

THE BIGGER ONES

Written by

Tony de Lombardo

TonydeLombardo@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

A massive toy store with a massive sign appears closed.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

But, the toy store is as alive than ever. Toys of all kind run around and have fun. Some toys look expensive and some toys look cheap.

Toys do their thing as the military toys march, the wrestling toys wrestle, and etc.

A little girl toy hugs a teddy bear with a sign above that reads, "Therapy". The main point, these toys have lives.

After passing all these amazing toys, the ninja aisle's reached.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

EGO, STEALTH, and CRIMSON circle around the MASTER. They look exhausted and a little beat up.

The ninjas are young. Ego is a male, Stealth is a female, and Crimson is a male. The Master is an older man that resembles a chameleon.

EGO

You're done. We finally beat you.

MASTER

No... Today is not the day.

The ninja's inch closer in on the Master as he kicks Ego in the stomach. Ego falls to the ground as the Master kicks the legs out from Crimson while dodging a strike from Stealth.

Crimson falls and Stealth continues to come at the Master. He blocks and dodges each attack. He catches her kick and trips her. She falls.

MASTER (CONT'D)

(laughing)

You three still have much to learn,
for teamwork is nothing without
communication.

INT. TOY STORE (DARK AREA) - NIGHT

ZU snaps the neck of another master as CRAIG standbys and watches.

Zu is a ninja as well. He's the cheapest toy in the store. He has chips in his paint and a few dents. Craig is an overweight teen with a cape.

Zu takes the black gold katana off the master's back.

CRAIG

Zu, I don't like you killing other toys. It's not right.

ZU

Craig, the only way to obtain the special item is for me to kill the toy. Otherwise, I can't get it off him.

A voice talks over the loudspeaker. He sounds exactly like ELVIS.

ELVIS (O.S.)

Hope you had a fun night out of the box, but it's time to get back in there and look pretty... Happy selling.

ZU

Looks like I'll have to get the other two pieces tomorrow... Help me with the body.

Zu and Craig lift the body.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

Toys scurry to get in line. The lines move quick as each toy gets in their respected boxes.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Kids act like kids in a toy store. They run around, act noisy, and ignore their parents.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - DAY

The ninjas, in their bundle, wait in line. They're the last ones on the metal rod.

A KID and his MOM pass the ninjas. The kid walks back and picks up the first bundle in line. He looks at it and decides he wants it.

KID
Mom, can I get this?

MOM
Sure, honey. Anything on your birthday.

The kid places the bundle in the cart and they move on.

EGO (O.S.)
Oh, how I envy those being bought.

CRIMSON (O.S.)
I wonder what it feels like.

STEALTH (O.S.)
They say the adrenaline rush alone is worth it.

The toys in front see a kid coming.

TOY IN FRONT
Quiet back there. We got customers.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

The ninjas dangle their legs and feet off the shelf.

EGO
Only one bundle was bought today...
At this rate, we'll never be sold.

STEALTH
I want to be sold too, but let's enjoy this environment first...
There's plenty of toys to have fun with here.

INT. TOY STORE (ISOLATED AREA) - NIGHT

Ego, Stealth, and Crimson back away from an angry group of TOYS.

EGO
Just because we're a high-quality bundle doesn't mean you should treat us with such violence.

STEALTH

Yeah, we have feelings too. It's not our fault we were born into royalty.

This angers the group of toys even more.

ANGRY TOY

You three are so dead.

The ninjas back up as the toys inch closer.

CRIMSON

Let's be reasonable here... You guys can't take us anyway.

Ego grabs Crimson and pulls him towards himself.

EGO

What are you talking about? We're outnumbered and large numbers aren't a ninja's game.

The toys inch even closer.

CRIMSON

(to the toys)
Look behind you.

The Master stands behind the toys. They turn around to face him.

MASTER

Run off or I'll make an example out of you.

There's a beat. The toys stare at the ninjas as they walk away.

ANGRY TOY

You should bow to your Master. If it wasn't for him you three would be dead... We're sick of you three acting so pompous around here.

They walk away.

EGO/STEALTH/CRIMSON

Thanks.

They bow to the Master.

MASTER

You have to be more careful... Envy can be a powerful tool of hatred and some of these toys are filled with it...

INT. TOY STORE (DARK AREA) - NIGHT

Zu changes into a new black gold suit as a naked dead MASTER lays next to him.

CRAIG

This is a new low.

Zu finishes putting on the suit. He looks vibrant and alive.

ZU

But, I feel great. Just one more item, Craig, and I'll no longer be the lousiest toy in the store.

Craig grabs Zu and squeezes him by the arms.

ZU (CONT'D)

Ah, Craig, what are you doing?

Craig continues to squeeze him.

CRAIG

Get the master to give you the belt. There's going to be no more killing around here.

Craig stares into Zu's eyes and Zu nods okay.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

The ninjas stand in a line with the Master facing them. A few feet away is a COWBOY, he's observing the training.

MASTER

A ninja uses quick and short attacks to stun and disable their opponents.

(beat)

Ego, I see you've brought a spectator? Would he like to be my example?

COWBOY

Be your example? What does that entail?

The Master motions for the Cowboy to stand next to him. The Cowboy looks around. He's scared but walks up to the Master.

MASTER

I'm going to show you, and the ninjas, the most effective way to stun an opponent... The best way to learn is a hands-on approach.

The Cowboy stands there as the Master fakes an attack. The Cowboy faints, but before he hits the floor, he recovers.

The Master jokes with another fake strike, and the Cowboy once again faints.

MASTER (CONT'D)

See. Once you've reached my level you can stun an enemy without touching them... And, that's called fear.

The Cowboy walks away in a cool manner but turns around.

COWBOY

Didn't even hurt, y'all.
(beat)
But, Ego, I'll see you later...

He tips his hat.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Zu and Craig walk in the store.

CRAIG

Why don't you believe I'm a superhero? It says so on my box... Watch.

Craig puts his arms straight into the air as he tries to fly. It doesn't work.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I just need control of the powers.

ZU

The only aspect of a superhero you have is the cape... And you found that.

CRAIG

Fate lead me to find it, Zu.

ZU

Looking for stuff in the trash
doesn't count as fate.

CRAIG

It does to me.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

TOYS mingle as the bell's RUNG. They scurry around to their shelves, get in line and get back to their boxes.

TOY IN LINE

It's a shame Elvis was bought... He
had such a great voice for the
announcements.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

A fast-forward scene of kids picking up the bundle of ninjas in line. Each time a bundle's picked up, the kid doesn't like what he sees or the parent says no.

Kids continue to pass by as day to turns night and the store closes.

Some toys burst out of their boxes and others decide to stay in.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

The ninjas hang around with the Master.

STEALTH

What do you have planned for
today's lesson, Master?

MASTER

Ah, today's lesson is a special
one, for I had a vision last night.

They lean in and seem eager to listen.

INT. STAGE

It's dark but enough light shines in to see two silhouettes on the right and two silhouettes on the left.

MASTER (V.O.)
My first vision was of two of you
fighting against two others.

The silhouettes begin to fight.

MASTER (V.O.)
It did not end well.

The right side silhouettes kill the left side silhouettes.
They disappear as new silhouettes appear.

MASTER (V.O.)
My second vision was each of you
attempting your own attacks against
their two.

The silhouette on the left gets killed and disappears.
Another one appears, gets killed, and disappears just like
the next silhouette.

MASTER (V.O.)
And, my last vision was a one on
one.

The silhouettes appear with katanas. They battle for a little
and disappear with no conclusion.

MASTER (V.O.)
The outcome I did not see. But, my
intuition leads me to believe this
vision is the path you should take.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

They're still near the Master.

MASTER
You three will have a great
challenge. Many things will be
proven. Some good. Some bad.

EGO
Well... What's the challenge?

MASTER
Ah, I cannot say for I did not see
the challenge. I only saw when you
did or didn't die.

STEALTH
What about who we fight? Were we
fighting an enemy? Each other?
(MORE)

STEALTH (CONT'D)

(beat)

If one of us dies, do we ever have
the chance of being sold?

MASTER

These questions will be answered on
your journey. For a lesson learned
is only obtained upon acting.

EGO

Where were you in these visions?

MASTER

I'm afraid I didn't see where my
destiny would lead me... But, right
now, it's leading me to my nightly
stroll.

The Master walks away.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

The ninjas dangle their legs and feet off the shelf.

EGO

I feel sick right now... I think
the Master's in trouble.

CRIMSON

How do you correlate sickness to
the Master being in trouble?

EGO

It's my gut. It's aching.

Ego winces.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The ninjas jump from shelf to shelf. They use their grappling
hooks as an aid along with their spiked climbing shoes.

They use the shadows to their advantage. They stay hidden as
they reach the Master. He's walking and seems fine.

CRIMSON

See, he's fine...

Crimson spoke a little too soon. Eight NINJAS jump down and
surround the Master.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The Master looks around. He has the confidence he can take them.

MASTER

Let's see who draws the first
sweat.

They come at the Master as he avoids them all and makes his way out of the circle. They look confused and turn around to see him standing there chuckling.

Behind the Master, Ego, Stealth, and Crimson land from above.

EGO

Does this happen every night on
your stroll?

MASTER

I wish.

They begin to fight. The Master toys with the ninjas he fights against. He slides under them, moves too quick, and slaps them around.

Crimson struggles. He gets knocked around and finds it difficult to do any damage. Stealth bails him out after she takes out the ninja she fights.

Ego fights the remaining ninjas. He uses his body and their bodies as weapons. He knocks out the first ninja with a jump kick, and he knocks out the last ninja with a slam.

MASTER (CONT'D)

Ah, I noticed great technique from
you, Stealth. You've been
practicing.

They walk away as they step over a body.

STEALTH

Thank you.

MASTER

You're developing quite rapidly.

STEALTH

Hard work, dedication, and a great
Master.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Kids run around and beg their parents for toys.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - DAY

Fast-forward through the day as kids pick up the ninja bundle. This time around, there are three bundles purchased during the day.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

They train with the Master. He teaches them techniques with the katana.

MASTER

Sometimes when a foe is too aggressive, you must act defensively.

Ego swings at the Master and the Master disarms him. Stealth swings at him and he does the same to her. Crimson tries to hit the Master, but the Master plays with him. He dodges each attack and disarms Crimson.

MASTER (CONT'D)

It's like putting Velcro shoes on.
So easy and so satisfying.

They pick up their katana's and shield them.

EGO

Can you believe it? Only three more bundles ahead of us... I'm almost too excited to wait.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

Fast-forward through seven days as kids buy and don't buy the bundle each day.

EGO (V.O.)

It took a week, but it was finally our turn up.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA ISLE) - NIGHT

Ego, Stealth, and Crimson burst out of their boxes.

EGO

We're next. We're next... I thought
this day would never come.

He grabs Stealth and tries to dance with her. She's not into
it and pushes him away.

STEALTH

What are you doing?

EGO

You're right, why should I be
happy. Knowing you two, you'll find
a way to mess things up.

