MY SWEET MONSTER

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

MOSCOW VORONEZH UFA ST. PETERSBURG

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. THE SOURCE - EVENING

01-00 KING ELIJAH (20), his GENERAL (45) and a troop of soldiers emerge from the depths of a forest, led by a GUIDE (55). They are exhausted from the journey. The guide is carrying his two-year-old SON.

GUIDE
We've arrived. This is the Source.

King Elijah and the General ride onto an overhang above the Source. The soldiers take off their backpacks and talk among themselves.

GUIDE
Our people believe that this is where all life on Earth came from.

King Elijah and the General have dismounted their horses and are surveying the Lake. There are stone animals everywhere. The air pulsates, thick with energy.

KING ELIJAH
So it's real. There's hope after all.

From his knapsack, the General takes a vial with a string tied around it. A bird, flying over the Lake, dips a wing in the water. It begins to struggle and drops like a rock into the water, where it becomes encrusted in crystals and sinks. The General frowns.

GENERAL
Some 'water of life' this is! Did you see what it did to that bird? How about we turn back now?

KING ELIJAH
It's our last hope. If this doesn't work... they'll die.

The soldiers start to gather loose crystals and pack them into a chest.

The General passes the vial to King Elijah and looks furtively back at the Guide.

GENERAL
The savage said nobody is allowed to take this water...

KING ELIJAH
I'm the King. I'm allowed to do anything.

Holding the string, King Elijah throws the vial into the Lake. The Lake responds.

A loud noise emanates from the direction of the Source. The Guide sees King Elijah pulling the vial full of water out of the Lake.

GUIDE
(swearing in Yakut)
Curses! No!

The water in the vial turns into a blob of glowing energy.

The horses whinny in fear. The water in the Lake suddenly drains into a bottomless hole in the ground, out of which lightning begins to flash. The Guide's little son freezes, eyes wide, clutching his wooden whistle. The General draws his saber and stands protecting King Elijah.

GENERAL
Run, Your Majesty!

The Guide runs to the soldiers. The King takes a few steps backwards and runs away.

GUIDE
What are you all looking at?
Run! RUN!

The soldiers are staring at the Lake in disbelief. An enormous geyser erupts in an explosion, spewing rocks and crystals. The ground begins to split open, exposing a glowing ice-like mass.

The soldiers run for their lives, but almost all of them are caught in the blast wave from the geyser and turn to stone. King Elijah is untouched – he trips and falls and the wave passes over him. All around him is bedlam, the earth is raging. The surviving soldiers flee in panic.

KING ELIJAH
Run! Save yourselves!

He picks up the chest of crystals, looks around trepidly

and runs up the slope away from the Lake. He falls, drops everything, hurriedly picks up the crystals and gets up again. All around him crystals are rising from the ground. The King is doomed... But then the King’s horse appears from behind an enormous crystal. Elijah whistles.

KING ELIJAH
Come here, Dumpling!

King Elijah mounts his horse and spurs him on.

All around him lightning bolts are firing huge crystals up from the earth, but King Elijah manages to get away. He grips the vial in his hand.

The Source has almost returned to normal. The explosions are replaced by a glow.

CAPTION: BOGEY: THE HEART OF THE TAIGA

FADE OUT

CAPTION: YEARS HAVE PASSED

EXT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. PALACE SQUARE - MORNING

02-01 Preparations are underway for a celebration on the square - merchants are setting up tents and stalls, carts are delivering various goods.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - MORNING

02-00 FLUFFY the robot dog is running along the corridor in pursuit of a live cat. It almost knocks over the robot servants, who are carrying a crystal goose. Robot workers are preparing the grand hall for a grand celebration.

Two of them lose control of a bunch of balloons and float up to the ceiling. STEVEN the robot is in charge of operations.

STEVEN
It’s like a madhouse in here! You two! Get down from there. Anything to avoid doing work...

One of the worker robots scuttles up to Steven.

WORKER
Mister chamberlain sir! The red carpet has arrived, as you requested... except that it’s green.

STEVEN
Then you’ll just have to paint it! Today is Princess Barbara’s

birthday, everything had better be perfect!

SERVANT (O.S.)
Steven!

STEVEN
What is it?

Steven leaves the room. Three NANNIES (Gertrude, Brunhilda and Gretchen) burst in, terribly distraught.

BRUNHILDA
Barbara?!

GERTRUDE
Barbara?!!

BRUNHILDA
She was here a moment ago, where could she have disappeared to?

GRETCHEN
Yes, where is she?

GERTRUDE
Oh! Oh! Have you seen Barbara? What about you? You, have you seen her? What about you?

A squad of small worker robots trundle past the nannies, carrying something. A robot CHEF puts the finishing touches on a cake, placing candles in the shape of numbers beside a figurine of the princess. The numbers read “61”. The chef is delighted with the results of his work. Steven rolls up, annoyed, swaps the numbers round and looks angrily at the chef. Suddenly there is a joyful barking and the wail of a cat. Fluffy falls on the cake from above and squashes it.

STEVEN
Theodore, is your head not screwed on? Why is Fluffy on the loose?

A servant is standing beside THEODORE the robot groundskeeper, who actually has no head and is holding a large pair of garden shears in his hands.

SERVANT
His head’s in the workshop! His Majesty took it off for repairs

after Theodore trimmed the top off the throne thinking it was a hedge.

Steven turns and sees two workers who are crookedly attaching the top back to the throne.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. WORKSHOP - MORNING

02-10 King Elijah is repairing Theodore's head. As the King fiddles inside it, Theodore's face contorts this way and that. Lumiens (the king's little robot helpers) scuttle back and forth, bringing tools to the King.

KING ELIJAH
Right, guys, where's my hammer? And I need a clamp! Thank you. Don't forget the pliers. Aha, pliers, thank you. But where's the hammer? Bear with me, Theodore. We'll soon have you up and about!

One of the lumiens is trying to pick up the hammer. Straining, he finally lifts it off the ground but burns out from the exertion. The king shakes his head.

KING ELIJAH
What's the matter Lampert, all this hard work has given you burnout? Ha-ha, let's fix that!

King Elijah clicks his fingers and three other lumiens rush to the scene. They unscrew Lampert's burned-out bulb and screw in a replacement. Lampert lights up again and gets back to work.

KING ELIJAH
That's my boys. Now, let's see what we have here... Hmmm... Oooh...

The King lifts off the top of Theodore's head, exposing a blue crystal. Lumiens bring him something that looks like a welding mask. From the safe on his table the King takes out the vial with the glowing blue energy - the one he took from the Source. He puts on the mask and brings the vial near to Theodore's 'brain'. A spark jumps from the vial to the crystal. The dull crystal lights up and Theodore's head comes to life. It blinks and rolls its eyes from side to side. The lumiens are delighted. The King chuckles affectionately.

KING ELIJAH
Good morning, old boy! Told you, you're too young to retire!

He puts the vial back in the safe just as the nannies burst in, all trying to say something at once.

NANNIES (ALL AT ONCE)
Oh, this is terrible! Barbara, our dear girl, what a disaster! She won't listen to us at all! It's time to fit the dress - and we can't find her anywhere!

They are talking over one another, making them impossible to understand.

KING ELIJAH
What on earth is the matter?

They all take a deep breath, preparing to reply.

KING ELIJAH
Shush! One at a time! Gertrude, let's hear you first.

They all freeze with inflated cheeks and bulging eyes.

BRUNHILDA
I'm Brunhilda, she's Gertrude.

GERTRUDE
I'm Gertrude and that's Brunhilda, Your Majesty.

GRETCHEN
And I'm Gretchen!

GERTRUDE
We've lost Barbara!

BRUNHILDA
We've lost Barbara!

GRETCHEN
We did lose her.

KING ELIJAH
How could you lose her? What is she, a button? Well, what are you waiting for? Let's go! But quietly!

King Elijah and the nannies head towards the corridor. Lampert notices that the safe is open. He struggles to close it - and burns out again.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. CLOCK TOWER - NOON

03-00 Mechanisms, chains and sprockets are spinning and whirring. The broken hole in the giant clock face forms a semblance of a window. Right under it, on a wooden beam, sits PRINCESS BARBARA (16), engrossed in a book.

BARBARA
"...With the snakemonster defeated, the princess was free at last. Tears sparkled in her eyes like diamonds. 'I love you, Prince Edward,' she whispered to me passionately. I moved a lock of auburn hair away from her face and said to her with a sad smile, 'Forgive me, Mirabelle, for my heart forever belongs to another'... Suddenly I felt the vile breath of doom. I turned my head and saw the frightful open maw of the beast." To be continued...

Barbara puts the book down on her lap. Her little mechanical companion, a lamping named BULBIE, flies up to the book and tries to work out whether it really is the end. Seeing that there are no more pages, Bulbie is upset.

BARBARA
Don't be sad, Bulbie. I'm sure Prince Edward has already written the next book and we'll get it in the mail soon.

Barbara closes the book and looks out the window dreamily.

BARBARA
It's been ages since I got his last letter. No, I understand, fighting injustice takes time and effort, but... He could have at least dropped me a line or two.

Bulbie nods in agreement. Barbara looks longingly at

Prince Edward's portrait on the cover of the book. Her cheeks turn rosy; her long hair blows in the warm summer breeze.

BARBARA
Oh Bulbie... He is just so... wonderful...

Barbara slowly caresses Prince Edward's hair in the portrait, her fingers reach for his lips...

KING ELIJAH (O.S.)
Barbara! Barbara! Are you here?! What are you doing?!

Barbara's face fills with horror. She yelps and falls off the beam she was sitting on.

King Elijah walks in and gets tangled in a curtain. He untangles himself and looks at Barbara sternly.

The disheveled Barbara is holding a textbook upside down.

BARBARA
So you see, Bulbie, the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection... Oh hey Daddy! Hi nannies! It's so noisy in the palace today, we decided to study here.

The book cover comes adrift in different places and Barbara tucks it back. Her hair falls on her face; she blows it aside. King Elijah walks towards her.

KING ELIJAH
Studying is good, but why did you choose to do it here? Your room is perfectly comfortable and quiet... *(he trips and nearly falls)* ...and most importantly - safe! Unlike this place here! It's no good for a fragile girl like you, sweetie.

The nannies all shake their heads in disapproval at Barbara's choice of place to study.

BRUNHILDA
No good!

GERTRUDE
No, no good at all! Look at all

the spiders, dust and splinters everywhere!

BRUNHILDA
She could fall and - BAM! Hurt herself... to death!

GERTRUDE
And earlier today she was out riding her horse again!

BRUNHILDA
In the garden!

GRETCHEN
Galloping!

Barbara glares at the nannies. Horrified, King Elijah rushes over to Barbara, who quickly closes her book and presses it to her chest. King Elijah squeezes Barbara's shoulders, pulls her cheeks, feels her forehead and checks her pupils.

KING ELIJAH
Riding?!! Sweetie, are you alright? Does it hurt anywhere?

Barbara pushes her father's hands away from her, irritated. She gets up and walks over to the opposite wall.

BARBARA
Dad, I'm fine!

KING ELIJAH
Barbara, didn't we agree that you wouldn't go horse riding?

BARBARA
Why did you give me a horse if I'm not allowed to ride it?

KING ELIJAH
Well... You asked for a pony, so I bought you a pony! How was I supposed to know it would grow so big?!

BARBARA
That's not even funny, Dad.

KING ELIJAH
I won’t allow anything bad to happen to you! (to the nannies) And you, how could you lose sight of her? I told you: in looking after her, what matters most is control, control and... control!

BRUNHILDA
Control!

GERTRUDE
Control!

GRETCHEN
And control...

KING ELIJAH
(to Barbara) No, really, what am I going to do with you?

BARBARA
Why don’t you put me in a glass jar? I’ll definitely be safe then! You’ll take me out of the jar from time to time, blow the dust off me and check that nothing’s fallen off. Oh...

In her indignance, Barbara lets go of her book’s cover and it falls off. Seeing that the book she is holding is not a textbook, King Elijah grows angry.

KING ELIJAH
That book again?!

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. ATTIC - DAY

03-10 Theodore is doing his best to board up the entrance to the clock tower. King Elijah and Steven are standing next to him. Barbara is standing a few paces away. King Elijah angrily closes the book and passes it to Steven.

KING ELIJAH (O.S.)
“The Wonderless Adventures of Prince Edward”...

STEVEN
It’s “wondrous” adventures, Your Majesty.

KING ELIJAH
Doesn’t matter. Steven, dispose of this rubbish!

Steven turns to look at Barbara.

STEVEN
Dispose of what rubbish?

KING ELIJAH
The book! Dispose of the book! And send a messenger to the post office, tell them to stop delivering unsavory literature to the palace!

Barbara shoots her father a million-dagger stare and goes off in a huff.

