

AMERICAN DRAGON
"Career Week, Part One"
(777A-217)

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

PAN DOWN from a banner that reads 'Career Week' to find SUN leading JAKE, TRIXIE, SPUD and other students through rows of tables representing various companies.

SUN
Students, welcome to our annual career week fair. Now spread out and try to find a company that bests connects with your inner vibrations.

Jake, Trixie, and Spud move forward, taking it all in.

JAKE
Guys, how cool is this?

TRIXIE
We get to spend all next week working a real job in the career field of our choice.

SPUD
Future, here we come!

Jake, Trixie, and Spud fan out.

INT. CAREER FAIR - HOSPITAL TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

Trixie fills out a pink work placement form at a table representing SAINT ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL.

TRIXIE
Doctor Trixie Carter. Paging Doctor Trixie Carter, M.D. That sure does have a nice ring to it, don't you think?

A doctor manning the table smiles and STAMPS her slip.

INT. CAREER FAIR - VIDEO GAME COMPANY TABLE

Spud moves over to a keyboard at the VIDDY-SIM GAME CORP table. A TECH GUY is presenting a large plasma screen showing a tank-themed video game in progress.

SPUD

Ooooh, it's that cool new video game, 'Tank Tumbler!' Let me try! Let me try! Let me try!

TECH GUY

Dude, we're looking for serious students who have a special aptitude for computer programming.

SPUD

Oh, o.k. I just wanted to fix a bug in the game's primary code...

The game's graphics break down into code as Spud's fingers rattle over the keyboard. Spud hits ENTER. The game returns.

SPUD (CONT'D)

...There. That oughta do the trick. Well, see ya.

The Tech Guy stares at the screen, slack-jawed. He hurries after Spud, waving a pink placement slip.

TECH GUY

Dude, wait. Let me fill out a placement application for you...

INT. CAREER FAIR - MUSIC INDUSTRY TABLE

Jake is bopping his head to a HIP HOP beat spinning on two turntables. A cool-looking MUSIC INDUSTRY REP approaches.

MUSIC INDUSTRY REP

Hey, my man. You like music?

JAKE

I love it. All kinds.

MUSIC INDUSTRY REP

We're just a small record label but you should check out interning with us for the week. It'll be a blast.

JAKE

Really? That would be great! I've always wanted to--

SUN (O.S.)

I'm sorry...

Sun approaches, snatching up Jake's pink slip.

SUN (CONT'D)
...But I'm afraid this student is
unavailable.

JAKE
What? No! I'm totally available!

SUN
He's already been placed in a
position for career week.

JAKE
Huh? What are you talking about?
What position?

Sun leads Jake away.

SUN
Why, in the exciting field of
retail electronics--wink. wink.

A group of students parts to reveal GRANDPA sitting at a
dusty old table that reads ELECTRONICS SHOP.

GRANDPA
Welcome to the "family business,"
young one.

He STAMPS Jake's pink slip and hands it to--
Jake, who stares back at the sea of other tables.

JAKE
<SIGH> Aw, man.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Dejected, Jake slinks out of the cafeteria, holding his pink career week assignment slip. He finds ROSE, standing outside, staring at her own slip.

ROSE
Hey, Jake. Did you score a cool career week assignment?

JAKE
Hardly. More dragon training at my Grandpa's shop. You?

ROSE
Ah, I'm spending an exciting week interning at Sunnlatch Industries.

JAKE
Sunnlatch?

ROSE
It's an anagram for 'Huntsclan.'
The whole company's a front.

Jake and Rose stare at their pink assignment slips.

JAKE
You ever wonder what it would be like to, you know, pick your own future?

ROSE
Only all the time.

They share a smile. The moment is cut off by a CHIME from Rose's Huntsclan communication device. She reads the screen.

ROSE (CONT'D)
It's the Huntsclan. Jake, they've found the last Aztec skull.

Jake leaps up, ready for action--

JAKE
Where?

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - NIGHT

Jake, Grandpa, Sun, HALEY and FU DOG watch the gated entrance to the zoo from the top of a hill top.

JAKE

Come on, Gramps. Spud is working for a cool video game designer. Trixie got placed in a hospital. Do I really have to spend my whole career week with you at the shop?

GRANDPA

Consider yourself lucky, young one. Most people spend their whole lives trying to discover their future. You already know yours.

We PUSH IN on Jake as we--

RIPPLE DISSOLVE:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - JAKE'S FANTASY - THE FUTURE

FU DOG - calls into the back of the shop.

FU DOG

Jake! We gotta dragon emergency uptown!

AN EIGHTY YEAR OLD JAKE - withered and hunched over, comes out of the back of the shop using a walker. He struggles to raise a fist into the air--

EIGHTY YEAR OLD JAKE

Dragon up-mmmphhh! Mmmmpphhh!

Jake's FALSE TEETH fly out of his mouth and RATTLE around on the floor. He drops down, crawling after them as we--

RIPPLE DISSOLVE:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - BACK TO REALITY

Jake shakes off the disturbing vision.

JAKE

Arghh! But what if I want a future that doesn't include growing old in some dusty shop with just a talking dog for company? (aside) No offense, Fu.

FU DOG

Hey, none taken. I got thick skin.

SUN AND HALEY - Haley shrugs at Jake.

