

THE AUDACIOUS ADVENTURES OF
THE KOKO KID

by
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FADE IN: TITLE CARD - SOMEWHERE BEYOND TIME AND SPACE

The Big Bang explodes in a sea of stars, forming our Solar System as ...

Planet Earth emerges, then ...

Breaking through the hemisphere, North America and its Southwest region become recognizable and ...

Finally, a horizon of vast high desert with dramatic rock formations comes into view.

One rock wall catches our attention. It is covered with petroglyphs or prehistoric drawings. Some are swirls and handprints, while others are elaborate hunting scenes, dance circles and other rituals.

We focus on one particular series featuring Kokopelli, the wild-haired, guileful character of mythic lore. Here the trickster is playing a flute ...

There he's stealing a gourd from a group of women, who chase him across the desert ...

Then he's sitting in a tree with the women below, their fists in the air. Suddenly--

A real human hand appears, using a crude chisel to carve the artwork on the wall.

As the hand places the finishing touches on the last scene, the trickster character actually begins to stir on the tree branch.

It turns its head in either direction, then below toward the angry women. Facing forward, the character shrugs its stick-like shoulders and jumps.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOLYARD, SMALL TOWN, SOUTHWEST U.S. - DAY

A small medallion, decorated with a character that looks a lot like the one from the rock wall, flips in the air ...

And hits the head of COLE LONEMAN (12), a cute, slight, fair-skinned boy who's kneeling as he locks his bicycle. He rubs his head.

COLE
Hey! Watch it!

JONATHAN (12), a small Native American boy wearing thick glasses, leans over to pick up the medallion. He almost falls over from the weight of his oversized backpack.

JONATHAN

Sorry.

COLE

It's okay.

Cole stands, gathers his things and walks along with Jonathan through a busy schoolyard. Jonathan continues to flip the medallion as he walks, losing it yet again near a pair of students playing rock-paper-scissors.

JONATHAN

Still wanna work on that science project after school?

COLE

I don't know. I'm kinda busy.

JONATHAN

It's due Friday, you know. I could start it.

COLE

No, I don't trust--I don't think that's fair. I'll get back to ya.

Cole tugs his pants up and joins ALEX FRANKEN (13), a pretty brunette who's hanging out with an obviously cool clique.

IGGY BRUTSON (13), a dark-haired jockish ruffian, and KEV DANSEN (13), his partner in crime, stand next to Alex. Iggy whispers in her ear; she GIGGLES.

Cole LAUGHS awkwardly.

COLE

Good one.

Jonathan watches Cole, shakes his head, and walks on.

JONATHAN

You're fooling yourself, Cole.

Iggy turns to Cole.

BILLY

Hey Loneman. Get that English paper done?

COLE

Oh, yeah--

Cole digs in his backpack, hands Iggy some papers.

COLE

Here you go. I just added a few facts, reworded it some. The intro paragraph's new. And the ending
....

IGGY

Cool.

Iggy stuffs the report into his pocket. He turns to Alex with a wink.

IGGY

See you inside.

Alex turns to her friends, who all GIGGLE as Iggy and Kev climb the school steps.

KEV

Why do you even bother with Loneman? He's such a dweeb.

IGGY

Cause he's smart enough to get 'A's, and dumb enough to get 'em for me.

Iggy elbows Kev as they enter the building.

Alex and her girlfriends head up the stairs. Cole follows them inside.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Cole winds his way through the crowded hallway, his gaze on Alex. She stops at a locker, grabs her books.

COLE

Hey, Alex! Wait up!

She SIGHS, closes the locker door.

ALEX

What is it, Cole?

She heads down the hall, Cole in tow.

COLE
It's just, well, I haven't seen you
for a while--

ALEX
I've been extremely busy.

COLE
Oh really? Doing what? Laughing at
Brutson's jokes?

Alex stops in front of a classroom door.

ALEX
Cole, look, I'm sorry, but I don't
think we can hang out anymore. I'm
thirteen now. I mean, I'm on
Facebook!

COLE
But I'll be thirteen in March!

ALEX
Great. You can friend me online.

She enters the classroom. Cole follows her in.

INT. CLASSROOM

Entering the still-settling classroom, Cole takes his seat
behind and across from Alex. He tries to get her attention,
but she ignores him.

Cole watches in disbelief as Iggy flirts with Alex from the
next row over. Cole glares as Iggy says something only Alex
can hear. She GIGGLES as the bell RINGS.

Cole doesn't notice as MR. MINDER (40s), a bespectacled,
unkempt balding man, enters and sets his briefcase on his
desk.

MR. MINDER
All right, settle down.

As the children quiet down, Mr. Minder moves to the
chalkboard and writes: A-N-A-S-A-Z-I-S.

MR. MINDER
Okay, let's get back to Native
American history, shall we? Today
we're going to talk about the
Anasazis.

KEV
Gesundheit!

The children SNICKER.

MR. MINDER
Well thank you, Mr. Dansen.
Although with the grade you're
getting, I'd say you could use a
blessing.

Cole leans over and taps Alex on the shoulder. He shrugs to
say, "What gives?" She turns away.

Mr. Minder turns to IGGY, who's texting on his cell phone.

MR. MINDER
And what are we doing there, Mr.
Brutson?

IGGY
Nothing.

Mr. Minder takes the phone away.

IGGY
Hey!

MR. MINDER
You can have it back after class.
And if I catch anyone else with one
of these, it's detention for a
week.

As he turns his back to the class ...

Every student in the room--some in the middle of texting,
some playing games--puts a phone away.

Mr. Minder slips Iggy's phone in a desk drawer.

MR. MINDER
All right. So, can anyone tell me
anything about the Anasazis? (to
Cole) Mr. Loneman?

But Cole is distracted, still trying to get Alex's attention.

MR. MINDER
Mr. Loneman?

Alex turns back to Cole, nods her head emphatically toward
Mr. Minder.

Cole finally turns toward the teacher.

COLE
What, what'd I do?

MR. MINDER
Certainly not your homework. Can you tell me anything about the Anasazis?

Cole looks at him blankly.

MR. MINDER
Chaco Canyon? Rock drawings? C'mon now, Mr. Loneman. Who are the 'Ancients of the Rock'?

COLE
Uhhmm, the Rolling Stones?

The classroom erupts in LAUGHTER.

Mr. Minder shakes his head.

MR. MINDER
Very funny. You can listen to them tonight while you're writing a five-hundred word report to share with the class tomorrow.

Cole GROANS. Some of the kids SNICKER.

MR. MINDER
Anyone else want to write a report, keep it up. Now, let's get back to the lesson.

Cole looks at Alex; she turns away. He slumps in his seat, dejected.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Cole listens to his earbud headphones as he descends the school's front steps.

In the school yard, a circle of children form around two boys. Kev calls out toward the front entrance.

KEV
It's a fight! Fight!

Cole gets bumped as a horde of kids race down the steps.

Intrigued, Cole takes out his earbuds and stretches his head into the gathering crowd--

And sees Iggy taunting Jonathan.

Iggy rushes at Jonathan, who nervously tries to get away. But the other children keep pushing him back toward Iggy.

IGGY
C'mon chief, do the tomahawk dance
for us! Here, let me show you.
Awwwoooo, Awwwoooo

Iggy starts to dance around in a circle, pantomiming a Native American war dance.

Cole watches anxiously as the other kids SNICKER.

Iggy stops dancing. He rips Jonathan's glasses from his head.

IGGY
What ya doing with these? I never
seen no Indian with glasses before.

JONATHAN
Please, I can't see very well

IGGY
Oh, I'm sorry. Here you go.

Cole reaches the front of the crowd as Iggy holds the glasses out to Jonathan. But as Jonathan grabs for them, Iggy tosses them to the ground.

The children LAUGH even harder.

Jonathan, on the ground, scrambles to find his spectacles. Iggy keeps darting in front of him, keeping the boy from his glasses.

Jonathan's upper lip quivers as he fights back tears.

Cole's eyes dart among the children's gleeful faces. He MUTTERS.

COLE
Why don't you just leave him alone,
ya bully?

Kev overhears him.

KEV
You blew it now, Loneman.

Kev turns to Iggy.

KEV
Hey, Iggy! Loneman here says you're
a bully!

Iggy stops, turning his attention toward Cole. Jonathan grabs for his glasses, hands shaking as he puts them on.

Iggy presses up against Cole, towering over him.

IGGY
What'd you say to me?

Cole looks around for help. He catches Alex's eye, but she turns away.

COLE
I just said--well, look, it's not
even a fair fight. You're a giant
next to him!

KEV
You too!

LAUGHTER.

IGGY
So what, you scared of giants,
Loneman?

COLE
Oh, come on, Iggy. What about that
paper I wrote for you?

IGGY
Oh what, now you're accusing me of
cheating?

OOHS and AAHS from the crowd.

Cole GULPS as he watches Iggy's fist pounding rhythmically into his other palm.

COLE
Well, you definitely wrote your
name

IGGY
Oh man, heads are gonna roll!

Suddenly, the crowd's attention shifts.

Iggy grabs Cole's shirt and pulls back his fist. Cole braces for the impact.

Just then, Mr. Minder pushes his way through the crowd.

MR. MINDER

All right, break it up! Break it up!

Iggy drops his hold on Cole.

MR. MINDER

What's going on here?

IGGY

Nothing.

MR. MINDER

Really? Well, you sure do a lot of nothing, Mr. Brutson. And Mr. Loneman, I'm disappointed. I expect more of you.

COLE

But I didn't--

Mr. Minder takes both boys by the arm.

MR. MINDER

Save it. Let's go.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

A plump, middle-aged SECRETARY is busy filing behind the office counter. Cole sits nervously outside the principal's door.

He looks across the room at Iggy, who glares at him.

Cole glances up at the clock, then back at Iggy.

IGGY

(mouthing silently)
You're dead! You're dead!

The office door opens to reveal DOROTHY LONEMAN (late-30s), a stressed-out suburban mom. She turns to shake hands with MR. WEILER (50s), looking like Mr. Rogers in his cardigan.

DOROTHY
Thank you, Mister Weiler. You've
been very fair.

She turns to Cole.

DOROTHY
C'mon, let's go.

Cole rises, follows her out. He turns to Iggy, who "slices"
across his neck.

MR. MINDER
Any word from Mister Brutson's
parents?

Secretary shakes her head no.

Iggy slumps in his seat as the principal returns to his
office.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Cole and Dorothy walk toward the parking lot.

DOROTHY
I really didn't need this today.

COLE
Me, either.

DOROTHY
Don't give me your lip! I had to
take off work. Doesn't look good to
the new boss, you know.

COLE
But, Mom, I didn't--

DOROTHY
I'm sure your father will have
something to say about this when he
comes by tonight.

Jonathan approaches.

JONATHAN
Hey, Cole!

DOROTHY
I'll go get the van.

She walks toward a minivan.

JONATHAN

I just wanted to say thanks. Sorry you got into trouble.

COLE

It's okay. I'm just gonna try to forget about it--'Course I can't, cause I gotta write that dumb report. Geez, what a day!

JONATHAN

Here, I want you to have this--

Jonathan pulls something out of his pocket, holds it out to Cole.

It's his medallion.

JONATHAN

For inspiration.

Cole rolls the coin around in his hand, mesmerized as the figure on it seems to dance.

The minivan pulls up alongside the boys.

JONATHAN

Well, see ya.

COLE

Yeah, see ya.

