

Aztec Gold  
an original screenplay by  
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ACT ONE

EXT. JUNGLE - AFTERNOON

1519 Temple of the Green Tomb, Belize.

The camera zooms to a hillside overlooking the dense green jungle and the abandoned Altun Ha plazas. Jungle sounds fill the air as birds and howler monkeys chatter. Standing tall is an Aztec warrior arrayed in feathers and gold. He is holding a golden sun disc up to the sun. Rays of sunlight shoot from the golden disc. The camera zooms down to the Temple of the Green Tomb as warriors carry golden artifacts into the temple.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - MOMENTS LATER

Inside the Green Tomb crypt, the camera zooms to a six-inch jade head of a Mayan sun god next to the body of a warrior and then pans to the jaguar and cougar skins covering the body. The body and the entire tomb is painted in green pigment.

The camera slowly pans across the room, revealing jade pendants, beads & earrings, obsidian rings, stingray spines, and jaguar skins along with the several Maya codices. The camera zooms to a newly dig tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. TREASURE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Aztec warriors carry in the last load of gold. Thousands of pieces of gold, along with statues, bowls, plates, shields, necklaces, and amour heaped in a pile in the room. In the center of the room is a stone pedestal with a large gold mask with large emeralds attached to it. As the last of the treasure is stacked in the treasure room the warriors exit into the tunnel. The last Aztec warrior glances at the treasure and then turns and dashes down the tunnel.

In the chamber of the Green Tomb, Aztec warriors put a stone slab in front of the tunnel, completely sealing off the tunnel.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. UXMAL JUNGLE - MORNING

1937

A tall slim middle age archeologist, Dr. JACK HOGAN and his NATIVE 1 guide slash at the vines and jungle grass as they cut a path through the jungle. They cross a small stream and climb up banks. They stop and wipe the sweat from their heads. JACK drinks from his canteen and scans the jungle ahead of him.

JACK

How much further do you think we have to go?

NATIVE 1

Not far, just over those hills.

Jack stares at the distant hills.

JACK

We should be there by afternoon.

NATIVE 1

Not if we don't keep moving.

JACK

Okay, lead on.

CUT TO:

EXT. UXMAL JUNGLE - AFTERNOON

Pyramid of the Magician, Yucatan, Mexico.

They breaks through the dense jungle and come face to face with the abandoned ancient Mayan city of Uxmal. Howling monkeys scream from the treetops. Toucans, Amazon parrots, and macaws squawk from the tree tops. The jungle sounds like feeding time at the zoo. Far in the distance raising above the jungle trees is the Temple of the Magician, a huge multiple temples superimposed on top of each other.

NATIVE 1

What is so important about his Mayan ruins?

JACK

Uxmal was the greatest metropolitan and religious center in the late classical period. It is estimated that some 25,000 Mayans live in this city.

NATIVE 1

But they are all dead. What is so important about this abandoned ruin?

Jack stops and turns to the Native 1, a Mexican Indian wearing jeans and an open shirt. He is holding a machete in his hand.

JACK

The Mayan Chief Priest crafted an emerald mask of their god, Chac, the rain and thunder god. The emerald mask was used in their rain ceremonies.

NATIVE 1

You still have not answered the question Senor. Why did you want to be guided here?

Jack smiles at the Native 1 and then looks back toward the lost city.

JACK

I am after the emerald mask of Chac. It was kept in the Pyramid of the Magician.

NATIVE 1

Pyramid of the Magician?

JACK

Yes, the short version is that their legend says a small dwarf boy built the pyramid in one day.

NATIVE 1

Senor, that is not possible.

JACK

Now you know why it is call the Pyramid of the Magician.

The Native 1 chuckles.

NATIVE 1

You Americans are crazy.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE ROPE BRIDGE - LATER

Jack and the Native 1 continue through the jungle, hacking at vines and tall reeds. Howling monkeys howl from the tree tops, tropical birds screech from the trees. Jack steps out of the jungle and sees a rope bridge spanning a deep gorge and on the other side is the Temple of the Magician.

JACK

Shit, why do these ruins always have  
a rope bridge?

NATIVE 1

It does not look safe.

Native 1 walks to the edge of the gorge and looks down.  
Jack walks to the rope bridge and tugs on the ropes. He  
shakes his head.

JACK

Damn, the ropes look worn and brittle.

NATIVE 1

It is a long ways down to the bottom.  
Maybe this is not the right temple.

JACK

No, it is the right temple.

NATIVE 1

You go first and I will follow.

JACK

You're the guide, you should go first.

NATIVE 1

My mommy did not raise any idiots.  
I'm just the dumb Indian, what do I  
know.

Jack slowly starts across the rope bridge. The bridge starts  
to swing in the wind. Jack slowly inches his way across.  
Some of the boards are rotten and there are gaps between the  
boards. Jack slowly steps over the gaps and slowly proceed  
across the bridge. Jack waves for Native 1 to start across.

Native 1 starts across the bridge. He steps over the first  
gap and immediately lands on a rotten board that breaks and  
his leg falls through. He screams and grabs the rope railing  
with the other hand. The rope bridge sways. He slowly lifts  
himself from the hole and cautiously walks across the rest  
of the bridge.

JACK

See, there was nothing to fear.

NATIVE 1

I hate rope bridges.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAZA - MOMENTS LATER

They move across the plaza stopping at the base of the largest pyramid standing over 100 feet tall. They stare up at the top of the structure.

JACK

This temple is really composed of five superimposed temples. Each temple has its own entrance. The temple on the fourth level is the one we want.

Native 1 stares at the giant pyramid and then turns to JACK.

NATIVE 1

It looks like each temple was added at different times.

JACK

The first temple was started in the sixth century and over the next 400 years the other four temples were added.

NATIVE 1

So you think this emerald mask is still hidden here?

JACK

Yes, unless the Spanish Conquistadors who raided this site discovered the secret cache.

NATIVE 1

Why wouldn't the Spanish have discovered the cache?

JACK

The Mayan were very crafty. They created secret chambers that required special keys to open. The Spanish thought the Mayan Indians were just dumb savages and never understood their ability to hide their treasures.

They climbed the steep steps until they came to the fourth temple. A giant Chac mask marks the entrance and the Chac's mouth is the door! Jack stares back out over the jungle and hills. He turns and enters the Chac mouth.

CUT TO:

EXT. UXMAL JUNGLE - MOMENTS LATER

Hiding in the jungle just beyond the rope bridge are armed SS Nazi soldiers. A NAZI SS OFFICER is standing behind PROF. WOLFSTEIN, a tall thin man with rim glasses. His face is pot marked. There is something evil about his appearance. Prof. Wolfstein is watching Dr. Hogan through binoculars as he enter the Pyramid.

NAZI SS OFFICER

What do you see PROF. WOLFSTEIN.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Dr. HOGAN is just now entering the temple.

NAZI SS OFFICER

Do we follow him into the temple?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

No, we will wait until DR. HOGAN finds the emerald mask before we intervene.

NAZI SS OFFICER

When we 'intervene' as you say, do we kill DR. HOGAN?

Prof. Wolfstein turns to the Nazi SS Officer and smiles.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Germany is not at war with DR. HOGAN. No need to kill him, he may be useful again down the road.

Prof. Wolfstein turns and watches the temple through his binoculars.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAC PYRAMID - MOMENTS LATER

The walls are filled with carvings of the Chac god. Jack stands in the center of the room and views all of the carvings. Native 1 points to one of the bas relief masks.

NATIVE 1

Their Chac god sure had a long nose and talk about fangs. He is one ugly god.

JACK

Yea, it seems that most of the Mayan gods were fierce looking, often with large or long noses.

NATIVE 1

Why?

JACK

Probably to scare away other spirits.

Jack examines each of the Chac masks carved in the wall. Finding nothing he continues examining the other bas-relief masks along the wall. Jack turns toward Native 1 as a large ugly snake slithers down the wall behind to Jack.

NATIVE 1

Do not move.

JACK

Why not?

NATIVE 1

There is a big ugly snake behind you.

JACK

Don't just stand there, kill it.

Native 1 smiles and takes out his machete and slices off the head of the big ugly snake.

NATIVE 1

You were lucky, if that snake had bitten you, I would never get paid because you would be dead within minutes.

JACK

Great, you just made my day. I hate snakes, especially the poisonous ones.

Native 1 picks the dead snake up with his machete and tosses it to the other side of the room.

NATIVE 1

Does that mean I get a bonus?

JACK

I guess it does.

NATIVE 1

Okay, now where is this emerald mask?

JACK

The secret must be in this room somewhere.

NATIVE 1

How do you know the secret is here?

JACK

My research indicates that the Mayans were very clever people. They loved to hide valuables behind secret doors.

NATIVE 1

Okay, so how do we spot this secret door.

JACK

Now that is the question worth asking.

NATIVE 1

So what is the answer.

JACK

I will tell you in a few minutes, be patient.

NATIVE 1

Remember where you find one snake you will probably find others.

Jack shivers, and then pushes and pulls on the various bas-relief masks. Suddenly, one of the mask responds to his touch. The blocked mouth suddenly slides inward.

JACK

What have we got here?

Jack reaches into the mouth and finds a lever, he pulls on it and nothing happens, he pushes on it and there is a click and a small panel slides open near the floor. Jack kneels down and reaches inside and finds the emerald mask. Jack removes it and holds it up to the light. The emerald mask glows in the darkness.

NATIVE

You found it Dr. Hogan.

JACK

My God, it is beautiful. The museum will love this emerald mask, the first of its kind to be displayed after being hidden for the last thousand years.

NATIVE 1

I am sure the Museum will be very happy to get this mask.

JACK

Yes, they will and it will finance my next expedition.

NATIVE 1

I have a funny feeling, we should get out of here now.

JACK

What do you mean a funny feeling?

NATIVE 1

I am sensing danger.

JACK

Danger from what?

NATIVE 1

I've no idea, but there is danger here.

Jack sticks the emerald mask into his backpack. He turns and glances around the room for one last time. Jack smiles.

JACK

This is one treasure that PROF. WOLFSTEIN will not acquire.

Native 1 cringes at the name.

NATIVE 1

Senor, it is bad luck to talk about that evil one.

JACK

PROF. WOLFSTEIN is a scavenger. He calls himself an archeologist, but he is nothing more than a black marketeer who loot tombs to sell to the highest bidder.

NATIVE 1

He is one mean coyote.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE ROPE BRIDGE - LATER

Jack and Native 1 walk to the rope bridge with the Pyramid of the Magician far in the background. The jungle sounds fill the air. Jack's shirt is wet with sweat. His face is smeared with sweat and dirt. They start across the bridge when suddenly Nazi soldiers appear at The end of the bridge holding rifles aimed at them. Prof. Wolfstein walks out from behind them and approaches the rope bridge.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Good day to you, Dr. HOGAN. Please be so kind as to continue across this rope bridge. It does not look safe. You could fall to your death.

