Katie. I can be very, very sweet. (leans close to Katie's face)

KATIE

I don't know, Duane. I'm so confused. I don't know what's right any more.

DUANE

(Squeezes Katie's hand) This is right. You, and me, right here, right now holding hands in the moon light.

KATIE Well, it's not bad, no.

Katie squeezes Duane's hand back, closes her eyes and leans close to kiss him.

DUANE

Oh, Katie. When my father is king, and I'm heir to the throne, tonight will pale in comparison! (Leans in to kiss Katie)

Katie opens her eyes wide, stops just short of kissing Duane and leans back away from him.

KATIE

Wait! What did you say?

DUANE (eyes still closed) When I'm heir to the throne, I'll treat you like a princess. (still leaning forward to kiss)

Katie slaps Duane hard in the face.

KATIE

Leopold is in mourning and your father plots against him! Like you try to win me over with Greg out of the picture! Oo! I should have known! You're a snake in gecko's clothing!

DUANE

(Rubs his face) And you're just as soft as Leopold and his freak son! I thought with Greg gone you might choose to join the winning team.

Mercutio and the rest run over.

MERCUTIO

Did I hear there's a snake amongst us? Shall I find a stick with which to beat him?

MONGO

Mongo smash snake!

Mongo takes a step toward Duane. Flash runs in front and trips Mongo. Mongo falls to ground.

MONGO

Ow! Not again.

DUANE

(chuckles contemptuously)

Fine. Stay with the losers, Kate.

The group hears voices coming from the main field. GECKO TWO runs past them away from the voices. Mercutio stops him.

MERCUTIO

How now, good sir? Are you running from a riot?

GECKO TWO

I'm leaving before it becomes one! Iago is giving a speech calling for King Leopold's removal as king. The mob is considering it!

DUANE

Good night, losers. See how you fare when my father is king.

MERCUTIO Anon! Let's see how serious this is.

CUT TO center of main field

Iago stands on a tall rock speaking to the crowd. Duane walks to his side.

IAGO No one loves good King Leopold more than I, but we need leadership he simply can not provide in his time of mourning!

Crowd mumbles to each other, weighing Iago's statement.

IAGO How many of you can barely feed your families?

Crowd shouts in agreement.

How many of you barely have room to house your families?

Crowd cheers again.

IAGO

Will you stay with Leopold and wait until you're starving with no home? Or will you join me and meet our new destiny!?

Crowd cheers louder, calling Iago's name. Iago glares down at crowd, satisfied.

IAG0 (To Duane) Thus it begins.

ANGLE ON MERCUTIO

Mercutio and gang watch the crowd in surprise.

MERCUTIO (to Katie) It's more serious than I thought.

KATIE I wish Greg was here now more than ever.

INT. - AMY'S PET TANKS - FOLLOWING DAY

GREG

They're packing!

Greeney wakes up and slowly walks to the wall of his tank. Cheeks, Shelley and Mr. Toad follow to the sides of their tanks.

GREENEY Who's packing?

GREG Amy's parents! They're packing a box!

CUT TO box on dining room table. The side of the box has a logo for Great Repose retirement community on it.

CHEEKS Yup. It's a box alright.

GREG Look at the side of the box! It's a box from Great Repose!

SHELLEY

They pack up a box like that every now and then.

GREG

(to Greeney) You've seen boxes like this before?? And you didn't mention that to me yesterday??

Greeney looks down conspicuously silently.

MR. TOAD

The box is of no consequence to us.

CHEEKS

If it's not a shoebox, we don't take much notice.

SHELLEY

We just assumed they're getting rid of things Harriet sent them.

GREG

No, they're packing things to send to Harriet! Now I remember, she asked Amy's mom to send her sweaters!

The pets look at Greeney and gasp.

GREENEY

What of it? They're not going to put you or me in the box! Even if they did, I'm too old for that trip. I've been here too long.

CHEEKS

I know the feeling.

SHELLEY

(to Greg) What are you saying? If you could get out of here and go back to Great Repose, you would?

GREG

Well (beat) I don't know. Maybe. Sure! I mean, there might be a way, if we want it (Greg looks at Greeney)

GREENEY

We? I just told you, I'm too old.

GREG

You told me yourself - we all make our own way. It's your choice to stay here until you, well, you can choose to come with me and return home! Even if I make it back to Great Repose, I can't stop Iago on my own! You have to tell the people what he did to you! They'll see how power hungry and self serving he is! I need your help!

GREENEY

Even if I wanted to go, Amy's not going to just put us in that box!

GREG Don't worry. We'll get by (looks at the pets) with a little help from our friends. CHEEKS Gonna try, any way.

SHELLEY I'm in!

MR. TOAD I've got nothing better to do.

GREG Good, I think I've got an idea. I need you all so listen up.

The pets put their ears to their respective tanks and cages to listen to Greg.