Cole still gazes at the medallion as he opens the car door and hops in.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLE'S HOUSE - DAY

The minivan pulls into the driveway of a typical middle-class, suburban house.

Cole and Dorothy get out and head to the door.

INT. COLE'S HOUSE

The two enter the foyer. Cole drops his books and heads into the living room.

DOROTHY
No teevee! You've gotta get your
homework done before--

Cole looks out the window.

COLE
Hey, Dad's here!

DOROTHY
What? It's too early.

KYLE LONEMAN (16), a broad-shouldered jockish type, bounds
inside the door.

DOROTHY
What are you doing here?

KYLE
Dad picked me up.

Kyle brushes past Cole, smirking.

KYLE
Heard about your fight. What a
dweeb!

COLE
Shut up!

DOROTHY
Stop it, both of you!

Just then, EDGAR LONEMAN (45) appears in the doorway. He too
is broad-shouldered and handsome, wearing a suit and designer
sunglasses.

DOROTHY
I thought you were picking them up
at six.

COLE
Hey, Dad!

EDGAR
Hey, Cole ... (to Dorothy) Yeah,
well, that's just it. Sherry had
something planned for tonight, so--

Cole's shoulders instantly slump.

DOROTHY
So what? You suddenly can't spend
time with your kids?

EDGAR

That's why I picked him up from school! And I'll still see you Saturday, right, Slugger?

KYLE

Slugger, heh--Good one, dad!

COLE

It's okay. I have to write a report tonight anyway.

EDGAR

There, see? It all works out.

DOROTHY

Well, tonight's my book club. I don't have anything for dinner!

EDGAR

There's nothing I could do ... Look I'll see you Saturday, all right, guys?

KYLE

Yeah, dad. Thanks for the ride!

COLE

Yeah, see ya.

Cole drags himself up the stairs as Dorothy and Edgar continue to go at it.

DOROTHY

You can't keep doing this! Changing plans on them all the time!

EDGAR

What am I supposed to do?

CUT TO:

INT. COLE'S ROOM - LATER

Cole looks through an aquarium at a frog. He taps the glass; the frog doesn't move.

Cole reaches for a jar, pulls out a spider.

He lifts the top of the aquarium, places the spider inside.

Cole sifts through his impressive music collection, puts a CD on the stereo.

Then he sits down at his computer, types.

The screen displays a webpage about the Anasazis. It shows an image of Kokopelli, the humpback mythic character with wild hair playing a flute--the same figure from the rock wall and his medallion.

Cole takes the medallion out of his pocket. He twirls it in between his fingers, mesmerized.

He's startled by a KNOCK.

Dorothy pokes her head in the room. She displays a tray with some chicken and corn on the cob.

DOROTHY

I ordered chicken. Got your favorite, corn on the cob.

COLE

Thanks, Mom.

Dorothy enters, sets the tray on his bed, and sits down.

DOROTHY

Sorry about your dad. He's just really busy now, with the baby--

COLE

I said, it's okay. This report's due tomorrow.

DOROTHY

Well, I'm off to book club. Unless, you wanna talk about what happened at school?

COLE

Not really.

DOROTHY

Okay. You know, you left your helmet again.

COLE

Oh yeah. I'll take it tomorrow, I promise.

She reaches toward the door, turns back.

DOROTHY

Sorry I snapped earlier ... This new boss is a stickler.

COLE
It's all right.

DOROTHY
And your dad really is excited to
spend time with you Saturday.

She smiles, closes the door behind her.

Cole turns to his frog in the aquarium.

COLE
Wonder what his excuse will be this
time, huh, General?

Just then, the frog's tongue reaches out and snatches the
spider.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BIKE SHOP - DAY

Cole sits next to JOE KOKEMAN (30s), a laid-back type with
long hair, a beard, glasses and an easy smile. He plays a
riff on a guitar.

JOE
Hey, don't worry, man. I'm sure
your dad will come around.

COLE
I don't know. I see you more than I
do him.

JOE
Well, I enjoy the company.

COLE
Why don't you have kids?

JOE
Ah, I'm not the kind to settle
down. This here's the longest I've
stayed in one place. Here--

Joe hands the instrument to Cole.

JOE
--You try.

COLE
I don't think I can....

JOE

'Course ya can. Just feel it. Let
it work its magic. Music is like
medicine, man!

Cole closes his eyes and begins to play.

JOE

Yeah, yeah, you got it!

Cole smiles at Joe--and misses a note. He quickly hands the
guitar back to Joe.

COLE

See? I told ya. I can't!

Cole walks over to the counter, gazes at a snake in a
aquarium as Joe starts strumming again.

JOE

You gotta be like that snake. Shed
that old, negative skin of yours.

COLE

Yeah, yeah. I better go. Thanks for
the pump. I'll catch you next week.

Cole picks up a bike pump by the register.

JOE

No worries. Take one of those
ponchos, too. Storm's brewing.

COLE

Okay.

Cole grabs a fold-up rain poncho from the counter.

JOE

And hey ... You can do it, Cole.
You can.

Joe gets lost in his music as Cole leaves.

EXT. JOE'S BIKE SHOP

Cole squats next to his bike, trying to stuff everything into
his backpack.

As he makes room, he takes out his helmet, a rope and a
flashlight, then stuffs them back in.

Finally getting the backpack closed, Cole looks up--

And sees Iggy across the way. The bully sits on his bicycle, glaring at Cole. He punches his fist into his palm.

Cole slowly puts on his backpack, gets on his bicycle, and rides off.

Iggy follows after him.

EXT. SMALL TOWN STREETS

Cole rides along, looking behind him.

Iggy is hot on his tail.

Cole speeds up, zigzagging through the streets. He turns again.

Iggy struggles to keep up.

Cole rides to the edge of town, then takes a quick turn onto a dirt trail. Through the dust a sign reads: Kokopelli Trail.

Cole races down the bike path. As he gets further away from town, he is surrounded by dramatic rock walls. He turns.

There's nothing but dust behind him. Just then--

A rabbit starts across the path.

Turning back, Cole smiles as he pushes the pedals faster. He spots the critter.

COLE

Oh!

He swerves to avoid the rabbit--and hits a large rock instead.

COLE

Ahhhhhhh ...!

Cole does a summersault over his handlebars--

And flies headfirst into a rock wall covered in petroglyphs, just like the one from the opening scene.

But Cole doesn't just hit his head against the rock wall--

He goes all the way through it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TAPUAT - SAME TIME

On the other side of the rock wall lies Tapuat, a world beyond our time and space. The desert landscape appears similar to that of Earth, except it is an elaborately rich, colorful place that veritably vibrates with energy. Even the plants and rocks seem to breathe life.

Cole flies headfirst through the rock-wall portal, landing in a fountain of dust.

COLE

AHHHHHH!

At the same time, KOKO, aka Kokopelli, comes racing toward Cole. A long, lean character with wild dreadlocks, Koko wears a tattered shirt, frayed buckskin pants, and a devilish grin. As in the opening scene with the petroglyphs, Koko is carrying a gourd--

And is being chased by a small group of NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN, who angrily shake their fists at him.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN yells after Koko.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN

Stop stealing our things,
Kokopelli!

PLUMP MATRON does the same.

PLUMP MATRON

You drive us crazy! Go find honest
work to do!

Koko LAUGHS at the women, who can't keep up with him.

KOKO

Hah! Making you crazy is my work,
you old crows!

Koko turns, then stops--as do the women, who GASP in unison at the sight of Cole landing in front of them, rubbing his head.

COLE

Owww!

KOKO

Now that has gotta hurt.

The women SHRIEK in unison. They turn and run away.

KOKO
I was wondering how to get rid of
those old hens. Thanks, little man.

COLE
Huh? What happened? Who are you?

KOKO
Whoa, first things first.

Koko examines Cole's forehead.

KOKO
You're gonna have a nice bump and a
mean headache, but you'll survive.
Here--

Koko reaches into his sack, pulls out a small container.

He tries to dab some mixture on the bump, but Cole keeps
looking around.

KOKO
Hold still. There. That should do
the trick.

He hands the container to Cole.

COLE
So, where am I? 'Cause I've got a
feeling I'm not in Kansas anymore.

Koko examines the rock wall.

KOKO
Kansas? I don't know this Kansas.

COLE
It was a joke.

KOKO
A joke. Hah! You know, I'm a bit of
a jokester myself.

COLE
That's it!

Cole digs in his pocket and pulls out the medallion.

COLE
You look like that trickster dude.
Kokopelli.

KOKO

Right you are, I am he. Roamed from
Peru to Albuquerque. Make the rain,
drive women insane.

Koko pulls out his flute, PLAYS a riff.

KOKO

Play a mean flute, and my, aren't I
cute?

He flutters his eyelashes at Cole.

COLE

But, if you're ... Where am I?
How'd I get here?

KOKO

Through there.

He points at the rock wall.

COLE

A rock? I came through a rock?

KOKO

Headfirst, like this--

Koko backs up against the rock wall. Then he leaps forward,
arms spraying wildly, and does a summersault.

As he lands, he hits his head against a large stone.

KOKO

Ouch!

Cole hands back the container.

KOKO

Thanks.

Koko rubs some of the balm on his head, hands it back to
Cole.

COLE

So, you're saying I came through
the rock.

KOKO

Indeed.

COLE

Okay ... No problem. No reason to
panic

Cole pulls out his iPhone.

COLE
I don't suppose I'd get any bars
here

KOKO
Oh, oh, what's that? Can I see? Let
me see!

Koko grabs the phone from Cole, starts to play with it excitedly.

COLE
Wow, you really haven't seen a
phone before.

KOKO
Phone? What's this phone?

Koko sets off the iPhone's ALARM. Shocked, he drops it.

COLE
Careful! Here--

Cole reaches for the phone, puts it away.

COLE
So, what do I need to do to get
back?

KOKO
Back?

COLE
Yeah, to go back through.

KOKO
Through?

Cole walks over to the rock wall, touches around.

COLE
What, is it a trap door or
something? Do I run at it?

KOKO
Be my guest.

Cole takes a deep breath, then runs at the rock. He bounces back off.

COLE
Owww! That hurt!

KOKO

Well yes, it's a rock. Geez. Coming over must have knocked all the sense out of you.

COLE

But I've gotta get home!

KOKO

Can't help you there, little man. The door hasn't been open on our side for a coyote's age. I didn't think it was still open on yours.

COLE

So, what? You mean ... I'm stuck here?!?

KOKO

Think of it more as a visit. For an indeterminate length of time.

Just then, the sky turns dark overhead and the ground shakes beneath them.

COLE

What was that?

KOKO

I'm not sure

Suddenly, a huge coal-black form covers the sky: It's THUNDERBIRD, a massive, feathered creature with a wicked grin and menacing eyes.

Loud THUNDER cracks as lightning bolts emanate from the creature's wings.

COLE

Duck!

Cole falls to the ground.

KOKO

Actually, that's Thunderbird.

Thunderbird dips directly over their heads.

Koko dives for cover.

Thunderbird slowly turns his hulking frame around. It makes a final passage across the sky. Lightning shoots from his wings as he flies off.

Shaking, the two tentatively rise to their feet.

KOKO
I think we better head back to the
village. We'll get all this
straightened out there--

The two head off down the footpath.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Koko and Cole come upon the edge of a Native American pueblo village.

A few of the buildings are on fire. The villagers rush to put them out.