A Nazi soldier takes out his knife and walks to the rope bridge and places the knife blade against the rope.

JACK

Okay, you made your point.

Jack and Native 1 continue across the bridge. They are encircled once they leave the bridge. PROF. WOLFSTEIN steps forward and removes the backpack. He digs into it and pulls out the emerald mask.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

You have been busy.

JACK

How in the hell did you find this temple?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

We have been following you for the past week.

NATIVE 1

I told you I thought someone was following us.

Prof. Wolfstein holds the emerald mask up to the sunlight, it seems to glow in the light.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Germany thanks you for this gift; it will be added to the Fuhrer's collection of artifacts.

Jack starts to move toward prof. Wolfstein, but Nazi soldiers quickly jab him with their rifles and JACK stops and stares at prof. Wolfstein. Prof. Wolfstein pulls out a cigar and lights it.

JACK

(Sneering)

One day we will meet without your goons.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(Smiling)

I am sure we will be meeting again DR. HOGAN.

(MORE)

PROF. WOLFSTEIN (CONT'D)

In the mean time, my friends will tie you up, but not too tightly, wouldn't want you to be eaten by the jaguars.

The Nazi soldiers tie up Jack and Native 1 and then they follow PROF. WOLFSTEIN back into the jungle. Jack and Native 1 struggle to get free.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. TIKAL JUNGLE - DAY

One Year Later

1938 Tikal Ruins, Guatemala

Dr. Jack Hogan is slashing at vines as he cuts his way through the jungle. The rain forest was so tangled that they could not see 50 paces ahead of them. Dripping leaves hung just feet over their heads. Sunlight filtered through the greenery casting murky and ominous shadows.

Behind Jack are four Natives, packing his supplies and the guide who is scouting for a trail. He stops and wipes the sweat from his brow. His partner, JUAN Pedro Hernandez Ramos of Mexico National Museum of Antiquity, steps forward and says it should not be far.

Jack hates the rain forest, too dense and filled with unknown dangers. He listens to the howler monkeys high overhead. They continued forward, crossing a small gorge, and then climbs up the bank. He stops as he hears the roar of a Jaguar echoing through the rain forest. It sounded like a zoo at feeding time.

JUAN

The ancient Mayan city of Tikal had no source of water except for seasonal rainfall which was probably why the Mayan abandoned the city in the early 900s AD.

JACK

It reminds me of the Salinas Pueblo Missions found in New Mexico. The Indians had to capture the rainfall as they had no outside source of water.

JUAN

What happened to those people?

JACK

They abandoned their pueblos in the mid 1600s and merged with other pueblos to the north.

Jack slaps at his neck. He takes off his hat and wipes the sweat from his face. He knows he must be getting close to the Mayan temple when the scout returns and points back the direction he had come.

NATIVE 2

I can see the pyramids.

Jack rushes ahead and breaks through the jungle. Standing directly in front of him is a rope bridge spanning a deep gorge.

JACK

(Shaking his head.)  
Not again.

JUAN

JACK, its only a rope bridge.

JACK

I hate snakes and I hate rope bridges.

JUAN

JACK, get some backbone.

Jack slowly walks across the rope bridge. He looks over the edge and sees a river far below. He continues across the bridge and walks onto ground again. There before him lies six grey stone Mesoamerican step pyramids, each with a temple on their summits. Juan slowly walks across the rope bridge as Jack turns to Juan.

JACK

Okay, so I have a problem with rope bridges.

JUAN

Rope bridges are a way of life for most of the indigenous people in Mexico and Guatemala.

JACK

(shaking his head)  
Okay, Okay.

Juan points toward the step pyramids.

JUAN

Each of those structures contains sub-structures that contain the burial chambers and one of them might hold the golden sun disc.

JACK

Tell me the history of this Mayan ruins.

JUAN

This Mayan city was the home to the Red Warriors of the Jaguars, a very fierce and warlike people who worshipped the Jaguar. They painted their bodies red, wore Jaguar skins over their bodies and used the claws of the Jaguar as fighting implements.

Juan lights up a cigarette and blows smoke out his mouth.

JUAN

When this Mayan city faded from history in the mid 900s AD, the city fell into ruins, the jungle reclaiming much of the land once occupied by the Red Warriors of the Jaguars. Okay, now tell me why you think the sun disc is here?

JACK

I found an Aztec Codex that said this was the location where the Aztec hid the golden sun disc. This sun disc containing clues to the lost Aztec Treasure, which was smuggled out of the city of Tenochtitlan before Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés arrived and before his eventually conquered of the city on August 13, 1521.

JUAN

Why did they hid this disc in a Mayan City.

JACK

The Aztec's were smart. They know that the Conquistadors would never think of looking in Mayan ruins for clues to the treasure. The Mayans faded away sometime in the mid 900s. After all, why look in a Mayan temple when it is an Aztec treasure.

JUAN

Good point, so lets go find this golden sun disc.

CUT TO:

EXT. TIKAL PLAZA - AFTERNOON

Jack sat in a camp chair in the middle of camp with Juan. He took out his pipe and stocked it with cherry favored tobacco. He lit the pipe and drew in a deep breath of tobacco. He stared at each of the grey stone pyramids wondering which one was holding the treasure he was seeking.

He removed the Aztec Codex from his pack and reread the manuscript. The Codex showed icons of animals and carved heads. He translated the pictograph icons as saying they had hidden the golden sun disc in the Temple of the Great Jaguar. Jack turns to his friend Juan.

JACK

The Codex says the sun disc is in the Temple of the Great Jaguar. Any idea which of these six temples is the Temple of the Great Jaguar?

JUAN

I would think that the Temple of the Great Jaguar would have the Jaguar glyph on the entrance to the temple.

JACK

Time is wasting, lets find that damn feline.

Jack and Juan walked out of camp and approach the first temple. They walk around it and then start climbing the steps to the top, Once at the top, they examine the markings on the entrance.

JUAN

No Jaguar glyph here.

JACK

One down, five more to go.

CUT TO:

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE JAGUAR - AFTERNOON

Jack and Juan climbed the steps to the top that towered some 200 feet above the ground. Jack looked around and could only see jungle and the other five temples.

JACK

Well, this is the fifth temple, I am getting tired of all the steps. It will be dark before long.

Juan examines the wall and suddenly he points to a large Jaguar head projecting outward next to the entrance.

JUAN

This is it. The face of the Jaguar.

Jack walks over to the Jaguar glyph and examines it. He turns to Juan.

JACK

The Codex was right. According to it, when the Aztec warriors arrived some six hundred years after the fall of this Mayan city, they searched for a burial site to hold the sun disc until the gold eaters could be defeated.

JUAN

I suspect that the Aztec warriors who hid the golden sun disc would have used an existing chamber.

JACK

Not necessarily, they might have hid the disc in a secret chamber. The Aztec's were crafty.

JUAN

Now is the time to find out just how crafty they were.

CUT TO:

INT. JAGUAR TEMPLE - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Juan enter the chamber fighting through a cobweb lined archway. They pushed through the cobwebs and find a large room filled with hieroglyphic bas-relief icons on the walls. In the center of the room is a four foot tall stone altar stained a dark red. Jack walks over to the altar and touches the surface of the altar. Human bones are scattered on the floor. Juan walks to the altar.

JACK

It is amazing. The Mayans refine the calendar and script, and mathematics, to its highest level of development, but the downside was  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

that the Mayan practiced human sacrifice initially by throwing the victims down limestone sinkhole that they thought were the portals to the underworld. Later the Mayans decided to sacrifice their victims on altars such as this one.

JUAN

That was because the Mayans believed that when people died, they entered the Underworld through a cave or a cenote. When kings died, they were reborn into the Sky World and became gods. The Maya fear death from natural causes because the dead did not automatically go to paradise. This is one reason that human sacrifice was not considered evil, it enable the victim to go to paradise.

JACK

Guess the Mayans victims never thought of it as being a benefit.

JUAN

What do you mean?

JACK

All of their sacrificial victims were enemy warriors captured in battle.

JUAN

I wonder how many human sacrifices were offered on this altar?

JACK

Far too many.

Jack walks over to the wall and examines the pictographs. Juan examines the altar. He moves his hand over the sides until he comes to the head of four Jaguars. He pushes each of them with no results. He then pulls on each of the four heads. Nothing happens.

JUAN

Nothing happens when I push or pull on these jaguar heads. Any ideas?

JACK

Try twisting the heads.

JUAN

Why not, it can't hurt anything.

Juan twists the first head and it turns.

JUAN (CONT'D)

You're right, twisting the heads is working. Let's see what happens when all four heads are twisted.

He does this to the other three heads and the stone altar slides along the floor with a screeching sound, revealing a dark opening with steps descending downward. Jack walks over to the altar and stares into the darkened steps.

JACK

Ali Baba would be proud of you.

CUT TO:

INT. BURIAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Juan slowly descend into the dark opening. JACK lights his torch and then lights Juan's torch. They walk slowing down a steep set of circular stone steps. At the bottom, they enter a large chamber filled with small jade objects, pottery vessels, shells, and a number of beautifully crafted eccentric flints.

In the far corner, they see bodies covered by jaguar and cougar skins. The entire tomb is painted in red pigment.

JACK

My god, these bodies are painted red, guess that was why they were known as the Red Warriors.

JUAN

Yes, it was their identifying mark.

Jack starts checking the walls of the chamber for a secret hiding place, he pushes and thumps the stone wall looking for something out of place. He finds nothing so he continues along the wall searching the bas-relief of each icon.

JACK

I know that somewhere in this room is the key to finding the sun disc.

JUAN

We have to find the lock before the key will do any good.

JACK

So true.

Jack continues searching the bas-relief icons until he finally finds an icon that responds to his touch. He pushes on it and the bas-relief slides back revealing a hidden cavity on each side of the icon.

Jack reaches into the cavity and pulls out the golden sun disc. Jack looks at the sun disc in his hands, turning it over and over. Juan rushes over to Jack. Jack hands it to Juan.

JUAN

It is beautiful.

Juan turns the sun disc over and examines it on both sides.

JACK

This is the key for finding the fabled lost Aztec treasure.

JUAN

It is unbelievable that this sun disc was finally found after being hidden for the past 500 years.

JACK

The Aztec were not as smart as they thought they were, after all, we did find their secret hiding place.

JUAN

Yea, but we had the help of that Aztec Codex.

JACK

Thank goodness I found and deciphered that Codex.

JUAN

Per our agreement, you have earned a \$25,000 fee for your services.

JACK

And I get a chance to study this sun disc after it is inventoried by the Museum.

