

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

"Pilot"

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**EXT. ASAY VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING**

OPEN ON a small ocean TOWN, nestled comfortably between two giant snow-topped mountains. We soar through the wintry sky to reach --

**EXT. FROSTY PEAKS - DAY**

A frozen wonderland of SNOW FORTS, ICE RAMPS, ICE RINKS, etc. VILLAGE PEOPLE of all ages enjoy this fantastical, larger-than-life outdoor experience.

We continue to soar until we reach --

**EXT. CAMELOT - CONTINUOUS**

As its name suggests, this snow fort is MASSIVE. And extremely epic.

**INSIDE THE FORT**

It's every kid's dream with rooms made of ice, tunnels, slides, etc. And what do you know? The owners of this impressive fort are here, playing a game of --

ASHE

Go fish!

ASHE sticks her tongue out at BRADEN, who angrily slams his hand on the CARD DECK.

BRADEN

No fours? You'd better not be cheating again.

ASHE

Oh, you're one to talk, Mr. I-Stuff-Cards-In-My-Pants.

BRADEN

That was THREE TIMES, okay?!

As they mean mug each other, MIA and COREY barely pay attention to the game.

MIA

Sooo, uh, are you going to the Winter Formal?

COREY

(hesitant)

No. Are you?

MIA  
Pfffft. No! It's a school dance.  
Who goes to those??

COREY  
Heh. Yeah. It's probably gonna be  
super lame...

Braden interrupts, waving his hand in front of Mia.

BRADEN  
Mia. Go.

MIA  
Fish?

BRADEN  
(annoyed)  
Yep. That's the name of the game.

MIA  
But I didn't go yet...

BRADEN  
<GROANS>

MIA  
Oh, it's my turn. You could have  
just said that.

Braden rolls his eyes as Mia looks at her cards.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Uh, Corey? Do you have anyone?  
(coughs violently)  
I mean, ones? Do you have any ones?

As Corey checks, Mia shows her hand by accident.

BRADEN  
Mia, I can see your cards! Ugh,  
come on...

Panicking, she stuffs them under her BUM.

ASHE  
(re: Mia's cards)  
Up-bup-bup. Don't go pulling a  
Braden there.

BRADEN  
Oh, *real* funny.

COREY

Go fish.

Mia draws. Two of hearts. She smiles.

LOUD VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, dweeeeeeebs!

They freeze, sharing frantic looks.

ASHE

Jeez. She's early this year.

**EXT. FROSTY PEAKS - MOMENTS LATER**

Surrounding the fort are the ALL-ASAY REJECTS, the local bully troupe. JENNA leads the pack, flanked by AVA, COOPER, and little LIAM.

JENNA

Time for your yearly snow-in. It's been ice knowing you.

Ava and Cooper <LAUGH>, but Liam overdoes it.

LIAM

<FORCED LAUGHTER>

JENNA

Knock it off, Liam.

LIAM

(innocent)

Sorry... I just wanted everyone to know how funny you are.

JENNA

(through clenched teeth)

They know I'm funny. Now shush.

(to the others)

Ready to play snowball?

Ava and Cooper <BUST A GUT>. But Liam doesn't laugh. Jenna <CLEARS> her throat.

LIAM

Oh. <SMALL PITY LAUGH>

Jenna, Ava, and Cooper load their mean-looking SNOWBALL BLASTERS with fresh snow.

JENNA

On my mark... get ready--

LIAM  
(re: blaster)  
Um, Jenna? Do I get one?

JENNA  
<SIGHS> Just 'cause Mom made me  
bring you doesn't mean you're part  
of the squad.  
(Liam's face falls)  
No blaster for you.

He sadly shuffles away.

JENNA (CONT'D)  
Okay, where were we? Oh yeah...

**INT. CAMELOT - MOMENTS LATER**

<BOOM>! <KACHOW>! <BOP BOP BOP>! The fort shudders from the  
ONSLAUGHT OF SNOWBALLS.

