



**A REAL FAN!**

EXPEDITION TO KHUMBU

An Episode Of The New Jonny Quest Series

Written by

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~~Yeti Script~~

'JONNY'

FIRST DRAFT  
Third edit by GPL  
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When skies are hanged and oceans drowned, the single secret will  
still be man.

E. E. CUMMINGS

## PREVIEW

FADE IN:

EXT. THE HIMALAYAS, KHUMBU PROVINCE - DAY

The SOUND of hurricane force winds. The mother of all blizzards rages, an other-worldly vista of white and grey.

The CAMERA roams through this wild and hostile world, probing the blinding snow to REVEAL:

WIDE EXPANSES OF UNTRAMMELED SNOWFIELDS ...

DESOLATE RIDGES OF SNOW AND ROCK ...

ALL-ENVELOPING SNOWDRIFTS ...

FOREBODING GOTHIC CAVES - ENTRANCES LINED WITH ICY STALACTITES ...

An utterly alien and merciless world, which tolerates little life, let alone that of fragile humankind.

GUTTURAL RASPING BREATHING begins to CUT through the howling gale. A beat later, we HEAR heavy footfalls as THE CAMERA FINDS

A RIDGE

in the lee of a huge stark cliff. The cliff gives the ridge some protection from the storm.

The RASPING BREATH, the HEAVY FOOTFALLS grow nearer and the mood builds, increasingly ominous.

SUDDENLY - A GREAT BULKY FORM

rears up from behind the ridge, FILLING FRAME, cutting out the brilliant white light. From this ANGLE, the creature is huge, looming.

AN EERIE WAILING CALL

rises above the storm - hair-raising and unknown.

As the creature scans its surroundings, we CLOSE IN and the back light catches the thick fur which fringes the massive head. Is this the legendary Yeti? The CALL ECHOES.

Another eerie CALL as a similar figure emerges over the ridge.

CUT TO:

BIG CLOSE UP - THE FIRST CREATURE'S HEAD.

It turns into the light and its details are revealed: a human in a big shaggy parka, the parka's warm hood making the head seem huge and ringed with fur. Frost-rimed goggles and a mouth and beard beneath a protective breathing bib. The figure pulls the bib aside to reveal that he is a SHERPA.

Another CALL.

SHERPA  
(fearful)  
Mehtah! Yeti!

The SECOND FIGURE figure pulls his bib aside to reveal the familiar features of DR. QUEST.

DR. QUEST  
Let us keep calm, (name).

Both men look up and around, trying to penetrate the snow flurries. As they search:

SHERPA  
(sheepish)  
It is automatic reaction, Dr. Quest.  
For generations we have believed that  
to look upon face of Abominable  
Snowman is to invite death.

SUDDENLY - WALKIE-TALKIE STATIC! THEN A VOICE:

PROF. KYLE (OC)  
Dr. Quest ... this is Professor  
Kyle. Do you read me?

DR. QUEST  
(operating his walkie  
talkie)  
This is Dr. Quest receiving you  
loud and clear, Kyle.

KYLE (OC)  
- There's a massive storm front  
headed your way - we should all  
head back to Khumbu Monastery.

DR. QUEST  
Roger. We're on our way ...

Dr. Quest looks around. INTERCUT HIS POV - the surrounding mountains obscured by gusting snow flurri; with the following lines:

DR. QUEST

You know, Kyle, I am beginning to feel that there are Yeti here!

KYLE (OC)

(breaking in, static, laughs)

The famous Benton Quest "feeling it"? Not very scientific ...

DR. QUEST

Not very scientific at all. If it were just the storm, I might continue the search for hard scientific evidence but ...

CUT TO:

UP SHOT - A HANGING SNOWBANK

accumulating beneath a distinctive bear head-shaped rocky-outcrop. As Quest's lines continue, we ZOOM IN TO A TIGHT SHOT of the rocky "Bear Head".

DR. QUEST (OC)

... there's an incipient avalanche building up beneath the Bear's Head and to use my son Jonny's phrase, "We gotta get outta here"!

IN TIGHT SHOT - THE BEAR HEAD

rotates (to accommodate a POV from the other side of the mountain) and a binocular matte drops over it.

KYLE (OC)

Then we'll meet at the Monastery.

CUT TO:

AN ANGLE ON - KYLE AND HIS HIMALAYAN PARTNER.

Kyle lowers the binoculars. He has a walkie-talkie in his other hand and his face (ringed by the parka) is bare.

The Himalayan's eyes are hidden behind snow shades. A parka surrounds his face and his nose, mouth and chin are covered by a scarf.

DR. QUEST (OC)

Roger - and out.

Kyle collapses the walkie-talkie antenna thoughtfully.

KYLE

(sotto)

Out is right, Benton Quest.

(turns to the Himalayan)

An avalanche!

(brutal, short laugh)

It's karma!

(points to the Bear's Head)

A grenade in that bank will do it.

The Himalayan hesitates and Kyle reacts angrily.

KYLE

Do it, man - Benton Quest may have traced the beast, but I'll be the one who brings the first Yeti back alive!

The Himalayan reaches down to a backpack at his feet and extracts the stock and barrel of a large bore rifle.

He fits the barrel to the stock, then reaches into the backpack again, taking out

CLOSE - A GRENADE HOLDER.

He screws the Grenade Holder to the end of the rifle.

WIDER - THE HIMALAYAN

works the rifle's bolt, slamming a blank (bullet-less) cartridge into the breech. He takes off his shades and we see that he has one startlingly milky white wall eye. He takes aim at

HIS POV - THE "BEAR'S HEAD".

BACK TO - THE HIMALAYAN.

His one functioning eye flicks to Kyle, needing confirmation of the order to kill Quest.

KYLE

(furious)

Do it!

CLOSE - THE HIMALAYAN'S FINGER

squeezes the trigger - BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

CUT TO:

The snowbank beneath the "Bear's Head" - an eruption.

CUT TO:

Quest and the Sherpa spin in alarm.

CUT TO:

DR. QUEST'S POV - THE SNOWBANK

dissolves into a rolling avalanche - a terrifying tonnage of snow and rock which THUNDERS down the mountain gathering bulk and momentum with each second.

CUT TO:

Dr. Quest and the Sherpa slipping and sliding down the mountain.

Dr. Quest falls - begins to roll, out of control.

CUT TO:

The avalanche - all consuming. The SOUND is deafening and FRAME shakes violently.

(SPECIAL EFFECT) PULL BACK TO - A HUGE VISTA - MASSIVE SCALE.

The entire top half of FRAME is filled with the now gigantic, unstoppable mass of rock, snow and ice.

And there, below it, no more than tiny dots in this stupendous landscape, are Dr. Quest and the Sherpa. It is inevitable that they will be engulfed ...

CUT TO:

The Sherpa running .... stumbling ...

CUT TO:

Dr. Quest tumbling down the mountain. His walkie-talkie goes flying.

CUT TO:

The Sherpa, SCREAMING as the avalanche engulfs him. In an instant, he disappears from view, smothered in rolling, RUMBLING, THUNDERING snow.

CUT TO:

Dr. Quest. Tumbling, he slams into a rocky ridge. GASPS in pain. He staggers to his feet, looks back, reacts in horror.

HIS POV - THE AVALANCHE

almost on top of him.

BACK TO - DR. QUEST

as he springs over the rocky ridge and

ANOTHER ANGLE - DR. QUEST

falls down the reverse of the ridge - a sheer cliff face. -

ANOTHER ANGLE - DR. QUEST

hits the soft snow at the bottom of the cliff - and is half buried.