STEALTH

(scoffs)

Us? I'm as perfect as they come...
Since the day of my manufacturing.

CRIMSON

You were manufactured in China,
that's a defect already.

STEALTH

We all were.

CRIMSON

But, the person who put me together
was over the age of six.

EGO

Why are you two bickering? We're
going to be sold tomorrow. This is
a glorious night.

CRIMSON

Yeah, the night before it's our
turn. I wonder what will go wrong.

INT. TOY STORE

The Master walks in an area with dim lighting. He begins to
hear some sort of dog NOISES. He looks around and sees a
shadow. The shadow appears to be a small dog.

MASTER

Oh, it's just a puppy.

A massive dog comes out of the shadows and knocks the Master
over. He's playful with the Master and does him no harm.

Zu and Craig come out of the shadows to help the Master. They get the dog off him and he stands up.

Zu wears his black gold suit and black gold katana.

CRAIG
Sorry, he's a playful one.

MASTER
Indeed. Is he yours?

CRAIG
No... He's the toy store's dog.

Craig pats the dog on the back.

CRAIG (CONT'D)
Go... Go.

The dog walks away.

MASTER
Well, who are you two? For no occurrence is not an occurrence of fate.

ZU
I'm Zu, and this is Craig.

Zu notices the Master's belt.

ZU (CONT'D)
But, you're right. It seems fate has brought us here.
(beat)
I see you have the gold black belt... Do you mind?

The Master goes to take off the belt but changes his mind.

MASTER
No, I couldn't... It's too special to me.

The bell DINGS.

MASTER (CONT'D)
Perhaps we'll meet again, Zu.

The Master bows a little and walks away. Zu and Craig walk in the other direction.

ZU

He has the last piece. The piece
I'm looking for. The piece that
will no longer make me a joke.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - AFTERNOON

The ninjas are finally up. Ego has a smile on his face as kids walk past them. As the kids walk, one of them stops in front of the ninjas and picks up the box.

KID #2

Ah, dad. Could I get this?

The dad takes the box and looks at it.

DAD

This seems acceptable.

He places it in the cart.

INT. TOY STORE - AFTERNOON

As the ninjas are in the shopping cart. Crimson starts to panic. He breathes heavy.

EGO

Shhhh... Don't ruin this for us.

CRIMSON

I never thought this day would
come.

STEALTH

Don't let the anxiety take you
over. Remember, change is good.

EGO

Yeah. This is our greatest moment
yet.

INT. TOY STORE - AFTERNOON

Zu and Craig sneak around. As per usual, Zu is in a ninja suit, and Craig is too. Right now, both of them are in the shadows.

ZU

If you can believe you're a
superhero, you should have no
problem believing you're a ninja.

Craig comes into frame, he looks funny.

CRAIG
Agent black cat reporting for duty.

ZU
(scoffs)
When the shopping cart comes by, we jump onto it and hide in one of the bags. When we get in the car, we have to turn them all off and then we'll steal the Master. Got it?

Craig shakes his head yes.

CRAIG
Yes, sir.

The shopping cart comes around the corner and the two of them jump onto it. They begin to climb up the cart. As they climb, Zu gets ahead of Craig.

CRAIG (CONT'D)
Be careful, Zu.

As Zu climbs, he loses his footing. He slips but maintains control. He gets to the top and tries to climb over, but when he does, he falls back.

He tries to grab onto anything he can. He manages to grab Craig's arm as Craig grabs him. Craig pulls Zu up as he has one hand on the cart.

They get their footing and continue up the cart. They reach the top and successfully make it over this time. They jump down and hide in a bag.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

The dad and son sit in the back together as the car drives itself. It's almost like a limo in the sense of comfortable seating.

KID #2
Why can't I play with my toys now?

DAD
You can play with them when we get home. Have some patience.

INT. CAR (TRUNK) - AFTERNOON

They talk to each other as Zu and Craig come out of one of the bags. Craig takes a deep breath.

CRAIG
Couldn't... Breathe... In there.

ZU
Don't be so dramatic. A toy only
needs one breath per year... Now,
shh.

Zu and Craig look around in the bags for the ninja bundle. They find it and luckily for them, the ninjas are face down with their backs exposed.

Zu uncovers the bag off of them and takes out a small box cutter. Craig does the same and they cut holes in the back of the box. They cut the holes where the on and off switch is to the ninjas. They turn them off as the ninjas talk to each other.

MASTER (O.S.)
Why did you all stop talking?

They turn the Master off and cut a large hole in the box.

ZU
Expensive toys are always more
vulnerable.

Craig looks out the tiny trunk window.

CRAIG
We're almost to the stop sign.

Zu gets a good hold of the Master and throws him over his shoulders. Craig opens the trunk just a little as the car stops at the stop sign.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Self-driving cars drive as Zu and Craig jump onto the street with the Master. They get on the sidewalk and run into the woods.

INT. KIDS ROOM - AFTERNOON

The kid's room looks futuristic as does everything else. He sits on the floor with the ninja bundle. He sees the holes in the box.

KID #2
That's weird.

He takes the ninjas and places them down. He gives them heroic postures and turns them on. Their eyes light up.

KID #2 (CONT'D)
Oh, awesome!

The kid begins to play with them.

DAD (O.S.)
Willie, you're food.

KID #2
(groans)
Uh, okay.

He puts them down standing up and runs out of the room. They drop to the floor.

EGO
That was so euphoric.

CRIMSON
A once in a lifetime experience.

STEALTH
And, we get to experience it every day for the rest of our lives.

They look around for the Master.

EGO
Where's the Master?

CRIMSON
Did the kid take him?

EGO
Kid? His name's William... And yes, good question... Did William take him?

STEALTH
I don't know. Let's check the box.

As they walk towards the box, they hear the kid coming. They freeze as the kid comes in with soup.

He puts his soup on the floor and sits down. He plays with the three of them.

The dad knocks on the door and enters with food of his own.

DAD
I thought we could eat and play
together.

The dad and his son begin to play with the toys. The son uses Ego to knock down Crimson who the dad plays with. They stop playing and the dad takes a bite of his sandwich.

DAD (CONT'D)
Make sure you save the box... Just
in case you want to return them.

The kid lifts up the box.

KID #2
Uh...

He flips it over.

DAD
Did you do that?

KID #2
No... There's a toy missing too. I
just wanted to play for a little
before you returned them.

DAD
Well, I can return them now, and
get you a replacement. Sound good?

The kid shakes his head, yes, and the dad gathers up the toys, the box, and the bag.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

The dad has headphones on as the car drives itself. The ninjas lay on top of the bag with the box next to them.

EGO
How is the Master missing? How
could he be away from us?

CRIMSON
Let's talk about concern number
one. Being returned.

EGO
Why is that a concern? That's good
if anything.

CRIMSON

When have you ever heard of a toy
actually being returned?

They look shocked at this realization.

EGO

Was this part of the Master's
vision? How can it end here?

STEALTH

It doesn't. He said we battle
someone. This isn't his vision...
Fate is in our hands until then.

EGO

If fate was in our hands, I would
be in William's house being played
with...

The dad takes off the headphones and grabs the box and toys.
He opens the window, which is attached to a bin that leads to
a chute. The return bin speaks.

RETURN BIN

Please dispose of the items.

The dad throws the box down and the return bin scans it.

RETURN BIN (CONT'D)

Thank you for disposing of item
2599.

The dad throws the toys down the bin.

INT. CHUTE - NIGHT

They fly down the chute at a speed they're not comfortable
with. They attempt to stop themselves but their hands do no
good.

CRIMSON

We're going to die... Who knows
what's down there?

Ego thinks quick. He takes out his katana and jams it into
the chute.

EGO

Use your katanas.

The katana sparks with the metal chute as he begins to slow down. The others have listened to his advice and they too are slowing down.

But, they aren't slowing down at a fast enough pace.

CRIMSON
The end is near...

They close their eyes as they slam into a box jam. They fall from the impact, look at each other, and laugh.

CRIMSON (CONT'D)
We're not going to die.

The chute shakes and shifts positions. The boxes get unstuck from the chute. They fall into the fiery pit of the return bin.

CRIMSON (CONT'D)
Ah...

Crimson freaks out and slips down the chute. Stealth jumps down to catch him and Ego jumps down to catch her. Ego holds onto his katana as he holds onto Stealth and Crimson.

CRIMSON (CONT'D)
The thing about a flame is that
it's hot even when you're not close
to it.

Ego pulls them up as they gain their footing.

EGO
Let's use our katanas to get out of
here.

INT. CHUTE - LATER

They make their way up the chute. They stand on the scabbard of one of the katanas. They take the other katana and jam it in the chute a few inches above them.

They climb onto the higher scabbard and continue to jam and pull the katana in and out of the chute as they reach the top.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

They exit out of the return bin chute looking glorious, but they're not where they expected to be. They jump down out of the chute onto the floor.

CRIMSON

How did we end up in here?

STEALTH

When the chute shook, it must have shifted. That must be how they deal with jams.

EGO

Well... What's worse, being inside or outside the store? Either way, we need to find the Master. He could be in immediate danger.

INT. UNDERGROUND CELL - NIGHT

The Master sits in a comfortable looking glass cell. It has a bed, a closed off bathroom, a ceiling fan, a water fountain, and etc.

ZU

All I want is the belt. Hand it over and there will be no consequences.

MASTER

Ah, but I love consequences. Especially, when I'm not the one to face them.

ZU

You think you're wise, but you don't know how this'll end.
(beat)
That belt is my only way to succeed. Now, hand it over or I'll be back... With a plan.

MASTER

You're unworthy of the belt... I wouldn't give it to you if it was on fire.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

They walk down the shelves of the ninja aisle. There are almost no toys around.

EGO

Master? Are you here? If you're playing one of your games, you need to stop.

STEALTH

(beat)

He's not here, Ego.

EGO

Then where is he? Huh? If he's not here, we need to exhaust every option to find him.

Crimson puts his arm around Ego.

CRIMSON

That's what we're going to do, together. We don't know anything, except he's gone. But, having each other is invaluable.

EGO

It's... We were so close. The feeling of being played with will always burn in my soul if I'm never held again.

STEALTH

There's no point in sulking, Ego. Let's get to work...

EGO

Our only option is the voice of others. How can we trust toys that despise us? And, why will they talk to us anyway?

STEALTH

(beat)

Friends can be made among enemies. We just need the right influence.

INT. TOY STORE (OUTSIDE OF PAWN SHOP) - NIGHT

The ninjas open the pawn shop doors.

INT. PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

They enter to see your typical pawn shop. There are things of all kinds and the OWNER behind the counter is shady as ever.

OWNER

Another chimp, another dollar.

A CHIMP walks into frame and past the ninjas as they walk up to the Owner.

EGO

Are you ready for the purchase of a lifetime?

OWNER

What do you got that's so special?