ANGLE ON Shelley's tank

Shelley sticks her tongue against the side of her tank.

SHELLEY Go ahead, I'm lithening.

EXT. - MAIN FIELD - FOLLOWING MORNING

The geckos of the colony meet. Iago stands on a platform with Duane and officials behind him. Leopold lumbers despondent to the platform followed by a few allies. Katie, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk stand at the front near the platform.

> LEOPOLD Who called this meeting?

IAGO I did! We have urgent matters at hand.

LEOPOLD

Like what?

IAGO

Like your competence to lead this colony and the annexing of Twilight Haven.

LEOPOLD

That again? I told you, Iago. And now? While I mourn the loss of my son!?

IAGO Your son - that is another matter worth discussing.

LEOPOLD

What about my son?

IAGO

Leopold, we all wish for his safe return, of course, but his (beat) problem. (to the crowd) Is that the kind of gecko who should be your king one day? A gecko who can't even control his own colors?

Duane steps forward.

DUANE

In school just the other day, he turned so many colors I thought he was ill! He couldn't control them!

KATIE

That's not fair. You provoked him!

Crowd mumbles thoughtfully.

LEOPOLD

It's just a temporary phase! And even if it's not, how does his color affect what kind of leader he will be!?

IAGO

If he can't control his own colors, how can he run the colony? The people are suffering and hungry already and you do nothing to fix the problem!

LEOPOLD

Now is not the time, Iago!

IAGO

(to the crowd)
If not now, when? How much
more suffering does the
colony need to endure before
we take action?

Crowd talks louder now.

CROWD MEMBER We need action now!

IAGO

The king is grieving, as he should. In the meantime, I propose new leadership, who can take charge of the colony's problems now!

An OFFICIAL standing behind Iago steps forward.

OFFICIAL I nominate Iago!

A SECOND OFFICIAL steps forward.

SECOND OFFICIAL I second the nomination!

The crowd talks feverishly among themselves and then chant Iago's name.

CROWD MEMBER Iago, lead the colony into new greatness! Iago turns away from the crowd to Duane and smiles widely. Duane returns the smile. Iago turns back to the crowd and raises his arms in the air.

> IAGO Ι do not accept this responsibility lightly, nor do I have bad feelings for But while Leopold Leopold. deals with the loss of his son, I will lead the colony, annex our neighbors, and lead into new aqe of us а prosperity!

The crowd applauds and cheers, shouting "Iago!" and "a new age!" Leopold slumps. Duane looks at Katie and winks. Katie glowers at him.

ANGLE ON Mercutio and gang

MERCUTIO

If looks could kill we'd be mourning two sons, but alas we mourn just the one. Wherefore art thou, Greg?

INT. - AMY'S HOUSE

Greg runs back and forth pounding on the side of his tank.

ANGLE ON Amy's Mom in living room.

Amy's Mom finishes packing the Great Repose box. Amy stands next to her.

GREG Wake up! Get up! Let's go!

ANGLE ON CHEEKS' TANK

Cheeks crawls out of his habitat.

CHEEKS What fore art thou doing, Greg? GREG It's time! And why are you talking like that?

Cheeks holds up a piece of paper torn from a book.

CHEEKS Oh, I'm studying Shakespeare. Time for what?

GREG

Time to go home!

Shelley and Mr. Toad come to the sides of their tanks to see Greg. Greeney walks up behind Greg.

GREENEY

Are you sure about this? It's pretty risky. We could end up in a shoe box in Amy's back yard.

GREG

I'm sure. I am the son of King Leopold! I would rather end in glory in a shoebox than continue in defeat in this cage!

Cheeks looks at Shelley.

CHEEKS I like my cage. What's wrong with a cage? (sniffs) Okay, maybe it's due for a cleaning.

MR. TOAD Shoebox of glory?

MOM (O.S.) Amy, are your shoes on? We've got to leave for grandma's soon! GREG That's our cue! You all know what to do, right?

GREENEY

Stay close to you!

Shelley slithers to the top of her tank and nudges the lid open then slithers back down to the floor of her tank and coils herself.

SHELLEY

Ready!

Cheeks climbs to the top of his cage and slides a ceiling door open.

CHEEKS Ready! You can do that too, Shelley?

SHELLEY Mr. Toad's the only one who can't.

MR. TOAD Rub it in. (lies half in his water dish on his back and closes his eyes. Sighs) Ready.

Amy skips over the table.

AMY I'm gonna say bye to the pets, Mom.

GREG

Go time! Guys, I just want to say, thanks! And if you're ever on the outside, you've got an open invitation to visit us any time. SHELLEY Good luck, Greg. Greeney, we're going to miss you!

GREENEY I'll miss you too! (sighs) I hope I'll get used to life on the outside again.

CHEEKS (sniffs and blows his nose with some wood chips) Good bye, Greeney!