EXT. CENTRAL POST OFFICE - DAY

04-00 The street is busy with carts and horses - the usual hustle and bustle. There’s a crowd outside the post office. A woman walks up.

WOMAN
What’s going on? What’s the matter?

TOWNSFOLK (ALL AT ONCE)
No idea, I saw people queuing up so I joined in... They said the royal postman was robbed! What? Again? Yep, this time they even stole his bicycle!

INT. CENTRAL POST OFFICE - DAY

04-10 The stern POSTMASTER (54) is looking down at the chattering clerks from the second floor of the post office.

POSTMASTER
Will you all just be quiet!? Basil, where’s the parcel with money you were supposed to deliver to the king?

The royal postman BASIL is sitting on a chair, surrounded by a crowd of clerks. He is disheveled, dirty and distraught.

BASIL
The money, the letters, even our beloved Princess Barbara’s birthday presents - I dropped everything and ran... Ran for my life, boss!

His colleagues, distraught about the losses and his shaken state, try to console him. The Postmaster winces and rubs his face with his hands: he is angry about the incident. Suddenly Basil remembers something. He leaps up from the chair, pulls an envelope out of his breast pocket and waves it victoriously above his head.

BASIL
Here! I kept a letter addressed to Princess Barbara! It’s from abroad!

The clerks rejoice, but the Postmaster is not impressed.

POSTMASTER
Take it to the palace, and tell the king about the robbers while you’re at it.

BASIL
Those weren’t robbers, boss. It was Bogey, the forest king! He’s terrifying! Scraggly fur, huge horns, and those burning eyes the size of... of saucers!

Everyone gasps in shock and horror.

Basil sits back down on the chair and sobs.

BASIL
How am I ever to look our king in the eye again? I am so ashamed of myself!

Clerks rush to console Basil. Suddenly, there is a sneering voice.

WEASEL (O.S.)
Something tells me, dear colleagues, that Basil is taking us all for idiots!

Behind the crowd of clerks, sitting atop a desk is the junior mail sorter BUNDY JOYCE nicknamed WEASEL (19). He plucks an egg from an open mail package, taps it on the

desk and begins to clean bits of the shell away from it.

CLERKS
What are you talking about, Weasel? Badmouthing a decent person again!

Weasel peels the shell right onto the floor and bites into the egg.

WEASEL
I'll bet he buried the money somewhere in the forest!

He hops off the table and strolls leisurely up to Basil. Clerks step out of his way, clearly wary of him.

WEASEL
Now he's spinning us a sob story hoping to get a paid vacation for rest and recuperation. Am I right, old pal? Well, I've always wanted to become the royal postman, and you've just given me the opportunity, 'cause you proved yourself to be a crook.

Weasel walks up to Basil, hands him the half-eaten egg, wipes his hands on his shirt and snatches the envelope from Basil.

CLERK
Don't judge others by your standards, Weasel.

Weasel taps the clerk on the nose with the envelope.

WEASEL
I have a name, you know...

The disgruntled murmur among the clerks subsides to a frightened whisper. Weasel heads towards the door.

WEASEL
I'm off to the palace. Next time you see me I'll be Minister of Post and Telegraph!

The clerks murmur indignantly. Weasel pauses by the door.

WEASEL
Live life to the full, that's

what I always say! I'll take your rusty pile of junk, boss.

POSTMASTER
Hey, hey! Weasel, no!

Weasel leaves. The clerks chatter.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. BARBARA'S ROOM - DAY

05-00 Barbara is having her dress fitted. The DRESSMAKER is adjusting ribbons and turning Barbara this way and that as if she were a mannequin. Steven brings a lace mantle. Barbara is impassively tolerating the procedure. Bulbie is helping the dressmaker with the ribbons.

GERTRUDE
Oh Barbara sweetie, just look how pretty she is! Quite the blushing bride!

BRUNHILDA
What are you on about, you moron? She's not getting married!

GERTRUDE
I said the dress was pretty, and you're calling me a moron! You're a moron yourself!

BRUNHILDA
Oh stop your chatter, Gertrude! You said "bride", and that was ridiculous! Think before you say things like that!

The dressmaker pulls the corset too tight.

BARBARA
Pedro! Pedro! Pedro!

DRESSMAKER
Oh! Oh!

STEVEN
Bravo, Pedro, it fits perfectly! The guests will be overjoyed!

BARBARA
I'm the only one who's not allowed to be overjoyed. It's

too dangerous! I could explode
if I get overjoyed!

The dressmaker attaches a small posy to Barbara’s wrist. She looks at it disdainfully and tries to shake it off.

BARBARA
This stupid dress is from the last century. Who am I supposed to be impersonating?

STEVEN
His Majesty insisted on this particular dress.

BARBARA
Well in that case let him wear it!

STEVEN
Your Highness, such behavior is unacceptable. I shall have to report this to His Majesty.

Barbara mocks Steven, grimacing. He notices that and fumes quietly. The dressmaker attaches a huge extravagant bow to the back of Barbara’s dress. She sighs in resignation.

BARBARA
Ugh... What a nightmare.

From the window, there is a sound of a motorcycle approaching and stopping.

BRUNHILDA
What's that noise?

GERTRUDE
It's called a motro-sickle, I read about it in a magazine.

SERVANT (O.S.)
The royal mail has arrived!

Barbara lights up. She is bursting with impatience.

BARBARA
The mail! At last!

She starts to twist and fidget, clearly preparing to make

a run for it. The dressmaker is horrified.

Steven blocks Barbara’s path.

STEVEN
No mail for you! Those are His Majesty’s orders!

Barbara throws her lace mantle over Steven and rushes out the door. Steven looks like a bride.

STEVEN
Your Highness, I demand...

The sound of a door slamming.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

05-10 Barbara is running down the stairs, elated. She pulls the bow off her dress and tosses it aside. Squealing with anticipation, she jumps down several steps at a time.

BARBARA
At last! At last! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Woo-hoo!

The robot workers who are painting the green carpet red look at her, shrug and get back to work.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. ENTRANCE HALL - EARLY EVENING

06-00 Barbara bursts into the entrance hall.

BARBARA
Hi Basil! Did you bring me a new book?!

Just then she sees that it is not Basil. Weasel turns around and smiles.

WEASEL
Howdy.

Barbara assumes a posture more befitting of a royal.

BARBARA
Oh, hello... Where's Basil? Did you bring me a new book? Did you? Did you? Well?!

She drops her ‘royal’ facade and looks at Weasel pleadingly.

WEASEL
Nope, but here's a letter for you, Highness. From some prince...

Barbara’s face lights up.

BARBARA
Prince Edward?!!! Ahem... *(in an official tone)* Prince Edward?

Weasel hands her the wrinkled envelope, its seal is broken. Barbara takes the envelope but Weasel doesn’t let go of it.

WEASEL
You look even better in real life than in pictures.

Barbara is confused and uneasy.

BARBARA
That's a very inappropriate thing to say. And I apologize, I can't pay for your services today. I'm all dressed up, you see.

Weasel lets go of the envelope. Barbara opens it.

WEASEL
You can't buy my silence with money...

BARBARA
Excuse me?

WEASEL
I know everything.

BARBARA
What?

WEASEL
Everything a junior mail sorter can possibly know. *(mimicking a female voice)* Oh Prince Edward, save me from this claustrophobic prison that I’m forced to call home, and from my father, who doesn’t let me breathe!

Weasel takes a few steps towards Barbara, who backs away, horrified.

BARBARA
Have you been... reading my letters?!

WEASEL
(mimicking a deep male voice) Oh Barbara, I cannot wait to see you. I long to embrace you and to whisper words of sweet love in your ear. *(in his normal voice)* You don't want your royal daddy to find out about all of this, do you?

BARBARA
What? What do you want from me?!

WEASEL
Let's start with a royal kiss.

BARBARA
How dare you!? You... You... You know what you are? You're nothing but a… weasel! If Prince Edward was here, he'd beat you to a pulp! Get out of my palace at once!

Barbara spins around to get away and smacks into Steven with a ringing metallic thud.

STEVEN
There you are! Caught red-handed! No mail for you! Those are His Majesty's orders...

With a cry of desperation, Barbara lunges away from Steven and takes off up the stairs. Steven runs after her.

STEVEN
Oh this simply will not do! Come back, please! Your Highness?!

Weasel picks up the posy that fell from Barbara's wrist.

WEASEL
No, no. You won't get rid of me

that easily...

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - EARLY EVENING

07-00 Barbara races away from Steven along the third floor.

STEVEN
Stop, Your Highness! Ple-e-ease!!

She trips on her skirt, rips the hem off, and lands sprawling on the floor. She watches as her letter spins through the air like a helicopter and glides onto the throne, just as King Elijah is approaching it, escorted by the nannies.

BARBARA
Oh, no!

Barbara and Steven look at one another. The lift stops on their floor and they both race to it. Steven gets there first, closes the door and presses the button triumphantly. But the lift doesn't move! As Barbara races down the stairs, the lift finally starts moving and quickly descends.

On the first floor, Barbara runs out onto the polished wooden floor and immediately slips and falls. She quickly picks herself up, assumes a 'royal' composure and nods to the workers, who are looking around to see where the noise came from.

BARBARA
Good day.

She makes for the throne at a fast walk, then breaks into a run... But the letter is not there. She turns around and realizes that Steven beat her to it and gave the letter to her father. King Elijah's eyebrows rise further and further with every line he reads, raising the crown higher on his head.

KING ELIJAH
"Dear Barbara, I can't wait to..." What's this all about?

GERTRUDE
Did you hear that? Oh my! That prince, eh? Holding the princess near and whispering in her ear!

BRUNHILDA
Ha! Never heard anything like it

before!

GRETCHEN
Neither have I!

GERTRUDE
I did, I did.

BRUNHILDA
Oh as if anyone ever whispered in your ear?

GERTRUDE
Well, maybe they did!

King Elijah’s eyebrows rise so high that his crown falls off.

KING ELIJAH
Good grief!

Barbara climbs onto the throne and sits with her feet on the cushions.

KING ELIJAH
“...yours truly, Edward.” What Edward?

STEVEN
The wonderless one, I suppose, Your Majesty.

King Elijah is fuming.

KING ELIJAH
(to Barbara) Your High-ness!!? Off to your room! We’re going to have a serious talk later!

Barbara hides behind her knees.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. SUITE OF ROOMS - EVENING

07-10 Weasel is wandering through the palace corridors, looking around in amazement at the unfamiliar surroundings. He looks up at the ceiling where some plaster has fallen off.

WEASEL
A palace with a leaking roof! Ha!

He goes over to a table with a crystal goose on it.

WEASEL
But they’ve got the money for stuff like this...

Weasel touches the goose’s beak and its head falls off. He glances around and throws the head aside. He notices Theodore sweeping the floor.

WEASEL
Hey, mister! Mister! Where does the main man hang out?

Shocked, Theodore drops all the rubbish he’s collected.

WEASEL
I see you’re the employee of the month here...

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. BARBARA’S ROOM - EVENING

08-00 Barbara is sitting on a windowsill. Elijah throws Edward’s letter on the table. He nervously pours a glass of water from a pitcher, but then drinks from the pitcher. Bulbie is hiding in a jewelry box on the table.

KING ELIJAH
Oh boy...

BARBARA
Daddy, but it’s serious! We’re in love!

Elijah almost chokes on a mouthful of water, and struggles to swallow it.

KING ELIJAH
In what? In love? But you’re just a child!

BARBARA
Of course, and you married my mother when you were three hundred years old!

KING ELIJAH
No! I mean.. that’s... that’s a different story entirely! That’s your mother, and this is some sort of Edward we have here!

BARBARA
He’s not some sort of anything!

He isn’t...

KING ELIJAH
Come now, Barbara dear, don’t cry... Today is a celebration after all!

BARBARA
Oh yes Daddy, everyone knows that you saying “don’t cry” will stop me crying...

KING ELIJAH
And get down from there, sweetie, or your dress will get all wrinkled!

BARBARA
I’m not getting down from anywhere! You’re so concerned with this dress, like there’s nothing more important in the world! And the party is a fake. Everyone knows today isn’t my birthday.

KING ELIJAH
You know perfectly well why we don’t celebrate on your real birthday.

BARBARA
It’s all so stupid, Dad! That was sixteen years ago! How much longer do we have to live in the past? Do you really think all this silliness will bring my mother back?

King Elijah grows serious, straightens his jacket and puts on a regal expression.

KING ELIJAH
That’s it, I’ve had enough! Your Highness, the reception starts in two hours. Don’t be late. And please make yourself look proper! And I demand that you do not so much as think about that wonderless prince!

King Elijah leaves and slams the door behind him. Barbara shouts in his wake,

BARBARA
It’s “wondrous”! Aaargh!