They unveil their assortment of ninja tools, weapons, and suits. There's grappling hooks on the table, extendable spears, chisels, drills, hammers, picks, along with three black suits, and throwing stars.

EGO

So, how much?

OWNER

Two hundred and fifty coins.

STEALTH

Two hundred and fifty? That's insulting.

OWNER

Three hundred then?

EGO

Three hundred, that's not enough... We'll have to find someone else. Someone who sees value... We're high priced toys. We have high-quality accessories.

OWNER

Four hundred. Final offer.

Ego agrees, shakes the man's hand.

CRIMSON

And we thought we'd only get fifty from him.

INT. TOY STORE

The ninjas talk to the Cowboy who sits on his horse.

EGO

You have to know something?

COWBOY

I'm telling you. I haven't heard anything about your Master.

(beat)

(MORE)

COWBOY (CONT'D)

We've known each other for a while
now, I hope you can believe me...
Good luck finding him, Ego.

They nod to each other.

INT. TOY STORE

Stealth takes out a bag of coins and hands some to the
DETECTIVE.

DETECTIVE

There's nothing like playing the
slots after a hard day's work...
But, about your Master. I didn't
have to dig deep to find out what
happened to him.

EGO

(beat)
Well? What happened to him?

DETECTIVE

He was kidnapped.

STEALTH

Kidnapped? By who?

DETECTIVE

I said, I didn't dig deep.

Each ninja takes a coin back from the Detective as they walk
past him.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE)

The ninjas sit on the shelf. They look upset.

EGO

Why is no one helpful?

CRIMSON

Because it's a cruel world, with
cruel people.

EGO

For once we agree on something,
Crimson.

STEALTH

(beat)
Why don't we ask another ninja?
(MORE)

STEALTH (CONT'D)

We've been ignoring the only toy
who can truly connect with us.

EGO

Are there any more left? I thought
we were the last ones.

STEALTH

There's got to be more ninjas in
here.

Stealth leads as they follow. They sprint down the shelf,
nothing. They climb up to another shelf, nothing. All the
toys are sold out. They climb to the highest shelf and look
across the aisle.

They see a box on the other shelf.

CRIMSON

If only we had our grappling hooks.

They jump down and cross over to the other side. They climb
the shelves as Crimson lags behind. Ego and Stealth reach the
box and turn it over.

There's no toy in it, but it's the box of Zu's.

EGO

How can there be a higher being
when bad things happen to good
toys?

STEALTH

Ego Tistical Bastard. How can you
say that?

EGO

How can you not? Nothing good has
happened to us yet.

STEALTH

Isn't being born the ultimate gift
of pleasure? And, that alone should
be enough to get through life?

Crimson has caught up.

CRIMSON

So?

EGO

It's an empty box.

CRIMSON

Of whose?

They bring the box into better lighting. Ego feels as if he knows this face.

EGO

I swear I know him... But, not from the toy store.

STEALTH

Then, from where?

EGO

I don't know, I just know his face.

CRIMSON

(beat)

Is he in any way related to our case?

EGO

We don't have enough information to jump to that conclusion.

Ego looks at the box again.

INT. UNDERGROUND CELL

The Master meditates as a GUARD knocks on the glass. The Master breaks his meditation and licks his lips.

MASTER

Food again already?

GUARD

You wish.

Zu comes into the room.

ZU

I told you I would be back.

Zu takes out a blue grenade and hands it to the guard. The guard places the grenade through the food slot.

MASTER

What's that do?

The grenade detonates and it sends blue shock waves across the whole room. The Master tries to fight the shock waves, but the pain is too much. He falls.

ZU
Are you ready to talk?

MASTER
Never.

Zu takes out four more grenades and hands them to the guard.

ZU
(to the guard)
One at a time and if he doesn't
speak by the last one let me
know... I hope you come to your
senses, Master...

Zu walks away and the guard drops another grenade in the food slot. He forgets to close the slot, as the Master's shocked again. One of the shock waves bounces out of the cell, off the wall, and hits Zu as he's leaving. He WINCES in pain.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

The ninjas have printed out a few dozen "Have You Seen Me" posters for the Master. The reward is four hundred coins for the return of the Master, and twenty coins per information.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

There's a montage of them going around the store and putting up the posters.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

The ninjas dangle their legs off the shelf.

EGO
What happens when you've lost hope?

STEALTH
You continue to fight on... Someone
will tell us something, Ego.

There's a beat and an ARMY MAN walks up to them. They jump up to greet him.

ARMY MAN
I know what it's like to be at war.
I know what it's like to have your
first in command kidnapped. That's
why I'd like to tell you who
kidnapped your Master...
(MORE)

ARMY MAN (CONT'D)

He's put fear in other toys. Real men don't fear what is not fearful. For nothing is fearful but an undignified death.

EGO

An undignified death is upon you if you don't stop blabbering on.

ARMY MAN

You'd be no match for me... But, I didn't come here to prove my worth. I came here to tell you your own kind is sneakier than you think.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - LATER

They continue to sit off the shelf.

EGO

Our own kind? What does he mean?
(beat)
It was one of you.

Ego stands up. Stealth and Crimson follow.

STEALTH

One of us?

Stealth smacks Ego across the face.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Either you're delusional or you're just speaking without thinking.

EGO

You two have always been against me... You probably want him for yourself.

CRIMSON

The accusation of kidnapping our own Master is ridiculous. If anyone were to kidnap the Master, it would be you. Needy. Little. Ego.

They fight as a voice is heard.

VOICE #2 (O.S.)

I have information.

A camera toy comes out of the shadows and into view.

CAMERA TOY

You want hard proof it wasn't one
of you three? I got it right here.

(beat)

First, I need my coin.

They hand him two twenty coins. He puts the coins away and displays a picture on his screen. He goes through each picture to show Zu and Craig jumping onto the shopping cart and climbing into the bag.

EGO

That's Zu... Why would he steal our
Master?

STEALTH

Who's that with him?

EGO

I don't know...

(to the camera)

Do you know?

CAMERA TOY

I had a guy dig around. He told me
a lot of things. If you have extra
coin, I can answer extra questions.

They give him another twenty coin.

EGO

Where did they take him?

CAMERA TOY

They took him to the corner on elm
street and crystal lake road...
There's an old Japanese castle
through the woods... For extra
coin, I can provide you with a map?

EGO

No... Now, get out of here before I
decide to make you myself.

The camera walks away.

STEALTH

Why are you so mean to everyone? He
was helping us.

EGO

He was trying to take advantage of
us. When are you going to see
people for who they truly are?

STEALTH

If the Master taught you anything,
it should be that evil is not
within the toy, but within their
thinking. All evil can be reversed
and all good can be converted.

A flier for a job fair tomorrow flies into the hands of the ninjas. They look at it. Get an idea.

INT. TOY STORE - JOB FAIR - NIGHT

The ninjas have gathered a crowd of toys. They stand on an elevated stage.

EGO

We're not here to discuss
relationships. We're here to
discuss a job opportunity. We're
paying ten coins per day for your
service... We're not sure what to
expect. It could be a difficult
task or an easy task, but having a
fighting background is preferred.

INT. TOY STORE (JOB FAIR) - NIGHT

The ninjas sit behind a table with fliers on it and a sign above them that reads, "Mercenaries".

A wrestler walks up to the table carrying his belts.

WRESTLER

Is this enough of a resume?

CRIMSON

Wrestling's fake, but we'll take
you.

Crimson pushes a piece of paper to the Wrestler. He points to a line.

CRIMSON (CONT'D)

Sign here.

INT. TOY STORE (JOB FAIR) - NIGHT

A ripped street fighter walks up to the ninjas.

STREET FIGHTER

They call me Crazy Eye.

He showcases his moves and accidentally punches the structure to the sign above the ninjas. The sign breaks and hits Crimson in the head.

INT. TOY STORE (JOB FAIR) - NIGHT

A samurai comes up to the table.

SAMURAI

The ninja is a dishonor to Japan.

EGO

The ninja is not a dishonor for killing is never honorable.

SAMURAI

Samurai killing is honorable, but a missing Master is quite a serious matter... That's why I will aid your cause.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The ninjas stand in front of their new recruits. There's a total of ten toys. They include, the Wrestler, the Street Fighter, the Samurai, the Army Man, the VAMPIRE, the DOG, the PUMPKIN HEAD, the BEAST, the female SPY, and the female MERCENARY.

EGO

We know many of you live a sad and lonely life in here... And gambling coin is the only joy of your sad and lonely life... But, the first step in our mission is getting out of here... You won't have to help with this aspect of the mission for the basement is only for the skilled.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The ninjas have set up a blueprint of the toy store on the table. They throw another blueprint on the table. It's of the basement with the breaker box circled.

STEALTH

The building goes into low power mode at night... If we can turn the power on from the breaker box, the doors should open.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The ninjas stare at the basement door. It's big and scary.

CRIMSON
Ladies first.

Stealth pushes the door open. She's fine with going first, but Ego walks past her.

EGO
Have some respect, Crimson.

INT. TOY STORE (BASEMENT) - NIGHT

The basement is dusty, dirty, and cobwebs are everywhere.

BREAKER BOX

EGO (O.S.)
The breaker box

The ninjas walk down the stairs. Ego leads the way with Stealth and Crimson behind him. Things in the basement CREAK. Tiny FOOTSTEPS are heard, and etc.

CRIMSON
Maybe we should go back upstairs.
I'm having trouble breathing.

EGO
When you're given the opportunity
to conquer your fears, Crimson. You
take that opportunity and became
the hero you're supposed to be.

They continue down the steps with Crimson lagging behind. He's going extra slow, making sure he makes each step. When he attempts to jump down a step, he loses his footing and falls between the steps. Ego and Stealth are oblivious to this.

INT. TOY STORE (BASEMENT) - NIGHT

Crimson falls into a box with bubble wrap. He sinks in further down.

CRIMSON
Ego. Stealth. Help.

INT. TOY STORE (BASEMENT) - NIGHT

They continue down the steps as they hear Crimson's voice. It sounds mumbled.

STEALTH

You know we can't hear you when you mumble.

They jump off the last step onto the basement floor. They cautiously look left then right, nothing.

They look left and right again.

EGO

Looks clear. Let's make a break for it.

As they go to run right, they notice a fully grown desert tarantula. They look at it, then each other. They sprint in the other direction.

The spider chases them and gains way. They notice the spiders faster than them. When the spider gets close to bite, they stop running, and do a back flip over the spider as it runs past them.

The spider turns around, faces them, and begins to set up for a strike. The ninjas act defensively and Crimson comes flying down from the air as he gets on the spiders back.

The spider tries to shake Crimson off like a bull, but Crimson holds on tight. Ego and Stealth use quick and fast strikes as they work the spider. They weave between the spider's legs as they hurt his whole body.

Stealth sees a shiny sharp pin laying nearby. She picks it up.

STEALTH

Crimson.

She tosses it to Crimson who juggles to catch it. The spider throws him off as the pin goes in the air.