JUAN

Give us about a month, we move kind of slow at the Museum. We have to jump through some hoops with the government to obtain an official invite to the Museum.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - ONE MONTH LATER - AFTERNOON

A university lecture hall filled with students taking notes. The dean introduces Dr. Jack Hogan, head of the Southwest Museum of Archeology, as their guest lecturer. Jack walks up to the podium.

JACK

It is a pleasure to present my  
insights into the Pre-Columbian

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - LATER

The camera pans across the audience, some students are taking notes, others are napping. Jack concludes his talk.

JACK

In conclusion, the fall of the Mayan Empire in the early 900s were probably due to the drastic draught conditions that existed. Draught has played a major role in the decline of other civilization, such as the Anasazi of the Southwest. Severe draught conditions forced the Anasazi to abandoned Chaco Canyon and migrate southward to the Pueblo cities of central New Mexico.

A student raises his hand.

STUDENT 1

How long after the Mayans were the Aztec civilization?

JACK

Good question. After the decline of the Mayan Empire, some 300 years later, the rise of the Aztec civilization arrived in the Valley of Mexico as a semi-nomadic tribe known as Mexica about 1248. The great island city of Tenochtitlan came about supposedly during a festival dinner with the new ruler of Culhuacan, Achicometl, for his daughter, in order to make her the goddess Yaocihuatl. After the decline of the Mayan Empire, some 300 years later, the rise of the Aztec civilization arrived in the Valley of Mexico as a semi-nomadic tribe

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

known as Mexica about 1248. The great island city of Tenochtitlan came about supposedly during a festival dinner with the new ruler of Culhuacan, Achicometl, for his daughter, in order to make her the goddess Yaocihuatl.

STUDENT 2 raises his hand.

STUDENT 2

How would the daughter become a goddess at this dinner?

JACK

Unbeknown to the king, the Mexica actually planned to sacrifice the King's daughter. During the festival, a priest came out wearing her flayed skin as part of the ritual. Upon seeing this, the king and the people of Culhuacan were horrified and expelled the Mexica. Forced to flee, in 1325 they went to a small island on the west side of Lake Texcoco, where they began to build their city Tenochtitlan where they created a large artificial island. Rumor has it that the Aztec god, Huitzilpochtli, instructed the Aztecs to found their city at the location where they saw an eagle, on a cactus, with a snake in its talons. The Aztecs, apparently, saw this vision on the small island where Tenochtitlan was founded.

JACK (CONT'D)

As we look at Pre-Columbian history, we see that weather sometimes played a major role in the decline of a civilization, but weather was not responsible for the decline of the Aztec civilization. The Aztec island city of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire fell some six hundred years after the fall of the Mayan civilization due to the manipulation of local factions and divisions by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés.

JACK (CONT'D)

Though numerous battles were fought between the Aztecs and the Spanish army, which was composed of predominantly indigenous peoples, it was the siege of Tenochtitlan that was the final, decisive battle that led to the downfall of the Aztec civilization and marked the end of the first phase of the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Jack finishes his lecture on Pre-Columbian Archeology and the students clap. JACK takes a bow and walks off the stage.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUTHWEST MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY OFFICE - MORNING

Jack enter his office and sees a letter leaning against his coffee cup on his desk. Jack picks up the letter, the return address says Juan Pedro Hernandez Ramos, Mexico City. He opens the letter and finds a letter, an airline ticket to Mexico City, a photograph of the sun disc, and a cashier check for \$25,000. He reads the letter.

O.S.

Dear Jack, On behalf of the Mexico National Museum of Antiquity you are invited to examine the Golden Sun Disc that you recovered as an agent of the Museum. Per our agreement, we have issued a cashier check in the amount of \$25,000 for your services. We have also included round trip airfare to Mexico City. Sincerely, Juan Pedro Hernandez Ramos.

Jack finishes reading the letter. He drops it onto the desk as he picks up the cashier check.

JACK

(smiling)

It is about time. My agreement with JUAN included permission to study the artifact once it has been logged into the museum inventory.

Jack picks up the photograph and examines it. The photo shows a gold sun disc with the island city of Tenochtitlan on Lake Texcoco.

JACK (CONT'D)

Mexico City, here I come.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

ACT TWO

EXT. MEXICO CITY AIRPORT - AFTERNOON

Jack is walking out of the airport in Mexico City. He is greeted by Juan standing by a taxi. They exchange hugs and pats on the back.

JUAN

How have you been my friend?

JACK

I can't complain.

JUAN

It is so good to see you again.

JACK

I missed your ugly face.

JUAN

Hey, it's only been a month.

JACK

(laughing)

Yea, but a month without snakes and rope bridges to worry about.

They climb into a taxi and depart. Two tough looking men step out of the airport. One man lights a cigarette. They watch the taxi turn the corner. The man with the cigarette takes out his cell phone and dials a number.

CUT TO:

INT. MEXICO CITY WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The camera zooms in on a warehouse filled with packing crates. In the center of the room is a long table filled with open crates. Men are inserting gold artifacts and straw into the crates, then marking the crates as farm implements. The camera zooms toward the office on the second floor. Inside, the BOSS, a fat man is sitting at his desk fanning himself. A ceiling fan spins slowly. A radio plays in the background. His cell phone rings. He answers it.

BOSS

Yes.

He listens on his cell phone. The only sounds is the ceiling fan spinning slowly.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Follow them, see if they led you to  
the golden disc.

Boss ends the conversation and flips this cell phone closed.  
He Smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR - AFTERNOON

Soft music plays in the background. Several ceiling fans spin slowly. A bartender is behind the bar wiping glasses. Jack and Juan are seated at a small table chatting. Two tough looking men walk into the bar and sits at a table near Jack and Juan. One of the men motions the bartender for two beers.

JACK

I can't believe it has only been a  
month since we were in the Tikal  
ruins.

Jack picks up his beer bottle and takes a slug.

JUAN

You really are good at finding lost  
artifacts.

JACK

The golden sun disc is the find of  
the century.

JUAN

Yes, but the Aztec treasure will be  
the find of a life time.

JACK

Sometimes I wonder what the Aztec's  
would think of us looking for their  
treasure trove?

JUAN

At least we are not the Spanish  
Conquistadors.

JACK

Just because we do not hoard it does  
not mean we are not gold eaters like  
Cortés and his Conquistadors.

JUAN

We will share their culture and their  
wealth through our Museum, so no one  
is really consuming the gold.

JACK

Yea, I guess you are right.

JUAN

The Aztec treasure trove belongs to all the people of Mexico who are their descendants.

JACK

Sometimes we tend to forget that the people of Mexico are the descendants of this once might people.

JUAN

I am proud to have Aztec blood running through my veins.

Jack finishes off his bottle of beer. He puts the bottle down on the table and leans closer to Juan.

JACK

(excitedly)

I can't wait to examine the artifact.

JUAN

(smiling)

The artifact will be available to you tomorrow morning for as long as you needs it. Now, get some rest and I will pick you up at 8 AM sharp.

\*

JACK

I could use a good shower and some sleep, those damn planes are so noisy that it is hard to get any rest.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUSEUM BUILDING - MORNING

The same two tough men are standing in front of the museum as the taxi pulls up to the front and Jack and Juan climb out and walk up the steps and into the museum proper. One of the tough men take his cigarette out of his mouth and drops it to the sidewalk. He steps on the cigarette butt. He looks around and then they follow JACK and JUAN into the museum.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSEUM BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

The two tough men walk down a hall to the information desk where a guard is sitting.

GUARD

I am sorry, but the Museum does not open until 10 AM.

TOUGH MAN 1

We were suppose to meet JUAN and JACK out front and we were late. We are suppose to join them in their meeting.

GUARD

(smiling)

You are late. They are already headed up to JUAN office. Take the stairs on the right and on the second floor, turn right and it is the last office on the end.

CUT TO:

INT. JUAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The office is large, filled with books, paintings, and artifacts hanging on the walls, and off to one side is a large alcove with a large picture window and an oak conference table.

Jack immediately walks over to the conference table where the golden sun disc lay on a black valet cloth. He picks up the sun disc. Juan walks to the table.

JACK

(amazed)

It is just as beautiful as I remember it.

JUAN

The workmanship is second to none.

JACK

When do you have to lock it back up.

JUAN

Take all the time you need JACK.

Jack sits down and takes out his notebook then examines the golden sun disc, then turns it over and studies the backside. Camera zooms in on the pictographs on the sun disc.

Juan sits down across from Jack and takes out a cigarette. He lights it and lets out a puff of smoke as he looks toward the ceiling. Jack is busy examining the pictographic carvings.

JACK

It is the language called Náhuatl.

JUAN

I know the Aztec spoke Náhuatl, but did any other Indigenous people speak it?

JACK

Náhuatl belongs to a large group of Indian languages including the languages spoken by the Comanche, Pima, Shoshone and other tribes of western North American.

JUAN

I didn't realize the language was spoken by your American Indians.

JACK

Yes, probably due to the influence of the Aztec in their northward expansion.

Jack turns the golden sun disc over and examines the hieroglyphic icons.

JUAN

The language used by both the Mayans and the Aztecs were pictographs, a form of glyphs that were represented as bas-relief icons.

JACK

That is correct. The pictographs are icons that symbolizes ideas and sounds of the syllables.

JUAN

So what does it say?

JACK

I am having some problems. These icons seem to be a composite of both Mayan and Aztec symbology. There are some symbols that are unfamiliar to me. I will need some help translating them.

JUAN

I have just the person for you. She holds a doctorate in Mesoamerican Languages and has been working here part time. I will contact her.

JACK

I could use all the help that I can get on this one.

JUAN

You will like her, she is pretty and very smart. Her brother is also an expert on Mayan and Aztec Codices.

JACK

I could use looking at a pretty face, after looking at your ugly mug during our last expedition.

JUAN

I will admit she is better looking than this old mug of mine.

JACK

When can you contact this pretty lass?

Suddenly the door burst open and two tough men enter into the office. They rush over to Juan and Jack pointing pistols at them.

Juan stands up.

JUAN

What in the hell is the meaning of this?

TOUGH MAN 2

Shut up old man.

Jack jumps up from the table holding the sun disc.

TOUGH MAN 1

Give me that gold disc.

JACK

It will do you no good. The sun disc language is written in a permutation of Mayan and Aztec glyphs.

TOUGH MAN 2

Shut up, hand that disc over now or I'll kill you and take the disc.

JUAN

You can't be serious, this is a national treasure.

TOUGH MAN 1

This is your last warning, hand it over now.

As Jack starts to hand over the disc, Juan jumps the first man, there is a brief struggle, Juan is shot, and Tough Man 1 hits Jack over the head with his pistol, knocking him unconscious.

