

Meeting Me

A Graphic Novel

By

Raea Gragg

Revision date: May 1, 2019

Target audience: 3-6th grade

Page count: 278 Pages

Number of panels: 1000 panels

Word count: 4,632 words

Act 1 = pages 1-98. Act 2 = page 98-150. Act 3 = pages 151-278

Written/illustrated by Raea Gragg

(925) 408-3412

www.raeagragg.com

raeatgragg@gmail.com

Act 1 (pages 1-98)

Page 1

1. We see the silhouette of a deer in a peaceful verdant canyon.

2. The deer sips water peacefully from the creek.

1. While the deer laps water, the head of a small dinosaur toy peaks up out of the water.

2. MUP MACHADO (6), submerged in a mucky creek, thrusts her dinosaur toy into the air.

MUP

Good morning Deer!

Page 2

3. Mup bursts out of yucky water with a giant smile. Her brown hair is tangled with mud and dirt.

MUP

(to deer) Have you seen a dinosaur?

4. The deer darts away.

MUP

(to deer) No?

5. Mup, holding her dinosaur toy, is unphased.

MUP

Well, I'm looking for one.

Page 3

6. Mup continues her search stepping out of the creek.

MUP

Where could you be?

7. Mup looks down at her dinosaur toy who is looking at...

8. A giant twisted oak tree, alone on a hilltop silhouetted by the early morning sky dotted with stars.

9. Mup stands at the edge of the forest, she sees that this is a majestic oak.

MUP
Wow.

Page 4

10. Intrigued, she approaches the tree.

11. Holding her stuffed dinosaur toy in her mouth, she starts to climb the trunk.

MUP
(thought bubble) Somewhere...

12. She continues her climb.

MUP
(thought bubble) out there...

13. Now she's on a limb of the tree.

MUP
(thought bubble) hidden...

14. She's getting higher. We see a jagged scar across her palm.

MUP
(thought bubble) in the wild places...

Page 5

15. She's almost to the top now.

MUP
is a dinosaur.

16. Higher.

MUP
And...

17. Higher.

MUP
I'm...

18. Higher.

MUP
going...

Page 6

19. Triumphantly, she reaches its tippy top, surveying the land and early morning sky.

MUP
...to find it.

20. Her hair blowing in the breeze, we pan down to see a distant neighbourhood below.
21. We see tall buildings,
22. And rows and rows of houses. The sun is just beginning to rise and cast a glow upon the neighbourhood.

Page 7

23. We zoom into one of track homes in the neighbourhood. It is covered with a riot of plants and vines.
24. Int. house. We see a closed bedroom door.
25. DADDY MACHADO (36) swings open the door to Mup's bedroom.
 DADDY
Morning Mup! Are you ready for school?"
26. Daddy finds that Mup's room is empty, the bed is un-made and reptile toys are strewn across the floor. On the wall is a large painting of a long-necked dinosaur. The window is ajar letting sunlight in.
 DADDY
Mup?

Page 8

27. Daddy opens the double hung window and peers out into the yard.
 DADDY
Oh Arianna Theresa Machado, what am I going to do with you?
28. Meanwhile, up in the oak tree Mup spots a shooting star streaking across the sky.
 MUP
A shooting star!
29. Daddy himself, crawls out Mup's window into the garden.
30. Daddy rings a giant bell, beckoning her home.

RING RING RING

DADDY
(screams) MUP!!!

Page 9

31. As the shooting star flies above Mup, the bell echoes across the forest from the house.

RING RING RING

DADDY
MUP! You're going to be late for school!

MUP
(yelling) OK! I'm coming!

32. Mup is still in the tree branch, holding her toy dinosaur in her hand. We see the shooting star coming closer.

MUP
I just have to make a wish first.

33. The shooting star is right above Mup now.

MUP
I wish that I could find a real dinosaur!

34. With her back turned, the shooting star flares past her, knocking her dinosaur toy, GERTIE, out of her hand.

Page 10

35. The meteorite crashes into the ground leaving a small crater in the earth. Smoke simmers from the hole. From the tree, Mup sees that poor Gertie is in the crater.

MUP
Gertie!

36. Mup scoops Gertie out of the small crater.

MUP
Oh no Gertie!

37. Mup hugs Gertie.

MUP
It's OK.

DADDY
MUP!

38. The bell begins to chime again.

RING RING RING

39. Mup races off, without noticing that a black goop is oozing out of pores in the meteorite leaking onto the ground.

Mup

I'm coming Daddy!

Page 11

40. Inside the kitchen, Daddy is at the counter, eating breakfast examining a tag of a small cycad plant. Mup, too little to see the top of the counter, boosts her cereal bowl up onto the counter.

DADDY

Wow. Would you look at this? These cycad flowers have special properties that can -

41. Mup smiles wide, mud all over her, leaves in her hair.

MUP

Morning, Daddy!

42. Angry, Daddy scolds Mup.

DADDY

Arianna Theresa Machado! What have I told you about tracking mud into the house?

43. He turns to look at her. Mup's hair is dishevelled with twigs in it. Her shirt is covered with mud. She looks guilty.

44. Ext. house - Daddy holds his steaming coffee with one hand. In the other hand is a hose with which he hoses off his filthy daughter. Clearly, this isn't the first time he's had to do this.

Page 12

45. Daddy pulls into the elementary school in his red little jeep. In the back is a large palm tree.

DADDY

Are you excited for school, Mup?

MUP

Yeah!

46. Mup gets out of the car.

DADDY
See you later alligator!

MUP
In a while crocodile!

47. Dad yells advice to Mup from the car as she runs off.

DADDY
Mup! Don't bite anyone, ok?

48. Mup arrives at the playground and spots her friends DREW (6) and LUCAS (6) on hiding on the playground.

MUP
Drew! Lucas!

Page 13

49. Mup climbs up the monkey bars. Hanging upside down.

MUP
Hey! Are you playing monster catcher?

DREW
Yeah!

50. She joins her friends in the game, running up the steps of the structure.

LUCAS
I'm Bigfoot!

DREW
And I'm an alien!

51. The three of them swing across the monkey bars.

DREW
What monster are you, Mup?

52. They jump off the bars and land on ground.

MUP
Hmmm

Just then ERIC (6), the school bully, spots them.

ERIC
Ah ha. An alien and big foot!

DREW
ERIC!

Page 14

53. Mup runs to the edge of a teeter totter. Eric climbs up the other side.

ERIC
(to Mup) And what are you supposed to be?

54. From the very edge of the teeter totter, now poised in the air, Mup replies.

MUP
I'm -

55. Eric reaches her side of the see-saw and it dips to the ground.

ERIC
A GIRL!

56. Eric towers over her.

ERIC
Girls are stupid. Go play with other girls.

57. Mup gets in his face.

MUP
FINE! I will!

Page 15

58. Eric with Drew and Lucas following and leave Mup behind.

ERIC
Let's go you guys.

59. Mup notices a group of three girls sitting in a circle playing with their Piggly Puff Princess dolls and laughing.

60. She approaches their circle.

61. Mup asks them if she can join them.

MUP
Can I play?

62. IZZY (6), their ringleader, is not welcoming.

IZZY
Who are you?

63. Mup introduces herself.

MUP
I am Mup.

Page 16

64. Izzy is weirded out.

IZZY
What kind of name is Mup?

65. Delighted Mup begins to tell Izzy about the origin of her nick name.

MUP
Well...the song goes like -

66. Izzy cuts off Mup.

IZZY
I'm Izzy.

67. She points to her two friends, KELLY (6) and CAMERON (6).

IZZY
And that's Kelly and that's Cammy.

68. Kelly and Cammy introduce themselves to Mup.

KELLY
Hi.

CAMMY
Hey.

69. Izzy tells Mup the necessary ground rules for being in their click.

IZZY
In order to play with us -

Page 17

70. Izzy holds up a heart-shaped necklace.

IZZY
You have to have one of these...

71. Cammy and Kelly look at Mup, all three girls are wearing them.

CAMMY
One of our special necklaces.

72. Izzy pushes the necklace right into Mup's face.

IZZY
The heart of true friendship.

Page 18

73. Izzy continues her interrogation. She holds up her piggly puff princess doll.

IZZY
Do you have a doll?

74. Mup does have a doll, of sorts.

MUP
Yeah! Of course.

75. Mup rifles through her backpack while the three other girls look on.

76. Triumphantlly, she pulls out her stuffed dinosaur, Gertie and holds him high.

MUP
Meet Gertie! She's a giraffatitian, a species of sauropod native to Africa.

77. The other girls are not impressed.

IZZY
That's not a Piggly Puff Princess!

Page 19

78. Izzy does not approve of Mup's dinosaur doll.

IZZY
You're so weird.

79. Suddenly they are interrupted by the arrival of the high school bus.

3. A bus stops on the street next to the fenced playground.

SCREECH

CAMMY
Izzy!

(pointing) The high school bus!

80. The three girls run to the chain link fence to watch the kids get off the bus. Mup, doesn't move, confused by what just happened.

MUP
Weird?

81. Mup, still holding her toy, joins the other girls at the fence. The trio are looking across the street at the high school.

IZZY
Someday we will be high schoolers too.

Page 20

82. The four girls are mesmerized by the teenagers strutting down the sidewalk. They stand at the fence and gawk at them.

83. An attractive teenage boy walks by and Izzy is smitten.

IZZY
I want to be kissed..

84. Mup turns to her as Izzy dreamingly looks over her shoulder at Eric running on the blacktop.

KELLY
On my sweet 16th birthday.

85. Izzy points dramatically.

IZZY
LOOK!

Page 21

86. A trio of confident high school girls walk down the sidewalk as the first graders with mouths agape stare in awe.

87. Izzy is thrilled at the prospect of becoming a teenager, eyes wide.

IZZY
That's going to be me.

88. Cammy and Kelly turn to Izzy.

CAMMY
Popular?

KELLY
Beautiful?

Page 22

89. We zoom out: four little girls watching the teens cross the street to the high school.

MUP

I'm never going to be that.

90. Izzy, Cammy and Kelly cannot believe what Mup just said.

IZZY

*What? A teenager? Of course you are!
Everyone grows up and changes.*

MUP

Changes?

91. Izzy points a finger in Mup's face.

IZZY

Yeah. Even you.

Page 23

92. Cammy backs up Izzy.

CAMMY

*She's right, you know.
We're going to get the puberty.*

93. Mup is confused again, holding Gertie tight.

MUP

What's that?

The girls begin to inform Mup.

KELLY

You wake up one day and you're a teenager!

CAMMY

Yeah! You become pretty and perfect!

KELLY

That's right. You forget the kid you used to be.

MUP

Forget?

94. Gleefully, Izzy gestures grandly.

IZZY
*And I'm going to be the most popular and
 beautiful of all!*

CAMMY
Me too!

KELLY
Me three!

Page 24

95. Izzy dramatically drops her princess doll to the ground while the others watch.

IZZY
*And I don't need this!
 Dolls are for babies!*

96. Izzy snatches Gertie away from Mup.

MUP
Gertie!

97. Izzy drops Gertie to the ground next to the discarded Piggly Puff Princess.

IZZY
And you don't need THAT!

98. The school bell rings. Recess is over.

RING RING RING

IZZY
There's the bell, ladies.

99. The girls start heading to class.

RING RING RING

IZZY
Let's go. We have some growing up to do.

100. Mup watches as the three girls run off to class.

101. After the girls are gone, Mup bends down and picks up poor discarded Gertie.

102. She hugs her toy tightly.

MUP
But I don't want to grow up.

Page 26

103. Int. house - Back home, Mup enters her bedroom.

104. And slams her door shut.

SLAM

105. She looks at herself in the mirror on the back of the door.

MUP

(to her reflection) I don't want to change.

106. Cringing, she turns away from her reflection.

MUP

I don't want to forget who I am.

107. She crawls up onto her bed and reaches the window.

108. She opens it and climbs outside.

Page 27

109. Ext. garden - Mup scrambles out of her window into her jungle-like backyard. Her dad is wheel barrowing plants nearby.

110. Sulking, she walks right past her dad.

111. And goes into the forest.

112. Daddy watches her go, concerned.

Page 28

113. Daddy follows her into the woods, crossing over a bridge.

DADDY

MUPPPYYY!

114. No answer, so he continues through the trees.

DADDY

Mup?

115. He continues.

DADDY

Where could she be?

116. He comes to a clearing and stops when he sees the large double oak tree on the knoll.

DADDY

Holy guacamole. Look at that tree!

Page 29

117. Daddy walks up the knoll toward the tree. He is fixated on the tree but we see his boot about to step into a black, gloopy puddle.

DADDY

Incredible. (Looking at the tree.)

Daddy looks down.

SPLOSH

118. Daddy has stepped in the puddle. His boot is covered in the sticky mess.

DADDY

What on earth?

119. He crouches down to investigate the substance. He scoops up some of the oozing goop into a vial.

DADDY

Well this certainly is a black and dreadful thing.

I should take a sample to diagnose its pathogenic properties. I don't want this muck spreading.

Page 30

120. Daddy looks at the substance in the test tube, perplexed.

DADDY

Where did this goop come from? What is the source of this disease?

121. A drop of water mysteriously drips into the test tube from above.

PLOP

122. The drip splashes into the test tube. Daddy looks up to see where it's coming from.

123. Up in the majestic oak above him is Mup. She's sitting on a branch, Gertie by her side, crying. It was her teardrop that landed in the vial.

Page 31

124. Daddy climbs up the tree to console her.

DADDY
Hey Mup!
There you are!

125. He climbs out on to the branch to join her.

DADDY
Wow.

126. Spreading his arms in appreciation, dad looks at the beautiful tree.

DADDY
Would you take a look at this tree!

127. We zoom out to see the twisting oak, on the hill with the sun setting on the horizon. We see green hills and a sparkling lake.

DADDY
True magnificence.

Page 32

128. Sitting next to Mup on the branch now, Daddy is still awestruck by the tree.

DADDY
*A valley oak and a live oak intertwined,
 supporting one another.*

129. Not impressed, Mup crosses her arms and turns away. Dad looks worried.

130. Tears fall from Mup's eyes.

DADDY
What's wrong, Muppet?