MR. TOAD You will be greatly missed, sir Greeney. Greg it's been an honor to meet you, and good luck!

CHEEKS (to Greg) I'll come visit soon! Oh, say, what's your email? Are you on Facebook?

Cheeks walks into his running wheel and starts walking. Amy approaches the pets' table. Amy looks at her pets and notices Mr. Toad lying stomach up. She taps his tank a couple of times.

> AMY Toady? Toady? Mom, I think Mr. Toad is sick.

Amy's Mom tidies up the living room.

MOM I'll come check in a minute, honey.

Amy pulls open Mr. Toad's tank lid and begins to reach in. ANGLE ON Cheeks, running faster and faster in his wheel. ANGLE ON Shelley who coils tighter, then springs at Amy's hand.

Amy shrieks and jerks her hand to the left, knocking open Greeney and Greg's tank lid. She looks at Shelley.

> AMY Shelley! Bad snake!

Now!

GREG (to Greeney)

Greg and Greeney climb a branch to the top of their tank and crawl out. They jump over the side onto the top of Cheek's spinning wheel. They bounce off the wheel arcing high into the air past Amy who's looking down at her hand.

POV frontal view of Greg and Greeney. Their eye lids peel back and their mouths flap from the speed of their flight through the air.

GREENEY

It's working!

GREG

It's working!

ANGLE ON Cheeks who stopped running. He stands at attention with a goofy expression and salutes Greg and Greeney.

CHEEKS Fly straight and true.

Mr. Toad slaps himself in the face in annoyance.

AMY Toady!! You're alive!

Amy picks up Mr. Toad and squeezes and kisses him.

MR. TOAD I say! Stop that! Oh, the humanity!

SHELLEY (to Cheeks)

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Maybe he'll turn into a prince.

ANGLE ON Greg and Greeney descending closer and closer to the box.

GREENEY We're going to make it!

GREG What did I tell you? Nice and-

Greeney lands inside the box on a folded blanket and bounces once. Greg hits the inside wall of the box then falls on the blanket. Greg gets up dizzy and disheveled.

GREG

-smooth.

SHELLEY Owch, that'll wake you up in the morning.

Amy puts Mr. Toad back in his tank.

CHEEKS Another perfect mission, gang!

MR. TOAD Another mission? This was our first mission.

CHEEKS Right. First mission, successful, gang!

Mr. Toad shakes his head. Shelley smiles.

ANGLE ON Amy's Mom. She puts the lid on the Great Repose box.

MOM Ready to go, Amy? Ready!

Amy hurries to her mom. Mom picks up the box and they exit the front door.

CHEEKS So (beat) what do we do now?

MR. TOAD Go back to sleep!

SHELLEY I'm good with that.

(curls up under her heat lamp, closes her eyes.)

CHEEKS I'm planning our next mission!

Cheeks' stomach growls.

CHEEKS Right after breakfast.

EXT. - GREAT FIELD

Iago stands on a tall rock, above the crowd, wearing new regal clothes and a new ornate crown. Duane and attendants stand to his side. Flash and Bubba stand at one side of the base of the rock. Leopold, Myra, Katie, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk stand by the other side of the rock. Mongo is eating an ear of corn.

> IAGO (to crowd) We are doing what we must to survive! It may be difficult, but we will persevere! Today, we reshape our destiny!

Crowd cheers.

IAGO (CON'T) Quiet please, and I will detail our plan. Friends, geckos, countrymen-

ANGLE ON Kirk. His stomach is growling. He eyes Mongo's corn.

KIRK (to Mongo) Can you lend me that ear?

ANGLE ON Myra and Leopold.

MYRA

Leo, do some thing! You know this is wrong!

LEOPOLD

What can I do? I'm not the king any more.

MYRA

Would you let this happen if Greg were here? No! Think of the kind of colony you'd leave for him. Think of the young geckos his age, and the kind of colony they'll inherit!

Leopold thinks for a minute.

LEOPOLD

You're right! This is not the colony the children should inherit!

Leopold stands upright, resolute.

LEOPOLD Iago! This is not right, and you know it!

IAGO

Our people are hungry. We're overcrowded. I know that's not right!

LEOPOLD

(To the crowd)

Friends, we are a peaceful colony. We have lived side by side with our neighbors for years and they have never bothered us.

IAGO

Because they didn't have the man power to, or they might have invaded us years ago!

LEOPOLD

No. I shook hands with their king, I looked into his eyes. He is peaceful, like us.

IAGO

Peaceful or cowardly? Your grief has turned into fear, old king. You are afraid to lead your people, and now you take the coward's path and try to undermine the new king!

LEOPOLD

When the new king is wrong, yes!

IAGO

Mutiny! Treason! He admits it! Guards, take him away!

CROWD

Treason! Treason!

Guards approach Leopold. Katie runs between them. Mercutio and Mongo follow Katie. Flash and Bubba meet them. Duane joins them.

