

MUMMY IIT

by

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Sommers Company  
Alphaville

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**NOTE:** Dialogue in *italics* is in Chinese with English subtitles.

FADE IN:

THE UNIVERSAL PICTURES GLOBE

morphs into a glinting red sphere. PULL BACK TO REVEAL it's the eye of a malevolent-looking dragon that is carved into a massive door. A FEMALE NARRATOR, with a lilting Chinese accent, begins...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Twenty-two centuries ago, China was forged out of the will of one man, its First Emperor, Qin Shihuang.

The doors swing open and EMPEROR QIN SHIHUANG is carried in. He's sitting on a jewel-encrusted jade throne which is lugged by 30 MONGOLIAN EUNUCHS. He is dressed in an extravagant crimson-and-black robe and his face registers only the blank coldness of a dictator. He's just entered...

EXT. PALACE - DAY

A vast walled city comprised of a complex of pavilions, pagodas and ornamental gardens. The Emperor's army fills the monumental courtyard in front of the main palace pavilion. The 100,000 WARRIORS stand in perfectly ordered phalanxes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His thirst for power was unquenchable and his army was a merciless killing machine. He vowed not to rest until he had conquered the entire world.

As the Emperor is paraded past, the soldiers bow on one knee.

EXT. RIVER OF SPIRITS - DAY

TIGHT ON: A HUMAN SKULL as it is CRUSHED under the weight of a massive stone. PULL BACK to reveal an ancient construction site stretching as far as the eye can see.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He forced his vanquished enemies to construct a great wall which he built over the blighted River of Spirits.

THOUSANDS OF SLAVES haul blocks into place over a snaking dry riverbed that is thickly carpeted with skeletons and skulls.

KEEP PULLING UP over the partially completed Great Wall of China as the image MORPHS into a 20x20 map of the ancient world. It sits on the floor of...

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

The Emperor stands with his Generals, flanked by his devoted eunuch, FU. A magnificent embroidered dragon tapestry shimmers on the wall behind him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As the years wore on, the Emperor realized that the world was too big to conquer in his lifetime.

Frustrated, the Emperor grabs a sword and sweeps off the model battalions that are spread out across the map.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He had to overcome the one enemy that no man had defeated -- death itself.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

The Emperor watches as a motley crowd of GRIZZLED MEN, WILD-HAIRED HAGS and BESPECTACLED SCHOLARS are escorted in.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He summoned all the mystics, alchemists and wizards in his kingdom and commanded them to find the answer to eternal life.

CAMERA RESTS ON the face of a SHRIVELED OLD SHAMAN as he reacts to the request with fearful trepidation.

MATCH CUT TO:

THE SHAMAN'S FACE. PULL BACK TO REVEAL his head is now pickled in a jar on a shelf. It's just one of a thousand jars containing the heads of other mystics in...

INT. ANCIENT LABORATORY - DAY

The Emperor stands in the middle of this dungeon-like chamber surrounded by smoking vats and billowing vials.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They taught him mastery of the five elements -- fire, water, earth, metal and stone -- but the mystery of immortality still eluded him.

The Emperor conjures a blue flame in his palm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor had almost given up hope when he learned of a priestess named Zohora who was versed in the secret languages of antiquity.

EXT. PALACE GATES - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He sent Sun Tzu, his most trusted General, to find her.

The towering doors open and a BATTERY OF WARRIORS canters out on horseback. They are lead by a General, whose striking good looks are etched with nobility. This is SUN TZU.

EXT. BAMBOO FOREST - DAY

Sun Tzu and his men creep toward the stone temple that is nestled among the impossibly tall bamboo trees. A twig SNAPS. He turns and swings up his sword to the throat of a serene beauty, ZOHORA, just as she sweeps up a sword to his. As their eyes meet, there is an instant electric attraction.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Zohora holds on to Sun Tzu as they gallop down a track which runs parallel to the Great Wall. Sun Tzu turns and rides towards the Emperor's palace, which looms in the distance.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Sun Tzu presents Zohora to the Emperor, who is clearly struck by her beauty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave Zohora access to his vast library.

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Zohora sits at a circular desk in the middle of this colossal bookshelf-filled chamber, poring over boxes of scrolls.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She spent her days studying the ancient texts and her nights...

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora and Sun Tzu are entwined in a passionate embrace.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 ... wrapped in Sun Tzu's arms.

THE CAMERA FINDS the Emperor watching through a window. As his eyes glint with jealousy...

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

Zohora empties a box of documents onto the table and unrolls a dusty papyrus. It is written in hieratic and features images of Horus and Anubis. As she translates the text, her face fires with excitement.

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora bursts in holding the papyrus.

ZOHORA  
*The answer! I found it!*

EMPEROR  
*I never doubted you would.*

She spins and finds the Emperor in the doorway. She masks her shock and respectfully bows her head.

ZOHORA  
*My Lord.*

He lifts her chin with his finger.

EMPEROR  
*Where is it?*

ZOHORA  
*Written in a book hidden in the land of the Pharaohs.*

Two Eunuchs step out holding Sun Tzu, who's been beaten.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 He ordered Sun Tzu to retrieve the book.

Zohora drops to her knees in front of Sun Tzu and begs.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 But Zohora pleaded that she should go in his place. Egyptian tombs are deadly traps and, without knowledge of their hieroglyphics, he would face certain death.

