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As for script abbreviations: INT. and EXT. refer to whether the scene is inside or outside and whether the lighting is natural or artificial. A SUPER is something printed on the screen. POV stands for "point of view." O.S. refers to dialogue spoken by someone who is "off stage." V.O., or "voice over," refers to dialogue spoken by someone who is not on the screen, or onscreen but not talking.

Now enjoy the story.

□
EXT. INDIAN JUNGLE - DAWN.
On the parched Indian flood plain, little moves or stirs in the predawn silence.

A lone young DEER nibbles at sparse dry grass in a U-shaped thicket.
The only exit is blocked by PRINCE. A mature four-year-old very hungry Snow Leopard. His coat is soft grey in color, his head and limbs are marked with solid black spots, while his body fur is covered with brown blotches ringed in black and a black streak runs down his back.
He lies, his white belly hidden beneath him, his long four foot tail twitching, silently, behind him as he watches the deer feeding a hundred feet away.
Prince's belly rumbles. He looks at the deer anxiously, his muscles rippling his streamlined body.

PRINCE
Damn I'm hungry and if my stomach keeps up that cacophony I'll never get lunch.

He scans the scenery then begins to inch along the ground, slowly, not making a sound, his markings blending in with the shadows cast by the flora of the area making him almost invisible.

EXT. JUNGLE AIRSTRIP - DAY.
The specks of two EAGLES high above, hitching a ride on thermal currents.
Jungle foliage threatens to engulf a Pagoda and its many outbuildings as the air shimmers under the hot sun. Palm trees, exotic trees and vines, filled with all kinds of invisible but vocal wildlife, mesh as far as the eye can see. Monkeys screech, hidden by the dense foliage their voices strident in the otherwise silent landscape.
Suddenly the monkeys' voices and those of the other wildlife are still replaced by the drone of a plane.

A large executive jet circles dirt landing strip. Lines up runway, lowers landing gear, descends, crunches ground, engines into reverse thrust, spiraling dust everywhere,

eventually stopping.

All kinds of wildlife race off creating even more dust while, screeching in protest, birds wing their way aloft.

□
2.

Dust clears revealing letters painted on fuselage.

SUPER Gingold International Enterprises.

Door flies open, 35 year-old BRIDGET GINGOLD appears, hands on hips in an 'it's me' attitude, scans area. Cargo door drops open, disgorging four ex-US Army 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Driven by four Piano-lifter size GUYS in Army greens.

Gingold adjusts shades, struts down steps. Four more HEAVIES appear, shouldering, heavy bags and follow her down.

BEVY of local INDIANS start unloading more gear. Many high-powered guns, ammunition boxes, telescopic sights. Large satellite dishes, scanners, lap tops are hurriedly loaded onto vehicles.

Bridget's a one-woman Army. 30 year-old JUDD personal assistant stands alongside. Judd looks the tough seasoned ex-Army special forces type. Dressed in old worn Army greens.

BRIDGET
This is a dump. You sure this is the place?

JUDD
This is it. Last seen two miles north.

BRIDGET
Let's get it over and done with.

JUDD
We'll be outta here by Saturday.

BRIDGET
Make it Thursday. The taxidermist's booked for next Monday.

KASHGAR, elderly, grey haired, dignified Indian with a magnificent waxed moustache comes toward them. JOHNSON one of the heavies blocks his path.

KASHGAR
Memsahib. Welcome to Uttaranchal, I

found the Leopard.

Holds out hand. Waits for his reward.

□

3.

BRIDGET

How much?

KASHGAR

We agree two-thousand rupee,
memsahib.

BRIDGET

Thousand now, thousand when I sight
it.

Kashgar's annoyed.

KASHGAR

I'm a man of my word. Two-thousand
now. That's what you promised.

Judd moves forward, intervenes. Bridget ignores Kashgar, gets
in Humvee. Judd pushes Kashgar to the ground, foots him down.
RAWAL ten-year Indian boy, rushes forward, dodges heavies,
kicks Judd's shin hard.

RAWAL

Leave my Grandfather alone.

Judd grabs shin, hobbles on one foot, swipes at Rawal,
misses, topples over. Rawal darts away.

EXT. INDIAN JUNGLE - DAY

Return to opening Scene:

Surrounding bush peppered with leaning withered dying trees,
scrawny four-foot high bushes.

The deer is still eating when Prince explodes from cover,
leaping twenty feet with ease and covering the next twenty
feet before the deer reacts. Front paws thump parched sandy
soil. Puffs of fine dust, sand, spiral 3 feet into air. His
rear legs thump down hard straddling front pair. Fully curved
back straightens forcing powerful shoulders, front legs
forward.

Large aching out of condition muscled rear legs shoot him
several feet up. Before he touches ground again he's airborne
for twenty feet.

Panicked, the deer's swift reactions surprise Prince, its body movement, as it races off, seemingly leaving his head arched backwards. Despite many agile rapid swerves he runs straight ahead.

□
4.
Fully airborne Prince's surprised by the agile foe's sharp left swing, then right. So fast he's a blur in Prince's tired sore, blood shot, drooping and dust filled eyes.

Airborne instinctively in total desperation Prince twists his flight path as much as he's able. A sharp pain racks his agonized body. Landing to his left more than compensated for the deer's two rapid swerves. Thumping the dirt hard calls for more energy to check a slight off balance stance, leaving his head outside his inward path. The pair are halfway to the scrub end.

PRINCE
If he turns and charges me I'll miss lunch. I should have stopped to eat before now... take out is hard on the bod.

Prince feigns left despite tired muscles aching like never before. Saliva drenches his head and chest; distorted jowls bare full set of stained molars behind four inch long incisors.

It is now or never, the sharp end of the law of the jungle, and right now, like it or not, despite poor condition, he's the fittest. He recognizes his senses are duller, his eyesight blurred, reactions down.

From somewhere he summons a final burst stretching out his left leg trying with fully extended claws to catch deer's flanks, and missing by inches. Fully stretched, off balance he rolls over breaking his fall, paws skidding across sand. Another fast roll tosses him upright, sending a fist size rock in the air.

Expecting to see the deer's tail-end he doesn't concentrate his stare, a thirst like he's never experienced seizes his throat. Dribbling, dust choked mouth, sand, dirt dampen his spirits further.

He stands, his sides heaving as his dry bursting aching lungs cry for a rest, shoulders hunched, head drooping limp, motionless, panting furiously his swollen tongue hanging down

between parched, cracked sore lips.

PRINCE

Boy could I use a drink, but not a drop to be seen.

Finally summons courage to look up, looking to find an unpolluted water hole, shade more paramount. Blood oozes from cracked festering paws. Blinks his eyes to clear dust cloud following his chase, with barely enough strength to move.

□
5.
Clearly visible through his ribs and drab coat his heart beat races.

Turns slowly, plague proportion humming noises from clicking Chickadees and Swarms of Mosquitoes. 30-feet away to right is a small mound. He stares at it hard. There's no way the deer can have been out of the "U" shape, and out of sight in those few seconds.

Through shimmering distorting heat-haze Prince moves forward, then into the trot he uses to cover distances quickly. The young deer is alive, terrified as Prince sees its rear thin leg twisted back on its self, snapped above the small knee joint. Prince stands over him, looks around instinctively.

Instincts coupled with compassion for wounded animals about to die must not suffer unduly. He drops alongside the small beautifully marked frame places a paw on it's neck, quickly clamps jaws over deer's tender mouth and soft moist flared nostrils, ensuring eyes do not meet.

Prince easily lifts the 70 lb animal and trots over to a tree.

He leaps straight up into the welcoming branches of the tree and begins to rip the meat apart, gorging himself on the meat.

Sated at last he lies, bloodied, alongside the remains of his catch and goes to sleep.

EXT. JUNGLE BUSH CAMP - NIGHT.

Bridget and her happy entourage eat and drink, as Indian servants attend them. Nearby Kashgar's shouting, breaks their chatter.

BRIDGET

What is it?

JUDD

Guy says he found a carcass.

BRIDGET

Bring him over.

Kashgar, bowing head, dashes forward, bows many times.

BRIDGET

So what've you got?

□

6.

KASHGAR

I found a carcass, fresh kill,
yesterday by the looks of it. It's
a Leopard's kill. A big one.

Kashgar holds out hand for reward, Bridget ignores him.

BRIDGET

The deal is these guys get ten-
bucks a day. That's it. There's no
bonuses.

Judd leans to her, whispers.

JUDD

Agreement was a bonus for any
sighting.

BRIDGET

That's my eyeball contact. Not
their's. He's the only guy who's
seen anything. At this rate the
whole Indian population will appear
for handouts. No deal.

Bridget scowls at Kashgar.

BRIDGET

You're the one who was waiting as I
got off my plane, weren't you! All
you want is a free hand out! ...
Get him outta here.

Judd gets up, grabs Kashgar's shoulder, takes him away. Out
of sight Judd stuffs twenty-dollar bill in his turban.

JUDD

Thanks old man. Take care you hear.

EXT. JUNGLE - DRY RIVER BED - DAWN.

Prince looks up at mid-day sun, sniffs air, catches something, trots down a slope, starts pawing at damp sand for water. Slowly water seeps up.

EXT. JUNGLE BUSH CAMP - DAWN.

Camp is moving. Vehicles loaded, engines running, lead vehicle moves off.

□
7.
Bridget's standing up waving aimlessly, others follow. Bridget lifts a powerful-looking gun. Waves it above head, fires several volleys.

The vehicles move off against the backdrop of the Indian plains.

EXT. JUNGLE DRY RIVER BED - DAWN.

Prince stops pawing sand, hatred in his eyes, looks up, listens, growls, sips remaining water, starts off at a steady trot along the dry river-bed.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAWN.

KHAN, a lean mature male Bengal TIGER with attitude. Woken by gun shots, sniffs, gets up, shakes body from head to tail-end, stretches, roars in defiance. Starts walking north.

SUPER: Map of INDIA to SIBERIA, with route along which Prince and Khan are heading.

EXT. JUNGLE VILLAGE - DAY.

Kashgar's picking through his wood chest, sorting/selecting equipment, grabs rope with grapples, slings a leather pouch over shoulder, his favourite stout wood staff. Lastly, he unrolls a piece of leather.

CLOSE: Tatty map of INDIA.

Satisfied, rolls it up in leather pouch and flings it over his shoulder along with two sleeping rolls. Fills a water-bag, looks around. Lifts pet Peregrine Falcon WANDERER from its perch to his shoulder.

KASHGAR

Come Wanderer. We go find that cub who kept stealing your food as a youngster. He will recognize you.

Satisfied he sets off towards the enfolding jungle.

From a safe distance Rawal's been watching and follows keeping out of sight.

□
8.

EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING - DAY.

Hunters have pitched camp. Mounted on the 2nd Humvee is a large swivelling dish. 25 year-old JOHN CARTWRIGHT, a Scot, has his eyes glued to monitor. Bridget stands behind.

BRIDGET

You're sure you can get a fix? This programme cost me a packet. You sure know how to charge Cartwright.

CARTWRIGHT

It's accurate. Programmed to detect a seed tumbling from the tallest tree in India. I know 'cos I wrote this revolutionary tracking software.

BRIDGET

I ain't a botanist. So how accurate is accurate?

CARTWRIGHT

Within fifty-yards.

BRIDGET

You said fifty-feet.

CARTWRIGHT

You didn't mention India.

BRIDGET

What's that got to do with it?

CARTWRIGHT

In case you've forgotten. There's a mountain range north of here. Most of the world's highest mountains are there.

BRIDGET

Okay, Cartwright. No more of this wise-guy stuff. That's near enough for a hit. So where is he/she now?

CARTWRIGHT

Keeping to heavy bush areas.

Cartwright taps the Computer. Holds dish between fingers. Then leans back in chair, hands behind his head. Confident.

□

9.

CARTWRIGHT

It has to drink sometime. When it does I'll get a fix and have his signature. Then it's just a matter of time. Depends on his ability to outsmart this.

BRIDGET

It can't, and don't know it.

Bridget looks at the vast array of Hi-tech gear. She doesn't understand any of it.

CARTWRIGHT

What surprises me is why a snow leopard would be this far south... I mean they usually keep to the high altitudes and only move to meadows and rocky areas in the summer months.

BRIDGET

Well we are in the summer aren't we!

CARTWRIGHT

Right, but the meadows his kind haunt are high up ones, not in the lowlands.

BRIDGET

It had better be a snow leopard then, or I've put money down the drain.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Kashgar swings water bottle from shoulder, pulls plug, gulps.

From behind a tree RAWAL watches, tongues dry lips, wipes. He's thirsty.

.

Kashgar replaces plug, shoulders skin, scans leaf strewn dirt. Focuses on pad-marks, fingers them.

KASHGAR
Prince, you made it. So where are
you taking me my old friend?

□
10.
Kashgar obliterates pad-mark. Presses different set of clay-
imprints into dirt in opposite direction. Smiles begins
walking. Kashgar calls.

KASHGAR
We've a long way to go. You want a
drink?

Rawal dashes from cover, jumping, spinning around, catches
and hugs Kashgar.

KASHGAR
I taught you never to break cover.

RAWAL
I didn't.

KASHGAR
I saw you miles back. So will a
hungry Leopard or a Tiger.

RAWAL
You said all the Tigers are gone.

KASHGAR
The Indian species is. Maybe some
in Siberia. No-one knows.

RAWAL
And your Leopard. Where does he go?

KASHGAR
I know him better than anyone. He
knows what he's doing, driving
north to the mountains. Going home.

RAWAL
Home Grandfather?

KASHGAR
He's from where I grew up, near
Nanda Devi.

RAWAL
So why is he here?

KASHGAR
Hunters... he's just trying to
survive, the last of his kind.