The two tough men make off with the golden sun disc. Moments later, the old Guard rushes into the room and finds Jack and Juan on the floor. He grabs the telephone and calls the police.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Juan is in the hospital bed with an IV attached to his arm as Jack enters the room. Jack walks over to the bed.

JACK

How are you feeling?

JUAN

How do you think I feel after being shot.

JACK

(smiling)

Hey, I know how you feel. I have been there and done that also.

JUAN

(smiling)

It's not serious, but it hurts like hell, but losing the golden sun disc hurts more.

JACK

Don't worry my friend. I will find the disc.

JUAN

You must stop them before the thieves can loot the tomb.

JACK

You just get well, I will track down those thieves.

JUAN

*Mi casa es us casa.* Please use my home and office as your home and office.

JACK

Thank you my friend, I will not leave Mexico until the artifact is recovered.

CUT TO:

INT. MEXICO CITY WAREHOUSE - EVENING

The camera zooms in on a warehouse filled with crates. Men are inserting gold artifacts into straw filled crates, then marking the crates as farm implements.

The camera zooms toward the office on the second floor. Inside, Boss is sitting at his desk fanning himself. A ceiling fan spins slowly. A radio plays in the background. A tall Hispanic is examining the golden sun disc. JOSE, wearing a white suite and a Panama hat is standing in the corner of the office smoking a cigarette.

BOSS

(smiling)

Can you read the pictographs?

TALL HISPANIC

Yes, I can read some of the pictographs.

BOSS

I asked you if you could read all of the pictographs on the disc.

TALL HISPANIC

(worried)

No Senor, these pictographs are a composite of Aztec and Mayan dialect. I can't read some of the glyphs and without them, the translation is not possible.

BOSS

(anxious)

Who can translate these hieroglyphic symbols?

TALL HISPANIC

I do not know, perhaps someone at the University.

BOSS

(evil smile)

Thank you for your time.

Boss opens his desk drawer and removes a pistol. He shoots the Tall Hispanic. JOSE walks over to the desk.

JOSE  
So now what do we do?

BOSS  
(thinking)  
We return the damn sun disc to JACK  
and let him worry about getting it  
translated.

JOSE  
(perplexed)  
How will that help us?

BOSS  
(smiling)  
You will deliver the disc back to  
JACK, tell him you are with Military  
Intelligence who will fund the search  
for the missing treasure.

JOSE  
(questioning)  
Why would Military intelligence want  
to search for the missing treasure?

Boss leans back in his chair and pulls a cigar out of his desk, snips The end and lights it. He blows a blue cloud of smoke into the air. He takes the cigar out of his mouth and looks at Jose.

BOSS  
The treasure trove is a national  
treasure and the Military Government  
wants to see it is returned to the  
people of Mexico.

JOSE  
(smiling)  
I get it, I will go along as the  
representative of the Military  
Government.

BOSS  
(Smiling)  
Yes, now you get it.

JOSE  
And when I get the location of the  
treasure, I will kill everyone. I  
like that idea.

Jose wraps the golden sun disc in a leather cloth and walks out of the office.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

A lone man dressed in black with a tattoo of SS Bolts on his left wrist, watches as Jose carrying a leather bundle climbs into his car and drives off. The lone man takes out his cell phone and talks into it.

CUT TO:

INT. NAZI MANSION - MOMENTS LATER

The Conference room is laid out with dark paneling, a giant Nazi flag is draped from the ceiling to floor. A large painting of Hitler hangs on one wall. The wall behind the conference table has the German swastika hanging on the wall. Each member sitting at the conference table has a tattoo of SS Bolts on their left wrist.

They anxiously await their leaders report. Prof. Wolfstein is sitting at his desk talking, he then flips shut his cell phone and walks over to the conference table.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Soon, we will have the legendary Aztec treasure. Nothing will stop the Fuhrer's's dream of Germania.

NAZI MEMBER

How will we know when they find the map to the treasure site?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

One of the porters will be replaced with one of our own, a local man who is loyal to Germany. He will alert us by radio where the map is hidden.

NAZI MEMBER

What will we do when we learn of the maps location?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Once we know, we will move in and recover the map before Dr. HOGAN can arrive.

NAZI MEMBER

What about Dr. HOGAN?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

We will have no further use of Dr. HOGAN, he will disappear in the jungle forever.

All of the Nazis stand and gives the Nazi Salute, Sieg Heil!

CUT TO:

INT. MUSEUM OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Jack is in Juan's office packing his gear when there is a knock on the door. Jack walks to the door and opens it. A young man and woman is standing in front of the door.

JACK

Can I help you?

JENNY

I am senorita Jennifer Concepción Hernandez Lopez and this is my brother DON JUAN Hernandez Lopez.

She is a pretty woman and Jack stutters for a minute before asking what he can do for her.

JACK

So how can I help you?

JENNY

Are you Dr. JACK HOGAN?

JACK

Yes, I am.

JENNY and DON JUAN walk pass Jack and enter the office. Jenny walk to the window and then she turns around facing Jack.

JENNY

JUAN Pedro Hernandez Ramos is my father. Didn't he tell you we were coming?

JACK

No, he didn't say a thing.

JENNY

He told you he would get someone to help you translate the disc, didn't he?

JACK

Yes, he did, but he did not say it was his daughter.

JENNY

Be that as it may, he asked us to help you in the translation.

(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)

However, now that it is missing, we  
are will help you in your search.

Jack moves toward JENNY and smiles.

JACK

I have no need of tag along's.

JENNY

You are wrong. You will need us.  
You do not speak our language nor  
can you translate the Aztec-Mayan  
hieroglyphic icons on the sun disc.

JACK

And you can translate this Aztec-  
Mayan hieroglyphic language?

JENNY

I got my doctorate in Mesoamerican  
Languages, specializing in Mayan  
hieroglyphics and a minor in the  
Nahuatl language.

Don Juan steps toward his sister.

DON JUAN

While my sister can translate it, I  
have read the Aztec Codex that  
describes the journey taken by the  
Aztec warriors when they hid the  
treasure.

JACK

Then we will not need the sun disc  
after all.

DON JUAN

Unfortunately, that is not correct.  
The Codex describes the journey, but  
we need the disc to know where to  
begin that journey. Without the sun  
disc and the Codex, you will never  
find the treasure trove. I have a  
photographic memory and I have  
committed the entire Codex to memory.

JACK

(shrugging his  
shoulders)

I see I am boxed in, I have no choice  
but to ask both of you to join me.

JENNY

(smiling)

Father said you were a smart gringo.

JACK

I admit I am weak in both Mayan and Aztec languages.

JENNY

Because of this weakness, you will miss the real meaning hidden in the sun disc.

JACK

What you say is true, but it is academic until I can find and recovered the sun disc.

A knock at the door. Jack walks to the door and opens it. A slim man wearing a white suit and a Panama hat is holding a leather bundle, he extends his hand.

JOSE

Dr. JACK HOGAN?

JACK

Yes.

Jack shakes hands with JOSE.

JOSE

Allow me to introduce myself. For the purpose of this meeting my name is JOSE.

Jack starts to say something, but Jose quickly unwraps the leather bundle revealing the golden sun disc.

JACK

How did you get it?

JOSE

Let me start off by saying that I work for Mexican Intelligence.

JACK

(surprised)

You're a spy?

JOSE

I cannot confirm or deny. However, I was appointed the custodian of this artifact.

JACK

You are getting ahead of the story, how did the artifact come into your possession?

JOSE

The thieves were under surveillance for some time and when Military Intelligence raided their warehouse, we found this sun disc. The thieves confessed after some encouragement. We found JUAN in the hospital and he asked that this sun disc be given to you so you can use it to find the treasure trove.

JACK

(shrugs)

Okay, I will buy that, but we have no funds to equip an expedition to recover the treasure.

JOSE

Money is not a problem. My superiors will fund any and all expenses necessary to recover the treasure trove.

JENNY

(questioning)

Now why would the Mexican Government want to finance this expedition?

JOSE

The treasure trove belongs to the people of Mexico. The government wants to be sure the treasure stays in Mexico and does not end up in the hands of private collectors.

JACK

Best news I have heard all day.

Jenny takes the golden sun disc and sits down at the conference table. Don Juan joins her at the table. She examines the hieroglyphics and talks with Don Juan. She suddenly smiles.

JACK (CONT'D)

You have translated it already?

JENNY

It is apparent that the Aztec wanted to hide the treasure far from the gold eaters.

JOSE

Who or what are the gold eaters?

JENNY

The Spanish Conquistadors were called gold eaters because their appetite for gold was unstoppable.

JACK

Well, don't keep us in suspense.

JENNY

According to this description, the treasure was transported southward by one hundred warriors and deposited in a great tomb. They left clues along the way to find the treasure.

JACK

Do you know any more about who was in charge of these one hundred warriors?

JENNY

The treasure trove was under the direction of their chief City Designer, a man by the name of Nezahualcoyotl, who was the architect of the dikes that created the island city of Tenochtitlan. He created Texcoco's Golden Age. Nezahualcoyotl left clues along the way so others could recover the treasure after his people destroyed the gold eaters. This man was a genius, and you better believe the treasure is booby-trapped.

JOSE

What does the name Nezahualcoyotl mean?

JENNY

It means Coyote who Fasts.

JOSE

What in the hell does that mean?

JENNY

Apparently he must have been like a shaman or some other spiritual leader who meditated while fasting.

JACK

So where do we start?

Jenny and Don Juan compare notes and then Jenny turn to Jack.

JENNY

We start with the first clue. The sun disc says that we will find the first clue in the heart of the rabbit.

JOSE

I don't understand what is meant by the heart of a rabbit?

JACK

That is a good question. Jenny do you know what's meant by the heart of a rabbit.

JENNY

No, I do not.

DON JUAN

It sounds like I have to spend some time roaming through the Museum records to see if I can turn up anything.

JACK

How long will it take you?

DON JUAN

I have no idea, it could be a few hours or it could take a few days.

JOSE

We have to know where to start, I suggest we let DON JUAN get to his research and we meet again tonight at 10 PM and hopefully, he will have an update.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSEUM OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack, Jose, and Jenny are sitting around the conference table in JUAN's office waiting for Don Juan to arrive.

JENNY

I sure hope my brother has found something.

JOSE

If he hasn't we will never find the treasure.

The office doors opens and in walks Don Juan a smile on his face.

JACK

Did you find the answer to the riddle?

DON JUAN

I sure did. The heart of the rabbit refers to the Mayan city of the same name. The rabbit was the icon for the ancient Mayan city of Palenque that used the rabbit as its emblem glyph.

JACK

Do you have any idea where in this ancient ruins we might the next clue?