In a fit of frustration, Barbara pulls at her dress. The fabric rips.

BARBARA (CONT’D)
I’ll make myself look proper,
Daddy, just you wait and see.
Everyone will be beside
themselves with awe.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. WORKSHOP - DUSK

09-00 Weasel bursts in and looks around. Lumiens look at him from shelves, alarmed.

WEASEL
Well, look what we have here...

Weasel looks around the workshop and goes over to a piece of lab equipment.

WEASEL
Hah, is this what he prints his
money on? That would be awesome!

He flicks the burned-out Lampert with his finger and fiddles with the equipment on the bench. It releases a plume of multicolored smoke. Weasel jumps back in surprise.

WEASEL
Oops... Oh! Let’s see here...

He goes up to the open safe, takes out the vial and inspects it closely. The light from the vial seems to hypnotize him.

KING ELIJAH (O.S.)
What are you doing here?!

Startled, Weasel drops the vial on the floor.

EXT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. WORKSHOP - LATE EVENING

09-10 There’s a flash and an explosion blows out the workshop windows.

EXT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. PALACE SQUARE - LATE EVENING

09-20 Lights go out in all the windows of the palace.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - LATE EVENING

09-30 The chandeliers flicker and turn back on. The robots, all deactivated, also turn on one by one.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. WORKSHOP - LATE EVENING

09-40 The workshop is destroyed. Frightened lumiens watch from the corners. Weasel picks the vial up from the floor. He is disoriented, his hair is on end and sparks are dancing over him. King Elijah struggles out from under a pile of debris.

KING ELIJAH
Who are you and how did you get in here?

Weasel looks at the vial with energy, and the frightened expression on his face gives way to confidence.

WEASEL
They called me 'Weasel' in the orphanage... and that's where I learned that only valuables are kept in safes. Only the most valuable things.

KING ELIJAH
You put the Spark back where you found it, right now!

Weasel gets up, his face ominous in the glow of the Spark. He slowly walks towards King Elijah.

WEASEL
You what? You think I'll just hand it over, just like that? You want your firecracker back? Show me the money!

KING ELIJAH
F-f-firecracker..? Money..? You idiot! You have no idea what you're holding there! Give it to me!

King Elijah tries to snatch the vial, but Weasel lifts it high above his head so King Elijah can't reach it.

KING ELIJAH
Give it to me, will you? Or

I’ll... I’ll call the guards!

Weasel squints and looks slyly at King Elijah.

WEASEL
Why aren’t you calling them already? Are you worried I’ll break your little treasure? What if I do? I’ll just whack it off the floor, and...

Weasel swings his arm back. King Elijah’s face falls and he waves his hands.

KING ELIJAH
No! Stop! P-p-please don’t! How much do you want? I’ll give you anything you want! Anything!

WEASEL
Anything I want, you say? Hmm... I have an idea.

He takes Barbara’s posy from his pocket, sniffs it and breaks into a gruesome, carnivorous smile.

EXT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. PALACE SQUARE - NIGHT

10-00 The celebration is underway. The square is thronging with activity, free food and jesters. Guests are arriving. A crowd of children are gawking at a fancy car that one of the guests arrived in.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

10-10 The throne room is filled with dukes and barons. They are drinking, talking and having a good time. A microphone squeals. Steven prepares to make an announcement.

STEVEN
His Great Imperial Majesty, King Elijah the First!

Elijah walks onto the stage, lost and confused. The microphone is much too high for him. Steven adjusts it.

STEVEN
And now the birthday girl herself! Her Royal Highness, Princess Barbara!

Servants open the doors. Princess Barbara walks in and everyone gasps. Camera flashes pop as journalists take photos. A crown sparkles on top of her cropped hair. She has cut her dress up beyond recognition. Bulbie proudly beams over her shoulder. Barbara smiles, pleased with the crowd's reaction. She goes over to her father.

BARBARA
How do you like your dress now, Daddy? Am I looking respectable enough for you?

She takes up a haughty pose near her father, her head high in self-satisfaction.

KING ELIJAH
It's not mine... it was your mother's... her present to you, sweetie.

Barbara deflates.

BARBARA
Oh Dad... I'm so sorry...

Elijah looks at her, his eyes filled with lament, and turns to the microphone.

KING ELIJAH
So, ehhmm... I'm glad to welcome you all here... at this ball in honor of my daughter Barbara's... wedding.

The audience murmurs in surprise, everyone looks at one another in confusion. The robot chef takes the candles out of the cake, squashes them into a ball and throws them into the oven in his chest. Barbara turns to her father with an expression of surprise and disbelief.

BARBARA
What???

The chef lets out a loud 'PING!', takes a figurine of a groom from his oven and puts it on the cake beside the figurine of Barbara.

KING ELIJAH
Allow me to present the groom... It's... He's... a jolly fine fellow, junior mail sorter Bundy Joyce! Please give him a

big hand!

Weasel walks onto the stage. The hall falls silent. Barbara looks at her father indignantly.

BARBARA
Daddy? Is this all because of the dress?

Weasel takes the microphone.

WEASEL
Don’t you go anywhere my dears, we’ll have the wedding ceremony right here and now. Ha-ha! And then dessert and dancing, so stick around!

Weasel stretches his hand out to Barbara.

WEASEL
Ha-ha-ha! Let’s waltz, Highness.

Barbara realizes that this is not a prank. Her vision grows dark and her legs buckle.

BARBARA
Daddy?!

Elijah just looks at the floor.

BARBARA
Fireball! Fireball!

WEASEL
What fireball? Where?

KING ELIJAH
That’s her pony’s name...

WEASEL
Her pony?!

Suddenly Barbara shouts at the top of her voice.

BARBARA
Fireba-a-all!!!

There is a sound of a breaking window, one of the doors swings open and an enormous black stallion gallops into the hall. The crowd barely manages to clear a path for the stallion as it charges straight for Weasel.

WEASEL
You call that a pony?!

Weasel barely manages to leap out of Fireball's way. Barbara jumps on and canters to the door.

KING ELIJAH
Barbara! Forgive me, sweetie!

WEASEL
Bolt the doors!

Servants begin to close the doors. The stallion continues to gather speed. Barbara spurs him on and he smashes clean through the doors. Weasel gets up, sighs angrily and smoothes his lapel, which bears the emblem of the royal postal service – a snail wearing a crown and carrying a horn.

WEASEL
Everybody stay calm! Nobody gets away from the royal mail...

EXT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. PALACE SQUARE. CORNER - NIGHT

11-00 Two pyrotechnician robots are standing by a large switch in the corner of the square.

PYROTECHNICIAN ROBOT
Did someone say, "Fire in the hole"..?

The second pyrotechnician jumps on the switch. Pinwheels spin, crackers crackle and the first volleys of a fireworks salute shoot into the air. Princess Barbara thunders through a corridor of sparklers. The crowd scatters and watches her go. Weasel is in pursuit on the postmaster's motorcycle, almost running over onlookers.

WEASEL
Out of my way!!! Out of my way!!! Out of my way!!!

EXT. TOWN. STREET - NIGHT

Barbara's stallion lithely jumps over a pile of crates. She looks over her shoulder and sees Weasel following her at tremendous speed. He knocks over the crates, scattering fruit and vegetables. The fireworks show flashes and sparkles in the night sky.

EXT. TOWN. NARROW STREETS - NIGHT

11-10 Barbara rides down winding streets, narrowly missing signs, balconies and people. Bulbie is clinging

to her hair. Weasel is hot on her heels, knocking over signs and other obstacles as he goes.

EXT. TOWN. TOWN GATES - NIGHT

Barbara and Weasel are approaching the town gates. One of the gatekeepers (ANDREW) is doing a crossword puzzle.

ANDREW
Hmm... King’s daughter, eight letters...

The second gatekeeper (SIMON) points, wide-eyed.

SIMON
Princess! Princess!

Barbara whooshes past them on Fireball.

ANDREW
That fits! This one’s a bit harder though. Carrier of written communications..?

SIMON
Postman!!!

Weasel roars past.

ANDREW
You’ve got smarts, buddy! You should be working in artillery, cleaning cannons!

EXT. TAIGA. EDGE OF THE FOREST - NIGHT

11-20 The road to the forest cuts through a field of wheat. Barbara is hurtling along it. Weasel is only one length behind. He tries to grab her, but a gust of wind catches a loose end of her dress and it smacks him in the face. Weasel loses control and falls from his motorcycle. Barbara surges ahead and into the forest at full speed. A volley of fireworks lights up the sky. Weasel gets up and angrily watches Barbara go.

EXT. TAIGA - NIGHT

11-30 Barbara’s stallion jumps over a fallen log. She looks back over her shoulder. Weasel is nowhere to be seen. She stops, looks longingly at her town far in the distance, and weeps bitterly.

BARBARA
Daddy... How could you?

(Fireball whinnies nervously)
What's wrong, Fireball?

The stallion rears and takes off. Suddenly Weasel jumps out of the bushes on his motorcycle and the chase continues. Barbara turns back to look at the road ahead and her head slams into a low-hanging branch.

FADE OUT

Forest sounds.

FADE IN

EXT. TAIGA. DARK RAVINE - NIGHT

12-00 Barbara is lying unconscious on the ground; Bulbie is trying to bring her round. She pulls her nose and tugs her hand.

BARBARA
Edward...

WEASEL
Yep, the one and only.

Weasel is fussing around the motorcycle nearby. Finally he pulls out a sack and turns around.

WEASEL
And what were all the wacky races for? You're going to be the blushing bride whether you like it or not!

Bulbie soars into the air and tries to shoo him away. Weasel swats her away like a fly and sends her crashing into a tree trunk.

WEASEL
Let's go home, honey.

Weasel throws a sack over Barbara and hoists her onto his shoulder. Barbara groans.

Suddenly Weasel hears an ominous hissing voice behind him.

RABBIT (O.S.)
Hey dude...

Weasel turns his head. A few meters away, RABBIT is sitting on a tree branch with his back to him. He is

surrounded by a swarm of flies.

RABBIT
This is our forest, not yours!

Rabbit turns his head sharply through 180 degrees. His eyes burn with hellfire, saliva hangs from his long teeth.

RABBIT
Drop the sack, dude!

Weasel recoils in terror but then pulls himself together. He pulls the Spark from his inside breast pocket and holds it out like a weapon.

WEASEL
Get lost! This is mine!

RABBIT
F... t... s... bad idea dude.
You know Bogey? You gonna know
him soon! I warned ya!

Rabbit calmly takes out a whistle and blows it hard. The piercing shrill rings out through the forest. Weasel takes a few steps back, glancing around anxiously. A blood-curdling roar comes from the forest. Trees begin to sway. Weasel looks up in terror and sees an enormous **shadow** moving through the forest canopy, making its way swiftly towards him.

WEASEL
You’re not having it, it’s mine!
Mine!

The crashing of branches grows louder. A giant mass lands almost noiselessly behind Weasel’s back. Weasel slowly turns around and sees BOGEY, a massive horned creature covered in dirty fur and wearing a sinister mask.

BOGEY
Everything here is mine!

Weasel cries out in terror.

WEASEL
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Weasel drops the sack, runs screaming through the bushes, trips and tumbles into a ravine.

He rolls down the sheer slope, bouncing over rocks, and

lands sprawling at the bottom. He drops the Spark as he falls. Weasel opens his eyes and sees the vial lying not far from him. A little of the liquid has spilled out and turned the grass around it into glowing crystals. Startled, Weasel grabs the Spark. A bolt of energy runs through him like an electric shock and he cries out in pain. The hand he grabbed the vial with hangs limp and lifeless.

He hears Bogey roaring in the forest. Weasel grimaces and grunts angrily in the direction the sound came from.

EXT. TAIGA / BOGEY'S LAIR - MORNING

15-30 A beaver is trying to chew into a tree, but it is too smooth and his teeth just slip over the surface of the bark. The beaver is frantically trying to sink its teeth in, but without success. Finally it manages to bite into the tree. The beaver is very pleased with itself. Suddenly Bulbie appears in front of it. She gesticulates and buzzes frantically. The beaver makes to run away in horror, but its teeth are stuck in the tree. After a moment's struggle, the beaver gets free and runs away – a moment later there is a **splash**. Bulbie sighs in despair and looks around. She is surrounded by dense forest. She flies through some bushes towards the sunlight...

...And finds herself in a clearing where Bogey's house stands. The morning sun filters through the forest canopy. Butterflies flit from flower to flower. It's paradise. Bulbie flies towards the house.

INT. BOGEY'S LAIR - MORNING

15-40 Bulbie flies in through an open window. She looks around and sees a sack rising up from the floor. Bulbie whooshes over and helps to pull the sack off. The sack falls away revealing Barbara, who is rubbing a bruise on her head. Her crown is gone. She gets to her feet and she and Bulbie look around the house.