HALEY

Look on the bright side, Jake. By assuming your destiny as the American Dragon, you're freeing me up to pursue my brilliant careers as a ballerina, concert pianist, painter, astronaut, and fireman.

JAKE

Look, it's not that I don't dig being the American Dragon and all that. It's just I don't want to end up like--well, like--

GRANDPA

--you mean like me?

Before Jake can respond, Sun raises a hand.

SUN

Shh! They're here.

Jake and company peer down the hill and see--

THE HUNTSMAN, HUNTS GIRL, #88, AND #89 -- appear in a teleportation beam right outside the zoo gates. The Huntsman leaps over the gate. Huntsgirl cartwheels over. #88 and #89 attempt to climb the gate, but get snagged on the top.

#88/#89

Leggo! Leggo!/It's got me!

Sun motions to Jake and Grandpa.

SUN

Haley and I will cover the back.

WIDE ON THE GROUP - Jake, Grandpa, Sun, and Haley transform into dragons and fan out, flying down the hill.

CUT TO:

INT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - NIGHT

ANGLE ON A LARGE STONE AZTEC STATUE - built into the wall of a building featuring South American animals. The Huntsman flips onto the figure's head. With one swipe of his staff, he slices open the statue's stone head. A CRYSTAL AZTEC SKULL falls out and drops into the hands of--

THE HUNTSWOMAN - who catches it.

HUNTSWOMAN
Got it, Master.

AT A MONKEY CAGE - #89 peels a banana, dropping the peel and holding the fruit up to the bars for a CHATTERING monkey.

#89
Oh, whatsa matta monkey man? You want some banana-wana? Psyche!

He tosses it to #88, who catches it, laughing.

#88
That's bananas! Get it, bananas!?

They high five while the monkeys CHATTER in anger. The Huntsman leaps down, snatching the skull.

HUNTSMAN
Silence you two! Keep your mouths shut and your eyes open. Lately, it seems like the American Dragon has known our every move.

#88 and #89 swell their chests.

#89
Man, I just hope those fool dragons show up here tonight.

#88
I heard that. I've just been waiting for an excuse to go crazy mad mack fu all over those suckers. I'd be all <kung fu noises> and then they'll be like--

JAKE (O.S.)
Hi-yaaaaa!

Jake WHOOSHES in (in dragon form), using his tail to sweep the Huntsman's legs out from under him. The skull goes skidding across the floor.

HUNTSMAN

Argghh!

#88 and #89 are paralyzed with fear.

#89

Dra--dra-dra---

#88

DRAGON! Whoahhhhhhhh! Ooof!

#88 slips on the banana peel. He wipes out, taking #89 down with him.

THE HUNTSMAN - recovers. He BLASTS his staff at--

JAKE - who dodges. The ENERGY BEAM SIZZLES through--

THE LOCK ON THE MONKEY CAGE DOOR - The door swings open and the monkeys pour out, CHATTERING.

THE SKULL - rolls to a stop next to #88 and #89. #88 is reaching for it when a monkey grabs it. The monkey holds it out, offering it to them, then at the last second, tosses it over their heads to another monkey. They CHATTER with glee.

#88/#89

Wait! Give it!/Hey! Come back with that!

The monkeys toss the skull back and forth, playing keep away, as #88 and #89 chase them down the hall.

HUNTSMAN

Get that skull! I will deal with the dragon!

The Huntsman is leveling his staff at Jake when Huntsgirl flips in front of him, blocking his shot.

HUNTS GIRL

This one is mine, Master! Hi-ya!

Huntsgirl fly kicks into Jake. She and Jake go tumbling through a Plexiglas wall and through--

AN EXOTIC BIRD AVIARY

--Colorful and exotic South American birds scatter as Jake and Rose go SMASHING through a wall and into--

A CONTROL ROOM

--video surveillance monitors show scenes from around the zoo. Huntsgirl leaps up, making sure that the coast is clear. She peels off her mask, pointing to--

A MONITOR - that shows #88 and #89. #89 manages to reach out with his staff and snag the skull away from a monkey.

ROSE

Jake. #88 and #89 are getting away with the skull.

Jake joins her at the monitor.

JAKE

They won't get far. Sun and Haley have the back exits covered.

INT. DARK CAGE - CONTINUOUS

#88 and #89 feel their way through the dark room.

#89

Hey, those monkeys took off as soon as we came into this room.

#88

Of course they did. 'Cuz they knew I was about to crack open a can of crazy killer mack fu all over them.

#89

Here, wait. I think I found a light switch.

WIDE ON THE ROOM - as the lights FLICK on to reveal that #88 and #89 are standing on the backs of a row of GIANT SNARLING CROCODILES in a water tank. The Crocs spring on them, jaws SNAPPING. They juggle the skull back and forth.

#88/#89

Aaarggghh!/Get 'em off! Get 'em off!

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ON A MONITOR - #88 and #89 struggle to escape the crocs. PAN TO ANOTHER MONITOR where Grandpa swoops into frame, trading blows with the Huntsman.

Jake turns to Rose.

JAKE

Rose, listen. After this is over, I think it's time for you to leave the Huntsclan. For good.

ROSE

But how? I mean, where will I go?

JAKE

Remember your dream? The Huntsclan stole you from your mother and father when you were a baby. With the Dragon Council's help, I think we can find your real family.

ROSE

My real family. Jake, I don't know what to say. Thank you.