Some of the women from before are in an animated discussion with other tribal members. The Craggy-Faced Woman turns and spots Koko and Cole.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN
There he is!

The other women point and SHRIEK.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN
He's the one who did this! He
brought Thunderbird!

Now the entire village has surrounded Koko and Cole, who is noticeably nervous.

COLE
What do they mean, I did it?

KOKO
Don't worry, I got this.

Koko addresses the old woman.

KOKO
No, no! You have it all wrong. Look-

Koko leans toward Cole.

KOKO
Pull down your shirt.

COLE

My shirt?

Cole pulls down his dark T-shirt. On it is a white Buffalo Bills logo.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN

Ahh! White Buffalo!

Shocked OOHHS and AHHHS echo among the villagers.

COLE

The Buffalo Bills. So what?

KOKO

It's not just a buffalo, a white one. The ancients tell of a White Buffalo that will return and defeat the Wasichu.

He turns to the women.

KOKO

That's right! This is the White Buffalo, come to free us from the Wasichu's tyranny!

VILLAGERS

(in union)

Yay! White Buffalo free us from Wasichu!

COLE

Wasichu?

KOKO

The Giant. (to women) No more Wasichu, no more Wasichu!

VILLAGERS

(chanting)

No more Wasichu! No more Wasichu!

COLE

Giant?

KOKO

Right. And they think you're going to save them.

The group has closed in tight around Koko and Cole, who's growing visibly more nervous.

COLE
Save them?!?

KOKO
From the Giant! C'mon, keep up.

The villagers reach out for Cole. They lift him above their heads.

COLE
Hey! Hey! What's going on?

The group carries the apprehensive Cole into the village.

Koko trails the crowd, bemused. He pulls out his flute and plays a LIVELY TUNE.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER

The village women are busy preparing a meal, while the children play nearby.

Cole sits cross-legged among a circle of NATIVE ELDERS. Koko sits next to him.

The men talk among themselves, sometimes eyeing Cole.

Cole fidgets, leans over to Koko.

COLE
Why'd you tell them I was the White Buffalo?

KOKO
'Cause they need to believe that you are.

COLE
What does that mean?

Just then, the regally dressed CHIEF ELDER, seated directly across from Cole, suddenly rises.

The circle instantly quiets.

CHIEF ELDER
We give thanks to Wakam Tanka, the Great Mystery, who brings us all things.

The villagers nod in agreement.

CHIEF ELDER

Today, he brings us the safe return
of our dear friend, Kokopelli.

CIRCLE MEMBER

Sometimes not so dear!

CHIEF ELDER

Ah, but he brings us rain, and
music, and laughter. And for these
things, we are grateful.

Koko feigns surprise.

KOKO

Who, little ol' me? I'm touched.
You like me! You really like me!

CHIEF ELDER

We also give thanks for the return
of the White Buffalo, who comes
from the other side to free us from
Wasichu's tyranny!

CHEERS.

COLE

I'm sorry to interrupt, sir. But my
name's Cole. I'm not this White
Buffalo. And I'm not here to free
anyone. I just want to go home!

OOHs and AHHs.

The Chief holds up his hand for silence.

CHIEF ELDER

There is only one person who can
tell us why you are here. Tomorrow,
you will visit the Great Seer.

More OOHs and AHHs.

CHIEF ELDER

She will help you find your way.
But now--let us give thanks for
this food before us.

Instantly, a woman places a plate of food in front of Cole.

Cole watches the others eat. Koko devours his food.

COLE

So, what did you mean when you said
they needed to believe I was the
White Buffalo?

KOKO

Look around you--

Cole scans the village. It is filled with women, children,
the aged and the injured.

KOKO

Since the Giant closed the doorway,
all the braves have set out to find
him. The few that returned are all
wounded. Now there's no one to
hunt. Look--

Cole turns to his plate. It's a meager plate of corn mush.

KOKO

This is all they have to eat.
You're coming over gives them hope.

COLE

But what happens when they find out
I'm no one special? That I'm just a
lost kid?

Koko shrugs.

KOKO

Guess we'll find out tomorrow.

Cole tries the mush.

COLE

So, why do all the men keep going
after the Giant anyway?

KOKO

How would I know? I'm a lover, not
a fighter.

Koko spies a pretty young MAIDEN.

KOKO

Well, hello there--

He flutters his eyes at her. The girl's indignant MOTHER
leads her daughter away.

CUT TO:

INT. SHAMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Cole and Koko stand huddled in a spooky, makeshift hut. There are no windows, although bright light streams through the mismatched slats and around the doorway. A fire glows in the pit.

In front of them sits the SHAMAN, who slowly rocks back and forth in her rickety rocking chair. She's a frightening, toothless character with wrinkly skin made leathery from the sun. She is clearly blind.

Without warning, the Shaman lets out an eerie CACKLE.

Cole fidgets, whispers to Koko.

COLE

So, why do they call her the Great
Seer if she's--

The old woman abruptly stops rocking.

SHAMAN

Blind? Hah! You're the one that is
blind. You must close your eyes
before you can truly see.

She starts rocking again--then stops, sniffs around.

SHAMAN

Did you change form, Kokopelli?
Because I smell a rat!

She CACKLES loudly, then motions to Cole.

SHAMAN

Come here.

Koko nudges Cole next to the old woman.

SHAMAN

You have put Tapuat in
Koyaaishqatsi.

COLE

Koya-who?

KOKO

Koyaaishqatsi. Out of balance.

SHAMAN

The dark forces have been released
and will wreck havoc on our land.
You must set things right.

COLE

But I didn't mean to do it. There was a rabbit in the path and ... It was an accident!

SHAMAN

There are no accidents.

She roughly feels about his face, arms and chest.

SHAMAN

Eh, you're a little one! The Wasichu will have fun with you!

KOKO

Does he really have to go after the Wasichu?

COLE

Look, I'm sorry you're out of balance and all. But I'm not going after any Wasi-macallit. I just wanna go home where I belong.

SHAMAN

This is where you are. So this is where you must belong.

The Shaman closes her eyes, begins to CHANT as she rocks frantically.

Finally, she stops. She cocks her head, listening to something only she can hear.

SHAMAN

You will make your way home.

COLE

Yes! Finally! Thank you! I knew you'd find a way--

SHAMAN

There is only one way. You must face the Giant and return with his heart.

COLE?

What?!?

SHAMAN

For the elixir. So you can get back through the doorway.

COLE

But ... I can't do that

SHAMAN

You must. Or you will never go home again. And we will have to leave our home, as well.

The Shaman starts to rock frantically, her eyes and head rolling about. Just as suddenly, she stops.

SHAMAN

There are many obstacles, but you will overcome them. Just remember two things. Call on Spider Woman when you find trouble.

COLE

Mattie Franklin? Or Jessica Drew?

SHAMAN

What's this?

Koko elbows Cole, motions for him to shush.

COLE

Spider Woman. From the Marvel Comics Universe.

The Shaman leans over Cole, nose to nose.

SHAMAN

She is creator of ALL universe!

KOKO

Okay. So he calls on Spider Woman. What's the other thing he needs to remember?

SHAMAN

Never trust a trickster. Hah!

She rocks wildly again.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHAMAN'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Koko and Cole lean against the rickety structure. Cole stares ahead blankly.

COLE

The heart of a Giant. I'm supposed to get the heart of a Giant?

KOKO

Eh. No big deal.

COLE

No big deal? It's a heart! From a Giant! That's a pretty big deal where I come from! I'm gonna be stuck here forever.

KOKO

Don't worry. We'll think of something.

COLE

We?

KOKO

Sure. I mean, someone's gotta show you the way, right? Plus, I'm getting itchy feet. Time to blow this pop stand.

COLE

Yeah, well, the Shaman told me not to trust you.

KOKO

She also told you to get the Giant's heart, so, you know ...
Loco lady

COLE

Oh, great. That makes me feel better.

KOKO

Besides, I've got a few tricks up my sleeve.

Koko winks, grabs a pouch from his belt.

KOKO

Magic powder.

He pours some talc into his palm and blows.

Just then, a wind comes up and blows the powder all over the two of them.

KOKO
Huh. That didn't go right.

COLE
We're gonna be chopped liver!

KOKO
Not the liver. The heart.

COLE
I am so not amused right now.

KOKO
That old crow gypped me, do you
believe that?

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Koko lies beneath a tree, playing his flute.

Around him, the villagers go about their daily chores.

Cole sits next to a WOMAN, who's showing him how to make paper from birch bark. Cole proudly lifts his work up to Koko, but the latter doesn't notice.

Cole walks over to Koko.

COLE
Look, I'm getting the hang of it.

Koko shrugs his shoulders.

COLE
What? I wanna fit in if I'm gonna
be stuck here.

KOKO
You don't have to be stuck.

COLE
I told you, I can't face a Giant.
That's insane!

Koko shrugs his shoulders again.

KOKO
You said you wanted to go home.

COLE
I do! But c'mon, I'm just a kid!

KOKO

Cole, you don't seem to understand.
When you came through from the
other side, you really did upset
the balance.

COLE

What? Everything looks okay--

Just then, the sky turns ominously black. Winds swirl,
whipping up sage brush.

The villagers frantically begin to put their things away.

Cole and Koko struggle to stand.

Suddenly, Thunderbird's huge coal-black form covers the sky
again. Loud THUNDER cracks as the creature sweeps over the
village.

The villagers SHRIEK, scatter.

Thunderbird turns, passes back over the village.

Lightening shoots from his wings as he flies off.

A few structures, struck by the lightening, are aflame.
Villagers race to put them out.

Cole and Koko dust themselves off.

COLE

So, my coming here really did cause
that?

KOKO

By Geronimo, I think he's got it!

COLE

And I have to go after the Giant to
save the village, huh?

KOKO

'Fraid so. It's the only way.

COLE

But ... I'm scared. I don't think I
can do it.

KOKO

Can't know that until you try.
Then, just leave the rest to the
Great Mystery.

COLE
Great Mystery? What's that?

KOKO
Hello? It's a mystery. Geez. Now
I'm scared. C'mon, better get
started

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE VILLAGE - DAY

Cole stands with Koko, who instructs him how to use a bow and arrow.

COLE
I thought you said you weren't a
fighter?

KOKO
I'm not, but I'm always prepared.
Here, like this--

Cole watches as Koko pulls the bow, shoots.

It's a bull's-eye.

KOKO
You must become the arrow.

Cole tentatively takes the bow from Koko. It's almost as big as he is.

COLE
Become the arrow?

KOKO
Yes. Be one with it.

He aims, shoots.

The arrow hits a nearby water bag, which sprouts a leak.

Koko shrugs "not bad."

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A small NATIVE CHILD, around 5 years old, stands with Cole next to a pinyon pine tree.

NATIVE CHILD

Like this--

The child lays a tarp on the ground. Then he takes a stick and begins knocking it against the cones, shaking the nuts loose onto the cloth below.

Koko sits beneath the tree, eating the nuts as they fall.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cole and Koko watch an ELDER, who holds a large dowsing rod.

ELDER

You will need to find water in the desert.

COLE

With that? It's just another stick.

ELDER

Bah! This is the blessed divining rod of the Ancestors!

Cole leans toward Koko.

COLE

Looks like a stick to me.

The Elder MUTTERS a brief blessing. Then he slowly walks away, guided by the Y-shaped twig.

Koko winks at Cole, dances in a circle and plays his flute.

