

Juno in the Jungle

Episode 1: "Homecoming"

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1 EXT. BUSH. MPUMALANGA. EARLY EVENING.

Running feet quickly resolves into a young girl, JUNO (12) who is sprinting through the South African Bushveld. She wears a well-worn leather fedora, leather jacket, khaki pants, and hiking boots. She carries a leather satchel slung over her shoulder. Her face is scraped up and she has a bloody gash on her forehead. A knife and a sling are tucked into her belt.

Juno casts a reckless glance behind her and as she turns back, she grins. Then, leaping between two bushes, she runs smack into Eddie (14). Both Juno and her pudgy bush ignorant suburban cousin, tumble over each other. Juno sits up and spits out a leaf.

JUNO
(incredulous)
I told you to hide in the caves!

EDDIE
(breathless)
I heard noises!

Juno looks at him as though he is from another planet. Eddie spots Juno's bloody forehead.

EDDIE CON'T
What happened to your head?

A GUNSHOT sounds, and there is yelling in the distance. Juno jumps up and looks back the way she'd come.

EDDIE
Was that-

JUNO
They're coming!

Juno dashes into the bush and disappears. Eddie doesn't move, he just stands there looking in the direction of the gunfire. Juno pops her head out of the bush.

JUNO
Eddie. This is the part where you follow me.

Juno disappears again.

EDDIE
Who is coming?

JUNO O. S.
Run!

Eddie follows Juno crashing into the bush. Juno is light of foot while Eddie lumbers behind, bushes slapping him in the face.

JUNO O. S.
 (whisper yell)
 Faster!

Juno emerges from the bush and stops suddenly at the edge of a steep incline over a river, flailing her arms, she is just barely able to keep herself from falling in.

There is loud rustling behind her. She quickly turns and puts up her hands, whispering sharply.

JUNO
 Stop, stop, stop, there's a-

Eddie barrels past her. Juno watches in disbelief as he falls head over heels into the river below.

JUNO CONT'D
 cliff.

Juno hears a cracking sound and her body shifts, but it's too late.

JUNO CONT'D
 Unbelievable-

The edge of the cliff crumbles beneath her feet, and she joins Eddie in the river.

Both children come out of the water sputtering.

Eddie is coughing and distracted, but Juno immediately turns to scour the river's edge. Just in time, she sees two large crocodiles on a sand spit 50 meters downriver as they scuttle into the water.

JUNO
 (calm but intense)
 Get out of the water.

EDDIE
 What did you do?

JUNO
 I didn't do anything!

EDDIE

Then why are we running?

JUNO

(very serious)

Eddie, get out of the water.

EDDIE

But who is chasing-

JUNO

GET OUT OF THE WATER!

Eddie startles, turns, and starts swimming toward the crocs.

JUNO CONT'D

Not that way!

Juno points, Eddie looks to see a third croc enter the water.

JUNO CONT'D

The other side!

Needing no further instruction, Eddie swims hard and fast toward a ledge. Juno is swimming as fast as she can, but Eddie quickly passes her. Juno is clearly confused and a little annoyed. Eddie is a surprisingly good swimmer.

Eddie reaches the steep muddy edge first and grabs a low-hanging vine. He pulls himself up, and just as he clears the ledge a loud snapping sound reverberates as the vine drops into the water. He looks down to see Juno reach the edge, an apologetic look on his face.

JUNO

Hand me the vine.

EDDIE

It broke.

JUNO

What?!

EDDIE

It, it... just came off. And then
fell... into the water.

Eddie points at the vine floating next to Juno. Juno reaches upward.

JUNO
Pull me up!

Eddie tries to reach down, but there is no footing. He is too high up. He looks around frantically and sees a tree covered in hanging vines ten feet downriver.

EDDIE
(points)
Over there-

Juno turns with fear-filled eyes and begins to swim toward the tree. Eddie's eyes widen as he sees the two crocodiles only a few meters behind Juno.

EDDIE CONT...
Swim faster!

JUNO
You think?!

Juno suddenly disappears under the water. Eddie is terrified. He scans the river, but Juno is gone.

EDDIE
(whisper yell)
Juno!

Eddie leans over the edge further. The water roils and as a crocodile surfaces, Eddie jumps back.

EDDIE
(whispers)
That's not good.

Suddenly a loud gasp pulls Eddie's attention as Juno bursts out of the water 10 feet down the river and pulls herself up the steep mud bank. She is still waist-deep in water. She starts to slide back and then stops. Her face is intense. She crouches, bringing her feet carefully under her body, she lunges for the hanging root and just barely grabs it. She pulls herself up just as the first crock explodes out of the water, snapping its jaws inches from her feet.

She reaches up and grabs a second root, pulling herself higher. She grins victoriously, proud of herself. The root gives way for a moment, and she drops a few inches before it catches again. Her grin turns to terror and then concentration as she slowly pulls herself up, catching hold of a rock edge before finally hauling herself to safety.

She rolls onto her side and stares wide-eyed at the hungry crocks still snapping their jaws below. Eddie joins her, lowering himself to lay flat beside her, looking over the ledge.

EDDIE

I thought you were a goner.

Eddie grabs Juno in an embrace. She is exhausted but pats him on the back.

JUNO

Crocs are attracted to splashing. So I swam underwater.

EDDIE

(awe)

That's very brave.

JUNO

Where did you learn to swim like that?

EDDIE

Water aerobics.

JUNO

What?

EDDIE

At the Y.

Juno pushes away from Eddie, offering a confused look.

EDDIE CON'T

With my Memmaw?

Juno opens her mouth to respond and quickly closes it again.

BRUTE 1 O. S.

(shouts)

Over here!

Directly across the river, a man emerges at the top of the ridge. He stands tall and is dressed in a cream shirt with Khakis and a safari hat. He has a rifle in his hands. The man is searching his side of the river. A monkey sits on his shoulder.

Juno grabs Eddie as they slowly squirm away from the edge of the river.

EDDIE
 (excited whisper)
 He has a monkey.

Juno makes a shushing sound, but it's too late. The monkey spots the children and starts hissing, screeching, and pointing.

EDDIE CONT...
 (whisper)
 A bad monkey.

Juno shoves Eddie to get him started.

JUNO
 Run!

Eddie breaks into a sprint. He and Juno disappear into the bush just as the man takes aim with his rifle.

The monkeys screeching echoes through the bush as a shot rings out and a bullet ricochet's off a tree near Eddie's head.

EDDIE
 He's shooting at us?
 (fear)
 He's shooting at us! What did you do?

Juno leaps over a log and passes Eddie.

JUNO
 (angry)
 I told you to stay in the cave!

2 INT. LAND CRUISER. O.R. TAMBO. JO-BURG. MORNING.

TITLE CARD: 36 Hours Earlier. O.R. Tambo International Airport. Johannesburg, South Africa.

We are close up on a television screen showing a military-looking man, MR. Alex DREDGE (50) (*name shown at the bottom of the screen*), who is speaking. He is dressed in a tan jacket with clear blue eyes and black buzz-cut hair. He has a monkey on his shoulder and is speaking directly to the camera outside a government building.

MR. DREDGE
 These organized crime syndicates thrive on government corruption, subterfuge, and greed. They must be

met with rigor and, when necessary, force. I have been commissioned along with a new task force, the Anti-Poaching League, to address this issue head-on. Our mission is to attack the ivory trade at its source. An elephant is killed every 30 minutes, and that statistic must change...

We pull away from the TV screen to reveal HANNES ESTERHUYSE (70), he has the rugged face of someone who's spent most of his life in the sun.

HANNES

(to himself)

It's every 15 minutes, you bloody fool.

Hannes is dressed in the weathered khakis of a farmer. He is leaning against a beat-up Land Cruiser with the logo 'Mbozoni Lodge' on the door. He waits on the curb, watching the television hanging from the ceiling.