131. Close up of Mup's sad face.

132. She wipes away a tear with the back of her hand.

Page 33

133. Head hung low, Mup finally explains.

MUP
I don't want to get 'the puberty'.

134. Dad is confused.

DADDY
Ahh...wha...??

135. Mup is frustrated that he doesn't get it.

MUP
The puberty!

136. She explains further.

MUP
I don't want to be popular, or beautiful, I just want to be... me.

137. Tears stream down her face.

Page 34

138. Daddy scoops her into his arms.

DADDY
Ah Mup.
Teenagers aren't so bad.

139. Mup doesn't buy it.

MUP
Yes! They are!

140. Angry now, Mup keeps ranting.

MUP
They're all the same!

141. She explains.

Mup
They're all MEAN!

142. Ugh!

MUP
and BORING!

143. Dad finally seems to understand how upset she is.

MUP
And I don't want to be...

Page 35

144. Mup continues,
MUP
Popular
145. Looking sheepish,
MUP
and...and
146. Gressed out by the thought of it,
MUP
beautiful
147. Mup continues, with Gertie next to her.
MUP
I don't want to be...
148. She's trying to articulate...
MUP
that...
149. We zoom out to see Mup, Gertie and Daddy.
MUP
I just want to be...

Page 36

150. We zoom out more to see the tree and the black puddle below- it's gotten larger almost reaching the tree.
MUP
me.
151. Dad tries to reason with her.
DADDY
Then be you.
152. Mup fires back.
MUP
How do you know for sure that I'm not going to wake up and forget who I am?

Page 37

153. Mup stands up and turns her back to Daddy.

DADDY

Well, what do you want to do when you grow up?

154. Mup pauses, thinks.

155. We see their backs, and the setting sun beyond them on the horizon.

MUP

I want to go to the wild places.

156. Dad has an idea and ruffles Mup's hair.

DADDY

I promise you this.

When you're older, I'll take you to the wild places.

Page 38

157. Intrigued,

MUP

Really?

158. Dad touches her face.

DADDY

Yes, really.

159. Mup hugs Daddy.

160. Daddy starts to climb down the tree, when Mup calls out.

MUP

Daddy?

Page 39

161. Mup, still in the branch calls out to Dad.

MUP

Is she really out there? (holding up Gertie)

DAD

A dinosaur? Only for those courageous enough to look.

162. Happy that Mup is consoled, Dad heads back home.

DADDY

Let's go home, Mup

I can make my super awesome chilli.

Page 40

163. Mup does not like Dad's gross chilli, grimacing.

MUP

Ok

164. She is mortified by a smell.

SNIFF

165. Looking down Mup notices the black dread spreading up the tree trunk. It's beginning to consume the oak tree.

166. Putting Gertie in her mouth, she climbs down the tree.

MUP

I've never seen this before (thought bubble.)

167. She's almost to the bottom.

MUP

It's spreading (thought bubble.)

Page 41

168. Now on the ground, with Gertie in one arm, she stretches her hand out to touch the trunk.

169. She reaches out with her scared hand.

170. She touches the trunk.

171. Mup is LUANCHED as the tree trunk BURSTS with light.

Page 41

172. Stunned, Mup lies in the black goop behind her walking into the edge of the forest Daddy calls to her.

DADDY

Come on Mup, time to go home!

173. Daddy calls out to her again.

DADDY

It's getting late!

174. There is a moment of indecision.

175. Then she turns to Gertie beside her.

MUP
Gertie,

Page 43

176. Mup motions to the ground and speaks to Gertie.

MUP
I need you to stay here.

177. She gets up, intrigued.

MUP
(to Gertie) And keep watch.

178. She's moving toward the glowing hole.

MUP
I'll be right back.

179. She steps inside it.

180. And disappears.

Page 44

181. Mup emerges from the tree, on hands and knees, the same way she went in.

182. Mup's perplexed.

MUP
Wait.

183. She Looks over her shoulder.

MUP
Oh no!

184. She notices the once-majestic twisted oak is now just a skeleton of a stump.

MUP
The tree!

Page 45

185. She backs up, terrified.

MUP
It's destroyed!

186. In her haste, she steps on Gertie.

187. She looks down.

MUP
Gertie?

188. Gertie is broken and decayed. Her long neck is snapped in half.

189. She races away from the dead tree into the barren forest.

MUP
AHHHHH!

Page 46

190. Running for her life.

191. She falls off a steep ravine.

192. And plunges into the creek.

193. She finds herself in a bone grave yard, her eyes peep out of a skull.

194. She shakes it off and realizes it is a deer skull.

MUP
AH!

195. Running and screaming, she crosses the bridge.

MUP
AHHHHH!!!

Page 47

196. She approaches her house, crossing a barren back yard.

MUP
Why are all the plants dead?

197. She reaches her bed room window,

198. Scrambles inside,

199. Slumps onto her bed,

200. She is safely inside.

Page 48

201. Mup's eyes go wide when she hears a voice. She is not alone.

INTRUDER #1 (SPEAKERPHONE VOICE)

Eric is coming to the party.

202. She looks up.

203. The nob on her bedroom door turns.

INTRUDER #2

Really?

204. The door opens... the intruder is coming.

INTRUDER #2

Eric?

205. Quickly, Mup jumps off the bed.

206. The door opens, the lights turn on, Mup is hiding in the shadow of the door. A teenage silhouette steps into the bedroom.

INTRUDER #2

OK, I'll be over in a minute to help decorate.

INTRUDER #1 (SPEAKERPHONE)

Hurry. I've been dreaming about my Sweet Sixteen for ten years now. It has to be perfect!

Page 49

207. Mup sees a pile of clothes.

208. And jumps into it.

209. Mup peaks out of the pile behind a bra, listening to the phone conversation. The intruder #2 is a teenage girl with pink shoes and skirt walks past the pile of clothes.

INTRUDER #2

I just need to find my top and I'll be right over.

INTRUDER #1 (SPEAKERPHONE)

It better be the pink one: the crop top.

INTRUDER #2

Of course, the pink one, Izzy.

210. Mup is confused when hears the name Izzy.

MUP

(whispering to herself) Izzy?

211. She pictures Izzy, the 6-year-old girl from the playground.

212. The intruder pulls a shirt from the pile on top Mup's head.

INTRUDER #2

Ah ha! Here it is!

IZZY (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

Great! Now hurry up. The party starts soon!

Page 50

213. We look up to see Intruder #2: She is talking to Izzy on the phone. This is ARIANNA MACHADO (16).

ARIANNA

Sure thing. Nothing will go wrong. I prom-

Arianna suddenly sees, her eyes wide with shock.

IZZY (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

Arianna?

214. Arianna and Mup face off with each other standing in utter perplexation at the other. Arianna drops the phone.

215. Both girls point accusatory fingers at one another.

ARIANNA/MUP

WHO ARE YOU?

Page 51

216. Mup and Arianna face off. Fingers at each other's noses.

MUP/ARIANNA

GET OUT OF MY ROOM!

217. Mup yells loudly.

MUP

This is MY room!

ME!

218. Arianna does not believe this as Mup gives her an angry push.

ARIANNA

What? Are you kidding me?

219. Arianna side steps, Mup falls to the floor. Mup's room has been transformed from dinosaur décor to frilly pink princess attire, complete with a sparkling chandelier.

ARIANNA

Um, this is my room.

MUP

NO...

Page 52

220. Mup is disgusted with Arianna's teenage stuff. She climbs to the top of her dresser.

MUP

What's this?

Makeup?

221. Mup starts destroying Arianna's stuff, kicking items off the dresser.

ARIANNA

What are you doing?

222. Mup leaps to the princess canopy above the bed. Arianna tries to catch her.

MUP

What's this?

Where's my bed?

ARIANNA

STOP!

Page 53

223. Mup starts climbing a bookcase and Arianna lunges for her.

ARIANNA

HEY!

224. Mup climbs out of reach.

ARIANNA

Get back here!

225. Mup is cornered now, on the top of the bookshelf.

ARIANNA
You little -

226. We see a close up of Arianna's horrified face.

ARIANNA
- monster!

Page 56

227. Mup is cornered but determined.

228. Mup scrambles over Arianna's head.

229. And Launches herself into the air arms reaching. Arianna is shocked.

230. Mup has evaded Arianna is now swinging from the chandelier. Arianna glares from the top of the bookshelf.

MUP
Where are my dinosaur toys?

ARIANNA
Dinosaur toys!

Page 55

231. The chandelier is beginning to weaken under the strain of Mup. Wires break. The bookcase teeters.

SNAP SNAP SNAP

CREAK

232. Both girls freeze in horror.

233. The furniture crashes down into a heap. The room is destroyed. A pink cloud lingers over the mess.

Page 56

234. The girls burst from the rubble, unhurt.

235. Arianna turns on Mup.

ARIANNA
You!

236. Mup darts. Arianna lunges.

ARIANNA
WHO ARE YOU?

237. Arianna tackles and pins down Mup.

ARIANNA
I said, WHO ARE YOU?

MUP
Let me gooooo!

Page 57

238. The girls wrestle.

ARIANNA
Well

239. Arianna grabs Mup's wrist.

ARIANNA
Who are YOU?

240. Arianna stops struggling at the sight of the familiar scar that runs across Mup's palm.

ARIANNA
No way...

241. She pushes her away.

ARIANNA
This is impossible!

242. Arianna examines her own palm.

MUP
What's impossible?

Page 58

243. Wide angle of the girls on the mound of clothes and furniture in the destroyed room.

ARIANNA
Here. Take a look for yourself.

244. Arianna shows Mup her palm.

MUP
No way.

245. The girls compare scars and realize: they are the same person.

MUP
You're me?

Page 59

246. Arianna sulks and Mup reels in disgust.

ARIANNA
Yeah, I'm not too thrilled about meeting you either, kiddo.

MUP
No, no, yuck, yuck, EEWWWW.

247. Arianna's phone beeps. She has received a text.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

248. Arianna looks at the phone.

ARIANNA
I don't have time for this. I'm going to be late for the party.

249. Still beeping, Arianna ignores the phone. She stands beside a picture of teenage Eric, covered with hearts.

ARIANNA
And Eric's going to be there.

250. Arianna grabs Mup by the back of her overalls.

ARIANNA
Alright. Listen, how did you end up in my time? And how do I send you back?

Page 60

251. Arianna demands to know what happened and Mup begins to tell her story.

ARIANNA
Tell me exactly what happened.

MUP
I don't know.

ARIANNA
Well what is the last thing you remember?

MUP
I crawled through the big tree.

ARIANNA
The twisted oak?

252. Dangling Mup by her overall straps, Arianna questions her.

ARIANNA
You sure?

253. Mup tries to explain.

MUP
*Yup.
 And then I ran here - to my room.*

254. Just then Arianna's phone beeps. She is exasperated.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

255. She is going to be late for Izzy's birthday party. But first, she has to get rid of Mup, so angrily, Arianna drags Mup out the window.

ARIANNA
*OK, fine. Jeez. I can't believe this
 actually happening.*

Page 61

256. She continues to interrogate Mup as she drags her into the backyard.

ARIANNA
*So when you went in the tree, did you notice
 anything strange?*

MUP
*No, but when I came out, everything
 was...different...changed.*

257. They continue into the dead forest.

ARIANNA
Like what?

MUP
*The plants. And YOU! You're so BIG! A PINK!
 And MEAN!*

ARIANNA
*Oh yeah?
 Do you think I'm proud to have been you?
 A mud-loving little pig?*

258. Arianna keeps dragging her along.

ARIANNA
Of course not!

259. They continue.

ARIANNA
*The best decision I ever made was to forget
all about ever being you!*

Page 62

260. Arianna continues pulling Mup through the forest to the tree.

ARIANNA
Never thought you would grow up, did you?

261. Arianna looks down, she has an almost pained expression.

ARIANNA
Thought you could stay the same forever?

262. They cross the bridge.

ARIANNA
Well guess what?

263. They're in the clearing now. They see the sad tree stump that used to be the beautiful twisted oak.

ARIANNA
Nothing ever stays the same.

Page 63

264. They are near the stump now.

MUP
*What happened?
Why is everything dead?*

265. As they approach the tree, Arianna explains.

ARIANNA
*Well, a disease known as the Black Dread has
spread across the globe.*

MUP
WHAT?

ARIANNA
*All the plants are dead. Not that I care,
obviously.*

266. Arianna pushes Mup toward the scary tree stump.

ARIANNA
*Well go away now.
 Blast back to the past.*

267. Mup turns to face her, indignant.

MUP
I'll never be like you!

Page 64

268. Arianna pushes Mup into the gaping hole.

ARIANNA
Go! Get out of my life!

269. Mup resists.

MUP
No, this is my life! ME!

270. Arianna pushes harder.

ARIANNA
*Not anymore!
 GO!*

271. They struggle, head butting.

MUP
NO! I'm not changing who I am!

272. Arianna stands up and points to herself. Everything in the horizon behind her has been affected by the black dread.

ARIANNA
*Well get a god look kid,
 this is your future.*

Page 65

273. Mup is full of disdain for Arianna.

MUP
I will never be you.

274. She heads into the hole.

MUP
I will make sure of it.

275. But the hole SHUTS in a flash of light, both girls see that it has closed: Mup can't crawl through it.

MUP
Uh-oh!

276. Mup panics. What will she do now?

MUP
The hole is all sealed up.

ARIANNA
Is that bad?

277. Mup points an accusatory finger at Arianna.

MUP
YOU!

Page 66

278. Angry, Mup accuses Arianna.

MUP
*This is all your fault.
You broke it.*

279. Arianna is incredulous.

ARIANNA
You're kidding me, right?

280. Arianna blames the situation on Mup.

ARIANNA
Let me remind you...

281. Arianna's phone begins to beep again.

ARIANNA
You wished upon a star. Well, that star - a meteor - crashed and poisoned the planet. It ignited the spread of the Black Dread.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Page 67

282. She checks her texts.

ARIANNA
Izzy's going to be so mad!