A black rain cloud appears above their heads. It starts to pour.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE VILLAGE - DAY

Cole stands with Koko as before, holding the bow and arrow.

KOKO

Remember, you and the arrow are one.

COLE

I'm one with the arrow, I'm one with the arrow.

Cole repeats the phrase as he takes aim, shoots.

This time, his arrow hits the outer ring of the target.

Koko gives him a thumbs up.

CUT TO:

INT. ADOBE DWELLING - DAY

Cole and Koko stand inside a ceremonial kiva with the Elder from before.

ELDER

You must learn to see without your eyes.

The Elder covers Cole's eyes with a bandana. He spins Cole around and around, until the boy is dizzy.

ELDER

Now, find the eagle's feather.

The Elder gives Koko a feather. Koko starts to dance around Cole, waving an eagle feather in front of him.

Cole grasps at the air.

COLE

This is crazy! I can't see a thing.

ELDER

The eagle flies with Father Sky,
the energy that flows through all
things. The eagle flies in truth,
in freedom, in power. Soar with the
eagle! Soar with your power!

Koko stops dancing, holds the feather still.

Cole reaches out forcefully, grabbing for it--but he loses his balance, and falls over a small table. Pottery shatters around him.

KOKO

This could take a while.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE VILLAGE - DAY

Once again, Cole stands with Koko, aiming the bow and arrow. He's totally focused on the target.

COLE

I am the arrow. I am the arrow.

He shoots. The arrow pierces the center.

Cole turns excitedly toward Koko, but his friend's not there. Cole searches around.

In the distance, Koko flirts with the young Maiden from before. Her Mother approaches, chases him away.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Cole and Koko stand at the edge of the village. Cole's backpack is stuffed full, as is Koko's knapsack. They are surrounded by well-wishers.

Koko, holding a walking stick, once again flirts with the Maiden. Her Mother snatches the girl away. Koko waves the stick at the woman.

The Chief Elder appears before Cole, puts his hand on the boy's shoulder.

CHIEF ELDER

The Great Mystery has spoken. You shall bring balance and peace back to our people. We await your safe return.

COLE

Not as much as I do.

Cole and Koko wave goodbye as they leave along the dirt path.

KOKO

Guess it's time we get to the heart of the matter.

COLE

Think you're funny, huh?

KOKO

C'mon, have a heart.

COLE
Are you going to do this all the way?

KOKO
Unless there's a change of heart.

COLE
Oh geez.

Their conversation trails off as they head into the horizon.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cole, exhausted, drags his feet as he follows behind Koko on the path.

COLE
Can we stop? I'm hungry. Are we almost there?

They stop. Koko rummages through his knapsack.

KOKO
For a little one you sure complain big.

He tosses Cole a piece of cornbread.

KOKO
Go crazy, little man.

Cole eats as Koko pulls out his flute. He begins to play a lively TUNE.

COLE
So, can you really change form? I could use a little magic right now.

KOKO
There's magic all around you. You just gotta believe.

COLE
But I thought you could do all kinds of tricks, shift-change and stuff.

KOKO
You mean like this?

Koko stands, spins and POOF! he's turned himself into a coyote.

COLE

Whoa! That is so cool!

The coyote sniffs around, then stops.

A woodrat scurries about in the distance.

The coyote takes off after the small critter.

COLE

Hey! Where are you going? Wait!

Cole races after the coyote, but it's no contest. Cole plops to the ground.

COLE

I don't believe this!

Cole sits for a long moment, head in hand.

Just then, he senses something behind him. He turns to see the coyote, sitting patiently.

The coyote chases its tail until POOF! he's changed back to Koko.

KOKO

Not bad, eh? That one gets me out of a lot of tight spots.

Cole SIGHS.

COLE

Yeah, that's great. Really great.

KOKO

What? You said you wanted to see a trick.

COLE

But I didn't want you to trick me!

KOKO

I am what I am. Didn't you believe me?

COLE

I don't know what to believe anymore. My dad's never around, my friends just use me to get good grades. My girlfriend dumped me.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

Now I'm here--going after a Giant!
Boy, life sure hasn't turned out
the way I imagined.

KOKO

Had it all planned out in your
head, did ya?

COLE

Yeah, I guess.

KOKO

Life's meant to be lived out here--

Koko grandly sweeps his arm about the landscape. Then he taps
Cole's head.

KOKO

Not in here, little man.

COLE

Would you please stop calling me
'little man'? I'm not little for my
age, you know.

KOKO

What should I call you then?

COLE

How about my name, Cole?

KOKO

'Cause you're not big. Big-headed,
maybe.

COLE

And will you please stop making fun
of me?

KOKO

Geez, don't be so sensitive! You'll
be all right. Just remember to
listen.

COLE

Listen? Listen to what?

KOKO

Shhhh--Listen.

Koko turns toward the distance.

Cole begins to protest, but then just sits back, absorbing the scene. The sounds of the desert turn into a joyful, harmonious MELODY.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cole walks along jovially, WHISTLING. The desert is alive with magic. Everything seems to breathe. Colorful birds float in artistic shapes above.

Cole stops and smiles broadly.

COLE

This must be what you meant when
you said there's magic everywhere,
huh, Koko? Koko?

Cole turns. Koko's nowhere to be seen.

COLE

Koko! This is not funny!

Cole slumps his shoulders, dejected. He turns his head.

A large HARE looks back at him.

COLE

Koko? Is that you?

The Hare chews, nose twitching.

COLE

Koko, change back right now! C'mon,
do your 'Poof!' thing. Let's get
this over with.

The Hare turns, hops off.

COLE

No, don't go! Wait!

Cole grabs his pack and takes off after the rabbit.

LATER

The Hare hops ahead of Cole through the desert, surrounded by rock formations.

Cole searches through some juniper, reaches around a bush, pulls off some berries. He sits, satisfied.

The Hare peers around the bush.

KOKO
(as Hare)
Nice trick, huh?

COLE
Humph. Don't you know, silly
rabbit? Tricks are for kids.

The Hare hops around in a quick circle until, POOF! Koko flops down next to Cole, reaching out his hand for some berries.

Cole snubs him, but Koko persists. Finally, Cole hands him some berries.

COLE
How can I trust you when you keep
changing like that? How do I know
who you really are?

KOKO
How do you know who you really are?

They eat in silence.

COLE
So, do you think I can do this? I
mean, I've only dealt with one
giant in my life, and he really
wasn't that big. Just a bully.

KOKO
Bully?

COLE
You know, someone who's mean to
other people. Pushes them around.

KOKO
You mean like this?

Koko pushes Cole.

COLE
Something like that.

KOKO
Or like this?

Koko pushes Cole again, this time so he falls over.

COLE
Oww! Stop it! I think I liked you
better as a rabbit.

KOKO
Or even like this?

Koko lands on top of Cole, and the two start wrestling.
Koko stops still. Cole sits up LAUGHING.

KOKO
Hear that?

COLE
Oh, yeah, scary!

KOKO
Shhhh! Listen!

COLE
You keep telling me to listen, but
I don't hear--

Suddenly, ground starts to tremble like an earthquake. Rocks
tumble down the hillsides, bouncing around our heroes' heads.

KOKO
Oh, oh--Here he comes!

COLE
He??

Out of nowhere, a massive boulder rolls straight at Cole and
Koko.

Both dive out of its way.

Cole turns to see that the boulder is in fact a huge head,
with a mouth, ears, one eye--and a savage expression. This is
ROLLING HEAD. He sneers at Cole as he passes.

COLE
That thing's alive!

KOKO
That's Rolling Head. Got a major
chip on his shoulder--if he had a
shoulder, that is. Oh, here he
comes again!

Rolling Head circles around, rolls toward them again.

ROLLING HEAD
Kokopelli, is that you?

Koko peers from behind a much-too-small rock.

KOKO
Hey, Head. What's shaking? Besides
the ground, that is.

ROLLING HEAD
You're a foolish foe, Kokopelli!

KOKO
But, Head, c'mon! You know you've
always been a 'roll' model to me.

Koko CHUCKLES at his own joke.

ROLLING HEAD
Bah! You're mine---and your little
friend there, too!(turns to Cole) I
think you first. Fresh meat. I
can't wait to hear you squish!

Rolling Head circles back around toward Cole, leveling
everything in his path.

Cole runs up against a hillside--nowhere to go. He turns,
frozen.

Rolling Head is coming straight toward Cole, his gaping mouth
full of razor-sharp teeth.

COLE
What do I do?

KOKO (O.S.)
Ou, ou! Your paper!

Cole turns to see Koko clinging to the top of a juniper tree.

KOKO
Get your paper out!

Cole watches as Rolling Head comes straight toward him. He
reaches into his backpack and holds out the paper he made.

COLE
This?

KOKO
Remember what the Shaman told you!

COLE

Uh ... Call on Spider Woman?

Right then, a spider falls out of nowhere onto Cole's nose. He watches as the tiny spider shoots a web that stretches the paper out to a humongous size just as--

Rolling Head hits the paper-web.

The giant rock bounces inches from Cole's face, then back again--as the paper-web is stuck to him. He's entrapped.

Rolling Head's eyes pop open, his face filled with rage.

ROLLING HEAD

Argghh!

Rolling Head violently shakes from side to side, MOANING as he struggles to get free.

ROLLING HEAD

Hhmmmp!! Hhmmmp!!

Finally, Rolling Head bounces away, still covered in the paper-web.

COLE

Whoa! I guess paper really does cover rock--

The spider jumps from Cole's nose and, through a misty haze--

Dramatically transforms into SPIDER WOMAN, a shapely earth-mother with coal black hair and dressed in a long, flowing black dress.

COLE

Whoa!

SPIDER WOMAN

Whoa? Is that some newfangled greeting, dear?

COLE

No, it's just--that was way wicked!

SPIDER WOMAN

Way wicked? Tsk tsk, you kids this millennium

Koko climbs down from the tree.

KOKO

I know, can you believe it?

SPIDER WOMAN

Kokopelli, I knew you'd be caught up in this somehow. (to Cole) Your words have power, you know, dear. You must watch what you say.

COLE

Oh ... well, thank you. I'm very grateful.

SPIDER WOMAN

And you're very welcome. Happy to help.

KOKO

I had everything under control.

COLE

We're on a mission to find the Giant, you see. It's a relief to know you'll come when I'm, we're in trouble.

SPIDER WOMAN

Oh no, sweetie. I didn't say that. You have got to start relying on yourself. Look at you--big, strong, smart, handsome man that you are.

KOKO

Aw, geez. You don't have to butter me up.

Spider Woman ignores Koko.

SPIDER WOMAN

You already have everything you need to face the Giant.

COLE

But ... I don't think I can do it if I can't call on you.

SPIDER WOMAN

You accepted the challenge, dear. So somewhere inside, you must know that you can do it. Call on that place.

COLE

It'd be a lot easier if I could just call on you.

SPIDER WOMAN

Honey, I'm a busy woman! Do you have any idea how much work it is to keep a universe running? You'll be fine. Just remember, the answer is within you!

Spider Woman disappears in a hazy mist.

KOKO

There, now, see? Nothing to worry about. Like Spider Woman said, you have the answer.

COLE

There's just one problem.

KOKO

What's that?

COLE

I don't know the question.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Our adventurers wander along a desert path as before. Cole holds his iPhone out in front of him.

The iPhone displays a compass app.

The two arrive at a fork in the path. Koko immediately heads in one direction.