The Emperor considers her request, unsheathes a dragon-hilted dagger which he holds to Sun Tzu's heart.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave her ninety moons  
to return or he would execute her  
lover.

Sun Tzu and Zohora exchange desperate glances.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Zohora headed west...

Zohora rides like the wind. She spurs her horse up over a dune, revealing the GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA flickering like a mirage. She powers into the blistering heat.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - NIGHT

NARRATOR (V.O.)

... to the city of Hamunaptra,  
resting place of Imhotep and  
sanctuary of the fabled Book of the  
Dead.

TWO MUMIA are sitting by a campfire, guarding the entrance, when -- PHHHT! PHHHT! Two bamboo blow-darts hit their necks. As they slump, unconscious, Zohora is revealed. She searches their pockets and retrieves the PUZZLE BOX KEY (from the first "Mummy" movie). As she flowers it open...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ANUBIS' CHAMBER - NIGHT

The impression on the front of the black Book of the Dead. Zohora twists the key and the latches snap open one by one.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Not wishing to incur the wrath of  
the great god Anubis, Zohora  
fashioned a copy of the sacred text  
in terra cotta.

Under Anubis' watchful gaze, Zohora mixes a thick clay.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - DAWN

Everything is washed in golden light. Zohora wraps her copy of the Book in a blanket and places it in her saddlebag.

EXT. ZOHORA'S RIDE - NIGHT/DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode day and night, determined  
no harm would come to Sun Tzu.

Zohora rides across the desert, immune to the scorching sun.  
Silhouetted against the moon, she plows across the Himalayas.

Her face is a mask of determination as she races along the  
Great Wall, sending WORKERS scattering.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She returned to the palace on the  
eve of the eighty-ninth day.

A snowstorm swirls as Zohora bursts through the gates and  
rides past the legions of warriors who are training in the  
massive courtyard.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Zohora kneels at the Emperor's feet and holds up the copy of  
the Book of the Dead. He beams as he runs his hand across  
its surface.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor was so pleased that he  
rewarded Zohora with a gift.

The Emperor's Eunuch, Fu, steps forward, holding a lavishly  
carved lapis box. Zohora tentatively opens the lid and reels  
back when she sees SUN TZU'S HEAD. His glassy eyes stare up.

EMPEROR

*Now I will rule the earth as a god  
with you by my side.*

The Emperor grins lecherously.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He ordered her to read from the  
Book and make him immortal. But  
she refused.

Enraged, the Emperor plunges the dragon-hilted dagger into  
her side. As she drops to her knees, the Book falls open and  
Zohora WHISPERS an ancient Egyptian incantation.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Instead of granting him everlasting life, Zohora used the Book to curse the Emperor and his beloved army.

The Emperor utters a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. He tears open his robe, looks at his chest as his skin becomes translucent. Fu and the Eunuchs flee as the Emperor's heart starts to pump

BLACK BLOOD.

The poison courses through the Emperor's body from the inside out. Black veins viper up his arms, legs and neck and fissure across the whites of his eyeballs. The ooze seeps out of his pores, coating his flesh and clothes. Like molten clay, it sheets across his face, sealing his lips and tongue and silencing his agonized cry. When he's fully coated,

ULTRA-BRIGHT RODS OF WHITE LIGHT

needle out of his body. The Emperor jerks upright and his arms swing to his sides as the light fuses his bones and SUPERHEATS the clay shell, hardening it in seconds. When the light dies, the Emperor has been transformed into

A TERRA COTTA MUMMY.

A VOLLEY OF BANSHEE SCREAMS echoes from outside. Zohora peers out as the terra cotta curse washes over the Emperor's warriors like a wave. Their horses SHRIEK as they succumb to the unholy curse, too. Finally, they are all wracked by the blinding spindles of light and are violently snapped to permanent attention as their bodies are entombed in clay.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

Snow whips as the wounded Zohora gallops across the courtyard, clutching the Book. Tears freeze on her cheeks as she passes the rows of terra cotta soldiers who stand like a clockwork army. She rides into the whiteness.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode off into the night and was never seen again.

Snow PINGS off the warriors as CAMERA SWEEPS UP OVER their heads and INTO the window of...

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

PUSH IN ON the Emperor's expressionless face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Eunuchs buried the Emperor in a crypt below the courtyard. As for his warriors, the palace became their tomb.

PUSH into his lifeless eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The people believed that if the Emperor awoke, he would raise his army and finish his crusade to enslave the world.

KEEP PUSHING until THE SCREEN IS ENGULFED IN BLACKNESS and the only sound is EERIE WHISTLING SILENCE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For two millennia, they laid forgotten under the sands of time until...

SUPERIMPOSED across the SCREEN are the words: **CHINA - 1940.**

A shaft of light cuts through the blackness and

A YOUNG MAN

rappels into view. This is ALEX O'CONNELL. He's 18 now, with floppy blond hair and an English accent. He's inherited his father's good looks and his mother's academic intellect.

LILY

Alex, you see anything?

He peers up at LILY CHEN, who's staring through a hole in the roof of the cavern 50 feet above. Lily's about Alex's age and her mysterious beauty is matched by a razor-sharp mind.

ALEX

Not yet, but I know the palace is down here. It has to be.