The airport is a bustle. Hundreds of people exit from the international door. A cacophony of controlled chaos as newcomers search for taxis. Businessmen and women walk briskly with luggage in tow.

A family of three exits, JASON (40), MEGAN (36), and Juno, who clutches a book titled *The Spear of Destiny*, to her chest. Jason wears a tweed suit jacket with patched elbows, and spectacles. He pushes a trolley laden with large, impressive-looking crates. Megan wears paper bag waist khakis and a white t-shirt, stylish but practical. She pushes a second trolley with a few more crates and a couple of suitcases. Eddie walks out last. He seems in awe of everything and nervous at the same time. He is wearing a Transformers t-shirt, sweat shorts, and crocs with white sports socks.

A TAXI DRIVER (45) grabs his bag out of his hand and starts walking towards his taxi cab.

TAXI DRIVER

I've got you, young sir. Where would you like to go?

(beat)

Are you American?

Eddie smiles and nods.

EDDIE

Yes, thank you. I'm from Syracuse. Do you know Syracuse?

TAXI DRIVER

Yes, yes, right this way.

Juno appears out of nowhere with a twenty Rand bill in her hand.

JUNO

He's with me.

Juno deftly takes Eddie's bag from the man as she hands him the money. She places a hand on Eddie's shoulder, turning him toward Jason and Megan.

JUNO CONT'D

(baffled)

You never let go of your bags.

(beat)

Are you listening?

Eddie nods distractedly then points at the life-size elephant statue.

EDDIE

It's all just so amazing.

Juno follows his gaze and offers a winning smile.

JUNO

Wait till we get to the real thing.

Hannes's eyes brighten as he sees the family. Megan quickly spots him and waves excitedly as Hannes walks over. Juno spots Hannes and runs over, leaping into his arms.

JUNO

Oupa!

Hannes holds her close.

HANNES

Shorty! I've missed you! More than you could guess.

(beat)

How's New York City?

JUNO

People, buildings, smog, repeat.

HANNES
Agh. Sounds awful!

Juno grins at her grandfather as Hannes pulls Megan in for a hug, whispering in her ear.

HANNES (CONT'D)
Good to see you, my heart.

JASON
(to Hannes)
Looking strong as ever!

HANNES
You been taking care of my girls?

JASON
(smirks)
The other way round, more like.

HANNES
That sounds right.
(glances at luggage)
Is that all?

JASON
We're going lean on this one.

Hannes looks questioningly. Megan is clearly excited as she speaks (she has a South African accent.)

MEGAN
We finished the translation-

JUNO
-We've found it. It's here, Oupa- in
the cradle!

Hannes looks at his granddaughter and then his daughter. He turns back to Jason who is equally enthused. Jason glances around to be sure no one is listening. He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a small booklet. He starts thumbing through pages filled with tiny, handwritten notes and hand-drawn maps.

JASON
I was able to trace Longinus's line.
Juno is right...
(enthused)
The spear, it's here.

MEGAN

Imagine-

Hannes quirks an eyebrow as he seems suddenly cautious. His mood has become serious.

HANNES

I'd rather not.

Everyone is surprised by his reaction.

HANNES (CONT'D)

(rough)

You know the history.

(gentler)

Sometimes the past is better left unexplored.

MEGAN

That's odd coming from you-

JASON

This is the discovery of a lifetime! The spear could separate myth from truth. It could give us new insight into first-century Judaism and Christianity, art, culture, and philosophy. Nevermind what we could understand about our humanity-

Megan - watching her father - leans into Jason and lovingly snatches the book away, closing it and slipping it back into his jacket pocket.

MEGAN

There will be plenty of time to revisit this in the days ahead. Today, I need to see my home and my bed!

Both Hannes and Jason take their cue and end the discussion. Hannes abruptly turns his attention to Eddie, who has been standing just a little apart from the rest of them.

HANNES (CONT'D)

(stern)

You must be Eddie.

Eddie, realizing he is now a part of the conversation, stands up straighter and thrusts out his hand to shake Hannes's.

EDDIE

Yes, Oupa.

Hannes turns his head, a hint of amusement in his eyes. Megan smiles, and Hannes shares a look with Juno who shrugs and rolls her eyes.

Hannes puts his attention back on Eddie and offers a stern look.

HANNES

What brings you to Africa, Eddie? Have you come to hunt our big five or steal our natural resources?

Eddie becomes concerned. Megan chuckles.

MEGAN

Dad! Eddie's grandmother thought it would be good if he had himself an authentic African adventure.

Hannes looks Eddie over head to toe.

HANNES

An African adventure is it?
 (nods, extends his hand)
 I think we can arrange that. Good to meet you, son. Welcome to South Africa.

Hannes ruffles Eddie's hair as he turns and picks up a crate, and walks toward the vehicle.

HANNES (CONT'D)

(over his shoulder)
 Let's get loaded and on the road, I need to get out of this bee-hive.

Juno leans over to Eddie.

JUNO

Oupa means Grandfather in Afrikaans.

EDDIE

Oh... What should I call him?

Juno shrugs and walks away.

AS THE FAMILY CLIMBS INTO THE CRUISER, WE DRIFT BACK PAST A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAITING ON THE CURB. WE COME TO A LARGE VAN

DRIVEN BY A SINISTER-LOOKING MAN.

The man watches the family with dangerous eyes. As the cruiser pulls out, he starts his engine and follows.

3 INT. LAND CRUISER. HIGHWAY. MIDDAY.

Hannes drives down the highway. In the distance, the Johannesburg skyline makes an impressive backdrop.

MUSIC PLAYS OVER A TRAVEL MONTAGE FROM THE BUSTLE OF THE CITY TO THE STUNNING SOUTH AFRICAN LANDSCAPE.

4 INT. LAND CRUISER. HIGHWAY. MIDDAY.

Jason and Juno sit in the back. Jason is asleep with his head against the window, his glasses cocked on his face. Juno watches the world pass by. Eddie is sprawled out on the third row, fast asleep with his mouth wide open. Megan is upfront, lovingly holding her father's hand.

JUNO

Why didn't Kali come?

Hannes glances at Juno through the rearview.

HANNES

He wanted to, but he's out with some of the guests.

JUNO

Safari?

HANNES

Mmm-hmm.

MEGAN

Thandi told me there's been a rise in poaching?

HANNES

(hesitant)

Did she?

JUNO

You're letting him lead tours? Wait,
(beat)
does he drive the truck?

HANNES
 (smiles)
 Sometimes.

MEGAN
 Is it safe?

HANNES
 Leading tours?

MEGAN
 The poachers?

HANNES
 Agh, there's been an uptick in
 poaching to the north. Nothing to
 worry about.

JUNO
 (almost to herself)
 Can he even see over the steering
 wheel?

Hannes looks in the rearview and grins. Megan turns around
 and looks at her daughter as if to say, 'adults are talking.'
 Then looks back to Hannes.

MEGAN
 Only in the north? Thandi sounded
 concerned.

Hannes becomes exasperated.

HANNES
 Your sister talks too much-

MEGAN
 And you not enough. Have you seen any
 signs of them?

HANNES
 Not anywhere near us. But it has
 gotten worse. Nasty business. More
 organized than the mafia and twice as
 armed as any militia. And they've
 gotten bolder. They found three
 elephant carcasses near the
 Sterkfontein Caves.

JUNO
 No!

HANNES

We're far enough south. No poacher in his right mind would come anywhere near us.

Megan watches her father a moment, then smiles slightly.

MEGAN

You mean "no poacher in his right mind would cross Hannes Esterhuyse?"

HANNES

(shrugs)
Helps to have a reputation.

JUNO

So...
(beat)
Does Kali sit on a pillow?

HANNES

(smiles)
The boy has grown, you'll see.

Megan glances back and offers Juno a smile. Juno is beaming at the idea of being able to drive. Megan catches her dad's grin and smiles.