A BEAT LATER - THE AVALANCHE

ROARS over the ridge and the screen is filled with roiling snow - a long moment of FRAME-SHAKING chaos.

Slowly, the PICTURE CLEARS. CAMERA sweeps across the wake of the avalanche - tumbled ice and snow across which the continuing gale blows explosive flurries.

THAT UNEARTHLY ANIMAL HOWL

cuts through the gale, ECHOING. Very close. Inquisitive SNUFFLING.

CUT TO:

A SUBJECTIVE POV - SWEEPING ACROSS THE SNOW.

The POV passes over a small eruption of snow, then swings and CLOSES IN, SNUFFLING suspiciously, as



A MITTENED HAND

struggles to free itself, reaching up out of the chaotic snow and ice.

THE SNUFFLING GIVES WAY TO A CURIOUS YETI-HOWL

as the POV moves toward the hand - fast. As the POV approaches the struggling hand - the SOUND of CRUNCHING SNOW .

The hand fights, reaching upwards - but its movements grow weaker until, when the POV is almost on top of it, the hand is finally still. And, as the POV stops right over the hand

A SHADOW

falls over the hand and the surrounding snow. It is huge and squat. Clearly not entirely human. The shadow reaches out - a huge hand/paw (shadow) - toward Dr. Quest's despairing, dying, mittened hand and we know that Dr. Quest has found his Yeti. Or rather, the Yeti has found the Doctor.

But is it too late?

FADE OUT

END PREVIEW



## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

THE VIRTUAL WORLD OF JONNY QUESTAGAINST A FANTASTIC GRAPHIC BACKGROUND - A HUGE LURCHING  
FIGURE

approaches, looming, threatening, making terrible GRUNTING  
THREATS. It's huge arms are long enough to reach almost  
to the ground and its claws are diamond-tipped. Its eyes  
glow with murderous fires and ...

... there's something wrong here. This is not the  
realistic world of JONNY QUEST but another wild dimension  
filled with strange light and shade - and moving in a  
peculiar, angular way.

A HAND, HOLDING AN EXTRAORDINARY HIGH TECH GATLING-LASER

enters FOREGROUND, raising the weapon to eye level -  
lining up on the lurching, monstrous figure - which, we  
now realize is a nightmare-tech interpretation of an  
Abominable Snowman.

ZZZTTTTTTTTT! ZZZTTTTTTTTT! - LASER FIRE

blasts from the weapon - the first few bolts missing  
completely and only throwing the Yeti into a increasing  
frenzy. Then

FFFZZZLAATTTTTTTTTT! - DIRECT HITS! - THE YETI

reacts, staggers, BELLOWING in rage and pain.

CUT TO:

THE REAL WORLD OF JONNY QUEST

INT: A HOTEL IN NEPAL - NIGHT

Hadji and Jessie enter - reacting violently as they SEE:

THEIR POV - JONNY

is "fitted" with a Virtual Reality System: an all  
enclosing helmet wireless-connected to a small back pack;  
cables lead from the back pack to thick gauntlets, one of  
which holds the wild laser-gatling which in turn is wired  
into the gauntlet.

A wireless antenna swings loosely from the back pack, a similar antenna attached to a PC on the bed.

Jonny is moving as if in a dream - headed directly toward a huge plate glass window, which gives a view out onto an astonishing Himalayan vista.

Just as Jonny's about to crash through the window

CUT TO:

Jessie and Hadji leaping forward.

JESSIE AND HADJI (TOGETHER)

Jonny! Look out!

CUT TO:

Hadji pulls Jonny back from the window and both tumble to the ground (VSFX). The VR helmet goes flying.

CUT TO:

Jessie rapidly hits keys on the PC.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE PC SCREEN - THE MONSTROUS YETI

which Jonny was blasting. As Jessie hits keys, the image begins to break up and the word "TERMINATE" flashes big.

CUT TO:

The VR helmet. As it stops rolling

SMASH TO BIG CLOSE UP - THE TINY SCREEN IN THE HELMET.

An identical image to the PC screen - the monstrous Yeti, breaking up, fading as Jessie dumps the program.

CUT TO:

Jonny and Hadji on the floor, Jonny sitting up.

JONNY

Oh, man - you guys blew it! I was just about to blast that Snowman to kingdom come---

JESSIE

hauls Jonny to his feet ...

JESSIE

Yeah - and you were just about to  
blast right through that window!

... then hauls Hadji to his ...

HADJI

You would have enjoyed kingdom  
come before the Yeti!

The SOUND of the hotel door opening and Jonny, Hadji and  
Jessie around.

THEIR POV - RACE

in the doorway, grim.

JESSIE

(alarmed)

What is it, Dad?

THE SOUND OF A POWERFUL MILITARY HELICOPTER.

SMASH CUT TO:

A NEPALESE ARMY HELICOPTER making a dramatic banking turn  
against a sheer Himalayan cliff.

NOTE: this is no ordinary machine but one modified and  
equipped for high altitude operations. Research and push  
the technology.

RACE (OC)

There! There's the avalanche ...

THE HELICOPTER'S POV - A MASSIVE SWATHE

of icy, rocky debris - as if a giant plow has churned down  
the mountainside.

INT: THE HELICOPTER - DAY

Race and a NEPALESE ARMY PILOT are in the front seats,  
mic'd and wearing shades. Jonny, Hadji and Jessie are in  
back - everyone looking out and down toward the mountain  
slope.

RACE  
 (to the pilot)  
 Put us down at the foot of the  
 avalanche ...

CUT TO:

The helicopter banks dramatically, dropping away from us and diminishing rapidly to a mere dot against the blinding snow.

RACE (OC)  
 We'll climb up to Bear's Head and go on to Khumbu. If your dad's alive, Jonny, we'll find him!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT: THE MOUNTAIN/ICE AND ROCK CLIFF - DAY

FPOOOOSH HHHHHHHHHH! - AN EXPLOSION OF COMPRESSED AIR

A PROJECTILE GRAPNEL flies into FRAME and embeds its tip in the icy rock face. With a HYDRAULIC HISSSSSS support struts unfold and help to stabilize it as its trailing rope goes taut.

TIGHT - A PAIR OF HANDS

hauls itself up the rope to the grapnel, appearing from below the shelf.

WIDER - RACE

(in full climbing gear) hoists himself up onto the ridge. He takes a super-tech PITON GUN from his backpack and positions it against the rockface.

HIS FINGER

squeezes the trigger and, with a SOUND like a nail gun, an alloy PITON is driven into the wall.

WIDER - RACE

snaps a lifeline to it ...

RACE  
 Tying you in now. Here it comes!

... and flings the line over the edge...

CUT TO:

BELOW THE LEDGE - JESSIE

holding onto the mountain with one hand stuck deeply in a fissure of rock, ready to catch the rope with her other hand. She misjudges the rope's trajectory and

CLOSE - THE ROPE

SMACKS her in the face. She GASPS in pain but nonetheless manages to catch it.

CUT BACK TO: \_

Race as Jessie hauls herself up onto the ledge, her face bruised and bloodied by the rope.

RACE

(alarmed)

Jess!

JESSIE

It's nothing. Don't fuss, dad.

She unclips herself from the rope and coils it to throw down to the others.

JESSIE

Here it comes!

She hurls the rope out and down.

CUT TO:

FURTHER DOWN THE SLOPE - JONNY

the rope WHACKS him in the face - just as it did Jessie.