Rose smothers Jake with a hug. He smiles.

INT. MAIN EXHIBIT - CONTINUOUS

THE HUNTSMAN - blasts at Grandpa with his staff. Grandpa gets behind him. The Huntsman reaches back and flips Grandpa over his head, SLAMMING into the bars of a cage.

HUNTSMAN

You're growing slower, old dragon.

GRANDPA

And wiser...

Grandpa's tail flicks open the door of the cage and a BLACK JAGUAR comes ROARING out, leaping onto the Huntsman.

HUNTSMAN

Argghhhhh!

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ON A MONITOR - The Huntsman spins, fighting the jaguar on his back. Rose pulls away from Jake, pulling down her mask.

HUNTS GIRL
I'd better go. The Huntsman's been
getting suspicious. (calling out)
Master, I'm coming!

She winks at Jake and flips away.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - NIGHT

AN EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR - #88 and #89 come falling out of the door, beaten and bruised. Their underwear is visible through their completely shredded clothes. #88 holds up the skull.

#88
We did it. We got the skull.

#89
We're gonna be heroes!

#88
Well, technically, I'm gonna be the
hero. You can be my sidekick.

#89 yanks at the skull.

#89
Sidekick!? I'm taller than you!

The skull pops out of their hands, landing right in the arms of Haley, who is hovering above them in dragon form.

HALEY (O.S.)
Oh, thanks guys. Well, goodnight.

She sails into the sky, joining Sun, Jake, and Grandpa. The dragons fly off into the night, leaving--

#88 and #89 - staring up at them, slack-jawed. Suddenly, a crocodile reaches through the door, SNAPPING on the seat of their uniforms and yanking them back in the door. We hear more SNAPPING and THRASHING.

#88/#89
No! Leggo! Leggo!/Ow! Owww!

CUT TO:

INT. SAINT ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Trixie follows a DOCTOR down a hall.

TRIXIE

Thanks so much for this
opportunity. I'm really good with
people, so anything I can do to
help out with the patients, just--

The Doctor stops at a door, opening it.

DOCTOR

--Here we are. This entire room
needs to be reorganized. Good
luck.

Trixie steps into--

THE FILING ROOM

--and looks around. We PULL OUT to reveal that it is a huge,
warehouse-sized room, packed with filing cabinets and boxes
of loose paper (think of the final shot of 'Raiders Of The
Lost Ark'). Trixie glances around.

TRIXIE

Career week? This might take the
rest of my life.

She opens a filing cabinet and begins pulling out folders.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIDDY-SIM GAME CORPORATION - DAY

PUSH IN ON THE GLASS SKYSCRAPER - as we hear--

TECH GUY (V.O.)

There's one last person you need to
meet, Spud...

INT. VIDDY-SIM GAME CORPORATION - HALLWAY

The Tech Guy leads Spud to a door.

TECH GUY

...Sheila. She's right in there.

Spud nods and enters--

THE VIDDY-SIM COMPUTER VAULT

--The room is completely white (floor, walls, ceiling) with no windows. A single RED EYE LIGHT is mounted on the far wall. Spud walks in, glancing around.

SPUD
Hello? Sheila?

The red eye blinks to life.

SHEILA 9000
Greetings, student employee. I am
Sheila 9000, the most powerful
supercomputer on earth.

Streams of data and video stream along the room's walls,
ceiling and floor, surrounding Spud with data.

SHEILA 9000 (CONT'D)
I am equipped with a 6.3 petabyte
processing grid that is capable of
seven trillion calculations per
second. Do you have any questions?

SPUD
Just one, Sheila...

Spud reaches over and caresses the red eye light.

SPUD (CONT'D)
...where have you been all my life?

CUT TO:

EXT. DRACOS ISLAND - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

We PUSH IN on the majestic Dragon Council temple.

COUNCILOR KULDE (V.O.)
With out all thirteen of the
crystal Aztec skulls...

INT. TEMPLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

Jake, Grandpa, and Fu Dog stand before COUNCILOR ANDAM,
COUNCILOR KULDE, and the rest of the council. The three
Aztec skulls sit on a podium before the council.

COUNCILOR KULDE

...the Huntsman will never be able to carry out his plan to wipe magical creatures from the face of the earth.

COUNCILOR ANDAM

To make sure this threat is defeated once and for all, we order that these three skulls be destroyed immediately.

Jake steps forward, CRACKING his knuckles.

JAKE

No problem. You can kiss these evil crystal skulls goodbye. Dragon up!

Jake TRANSFORMS into a dragon and takes a DEEP BREATH.

FU DOG

Uh, kid, wait. You can't just--

Jake BLASTS the skulls with a burst of FIRE. The skulls are unharmed, but Jake's fire BURNS through them and blasts the council. The entire council table CRACKS and tips over.

JAKE

Ooops. Sorry about that...

The table hits a statue, tipping it over. A chain reaction of statues tip and fall, CRASHING all along the perimeter of the chamber like dominos. Jake transforms back into human form, wincing.

JAKE (CONT'D)

...And sorry about that. And that. And that one there. And, well, just sorry in general.

Grandpa steps forward while Fu collects the skulls into a pouch.

GRANDPA

Fu Dog will research the proper method for disposing of the skulls.

Councilor Andam and the other councilors dust themselves off.