LILY

That's what you said about the other nine caverns.

ALEX

This is the one, Lily. I'm going deeper.

LILY

I don't think that's a good idea.

ALEX

Trust me, I was rappelling into tombs before I could walk. I'm a pro.

As he loosens the clamp, the rope slides free and Alex is sent plunging into the darkness. Lily reacts as Alex's rope rapidly uncoils at her feet. She SHOUTS into the abyss.

LILY

ALEX! ALEX!

Alex scorches his palms as he desperately tries to reattach his harness to the rope. Finally, he pounds his fist into the head of the clamp, causing its teeth to lock back into place. As the rope jerks him to a stop, he instinctively snatches his glasses out of the air as they tumble free.

LILY

Alex, are you okay?

ALEX

I'm hanging in there.

He pulls out a flare-stick and cracks it open. He holds it out as he slowly twists himself around and comes face to face with a FEARSOME TERRA COTTA WARRIOR. Alex grins.

ALEX

Lily, radio Willoughby, tell him I found it.

INT. TOMB OF THE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS - DAY

Time has turned the palace courtyard into a vast subterranean vault. Warriors are lined shoulder to shoulder. Lily supervises a CHINESE CREW who are illuminating the giant space with torches. Alex waits for an OVERWEIGHT ENGLISHMAN, in a white linen suit, who is awkwardly clambering off a rope ladder. This is SIR COLIN WILLOUGHBY.

WILLOUGHBY

My colleagues at the Bembridge Society thought I was crazy to put my faith and money in an O'Connell. But I knew you could do it, Alex.

ALEX

Thank you, Sir Colin. That means a great deal coming from you.

Willoughby pulls a magnifying glass from his pocket and rudely brushes past Lily as he crosses to admire a warrior.

WILLOUGHBY

Look at the detail. I wonder how long they took to carve.

LILY

They weren't carved, they were cursed.

WILLOUGHBY

According to whom?

LILY

Chinese legend. The terra cotta warriors have remained poised in time, waiting for their Emperor to return.

WILLOUGHBY

Alex, you should tell your girlfriend not to put so much stock in old folklore.

Alex awkwardly shuffles.

ALEX

Actually, Lily's not my girlfriend. She's a Ph.D. student at Shanghai University. I couldn't have found this tomb without her help.

Willoughby regards Lily, skeptical.

WILLOUGHBY

What's your field of expertise?

LILY

Ancient Chinese history and languages.

Unimpressed, Willoughby turns back to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

Once you take the Bembridge oath, I trust you'll leave such fairy-tale hokum behind.

ALEX

But only full scholars take the oath.

WILLOUGHBY

You are our youngest associate, now I predict you'll be our youngest scholar. They couldn't deny you after this discovery.

ALEX

Sir Colin, I don't know what to say. That's been my dream ever since I desecrated my first tomb.

Before Alex can correct himself, Willoughby wraps him in a sweaty bear hug.

WILLOUGHBY

You've got a lot of work ahead of you. This place is going to take decades to excavate.

As Willoughby puffs his way down a row of warriors, Alex turns to Lily, grinning like a kid at Christmas.

ALEX

Alex O'Connell, Bembridge Scholar. Wait until my mum hears about this.

LILY

You don't need that pompous ass Willoughby to validate you. It would take him three lifetimes to learn what you already know.

He smiles, looks at her, clearly enchanted.

ALEX

Lily, I was wondering when we get back to Shanghai if maybe we could do something together, you know, that doesn't involve digging holes or climbing down ropes.

LILY

Is that your way of asking me out on a date?

He nods shyly. Although touched, she lets him down gently.

LILY

I'd love to, but I kind of make it a rule not to date colleagues.

ALEX

Of course, absolutely, good thinking. Wouldn't want to blur the lines with all the work we've got ahead of us.

OFF Alex masking his disappointment as she heads away...

CUT TO:

A BRUSH -- flicks the dust from the dragon insignia that embellishes the chest plate of a terra cotta warrior. Alex stands back, confused, as Lily steps to his side.

LILY

Everything okay?

Alex points to three pairs of terra cotta warriors who stand side by side and bear the Emperor's insignia.

ALEX

You have any idea what six of the Emperor's personal bodyguards are doing in the middle of a formation of foot soldiers?

LILY

Maybe they got lost.

ALEX

They would never have left his side.

Alex bends down, sweeps away some dirt, revealing a track-like groove. He looks back at Lily and grins...

ALEX

You want to meet an Emperor?

Alex steps between the first pair of warriors, puts his hands on their chests and pushes them over. The statues slam into the ones behind them, knocking them over like bowling pins. As the third pair topple, they lurch to a stop and a doorway GRINDS OPEN in the floor between the six statues. OFF Alex and Lily's excitement...

INT. CRYPT - DAY

Four stone Chimera, mythical dragon-like tomb guardians, stand in the corners of the chamber as Alex leads Lily and Willoughby down the steps. The trio stares in awe at the Emperor's ornate sarcophagus. It's sitting on a carriage harnessed to a chariot drawn by four bronze horses.

WILLOUGHBY

The final resting place of Emperor Qin Shihuang. You've guaranteed your place in the history books with this one, my boy.

Willoughby steps to the sarcophagus. It's carved out of red jade and is inlaid with the Emperor's dragon insignia.