DON JUAN

According to my research and from what I read in the Aztec Codex, the place we seek is called the Temple of the Skull.

JOSE

What kind of skull?

JENNY

The skull is that of a rabbit naturally. It's the icon of the city.

JOSE

So where is this Palenque?

DON JUAN

It is located in the southern part of Mexico. It was first discovered in 1773, but was lost again until 1841 when explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood discovered the lost city.

JENNY

I seem to recall that this city was considered the most beautifully Mayan city-states and one of the loveliest archaeological sites in the world.

JOSE

Then we better get started for this lost city first thing in the morning.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. PALENQUE JUNGLE - DAY

Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose trek through the jungle. Overhead the tropical birds chatter, the howler monkeys screaming at the top of their lungs. They climb down banks and up steep hills. They slash vines and jungle grass making their way through the jungle. They finally reach the ruin city.

Palenque lay nestled amidst steep and thickly jungle forested hills shrouded in lacy mists. A rushing brook meanders through the city center. Limestone buildings are coated with white plaster and painted in a rainbow of pastel hues. The porters set up camp on the edge of the ruins.

JENNY

God, this has a magical look to it.

JOSE

IT looks like any other ruins we have encountered. The jungle vines are covering most of the ruins.

JACK

JENNY is right, this Mayan ruins almost feels magical. Look at the astronomical observatory.

Jack points to a large complex with a tower in the middle.

JENNY

From the tower, on the day of the winter solstice, an observer will see the sun set directly over the Temple of the Inscriptions.

JOSE

Why is that important.

JENNY

It part of the Mayan people understanding of the cosmos.

JOSE

You make it sound like these Mayans thought about God and stuff.

JENNY

They did in their own way. They searched the heavens for answers to their daily lives.

DON JUAN

Okay, now where is this Temple of the Skull?

JENNY

I am not sure, so far archeologists have uncovered only 35 out of over 500 structures thought to be here.

JOSE

Great, 35 out of 500 structures, our odds just went south.

Don Juan turns to Jose and smiles.

DON JUAN

I know, to you a glass is always half empty and never half full.

Jose shakes his head.

JACK

Our luck is not that bad, the Temple of the Skull was one of the first structures to be explored.

DON JUAN

The Temple of the Skull is located just behind the plaza on the south side.

JOSE

And just how in hell do you know that smart guy?

DON JUAN

(smiling)

Simple, I have a map drawn during the 1841 expedition.

JOSE

(questioning)

Just where did you find such a map?

DON JUAN

(smiling)

Before we left Mexico City, I did some research and found a copy in the Museum archives. I made a copy of it.

The various temples are covered with dense jungle vines. A small stream meanders through the plaza. Monkeys are swinging from the trees as parrots squawk from the trees. They stand in the plaza. The main complex lies before them.

JACK

Just look at the main complex with the astronomy tower. That must have been where the Mayan's rulers lived.

JENNY

Most archeologists suggest it was their political center, maybe even their religious center.

JOSE

Forget the history, lets find the Temple of the Skull and find the next clue.

Don Juan examines his map.

DON JUAN

According to the map, it should be over there.

Don Juan points to a temple. They walk toward the temple and stop at the base of the steep step temple.

JOSE

Look at those steps.

JACK

It is not as bad as some of the ruins that rises over 200 feet.

JENNY

Well, lets get with it. The clue is somewhere up there at the top.

They slowly climb the steps to the top of the temple. They reach the top and stare at the skull.

DON JUAN

There is your skull. Some archeologists thinks it looks human, but look at those front buck teeth, that is definitely a rabbit.

The camera zooms in on the skull.

JOSE

I don't know about you, but is place gives me the creeps. I feel like I am being watched.

JENNY

I didn't think that you spy guy's were superstitious.

JOSE

I'm not, but this place gives me the willies.

JACK

Now it is time to light those torches and get to work.

CUT TO:

INT. TEMPLE OF THE SKULL - MOMENTS LATER

They enter the archway leading into the stone temple holding their torches. Inside the temple are dozens of the emblem glyph as bas-relief. In the center of the stone room is an altar, bone fragments litter the floor. Their torch flames dance across the walls. The sounds of crushing bones is heard as they walk across the floor.

JENNY

God, what am I stepping on?

JACK

You don't want to know.

DON JUAN

My sister, you are walking on the bones of human sacrifices offered on this altar some twelve hundred years ago.

JENNY

That is just great.

Jose looks around the room.

JOSE

(questioning)

Any idea where we will find the clue?

JACK

Since the temple has already been explored, it is safe to presume that it was not laying about with the temple artifacts.

DON JUAN

Okay, that means that there is a secret room used by the Mayans and discovered by the Aztec's.

JACK

Let's examine the bas-relief for a hidden door or lever.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I found an emerald mask in a secret cache behind a bas-relief. Maybe we will get lucky here.

Everyone is busy checking the various glyphs. They push and pull on the icons, but no success. No hidden passage way or room.

JENNY

I can't find anything secret cache in any of the glyphs I checked.

DON JUAN

Me neither.

JOSE

Same here.

Jack looks at the altar.

JACK

I have an idea.

Jack walks to the altar. He examines the various glyphs on the altar. He pushes, pulls, and twists all of the projections. Suddenly the altar slides back revealing a steep stairs descending into the dark interior.

JOSE

Do we have to worry about booby traps?

DON JUAN

Historically, the Aztec's loved their booby traps.

JACK

Great, now we have to worry about not springing a trap.

JENNY

I don't think we have to start worrying yet, this secret room was built by the Mayans.

CUT TO:

INT. SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They walked down the dark stairs and through a short tunnel until they arrive in a large chamber. Torch lights flicker on the walls gives an eerie atmosphere. Bones are scattered on the floor. In one corner was a small stack of jade artifacts. Some gold figurines lay on the floor near the collection of jade artifacts.

A dust covered limestone box shaped sarcophagus sits in one corner of the room.

JENNY

This secret room was not discovered by the archeologists. It looks like it was a vaulted tomb for royalty.

JOSE

Then that means the clue may still be here, along with the wealth of this king.

DON JUAN

Yes, but the question is where is that clue.

JACK

Only one way to find out, each of you take a separate wall and check for secret caches.

They each walk over to the wall and carefully examine each of the bas-relief. They push, pull, and twist each of the glyphs. Nothing happens. After examining all of the walls in the room they walk back toward the stairs.

JOSE

That was fun, but where in the hell is that clue?

JACK

If the secret cache is not in the walls, then it has to be either on the floor or ceiling.

DON JUAN

That sounds logical, maybe there is a secret door that opens up a sub chamber below this floor.

They quickly examine the floor for any kind of release lever to open the access to a secret room beneath the floor.

JACK

I can find nothing.

JENNY

Same for me.

DON JUAN

I think we can rule out the floor for containing any kind of lever.

JACK  
Okay, that leaves the ceiling.

JOSE  
So how do we reach the ceiling? It  
must be seven or eight feet tall.

Jack ignores JOSE. He walks around the room holding his torch toward the ceiling. Suddenly his torch flame flickers from an air draft coming from the ceiling.

JACK  
I have something here.

Jose, Jenny, and Don Juan walk over to where Jack is standing. He is looking up at the ceiling.

JOSE  
What did you find?

JACK  
There is an air current here, it is  
making my torch flicker.

DON JUAN  
So how do we get up to the ceiling?

Jack looks around in the room and sees the limestone sarcophagus.

JACK  
We will use that sarcophagus to stand  
on and I think I can then reach the  
ceiling.

JENNY  
That would be profaning the dead.

JOSE  
What does that guy care, he's dead.  
We need to recover the clue to find  
the Aztec Treasure.

JENNY  
You make a good point.

They all go over to the sarcophagus and slowly push it across the floor so it is directly below the spot on the ceiling with the air current. Jack climbs up on the stone sarcophagus and examines the ceiling.

DON JUAN  
Do you see anything?

JACK

I see a hole in the stone slab.

JENNY

Be careful, you have no idea what is living in that hole.

JACK

I have no choice if we want to find that secret room.

Jack extends his hand into the hole and feels around. He finds a lever. He pushes, nothing happens, he pulls and they hear a deep-throated groaning noise as the stone slab moved behind them revealing a dark tunnel.

JENNY

You did it.

Jack jumps down from the sarcophagus. They all rush over to the entrance to the dark tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. SECRET TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

A long dark tunnel is hewed out of stone. They enter the tunnel as the flames from their torches dance on the walls.

JENNY

Remember what I said about booby traps. Now would be good time to be really alert.

JOSE

(worried)

I will be the rear guard.

DON JUAN

(smiling)

And just what do we have to fear from the rear?

They walked through the tunnel, stopping at torches attached to the wall. They light each of these torches. Jack in the lead when he suddenly stopped. He knelt down to the ground and examined the floor of the tunnel.

JENNY

What do you see?

Don Juan and Jose quickly stepped up close to Jack and looked at what he was pointing to on the floor.

JACK

The floor drops down here. It does not appear natural. I think we have found our first booby trap.

DON JUAN

Okay, how do we trigger it without becoming its victims?

Jack took his torch and using the lower length of the torch hit the floor with the wood end. Nothing happened. Jack slams the torch down hard on the floor. Suddenly, the floor vibrates and drops into a deep pit leaving only stone columns in the middle of the tunnel, as stepping stones.

JOSE

Good thing we didn't walk on that.

Jose pointed to the collapsed floor.

JENNY

We need to keep moving, we must find that clue.

Jack, Jenny, Jose, and Don Juan cross the stone pillars to the other side. Once on the other side of the booby trap, they continued down the tunnel until they come to a large room that sits about two feet below the floor of the tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. LARGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A large room hewed out of stone lies before them. The room's floor seems to quiver. Jose tosses his torch into the center of the room, it sinks and disappears. The room is filled with a dark brackish water. A stone altar stands in the middle of the room with a stone box resting on it.

JACK

(shivering)

The water could be any depth.

JENNY

(surprised)

The altar is surround by a moat. I wonder if they have crocs in the moat.

DON JUAN

Talk about a clever booby trap. The water could hide snakes or crocs or anything else that dangerous,

JOSE

Such as some other booby trap hidden  
by the water.

JENNY

JACK, how are we going to get to  
that altar?

JACK

I'm thinking.

The torch flames are flickering across the room causing shadows to dance on the wall. Suddenly a large ten foot yellowish boa constrictor slithers down the wall and enters the water behind the altar. Small waves radiate out pass the altar.

DON JUAN

Hey, I just saw wave movement in the  
water.

JENNY

What was it?

DON JUAN

I couldn't tell.

JENNY

Maybe it was nothing, something fell  
from the ceiling.

DON JUAN

Maybe you're right.