BRADEN  
Are we sure it's gonna hold?

COREY  
We planned for this... it's the  
strongest Camelot's ever been!

ASHE  
(getting excited)  
But if it doesn't hold... initiate  
Excalibur?

MIA  
(confident)  
It'll hold. All we have to do is  
wait this out.

HARD CUT TO:

**INT. CAMELOT - WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH LATER**

Snowballs rain down in rapid fire succession, the barrage  
unrelenting. Camelot's walls BULGE INWARDS.

BRADEN  
(heavy sarcasm)  
Boy, sure glad we waited!

ASHE  
 (hopeful, chanting)  
 Excalibur... Excalibur...  
 Excalibur...

COREY  
 (looking to Mia)  
 We might not have a choice.

MIA  
 <SIGHS> Okay, okay.  
 (beat)  
 Initiate Excalibur.

ASHE  
 Woohoo!

#### **QUICK CUTS OF "INITIATE EXCALIBUR" IN ACTION**

The kids gear up with makeshift medieval-themed GOGGLES, HELMETS, CHEST PLATES, SNOW BLASTERS, and WALKIE TALKIES.

#### **EXT. CAMELOT - MOMENTS LATER**

Each kid takes point at one of four castle TOWERS, setting their sights on the All-Asay Rejects' fort across the way: the fearsome SNOW SHREDDER.

MIA (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
 We fire... for Camelot!

They unleash a barrage of SNOWBALLS on the Snow Shredder. Barely a scratch.

JENNA  
 Ooooh, scary. You're really *snowing* us...

Ava and Cooper <SNICKER> like the lackeys they are. But the Knights of Camelot persist. After another round of hits -- <CR-ACK>! The fort's developed a weak spot!

ASHE (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
 Excalibur!!!

JENNA  
 (face darkening)  
 You shouldn't have done that...

The bullies retreat, disappearing into a CLOUD OF SNOW.

BRADEN (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Uh oh. I don't like this. I don't  
like this at all.

COREY (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Stay frosty.

<BOOOOOM>!!! A kid-sized SNOWBALL <STRIKES> Braden's tower!

BRADEN  
Ahhhhhh!!!

The bullies burst through the snow cloud on a large MOTORIZED  
SLED, geared for war, *Mad Max* style. With homemade SHIELDS,  
SIDE CARS, and a giant BAZOOKA to boot, this thing means  
serious business!

JENNA  
The Scream Machine still needs a  
few tweaks before it's ready for  
battle...  
(looking through scope)  
So your puny fort will be a great  
test drive.

MIA (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
(scared)  
FIRE!!

The Knights <PELT> the Scream Machine, but they bounce off  
like cotton balls.

JENNA  
<CRAZED LAUGHTER>

<BOOOOOM>!!! The machine launches another massive snowball,  
<OBLITERATING> Braden's tower in one hit!

BRADEN (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
I'm going down!

ASHE (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Braden!

Just when we think he's a goner, Braden <BURSTS> out from  
under the snow, booking it for Ashe's tower.

COREY (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Look out!

Braden narrowly dodges snowball after snowball from Jenna's  
bazooka. He dives for cover next to Ashe.

MIA (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Braden, you good?

BRADEN (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
No! That thing almost turned me  
into snowflakes!

**THROUGH THE BAZOOKA'S SCOPE:** Jenna locks in on Mia's tower.

JENNA  
You're making it too easy. Come on,  
put up a fight, Knights of the Dumb  
Fort!

ASHE  
Oh, you want a fight? *You want a  
fight?!*

Ashe goes ape, fiercely shooting snowballs at Jenna. But it's hopeless. Jenna easily lobbs another giant snowball, this time at Mia's tower. The tower <SHAKES>, the foundation quickly giving way under her feet.

COREY (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Mia! Get out of there!

Corey rushes to help, returning fire on the Scream Machine. One of his snowballs <HITS> Cooper in the face. Ava just points and <LAUGHS>.