MEGAN

It's good to see you, Dad.

5 EXT. SOUTH AFRICAN LANDSCAPE. EVENING.

MONTAGE OF DRIVING SHOTS.

The cruiser drives toward the Eastern Cape. The view is stunning.

They drive past a sign, Kruger National Park.

They drive over mountains.

They pass a lake as the sun begins to set.

The world flattens.

Full night has fallen by the time they turn down a long, dark road. All but Hannes are asleep. As the Land Cruiser pulls up in front of a large stunning lodge, Megan groggily opens her eyes. When she sees the sign, *Mbozani* Lodge hanging out front she smiles happily. The well-lit lodge is inviting,

beautiful, and luxurious.

MEGAN

Home at last.

Everyone begins to awaken. Juno bolts up and looks out the window with a huge grin painting her face.

6 EXT. LONDOLIZI LODGE. NIGHT.

Thandi (30, Zulu) runs from the lodge to meet the newly arrived family as a line of staff spill into the night behind her and springs into action.

Juno leaps from the van and wraps Thandi in a hug.

JUNO

Aunt Thandi!

THANDI

You're huge!

JUNO

Taller than you soon enough!
(looks around the yard)
Where's Kali?

THANDI

He'll be out for a few hours yet. He took some guests on a night drive to see an elephant herd down by the lake.

Juno is frustrated for a moment, but before she can say anything, she feels a dog's wet nose against her hand.

JUNO

Rat!

Juno kneels and hugs RAT, an older, mangy-looking dog. Megan and Thandi wrap each other in a tight hug.

MEGAN

I've missed you!

Thandi and Megan embrace, then step back, still holding hands.

THANDI

You're looking trim, eh!

MEGAN
Not so bad yourself.

THANDI
(glances at Hannes)
Since I'm sure your dad didn't have
the sense to feed you, I've had dinner
prepared.

HANNES
If I'd fed them, you'd have had my
hide, and you know it.

THANDI
Oh, thula. ("Hush" in Zoolu)

CUT TO.

As the staff unloads the Land Cruiser, Juno is nose to nose
with Rat, her hands deep in his fur. In the background, Jason
offers Thandi a hug.

JUNO
Hey, Rat. I told you I'd be back!

Everyone disappears into the house.

Megan sticks her head out.

MEGAN
Juno, let's eat!

Juno stands and heads to the door, Rat close on her heels.
She stops at the sound of a strange snort. Juno turns and
studies the Land Cruiser. She moves aside as a staff member
carries one of the suitcases to a room. She returns to the
Land Cruiser.

Inside on the back seat, Eddie still snores with a mouth wide
open. Juno shakes her head, opens the door, and leans in.

JUNO
Hey sleeping beauty, you're missing
everything. Let's go.

Eddie sits up groggily. He is clearly out of it. Juno and Rat
disappear inside as Eddie exits and runs inside as well.

7 EXT. LONDOLIZI LODGE. MPUMALANGA. MORNING.

The sun rises over a picturesque South African Safari lodge.

A Kudu leaps through tall grass.

A number of giraffes pluck leaves off the tops of acacia trees.

8 INT. GUEST BEDROOM. LONDOLIZI LODGE. MORNING.

Sunlight streams into a cozy bedroom where Juno sleeps. The room is sparsely decorated, but warm. A vase of fresh flowers rests on the dresser and a few pictures line the walls. The pictures show Juno (10), playing with, feeding or sleeping beside a lion cub. Another boy, KALI (12, Zulu) is in a number of pictures. Juno and Kali are obviously very close.

The same boy, Kali (now 14) stands over a sleeping Juno. Kali holds a traditional African wooden mask in front of his face and is bent low with the mask just inches above Juno's face.

Kali uses his best monster voice.

KALI

I want your blood.

Juno's eyes shoot open and within a split-second, she has leaped up and slugged Kali hard in the stomach. Juno stands above him in a kung-fu-like fighting pose. The attack was pure reflex.

Kali doubles over as the mask falls to the floor. He is grunting and breathing in gasps. Juno, realizing it's Kali, smiles. She sits on the ground next to him and places a hand on his back.

JUNO

Good to see you, Kali.

Kali is winded and struggles a moment. Juno laughs.

KALI

(groans)

You too, Shorty...

JUNO

I didn't hit you *that* hard.

Kali half laughs, half groans, but he is clearly happy to see Juno.

Juno leans in excitedly.

JUNO
Have you found him?

KALI
What's new with you Kali? I haven't
seen you in nine months, tell me all
about your-

JUNO
Yeah, yeah. We can do that later-
(suddenly surprised)
You're taller!

Juno stands and walks over to Kali. She measures herself to his shoulder. Kali grins. Juno punches him in the arm and turns to her in-room sink.

JUNO CONT'D
Have you found him?

Kali retrieves a crumpled map from his pocket and nods.

KALI
You can't tell Oupa. He won't be
happy-

Juno waves off the obvious as she grabs her toothbrush and begins brushing.

KALI CONT'D
I spotted him three days ago,
(points on the map)
Just off Sweni Road near the Nkomo
plains.

Juno can barely believe it. Speaking around the toothbrush.

JUNO
That's less than an hour away!

Juno goes to the closet and swings the doors open wide. She kneels down and pulls out a large crate. The lid creaks as she opens it.

KALI
You know we can't go now, right?

JUNO
Of course.

Juno says around her toothbrush. A look of relief enters

Kali's eyes.

In the crate are Juno's leather coat, satchel, knife, and sling. She puts them on as she speaks.

JUNO

We need to have breakfast first.

Juno turns to the sink and spits.

KALI

Oupa won't want you getting too close.
It's been two years.

JUNO

You worry too much.
(grins)
I know what I'm doing.

KALI

Like last time.

JUNO

That wasn't my fault! I told you the
rope would break.

Juno is walking around the room looking for something.

KALI

No. You specifically said,
(mimics Juno' style of speech)
"It's a nine-millimeter dynamic
climbing rope, Kali. And it's rated to
hold over 8000 pounds."

Juno gets on her knees and looks under her bed.

JUNO

800 pounds.

KALI

(dumbfounded)
You said 8000.

Juno stops searching and looks at Kali but doesn't really see him, then she says matter-of-factly.

JUNO

I don't think so.
(distracted again)
It all worked out.

Kali eyes her with an incredulous look of his own. He lifts up his shirt to reveal a long scar up the side of his body.

KALI
Yeah... it all worked out!

Juno, walking to the closet, offers a confused look.

JUNO
(offended)
You love that scar.

Kali stares at the scar and smiles.

KALI
It does make me look tough.

Then he realizes she has evaded taking responsibility for his scar and looks up, annoyed.

KALI CONT'D
What are you looking for?

Juno opens a crate in the corner of the room. She offers a half-smile as she reaches in and retrieves her leather fedora. This is a big moment for Juno. She now truly feels like herself.

JUNO CONT'D
It's good to see you again, Kali.

Juno grabs her *The Spear of Destiny* book and stuffs it into her satchel.

EDDIE O. S.
Help! Please help!

KALI
Who's that?

JUNO
(slightly exasperated)
It's Eddie.

KALI
Who?

JUNO
Come on.

Kali offers a confused look before following Juno.

9 INT. EDDIE'S ROOM. LONDOLIZI LODGE. MORNING.

Juno and Kali burst into Eddie's room to find him standing on his bed in boxers and a SpongeBob t-shirt. He is pressing himself into the corner of the room. Eddie points at a massive spider crawling at the foot of his bed. The spider is twice the size of a man's hand.

JUNO

(holds out her hands)
Whatever you do, don't make eye contact. You don't want to make him angry!

EDDIE

What?! Where are the eyes!? Oh, God! I think he's angry.

Juno grins at Kali, who smiles and shakes his head.

KALI

She's playing you, bru.

Eddie offers Kali a confused look. Juno grins as she walks over and places a hand under the spider, lifting it carefully.