JACK

I got an idea. If I stay along the  
wall edge and circle around to the  
rear of the altar, I should avoid  
any traps under the water.

JOSE

The Aztec's must figure that the  
invaders would walk directly to the  
altar and thus trigger any traps.

JENNY

What about the movement in the water?

JACK

I've no idea, but there is only one  
way to get that stone box and that  
is for me to go after it, unless  
there is someone else who wants to  
volunteer for this job.

Total silence in the tunnel, no one said anything. Jack slips into the water that comes up to his waist. He slowly moves along the wall in a clockwise manner. Suddenly wave movements in the water.

JENNY

(excitedly)

JACK, something moving toward you in the water.

Jack turns and looks back at Jenny. He sees nothing, he turns around and is suddenly attacked by the underwater boa constrictor. He struggles and is forced under the water. The water becomes turbulent as Jack fights off the snake.

Jack grabs his machete from his belt and starts hacking away at the boa constrictor. They toss and turn under water. Blood starts to fill the water as Jack continues to hack away at the snake. The coils around Jack slacken and Jack frees himself from the deadly grip. Jack springs to the surface and fills his lungs with air.

The dead boa constructor floats to the surface a few feet away from Jack.

JACK

(shaken)

I hate snakes.

JENNY

Are you alright?

JACK

Yea, I am just love fighting for my life with a huge snake. It makes my day.

Jack wades to the altar and removes the stone box. He wades back to the tunnel as JOSE gives him a hand to help him out of the water.

DON JUAN

Are you hurt?

JACK

I'm okay, but I have had enough excitement for one day, lets get the hell out of Dodge City.

CUT TO:

INT. SECRET ROOM - LATER

Inside the secret room, Jack gives the stone box to JENNY who opens it and takes out a Codex.

Don Juan and Jenny spend some time examining the codex using the lights from their torches. Don Juan points to some glyphs and chats with Jenny.

JENNY

(smiling)

The clue is simple, the Codex refers to a city that faces the summer solstice.

JACK

Do you know which city faces the summer solstice?

JENNY

(smiling)

There is only one Mayan ruins on the Yucatan Peninsula where all of the structures face northeast and that is Yaxchilan along the Mexico Guatemala border. This is where we will find the next clue left by Nezahualcoyotl.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. JUNGLE YUCATAN PENINSULA - AFTERNOON

Deep thick jungle, camera zooms in on members of the expedition including Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose, along with porters carrying the supplies. Jack hacks away at vines as they move through the jungle. Howler monkeys scream from the treetops. Tropical birds chatter from tree tops. They enter a clearing.

JACK

This looks like a good place for our camp tonight.

JOSE

Why so soon?

JACK

It gets dark quickly here and we don't want to be setting up camp in the dark.

The porters set up tents and get a fire going. Jose walks over to Jack and points at the fire.

JOSE

Why the fire, it hot as blazes.

JACK  
To keep the predators out of camp.

JOSE  
What predators, I have seen nothing.

JACK  
Wild pigs, jaguars, panthers, and  
other four-legged creatures that  
prey on the two-legged kind. It  
also keeps the snakes away.

Jose looks around and shivers.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - NIGHT

They are sitting around the fire; The jungle is alive with sounds of the night. Howler monkeys screech from the treetops, a jaguar screams in the jungle. DON JUAN walks out from inside the tent and sits in a vacant camp chair by the fire. The porters are sitting at a fire on the other side of camp. Suddenly a blood curling scream shatters the night.

JOSE  
(frighten)  
What was that scream?

JACK  
(grins)  
That was the jaguars I talked about  
earlier.

JOSE  
I guess if that jaguar is hungry, a  
tent wall would not stop it.

DON JUAN  
No, it wouldn't, but don't worry,  
the porters will keep the fires  
burning all night.

Jack looks at Don Juan.

JACK  
How do you know that  
Yaxchilan is the right ruins?

Don Juan leans forward in his chair.

DON JUAN

According to the Aztec Codex that I read, the next clue was left at the ruins facing the summer solstice.

JOSE

(questioning)

How do we know that Yaxchilan faces the summer solstice?

Jack stirs the fire with a stick. Jenny leans forward in her chair.

JENNY

I know because British explorers began to inspect, explore, and map the ruins in the late 1800s. Their map clearly shows the buildings and stone slabs facing the summer solstice.

JOSE

This could be a wild goose chase, I'm sure there are other ruins facing the summer solstice.

JENNY

No, that's not true, only Yaxchilan faces the summer solstice. None of the other ruins share this alignment characteristics.

JACK

And just where is this Yaxchilan?

JENNY

Yaxchilan lies on the banks of the Usamacinta River that is the border for Mexico and Guatemalan. There are no roads to these ruins; the only way to the ruins is by boat up the Usamacinta River.

JOSE

Just how big are these ruins?

JENNY

According to the British Expedition there are over 120 structures and numerous stone slabs or stelae, as the British called them. These stone slabs held hieroglyphic bas-relief. I suspect the Aztec left some kind of marker to the location of the next clue.

DON JUAN

It might not be a Stele, it might be lintels.

JOSE

What in hell are lintels?

DON JUAN

Lintels are horizontal blocks that span two supports. The Mayans love to carve pictographs on these lintels and Yaxchilan has sixty lintels and a couple dozen stelae.

JOSE

So how are we going to know which stele or lintels is the right one?

JACK

That is the \$64 question.

JOSE

So are you telling me you have no idea where the next clue is hidden in this Mayan ruin?

Jack leans forward in his chair and looks at Jose.

JACK

Archeology does not have maps with an X marked on it that says dig here. We have to study the ruins and look for anything that might be outside the patterns used by the Mayan people. The answer will be found in finding this minor difference that will set it apart, which is the key to finding the clue.

They lean back in their chairs and stare into the fire. The night sounds echo through the camp, the fire crackles, and the darkness seems to enshroud the camp.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

A porter stands off to one side of the campfire and hidden by a tent listening to the conversations. He slowly slides into the darkness and rushes down a trail deep inside the darkened jungle.

He stops at a large tree where he uncovers jungle grass revealing a radio transmitter. He talks on the radio.

High in the tree sits a jaguar. It stares down at the porter and slowly climbs down the tree to an overhanging limb. As the porter finishes his radio message the jaguar leaps onto the native. The porter blood curling scream fills the night air.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The expedition members are sitting around the campfire drinking coffee as suddenly a terrible screams breaks the jungle sounds. A horrific human scream. Everyone jumps up.

JOSE

That was no jaguar. The scream came from behind the tents.

DON JUAN

I remember seeing a trail behind the tents.

JACK

A porter must have wandered off down that trail.

The men grab their rifles and rushes down the trail with torches. They find the porter dead. Don Juan kneels down and examines the body.

DON JUAN

He was mauled to death by a jaguar or some other large jungle cat.

Jose points to the radio transmitter.

JOSE

He was using the radio transmitter.

Jack walks over to the radio transmitter.

JACK

Somebody is keeping track of us.

DON JUAN

Notice all of the dials are labeled in German.

JACK

(shaking his head)  
PROF. WOLFSTEIN and those damn Nazis.

JOSE

What do you mean?

JACK

PROF. WOLFSTEIN and his damn Nazi goons are after the Aztec treasure to fund Hitler's damn empire.

JOSE

Who is this PROF. WOLFSTEIN?

Jack sits down on his hunches.

JACK

PROF. WOLFSTEIN teaches Archeology at the University of Berlin. He is a grave robber, a thief who steals artifacts to sell on the black market to the highest bidder. He would sell his own mother if the price was right.

JOSE

How do you know he is working for the Nazis?

JACK

Recently he has been working for Hitler and the Himmler's SS goons. He has been seeking out ancient artifacts rumored to be associated with the occult. I have had experience with him in the past, none of it good.

DON JUAN

What kind of experiences?

JACK

He stole an emerald Chac mask from me last year. The Nazis will not stop until they get their hands on this Aztec treasure.

JOSE

We cannot allow Nazis to get their hands on Mexico's national treasures. Sadly, we must presume that the Nazis know of our plans and where we are heading.

Jose spits on the dead body.

JACK

Then we will have to be one step ahead of the Nazis.

DON JUAN

That may not be so easy.

CUT TO:

INT. NAZI MANSION - LATER

Prof. Wolfstein is standing at the head of the oak conference table. Men of varying ages are dressed in white suits are seated at the conference table watching him.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Good news. Our man on DR. HOGAN's expedition has informed us of the location of the Mayan ruins that has the final clue to the treasure.

WHITE SUIT MAN

(smiling)

Well, where is it located?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

The final clue is at Yaxchilan. It is located on the banks of the Usamacinta River that separates Mexico and Guatemalan.

WHITE SUIT MAN

We must get there first.

Prof. Wolfstein points to Nazi Man 1 stand near the conference table.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Arrange transportation, we must get to Yaxchilan ahead of DR. HOGAN and find the map.

The Nazi soldier salutes and walks out of the room. PROF. WOLFSTEIN smiles and lights a cigar. He picks up a wine glass and offers a toast.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN (CONT'D)

Here to a success conclusion and to our beloved Fuhrer's's vision.

The other men at the conference table raise their wine glasses and nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. YAXCHILAN RUINS - AFTERNOON

A helicopter is sitting in a plaza center near the ruins. The pilot is smoking a cigarette leaning against the

helicopter. Nazi soldiers are busy searching the ruins. Prof. Wolfstein and the SS Nazi Officer are sitting in chairs under the shade of a tent. Prof. Wolfstein is smoking his cigar as SITE NAZI 1 walks up to him.

SITE NAZI 1

We have examined all of the structures and can find no hidden panels or secret doors.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Have you checked the lintels?

SITE NAZI 1

What are lintels?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Lintels are horizontal blocks that span two supports.

Prof. Wolfstein points to a nearby structure and points out the lintel block between the two supports. The Site Nazi 1 salutes and walks away.

SS NAZI OFFICER

Really PROF. WOLFSTEIN, you cannot expect my men to really find this clue, we do not even know what it will look like. It will require a dozen archeologists to discover the hidden location of this clue.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(smiling)

No, I really did not expect to find the clue, but it was worth a try. We will pull out of here shortly and wait until DR. HOGAN arrives sometime tomorrow.

SS NAZI OFFICER

How will we find the clue if we pull out?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

I expect that he will find the clue and then I will relieve him of it. He has to travel to this ruin by river boat so we will wait down river until he returns to the village.

SS Nazi Officer glances at his watch.

SS NAZI OFFICER

I will give my men another three hours of searching before we pull out.