BARBARA
Bulbie, where are we? Oh wow! It looks like some forest robbers' hideout!

She walks over to the table and picks up a jar; a trail of slime clings to it.

BARBARA
Remember Edward's fifteenth book..? Ew, yuck!

She puts the jar back on the table in disgust and picks up an apple.

BARBARA
Oh look, an apple!

She sees Bulbie dragging something out of a pile of junk.

BARBARA
What is it?

Barbara helps her and discovers that it’s Edward’s new book.

BARBARA
Bulbie! That’s our book!

Barbara helps Bulbie to pull the book out of the pile and falls to the floor with it.

Suddenly they hear a terrible growl. Barbara’s face fills with fear. The pile of junk starts to move and grumble. Bogey’s disheveled mass emerges from the pile and sits up. He clearly hasn’t fully woken up; his eyes are closed and his head is nodding as if he is about to fall back to sleep.

BARBARA
Who is that, Bulbie?

Bogey twitches his ears like a bull, as if swatting away flies. Barbara’s fear is replaced by intrigue - who is this strange creature? She tries to get a better look at Bogey’s face but he keeps moving his head around and Barbara can’t get a good look. Finally she grabs him by the horns to keep his head still.

Pleased with her ingenious solution, she examines Bogey enthusiastically. Bogey slowly opens his eyes and looks at Barbara for a second or two before jumping away in terror, knocking over a table and sending junk flying in all directions. He grabs his club and begins to wave it around, roaring and swinging at unseen attackers. Finally he realizes there is nobody there and calms down, but just then Barbara emerges from behind his back.

BARBARA
Bogey?

Bogey falls down in surprise, dropping his club and landing on his bottom. Rabbit wakes up.

BARBARA
Bulbie, it’s Bogey! No way! It’s you they tell scary stories

about to kids, right? Wow! It's really you! Can I touch you?

A chunk breaks off in Barbara's hand.

BARBARA
Oh I'm sorry, it seems I pulled off a chunk of your outfit...

RABBIT (O.S.)
Don't worry, it's just dried-up mud and bird litter.

She looks round and sees Rabbit standing before her.

BARBARA
Wow, a talking bunny! Wait, what did you say it was? Mud and bird what?

RABBIT
Litter! You know... poop!

Barbara grimaces in disgust and tosses the chunk of dried poop away.

BARBARA
Ewww! So it's really you - Bogey and Rabbit! The infamous forest bandits! My nannies never stopped talking about you; I thought they were making it all up!

Barbara goes over to the pile of loot and pulls on a piece of pink cloth.

RABBIT
Don't touch that, it's ours!

BARBARA
Really? I don't think pink suits you.

She pulls out a pair of lace pantaloons and chuckles. Rabbit snatches them from her, stuffs them in a chest and hovers over it protectively.

RABBIT
There's nothing here for you! Get out of here, 'ooman!

BARBARA
Alright then. Thanks for the hospitality. Barbara turns and makes towards the door, then stops.

BOGEY
What?

BARBARA

Would you be so kind as to tell me the way to Prince Edward's palace?

Rabbit hastily bounds over to Barbara and pulls on her book.

RABBIT
No, we won't! And you th... f... gimme the funny pictures back!

He has his eyes fixed on the book.

BARBARA
This is a book, and more importantly it's MY book! See, it says here "To Princess Barbara".

RABBIT
You're... Princess Barbara? You're th... f... King Elijah's daughter?

Barbara picks up her crown from the floor and shows it to Rabbit. Rabbit freezes for a moment, then breaks into a stupid smile.

RABBIT
Brother, how much do you think we can get for a princess? Let's hold her to ransom! *(to Barbara)* Today's your lucky day, 'ooman! We'll sell you back to the palace!

Barbara's eyes open wide. Bogey's lair dissolves into a blur. Barbara 'flies' out of it and through the forest...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. ENTRANCE HALL - EARLY EVENING

15-10 ...And finds herself back in her palace. Weasel looks much more repulsive in Barbara's imagination than he is in real life. He moves towards her, a sly smile on his lips.

WEASEL
Come on, a royal kiss...

He smiles and a fly buzzes out of his mouth.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TAIGA. BOGEY'S LAIR - MORNING

15-20 Barbara backs away.

BARBARA
N-no, no! I don't want to go back to the palace! *(she looks repeatedly back and forth from Rabbit, who is standing right in front of her, to Bogey, who is sitting on a pile of junk)* Bogey, Bunny, please don't sell me!

Bogey suddenly jumps up from the pile, lands right beside Barbara, and pulls the sack over her head.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. SUITE OF ROOMS - MORNING

16-00 King Elijah walks lethargically through a suite of rooms, dragging his feet. Steven and the nannies follow.

STEVEN
Nobody will go into the forest, Your Majesty! They're all scared!

BRUNHILDA
I'm telling you, we need to put Barbara's comb under a pillow, then we'll see everything in a dream!

GRETCHEN
That's a good idea...

GERTRUDE

Well I think we should put a notice in the paper!

GRETCHEN

Yes, yes!

GERTRUDE

‘Missing: princess, long blond hair, blue eyes!’

BRUNHILDA

No, silly! She’s got short hair now! And everyone knows what she looks like!

GERTRUDE

Don’t you call me silly!

Elijah sighs and in a despondent voice gives Steven an order.

KING ELIJAH

Put a notice in the newspaper, Steven.

STEVEN

It will be done, Your Majesty!

Steven opens the doors to the throne room.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - MORNING

16-10 They walk in and see the bedraggled Weasel sitting on the throne. His arm is bandaged up and he is staring dully at the Spark. King Elijah rushes to him.

KING ELIJAH

Joyce! Where’s Barbara? Did you find her?

WEASEL

Oh yes, I found her.

Weasel gets up from the throne and goes towards the king.

WEASEL

She’s been kidnapped!

Elijah and the nannies stand there blinking, they don’t

understand what Weasel is talking about.

KING ELIJAH
By whom?

Weasel whirls around dramatically to face his audience and pulls a scary face.

WEASEL
(vehemently) Who terrorizes your forest and gets away with it?

KING ELIJAH
Who’s terrorizing my forest?

WEASEL
You know who! Bogey!

Steven turns his head from side to side in confusion. The nannies look at each other.

NANNIES (ALL AT ONCE)
Bogey?! Bogey?! Bogey?!

STEVEN
Bogey?

Weasel goes over to Steven and looks him up and down.

KING ELIJAH
What are we to do?

WEASEL
I’ll find Bogey and destroy him.
(He taps Steven with the vial.)
Tell me, Majesty, can your great engineeringness knock together a dozen or so of these brainless contraptions?

Steven is offended; Elijah looks on in bewilderment.

KING ELIJAH
Yes, yes, of course.

WEASEL
But first of all I want to know how this sparkly thing works!

EXT. TAIGA. RIVERBANK - MORNING

17-00 Barbara is wearing the sack like a straitjacket

with her tousled head sticking out through a hole in the top. Bogey is leading her on a rope. Rabbit is sitting nestled in Bogey's horns, flipping the pages of Edward's book and picking his nose. Bogey keeps tugging on the rope; Barbara is barefoot and walking is painful. They are walking alongside the river.

RABBIT
(closes the book) Your book is rubbish! Total rubbish! Only one picture and it's of some dunderheaded idiot! Standing there all pleased with himself in a metal suit, sniffing flowers. What's there to be pleased about? His metal shirt will rust!

Barbara is offended.

BARBARA
That's a suit of armor you silly rabbit, and he's got a very sharp sword I'll have you know! He kills monsters with it, chops their heads clean off!

Bogey tugs on the rope.

BARBARA
Hey, stop doing that! You know, Bogey, you're an ideal candidate for some head-chopping. Prince Edward has beheaded scarier monsters than you!

Bogey suddenly stops and leans down to look Barbara in the face.

BOGEY
Quit your squawking!

BARBARA
Yuck, Bogey, you need to brush your teeth! And learn some manners! I'm a princess, you know! And I will not allow... *(Bogey puts his hand over her mouth)* phmph-mph-mph, mmmph-ph, mmph!

BOGEY
You’re not a princess in my forest, missy.

Barbara bites Bogey’s finger. Bogey roars and stumbles towards the riverbank. Rabbit falls from his horns, Bogey loses his balance at the river’s edge and falls in, still holding his club. Bogey starts floundering in the water as the current carries him downstream. Rabbit is running back and forth along the bank, clutching at his head in despair. Bogey grabs onto his club to stay afloat, but he’s too heavy for it.

RABBIT
Brother! Hang in there brother! Try moving your arms up and down!

BARBARA
What’s wrong? Can’t he swim?! Some king of the forest!

Rabbit jumps on Bogey, determined to ‘help’ him. But really he’s just making him drown faster.

RABBIT
Brother, help me! I’m drowning! Aaaaaa!

Barbara sees a rocky ledge with a rotten tree hanging down from it and runs over to it.

She unties the rope from her waist and throws the other end of the rope to Bulbie.

Bulbie flies to Bogey, who is floundering in the water with Rabbit on his head.

Bulbie wraps the rope around Bogey’s horns and rushes back to Barbara, who has already climbed onto the ledge, thrown the rope over the tree and tied the free end to a big rock. She plants her feet firmly against the rock and pushes her back against the ledge.

BARBARA
Hey! Take the deepest breath you can!

Rabbit and Bogey obey and Bogey floats up like an air mattress. Rabbit is sitting on him with his cheeks puffed up. Barbara pushes the rock off the ledge and it falls, pulling Bogey and Rabbit out of the water and into the tree. Bogey slams face-first into the tree trunk,

cracking his mask.

Bogey’s wet hair covers his face. One eye looks out from under his mop of hair and stares dumbfoundedly at Barbara. Rabbit still doesn’t breathe out.

BARBARA
My daddy’s an engineer. You can breathe out now.

EXT. TAIGA. RIVERBANK. CLEARING - DAY

17-10 The disheveled Rabbit, and the clean, fluffy Bogey are sitting beside each other on a log. Bogey is trying to piece together his broken mask but without success.

BOGEY
Well, I’ll be...

RABBIT
Get away from me you pesky flies...

Barbara drags Bogey’s club over from the riverbank, sets it down beside Bogey and smoothes down her hair.

BARBARA
Well, all the best to you, dear forest bandits! And you know what, Bogey? You look much better without your mask.

Bogey doesn’t listen, he’s still trying to put his mask back together. Barbara turns to leave.

BARBARA
Let’s go, Bulbie. We’ll have to find our own way.

RABBIT
Hey, where are you going? Stop! Who’s going to pay your ransom? Stop, I said!

Barbara sighs wearily and turns round.

BARBARA
What makes you think you can give me orders in my own forest, Bunny?

RABBIT
What? T... f... No way is it yours! Brother! You tell her!

Bogey turns away from his mask and looks meanly at Barbara.

BARBARA
Let me remind you that I’m the princess here, and you are my subjects, and this forest belongs to the state! To the king, to be more precise, to my daddy, to me, that is! Everything here is mine!

Bogey roars and throws the pieces of his mask aside.

RABBIT
No way is it yours!

BARBARA
Mine, mine, mine!

Bogey lets out a furious roar, picks up the club and smacks it against the ground so hard, the oak tree beside him shakes.

A shower of acorns hails down painfully on Bogey’s back. Just as he’s about to say something, a cluster of squirrels lands on him. Inexplicably followed by a hedgehog.

BOGEY
This forest is not yours! Not! Yours!

BARBARA
Prince Edward will be along soon and we’ll cut these stupid trees down and have them turned into toothpicks! And when we’ve chopped the forest down we’ll build an amusement park in its place!

Bogey is enraged, he’s about to explode with anger.

RABBIT
What?! Squash her, brother! Squash her!

BARBARA
There’ll be slides and carousels... and a circus, of course, so you clowns will feel right at home!

Bogey grabs Barbara, climbs up a nearby cliff and disappears into the foliage. Alarmed, Bulbie watches them go.

RABBIT
That’s it, you flying piece of s.. junk, your princess is done for.

Bulbie flies off after Bogey.

EXT. TAIGA. CLIFF - DAY

18-00 Bogey is dragging Barbara through the undergrowth. Twigs are whacking her arms and face; she is frightened. At last Bogey reaches the highest outcrop of the cliff.

BARBARA
Get your paws off me, you monster!

Bogey drops Barbara down in front of him and towers over her. She looks up at him defiantly.

BOGEY
Humans! Hiding there in your little world of stone thinking you know everything! You think you're in charge, but you're not! She's been here a thousand princesses before you, Barbara, and she'll still be here many thousand after you're gone.

BARBARA
Who?

BOGEY
Mother Earth, the source of all life!