WILLOUGHBY

I want the sarcophagus taken to the British Embassy in Shanghai for safe keeping immediately.

Alarmed, Lily steps in front of Willoughby.

LILY

No, the Emperor can't leave this chamber!

WILLOUGHBY

I don't remember requesting your opinion on the matter.

LILY

If you move the Emperor, you'll be making a huge mistake.

Willoughby rolls his eyes, turns to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

I suggest you have a word with your lady friend if you want her to remain on this dig.

Alex waits until Willoughby exits.

ALEX

Lily, we're archaeologists. We don't dig something up to leave it behind. We have to take it back and study it.

LILY

The ancient scrolls say that if the Dragon Emperor awakes, he will lay waste to the entire world.

ALEX

In order to raise a mummy, you need the Book of the Dead. There's only one copy and, trust me, it's buried under the Sahara.

Alex turns away, studies the lid of the sarcophagus.

ALEX  
This guy's just terra cotta and  
bone. He couldn't hurt a fly.

As his hand brushes over the dragon insignia, Lily sees the  
stone Chimeras' mouths snap open.

LILY  
GET DOWN!

She dive-tackles Alex and they roll under the chariot just as  
ROARING 20-foot jets of flame shoot out of the mouths of the  
Chimera. When the inferno ends, Lily looks at Alex.

LILY  
I've never seen someone cheat death  
so many times.

ALEX  
You should meet my parents.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: **AGRA, INDIA.**

Clouds of billowing steam. As it disperses, RICK AND EVY  
O'CONNELL are revealed. They're in the middle of a  
passionate kiss. They finally come up for air, look into  
each other's eyes, clearly still very much in love.

O'CONNELL  
Happy anniversary, Evy.

Evy peers through the view-finder of a Baby Brownie camera.

CLOSE ON: An upside down image of the Taj Mahal.

EVELYN  
Remember when Alex climbed that  
minaret?

O'CONNELL  
Yeah, I bet him a year's allowance  
he couldn't do it. Then we dodged  
the Indian police for two hours.

He smiles sadly as they make their way through the THrong.

O'CONNELL

I miss being the fun dad Alex  
couldn't wait to hang out with.

EVELYN

Well, somewhere between the tombs  
of Egypt and the temples of Persia,  
your son grew up.

O'CONNELL

I know and I'm really proud of him.  
But the truth is he's closer to you  
than he is to me.

EVELYN

If you want to know what he's up  
to, why don't you read his letters?

O'CONNELL

Honey, they're in ancient Egyptian  
with jokes about obscure pharaohs.

EVELYN

He did inherit my wry sense of  
humor.

Rick shakes his head. Evy tries to stay positive.

EVELYN

Look, you need to reconnect with  
him in your own way. When you were  
his age, what did you like?

O'CONNELL

Girls, guns... girls.

EVELYN

Trust me, your son has no time for  
romantic dalliances. He's a  
freshman at Yale. I'm sure he's  
absorbed in his studies.

O'CONNELL

What are you going to do when Alex  
finally does bring somebody home?

EVELYN

I'll be fine... as long as she's a  
librarian.

As they reach the entrance, Evy scans the crowd.

EVELYN

Any sign of General Okumura?

Rick points to an ASIAN MAN with aristocratic features. This is GENERAL OKUMURA. He's climbing into a bicycle rickshaw.

O'CONNELL

Looks like he's doing some sightseeing.

As they clamber into a rickshaw and follow...

EXT. RICKSHAW - DAY

Rick and Evy trundle through the sweltering odyssey of decrepit traffic, market stalls and cows.

O'CONNELL

I still can't believe you talked me into spying for the British Government.

EVELYN

We're in the middle of a war, Rick. I wanted us to do our part. Besides, I've talked you into worse.

O'CONNELL

You don't even know why you're following him?

EVELYN

The Home Office said the less we know the safer we are. We're just supposed to observe his movements and report back.

O'CONNELL

Lucky your husband likes to live dangerously.

EVELYN

Rick, what did you do?

Rick grins mischievously.

O'CONNELL

Played a little poker with the Defense Minister's brother and let him win occasionally. According to him, Okumura claims to have access to a doomsday weapon.

Evy's instantly intrigued.

EVELYN

And what might that be?

O'CONNELL

Nobody knows, but the Japanese High Command weren't impressed. They bounced Okumura and his followers out of Tokyo faster than you can say sushi.

As Okumura pulls up in front of the Taj Mahal, he is met by TWO FIERCE-LOOKING SIKHS wearing blue turbans.

EVELYN

What's a rogue general doing in India?

O'CONNELL

That's where the spying part comes in.

INT. TAJ MAHAL - DAY

Rick and Evy head into the miraculous domed interior.

ATTENDANT

Shoe! Shoe!

They turn and find an INDIAN MAN pointing to a sign, "NO SHOES!" Rick pulls off his boots and hands them over.

O'CONNELL

Guard them with your life.

Now barefoot, Rick and Evy dash across the marble. They surreptitiously watch as Okumura and his crew head into...

INT. PEACOCK CHAMBER - DAY

Rick and Evy hustle in, then stop in their tracks. There's no sign of Okumura and there's no exit.

O'CONNELL

One way in and no way out.