It rotates through the air as the spider goes to attack Crimson who lays on the ground. Crimson backs away and the spider lunges towards him with his mouth open.

The pin comes down as Crimson struggles to grab it. He gets a hold of the pin and as the spider tries to bite him, he puts it through the spider's head.

He pushes the spider off him and stands up with the help of Ego and Stealth.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

CRIMSON

Yeah. I'm fine.

EGO

(beat)

You two should wait with the other toys. It's not safe down here. We could all end up dead.

STEALTH

If you think we're leaving, you're insane.

Stealth grabs the pin from Ego.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Now, distract that mouse while I get these lights on.

CRIMSON

What mouse?

It comes up to behind Crimson and they all scramble away.

Stealth makes her way for the breaker box while Ego and Crimson try to distract the mouse.

The mouse pays no attention to Ego or Crimson and he chases after Stealth. The mouse is fast enough to catch up to Stealth. She begins to jump on things to gain higher ground, but the mouse is just as athletic.

She reaches the highest platform she can. She has a long runway to work with, but the mouse gets a hold of her. She breaks away and continues to run. She reaches the end of the runway, sticks the pin in it, and as she's about to jump, the mouse lunges to her. He's about to bite her as Ego sticks a pin in his tail. The mouse is too far to stop Stealth from jumping, but he slowed her down enough to where she looks short of her mark.

She flails her arms in the air and grabs onto the bottom of the door handle with an amazing stretch. She makes her way over the door, locates the switch, and flips it on.

EXT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The toy store lights up completely as the sign is brighter than ever.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

The toy store is even brighter inside. The toys look surprised.

INT. TOY STORE (ENTRANCE) - NIGHT

The ninjas stand with the mercenaries in front of the entrance doors.

EGO

This is it... We're about to enter the outside world with no human protection. Whatever mess you get yourself into, you have to get yourself out of.

They step closer to the motion detector but nothing happens. They inch closer and closer, but still, the doors do not open.

EGO (CONT'D)

Crimson. Give me your head.

CRIMSON

Why?

EGO

I'm going to ram you through the door.

COWBOY (O.S.)

Ego... Wait!

The cowboy comes riding up to Ego. He hops off his horse and unties three katanas from her.

COWBOY (CONT'D)

Ego... You've been a good friend. That's why I bought you and your friend's katanas back...

EGO

You used all your coin up for us?

COWBOY

Nah, I won big, baby. I won big...

He hands Ego, Stealth, and Crimson their katanas back. They bow.

STEALTH/CRIMSON

Thank you.

He nods back.

EGO

Thank you. I hope to see you in the real world one day. Perhaps at a park, or in the same apartment complex.

COWBOY

I know we'll meet again.

They shake hands and the cowboy gets back on his horse. He rides away as Ego gets back to the door issue.

EGO

Does anyone have any ideas?

Dog

Are you sure you turned the power on?

EGO

Yes. We're sure.

CRIMSON

(beat)

It needs more weight... We're not heavy enough for the motion detector to detect us.

EGO

Wait here.

INT. TOY STORE (ENTRANCE) - LATER

Ego comes flying down in a small compact shopping cart. He skids to stop in front of the toys.

EGO

Get in.

The toys get in one by one and Ego along with Crimson help push the cart into the detector's vision.

The weight is enough and the doors slide open.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

They push the cart outside as the army man sees a bicycle.

ARMY MAN

Sir, I have an idea that will save
us time.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

The army man has rigged up the cart with pedals and a steering wheel. He sits in the driver's seat and pedals. The toys chat in the background.

ARMY MAN

Can you read me the directions off
my GPS?

The army man hands the GPS to Ego.

EGO

Make a right.

The army man makes the right as he pedals down the sidewalk. Cars drive by, but no one pays attention to the cart.

EGO (CONT'D)

Elm street and Crystal Lake Road
meet up at the next right.

They make another right.

EGO (CONT'D)

Stop in point two miles.

ARMY MAN

I need it in kilometers...

EGO

I'll let you know when.

(beat)

Now.

The army man brings the cart to a stop. They look into the woods. It's scarier than they thought.

CRIMSON

I volunteer to go third... Who has
first and second?

Stealth pushes out the side of the cart and it attaches from the cart to the ground. She slides down the exit and Ego goes next.

He stands next to her as Crimson comes down with the rest of them.

STEALTH

The difference between me and you is that I'm not scared, and you are.

EGO

It's called being a leader.

(beat)

Come on troops! Into the woods we go.

He leads them into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

They walk along an already established path. They hear NOISES but none are scary enough to affect this march.

EGO

Being chewed up by some savage beast is quite possible out here... But, those noises are nothing to be afraid of.

STEALTH

As scary as savage beasts are, we need to watch out for traps. Ninjas are known to take an enemy out anyway possible.

As Stealth says this, the wrestler almost steps on a trap. She stops him at a moments notice.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

If you didn't listen then, listen now... You must always be aware of your surroundings.

They continue to walk. Ego gets Stealth alone.

EGO

If you want to lend advice to the troops, it should come through me.

Stealth scoffs and walks away.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

The toys continue on. They look more tired than they were before.

As they walk in a perfect horizontal line, they set off a wire. They all jump out of the way but nothing happens. They take a breather, but it's not for long. SAVAGE NOISES are heard and they're getting closer and closer.

They jump to their feet and begin to run up the path to the castle. As they run up the path, the noises fade away.

They come to an old but vibrant Japanese castle. There's a massive moat and wall around the castle. The bridge is already drawn down. They enter with caution.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

They stare at the beautiful castle as the bridge is drawn up and out from the castle's roof, a voice recorder with balloons attached to it, is shot into the air. It parachutes down and Ego plays it.

ZU (FROM THE RECORDER)

I'll give you a fair chance to escape, but I've prepared a quick poem...

(clears throat)

If you manage to survive. This little trap of mine. There's no wait or line. For your death to be divine... I'll be at the Hidden castle... Find me if you can.

A line of gunpowder is seen on fire. It's racing along trying to set off the explosives in the castle.

The wrestler sees it and jumps on it. He wrestles with the ignition light but it gets away from him and continues its path. The mercenary shoots it with her guns, but it continues on.

Ego unsheathes his katana and runs alongside the light. He runs as fast as he can, gets in front of the light, and right as it's about to set off the explosives, he swings the katana in front of the light and it stops.

Ego pushes it back and it goes back on its trail. But, it has perseverance. It comes charging down the line. Ego steps back and hits the light like a golf ball. It goes flying over the castle walls and into the forest.

INT. CASTLE (NINJAS BEDROOM) - NIGHT

Ego talks in the bed.

EGO

It was a good choice to camp here
for the night. Especially, because
of these beds.

The camera zooms out to see Crimson on the right and Stealth
on the left. They both are turned away from Ego.

EGO (CONT'D)

This feels right... I can't imagine
sleeping without you guys.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - DAY

The army man has set up a fire and seats. He cooks eggs.

ARMY MAN

I made eggs, boss.

EGO

Save some for us... We have things
to discuss.

They begin to walk away.

ARMY MAN

Sir, wait... I have some bad news.

Ego nods for him to go on.

ARMY MAN (CONT'D)

A few of the toys bailed. They
claimed that coin is not worth
their lives... Fools.

EGO

Which ones left?

ARMY MAN

The Dog, the Pumpkin head, and the
Samurai. He said these kind of acts
are too disgraceful for his
reputation.

EGO

All right. Thanks for the
information...

They walk away and sit down off to the side.

EGO (CONT'D)

So? What did you want to talk about?

CRIMSON

Stealth and I talked about it, and we don't think we should go to Zu's castle today. Or tomorrow.

EGO

What? Why not?

STEALTH

We feel he has the advantage. Numbers are not a ninjas game. We can't win going in there without knowledge of the place first.

EGO

The Master grows weaker every day he's without us... If we don't save him soon, his connection with us could be broken and he'll never have strength again.

CRIMSON

(beat)

All we're suggesting is that we send a scout team in there to survey the place... How many soldiers occupy his side, how difficult it is getting in and out?

EGO

Fine... Tonight we survey... Tomorrow we write a different story.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Zu has the Master tied up to a crazy complex and ridiculous machine. It almost bulges out of the cell, but the Master does not sweat it.

MASTER

I would not do this if I were you.

ZU

(scoffs)

Power her on.

A WORKER powers on the machine using a handheld device.

ZU (CONT'D)
Drop her down.

The worker uses the device to lower the crane down.

ZU (CONT'D)
Now, take the belt!

The worker uses care as he navigates the crane to the belt. He uses the crane's handle to grab the belt, but when he pulls it to take it off, it won't budge.

ZU (CONT'D)
What are you doing?
(beat)
Give me that.

Zu takes the device and tries himself. The Master exerts a force from the belt and the crane falls apart and the machine breaks.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

The Master's stretched out by all fours as he hangs in the middle of the room. Zu walks around him confused as does Craig.

CRAIG
You're lucky my friend Mr. Jug was
able to lend a hand.

ZU
Yes. Bring in Mr. Jug.

MR. JUG, a ripped and massive toy, comes into the cell.

ZU (CONT'D)
Get me that belt.

Jug walks up to the Master.

MASTER
Have you no wit?

Jug tries to take the belt and the Master uses his force to cause Jug to break and fall apart.

CRAIG
Ah, you've killed Mr. Jug... I must
avenge my friend's death. I'm going
to use my super power, which is
super strength to take your belt.

Craig tries to take the belt and it begins CRACKS off.

CRAIG (CONT'D)
Did you hear that? If I keep
pulling-

The Master looks worried as Craig continues to pull on the belt. He almost has it.

ZU
Yes, good job Craig. Now, come on,
we need to figure this out

Zu walks away.

CRAIG
But... Uh.

Craig follows Zu. The Master looks relieved.

MASTER
That is one strong boy.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

The toys sit around the fire as Ego stands up to make an announcement.

EGO
Everyone...

Ego waits for them to get quiet.

EGO (CONT'D)
We're sending four of you to scout
the castle. We do not want you to
enter the castle. We just want you
to see how many guards patrol the
outside, and if you can, listen in
on any conversations... There will
be traps, so be aware... We're
sending over Alicia, the spy.
Hoagie, the wrestler. Crazy Eye,
and Joe, your army bro.

Stealth grabs Ego and pulls him off to the side with Crimson.

STEALTH
I thought we agreed Joe was off the
table for tonight's mission?

EGO

You two agreed. I didn't... He'll be great to lead the group and he has weapons if it comes down to that.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Ego stands near the troops as they're about to leave.

EGO

Joe, I expect you to lead to the group.

(beat)

I want you to listen carefully...

(whispers)

Forget about the scouting... I want you guys to get the Master back tonight. Kill anyone you have to, and get as far as you can... The returning survivors will get the rest of the coin.

ARMY MAN

Sir, not in a million years would I disappoint you... I'll be back with your Master.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (HALLWAY) - NIGHT

The four toys run away from a group of NINJAS. They have the enemies uniform on as lights flash and alarms BUZZ. They look panicked and beat up. Crazy Eye is missing his left arm.