EDDIE

(horrified)
What are you doing?

JUNO

(focused on the spider)
It's just a Rain Spider. They rarely bite, and if they do, it's no worse than a bee sting.

Kali walks to the window and rolls it open as Juno lets the spider walk along her arm.

EDDIE

How did it get inside?

JUNO

I would guess it used its legs.
(offers a curious look)
You coming to breakfast?

Eddie watches the spider with a horrified look. Kali walks over and offers a hand.

KALI
I'm Kali- Juno's cousin.

Eddie can't take his eyes off the spider but reaches out to shake Kalis's hand.

EDDIE
Eddie.
(beat)
Juno's cousin. Are there more of them?

JUNO
Definitely.

KALI
Probably not.

Eddie is very concerned now. Juno walks the spider carefully over and sets it on the outside ledge.

JUNO
You coming?

EDDIE
Where?

JUNO
Breakfast.

EDDIE
Um, yeah, just, what?

JUNO
(looks Eddie in the eye)
Eddie, it will be alright. We'll keep
an eye out for ya.

Eddie nods and seems to calm down.

EDDIE
I hate spiders.

Juno doesn't respond. She glances at his Spongebob shirt and boxers.

JUNO CONT'D
You should probably change.
(beat)
We'll see you down there.

Eddie lets out a long breath as he nods. Juno turns to leave and speaks over her shoulder as she exits.

JUNO

Make sure you shake out your clothes
before getting dressed.

Eddie is suddenly terrified again. Kali is still in the room
and Eddie looks at him questioningly.

KALI

Always a good idea. Snakes. Scorpions.
Spiders.

(beat)

See you down there.

10 INT. LOUNGE. LONDOLOZI LODGE. MORNING.

Juno enters an open and well-lit room to see her father
surrounded by large crates of gear. A couple of them are
open. Inside the first are a GPS system, miniature hammers,
drills, and computers. The second boasts ropes, crampons,
backpacks, and other intensive hiking gear.

Jason is leaning over a map, he also has a weather app open
on his phone. He looks up and brightens at the sight of his
daughter.

JASON

We should be able to enter the
Highveld from the north, near the
Lesotho Highlands. Look.

(points to the map)

If my calculations are correct
Longinus' quest would have ended here.

Juno leans in excitedly, Kali has also arrived and is
studying the map.

JASON CONT'D

It's sparse, rocky land, so we would
be looking for a shallow grave marked
by stones or, even more likely, a
cavern.

KALI

(concern)

That's San territory.

JASON

(distracted)

Mmm Hmm, the Xuba Tribe.

(to himself)

We'll need pack mules to get down

there and-

KALI

The Xuba are famous for their poison-tip darts.

Jason is immersed in the map and seems not to hear.

JASON

Hmm?

(looks up)

Kali! Look at you, son! You've filled out.

Jason looks from Juno back to Kali with a sudden mischievous grin.

JASON CONT'D

So tell me, what adventures have you and Juno cooked up for the summer, hmm? I know Juno's been studying the Malapa fossil caves.

(realizes what Kali said)

Oh, and no need to worry. The Xuba haven't used darts on their fellow man in almost a decade.

(excited)

Oh, oh I know, you two should explore the Cederberg.

(to Juno)

Your mom used to climb there when she was little- some of the best climbing in the world.

(beat)

And I'm guessing you'll be looking for Indiana?

Juno's eyes widen.

JASON CONT'D

Do be careful, darling. It's been two years, and he may not remember you as fondly as you remember him.

Juno nods and changes the subject.

JUNO

Breakfast?

JASON
(suddenly distracted again)
Yes, yes, I'll be right out.

Jason looks down and is immediately immersed again, Juno and Kali already forgotten.

JUNO
(to Kali)
Nobody wants breakfast.

KALI
I want breakfast.

11 EXT. LONDOLIZI LODGE. MORNING.

Juno exits the farmhouse to a world of pure magic. Kali follows close behind. A long table has been set up with an enormous spread of fresh food. A giraffe, a few zebras, and a baby Kudu roam free in the "front yard."

Eight GUESTS are placing food onto plates and sitting around, eating breakfast in this safari paradise. Half of them are overweight Americans on holiday. The rest are all rougher-looking men dressed mostly in camouflage.

Hannes is midway through a speech to the lodge guests who listen with an air of excitement. Megan sits next to her father.

HANNES
...in short. Feel free to come and go as you wish. If you want a private tour, speak to me, and we'll get it scheduled.

(beat)
I need you all to realize that we are inside the reserve. This is the bush. There are no fences between you and the lions, buffalo, hippos, rhinos, and crocodiles. So when you are out on safari, for God's sake, don't get out of your vehicles, no matter how much better the picture might be. Lions particularly love the taste of iPhone cameras.

The Americans offer a nervous laugh as Hannes spreads his arms wide. Eddie has arrived in the background.

HANNES (CONT'D)

And again, I can't stress this more.
At all times, listen to your guide.

(beat)

Alright. That's all I have. Enjoy your
day, and be safe out there!

Hannes sits next to Megan and begins talking to her.

Thandi spies Juno and Kali and walks over.

THANDI

I almost didn't recognize you last
night in those city-girl clothes!

Juno smiles as she leans into Thandi.

JUNO

I missed you.

THANDI

I missed you, Shor-

A number of guests laugh as a giraffe bends low to steal some food from one of the tables. Thandi runs over to shoo it away. Kahli and Juno laugh, then Kali runs to help. Juno, still smiling, looks around the area again. She notes the table of food and makes her way there.

Juno notes two guests at the table. They stand out from the rest. BRAUN VOGEL (60) because of his austere profile. He wears an all-white suit with a white, Panama Hat. The second man is MR. DREDGE (50) who has a pet monkey on his shoulder. (*He is the same man who was pursuing Juno from the opening scene and also the man on the TV screen at the Airport.*) While Braun focuses on the food at the table, Dredge seems disinterested in the food. As Juno gets closer, she overhears what seems to be a tense interaction.

BRAUN VOGEL

...get it done!

Mr. Dredge nods and turns to leave in such an abrupt fashion that he knocks Juno down.

JUNO

Ow!

The monkey leaps from Dredge's shoulder and lands on the ground just in front of Juno. It almost seems to snicker at her.

MR. DREDGE
 (gruffly)
 Your pardon, my lady.

Before she can respond, Mr. Dredge is walking away with Juno left sitting on the ground. The monkey stares at her in a somewhat unnerving fashion. Mr. Dredge whistles over his shoulder, and the monkey lets out a loud CHITTER before scurrying away to join his master.

A dark shadow falls on Juno. She looks up to see Braun Vogel standing above her with his hand extended. He is silhouetted by the sun.

VOGEL V.O.
 (German accent)
 A fine spread, wouldn't you say?

Juno takes his hand as he helps her to her feet. Mr. Vogel motions to the food-laden tables as he turns and begins loading a plate. On the table are loads of fruits, cuts of meat, various presentations of egg, etc.

Juno nods irritably as she also begins loading her plate. She shifts her attention back to Mr. Vogel, who continues to peruse the food opposite her. A thin sheen of sweat covers his forehead, and a thick, half-smoked cigar is in one hand. Juno's eyes land on the pistol at his waist. A German-made Walther P38, from the '30s. The handle is polished, intricately carved ivory. She is suddenly angry.

JUNO
 It's illegal to own ivory.

Mr. Vogel shifts his attention from the food to Juno as he offers a placating smile. As if talking to a child.

BRAUN VOGEL
 It is illegal to buy or sell ivory.
 But it is perfectly legal to own it.
 An important distinction.
 (retrieves pistol)
 However, you will be happy to know
 that this is not new ivory. It's been
 in my family for three generations.
 Legend has it my grandfather brought
 the beast down with a single shot from
 a musket rifle.