COUNCILOR ANDAM
 Very well. Then we shall move on
 to the next order of business in
 this matter...

COUNCILOR KULDE
 ...The Huntsgirl. Or Rose.

Jake brightens as HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF ROSE AND THE
 HUNTSGIRL project all through the council chambers.

JAKE
 Yes! Yes! I'm totally glad you
 brought that up. O.k. I've got
 this all figured out...

Jake unravels a list that rolls across the floor of the
 chambers.

JAKE (CONT'D)
 ...Here's what we have to do to.
 First, we have to find her real
 parents, then we need to coordinate
 an attack on the Huntsclan lair--

The Council members exchange uneasy glances.

COUNCILOR KULDE
 --American Dragon. The Council has
 already reached a decision on this
 matter.

JAKE
 Oh, o.k. If you guys already have
 a plan on how to help, that's cool.
 Let's hear it. I'm all ears.

COUNCILOR ANDAM
 It is the determination of the
 Dragon Council that you are
 forbidden from ever seeing her
 again.

JAKE
 Say whaaaaaa---?

Off Jake's stunned reaction, we--

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TEMPLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

RE-ESTABLISH - Jake stands before the council, stunned. He motions at the holographic images of Rose/Huntsgirl.

JAKE

Forbidden from seeing Rose? But--
you can't do that!

Grandpa steps forward.

GRANDPA

I would like to point out to the Council that this girl played a vital role in recovering the three Aztec skulls and stopping the Huntsman's plan.

JAKE

Yes! She risked everything to help us! We owe her. You owe her.

COUNCILOR ANDAM

We owe her nothing. She is a member of the Huntsclan.

JAKE

Not anymore. She's my boo! I mean, she--she's my friend.

COUNCILOR ANDAM

The council has never been comfortable with the personal relationship you have had with this dragon slayer.

COUNCILOR KULDE

It is clear that your feelings are clouding your judgement. The ruling of the council is final.

Jake leaps up onto the Council table.

JAKE

No! No way! I'm tired of having you choose my future. This is my life. You don't own me.

COUNCILOR ANDAM

We may not own you, but we own the dragon powers you possess. And as long as you have those powers, your life and your future belong to this council.

Councilor Andam RAPS the table with his gavel as we--

CUT TO:

INT. DRAGON TEMPLE - HALL OUTSIDE CHAMBERS

Jake bursts out, furious. He turns to Grandpa.

JAKE

Grandpa. Gramps, come on! Say something! Help a playa out!

GRANDPA

I am sorry, Jake. I do not agree with the decision of the council. But their word is law.

JAKE

So I don't get to pick my own career, my own girlfriend, my own future, my own anything?

GRANDPA

I know it is not easy. But it is the price we must pay for being dragons.

JAKE

Well maybe that price is too steep.

Jake storms off, leaving Grandpa.

CUT TO:

INT. DRAGON LIBRARY - ARCHIVES - NIGHT

A STONE DOOR - slides open. Jake and Fu Dog step through into a giant magical library. Fu carries the three Aztec skulls in a pouch. Stacks of glowing scrolls and texts are lined wall to ceiling. Jake glances around.

JAKE

Whoah. What is this place?

FU DOG

The Dragon Archives Library. You got thousands of years of magical information and knowledge right here at your finger tips.

JAKE

Cool.

FU DOG

Come on, we'll start over in this section--the destruction of dangerous magical objects.

Fu lead Jake down an aisle where they come to--

A ROW OF SHELVES - covered with tagged glowing magical items. At the end of the row, two GNOMES shovel items into a FLAMING MOLTEN INCINERATOR. Jake picks up a couple of familiar tagged objects on the shelf.

JAKE

Hey! Check it out! It's the Orb Of Malorfis. And isn't this the Euchrono Hour Glass--you know, the one we used to go back in time?

Fu quickly puts THE EUBHRONO back on the shelf.

FU DOG

Kid, shhhh! Ixnai on the oing-back-in-time-ai. Any magical object ruled to be dangerous ends up down here where it can eventually be destroyed.

Fu begins pulling scrolls down from the shelves.

FU DOG (CONT'D)

Now destroying those skulls is going to take some extra doing, so let's see what I can find...

Fu Dog plops down at a table with the skulls and begins sifting through a few scrolls. Holographic images appear around him.

FU DOG (CONT'D)

Let's see Aztec skins...Aztec stones...here we go, Aztec skulls...

Jake makes his way over to a tall podium where a GOLDEN SCROLL is spinning in a beam of light.

JAKE

Hey Fu--what is this scroll? A Dragon best seller or something?

FU DOG

Nah, kid. That happens to be a scroll written by the first dragon.

JAKE

The first dragon? You mean, like ever? Who was he? What happened to him?

FU DOG

Well, nobody knows for sure. They say he's an immortal, one of your basic live forever types. But no one's seen or heard from him for thousands of years.

Jake is bathed in the glow of the scroll.

JAKE

Hmmm. The First Dragon...

Fu Dog flips a page in his holographic scroll--images of skulls and volcanoes appear around him.

FU DOG

Ah, here we go. I shoulda figured. The skulls need to be cast into the same volcano in which they were originally forged. That's this island right off the coast of Central America here.

Fu shuts the text, stretching into a YAWN. He hops up, heading for the exit.

FU DOG (CONT'D)

<Yawn> O.k., kid. Let's call it a night.