RAWAL
The last!

□
11.
KASHGAR
Maybe, maybe not. I hope not.

RAWAL
Me too!

EXT. HUNTERS' CAMP - NIGHT.

Hunters are partying, gorging themselves as Indian servants
serve more food, drinks, clear up. Bridget walks to equipment
Humvee, watches monitor over Cartwright's shoulder.

BRIDGET
Anything?

CARTWRIGHT
He's sleeping. Be another twenty-
four hours. Then we'll have a
signature.

BRIDGET

(Emphatically)
You'd better, otherwise you're out
of a job when we return.

EXT. KASHGARS CAMP - NIGHT.

Kashgar and Rawal are eating fruit.

RAWAL
Why did you tell that American
you'd found Prince?

KASHGAR

I had to know what she knows.

RAWAL
What does she know?

KASHGAR
Nothing.

RAWAL
What's all that stuff she has?

KASHGAR
Satellite tracking equipment.

RAWAL
What's a satellite?

□
12.
Kashgar points to the STARS.

KASHGAR
Up there out of sight in space,
things fly around our world spying
on us and sending messages back to
Earth. They can even see us.
Rawal ducks away under a bush, slowly peers out. Kashgar
chuckles, waves him back.

RAWAL
They're trying to find Prince
aren't they?

KASHGAR
Yes, they want to kill him.

RAWAL
Why?

KASHGAR
He's the last, and the most prized.

RAWAL
The last?

KASHGAR
That woman killed his friend
Princess two years ago.

RAWAL
We must stop her Grandfather, we

must.

KASHGAR

We can try and help, lay false trails, and trust in Prince's instincts. It's saved him so far. I don't know how much longer he has? And I fear for his life.

EXT. A VALLEY - AN AIRSTRIP - DUSK.

Static lettering: Srinagar, Kashmir

A wide lush valley nestles below the Himalaya's. A LEAR-JET circles, lines up the runway as the undercarriage locks in place. The Jet descends, lands, trailing swirling dust, stops. Six Land-Rover's emerge from plane, MEN, more gear. Last, four MEN on dirt motor bikes.

□

13.

PHYZAKILUS CRUNKHORN, 26, sly personality, sinewy, stubborn pop-eyed man, creeps down the steps. Looks at equipment, smiles, flicks up mobile, dials.

Looks up at the stars, smiles.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT.

A huge Satellite starts un-folding like a giant Alien umbrella.

EXT. VALLEY AIRSTRIP - DAY.

Crunkhorn watches monitor, digital images hone-in sequence until Airstrip fills screen. Phone in hand watches his Satellite's birth.

INT. TENT. HIMALAYAS - NIGHT.

Static lettering: At 7,800 feet on Mount Nanda Devi.

Two tents crammed with electronic equipment. Two men sit-watching monitors, a bevy of dials and colored pulsing signals. A phone rings. Middle-aged head man JASON MORTIMER grabs it.

MORTIMER

Mr. Crunkhorn.

.

CRUNKHORN V.O.
You're in, it's all systems go. I estimate it'll take the cat two weeks tops.

MORTIMER
That's fine Mr. Crunkhorn, providing the weather holds we'll see it. This ain't the most stable weather area around...

Mortimer peers through window at snow covered mountains, doused in heavy low cloud-base. The wind is howling.

Crunkhorn interrupts

□
14.
CRUNKHORN V.O.
That satellite cost me 2.5 billion. This operation another half-billion. Just for a stubborn Leopard. It has to go north. South's not an option. Once we get an autograph. It's mine.

MORTIMER
Right you are Mr. Crunkhorn.

He hangs up and looks at the monitor with a barely disguised smirk.

MORTIMER
All this bloody equipment and money and for what? Another animal for his wildlife ranch. The lengths some people will go to get what they want... and all this equipment so we can receive signals from out of space to tell us where the cat is!

He shakes his head and looks skyward.

MORTIMER
All I can say is, it had better work or Crunkhorn will have a fit and be destitute besides!

EXT. DENSE JUNGLE - DAY.

Prince watches a Wort Hog, waits. As he charges, he hears noises to his left. The undergrowth parts.

As Prince hits the hog, he's bowled over, tumbling head over heels. His head's spinning. Everything's a blur. He's on his back, gazing skyward. Slowly his eyes steady. Prince is staring up at the biggest Tiger, KHAN, he's ever seen.

PRINCE
I saw it first.

KHAN
Come off it. I did. In any case if that's how you do it it's a wonder you've lived this long. What are you doing here anyway? This is my patch.

□
15.
PRINCE
None of your business. Anyway, you can't be that crash hot. You haven't seen my tracks.

KHAN
So it was you?

Prince knows Khan's bluffing.

Prince brushes the dirt off. Stares at the dead Hog. Khan roars, clamps the dead hog in his Jaws. It's his.

PRINCE
Are your eyes Okay? I mean can you see any distance? Maybe your close-ups not too hot either?

KHAN
Perfect, twenty-twenty vision. Do you always ask so many questions at once?

PRINCE
Shouldn't talk with your mouth full.

PRINCE
Really. So how come you didn't see me then?

.

KHAN
Totally focused on that target.

Khan roars, starts walking.

KHAN
I'll be on my way then.

PRINCE
Okay, okay. I'm Prince.

Khan ignores him, continues. Prince takes in surroundings.
Hunches his shoulders. Mumbles to himself.

PRINCE
King of the beasts. Beats me.

Prince shakes his head. Trots after Khan.

PRINCE
I'm leaving India.

□
16.
KHAN
It's a big place. Where exactly are
you going?

PRINCE
That way.

Prince signals with his nose.

KHAN
That's North. Nothing there except
mountains, snow and ice. You'll
freeze to death.

PRINCE
It's where I'm from, we snow
leopards don't freeze to death
we're built for the cold. Besides I
don't fancy being shot.

Khan stops in his tracks. Stares at Prince.

KHAN
You've heard them?

PRINCE
Haven't you?

KHAN
Many times.

PRINCE
So where are you going?

KHAN
North.

PRINCE
So you'll freeze as well?

KHAN
My cousins live in the cold.

PRINCE
Really?

KHAN
You have the same trouble as me.
We're possibly the last big cats in
India. That's why they want us.

PRINCE
Maybe we could travel together.

□
17.
PRINCE
I don't need extra baggage.

PRINCE
But you might need me.

They eyeball one another and Khan looks northwards where the
Himalayas are just on the edge of visibility.

Khan reluctantly nods.

KHAN
The alternative isn't up for grabs.

PRINCE
Not with the Gingold woman on my or
our tails.

KHAN
Whatcha saying?

PRINCE
She's top of the celebs power list.

KHAN
So why's she here?

PRINCE
Put bluntly, rich people eat more than poor folk. Now we got a whole new tier, middle class consumers. So more land's needed to grow food and out we go.

KHAN
Well you don't exactly fit the 'starving leopard' syndrome! You look in pretty good shape.

PRINCE
Only pretty good.

KHAN
Oh one more thing. Is it true leopards don't change their spots?

PRINCE
What?

KHAN
Can you... er ... do anything about those spots?

□
18.
PRINCE
Why? It's who I am.

KHAN
They clash with my stripes. Know what I mean? Colour schemes and all that. Rudyard's classic. King of the Jungle. You feeling hungry?

PRINCE
Do you ever shut up!

EXT. KASHGAR'S CAMP - NIGHT.

Alongside smouldering fire. Rawal and Kashgar lie on sleeping rolls.

RAWAL
Will they make it Grandfather?

KASHGAR

I don't know. We'll help Prince all we can. The rest is in the hands of the spirits.

RAWAL

Are they good or bad?

KASHGAR

We'll find out soon enough, now go to sleep.

EXT. GINGOLD CAMP - DAWN.

Bridget cannot wait. Things are moving too slow. Stares at monitor, the keyboard. Fingers ready to touch the keys. Frustrated she hits the enter key. Monitor remains blank.

.

SUPER: You have performed an illegal operation. The computer is shutting down.

The screen goes black. A low-dull whine emits from speakers.

BRIDGET

That guy's on his way.

Bridget hollers as loud as she can.

□

19.

BRIDGET

Cartwright!

Cartwright stumbles from his tent, half-asleep, wobbles, sighs heavily. Heads for equipment tent.

CARTWRIGHT

What?

Bridget points at blank screen.

BRIDGET

That. Look, it died on me.

CARTWRIGHT

Push the start button. Then leave it alone for all our sakes... please.

Bridget's mobile rings, she flips it open.

SULLIVAN (FILTERED)

He's asking for a few more days. A week at most.

BRIDGET

He ain't got the money. That's it he's broke. That satellite crippled him. So where is he now?

SULLIVAN (FILTERED)

He's out of the country. No-one can contact him. What shall I tell them?

BRIDGET

Son-of-a-bitch. No deal. They've got till close of business today. Or we shut them down wholesale.

Bridget closes mobile. Stares at Cartwright who has an idea what she's talking about.

BRIDGET

Can you believe that guy? He wants a few more days.

CARTWRIGHT

He did you a favour once. Maybe...

Bridget interrupts.

□

20.

BRIDGET

Business is business.

CARTWRIGHT

He helped when our system crashed last year. No-one else wanted to. Without his help you...

BRIDGET

(Interrupting)

Tough. It's him or me.

CARTWRIGHT

Law of the jungle, heh?

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Prince and Khan look down at the flowing water just below. Prince starts down the slope. Khan grabs his tail. Prince turns.

PRINCE
What?

KHAN
Keep out of sight. Move under those trees. Then drink. From now on we move through the undergrowth. Just

in case.
After drinking and wallowing in the water. They move up the bank. Prince stares at the sky. It seems full of Raptors; Eagles, Vultures hitching rides on warm thermals.

PRINCE
Those guy's have got it made.

KHAN
When they're not up there. We're in real trouble.

PRINCE
No carcasses.

KHAN
Right on. Where no Vultures fly.

PRINCE
Maybe they can help us?

□
21.
KHAN
That idea crossed my mind too. Let's work on it. Mind you I've never associated with one. How about you?

Prince does not reply right away. Khan gives him a querying look.

PRINCE
No... me neither. I mean, not lately. Been too busy trying to evade being shot.

KHAN
Well when you're the last of the species you become a prime target.

EXT. JUNGLE. DAY.

Kashgar and Rawal trek along a well worn animal path. Tracks becoming overgrown. No Elephants have trod this way for ages.

RAWAL
How do you know where to go?

Kashgar stops, props his staff against a tree. Hands water bottle to Rawal.

KASHGAR
Easy, I've trekked these paths for decades. Monitoring the Elephants, Tigers, Panthers and Leopards. Helping the Englishman.

RAWAL
You were going to tell me about the other Leopards.

Kashgar looks bewildered. Then locks on.

KASHGAR
Yes that's right. Prince's relatives live in the mountains, snow country. The snow or clouded leopard. Magnificent, shy cat.

RAWAL
So are they still in the mountains?

□
22.
KASHGAR
According to my old friend who helped the same Englishman. He's doubtful. He hasn't seen any for many, many years.

RAWAL
So what's the matter with these people? I hate them.

KASHGAR
So does Prince, that's why he left his normal habitat, to escape them after they killed his mate, Princess. Normally Snow Leopards stay in a well defined home range, some as small as 30-65 square kilometers.

RAWAL

Do they live in the jungle like
other big cats?

KASHGAR

No, they prefer ridgelines and
cliff bases or ridges with good
views over the surrounding terrain.

EXT. HIMALAYA MOUNTAIN CAMP - NIGHT.

Crunchhorn and Mortimer sit gazing at the sky. Shifting gaze
between six monitors and the stars. They're wrapped up, it's
cold.

MORTIMER

We don't want the winter to arrive
early this year.

CRUNKHORN

The temp's already down on previous
years. Must be global warming!

They both laugh cynically.

MORTIMER

We could move further south...
Crunchhorn interrupts....

□

23.

CRUNKHORN

We've been over this John. If my
hunch is right. That leopard has
one route. That bottle-neck over
there. All I want from you is when.
I know you don't agree with this.
But it's the last one for God's
sake. What difference does it make?

MORTIMER

Well if he gets by us, he's on safe
ground. That area, the Nanda Devi
and Valley of the Flowers National
Parks are protected. We can't
follow him in there.

CRUNKHORN

Gingold will find a way that's why
we have to be first... I want that
leopard alive.

Mortimer laughs derisively.

MORTIMER

That'll be the day, she's not above the law.

CRUNKHORN

She thinks she is and that's all that counts especially when I want to count my money, money, money!... Whoever said the best things in life were free is a bloody idiot!

They sit silence for a moment.

MORTIMER

Hey good buy on these blankets.

CRUNKHORN

Space age technology, we'll be hidden from prying eyes since they not only keep us warm but unseen to an electronic eye!

CLOSE UP on their silver looking blankets as they sit wrapped in them.

Up above them Wanderer flies around in circles looking down at the men. CLOSE in his eyes the reflection of the silver blankets.

□

24.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Kashgar and Rawal, stare down at Prince and Khan's last watering spot. Kashgar hurries down the bank. Where pad marks are deepest. He's elated.

KASHGAR

Wow, now this really is good news. Come Rawal look here.

Rawal slides down the slope. Ends up in the water.

KASHGAR

You can have a swim later.

Kashgar bends down to examine Khan's pad marks. He looks happy.

KASHGAR

So my Prince, what have we here.

Rawal stands dripping alongside Kashgar.

RAWAL

What is it now? Something wrong?

KASHGAR

This is a big tiger. I mean a big one.

RAWAL

You said there were none left.

Kashgar points to four wide deep marks.

KASHGAR

See, they go deeper than Prince's.

RAWAL

So how big is big?

KASHGAR

Five-hundred and fifty pounds. The biggest I've ever seen. He and Prince have teamed up, see here.