COLE

Wait! The Shaman said to go north.

KOKO

I know. That's why I'm going this way.

Cole looks at the compass again.

COLE

But this way's north.

KOKO

Look, I've lived here all my life. Don't you think I know which way is north?

COLE
Are you sure?

KOKO
Yeah. That range over there runs
along the border. Would I steer you
wrong?

COLE
Huh. The charge must be low or
something

Cole puts his phone away and follows Koko in the other
direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. CACTUS FOREST - DAY

The two stand in the middle of an ominous cactus forest.
They're surrounded by cacti in all shapes and sizes, which
look and speak like menacing banditos.

The cacti taunt Koko and Cole, jabbing at them with their
prickly spines.

KOKO
Hmmm, this doesn't look right.

The two grab hold of each other as a large kangaroo rat hops
past them--

KOKO AND COLE
Awww!

Then duck as a flying squirrel zips over their heads from one
cacti to another.

KOKO AND COLE
Eeek!

The cacti LAUGH at their fear. STUBS, a colorful squat
cactus, nudges STRETCH, a tall saguaro cactus wearing an eye
patch.

STUBS
Hey, Stretch, get a load of the
gringos!

STRETCH
Yeah, I don't think they belong
here.

KOKO
Oh, we're just poking around.

STRETCH
Poking around ... You mean, like
this?

He pokes at Cole.

COLE
Ouch!

The cacti LAUGH. Cole elbows Koko.

COLE
Cut it out!

KOKO
But I'm just poking fun.

STRETCH
You believe these two, Stubs? Maybe
you mean, poking like this--

He jabs at Cole again. Cole angrily turns to Koko.

COLE
Ouch! Will you stop?

KOKO
What? What'd I do?

COLE
Look, we don't want any trouble.
We're on a quest to find the Giant.

The cacti feign awe.

COLE
So if you would just let us pass,
we'd be most obliged.

STUBS
Hey Stretch, you hear that? They'd
be most obliged!

The cacti LAUGH, poke at the two.

STRETCH
What ya gonna give us for letting
you through?

STUBS
Yeah, what's in the bag?

The cacti reach for Cole's backpack. He pulls it away.

COLE
No! Geez, how rude!

KOKO
You better give it to them or
they'll stab us!

STRETCH
Yeah, we're really gonna stick it
to you!

COLE
No way! Look, they can't touch us
if we keep to the middle of the
path.

Cole pulls Koko to his side, so they're lined up directly in the center of the path. The cacti poke at the two, but can't quite reach them.

Cole digs into his backpack for the poncho and helmet.

COLE
Here, put these on.

Cole pulls up the hood and rolls down the sleeves of his sweatshirt, so he's completely covered. He turns to Koko.

Koko looks ridiculous in the bike helmet and poncho.

COLE
C'mon, let's go.

The two walk single-file down the center of the path, as the bandit cacti poke at them. Koko dances in pain.

KOKO
Ou ou, ow ow!

COLE
What is it?

KOKO
My feet!

COLE
Why don't you wear shoes?

KOKO
Can't. Bunions. Ou, ow, ou, ow!

Koko continues to jump about in pain as the two make their way out of the cactus forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORN FIELD - DAY

Cole leads the two through a field of half-grown, unripened corn. Koko chomps on pinyon nuts, leaving a trail behind him. He still wears the bike helmet.

COLE

Okay, we're definitely going north now. You can take that helmet off, you know.

KOKO

I kinda like it. Makes me look dignified.

COLE

Dumb's more like it. I don't know why I even bother with you.

KOKO

'Cause I can sing, and I can dance. And I have ... big red ants down my pants.

Cole LAUGHS.

COLE

Okay, fine.

KOKO

No, really. Look--

Koko shakes his leg. Giant red ants climb down in a long row. Just as the last one seems to emerge--

Koko shakes again. A straggler falls out and catches up with the rest of his army.

KOKO

Guess they wanted out of that place as much as we did.

Koko starts chomping on the nuts again.

COLE

The Giant's cave has gotta be just past this cornfield.

KOKO

I wish this stuff was ripe. I'm
tired of eating these nuts.

COLE

Then stop. You're wasting half of
'em anyway.

Koko keeps chomping, MIMICKING Cole under his breath.

KOKO

You're wasting half of them anyway.
Hey, what's that sound?

The faint sound of ETHEREAL MUSIC can be heard.

COLE

I don't hear anything.

KOKO

Shhh

The CELESTIAL-LIKE VOICES grow louder as our two continue on.
Cole now struggles through the corn stalks, which have grown
taller and more mature.

The path abruptly begins to turn. Cole looks at the compass.

The needle is spinning wildly.

The pathway turns again, and again. The stalks begin to take
on human-like form, reaching out to Cole and Koko with their
arm-like husks.

The two stop. They are surrounded by row after row of
beautiful CORN MAIDENS, with voluptuous cob-bodies and blue
eyes. Their golden tassels flow like silky long hair in the
breeze.

COLE

Whoa! What is this place?

The Corn Maidens sway seductively as they SING their siren
song.

KOKO

It must be the labyrinth of the
Corn Maidens. Well, hello there--

Koko takes off the helmet and instantly succumbs as one of
the Maidens blankets him in her husks. Her "hands" are
smaller ears of corn.

COLE
So, a maze of ... maize maidens?

KOKO
Amazing, isn't it? I do love
blondes.

One of the Corn Maidens leans in toward Cole.

CORN MAIDEN 1
You're cute.

Cole GIGGLES as she flutters her eyelashes at him.

CORN MAIDEN 1
Wanna nibble my ear?

Cole starts to relent, then quickly gathers himself.

COLE
Hee hee ... No. No!

Other Maidens run their husks through Koko's long dreadlocks.
He PURRS like a cat.

KOKO
Hmmm, your skin feels just like
silk.

CORN MAIDEN 2
We could start a fire, pop a few
kernels

KOKO
I think I love you!

COLE
Koko, we've gotta get outta here.
Let's go, now!

KOKO
But I'm in love!

COLE
No you're not ... We'll go out the
way we came.

But Koko's enraptured with the Corn Maiden.

KOKO
We're perfect for each other. Look,
we both have this hair thing going
on--

COLE
We can follow the nuts you dropped.
C'mon!

CORN MAIDENS
(in unison)
Stay with us. Harvest our fields!

KOKO
Oh, let's stay and harvest their
fields.

COLE
Don't listen to them! We've got to
get to the Giant. Here--

Cole reaches in his backpack, hands Koko his earbud
headphones.

COLE
Put these in your ears.

CORN MAIDEN 2
We can get married at the Corn
Palace.

KOKO
Oh, I've always wanted to see the
Corn Palace

COLE
Put them in!

Koko reluctantly puts in the earbuds as Cole grabs some of
the husk off one of the Corn Maidens.

CORN MAIDEN 3
Ooh! That tickles!

Cole stuffs the husk pieces in his ears. Cole holds onto
Koko's hand as he follows the nuts back out through the maze.

KOKO
Wait--

Koko reaches back for one of the maiden's "hands."

CORN MAIDEN 3
Ouch!

KOKO
You always hurt the one you love.

The two finally make it out of the maze.

COLE
That was close! They almost had us
trapped.

KOKO
Yeah. Good think I left that trail
of nuts.

COLE
Geez. C'mon, let's go around this
thing.

The two navigate their way around the corn field. Koko chomps
into the ear of corn, spits it out. He SIGHS.

COLE
Now what?

Koko tosses the ear aside.

KOKO
She was too young for me after all.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cole looks for water with the divining rod. Koko trails
behind, playing his flute.

COLE
I don't know why you can't just do
your rain dance.

KOKO
It's not working here. See--

Koko does a little shuffle.

A tiny little cloud appears above his head, spits out one
measly drop. He shrugs.

Just then, the rod starts shaking erratically. Cole can
hardly hold onto it.

COLE
You must have done something,
because this thing is going crazy.
Hey!

The rod pulls Cole off his feet, carrying him off at
breakneck speed. Koko races to keep up.

Just as suddenly, the rod stops. Cole falls to the ground. Koko stops beside him.

KOKO AND COLE

Whoa!

Cole and Koko gaze upon a massive chasm, grander than the Grand Canyon. Far below, a river courses through the gorge.

KOKO

There it is. The Giant's cave.

Cole peers across the canyon at a colossal rock formation shaped like a huge ogre face. In its center is a gated entrance resembling a massive mouth with pointed teeth. Next to it stands a rickety drawbridge, which is pulled up.

Even though it's a sunny day, the sky is dark and threatening above the cave.

COLE

So, that's where the Giant lives?

KOKO

Yep.

COLE

And that's where we have to go to get his heart.

KOKO

Yep.

COLE

So that we can put everything back in balance. And I can get back home.

KOKO

Yep.

COLE

I think I'm gonna be sick.

KOKO

Ah, nothing to it but to do it. There's just one little problem I see.

Koko points at the surging river.

COLE

Yeah. Well, at least I'm a good swimmer. You?

KOKO
Doesn't matter much. We're not
swimming across that.

Koko nods toward the river as a huge hawk flies over.

The water rises up in the form of a vast mouth, devouring the
bird in mid-air.

COLE
Wha ... Wha ...?

KOKO
Wa-ter. Wa-ter Mon-ster. I don't
think we're crossing that any time
soon.

COLE
But how are we gonna get to the
cave?

The two plop down in unison.

LATER

It's now pitch dark. The full moon illuminates the giant's
cave, making it appear even more ominous. Lightning bolts
strike around it.

The two sit exactly as before. As they talk, Koko plays with
Cole's flashlight.

COLE
So, do you really think I'm this
White Buffalo person?

KOKO
The villagers do. They've been
praying you'd find your way here.
Sure left you enough clues.

COLE
Clues?

KOKO
You know, the drawings. On the
rocks.

Koko turns to Cole, flashlight under his chin to spooky
effect.

COLE

Hey! Don't wear out the batteries!
My iPhone's already dead.

Koko hands the flashlight back.

KOKO

Geez, you are no fun.

COLE

So, what about 'em? The drawings.

KOKO

They're coded messages. They tell
you everything you need to know.

COLE

So the villagers, you're the
Anasazis, right? I've been reading
about you guys in class. You lived
all over the Southwest.

KOKO

Yeah, we used to come and go all
the time.

COLE

Really? Is that why you speak our
language?

KOKO

There is only one language. But
then the Giant closed the doorway.

COLE

And you disappeared. But that was
like, a thousand years ago--

KOKO

There is no time in Tapuat. Just
now.

COLE

So, now he holds you captive?

KOKO

But the villagers have held onto
hope that the White Buffalo would
return.

COLE

So, what? Do you think I'm him?

KOKO
The real question is, do you?

MORNING

The sun rises above the canyon. Cole leans back against his backpack. Koko gazes to one direction.

COLE
Man, could I go for a big chocolate
eclair!

KOKO
You're not French, by any chance,
are you?

COLE
No, why?

KOKO
'Cause they don't like the French
very much.

COLE
What? Who doesn't?

KOKO
The whole cuisses de grenouille
thing.

COLE
What are you babbling about?

KOKO
You know. Frog legs.

COLE
I swear, Koko, sometimes you don't
make any sense at all--

Koko points toward the distance.

Across the way stands the FROG CLAN, an army of biped creatures with frog-like features. They leap-march in formation, carrying bows, shields and other armor.

Koko nods in the other direction.