The camera moves from prof. Wolfstein and the SS Nazi Officer to the Nazi soldiers searching the plaza, examining each stone slab. Other soldiers are busy looking at lintels supported by the columns.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONTERA COROZAL TOWN DOCK, USAMACINTA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

River boats are lined up along the shore. The usamacinta river is shallow and slow meaning as it passes the dock. Walking out of the jungle, Jack walks into the town followed by Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose. The streets are dusty, the wooden buildings in need of repair. A sign hangs in front of one building, watering hole. They enter the building.

CUT TO:

INT. WATERING HOLE - MOMENTS LATER

They sit at a table and order beer. The bartender brings over four glasses of warm beer.

JACK

I never will get use to warm beer.

DON JUAN

You will if you spend more time here, no such thing as cold beer.

JENNY

I could care less, this beer is sure taking the dust our of my throat.

Jose raises his beer glass for a toast.

JOSE

Here's too finding the clue before the Nazis find it.

The others return the toast by clinking their beer glasses together.

JACK

JOSE, why don't you line up a river boat for tomorrow. We will stay here tonight and get a start the first thing tomorrow morning.

DON JUAN

Why not push on and be at the temple site tonight?

JENNY

It is not safe to travel at night, especially on this river. Up river the water is very swift and is noted for its treacherous rocks.

JACK

I am sure one night will not hurt us to have a soft bed and a bath.

JENNY

I could use a hot bath and a good night sleep without worrying about creepy crawlers or jungle cats.

JACK

The porters will stay here until we return. I do not want to take a chance that any more of them are working for PROF. WOLFSTEIN.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONTERA COROZAL TOWN DOCK, USAMACINTA RIVER - MORNING

The river boat is long with a flat bottom. It has a canopy in the center and benches under the canopy and an outboard motor at the stern. The boat is being loaded with supplies as Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose climb aboard.

CAPTAIN

Welcome, this is the best boat on the river.

The Captain smiles and points to his river boat.

JACK

You understand we want to go up river to Yaxchilan. You will wait for us until we are ready to return.

The CAPTAIN shakes his head.

CAPTAIN

No problem senior. I know the river like the back of my hand. You pay me by the day and we have no problem.

The Captain smiles and holds out his hand. Jack digs into his Jacket and takes out a wad of bills and peels off several and hand them to the Captain.

The river boat departs the landing and slowly travels up the river. Howler monkeys are screaming along the river. A few crocs are seen along the bank. The river boat leaves a small wake behind it. The river boat navigates the river and after a few bends in the river, the flow becomes swift and jagged rocks are visible sticking out of the water. The water is a muddy brown. The jungle comes down to the river bank.

Jack is sitting near the bow of the boat as JENNY walks up to him.

JENNY

A penny for your thought.

JACK

You would go broke.

JENNY

Seriously.

JACK

I was just thinking how close we are getting to the site where the last clue is supposedly hidden. Somewhere PROF. WOLFSTEIN is waiting for us, I just know it in my bones.

JENNY

My father has a saying, the Jaguar is always waiting and he is always hungry.

JACK

What does that mean?

JENNY

It means there is always danger no matter where you go. The key is to understand that danger and stay out its path.

JACK

I understand that the danger is PROF. WOLFSTEIN and his Nazi goons, but to stay out of the path is not possible. I will not let him have the Aztec treasure, it belongs to your people, it is their heritage.

JENNY

DR. HOGAN, you are a good man.

Don Juan walks to the stern and joins his sister. He takes out a cigarette and lights it. He turns to Jack.

DON JUAN

DR. HOGAN, it is time that I share the rest of the secrets I have from that Aztec Codex.

JACK

And what secret is that?

Don Juan looks around and seeing no one continues.

DON JUAN

The map to the location of the clue is located on the stele closest to the long stairs to god, which lies along the summer solstices.

JACK

What in the hell does that mean?

JENNY

That is easy. The only place in Yaxchilan with a long set of stairs and in the direction of the summer solstices is the stairs leading to the acropolis. This is the temple of the Bird Jaguar IV.

JACK

Why did you wait until now to tell me?

DON JUAN

I do not trust JOSE, I think he is not with Military Intelligence, as he claims, but he is a black marketer.

JACK

Why do you think Jose is not who he claims to be?

DON JUAN

I thought I remembered his face when I first met him, but could not place it. Last night sitting at the bar, I finally remembered seeing him a few years ago. He was with some other black marketers who were trying to sell some artifacts to my father.

JACK

He could have been undercover.

DON JUAN

(questioning)

Yes, that is possible.

(MORE)

DON JUAN (CONT'D)

I will tell you one thing; his eyes are those of a killer. They are cold evil eyes.

JACK

I hope you are wrong. I have enough concerns about meeting up with PROF. WOLFSTEIN and his Nazi goons. I do not want to worry about being robbed by black marketers.

JENNY

(stern)

Remember what I said, the Jaguar is always waiting and he is always hungry.

CUT TO:

EXT. YAXCHILAN RUINS - MORNING

The jungle trail from the river resembled a tunnel. Hanging vines, ferns, trees, and flowering plants lined the trail to the ruins as sunlight flickering through the overhead branches amid the sounds of screaming monkeys and squawking birds.

Suddenly, they step from the jungle into a clearing as Yaxchilan is revealed. They enter the Great Plaza through a path lined with tall stone walls that paralleled the river.

Standing before them is the Great Acropolis and the Small Acropolis resting on low limestone hills to the south. The jungle is taking over the ruins, vines cover many of the structures. Stairways, ramps, and distribution terraces connect the three complexes. Jack steps into clearing and turns to Jenny.

JACK

Okay, so where are the long stairs to god?

JENNY

First we must find the two solstice lines, the winter and summer. After that, it will be easy, just follow the summer solstice line and look for a structure with a long set of stairs.

Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose start their search of the mayan city. As they walk into the plaza, Jack stops and picks up a cigar butt. He smells it and turns to the others.

JACK

This cigar is fresh and is the same kind that PROF. WOLFSTEIN smokes, at least the last time we met.

JOSE

Then that means that the Nazis are here.

Jose looks around for the Nazis, seeing nothing he turns back to face Jack.

JENNY

Or that they were here and have already found the clue.

JACK

Or they were here and could not find the clue. Now it is a race against time. We must find the clue and get to the treasure site before the Nazis find it.

DON JUAN

What if the Nazis destroyed the clue?

JACK

Let's hope not. If the Nazis have the clue, the race is lost. Spread out and start looking. Now where is the summer solstice line?

CUT TO:

EXT. YAXCHILAN RUINS - LATER

Don Juan and Jose headed toward the far corner of the plaza. Jose enters one of the buildings covered with vines and at the edge of the jungle while Don Juan searches the outside of the building.

A large anaconda slithers down a tree limb and into a large hole of the building that JOSE just walked into moments before.

The anaconda slithers down the side of the wall as JOSE is kneeling beside a set of hieroglyphics. The anaconda slithers toward JOSE. JOSE starts to stand up as he hears something behind him. He turns around and screams.

JOSE

Holy Mary of God.

The anaconda coils its powerful body around JOSE. JOSE fights to get free, but he cannot reach his pistol, he is trapped in the snake's deadly coils.

JOSE (CONT'D)

DON JUAN help me, for the love of  
God, help me.

Don Juan hears the cries for help and rushes into the building. He sees Jose in the coils of a huge anaconda. He quickly draws out his machete and rushes to Jose. He starts hacking away at the coils. Don Juan then turns on the anaconda head and hacks at it. The anaconda releases its hold on Jose and plops to the floor dead.

DON JUAN

Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Jose is breathing hard. It takes a minute for him to regain his strength and voice.

JOSE

I thought I was a goner for sure.  
If you had not come in when you did,  
I would be dead.

DON JUAN

We had better warn JACK and JENNY  
that there are damn serpents hiding  
in the ruins.

CUT TO:

EXT. YAXCHILAN RUINS - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Jenny are examining various stone slabs. Finding nothing of importance they move on. Jenny stops and turns to Jack.

JENNY

Do you think the Nazis found the  
clue?

JACK

If they did, the game is up.

JENNY

Is there nothing we can do if they  
have the clue?

JACK

No, without the clue, we have no way  
for finding the treasure trove.

JENNY

I hope to God that they did not find it.

Finding nothing Jack and Jenny walk back to the plaza. At the same time, Jose and Don Juan return to the plaza. Jack walks over to Jose and stares at him. Jose is in disarray, his clothes are torn and his face is smeared.

JACK

What in the hell happened to you?

JOSE

I met up with a big anaconda and was on the short end of the stick until DON JUAN came to my rescue.

DON JUAN

So be warned, there are nasty snakes around.

JENNY

I had forgotten about anaconda's in these ruins. They travel in pairs, so be careful as there is still another one out there.

JACK

Shit, I hate snakes.

DON JUAN

The only place we haven't check is over there. But so far, I see no stairs to god.

Jenny points toward the mid section of the plaza.

JENNY

I think the acropolis is in that direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. YAXCHILAN RUINS - LATER

A lone stele is standing at the foot of a long set of stairs leading to the great acropolis. Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose walk up to it. Jenny studies the hieroglyphic bas-relief.

JACK

Can you make out the message on this stele?

Jenny is examining the stone slab. He takes out a notebook and makes some notes. She turns to Jack.

JENNY

It says to climb the stairs to the god and bow down to the great god Tonatiuh.

DON JUAN

We are standing at the stairs to god.

They all look to where DON JUAN is pointing. A long set of stairs leading up to the Great Acropolis. They walk up the stairs and enter the Great Acropolis.

CUT TO:

INT. GREAT ACROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

They enter a great chamber with tall ceilings. The walls are filed with bas-relief of hieroglyphics symbols. They walk around the room examining the carvings. A great stone altar stands in the middle.

JACK

Check out that altar. The last couple of altars were triggered when the jaguar heads were twisted, the altar would slid away revealing a secret chamber below it.

Jose walks to the altar and examines it. He tries to push, pull, or twist any of the projections of the altar, but nothing happens.

JOSE

Scratch one altar as a gateway to the clue.

Jenny walks over to Jack.

JENNY

The stele said to bow down before Tonatiuh. In Aztec myths, Tonatiuh is portrayed as an eagle.

JACK

Okay, everybody look for an eagle bas-relief.

Jose walks over to one wall and slowly searches for the eagle icon. Don Juan walks to another wall and searches for any bird like icons. Jenny walks to the far wall and begins her search.

JOSE  
(excitedly)  
I see an eagle over here.

They all rush over to where Jose is kneeling. Jack kneels and examines the wall. He pushes on the bas-relief of the eagle and it slides inward revealing a secret hiding place. He reaches into the cavity and pulls out an oil skin. Inside the oil skin is an aztec codex. He hands it to Jenny.

JENNY  
I cannot believe we found an existing Aztec Codex, they are rare and almost non-existent.

JOSE  
Why are Aztec Codices so rare?