283. Arianna's late.

ARIANNA
I'm supposed to be at the party right now, helping set up.

284. She looks at Mup.
ARIANNA
You.
285. She gestures to the ground.
ARIANNA
Stay here.
286. So, she leaves Mup standing at the foot of the tree.
ARIANNA
Don't move. Dad can fix the tree. He knows his plant stuff.
287. Mup watches Arianna run off.
288. But, Mup is a rebellious 6-year-old.
MUP
Don't move?
Yeah right.

Page 68

289. Arianna sneaks past her house. In the window we see her dad working inside. He's looking at a soil sample with a microscope.
290. Arianna pedals her bike to Izzy's mansion.
ARIANNA
I'm sixteen years old.
291. She rides through the neighbourhood.
ARIANNA
And I'm the only one in this town who doesn't have a car.
292. She pedals furiously, her hair flying. A small figure runs through the shadows at the edge of the forest.
ARIANNA
Why can't...

Page 69

293. Its Mup, tailing Arianna as Arianna rides.
ARIANNA
I be normal...
294. Close up of her face -

ARIANNA
Like everyone else.

295. She sees the brightly lit mansion, with teenagers flocking toward the grand front entrance.

ARIANNA
How hard can it be?

Page 70

296. Arianna, being popular and pretty, walks past teenagers lined up in front of the house. She goes right up to the front door, where the bouncer lets her in.

BOUNCER
Hey Arianna. Enjoy the party.

297. Behind her, two teenage boys, Drew and Lucas, now 16, try to gain entry. In the swarm of teenagers we see Mup, sneaking through the line.

BOUNCER
I don't think so.

298. One of the boys calls out to Arianna as she steps inside.

LUCAS
Hey Arianna

299. She stops and looks over her shoulder.

BOUNCER
You know these two?

300. Arianna replies.

ARIANNA
No I don't.

301. The boys protest. While the bouncer is distracted, we see Mup sneak through the crowd and into the open door.

DREW
Yeah you do.

302. The bouncer holds the boys back.

LUCAS
We were best friends! We always played together.

Page 71

303. The bouncer blocks the way in. Arianna flips her hair and marches into the party.

ARIANNA

Yeah, in like the first grade.

304. Mup has managed to sneak past the bouncer and into the party. She looks up at the tall teenagers who are dancing under a disco light.

305. Mup looks around in awe from the edge of a couch. No pays her any attention. On the couch there's a passed-out kid and a boy in a beanie.

306. She climbs past the beanie boy.

BEANIE BOY

'Sup little man.

307. Mup jumps down from the coach.

MUP

I'm a girl!

308. Mup peaks into the kitchen and sees Izzy's magnificent triple stacked birthday cake.

Page 72

309. Mup reaches a hand up the counter top to the enormous cake. A Kelly is applying frosting to the cake while Cammy teeters under a huge armful of presents. Both teens are quite frazzled.

KELLY

It needs to be perfect.

310. Mup has her eyes on her sugary prize. Cammy speaks up from behind the tower of presents she is caring.

CAMMY

I know, right? Everything needs to be perfect.

311. Mup is about to take a big bite out of the cake, when Arianna parts her way between some birthday balloons.

ARIANNA

WE need to be perfect.

CAMMY
Arianna!

Page 73

312. The three girls are now in the kitchen, along with Mup who is still undiscovered behind the cake.

KELLY
You took forever

CAMMY
Yeah what took you so long?

313. Arianna stammers.

ARIANNA
I had...

314. Continuing...

ARIANNA
a...

315. Continuing...

ARIANNA
thing...

316. Arianna looks at her scar.

ARIANNA
to deal with.

317. Arianna hides her hand.

ARIANNA
um, so where's the birthday girl?

318. Everyone looks up at the sound of Izzy.

IZZY
Let's get this party started ladies!

Page 74

319. Izzy is resplendent in her birthday curls and makeup. Mup has her hands plunged into the cake.

IZZY
This is the best birthday party EVER!

CAMMY

Oh good. We worked really hard on decorations and stuff.

320. Meanwhile, Mup holds in her hands a large chunk of cake.

KELLY

Especially the cake.

321. Mup (still unseen) shoves the cake into her mouth.

ERIC

Well, well, well.

322. All the girls turn at the sound of Eric's voice.

ERIC

Look what I found over here.

Page 75

323. The four teenagers gasp at the sight of Eric handsome and grinning.

ALL FOUR GIRLS TOGETHER

ERIC!

324. Eric proceeds to greet each girl.

ERIC

What's up Kelly.

325. He's so gorgeous.

ERIC

Hey there Cammy.

326. He is swoon-worthy.

ERIC

(to Izzy) The birthday girl...

327. Izzy puckers up for a birthday kiss when he turns away from and leaves her hanging.

ERIC

and...

Page 76

328. Eric ignores Izzy and leans into Arianna.

ERIC
Hello Arianna.

329. Eric leans toward Arianna and wraps a big strong arm around her shoulder. From behind the counter, Mup is disgusted.

ERIC
Wanna dance?

330. Arianna is delighted. Izzy is irate. And Mup is horrified.

ARIANNA
I'd love to.

Page 77

331. On the dance floor, Eric confidently leads Arianna in a spin.

ERIC
You are the most beautiful girl...

332. He dips her.

ERIC
I have ever seen.

333. We see a below-the-waist view of Mup approaching the dancing couple. She's so little, no one notices her.

ERIC
Ever since I was little...

334. Eric moves in for the kiss. Arianna is all smiles and fluttering eyelashes.

ERIC
I wanted to do this.

335. Eyes closed, they pucker up.

Page 78

336. Suddenly Mup lunges for Eric and bites him on the butt. He screams. Arianna falls down.

ERIC
AHHH!

337. Eric staggers around in pain. Everyone is watching.

338. From the floor, Arianna looks over and spots Mup, who makes a face at her.

339. Cammy and Kelly carry the large cake into the living room. Following the cake, is Izzy, who is enjoying being the center of attention. Eric is still staggering about, holding his backside... in the direction of the cake.

ERIC
OW!

Page 79

340. Eric crashes into the cake.

341. Cammy and Kelly are shocked.

CAMMY
I spent five hours-

KELLY
making that cake.

342. Everything is ruined. The cake and all the presents are in a giant heaping pile. Izzy stands in the middle of the debris, with part of the birthday cake on top of her head. The candles are still flickering next to a broken birthday banner. Onlookers gawk.

Page 80

343. Eric lifts his head out of the mess, sporting a cake beard and mustache.

344. He points to Arianna.

ERIC
You!

345. Arianna is still on the floor amid the crowd of partygoers, wide eyed with disbelief.

ERIC
This is all your fault!

346. She gets to her knees.

ARIANNA
Wait Eric!

347. She tries to explain.

ARIANNA
It wasn't me.

Page 81

348. Meanwhile, Izzy is seething in rage below the broken banner.
349. The birthday candles at the top of her head catch the Happy Birthday banner on fire.
350. The banner is on fire. Panic erupts.
351. Beanie boy from the couch is screaming with hysteria as a fire erupts in the house.

BEANIE BOY

FIRE!
Run for your lives!

Page 82

352. Izzy is furious.
- IZZY
ARIANNA!
- ARIANNA
Wait Izzy. I didn't mean -
353. Izzy takes a swing at her.
- IZZY
You ruined my sixteenth birthday!
354. Izzy has her hand on Arianna's heart of true friendship necklace.
- IZZY
You're not...
355. She pulls the necklace away.
- IZZY
...my friend anymore!

Page 83

356. Izzy dramatically drops the necklace onto the ground.
357. Arianna stands staring at her necklace on the ground, behind her firefighters storm into the house as fire sprinklers turn on.

358. A fire fighter grabs Izzy. She is still enraged. Mascara runs down her cheeks.

IZZY
Ruined!

359. The fire fighter scoops her up.

IZZY
You hear me?

360. A pair of fire fighters grab Arianna next. She is shocked and saddened.

IZZY
Ruined!

Page 84

361. While the fire fighters' hose down the scene;

362. Mup sees the heart necklace on the ground.

363. She picks it up.

364. And puts it in her overalls front pocket.

Mup jumps out an open window as a firefighter carries out a crying Eric.

Page 85

365. Ext. Arianna's house - Police cars and fire trucks zoom by, sirens blaring, on their way to Izzy's house.

EEE-YUUUU!
EEE-YUUUU!
EEE-YUUUU!

366. Int. Arianna's house. DAD MACHADO (now 46) with grey hair, is in his office, working on the computer. We see beakers and vials and microscopes. We see books scientific books. One is titled The Meteorite and the 6th Extinction. We see a globe with flags pinned to it.

Page 86

367. Dad is looking at Google Earth on a monitor.

368. He clicks the mouse.

CLICK

369. He zooms into the African continent.

CLICK

370. He zooms in.

CLICK

371. He zooms in again to a tiny speck of green.

Click

372. He zooms in on a green valley. A blue river runs through it.

373. Dad is astonished.

DAD

That's it!

374. He pulls out a paper map and marks an X on it.

DAD

This valley appears immune to the disease.

Page 87

375. Dad is jubilant.

DAD

*And to think! All the botanists of the world
have given up hope!*

376. He studies the map.

DAD

I must go there and find a cure!

377. Remembering his promise, Dad has a great idea.

DAD

I'll take Arianna, just like I promised.

378. Just then he hears a knock at the door.

Knock, Knock

379. Dad opens the door. There is Arianna, wet and streaked with mascara. She is flanked by two police officers.

COP

Hello

DAD
Hello Sir.

Page 88

380. Ext. Bedroom - Mup climbs into the window to her bedroom the sunrise breaks out over the mountain.

381. Int. Bedroom - Mup sees Arianna asleep in her bed.

382. Mup looks at the photos on the wall. They picture her growing up: with her friends at the mall, wearing makeup and stylish pink clothes.

MUP
What happened to me?

Page 89

383. Arianna is awake. She sees Mup.

ARIANNA
You ruined everything.

384. She sits up in bed.

ARIANNA
My friends hate me!
Eric will never kiss me!

385. She stands up and gestures to the pile of junk in the middle of her bedroom.

ARIANNA
My room is destroyed.

386. She leans in toward Arianna, getting in her face.

ARIANNA
You will always be a weird little freak.

387. Tears in her eyes, Mup replies.

MUP
You let me go.

Page 90

388. Arianna glares at Mup.

ARIANNA
I did.

389. Arianna pushes Mup out the window.

ARIANNA
And I'm doing it now.

390. She dangles Mup out the window.

ARIANNA
I'm letting you go.

391. Arianna points toward the forest.

ARIANNA
Go back to your stupid tree and crawl back through time!

392. Mup is hanging outside the window, clutching the window frame.

MUP
I can't go back! The tree is broken! Or did you forget that too?

Page 91

393. Just then Dad walks in. We see Mup dangling outside of the window, but Dad can't see her.

DAD
Young lady, I need to have a word with you!

394. Arianna, standing at the window, shields Mup. She turns around to face him.

ARIANNA
Heeey Dad.

395. Dad begins his lecture.

DAD
Sneaking out...nearly burning a house down.

396. He points to the mess in her bedroom.

DAD
Destroying your room.

Page 92

397. Dad continues his lecture.

DAD
So I decided..

398. We see Mup dangling outside the window, listening in.

399. Arianna looks scared to hear Dad's punishment.
400. Dad holds up Arianna's backpack and gestures to it. He smiles.
- DAD
We're going to the wild places, to find a cure for the Black Dread.
401. Arianna looks horrified.
- ARIANNA
What?
402. From outside the window Mup smiles broadly.
- MUP
The wild places?

Page 93

403. Arianna sobs in protest.
- ARIANNA
No! Please! Lock me in my room! Ground me - for life!
404. Dad is gleeful now.
- DAD
It will be plant-astic.
- ARIANNA
AHH
405. Mup pictures a dinosaur in a jungle. She is thrilled.
406. Dad tells Arianna to hurry up and get ready.
- DAD
Start packing kiddo!
- ARIANNA
Now?
407. Dad turns around and starts walking out of the room. Mup crawls back inside the window and sneaks into the bedroom past Arianna.
- DAD
We leave in twenty minutes!

Page 94

408. Arianna is furious. Mup sneaks into the backpack.

409. Suddenly Arianna remembers Mup, who she left hanging outside the window.

ARIANNA
Where did she go?

410. Arianna peers outside the window and looks left. No Mup.

ARIANNA
Well...

411. And looks right. No Mup.

ARIANNA
that solves that problem.

412. Arianna starts rifling through her pile of clothes.

ARIANNA
The wilderness? Dirt? Bugs? What am I supposed to wear?

Page 95

413. Arianna stuffs clothes into her backpack, infuriated.

ARIANNA
Why can't I just be grounded like a normal person?

414. She struggles to zip up her over-stuffed backpack. We see eyeballs peeking out of the bag.

ARIANNA
I can't believe this! My whole life is falling apart.

415. Arianna with backpack on and heads out her bedroom door. Mup tosses all of Arianna's clothes out from the backpack.

416. Arianna heads out the door.

ARIANNA/MUP (at the same time)
Well...here I go. (thought bubble)

Act 2Page 96

417. A small airplane flies through the sky.

418. Int. airplane - close up of a travel brochure featuring green trees and plants. It reads RAINFOREST.
419. We get a glimpse outside the round airplane window at the land below - it's a wasteland.
420. Sarcastic and grumpy, Arianna holds the brochure, comparing it to the dead landscape outside the window.
- ARIANNA
Wow

Page 97

421. Dad is super excited. He squeezes Arianna's shoulders.
- DAD
Are you excited Muppy?
422. He continues. Not seeing the backpack unzip and eyeballs peak out.
- DAD
I'm finally taking you to the wild places.
423. Arianna is annoyed.
- ARIANNA
Ew. No!
424. She's frustrated with her dad.
- ARIANNA
Don't call me that!
425. She turns her back to him.
- ARIANNA
I'm not Mup anymore.
426. Dad looks hurt.
- ARIANNA
And no, I'm not excited.