Kashgar shows how close the cats have been.

KASHGAR

This is incredible, it's never happened before. I wonder if the Englishman would like to know?

□

25.

RAWAL

Does it help, being together?

KASHGAR

You know what they say 'two heads are better than one'.

RAWAL

Who says that?

EXT. JUNGLE -DAY.

Khan's gigantic shaggy head eases slowly through the thicket. He's catching a scent, fixing his stare on water-lily choked

lake. At the edge, a huge Crocodile is tugging an equally large dead Sambar deer into the water.

Khan rockets from the thicket, and lunges at the deer. Prince comes dashing after.

The roars of the tiger and the answering crocodile segue to:

EXT. JUNGLE BUSH CAMP - DAWN.

Car engines roar to life.

The Gingold outfit is moving. Bridget looks at the map. Elderly Indian tracker JOSEPH gestures the direction.

SUPER: Map with penciled arrows pointing North.

BRIDGET

No Leopard tracks no pay. You understand that? If not, you'll go like the other two.

Joseph, meekly clasps hands, smiles, bows.

JOSEPH

Understand memsahib.

BRIDGET

Okay, let's go get this elusive Leopard. There's a thousand dollars bonus for anyone seeing it first.

□

26.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

ABU's an expert tracker. BANSERI is an enterprising crook, both ex-jail birds.

BANSERI

Boy this is living, after being in prison, unjustly.

ABU

(laughs derisively)
Unjustly? Who you kidding man, you were trading in Indian animals when

you were caught, red handed, so to speak.

BANSERI

Well at least it wasn't blood.

ABU

Only because you were nabbed before you could kill them!

Banseri shrugs off-handedly.

BANSERI

And now we are going to be making a pile of money off that Gingold woman by catching that leopard and keeping him alive until we sell him to her, or the highest bidder, I don't care which.

He fingers an eye-patch covering one eye over a badly scared cheek

ABU

Pay back for what one did to that cheek and eye of yours?

BANSERI

Yes, but the money's the thing.

ABU

Providing we split the money.

BANSERI

Of course my friend. Half each.
(Under his breath) Not bloody likely!

BANSERI

You're sure they're heading North?

.

□

27.

ABU

Of course I'm sure! Kashgar taught me everything.

BANSERI

So can we catch the Leopard before he does?

ABU
He has that bird.

BANSERI
What good is a bird?

ABU
That bird grew up with this
Leopard. Kashgar trained him, he
feels more at home on this
Leopard's back than anywhere. An
incredible relationship.

Abu points to the tree canopy.

ABU
He's up there looking down. A big
advantage.

BANSERI
So I will kill him then.

Banseri taps his Longbow, lifts it as if aiming. Arcs left
and right.

BANSERI
I'm a good shot. I'll get him.

Abu looks at him shaking his head dismissively.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY.

Kashgar moves into a clearing. With the Falcon flapping his
wings on his outstretched hand. An upward swoop launches the
Falcon.

KASHGAR
Good hunting Wanderer. Good
Hunting.

Rawal watches in amazement. The huge Raptor soars higher
climbing across and through the tree-felled clearing.

□
28.
RAWAL
Will he come back?

KASHGAR
When he's good and ready.

EXT. JUNGLE RIVER - DAY

Khan and Prince have managed to wrest the Sambar deer from the crocodile whose baleful red eyes bulge in protest as he watches the two large cats drag the Sambar up the bank and out of his view. He makes a faint hearted attempt to follow them, then, with a roar of protest, slithers back into the river.

PRINCE

Better let me take it up into the trees so that croc can't take it back.

KHAN

What do you take me for, I wasn't born yesterday you know... I'll take it up into a tree and we can share it up there.

They make their way, stealthily, looking all around them, through the thicket and are into an open area with several trees in small groupings.

PRINCE

That one I think.

He heads off towards a large conifer tree with Khan following with the Samba in his large jaws.

Prince leaps up the tree his large claws helping claw his way up to a large fork where he is greeted by a large squawking crow, MORTIMER.

MORTIMER

Get out of here, before I pluck your eyes out. This is my pad, this is my nest platform. Go on git!

Prince scrambles down to the ground as Kahn laughs hysterically dropping the Samba.

KHAN

Trust you to pick the perfect spot.

□

29.

Prince comes to a slithering halt and shouts back at Mortimer.

PRINCE

Keep your feathers on, no need to get all ruffled up.

MORTIMER

Me! All ruffled up! Just so you know, I am never ruffled.

MRS. MORTIMER

Liar! You're always ruffled over one thing or another.

Mortimer looks crestfallen.

Prince, now on the ground looks back up at him.

PRINCE

Sorry man, didn't mean to get you in trouble with the missus.

MORTIMER

It's alright she's in her nesting mood. ... So where are you fellows off to, after your supper, I mean.

PRINCE

Going north to...

KHAN

Shut up! Want to tell the whole world where we're going. How do you know you can trust this bird?

Prince looks up at Mortimer then at Khan.

PRINCE

I had a friend once...

KHAN

Oh, so you actually had a friend?!

PRINCE

No need to be sarcastic, yes his name was Wanderer.

KHAN

So what was he this wanderer, I mean what did he do for a living?

PRINCE

He was a falcon, a bird.

MORTIMER/KHAN

You were friends with a bird?

Prince nods sadly.

PRINCE

A long time ago. Had a nice master too.

KHAN

There you go getting all soft and teary eyed. Next you'll be telling us this master was a good person, as though any human can be good.

PRINCE

(Defensively)

Well he was, so there.
Mortimer and Khan exchange looks and then look at Prince as he sits looking sad.

KHAN

Come on, chin up, let's have a bite to eat and then after a rest we can be on our way.

MORTIMER

Oh so you are going somewhere. Can I come with you? Only when the little woman is in this condition it's best to stay out of her way, you know what I mean?

Prince looks even more sad.

PRINCE

Used to. Had a lovely girl friend once, name of Princess.

KHAN

(Sarcastically)
Human or your kind?

PRINCE

One of my kind, and that woman who is following me, us now I guess, shot her so I'm now the last of my kind.

□

31.

MORTIMER

That's awful, I mean losing your girl friend like that. But how can you be the last of your kind, I've seen lots of your kind...

PRINCE

(Eagerly)

You have? Where? Tell me.

MORTIMER

(Offhandedly)

Oh you know, here and there.

PRINCE

No I don't. Where?

KHAN

He's pulling your leg, can't you tell? Come on, let's leave him and his missus alone and have a bite before we take off again.

MORTIMER

(Flying down)

Look I'm telling you the truth, I've seen his kind, well one anyway. Up north. Honest.

Prince and Khan look at one another and then Mortimer suspiciously.

KHAN

You'd better not be trying to pull one over on my friend here, or you won't live to see your offsprings.

MORTIMER

Honest Injun, I'm telling you...

KHAN

You can't say that.

MORTIMER

What? What can't I say?

KHAN

Honest Injun, it's not politically correct.

MORTIMER

What?! We're in India aren't we?

□

32.

KHAN

Yes, we are but it refers to another kind of Indian.

MORTIMER

Another kind... how many kinds are there and what's so special about them?

KHAN

Never mind, just tell us the truth... have you seen another leopard like Prince here?

MORTIMER

(Puffing out his feathers)

Yes, I have. I've seen one just like him, well maybe a bit smaller, up north near the mountains.

Khan looks at Prince and shrugs.

KHAN

Well... what do you think. we trust him?

Shall

Prince nods.

KHAN

That's where we're headed. Can you

show us the way to where this other leopard is?

Mortimer, preens and struts about.

.

MORTIMER

I'm your man, or my name isn't Mortimer.

Khan and Prince look at one another and roll over laughing.

MORTIMER

What? What did I say?

KHAN

(Wiping his eyes)

Mortimer? Who gave you that name?

MORTIMER
My pa of course!

□
33.
Just then O.C. A shot rings out. All three cringe and Mortimer flies up and circles in the air above his tree as Prince and Khan watch him anxiously and keep their ears pricked.

Mortimer finally comes down and settles on a branch above the cats' heads.

KHAN
Give it to us. Bad news?

MORTIMER
'fraid so. Several things, vehicles, with lots of humans.

PRINCE
Did you see a female among them?

MORTIMER
One only, she's the one with the smoking gun.

KHAN
How far away?

MORTIMER
Hard to say, about ten miles as the crow flies. As the crow flies, get it?

He breaks down into hysterical cawing as Khan and Prince look at one another resignedly.

KHAN
Time to hit the trail.

PRINCE
Best not to leave one! Come on let's go.

MORTIMER
I'll catch up, just got to say goodbye to the little woman.

As Khan picks up the Samba's carcass, he and Prince lope off.

Mortimer flies up to his nest platform and the sound of lots of cawing accompanies the two cats as they race along the side of the lake and around to the other side and are lost to sight in the dense foliage there.

□

34.

EXT. KASHGAR'S CAMP - NIGHT

He and Rawal are sat around a small fire as the jungle around them settles down for the night.

RAWAL
Grand'pa?

KASHGAR
Yes?

RAWAL
Do you think the leopard and the tiger will make it?

KASHGAR
They are smart, though Prince is wounded I think... his tracks are lop sided, so I think he has an infected or hurt pad.

.

RAWAL
Does he know how to fix it?

Kashgar looks thoughtful.

KASHGAR
Sometimes animals have instincts that we can only wonder at... so I think he will favor that pad and lick it clean every time he stops for a rest.

RAWAL
But with the hunters following him and wanting to kill him will he have the time?

KASHGAR
Time will tell... now sleep little one. We have a long arduous trek before us tomorrow.

As they settle down around their meager fire a rustling is

heard above their heads. Kashgar looks up and sees Mortimer looking down at him. Kashgar closes his eyes, and after a while, another rustling is heard.

Through half open eyes Kashgar sees Mortimer winging his way northward and Kashgar smiles to himself as he closes his eyes.

□

35.

EXT. HIMALAYAN CAMP - DAY.

Crunkhorn's already getting impatient.

CRUNKHORN
Anything?

MORTIMER
Not yet. Plenty of activity to the north of us.

CRUNKHORN
Any contact from the Gingold woman?

MORTIMER
Nope.

CRUNKHORN
That sucks!

MORTIMER
Well you know she's only interested in money and owning the 'one of a kind' things.

CRUNKHORN
Animals aren't things, they are living, breathing beings, just like us.

MORTIMER
To her they are trophies, best mounted.

CRUNKHORN
I thought that had died out with the Victorians.

MORTIMER
Luckily for us and the upkeep of our expensive equipment, no. There are still people willing to pay for what they can get by any means

available.

CRUNKHORN

Fair means or fowl!

As they talk Wanderer is seen, high up, winging his way southward from their position.

□

36.

MORTIMER

Speaking of which I'm hungry what have we got to eat?

CRUNKHORN

Dehydrated crap...

MORTIMER

Better than nothing. Beggars can't be choosers.

.

CRUNKHORN

So let's pray we get paid handsomely.

EXT. THE LOWLANDS - DAY

Bridget Gingold and her vehicles and companions are making their way across the undulating terrain, causing dust clouds to rise and bushes and thickets to be trampled under the weight of their passing vehicles.

Bridget Gingold stands atop her vehicle looking through binoculars as her vehicle bounces along.

The vehicles reach the lake where Prince and Khan had met Mortimer and the lead vehicle screeches to a stop sending numerous birds, including Mrs. Mortimer screeching up in the air.

Some of the men take out their rifles and take pot shots at the birds, laughing as they hit or miss a target. Among the fallen is Mrs. Mortimer...

BRIDGET

We'll stop here and look for tracks before we drive over them.

As she and her companions get down one of the porters excitedly points to a bloody trail leading from the bank of

the lake over to the tree where the Mortimers had their nest.

Joseph the Indian tracker gets down and bends over taking in the tracks leading from the lake over to the tree.

JOSEPH

Memsahib they killed something at the water's edge and took it over to this tree. See the marks of the two cats.

□

37.

BRIDGET

Two cats! What's the other one? I thought there was only one snow leopard!

JOSEPH

Yes Memsahib is correct, the other tracks are of a larger animal, a tiger I think.

BRIDGET

(Irritated)

I don't pay you to think I pay you to tell me the facts! What is it?

JOSEPH

A very large tiger... I think they have paired up.

BRIDGET

Wonderful! So what now... are they

still heading north?

Joseph follows the tracks from the tree leading around the lake. He trots back to Bridget Gingold.

JOSEPH

It would appear they are still going north, yes Memsahib.

BRIDGET

Appear? Think? Damn you I want the facts. Are they, or are they not going north.

JOSEPH

Yes Memsahib.

BRIDGET

Cartwright see if you can raise
Crunkhorn and Mortimer and see if
they've got anything?

Cartwright wearily goes over to one of the covered over four
wheel drives and pulling the tarp back uncovers monitors and
communication equipment. He sets to trying to reach
Crunkhorn and Mortimer.

As Cartwright and Gingold look at the monitors the Men stand
or sit near the vehicles talking while JUDD goes down to the
lake to splash his hot face with water.

□

38.

He is squatting bending over when the crocodile of previous
scene rears up out of the water and lunges at him.

Judd screams as he falls back and tries to scramble, using
his hands and feet, away from the crock. The other Men watch
laughing, until Bridget alerted by all the noise takes her
rifle off the back of her vehicle and takes a shot at the
crocodile.

The crocodile, who has latched onto the Judd's foot, lets go
and roars in disapproval as he slithers back into the water,
unharmd.

Bridget is furious and takes several more shots at the
ripples of the lake where the crocodile disappeared.

BRIDGET

Bloody reptile!

MAN #1

(Under his breath)

Don't think so, you missed!

He and his companions hurry to help bleeding Judd.