Bogey steps aside, giving Barbara a view of the endless expanse of the taiga. Wind washes over the forest in waves, making it seem alive and breathing. Over the Heart of the Taiga, lightning bolts strike occasionally from the earth to the sky.

Barbara stands motionless, staring at the taiga. A growing front of wind shakes the forest on its way towards the outcrop, where it ruffles Barbara’s hair.

BOGEY
Now do you understand who you are?

A sudden gust almost blows Barbara over the edge of the cliff, but Bogey is watching carefully and he holds on to her. Barbara’s eyes fill with tears.

BARBARA
I’m... a speck of dust.

Barbara looks into the distance, in the direction of the Heart of the Taiga. Suddenly she embraces Bogey as tightly as she can.

BARBARA
Kind monster, Bogey, if you don't help me, I'm done for! Save me! Please!

Bogey, confused, hugs her back. Bulbie flies up to them and looks at them bemusedly.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

19-00 The throne room has been turned into a giant workshop. Walls of instruments and trolleys with parts are everywhere. King Elijah’s old machines have been taken apart. New machines, like production line robots, are welding, soldering, cutting and gluing parts together. Weasel is sitting on the throne. King Elijah is inserting a crystal into his metal arm.

WEASEL
Hey, ladies, I asked for a coffee! Where’s my coffee?

NANNIES (ALL AT ONCE)
Theodore ran off to make it! He’s still running!

King Elijah finishes screwing on a cover. Weasel tests his arm; he’s satisfied with it.

KING ELIJAH
It’s ready.

WEASEL
Hey, can I have claws come out

of here? Or spikes?

KING ELIJAH
Claws, yes, can be done.

Weasel looks at a mechanical HAWK.

WEASEL
That’s a nice-looking birdie you made. Do you think it’ll fly?

KING ELIJAH
That was the last crystal, Joyce, so no – the bird won’t fly.

WEASEL
Don’t fret, Majesty. We’ll get more crystals soon!

Theodore enters the room carrying a tray in his shaking hands. He can barely move his legs. Weasel smirks.

Weasel gets up and goes to Theodore, who tries to pour a coffee but misses the cup and pours it on Weasel’s boot. Weasel sighs as if to say, “this thing is useless”.

WEASEL
(to Steven) Hey you, take this guy’s crystal!

Theodore looks quizzically from Weasel to the King. Steven looks on, confused.

WEASEL
Well, what are you waiting for? Take the stone out of this... thing.

Steven walks up assertively.

STEVEN
His name is Theodore! And I follow only His Majesty’s orders!

KING ELIJAH
Joyce, that’s just... wrong!

WEASEL
Priorities! Do you want to get

your daughter back or not? Are we all just wasting time here? We can't get her back without this bird, you know!

King Elijah hangs his head.

KING ELIJAH
Do it.

STEVEN
But... Your Majesty?

Steven freezes, Theodore lowers his head and takes off his cap, exposing his crystal. Everyone is mortified.

WEASEL
Come on, let's get it over with!

Weasel pulls out Theodore's crystal with his metal hand and heads over to the Hawk. He inserts the crystal and takes the Spark from his pocket.

WEASEL
Live life to the full, that's what I always say!

There's a pulse, a spark, the Hawk awakens and stretches its wings. Weasel smiles and looks at King Elijah. King Elijah looks sadly at Theodore.

KING ELIJAH
What will happen if everyone starts living life to the full? We'll all be doomed.

Weasel shakes his head to say, "senile rambling" and turns to the squad of soldiers who are standing at the ready.

WEASEL
Find my blushing bride! *(points at the Hawk)* The bird will show you the way! Go!

The hawk takes off and the soldiers run outside.

The hawk smashes through the glass roof and flies away.

Weasel looks up in amazement at the ceiling, at the shiny fragments of broken glass raining down. He realizes that they are going to land on him. He takes cover and watches as the shards fall.

WEASEL
Didn’t think that one through...

EXT. TAIGA. RIVERBANK - DAY

20-20 Bogey and Barbara are walking alongside the river. Rabbit, who is riding on Bogey’s head, looks displeased.

RABBIT
Brother, how did we end up like this? One minute we’re on our way to sell an ‘ooman and everything’s going just fine and the next - WHAM! We’re off to the other side of the forest to see that... whassisname?

BARBARA
His name is Prince Edward! And Bogey is helping me because he has a kind heart!

RABBIT
A hind cart! *(to Bogey)* Hey, please stop turning your head, I’m trying to be mean to the ‘ooman. *(to Barbara)* Why do you need to see this prince Headboard anyway? Does he owe you money or something?

BARBARA
No, Bunny. We’re in love!

Rabbit grimaces as if he swallowed a wasp.

BOGEY
What does that mean, Barbara? What’s ‘love’?

RABBIT
I know, it’s a disease! They all die from it!

BARBARA
Don’t be silly, Bunny! Love is the most wonderful feeling there is! When you’re in love you feel so happy you could explode!

RABBIT
It’s probably infectious... Hey, you keep your distance! I’m too young to explode.

BARBARA
You can be so unpleasant sometimes, Bunny! Come on, let’s get moving, all this idle talk is exasperating!

RABBIT
Exa-what-ing?

BARBARA
Exasperating – it means I’m fed up with you, you’re tiring me out, you’re frustrating, annoying, and irritating me! You’re ex-as-per-a-ting!

RABBIT
Wha-a-at?

BARBARA
You ought to read books, that’ll improve your vocabulary. Let’s go, Bogey!

Barbara clasps Edward’s book under her arm.

21-00 BEGIN MUSICAL SEQUENCE

EXT. TAIGA MS-1

Bogey, Rabbit and Barbara are walking through beautiful countryside. Bogey is showing Barbara waterfalls, valleys and mountains. Barbara is delighted. Birds and animals greet them enthusiastically.

EXT. TAIGA MS-2

Barbara is sitting on the ground, her face drawn with discomfort. She is rubbing her sore feet. Bogey looks down at her sympathetically.

EXT. TAIGA MS-3

Barbara is ecstatic. She is riding on Bogey’s back. Rabbit is watching jealously.

They are having a rest. Barbara is reading to Bogey and

Rabbit from Edward's book, gesticulating. Bogey is listening intently. Rabbit pretends not to be interested, but is listening in carefully and occasionally peeking at the pages.

EXT. TAIGA MS-4

Barbara affectionately watches a family of squirrels eating nuts. Bogey asks them to give some nuts to Barbara, and they do. She looks at Bogey with admiration.

EXT. TAIGA. RIVERBANK MS-4

Barbara, Rabbit and Bogey are floating along the river on a large log. Rabbit is steering with a big pole, Barbara is looking around, enchanted, and Bogey is clearly afraid of the water. Suddenly Barbara points. They all look and see a herd of wild horses grazing. Fireball is with them.

Bogey furtively looks at his reflection in the water, inspecting his mask-less face. The inquisitive Barbara appears over his shoulder. Bogey puts on a serious face and pretends that he was bending down to pull off a strip of bark. He chews on it purposefully, then spits it out in disgust. Barbara chuckles.

EXT. TAIGA MS-5

Bogey and Rabbit find Barbara at the edge of a forest clearing. She is surrounded by baby deer, stroking their heads and feeding them berries. Bogey is touched and this angers Rabbit.

EXT. TAIGA. OUTSIDE A CAVE - EVENING

Bogey leads the team to the entrance of a cave. It is surrounded by beautiful crystal 'glaciers'. Barbara watches with her mouth agape as Bogey moves aside a rock and opens the entrance.

RABBIT
Brother, something tells me she'll lead us to this prince and he'll run us through with that sword of his... or maybe even cut something important off... I'm telling you brother, she's evil like all the rest of them 'oomans!

Rabbit's ears droop over his eyes and he flicks them back angrily. Bogey looks at Barbara, who is stroking an inquisitive squirrel on a branch.

BOGEY
No, brother, she isn’t evil, she’s... a speck of dust.

END MUSICAL SEQUENCE

EXT. TAIGA. BOGEY’S LAIR - EVENING

22-00 The beaver is sitting on the grass sniffing a stick that he is about to start chewing. He is just about to sink his teeth in when a hedgehog trots past at full speed. The beaver tenses, ready to defend his stick, but the hedgehog isn’t the least bit interested in it. The beaver is again just about to bite the stick when a herd of stampeding squirrels thunders past. He barely manages to save his stick, but then he sees a robot soldier emerging from the bushes, followed by another one. The beaver carefully backs away into the undergrowth.

The robot soldier looks up and sees Bogey’s house. Another soldier comes out of the house and holds up Barbara’s crown. The Hawk circles above.

INT. TAIGA. CAVE - NIGHT

27-10 Bogey, Rabbit and Barbara are playing charades around a fire. Rabbit is standing on a rock and flapping his arms frantically.

RABBIT
I’m flapping my arms but they’re not arms! They’re what? Wings!

BARBARA
I already told you the rules, silly. You can’t speak! You’re only allowed to mime and make some noises. Now it’s too obvious, you’re a bird. My turn now!

Barbara grabs the skins she was sitting on and runs out of the cave. Rabbit jumps down from the rock and plops down angrily beside Bogey, who is smiling wistfully, watching Barbara go.

RABBIT
Hey, hey, hey! What’s with the face? Have you gone and got a crush on her? Forget it! What do you see in her? She got no horns, no fur...

Barbara enters the cave wearing the skin and a hood over her head with twigs tied to it to resemble horns. She walks around the cave menacingly.

BARBARA
Booo! Boooo! It's my forest! Anyone who trespasses will be eaten, guts and all!

RABBIT
Hahaha! Hahahaha!

BARBARA
Well, can you guess who this is?

RABBIT
I don't know. Brother, maybe you guessed it?

BOGEY
I did...

Bogey stands up and dejectedly traipses out of the cave.

BARBARA
(waving her arms wildly) My forest! Mine..!

Seeing Bogey leave, Barbara is confused.

BARBARA
Bogey, what's up with you? *(to Rabbit)* Did he get offended? Bogey!?

RABBIT
Just leave him be. He needs to be alone right now... *(pauses)* It helps sometimes.

BARBARA
Bunny, can you tell me how you two met?

She hunkers down next to Rabbit.

RABBIT
Yep, it's a funny story. I found him when he was just thi-i-i-is small! *(showing a height much*

taller than himself). He was alone and scared...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. TAIGA - MORNING (FLASHBACK)

27-11

RABBIT (O.S.)
I saved him from a terrible death at the claws of vicious wolves!

Rabbit is cornered by wolves and shaking in terror. Suddenly Little Bogey lands on the ground in front of him, out of nowhere. His face is serious and determined. He stands between the wolves and the incredulous Rabbit with his club raised, and yells ferociously.

RABBIT (O.S.)
I raised him, taught him how to survive in the depths of the forest.

EXT. TAIGA - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Bogey makes a fire and wraps the shivering Rabbit in a warm animal skin. He sits down next to Rabbit, takes out his wooden whistle in the shape of a deer, and looks at it with sadness in his eyes.

RABBIT (O.S.)
He’d have been a goner without me! He’d be long dead!

END FLASHBACK

INT. TAIGA. CAVE - NIGHT

27-12 Rabbit is sitting on a rock. Barbara is sitting next to him.

RABBIT
And look how big he’s grown! Queen Taiga changed him and gave him the strength of ten bears - and he has been protecting her ever since. I mean, we’ve been protecting her. Well, to be more precise, I’m in charge of security here, and Bogey does

what I tell him to do.

Barbara looks at Rabbit with a disbelieving smile.

BARBARA
But why do you rob people?

RABBIT
We just don’t let them into the forest. And they just leave their junk behind when they run away.

BARBARA
You mean you don’t rob them? And you don’t care about money?

RABBIT
Are you right in the head, ‘ooman? We love money! Watch!

Rabbit pulls an armful of money from underneath his shirt, shakes it in front of Barbara and throws it into the fire. The banknotes erupt in beautiful multicolored flames. Rabbit sits down next to Barbara and stares at the fire, mesmerized. Barbara frowns then shrugs her shoulders and relaxes. Nothing surprises her anymore.

RABBIT
See? See how pretty it burns? It’s a shame that was the last of it. Did you say your Edward is rich?

BARBARA
Don’t you worry, Bunny! When we find Prince Edward he’ll give you at least a hundred bags of money!

RABBIT
No way! I’m beginning to like this prince of yours!

Rabbit falls asleep. The fire in the cave is burning. Outside all around is pitch dark.

Hovering high in the sky, the robot Hawk is scanning the forest.

INT. CAVE - MORNING

24-00 Barbara tugs Rabbit's paw. Rabbit jumps up.

BARBARA
Hey!

RABBIT
Hey what?!

He stares at Barbara with crazy eyes.

BARBARA
Bogey's gone missing!