Page 98

427. Dad looks betrayed; Arianna glowers at the travel brochure.
- ARIANNA
I don't care about the wild places.
428. Dads remorseful.

DAD
Sorry...Mu-Arianna.

429. He is deflated.

DAD
*Well it's our chance to bring the world back
 to life.*

430. Arianna crinkles up the brochure in her fist.

ARIANNA
Well what if I don't care about the world..

Page 99

431. Dad is shocked.

432. Back rudely turned to her dad, Arianna continues.

ARIANNA
and Dad..

433. She looks over at him.

ARIANNA
*When will you wake up and realize I'm not
 your little girl anymore?*

She looks out the window.

Just give up and retire.

Page 100

434. Ext.- bird's eye view of a colourful marketplace.

435. We see Dad, in his big hat walking with Arianna amid the crowds at the marketplace. From Arianna's backpack, we see Mup peeking out and enjoying the excitement.

436. They stop and Dad studies his map while Arianna looks on, bored.

Page 101

437. Dad approaches an old woman with his map to ask directions.

DAD
Hello, 'mam.

438. He points to the map.

DAD
Are you familiar with...

439. He points to the large X.

DAD
this valley?

440. She looks frightened and runs off.

441. Dad tries another person in the crowd.

DAD
Excuse me sir, would you know how to get here?

442. Arianna looks bored and annoyed with the ordeal. As locals are clearly scared of Dad's map.

Page 102

443. Dad spots an old orange safari jeep.

444. He goes to the jeep and talks to its owner, an old man.

DAD
Hello there sir! Is this your jeep? I'd like to buy it.

445. While Dad and the man negotiate, Arianna wanders off into the crowd.

446. A boy, carrying a smelly warthog on his shoulders, bumps into Arianna.

Page 103

447. The boy is friendly and waves, but Arianna is grossed out by the warthog.

448. The boy with warthog continues to walk through the busy marketplace

449. The boy passes an old white man, MR. LEOPOLD (70) in a white suit and golden crown. Mr. Leopold is also ghastly disgusted and waves away the flies.

Page 104

450. Leopold wipes the germs off his face.

LEOPOLD

I'm surrounded by pig-squabbling peasants.

451. Leopold barks orders at his two solders, LEON and ROM.

LEOPOLD

Leon! Rom! Did you locate the storyteller?

452. They reply.

LEON

No sir.

ROM

We haven't.

453. Leopold yells at them.

LEOPOLD

KEEP LOOKING THEN!

454. The guards, holding spears, turn around and continue their search through the crowds.

LEOPOLD

I need to have a chat with the girl who has seen the beast.

Page 105

455. Meanwhile, Arianna sits down on a discarded tire, truly bored.

456. We see the backpack unzip.

ZIP

457. Mup pops out, super excited.

Page 106

458. Mup with a big smile and looks around.

459. Her eyes go wide.

460. She can't believe it! She sees a dinosaur shadow!

461. She is star struck.

462. She leaps out the backpack, chasing the dinosaur shadow.

Page 107

463. When Mup leaps out of the backpack, Arianna loses her balance

464. And falls backward into the tire.

465. She's stuck, wedged in.

466. She struggles to get out.

467. Arianna climbs out of the center of the tire while Mup runs off.

Page 108

468. Arianna sees that her backpack is unzipped and empty.

469. She assumes she's been robbed.

ARIANNA
Dad! My clothes!

470. She sees her Dad, talking with the man about the jeep. He is trying to broker a deal and ignores Arianna.

ARIANNA
Someone stole -

DAD
(To jeep guy) So what do you say?

Page 109

471. Stunned, Arianna turns and spots Mup running away.

472. She can't believe it.

ARIANNA
No way!

473. She takes off after her.

ARIANNA
You have got to be kidding me!

474. Arianna chases Mup, who is exuberantly chasing the dinosaur shadow.

Page 110

475. Arianna runs past Leopold, splashing mud all over his white suit.

ARIANNA
Out of my way!
I'm on a mission!

476. Leopold is infuriated about the mud.

477. He watches Arianna run off, eyes squinting.

Page 110

478. Meanwhile, Mup has reached the dinosaur shadow, she crouches down to check it out. It's shaped like a long-necked dinosaur.

NARRATOR
It's real

479. Just then the shape of the shadow changes into the shape of an airplane.

NARRATOR
I know it is.

480. Mup looks up, confused. She is in a crowd of kids gathered around to watch a puppet show. The narrator continues.

NARRATOR
Because..

481. We see a puppet airplane flying across the stage at the puppet show. The narrator continues with her story. The Puppet becomes a real plane.

NARRATOR
I saw it.

You see..

With spare pieces of machinery, I had built a plane.

Page 112

482. In the narrator's thought bubble, we see a girl, exhilarated because she is flying a small air craft.

NARRATOR

And I got it to launch.

4. The airplane flies through heavy mist.

NARRATOR

I was flying through heavy mist.

5. The plane loses a wing.

NARRATOR

I became terribly lost.

6. The crashing airplane soars past a large head and eyeball appearing in the fog.

NARRATOR

That's when...

I saw it...

Page 113

483. The girl climbs out of her downed aircraft in a river as a large dinosaur-like silhouette emerges from a river.

NARRATOR

A BEAST!

7. Wide angle of the audience watching the puppet booth.

AUDIENCE

OOH!

Gasp.

Ah!

8. Mup, among the on looking kids, is awe-struck.

MUP

A dinosaur!

Page 114

484. Just then, Arianna pounces!

ARIANNA

There you are!

9. She scoops her up.

ARIANNA

I cannot believe you: stowing away! Really?

10. Mup struggles to get out of Arianna's hold.

MUP

Let me go!

11. Mup struggles.

MUP

I want to find the beast!

12. Arianna is confused.

ARIANNA

What beast?

NARRATOR

WELL...(interrupting)

Page 115

13. The girls look over to see the narrator, WAASI (12), standing next to her puppet booth. She is holding up her dinosaur puppet. Waasi is accompanied by a large but scrappy pelican, DIRTYBIRD.

WAASI

Mokele-mbembe, of course!

DIRTYBIRD

SQUAWK!

14. Arianna, one hand on hip, the other holding Mup cocks her head.

ARIANNA

Mokele-mb...what?

15. Confidently, Waasi explains.

WAASI

The legendary beast who guards the Forgotten Forest.

Page 116

485. Arianna starts to walk away, but Mup is intrigued.

WAASI

You have heard of it, right?

486. Arianna dismisses her and walks away, carrying Mup under her arm.

ARIANNA
*Whatever, kid.
 Go away now.*

WAASI
You're not very nice, are you?

487. From Arianna's clutch, Mup speaks up.

MUP
No she isn't.

Page 117

488. Waasi and the pelican have followed the girls back to the old tire. Arianna starts to stuff Mup back into the backpack. In the distance, we see Dad, shaking hands with the jeep man.

ARIANNA
(to Waasi) Go away kid.

WAASI
I'm not a kid! I'm an aeronautical engineer!

489. Arianna puts Mup into the backpack.

ARIANNA
Yeah right.

490. Waasi is undeterred.

WAASI
Well I'm going to be.

491. Arianna hoists the backpack onto her back. Mup peaks out of it.

WAASI
And it's true you know. I've seen the beast.

Page 118

492. Mup pops her head out of the backpack.

MUP
I believe you!

ARIANNA

Don't move. The last thing I need is you running around messing stuff up!

493. Arianna is annoyed at Waasi and yells at her. Meanwhile, Dad, having made a deal with the jeep guy, comes over to join them. He overhears Arianna being rude to Waasi.

ARIANNA

And you, go away! (to Waasi)

DAD

Arianna!

Where are your manners, young lady?

494. Arianna groans as Dad pulls out his map and shows it to Waasi.

DAD

SAY

Do you know where this is?

Page 119

495. Waasi studies the map.

WAASI

That's the Forgotten Forest.

496. Dad is pleased.

GREAT! Can you take us there?

497. Arianna looks on smugly as Waasi becomes hesitant.

WAASI

Well...the truth is that...

498. She continues to explain

WAASI

The Forgotten Forest...

499. Just then, Waasi hears the voice of Leopold's guards over her shoulder.

LEON

We spotted the storyteller. She was operating a puppet booth and went this way, sir.

LEOPOLD

Well, Leon, Rom - don't just stand here - go get her!

Page 120

500. Leopold continues to bark orders.

LEOPOLD

She is supposed to be a 12-year-old kid!

501. He goes on,

LEOPOLD

How hard can it be to catch one runt!

502. He turns around. There she is!

503. Leopold spots Waasi standing near the jeep with the pelican, Arianna and Dad. Waasi suddenly realizes Leopold is on to her.

LEOPOLD

You!

WAASI

YEAH. (to dad) I can take you to the Forgotten Forest.

DAD

Fabulous. I'm Mr. Machado and this is my daughter Arianna. What's your name?

504. Quickly, Waasi jumps into the jeep. Dirtybird follows her.

WAASI

I'm Waasi and this is Dirtybird.

DAD

It's a pleasure to meet you both.

505. Arianna fastens the luggage onto the roof rack. Dad hands her the keys.

DAD

Arianna, these are for you.

Page 121

506. Arianna can't believe her good fortune. She looks at the keys.

ARIANNA

You want...

507. We see Leopold coming closer.

ARIANNA
me...

508. From inside the jeep, Waasi looks worried.

ARIANNA
To drive...

DAD
You're 16, aren't you?

509. Arianna is thrilled. Waasi is frightened.

510. Here comes Leopold.

LEOPOLD
You little brat. I let you go and -

Page 122

511. Waasi peers out the window.

512. Dad and Arianna are still standing outside the jeep. From inside Dirtybird squawks and Waasi ducks down.

DIRTYBIRD
SQUAWK!

DAD
Ok!
Let's go!

513. They climb into the car and shut the doors.

514. Arianna is at the wheel and Waasi leans into the driver seat.

WAASI
Ok!

515. From the back seat, Waasi is frantic.

WAASI
Go!

Page 123

516. Leopold reaches the car and looks in the window.

LEOPOLD
I let you go once. But not this time, little girl!

517. Arianna inserts the key into the ignition.
518. She puts her foot on the pedal.
519. And they take off, leaving Leopold in the dust.

VROOM

Page 124

520. Leopold is covered in mud.
521. The jeep careens off with Arianna at the wheel. From the back window, Waasi sticks her tongue out at Leopold.
522. They get away.
523. Leopold, mud covered, is flanked by his soldiers.
- LEOPOLD
LEON!
- ROM!*
524. Close up of his evil eyes.
- LEOPOLD
Where is my hand sanitizer?

Page 125

525. A decimated landscape. Tree stumps, bones, a vulture.
526. The jeep zooms by, the vulture takes flight.
- DAD
You're gripping the wheel too tight.
527. Int. jeep - Arianna's at the wheel. Dad is scared of her driving.
- DAD
Turn here!
528. The jeep swerves and goes down a steep embankment.

Page 126

529. The jeep speeds between decimated trees. Waasi crawls out of the back window onto the roof of the car.

DAD
Watch out!

ARIANNA
Dad, I got this!

530. The car flies over a gully as Waasi surfs the top.

WAASI
*Alright. Here we go. Test flight 14
underway.*

531. The car zooms along. Dirtybird climbs out onto the roof and joins Waasi.

WAASI
Perfect lift -

532. She ties a rope to the roof rack.

WAASI
to drag ratio.

Page 127

533. Mup, in the backpack strapped to the roof rack, unzips the bag and emerges. Waasi hold out her latest wing design.

WAASI
*Dirtybird, these wings should work this
time.*

534. Mup watches Waasi strap mechanical wings onto the pelican.

MUP
What are you doing?

WAASI
*I'm working on new wings for Dirtybird. So
he can fly again, since his feathers were
ruined from oil.*

535. Dirtybird BUMPS of the vehicle with his new wings.

WAASI
Woohoo!

MUP
Fly Dirtybird! Fly!

Page 128

536. Dirtybird sails along behind the jeep... upside down.

WAASI
Oohh...

537. Waasi considers her design.

WAASI
I need to change the center of gravity.

538. Mup looks out at the landscape with alarm.

MUP
Waasi! Look!

539. Wide angle view of the jeep pulling the upside down pelican with the tethered rope through the wasteland.

MUP
The jungle's dead.

WAASI
It wasn't always like this; it used to be green.

Page 129

540. Sitting on top of the jeep, with Dirtybird sailing behind them, Waasi explains the situation to Mup.

WAASI
*This is my ancestral homeland.
We've lived here since the beginning of time.*

541. The jeep hits a bump and the girls bounce up, just as Mup is about to share her chocolate with Waasi.

BUMP

MUP
Chocolate?

WAASI
Yeah!

542. Waasi continues and we see Arianna recklessly driving the car with a scared Dad sitting next to her.

WAASI
But everything changed when the Black Dread came.

543. Mup contemplates the horizon.

MUP
How can you go back in time?

544. Waasi answers.

WAASI

I don't know; I've never tried.

545. She continues.

WAASI

But if you could...

Page 130

546. Waasi continues her conversation with Mup on top the jeep.

WAASI

you could probably stop the Black Dread from happening in the first place.

DAD

Arianna! Watch out there's -

547. Arianna doesn't want his driving advice.

ARIANNA

DAD!

548. Dad screams.

ARIANNA

I don't need..

549. Arianna turns her eyes back to the road. Her eyes go wide in fear.

ARIANNA

your...

Page 131

550. As the jeep plummets off a cliff, with the girls on top and the bird trailing behind,

ARIANNA

advice.

551. They bottom out at the bottom of a gully the jeep is smoking. The passengers watch from the clifftop.

DAD

So.

552. He turns to Waasi.

DAD

What now, Waasi?

553. Waasi looks to the horizon.

WAASI
We walk.

Page 132

554. On foot, Mup peaks out from the backpack.

MUP
Hey Waasi?