The walls are covered with marble reliefs of Indian wildlife. Elephants, monkeys, tigers and peacocks. They push and prod at the menagerie. Evy sighs in frustration.

EVELYN

I better take some pictures of  
where the trail went cold.

Evy snaps photos while Rick tugs at an elephant statue. He yanks down on its trunk, breaks it off. As he tries to reattach it, Evy lines up a shot and sees something.

EVELYN

Pinch my cheeks.

Rick quickly slips the broken trunk in his pocket.

O'CONNELL

Not now, Honey, we've got a bad guy  
to catch.

EVELYN

Look through the view-finder.

She hands him the camera and points to a design inlaid on the wall above a relief of a peacock. Its tail feathers glint with semi-precious stone. As he peers through the camera...

WHAT HE SEES: Viewed upside down, the abstract design now appears to spell out a phrase.

EVELYN

Those symbols are actually  
Sanskrit, except they're upside  
down and backwards. They spell,  
"Pinch my cheeks".

Evy reaches across, pinches the peacock's cheeks causing its "feathers" to fan back into the floor, revealing a doorway.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Old brass lanterns illuminate the network of Moorish corridors and hallways. Rick and Evy come to a recently excavated hole in the floor. Distant VOICES echo from below. Rick drops a stone into the darkness and hears it SPLAT.

O'CONNELL

Sounds soft. After you.

Evy takes a breath, then drops in feet first. Rick follows.

INT. PIT - DAY

The duo torpedoes into the mud. They're up to their necks.

EVELYN

Why is the mud moving?

Both look down and see they've landed in a pit of writhing SLUGS! They slither out, frantically brushing slugs and slime off their clothes.

EVELYN

Disgusting doesn't even begin to describe that.

Rick plucks a slug out of his ear. Evy SQUELCHES up to a filigree grille and peers out.

WHAT SHE SEES: A giant, 50-foot silver statue of the elephant god Ganesh in the middle of a huge subterranean cavern. He holds a sword in each of his eight arms. Like a sinking ship, the whole place is weirdly tilted at an angle.

EVELYN

The Lost Temple of Ganesh. The final repository of...

OKUMURA (O.S.)

... the Eye of Pemako.

As they spin, Rick reaches for his gun but comes out with a handful of slugs. They stare at Okumura, who is flanked by the two sword-wielding Sikhs.

OKUMURA

When I heard the British had sent the infamous O'Connells to spy on me, I was flattered. Expertise like yours is hard to come by.

(beat)

Now, I'm going use it to get me the Eye.

Rick points to the diamond gleaming on Ganesh's forehead.

O'CONNELL

It's right there, get it yourself.

OKUMURA

You of all people should know these ancient temples are full of hidden dangers.

He tosses a flaming torch into the wide well surrounding Ganesh, revealing a pit of slumbering CROCODILES. Their bodies are entwined like a giant jigsaw puzzle. OFF Rick and Evy's distress...

INT. TEMPLE OF GANESH - DAY

Tiny oil lamps flicker in thousands of niches dug out of the walls. Rick stifles A YELP as he stubs his bare foot on the tail of a 20-foot croc.

O'CONNELL

No gun, no shoes and we're walking across a bunch of alligators. Who stays up at night and thinks of this stuff?

EVELYN

Actually, honey, they're Indian crocodiles, far more vicious. But lucky for us, it looks like they're hibernating.

O'CONNELL

Way to find the silver lining, Evy.

He glances at the sword-wielding Sikhs who are following.

O'CONNELL

So what does Okumura want with the Eye of Pemako?

EVELYN

They say the stone points the way to the Spring of Eternal Life which is hidden in Shangri-La.

O'CONNELL

As much as I'd like to take a swig from the fountain of youth and stay this ruggedly handsome forever -- that's a myth.

EVELYN

You used to feel the same way about mummies.

They scramble out of the pit and begin to climb the statue while the Sikhs stand guard at the base.

OKUMURA -- watches the duo clamber up the silver behemoth.

RICK & EVY -- reach the top of the statue. Evy waits behind one of its 6-foot ears while Rick reaches for the giant gemstone. He almost topples as he wrestles it free, hands the stone to Evy. As she examines it, her brow furrows.

EVELYN

Rick, this isn't it.

O'CONNELL

Looks like a big sparkly diamond to me.

She scrapes the stone against the edge of Ganesh's ear, then shows Rick its scarred surface.

EVELYN

Diamonds don't scratch.

A loud METALLIC CLANKING echoes from the belly of the statue. Like a giant clockwork toy, the statue GRINDS to life. Its eight arms swing their razor-sharp swords and its head nods.

RICK AND EVY

try to keep their balance but tumble off. As they plunge towards the pit, Rick drops the diamond but manages to catch hold of one of the statue's eight arms. He reaches out and grabs Evy's hand as she falls past him. As they dangle, Rick sees a sword sweep towards Evy. A second before

THE GLEAMING BLADE

slices her in two, Evy lets go, SCREAMING as she drops. Rick swings up his bare feet as the sword razors under him, then looks down and is relieved to see Evy hanging onto the end of Ganesh's trunk.

OKUMURA -- races down into the pit, BARKS orders to the Sikhs, who begin climbing up onto the statue.