JONNY

Owwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww!

CUT TO:

A LONG, LONG, WIDE SHOT - THE FOUR CLIMBERS

sitting on the ledge - minute specks in this overwhelming realm of vast snow and rock.

RACE

See anything?

JONNY

(discouraged)

Nothing ... absolutely no sign of  
Dad or the expedition.

CLOSER - THE GROUP

sits, legs dangling over the side, catching its breath -  
all save Jonny, who grimly trains binoculars upon the  
terrain.

HADJI

Do not despair, my friend.

Jessie lays a hand on Jonny's shoulder as Hadji continues.

JESSIE

Maybe the avalanche just delayed  
him. Maybe he's already back at  
Khumbu monastery.

RACE

(looks around)

We should try to get there before ...

RACE'S POV - THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAIN TOPS

dark, menacing storm clouds are moving in...

RACE (OC)

... that storm breaks.

BACK TO - THE GROUP

beginning to climb once more.

HADJI

It is true what they say - that  
the mountain makes its own  
weather.

DISSOLVE TO:

A dark sky. Jonny appears through the gloom and the light  
snow, wipes his goggles clear as he peers around. He tugs  
at the line around his waist and waits for the replying  
tugs. He then trudges forward on a downhill slope, moving  
OFF SCREEN. After a few moments Hadji moves past the  
camera ... then Jessie ... and finally Race, all connected  
by the lifeline, Race being the anchor.



NOTE: throughout the scene, the WIND kicks up, HOWLING through the mountains. The scenes become progressively darker and we know that we're in for a major blizzard.

BACK TO - JONNY - CLOSE.

He trudges forward through the snow.

HADJI (OC)

Jonny ... !

Jonny stops, waits for Hadji to catch up...

HADJI

Slow down - we are travelling too fast for the conditions!

JONNY

I can't slow down, Hadj.

As he speaks, he turns to resume the climb ...

JONNY

What if my dad---

... takes one step and is cut short as

ONE SIDE OF A SUPER-TECH POLYGONAL SPRING-LOADED CAGE

SNAPS up from beneath the snow where it was hidden.

HADJI

leaps forward ...

HADJI

Jonny!

... and SNAP-SNAP-SNAP-SNAP-SNAP - the remaining sides to the cage enclose them. NOTE: this cage operates like an inverted clamshell scoop so that once the sides have SNAPPED into place, the safety line feeds through the top of the cage; Jonny and Hadji are trapped inside, still attached to the line.

Jonny fights to escape the cage, a visceral CRY of anger and frustration exploding from his lips. His efforts rock the cage violently.

HADJI

No! Wait!

But Hadji's urgent warning is too late and the cage begins slide down the slope, dragging the lifeline behind it.

CUT TO:

Jessie, moving forward through the snow, as the line WHIPS taut. She CRIES OUT in alarm and shock as she is dragged off her feet.

CUT TO:

Race, reacting as Jessie's CRY ECHOES, barely cutting through the worsening gale. An instant later, the

LIFELINE

TWANGS tauts and

WIDER - RACE

is hauled forward - a GASP of surprise. He stumbles, almost falls, leans back with all his strength, digging in.

CLOSE - HIS BOOTS

slip and slide, seeking traction but

WIDER - RACE

is hauled down the slope, fighting, body posture like a water-skier.

CUT TO:

Jonny and Hadji, helpless in the cage, which careens down the mountain, sending up a plume of snow behind them...

CUT TO:

Jessie dragged through the snow, struggling unsuccessfully to get to her feet as her body is battered by the icy, rocky slope.

CUT TO:

Race leaning back against the lifeline, fighting for survival. A Nantucket sleigh ride Himalayan style.

Then Race stumbles - goes flying face forward.

CUT TO:

The cage picks up speed.

CUT TO:

Jessie dragged through the snow.

CUT TO:

Race dragged through the snow - but trying to plant his ice pick.

CUT TO:

JONNY AND HADJI'S TUMBLING POV

the slope ahead gives way to a sheer drop.

JONNY & HADJI (OC) CUT TO

Whoooooaoaoaoaoaoaoaoao!

The cage goes over the edge. A beat later  
Jessie follows.

CUT TO:

Race, fighting the lifeline. He reacts ...

RACE

Fur ...

HIS CAREENING POV - THE SHEER DROP UP AHEAD.

RACE (OC)

... on a catfish!

BACK TO --RACE

even as he is tumbled through the icy, he reaches out with his ice pick and SLAMMMMS! it into the mountainside.

BIG CLOSE UP - THE PICK'S TIP

digs in - and holds.

The lifeline TWANGS taut.

FULL FRAME - RACE

is spreadeagled - one hand grasping the ice pick handle, the other the lifeline.

WIDE - THE SCENARIO:

Jonny and Hadji, in their cage, dangle at the end of the lifeline. Jessie hangs above them and everyone depends on Race who fights to hold his position at the edge of the sheer drop.

BACK TO - RACE

sprawled at the edge of the cliff, his strong arm having firmly implanted his ice axe in the snow at the last possible moment. He shakes out the cobwebs. He cannot see what is happening beyond and below him:

RACE

Jessie? Are you OK? What's happening down there?

CUT TO:

Jessie hanging ...

JESSIE

I'm OK, dad ...  
(mutters)  
... kinda ...

She looks down, puts her hands on the line and tries to haul Jonny and Hadji and the cage up (VSFX) ...

RACE (OC)

Jonny? Hadji?

CUT TO:

Jonny and Hadji in the cage.

JONNY

We're OK, Race ...

HADJI

(looking down, mutters)  
Metaphorically ...

HIS SPINNING POV - THE TERRIBLE DROP BENEATH THEM.

HADJI (OC)  
... speaking, of course ...

CUT TO:

Race spreadeagled, anchoring the entire string, straining to haul everyone back up - and failing.

RACE  
I can't haul you back up. You're too heavy. You have to climb back up under your own power.

CUT TO: -

Jessie, giving up her efforts to haul Jonny and Hadji up - and beginning to unclip herself from the line.

JESSIE  
That's going to be easier said than done, Dad - but I have an idea!

CUT TO

Race, spreadeagled, anchoring the entire potential disaster. Even as he speaks ...

RACE  
What idea?

... the icepick slips and ...

WIDER - THE ENTIRE CHAIN - JESSIE/JONNY/HADJI  
drops a foot or two.

JONNY/JESSIE/HADJI  
(Ad lib exclamations: shock and fear)

CUT TO:

Jessie. Now unclipped from the line, she swings dangerously from her two-handed grip on the rope but then manages to wrap her legs around the line. She slides down to the cage, CALLING down to Jonny and Hadji.

JESSIE

We got to dump the cage! We got to get you out of this thing somehow!

Working fast, she crawls around and down from the top of the cage, searching for a mechanism which will release it.

JONNY

Careful, Jess!

JESSIE

(searching)

I never understand why people say that. It's like ... what - I'm stupid enough to take an impossible risk? ...

She finds a locking mechanism from which a short lever protrudes.

HADJI

But indeed you are taking an impossible risk----

He is interrupted by a series of almost simultaneous events: as Jessie manipulates the lever experimentally

1. The cage springs open - like a quartered orange ...
2. Jessie (who was stretched across it) is thrown clear, CRYING OUT in surprise and fear ...
3. The cage falls away ...
4. At the last second, Jessie, falling, manages to grab Jonny's foot.
5. Her weight, hanging from Jonny's foot, WHIPS the safety line so that ...
6. Race's icepick slips again - and the entire line drops another couple of feet before the pick digs in.