555. Whispering, Mup asks Waasi,

MUP
How can I find Mokele-mbembe?

WAASI
Why?

556. Waasi looks disturbed.

WAASI
Mokele-mbembe...

557. She continues,

WAASI
ia a...

558. She goes on,

WAASI
monster!

Page 133

559. As they walk along, Mup continues talking to Waasi. Dad is up ahead, out of earshot.

MUP
Not all monsters are bad.

560. Waasi is sceptical.

WAASI
*Well...
as legend has it -*

561. Arianna has been listening to their conversation and now looks annoyed.

Page 134

562. Arianna interjects, scolding Waasi.
ARIANNA
Oh no, no, no, no!
563. She points to Waasi, getting in her face.
ARIANNA
Don't tell her anything!
564. Mup persists.
MUP
Yes! Tell me!
565. Arianna zips up the backpack, locking her inside. Mup struggles to get out.
WAASI
What's wrong with telling a story?

Page 135

566. Arianna has had it!
ARIANNA
Ugh!
567. She is sick of Waasi's and Mup's fantasies.
ARIANNA
You can't just go around telling ridiculous, made up stories!
568. Waasi crosses her arms, taking a stance.
WAASI
Well all my stories are true.
569. They continue walking.
ARIANNA
Well then you're a gullible kid who still believes everything she hears!
570. Waasi does not agree.
WAASI
NOT TRUE!

Page 136

571. Arianna bends down to Waasi's level

ARIANNA

Shhh!

572. She launches into a sarcastic monologue.

ARIANNA

Listen to this story then.

573. Arianna's story begins with a little girl standing on the earth smiling at a shooting star.

ARIANNA

*Once upon a time there was little girl who wished upon a star.
But her wish didn't come true.*

574. The story continues. The shooting star strikes the earth and knocks the girl off the planet.

ARIANNA

Then that little girl had to grow up.

575. Just then, Dad interrupts with his annoying cheerfulness.

DAD

Why so sad Arianna? I know what will cheer you up!

Page 137

576. He takes both of her hands in his. Waasi and Dirtybird watch this spectacle unfold.

DAD

Our sing-a-long song!

ARIANNA

Dad, NO!

577. Dad clears his throat and readies his voice. Arianna covers her ears.

DAD

OOOOHHHHH!

ARIANNA

No! No! No!

578. He belts out the words to his song.

DAD
Where could she be?

579. Animated, Dad continues. Waasi and Dirtybird are intrigued.

DAD
I'm looking for a Muppet you see.

Page 138

580. Dad marches along, belting out the tune. The others follow.

DAD
A goofy, gooby, guppy!

581. Dad will not quit.

DAD
A rumble tumble of fun!

582. Almost to the punch line now, Dad continues to sing.

DAD
For the best thing about Muppies...
is Mup's the only one!

Page 139

583. Waasi and Dirtybird applaud. Arianna hangs her head in shame.

CLAP CLAP CLAP

SQUAWK!

584. The others move along with buoyed spirits. But Arianna has had it!

585. Begrudgingly, Arianna follows the group. We see Mup's head appear from the backpack; she's all smiles.

ARIANNA
This officially cannot get any worse.

Page 140

586. We see their footprints on the ground crossing the dry terrain as the sun sets on the horizon.

LEOPOLD
Well...

587. A red carpet is rolled out.

LEOPOLD
it appears...

588. We see Leopold's white coat tails as he steps onto the red carpet.

LEOPOLD
we have trespassers.

Page 141

589. We see Leopold's evil face. His soldiers can be seen in the background examining the crashed jeep.

LEOPOLD
And I know who it is...

590. A mosquito buzzes by as Leopold looks out toward the sunset.

LEOPOLD
It looks like...

BUZZ

591. A mosquito lands on his face.

LEOPOLD
I will be getting that chat soon.

BUZZ BUZZ

592. Leopold smacks the mosquito on his cheek.

SMACK

593. We see a close up of his delusional eyes.

LEOPOLD
Where are my disinfectant wipes?

Page 142

594. We see a silhouette of the travellers against a setting sun: Dad, followed by Arianna stooped from the weight of her backpack, followed by Waasi. Dirtybird holds up the rear.

595. Dad watches the sun setting.

DAD
Looks like it's time to set up camp!

596. Swatting mosquitos, Arianna is exhausted.

ARIANNA
FINALLY!

597. Dad delegates tasks to the girls.

DAD
*Waasi, can you collect some firewood?
Arianna, set up the sleeping bags, please.*

I'll get started on my super awesome chilli.

Page 143

598. Waasi collects firewood.

599. She picks up logs.

600. Dirtybird wants to help collect wood, too. He spots a twig.

601. He picks it up.

602. He follows along after Waasi, like a well-trained dog.

Page 144

603. Wide angle of the campfire scene. Everyone is working on their task.

604. Arianna approaches Waasi as she builds the fire.

ARIANNA
*So Waasi, what's the real story? Super smart
kid like you, all alone?*

605. Waasi doesn't answer. Arianna is exasperated by the mosquitos swarming around her.

606. She sprays them with repellent.

ARIANNA
You're a runaway, aren't you?

Page 145

607. Waasi is kneeling at the campfire, Dirtybird by her side, he drops his twig.

WAASI
I'm not a runaway.

608. Arianna doesn't believe her.

ARIANNA
Right.

609. She shakes out a sleeping bag.

ARIANNA
It just seems like maybe -

610. Waasi stands up.

WAASI
Well, what are YOU running from?

Page 146

611. Arianna replies, sarcastically.

ARIANNA
Oh...

612. She turns to Waasi

You know...

613. She looks at her, while lifting up her heavy backpack (with Mup inside.)

ARIANNA
My past.

614. She drops the backpack to the ground. It thumps.

ARIANNA
It's kinda weighing me down at the moment.

MUP
Oof! (from inside the bag.)

Page 147

615. The girls continue their conversation.

WAASI
Well...

616. Waasi questions Arianna.

WAASI
What do you want? For your future?

617. Arianna gestures over to her father, who is reading a plant book.

ARIANNA

Well, HE wants to find a magical cure to save all the plants in the world.

618. She taps her chest.

ARIANNA

But me?

619. She continues speaking, with resignation, as she crawls into her sleeping bag.

ARIANNA

I want my friends to like me. I want to have my first kiss.

Page 148

620. Looking contemplative, Waasi begins to open up to Arianna.

WAASI

Oh.

621. Arianna looks over at her.

WAASI

I want to fly.

622. Arianna is glum.

ARIANNA

Well how about that?

We all have dreams that are impossible.

623. Dad interrupts them as he brings the chilli over to the fire to cook.

DAD

Isn't this fun? Adventuring together in search of botanical treasure?

Page 149

624. Placing the chilli pot over the fire, Dad continues to talk.

DAD

I wonder if we'll see cycads.

625. Dad stirs the pot.

DAD

Those are prehistoric plants, you know...

626. Stirring..
DAD
Dating back millions of years.
627. In the backpack, Mup's interest is piqued when Dad mentions dinosaurs.
DAD
Older than dinosaurs even!
628. Dad reaches for his book.
DAD
Some regions of Africa are said to have dozens of cycad species.
629. He opens his book to a picture of a cycad and points.
DAD
Certain specimens are reportedly thousands of years old.

Page 150

630. From her sleeping bag, Arianna sarcastically replies.
ARIANNA
That's plant-astic, Dad.
631. Mup is snuggled into her backpack when a large toad appears next to her.
632. She looks at him.
FROG
CROAK
633. He looks at her with his giant eyes.
634. Mup, wide eyed, sits up.
MUP
A Congolese Giant Toad?
635. Mup leans into her new amphibian friend as he eats, mosquitos buzzing around her face.
MUP
Have you seen a dinosaur?
636. Frog hops away and Mup grins.

Page 151

637. Mup chases the frog across the barren terrain.

MUP
Dinosaur!

638. She swings from the branch of a dead tree.

MUP
Dinosaur!

639. More hesitant now, as its very, very dark

MUP
Dinosaur?

640. It's very dark.

MUP
Dinosaur?

641. Toad stops and she catches up to him.

FROG
Ribbit

642. Mup, frightened and alone, huddles with the toad.

Page 152

643. Cuddled close to Frog, Mup looks around in fear. In the distance we see the head poking through the darkness.

644. She turns and sees it. Its shape resembles a long-necked dinosaur.

MUP
Dinosaur?

645. Wide angle view of the small girl looking at the looming monster.

Page 153

646. Its enormous mechanical head swings down toward Mup and Frog.

MUP
AAHH!

647. It's an oil drilling machine and it narrowly misses hitting Mup and Frog.

MUP
That's not a dinosaur!

Page 154

648. Mup has stumbled onto an oil field. There are enormous mechanical drills dotting the field and intimidating NO TRESSPASSING and PRIVATE PROPERTY signs nearby.

MUP
What is that?

649. Mup races back to camp and dives into the back pack. Arianna glares at her from her sleeping bag.

650. Dad approaches with a pot and begins ladling out chilli.

651. He serves Arianna and Waasi dinner.

DAD
*Chili time.
 Here you go.*

Page 155

652. They sit around the campfire with their dinner. Arianna looks at her food in disgust. Dad sparks up a conversation.

DAD
So Waasi, I'm fully intrigued. Can you tell us more about the Forgotten Forest?

653. Arianna tosses the chilli behind her.

ARIANNA
Or don't.

654. Waasi, warming her hands near the fire, begins.

WAASI
Well, as the legend goes...

655. We are transformed into her narrative. We see a verdant valley with a waterfall.

WAASI
There's a mysterious valley that time has forgotten.

Page 156

656. The story continues. We see a dinosaur silhouette among palm trees and a lush landscape.

WAASI

Guarding the forest is Mokele-mbembe.

657. Arianna looks over at Waasi with curiosity.

WAASI

However, she will only reveal herself..

658. Waasi continues as Mup and Arianna see a mirage of a girl wearing the heart of true friendship necklace dancing in the flames.

WAASI

To those with hearts of true courage.

659. Dad speaks up and brings them back to reality.

DAD

Wait. You didn't happen to see plants when you saw this...Mokele-mbembe?

WAASI

I don't... remember.

Page 157

660. Arianna questions Waasi.

So hold on. What exactly were you doing when you...

661. Using air quotes,

ARIANNA

revealed your "heart of true courage?"

662. Wide angle of the group around the campfire.

WAASI

Um...well,

663. We zoom in on Waasi's face.

WAASI

I thought I could build a plane.

Page 158

664. Waasi looks downward.

WAASI
But I failed.

665. We launch into her flashback: Waasi, wrench in hand, is working on the gears of a machine. Approaching her from the distance is a man's figure.

LEOPOLD
You!

666. Leopold walks over to her and grab her arm making her drop. Her wrench.

LEOPOLD
Stop messing with my production with your useless tinkering!

667. He walks to the door and throws her out; she lands on the ground.

LEOPOLD
LEAVE! The last thing I need is a little girl who isn't smart enough to actually create anything.

668. He stands at the door,

LEOPOLD
Stop trying to be something you're clearly not.

Page 159

669. Back to the campfire, Waasi has her face in her hands.

WAASI
I'm useless.

670. Arianna interjects.

ARIANNA
HEY!

671. She continues her pep talk.

ARIANNA
Not true! And give up on Dirtybird?

672. Waasi looks at Dirtybird, who has fetched his broken mechanical wings.

ARIANNA
He's counting on you.

Page 160

673. Night falls and the campfire smoulders. Dad and Arianna are lying on their backs in their sleeping bags. Mup is still hidden in her backpack, lying next to Arianna.

DAD

Look! A shooting star! Arianna, make a wish!

674. Arianna responds glumly.

ARIANNA

I'm way too old to do something as dumb as that.

675. She continues,

ARIANNA

Besides, I made one a long time ago and it never came true.

676. Dad sits up.

DAD

Oh I wouldn't say that!

677. Dad tries to cheer her up.

DAD

I once wished I'd grow up and live a happy life.

Page 161

678. His flashback: a scene of Dad as a little kid watching an older version of himself proudly standing near some trees. Then we see another older version of him lovingly holding a baby in his arms.

DAD

And look! I dedicated my life to the work I love, making the world a more colourful place.

And then I got you! A daughter who I love more than anything in this world.

679. Bird's eye view of them in their sleeping bags.

DAD

It's not so much making a wish as it is creating a goal for yourself.

I just wish I could tell my younger self that.

680. Arianna glares at Mup beside her.

ARIANNA

Funny you should say that, Dad.

681. Pleased with himself, Dad continues.

DAD

*Well, what would you tell your younger self,
the one that made that wish?*

Page 162

682. Arianna answers the question, but not before glowering more at Mup.

ARIANNA

*Gosh, where would I start?
Oh, I know.*

683. She hides her head under the covers; Mup looks at her.

ARIANNA

*Don't even bother trying to make new
friends; you'll always be a weirdo.*

Arianna and Mup shed a tear.

DAD

*Oh honey, you'll feel better in the morning.
Get some sleep.*

684. Bird's eye view of Arianna and Mup, each girl crying in her sleeping bag.

Page 163

685. Sun rises over the camp.

686. We see sold with spears approaching the campsite.

687. Mup sees them coming and starts to zip up her backpack, where she and Frog have been sleeping.

688. A man with a large spear is standing over her. She zips it up just in time. She hides successfully.

ZIP

Page 164

689. A whole army of solders wake up Arianna, Waasi and Dad at spear-point. The men wear masks and we cannot see their faces.

LEON
GET UP!

690. Two men drag Waasi out of her sleeping bag. She protests.

WAASI
HEY!

691. They attack Dad, tying his arms behind his back.

DAD
What is this barbaric behavior?

692. Arianna, Waasi and Dad are captured. The guards handcuff their hands behind their backs. Dirtybird's beak is tied shut.

Page 165

693. Out rolls the red carpet.

694. The three of them glare at their captor.

695. It's Leopold.

LEOPOLD
Good morning, trespassers.

Page 166

696. Arianna confronts Leopold.

ARIANNA
Who are you?