They turn the corner and a ninja jumps down. They turn around to run the other way, but another ninja has appeared. They turn around again and see more ninjas have appeared.

Hoagie barges into the ninjas on the right knocking them back. Alicia works on the ninjas on the left with Joe who uses his hand to hand combat skills.

The street fighter helps Hoagie, but he's not of much use since his arm is gone. He uses his kicks the best he can, but the ninjas have proven to be superior fighters.

The ninjas end the troops and Zu talks over the loudspeaker.

ZU (O.S.)

Bring them to the recycling factory.

INT. RECYCLING FACTORY - NIGHT

The ninjas wheel the toys in a bin. They push the bin up to the guy working the conveyor belt, who takes the bin, and places it next to the belt.

NINJA

Zu said to recycle them.
Immediately.

The worker nods and dumps the toys on the belt. The worker turns on the belt as the toys lay there not knowing their fate.

They continue down the belt about to be crushed.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Ego, Stealth, and Crimson sit outside. Ego paces around.

EGO

Something's wrong... I can feel it.

STEALTH

It's a simple scouting mission.
Calm down.

EGO

Yeah, you're right... A simple
scouting mission.

INT. RECYCLING FACTORY

The toys get crushed, destroyed, and obliterated as Ego's words are heard over the toy's death.

EGO (O.S.)

Yeah, you're right... A simple
scouting mission.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

They're still around the fire.

EGO

What if Zu's hurt the Master?

STEALTH

You know no one can hurt the
Master.

EGO

Zu's smarter than you think. If he's kidnapped the Master, he surely has some sort of special skill set.

A ninja star from the sky falls right between the ninjas as they sit at the table.

Crimson takes the letter attached and reads.

CRIMSON

(reading)

It needs to be you. The three of you. He's still alive, but for how long?

Crimson takes a picture out of the envelope. He shows it to Stealth and Ego. The picture's of the Master tied in the machine.

He notices two more pictures. He takes them out. One is of the Master as he was tied from the room and the other of the toys being recycled.

EGO

What is that machine? What is he trying to do to the Master?

(beat)

We have to save him now.

STEALTH

That's not a good idea... He has the numbers. He's beaten us at everything so far.

CRIMSON

He's creative, Ego. He's out thinking us.

EGO

I don't care about creativity... I'm going to pound the shit out of this guy.

STEALTH

You're letting your temper get in your line of thought.

EGO

Then, I'll sleep on it. If I feel the same way in the morning, I'm going to rescue him.

Ego stands up.

EGO (CONT'D)
 Tomorrow we march... The other toys
 failed their mission, tomorrow we
 won't fail ours... Any survivors
 will get the remaining coin.

The toys cheer a bit.

STEALTH
 Seems like you've already made up
 your mind.

INT. CASTLE (BEDROOM) - NIGHT

Ego lays in the bed alone. He's awake and thinking.

INT. CASTLE (NINJAS BEDROOM) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson lay in the bed. They're not sleeping
 either.

STEALTH
 He's going to ruin this for us.
 He's too hot-headed.

CRIMSON
 He'll come to his senses. No one
 thinks clearly when they're
 enraged.

STEALTH
 I hope he does.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson come outside to see a fire that's
 recently been put out. Ego and his troops are about to leave
 as Stealth stops them.

STEALTH
 Ego...

Ego comes up to her.

STEALTH (CONT'D)
 You're going to leave? Just like
 that? Without even telling me?

EGO

What's the difference? I'm going to be back by dinner with the Master. Zu is no match for me.

STEALTH

No... No. If you leave with those troops, don't come back... You won't be welcome here anymore.

CRIMSON

Yeah, don't do this, Ego. It's clearly a trap. He knows your weaknesses.

EGO

I wish you knew my strengths...

Ego pushes past them and begins to lead his troops. Stealth sheds a tear. Crimson notices and hugs her.

CRIMSON

We can do this without him.

STEALTH

We're going to have to.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Ego marches the troops down the sidewalk.

EXT. SIDEWALK - LATER

Ego continues his march.

EGO

Not much longer.

EXT. SIDEWALK - LATER

They approach a road they need to cross. The path they must take involves crossing a two sided road onto a grass divider and crossing from the grass divider onto the sidewalk on the other side.

EGO

You must rely on your instincts... Like so.

Ego crosses the road and dodges everything that comes his way. He gets onto the grass divider and crosses the road to the other sidewalk. He makes it look easy.

The other toys wait for the cars to stop before they cross. As they cross, the Beast's leg breaks off. He tilts over, about to fall. He leans back, gets his balance. He tries to hop to the grass divider as the vampire and the mercenary reach the divider.

They encourage him on as he hops. Two lights are seen. A self-driving car comes drifting up the hill. It's driving at a fast speed. The Beast tries to jump out of the way, but the car runs over the Beast's lower half.

His lower half becomes one with the road but his upper stomach, neck, and head are just fine.

BEAST

Go on without me. If I don't get crushed into the road, even more, come back with a spatula.

MERCENARY

Wouldn't do anything else.

They go to the edge of the grass divider and stare over to Ego.

VAMPIRE

Well, I'm not scared if you aren't.

MERCENARY

What if I am?

VAMPIRE

Then, I'm in quite a shock.

EGO

What are you waiting for? If you've gotten this far, you can make it all the way.

They wait for the last car to pass and they run as fast as they can. They make it to the other side in a safe manner.

MERCENARY

Either way, I had to cross the road. I figured to stick with the guy paying me.

They turn to stare at the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

They walk along the path.

EGO
Be on the watch for, enemies,
traps, or anything else that could
ruin our mission.

Ego puts his arm up indicating for them to wait. They do. He throws a ninja star at a wire and sets off a trap. They continue past it.

They walk and reach the option of three paths. The path on the left has a sign that has a picture of spikes, a hole, and fire. And under the pictures, it says, "TRAPS".

The middle path has a picture of a huge fury and scary silhouette. It says, "CREATURES."

The path on the right has a picture of the brain. It says, "MIND GAMES".

EGO (CONT'D)
I vote for mind games. My mind is
impenetrable and no illusion will
work on me.

EXT. WOODS (MIND GAME PATH) - NIGHT

Ego walks near the Vampire and Mercenary. The trees hide the sky from them but lights are lit all around in the trees. The lights get dimmer and dimmer as they walk. It becomes pitch black.

A white flare is set off. Ego shields his eyes.

EGO
Follow my voice and you'll find
me... Follow my voice and you'll
find me.

The flare fades as the lights come back on. The Vampire and the Mercenary are gone.

Ego sees the Master down the path.

EGO (CONT'D)
Master?

The Master SCREAMS in pain.

MASTER

Save me. Ego... Come to your senses
and save me.

Ego tries to run to the Master, but he's stuck. He fights it and the Master fades away. He gets unstuck and his force sends him face first to the ground.

He gets up and sees Zu with the Master's head. This time, he's able to run, and he runs into the illusion. It disappears and he stops right as he's about to fall off the mountain ledge.

He gets his balance and turns around to see the Vampire and the Mercenary staring at him. He's sweating and confused.

EGO

That was a nightmare.

MERCENARY

Was it? I got to see my mom again.

VAMPIRE

I had quite a good time as well.

EGO

Well, I didn't. I nearly threw up
from the horror I saw.

MERCENARY

Whatever it was, Ego, it wasn't
real.

EXT. WOODS (PATH) - LATER

They continue down the path.

EGO

This castle's known for its complex
system of underground tunnels...
Most of the castle is hidden in the
mountains.

They can see three small castle architecture buildings. Only the middle one has a door. They run up out of the woods to the buildings, which are in an open area.

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

They run up to the hidden castle.

MERCENARY

I thought you said there'd be toys
to fight?

As the Mercenary says this, NINJAS come jumping out of the shadows.

MERCENARY (CONT'D)

That's more like it.

The Mercenary uses all her tools except her gun. She kicks the ass of everyone she faces as does Ego and the Vampire.

The Vampire bites his opponents and uses them as a shield to grab the next.

Ego's technique in close range combat is unbeatable. They wipe the floor of the ninjas and Ego goes up to every ninja and checks their pockets.

He finds a key on one of the ninjas and takes it from him.

EGO

This will make things easier.

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

They stand in front of the small castle with the door.

VAMPIRE

What are you waiting for, sir?

MERCENARY

Do you want me to go first?

The Mercenary grabs the key from Ego and tries it in the lock. It doesn't fit. It's too big.

EGO

That key is not for the front door.
And plus, one never enters through
the front anyway.

Ego goes to the side where there's a small sunroof type window. He squeezes through it.

INT. SMALL CASTLE BUILDING - NIGHT

Ego sees the trap at the front door and disables it. He opens the door and grabs the key off the Mercenary.

There's a lot of paintings and bookshelves on the wall.

MERCENARY

So, where does this key go?

EGO

I'm not there yet.

They look around for a switch or a lever or something else along those lines.

They struggle to find it, but the Vampire pulls on a book and a slot for a key is exposed. Ego puts the key in the lock and turns it. The floor moves and the stairs are exposed.

INT. STAIRS - NIGHT

They walk down the stairs, which leads to an elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

They enter the elevator to see it only has one button. They push the button and the elevator moves.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

They exit the elevator and walk forward, which is the only option. When they walk forward the floor begins to tilt. They try to balance the floor out, but they are not quick enough.

They slide down the floor, which acts as a chute.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (OPEN AREA) - NIGHT

They land right where Zu wanted them to. They're surrounded by sixty enemies with only one way out, to fight.

The enemies close in on Ego, the Vampire, and the Mercenary. They stay packed together as they fight off the ninjas. They fight well for being so outnumbered, but their numbers get the best of them.

The Vampire goes down first. Then, the Mercenary. Ego knocks out more toys, but he knows this is a fight he can't win. He's hurt and out of breath.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

The Master meditates.

MASTER

Ego is near... But, oh no. He's not
with the others.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (OPEN AREA) - NIGHT

He gets up and backs away. The remaining ninjas come after him. There's not many left, but he can't take them. He backs up and one comes at him. He deflects the kick as he dodges another.

Another comes and he's kicked right into the stomach. The force sends him into the wall where he goes through it as it spins.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (TUNNEL) - NIGHT

He tumbles down the tunnel and makes a quick recovery. He crawls out of there as fast as he can.

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE (MOUNTAIN) - NIGHT

Ego comes crawling out of the mountain. He slides down the mountain as he laughs and cries.

EGO

If they'd only listen.

He comes to a stop at the bottom of the mountain. He looks destroyed.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Ego stumbles on the sidewalk. He's hurt but ventures on. He comes across an energy drink. It's open. He picks it up and shakes it. There's some left so he takes a sip.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Ego bangs on the castle door.

EGO

(shouting)

Stealth, I need to speak with you.

Stealth comes out after a moment. She looks tired and annoyed.

STEALTH

I thought I told you not to come back... Unless you've actually succeeded?