BRIDGET

(furious)

Your injury better not impede your

ability to be my assistant and do

your job, or I'm putting you on

half salary.

JUDD
(to his companions)
She's all heart and compassion!

EXT. PRINCE AND KHAN'S JOURNEY - DAY

Prince, limping a little, and Khan stop and lie down fully stretched out soaking up the sun. They are soon asleep.

Mortimer, swoops down and sits eyeing them.

MORTIMER
So you two waiting to be picked up,
or should I say off?!

Both cats wake up with a start.

KHAN
Oh it's you, our feathered friend.

□
39.
PRINCE
Friend? I need my sleep, leave me
alone.

He rolls over and goes back to sleep while Khan looks at Mortimer.

KHAN

O.K. Spit it out. What's up?
MORTIMER
Up, a falcon, but it's down you
should be worried about. That
woman and her crew have reached the
lake and ... (he breaks down in
sobs)

Khan sits up concerned.

KHAN
What?

MORTIMER
They, she, someone, killed my mate
and several other birds.

As he blubbers Khan jumps up, swats Prince over the head and

paces.

Prince sits up really annoyed.

PRINCE
Now what?!

He suddenly notices that Mortimer is distraught.

PRINCE
Mortimer?

Khan stops pacing and faces them both.

KHAN
We have to move, and move quickly.
Apparently the humans are now
killing off birds. They've just
killed Mrs. Mortimer.

PRINCE
No! What is it with humans and
killing?

KHAN
Nature of the beast, I guess.

□
40.
He paces some more.

KHAN
You mentioned a falcon.

PRINCE
(Agitated)
They killed a falcon?

Mortimer shakes his head.

MORTIMER
No. I saw him as I flew this way.
He's looking for something... or
someone.

As they all look at one another, like a bolt out of the blue
Wanderer dives down in their midst making Mortimer squawk in
fear and Khan jump up and back off from the falcon.

Prince has a beatific smiles on his face.

PRINCE
Wanderer!

WANDERER
Ha! Found you!

KHAN
We weren't lost!

MORTIMER
Yeah, so why don't you get lost!

Wanderer eyes Mortimer through his hooded lids.

WANDERER
One more squeak out of you and
it'll be your last.

MORTIMER
(frightened)
I was just saying...

WANDERER
Well don't.

PRINCE
So my old friend... why are you
looking for us?

□
41.
WANDERER
My master is on your trail, and
he's only a little way ahead of two
other groups of humans.

PRINCE/KHAN/MORTIMER
Two?

WANDERER
What? Are you all deaf or dumb?
Yes two groups.

He preens himself as the others look at one another. Khan
clears his throat.

KHAN
Look here we know about one group
but who's in the other one?

WANDERER

Oh just two trackers, but they are among the best. Well, almost as good as my master who is burdened down by having his grandson along with him, so he's slower than usual and only just ahead of the competition, if you get my drift.

KHAN

Well if that don't beat all. Who would have thought that many people would be interested in our kind?

PRINCE

We'd better move on out then.

KHAN

How's your paw.

PRINCE

It'll hold.... You coming with us?

He looks pointedly at Wanderer.

.

WANDERER

Well I could be useful, I mean I can fly higher than this one here.

Mortimer's feathers are ruffled by this comment but he holds his tongue as he eyes Wanderer, his powerful beak and claws.

□

42.

KHAN

Well what are we standing around here talking for then... Let's get moving. Come on, up and out.

The two cats on the ground and the two birds up above take off towards what is becoming increasingly more and more undulating territory.

CAMERA PANS the valley up ahead with Nanda Devi in the background scarce discerned through the enshrouding mist.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Kashgar and Rawal are walking at a fairly fast clip and are

seen by Wanderer way up above them, as they make their way through the natural beauty of the landscape. CAMERA PANS beautiful scenery as they walk.

RAWAL

What's that mountain called,
Grand'pa?

KASHGAR

That, my little one, is Nanda Devi,
named after the Goddess Devi,
consort of Shiva. She and her mate
have been revered since ancient
times by our ancestors. Every year
pilgrims make their way to the foot
of the Trisul to worship her.

RAWAL

Why?

KASHGAR

They believe she is the Bliss-
giving Goddess.

RAWAL

What's bliss?

KASHGAR

(Smiling)
You will know when you achieve it!

RAWAL

Why can't I ach... whatever you
said, now?

□

43.

KASHGAR

First you have to experience life,
the good and the bad and you have
scarce experienced either.

RAWAL

I experienced the bad with that
woman whose men kicked you down to
the ground.

KASHGAR

That is true... but people like
that are not worth the dirt they
walk on, they will not achieve
bliss, in this or any other
lifetime.

RAWAL
Aah.
EXT. VALLEY FLOOR - MIDDAY

Basari and Abu, both sweating are trying to follow the tracks of Kashgar and Rawal.

BASERI
The little kid keeps darting off the track, can't decide if he's just being a kid or finding something.

ABU
Probably peeing, you know what little kids are like!

BASERI
Well I'm getting tired and I'm worried about that American woman and her men catching up to us.

ABU
So step on it!

They take off at a lope through the trees.

ABU
What if the leopard and the tiger make it to the Nanda Devi park?

BASERI
We'll follow them in of course.

□
44.
ABU
But don't you have to have a pass or something to go in?

BASERI
When has that ever stopped us? We'll keep out of sight of the rangers and ecologists in the area... shouldn't be a problem.

ABU
(Laughing)
Well I hope they make it!

BASERI
Why? Are you nuts?

ABU
Don't you see, we can go in after
them but the woman and her vehicles
can't.

Baseri stops in his tracks.

BASERI
That's brilliant that is. You're
right, we'll be the only ones
following them. We'll bag them for
sure!

ABU
What about the old guy and his
grandson.

BASERI

(Dismissively)
Hello! He's old and the kid hasn't
a clue, they won't be a problem and
if they are, well...

He makes the sign for slitting the throat as Abu's eyes open
wide.

ABU
You wouldn't, ... would you?

BASERI
Only if necessary and he stands
between us and our money. Come on
let's keep moving...

They take off again.

□
45.
EXT. A DEEP GULLEY - LATE AFTERNOON

Prince and Khan have come to a stop on the edge of a deep
gully. The way down is steep and though the distance across
isn't that far, the drop is enough to deter anyone, including
leaping cats.

.

KHAN
Well that's torn it, how do we get
across this?

PRINCE

If my pad weren't hurting me I
could make it, we leopards like
steep, broken terrain of cliffs,
rocky outcrops and ravines.

Khan mimics him sarcastically.

KHAN

And if we were all snow leopards
we...

He looks up and down to either side but it is sheer cliffs.

PRINCE

(Irritably)

Where's that bird? He could tell
us if there's another way across.

KHAN

Which bird would that be?

PRINCE

(Grouchy)

Either I don't care, my paw is
killing me.

He lies down and licks his injured pad.

Mortimer wings down beside them.

KHAN

Well?

MORTIMER

I couldn't see any other way except
across. Where's the other bird?

PRINCE

His name is Wanderer.

□

46.

MORTIMER

Well looks like he's wandered off
for good, if you ask me.

Wanderer zooms down among them.

WANDERER

You really are dumb you know!

KHAN

Well do you have any useful information?

WANDERER

If you mean is there another way across? Yes there is.

Everyone sits up and looks at him attentively.

WANDERER

But it would take the earth bound creatures a day or more and your pursuers are hot on your trail.

Khan and Prince look dejected.

WANDERER

Sorry. I'm going to go back to my master and see if he's keeping out of harm's way. I don't trust either group following him and the little one. See ya.

And before they can protest he is up and off before their disbelieving eyes.

KHAN

So much for your friend!

PRINCE

What do you mean?

KHAN

In case it's escaped your perspicacious brain, he didn't tell us where the way around this gully was!

They all sit looking dejected and defeated.

Suddenly Mortimer flies up.

□

47.

PRINCE

Is he leaving us too?

KHAN
Don't think so. Listen!

They both prick up their ears as the sound of something or someone crashing through the undergrowth is heard.

KHAN
Come on, quick, up that tree.

They both lope over to a tall conifer and hide up in the branches looking down in the direction of the noise.

Suddenly before their disbelieving eyes an old bull elephant BABU crashes into the small clearing they have just vacated.

Babu sniffs the air around him and with very short sighted eyes peers around.

BABU
I smell a cat!

He snorts and stomps the ground as Prince and Khan look down.

BABU
Come out, come out wherever you are. I know you are there, I can smell you.

KHAN

(whispering)

He can smell us! But he's blind as
a bat.

BABU
I can hear you too.

Khan leaps down.

KHAN
Well here I am what now?

Babu looks in the direction of Khan's voice, but Khan has already moved away to his left.

BABU
(addressing a tree)
Ah so there you are.

KHAN
Wrong! I'm over here.

□
48.
As Babu turns swiftly to his left Khan runs over to his right.

Babu addresses a large rock.

BABU
Aha! I see you now.

KHAN
Wrong again.

Babu dejectedly turns right.

BABU

O.K. You got me. I can't see. So do you want to make a big deal out of it?

KHAN
Not particularly, but I do wonder what you are doing in this neck of the woods? Don't see elephants this far north, usually.

BABU
North did you say? Oh dear, I thought I was going south.

Prince jumps down.

PRINCE
So, no sense of direction either huh?

Babu stands nervously swishing his trunk from side to side.

BABU
Just how many of you are there?

Khan and Prince look at one another and Khan finally shrugs.

PRINCE
Just the two of us, but we have air
power too.

BABU
What?! You telling me you can fly?

PRINCE
(laughing)
No! Of course not, we have winged

friends with us.

□
49.
Babu peers around short sighted.

BABU
So what are you all doing here?
Waiting for transport!

He trumpets hysterically!

Khan and Prince cover their ears.

KHAN
Please. Quiet! We are being
tracked and we're stuck. We can't
get across a very deep gully. My
friend here, the last of his kind,
I might add, has a hurt pad and
can't leap like he used to, and at
the best of times I could never
leap as far as him anyway. So
here, we are, stuck.

Babu stands, obviously thinking.

BABU
So what you are saying is that you
need a way to get across?

KHAN
Well, yes. Do you have an idea?

PRINCE
I don't think you'd be large enough
to stretch across!

BABU
Shsh let me think.

Prince and Khan raise their eyebrows and sit down and watch

Babu as he swings his trunk and paces in a circle.

BABU
Got it!

Both cats sit up on their haunches.

PRINCE/KHAN
You do?

BABU
Of course. You said you needed a
way across and I've got the
solution.

□
50.
PRINCE/KHAN
You have?

BABU
I just said so didn't I?

The cats nod.

BABU
Well, are you deaf, didn't I just
say I did.

KHAN
Yes you did. So... what is it.

BABU
Point me in the direction of the
tallest tree, a sturdy one mind
you.

PRINCE

(Sarcastically)
What are you suggesting,
catapulting us across!

BABU
I can tell it's not only your pad
that is infected!

KHAN
He's got you there.

Prince looks at them both angrily.

PRINCE

Well if you're so smart tell me
what he has in mind?

Khan looks a little crestfallen.

BABU

Do you two waste this much time on
everything you talk about, or is it
just for my benefit? Come on show

me to a large and tall tree.
Khan and Prince pace around the area until they find a tall,
and fairly large in girth, conifer.

PRINCE

Over here whatever your name is.

□

51.

BABU

(Dignified)

It's Babu, Sahib Babu to you!

PRINCE

Okay Babu Sahib over here.

Babu walks over crashing through the undergrowth until he
reaches the conifer Prince is standing next to.

BABU

Just put my trunk on the trunk...
(he laughs) would you please!

Prince gently nudges Babu's trunk up to the trunk of the
conifer.

Then he and Khan sit and watch as Babu wraps his trunk around
the trunk of the tree and begins to pull. As nothing happens
he then pushes with his wide forehead and as the conifer
creaks and resists he again places his trunk around its trunk
and pulls back almost sitting on his haunches as he pulls.

Suddenly with a tearing and snapping sound the tree is pulled
clear from its companions and Babu falls back exhausted as
Prince and Khan do a victory dance around the prostrate
elephant and the now uprooted tree.

Suddenly Khan stops.

KHAN
Wait. Why are we dancing? We
don't even know what the tree is
for!

He and Prince look at one another as Babu slowly picks
himself up and shakes his head.

BABU
And I thought cats were supposed to
be smart! We are going to put this
across the gully you mentioned and
then we can walk across to the
other side.

KHAN
We?

BABU
Well I can't do it all by myself,
I've done the main work, now you
have to pitch in.

□
52.
KHAN
Oh I thought you meant you were
going to walk across too.

BABU
Well yes I meant that too.

Prince and Khan look at one another with raised eyebrows as
Mortimer comes winging in and lands on the tree lying on the
ground.

.

MORTIMER
Why is this tree on the ground?

BABU
And who are you?

MORTIMER
I'm Mortimer of course.

PRINCE
He's one of our air power sources.

BABU
One?

PRINCE

Yup we also have a falcon.

BABU

Sounds like a three ring circus.

KHAN

Don't say that word! That's where
my parents ended up.

BABU

Sorry. Well come on let's get to
work and get this across the gully.
You guide and I'll get it there.

So with Mortimer flying above their heads Prince and Khan
guide Babu over to the gully as he rolls and pushes the long
tree in front of him.

KHAN

Stop!

They stop at the edge of the gully and all peer down.

BABU

Well?

□

53.

KHAN

Well... I'm just wondering how we
get it across.

BABU

We got it this far, we'll get it to
span the gap. Out of my way young
fella.

And picking up the tree by his roots' end he pants and puffs
and holds it up in the air until he is almost at the edge of
the gully.

PRINCE

(whispering)

Now...