Desperate, Mia looks around for something. Anything.

MIA  
(realizing)  
Corey, the weak spot!

Corey catches her gaze. Nods.

COREY  
Now's our chance.

MIA (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
Ashe, Braden. Camelot's in your  
hands now.

BRADEN (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
What? Why? Where are you going?

MIA (INTO WALKIE TALKIE)  
We have to take them down... from  
the inside.

**EXT. FROSTY PEAKS - MOMENTS LATER**

Mia and Corey sneak out the back. Coast is clear.

MIA

Now!

They bolt across the field to the Snow Shredder. Once they round the corner, they stop to catch their <BREATHS>.

COREY

(relieved)

They didn't see us.

Using their snow blasters as pickaxes, they dig through the weakened fort wall. It quickly gives way, leaving behind a GAPING HOLE.

COREY (CONT'D)

(gesturing to Mia)

After you, Joan of Arc.

**INT. CAMELOT - SAME TIME**

Ashe and Braden do their best to hold down the fort, but the All-Asay Rejects go nuts on their rig, spewing snowballs every which way!

BRADEN

We can't hold them off forever.

ASHE

Don't you quit on me, Braden.

BRADEN

Me? Quit? Nooo. I'm just really good at accepting defeat.

A rogue snowball suddenly <HITS> him in the leg, causing a few Go Fish cards to FLY OUT of his pants.

ASHE

<GASPS> I KNEW IT! You cheating--

Another rogue snowball <SOCKS> her in the MOUTH, forcing them to duck for cover.

**INT. SNOW SHREDDER - MOMENTS LATER**

The bullies' fort is set up like a WAR ROOM. Hostile, aggressive, and very uncomfortable.

MIA  
(rubs hands together)  
Time to Battle of Badon this place!

The kids get to work wrecking the place. All the while, from the shadows, a pair of GLOWING EYES watches.

COREY  
(finally noticing)  
Psssst. Mia.

Mia follows his gaze just as a <SNARL> rips through the air. They clutch their blasters tight.

MIA  
(whispering)  
What is THAT??

COREY  
(whispering)  
Fire on three?  
(Mia nods)  
One, two--

To their surprise, the eyes belong to a cute MINIATURE SCHNAUZER, who steps into the light. Mia's smitten.

MIA  
Aww. Puppy!

COREY  
(scared)  
No... no, no, no! Run!

He takes off without another word.

MIA  
Run? Why?

<BARK BARK>! A snowball suddenly <WHIZZES> past her head. Strapped to the dog's skull... a SNOW CANNON.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Oh. Run.

#### **INT. CAMELOT - SAME TIME**

Camelot's in bad shape. Only one tower remains.

BRADEN  
Ashe, if we make it out alive--

ASHE  
Don't say that.

BRADEN  
If we make it out alive--

ASHE  
Shhh. Stop. Stop!

BRADEN  
I promise I'll never cheat at Go  
Fish again.

<BOOM>! A fatal blow against the final tower.

ASHE  
I knew you were cheating.  
(beat)  
I let you.

BRADEN  
Really? Why?

ASHE  
(blushing)  
It made you happy.

<CRAAAACK>! Braden's side starts to crumble, splitting the  
tower in half!

BRADEN  
The game never made me happy.  
(dramatic as he falls)  
You diiiid!

Before he can fall to his doom, Ashe grabs him by the collar,  
easily pulling him to safety.

BRADEN (CONT'D)  
(embarrassed)  
Oh. Thanks.

**INT. SNOW SHREDDER - SAME TIME**

Corey and Mia flee from the snow-blasting Schnauzer.

COREY  
We gotta take a powder.

MIA  
(confused)  
Take a--?

COREY

*Leave!*

MIA

What about the fort?

COREY

Forget the fort! What about our  
lives??

But before they can reach the exit, the Schnauzer dives in front of them, blocking their path.

COREY (CONT'D)

This is it. Death by Schnauzer. I  
should've known...