697. Leopold, smug in his white suit and holding a cane, replies.

LEOPOLD
Who am I?

698. He goes on.

LEOPOLD
I am the chief executive officer of Leopold Enterprises.

699. He holds out his open hand.

LEOPOLD
And this land..

700. He closes his fist.

LEOPOLD
belongs to me.

Page 167

701. Waasi is indigent.

WASSI
*Lies! This land belongs to my people who
have live here for centuries!*

702. Leopold points to his chest.

LEOPOLD
*Let me remind you that this wasteland - and
your people - work for me now.*

703. Arianna interjects.

ARIANNA
Cool, so can you let us go?

704. The guards seize the girls and Dad. They struggle as they are dragged to a truck with a cage on the back.

WAASI
What have you done this time?

LEOPOLD
*Oh I just want to engage in some friendly
discourse.*

Get their things; we're leaving.

ARIANNA
Quit pushing, you ugly termite!

Page 168

705. The guards shove them into the cage. While to soldiers confiscate their things, including the backpack with Mup inside. Arianna notices the backpack.

DAD
*I don't understand.
How are we of any use to you?*

706. Once his captives are behind bars, Leopold grins at Waasi

LEOPOLD
*I think the storyteller here can determine
 that for us.*

707. He turns to Dad.

LEOPOLD
And what is your profession?

DAD
Botany.

708. Dismissively, Leopold turns away.

LEOPOLD
*Bah! A useless profession. You should have
 retired a decade ago.*

DAD
Retired?

Page 169

709. Wide angle shot of the captives in the cage in the back of
 a truck in a convoy of trucks.

ARIANNA
*What is this? A joke? We're in a cage!
 What's going on Waasi?*

710. She accuses Waasi.

ARIANNA
You are a runaway.

What did you do?

711. Sitting on the floor with her arms on her knees, she
 responds.

WAASI
I'm not a runaway. I'm a throwaway.

ARIANNA
What? You need to explain.

712. Waasi begins telling her story to Arianna and Dad.

WAASI
*Well, when the Black Dread came and killed
 the rainforest, there was nothing left.*

713. She looks out at the barren landscape.

WAASI

Then Leopold showed up and well...

714. The truck passes the oil field.

WAASI

there really wasn't much of a choice.

Page 170

715. The procession of trucks drive through an oil field dotted with dozens of drills pumping out oil.

WAASI

My people are mechanics and we went to work for him - building oilrigs.

WAASI

But I refused to build what he wanted. I just wanted to build planes. So he threw me out.

716. Dad drops to his knees at the site of the oil field and all the destruction.

DAD

I can't believe this.

717. He turns to the girls.

DAD

Girls, do you know where oil comes from?

ARIANNA

Yes Dad. I'm aware.

Page 171

718. Arianna goes on about the origin of oil.

ARIANNA

It comes from the fossils of animals and plants...

719. Continuing,

ARIANNA

That lived like a million years ago during the carboniferous period.

But let's stop talking about the past.

720. Close up of Arianna's face.

ARIANNA

Let's talk about now.

721. View of the oilrigs and the trucks passing by.

ARIANNA

How are we going to get out of this?

Page 172

722. We see the inside of one of a military style passenger truck with a dozen guards and their spears.

723. Under one of the seats, we see Mup, unzipping the backpack and peeking out.

724. The faceless guards sit motionless. We see the fat guard Rom and the tall skinny guard Leon.

725. Suddenly there is a sound.

CROAK

726. Leon points to Rom's rather large stomach.

LEON

Rom, is that your stomach again?

727. Rom shushes Leon.

ROM

Shh! I told you not to talk about my stomach, Leon!

Page 173

728. The convoy enters a bustling and sinister-looking factory with oilrigs, smoke stacks bellowing black smoke, and steamships on the river.

ARIANNA

(to Waasi) Wait, so this guy threw you out?

729. Waasi looks forlorn.

WAASI

Yes, because everything I build fails.

730. Suddenly her eyes go wide.

WAASI

What is THAT?

731. The convoy passes a horrible scorpion-like oil rig with large slicing arms. Dozens of people, dwarfed in comparison to the enormous mechanical beast, are working on it.

Page 174

732. As the cage vehicle passes the workers, Waasi spots her parents and reaches out to them, through the cage.

WAASI
MAMA! BABA!

WAASI'S PARENTS
WAASI!

733. Her parents watch the vehicle disappear into the gates of the large foreboding factory.

Page 175

734. The captives are hauled out of the truck and put into individual jail cells.

ARIANNA
All right, old man. Cut to the chase.

735. Arianna is locked into a cage.

ARIANNA
What do you want?

736. Leopold's surveys a large map in front of him covered in Xs

LEOPOLD
What do I want?

737. He points to his map to a green valley.

LEOPOLD
I want to know the exact location of this valley.

738. Close up of his golden cane, pointing to the green valley with a blue river running it.

Page 176

739. Peering through the iron bars, Dad squints.

DAD
Is that...

740. Looking shocked,

DAD
the Forgotten Forest?

741. Leopold replies.

LEOPOLD
Indeed.

742. Meanwhile, under the table the confiscated property lies, including the backpack, Mup and Frog peak out. They see the key dangling from a hook.

ARIANNA
This is crazy!

743. She motions to the map.

ARIANNA
You have it! Right there on the map!

Page 177

744. Leopold leans toward Waasi.

LEOPOLD
That's precisely why I need you.

You see, maps have proven ineffective in the finding the hidden valley.

745. Waasi corrects him.

WAASI
Forgotten Forest.

Leopold sighs.

LEOPOLD
Hmph...extraneous terminology.

746. Meanwhile, Frog spots the shiny key. His eyes sparkle.

747. Frog eats the key; Mup begins to climb out of the backpack.

Page 178

748. Dad interrogates Leopold from his cell.

DAD
Why do you need to find it?

749. Raising his arms across his map, he answers,

LEOPOLD
Because underneath the forest lies the largest oil deposit in the world. A veritable fortune awaiting..

750. He clenches his fist.

LEOPOLD
Extraction.

DAD
*And you're willing to destroy the forest in
the world to do it?*

Page 179

751. Crossing his arms,

LEOPOLD
Yes, well money doesn't grow on trees!

752.irate, Dad grabs the iron bars,

DAD
Do you even care about the world?

753. Wide angle shot from inside the cages. Leopold looms large on the outside in front of his map.

LEOPOLD
Caring is economically insufficient.

Page 180

754. Leopold hones in on Waasi again.

LEOPOLD
All right.

755. He gets in her face.

LEOPOLD
Looks like you might be useful after all.

756. He goes on,

LEOPOLD
*Fascinating tale: a little girl has a seen a
beast that protects the trees.*

So where is the hidden valley?

WAASI
Only those with hearts of true courage -

757. Furious, Leopold yells at her.

LEOPOLD
Tell me now!

The lives of your loved ones depend on it.

758. Waasi looks worried.

LEOPOLD

Including your new friends here.

759. Arianna looks frightened.

760. Dad looks frightened.

Page 181

761. Leopold demands to know. Behind him Mup climbs on top of his table.

LEOPOLD

So you better start talking.

Fact, coordinates, landmarks!

762. Suddenly Mup appears. She's standing on the table under the map. Frog on her head.

MUP

You're a big old bully! You should learn to place nice.

763. Everyone is shocked at the sight of Mup. Especially Dad.

DIRTYBIRD

SQUAWK!

DAD

Wait. What?

MUPPY?

Page 182

764. Leopold comes after Mup.

LEOPOLD

WHAT!

How did you get in here?

765. Mup begins,

MUP

I was hiding in the backpack.

Frog, who is sitting on top of her head, has swallowed the key to the jail cell. The key's silhouette is in his stomach.

FROG
Croak!

766. Mup smiles at Frog.

767. Leopold orders his men to catch Mup.

LEOPOLD
GET HER!

Page 183

768. Mup slips between a guard's legs.

769. She eludes two more.

770. She tosses frog into the jail cell toward Arianna as she scampers across the roof.

MUP
Catch

771. Arianna catches Frog and looks at him with mild disgust.

772. Two guards go after Mup.

773. She jumps up and they crash into each other. Mup doesn't see an arm reaching for her.

Page 184

774. Leopold snatches her. He lifts her up by the strap of her overalls.

LEOPOLD
What insolence! You vile germy little monster!

775. Meanwhile, behind bars, Arianna holds the fat toad away from her body.

ARIANNA
OH GROSS!

776. She drops him.

ARIANNA
Groooooossssss!

777. He thumps on the floor and she wipes her hands of frog slime.

ARIANNA
Ew, ew, ew!

778. Frog CROAKS inside is the silhouette of the key.

FROG
CROAK

Page 185

779. Arianna looks down at Frog sizing him up.

780. He looks up at her, blankly.

781. He hops away and she lunges toward him.

782. He hops out of the jail cell, but she dives down and reaches him before he can get away.

ARIANNA
Gotcha

Page 186

783. Even though she finds it gross, Arianna reaches down Frog's throat.

784. She retrieves the key.

785. While Arianna unlocks her cell door with the key, Leopold is berating Mup while she dangles in front of him.

LEOPOLD
You come here and try to sabotage my operations?

786. Mup is about to sneeze.

MUP
AAHHH..

787. She sneezes. Deathly afraid of germs, Leopold drops her.

MUP
CHEW!

LEOPOLD
Repulsive bacteria!

Page 187

788. Key in hand, Arianna and Mup make a run for it.
789. But they trip over each other and the key flies out of Arianna's hand.
790. A polished white shoe steps on the key.
791. The girls look up; it's Leopold.

Page 188

792. The guards surround Mup and Arianna.
LEOPOLD
Get them.
793. Spears are pointing at them.
794. The girls fight back.
795. They work together deflecting spears.
796. They slide out from under their attackers.

Page 189

797. The girls run for their lives. Mup clings to Arianna's back.
MUP
What about Daddy and Waasi and Dirtybird?
- ARIANNA
No time!
798. The girls run down the stairs, trying to get out of the building. Guards chase them while factory workers watch the chase.
ARIANNA
We have to get out of here!

Page 190

799. Arianna lunges to a motorcycle, Mup still on her back.

800. She hops on it and peels out, before the guards can grab them.

Page 191

801. The girls triumphantly exit the factor gates.

802. Looking over her shoulder, they see a few of Leopold's men coming after them on motorcycles.

803. Close up of Arianna's eyes, brows furrowed - she means business.

Page 192

804. The girls sail over a jump, leaving the guards behind.

805. Two soldiers, Leon and Rom, stop.

ROM

Leon! They're getting away!

806. Rom pulls out a handheld electronic monitor.

ROM

Don't worry. We're tracking them. Wherever they go, we will know.

Page 193

807. Arianna's motorcycle sputters to a stop. Mup is clinging to her.

ARIANNA

What? Out of gas?

808. Arianna is frustrated.

ARIANNA

You have got to be kidding me!

809. She kicks the bike over.

810. Night has fallen. Rain starts to pound down upon them. Arianna clenches her fists in anger.

ARIANNA

I can't believe this!

811. She turns toward Mup.

ARIANNA
You!

Page 194

812. Lightning strikes. Rain pours down. Arianna can't contain her anger.

MUP
Me?

813. Arianna screams.

ARIANNA
YES!

814. She goes on,

ARIANNA
This!
All this!

815. She points at Mup.

ARIANNA
Is your fault!

Page 195

816. Lightning flashes and thunder booms. Bones of dead animals can be seen in the foreground. Arianna continues her rant.

ARIANNA
If you hadn't shown up, I would have kissed Eric! My friends wouldn't have disowned me! We would not be lost in the middle of a foreign country!

817. She continues,

ARIANNA
Now Dad's locked up by a crazy man!

818. She shows Mup her palm.

ARIANNA
I have toad slobber on my hand!

819. She shivers in the cold, while Mup stands sadly in a puddle.

ARIANNA
*You just had to come back...
to haunt me...*

Page 196

820. Arianna looks out at the stormy sky.
ARIANNA
so you could...
821. She spins around and points at Mup.
ARIANNA
ruin my life!
822. Mup, wet and dejected, looks up at her with big eyes.
MUP
You forgot me...
823. Tears fall down Mup's cheeks.
MUP
you let me...go.

Page 197

824. Arianna has no sympathy for her younger self.
ARIANNA
I did.
I spent my whole life trying to forget you.
825. Mup screams!
MUP
I HATE YOU!
826. Arianna yells back.
ARIANNA
AND I HATE YOU TOO!

Page 198

827. BOOM! Thunder and lightning flash across the black sky. The girls glare at one another.
828. Mup grabs something from her overalls front pocket.
829. And pulls out the heart of true friendship necklace.
830. She hurls it.
831. To the ground.

MUP
I'm never going to be you!

Page 199

832. Arianna looks down at the heart of true friendship necklace in a mud puddle.

833. She is haunted.

834. Arianna tries to reason with Mup.

ARIANNA
Well...

835. Continuing,

ARIANNA
you can't escape time.

836. She gestures to herself.

ARIANNA
You will be me...

837. Continuing,

ARIANNA
whether you like it or not.

838. The girls face each other, both with clenched fists and jaws. The heart necklace lies on the ground between them.

839. Mup turns to go.

ARIANNA
HEY!

Page 200

840. Mup takes off down a steep ravine. Arianna follows her to the edge of the ridge and yells.

ARIANNA
HEY! Where on earth do you think you're going now?

841. Mup continues walking.

MUP
I'm going...

842. Fists clenched,

MUP
To find...

843. Yelling now,

MUP
A DINOSAUR!

Page 201

844. Arianna throws up her hands in frustration.

ARIANNA
AGH!

845. She's angry.

ARIANNA
You're so stupid!

846. Yelling now, thunder flashes!

GROW UP!

847. Wide angle shot of the girls: Arianna on top of the cliff, Mup descending down into the gully.

ARIANNA
DINOSAURS ARE EXTINCT!

A meteorite killed them all!

Page 202

848. The girls stand in the ominous storm.

849. Suddenly Arianna feels remorse for being so cruel to Mup.

ARIANNA
Mup...