Babu, straining every muscle lowers the tree trunk as Prince
and Khan and Mortimer circling overhead watch their jaws
hanging open.

With a clatter and a lot of rising dust the tree trunk is
dropped by Babu.

All watch, holding their breath, Prince even covers his eyes with his hurt pad, as the tree trunk comes to a shuddering halt spanning the gully.

BABU
Well?

KHAN
You did it man. You're the man!
Wow! Where did you learn to do that?

He and Prince do a victory dance as Mortimer flies back and forth checking out the tree's position and cawing loudly.

BABU
I worked for a tree company once,
then my master got sick... he went
home to his village up north... hey
maybe I can find him since you are
going that way!

KHAN
First we have to cross the gully!
Hope this tree bridge is safe!

Babu looks put out.

□
54.
BABU
Of course it's safe! Humpff!

MORTIMER
Looks safe to me. Go on, one of
you try it.

Both Prince and Khan look at one another, each not wanting to be the first across the gully.

.

BABU
What's the problem?

KHAN
We are just being polite, neither
of us wants to go across first,
wouldn't be right.

BABU

I'll go then. Point the way.

The two cats look at one another concern on their faces as Mortimer flies up above them.

MORTIMER

If you'll let me I'll guide you.

BABU

Fine by me, just as long as someone does!

Setting off he places one large foot on the tree trunk, which wobbles slightly as Mortimer flying just above his head encourages him telling him where to put his next large foot until Babu has all four large feet on the trunk.

Prince looks at Khan.

PRINCE

You realize if he breaks the tree we're sunk.

KHAN

The thought had crossed my mind!

They watch anxiously as Mortimer continues to guide the hefty pachyderm across the gully, the tree trunk bending ominously beneath him as he inches his large feet across.

Finally he is on the other side, having managed to avoid being tripped up by branches, and the two cats wait until the tree trunk stops shaking.

□

55.

PRINCE

You go next.

KHAN

Chicken!

PRINCE

Am not!

BABU

Are you two coming or what?

With a sneer Khan walks to the edge and delicately places his front paws on the tree trunk and begins to make his way across.

He makes it, after many stops and starts, finishing with a bound over the branches and stands looking back at Prince.

PRINCE

I'm coming, don't stare it's rude!

KHAN

Cluck! Cluck!

With a growl Prince begins to make his way across... when he is about half way the tree trunk rolls to the right and it is all he can do to keep his footing. As his friends look on horrified Prince manages to keep his balance like a human log roller.

But all ends well, and like Khan, he leaps the last few feet and lands, grimacing as his hurt pad hits the ground hard.

.

All three breathe sighs of relief as Mortimer squawks above them.

Prince lies panting and looks up at Mortimer flapping above him.

PRINCE

Just cut out all the crowing, O.K.?

MORTIMER

No Siree, it's what I do best!

WANDERER

(Screeching)

If you won't do it for him, do it

because of me! Understand?

□

56.

And with that he dive bombs Mortimer causing him to twirl and spin in the air and do a couple of barrel rolls, feathers flying.

Mortimer lands on a branch highly disgruntled.

MORTIMER

Now look what you've done. It's like I'm molting!

KHAN
Better than molding!

By now Wanderer has landed next to Prince and looks at him with compassion.

WANDERER
You're hurting bad, aren't you?

Prince nods weakly and tries to stand but his injured pad causes him to sit back down again.

WANDERER
Let me take a look at that pad of yours.

As Khan and Mortimer watch and Prince rolls on his side, resignedly holding out his injured pad, Wanderer lands on the pad and peers at it closely.

WANDERER
Aaah, I see the problem. Close your eyes, this might hurt a little.

PRINCE
(fatalistically)
You mean more than it is now?

WANDERER
Be quiet while I work here.

He bends over the pad and begins to explore it with his sharp talon and then inserts his sharp beak while Prince lies moaning theatrically.

Khan and Mortimer can't stand to watch and look away.

WANDERER
(Triumphantly)
There, got it!

□
57.
And with a pull and some blood gushing out, he pulls clear a large thorn spine from Prince's pad.

WANDERER
Well, don't just lie there like a

baby, lick it. Do I have to do everything for you?

PRINCE
If it was food, you'd be long gone with it!

.

WANDERER
Hey man that was in the past, we were just kids.

KHAN
(Still has paw over his eyes)
Is it safe to look?

WANDERER
Just don't get any dirt in it, O.K.?

Everyone looks at Prince's pad and then around them and burst out laughing as they look at the dirt ground and the wind picks up and twirls leaves and grit all over the place.

Khan sniffs the air.

KHAN
The winds they are a changing, I predict rain.

PRINCE
Great just what we need, muck and mud.

KHAN
Be lots of wart hogs out, good eats.

WANDERER
I don't know about you cats, all you seem to think of is eating, why I can go for days without a bite.

MORTIMER
Phew!

Everyone laughs again as Babu looks at them shaking his head.

□
58.

BABU

Prince my friend, if you promise to keep you claws in you may ride on my back. Until your pad is healed of course.

Prince has tears in his eyes and even Khan and the birds look somewhat teary eyed.

MORTIMER

(Clearing his throat)
Wanderer and I will guide the way dear Babu and Khan can mount guard.

WANDERER

You talking for me, you talking for me?

Mortimer looks at him worried. Wanderer laughs.

KHAN

That's the ticket. Off we go!
Friends helping friends, isn't that what life's all about?

EXT. RENI VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

A sari dressed OONA and her granddaughter SIPRA are culling herbs and medicinal plants when Oona suddenly stands up, holding her large round basket and looks to the south.

SIPRA

What is it grand'ma Oona?

OONA

The temperature is changing, there will be rain and visitors from the south.

SIPRA

It always rains from June on, for about three months, it's the monsoon season! And we always have visitors wanting to visit the area.

OONA

No these visitors I will know.

She stands looking as though in a trance as Sipra shakes her head and continues picking herbs.

.

□
59.
Oona suddenly looks at Sipra with a smile on her face.

OONA
My brother will come...

SIPRA
My father didn't say anything about
receiving a message to that effect.

OONA
Sipra! Just because he didn't
receive a message at the Rangers'
station doesn't mean it isn't so.

SIPRA
If you say so grandmother.

They continue picking herbs and plants as the mountain behind
them becomes enshrouded with mist and low lying clouds and
the sky darkens.

Picking up their baskets, they balance them on their heads,
and then walking with a slight sway to their step, they wend
their way along a path towards a cluster of huts and
buildings seen through the trees.

EXT. GULLY - LATE AFTERNOON

Kashgar and Rawal stand looking at the tree spanning the drop
to the gorge down below.

Kashgar steps back and looks around. Dropping his gear next
to Rawal he walks into the trees and finds where the conifer
was uprooted.

He bends down and examines the soil, feeling it with his
fingers as well as the exposed roots still clinging to it.

KASHGAR
Hmm.

He looks around some more and sees the prints left by Babu.

KASHGAR
So now they number three.

Rawal comes running up to him.

RAWAL
Who's three?

□
60.
KASHGAR
You should have stayed with our gear. The cats look like they have joined forces with an elephant, look at those prints there, and only an elephant could have uprooted such a tree. He knew what he was doing too, must have been a working elephant.

Rawal's eyes grow round as he looks around.

RAWAL
So where are they now?

KASHGAR
Well I think they've probably crossed the gully on the tree the elephant uprooted for them.

Rawal runs off back to where their gear is as Kashgar slowly follows a funny look on his face.

.

He joins Rawal at the edge of the gully.

RAWAL

(Looking up at Kashgar)
So if the heavy tiger, Prince and an elephant crossed over to the other side it's safe for us to cross too, right grand'pa?

KASHGAR
I would guess so, yes. Now here's what I want you to do, listen carefully.

Rawal nods his head solemnly.

KASHGAR
Whatever you do don't let go of my waist and don't under any circumstances look down. You got that?

Rawal nods his head nervously as Kashgar picks up their gear and slings it across his shoulders then walks over to the edge and puts both his feet on the tree trunk. It does not move.

□

61.

KASHGAR

Come on Rawal hold on to my waistband and we will take it one step at a time, slowly.

They begin to inch their way across, Rawal with his eyes tight shut and Kashgar sweating profusely. They are about half way across when Baseri and Abu clear the forest's edge and Kashgar, as though sensing their presence stops.

RAWAL

Why are we stopping grand'pa? Can I open my eyes now, are we there yet?

KASHGAR

No and no, let's keep going, slowly, steady does it.

They continue across, inch by inch.

BANSERI

(Holding Abu back)

Wait, let's see if they make it first. Step back.

They retreat and peer out from between branches as Kashgar and Rawal continue and, after broaching the branches, finally make it across.

Kashgar steps off and pulls Rawal to him.

KASHGAR

Well done boy. Come we must make haste.

RAWAL

Why?

KASHGAR

Don't look back but two others are close on our heels.

Rawal looks back and sees Baseri and Abu clear the forest edge so he hastens to catch up to Kashgar who has already walked on.

RAWAL
Why didn't you push the tree trunk down into the gully?

□
62.
KASHGAR
They might have had guns, I couldn't risk it.

As they disappear from view Baseri and Abu approach the edge of the gully from their side and peer down. Both pale visibly.

ABU
It's... it's a long way down.

BASERI
So, don't look down.

ABU
I'll never make it.

BASERI
What? Now you can't even keep up with an old man and a kid? What runs in your veins, lemonade? Come on just follow me, anyone can do it.

Baseri steps onto the tree trunk and begins to make his way across as Abu looks at him licking his lips nervously.

ABU
Hey wait for me, let me hold on to you, that way we'll both make it.

BASERI
Come on your nervous Nellie you don't need to hold on to me...

And he continues across, placing one foot in front of the other and with his arms, one holding his bow, out to each side for balance.

Abu, slowly and nervously steps onto the trunk and closing his eyes tight inches across one foot behind the other

instead of taking one step at a time. He is going much faster than Baseri and is almost on top of Baseri when Baseri looks back.

BASERI

Hey slow down, you are going to knock me off!

Abu makes the mistake of opening his eyes and looks first at Baseri inches away from him and then downwards and stands rigid unable to move.

□

63.

Baseri begins to move forward again placing his left foot in front of his right when Abu suddenly lunges at him crying out.

ABU

Wait for me!

But in lunging he only manages to grab the tail of Baseri's shirt and causes him to rock back and forth on one leg while he, Abu, sways from side to side on one leg.

Yelling and screaming at one another they fall, clutching one another and go bouncing down to the bottom of the gully as the tree trunk rolls along the edges of the gully and finally, reaching a part wider than its length, falls crashing its way down to the bottom to where the bodies of Abu and Baseri lie motionless.

Up high Wanderer has observed everything and with a whistle and a piercing screech wings his way off after Kashgar and Rawal.

EXT. GINGOLD GROUP - LATE AFTERNOON

Bridget and her group have arrived at the gully and are standing outside their vehicles looking down to where Baseri can be seen waving and shouting.

BASERI

Help! Help! Throw a rope or something! My friend is hurt, hurt bad.

CARTWRIGHT

What do you think?

BRIDGET

Who the Hell are they and why should I care?

CARTWRIGHT

Well one is hurt badly, and the other one doesn't look too good, they've obviously had a bad fall.

BRIDGET

Ask them who and what they are!

□

64.

CARTWRIGHT

(Yelling)

Who are you and how did you end up down there?

BASERI

We're just hunters and trackers and the bridge gave way as we tried to cross.

BRIDGET

What bridge? There's no sign of a bridge and trackers, did he say trackers?

She goes up to the edge and peers down.

BRIDGET

Just what are you tracking?

BASERI

Anything that will give us a pay off. Please help us.

BRIDGET

Wouldn't be a cat, a snow leopard would it?

BASERI

Maybe... if you help us I can help you... please, my friend is hurt really badly.

BRIDGET

Throw him a rope!

Cartwright and a couple of the guys get a length of rope from one of the trucks and throw it over the edge... it's too short.

CARTWRIGHT

Can you climb up the rock face to
the end of the rope?

BASERI

I'll try.

As Cartwright and the men look over Baseri takes a hand-hold
and a toe hold on the rocky cliff and makes his way,
laboriously, up to where the end of the rope is within his
reach.

□

65.

BRIDGET

Oh do hurry up, we can't waste any
more precious time.

Cartwright and the two guys begin hauling up Baseri who
finally makes it to the edge of the gully and lies gasping,
in obvious pain, on the ground.

Bridget goes over to him and pulls his head back as she
squats down next to him.

BRIDGET

So ... tell me... what do you know
about a snow leopard?

Baseri takes his time answering, licking his lips and begging
for water. His pleas go unanswered.

Cartwright sensing how things are going to end up has the two
guys tie the rope to a sturdy tree near the edge of the gully
and backs away from it with the two guys.

BRIDGET

I asked you a question. I want an
answer or you go rejoin your friend
at the bottom of the gully!

Baseri looks at her in horror.

BASERI

But he's dead. The fall killed
him.

BRIDGET

Then you'd better talk.

She lets go of his head and stands over him threateningly.

BASERI

We followed them to this gully,
they are making for the mountains
which are home to the leopard and
his kind.

BRIDGET

We already know that! You're
useless... throw him back down.

She turns on her heels and goes over to her vehicle as Baseri
pleads for his life and help.

Judd, his damaged leg, heavily bandaged, looks at him and
shrugs.

□

66.

JUDD

She only cares about herself...
sorry.

He, the guys and Cartwright follow Bridget over to their
vehicles and the group takes off in a cloud of swirling dust
leaving Baseri gasping for breath.

.

Baseri lies exhausted and defeated on the ground.

BASERI

I have nothing, not even my bow.