CUT TO:

JESSIE, JONNY, HADJI'S POV - SPINNING WILDLY.

Throughout, VAFX of alarm, fear, etc.

CUT TO:

LONG/WIDE - A SHOT TO INCLUDE

Race atop the cliff, the line stretching down to Hadji and Jonny, with Jessie clinging to Jonny's feet ... the whole thing swinging slowly, like a pendulum.

TRACK BACK TO REVEAL - THE MASSIVE SCALE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

The four humans are just tiny specks.

The unearthly HOWL of a Yeti ECHOES through the mountains.

CUT TO:

Jessie, climbing "up" Jonny's body ...

JESSIE

I hate to be the one to say it -  
but let's get out of here!

... "bypassing" Hadji and shinning up toward the ledge overhead.

CUT TO:

The ledge - Race anchoring, face ground into the ice.

HIS POV - JESSIE

appears over the edge ...

BACK TO - RACE

he closes his eyes, a big SIGH of relief (a puff of powder because his face is ground into the snow) ...

RACE

Don't ever scare me again like  
that, sweetheart ...

CUT TO:

Jonny and Hadji looking up.

JONNY

You got to hand it to her, Hadj

...

THEIR POV - JESSIE

disappearing up over the edge.

JONNY (OC)  
She's pretty cool.

CUT TO:

Jessie, sitting on the ice, heels dug in, hauling on the rope. As it begins to move, Race is able to heave himself into a similar position so that their combined strength brings the line in hand over hand.

CUT TO:

Jonny and Hadji getting a free ride ...

CUT TO:

Jessie and Race hauling ... Hadji, then Jonny appearing over the ledge and scrambling to safety.

JESSIE

I thought you guys would be lighter!

HADJI

Ah, you see we are heavy with wisdom!

RAGE

(a smile)

But are you smart enough to figure out who set that trap?

DISSOLVE

INT: KHUMBU MONASTERY - NIGHT

A dark and gloomy hallway in a bleak stone building.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! - A BEATING AT THE FRONT DOOR.

In the gloom, a COWLED FIGURE approaches the stout door and, as the fist continues to beat on the wood, flips open a small hatch.

A flurry of snow and the HOWLING WIND BUMPS UP.

The Cowled Figure snaps the hatch shut and unlatches the door to swing it open. An implosion of snow and more weather.



Jessie, Jonny, Hadji and Race enter in the cloud of snow - and help the Cowled Figure slam the door against the weather.

RACE

(shucking weather gear)

Name's Race Bannon. This is my daughter Jessie. Hadji ... and Jonny Quest.

The Cowled Figure does not react.

RACE

We're looking for Dr. Benton Quest.

The Figure bows, turns and beckons.

Jonny, Hadji, Jessie and Race exchange a look and follow.

NOTE: we will never know what religion or order the monks of Khumbu follow. The monastery has a characteristic symbol (its equivalent of a cross, star, etc.), which features in icons, carvings, *bas reliefs*, etc. throughout the monastery.

INT: A MONASTIC CELL - NIGHT

A bare room lit only by a couple of oil lamps and by the thin shafts of moonlight projected through narrow windows. The door opens and

CLOSER - THE DOOR - RACE, JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI

are ushered in by the Cowled Figure. No sooner are they in the room than the door SLAMS.

RACE, JONNY, JESSIE, HADJI

(Ad libs - Indignant and surprised reactions)

INT: OUTSIDE THE CELL - CONTINUOUS

The Cowled Figure turns a large iron key in the lock.

From inside, fists POUND on the door and Race, Jonny and Jessie SHOUT.

RACE, JONNY AND JESSIE

(Ad libs - "Hey!" "Unlock this door!" Let us out!" Etc.)

But the Cowled Figure simply walks away. As he passes a narrow window, he looks up and a shaft of light hits his face. We see his milky white wall eye and recognize Kyle's Assistant from the PREVIEW - the man who started the avalanche.

INT: THE MONASTIC CELL

Race, Jessie and Jonny are POUNDING the door - AD LIBS CONTINUING.

REVERSE - DENSE STEAM

billows from narrow door at the opposite end of the room.

A shadowy FIGURE forms within the steam.

(Race, Jonny and Jessie continue to POUND and Ad Lib (OFF CAMERA.)

JONNY (OC)

We gotta get out of here!

HADJI

Sometimes ...

RACE, JONNY AND JESSIE

turn and react in surprise.

THEIR POV - HADJI

emerges from the steam, smiling.

HADJI

...it is not so much question of "getting out" of anywhere as discovering why we are where we are.

JESSIE

That's very elliptical, Hadji.  
Why exactly are we here?

Hadji indicates the billowing steam ...

HADJI

Why to soak in warm bath following our freezing adventures on the mountain.

JONNY

Oh, that's very good - take a bath while we wait for some mad monk to do us in---

RACE

Hadji's right, Jonny. No one who wished me harm ever provided ...

Hadji turns and disappears into the steam.

RACE (OC)

... a hot bath first ...

CROSS DISSOLVE

THE STEAM TURNS INTO A THIN VERTICAL TRAIL OF SMOKE. PAN DOWN THE SMOKE TO FIND ITS SOURCE: A THICK TALLOW CANDLE.

THE WIND HOWLS. SLEET AND SNOW DRUM. THE SOUND OF THIS AWESOME WEATHER CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE SCENE.

We HEAR the frail, aged VOICE of The High Lama Of Khumbu:

HIGH LAMA (OC)

I understand your concern but ...

CLOSE - THE HIGH LAMA.

Face entirely hidden by a deep cowl. His arms are folded, hands tucked into his sleeves.

HIGH LAMA

... I am certain our only other American visitor is not your Dr. Quest.

He gestures to

THE OPENING DOOR

and Professor Kyle enters the room.

RACE (OC)

Professor Kyle!

PROFESSOR KYLE'S POV - RACE, JONNY AND JESSIE

seated at the table, opposite the High Lama (on either side of whom is another Cowled Figure).

JONNY  
 (stands abruptly)  
 Where's my father?

KYLE  
 (quiet)  
 I'd tell you if I knew.

JONNY  
 (angry)  
 You were on the expedition with  
 him! He was your friend! You  
 abandoned him!

HIGH LAMA  
 (turns to Jonny)  
 Anger changes nothing, young man,  
 nor will it locate your father.  
 Sit. Eat. Build your strength.

Jessie and Hadji, on either side of Jonny, encourage him  
 to sit as the Lama continues:

HIGH LAMA (OC)  
 When the weather changes, my monks  
 will help you search. Now, please  
 eat.

The Lama watches as Kyle sits and Jonny, Jessie, Hadji and  
 Race raise spoonfuls of steaming soup to their mouths.

KYLE  
 There is something I've been  
 wanting to ask your Highness.

THE HIGH LAMA  
 And that is?

KYLE  
 It's rumored that this monastery  
 possesses the mummified hand of a  
 Yeti ...

Jonny stares at Kyle in surprise.

KYLE (OC)  
 ... proof that there is an Abominable  
 Snowman?

The wind HOWLS outside. Hail crashes down on the roof.

HIGH LAMA  
 The "Hand of Khumbu" is a sacred  
 artifact, Professor Kyle.

Hadji and Jessie watch the Lama in wonder.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

It never leaves our vault room and  
is never shown to outsiders.