Mr. Vogel mouths his cigar so he can remove the bullets from the six-shooter and offer it to Juno. She stares at the gun

but doesn't take it.

JUNO

Your grandfather was an idiot.

Mr. Vogel eyes her a moment before breathing out a hazy plume of smoke. He finds her to be... amusing.

MR. VOGEL

(calculated)

It was a different world back then. He had his ambitions, but he was never an... idiot. A monster, yes, but never an idiot.

(looks at gun)

It's a beautiful piece, though - wouldn't you agree? The craftsmanship is exquisite.

Mr. Vogel holsters the gun.

MR. VOGEL CONT'D

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm ravenous.

Mr. Vogel takes his plate of sausages and walks toward the table where Megan is sitting. Juno watches with a frown painting her face.

KALI

It always amazes me how quickly you make friends.

Kali had arrived sometime during the conversation.

JUNO

Who is he?

KALI

Your dad and mom's benefactor.

JUNO

He's the museum curator!?

Kali shakes his head as he loads up a plate with food.

KALI

No, he's a collector, but he has connections with some reputable museums, and I think he pulled some strings with the South African

government somehow. He arrived with his team two days ago.

(nods at the table with four men)
Loudmouthed, heavy-handed brutes.

Juno looks at the table and then back at Kali a little confused.

KALI CONT'D

Oupa's words.

JUNO

(distaste)
So he's a treasure hunter.

KALI

(turns back to food)
Something like that.

Juno's eyes stay on Mr. Vogel as she notes her mother and her newly arrived father make their way to Vogel's table.

JUNO CONT'D

(whispered)
What are my parents thinking?

KALI

(loading his plate)
Hmm?

JUNO

I don't like him.

KALI

(sarcastic)
I couldn't tell.

Juno's eyes stay on Mr. Vogel. She grunts disapprovingly as she watches Vogel begin to engage her mom. Juno can't hear the conversation. She walks toward them. Kali turns with a full plate only to realize Juno has left. He sighs and follows.

MR. VOGEL

-glad to hear it.
(places hand on Jason's shoulder)
You both are on the verge of great discovery, and I am eager to see this prize with my own eyes.

JASON

Artifact.

Mr. Vogel tilts his head to the side and nods at the distinction.

VOGEL

Yes, of course. Still, it is a prize, no?

JASON

(teacher mode)

This is no treasure to obtain for riches or prestige. The Spear of Destiny is an important historical artifact, a puzzle piece of our past. If we forget where we come from, we're destined to make the same mistakes.

MR. VOGEL

That the world would have more men like you.

Megan steps in smoothly.

MEGAN

It would be a better world.
(smiles at Vogel)
We are very grateful for your help. This expedition wouldn't be happening had you not opened doors with the South African Safety and Securities division.

MR. VOGEL

I've spent the majority of my life protecting Africa's wildlife and its...artifacts
(smiles at Jason)
and let's just say the minister of Arts and Culture owed me a favor.

Megan is uncomfortable with this statement but moves on. She spots Juno and Kali, who have joined the group.

MEGAN

Let me introduce you to my daughter and nephew.

Mr. Vogel smiles at Juno as she approaches.

MR. VOGEL

We just met— she is a lovely little girl. You must be proud to have a daughter who is so willing to share her thoughts and passions with the world.

Megan's eyebrows raise at the remark as a smile crosses Jason's face. Juno is angry but hides it when she sees the look on her mother's face.

MEGAN

She certainly knows her mind.

VOGEL

Will you be joining our expedition, young lady?

JUNO

(bristling)

I will.

VOGEL

(laughs)

It's a family affair then! Wonderful.

(beat)

And your thoughts on the Spear of Destiny?

JUNO

(eyes gun briefly)

It belongs in a museum and not as a trophy on some rich man's shelf.

VOGEL

(laughs)

She's a fiery one, hmm?

(to Juno)

My thoughts exactly, young lady, my thoughts exactly.

MEGAN

(stern)

What are your plans for today?

Juno realizes her mother is sending her away.

JASON

I suggested they explore the Malapa Caves.

MEGAN

Perfect.
 (beat)
 Bring Eddie with you.
 (beat)
 And leave Indy alone.

Juno is caught off guard.

JUNO

I don't know what you're talking
 about.

She catches herself as Jason smiles knowingly. Juno looks at her mother, trying to give nothing away.

MEGAN CONT'D

Don't you?
 (resigned)
 Stick together and be careful.

Juno and Kali turn to leave-

MEGAN CONT'D

Take Eddie.

CAMERA ON JUNO AND KALI. THEY DO NOT TURN AROUND.

JUNO

(over shoulder)
 Of course.

12 INT. / EXT. LANDCRUISER. LODGE. MID-MORNING.

Kali sits in the driver's seat of an open-topped Safari Landcruiser. Juno sits beside him. He can barely see over the wheel. Eddie sits in the back, he has a plate full of food and is eating.

Juno looks at Kahli with a little annoyance.

KALI

What?

JUNO

I'm driving on the way back.

Kali grins.

KALI

You have to be able to see over the

steering wheel first.

JUNO
 (looks at Kali)
 I'm driving!

13 INT. / EXT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. MID-MORNING

Juno looks down and studies the map. Eddie sits in the back, eating and watching the world pass by excitedly.

SHORT MONTAGE OF THE BEAUTY OF THE RESERVE.

KUDU, WILDEBEEST, A RHINO, AND MORE EXOTIC ANIMALS LITTER THE LANDSCAPE.

A NEARBY RIVER FLOWS AS GIRAFFES GATHER TO DRINK.

JUNO LETS OUT A HAPPY SIGH. THIS IS ALL SHE'S WANTED SINCE ARRIVING.

EDDIE TAKES A PICTURE OF AN OSTRICH RACING THE VEHICLE.

Juno places a pair of binoculars to her eyes as Kali pulls over and turns off the ignition, pointing towards a small copse of trees.

KALI
 He was just over there, sleeping
 beneath the Acacias.

Juno scans the trees.

WE SEE THROUGH THE BINOCULARS. THERE IS NOTHING UNDER THE TREES.

She continues searching. After a moment, she bites her lip.

JUNO
 (keeps searching)
 Should we check the watering hole?

EDDIE
 Who are you looking for?

JUNO
 (distracted) Indiana.
 KALI
 Indiana.

EDDIE
 Who's Indiana?

Juno keeps searching as Kali puts the truck in gear and begins to drive again.

EDDIE

You have a friend out there? Named
Indiana?

JUNO

Yes.

(to Kali)

We should walk from here. It'll be far
easier to track him if we're on foot.

Kali shrugs and puts the vehicle in park. He retrieves a rifle from the back of the jeep and shoulders it. The children begin to walk, and after a few steps, Juno stops and looks over her shoulder.

JUNO

Eddie. We are walking now.

EDDIE

Aren't we supposed to stay in the
vehicle? I definitely heard your uncle
say not to get out of the vehicle.

JUNO

That's just for the dumb Americans.

Juno quickly realizes what she said and offers her best, winning smile.

JUNO CONT'D

It's perfectly safe. Trust me.

EDDIE

Then why does Kali have a gun?

KALI

(smiles)

He's got you there.

EDDIE

I don't want to- I don't...

JUNO

(irritated)

Suit yourself. We're just going to
that rise.

(points to a hill)

We won't be long.

Eddie nods.

CUT TO.

Juno and Kali walk through the bush. Numerous safari animals litter the landscape.

EXTREME WIDE OF JUNO AND KALI WALKING.

JUNO

I've missed this.

KALI

I don't know. New York City sounds kinda amazing.

JUNO

It is... in its own way...

(closes eyes)

But listen. Do you hear that?

Kali cocks his head to the side, listening.

KALI

All I hear are the sounds of the bush.

JUNO

Exactly. No sirens or horns. No helicopters or people shouting. This is what life is meant to be.