KATIE

Stop! You can't do this to King Leopold!

IAGO

King Leopold!? I am the king now! She is on his side against us! Take her away with him!

MERCUTIO

Leopold speaks reason, not treason! We are mild geckos, not fierce dragons!

DUANE

What would you know, Mercutio? A bad joke is all you're good for. Except now you don't have Greg to back you up!

Guards grab Leopold and Katie. Mercutio tries to pull them away. Duane grabs Mercutio. They wrestle and fall to the ground. When they get up Duane grabs a nearby twig and points it at Mercutio like a sword. Mercutio finds a twig and points it at Duane.

DUANE

You're going' down, funny boy.

MERCUTIO Have at thee, naïve!

Duane and Mercutio have a sword fight with twigs. The crowd steps back. They spar with each other roaming from the rock to some nearby low-hanging leaves and they end up behind the leaves so only their silhouettes are visible. They're both panting, Mercutio is struggling to keep up.

DUANE

Where's a witty comment now?

MERCUTIO (near breathless) Your temper is sharper than your sword.

DUANE

Grrr!

Duane thrusts faster and faster. Mercutio trips and falls forward. Duane's sword appears to stab Mercutio in the chest.

MERCUTIO

Ah, no!

Duane gasps.

ANGLE ON Katie, Mongo and Kirk who run to the leaves.

KATIE

Mercutio!

Duane steps out from behind the leaves. Mercutio staggers to his feet and stumbles out after him. Mercutio's shirt is stained red.

> KATIE Mercutio! You're bleeding!

KIRK This is a grave situation.

Mercutio looks at Kirk annoyed, like Kirk stole his line.

MERCUTIO His stick was sharper than my reflexes.

DUANE He stepped into it. I wasn't trying to kill him!

Mongo walks behind the leaves and picks some thing up. He comes back in front of the leaves to Mercutio. He rubs his thumb on Mercutio's chest and licks it, then holds up the item he picked up.

> MONGO Merc isn't bleeding. He fell on this berry. Mm, berry. (takes a big bite)

The crowd sighs in relief.

KATIE

Thank god!

KIRK (to Mercutio) Your sense of humor is a grave matter.

DUANE Always the joker.

MERCUTIO

Mongo, you really know how to kill a moment. I thought I might get the crowd's mind off invasion and all that.

IAGO Enough! Take them away and lock them up!

Guards take Leopold and Katie away.

IAGO People, on we go, to victory!

Iago leads the colony out of the field. Crowd chants and shouts.

INT. - HARRIET'S HOUSE

POV black.

GREENEY (O.S.) Are we there?

GREG (O.S.) I don't know. Shh!

GREENEY

What is this? A grape? I'm so hungry.

GREG Ow! That's my toe! GREENEY

Shh!

GREG

Shh!

(beat)

GREENEY

Shh!

POV Greg's view. Box lid opens, sliver of light shines into box and gets larger.

GREG I think we're here! Hide!

Greg and Greeney hurry under a blanket in the box.

ANGLE ON Harriet sitting in an easy chair opening the box on her lap. Amy and Mom sit on a couch nearby.

> HARRIET Thanks for the sweaters (beat) finally. Maybe now I'll get the feeling back in my arms.

MOM Oh, you're welcome.

AMY I helped mom pack! And I packed you a surprise!

HARRIET Oh, did you? This isn't the best place for surprises, but

let's see what we've got.

Harriet takes the lid all the way off the box.

ANGLE ON inside of box. There's a toy gecko on top of the blanket. Harriet screams.

AMY (laughing) It's just a toy! But I knew I'd get ya'!

HARRIET (feigned laughter) Oh, yes, you got me, dear. (holds her heart)

MOM Amy! What have I told you about pranking grandma! Are you okay, Mom?

Harriet reaches into the box to pick up the toy gecko. When she brings her hand out, Greg and Greeney are sitting on her hand.

> HARRIET Oh, I'll be fine. She did get me-

Harriet looks down at her hand and sees Greg and Greeney and yells again.

GREG

(to Greeney)

Run!

Greg and Greeney run from Harriet's hand to the edge of the box, down the box to Harriet's lap. Harriet leaps up while they run down her leg to the floor. The box falls out of Harriet's lap upside down.

POV Greg's POV. While Greg and Greeney run a shadow comes over them. Greg looks up and the box is falling down over them.

GREG

Move it!

The box lands on the floor. Harriet takes her cane leaning against the chair and gets ready to lift the box.

AMY

Don't hurt them!!

HARRIET

Oh, don't worry, sweetie. I'm not going to hurt them.

Harriet lifts the box and pokes under it with her cane. She sees the outline of a gecko under the blanket and lifts the blanket.

HARRIET

I'm just going to bash-

The toy gecko is all that Harriet finds under the blanket.