As Sikhs stalk towards Evy, Rick is helpless until he sees three of the statue's arms converge, their swords form a makeshift staircase. Rick bounds across the blades and tackles the Sikhs right off the statue. As they tumble Sikh #1 is impaled on one of Ganesh's swinging swords while Rick and Sikh #2 crash into the croc pit.

OKUMURA -- is unaware of the commotion as he picks up the glass diamond and sees it's veined with cracks. Furious, he SMASHES it against the base of the statue, powdering it.

EVY -- peers into the statue's navel cavity. Two eyes stare back. She reaches in and pulls out a life-size SILVER SKULL. When she plucks it out, CAMERA SHOOT'S INTO THE EMPTY HOLE and ZIGZAGS between the statue's cogs and gears as they

GRIND TO A HALT.

CAMERA DIVES towards the base of the statue as a kinetic furnace unleashes a fury of hot steam. CAMERA FOLLOWS the steam into a maze of pipes and emerges through a grate under Rick, who is lying dazed. He GROANS as his bare feet are seared. He hops out of the way, watches as the statue shudders to a stop and steam billows from 100 other grates.

O'CONNELL

Evy, how did you turn off the arms  
and turn on the steam bath?

EVELYN

I'm not sure, but I found the Eye.

Spangles of light ripple across Evy as she hinges open the skull and stares at THE EYE. It's an egg-sized diamond with a large, pupil-shaped emerald embedded within it.

EVELYN

It was inside Ganesh's belly.  
Which makes perfect sense; you see,  
in Indian culture, the third eye is  
about looking inward.

A BULLET zips past Rick. It's Okumura.

O'CONNELL

Fill me in later.

Okumura pops off TWO MORE SHOTS, Rick races away, dives for cover among the sleeping crocodiles. As he peers through the steam, he sees the eyes of a croc pop open. Then another and another. They're all waking up! He slowly turns his head until he's staring into the open eyes of the croc directly in front of him. It's got a shit-eating grin on its snout. Just as the ferocious reptile lurches towards him with its jaws snapping, Rick shoulder-rolls to his feet and takes off.

O'CONNELL

Evy, I figured out what the steam  
does!

Evy slides down Ganesh's right leg, clutching the skull box, turns to find the cavern is shrouded in a carpet of steam.

EVELYN

Rick, where are you?

She jumps down, unaware of the threat. Suddenly, a shape emerges through the curtain of steam behind her. It's Sikh #2! He's holding a sword and creeping up on her.

He's about to slice her in half when a GIANT CROCODILE leaps out of the mist, vices the guy in his jaws, and drops out of frame with lightning speed. Evy hears the man's MUFFLED CRY, spins, but sees nothing. When she turns back, she is startled to find Rick right next to her. She swats him.

EVELYN

Don't do that!

O'CONNELL

We need to go. Now!

However, as they turn, Okumura steps out of the steam with his gun aimed at Rick.

OKUMURA

Give me the Eye.

O'CONNELL

Don't do it, Evy.

Suddenly, an ENORMOUS RUMBLE BOOMS from inside the statue and the whole place shakes, throwing them off their feet and sending the skull box flying. Okumura scrambles after it, Rick right on his tail. Evy follows, avoiding the jaws of a dozen starving crocs.

OKUMURA -- sees the silver skull, is reaching for it when Rick dive-tackles him. The two men exchange blows. As Rick falls back, Okumura clambers for the skull. He's just grasped it in his hand when A MASSIVE CROCODILE leaps up and bites his arm off at the elbow. Okumura drops to his knees and SCREAMS in agony. Rick scrambles right past him and after the croc as another RUMBLE echoes from Ganesh.

O'CONNELL

Come here, boy.

As the crocodile opens its mouth to SNARL, Rick sees the skull box is still clutched in the palm of Okumura's severed arm which is lying on the croc's tongue.

O'CONNELL

Good croc.

Rick gets an idea, pulls the marble tusk from his jacket. As the croc moves in, Rick thrusts the tusk into its mouth, wedging it open. He reaches in and grabs the skull box a second before the reptile's jaws snap shut, OBLITERATING the marble tusk like a toothpick.

Rick runs back to Evy, who's trying to fend off a trio of crocs. They hear GUNFIRE and turn to see Okumura SHOOTING his way out. They're completely surrounded by HISSING crocs.

O'CONNELL

I thought Ganesh was the god of good luck.

EVELYN

Actually, he's the god of wealth, intelligence...

Suddenly, there's A DEAFENING GROAN and the statue topples off its base. As it CRASHES, its sword-wielding arms impale the crocs that are about to devour Rick and Evy.

EVELYN

... and remover of obstacles.

The duo clammers up onto the statue, which forms a bridge over the crocodile pit.

INT. TAJ MAHAL - DAY

Rick and Evy look like they've been dragged to hell and back. Rick holds his shoulder as they cross to the shoe Attendant.

EVELYN

I should report to the Home Office and you should see a doctor.

Rick hands the Attendant his ticket. The man stares in shock. Rick's shirt is ripped and his face is streaked with dirt and blood.

O'CONNELL

The other guy lost an arm.

As Rick starts pulling on his boots, he surreptitiously takes the Eye out of its skull box and slips it into a compartment in the heel of his boot. As he ties his laces:

O'CONNELL

Now let's get this vacation started.

Evy, meanwhile, notices the "Times of India" sitting on the Attendant's chair. She picks it up and stares at the photo on the front page in disbelief.