Without any prompting, the figures on either side help the  
High Lama up as ...

HIGH LAMA

(shuffling to door)

Now, I bid you all to conclude your  
meal and wish you a good night's rest

...

Despite the fact that he is stooped, we now see that the  
High Lama is a huge, broad figure of a man.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT: THE MONASTIC CELL - NIGHT

A HIGH ANGLE looking down. Race, Jessie, Jonny and Hadji  
are sprawled, asleep, on pallets, covered with quilted  
blankets.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

We will search tomorrow, weather  
permitting ...

Race sits up thoughtfully, looks at the sleeping kids. As  
he stands

JONNY'S EYES

flick open.

JONNY

(sitting up)

What's happening?

RACE

(a whisper)

I'm going to take a look around.

Jonny makes to get up ...

JONNY

I'm coming, too---

RACE

No! Hang tight, Jonny. I'll be back.

CUT TO:

EXT. KHUMBU MONASTERY - NIGHT

A LONG, LONG SHOT, the Monastery a tiny structure perched on an impossible peak on the huge mountain. Pinpoints of yellow light behind a few of the windows. The wind SHRIEKS and snow swirls - and the scale of the scene is gigantic.

CLOSE - A SMALL DOOR

in the Monastery wall cracks open and Race slips through. He closes the door and moves along the monastery wall, fighting wind and snow until he disappears into the night.

BIG CLOSE UP - THE DOOR HANDLE

(a large wrought iron ring) turns slowly.

WIDER - THE DOOR

opens, the gap between the door and its FRAME filled by a large UNIDENTIFIABLE FIGURE.

CUT TO:

Race emerges through the snow ... stops ...

THE CRUNCH OF SNOW AS SOMEONE - OR SOMETHING - APPROACHES.

Race whips around. A club - or is it a giant fist? - WIPES THROUGH FRAME - BIG.

The SOUND of its (OFF CAMERA) impact on Race's skull - and Race's pained GRUNT.

Race slumps to the ground - into SHOT - unconscious.

Then he is dragged away, heels leaving a trail in the snow. He is soon swallowed up by the weather and the night.

We never see what it is that's dragging him away.

FADE 'OUT

END ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT: THE MOUNTAINS/KHUMBU MONASTERY - PRE-DAWN

A light snow falls as a LONG SHOT again emphasizes the astonishing scale of the mountains. The Monastery is a tiny structure on its almost impossible pinnacle, its stone walls reflecting the first inkling of dawn, pale fingers of light which wash the surrounding rock, snow and ice in subtle shades.

A CHANT (Indian scale) soars through the mountains.

INT: KHUMBU MONASTERY/CELL - PRE-DAWN

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji sit on their pallets. they're fully dressed, tense and anxious as the CHANT ECHOES through the building.

JESSIE

Dad's been gone three hours. I'm not waiting any longer ...

INT: OUTSIDE THE CELL - PRE-DAWN

The CHANT is louder.

The door cracks and Jonny, Jessie and Hadji (without their weather gear) slip through, then head down the dark corridor, keeping to the shadowed walls, disappearing from view.

CUT TO:

A HUGE SET OF DOUBLE DOORS - OPEN.

The doors frame the view of a long, Spartan room of worship. At the far end, the High Lama stands, head bowed, facing us. At right angles to him are lines of cowled MONKS, CHANTING. The scene is lit with tallow candles.

REVERSE - THE HIGH LAMA'S POV - LINES OF MONKS

The door beyond.

The three figures of Jonny, Jessie and Hadji flit across the doorway.

The CHANT continues throughout the following scenes.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER DOOR, AJAR.

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji hug the wall as they move stealthily through the monastery. As they reach the partly open door

THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS!

INT: THE ROOM BEHIND THE DOOR - DAWN

In the dim light, two Cowled Monks stand by an ornate display case, one reaching into the case through its smashed glass. He pulls something out (the object unidentified as yet, shielded by his body).

ANGLE ON THE DOOR - JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI'S FACE

are pressed to the angle between the door and the door frame, "stacked" one atop the other.

THEIR POV - THE MONK

turns and we SEE his white wall eye - and what he's holding: a huge forearm and hand.

ZOOM IN TO - THE HAND OF KHUMBU

HADJI (OC)

The Hand Of Khumbu!

Close, we SEE that it is much larger than any human's, its fingers long and powerful despite their desiccation. The forearm is wrapped in silk and bound with silver and gold thread. Each finger carries a large jewelled ring and the wrist is circled with a bracelet which echoes Khumbu's symbolism.

JONNY (OC)

Look at the size of that thing!

BACK TO - JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI AT THE DOOR

JONNY

It must have belonged to a giant!

JESSIE

Or a Yeti.



HADJI

But why are Khumbu's monks  
stealing a sacred relic?

BACK TO - THEIR POV - A THIRD FIGURE

appears in the shadows, unidentifiable at first.

KYLE

It's not a live specimen ...

He emerges from the shadows and takes the hand.

JESSIE (OC)

Professor Kyle!

KYLE

... but it's a start.

He examines the hand.

KYLE

Do you know how much this is  
worth?

HIMALAYAN

(holds out his hand)

More than you are paying us,  
Professor.

Kyle takes a thick roll of dollars from his pocket and  
peels them off ...

KYLE

For a monk, you've got a real  
itchy palm, Nanda ...

As the Himalayan reaches for the money, Kyle withdraws it.

KYLE

But this is peanuts compared to  
the price I'll pay for a live  
snowman.

He slaps the cash into the Himalayan's palm.

The OFF CAMERA CHANT stops.

BACK TO - JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI

HADJI

(distressed)

I cannot allow this sacrilege.

And he makes as if to enter the room - snatched back by Jonny and Jessie.

JONNY

Are you crazy? What are you trying to do?

HADJI

I will appeal to their nobler instincts and demand that he return Hand Of Khumbu---

JESSIE

Men like that don't have nobler instincts, Hadji---

And, while they're arguing in WHISPERS, the door swings open. An interruption. Both sides equally surprised.

ALL

(Ad lib exclamations of surprise)

Jonny recovers first - grabs the hand from Professor Kyle:

JONNY

C'mon!

And takes off down the corridor, followed by Jessie and Hadji.

KYLE

Come back here, you little swine!

INT: A CORRIDOR - DAWN

The corridor's outside wall is also the monastery's outside wall, narrow shuttered windows every few yards. Light filters through the shutters - multi-layered bars of light which give depth to the background.

Jonny (Hand Of Khumbu in his grasp), Jessie and Hadji race around a corner, headed directly toward us. React in shock. Stop dead.

THEIR POV - A PHALANX OF MONKS

headed toward them (having exited their room of worship).

ONE MONK

points, furious.

MONK

The Hand Of Khumbu!

MONKS' POV - CLOSING FAST ON JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI.

Hadji throws his hands up, a gesture of appeasement ...

HADJI

Wait! It is not as you are thinking!

... but Jonny and Jessie spin and take off in the other direction.

They stop dead as Kyle and his Himalayan sidekicks appear.

The charging monks also stop dead.

KYLE

(seeing the monks and  
pointing at Jonny)

That boy has desecrated the Hand  
Of Khumbu! Seize him!

As one, the monks produce wicked looking knives - a stylized, exaggerated version of the Ghurka kukri.

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji look from Kyle to the armed monks and back, caught between two fires.

Jonny glances out the nearest window - and makes an instant decision.

JONNY

Catch!