EGO

No... I didn't succeed. But-

STEALTH

-Then, if you didn't succeed, you must be here to apologize?

EGO

No. I'm here to do the exact opposite.

Ego takes a sip of his energy drink.

STEALTH

Classy, Ego.

EGO

(beat)

If you would have listened to me, we could have gotten the Master back. I took on at least forty enemies myself... But, no... You had something to prove... Well, now I want to prove something to you... I want you one on one.

STEALTH

I always wished this day would come.

Stealth walks down to Ego and Crimson comes out of the castle.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Finally, I can prove what a sorry sack of shit you are.

This upsets Ego. He comes charging at Stealth who dodges his attack while tripping him.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Do you want me to coach you like the Master would?

He gets up and tries with attack another. He fails. He's not in his best form.

STEALTH (CONT'D)
Or are you unteachable like the
Master always said?

He gets up and tries with one last attack, but he fails to land anything on Stealth, and she trips him again.

STEALTH (CONT'D)
Leave now or you'll regret it for
the rest of your short life.

Ego gets up and limps away.

EXT. WOODS (PATH) - NIGHT

Ego falls to the ground and begins to cry.

EGO
I've made a great mistake.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Zu talks to the Master.

ZU
Did you hear? Ego and his little
army have been destroyed.

MASTER
Ego has not been destroyed.

ZU
And, how do you know that?

MASTER
Intuition... It's the greatest gift
one can possess.

ZU
Believe what you want... I'll soon
have the best of them and I'll
finally get my belt.

MASTER
Time will tell the story, Zu. And,
when the time comes, you must
accept your fate or face dire
consequences.

Zu scoffs.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego crawls through the woods and comes upon a large ditch. He crawls in it and lays there.

INT. CASTLE (NINJAS BEDROOM) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson sleep in bed. They look at peace.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego gets drilled by rain. He tries to sleep as rain bounces off his head.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson get into a camouflaged suit. They have binoculars, a camera, and smoke bombs.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

They look at the hidden castle from a distance. They blend into the woods. They SNAP pictures of the surrounding buildings, the mountain, and the GUARDS.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson have set up a huge corkboard. They have pictures and drawings up there. They have a blueprint of the hidden castle, but it's not yet complete.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson look at the picture of the uniform as they sew a replica.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

They finish with the sewing and try the uniforms on. Stealth has done a slightly better job than Crimson. In fact, his is quite bad.

STEALTH

I'll sew you a better one. Just to be safe...

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth sews the uniform. There's a pile of uniforms next to her.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Crimson tries the uniform on. It fits.

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson blend in as workers as they unload a truck. The truck is a shipment full of different kind of cheeses.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

They walk in the hallway of the castle. They come up to the drop location and they place the boxes of cheese down.

They slip away and continue down the hall. They try to look for anything they could use to their advantage for later and they take pictures of everything.

CRIMSON

What is he doing with all that cheese?

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Zu has a guard cutting slices of cheese and putting them under the Master's nose.

Zu takes a slice of a cheese and smells it.

ZU

Ugh. Make him smell this one... It smells worse than the time I left my hand on the heater for too long.

Zu hands the slice to the guard and he puts it under the Master's nose.

MASTER

(gags)
Indeed, this is the worst one yet.

ZU

Are you ready to give me the belt?

MASTER

You must try harder for that to occur.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson's hands are over the blueprint as they draw the first floor. They draw all the traps, the hidden doors and tunnels, and etc. Their hands fade away as the drawing becomes complete.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego lies in the large ditch. He has a picture of the Master, Stealth, Crimson, and himself, smiling and huddling around each other. They're younger in the photo than they are now.

He weeps as he looks at the photo.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson carry plants to cover their faces. When they pass everyone, they throw the plants and make a run for it.

They run to the stairs and go down to the second floor. They take pictures when they're alone. They pass toys but no one pays attention to them.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

The Master meditates in his cell.

MASTER

I can feel the presence of them,
but they're always missing one...
If they only knew the vision
included them all being here...

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson draw the second floor to the right of the first floor. They label each room and etc.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego lies in the ditch as he continues to look at the picture. He continues to weep as the ditch is twenty percent full of his tears.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson go down to the third floor and document it.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson draw the third floor on the blueprint. They have just one more to go. The prison floor.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego lies in the ditch as he floats in his tears. The ditch is now more than half way full.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson go walk down the stairs to the prison floor.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

They try to go to the cells, but a guard blocks them.

They take pictures of the room.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

They finish the blueprint by completing the fourth floor. The corkboard has all the pictures they've taken, they have multiple uniforms hung nearby, and a few weapons.

STEALTH

Let's get a good rest. We need to
be at our best for tomorrow.

EXT. WOODS (LARGE DITCH) - NIGHT

Ego floats on a raft in the ditch. His eyes are red and he has a full beard. His tears have filled the ditch up all the way.

EGO

What am I doing? I'm letting my sorrow overcome me... I must not sulk anymore, for sulking leads to more sulking... A new plan must cure my sorrows.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Ego walks around the store. Some of the toys that were around before have been sold out and new toys have taken their place.

As Ego walks, a toy notices him and jumps back. Ego continues to walk until he passes another toy who jumps back as well. Ego walks and a little more and glances at a toy ROBOT.

The Robot shakes as Ego stares at him.

EGO

Have you seen a cowboy around here?

The Robot shakes his head, no. Ego steps forward but turns back around. It shocks the Robot.

EGO (CONT'D)

Why are you so afraid of me? Why is everyone?

ROBOT

You're the toy killer.

EGO

What?

ROBOT

There's a legend around here about you. Every toy you meet disappears or dies.

EGO

I've made mistakes but I'm no killer.

ROBOT

Well, whatever you did, every toy in here despises you.

Two BODYGUARDS come up to him.

BODYGUARD

You need to leave.

EGO
Or what, you're going to make me?

BODYGUARD
You leave now and there's no making. If you decide to stay, there's making.

Ego assesses the situation.

EGO
Fine, but when I come back to be sold, don't be surprised.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth looks at herself in the mirror as does Crimson.

STEALTH
Are you sure it looks good?

CRIMSON
Yes, I'm sure. Everything you've done so far has been perfect.

They stare at each other for a moment.

STEALTH
You're right. We got this. We haven't messed up so far. We can do this.

BLUEPRINT

Stealth points to things on the blueprint as she speaks.

STEALTH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We'll do everything the normal way... We'll enter through the front, go down the stairs to the prison room, get the key from the guard, and rescue the Master...

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson walk up and enter the small castle building.

INT. SMALL CASTLE BUILDING - NIGHT

Stealth takes out her key, pulls a book out of the shelf, and turns the key in the lock.

The floor covering the stairs repels back and they go down.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (UNDERGROUND BASE) - NIGHT

They balance on the floor as they make it to the first floor.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (HALLWAY) - NIGHT

They walk down the hallway and blend in as best as possible. They walk to the stairs and go down to the prison room.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson walk up to the guard.

STEALTH

You're being relieved of your shift.

GUARD #2

Under who's orders? I have kids to feed.

STEALTH

You'll be compensated for your time off.

The guard hands over the keys and leaves.

GUARD #2

Tell whoever ordered this, thanks.

Stealth and Crimson go down to the last door. They haven't gotten this far yet.

They open the door and it leads to stairs. They take the stairs down and it leads to the cells.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

They run up to the Master's cell as he meditates.

STEALTH

Master!

He awakens from his meditation.

MASTER

Stealth, Crimson, it's wonderful to see you, but I wish I could have warned you.

CRIMSON

Warned us about what?

MASTER

Zu knows you're coming. He'll be here any minute.

STEALTH

Let's get you out first. Then we can escape.

Stealth tries the key, but it doesn't work.

MASTER

Only Zu has the key... You have to return with Ego for he possesses enough strength needed to break me out.

STEALTH

There's got to be another way... Ego isn't in his best form at the moment.

MASTER

Get him in his best form... But, you must leave now. If Zu comes with his friend there's a potential for death.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (TUNNEL) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson crawl through a tunnel. They emerge out of the mountain.

CRIMSON (O.C.)

We're going to have to make amends with Ego. You heard the Master. It's the only way.

STEALTH (O.C.)

I can't do it... I just can't.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Zu enters ready to fight but only the Master is there.

ZU
Where are they?

MASTER
Turn around

Zu turns around quick and expects them to be there but they're not. The Master laughs.

ZU
I'm glad you're laughing. Happy hostages are good hostages... Are you ready to give up the belt?

The Master scoffs.

ZU (CONT'D)
Then, I'm going to cut it off.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

The Master's tied up. Zu has a table set up full of weapons. Zu picks up the first one, a chainsaw.

He revs it up and tries to cut the belt off the Master. Sparks fly as the chainsaw is damaged.

He picks up the second weapon, an axe. He tries to chop off the belt but the axe is ineffective too.

MASTER
Shall I stay awake for this? Or is it always going to be this boring?

Zu picks up the third and final weapon on the table, a tiny C4 charge. Zu places the C4 on the belt and detonates it off. The belt is left undamaged.

Zu gets frustrated.

ZU
Ugh. How can this be?

He unsheathes his katana.

ZU (CONT'D)
How could I have forgotten?

He goes to slice the belt off but they act as repelling magnets. The katana is unable to touch the belt or cause any harm or damage to it.

MASTER

You have much to learn... If you truly deserved the belt I would give it to you. But, you can't handle it.

ZU

You listen... I'm going to get that belt. For I am worthy of it. And, when I do, it's going to complete me.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Ego walks down the road as cars pass.

EGO

Perhaps, I can stick my head into an oncoming car and the force will pop my head off... But, there's no good in dying if it's not for a cause.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson sit around the fire.

STEALTH

How are we going to get the Master out?

CRIMSON

I'm not saying we go to Ego, but he should come to us... The Master's vision entailed Ego fighting Zu... That's been what's destined this whole time.

STEALTH

The destiny of something can change. Maybe it was me fighting Zu?

(beat)

And plus, Ego's not in the correct state of mind... He's too far gone to be of any help.

CRIMSON

I trust your instincts, but I trust the Master's more.

STEALTH

(beat)

Why don't we steal the key off Zu himself?

CRIMSON

We might as well challenge him to a fight and we all know how that'll end.

STEALTH

He'll never know we took it... There's an escape tunnel in his office that we can enter through. If he leaves the key in the office we'll take it. If he has it on him, we'll take him out through a sneak attack.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson have laid out their climbing gear on the table. They are dressed in a newer looking enemy uniform. They put the gear around their waist.

EXT. HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson climb the mountain while searching for the tunnel.

CRIMSON

After four hours of searching, we're still zero percent closer to finding the tunnel.

STEALTH

Shhh. We're near. I can feel it in my gut.

Stealth sees a metal handle hidden in the mountain.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

I found it... I found it.

CRIMSON

Shhh.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (TUNNEL) - NIGHT

They crawl down the tunnel.