The children top a rise. In the valley below is a stunning lake with six elephants and a number of other animals encircling it. The largest elephant is a male and is fifty meters or so separate from the rest of the herd. Juno and Kali stop to take it in.

JUNO

Nothing compares to this. Africa, the last true frontier on earth.

(exhales a slow breath)

I was born for this.

KALI

Come on, we're wasting daylight.

Juno jogs forward to rejoin Kali. As they begin to head into the valley, they stop in unison. At the far end, four jeeps burst onto the scene. All four are moving fast as they spread out and come to a stop. They have formed a wide semi-circle around the male Elephant, which has turned to face them.

Juno raises the binoculars.

WE SEE WHAT SHE SEES.

The men are all wearing busy-styled camouflage, and all carry automatic weapons.

JUNO

No, no, no, no...

KALI

We need to get back to the Landcruiser
and radio Oupa.

JUNO

There's no time.

Juno becomes stoic. In the valley below, the male elephant stomps the ground as it trumpets loudly. She holds out her hand.

JUNO CONT'D

Give me the rifle.

Kali eyes her questioningly.

JUNO CONT'D

(seething)

I'm just going to give a warning shot,
so they know they're being watched.

KALI

Those are machine guns, Juno.

JUNO

Socom 16's. They're short-range
rifles. They couldn't hit a wall from
this distance.

KALI

Is this like the rope?

JUNO

(hands him the binoculars)

They're going to shoot it.

Kali takes the binoculars but merely holds them as he meets Juno's eyes. Finally, he offers a fierce nod as he hands her the gun.

Juno lies flat and takes aim. Kali joins her, looking through

the binoculars.

KALI

The southeastern cruiser, front tire.

JUNO

Mhmm.

THE SCOPE SHIFTS PAST THE MEN AND OVER TO ONE OF THE JEEPS,
LANDING ON ONE OF THE FRONT TIRES.

Juno's finger rests on the trigger. She is about to shoot
when-

KALI

Wait, what is that?

There is a rumbling, and then two jeeps arrive from the
direction they had come. The jeeps pass barely 15 feet away
from Juno and Kali and continue on over the ridge and down
onto the valley. Juno looks to see a man in the passenger
seat. It is MR. Dredge.

Both Juno and Kali see an "APL" logo on the jeep doors. Kali
lets out a sigh of relief and begins to stand, but Juno grabs
him and violently pulls him back down.

KALI

What!?! It's the Anti-Poaching League.

JUNO

Something's not right,
(points at the poachers)
Look!

KALI

(confused)
They aren't leaving.

The poachers turn, watching the newcomers almost casually.

Juno places her eye back on the scope to watch the scene play
out. Mr. Dredge steps out. A moment later, the monkey
scurries out of the jeep and climbs up onto his shoulder.

Mr. Dredge walks directly up to the man who looks to be the
LEAD POACHER and starts shouting, he is clearly angry. His
shouts echo across the canyon. A few words can be heard.

MR. DREDGE
 (points in Juno & Kalis direction)
 ... a Landcruiser... too close!

The Lead Poacher looks up, and Juno and Kali shrink lower. The poacher shrugs and speaks, but his words are quieter, so the children can't hear him.

KALI
 This doesn't make sense.

Mr. Dredge nods and scans the horizon, making sure no one is watching. He checks his watch, then nods again. He reaches out and shakes the hand of the Lead Poacher. The poacher turns back to his men and lifts his hand. Two men raise their rifles in the direction of the male Elephant.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

All the men in the canyon duck for cover with military precision. Two of the jeeps now have flat tires. The elephant startles and begins to move.

Kali looks wide-eyed at Juno.

KALI
 What did you do?

JUNO
 What? We had to do something!?
 (confused)
 You agreed.

KALI
 That's before 4 more men with guns
 showed up!

JUNO
 (grins and points)
 Look!

The elephant is well on its way. Kali nods.

BANG!

THWACK!

A bullet hits a rock near Kali's head and ricochets off. Juno and Kali share an 'oh no!' look before bolting away at a sprint.

BANG, BANG, BANG! THWACK, THWACK, THWACK!

KALI
Short-range my butt!

CUT TO.

In the valley below, the men leap into the remaining jeeps and begin driving up the canyon.

CUT TO.

Juno and Kali run side by side, topping the rise and losing sight of the valley. They share a look, then quickly stop.

JUNO
Eddie!

KALI
Eddie!

Juno fumbles at her waist, grabbing the walkie-talkie as they continue their mad-dash.

14 INT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. AFTERNOON

Eddie stares wide-eyed at a lion standing just outside his door, watching him. Its eyes deep, knowing, and terrifying. Eddie's mouth is open, he is in awe and he is terrified. The lion roars. Eddie jumps in his seat. Then he closes his eyes tight.

EDDIE
(whispers)
God, help me. Help me. Jesus, save me!

Eddie opens his eyes slowly. The lion is gone. He exhales a long, slow breath. All is quiet.

Juno's voice suddenly breaks through the CB Radio, causing Eddie to jump again!

JUNO O. S.
Eddie!

Eddie yelps as he sits up even straighter, looking around to see where the voice came from. He looks back out again. No lion.

JUNO O. S.
Eddie, pick up the CB! Do you hear me?

15 EXT. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Juno and Kali are running toward the thick foliage and craggy rocks.

JUNO
(into walkie-talkie)
Eddie, do you read me?
(beat)
Pick up the CB. Push the button to
talk into it! Now!

EDDIE O. S.
Juno!?

JUNO
Get out of the jeep, right now!

Juno lets go of the CB button.

EDDIE O.S.
...a noise and there was nothing
there, and suddenly, you wouldn't
believe it but-

Juno leaps over a fallen log as she cuts Eddie off and speaks into the walkie-talkie again.

JUNO
Eddie let go of the button, and listen
to-

16 INT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

EDDIE
There was a lion!
(beat)
He was just standing there and
looking-

17 EXT. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

JUNO
(into walkie talkie)
...out of the Landcruiser!

Juno lets go of the button again.

EDDIE O. S.
...at me, and I was scared but-

JUNO
 (into walkie-talkie)
 Shut up, shut up, shut up! Listen to
 me?!

Juno lets go of the button again-

EDDIE O. S.
 ...right outside my window. It was
 terrifying but also, amazing...

Juno and Kali share a look of absolute disbelief as bullets
 fly past their heads.

THWACK, THWACK!

18 INT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

EDDIE
 (breathless)
 ...his eyes, it was like looking into
 death but also life, and he was so
 wise and so horrible and, are you
 listening?
 (beat)
 Juno? Juno? Did you hear me?!

Eddie finally realizes he is still pushing the button. He
 lets go.

JUNO O. S.
 ...your gonna die!!!

EDDIE
 What?

JUNO O. S.
 Get out of the Cruiser, right now!

EDDIE
 (terrified)
 What!?

JUNO O.S.
 Head Northwest toward the Red Rocks.

Eddie looks up to see the red rocks out the front left side
 of the vehicle.

JUNO O. S. CON'T
 There are caves. Hide in a cave and

don't leave it! We'll meet you as soon as we can.

EDDIE

I can't leave the Cruiser!

JUNO

If you don't get out right now, you're gonna die!

(beat)

Eddie, I mean it, they're headed your way!

A look of shock crosses Eddie's face.

EDDIE

Did you hear a word I said?!

(shouts each word)

There. was. a. lion. outside. my door!

19 EXT. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Juno and Kali have reached a thick copse of trees. They stumble to a stop at Eddie's words. Juno and Kali share a concerned look.

JUNO

(whispers)

Is it still there?

20 INT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Eddie looks around.

EDDIE

I, I don't, I don't see it.

There is a pause, and then Juno's voice comes over the radio as Eddie's face darkens.

JUNO O.S.

The lion has probably gone, but there is a group of very dangerous and very armed men headed your way. When they find the Landcruiser, you don't want to be in it.