HARRIET Those lizards give me the creeps!

CUT TO hallway around the corner from the living room.

Greg and Greeney are leaning up against the wall catching their breath.

GREG Smoo- smoo- smooth sailing.

GREENEY

That was more excitement than I've had in years! But we did it! (grabs Greg by the shoulders) We did it! We're free. And we're home!

GREG But we're not finished. We've got to get back to the colony and warn them about Iago.

GREENEY

Right. (squints his eyes angrily) Iago!

GREG Let's go!

(sprinting away)

GREENEY Can we walk for a bit?

GREG (stops, looks back at Greeney) Oh. Sure. (slows his pace to match Greeney's)

Greg and Greeney walk out of Harriet's house very slowly.

GREG

We did it.

GREENEY (punches Greg on the shoulder) We did it.

ANGLE ON Harriet. Holds toy gecko.

HARRIET I hate lizards!

MOM (to self) And we live in Florida.

EXT. - GREAT FIELD

Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk sit in the great field alone.

MERCUTIO He did it. I can't believe he did it.

Mongo finds a berry on the ground, picks it up, sniffs it and eats it.

MONGO (chews berry) Who did what?

Mercutio and Kirk look at each other.

MERCUTIO

Iago! Convinced the colony to invade our neighbors!

MONGO Oh. Is that where every body went?

KIRK (to Mercutio) That berry is sharper than

him. MERCUTIO

Mong, don't take this the wrong way, but I really miss Greg.

GREG (O.S.) Has he been picking on you like this the whole time I was gone, Mong?

Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk turn to see Greg and Greeney approaching.

MONGO

Greg!!

(runs to Greg)

MERCUTIO Greg!? Is it really you? (runs to Greg)

Mongo hugs Greg hard.

MONGO It's really Greg!

KIRK I'm sorry I couldn't save you, Greg.

GREG Don't sweat it, Kirk. She was big for a little girl.

MERCUTIO

How did you ever escape?

GREG

(Looks at Greeney) With a little help from some friends. (to Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk) This is Greeney. He has an interesting story about Iago. Where is every one?

MERCUTIO

We have an interesting story about Iago too. Greg, he stole the throne.

MONGO

And put your dad and Katie in jail.

MERCUTIO

That's not all. He incited the colony to invade Twilight Haven.

GREENEY

He finally did it!

GREG

Not yet, he didn't! Where are they invading from?

MERCUTIO

The construction site by the stone wall.

GREG

We've got to stop him! But not with out the king! Time to break my father out of jail.

KIRK

Things you never expect to hear a son say about his dad.

INT. - GREAT HALL PRISON ROOM

GUARD ONE and GUARD TWO sit in front of a jail cell. Leopold and Katie look out an iron-barred window in the door.

> LEOPOLD (O.S.) I am the king! I demand you release me!

GUARD ONE You're not the king any more.

KATIE You're making a big mistake! Let us out! The colony is walking into a disaster!

GUARD ONE Right, like you'd know better than King Iago.

GUARD TWO (to Guard One) So do these stripes make me look thinner? (changes color to vertical gold and yellow stripes.)

GUARD ONE Have you lost weight?

GUARD TWO

I haven't! It's the stripes, I'm telling you. My wife told me a diet would make me look thinner, but I told her - I'm a royal guard! I need some royal colors!

GUARD ONE Maybe I should have some royal colors.

GUARD TWO But not yellow and gold! CUT TO Greg, Greeney, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk standing around a corner from the cell.

GREG He's not a royal guard! Iago isn't the king! (to Mongo) Remember what to do?

MONGO

Mongo remembers.

MERCUTIO Do what you do best, Mong!

KIRK This isn't going to be pretty.

Greg walks out from behind the corner.

GREG (to guards) Hey, guys, I think you missed one!

GUARD ONE Isn't that Leopold's son?

LEOPOLD (eyes wide) Greg!?

KATIE

Greg!?

GUARD TWO He shouldn't be roaming around, should he?

GUARD ONE

Get him!

Guards chase Greg. Greg runs back around the corner. When the guards turn the corner they run into Mongo.

ANGLE ON opposite wall. Light from a nearby torch casts a

shadow of Mongo fighting with and subduing the guards.

MONGO (0.S.) Mongo smash!

ANGLE ON Hallway. Guards walk back around the corner, dizzy and clearly manhandled.

GUARD ONE We've got him right where we want him. Now you finish him off.

GUARD TWO No, I insist, you have the honor.

Both guards fall to the ground and pass out.

GREG Good work, Mongo!

MONGO Doing what I do best.

KIRK (opens his eyes) That wasn't pretty.

Mongo and Mercutio hand-pound each other. Greg takes a key off Guard One and unlocks Leopold's cell. Leopold and Katie run out. Leopold hugs Greg hard.

> LEOPOLD Son! You're alive! You're home!

GREG

Dad!