EVELYN

Rick, did you know someone found the First Emperor of China?

O'CONNELL

You're kidding? Who did that son-of-a-bitch Willoughby finally get to do the job?

EVELYN

Our son.

She angrily spins and thrusts the newspaper into his chest.

EVELYN

Vacation's over.

As she storms away, Rick peers at the front page. It features a photo of Alex under the headline, "O'CONNELL DISCOVERS FIRST EMPEROR OF CHINA!" OFF this image...

SMASH CUT TO:

AERIAL VIEW of a twinkling metropolis. CAMERA SURFS PAST magnificent hotels, SWOOPS over market-choked streets and alleys zigzagged with lanterns and washing lines.

**TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: SHANGHAI, CHINA.**

It doesn't stop until it FINDS a bubble-gum-pink neon sign. It's flashing above a glitzy nightclub "IMHOTEP'S -- COCKTAILS AND DANCING. OPEN 10 'TIL LATE!" CAMERA PUSHES RIGHT THROUGH the "O" of Imhotep and INTO the window of...

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - NIGHT

It's decorated like an Egyptian fantasy. The GORGEOUS ASIAN BARMAIDS are body-painted like Anck-su-namun. JONATHAN holds court at the bar. He's wearing a white dinner jacket and has a BEAUTIFUL SOCIALITE on each arm.

JONATHAN

... so the entire oasis sank into the desert. I said that's it, I'm done with Egypt. It's off to the Orient to follow my true dream. And when that didn't work out, I opened this nightclub.

He raises his champagne flute in a toast.

JONATHAN

To Imhotep!  
(under his breath)  
May the bastard actually stay dead.

They're about to clink when the whole place goes SILENT. Jonathan turns and sees a TRIO OF JAPANESE OFFICERS, lead by MAJOR SUKI, striding towards a table of INTENSE CHINESE MEN. The Major stares at the leader of the group, CHANG.

CHANG

You're in the wrong bar, they don't serve sake here.

MAJOR SUKI

Show me your papers.

CHANG

I don't take orders from Japanese.

Suki's hand edges for his weapon when Jonathan intervenes.

JONATHAN

Gentlemen, this club has a strict no-senseless-violence policy.

MAJOR SUKI

These men are suspected Chinese insurgents. How can you serve their kind?

JONATHAN

I serve all kinds, including Japanese officers with no jurisdiction.

He SNAPS his fingers, THREE GORGEOUS BARMAIDS step over.

JONATHAN

Now please enjoy my hospitality.

As they lead the Japanese away, Jonathan addresses Chang.

JONATHAN

I think it's time you found somewhere else for your little get-togethers, Chang. I'm a lover, not a fighter.

As he turns back to the bar, Jonathan is slapped across the face. He stares in surprise at Evy.

EVELYN

How long has Alex been in China?

JONATHAN

Alex is in China?

She slaps him again.

O'CONNELL

You may want to rethink your answer.

EVELYN

My son makes the biggest discovery of the century and I have to read about it in a newspaper.

JONATHAN

I tried reaching you in India. But I guess you were out gallivanting on elephants or whatever you do on a second honeymoon. How was it?

O'CONNELL

Crocodiles, slugs, secret temples, you know, the usual.

JONATHAN

Maybe you two should go on a package tour next time.

EVELYN

Jonathan!

JONATHAN

(finally caving)

Alex sent me a telegram six months ago. He told me he needed extra money for books and would I be a good uncle and wire it to him. The next thing I know he's on my doorstep, said he had an opportunity of a lifetime.

O'CONNELL

Which part of "world war" made you think that was a good idea?

EVELYN

We sent Alex to America so he wouldn't be in harm's way.

JONATHAN

Don't blame me, he's your son, it's not like you two have been role models for playing it safe.

O'CONNELL

Where is he?

As Jonathan points upstairs and they head away, CAMERA FINDS Major Suki observing from a booth. OFF his face...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

There's a KNOCK at the door. Alex swings it open, revealing Lily. She steps in and is surprised to see a candlelit table for two and a bottle of champagne in a bucket.

LILY

Do you always study with  
candlelight and champagne?

Alex feigns nonchalance.

ALEX

Oh that. It was a gift from the  
British Consulate, apparently my  
discovery has been a big morale  
boost to everybody back home.

(picking up bottle)

Come on, one drink between friends  
before we hit the books.

Lily smiles her agreement. With macho confidence, Alex tries to open the bottle, but struggles with the cork, finally he puts the bottle between his knees.

LILY

Need a hand?

ALEX

I've done this a thousand times.  
It's all in the wrist.

At that moment, the cork POPS and a geyser of champagne sprays over him, drenching his shirt. As he turns away, we see that Lily is clearly charmed by his awkwardness.

ALEX

Give me a minute.

Alex steps behind a screen, takes off his shirt and looks for a replacement. Lily sneaks a peep at his reflection in a mirror and clearly likes what she sees. There's a LOUD KNOCK at the door. Alex calls out...

ALEX

I'm busy, slip the telegrams under  
the door.

Another LOUDER KNOCK.

LILY  
You want me to get it?

Alex pops his head around the side of the screen, holding a lamp under his chin which casts spooky shadows.

ALEX  
It's probably just a mummy.