CRIMSON

Let's hope this leads to Zu's office.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ZU'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Stealth opens the door as quiet as she can. They enter to see a formal office with a nice large wooden desk. Zu is not currently in his office.

STEALTH

Search quickly.

They look through Zu's desk. They open every drawer, but they find nothing.

CRIMSON

How can he not have a hidden spare?

They continue to search.

EXT. LARGE DITCH - NIGHT

Ego walks up to his ditch. He sees the picture of him with the Master, Stealth, and Crimson. He picks it up and stares at it.

A small smile comes on his face. He turns the photo over and on the other side it reads, "Spring of '33 -- A Day to Remember."

Ego envisions that night as the photo starts moving.

EXT. OUTSIDE (PHOTO) - DAY

Ego, the Master, Stealth, and Crimson break their pose for the picture after it's taken.

VOICE #3 (O.S.)

Now, get one with the trophy.

A hand from off-screen hands one of them the trophy. They pose with it and the picture's taken.

EGO (V.O.)
 That was the day we won the
 national hide-and-seek
 competition... We always did great
 things as a group.

EXT. LARGE DITCH - NIGHT

As Ego sits in the ditch staring at the picture, he has an epiphany.

EGO
 We always did great things as a
 group... I've been stubborn for too
 long... I must apologize and if
 they don't accept my apology, my
 life will be as meaningless as the
 time it occupies.

EXT. VILLAGE CASTLE - NIGHT

Ego walks up to see a fire that's recently been put out.

EGO
 Either, they've gone to sleep, or
 they're rescuing the Master.

Ego knocks on the door of the castle. He waits for someone to answer but no one does. He knocks and again and waits. Still no answer. He tries the door and it opens.

INT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Ego walks in.

EGO
 Anyone here?
 (beat)
 What if they already saved the
 Master and moved on without me?
 What if they don't need me like I
 need them?

Ego comes across the blueprint, pictures, uniforms, keys, and weapons. He examines all this and sees on the blueprint where the Master is being held. He takes a uniform and changes.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ZU'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson continue to search for the key, but they find nothing. They see and hard the door knob as it turns. They stare at each other.

Craig and Zu come in with a board game. The ninjas have blended into the shadows.

ZU

Finally, you and I can be together, buddy. I've missed hanging out with you.

CRAIG

Yeah... You've been busy, I get it. But, I'm happy we finally get to play my favorite board game.

Stealth and Crimson come out of the shadows and this frightens Craig.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Ah.

(beat)

Are they here to play too?

ZU

No, Craig. They're here to hurt us.

STEALTH

We're not here to hurt anyone. We just want the key to our Master's cell.

ZU

Well, you're not getting it.

Stealth comes at Zu as he dodges her attacks. Craig moves off to the side, he doesn't want to be a part of this.

Crimson joins in the fight as him and Stealth beat up Zu. Zu's knocked on the ground by Stealth. She takes out her katana.

STEALTH

Backup, Crimson. I want him one on one.

Zu stands up and takes out his special katana. They begin to fight, back and forth as their katana's CLINK together. Neither side makes contact until Stealth sweeps Zu and he falls.

He slides under the desk and gets up. They fight over the desk as Stealth gets her katana stuck in it.

Zu jumps on the desk and kicks her in the face as she tries to get her katana out. She falls backward and Zu comes striking down with his katana. She rolls out of the way, gets up, and knocks Zu's katana out of his hand.

She punches him until he drops to the ground. She takes her katana out of the desk and goes over to him. She's about to end him as Craig gets upset.

CRAIG

No... No... No... Stop it.

She's about to slice Zu's head off as Craig sends out a blue blast. It hits Stealth and she gets knocked into the wall. She falls and goes unconscious.

Crimson reacts and tries to stop Craig but he looks at Crimson and sends one his way too. The blast knocks Crimson out and he falls to the floor.

Craig runs over to Zu and helps him up.

ZU

Good work, Craig. You were always right, you do have superpowers.

CRAIG

No... No. What did I do?

ZU

You did well.

Zu pats Craig on the back.

ZU (CONT'D)

I'll take it from here... Set up the board game and by the time I get back you'll be done.

CRAIG

Okay, but whatever you do, don't kill them.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Stealth and Crimson get thrown in the cell with the Master. He's meditating as always. When they get thrown into the cell they stumble to the ground and wake the Master.

MASTER

(coughs)

Oh, my. Stealth. Crimson. Are you okay? You look in pain.

STEALTH

We're fine.

MASTER

Were's Ego? Have you brought him with you?

They nod no.

MASTER (CONT'D)

I'm ashamed of you two... Sometimes you must deal with an arrogant toy to lead them to a proper life. Some need guidance and some offer guidance. It's the way of life. But, writing someone off is a shameful way to show hospitality.

STEALTH

We're sorry we let you down... I thought I could handle things myself and conform to the leadership role. But, I'd rather be the facilitator. That's when I shine.

CRIMSON

I thought Stealth would be a good leader too... I'm glad she's admitting fault for all this.

MASTER

If you weren't joking I would strike you right now.

STEALTH

(beat)

Where do we go from here?

MASTER

We have to hope Ego has come to his senses.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Ego rides a remote control car down the sidewalk. He makes a quick right turn. A pack of wild dogs, BARK as they chase him.

He looks behind to see they aren't too far away.

EGO

Plastic and electronics do not
taste good. Stop trying to eat me.

He continues down the sidewalk as he comes to a traffic light. The dogs aren't far behind and there's too many cars to cross. He turns his car around and pulls out his katana.

He steps on the gas and the dogs come to a skidding stop. The dogs are afraid as Ego gets near them trying to joust.

The dogs turn around and run as fast as they can. Ego's victorious.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ZU'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Zu and Craig play the board game. Craig rolls a ten and moves his character as he counts out loud.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

The Master, Stealth, and Crimson sit in the cell. They look bored as the Master meditates.

STEALTH

Why are you always meditating?

MASTER

Meditation is key to internal and external success... It also helps keep my mind strong... I am getting old you know?

(beat)

But, sooner or later Ego will be here to rescue us.

STEALTH

(beat)

For as smart and wise as you are, you have Ego figured out all wrong... He was such a mess last time we saw him.

CRIMSON

Yeah, he was in no shape to save anyone from anything.

Other toys turn around and notice Ego running. They block his path. Ego turns back around to run but more ninjas have shown up. He turns again to see even more on the right side.

He unsheathes his katana and grabs a ninja from the left. He uses the ninja as a shield as the other ninjas cautiously try to strike him. Ego cuts the ninja's throat and drops him to the floor. He moves to the left as he swings, then to the right.

He tries to keep his distance from both sides as a ninja comes from the right. Ego cuts him as he gets hit from the left. He swings back and misses. He sheathes his katana.

He gets hit from the left and gets pushed into the ninjas on the right. They split as he falls through them. They huddle around as they kick him.

Ego backs up and stands up. He takes out a smaller blade as one of the ninjas pushes another ninja towards Ego. Ego slices the ninja. Another ninja comes at him, they exchange blows as Ego tackles him into the group of ninjas driving them backward.

Some of the ninjas fall, some don't. A few more come at the same time and they get him to the floor. They kick him to the point of where he looks dead.

They look done with him as a ninja gives him one last kick. Ego looks done for sure, but a second later he sweeps the nearby ninjas, and stands up. They stand up as well as he's on the right, and they're on the left.

The remaining ninjas come at him, but they're just as hurt as he is. He fights them one on one as he wins each fight. He has cuts in him. He looks damaged, but he continues on.

He enters the stairwell.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (STAIRWELL) - NIGHT

Ego falls down them. He stays like that for a moment as he breathes. He lets out a short LAUGH and gets up.

He goes to the fourth and final floor.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Ego motions for the guard to come near him. The guard does and Ego snaps his neck. The guard falls and Ego takes the key.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (CELL) - NIGHT

Ego walks up to the cell as the three of them meditate. He clears his throat and they awaken. They stand up and get as close as they can to him.

STEALTH/CRIMSON/MASTER

Ego!

EGO

Everyone.

Ego bows and they bow back.

MASTER

Didn't I tell you he'd come?

EGO

Before we go any further. I would like to say something... I'm deeply and truly sorry for the decisions I've made. They weren't in the best judgment, but I've come to realize my weaknesses, and that's how I'm growing.

STEALTH

We're sorry too... I shouldn't have treated you so poorly. You're clearly doing something right because you're not the one behind bars.

They laugh a little and Ego tries the key. It doesn't work.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Only Zu has the real key.

EGO

So, how do I get you out?

The Master takes off his belt.

EGO (CONT'D)

You think I'm ready?

MASTER

To make the sacrifice, yes. To yield the powers without any harm, no.

The Master puts the belt through the food slot and Ego takes it. He stares at the belt for a moment before putting it around his waist. He takes a breath and clicks the belt on.

Ego starts to shake and SCREAM in pain. He's growing taller and more muscular. He falls to the ground, the pain is too much.

MASTER (CONT'D)

Fight it.

Ego fights the side effects of the belt. He stands up, gets in a nice stance, and ninja chops the fuck out of the glass. It shatters around Stealth, Crimson, and the Master leaving them without harm.

They celebrate and embrace.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (HALLWAY) - NIGHT

The ninjas and the Master walk down the hallway. Ego destroys everyone in his path.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ZU'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

The ninjas and the Master enter Zu's office with a look of anger on their faces. Zu and Craig play the board game as they react when they walk in.

EGO

We want your head.

ZU

All of you versus Craig and I?
That's not fair.

MASTER

Craig can take us all if he knew
how to harness his powers.

ZU

While that's true, he doesn't...
So... Can I suggest something?

They nod.

EGO

Go on...

ZU

You and me, one verse one.

EGO

(beat)

What are your demands if you win?

ZU

When I win, I want your head. I want the belt, and I want Stealth to be my personal slave... Or, maybe after I kill you, I'll fight them for their lives as well.

EGO

And, if I shall win, I want your head and your head alone...

STEALTH

And, I'll take the suit and katana.

ZU

Fine. Let me change into my suit and you may have some time with your teammates... We'll meet in the arena hall.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (LOCKER ROOM) - NIGHT

The Master trains Ego for the last time. Stealth and Crimson sit by his side.

MASTER

Ego, I know you said you've come to your senses, but remember, being hot-headed is your biggest enemy... But, even so, I have you by a landslide.

EGO

Thank you, Master.

CRIMSON

Ego, good luck out there.

EGO

Thanks.

STEALTH

Good luck... The fact that we trust you with our lives should be enough confidence to last two thousand fights.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (LOCKER ROOM) - NIGHT

Zu's changed into his suit. He cleans his katana. Craig sits next to him.

CRAIG

(beat)

I hope you win, Zu. I don't want to see you die.

ZU

I'm not going to die, you can count on that... And, remember. I'm doing this for us.

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ARENA) - NIGHT

The hard surfaced arena is square with ropes around it, like a boxing ring, but the surface is not bouncy and it's much larger.

There's a large crowd as the announcer, announces the ninjas in.