850. Mup is shell-shocked.

ARIANNA
I'm...

851. Mup runs away.

ARIANNA
WAIT MUP!

Page 203

852. Mup runs through the storm.

853. She scrambles to the top of an old tree stump to get to a better vantage point.

854. She is sad and scared

855. She stands on the tree stump and yells, just as lightning crashes down near her.

MUP
DINOSAUR!

856. The lightning bolt rocks her off the tree stump. She tumbles backward.

SNAP

Page 204

857. Mup falls into the mud.

858. She pulls herself up.

MUP
Where...

859. Thunder roars.

BOOM

860. She is scared.

MUP
could...

861. She curls up into fetal position and cries.

MUP
you be?

Page 205

862. Meanwhile, Arianna sets off after Mup.

863. It's storming and muddy; she trips and falls.

864. She lands in a huge mud puddle and screams in frustration.

ARIANNA
ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO BE NORMAL!

865. She thinks for a moment.

866. And begins to cry.

867. She sees something out of the corner of her eye and looks over her shoulder.

Page 206

868. It's the heart of true friendship necklace.

869. She kneels down and looks at it.

870. The necklace is in a puddle of water; she sees her own reflection in the water.

ARIANNA
To fit in.

871. Sobbing,

ARIANNA
That way people would think I was so...

Page 207

872. Wide angle shot of Arianna with her face in her hands, kneeling at the puddle, rain pouring down.

ARIANNA
Weird.

873. Suddenly a flash of lightning strikes.

BOOM

Mup is really scared now.

RUMBLE

Page 208

874. Mup stands as a wave of flood water is about to engulf her.

FOOM!

875. Arianna hears the noise and a scream and is worried about Mup.

MUP
AAAAHHH!

ARIANNA
Mup?

876. Arianna runs up the embankment toward the sound of the scream.

MUP
AAHHH!

ARIANNA
Muppy?

877. Arianna hurries over a log.

ARIANNA
Hold on!

Page 209

878. Arianna sees Muppy being swept away by the flood waters.

MUP
AAAH!

879. Arianna races to her rescue.

ARIANNA
I'm coming!

880. Arianna leaps from rock to rock, to the center of the river where she can scoop Mup out of the current.

Page 210

881. Mup is about to go over the edge of a waterfall!

882. She goes over!

883. She reaches out her hand, the one with the scar.

884. Arianna grasps her hand just in time.

885. Wide angle shot of Arianna lying on a tree branch over the water, gripping Mup's hand. Mup dangles dangerously above the falls.

Page 211

886. Arianna has saved Mup.

ARIANNA
I'm not letting you go.

887. Mup looks at her from below.

888. Mup hesitates.

MUP
I...

889. She lets go of Arianna's hand.

MUP
I don't believe you.

ARIANNA
MUP NO!

Page 212

890. We see Mup fall into the cloudy abyss below.

ARIANNA
NOOOO!!!

891. Arianna is horrified.

ARIANNA
Mup?

892. Sitting back up on her knees, Arianna can't believe it.

ARIANNA
She let go... of me.

893. Suddenly, the branch breaks and Arianna falls too.

SNAP

Page 213

894. We see Arianna falling over the massive waterfalls.

895. She comes up for a breath.

ARIANNA
GASP

896. She sees Mup floating down the river ahead of her.

ARIANNA
Muppy!

897. Arianna swims toward her.
898. Mup is sinking.
899. Just her hand sticks out of the water.
900. She goes under.

Page 214

901. Arianna dives below the surface of the water and scoops up Mup who is unconscious and sinking toward the bottom.
902. She hauls her out of the water onto a giant lily pad.
903. She lays her down lovingly.

Page 215

904. Mup is unconscious. Is she dead?
 ARIANNA
 Oohh.
 Mup...
905. She tries to apologize.
 ARIANNA
 I...
906. Cradling Mup in her arms, she continues.
 ARIANNA
 I'm so sorry, Mup.
907. Continuing,
 ARIANNA
 This is all my fault. I was so stupid. I spent the last ten years trying so hard to be like everyone else...
908. She leans in,
 ARIANNA
 that...

Page 216

909. Tenderly, Arianna embraces her younger self. Behind the girls we see an enormous dinosaur raise its head out of the water. In its mouth is a pink pinecone-like object.

ARIANNA
I forgot who I am.

Page 217

910. Just then Mup miraculously regains consciousness. The dinosaur looks at them.

MUP
Mokele-mbembe!

911. Then the dinosaur lunges its head underwater.

912. On the lily pad, the girls smile broadly at each other.

913. They peer over the edge into the water.

914. What they see astounds them.

Page 218

915. Under water, the girls see Mokele-mbembe munching on pink cycad flowers in a flowerbed of blooming cycads at the bottom of the riverbed.

916. Arianna whips her head out of the water.

ARIANNA
That's it!

917. Mup lifts her head out of the water. Arianna continues.

ARIANNA
*The cycad flower! Blooming in the river -
that must be what's keeping the plants
alive!*

Page 219

918. Mokele-mbembe lumbers off. Mup finishes Arianna's sentence watching the mist lift to reveal the forgotten forest.

MUP
- in the Forgotten Forest.

919. She tells Arianna

MUP
We need to bring a cycad flower to Daddy.

920. The girls dive into the water in a cloud of bubbles

921. And grab a large pinecone like flower.

Page 220

922. The girls' heads pop out of the water. They are holding a cycad flower.

ARIANNA
Mup, I think we did it!

923. The girls get out of water and, working together, carry the cycad bloom to the banks of the greenery of an old growth rainforest.

924. They continue,

MUP
This is going to change everything!

925. Suddenly the girls hear a voice and look up.

LEOPOLD
Well, well, well.

Page 221

926. It is Leopold, flanked by his guards who point spears at the girls. Behind Leopold is the enormous tree-chopping machine.

LEOPOLD
Thank you, ladies.

927. The guards seize them.

LEOPOLD
I it wasn't for your courage...

928. Leopold shows them the tracking device.

LEOPOLD
*I never would have found the Forgotten
 Forest.*

Page 222

929. Leopold rubs his hands with soap.

LEOPOLD
*So I'm quite grateful to you two for leading
 me right here.*

930. He rubs his hands together.

LEOPOLD
*But now it's time to begin my method of oil
 extraction.*

931. He swipes the cycad from their hands.

LEOPOLD
*You won't be needing your pretty pink
 pinecone.*

MUP
NO!

932. In the clearing we see that Leopold's tree chopping machine has cleared much of the world's remaining forest. It belches black smoke into the sky.

MUP
(together) NOOO!

Page 223

933. On the back of the tree chopping machine is a mobile jail cell.

ARIANNA
NO!

934. The guards throw the girls into the cage.

ARIANNA
STOP!

935. They land with a thud on the floor of the cage.

ARIANNA
OOF!

936. They look around.

MUP
NO!

937. Mup runs to the bars to get a better look.

MUP
NOOO!

938. Mup is wide eyed with horror as she grips the bars and sees the destruction all around her.

Page 224

939. Frog hops for his life; the imposing tree chopping machine looms behind him, which is operated by evil Leopold. A soldier is about to step on a lone flower bud with his big and careless boot.

940. Dad appears from the crowd of captives.

DAD
ARIANNA!

941. He hugs her.

DAD
I was so worried!

Page 225

942. Dad and Arianna's reunion is interrupted by Mup.

MUP
DADDY!

943. She throws her hands up in the air.

MUP
They're ruining the wild places!

944. Dad scoops her up and takes a good look at her.

DAD
Muppy?
I don't understand.

945. Arianna tries to explain.

ARIANNA
It's a long story Dad, and -

946. Waasi appears, hands on hips, Dirtybird at her side. She's locked up too.

WAASI
What are we going to do now?

Page 226

947. Waasi continues; the crowd inside the jail cell turn their attention to her.

WAASI
We have to do something.

948. Arianna asks,

ARIANNA
Like what?

949. She points to the metal bars.

ARIANNA
Look!

950. We see guards beyond the cell walls.

ARIANNA
We're locked behind bars...

AGAIN!

951. Waasi considers her options.

952. And looks over to see Mama, Baba and her siblings.

WAASI
My people..

Page 229:

953. Waasi's people of all ages and types are crowded together inside the cage.

954. Birds eye view of the tree chopping oil machine eating its way through the forest like an oversized locust.

WAASI
built this thing.

955. Waasi is gaining confidence now.

WAASI
We can take it down.

Page 228

956. Arianna points out the obvious.

ARIANNA

What about the guards?

957. Waasi thinks. Dirtybird, standing next to her, suddenly looks ill.

958. He burps and out pops one of Waasi's Mokele-mbembe puppets that he had eaten.

959. It's the dinosaur cut out on a stick.

960. Waasi has a plan.

WAASI

I have an idea.

Page 229

961. Leon and Rom are on parole outside of the jail cell.

LEON

Rom, I heard the forest is guarded by a monster!

ROM

Leon, don't be silly, there's no such thing as monsters -

962. Mup, from inside the cell, interrupts their conversation, she has been all cleaned up and is wearing pink.

MUP

*Excuse me, Sir?
I have to go to the bathroom.*

963. Leon pulls out his key and begins to unlock the door.

LEON

Sure thing.

ROM

Wait, Leon, we're not allowed to let prisoners out.

964. They bicker.

LEON

Rom, she has to use the bathroom.

965. From behind Mup, a looming shadow in the shape of a monster appears.

MUP
AAHH!

966. Leon and Rom run away in fear; Mup has the key with a mischievous grin.

LEON
AHH!

ROM
Run! It's the monster!

Page 230

967. Mup presents the key and the fellow captives erupt in cheers. Waasi puts down her Puppet that has casted the shadow.

968. Arianna unlocks the door and thanks Mup for helping fool the guards.

ARIANNA
Good job, Mup!

969. The prisoners escape from the cage at the back of the monster machine.

970. Waasi's father acknowledges Waasi's brilliant scheme.

BABA
Well done, Waasi!

WAASI
Thanks Baba.

971. Baba places a hand on his daughter's shoulders and gives her instructions.

BABA
Now, there's a power switch...

972. He looks at her and she understands the gravity and seriousness of the task.

BABA
and you're the only one that will fit inside the hatch.

Page 231

973. The group, including Dirtybird, fights the guards as they make their escape. Everyone helps fight.

974. Arianna and Mup develop a game plan.

MUP

We need to find the cycad flower!

975. The girls jump into action.

ARIANNA

Right! Check the back, I'll check the front!

MUP

Got it!

Page 232

976. Meanwhile, Dad gets finally mad!

DAD

You reckless..

977. He punches a guard in the face.

DAD

Inconsiderate!

978. He pushes two guards down in one fell swoop.

DAD

Monsters!

979. The guards run in fear from Dad's fury as he stands in front of the rainforest.

DAD

How dare you destroy all the plants!

Page 233

980. Meanwhile, we see evil Leopold behind the wheel of the tree chopping vehicle. Waasi scrambles up the side of the vehicle, unbeknownst to Leopold.

LEOPOLD

Muu-ha-ha! This is too easy!

981. Waasi climbs to the top and sees the hatch.

982. She opens the hatch.

983. She climbs into the engine area, and tries to reach the power switch.

WAASI
Come on!

984. It's just out of reach.

WAASI
Just a little bit further.

Page 234

985. Back inside the control room, the engine turns off along with the lights and Leopold is angry.

LEOPOLD
WHAT?
Power outage?

986. Arianna bursts into the control room.

ARIANNA
Where's the cycad flower, Leopold?

LEOPOLD
You!

987. She spots the flower and reaches for it. Leopold raises his cane.

LEOPOLD
Not so fast.

988. Leopold swings his cane down upon Arianna. She dives.

LEOPOLD
Princess Pathetic..

989. She fumbles the flower and Leopold snatches it up.

LEOPOLD
you take something from me, then I take something from you.

Page 235

990. Leopold is making his exit is climbing his machine. He uses his radio to call for reinforcements. Waasi climbs out of the hatch. Arianna climbs up after Leopold, determined.

LEOPOLD
Tell the pilot to come get me.

991. He climbs up the arm of the oil rig.

LEOPOLD

I'm on top of the oil rig.

992. Arianna, in pursuit of the flower, chases Leopold up the arm. Waasi takes this in.

993. Waasi exits the hatch just spotting a pilot heading to a helicopter.

Page 236

994. Arianna is almost to the top of the oil rig and calls out to Leopold. In the sky, we see a helicopter hovering.

ARIANNA

Hey Leopold!

995. Arianna balls her fists, ready to fight.

996. He turns toward her, cycad tucked under his arm.

LEOPOLD

Congratulations, you destroyed my machine.

997. He continues.

LEOPOLD

But that doesn't change anything People will always be materialistic.

I'm just providing them what they need.

998. Brows drawn, Arianna replies.

ARIANNA

That doesn't mean...

Page 237

999. She reaches for the cycad.

ARIANNA

You can take what doesn't belong to you!

1000. Mup, with Frog, looks up the long arm of the rig and sees Leopold and Arianna struggle high above.

LEOPOLD

You're just a child!

1001. He bats her away with his cane.

LEOPOLD
You don't understand the world!

ARIANNA
Well...you...

Page 238

1002. Arianna snatches the cycad out of his arms.

ARIANNA
definitely don't know me!

1003. Leopold brandishes his cane.

LEOPOLD
And Who do you think you are?

ARIANNA
I am Mup!

1004. Leopold smacks Arianna and she falls, dropping the cycad.

ARIANNA
NOOO!

1005. With Arianna dangling off the edge of the rig, Leopold looks down at her.

LEOPOLD
What sort of name is Mup?

Page 239

1006. It's Mup! She has come to the rescue!

MUP
The best name!

1007. Mup, still holding Frog, lunges toward Leopold. Meanwhile, Arianna continues to dangle off the edge.

1008. Mup prepares her throw.

1009. And hurls him at Leopold.

1010. Frog lands on Leopold's chest.

LEOPOLD
EW! EW!