Rabbit peers deep into the cave, there is a light there.

EXT. CAVE / CANYON ENTRANCE - MORNING

25-30 Rabbit and Barbara are walking through the narrow cave.

BARBARA
Bogey! Bogey!

RABBIT
I know where he is. Don't you worry! He'll be fine. I'm in charge anyway. Who's going to hurt him?

BARBARA
Bogey! Bogey?!

Rabbit blows the whistle and turns to Barbara.

RABBIT
Listen here, 'ooman! You're going to do everything I tell you. If you don't, you're dead meat. If you mess up, you're dead meat. If you touch anything you're f... t... dead meat! You'll turn to stone instantly! Let's go!

Barbara is looking at the walls of the cave. They are covered in crystals. Light filters down from above.

RABBIT
We've arrived.

BARBARA
Is this it? The Heart of the

Taiga?

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON - MORNING

25-00 They come out of the cave into a canyon whose walls are dotted with clusters of crystals. The ground is broken in places, and in the crevasses there are crystals so huge that together they constitute something akin to a river. Energy flows and sparkles above the crystal river. There are stone animals and birds all around the place. Enormous trees cover the top of the canyon, their roots reaching almost to the bottom. At the other end of the canyon they see a shaft of light – it's the Source.

Barbara shivers, walks up to the edge of a crevasse and looks down into it.

BARBARA
You don't need to turn to stone here, if you fall in there you're dead meat anyway.

RABBIT
Like I said!

BARBARA
Bogey? Bogey!?

RABBIT
No need to shout!

Rabbit blows the whistle a few times. He looks at Barbara; her face is drawn in horror.

BARBARA
Bunny...

RABBIT
Didn't I tell you not to call me that?!

Rabbit turns his head and sees what Barbara is looking at. A robot dog is standing on the Lake, scratching at its crystal surface with its sharp metal claws.

BARBARA
Why doesn't it turn to stone?

RABBIT
You have to be alive to get turned to stone. Don't move.

BARBARA
I wasn’t going to...

The dog lunges at them. Rabbit jumps up in fright and takes off at full speed.

RABBIT
Move now! Move! Move!

Rabbit and Barbara run for a split in the cliff with the dog in pursuit.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. SPLIT IN THE CLIFF - MORNING

25-41 The dog lunges and nearly sinks its teeth into Barbara. Rabbit climbs up the cliff and begins to push a boulder in order to block the entrance to the split. Holding the book in front of her as a shield, Barbara kicks the dog away. The dog lunges at her again, but a boulder falls from above, crushing it.

Terrified, Barbara huddles in a corner and begins to sob. Rabbit jumps down to her.

RABBIT
Would you f... s... look at that? It’s kicked the f.. bucket!

Rabbit strikes a fighting pose and punches the air in the direction of the dog, kung fu style. The dog twitches one last time and Rabbit jumps away.

BARBARA
I... I want my daddy...

Rabbit pokes the dog with a stick.

RABBIT
But he made this f.. t... thing!

Barbara continues to cry, nodding hopelessly.

RABBIT
Your daddy is one mean and nasty man! The worst of all ‘oomans!

BARBARA
Not true! Don’t say that about him, you don’t know him!

RABBIT
That’s what you think! I know him very well, oh I do! How many talking rabbits have you ever seen, eh Barbara?

Rabbit walks up to an ‘iceberg’ of blue crystals and jumps up onto its middle. Right away, a blue glow appears in his chest. He gestures, imitating a circus performer bowing to the public. Barbara looks on, her mouth agape.

RABBIT
I was all torn up by foxes when he found me. He took me to his... lamporatory, and, well...

Rabbit jumps back to the ground and unbuttons his jacket. Barbara sees that half of his body is mechanical – various parts replaced with metal prosthetics – and there is a glowing crystal where his heart should be.

BARBARA
Oh Bunny...

RABBIT
I was basically a freak show exhibit! “Look, a talking rabbit!” He even gave me an ‘ooman name...

BARBARA
What was it?

RABBIT
Nothing! Rabbits don’t have names! Rabbits are supposed to hop around in fields and eat grass and carrots!

BARBARA
But he saved your life!

RABBIT
No he didn’t, he took it! My children, they didn’t recognize me! I’m a freak, just like this... thing... I’m a thing!

Barbara embraces Rabbit and strokes his head.

BARBARA
You’re not a thing, Bunny. You have a soul.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON - MORNING

25-42 There is a thundering sound of huge metal paws approaching. Barbara and Rabbit look in horror in the direction of the noise. A gigantic, monstrous robot dog comes crashing through a stone wall. Bogey is sitting on it and smacking its snout with his club. Smaller dogs are jumping on him and biting him. He swats them away and bats them with his club.

Rabbit pushes Barbara out of the dog’s way but doesn’t manage to escape in time himself. The dog grabs him and dangles him from one of its fangs.

BARBARA
Bunny!

RABBIT
Aaaaa! Put me down! Bad dog!

BOGEY
Hang in there brother!

Bogey levers out one of the dog’s eyes with his club. The dog slams against the wall, knocking Bogey off. The dog notices that it has something dangling from its teeth. It flicks its head back, throws Rabbit in the air and catches him in its mouth.

Suddenly Barbara appears above the dog – she jumps on it, wielding her book.

BARBARA
Let him go, you iron monstrosity!

She batters the dog’s head with her book, but to no effect. Rabbit manages to pry the dog’s mouth open.

RABBIT
Ha! Bad choice of a snack, you filthy...

Rabbit sees a huge scary rotating crusher at the back of the dog’s mouth. He screams in terror and jumps out of the dog’s mouth... and hangs off its fang again.

RABBIT
What sort of t.. f.. s.. unlucky

day is this!? Aiiieee!

Barbara shoves the book into the socket of the dog's remaining eye, covering it. The dog, blinded, crashes into the canyon wall, falls and goes sliding and tumbling towards the edge of a rocky cliff.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON - MORNING

25-43 Barbara is riding the dog's head like a surfboard. Rabbit is yelling and stuttering like crazy. Showers of sparks are flying out of the dog. Seeing the approaching cliff edge, Barbara pulls Rabbit off the dog's fang and jumps down on the ground.

The dog continues tumbling off and over the cliff. Barbara's book flies apart and the pages are carried away on the wind. Barbara looks at them sadly.

BARBARA
Oh, no! The letter!

Bogey comes running and growling towards them, hurls two smaller dogs over the cliff, and lets out a victorious roar. Barbara and Rabbit run to hug him.

BARBARA
Bogey! Bogey-y-y!

RABBIT
I was beginning to think I'll need to find myself a new f... s... monster!

BARBARA
Bogey, are you hurt?

BOGEY
Not really... now when Rabbit put a hive of wild bees down where I was going to sit, that hurt!

BARBARA
Silly!

Barbara laughs. Bogey hands her a sheet of paper.

BOGEY
Here, Speck. Look what I found.

It's Edward's letter. A chunk has been bitten out of it, but the text is all there. Barbara cries out in joy and

clutches it to her chest.

BARBARA
Thank you so much, Bogey!

Bogey turns around and looks up warily at a red dot in the sky. It’s the Hawk, hovering high above the Source.

INT. KING ELIJAH’S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

26-00 King Elijah is sitting at a control panel with a tiny monitor that is viewed through a huge magnifying glass. He twists some knobs and Bogey appears on the screen. The king jumps in surprise and his glasses almost fall from his nose.

Rain is pouring through the broken glass roof. Weasel is sitting on the throne with the rain-soaked Postmaster in front of him.

WEASEL
The post office will be closed, that’s already been decided, you’re a disgrace. Lost parcels, opened letters... The post office will be replaced with... I don’t know... a landfill! A huge dump! Haha! And you’ll be the senior garbagemaster! Wait, no, that’s too generous of me. You’ll be junior garbagemaster!

POSTMASTER
But please! You... Your... h-h-honor!?!

WEASEL
“Your Honor”, really? Ha, look at you! From now on, you can call me...

Weasel gets up and puts on an enormous hat.

WEASEL
Commander General! Or even... Lord Commander General! Hahaha! Now get him out of my sight!

Soldiers drag the Postmaster away.

POSTMASTER
Your Majesty, what has he done to you?! This is an outrage! Let

me go! Let go of me I say! Where are you taking me?

Weasel looks up at the broken glass roof.

Then he turns to King Elijah, who twiddles the joysticks, pans and zooms, moving the picture around the screen... and finds Barbara. She is hugging Bogey. The king can barely contain his joy. Weasel sneaks up behind him and suddenly barks right in his ear,

WEASEL
What have you got there?

King Elijah jumps with a start, nudging one of the joysticks.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

26-20 Weasel and King Elijah peer at the monitor. Weasel's eyes open wide. Elijah looks at him warily and tries to reach for the controls.

KING ELIJAH
Look, Joyce! I found her! I found Barbara!

Weasel slaps his hand and takes the controls. He centers in on the Source.

WEASEL
My, what a big... spark. Have you been keeping it a secret from me, Majesty? Oh, you naughty Majesty!

King Elijah swallows nervously.

KING ELIJAH
But I... I... Barbara... I found her, Joyce!

Weasel steps away from the monitor, looking wistfully at the depleted Spark.

WEASEL
So there's more where this came from... Why, there's enough of it there to take over the world!

King Elijah runs up to Weasel.

KING ELIJAH
The world? Wh... Joyce, what are

you talking about? We created our robot army to save Barbara!

Weasel grimaces in disdain.

WEASEL
My army! *My* robot army! You can't see beyond your own nose, can you, old codger? I've had enough of your stupidity. Guards! Lock him in the attic!

Soldiers approach the dumbstruck King and grab him.

KING ELIJAH
But what about Barbara?!

WEASEL
Whatever, I'll marry her. We can rule the world together.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON EXIT - DAY

25-20 Bogey, Barbara and Rabbit are making their way between huge crystals and stone animals. Barbara walks past a stone deer. She runs up to it and reaches towards it but Bogey catches her and shakes his head.

RABBIT
Touch it and you'll be what? Dead meat.

BARBARA
What kind of 'cradle of life' is this if it kills everything?

BOGEY
Nature gives life, nature takes it away.

RABBIT
That's the nature of Nature!

BOGEY
We think this is how it protects itself. Like a bee's sting, or a snake's bite...

RABBIT
Or a cow's pats!

BARBARA
It’s all so frightening and pointless and sad...

RABBIT
Oh come on already, let’s go.

EXT. TOWN GATES - EARLY EVENING

25-30 Weasel is riding out from the town on a steel horse. He watches his troops as they make their way towards the forest in a long line. Weasel is dark and determined.

EXT. OUTSIDE EDWARD’S TOWN - EVENING

29-00 Rabbit wheezes as he climbs the hill, leaning on a stick. He can barely put one foot in front of the other. He falls to the ground.

RABBIT
Brother, I can’t go on! Carry me just a little further!

BOGEY
Come on, get moving!

Rabbit retracts his dangling tongue, throws his stick away and quickly catches up with Bogey and Barbara.

RABBIT
I’m moving, I’m moving!

BARBARA
Are we nearly there yet?

BOGEY
Almost, Speck. We’re almost there.

They round a hill and see Edward’s town. Barbara is enthralled. Bogey looks at her and smiles sadly.

BARBARA
At last!

BOGEY
Barbara, you have to go alone now. Go towards your dream... and be happy!

Rabbit pretends to be largely disinterested in the

proceedings.

RABBIT
Ah, well, so long, ‘ooman!

Barbara hugs Rabbit and he suddenly breaks down.

RABBIT
Don’t go! You don’t need that Edward! Stay with us and we’ll scare people together! We’ll be a team!

Barbara smiles and strokes Rabbit’s head. Rabbit wipes away a tear and smiles sadly.

BARBARA
I’m sorry Bunny but I must save my daddy. I can’t do it without Edward. Oh, can I take your whistle? To remember you by?

Rabbit’s smile fades.

RABBIT
No, you can’t.

Bogey prods Rabbit.

BOGEY
I’ll make you a new one.

Rabbit holds out the whistle and Barbara takes it, but Rabbit doesn’t let go. With some effort, Barbara manages to pull the whistle from Rabbit’s grasp. She smiles, waves and sets off.

BARBARA
Thank you!

Bogey and Rabbit stand and watch Barbara go. Rabbit looks at Bogey, who is completely dejected.

RABBIT
Oh brother...

Bogey looks at Rabbit. He is ready to burst into tears. Rabbit shakes his head and pats Bogey’s arm, but can’t find words to console him. A whistle rings out. They see Barbara running to them as fast as she can. Running and blowing the whistle. Bogey blinks dazedly. Barbara rushes headlong into him and throws her arms around him.

BOGEY
Oh Speck...