Suddenly, we hear an O.S. <WHISTLE>!

The Schnauzer's ears perk up. It wags its tail. REVEAL the source of the noise: Liam with a DOGGIE TREAT.

LIAM

Is there room for one more at the  
Round Table?

Corey and Mia look at each other.

#### **INT. CAMELOT - MOMENTS LATER**

Ashe and Braden cling to each other. This is really it...

<KA-BOOM>! The Snow Shredder violently implodes!

ASHE / BRADEN

Whoa...

The kids abruptly push apart.

ASHE

Don't touch me.

BRADEN

Yep. Yep. No touchy.

#### **ON THE ALL-ASAY REJECTS**

They stare slack jawed at the Snow Shredder ruins. Mia, Corey, and Liam (plus Schnauzer) coolly walk out.

JENNA

(to Liam)

YOU!

As Jenna steps up to Liam, Mia blocks her.

MIA  
It's over, Jenna. The Snow  
Shredder's been...  
(cringing)  
Shredded.

Jenna's mouth quivers, but nothing comes out. Tails between their legs, the All-Asay Rejects sadly putter away on the Scream Machine.

LIAM  
Ripper and I should head home too.  
Camelot Squad?

COREY  
Camelot Squad.

They fist bump as Ashe and Braden run up.

BRADEN  
(incredulous)  
You did it! ... How'd you do it?

MIA  
(winking)  
A magician never reveals her cards.

ASHE  
Braden does, when they explode out  
his pants.

Corey and Mia look at Braden, who crosses his heart.

BRADEN  
The fourth and final time, I swear.

COREY  
(to Mia)  
Shall we collect our spoils?

#### **INT. SNOW SHREDDER - MOMENTS LATER**

The kids take in what's left of the fort. It's... not much.

COREY  
The place has a lot of potential.  
Cover a few gaping holes, sweep out  
the shattered ice, and boom:  
Warwick Castle, eat your heart out.

As Mia inspects the rubble, she notices something blocked by a LARGE ICE ROCK. Pushing it aside reveals... a DARK AND MYSTERIOUS TUNNEL.

BRADEN

What's that?

MIA

I don't know, but it's bound to lead somewhere interesting...

COREY

(nervous)

We probably shouldn't mess around with that. Who knows what these guys got up to in here.

MIA

You don't want to find out? See where it goes?

(to Ashe)

Ashe? Back me up!

ASHE

Yeeeeaaaah, I don't think that's a good idea. Let's just pretend we never saw it.

MIA

Really? NO one wants to know where it leads? And you call yourselves Knights...

As she steps inside--

PARK KEEPER (O.S.)

HEY!

A grumpy old man appears, shaking his fist. The PARK KEEPER!

PARK KEEPER (CONT'D)

You kids and your dagnab fort battles. Well it all ends now!

MIA

But Mr. Park Keeper, sir, we won this fort fair and--

PARK KEEPER

Doesn't matter who won it, who lost it, tied it, WHATEVER. Do you want to deal with angry parents?

(kids shake heads no)

(MORE)

PARK KEEPER (CONT'D)  
No. And do you know what angry  
parents make me?

BRADEN  
Angry?

PARK KEEPER  
Bingo. So get OUT!

**EXT. FROSTY PEAKS - MOMENTS LATER**

The kids begrudgingly leave, but that doesn't stop them from riding high on cloud nine.

BRADEN  
I can't believe we ran them out of  
their own fort. I've never felt  
more alive!!

ASHE  
Those meanies had it coming. It'll  
take ages for them to rebuild!

Corey sidles up to Mia, grinning ear to ear.

COREY  
You were really cool back there.  
(beat)  
And, for what it's worth, I think  
you'd make a fun dance partner.

Mia's throat suddenly runs dry. All she can manage is a smile as Corey winks and runs on ahead.

Before joining her friends, she takes one last look behind her, wondering... *Where does it go?*

**THE END**