Katie approaches Greg.

KATIE

Oh, Greg! (stops short of hugging him)

GREG

(nervous) Katie. I'm so glad to see you!

KATIE

You too, Greg.

GREG

What can I say? I'm the son of the king, can't keep me down for long. I had help.

Greeney walks forward. Leopold looks in disbelief.

LEOPOLD

My old friend!? Is it really you after all these years?

GREENEY

Your highness. I never thought I'd see home again. I wouldn't have, if it wasn't for Greg. He is a remarkable young man.

LEOPOLD

I always knew it. I (beat) I just never told him. I owe you an apology too, old friend. I never should have let Iago convince me to banish you. It's painfully clear now who the real traitor is!

GREG

And we've got to stop him!

LEOPOLD

What can we do? The whole colony is on his side.

GREG

Dad, look what we've accomplished already! You never thought you'd see me again. Greeney never thought he'd see home again. Iago doesn't care what's best for the colony. You do! You're the true king!

GREENEY You know Greg's right, your highness.

LEOPOLD Yes, but it's us against the colony!

Greg opens his mouth to speak. Mongo interrupts him.

MONGO You have a plan?

GREG Well (beat) no. But let's go any way.

MERCUTIO Very regal.

GREG

Shut up.

KIRK The adventure continues!

The group leaves the holding cells. The guards wake up. Guard Two is green again. He squints and grunts, trying to change his colors.

> GUARD TWO My stripes! My stripes are gone. No!

> GUARD ONE Maybe you should just go on that diet.

> GUARD TWO Maybe some one should knock you out again.

Guards fight each other.

EXT. - CONSTRUCTION SITE

The colony walks along a dirt path to the left side of an unfinished house into a square-shaped construction site. To the left of the path a tall plank fence runs to the end of the site, where a canal borders the land. The dirt path leads behind the house in an L shape. A cement mixer is set at the elbow of the dirt path. Wood boards lean against it. A tall stone wall stands on the other side of the site from the picket fence. There's a small hole in the wall at ground level, large enough for a few geckos to pass through at a time. Against the stone wall is a small crane holding more planks. The arm of the crane extends diagonally across the site towards the canal. Khan the pelican is perched on the arm of the crane. Iago and Duane stand on top of the cement mixer. Flash and Bubba stand at the bottom of the mixer.

> IAGO That's it every one, into the breach in the wall!

ANGLE ON top of the wall. SENTRY ONE and SENTRY TWO from Twilight Haven see the oncoming geckos and sound an alarm.

SENTRY ONE Great Repose is invading! Battle stations!

Two more sentries roll a cauldron along the top of the wall and position it over the hole in the wall. As geckos enter the hole into Twilight Haven the sentries tip the cauldron over, pouring oil down the wall.

> SENTRY TWO We're going to pour hot oil on them? That's mean.

SENTRY ONE It's not hot.

SENTRY TWO

What?

SENTRY ONE It's not hot. It's just oil.

SENTRY TWO It's just oil?

SENTRY ONE That's right. Like we'd burn them. We're geckos, not barbarians!

SENTRY TWO Well what is plain oil going to do?

SENTRY ONE It's very slippery. (nods to hole in the wall)

Geckos at the hole slip and fall.

SENTRY TWO Huh, plain oil. Effective!

SENTRY ONE (pats Sentry Two on the back) Plain oil.

ANGLE ON Greg at far end of the dirt path.

GREG Please, stop! We don't need to do this!

Greg, Leopold and Greeney hurry to the top of the cement mixer. Mercutio, Katie, Mongo and Kirk stand at the bottom.

> DUANE Greg! How did you make it back!?

GREENEY We did it together.

> IAGO (to Greeney)

You! I banished you! (to Leopold) And imprisoned you!

GREG Maybe you're not as powerful as you thought.

KIRK (snaps his fingers, gyrates his head) Uh-huh, he went there!

Crowd stops pushing to the hole and watches the argument. They murmur to each other that Leopold is free and maybe they should stop. Leopold and Greeney step to the edge of the cement mixer to address the crowd. Members of the crowd mumble that it's Old Green, once banished but returned.

> GREENEY My friends! Iago is a fraud! He plotted against King Leopold, and he framed me!

> LEOPOLD He is hungry for power and leading you to attack our neighbors to get it!

Crowd mumbles more and slowly stops advancing on the hole in the wall. Duane eyes Greg angrily.

DUANE

Agh! You're not going to ruin my father's plans!

Duane rushes Greg. They bump into one of the planks leaning against the cement mixer which knocks all the planks into the lever of the mixer, turning it on. Greg, Duane and Iago fall off the mixer. Wet concrete pours into the dirt path in both directions. The geckos run from the path into the middle of the construction site. A plank falls half into the canal, leaning on the canal wall.

ANGLE ON PLANK

Alligator climbs the plank.