BARBARA
Bogey, I'll never forget you! You're the kindest and loveliest monster in the world! Please don't forget me either!

They all sob, Rabbit hugs Bogey and Barbara.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. SUITE OF ROOMS - EVENING

28-00 Fluffy is bounding through a suite of rooms, barking gleefully. Two killer robot dogs are chasing him. Fluffy outwits and outmaneuvers his pursuers. He is making for an open emergency exit, but suddenly a robot soldier appears on the doorstep, readying to catch Fluffy.

Fluffy jumps up abruptly, his limbs fold up inside him and he becomes completely round. He rolls and knocks the bewildered soldier down like a bowling pin. The killer dogs crash into the soldier at full speed. Bam! Bam! Nuts, bolts and crystals go flying in all directions. Steven peeks out from behind a corner and quickly gathers up the crystals.

EXT. EDWARD'S TOWN - EVENING

30-20 BEGIN MUSICAL SEQUENCE

Barbara is in Edward's town. Everything is big and fashionable.

Barbara marvels at the well-dressed townsfolk. Walls are adorned with huge tapestries bearing Edward's portrait.

The town is abuzz with life. A crowd of fans at a street music concert are busy drawing the concert in little notepads.

Cars are whizzing by.

Barbara sees a tram and her jaw drops in amazement.

She approaches the royal palace.

END MUSICAL SEQUENCE

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - EVENING

30-50 Barbara walks out of the elevator, gazing at things. Servants are scurrying about all over the place. One carries a life-size cardboard cutout of Edward, another is pushing a wheelbarrow with a carton of new

books. Barbara enters a large hall filled with cubicles.

WORKERS sit in the cubicles. Some are typing on typewriters, others are drawing illustrations; groups of colleagues are brainstorming and having discussions. Barbara walks up to one of the workers and asks something. Without looking up from his typewriter, the worker points straight ahead.

Barbara looks in the direction indicated by the worker and sees... Prince Edward, standing at the end of the hall near the throne, looking out of the open window with his back to the room. His cape and hair are flowing in the breeze.

Barbara is overfilled with joy! She sets off up the steps to him and calls his name.

BARBARA
Prince Edward?

Prince Edward turns to Barbara – and her face fills with shock.

The breeze fades, the cape falls away from the face, and Prince Edward turns out to be Princess EDWARDINA.

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM - EVENING

31-00 Barbara stands with her mouth open, staring at Edwardina. Edwardina looks Barbara over inquisitively.

EDWARDINA
(mutters to herself) Ugh, a fan... I wonder what the security guards are up to... *(loudly and cheerfully)* Sweetheart, what happened, why are you such a mess?

BARBARA
I... Umm... I'm sorry... I was in the forest.

EDWARDINA
I see... So what do you want? A postcard? An autograph?

YES-MAN ERIC comes running to Edwardina's side.

YES-MAN ERIC
You can choose from twenty messages for the regular price of one coin, OR! You can have

“Kisses, Edward” for two coins. “For my best friend, from Edward” is three coins. “Thank you for a wonderful evening” is nineteen coins.

BARBARA
Thanks, I definitely don’t need a wonderful evening...

EDWARDINA
In that case it’ll be the usual, “To my devoted fan”... What’s your name?

BARBARA
Barbara...

Yes-man Eric takes out a quill and gives it to Edwardina. He turns and offers his back as a surface for her to sign the card on. Edwardina looks at him, shakes her head in disapproval and signs the card holding it in her hand. The workers are curious as to what’s going on. They peer out from their cubicles. Some of them come closer.

BARBARA
Excuse me, but where’s... Prince Edward? Can I... see Prince Edward?

Edwardina frowns. Eric snorts and giggles. Edwardina glares at him and he obediently walks away.

BARBARA
Prince Edward... He’s your... your brother, right? I’m here to see him. Can you tell him I’m here? I’m Barbara, he knows who I am. We’ve been writing to each other for a long time, we... Why are you looking at me like that? Don’t you believe me? Look, here’s a letter from him!

Barbara holds the letter out for Edwardina to see. Almost all the workers are now gathered behind her. Some look on in amazement, one desperately tries to stifle a laugh, someone pokes him in the side to calm him down.

EDWARDINA
Sweetie, how do I explain this... I AM Prince Edward. Or

to be more precise, I made him up.

BARBARA
What do you mean, “made him up”? I don’t get it... What for?

EDWARDINA
Nobody bought “The Adventures of Princess Edwardina”.

BARBARA
But what about all the daring feats? The noble deeds? The love?

EDWARDINA
Of course, sweetie, that all sells wonderfully! We come up with our storylines specially for our millions of dedicated fans, just like you! Nobility and honor are such rarities these days that people are willing to pay money just to read about them! It’s very sweet that you believe our stories, I’m genuinely touched. But I’m afraid that what you’re holding there is an autoreply letter that we send out to all our female subscribers!

Edwardina shows Barbara a huge printer. Beside it, a tired clerk with his tongue sticking out fills in blanks with different names. He looks up at Barbara and gesticulates as if to say, “sorry, but it’s true”. Barbara looks around warily, gasping for air. Her knees begin to buckle.

EDWARDINA
Oh sweetie, this must be a terrible disenchantment for you... That’s a good word, someone write it down.

The workers laugh, one of them sticks a thumb up, says “Nice one, boss!” and writes down the word. Yes-man Eric bursts through the line of workers with a newspaper in his hand.

YES-MAN ERIC
Boss, take a look at this! You’re going to love it!

Edwardina takes the newspaper and reads.

EDWARDINA
You say your name is Barbara?

Barbara frowns as Edwardina continues reading.

EDWARDINA
Barbara, people are looking for you... It says here you ran away from your own wedding and upset your father?

BARBARA
It wasn’t a wedding! I mean... Princess Edwardina, the evil postman named Joyce put a spell on my daddy! I ran away to find Prince Edward, I want to marry him and only him! Bogey and the talking rabbit helped me get here!

A deathly silence falls over the hall. Edwardina steps closer to Barbara.

EDWARDINA
You want to marry Edward... Postman put a spell... Mmhmm... A talking rabbit, you say? And a Boojie, too?

BARBARA
Bogey!

EDWARDINA
Of course, sweetie... Everything will be fine. *(to Eric)* Eric, arrange dinner and a room for Barbara... *(to workers)* And you lot get back to work! Show’s over!

EXT. TAIGA - DAY

Weasel and his robot troops are crossing the taiga. He sets fire to a very old and beautiful tree.

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. TOWER - EVENING

31-10 Edwardina, Eric and Barbara enter a room in the tower.

BARBARA
Thank you, Princess Edwardina, this is very kind of you...

Eric goes over to a window and checks that it is firmly closed.

EDWARDINA
Not at all, not at all! What an amazing story you told me. So much adventure, I could write a book about it! Now you get some sleep, you need to get your strength back. Eric already ordered you a new dress, it will arrive in the morning and you'll head off home to your daddy.

Eric closes another window.

BARBARA
What? How? But you said... you promised! Princess Edwardina, I can't marry that horrid man! Please, that's not fair! You can't! I don't love him!

Barbara stands before Edwardina crying. Edwardina strokes her head.

EDWARDINA
My dear girl... Love... Fairness... Barbara, those are just... they're just words... They were made up to keep the masses happy, they don't really mean anything. Eric, our dear guest needs to rest now.

Edwardina heads towards the door, but then stops and looks back at Barbara.

EDWARDINA
You'll have to grow up one day, sweetie. Right now is as good a time as any to start.

Edwardina leaves. Eric jingles a bunch of keys.

YES-MAN ERIC
Your daddy offered a very good reward, a seven-figure sum... I'm impressed!

He shuts the door and locks it with a key. Barbara is left standing in the middle of the room. She is thoroughly disheartened. Shutters begin to roll down over the windows. Bulbie tries to open the door, but to no avail. The shutters click into place and Barbara sits down on the bed in despair. Bulbie flies over to Barbara and tugs at the whistle. Barbara lights up.

BARBARA
Bulbie! Of course!

Barbara runs to the window, opens it ajar with difficulty, takes a deep breath and blows into the whistle. But instead of whistling, it flies out of the window!

EXT. / INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. TOWER - EVENING

31-20 The whistle lands on a drain cover, falls through the grating and is carried away by the water below. Barbara is standing with her lips still puckered. Her face is drawn with horror. She can see a glow above the taiga.

BARBARA
Bulbie, something terrible has happened! Go! We have to warn Bogey!

Bulbie flies out through the window. Barbara anxiously watches her go.

EXT. TAIGA. ROAD / CLIFF - DUSK

33-00 Bogey and Rabbit are walking along the road, sad. Bogey is fashioning a whistle and Rabbit is waving his hands around like a bored child. Rabbit suddenly stops, his eyes filled with horror and tears.

RABBIT
Brother! What about the money?!! We forgot to get the money!

Bogey hands the finished whistle to Rabbit.

RABBIT
My old one was made of copper...

Rabbit runs up to the edge of a cliff and blows the

whistle with all his might. The whistle stops abruptly: Rabbit sees the glow of a fire over the taiga.

BOGEY
Oh brother...

RABBIT
What's that?

BOGEY
People...

RABBIT
They ought to be f... whipped!

Rabbit puts on a determined face, and just then Bulbie flies into the back of his head. She falls to the ground. Rabbit rubs his head.

RABBIT
Hey! What was that f... for?!
That hurt!

BOGEY
Something's happened to Barbara!

Bulbie gets up, jumps and opens her eyes wide, fearfully. She wraps her arms around herself as if she's been tied up, then drops to the ground and slowly fades out. Rabbit is confused; Bogey is horrified.

RABBIT
What? I don't get it.

BOGEY
Barbara's in trouble!

Bulbie flies up, grabs Bogey's fur and tries to pull him in the direction she came from. Bogey looks towards the Heart of the Taiga, then at Rabbit, and then at Bulbie.

RABBIT
Hey, hey, no! We have to go back home! Look, Barbara's an 'ooman! 'Oomans have their own business, they'll sort it out themselves!

BOGEY
Brother, she's our Speck!

Bogey jumps into a tree and disappears from view. Confused, Rabbit watches him go.

Ever more lightning races into the sky over the Heart of the Taiga.

INT. KING ELIJAH'S PALACE. ATTIC - DUSK

34-00 King Elijah is trying to look out through the skylight. He climbs up a pile of old junk, stands on his tiptoes, stretches upwards and falls. On his way down he hits a painting covered with a cloth. The material partly falls away, revealing the face of Barbara's mother. She looks a lot like Barbara, but a little older.

King Elijah gets up and looks at the portrait of his late beloved wife remorsefully. He wipes dust from her face. There are tears in his eyes. He pulls off the cloth and sees a courageous and decisive man standing beside her.

King Elijah realizes that the courageous man is him. He wipes away his snot and begins digging in the junk. He finds his old saber. He attacks the door, kicking it and swiping at it with his saber.

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. TOWER - EVENING

35-10 Barbara is sitting on the bed, depressed. Suddenly the door bursts into a shower of splinters and a worried Bogey and Bulbie appear in the doorway. Barbara smiles.

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

35-30 Edwardina's soldiers are running along the corridor. Yes-man Eric is leading them. He gestures to them to stop. Bogey is walking towards them, carrying Barbara. On seeing resistance, he puts Barbara down and shields her with his body.

YES-MAN ERIC
Your Highness, did you think we would just let you walk out of here?

BOGEY
Out of my way!!!

Eric draws a pistol and aims it at Bogey. The soldiers bristle with rifles. Barbara presses herself against Bogey in horror.

YES-MAN ERIC
Oh! So it really can speak... It will be a shame to put a hole in such a magnificent skin, but you leave me no choice!

Eric cocks his pistol, and there follows a loud clicking

of all the soldiers simultaneously loading their rifles.

EDWARDINA (O.S.)
Lower your weapons!

Eric stands dumbfounded as Edwardina approaches.

YES-MAN ERIC
What? Why?

EDWARDINA
Let them past...

The soldiers shoulder their rifles and stand aside. Bogey, snorting ferociously, carefully leads Barbara through the lines of soldiers. He growls at Eric, and Eric drops his pistol. As they draw level with Edwardina, Barbara takes her hand and says in a half-whisper,

BARBARA
Thank you.

Edwardina smiles and squeezes Barbara's hand. When they finally pass the assembled soldiers, Bogey picks Barbara up and disappears, bounding along the dark corridor. Edwardina watches them go.

YES-MAN ERIC
But boss, what about the money?
Seven figures!?

Edwardina looks at him coldly.

EDWARDINA
You are so dumb... Today we were
part of a real-life fairytale,
and that's worth all the money
in the world.

She turns towards the soldiers.

EDWARDINA
No bonuses this month.