On the far side of the canyon stands the SNAKE CLAN, an equally large army of slithery serpent-beings.

COLE
Oh no! What are we supposed to do?

KOKO
Just be polite. And don't make fun
of their eyes.

COLE
But--

Just then, a FROG SOLDIER "leaps" next to Cole. Another jumps
alongside Koko. The creatures' bulging eyes roll wildly
around in their sockets.

FROG SOLDIER
You will come with us.

The soldiers prod Cole and Koko to their feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. GENERAL FROG'S HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Cole and Koko sit captive on the ground at the Frog Clan's
command center.

In front of them, GENERAL FROG squats on a large rock draped
in a vibrant fabric. A pompous figure, the General adjusts
his medals and sash, his huge eyes rolling about.

A bowl of dragonflies sits next to him. He laps up a mouthful
with his long tongue, then wipes his mouth.

The General's long tongue almost licks Koko when he speaks--
which he does with a lisp.

GENERAL FROG
So, we see you again, Kokopelli.

KOKO
My dear General! It has been too
long. How's the wife? The little
tadpoles?

GENERAL FROG
Always the silly one, eh,
Kokopelli? Do you suppose I'd
forget what you did to my Sissy?

KOKO
She's a sweet girl--

CAPTAIN FROG
My sweet, innocent Sissy.

KOKO
We were just two crazy kids.

Cole leans in to Koko.

COLE
You dated his daughter?

KOKO
Hey, besides the eye thing, she's hot.

GENERAL FROG
Silence! Who's your sidekick?

Koko doesn't respond.

GENERAL FROG
What's the matter? Why don't you say something?

KOKO
But, you said silence--

GENERAL FROG
Oh, you make me so mad!

COLE
If I may, General ... My name's Cole. I came here, to your world, through the doorway--

GENERAL FROG
So, you're not spies?

COLE
What? Spies? No!

GENERAL FROG
You weren't sent by the Snakes? To steal our secrets?

General motions to the FROG GUARD, who delivers Cole's bag-- which holds his bow and arrows.

GENERAL FROG
You're armed and dangerous.

COLE
Oh, no ... Look, I was sent here by the Shaman ... on a mission ... to get the Giant's heart--

GENERAL FROG

Silence! No more of your nonsense.
Although the Giant will be very
interested to hear about your
little scheme. Guard!

One of the Frog Guards moves forward at attention. The
General writes on a piece of paper.

GENERAL FROG

Deliver this to the Giant.

FROG GUARD

Yes, General.

The Frog Guard leaves.

COLE

So, what do you plan to do with us?

GENERAL FROG

I ask the questions! But if you
must know, I plan to boil you both
and serve you up for supper. You're
skinny, but you look tasty.

KOKO

Oh boy ... I knew Frog Girl wasn't
worth it.

COLE

Wait! Wait. Can't we settle this
like friends? Maybe over, say, a
peace pipe?

GENERAL FROG

What are you babbling about?

KOKO

Just a moment, bug-eye ... I mean
frog-face ... Urgh, General. (to
Cole) What are you babbling about?

COLE

Look, I have one right there.

Cole points toward his bag.

COLE

May I?

Cole slowly reaches for his bag, the Guard readying his
weapon.

Cole pulls out the bicycle pump.

COLE
There, see?

GENERAL FROG
That doesn't look like any peace
pipe to me.

KOKO
Me, either.

COLE
Well, it is where I come from.
Here, General, you first. As a sign
of good will.

GENERAL FROG
That's very decent of you,
considering you're about to die.

The General reaches for the pump. As he sucks the end, Cole pumps it as hard as he can.

GENERAL FROG
What are you doing?

COLE
You have to suck really hard. Just
keep your lips around it good and
tight.

GENERAL FROG
Humph! You're a strange one.

The General sucks so tightly, his face turns blue.

Cole pumps with a fury.

The General's head begins to blow up, larger and larger,
until it becomes a massive balloon. He drops the hose from
his mouth.

GENERAL FROG
I feel somewhat light-headed

Just then, the General starts to float off of the ground.

The Frog Guards, frightened at the sight, rush to get help as
the General rises higher and higher.

COLE
Koko! Come here!

Cole grabs hold of the General's waist as he floats off.

COLE
Grab his feet. His feet!

Koko jumps to reach the inflated General's feet as he and Cole float off.

Below them, the Frog Guards bounce about in panicked disarray.

Koko and Cole float above the landscape ...

Over the awe-struck army ...

And toward the river and the mouth of the cave.

KOKO
Why Cole, you're brilliant!

COLE
I'm getting that Giant's heart, one way or the other!

KOKO
I'm afraid it might have to be the other.

COLE
What do you mean?

KOKO
I'm weighing Froggie Boy down.
We'll never make it.

Cole looks up--

The Frog General's head is starting to deflate.

Cole looks down--

Just before them, the Water Monster's menacing eyes stare through the water's ripples.

KOKO
You've gotta do it alone, Cole.
It's the only way.

COLE
Just hang on! We're almost there!

KOKO
You can do this, Cole. Just
remember to--

COLE

Hold on!

Koko let's go.

KOKO

(falling)

Listen!

Koko falls--

COLE

NO!!!!

Cole turns his head away as Koko shape-shifts into a bird just as--

SWHOOSH! The Water Monster's mouth sweeps upward beneath Cole's feet.

Reaching the other bank, Cole drops to the ground. The General continues floating onward.

Cole rushes to the water's edge, but there's no movement.

COLE

Koko, no!

He falls to his knees, head in hands. He peers into the water again.

A pair of eyes look back at him.

COLE

Koko?

The eyes grow huge--It's the Water Monster!

Cole jumps back from the edge just before its gaping mouth swallows him.

Cole catches his breath, slowly turns.

There before him stands the massive opening to the Giant's cave. It's even more ominous close up.

Cole takes a peek into the cave's bone-chilling blackness. He turns, takes a long, last look back across the river.

Resigned, Cole reaches for his flashlight and hesitantly enters the cave.

As he does, two huge "eyes" open above the entrance. They glance in either direction. Then the cave's mouth slowly closes behind Cole.

INT. GIANT'S CAVE

Cole cautiously makes his way inside the cave.

The walls are a strange pinkish color, and seem to pulsate. He moves in closer, reaches to touch a wall--it quivers.

COLE

Whoa!

Cole holds the flashlight further in front of him. He tentatively inches forward.

As he does, the ground gives way beneath his feet and--

He falls into the blackness.

COLE

AHHHHH!!!!

Cole falls down a long, spooky tunnel, until finally--

He lands with a THUD inside a cavernous room with lots of passageways. Huge stalactites hang from the ceiling, a thick, glowing ooze dripping from them.

Cole rubs his head, leans back against the wall. He quickly pulls away, checking himself for slime, but he's clean.

COLE

I can't believe this. I cannot believe this!

He SIGHS again, then reaches into his pocket. He pulls out the medallion with Koko's picture on it.

COLE

You were my only friend. Iggy, Kev, Alex, none of them were. Jonathan, I guess. But he's such a--

Cole looks closer at the image of Koko.

COLE

--I was gonna say loser. Hah! He's not the loser, I am. I've lost everything. What am I going to do now, huh?

Cole grasps the medallion, leans his head back. His eyes slowly close.

His grip loosens on the medallion, and it falls to the ground.

LATER

A pair of eyes and large nose stare down at Cole.

HAPLESS

Hello? Can you hear me?

Cole's blurry eyes slowly open, blink.

The huge face looks down on him.

HAPLESS

Are you with us, then?

COLE

Huh? What?

The face pulls back to reveal HAPLESS BELOMY, a wiry man of undetectable age, with stringy hair, a mangy beard, and very bad teeth.

HAPLESS

Ah, you are with us! For a while there I thought you'd left us ... but no, I'd say you're with us. Unless of course, you're against us, in which case, I'd have to--

Cole pulls himself up, grabs his medallion.

COLE

Uhm, who are you?

HAPLESS

Belomy's the name, treasure-hunting's the game. Used to call me 'Happy,' but now they call me 'Hapless.' Ha! And you might be?

COLE

Cole. Cole Loneman.

Hapless holds out his hand. The two shake.

HAPLESS

Well, nice to meet you, truly. Good to see a friendly face in these parts. It's one of the best parts to be in, I'd say. I'd say, yes indeed.

Hapless CHORTLES.

COLE

Well, how do you get back outta here?

HAPLESS

That's just it. There isn't a way out.

COLE

What? Look, I am in no mood to be messed with. First, I come flying through this portal and Thunderbird attacks the village--

HAPLESS

Oh, my!

COLE

Then some huge head tries to roll over us ... And these Corn Maidens try to trap us--

HAPLESS

Tsk, tsk!

COLE

And then we get captured by these crazy frog people--

HAPLESS

You don't say!

COLE

And I just want to go home ... but the only way I can is to bring back the Giant's heart--

HAPLESS

A big task!

COLE

Tell me about it! And I just lost my only friend to the Water Monster.

HAPLESS

Oh, that's a sad, sad tale, that is there.

COLE

And now I'm stuck in this stupid cave and I just want to get what I came for and go! And now you tell me there's no way out?

HAPLESS

Well, yes, I can see why you're upset. But it's the truth and a sorry truth it is. It was a trap, you see. Shaman said some Spanish bullion was buried hereabouts. We all fell for it--so to speak.

COLE

You mean, the Shaman sent you here?!?

HAPLESS

Yep. Looks like she tricked you too. Hah!

COLE

Wait a sec. You said all of you ... you mean there's others here?

HAPLESS

We weren't the only ones to get duped, no sir. There's plenty of us fools in here. Come on out, boys!

One by one, a group of LOST SOULS of various dress and demeanor shuffle out from the alcoves.

HAPLESS

Welcome to the club, Cole!

Just then, loud, boisterous MUMBLES echo from a dark passageway.

The Lost Souls start to shake, some try to hide. Even Hapless looks concerned.

COLE

Is that the Giant?

HAPLESS

Nah, Smitey and his crew are back.

COLE
Who's Smitey?

HAPLESS
He's a big numbskull is who he is.
Gets his thrills from picking on
the rest of us.

SMITEY appears from the passageway. He's a regular Grizzly Adams, with a head of wild, matted hair and a full beard. He's followed by a handful of COHORTS.

He looks around and BELCHES.

SMITEY
Will ya look at this measly lot!
Bunch of weasly cowards, all of ya!

Smitey walks around the quivering Lost Souls, raising his arm as if to strike. They squirm. His Cohorts SNICKER.

HAPLESS
C'mon Smitey, why don't you just
leave us alone?

SMITEY
'Cause I'm bored, that's why.
Picking on you nudnicks is the best
entertainment around. Ain't that
right, boys?

Cohorts nod their heads in agreement.

SMITEY
Why, you gonna take me on now,
Hapless?

HAPLESS
Oh no, Smitey, I didn't mean that--

SMITEY
You want a piece of me? Huh? Huh?

Smitey pushes Hapless's shoulder, then again.

COLE
No, but I do. Leave him alone!

Smitey turns toward a glaring Cole. Smitey CHORTLES in disbelief.

SMITEY
Are you kidding me? Who is this
little pipsqueak, anyway?

HAPLESS

That's Cole ... He's new here.

SMITEY

Well, that explains it. Haven't learned the rules yet. Maybe you need to be taught a lesson. What do you think, boys? Does pipsqueak here need a good lesson?