He then catches sight of the rope and sits up his eyes
showing he has an idea. He slowly stands and goes over to
where the rope is tied to the rock. With a knowing smile he
pulls at the rope until it is coiled in a pile next to him on
one side of the gorge. He eyes the gap and then determinedly
ties the loose end around his waist and walks away from the
edge of the gorge until the rope is taut. He then begins to
run, every muscle in his body protesting, and reaching the
edge of the gully throws himself across the gap...

Screaming Baseri realizes the gap is much wider than his
tired bloodshot eyes had anticipated and we watch in horror
as he swings over the gap and then down, down, down and hangs
dangling, swinging from side to side, all the life gone out
of his limbs.

The sun is setting when Baseri's two bloody hands appear over

the edge of the gully gripping the rope and he pulls himself up and over onto firm ground at the top. He lies retching, drenched in sweat and blood.

Up above birds circle cawing and screeching. Baseri looks up at them warily and screams at them.

BASERI
I'm not your next meal, go away.

He falls back unconscious as the birds circle ever lower.

ON SCREEN :

VALLEY OF FLOWERS NATIONAL PARK

□
67.
EXT. ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

RAVI dressed in a Park Ranger's uniform, exits a low wooden structure, and stands admiring the breathtaking scenery. He takes a deep breath and then begins to walk along a path until he comes to a four wheel drive vehicle.

Getting in the vehicle he sits and watches some monal and koklass pheasants and listens to the sound of the scaly-bellied woodpecker. Smiling he turns on the ignition and laughs as the birds scatter.

He drives slowly along the primitive road, passing a red fox and herds of goats and sheep.

He finally reaches the village of Reni and pulls up at a modest house where he is greeted by Sipra.

SIPRA
Daddy! Daddy! We are going to have visitors!

RAVI
Visitors?

SIPRA
Yes, grand'ma Oona says her brother Kashgar is coming and some others.

RAVI
Aah she is having one of her

premonitions!

Sipra laughs as, hand in hand, they enter the house.

INT. MODEST HOUSE - EVENING

Ravi, Sipra and Oona are sat around a low table eating a rice dish along with Grand'pa VIJAY KAUL.

RAVI
So what's this I hear about your brother coming, mother?

VIJAY
I wish Babu was coming.

RAVI
Father, elephants don't live in this climate and you know he will be working for another master.

□
68.
VIJAY
He's old like me, he will have been let go and there will be no-one to look after him. I wish...

OONA
Wishes are for fools... even so I wish you wouldn't interrupt all the time. Ravi I can feel it. Others are coming too, but I don't feel good about them, they are giving off bad vibes.

RAVI

(Laughing)
Vibes is it? Where do you pick up such words.

OONA
I read!

Ravi looks at his mother speculatively.

RAVI
And these people you don't feel good about, why is that?

OONA

I think you will need your gun.

RAVI
My gun!

OONA
I feel it, they are bad people.
Nothing good can come of their
visit.

RAVI
Well no-one has filled out a
visitor's permit, so if indeed
someone is coming, it is for
illegal purposes.

OONA
Ha!

She sits back looking smug.

OONA
I knew it!

□
69.
RAVI
Well... I mean, it's only a feeling
right?

OONA
When have my feelings ever been
wrong?

Sipra, Ravi and Vijay look at one another and roll their
eyes.

OONA
Well... alright, but only once or

twice!
Ravi, Sipra and Vijay cannot contain their laughter and laugh
uncontrollably.

Oona stands up and begins to clear the table and looks at her
son and granddaughter her mouth pursed.

OONA
Just be prepared is all I'm saying.

RAVI

I was in the boy scouts!

He and Sipra have another laughing fit.

OONA
Just remember he who laughs last
laughs longest.

RAVI
And he who doesn't laugh misses the
joke!

Oona turns on her heels and exits carrying the bowls.

RAVI
Sorry mother, I meant no
disrespect... Have you done your
homework Sipra?

SIPRA
Dad! School hasn't started yet,
it's the end of June, we just
finished our term!

RAVI
Well read something then.

□
70.
SIPRA
Who do you think your uncle is
bringing with him?

RAVI
If he is indeed coming, I have no
idea. Better ask your grandmother,
she who knows everything!

They laugh companionably as Oona returns.

OONA
Kashgar will be here in three days
time!

She turns on her heels and pulling a curtain aside disappears
behind it.

VIJAY
Maybe your brother will come too...

RAVI
Father! You know he's in the

States and is very busy with his job.

VIJAY
So? He's too busy to visit his family?

RAVI
Father he's an important man in the computer field.

VIJAY
And India isn't important in that field?

Ravi shakes his head and ushers Sipra outside with him.

Vijay looks after them and then closes his eyes and goes to sleep.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Kashgar and Rawal are sleeping behind a flimsy and temporary lean-to made out of branches and grasses.

□
71.
EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Prince and Khan lie under a large tree while Babu stands. All appear to be sleeping.

EXT. NANDA DEVI CAMP - NIGHT

Crunkhorn and Mortimer sit watching the monitors, drinking hot tea.

MORTIMER
Anything different?

CRUNKHORN
(Testily)
Not since you last asked!

MORTIMER
So still sleeping then?

CRUNKHORN
Seems that way though how they teemed up with an elephant is beyond me. Two cats I can

understand but a pachyderm... beats me.

MORTIMER

It's turning into a three ring circus..

CRUNKHORN

Now that's an idea maybe we can sell the elephant to a travelling circus.

MORTIMER

Are you referring to the lovely Bridget and her cohorts?

They laugh.

The wind picks up and they huddle holding their blankets close to them as the wind causes them to flap.

EXT. GINGOLD CAMP - NIGHT

Gingold and her crew are being waited on by servants and sit outside their tents sipping glasses of whisky.

□

72.

CARTWRIGHT

We should catch up to them tomorrow. They can't be that far ahead of us.

BRIDGET

You'd better be right. We've wasted enough time and money on this expedition as it is.

CARTWRIGHT

Just pray they don't make it to the National Park grounds.

BRIDGET

Why?

CARTWRIGHT

Because it's a protected sanctuary, we can't go in without a permit.

BRIDGET

Well we'll get one.

CARTWRIGHT

You can't just 'get one' as you put it... and besides it won't help us, the permits are just for hikers and climbers, not for hunting purposes.

BRIDGET

Well we'll just say we are climbers and hikers!

CARTWRIGHT

And no vehicles are allowed either.

Cartwright looks at her and shakes his head.

BRIDGET

(Angrily stands up)

Don't you dare shake your head at me. See that it gets done, no ifs or buts!

She storms into her tent and pulls the flaps close.

EXT. KASHGAR'S CAMP - MORNING

Kashgar and Rawal are getting ready to move out when Wanderer comes flying down and lands on Kashgar's shoulder.

□

73.

KASHGAR

What is it my friend?

By way of an answer Wanderer flies up and off leading the way north.

KASHGAR

Come on Rawal we have to hurry. We should reach Reni by nightfall if we don't run into any problems. Let us hope we make it before that Gingold woman and her crew.

They hurry off looking for Wanderer high up above.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAWN

Prince and Khan stretch and begin preening themselves as Babu slumbers on.

Mortimer suddenly flies into their midst cawing loudly.

MORTIMER

Two of our pursuers are out of action, down the gully, but the woman and her companions are hot on our trail. We have to move out and fast, come on. Today, O.K.?

And he flies off as Prince and Khan jump up and lope off after him, Babu bringing up the rear and flattening everything in his path.

Several times Babu has to be rescued by Prince or Khan when he gets stuck in a thicket or small copse and can't see his way out.

KHAN

Any more of these stops to keep you out of trouble and we'll all get caught.

Babu looks tired and depressed.

BABU

You two go on, I'll just stay here. Besides, it's not me they want it's you two. I'm useless.

□

74.

PRINCE

Now that's not true, if it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have made it across that gully would we?

BABU

Guess not. But I'm slowing you down so go, go!

KHAN

Not without you my friend, we stand together, we are a unit.

MORTIMER

I'll ride on his head and guide him. We might be slower than you guys but I'll be able to keep him out of trouble. O.K.?

Everyone looks at one another and smiling take off once more.

Up above Wanderer can see all three groups as well as a bedraggled and hurting Baseri, stumbling along, way behind everyone.

EXT. BRIDGET'S GROUP - DAY

Bridget, looking impatient, stands atop her vehicle looking around through binoculars.

BRIDGET
Can anyone see anything?

On other vehicles her companions stand looking through their binoculars. All shake their heads negatively.

BRIDGET
Well let's step on it then.

Everyone sits down inside their vehicles as they take off at a faster speed, bumping and grinding over everything in their path and causing eddies and swirls of dust, leaves and grass to swirl all over the landscape.

Several deer, coughing, dash off in panic as birds rise screeching overhead and bharal and Himalayan tahrs run, distraught for cover into the protection of the undergrowth, but not before several shots are fired, scaring the animals even more so.

□
75.
EXT. HILLOCK - DAY

Kashgar and Rawal have reached a small rise topped by a copse of trees and rhododendron bushes and look back as they hear the shots echo across the landscape.

As Kashgar and Rawal look back they catch a glimpse of animals running in all directions in obvious panic as well as the sun glancing off a windscreen.

KASHGAR
Come, Rawal we must make haste,
they are closer than I thought.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Prince and Khan stand looking at a fast flowing river.

KHAN
Looks deep.

PRINCE
Not a problem for me, come on we'll
swim for it.

KHAN
After you.

He stands and watches as Prince enters the fast flowing water and struggles to make his way across fighting the current all the way. Finally he makes it and lies, looking exhausted, some fifty feet further down the river from where Khan is.

KHAN
I think I'll wait for Babu!

PRINCE
Come on you can do it, it's not
that bad.

KHAN
Well I'm not like you, I don't take
to frigid water like your kind. I
prefer to wait.

PRINCE
Not sure Babu likes frigid water...

They glare at one another until Khan hears Babu stumbling along and Mortimer encouraging him along.

□
76.
MORTIMER
Come on Babu, we are almost there.

BABU
And where would that be?

MORTIMER
I can see Khan, just a few more
feet, come on, step on it.

BABU
I am stepping on it!

MORTIMER

O.K. O.K. Keep your hair on.

BABU
I'm not one of my ancestors the
mighty mammoths you know, I don't
have much hair.

.

KHAN
Ah there you are dear friend.

Babu squints in his direction suspiciously.

BABU
What's with the dear friend bit, or
were you referring to my guide,
Mortimer?

KHAN
You dear friend, you.

Babu and Mortimer reach Khan.

MORTIMER
So where's your pal?

KHAN
On the other side.

MORTIMER
And your are not, because...?

KHAN
If you must know I don't
particularly care for water.

BABU
(Excitedly)
Water? I love water!

□
77.
Mortimer and Khan look at him.

KHAN
You mean you didn't hear the roar
of the river?

BABU
Music to my ears, point the way
Mortimer.

KHAN
Just one teeny weeny little
problem.

BABU
Yes?

KHAN
Would you be so kind as to take me
across?

Babu peers short sightedly at Khan as Mortimer caws in
delight.

MORTIMER
So the great Khan, no pun
intended... is scared of getting
wet is he?

KHAN
Am not, it's just it's cold and
with my constitution, well it
wouldn't do for me to get sick.
Bird brain!

MORTIMER
Flattery won't work with me you
know!

BABU
Oh stop it! I'll take you.
Hop on. No claws mind you.

Khan smiles and jumps up on Babu's back as Mortimer guides
him to the water's edge, and sitting on his large head tells
him to advance.

BABU
Yeeow! That's cold!

□
78.
He hurriedly plods across and as they almost reach the other
side, where Prince is waiting for them, Babu missteps and
almost keels over on his right side causing Khan to slip off
his back and land with a big splash in the freezing water.

Khan surfaces and swims so fast his legs are still moving
when he 'flies' out of the water on the other side.

KHAN
You weren't kidding. I'm probably
going to die of pneumonia.

BABU
Sorry.

KHAN
Just be glad I didn't hold on with
my claws!

His words are lost as in a flurry of turns and twists he
tries to shake off the freezing water and get some warmth
back into his gelid limbs.

.

When he finally stops, panting, he sees all his companions
laughing their heads off.

KHAN
Cut it out. I could have frozen to
death.

PRINCE
I don't think so! Come on time to
be on our way.

As they begin to walk off they stop in their tracks hearing
shots echoing across the distance.

BABU
Quick, let's go!

EXT. HILLOCK - DAY

Kashgar and Rawal lope down the other side of the rise and
run across hard rock and towards a fast flowing river. They
stop on its banks looking for a way across but can see none.

Kashgar looks anxious as the river is fast flowing.

RAWAL
What it is Grandpa?

□
79.
KASHGAR
It's too deep and much too cold to
fiord on foot or make a swim for
it, but we have to cross over to
the other side if we are to get
away from that woman and her
cohorts.

He looks up and down the rocky landscape to either side of the river and glances at some driftwood further up the bank from where they are standing.

KASHGAR

Come, I see some driftwood, there might be something we can use to make our way across.

They run towards the pile of white driftwood and stand looking in dismay, for nothing is over a couple of feet long.

Wanderer comes zooming in and seeing their predicament takes off again before Kashgar can stop him.

KASHGAR

Now what is that bird up to?

He sits down dejectedly as Rawal stands throwing pebbles and pieces of wood into the river.

TIME PASSES

Kashgar is dozing when Rawal shakes him awake.

RAWAL

(Worried tone)
Grandpa! Wake up!

KASHGAR

What? What?

He looks at Rawal who is somewhat white of face so Kashgar stands up hurriedly.

.

KASHGAR

What is it Rawal, is that woman here? I should never have...

He suddenly finds himself facing Babu, who towers over him and Rawal.

KASHGAR

Don't move Rawal.

□

80.

He looks the elephant over and then relaxes.