ANNOUNCER

Weighing in at four pounds, with a height of twelve inches, in the blue corner and blaanaack suit, Zuuuuuuuuuuu.

The crowd cheers as Zu comes out and goes to his corner. Stealth, the Master, and Crimson boo.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Weighing in at five pounds, and a height of fifteen inches, in the red corner, Eeeeeeeegoooooo.

The crowd boos as Stealth, the Master, and Crimson cheer. Ego walks to his corner.

The REF motions them to meet in the middle and they do.

REF

Let's have a fair clean fight...
You may now touch katanas.

They don't touch katanas and they go to their respected sides.

REF (CONT'D)

Fight on.

The crowd cheers as the fight begins. Katana meets katana. Both are having a difficult time getting a clean hit.

Ego gets in a good shot and the crowd boos. It stumbles Zu who comes back with one of his own. The crowd cheers and boos with each hit Zu dishes and receives.

Ego wins the round with a good slice to Zu's arm. The bell DINGS and they go back to their respected sides. Ego sits on the stool as they massage and help him out.

EGO

(to the Master)

What are you trying to put me to sleep?

MASTER

I'm good with my hands...

Stealth gives him some water as the bell DINGS.

He stands up as does Zu and they meet in the middle. A fire is nearly created from the sparks that fly off their blades meeting. Each side wants to end the other quick, but the big strikes aren't working.

Zu counters when Ego strikes to hit him with a haymaker slice. Zu dodges the swing and kicks Ego to the ground. Ego rolls up and comes at Zu.

Zu once again counters Ego's attack with an attack of his own. Ego gets up quick again and the bell DINGS.

Zu sits down as Craig helps him recover.

ZU

Told you. Once you get him a little rattled, he's lost and confused...
I can win this.

The bell DINGS and they step up to each other. Ego comes out defensively this time, not swinging much. Zu strikes with quick precise attacks that are slowly wounding Ego. Ego starts to swing big again. He lands one good attack, but the rest of the round he's dominated by Zu.

When the bell DINGS Ego throws his katana to Stealth. She catches it as Ego runs to Zu and pushes him. Zu stumbles forward a bit and turns around.

EGO

Forget the bell. Forget the rounds.
Let's make it a fight to the death.
This is round one.

Zu gives his katana to Craig. Zu and Ego begin to fight. They throw kicks, jabs, punches, grappling techniques, and just about everything else you could in a fight.

Ego gets in a counter punch that hurts Zu. Zu stumbles as Ego hits him with a chain of punches. Zu falls to the ground.

EGO (CONT'D)

I knew you were no match for me.

Zu gets up. He's hurt.

He throws an attack but misses. He throws another. Ego counters with a kick. Zu stumbles, he's out of it. Ego hits him with one last kick as Zu falls to the floor.

EGO (CONT'D)

Give me my katana.

Stealth throws the katana to Ego. He puts it up to Zu's neck.

ZU

Just do it. Kill me already... I always knew you were better than me. I always knew everyone was.

(beat)

I'm the cheapest toy on the market in an upscale neighborhood. No rich kid wants to show up with a toy who looks like he was manufactured in a dog's mouth... I needed all these fancy items in hopes someone will want me then... If no one wants to buy me, I might as well be dead.

Ego pulls down Zu's hood as well as his own. He stares at Zu.

EGO

That's where I know you from...

INT. MASSIVE FACTORY - NIGHT

Ego and a bunch of look-a-likes are going through the factory as they are packed in place. They each have their own slot as they go through. Our Ego's slot is loose. As he moves along the conveyor belt, he sees the Ego's in front of him getting the company logo stamped on the bottom of their feet.

Our Ego's turn is up. He lifts his leg for the stamp and when he does, the belt jams. He gets popped up into the air and the stamp only gets a little of the logo on his foot.

He falls down into the seemingly endless factory. But, as he falls, he's grabbed by another toy on the belt. The toy pulls him up on the belt. It's Zu.

EGO
How can I ever repay you?

INT. HIDDEN CASTLE (ARENA) - NIGHT

Ego stares at Zu and exposes the bottom of his foot.

EGO
It was you.
(beat)
You're the one who saved me.

ZU
(nodding)
Yes... I'm good at heart... I just
want to be loved too.

Zu begins to cry. Ego puts his katana away.

EGO
Since you saved my life, I will
spare yours.

The crowd cheers. Stealth, Crimson, the Master, and Craig rush the stage.

Ego hugs his friends as Craig hugs Zu.

STEALTH
We knew you could do it.

CRIMSON
Yeah, we're proud of you.

The Master pulls Ego off to the side where it's a little quieter.

MASTER
Sometimes not killing a man is more
courageous than killing a man...
You did the right thing.

EGO
Thank you... I think it's time I
returned this.

Ego takes off the belt and gives it to the Master who accepts it back. Ego winces in pain.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The ninjas and the Master walk on the path with Craig and Zu seen in the distance in front of them.

Ego looks weak and slow. He takes a breather from walking and they stop.

STEALTH
Ego, are you okay?

MASTER
He's weak from the effects of the belt.

Ego faints and falls to the ground.

CRIMSON/STEALTH/MASTER
Not carrying him...

MASTER
Damn.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The Master carries Ego as they walk in the woods. The Master looks tired as well.

MASTER
Can... Someone... Take... Him...

He gets lower with every word. Crimson comes up to the Master and takes Ego from him.

CRIMSON
Don't worry. I'll carry him.

The Master straightens up.

MASTER
Sucker...

There's a beat as Crimson accepts his new role.

STEALTH
Is it curable? What's ever wrong with Ego?

MASTER
I'm afraid I do not know. I did not see this occurring in my vision. Possibly, I couldn't bare such an event in my mind.

(MORE)

MASTER (CONT'D)

For I am part human and ignorant of things as well.

CRIMSON

No one's faulting you... The events that occurred had to happen. Ego had to sacrifice his life for us. It was his fate, and now it's our fate to bring him back.

STEALTH

(beat)

What about Zu? He should know how to cure the side effects. He has two special items.

They look ahead but Zu and Craig are long gone.

CRIMSON

Now, we just need to find him.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Zu and Craig come to a confusing crossroad.

ZU

It's left.

CRAIG

I personally, would go right.

ZU

Are you sure?

CRAIG

Positive.

ZU

Okay, then. I trust your instincts.

They walk right.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

The ninjas and the Master come to the same crossroad.

CRIMSON

I say right if I remember correctly.

STEALTH

I remember it being straight.

CRIMSON

Okay, then. I trust your instincts.

They walk straight.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The ninjas and the Master walk up to the toy store. They walk up to the front doors and stand in front of them. They open.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

They enter to see toys doing what they've always been doing at night. Having fun. A few toys stop what they're doing when they see Ego around Crimson's shoulder.

TOY #2

You killed the toy killer?

CRIMSON

Huh? Toy killer?

TOY #2

Yeah, the guy around your shoulder... There's a legend about him around here.

Stealth gets in the toy's face.

STEALTH

You better watch what you say next.

The toy backs off.

TOY #2

I'll keep it to myself then.

CRIMSON

(beat)

Have you seen a person named Zu around here?

He shakes his head no.

TOY #2

No. Never heard of him.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA AISLE) - NIGHT

They check the aisle and call out for Zu, but he's not there.

STEALTH

Zu... Zu...

CRIMSON

Master, are you getting anything?

MASTER

Nothing. My senses are blocked.

STEALTH

He should've been here by now. He was in front of us.

CRIMSON

Maybe, he decided not to come here?

STEALTH

Maybe... Let's wait a little longer, and if not we'll check somewhere else.

Time passes quickly as their faces frown more and more with each passing second.

STEALTH (CONT'D)

Another detour before being sold.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

They walk near the front doors as they open. Zu and Craig come walking through.

STEALTH

Zu! Finally! What took you so long?

ZU

He said right, we went right.

(beat)

What happened to Ego?

CRIMSON

He fainted from the side effects of the belt... We wanted to ask you if you knew of any cures since you have two items?

ZU

I don't run on a chip, you guys do. His chip could be fried from all the power and energy he possessed from the belt...

(MORE)

ZU (CONT'D)

Or, the belt drained his power, and the chip is recharging... My guess is he'll be back on, but when, I do not know...

STEALTH

(to Crimson/Master)

We have to find another box for us so we can be sold. Ego made this sacrifice for this reason.

ZU

I wish you four the best of luck.

STEALTH/CRIMSON

Thanks.

STEALTH

Where does that leave the two of you?

CRAIG

I'm a best seller. I'll be fine.

ZU

I'm going to return to my box in hopes of being sold.

STEALTH

(beat)

Why don't we make a deal? If you help us obtain a box from the basement, we'll let you be sold with us. And who knows, maybe you'll be played with?

INT. TOY STORE (BASEMENT) - NIGHT

Stealth, Crimson, and Zu run away from a trail of huge red ants as they carry a generic box. Zu takes his grappling hook and shoots it up the stairs. They grab on as the grappling hook repels in.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA ISLE) - NIGHT

They have the plain white box on the shelf.

STEALTH

Zu. You're in first.

ZU

Let me say my goodbye to Craig.

Zu takes Craig over to the side.

ZU (CONT'D)

It's been an adventure with you,
buddy. I wish you the best.

CRAIG

You too, Zu. I'll see you on the
other side.

Craig hugs Zu and leaves. Zu hops in the box. They place a piece of bubble wrap in the box to separate themselves with him.

They help the Master get in, then Ego. Crimson gets in next and Stealth takes the box and turns it. There's a sticker that reads, "Awesome Ninja Set".

She displays the sticker and puts the box in an obvious location. She cuts the box so the faces of each ninja are displayed. She gets in the box and closes the top.

They all put on their best smiles.

INT. TOY STORE (NINJA ISLE) - DAY

Kids pass the box not really looking at it. It's not enticing enough for most kids to want it. But, one kid, near the end of the day, comes up to the box and reads the sticker. He picks up the box and puts it in the shopping basket. The kid has already put Craig in the basket as well.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The mom and the kid sit in the back. The kid plays with Craig.

KID #3

I can't wait to open my other toys.

MOM #2

When we get home, honey.

Ego regains consciousness. He's confused.

EGO

Where are we?

STEALTH

(whispering)

Ego! We've been bought.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The kid opens the box. He gets Stealth, Crimson, Ego, and the Master out, and poses them. He reaches in the box for more and feels Zu.

He takes Zu out and looks at him.

KID #3
What's this junk?

He fires Zu off the wall and Zu slides down into the garbage can. The kid begins to play with the ninjas and the Master and Craig.

He plays with them for a while as time passes. They smile as they're played with, except for Ego. He still seems out of it.

MOM #2 (O.S.)
Nile, come down and take your vitamins before bed.

KID #3
Okay, mom!

The kid runs out of his room. The toys feel and look great.

STEALTH
That was amazing!

EGO
(beat)
I couldn't feel... I couldn't feel anything... Not any of it...

The camera zooms out.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END