Cohorts CHEER as Smitey moves toward Cole.

Suddenly, Cole whips out his flashlight and starts waving it wildly.

COLE

Bring it on! I just took on General Frog, so don't think I'm scared of you, you big hairy ape!

Everyone OOHS and AAHS at the sight.

HAPLESS

Whoa! What is that thing?

COLE

It's my magic light saber, and I'm not afraid to use it!

Cole waves his flashlight about madly, doing karate kicks in the air.

Taken aback with the rest of the Lost Souls, Smitey puffs his chest, SNORTS.

SMITEY

Ah, who wants to bother with a little twerp like you, anyway?

Smitey BELCHES, turns and moves to the other side of the room with his Cohorts.

HAPLESS

I can't believe you stood up to him!

COLE

He's just a big bully. Now, we gotta find the way out.

HAPLESS

I told you, there isn't one.

COLE

But the Giant's gotta get in and out, right? It must be that passageway there

HAPLESS

You don't wanna go that way--

SMITEY

No, let him go! He's such a big man.

HAPLESS

No one ever comes back from there.

Cole digs through his bag.

COLE

Maybe because it's the way out.

SMITEY

Or the way to your demise. Heh!

Cole pulls out his rope and ties it around his waist.

COLE

Only way to know is to go. What, you scared, Smitey?

SMITEY

I'm not scared of nothing!

Cole holds out the other end of the rope.

COLE

Then c'mon, let's go.

SMITEY

I'm not stupid, either!

COLE

Fine. Hapless, you coming?

HAPLESS

I'm plenty scared of everything. But ... I'll go with ya.

COLE

Good man. Smitey? Last chance to prove how brave you are.

Smitey reaches for the rope.

SMITEY

Bah! I'll go just to watch you come crawling back.

COLE

We'll get help as soon as we can.

HAPLESS

I'm not sure there is help for us.

COLE

There's always help. Just gotta help yourself first. You ready?

Smitey SMIRKS as he motions for Cole to lead.

The men hold onto the rope as Cole lights the way and slowly moves down the passage.

INT. PASSAGEWAY

Cole, Hapless and Smitey wind their way through the dark, zigzagging passageway.

Eerie SOUNDS echo through the corridor. A large pile of ooze drops in front of them.

Cole holds the flashlight out. There's a skeleton on the ground. He jumps.

SMITEY

Hah! Who's scared now, eh?

COLE

I'm not scared--

Just then, the flashlight flickers--and goes out. They're in instant blackness.

Cole shakes the flashlight.

COLE

Oh no, the batteries went dead!

HAPLESS

Batteries?

Cole digs around in his bag.

COLE

I don't have any more--

HAPLESS

Ahhh ... I think I forgot something.

Hapless drops the rope, turns and runs back through the passageway.

SMITEY

What now, big man?

COLE

Don't worry. The Elder showed me how to see in the dark.

SMITEY

Come on! You think I'm a fool?

COLE

No really. See--

Cole closes his eyes, centers himself, then walks onward.

Smitey presses up close to Cole.

SMITEY

Yeah? Well, I don't think I trust ya.

Smitey pokes something into Cole's back.

SMITEY

That there's a knife in your back. So just remember, no funny business.

COLE

Hhm. Yes, I feel that. But what you don't seem to remember--

Cole unties the rope from around his waist.

COLE

Is that I'm the one who can see.

Cole drops the rope and continues onward without Smitey.

SMITEY

Hey! You can't just leave me here!

COLE

Can't trust someone who doesn't trust me.

SMITEY

Wait! I trust you, I trust you!
Don't leave me here!

Cole continues onward as Smithey's pleas fade away. Yet as he makes his way, Cole gets noticeably more nervous.

COLE

It's OK. You can do this, you can
do this ...

SUPER: Series of images appear over Cole.

KEV

You blew it, Loneman.

IGGY

Heads are gonna roll!

JONATHAN

You're fooling yourself, Cole.

MR. MINDER

I'm disappointed.

ALEX

We can't be friends now.

JOE

You can do it, Cole. You can.

SHAMAN

You will make your way home.

SPIDER WOMAN

Remember, the answer is within you.

KOKO

Just listen, Cole. Just listen

BACK TO COLE

COLE

Just listen

Cole stops. He focuses on what sounds like a SPUTTERING MOTOR.

Cole follows the sound, which grows increasingly louder.

Eventually, he spots a sliver of light. As he approaches--

He's startled by a WHISPERING VOICE.

Cole turns in the darkness to see a NATIVE BRAVE, standing behind a barred alcove.

COLE
AHHHH!

NATIVE BRAVE
Shhh! Don't wake him up!

Cole peers behind the Brave. The alcove is filled with men from the village.

COLE
(whispering)
You mean, the Giant is--?

NATIVE BRAVE
Sleeping. Shhh! Be careful!

Cole cautiously follows the noise to a small room. He peers inside where--

A colossus of a man lies sleeping in a bed far too small for him. This is the GIANT. Despite his rough, ogreish features, he appears as if a peaceful child dreaming--he even has his thumb in his mouth. A candle flickers nearby.

The Giant MUTTERS in his sleep.

COLE
Aw

Suddenly, one of the Giant's eyes open. Spotting Cole, the man-beast scrunches his face in anger and lets out a ROAR.

Cole's eyes grow wide as the Giant rushes to stand ...

... and gets his legs tangled in the blanket, falling off his bed.

In doing so, the Giant hits his head on the nightstand. He rubs his forehead.

GIANT
Ouch!

COLE
Oh my!

GIANT
Why, you little fool! How dare you!
I'm going to wring your puny neck!

The Giant screws up his face again as he charges at Cole, but then grabs his head.

Oww, my head!

COLE

Ah, I have something to help that--

Cole holds the balm out to the Giant.

GIANT

Bah! I'm gonna make mincemeat out of you!

COLE

Excuse me, Mr. Giant sir, I mean no disrespect ... but, I don't believe you will.

GIANT

You'll believe me when I crush you!

COLE

Look, you're obviously very big. Very, very big

GIANT

Humph!

COLE

And very strong ... and smart. Or else you wouldn't have captured all those braves back there.

GIANT

That's right!

COLE

And obviously very talented ... I mean, you closed off the doorway!

GIANT

Well, perhaps you're not so foolish after all.

Cole extends the balm again. This time, the Giant takes it-- he can hardly get the tip of his pinkie inside the container. He dabs some on his injuries.

COLE

But the thing is ... you did let those braves live. And those other guys, too.

GIANT

So what?

COLE

So, I don't think you're as mean as you pretend to be.

GIANT

Eh, what do you know?

COLE

Well, you'd have to be a decent guy not to hurt 'em.

GIANT

I never wanted to do that I just wanted to be alone. Why couldn't they just leave me alone?

A tear falls from the Giant's eye.

COLE

Sounds like maybe someone hurt you.

GIANT

Eh, what do you know?

COLE

I know that sometimes people act mean because other people have been mean to them.

GIANT

I can't help how big I am!

COLE

Of course not!

GIANT

They made fun of me and got mad because I knocked their stuff over ... they told me I didn't belong in the village.

COLE

They just don't know the real you! You should go back and let them see who you really are.

GIANT

Why would I do that? I don't have any friends there.

COLE

Who wouldn't want to be friends
with you? I mean, look at you.
You're great!

GIANT

Yeah?

COLE

Of course! You should go back to
the village with the rest of us.
You shouldn't be hiding in here,
sleeping on that little bed--

GIANT

That's my bed from home--

COLE

Well, wouldn't it be nice to be in
it back there?

GIANT

I do miss my mother

COLE

There now, you see?

GIANT

You really think I'm great?

COLE

Absolutely.

GIANT

And you're sure they'll want to be
my friends?

COLE

They'd be fools not to.

GIANT?

Will you? Be my friend?

COLE

I'd be honored. I mean, friends
with a giant? How cool is that?!

GIANT

Okay. I'll go.

Cole pats the Giant on the back--his hand barely reaches it--
as the two leave the cave.

INT. PASSAGEWAY

Cole and the Giant make their way to the locked alcove.

The Giant opens the gate for the startled villagers, who all back away against the far wall.

COLE
C'mon out, you're free!

The men stay where they are.

VOICE
It's a trick!

COLE
It's not, I promise! C'mon, let's go!

Tentatively the Native Brave comes forward and joins Cole and the Giant. One by one, the rest follow suit and they all head down the dark passageway.

The growing group then stumbles upon Smitey, who's curled up in a ball CRYING.

COLE
Smitey?

SMITEY
Cole, is that you? Who's that with you?

COLE
Never mind, just get up!

Cole helps Smitey through the darkness as the group makes its way into the larger room with the Lost Souls.

HAPLESS
Cole! You made it! And the others, too! I do declare! AHH!--

At the sight of the Giant, the Lost Souls tremble, most scramble to hide.

GIANT
You said they'd like me--

COLE
It's okay, really! He's gonna to get us out of here!

The men scatter as the Giant heads to an ooze-covered stalactite. He pulls on it ...

... And a massive rope ladder instantly drops down.

SMITEY

Are you kidding me?

HAPLESS

Hah! Here we was trapped all this time and look! Don't that beat all?

Just then, the room starts to tremble.

COLE

What's happening?

GIANT

I rigged the escape route so if it ever opened, the whole thing would go.

COLE

You mean, the cave's gonna blow up?

The cave starts to violently shake and rattle. The men struggle to keep their balance.

GIANT

I'd say any minute now. Here--

The Giant offers a hand to Hapless, who turns to Cole. Cole nods approval.

COLE

Go, go!

The Giant helps Hapless onto the rope ladder--he can hardly reach the huge rungs. Then one by one, the Lost Souls make their way up.

As the villagers follow, the walls shake again. Cole is knocked off his feet. The Native Brave helps him up.

COLE

Thanks. Go on!

The Brave climbs the ladder.

Cole jumps for the ladder, but he can't reach it.

GIANT

Here--

The Giant grabs Cole and carries him up the ladder.

The walls of the cave are shaking violently now. At the main entrance, the men labor to make their way out.

EXT. CAVE

Outside, the tremors send rocks raining down upon the bunch. Above the entrance, the cave's "eyes" roll around crazily.

INT. CAVE

The Giant climbs into the main entrance still holding onto Cole.

GIANT
We gotta hurry!

Another tremor shakes the main gate loose. They slide out beneath it just in time.

EXT. CAVE

The group races as fast as it can as the ground violently rumbles beneath them.

The tremors shake the drawbridge loose. The Giant motions the men across.

GIANT
C'mon!

COLE
What about the Water Monster?

GIANT
Don't worry about him--

Cole recoils as two eyes rise to the surface--

The Giant ROARS an indecipherable chant at the creature.

The Water Monster stops in mid-air, SQUEALS at the sound of the Giant and retreats.

The group reaches the other bank just as the cave explodes.

The men are awestruck by the spectacle.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - EVENING

The sun is setting as the Lost Souls, villagers and the Giant all sit jovially around a fire. BANTER is heard as they finish off what's left of a game animal.

In the distance, another chunk of the cave falls away.

Cole sits off to the side, flipping the Koko medallion through his fingers. Hapless walks over, sits down next to him.

HAPLESS

You know, all of us are real grateful for what you did today. You should be right proud of yourself.

COLE

Ah, any of you would have done the same.

HAPLESS

I'm not so sure about that. What is that, anyway? Been fiddling with it the whole time.