He tosses the hand toward the charging monks, who drop their knives and tumble over themselves in their efforts to catch the hand.

JONNY

(to the others)

Come on!

JESSIE

-Wait!

But he leaps through the window - the wooden shutters smashing, shards flying everywhere.

CUT TO:

EXT: KHUMBU MONASTERY WALL - NIGHT

REVERSE - TIGHT - JONNY COMES FLYING THROUGH THE WINDOW.

Snow falls as (CLOSE).

PULL BACK AS JONNY FALLS, YELLING HALF IN EXHILARATION AND HALF IN FEAR - A DIMINISHING SHOUT.

ANOTHER ANGLE - A SNOWBANK

at the bottom of the wall. Jonny plunges in. A beat later, Jessie and Jonny follow.

Another beat and all three explode out of the snowbank - Jessie furious.

JESSIE

Jonny - you idiot!

JONNY

What? What? What'd I do?

HADJI

It is more what you did not do:  
look before you leap!

Angry YELLS from above.

During the following dialogue exchanges, the trio looks up to SEE, through the snow, the furious monks waving their kukris, blades glinting in the morning light.

JONNY

Oh - you'd prefer to be carved up  
by a bunch of homicidal Hindus?

HADJI

They are not Hindus, my friend,  
they are---

JONNY

Whatever they are - we're their  
-Devils of the month! C'mon!

INT: THE CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

Chaos - furious monks SHOUTING and gesticulating.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

Silence!

The monks button it, ranks parting to let the High Lama through.

One monk bows, reverently passes him the Hand Of Khumbu.

Kyle appears ...

KYLE

Those kids stole the Hand Of Khumbu,  
Your Holiness. Fortunately, we  
witnessed the theft.

EXT: OUTSIDE THE MONASTERY WALL - SAME TIME

As Jonny heads out into the snow:

JESSIE

(calling after him)  
This is about the stupidest thing  
I've ever seen you do - how long  
do you think we'll survive out  
here without weather gear?

He disappears into the snow, but his voice floats back.

JONNY

Long enough to figure something  
out.

Hadji and Jessie exchange a look, glance up at the furious monks and back - both exasperated by their friend.

HADJI

The question is whether to die by  
ice or knife?

JESSIE

(shakes her head)  
Uh-uh. The question is - how not  
to die at all.

They follow Jonny, disappearing into the snow.

INT: MONASTERY CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

The High Lama turns to Kyle's sidekicks.

HIGH LAMA

(turns to Kyle's sidekicks)  
It is true? You saw the theft?

HIMALAYAN

It is true, Holiness. We saw them steal it.

HIGH LAMA

That is why you were not at morning prayers?

Kyle's two monks exchange a look.

HIGH LAMA

No matter.

(to his monks)

Search for the children. Bring them back to the monastery - unharmed.

KYLE

Unharm

ed? They tried to steal the Hand Of Khumbu!

HIGH LAMA

But the question is "why?", Professor Kyle.

(to the monks, again)

Hurry! ...

EXT: THE MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Snow falls. Three figures emerge, moving fast, rubbing their hands and arms, clapping their hands against their bodies, desperate to keep warm ...

HIGH LAMA (OC)

... They will not survive this cold for more than a few hours.

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji move past us and disappear once more into the snow and the gathering gloom.

INT: MONASTERY CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The High Lama turns back to Kyle. We still have not seen his face, hidden deep within the shadow of his cowl.

HIGH LAMA

The boy is the son of your friend,  
is he not? Strange that you would  
not want to rescue him, whatever  
his crime ...

(turns to his monks)

Search the mountain. Find the  
children. They cannot be far  
away.

Kyle reaches into his coat as the High Lama speaks ...

KYLE

You leave me no choice ...

... and produces a Machine Pistol.

KYLE

... Holiness.

The monks GASP collectively - then surge forward but

KYLE'S HIMALAYAN SIDEKICKS

step forward, producing similar guns from beneath their  
robes.

A stand off: three heavily armed men against the High  
Lama and his monks.

KYLE

Lock them in the chant room.

The Sidekicks herd the Monks away, but the High Lama  
stands fast.

HIGH LAMA

(to the sidekicks)

You have betrayed your faith.

Sidekick #1 sweeps his cowl back. A cynical snarl.

HIMALAYAN

No, Holiness ...

He produces a wad of cash which he brandishes in the High  
Lama's face as he continues his lines:

HIMALAYAN

... I have found a new faith.

THE UNEARTHLY CALL OF THE YETI INTERRUPTS, HOWLING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS, ECHOING MOURNFULLY.

KYLE

(electrified)

The traps! C'mon! Get these monks locked up and check our traps!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT: OUT ON THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

The snow is heavier than before, the clouds lower.

FOLLOW - FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW.

(The tracks left by Jonny, Jessie and Hadji.) As we FOLLOW the footsteps, we come across Jonny, Jessie and Hadji moving painfully across a sloping ice field. All three are shivering violently. They're slowly freezing to death.

HADJI

If we do not find shelter soon, we will certainly perish.

JONNY

This is my fault, guys. I---

Jessie CRIES out as she stumbles. Jonny and Hadji lunge to catch her, but her weight takes all of them down. Locked together, they roll and tumble, then slide across the ice field ...

... gathering speed ...

... unable to stop themselves - VAFX throughout.

A HUGE SNOWBANK.

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji slide into FRAME and crash into the snowbank, disappearing from view.

A beat later, Jonny emerges. Jessie's hand emerges a moment later, and Jonny grabs it.

JONNY

I got you, Jess ...  
(pulls her free)  
Are you OK?



JESSIE

(looking down, frowning)

Yeah - but who's that.

Jonny follows her eyeline and reacts, startled.

Now Hadji emerges from the snowbank - and SEES his friends' expressions. His own changes, too, as he SEES what they're SEEING.

THEIR POV - A THICKLY GLOVED HAND

sticks out from the bank.

JONNY

looks at his friends ...

JONNY

I guess there's only one way we'll find out ...

... and grabs the hand. A moment later, his friends help him, tugging on it. Working fast, tugging and digging, the three of them

REVEAL - THE SHERPA WHO ACCOMPANIED QUEST.

He is frozen, dead, lying on his side but with his face turned, looking up. (His large pack is still strapped to his back, despite the avalanche.)

HIS POV (IF HE HAD ONE) - LOOKING UP - JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI LOOKING DOWN.

HADJI

I hope he will forgive me if I give thanks that he is not Dr. Quest.

Jessie drops to her knees and gingerly opens his large back pack.

JESSIE

I hope he'll forgive us if we take anything which might save our lives.

(finds solid fuel stove then, increasingly excited)

Stove ...

Tea ...

As she lights the stove feverishly, Jonny goes through the rest of the backpack's contents.

JONNY

Sleeping bag! ...

He wraps it around Jessie.

JONNY

Clothes! ...

He takes a thick shirt and hands it to Hadji.

JONNY

Compass!

He looks up toward the heavens, a huge SIGH of relief.

JONNY

Oh, man, I feel like I've been  
given another chance!

THAT UNEARTHLY HOWL ECHOES THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AGAIN,  
AND THE THREE FRIENDS EXCHANGE A LOOK.

JESSIE

Whatever is going on out here, the  
key is at Khumbu. I know it.

JONNY

So we'll rest up here - then go  
back to the monastery tonight.

All three squat around the little stove, extending their  
hands to the heat and the scene ends on ...