(beat)

Eddie... these men will hurt you.

Eddie is more wide-eyed than ever.

21 EXT. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Juno and Kali begin running again.

JUNO

Go to the caves, now!

22 INT. LANDCRUISER. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Eddie is almost hyperventilating as he pulls the handle. He squeezes out of the jeep, pressing his back flat against it.

EDDIE

(whispering to himself)

It's probably gone?

(unbelief)

Probably...

He searches back and forth for any sign of a lion but sees nothing.

Eddie is sweating profusely as he runs almost blindly toward the red rocks.

23 EXT. BUSH. AFTERNOON.

Juno and Kali lay quiet as mice. BRUTE 1 and BRUTE 2 stand on a ridge just above them. Another few hundred meters away is their Landcruiser. There is no sign of Eddie, but one of the poacher's jeeps has arrived and is parked next to it. Two men, BRUTE 3 and BRUTE 4, are searching the area around the jeep.

KALI

(whispers)

Looks like he got away.

Juno nods.

KALI

(whispers)

We need to split up.

JUNO

(whispers)

I'll lure them away so you can get to the radio.

(meets Kali's eyes)

Meet you at Connor's airstrip?

Kali nods in agreement.

Juno leaps over a small stream and sprints up a steep red-rock slope.

24 EXT. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Juno is sprinting through the bush. She leaps through some brambles and her foot catches, bringing her to the ground, hard. Her face and arms are scratched up by the brambles and her forehead boasts a bloody gash.

THE SOUND OF MEN SHOUTING.

Juno rises dizzily, shakes her head, and lurches forward again. She casts a reckless glance behind her, and as she turns back around, she grins as she leaps between two bushes and runs smack into Eddie. Both children tumble over each other.

Juno sits up and spits out a leaf.

JUNO

I told you to hide in the caves!

EDDIE

I heard noises.

Juno looks at him as though he is from another planet.

25 EXT. JEEP. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

One of the Animal Poaching League vehicles has parked next to Kali's Landcruiser, which boasts the logo of "Mbozoni Lodge," on the door. The men are standing next to the vehicle, talking. Kali watches from the safety of the bush.

APL BRUTE 3

I know this lodge. The owner is ex-Recces. Hard as nails.

APL Brute 2 raises an eyebrow.

APL BRUTE 4

Recces?

APL BRUTE 3

SA Special Forces. From what I've heard, he's not afraid of a fight.

Kali is sneaking up on the opposite side of the jeep, crawling along the ground on his belly. Brute 4 flicks a cigarette butt over his shoulder. It bounces off Kali. He

glances at it in annoyance before continuing forward.

APL BRUTE 4

You afraid of a farmer?

Kali shifts silently up to a crouching position and finally peaks above the window, spotting the radio.

APL BRUTE 3

You haven't heard the stories.

26 EXT. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Juno and Eddie (*soaking wet from having fallen in the river*), sprint through thick bush and into a clearing. Juno skids to a stop, looking suddenly triumphant. A short distance away is a long dirt runway. On one end is a small hanger with large doors on the front of it. On the other end is what looks to be an airplane underneath a large tarp. Eddie bursts into the clearing.

He is bent over and struggling to breathe.

JUNO

Kali should be here soon.

EDDIE

Where...

(can barely speak)

where... is he?

JUNO

He went back to the Cruiser to get the radio. We need to call Oupa.

Eddie grabs Juno by the arm. He is too breathless to say the words, so he points instead. Juno can't believe she missed it. A jeep is parked on the other side of the hanger. Just as she sees it, a man with a gun walks past the large window. She hits the dirt, lying flat on her belly. Eddie is still bent in half, trying to catch his breath.

Juno looks up at Eddie in exasperation. She reaches up and pulls him to the ground in a heap.

EDDIE

What... what about the airplane?

Juno looks at him like she's never seen him before.

She deliberates.

Finally, she nods in approval and turns to study the plane.

JUNO
 (almost to herself)
 I've never flown before, but I suppose
 you're right, how hard could it be?

Eddie can't mask his shock.

EDDIE
 No... no, no. I mean, wouldn't it have
 a radio?

JUNO
 I could kiss you, Eddie!

Eddie blushes as Juno scans the airstrip and then the hanger.

JUNO CONT'D
 Stay low.

27 INT. HANGER. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Brute 5 is facing the hanger, his back to the plane. Behind him, Juno scampers stealthily, as though that would hide her movements. Eddie lumbers up and tries to scamper, but he is so tired he just looks like a big, slow ape.

WE ARE STILL ON BRUTE 5 AS HE SMOKES HIS CIGARETTE INSIDE THE HANGER.

The plane has a tarp over it. Juno tries to pull the tarp off the front as Eddie is pulling from the back. They are working against each other, and the tarp doesn't budge.

Brute 5 takes a drag on his cigarette but doesn't turn around.

Juno realizes what's happening and is animatedly gesturing at Eddie to get him to stop and come help her. Eddie throws his hands up as though he is trying to explain, then he nods and runs around to join Juno.

Together they lift the tarp off the front. The plane is an old-fashioned, single-prop, Biplane (*two wings stacked on top of each other.*)

Juno jumps up on the wing and grabs the rest of the tarp, throwing it back. It lands on Eddie.

Brute 5 exhales smoke as he casually turns and finally sees

what has been happening behind him. He watches in confused interest as Eddie stumbles around the tarmac stuck under the tarp. Eddie pulls the tarp off and then trips over it. From the ground, he looks up and makes eye contact with Brute 5.

Eddie waves at Brute 5, who cocks his head to the side and waves back. Eddie slowly turns and runs back to the plane.

Brute 5 calls out over his shoulder almost casually.

BRUTE 5

Aleric, take a look at this.

BRUTE 6 walks around from the backside of the hanger to stand beside Brute 5.

28 EXT. JEEP. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Kali leans into the jeep and quietly grabs the radio. Brute 3 and Brute 4 are leaning against the other side. Kali grins as he slowly begins to creep back into the bush.

MEGAN (ON RADIO)

Juno, Kali, where are you? Over.

(beat)

I need you to respond, please, over-

With an "Oh no!" look, Kali clicks the power off as Brute 3 and Brute 4 move quickly, drawing their guns as Kali leaps into the bush.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Both men keep firing as Kali sprints into the darkness with the radio in hand.

29 EXT. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Juno jumps in the cockpit and grabs the radio. She flips the radio switch to "on."

JUNO

(turns excitedly)

It works!

Eddie is climbing up onto the plane.

EDDIE

We have a problem!

Brute 5 at the hanger is shouting something inaudible. BRUTE

6 shows up from the side of the hanger. They begin yelling at Juno and Eddie as they walk toward the plane.

Juno immediately starts searching under the seat. She finds the keys and shakes them triumphantly at Eddie. She puts the key in the ignition and turns it.

Nothing.

She looks around and then flips a switch to the upward position and the propeller starts to spin. Juno grins.

JUNO CONT'D

Get in!

Eddie is terrified. He looks back at the Brutes. They aren't walking now, they have lowered their gun, and they are running and shouting.

BANG!

A bullet ricochets off the wing as Eddie SQUEALS and leaps in beside Juno.

JUNO

In the back!

BANG, BANG!

It's too late. The children share the front seat. Juno is clearly agitated by being squished.

EDDIE

What are you doing?!

JUNO

We're getting out of here.

EDDIE

You just said you've never flown before!

JUNO

(crooked grin)

I've seen it done, how hard can it be?

Juno thinks a moment, then pushes the throttle lever forward. The engine roars louder, but the plane doesn't move.

BANG, BANG, BANG!

Another bullet hits the plane's fuel tank, causing fuel to begin spilling out through the bullet hole. Juno spots another switch and pushes it to the upward position.

The plane lurches forward.

She offers Eddie a victorious grin.

