

## **SYNOPSIS: The Audacious Adventures of the Koko Kid**

Family Fantasy-Adventure  
Feature length, 96 pages

COLE LONEMAN (12) is a smart but unpopular kid who goes to a suburban middle school somewhere in the Southwest. Cole has a crush on his pretty classmate ALEX (13), but she has a new boyfriend, schoolyard bully IGGY BRUTSON (13), who makes Cole do his homework for him. After school, Cole finds Iggy tormenting a bespectacled Native American boy named JONATHAN (12) and finally stands up to the bully. Iggy is ready to beat Cole to a pulp when their teacher MR. MINDER arrives to break up the fight. Both Cole and Iggy are sent to the principal's office. Cole's stressed-out single mom DOROTHY (late 30s) comes to pick him up and scolds her son. At home, Cole is disappointed when his father EDGAR (45) cancels their visit at the last minute. Edgar seems to care more about Cole's older brother KYLE (16) than him. Later, Cole goes to see his friend JOE KOKEMAN (30s), a long-haired laid-back guitar player who runs the local bike shop. Joe offers Cole some words of wisdom. Cole rides home on his bike, but when he sees Iggy chasing after him, he pedals away as fast as he can. Swerving to miss a rabbit on the road, Cole flips over the handlebars, headfirst into a rock wall. But rather than hit his head, Cole goes right through it.

Cole now finds himself in Tapuat, a mystical land beyond our time and space. There Cole meets the mythical Native American trickster KOKOPELLI (a.k.a. KOKO) as he's stealing a gourd from a group of women. Cole takes a run at the wall, but Koko explains that the portal only goes one way. Cole will have to find another way home. Suddenly, a giant THUNDERBIRD swoops down from above, lighting bolts shooting from its wings, threatening the peaceful village. The VILLAGERS blame Cole for bringing the Thunderbird, but Koko comes to his defense, showing them the Buffalo Bills logo on the boy's t-shirt and claiming that Cole is the "White Buffalo," who has come to save them all as prophesied. The CHIEF ELDER takes the boy to see the SHAMAN, a wise, old blind woman, who tells Cole that he has put Tapuat in Koyaaqsqatsi or "out of balance." There is only one way that Cole can return to his own world: to face the Giant and bring back its heart. If Cole completes his task, the Shaman can create an elixir and open the portal once more.

Cole prepares for his journey, training with Koko, who teaches him how to shoot a bow and arrow. At dawn, Cole sets out into the desert with Koko as his guide. Koko shows off his magic powers, transforming himself into a coyote and back again – a trick that's saved his skin many times before. Suddenly, Cole and Koko encounter a massive boulder with an angry face: ROLLING HEAD, as it barrels towards them. Cole thinks fast and uses the birch bark paper he made to stop the boulder with some help from the beautiful SPIDER WOMAN, who spins a giant web and traps Rolling Head within. Cole and Koko continue on their way until they reach a cactus forest, where two talking cacti, STUBS and STRETCH, poke them with their sharp needles. Luckily, Cole still has his poncho and bike helmet to protect him from the pricks. In a cornfield, Cole and Koko encounter the CORN MAIDENS, who tempt them with their siren songs. Cole stuffs corn husks in his ears and gives his iPod earbuds to Koko to drown them out so they can pass.

Finally, Cole and Koko reach an ominous rock formation shaped like the maw of an ogre's face: the Giant's lair. But there's no foreseeable way across the river, which is guarded by a WATER MONSTER. Weary, Cole and Koko sit down to think. They

soon find themselves in the middle of a long war between the Frog Clan and the Snake Clan. GENERAL FROG captures Cole and accuses him of being an enemy spy. Cole offers the General a "peace pipe," actually his bicycle pump, and as the Frog inhales, he blows up like a balloon. Cole and Koko grab hold and float over the river, safe from the Water Monster. But Koko is weighing them down, and lets go, sacrificing himself for Cole. Cole drops down on the other side, but there's no sign of Koko.

With a heavy heart, Cole enters the dark cave and is surprised to discover he's not alone. The Giant has captured many others over the years, including a wiry, old sad-sack named HAPLESS and a big, bearded brute named SMITEY. Smitey threatens the boy, but Cole keeps him at bay with his "magic" flashlight. Cole leads Hapless and Smitey deeper into the cave until they finally come upon the GIANT himself, a colossus of a man, as he snores on his big bed. As the Giant awakes, Cole faces his fears and confronts him. But rather than fight, Cole takes the time to listen and befriend the Giant, who tells his tale of woe: how he was banished from the village many years ago. Cole offers to take the Giant back to the village with him, but only if he's willing to release his many prisoners. The Giant agrees. At the mouth of the cave, the Giant roars to scare off the Water Monster and let them cross safely. Finally, they reach the village, where the Giant is reunited with his long-lost mother, the Shaman. Cole hasn't just brought back the heart, but the whole Giant! When the Thunderbird returns, the Giant roars at the creature, which flies off, gone for good. The whole village is grateful and welcomes the Giant back home.

Just then, a magpie lands and transforms back into Koko. Cole is glad to see his friend is alive and well. The Shaman concocts the elixir as promised, but when it comes time to use it, Koko swigs it down in one gulp and leaps through the portal. Cole has been tricked. Now he'll never find his way home. The Chief Elder leads Cole into the sweat lodge and tells him to close his eyes and listen. As he does, Cole opens his eyes...and finds himself in a hospital room, surrounded by his friends and family. They are happy to have him back, safe and sound. Edgar tells Cole that he crashed his bike and hit his head on a rock. Joe was the one who found him. Soon, Joe himself arrives, hair cut short, looking a lot like Koko. Could it all have been just a dream? Joe turns to the camera and winks.