LILY  
Alex, that's not funny.

ALEX  
(scary voice)  
... a mummy! Mummy!

Suddenly, the door bursts open and Evy stands on the threshold. He looks at her in wide-eyed shock.

ALEX  
Mummy!

Alex puts down the lamp as Rick joins her. Evy stares in horror while Rick smiles, amused by the situation.

O'CONNELL  
Hey, kiddo, get lost on your way  
to Yale?

Alex looks at Evy, who is seething.

ALEX  
Mum, you look upset.

EVELYN  
I passed upset two time zones ago.

ALEX  
I can explain.

EVELYN  
You're half naked, consorting with  
a bar-girl. It's pretty self-  
explanatory.

ALEX  
Lily's not a bar-girl.

LILY  
We're colleagues.

ALEX

We were about to exchange valuable research.

O'CONNELL

I bet you were.

EVELYN

And that required candles, champagne and taking off your clothes?

Flustered, Alex pulls on a shirt.

LILY

Alex, I'm going. You obviously have some catching up to do. Good night, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell.

ALEX

Lily, wait.

As she heads out, Alex turns to his parents, exasperated.

ALEX

Way to go guys, thanks.

O'CONNELL

Let me get this straight. You lie to us and we're supposed to feel bad about ruining your date?

ALEX

It wasn't a --

(catches himself)

I didn't tell you about the dig because I knew what you'd say. That you don't want me running around a country on the brink of war.

O'CONNELL

Yeah, we're terrible parents holding you back like that.

ALEX

You parked me at Yale because you still think I'm a child.

O'CONNELL

We parked you at Yale so you'd live to see your next birthday.

ALEX

For your information I tried to enlist.

(off their shock)

But they wouldn't take me. Said I was 4F. Bad eyes. Flat feet.

EVELYN

I'm afraid you inherited my family's genes. The Carnahans aren't known for producing football stars. Just look at your Uncle Jon.

ALEX

When Sir Willoughby called and said I could be of service to my country, I jumped.

(to Evy, excited)

Mum, he's going to make me a full Bembridge Scholar.

O'CONNELL

That doesn't matter.

But Evy's face suddenly glows with pride.

EVELYN

Full scholar? Alex, that's fantastic. Just what we've always dreamed about.

ALEX

Sir Willoughby is throwing me a party at the British Consulate tomorrow night.

O'CONNELL

Evy, we're supposed to be mad. United front, remember?

EVELYN

Alex, it's terrible you lied...  
(can't contain herself)  
... but congratulations! Give me a hug.

As they hug, Rick rolls his eyes. Evy finally breaks off.

EVELYN

Now, tell me more about this Lily.

OFF Alex's embarrassment...

EXT. SHANGHAI - DAWN

The modern city of Art Deco skyscrapers sits on the banks of the Huangpu River which is home to a floating city of boats and sampans. CAMERA ZEROES IN ON a TATTERED THREE-MAST JUNK sitting in the middle of the flotilla of vessels.

INT. JUNK - DAWN

TIGHT ON OKUMURA as the HIDEOUS WHINE of a drill cuts the air. He twists a pair of meditation balls in the palm of his good hand. PAN DOWN FROM THE SHOULDER of his other arm TO REVEAL the lost appendage has been replaced by

A MECHANICAL ARM

A CHINESE ENGINEER, wearing thick magnifying glasses, is fine-tuning the arm's intricately constructed inner workings with a drill. The man takes his foot off the pedal.

CHINESE ENGINEER

Try again.

Okumura takes the meditation balls in his metallic hand. As his fingers close around them, the balls SHATTER in his grip.

CHINESE ENGINEER

Too strong. I need to adjust the tension.

As he's about to WHIR the drill back to life, Okumura reaches over and violently crushes the tool.

OKUMURA

Leave it. It's perfect.

(beat)

You have done a great service for Japan. When the storm comes, you will be protected.

He extends his mechanical hand. The Engineer peers at it, finally reaches out. He braces for a bone-crushing, but is surprised when Okumura gently clenches his hand. As the man hastily exits, he passes Major Suki from "Imhotep's".

MAJOR SUKI

The O'Connells are in Shanghai.

OKUMURA

Right on time.

OFF Okumura's look of satisfaction...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

Jonathan's custom-white, CHAUFFEUR-driven Bentley crawls through the colorful sea of market stalls and rickshaws.

INT. BENTLEY - NIGHT

Jonathan is in front while Alex is squeezed between Rick and Evy in the back. They're dressed up for the big party. Rick rolls his eyes as an ELDERLY BICYCLIST passes them.

O'CONNELL

It would have been faster going by rickshaw.

Evy shoots him a look.

EVELYN

Rick, this might be a good time to give Alex his present.

Alex regards his dad with surprise.

ALEX

You got me a gift?

Rick sheepishly nods, hands Alex a box.

O'CONNELL

You know, in honor of your big discovery.

Alex RATTLES it gleefully, looks at Evy.

ALEX

I bet it's that new set of archaeological trowels I've had my eye on.

EVELYN

Don't look at me, your father insisted on picking it out himself.

Alex RIPS open the lid and stares in disappointment.

ALEX

Wow. A slingshot.

O'CONNELL

It's the super-deluxe model. It'll knock the head off a pigeon at 100 feet.