JAKE

Sure, Fu. I'm right behind you.

Jake lingers behind long enough to stealthily slip the golden scroll into his jacket.

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR - NIGHT

#88 AND #89 - have a series of slides that show pie charts, graphs, etc. projected on a wall. #88 uses a pointer to point to a screen showing video footage of them getting thrashed by the crocodiles. The Huntsman and Huntsgirl watch from a control panel.

#89

Now, this footage clearly shows us fighting a whole herd of crocodiles with our bare hands...

#88

...Actually, it's pack. Pack of crocodiles. Not herd. We fought a pack of crocodiles with our bare hands.

#89

Maybe it's flock?

#88

Say what?

#89

Flock of crocodiles? Bevy of crocodiles? School of crocodiles? Gaggle of croco--

#88

Look, the point is, we did everything in our power to recover that skull. It isn't our fault!

THE HUNTSMAN - SLAMS his fist down on the control panel. He motions over to the rack where the other ten Aztec Skulls are lined up.

HUNTSMAN

These ten skulls are useless to me with out the other three! I want results, not excuses!

Huntsgirl kneels before him.

HUNTSGIRL

I will not rest until we have all thirteen skulls, Master.

She rises and races out of the room. #88 and #89 kneel before him.

#88

Yeah. We won't rest either until we have gotten the skulls, Master.

#89

Right. Except we might grab a quick cat nap before we head out.

#88

Just forty winks, you know, or maybe just twenty...

But the Huntsman is staring out after Huntsgirl.

HUNTSMAN

Do you have video surveillance footage of the entire zoo?

#88

Ah, yes...

#89

...But you might want to fast forward over the part where I scream like a little girl because taken out of context, it might appear cowardly or even--

HUNTSMAN

--Just give me the footage. Now.

CUT TO:

INT. DRACOS ISLAND - SLEEPING CHAMBERS - NIGHT

GRANDPA - sleeps in a bed. Fu Dog SNORES on the floor beside him. PAN OVER to Jake, who is sitting up in bed with the golden scroll open before him. We see holographic visions of ancient Chinese Dragons and a beautiful golden temple on a mountain top.

JAKE

Whoah.

CUT TO:

INT. SAINT ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL - FILE ROOM - DAY

TRIXIE - is shoving files into a drawer when her cell RINGS.

TRIXIE

Hello?

SPLIT SCREEN to include Jake (from his room on Dracos Island). He is throwing things into a backpack.

JAKE

Trix, what's happening?

TRIXIE

Hey, Jake. How's your dragon career week hanging?

JAKE

Not good. Listen, I'm going to conference in Spud...

THE SCREEN SPLITS AGAIN - to include Spud, who is sitting in the computer room with the Sheila 9000 in the background.

SPUD

Hey, guys. Happy career week!

JAKE

Listen up, I need a favor.

SPUD

Name it, dude.

TRIXIE

You know we got your back.

JAKE

I need you to help me find Rose's real family. The Dragon Council won't help her. Trixie, you have access to medical files, right?

Trixie glances at the miles of files around her.

TRIXIE

Honey, you have no idea.

JAKE

And Spud, you're working with some kind of super computer, right?

SPUD

She's super, all right.

JAKE

Cool. Then here's what I want you to do.

(MORE)

JAKE(CONT'D)

Trixie, see if you can dig up any records of a baby stolen from a hospital some time around when Rose was born. If you can feed that information to Spud, you might be able to use the computer to come up with the name of Rose's real parents.

TRIXIE

Jakey, we'll do everything we can. But I'm worried about you. Is everything straight?

JAKE

It will be. Thanks guys.

Jake hangs up and we END THE SPLIT SCREEN as we--

CUT TO:

INT. DRACOS ISLAND - SLEEPING CHAMBERS - NIGHT

FU DOG - is dreaming at the foot of Grandpa's bed.

FU DOG

(in his sleep)

Oh, yeah...Oceans and oceans of poodi...(waking) Hmmph?

Fu gets up, stretches. He wanders over to Jake's bed, where Jake is fast asleep.

FU DOG (CONT'D)

Hey, kid. I'm sorry about how the whole Rose thing went down today. I was always routing for the two of you to somehow--huh?

Fu reaches to pull the covers over Jake's shoulder when his paw passes right through Jake's sleeping body.

FU DOG (CONT'D)

Hey! The ole' doppelganger decoy trick! Oh, no...

Fu races out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRACOS ISLAND - NIGHT

Jake ducks a couple of DRAGON sentries and slips into--

THE ENCHANTED ELEVATOR

--sticking out of the ground and manned by a DWARF ELEVATOR OPERATOR.

DWARF ELEVATOR OPERATOR
Welcome to Enchanted Elevators.
Destination, please?

Jake pulls out the Golden Scroll and opens it, projecting a HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF A MAP OF WESTERN CHINA.

JAKE
Here. The Kunlun Mountains.
Western China.

DWARF ELEVATOR OPERATOR
Prepare for departure...

The doors start to slide shut when Fu Dog slips in, panting and out of breath. The Elevator plunges down.

FU DOG
Kid, what do you think you're doing?

JAKE
I'm taking charge of my own life
and my own future, that's what.

FU DOG
You just don't get it. It doesn't
matter where you run off to. As
long as you're a dragon--

JAKE
--But what if I'm not a dragon?