... the stove's flame.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT: KHUMBU MONASTERY - NIGHT

THE "YETI CRY" ECHOES THROUGH THE MONASTERY BUT NOW IT HAS  
A DIFFERENT QUALITY: LIGHTER, TREMULOUS, SCARED.

A SUBJECTIVE POV TRACKS through the Monastery, headed  
toward that frightened. SOUND.

SHADOWS move along the walls - two figures? Three? It's  
hard to tell for the shapes merge and distort.

BACK TO - THE SUBJECTIVE POV

The SOUNDS are louder now, closer. A corner swings into  
view - a stout door beyond.

CLOSING IN ON - THE DOOR - A SMALL HATCH AT EYE LEVEL.

As the hatch FILLS FRAME, it is flipped open - and a terrified eye peers out.

With a GASP the POV reels back - and from the OFF CAMERA SOUNDS we realize this motion is repeated on the other side of the door.

JESSIE (OC)

(whisper)  
What is it?

CUT TO:

Jonny, Jessie and Hadji by the door - Jonny shocked. -

JONNY

You better take a look for yourselves.

Jessie and Hadji peer through the hatch. -

THEIR POV - DEEP IN THE SHADOWS OF THE "CELL" - A FORM.

Heavy. Humanoid. Unclear. Whites of eyes piercing the gloom. A terrified WHIMPERING. Whatever it is, it's deadly afraid.

A STARTLED, MUFFLED EXCLAMATION - THEN

KYLE (OC)

Welcome back, boys and girl!

Hadji and Jessie spin from the door to SEE

THEIR POV - JONNY IN THE GRIP KYLE'S SIDEKICK.

No longer wearing his monk's robes, but jeans, T-shirt and leather jerkin, the Himalayan's white wall eye gleams as he holds Jonny subdued - one hand clamped over Jonny's mouth, the other twisting Jonny's arm up behind his back in a classic jujitsu hold.

BACK TO - JESSIE AND HADJI

as they make to spring at the Himalayan but

KYLE

shakes his head ...

KYLE

Un-huh ...

... and produces his machine pistol, held loosely, pointed at the ground.

The Second Himalayan (ex-monk) materializes from the shadows, also armed.

KYLE

... It might have been better if you'd frozen out there.

JESSIE

Where's my father? What have you done with him?

HADJI

You are unconscionable pig, Professor Kyle - disgrace to the calling of science.

KYLE

(fierce grin)

But soon to be famous - and quite extraordinarily rich.

ANGLE THROUGH THE HATCH - THE WHIMPERING SHADOW

KYLE (OC)

The first man to capture a yeti. A baby, true, but a Yeti nonetheless---

JESSIE (OC)

(interrupts angrily)

Where's my father?

But before Kyle can answer, the shadow emits another long, heartbreaking HOWL which gathers in volume and pain ...

IN QUICK CLOSE UPS - KYLE ...

JONNY ...

HIMALAYAN-#1 ...

JESSIE ...

HIMALAYAN #2 ...

HADJI ...

... react in awe - a touch of fear.

CUT TO:

EXT: KHUMBU MONASTERY - NIGHT

The CRY continues, ECHOING through the mountains as we TRACK BACK, further and further, leaving the Monastery as a tiny illuminated light source in the huge vista of the moonlit Himalayas.

As the baby Yeti's heartbreaking CRY begins to die, other Yetis begin to take it up so that within seconds the mountains are RINGING with the SOUND.

More and more! How many Abominable Snowmen can there be out there? The SOUNDS become less plaintive. Increasingly angry. Threatening.

SMASH CUT TO:-

INT: KHUMBU/OUTSIDE THE BABY YETI'S CELL - NIGHT

The air is filled with the threatening Yeti CRIES as Kyle and his Himalayan Sidekicks exchange very uneasy looks.

HIMALAYAN #1

Mehta! Many of them!

KYLE

I don't care how many there are ...  
(holds his pistol up)  
... they don't have machine guns---

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! - THE SOUND OF HUGE FISTS beating on the monastery's gates.

Himalayan #2 seems about to panic ...

KYLE

-Keep your nerve! We only have to hold out till the chopper comes and we'll be millionaires---

SMASSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! - GATES AND DOORS cave in.

JONNY

rips free from the distracted Himalayan #1.

KYLE

swings around angrily, raising and levelling his machine pistol as he SHOUTS:

KYLE

I don't have time for this!

KERRRAKKKKKK! - THE CEILING

begins to give way, plaster and debris raining down on the group.

JONNY

grabs Jessie by the hand ...

JONNY

C'mon!

... and they and Hadji flee as debris continues to rain down from the ceiling and the terrible CRASHING, HOWLING and GROWLING continue.

KYLE AND THE HIMALAYANS

swing their automatic weapons up, blasting at the ceiling.

HOWLS OF RAGE AND PAIN FROM ABOVE!

CUT TO:

A CORRIDOR (OUT OF SIGHT FROM KYLE). Debris continues to rain down as Jonny, Jessie and Hadji appear and, HEARING the gunshots (from OFF) and the HOWLS (from above), skid to a halt.

JONNY

Wait! We can't let them shoot the Yetis! We got to stop them.

They turn back.

CUT TO:

Kyle and the two Himalayans. Only their gun muzzle flashes illuminate the semi-darkness, REVEALING choking clouds of debris as the massive HUMANOID FORMS of the YETIS drop through jagged holes in the ceiling.

In the brief muzzle flash-light, we SEE:

A Yeti pick Himalayan #1 up and hurl him through a wooden-shuttered window in the corridor outside the baby Yeti's cell.

CUT TO:

EXT: THE MONASTERY WALL - NIGHT

REVERSE - THE HIMALAYAN comes flying through the window and falls, windmilling, YELLING, into a snowbank at the bottom.

The Second Himalayan follow. It is clear that they survive this fall (just as Jonny, Hadji and Jessie did earlier).

CUT TO:

Kyle confronting the shadowy forms of the Yetis - Kyle in BIG FOREGROUND (back to CAMERA), the Yetis almost indefinable in the dust obscured BACKGROUND darkness.

Kyle levels his machine pistol.

THE YETIS POV - KYLE

grim, prepared to sell himself dearly ...

KYLE

Get back ...

As the POV CLOSES IN, Jonny, Jessie and Hadji charge up behind Kyle and all three slam into him.

With a CRY of surprise, Kyle falls forward and slams his head against a timber buttress.

The machine pistol goes flying.

CLOSE - THE PISTOL

as it stops sliding. A beat, then a hand reaches in and picks it up.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - JESSIE

grabbing up the pistol, ripping its magazine out and hurling the weapon in the same general direction the Himalayans took.

CUT TO:

## KHUMBU - NEW PAGES

EXT: THE MONASTERY WALL - NIGHT

IN BACKGROUND, Kyle's two Himalayans flee into the icy night while

IN FOREGROUND, the magazine-less pistol flies out into the night, glinting in the moonlight, pinwheeling as it falls into the snowbank.

CUT TO:

INT: OUTSIDE THE BABY YETI'S CELL - SAME TIME

UP ANGLE - OFF THE GROUND - JONNY, HADJI AND JESSIE

looking down, grim and angry. The massive shadows of the Yetis are all around. The baby Yeti continues to WHIMPER (OC).

JONNY

Shoot-fire! ---

JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI'S POV - KYLE

flat out on his back, unconscious - maybe dead - a heavy timber lying near his head.