KASHGAR

It's alright Rawal though he's an old bull he's not in an aggressive mode, see his ears are relaxed and if I didn't know better I'd say it was my brother in law's elephant.

RAWAL

Your brother in law's?!

KASHGAR

Yes they were working partners, a long time ago.

Babu swings his trunk and trumpets before walking down to the river's edge and standing there looking back at Kashgar and Rawal.

KASHGAR

(Excitedly)

I think he's offering to take us across! Come Rawal, give me your hand.

Hand in hand they walk down to the river's edge, and as Babu looks at Kashgar and seemingly nods his large head, Kashgar gently places Rawal on Babu's back. As Rawal holds on for dear life, Babu kneels on his front legs allowing Kashgar to climb up and sit in front of Rawal, who holds onto his grandfather's waist, his eyes as big as saucers.

Slowly Babu rises and then begins to walk across the river with the two sat on his back.

Once on the other side, he slowly kneels down again and when Kashgar and Rawal are standing on the rocky shore he stands up and lopes off with Mortimer screeching up above him.

KASHGAR

Well if that don't beat all! Come on boy, let's follow him, I think he's going where we are going!

RAWAL

Wow! Elephants are sure smart, aren't they Granddad

□

81.

EXT. BRIDGET'S GROUP - LATE AFTERNOON

One of the Humvees in the party has broken down on the rough

terrain.

CARTWRIGHT

I think we should make camp here for the night.

.

BRIDGET

Absolutely not. We have hours of daylight left, we must push on, I've lots of money riding on this expedition. And the further we let those pesky animals get ahead of us, the harder it will be to catch them. No we press on.

CARTWRIGHT

But what about the broken down vehicle?

BRIDGET

We leave it here with the driver.

CARTWRIGHT

But there's no help for miles around, you just can't abandon the man out here.

BRIDGET

I can and I am. Everyone else forward!

The driver of the broken down Humvee tries to protest but his words are lost in the dust and noise as the rest of the group take off leaving him standing beside his broken down vehicle.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE CAMP - EVENING

Mortimer and Crunkhorn are sat at their monitors watching the progress of the diverse groups.

CRUNKHORN

It's unbelievable, that's what it is!

MORTIMER

If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I would agree.

□

82.

CRUNKHORN

So why do you think the fair
Bridget has abandoned one vehicle.
A look out perhaps.

MORTIMER
Or a break down.

CRUNKHORN
Aah yes, possibility. And what
about our furry friends?

MORTIMER
Still ahead, and safe for the
moment.

CLOSE screens showing the three groups as blue figures on a
black screen.

Crunkhorn's cell phone rings.

CRUNKHORN
Yes? ... huh, huh.... No not yet...
a couple of days at the most...

O.K. Bye.
Mortimer looks at him questioningly.

CRUNKHORN
New York. Want to know if
everything is working alright and
how long we think we'll be.

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHTFALL

Bridget and her cohorts have reached the bank of the river,
she is all for crossing immediately.

.

CARTWRIGHT
But Ms Gingold, it would be madness
to cross in near darkness. We
can't tell how deep the river is
and it's going at a pretty fast
clip.

BRIDGET
Nonsense, our vehicles are all
terrain, shouldn't be a problem.
Besides our quarry seems to have
made it across!

□

83.

CARTWRIGHT

We don't know that, he could have been swept downstream, pounded on rocks by the fast flow of the river.

BRIDGET

(Peremptorily)

Night goggles, now!

One of her men roots around in one of the vehicles and grabs a pair of night vision goggles which he runs over to her.

Bridget grabs them and looks through them. O.P.O.V. There is nothing to be seen, other than a few birds and a lone deer drinking further up the river bank.

BRIDGET

Well at least we'll have fresh meat for dinner. Give me my riffle with the scope!

The same man hands her the high powered riffle.

BRIDGET

Well don't just stand there, get up here and hold the goggles while I aim.

The man jumps up on the back of Bridget's vehicle and warily holds the night goggles to her eyes as she takes aim.

The blast from the riffle sends hordes of birds squawking skyward as Bridget looks at her target with a smirk.

BRIDGET

Got him! Ha!

She throws her riffle to the man and jumps down from the back of her vehicle.

BRIDGET

What are you waiting for? Go fetch dinner. God, do I have to do everything myself?

As she walks away from her vehicle Indians are seen quickly setting up a table and chairs and tents, while one banks a fire and lights it.

Bridget sits down at the table and pounds it with her fist.

□
84.

BRIDGET

Where's my drink? God you people are so slow! And hurry up setting up my tent, we'll need to get an early night's sleep so we can take off early in the morning. Got it? The servants bow and scurry about doing as bid.

EXT. RENI VILLAGE - DUSK

Vijay and Oona are seated outside their home watching Ravi and Sipra play with a soccer ball. Oona's hands are busy, sorting the herbs and grasses she and Sipra picked that afternoon.

As it gets darker they are about to go inside when they hear a rustling off to one side.

Ravi signals everyone to be still.

RAVI

(Whispering)

Be still, do not move, could be a wild animal.

OONA

(Sarcastically)
Out here, at night? You think!

Vijay meanwhile lifts his nose up and sniffs.

OONA

You got a cold or what?

VIJAY

I smell... an elephant!

OONA

You are daft old man!

VIJAY

Maybe... but my nose has never let me down!

They all stand still and listen, but hearing nothing, Ravi shakes his head.

RAVI
Maybe it was nothing. Come on
Sipra time you were in bed anyway.

□
85.
They all enter the house.

EXT. DENSE FOLIAGE AROUND HOUSE - NIGHTFALL

Prince and Khan lie peering through the dense foliage while Babu stands and Mortimer hangs out on a branch overhead.

BABU

(Loud whisper)
I don't see why you wouldn't let me
show myself. That's my old master
Vijay Kaul I'm telling you I'd know
him anywhere.

KHAN
How can you tell you can't see an
inch in front of your face.

MORTIMER
Yeah man, you might have got us all
killed.

Babu looks in his direction with a sneer.

BABU
You telling me you couldn't fly off
anytime you want?

MORTIMER
I'm just saying, those are humans,
not exactly kind to any of our
species.

.

BABU
That's not true. Besides this is a
protected area, no hunting here.

MORTIMER
You say that, but do the humans

know that?

Everyone looks at one another questioningly.

KHAN

Better to be safe than sorry my friend. We'd best spend the night hidden and look for a way around them in the morning.

□

86.

PRINCE

Well I for one can't wait to get a little shut eye.

MORTIMER

Me neither, it ain't exactly the easiest of jobs keeping an elephant on the right track and out of trouble, I'm telling you.

Babu hangs his head as Khan and Prince give Mortimer dirty looks.

KHAN

It's O.K. Babu, it really is, he's for the birds!

This brings a smile to everyone's lips and soon they are all settled for the night.

EXT. KAUL HOME - EARLY MORNING

Mist still clings to the area as Prince, Khan, Babu and Mortimer wake and shake themselves.

The door to the house opens and Sipra looks out. She calls back inside.

SIPRA

The mist is pretty thick grand'ma, we can't go to the fields yet.

She tries to close the door but Vijay pulls it open wider and steps outside.

SIPRA

What are you doing grandfather?

VIJAY

Just stretching my legs, go back

inside and help your grandmother.

As Sipra disappears Ravi comes out, dressed in his uniform, and waves at his father before getting into his vehicle and driving off.

From behind the dense foliage the group of animals look on.

KHAN
He drives a vehicle, that's not good.

□
87.
BABU
Unless he uses it for good purposes.

The animals nod wisely and are about to set off when Vijay calls out.

VIJAY
Babu? Is that you my friend?

Before Khan and Prince can stop him Babu lumbers towards Vijay's voice trumpeting in delight which brings Oona and Sipra to the door of the house.

VIJAY
(Tears of joy in his eyes)
Babu old friend, it is you.

As Prince, Khan and Mortimer look on in amazement Babu and Vijay hug, Babu wrapping his trunk around Vijay while Oona and Sipra look on fearfully, holding onto one another.

VIJAY
It's alright Oona this is Babu my dear old friend.

Oona and Sipra keep their distance as Babu is led forward by his trunk in Vijay's hand towards the door.

VIJAY
Babu this is my dear wife, remember I used to talk to you all the time about Oona? And the little one is my granddaughter Sipra.

Babu trumpets.

OONA
You really think a dumb animal can understand you?

VIJAY
He's not dumb, just a little old like me.

He looks at Babu fondly.

VIJAY
So what brings you here my old friend?

For answer Babu rubs himself up against Vijay who giggles.

□
88.
Seeing the situation, Khan and Prince look at one another and slink off deeper into the foliage as Mortimer flies overhead.

MORTIMER
Hey where are you two going?

PRINCE
Hello! We told you, we are going north... I have to find others like me, and Khan wants to make it to Siberia, wherever that is.

MORTIMER
Well I'll guide you then.

Khan and Prince exchange looks and roll their eyes and move off.

Behind them down the path to the fields of grasses and herbs Kashgar and Rawal can be seen making their way towards the house.

Kashgar stops and sees Vijay and Babu together outside the house.

KASHGAR
Well if that don't beat all! Look at that, it's true what they say.

RAWAL
What's that granddad?

KASHGAR
That elephants never forget. Come,
that's my brother Vijay. ... Hey
Vijay.

Kashgar's shouting alerts Vijay, who in turn shouts out.

.

VIJAY
Oona! Come quick!

Oona appears at the door her face anxious as she looks out at
Vijay and Babu.

OONA
What?

VIJAY
Your brother and a little one.
Look!

□
89.
Oona looks beyond Babu and Vijay and sees the smiling face of
her brother and the nervous one of Rawal.

She runs forward, making a detour around Babu, and throws
herself at Kashgar.

OONA
Brother! I knew you were coming, I
told everyone. Oh I'm so glad you
are safe.

Kashgar smiles and hugs her to him and then pulls away and
pulls Rawal forward.

KASHGAR
This here is my grandson Rawal.
Rawal this is my sister Oona and
her husband Vijay. Babu you
already know.

OONA
Babu, you know him?!

VIJAY
Everyone knows Babu!

Sipra who has slipped out the door stand eyeing Rawal who
catches sight of her and looks her up and down.

KASHGAR
Where are the cats?

OONA
Cats, we don't keep pets.

KASHGAR
No I mean the leopard and the
tiger.

Oona, Vijay and Sipra look at Kashgar as though he is
unhinged.

VIJAY
A leopard and a tiger? Are you
suffering from sunstroke brother in
law?

KASHGAR
No of course not. Babu here was in
the company of a snow leopard and a
tiger...

□
90.
RAWAL

(Interrupting)
And a bird, granddad, don't forget
the bird.

OONA
Oh you mean your falcon!

RAWAL
No a crow.

OONA
A crow! You two had better come
inside and have some refreshments,
it sounds like you have a story to
tell. Sipra this is my brother
Kashgar whom you met when you were
little...

SIPRA
(Interrupting)
I don't remember...

KASHGAR
You were really little... and this
is my grandson Rawal, you will be

able to play together.
The two kids look at one another and give one another
sneering glances.

OONA
Well let's not stand outside here,
let us go in.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE VALLEY OF THE FLOWERS - EARLY MORNING

Bridget and her group have arrived at the entrance where they
are met by a couple of PARK RANGERS who look them, their
vehicles and their clothes, over with suspicion.

BRIDGET
I say my good men. How do we
obtain passes into the park. My
companions and I are here to do
some serious hiking.

PARK RANGER #1
You are supposed to obtain them
before you reach the park.

□
91.
PARK RANGER #2
Background checks have to be made.
We don't have the facilities for
that here.

Bridget eyes the two men, obviously unarmed, and smiles.

BRIDGET
Oh dear we had so set our hearts on
hiking this wonderful place. What
if we pay you?

PARK RANGER #2
We work for the park ma'am, it
wouldn't be worth our jobs.

BRIDGET
Well can I just wander in a little
bit?

The two rangers look at one another and shake their heads.

PARK RANGER #1
I'm sorry ma'am not without a
permit.

BRIDGET

Well I hate to do this, but...

And she signals her men, who stand up, rifles cocked and point them at the two rangers.

The two rangers are soon tied up and placed under a tree as Bridget with a flounce in her step, regains her vehicle and orders her men forward, in their vehicles.

The two rangers watch in horror as the group drives off, spewing fumes and flattening everything in their path.

The sound of the vehicles is soon lost and the two men sit looking at one another in despair.

PARK RANGER #1

My God, they have no compunction about driving into the protected area. How do we get word to the Rangers' station?

.

PARK RANGER #2

They didn't check us for our walkie talkies...

□

92.

They look at one another then manage to turn themselves back to back and begin to try and undo each other's constraints.

INT. JUNGLE FOLIAGE - LATE MORNING

Khan and Prince are making their way through the undergrowth, Mortimer flying above them when Mortimer suddenly flies off, back the way they had come.

KHAN

Now what is that darn bird up to?

PRINCE

Don't know, don't care. Let's keep moving. I can smell snow!

KHAN

Don't be daft, snow doesn't smell!

PRINCE

How would you know!

KHAN

I just know, so there!

They continue on their way and come to a small clearing and are about to step into it to cross over when they both stand shock still.

Over the noise of the creatures in the undergrowth and the birds in the tree tops can be heard the distinct sound of car engines.

PRINCE

I thought we'd be safe, I thought vehicles couldn't come in here.

KHAN

Betcha ten to one it's that woman and her companions, only they would dare break the law. Quick, across the clearing, we'll have to make a run for it, or we are goners

The two leap across the clearing and are disappearing into the foliage on the other side when a shot rings out and ricochets off a tree near to Khan's head.

Looking at one another with terror in their eyes, Khan and Prince, race off, crashing their way through the undergrowth, all semblance of hiding forgotten.

□

93.