ALLIGATOR Excellent, an all I can eat buffet.

The colony rushes to the hole in the wall as their only escape route.

ANGLE ON TOP OF WALL

Sentries drop ropes down the side of the wall to the trapped geckos.

SENTRY TWO We were stopping them, now we're letting them in?

SENTRY ONE They're trapped! They can't all fit through the hole in time! What did I tell you?

SENTRY TWO Right, we're not barbarians.

ANGLE ON Mercutio and Mongo. Stand at edge of path near concrete.

MONGO Can't we just wait for the concrete to dry?

The alligator reaches the top of the plank.

MERCUTIO It's not drying fast enough!

KATIE

Greg! Look out!

Greg and Duane wrestle towards the canal, unaware of the alligator climbing the plank. Katie rushes to them trying to break them up. Kirk flies close to Greg. The alligator lunges at them. They see him and jump through his mouth and land on the other side just before he snaps his jaws shut. Katie's tale is pinned between the alligator's foot and the plank. The alligator hasn't seen her yet.

KIRK Close one. Greg, maybe you should handle your alligator problem before your Duane problem!

Duane pushes Greg's face into the dirt.

GREG I'm working on it! Mongo!

Mongo steps to Greg, but Bubba steps in front of Mongo.

BUBBA

Let's play!

Mercutio pushes Flash down and hurries behind Bubba and gets on all four legs behind him. Mongo pushes Bubba over Mercutio.

MONGO

Mongo no play with you!

Bubba falls on top of Flash.

MERCUTIO

(standing) What's good for the goose is good for the gecko.

ANGLE ON Greg and Duane. They dodge as the alligator snaps again and Duane pins Greg on the ground again.

GREG

Mongo!

MONGO

But Mongo afraid of alligators!

MERCUTIO

But you're Mongo! The biggest, toughest gecko in the colony! The biggest toughest any thing in the

90

colony! The only thing you have to fear is f-

MONGO

Alligators!

Mercutio pushes Mongo.

MERCUTIO Get over there and get Duane off Greg!

MONGO Oh. Mongo not afraid of Duane!

Mongo charges and knocks Duane off Greg and pins him to the ground. Greg gets up and looks at the alligator, who's takes another step closer to the colony. Greg looks around, panicked.

KIRK Do you have a plan yet?

GREG Still working on it!

KATIE

Greg! Help!

Greg sees Katie pinned under the alligator.

GREG Katie! Don't move!

KIRK

He can't see her if she doesn't move?

Greg looks at Kirk annoyed. Greg looks around the site and notices the crane and the planks above the alligator. Greg runs to the crane. Kirk flies close to him.

> GREG If I can drop those planks.

KIRK

Can you move the lever?

GREG I am the son of the lizard king! I can do any thing!

Greg tries to push the lever.

GREG I can't do it! I need more weight!

KIRK

We're doomed!

Greg sees Khan perched on the arm of the crane.

GREG Katie, get ready to run! (to self) A bird in the hand...

Greg strains and tries to change his color. First he turns red, then blue with yellow spots, then all different colors.

ANGLE ON sentries on wall

SENTRY ONE They're not going to make it!

Sentry Two sits in a beach chair on the wall eating popcorn and holding a soda cup.

SENTRY TWO

Intense!

ANGLE ON Greg

Greg turns bright silver and stays so.

POV Khan's view. A blurry, silver object with the rough outline of a fish shines on the crane.

KHAN Fish! Mm, fish! Khan swoops off his perch towards Greg.

KIRK

I'll save you!

Kirk dives and pushes Greg out of the way, jumping into his place. Khan grabs Kirk and bumps into the crane lever. The wood planks on the crane lift fall and land on the plank in the water, knocking it backwards.

ALLIGATOR

Wha!?

The alligator gets catapulted backwards across the canal. Katie tries to run off the plank, but doesn't get off in time and gets catapulted too.

GREG

Katie!

ANGLE ON arm of crane. Khan returns to his perch on the arm. He lifts Kirk to his mouth and looks closely at him.

KHAN

You're not a fish!

Khan puts Kirk on the arm of the crane and flies away. Kirk looks down at the ground nervously.

> KIRK Khan! Khan!! Wait a minute. I can fly.

Kirk hops off the crane arm and flies to the ground.

ANGLE ON canal.

An elderly WIFE and HUSBAND sit in a boat in the canal. The husband eats french fries.

> WIFE The doctor told you to cut out the greasy food.

> HUSBAND I'll quit when alligators fly.

Alligator soars over the boat. Wife takes the french fries out of Husband's hand.

WIFE Oh, thank you honey!

Husband stares at alligator dumbfounded. Alligator lands in water in the distance. Katie lands in their boat and scurries under a blanket.

ANGLE ON construction site. Greg climbs down from the crane. He's still silver. Crowd cheers. Leopold, Myra, Greeney, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk run to Greg.