JONNY (OC)

He's probably the only one left who might know what happened to dad and Race---

\*

ZIP PAN TO:

\*INT: KHUMBU MONASTERY/A CELL - SAME TIME

\*Race Bannon is - gagged and trussed like a holiday fowl - struggles with his bonds, rolling around the floor of his gloomy prison.

\*SMASSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! - HE LOOKS UP IN ALARM AND SEES

\*HIS POV - THE CELL WALL IMPLODES

\*and the huge backlit figure of a Yeti lumbers into the room.

\*YETI'S POV - RACE

\*staring up wide-eyed, momentarily frozen.



\*THE YETI

\*reaches down and seizes Race, swinging him up into the air with a fierce GROWL.

\*

ZIP PAN TO:

\*INT: OUTSIDE THE BABY YETI'S CELL - SAME TIME

\*KRASSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! - JONNY, HADJI AND JESSIE

\*turn to SEE the retreating back of a Yeti as it smashes into the baby Yeti's cell.

\*ANOTHER ANGLE ON - JONNY, JESSIE AND HADJI

\*as they back away uneasily ...

\*JESSIE

\*Maybe they'll think we're part of Kyle's gang?

\*Continuing to back away ...

\*JONNY

\*If they do - we're dead!

\*Continuing to back away ...

\*HADJI

\*It would be easier if we at least shared a common language with them.

\*

ZIP PAN TO:

\*INT: KHUMBU MONASTERY/RACE'S CELL - SAME TIME

\*The Yeti stands Race on his feet and grabs the ropes binding him. With a furious ROAR of effort, he rips the ropes apart - then smashes out of the cell the same way he came in.

\*Race shrugs out of the remaining ropes and rips the gag from his mouth.

\*RACE

\*(calls out)

\*Thanks ...

(then an afterthought)

Let's do lunch sometime ...

\*

ZIP PAN TO:

\*INT: OUTSIDE THE BABY YETI CELL - MOMENTS LATER

\*Jonny, Jessie and Hadji back nervously down the corridor.

\*Unseen by them, a heavy built figure emerges from the gloom behind them.

JONNY

(turning)

Let's make a run for it---

And they slam straight into that figure - GASPING in surprise.

FIGURE

Be calm ...

Only now is he recognizable: the High Lama.

FIGURE

... my children. Look!

They turn back:

THEIR POV - A YETI

emerging from the cell, carrying the baby Yeti in its arms. At this distance, through the gloom and the dust, nothing is very clear. However, this is our best sight of a Yeti so far: massively built; about six foot tall; covered with a thick light-colored fur. The adult makes a consoling, COOING SOUND as it joins its shadowy clan. A moment later, there is only darkness: the Yetis have disappeared down the corridor, to return to their mountain lairs.

\*THEN ANOTHER FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE DUST AND GLOOM.

\*JESSIE

\*reacts in delight as

\*HER POV - THE FIGURE

\*becomes recognizable: Race!

\*JESSIE

\*Dad!

\*And she flings herself into his arms.

\*JONNY

turns aside, tears in his eyes. The Lama notices ...

LAMA

Do not weep for your father,  
Jonny. I believe they will bring  
him here at dawn---

On Jonny's astonished expression ...

JONNY

They? Who's they?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT: A CAVE IN THE HIMALAYAS

Extraordinary cave paintings lit by a flickering light.

PAN OFF THE PAINTINGS TO FIND - DR. QUEST

lying on a litter, eyes closed. Unconscious? A beat -  
then he is jolted - up - as the litter is picked up. This  
TIGHT, we do not know who is carrying the litter.

EXT: THE HIMALAYAS - DAWN

A gorgeous dawn in the world's highest mountain range.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

... it is a modern conceit of mankind  
to believe that he is the only true  
intelligence on the planet ...

CLOSE ON - QUEST

eyes closed, jolting on the litter as it is carried down  
the mountain.

A light snow begins to fall on his face and his eyes open.  
He grimaces as he tries to focus.

HIS POV - THE FIGURE

at the head of the litter is massively broad, his thick  
white pelt moving in and out of focus as (INTERCUT) Dr.  
Quest squints.

HIGH LAMA (OC)  
 ... but *Homo Sapiens* - Modern Man  
 - and the being known as  
 Neanderthal Man once co-existed  
 peacefully - until Modern Man took  
 a divergent path of greed and  
 violence ...

EXT: KHUMBU MONASTERY - DAWN

LONG AND WIDE - the two squat and powerful Yetis trudge toward the monastery carrying Dr. Quest's litter between them. At this distance, they are almost unidentifiable.

HIGH LAMA (OC)  
 The Neanderthals were forced to take  
 refuge in the most remote parts of  
 the world.

CUT TO:

BOOOOM! BOOOOM! BOOOOM! - A HUGE YETI HAND  
 POUNDS on the monastery gate.

CUT TO:

Dr. Quest (CLOSE) on the litter, light snow falling on his face.

That huge Yeti hand reaches in and gently brushes the snow away. As the hand withdraws, Dr. Quest eyes flicker ... open ... and he turns his head.

HIS POV - THE TWO YETIS

moving away, their forms obscured both by Quest's blurred vision and the falling snow.

HIGH LAMA (OC)  
 Every continent has its legends of  
 these creatures: the Sasquatch, Big  
 Foot, El Mano Grande, the Alma and  
 ... the Yeti in the Himalayas.

CUT TO:

The monastery gate as it opens and Jonny appears. His face expresses his surprise ... concern ... joy as he SEES his father ...

JONNY

Dad!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT: THE HIMALAYAS - DAY

The high altitude Nepalese Army helicopter swoops through a breathtaking mountainscape.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

They wait patiently, these gentle creatures Wait for mankind either to change his ways or destroy himself.

CUT TO:

LONG AND WIDE - TRACKING IN TO - A SMALL GROUP

outside the monastery: the High Lama, two Cowled Monks and the Quests, waiting outside the monastery gates.

The SOUND of the helicopter FADES IN, growing louder by the moment as the Quests listen intently to the High Lama, whose VOICE issues from deep within his cowl.

HIGH LAMA

When that day comes, "the hidden ones" will come out of hiding and resume their true place in the world.

CUT TO:

The Nepalese Army helicopter approaching, blades glittering in the pale sunlight.

BACK TO - THE GROUP

Where Dr. Quest is forced to speak loudly over the SOUND of the approaching chopper.

DR. QUEST

We will no longer attempt to prove their existence, Holiness ...

The Helicopter flares - snow flurries everywhere - and lands. The turbine winds down and the blades slow.

DR QUEST (OC)

Clearly, to do so will only lead to their destruction.

THE HIGH LAMA (OC)

Thank you Dr. Quest.

THE HIGH LAMA

extends his hand, to shake Dr. Quest's. Dr. Quest reaches out to grasp the proffered hand.

Jonny ...

Jessie ...

Hadji ...

... react, stunned as they SEE:

THEIR POV - THE HIGH LAMA'S HAND

emerges from his robes. It is the hand of a Yeti - dwarfing Dr. Quest's.

HIGH LAMA (OC)

I know our secret is safe.

THE SOUND OF THE TURBINE HELICOPTER AT FULL THROTTLE.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE NEPALESE ARMY HELICOPTER taking off, creating a mini-blizzard which soon hides the High Lama and his monks.

As the Helicopter climbs away, soon a tiny dot against the scale of the Himalayas:

RACE (OC)

You know what I was thinking?

HADJI (OC)

Something profound no doubt, Race?

RACE (OC)

Imagine arm-wrestling one of those suckers!

FADE OUT:

THE END