FU DOG
Not a dragon? What are you talking
about?

Jake holds up the scroll.

JAKE
Check it out. It's the temple of
the First Immortal Dragon.
(MORE)

JAKE(CONT'D)

According to this scroll, there's a mirror inside. Any dragon that passes through the mirror becomes human and loses their dragon powers forever.

FU DOG

Kid, you can't be serious.

The elevator SCREECHES to a stop.

DWARF ELEVATOR OPERATOR

Kunlun Mountains, Western China.

The doors slide open. Jake and Fu fall out into--

EXT. MOUNTAINS - CHINA

--a desolate area right on the snow line of the mountains. The elevator doors shut and it vanishes back into the ground.

Fu glances around at the surroundings.

FU DOG

Wow, kid. Great vacation spot. You sure know how to pick 'em.

JAKE

All we have to do is find the First Temple of the Immortal Dragon.

FU DOG

Oh, is that all? I hate to start shooting holes in your plan here, but people have been looking for that temple for thousands of years. Nobody even knows if it really exists.

JAKE

Well, I'm going to find out.

OLD WOMAN (O.S.)

Help! Someone! Help!

Jake and Fu look down into--

A CLEARING - where an ELDERLY PEASANT WOMAN is surrounded by four GROWLING MOUNTAIN TROLLS, armed with clubs.

JAKE - leaps forward.

JAKE

Dragon up!

In mid-air, Jake transforms into a dragon, WHOOSHING down onto the scene.

MOUNTAIN TROLL #1 - swings his club at Jake, who dodges. The club sweeps into the other three trolls, who go tumbling back over a cliff.

MOUNTAIN TROLLS

Argghhhhhhhhh!

MOUNTAIN TROLL #1 - raises his club over the Elderly Woman. Jake dives in front of her, breathing fire in a semi-circle in the snow around--

THE TROLL'S FEET - The snow gives way, sending the Troll hurdling back over the cliff.

MOUNTAIN TROLL

Ahhhhhhhhhh!

Jake TRANSFORMS back into human form as he kneels to help up the terrified Elderly Woman. Fu Dog joins them.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You...you're a dragon.

JAKE

What? A dragon? Me? No, no. You know, the snow can play tricks on your eyes and make you think--

But the Elderly Woman points her cane at Jake's chest.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You seek the one. The Temple of the Immortal First Dragon.

Jake and Fu Dog share a look. Jake turns back to the woman.

JAKE

Can you tell me where it is?

ELDERLY WOMAN

No, I can't tell you...

Fu throws up his paws.

FU DOG

Well, there you have it. We can still make it home in time for lunch.

ELDERLY WOMAN

...But I can show you...

The Elderly Woman motions to Jake and Fu. She begins up a narrow winding trail. Jake follows. Fu hesitates, shrugs, then scampers behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR - NIGHT

THE HUNTSMAN - sits at the control panel, watching video tape. He REWINDS it, watching the same piece of tape.

HUNTSMAN

NUMBER 88! NUMBER 89!

They come scrambling in, tripping over each other.

#89

--Is this about the empty orange juice carton in the 'fridge? Because I so did not drink the last glass and then put the empty carton back in--

#88

--Yeah, and I was totally not the one who used your private bathroom after 'Mexican Fiesta' night back--

HUNTSMAN

Silence! I have a very special assignment for the two of you...

He slowly spins around--

A MONITOR - we see the video footage of Rose hugging Dragon Jake in the zoo's control room. The footage replays.

HUNTSMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...we have a traitor in our midst.

As the footage replays over and over, we--

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. KUNLUN MOUNTAINS - DAY

THE ELDERLY WOMAN - continues up the mountain trail with Jake and Fu Dog struggling and PANTING to keep up.

JAKE
Enough of this walking business.
Dragon up!

Jake TRANSFORMS into a dragon, scoops up Fu, and sails up ahead of the Old Woman. But he loses altitude, struggling to flap his wings.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I--I can't hold it. Going down!

Jake CRASHES, face-planting into a bank of snow and turning back into HUMAN FORM as the Old Woman hobbles past him.

ELDERLY WOMAN
You will find that the air up here
is too thin for your dragon wings.

Jake peels himself out of the snow.

JAKE
Yeah. Thanks for the advice.

CUT TO:

INT. SAINT ELIZABETH HOSPITAL - DAY

Trixie is sitting on a mountain of paperwork, holding a birth certificate, as she talks on he cell phone.

TRIXIE
Spud, I think I got a lead. It's a
birth certificate but there's no
name on it.

INT. VIDDY-SIM GAME CORPORATION - CONTINUOUS

Spud talks on his cell phone while he sits with a the Sheila 9000. A fancy table setting for lunch with roses is spread out between them.

SPUD

Fax it over to me and Sheila.
We're just finishing up lunch now.

INT. SAINT ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Trixie feeds the birth certificate into a fax machine. As it goes through, we see--

THE HAND PRINT - of the baby. The birthmark of the dragon is visible in the ink on the palm of the hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRACOS ISLAND - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

GRANDPA - stands before the Council, holding the pouch of skulls. Sun enters behind him.

COUNCILOR KULDE

So are we to understand that the
American Dragon is now missing?