LEOPOLD My boy! My son and his colors saved us all!

GREG But Katie! We have to help her!

MERCUTIO We'll find her, Greg. We'll get her back.

MYRA (to Leopold) Do you still worry about your son's colors?

LEOPOLD

(to Greg)
You could stay like that
forever and I'd still love
you more than I can say, son!

GREG I love you too, Dad!

Greg and Leopold hug.

LEOPOLD Are you going to, uh, stay like that?

GREG

Oh. Ha. No.

Greg concentrates and turns back to green.

GREG Where are Duane and Iago?

MERCUTIO They're subdued. (nods to concrete path)

Iago and Duane are stuck in the concrete.

IAGO This is an outrage! I am your king!

DUANE When I get out of here!

Every one laughs.

INT. - ROYAL HALL - LATER SAME DAY

Leopold, Myra, Greg, Greeney, Kirk, Mercutio, Mongo and KING of Twilight Haven and his entourage, including Sentry One and Sentry Two, stand on a stage in front of the colony. Leopold and King face each other.

> LEOPOLD I'm sorry. You know I would never authorize an invasion.

> > KING

We have been neighbors since our fathers' fathers' time, and we are friends. This will not change. If your colony needs assistance with any thing, we are here for you.

LEOPOLD Thank you, my friend.

Leopold and King shake hands. Crowd cheers.

ANGLE ON Sentry One and Sentry Two

SENTRY TWO We were stopping them, then we were saving them, now we're friends with them? I can't keep track!

SENTRY ONE What's to keep track of!? I told you-

SENTRY TWO Forget that!

Sentry Two puts on a wool hat with horns sticking out of it.

SENTRY TWO I <u>am</u> a barbarian!

Sentry Two chases Sentry One off screen swinging a club at him.

ANGLE ON stage. Leopold turns to Greg, Greeney, Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk and motions them to step forward.

LEOPOLD

(to Greeney)
My old friend, you have
returned to us, returned my
son to me and helped save the
colony! We are indebted!
 (places medal around
 Greeney's neck)
Will you take your rightful
place as my advisor?

GREENEY

I never would have made it back if not for your son! I am also indebted. It will be an honor to serve you again.

Crowd cheers. Leopold faces Mercutio, Mongo and Kirk.

Attendant places medals around their necks.

LEOPOLD

For service to your king and colony, we are indebted to you. And for being such good friends to my son, I thank you!

(Leopold shakes their hands)

KIRK

(to Greg)

I have repayed my debt to you. It was my honor.

GREG

Thanks, Kirk! The honor was mine too. Stick around for the celebration! I promise no one will try to eat you.

Mongo's stomach growls.

KIRK

(nods at Mongo) Keep an eye on that one.

MONGO

Mongo happy that Greg is home, but Mongo hungry.

MERCUTIO

But we do not eat our friends, Mongo!

(to Greg)

Greg, our dear friend! What Mongo is trying to say is that we made much a'do about nothing when your color got the best of you, but all's well that ends well and one day this will all seem but a mid-summer night's dr-

GREG

Merc?

MERCUTIO

Hm?

GREG Shut up and wave.

Mercutio and Mongo face the crowd and wave. Leopold approaches Greg.

LEOPOLD

Son, you have honored our family and brought peace to the colony! You are a hero and a worthy heir to the crown! You have taught me that we should not judge some one for looking or acting different than the crowd. It's what you do and what you stand for that matters! And you have done so much, Greg! I am proud to call you son!

GREG

(eyes wide and teary) That's all I ever wanted to hear, Dad. I'm proud to call you father.

Myra hugs them both.

MYRA I'm proud of both of you! And thank goodness, no more Iago to deal with!

GREG What did you do with him, any way, Dad?

LEOPOLD He's still serving the colony.

CUT TO Wall at construction site. Guard One and Guard Two watch Iago and Duane while they mop up the oil against the

wall.

IAGO I was the king! I am not a janitor!

GUARD ONE (to Iago) Custodial technician. You missed a spot.

GUARD TWO Speaking of spots, how do you like my new look!?

Guard Two is yellow with gold spots.

GUARD ONE No stripes?

GUARD TWO Nah, I'm going to go on that diet. I'm on the Atkins Diet! No bugs or worms for me!

CUT TO Royal Hall

MONGO Mongo miss Katie.

GREG Don't worry, Mong. We'll get her back, with a little help from some friends.

WIDE SHOT - STAGE

Main characters stand on stage, reminiscent of end of Star Wars IV.

LEOPOLD Give us your best celebration colors, son!

Greg concentrates, turns silver, then blue with yellow spots, then dark red, then black and white stripes, then

gold with yellow stripes, then back to normal green. He concentrates again but stays green.

CLOSE UP OF GREG

Greg smiles nervously and waves.

GREG

Working on it.

FADE OUT