Cole shows him the medallion.

COLE

It's a friend of mine. Or was.

HAPLESS

Huh. It looks just like this fella I know ... What's his name again? Kooka-something--

COLE

Kokopelli. The trickster.

HAPLESS

Kokopelli, that's it! Shyster's more like it. Duped everyone into thinkin' he could make rain, then swindled us out of our money. Wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him!

COLE

That doesn't sound like my friend.

Hapless hands the medallion back to Cole.

HAPLESS

Good to hear.

Hapless pats Cole on the back and joins the others.

Cole looks at the medallion questioningly.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cole and the Giant lead their band of merry men back across the desert.

COLE

It was cool how you scared the Water Monster like that.

GIANT

I just broke the spell.

COKE

A magic spell? Is that how you closed the doorway, too?

GIANT

Uh huh.

COLE

But I still don't understand why you closed it in the first place.

GIANT

All the villagers teased me because I couldn't fit through it. I decided if I couldn't, no one would. So I took my mother's spell and closed it.

The group reaches the edge of the village.

A few children play a rope game. The small boy from before spots Cole and the group. He runs into the village.

NATIVE CHILD

He's back. The White Buffalo is back!

One by one, the villagers come out to see what the commotion's about. The captured braves rush to their families and hug.

COLE

Your mother's spell?

GIANT

Yeah, she's the Shaman. I thought you knew.

COLE

Wait, your mother is the Shaman?!?

By now, there's a palpable BUZZ as everyone gapes at the Giant and Cole.

The Craggy-Faced Woman steps forward, angrily pointing her finger.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN

Why did you bring him here? He's the one who closed the doorway and ruined our things!

The villagers sound their agreement.

COLE

Wait a sec! He came here to make peace with you. And he let all of your men go as a sign of good faith.

PLUMP WOMAN

But he took them in the first place!

The villagers agree.

COLE

Only when they came after him. And he did say he just wanted to be left alone.

A few villagers nod agreement.

COLE

And your teasing drove him out of here in the first place, I might add.

More villagers agree.

PLUMP WOMAN

Ah, who are you to tell us?

COLE

Who am I? Who am I? I'm the White Buffalo, that's who I am! And I'm returning with the heart of the Giant--and the rest of him, too!

Now almost the entire village agrees with Cole.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN

How do we know we can trust him?

COLE

Because he's my friend. And I trust him.

Just then, the skies turn dark and Thunderbird appears across the horizon.

The Giant ROARS his indecipherable CHANT.

Thunderbird SQUEALS, turns and zips off in the other direction.

The villagers are won over. They joyfully surround the Giant, welcoming him home.

The group continues on its way until they reach the Shaman's house.

The blind Shaman kneels in a garden outside, clumsily feeling about the vegetables. She pulls out some radishes--then cocks her head, SNIFFS.

SHAMAN

Son, is that you? Is it really you?

She stands, excitedly reaching out for the Giant.

GIANT

Ma!

She collapses in the Giant's monstrous arms.

Tears fall from the Shaman's eyes as she feels her son's huge face.

SHAMAN

I never thought I'd see you again!

The Giant is bawling, too.

GIANT

I'm so sorry!

SHAMAN

No I'm sorry! It was all my fault!

GIANT

No, I'm to blame!

SHAMAN

I'm to blame!

COLE

Hh, hem ... Sorry to break up the love fest here, but now that your son's home

SHAMAN

I knew you'd do it!

COLE

Well, I'd kinda like to get home myself.

SHAMAN

Of course you do. And so you shall!

CUT TO:

INT. SHAMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Cole stands excitedly next to the blind Shaman as she stirs a black kettle.

SHAMAN

Back up, will you! Give me room!

COLE

You're sure this is gonna work?

SHAMAN

I just couldn't remember the recipe. There was eye of newt and ... what else?

The Giant steps up and removes a satchel from around his neck. He drops a handful of some herb into the pot.

SHAMAN

Cliffrose? Creosote?

GIANT

Cayenne.

SHAMAN

Cayenne! I never would have guessed.

GIANT

It just adds that little something.
And that's the last of it--

He sprinkles the last few granules into the kettle.

COLE

So, how did you know I'd be the one who'd bring your son back?

SHAMAN

Because you went to help the village. The rest of them fellas just wanted gold.

COLE

Well, I don't understand why you told me the whole story about needing his heart.

SHAMAN

Because he must have lost it, leaving like he did. He sure broke mine.

GIANT

Oh, Ma--I'm so sorry!

SHAMAN

No, I'm sorry!

They hug and cry as before. Cole rolls his eyes.

COLE

Geez, get a room, why don't ya?

The Shaman stirs the pot one more time.

SHAMAN

There, it's ready.

The Shaman takes the kettle off the fire. The others watch anxiously as she fills a small bottle and hands it to Cole.

SHAMAN

This will get you home.

COLE

Thank you.

GIANT
Thank you, Cole.

COLE
So, now, everything's cool here?
The Great Mystery will put
everything right again?

SHAMAN
Great Mystery sets all things
right.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROCK WALL - DAY

The Giant, the Shaman and other villagers walk along with Cole, who examines the bottle.

They stop at the rock wall. Cole's bicycle lies on the other side of the portal, just as he left it.

At the same time, a magpie lands in a nearby tree.

GIANT
Well, here we are.

COLE
I can't believe this is it. I'm
actually going home! I just ... I
wish Koko was here to share this. I
wouldn't have gotten here without
him.

Just then, the magpie loudly CAWS.

KOKO
(as magpie)
Aw, shucks, little man!

COLE
Little man? ... Koko, is that
you!?!?

The magpie hops off the tree and, POOF! turns into Koko.

Cole grabs Koko in a bear hug.

COLE
Koko, I'm so glad to see you! I
thought the Water Monster got you!

KOKO

Told ya, that shape-shifting gets me out of some tough spots.

COKE

I did it, Koko! I did it, I brought the Giant back, heart and all!

KOKO

I can see that! Didn't I always say you could? So, is that the elixir then?

COLE

Uh huh. You know, your believing in me helped me believe in myself. Thanks.

KOKO

Sure, little man. Any time. So, uhm, can I see that?

Cole hands the bottle to him. Koko opens it, smells.

KOKO

Whew! Strong, huh? Wonder how it's gonna taste?

Cole turns to the Giant and the Shaman.

COLE

So, thanks for everything, you guys. And Koko, I'm really gonna miss you.

KOKO

I'm gonna miss you, too.

COLE

Okay, well, let me have it then.

KOKO

No, I'm afraid not.

COLE

Quit kidding.

KOKO

Nope, no can do.

COLE

C'mon, stop playing your little tricks. Let me have it.

KOKO

Uh uh.

COLE

Look, I don't want to say goodbye
either, but--

KOKO

Always remember, Cole.

COLE

Hey, you called me Cole! Remember
what?

KOKO

To listen!

Koko swigs the elixir and jumps through the portal. The
bottle falls to the ground.

Frantically, Cole picks it up and turns it over--it's empty.

Cole watches helplessly as Koko waves from the other side,
pulls out his flute, and happily dances away.

COLE

NO!!!! No, No, No!

The villagers surround Cole as he slumps against the rock
wall.

COLE

How could he do this to me? ... I,
I trusted him ... Now I'll never
get back home

He slides down the rock wall, head in hands.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEAT LODGE - EVENING

The Giant and the Shaman escort Cole to a small teepee.

SHAMAN

You'll still get home, Cole. I'll
make another batch.

GIANT

It's just gonna take us a while to
collect more ingredients.

COLE

I still can't believe Koko did this to me.

SHAMAN

He is the trickster. Never trust a trickster.

COLE

But he wasn't supposed to trick me!

SHAMAN

Sometimes the one we end up tricking is ourselves.

The Shaman pulls aside the flap and motions Cole inside.

SHAMAN

This is our sacred sweat lodge ceremony. It will help purify your negative thoughts and energy around Koko.

INT. SWEAT LODGE

Cole enters to find a pile of hot stones, which takes up most of the small teepee. The Chief Elder sits cross-legged across from him.

Cole sits. The Chief Elder pours water on top of the stones; they SIZZLE.

COLE

So, how are a bunch of rocks gonna purify my thoughts?

CHIEF ELDER

Sshh. Just close your eyes, relax your mind and listen.

COLE

Listen? That's what Koko always told me to do.

CHIEF ELDER

Just listen, and you will hear.

Cole watches as the Elder breathes deeply, eyes closed. He CHANTS and sways.

Cole looks into the stones as they burn bright red, CRACKLING from the heat. He closes both eyes.

COLE
Listen ... Listen ... Listen

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A sharp, bright light is cut with blurred images and muffled SOUNDS.

DOROTHY (O.C.)
Sshhh! I think he said something.
Cole, can you hear me? Honey?

Cole lies in a hospital bed, a huge bandage wrapped around his head. He slowly opens his dazed eyes.

Dorothy's face stares down at him.

COLE
Huh? What?

DOROTHY
Look! He's awake!

Edgar rushes into view.

COLE
Mom? Dad?

DOROTHY
Oh, thank goodness! Thank goodness
you're all right!

EDGAR
We thought we lost you for a while
there, son.

Cole turns to see Kyle and Jonathan. Behind them stands a clean-shaven man wearing a baseball hat.

DOROTHY
The school sent flowers. And Alex
has been calling every hour. She's
so worried.

Cole turns back to Dorothy and Edgar.

COLE
What happened anyway?

EDGAR

You had an accident on your bike.
You hit your head on a rock wall.

DOROTHY

You weren't wearing your helmet!

COLE

Yeah, I remember now. I went
through.

DOROTHY

Through, dear?

COLE

I went through the rock ... To
Tapuat, this other world where the
Anasazis disappeared to ... There
were all these creatures and ... It
was, like, another dimension.

KYLE

More like demented.

DOROTHY

Kyle, will you please?!

JONATHAN

We read about the Anasazis in
school last week.

EDGAR

See, Cole? It was just a dream,
son. You hit your head pretty hard
there.

DOROTHY

Yeah, thank goodness Joe found you.

Cole turns back to the man in the cap.

JOE

Hey, kid!

Joe lifts his hat. His hair's cut short now, but without the
beard he looks a lot like Koko

COLE

Joe found me?

DOROTHY

That's right. And if he hadn't come
along, I can't imagine what might
have happened to you.

EDGAR

I couldn't imagine never seeing you again! I realized nothing's more important than being with you.

KYLE

Yeah, I was pretty worried, too.

DOROTHY

I still think that awful Iggy boy should pay for this.

COLE

Go easy on Iggy, Mom. He didn't mean for this to happen. I'm sure we can work things out.

Dorothy's taken aback.

DOROTHY

Oh. All right--

COLE

Joe, is that really you?

JOE

Sure it is. Who d'ya think I am?

COLE

It's just ... without the beard and long hair

JOE

Look a little different, huh? Needed a change.

COLE

Well, you look exactly like my friend there

DOROTHY

Your friend where, dear?

COLE

In Tapuat. Koko.

JOE

Not Ko-Ko. Joe-Joe.

Joe GAFFAWS at his own joke.

COLE

That's just the kinda thing he'd say!

JOE

Look, Cole. It was all just a dream! I'm here. I found you, remember?

COLE

Yeah, I guess ... You're sure?

JOE

Of course I'm sure. Would I ever steer you wrong?

Just then, Joe turns to the camera, and winks.

FADE OUT.

THE END