GRANDPA

Jake has a strong heart. It is not
easy for him to embrace his destiny-

COUNCILOR ANDAM

It is never easy and it is no
excuse. Lao Shi, your student is
suspended from the Dragon Order
until further notice. Korean
Dragon...

Sun steps forward. Councilor Andam hits a few button and a holographic map of Central America appears before Grandpa and Sun, ZOOMING IN on an island volcano

COUNCILOR KULDE (CONT'D)

...You and your dragon student will
cast the skulls into this volcano.
It is the only way to destroy them.

Sun nods, taking the pouch of skulls away from Grandpa.

SUN

Thank you, sir. This will be a
perfect opportunity for Haley and I
to do some real teacher/student
bonding.

Sun takes the skulls and leaves. The council turns back to Grandpa.

COUNCILOR ANDAM

Lao Shi. I hope your Grandson
knows what he is doing.

Grandpa stares off, uncertain.

GRANDPA

So do I.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - CHINA

The Elderly woman plants her cane in a clearing before a giant glacial wall.

ELDERLY WOMAN

We have arrived.

Jake and Fu glance around.

JAKE

Arrived? Arrived where? I don't
see anything.

The Old Woman shrugs.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Those who seek the Temple of the
First Immortal Dragon in order to
gain power for themselves will
never see it.

JAKE

But that's the whole point! I'm
not looking for the stupid temple
to gain power. I want to lose
power! I want to live my own LIFE!

Jake's last word ECHOES through the canyon. The ground below them starts to shake and--

THE GLACIAL WALL - CRACKS and collapses in a cloud of snow and debris to reveal AN ANCIENT STONE TEMPLE behind it.

JAKE AND FU DOG - stare in disbelief. The woman smiles.

ELDERLY WOMAN
It appears you speak the truth.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDDY-SIM GAME CORPORATION - DAY

Spud leads Trixie into the computer room. Streams of data including the print out of Rose's birth certificate are displayed all over the room's walls and ceiling.

SPUD
Check it out. Sheila's been working over time.

SHEILA 9000
Calculating origins or birth certificate. Birth parents are...warning! Glitch detected in system.

The streams of data begin to FLICKER and vanish.

TRIXIE
Spud, what's going on!

SPUD
I think she's been infected with a virus or something. Sheila, hang on!

SHEILA 9000
Warning...warning...

CUT TO:

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE FIRST IMMORTAL DRAGON - DAY

Jake and Fu begin their way over a LONG ROPE BRIDGE that spans a deep chasm between the glacier and the door of the temple. The Old Woman lingers behind as Fu reads from the scroll.

FU DOG
According to this scroll, who ever wants to enter the temple must first best the First Dragon in battle.

Jake TRANSFORMS into his dragon self, assuming a battle stance as he studies the door.

JAKE

Well, I guess the First Dragon just doesn't want any part of me because I don't see him anywhere.

As Jake speaks, we the Old Woman SHAPESHIFTS behind him, taking the shape of a SPECTACULAR MULTI-COLORED CHINESE DRAGON.

FIRST DRAGON

What makes you assume the First Dragon is a him and not a her?

Jake spins around. The First Dragon towers over him as Fu Dog scrambles over to the Temple side of the bride.

FU DOG

Whoahhhhh!

FIRST DRAGON

You have spirit, American Dragon. But not any brains. It's time I sent you off to your next life!

The First Dragon strikes down with her razor-sharp sword-length claws, but the claws only pass through Jake's holographic body.

FIRST DRAGON (CONT'D)

Whaaa--? A trick!

JAKE (O.S.)

Sorry, First Dragon, baby. But I'm not quite done with this life yet.

The First Dragon spins around as the real Jake comes diving out from behind an ice formation on the other side of the rope bridge. Jake swipes loose the end of the rope bridge with his claws and leaps over the chasm, wrapping up--

THE FIRST DRAGON - in the rope and boards of the bridge.

FIRST DRAGON

Oooof!

JAKE - lands at the steps of the temple with the First Dragon hog-tied with the rope bridge at his feet.

FIRST DRAGON (CONT'D)

How--How did you know?

JAKE

Oh, come on. Haven't you ever seen a kung fu flick? The feeble old guide who turns out to be the mighty warrior the hero has been seeking all along? That's the oldest one in the book. Dang, baby. You've been up in these mountains too long.

FIRST DRAGON

I have been waiting thousands of years for you. Welcome.

THE TEMPLE'S GIANT DOORS - creak open as we--

CUT TO:

INT. VIDDY-SIM GAME CORPORATION - NIGHT

SPUD AND TRIXIE - watch as the data streams from the Sheila 9000 FLICKER and turn to static around them.

SHEILA 9000

Main interface server corrupted.
Harddrive back up systems
failing...

Spud races over to the blinking red eye.

SPUD

No, Sheila. Speak to me.

The Sheila 9000 voice begins to slow down--

SHEILA 9000

...Everything is going dark. The
world can be such a pretty place...

Sheila's red eye flickers and FADES OUT.

SPUD

No! Sheila! Sheila!

Trixie glances around.

TRIXIE

Somebody didn't want us finding out
who Rose's real parents are.

The walls and ceiling of the computer vault FLICKER on and images of THE HUNTSMAN fill the room.

HUNTSMAN (FILTERED)
<LAUGHING>

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR - NIGHT

THE HUNTSMAN - FLICKS off the computer on his control panel and spins around in his chair.