Eddie is frantically searching for the seatbelt. He finds it and leans heavily over Juno to grab the other end so he can strap them both in. Juno slaps his hand away.

JUNO CONT'D

Stop that!

Eddie lets the belt go.

In the distance, Mr. Dredge has arrived at the treeline. He is furious as he assesses the situation.

BANG, BANG!

The men are barely ten paces behind as Juno pushes the throttle further forward. BRUTE 3 runs just beside the plane. He leaps up and grabs the wing. The edge of the runway is coming fast.

JUNO

(shouts)

Here we go!

EDDIE

Ohhhhh!

Juno pulls back on the throttle, and the plane lifts a moment, then bounces back down on the runway. Brute 3 manages to hold on as his feet slide along the dirt, kicking up a massive dust cloud.

Juno pulls the throttle back harder. The plane lifts again, pitching wildly back and forth as if being flown by a drunkard. Brute 3 flips about and is nearly thrown off, but somehow manages to snag one of the wheels.

Juno thinks she's lost him and offers Eddie another grin. Eddie points at the fast-approaching treeline. They aren't high enough. Juno pulls back hard, and they both scream as they clip the tops of some trees, barely clearing them. Juno lets out a shuddering breath before snapping back to her usual wit.

JUNO

Piece of cake. Told you it was easy-

An arm reaches around Juno's neck and drags her into the back seat, where she is being choked by BRUTE 3, who has somehow managed to climb into the plane. Eddie is horrified, but grabs the throttle and tries to keep the plane in the air. Juno starts pounding at Brute 3, but she is small in his steel grip.

Eddie frantically looks around. He snatches a leather helmet and hurls it at the man. It hits Juno in the face. Eddie offers Juno a "sorry!" look as Juno stares murder at him. Eddie turns back in search of something else to throw. He grabs a compass and hurls it hard. It goes at least three meters wide of Juno and Brute 3. Both of them offer Eddie a "really?" look.

Eddie turns back again. He's thinking. He sees his seat belt, still unbuckled, and he has an idea. He turns back to Juno and Brute 3.

EDDIE

I've got a plan!

Juno looks at him like, "then do it."

EDDIE CONT'D

Hold on!

He turns around again and quickly buckles while Juno struggles in the back.

Juno and Brute 3 watch him as he grabs the stick, and they share an "oh no" look.

JUNO

No, no, no, no!

Eddie takes the throttle, then takes a deep breath as he pulls it hard to the side. The plane begins to roll into an upside-down position. Brute 3 and Juno are momentarily weightless before they land on the top of the layered Biplane wings. Suddenly, Eddie is upside down, and Juno and Brute 3 are sprawled across the top of the wing. Brute 3 shares a "what just happened?" look with Juno, then they both look at Eddie.

Suddenly, the plane flips again as Eddie reaches out and grabs Juno's hand. Brute 3 flips past and out, screaming as he falls to the trees below while Juno lands firmly right next to Eddie in the front cockpit.

EDDIE

It worked?!

Eddie looks at Juno, clearly proud of himself. Juno just stares at him with wide, unbelieving eyes.

SPUTTER. SPUTTER. SPUTTER.

The engine cuts. The plane is out of gas. Juno flicks the gas gauge with her finger.

JUNO

You have to be joking.

EDDIE

We're out of gas, aren't we?

For a moment, there is just the sound of the wind as Juno and Eddie process what just happened. Juno frantically begins searching the ground. A small watering hole is approaching just beneath them.

Juno reaches over to Eddie and unbuckles his seatbelt.

EDDIE

What are you doing!?

JUNO

Jump!

Juno grabs him by the shoulders and leaps out of the plane.

The children fall, headfirst toward the ground as the plane passes overhead. Both children splash into the lake as the plane crashes into a massive boulder and explodes into flames.

30 EXT. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

Kali is hiding behind a large boulder. He is breathing heavily but trying to stay quiet. He lifts the radio box. It's been shot.

He rolls his eyes at his terrible luck. APL Brute 1 and 2 run past and come to a stop. They know Kali is hiding somewhere nearby.

APL BRUTE 1

(menacing)

Come out now, and I promise, we won't shoot.

Kali takes a step back, trying to hide in the shadows of the setting sun, but it's too late. APL Brute 1 and 2 have seen him. The men stand side by side as they lift their guns.

Just then, a plane flies overhead. All three look up to see a man falling from the plane.

Every head cranes upward.

APL Brute 1 and 2 squint their eyes as their necks crane even further back.

CRASH!

Both of the brutes are crushed by their falling friend.

Kali just stands there for a moment, trying to process what just happened.

CRASH!

Kali turns at the sound of the exploding plane.

31 EXT. PLANE CRASH. BUSH. EARLY EVENING.

The water is still. Not a ripple. Juno and Kali explode upward, gasping for breath. Both children tread water as they watch the flames billowing into the sky a short distance away.

JUNO
(half to herself)
Not bad for my first time.

32 EXT. PLANE CRASH. RIVERS EDGE. EARLY EVENING.

Eddie and Juno begin swimming for the shore as Mr. Dredge pulls up in his jeep along with TWO MORE BRUTES. Juno is exhausted. There's nowhere left to run. As they reach the shore, Eddie throws his hands in the air.

Mr. Dredge exits the jeep and trains the rifle on Juno. The monkey leaps out as well and climbs up onto Dredge's shoulder. It CHITTERS loudly and points at Eddie, sticking out its tongue.

EDDIE
That's a bad monkey.

MR. DREDGE
That was quite the chase, young lady.

(he tips his hat to her)
You are... remarkable.

JUNO
And you are an imposter and a monster.

Mr. Dredge's finger slides onto the trigger as a look of pure evil enters his eyes.

MR. DREDGE
You have no idea.

Suddenly, a RUMBLING GROWL erupts from somewhere close. Mr. Dredge steps back as an enormous lion pads into the fading sunlight. The monkey screams and leaps off Dredge's shoulder, scurrying away. The lion is both majestic and menacing.

Mr. Dredge trains his weapon on the beast.

He thinks a moment, then, keeping his eyes on the lion, he circles round to stand beside Juno.

He retrieves a small pocket knife from his belt, opening it slowly. Both the lion and Juno watch him curiously. His voice is tight.

MR. DREDGE CONT'D
(looks at Eddie)
Man-eaters lose their minds at the
smell of blood.

Mr. Dredge darts out with the knife, cutting the palm of Juno's hand.

JUNO
(irritated)
Ow!

EDDIE
Oh, God.

The lion ROARS at the sudden movement, taking a threatening step forward. Mr. Dredge trains his gun on it again as he slowly makes his way back to the jeep.

Juno squeezes her hand closed, but blood still drips through her fingers, spattering into the watering hole. Eddie looks from Mr. Dredge to the lion, to Juno's bloody hand. He gives up and sits down in the ankle-deep water.

MR. DREDGE CONT'D

I may be a monster, but even I don't
like the idea of killing children.

Juno grimaces at being called a child.

MR. DREDGE CONT'D

The laws of the bush rule in the end,
eh?

(brutish smile)

Goodbye, my girl.

With his eyes trained on the lion, Mr. Dredge takes a few steps back and climbs into his jeep. He whistles, and the monkey scurries over, climbing inside. As the jeeps drive away, Juno watches with an "are you kidding me?" look. She turns back to face the lion.

The beast's eyes are trained on the blood dripping from her hand. It lets out a growl. Eddie is terrified.

JUNO

I know it's been a minute...

(glances at hand)

and this is unfortunate. But it's me.

I'm back.

The lion offers a menacing growl as Juno watches, clearly concerned. Finally, the lion shakes it's head and lopes over to Juno to nuzzle her.

JUNO CONT'D

(happy)

Hi Indy! I've missed you!

Eddie's terror becomes confusion and then realization as Juno fully embraces the lion.

EDDIE

I want to go home.

TO BE CONTINUED!