Page 240

1011. Climbing between Leopold's legs, Mup goes toward Arianna, who is hanging off the edge.

ARIANNA
Mup!

1012. Oh no!

1013. Arianna's hands slip.

1014. She's falling.

1015. Mup grabs Arianna's hand, just in time.

1016. Mup saves Arianna.

MUP
I've got you.

Page 241

1017. Leopold freaks out, trying to wipe away the frog slime from his shirt.

LEOPOLD
Gross! Gross! You slimy, unhygienic creature!

1018. Frog unfurls his long tongue and snatches the shiny crown from Leopold's head.

LEOPOLD
My crown!

1019. Meanwhile, Mup struggles to hold up the much heavier Arianna.

MUP
Ugh, you're so heavy!

1020. Arianna is dangling off the edge of the oil rig. She knows Mup is not strong enough to hold her.

ARIANNA
Let me go!

1021. Mup refuses.

MUP
NO!

1022. Arianna tries to reason with her.

ARIANNA

One of us has to let go, or we'll both fall.

Page 242

1023. At the same time, both girls confess their true feelings toward one another.

MUP/ARIANNA

I love you.

1024. Arianna drops Mup's hand.

1025. Arianna falls.

MUP

NOO!

1026. Just then, Leopold grabs Mup by the nape of her neck.

Page 243

1027. He holds her up.

LEOPOLD

*You'll be joining your sister in a minute.
Anything you'd like to say?*

1028. Mup replies.

MUP

She's not my sister.

1029. She continues.

MUP

She is me.

1030. Continuing,

MUP

And it's ok to grow up..

1031. We see a close up of Mup's face.

MUP

and change.

Page 244

1032. Leopold looks at her.

LEOPOLD

How interesting.

1033. He holds her up higher.

LEOPOLD

Well, kid. You aren't getting any older.

1034. Suddenly Leopold's eyes go wide with surprise.

Page 245

1035. There, standing confidently on the muzzle of makele-mbembe is Arianna.

1036. Mup is overjoyed.

MUP

Arianna!

1037. The dinosaur lowers her to Mup's level.

ARIANNA

Hey Mup.

Page 246

1038. Leopold can't believe it. The dinosaur dwarfs the oil rig.

LEOPOLD

A dinosaur?

1039. They are face to face now.

ARIANNA

I know, right?

1040. Arianna smiles.

ARIANNA

You never know what the future holds.

1041. Suddenly the dinosaur sneezes. Pink snot sprays everywhere. Arianna nearly falls off.

MOKELE-MBEMBE

A-chew!

Page 247

1042. Both Leopold and Mup are covered in pink snot. Mup bites him on the hand.

LEOPOLD

GAH!

1043. He releases Mup and grabs his injured hand.

LEOPOLD
She bit me!

1044. Mup leaps into Arianna's arms.

1045. Both girls are safe on the dinosaur's muzzle. Mup asks Arianna her burning question.

MUP
What's it like being a teenager?

1046. Arianna replies, without missing a beat.

ARIANNA
Just as great as being a kid.

Page 248

1047. The girls giggle and hug at their pink snot-covered selves. In the distance, we see Leopold getting rescued by a helicopter from the arm of the oil rig.

1048. As Leopold climbs the ladder to the helicopter, he looks over his shoulder at the dinosaur.

LEOPOLD
Forget oil.

1049. He continues to climb.

LEOPOLD
I've discovered a living fortune!

1050. Meanwhile, the girls delight in sliding down the neck of the enormous dinosaur.

Page 249

1051. Leopold is inside the helicopter now.

LEOPOLD
I shall be the greatest monster catcher...

1052. He raises his arm as if he has conquered the world. We see that Waasi is piloting the helicopter and Dirtybird is by her side.

LEOPOLD
in the whole world!

WAASI
I don't think so, old man.

Page 250

1053. Leopold, standing just inside the open door of the helicopter, turns to look at Waasi.

LEOPOLD
You!

1054. She looks at him.

WAASI
Yeah me!

1055. The helicopter zooms haphazardly through the sky. The dinosaur looks on.

1056. Leopold makes a grab for the controls.

LEOPOLD
What are YOU doing here? You can't fly this helicopter!

WAASI
How about you let go of the controls and see for yourself!

1057. They struggle.

LEOPOLD
I'd rather die than let you fly me!

Page 251

1058. Dirtybird, Waasi's protective side kick, gets in Leopold's face.

DIRTYBIRD
Squawk

1059. Leopold loses his balance and tumbles out of the open helicopter door; so does Dirtybird.

1060. Waasi screams.

WAASI
Dirtybird!

1061. Leopold plummets face-first through the sky, with Dirtybird not far behind.

LEOPOLD
AAAH!

Page 252

1062. Dirtybird spreads his new majestic mechanical wings! With his beak, he holds Leopold by the tails of his three-piece suit.

1063. Waasi, cheers from the cockpit of the helicopter.

WAASI
WOO HOO!

1064. Dirtybird lowers Leopold into a cage. Arianna locks him up. Waasi lands the helicopter safely.

Page 253

1065. All of a sudden Mup notices the dinosaur walking toward them. He is about to squish Frog!

MUP
FROG!

1066. Frog is slurping up a shiny scale on the ground. Dinosaur's giant foot lowers.

1067. Just in the nick of time, Arianna pulls Frog to safety as the huge paw crashes down.

ARIANNA
Gotcha!

1068. She looks up at the massive and impressive creature.

Page 254

1069. Dinosaur lumbers toward the forest as the crowds look on in awe.

1070. Mup is distraught.

MUP
Where's she going?

1071. Dad comforts her.

DAD
To do what she does best: guard the forest.

1072. Hand in hand, standing atop a tree stump, the girls watch Mokele-mbembe disappear into the thick green forest.

Page 255

1073. Mup sees something disturbing.

MUP
Oh no, oh nooooooo!

1074. The cycad flower has been squished. It lies in a heap on the ground.

ARIANNA
The cycad flower!

1075. Dad appears and playfully touches the girls pink slime that covers them.

DAD
Hey what is this pink goop?

ARIANNA/MUP (AT THE SAME TIME)
Cycad dinosaur snot.

1076. He holds some in his outstretched hand.

ARIANNA
Wait. Dad, this could be the cure.

MUP
...to the Black Dread.

DAD
...to save the world!

Page 256

1077. It's time to leave. Dad holds a test tube of pink slime. In the distance is a plane.

DAD
All right girls, our plane's here.

1078. Arianna holds her heart of true friendship necklace. Waasi watches.

ARIANNA
You know, I've never met anyone who deserves this more.

1079. She extends her hand to Waasi.

ARIANNA
For being a true friend.

1080. She continues, fastening it around Waasi's neck.

ARIANNA
But even more than that..

1081. She continues Waasi looks at the necklace,

ARIANNA
for having a heart of true courage.

Page 257

1082. Dad shakes Baba's hand and Arianna, Waasi, and Mup say their goodbyes.

ARIANNA
It looks like all of our dreams came true.

1083. She bends to Mup's level.

ARIANNA
YOU got to see a dinosaur.

1084. She turns to Waasi.

ARIANNA
YOU got to fly.

WAASI
But, Arianna, what about you? Your first kiss?

1085. Dramatically, Arianna bends toward Frog.

ARIANNA
I get to have my first kiss with someone really special.

1086. She kisses Frog on the cheek.

1087. Mup is grossed out by the kissing.

MUP
EWWW!

Page 258

1088. Oh no. Frog is about to sneeze.

FROG
AAA..

1089. He sneezes. Out flies a shiny blue dinosaur scale.

FROG
CHEW

1090. Arianna holds it in her hands, examining it.

ARIANNA
A dinosaur scale?

1091. She smiles.

ARIANNA
Thanks Toad.
FROG
CROAK

1092. The three girls, and Dirtybird, embrace.

Page 259

1093. The Machado family boards the plane. Their new friends wave goodbye.

1094. Baba turns to his daughter.

BABA
So Waasi, what are you going to create next?

1095. She replies.

WAASI
*I'm going to make planes powered by
renewable energy, not fossil fuels.*

1096. Meanwhile, the Machados have arrived back home. The three of them walk across their barren backyard, away from the housing development.

DAD
*OK, so tell me again, from the beginning.
How did Mup end up in our time?*

ARIANNA
*Well...it started when I wished upon a star
and -*

Page 260

1097. They walk across the bridge that spans across the creek. Dad has the vial of pink goop in his hand.

DAD

And when the meteorite landed at the base of the big oak -

ARIANNA

It sparked the spread of the pathogen.

1098. Dad continues,

DAD

And when you crawled out of the hole in the oak you found yourself ten years in the future?

ARIANNA/MUP TOGETHER

Yep.

1099. The trio has arrived at the clearing. On the top of the knoll is the oak, now a sad stump.

DAD

All right. Here we are.

Page 261

1100. At the foot of the tree, Dad holds out the vial.

DAD

Let's do this.

1101. He pours the liquid out.

1102. It drips onto the ground.

PLIP PLIP PLIP

Page 262

1103. The three of them look down at the ground.

1104. They are dismayed. Mup gets angry.

MUP

It didn't work.

1105. Mup starts to throw a temper tantrum, stomping her feet on the pink goop.

MUP

NO!

1106. She yells at her dad.

MUP
It has to work Daddy!
You have to fix it!

Page 263

1107. Arianna points to her father.

ARIANNA
You're supposed to save the world, Dad.

1108. Dad thinks for a moment.

DAD
Well...

1109. He continues.

DAD
maybe...
the Black Dread is your problem to fix. It
started with you; it has to end with you.

1110. He continues.

DAD
YOU are supposed to save the world.

Page 264

1111. Arianna looks at Mup.

ARIANNA
And save us-

1112. Mup finishes her sentence.

MUP
by going back in time.

1113. The girls look at the scary tree stump.

1114. Joining forces, the girls extend their hands.

MUP/ARIANNA
Together.

Page 265

1115. Arianna and Mup reach their hands to trunk of the tree.

1116. Boom! A flash of light.

1117. A magical force nearly blows them away. Dad looks on with curiosity.

Page 266

1118. The girls get on their hands and knees, preparing to crawl through the glowing hole.

1119. Dad yells out and stops them.

DAD
Wait!

1120. He kneels down.

DAD
*I want you to know, in case I don't remember this moment.
You will always be my little Muppet.*

1121. He turns to Arianna.

DAD
And I'm so proud of who you've become.

1122. He gathers the two of them into his arms and embraces them.

MUP
I love you Daddy.

ARIANNA
I love you Dad.

Page 267

1123. He gives them the vial and they turn their attention back to the tree stump.

ARIANNA
Ready to go back in time?

MUP
Yes!

1124. Mup goes in first, on hands and knees. Arianna follows.

1125. They emerge and look around. They see greenery and a discarded Gertie the dinosaur lying in the grass where the black dread has just begun its spread.

ARIANNA

Wow.

MUP

It worked.

Page 268

1126. They regard the beautiful verdant valley.

ARIANNA

I can't believe how incredible the world was.

1127. Mup extends her hand, gripping the pink vial.

MUP

How incredible it will be.

1128. Together, they pour the substance onto the ground where the meteorite landed.

1129. It drops to the meteorite.

PLIP

Page 269

1130. The world GLOWS.

1131. But then, they see that the hole is shrinking.

ARIANNA

*Oh no!
The hole is closing!*

1132. She quickly moves toward the hole.

ARIANNA

I have to go back now.

Page 270

1133. Mup wraps her arms around Arianna's waist.

MUP

Wait! Don't leave.

1134. Arianna kneels down to Mup's level.

ARIANNA

Hey...

1135. She tries to cheer Mup up as the hole shrinks.

ARIANNA
Say this with me, ok?

1136. Arianna starts to sing Dad's silly song.

ARIANNA
The best thing..

1137. Continuing,

ARIANNA
about Muppies..

page 271

1138. Arianna reaches into her pocket and pulls out a necklace.
 She continues singing.

ARIANNA
is...

1139. She dangles the blue dinosaur scale that she has fashioned
 into a necklace.

ARIANNA
Mup's...

1140. She places it around Mup's neck.

ARIANNA
the only...

1141. Mup looks down at the dinosaur scale.

MUP
one.

1142. They hug.

Page 272

1143. Meanwhile, oblivious young Daddy sets off into the forest.

DAD
*Come on Mup! Time to go home.
 It's getting late.*

1144. Back at the tree, Arianna looks into Mup's eyes.

ARIANNA
I will not forget about you. I promise.

1145. More optimistic now, Mup smiles.

MUP
And I can't wait to be you.

Page 273

1146. Mup runs toward home, leaping over Gertie.

ARIANNA
HEY!

1147. Mup stops in her tracks.

ARIANNA
Don't forget Gertie!

1148. Mup stops, and looks at the toy.

1149. She gestures to it.

MUP
No, Gertie has to stay here and guard the tree.

Page 274

1150. Mup continues.

MUP
Besides, I'm too old to play with dinosaur toys.

1151. Arianna can't believe it.

ARIANNA
What?

1152. Mup is excited.

MUP
I'm going to the wild places. There's more out there than just dinosaurs!

1153. Mup sprints for home.

MUP
And I'm going to find it!

1154. Arianna smiles to herself.

1155. Then calls out.

ARIANNA
HEY!

Page 275

1156. Arianna hollers to her younger self.

ARIANNA
Later alligator!

1157. Mup calls back over her shoulder.

MUP
In a while crocodile!

Page 276

1158. Arianna smiles.

1159. Then looks at the hole in the tree.

1160. She gets on her hands and knees.

1161. And crawls through.

1162. Just as the passage seals up.

1163. On the other side, Arianna emerges to see a beautiful, green world. There are flowers, and in the middle of it all is Gertie still standing guard.

Page 277

1164. Arianna looks out over the horizon.

ARIANNA
Well it looks like everything changes after all.

1165. She looks down and notices- she is now wearing the scale necklace.

1166. It's not the heart of true friendship, but the blue dinosaur scale.

1167. She smiles, the sunset brilliant before her.

ARIANNA
And that's ok.

The end.