There is a 'humph' of disgruntled obedience.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

34-10 Elijah is sitting by the door, panting. Suddenly there is a creaking sound. King Elijah looks up and sees a ventilation grill in the ceiling open. Theodore, Steven and the nannies all peer out. King Elijah's face breaks into a smile.

KING ELIJAH
Oh boy, am I glad to see you guys! Quick, we don’t have much time. We have to act fast!

Theodore puts out his hand and it begins to telescopically extend downwards, very slowly.

KING ELIJAH
Come on, Theodore! Come on, come on..! Just a little bit faster..! A bit faster would be great..!

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON - DAY

The iron bird circles above the canyon.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON - NIGHT

36-00 Bogey is racing across the rocks, jumping over obstacles. Barbara is riding on Bogey’s back, lying flat and clutching him tightly.

Lightning bursts out from the blue glowing earth all around them. Bogey lithely jumps over all the obstacles in his path. An enormous glow fills the sky over the taiga. Suddenly a piercing whistle rings out nearby. Bogey suddenly stops.

BOGEY
Brother!

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON / WEASEL’S CAMP - NIGHT

36-10 The whistling continues.

BOGEY
I hear you brother, I’m coming!

Bogey runs out into a clearing and realizes it’s an ambush. The clearing is surrounded by soldiers and dogs. Weasel is on a metal horse atop a hillock, holding Rabbit’s whistle.

Soldiers are holding Rabbit, who is gagged and trying to shout and struggling to get free. Startled, Bogey trips and falls. Barbara flies off his back. She lands at some soldiers’ feet and they grab her. Other soldiers throw a net over Bogey. Barbara is horrified. Weasel smiles sweetly.

BARBARA
Bogey! No!

Soldiers pin Bogey to the ground. A big group of soldiers are restraining him. Three are holding him by the horns. Bogey snorts into the ground, blowing up dust. Weasel tosses the whistle aside.

WEASEL
Hey, enough messing around, finish him! But don’t damage the horns, I’ll nail them to the town gates. The townsfolk will love that!

BARBARA
No! Don’t kill him! Let him go!

WEASEL
Come on, this is taking forever.

BARBARA
No! Bogey! No!

WEASEL
Anyone with a weak disposition should look away now!

BARBARA
No! Stop! Joyce, let him go! I... I will... marry you! But let him go!

Weasel smiles and rides towards Barbara.

WEASEL
Of course you will marry me. It’s not like you have a choice...

He rides up to her and extends his hand. Barbara looks hesitantly at Bogey. He tries to break free but the soldiers zap him.

BARBARA
Enough of this, please!

WEASEL
Alright then. That can be my wedding present to you.

Weasel helps her up onto the horse and sets off from the clearing.

WEASEL
Guards, let him go. But cut his horns off first!

BARBARA
No! That will kill him!

WEASEL
What do I care?

Weasel speeds up the horse. Barbara tries to struggle free but she can't; Weasel is holding her with his metal hand.

Bogey cries out and looks towards Barbara, but she has disappeared behind a crowd of soldiers. The soldiers are holding Bogey. Rabbit watches in horror. One of the soldiers starts up a saw.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON / WEASEL'S CAMP - NIGHT

Weasel is trying to steady the struggling Barbara in his horse's saddle.

KING ELIJAH (O.S.)
Stop right there, Joyce!

Weasel turns around and sees King Elijah on his trusty old horse, Dumpling.

KING ELIJAH
You still have a chance to fix everything and redeem yourself!

BARBARA
Daddy!

WEASEL
What are you talking about, old man? You can't stop me! I'll take as much magic water as I want! Soldiers! Start pumping!

The tanker begins to suck up the 'water' from the Source through long pipes. The lightning intensifies; enormous boulders tumble down the rocky slopes. The roar of the Source intensifies.

Weasel looks at the tanker: it is full and overflowing. Suddenly the Source lets out a huge bolt of lightning. The overhang collapses under the weight of the tanker and it plummets down. The Source consumes the tanker and

falls quiet. The ‘water’ begins to recede. Weasel pushes Barbara away and falls to his knees, screaming hysterically.

WEASEL
Noooooo! Come back! Give me your power! Give it to me!

KING ELIJAH
You idiot! It won’t let you take so much as a drop!

WEASEL
You’re starting to get on my nerves old man! Eye in the sky, get him!

Weasel directs the hawk to Elijah and it races towards him. King Elijah pulls out a remote control with a big button.

KING ELIJAH
Did you really think that I would make you a super army without making myself a super button?

Elijah pushes the button and all the soldiers and other robots switch off. Rabbit runs over to Bogey. Bogey gets up, straightens himself and spreads his shoulders.

RABBIT
Now let’s see how tough you are against the strength of ten bears… And one Rabbit! Aaaaaaaa!

In a fit of rage Rabbit lunges at Weasel, who grabs him by the waist.

WEASEL
What’s up, Rabbit? Out of breath? Have a rest!

Weasel hurls Rabbit aside. Bogey charges at Weasel and throws him to the ground. He draws back a massive fist.

WEASEL
Come on you hairy freak, what are you waiting for? Bring it on!

Bogey throws Weasel onto some rocks. The Spark falls out of Weasel's pocket.

Bogey, Rabbit and Elijah on Dumpling all close in on Weasel.

KING ELIJAH
Surrender while you still can, Joyce! It's all over!

Weasel picks up the vial.

WEASEL
Oh no it isn't! It's only just beginning!

Weasel gets up and looks wild-eyed at the vial. He starts unscrewing the cap.

KING ELIJAH
No! Don't touch the Spark! Don't you dare, Weasel!

Elijah runs at Weasel, but Weasel throws him aside, opens the vial and yells.

WEASEL
I have a name! And a motto! Live life to the full!

Weasel is holding the vial in one hand and pulling Barbara towards him. He begins to drink the magic water.

As he drinks, Weasel starts to turn into a stone monster. He is still holding Barbara in his other hand.

WEASEL
How bizarre, I wanted to be king! What a modest ambition that was!

KING ELIJAH
Let go of my daughter!

Weasel pushes Elijah away violently.

WEASEL
Sometimes in order to realize that your ambitions are undersized you have to get big! Really big!

As Weasel grows and turns into the humongous stone monster, Barbara fits inside his fist. He takes another mouthful.

Bogey and Rabbit approach Weasel. Rabbit shouts,

RABBIT
Come on brother, kick his butt!

Without any effort, Weasel throws Bogey onto the rocks with one hand.

WEASEL
Strength of ten bears, eh? Hahaha!

Weasel offers the vial to Barbara.

WEASEL
I left the last mouthful for you, my sweetest! We won't be king and queen, no! We'll be the king and queen of all kings and queens! We will rule over everyone! Over the sky and the sun and the whole world!

BARBARA
I'm not going to rule anything with you!

WEASEL
Fine. Then I'll rule alone!

BOGEY
Let her go!

Bogey rips the bucket of an excavator and smacks Weasel with it. Weasel loosens his grip and Barbara falls and slips to the edge of the abyss where the Lake was.

Barbara cries out and tries to find something to hold on to - but she keeps slipping and is about to fall.

Weasel drinks the last mouthful of magic water and turns to Bogey.

Bogey throws the excavator bucket at Weasel and runs to Barbara.

Barbara loses her grip on the edge of the abyss but at the last moment Bogey grabs her hand and saves her.

Weasel stumbles at the edge of the abyss, trying to keep his balance. Bulbie flies into him, and her **slightest touch** is enough to send Weasel plummeting into the abyss.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA - NIGHT

Bogey, Rabbit, King Elijah and Barbara are overjoyed that everything is over.

KING ELIJAH
Barbara!!!

BARBARA
Daddy!!!

KING ELIJAH
You’re okay! Thank goodness you’re okay!

RABBIT
(jumping with joy) Ha! We did it! We won! Oh…

Rabbit suddenly loses his strength and lies down.

RABBIT
Oh… My heart…

Bogey runs over and picks his little friend up. Barbara’s strength also begins to fade. We see her heart glowing. Barbara goes limp in Elijah’s arms.

BARBARA
What’s happening, Daddy? I’m not real, am I? Am I... a robot?

KING ELIJAH
No, no! No, sweetheart... You’re real! As real as can be! When you and your mother... When you were born you were very ill... I had to make you a new heart... but I was too late to save your mother…

Barbara smiles sadly.

BARBARA
I’m sorry, Daddy. I’m silly and... I ran away to the ends of the earth to look for my prince...

King Elijah smiles bitterly.

KING ELIJAH
Where else would you find one? Well, did you?

Barbara looks at Bogey.

BARBARA
I found him. But I ruined Mommy's dress...

She strokes her dirty, torn dress... and falls unconscious. King Elijah holds her to his chest, sobbing.

Bogey goes over to King Elijah and Barbara. He looks at Barbara and Rabbit, both lifeless. He strokes Barbara's cheek and looks up at the weeping King Elijah.

Bogey goes to the edge of the cliff. Down below there is nothing but the lifeless lake bed with a hole in it.

BOGEY
Hear me, o Queen Taiga! I have been your faithful servant for as long as I can remember! I implore you, let her live!

The hole seems to respond. Something in it begins to stir.

BOGEY
If you must... If you must take something in return... Take me! Spare them and take me!

The Source lets out a terrible howl and its unrest intensifies.

Bogey stands up and shields King Elijah and Barbara. The flashing of explosions light their faces.

EXT. KING ELIJAH'S TOWN – NIGHT

37-70 The townsfolk drop what they are doing and look in horror at the glow over the taiga.

INT. EDWARDINA'S PALACE. THRONE ROOM – NIGHT

37-71 Through the window, Edwardina sees the cataclysm unfolding over the taiga. Horrified, she turns to Eric.

EDWARDINA
Barbara...

An enormous 'hand' appears in the sky. It clenches into a fist and there is an explosion.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON – NIGHT

37-72 The storm rages on with the enormous 'hand' glowing in the sky. A blizzard breaks out, covering everything with an impenetrable curtain of snow.

FADE OUT

BEGIN MUSICAL SEQUENCE

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. CANYON – MORNING

FADE IN

38-00 Horses walk over the crystal 'ice'. They are wearing special protective boots on their hooves. Edwardina has brought a division of soldiers to the canyon. She looks at the scene before her. Everything is covered in a blanket of snow. There are broken and dismembered robots scattered everywhere. Weasel's harvesters are half-buried in the 'ice'. Edwardina turns to Eric, who is riding alongside her.

EDWARDINA
It looks like we're too late.

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. SOURCE – MORNING

38-10 Edwardina and her troops arrive at the place where the Source used to be. Barbara is sitting in front of Bogey, weeping bitterly. Bogey has been turned to stone. A little way off, King Elijah sits slumped against a boulder. He is holding the dead Rabbit.

Edwardina, her soldiers and Eric look pitifully at Barbara.

Barbara is sobbing uncontrollably. She looks at Bogey. Even cast in stone, he continues to look back at her with love and adoration.

BARBARA
You know, in the 17th book Prince Edward kissed a stone princess and brought her back to life...

YES-MAN ERIC
That was my idea!

EDWARDINA
Poor girl…

Barbara kisses Bogey.

Suddenly, a shaft of light emerges from the hole. Barbara wipes away her tears. Suddenly an arc of energy erupts from Bogey.

Barbara looks up. Waves of light emanate from the stone Bogey. Ripples of energy radiate from under him. They flow over the weathered crystals and rock, leaving green grass and blooming flowers in their wake.

The ripples expand. The Lake begins to fill with water.

King Elijah props himself up on one arm. He can't believe his eyes. A ripple washes over Rabbit and he begins to blink.

Edwardina and Eric look around in awe. Rabbit comes to his senses. He and King Elijah look on, their mouths agape.

Crystals break off the cliff and fall into the bottomless hole. Chunks of 'ice' fall away from Bogey. Barbara and Bogey begin to glow. The glow intensifies, consuming them entirely.

The Lake is filling up. Huge clumps of crystals fall into it, sending up cascades of water.

The lush grass slowly approaches Edwardina's soldiers. They retreat warily, but Edwardina steps onto the grass confidently, followed by Eric.

The Lake fills up and the ice explodes. The glow dissipates, revealing Barbara and Bogey, **who has turned into a human**. They embrace one another.

EDWARDINA
All our stories aren't worth a pig's ear-hair. You just can't make things like this up. This is what makes life worth living. Get it?

YES-MAN ERIC
Yes, now I get it!

FADE OUT

END MUSICAL SEQUENCE

FADE IN

EXT. HEART OF THE TAIGA. SOURCE - MORNING

King Elijah looks at Barbara and Bogey through tears of joy. Rabbit is also looking at Bogey and Barbara.

RABBIT
What a waste of a perfectly good curse! Where am I going to find me a new bandit with the strength of ten bears? Ugh...

CAPTION: THE END

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