Mortimer dives down and flies between the two of them, his eyes as terrified as those of the two cats.

MORTIMER

It's that woman and her cronies.

KHAN

You think!

All three keep racing as the sound of vehicles crashing behind them is heard.

Suddenly there is a clap of thunder and rain begins to fall in torrents, making the way slippery and treacherous, though more so for the vehicles following.

Soon the vehicles are floundering in mud and leaves as Bridget's voice is heard screaming at her companions to drive

on. Suddenly there is a big crashing sound as two of the vehicles smash into one another and the others skid to a stop, close to hitting them, behind them.

Bridget stands, furious on top of one of the following vehicles.

BRIDGET

Get out of the way! Move, move, move!

But the vehicles are damaged and mired down.

EXT. VALLEY OF FLOWERS ENTRANCE - DAY

The two rangers, now drenched find their hands slipping and undoing their bindings really difficult. They are cussing when Wanderer flies down, scaring the two men.

PARK RANGER #1

My God. Where did that bird come from? He's not one of ours.

WANDERER

(To himself)

I belong to no-one.

He slowly advances on the two men, who back off jumping since their feet are tied, one falling down over a root on the wet and slick ground while the other one falls down to his knees and then falls forward flat on his face!

Wanderer jumps on his back causing the man to cry out in terror.

□

94.

Help me!

alive.

PARK RANGER #1

He's going to eat me

PARK RANGER #2

He's not a scavenger.

PARK RANGER #1

All his type are scavengers, I tell you he's going to eat me alive.

Don't just lie there.

PARK RANGER #2

And just what is it you want me to do?

While they talk and argue Wanderer manages to bite through the Park Ranger #1's ties.

.

The man rolls over his face astounded.

PARK RANGER #1

I don't believe it, the bird undid my ties.

PARK RANGER #2

Told you he wasn't a scavenger. Hurry up, undo your feet and then come and undo me.

As Park Ranger #1 hastily undoes his feet, Wanderer rises and flies off. Park Ranger #1 takes his walkie talkie out of his back pocket and begins to call for help.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Prince and Khan come to a large copse and quickly ascend the tallest tree there, hiding among the foliage as Mortimer, hovers and then flies back the way they had come.

KHAN

Just so he doesn't give away our position!

PRINCE

He's a bird but he aint that stupid, I hope!

EXT. SKIES ABOVE AREA - AFTERNOON

Wanderer and Mortimer meet up.

□

95.

WANDERER

I think help is on the way, just hope it's not too late. Where are Prince and Khan?

MORTIMER

Up a tree!

Wanderer laughs.

WANDERER

A few days ago I observed another group of humans, up the mountainside. Want to come with me and see what they are up to?

MORTIMER

You're kidding me, another group? Just how many people want these two cats.

WANDERER

A lot, apparently.

The two fly off towards the mountains seen through the pouring rain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE CAMP - AFTERNOON

The rain has turned to sleet and the wind is howling as Mortimer and Crunkhorn sit inside their vehicle huddled up against the cold.

Crunkhorn looks out of the window his face glum.

CRUNKHORN

Bloody weather.

MORTIMER

Look on the bright side, this will soon turn to snow, and what does a snow leopard like?

CRUNKHORN

Right, snow!

They both peer out the windshield and watch anxiously as one of their thermal blankets goes tumbling down the mountainside in the wind..

□

96.

MORTIMER

We'll have to share the other one for warmth tonight, if this weather keeps up.

Up above the tumbling blanket Wanderer catches sight of the silver object and dives down, passing Mortimer below him, who turns and follows him down.

They both land and stand on the soggy ground looking at the silvery object.

MORTIMER
What is it?

WANDERER
Something that covers humans I
think.

MORTIMER
So? What's your interest?

WANDERER
Have you noticed that that woman
and her companions are always
looking at those square things with
pictures on them?

MORTIMER
So what?

WANDERER
Maybe we can cover them and then
they can't see Khan and Prince!.

MORTIMER
Hey that's brilliant ... but...

WANDERER
What?

MORTIMER
How do we get it to where they are?

WANDERER
Air mail!

Following Wanderer's example, Mortimer picks one corner of
the blanket up in his beak and the two birds wing their sway
skyward.

□
97.
EXT. FOREST CLEARING - LATE AFTERNOON

Bridget is furious and stomping around on the back of her
vehicle, dressed in a southwester style hat, boots and
raincoat, as she watches Cartwright set up the monitors and
computer equipment.

BRIDGET
Well? Anything?

CARTWRIGHT

Not yet, this bloody weather is causing interference, atmospheric interference.

BRIDGET

I don't give a damn about atmosphere, just find them. And someone get on the horn with Crunkhorn... maybe his equipment is better than this crap.

As she turns away furious, Mortimer and Wanderer are seen high up above, almost hidden by the pouring rain, as they and the blanket blend into the rain.

The slowly descend and when they are over Cartwright's truck and equipment, at a signal from Wanderer's hooded eye, Mortimer lets go of his end of the blanket as does Wanderer. They watch as the blanket floats down, heavy with rain and plops on top of Cartwright and his equipment.

.

BRIDGET

What the!...

As she looks around her face red with anger the noise of a helicopter is heard and before she or her men can do anything, especially Cartwright who is trying to get out from under the solar blanket, a loudspeaker blares out.

VOICE O.C.

Cease and desist! Drop your weapons.

As Bridget and her companions look up in dismay they see a large helicopter from the doors of which, machine gun toting SOLDIERS have their guns trained on them down below.

BRIDGET

(Aside to Cartwright)

Did you get through to Crunkhorn?

□

98.

CARTWRIGHT

(Whispering back)

No!

Bridget gives him a look that says it all as the helicopter hovers a few feet above the ground sending rain and wind borne leaves and mud all over Bridget and her companions.

The Soldiers jump from the helicopter and have soon rounded up Bridget and her cohorts and stand, their guns trained on them as Park Rangers, led by Ravi run into the clearing, following by Vijay and Kashgar atop of Babu.

KASHGAR

Where are the cats? They didn't get them did they?

Everyone looks around the clearing and Kashgar slips down from Babu and bends over looking for any sign of the cats' passage.

He suddenly shouts out.

KASHGAR

They went this way, they are heading north. They will be safe.

Bridget and Cartwright exchange looks as everyone else looks happy.

RAVI

That is indeed good news, let us hope nothing else interferes with their quest to reach their companions.

Bridget steps forward and addresses Ravi and the soldiers.

BRIDGET

Look here, we were just off course, we got mired in the mud. We just wanted to explore this beautiful part of the world.

.

RAVI

And I'm placing you and your men under arrest for unlawful entry into a national protected park ... and for carrying weapons. Not only will there be a hefty fine...

BRIDGET

I can pay, just tell me how much!

□

99.

RAVI

And a long prison term. It will be a long time before you will be able

to return to your native land.
Fortunately for the cats you were
pursuing they should be back on
their native turf in a day or so.

BRIDGET

(Whining)
We are not the only ones chasing
the cats, you know.

RAVI
Oh so you were chasing them?

BRIDGET

(Flustered)
Well yes and no. But there are
others.

RAVI
If you mean the man you left for
dead, we have him, and his injuries
are being tended to.

BRIDGET
No I mean some others who are
waiting at the head of the valley
to cut off their passage, the only
way the cats can get to where they
want to go.

RAVI
If you are referring to Messrs.
Crunkhorn and Mortimer we know all
about them. It will only be a
matter of a few hours before we
have them in custody too.

Mortimer and Wanderer who had been observing the going ons
from the safety of a tall tree turn and look at one another.

MORTIMER
Did he say Mortimer?

WANDERER
Who's your daddy?!

MORTIMER
That's not funny and...

□
100.

WANDERER
What now?

MORTIMER
Well hadn't we better go see what we can do? I mean Prince and Khan are going in the direction of the two men mentioned and this lot aren't going to be able to do anything for a couple of hours. We have to warn Prince and Khan.

WANDERER
Hey, not bad thinking for a bird of doubtful heritage. Come on, follow

me.

As they wing their way northward Mortimer protests.

MORTIMER
Why can't you follow me for a change.

WANDERER
Because I'm faster, can fly higher, and have better eyesight, now flap your wings instead of your beak!

EXT. MOUNTAIN CAMP - LATE AFTERNOON

The sky is dark as rain continues to pour down. Crunkhorn and Mortimer sit huddled around the computer screens watching two light blue forms make their way in their direction. The machines crackle as thunder rumbles in the background.

CRUNKHORN
(Gleefully rubbing his

hands)
Won't be long now, we should have them in our sights soon, then they'll be mine, all mine!

EXT. LOWER SLOPES OF THE HIMALAYAS - LATE AFTERNOON

Prince and Khan are seen making their way across a valley to where, up ahead, can be seen a narrow pass leading up the mountainside.

□
101.

EXT. SKIES ABOVE AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Mortimer is valiantly trying to keep up with Wanderer.
Finally tired, wet and cold he calls out.

MORTIMER

Hey, can we take a breather,
please.

Wanderer looks back and down at Mortimer and slowly flies
down to his level.

MORTIMER

A thought crossed my mind...

WANDERER

Short trip was it?

MORTIMER

Please! I'm too tired to riposte.

WANDERER

Just for that, using a good word,
I'll let you rest a bit and you can
impart your idea to me. Come on,
down there looks good.

They wing their way down to a copse of large trees which is
filled with all kinds of birds seeking shelter from the
storm.

Mortimer and Wanderer land on a branch and the other birds
give Wanderer a wide berth.

WANDERER

So spit it out.

All the other birds look at Mortimer in fascination expecting
him to spit out some small rodent or something.

.

MORTIMER

Well, you know those things the
humans keep looking at, the ones
where they can see where Khan and
Prince are?

Wanderer nods.

MORTIMER

Well we confused the man with the woman so how about if we blocked the view of the men on the mountainside?

□
102.

WANDERER
Hmm, that's a tough one. Let me see. We used a blanket on the others, it had some effect, what could we use on these men?

They sit, pace and preen their feather, each of them thinking hard.

Suddenly Mortimer laughs so hard he almost falls off the branch.

WANDERER
What? What it is?

MORTIMER
I was just thinking... once, and only once mind you, I was, well...

WANDERER
Come on, out with it!

MORTIMER
Well I'd eaten too many berries and you wouldn't believe the mess I made around the home tree. Quite put out the little woman, bless her.

Wanderer looks at Mortimer and smiles.

WANDERER
That's great that is. We do our thing all over the things they look at and they can't see Prince and Khan. Brilliant!

Mortimer looks mystified.

MORTIMER
Oh on the things, I was thinking on the men!

WANDERER
Now that's thinking like a bird brain that is. You have to think like something that actually has a

brain. Of course not on the men on the thing they look at.

MORTIMER

Not sure I can eat enough to cover them!

□
103.
Wanderer looks around the trees and turns with a wicked grin.

WANDERER

I think I have an idea. Nothing like throwing a party!

As he rises squawking drawing the attention of all the birds present, Mortimer looks at him wondering what he is up to.

EXT. KAUL HOME - NIGHTFALL

Kashgar, Rawal, Sipra, Oona and Vijay are seated inside eating dinner.

.

VIJAY

I wonder how long it is going to take Ravi to reach the men on the mountain.

OONA

As long as he doesn't catch his death of cold. I hope he's wrapped up warmly.

VIJAY

He's in a helicopter, he'll be fine.

KASHGAR

Do you know if he reached his brother in New York?

VIJAY

Nobody ever tells me anything, so I don't know.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHTFALL

Ravi and several of the well armed soldiers are seated in the helicopter watching a small screen as the lights of the helicopter strafe the ground down below.

PILOT
Did you reach your brother in New
York Ravi?

RAVI
Yes I did, he's going to disable
the satellites from there.

□
104.
PILOT
He can do that?

RAVI
If he says so, then yes.

PILOT
Anything on the screen yet?

RAVI
No just terrain.

EXT. ON THE GROUND NEAR BASE OF HIMALAYAS - NIGHTFALL

Prince and Khan, hearing the sound of the approaching
helicopter seek a hiding place.

PRINCE
There should be a cave hereabouts
we can find shelter in. The humans
won't be able to find us there.
Come on, quick, just a few more
feet. I'm recognizing where I am
now.

The two cats run off up an escarpment and Prince leads them
into a cave, scarce discerned in the rock formation, the grey
stone hidden by the driving rain.

EXT. SKY ABOVE MOUNTAIN CAMP - NIGHTFALL

Wanderer and Mortimer leading a large FLOCK of BIRDS of all
kinds of species wing their way to where the faint glimmer
from Crunkhorn's and Mortimer's screens can be seen and the
two men are sat huddled around them.

Suddenly all the screens and equipment are smothered by large
droppings from all the birds while at the same time a huge
EXPLOSION causes the two men to look up their faces showing
their dismay.

CRUNKHORN
What the!?

MORTIMER
Not our satellite? Please God not
that!

□
105.
Crunkhorn looks back down at Mortimer his face showing his
anguish and then his disgust as more bird poop lands on him
as well as Mortimer.

CRUNKHORN
What the?!

Both he and Mortimer look at their equipment now covered in
bird poop as Wanderer and Mortimer fly off with their
feathered companions screeching and cawing in delight.

As the birds fly off southward they pass the helicopter
winging it's way towards the men's camp site.

From the protection of the cave's entrance Prince and Khan
laugh in delight, high five one another, while off in the
distance, several Snow Leopards are seen, along with brown
bears, several goats and sheep watching the spectacular
conflagration up in the heavens.

THE END.

□
106.
The final scene; with Wanderer organizing tens of thousands
Raptors of every species, to form a massive flying shield
that'll blot out Gingold's and Crunkhorn's Satellites.
Allowing Prince and Khan to make it through the Himalayas.

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