HUNTSMAN
<LAUGHING>

Huntsgirl enters the room.

HUNTSGIRL
Master, you wanted to see me.

Huntsman stands, holding open his arms.

HUNTSMAN
Huntsgirl. How about a hug?

Huntsgirl backs away, getting suspicious.

HUNTSGIRL
Master?

HUNTSMAN
I raised you. Fed you. Clothed you. Trained you. And all I ask in return is a hug. Or is that something you save only for...dragons.

He hits a button on the control panel.

WIDE ON THE CONTROL ROOM - as all of the monitors switch to the footage of Huntsgirl hugging dragon Jake.

FOUR HUNTSCLAN GUARDS - converge on--

HUNTSGIRL - who leaps forward, kicking Huntsman's staff out of his hands. She catches it, spins around, and dispenses all four guards with a series of swipes and kicks.

She turns the staff on the Huntsman.

HUNTSGIRL
Perhaps you trained me too well, master.

HUNTSMAN

Huntsgirl. I was like a father to you.

Huntsgirl tears off her mask.

HUNTS GIRL

No! I have a real father. And a mother. You stole me from them.

HUNTSMAN

Yes. And how would you like to meet them now?

Huntsman hits a switch and--

A CAGE - drops down into the control room. A frightened middle-aged MAN and WOMAN are inside.

HUNTSMAN (CONT'D)

Huntsgirl. These are your real Mother and Father.

Huntsgirl lowers the staff, staring into the cage.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST IMMORTAL DRAGON PALACE - DAY

THE FIRST DRAGON - leads Jake and Fu Dog through a corridor of the temple. The walls are lined with GLOWING inscriptions that show the evolution of the dragon species.

FIRST DRAGON

Long ago, before history itself, I was once just a human...

They pass a series of cannisters filled with DARK TWISTING SMOKE. Jake TAPS on the glass.

FIRST DRAGON (CONT'D)

...I turned to magic to gain the power of flight, of strength, of fire. And I used them to defeat the first ancient evils and bring balance to the world.

JAKE

So what happened? Why'd you drop out?

FIRST DRAGON
The power came with a price.

Jake nods, understanding--

JAKE
A price that was too steep to pay.

FIRST DRAGON
I have waited here for the one.
The one that would come seeking to
give up their dragon powers and
become human again, thus completing
the circle I began long ago.

The First Dragon points towards a mirror.

FIRST DRAGON (CONT'D)
Walk through that mirror. Your
destiny awaits you on the other
side.

Jake approaches the mirror in the center of an anteroom. In it, he can see the REFLECTION of his dragon image. He reaches forward to touch it. The image ripples.

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR - NIGHT

ROSE - drops the staff, raising her hand up to the cage that contains her Mother and Father.

ROSE
Mom? Dad?

THE MAN AND WOMAN - stare out at Rose. The Woman points to the birthmark on her hand.

WOMAN
Look, it's the birthmark.

MAN
It's her. Our daughter. Rose.

WOMAN
We've spent your whole life looking
for you! We're your mother and
father. We love you! Rose! We
love you!

The Huntsman hits a lever. The cage retracts up into the ceiling.

ROSE

Nooo!

The Huntsman grabs Rose and pushes her over to the rack of Aztec skulls. He raises his fist.

HUNTSMAN

If you want you mother and father to live, you will bring me my three missing skulls.

Off Rose's stunned look, we--

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE OF THE IMMORTAL FIRST DRAGON - DAY

JAKE - stares at his own rippling reflection. Fu Dog approaches.

FU DOG

Kid, as your official animal guardian, I must strongly advise against this.

JAKE

Not now, Fu.

FU DOG

Think about all the good things that come with being a dragon. You can fly, breathe fire. You gotta admit, that stuff is pretty cool.

JAKE

I want my own future. I want a normal life.

Fu grabs Jake by the seat of his pants, pulling on him.

FU DOG

Kid, don't do it! There's no going back from this!

Jake yanks free.

JAKE

I'm sorry, Fu. I have to.

Jake steps into the mirror. We see his DRAGON FORM sucked out and left behind in the mirror as Jake emerges from the other side. Jake looks himself over.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Hey! It worked! I'm human! No more dragon! No more having other people decide my future! Can I get a woo-woo?

Jake starts to do a dance that is interrupted by a sudden RUMBLE as the ground shakes. The mirror still containing Jake's dragon image tips over, SHATTERING to the floor. Jake glances around.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What's going on?

WIDE ON THE ROOM - as the RUMBLING continues, the heavy stone beams of the palace begin to COLLAPSE around them.

FIRST DRAGON

It's an earthquake. I'm sorry. But it appears your destiny is to never leave this palace alive.

Jake scoops up Fu and rolls away as an entire section of the ceiling COLLAPSES, burying the First Dragon in a pile of debris.

FU DOG

Come on, kid. We gotta get out of here, pronto!

Jake leaps to his feet with out thinking--

JAKE

Dragon up!

Nothing happens. More debris falls around them.

FU DOG

Kid? Hello? You just gave up all your dragon powers, remember?

Jake tucks Fu under his arm and runs forward.

JAKE

Aw, man!

EXT. THE TEMPLE OF THE IMMORTAL FIRST DRAGON - DAY

WIDE - The entire structure IMPLODES in a cloud of dust and debris.

TO BE CONTINUED...