JENNY  
The Dominican friars who accompanied Cortés in his invasion of Mexico decided the Aztec Codices were the work of the devil and had them all destroyed. Very few Codices survived.

Jenny slow opens the Aztec Codex and examines the pages. She slowly turns the pages. She smiles and turns to Jack.

DON JUAN  
What did you find?

JENNY  
We are to travel east to the great waters and then travel north to the temple of the green jaguar warriors. Deep inside the temple of the green tomb is a passage to the treasure chamber.

JOSE  
Who or what in hell are the green jaguar warriors?

DON JUAN  
If I remember correctly the green jaguar warriors were Mayan warriors who used green pigments to paint their bodies. They were very fierce warriors.

JOSE  
And where in the hell would we find these green jaguar warriors? They have been dead for over 500 years.

DON JUAN

I think I remember reading about such a place. A recent discovery near Belize City was a temple whose interior was painted green that contains over 300 artifacts.

JACK

What is the name of this ruins?

DON JUAN

It is called Altun Ha.

JENNY

That's right, this site was discovered by a bush pilot who overflew the area. No major excavation has been done, but it looks like a Mayan city dating back to about 550 AD.

JACK

If it is a recent discovery perhaps PROF. WOLFSTEIN has not heard about it yet.

JOSE

Since we are the only ones with the final clue, I think it is safe to say that we have a head start on those Nazis. Without this clue, there is no way in hell that they can find the treasure site.

DON JUAN

You're right, those Nazis don't have a snowball chance in hell of finding the lost city, unless they get their hands on this clue.

JENNY

(worried)

And someone who could translate this Codex.

JACK

Okay, lets blow this pool hall.

CUT TO:

EXT. USAMACINTA RIVER - AFTERNOON

They are sitting in the river boat as it travels down river to the village. The scenes shows the jungle that reaches down to the river and the down river ride. The camera zooms from the river boat as it docks at the landing.

They climb out of the river boat and head up trail to the village. The street is dirt and dusty. As they near the hotel/bar they stop to chat.

DON JUAN  
 (wiping sweat from  
 his forehead)  
 I sure good use a cold beer.

JACK  
 (with a grin)  
 Remember, they only serve warm beer  
 here.

JENNY  
 I could use a hot shower.

JACK  
 I could use a nice hot meal.

JOSE  
 Somehow I do not think we will get  
 our beer, shower, or hot meal.

DON JUAN  
 Now why would you say such a thing?

Jose points toward the hotel. They stop and stare. Standing on the front porch of the hotel/bar is prof. Wolfstein and his nazi goons pointing rifles at them. Prof. Wolfstein walks down to meet them.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
 (grinning)  
 So we meet again DR. HOGAN.

JACK  
 (straight face)  
 Speak of the devil.

The Nazi goons walk over to Jack, Jenny, Don Juan, and Jose. They remove all of their weapons. One of the nazi goons get too friendly while searching for weapons on Jenny. She slaps him. Prof. Wolfstein laughs.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
 Why not let us all get a beer and  
 chat about your travels and your  
 findings.

CUT TO:

## INT. WATERING HOLE - CONTINUOUS

The Watering Hole is empty, ceiling fans turn slowly. The bartender is standing behind the bar wiping glasses. He looks up as they enter the bar and then goes back to his work. Nazi goons push them forward toward a table. They take seat at a table. The Nazi goons stand behind them with their rifles pointed at their heads. Prof. Wolfstein grins and looks at Jack.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Now what shall we chat about?

JACK  
(sneering)  
Oh, how about the weather?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
I have a better idea, how about we chat about the final clue?

JACK  
What clue?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Come Dr. HOGAN, your poker face is lacking. Where did you find it?

JACK  
We did not find the clue. We thought you had found it.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
I think not.

JENNY  
You're never getting away with it.

Prof. Wolfstein turns to her.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Get away with what my dear?

JENNY  
Stealing the Aztec Treasure.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
(smiling)  
Oh, you are wrong my dear.

Prof. Wolfstein snaps his finger and a nazi goon removes Jenny's backpack and hands it to prof. Wolfstein. He opens the backpack and pulls out the Aztec Codex. He thumbs open the pages and smiles.

JACK  
(smiling)  
Oh, you mean that clue.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Your humor is misplaced Dr. HOGAN.

JACK  
No one ever accused me of having  
humor.

JENNY  
You're never translate the Codex in  
time, only a few people in the world  
have that skill.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
I think you are right, so that is  
why you are coming with us.

JENNY  
(alarmed)  
No.

Two Nazi goons grab Jenny and pull her to her feet. They push her out of the bar. Jack jumps up and is hit with the rifle butt. He crumbles back to his chair.

JACK  
(angry)  
You bastard! If you hurt her, I'll  
kill you.

Prof. Wolfstein looks at Jack and smiles.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
You are in no position to threaten  
me. JENNY will accompany me back to  
Mexico City where she will translate  
the Codex for me. However, you  
gentlemen are no longer needed.  
Your unfortunately disappearance  
will not be noticed.

JACK  
You rotten son of a bitch.

Prof. Wolfstein smiles at Jack and motions to two of his  
Nazi goons.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Please see that they killed quickly  
and then see to it that their bodies  
are left in the jungle for the jaguars  
to dine on.

DON JUAN

You can't do this to us. We have done nothing to you.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

While that may be true, your time has come to an end.

JACK

(sneering)

You will not get away with this.

JOSE

The bartender has seen us in here with you, he will know what happened.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(smiling)

The bartender has been well paid, he sees nothing, he hears nothing.

JACK

(sneering)

This is not over by a long shot. If need be, I will come back from the grave and nail your stinking hide.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(smiling)

I think not, at least not from the grave.

Prof. Wolfstein walks out of the bar with the Aztec Codex, followed by the SS Nazi Officer.

Two Nazi goons point rifles at Jack, Don Juan, and Jose, motioning them toward the door in the back of the bar. They walk toward the back door and stop. The Nazi goons push them and they exit the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MOMENTS LATER

Jack, Don Juan, and Jose are forced down a path in the jungle to a small clearing. Howling monkeys and tropical birds chatter in the tree top. Jack turns to Jose.

JACK

Now would be a good time for somebody to have a plan to get us out of this mess.

Jose bends down and begins to cry. One of the Nazi goons jabs him with the rifle and as Jose stands back up he slips

his hand into his boot and pulls out a dagger. As he stands up, he turns and stabs the guard. He quickly grabs the rifle and shoots the other guard.

JOSE

I hate those damn Nazis too.

They look up at the sky hearing the sound of a helicopter taking off. Seconds later the helicopter skims the treetops heading away from them.

DON JUAN

They will kill her once she translates the Codex.

JACK

I promise you that I will save her and then kill PROF. WOLFSTEIN.

JOSE

We must get to Altun Ha before the Nazis.

Jack looks at the treetops and mumbles something.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

### ACT THREE

INT. NAZI MANSION - DAY

Prof. Wolfstein is sitting at a conference table as a TALL SLIM MAN examines the Aztec Codex. The SS Nazi Officer is standing near the desk.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(anxiously)

Well, can you translate it?

TALL SLIM MAN

No senor, it is written in a cryptic code, I do not understand what it means. From what little I can gather, it talks about an ancient green tomb, but it does not identify which Mayan ruins has the tomb.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Did you say a green tomb?

TALL SLIM MAN

Yes senor.

(MORE)

TALL SLIM MAN (CONT'D)

According to this codex, the treasure is buried in a secret chamber below the green tomb. But there is much that I can't translate as it is convoluted with Mayan and Aztec glyphs.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

It is apparent my friend that you do not keep up with recent archeology discoveries.

SS NAZI OFFICER

You know which ruins has the green tomb?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Yes, I do.

SS NAZI OFFICER

What about the woman?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

We may need her talents; we will bring her along with us.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MORNING

Jack, Don Juan, and Jose trek through the jungle, using their machetes to hack away at the jungle grass and vines. Howler monkeys scream from tree tops and parrots chatter from high above them. The dense jungle creates a canopy over them, hiding the sunlight. They are drenched in sweat as they work their way through the jungle.

JOSE

I am getting tired of jungle and this heat.

Jose wipes sweat from his face.

DON JUAN

I am missing a good old fashion bath, I don't think I will ever feel clean.

JACK

(smiling)

I thought you boys loved a good time and some excitement?

DON JUAN

After the last few weeks, I am sure  
I will never like this kind of  
excitement again.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEXICO CITY AIRPORT - MORNING

A helicopter sits on a landing pad with its blades turning. Prof. Wolfstein and his Nazi goons duck as they climb aboard the helicopter. Jenny is already in her seat with her hands tied. She struggles but is tied fast.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(smiling)

It won't be long until the happy  
reunion my dear.

JENNY

JACK will never let you keep the  
treasure.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

My dear, your DR. HOGAN has met an  
unfortunately accident. I'm afraid  
he no longer is among the living.

JENNY

You don't know JACK, he is one gringo  
that is hard to kill.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Lead poisoning has a way of slowing  
people down permanently.

The helicopter lifts off from the pad and flies off over the city and into the jungle.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALTUN HA RUINS - AFTERNOON

Jack, Don Juan, and Jose are riding down a jungle road in a jeep. The road is rough and filled with potholes. Branches swipe against the jeep as they push through dense jungle growth.

Sounds of howler monkeys and jungle birds squawk from the trees. The jeep comes to a stop in a clearing overlooking the ancient Mayan ruins of Altun Ha. They jump out of the jeep and stare at the Mayan ruins. Four Mayan stepped temples surrounds a large grass plaza in the center like points on a compass. Jungle vines covered the temples.

JOSE

(questioning)

How do we know the old man from the village of Rockstone Pond told us the truth?

JACK

How many other ruins have we found using the old man's direction?

JOSE

You got a point.

DON JUAN

How much time do you think we have until the Nazis discover the location of the treasure.

JACK

Not long, if they find someone to translate the codex, else they will force Jenny to translate it.

DON JUAN

Jenny will never translate it for them.

JOSE

Believe me they will have ways to make her talk, none of them are pleasant.

JACK

Let's get started, we do not have much time to find the Green Tomb.

DON JUAN

Since the ruins were recently discovered, let's check out that temple.

Pointing to the temple ahead of him.

DON JUAN (CONT'D)

It looks like someone has cut the vines away from the entrance.

The camera zooms to the temple and the entrance free of vines.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN TOMB - LATER

Jack, Jose, and Don Juan stand at the entrance to the Temple of the Green Tomb. They light torches and enter the temple.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALTUN HA RUINS - CONTINUOUS

Prof. Wolfstein stands on the hill overlooking Altun Ha. He smiles as he watches Dr. Hogan and his party enter the Temple of the Green Tomb. His Nazi goons stand behind him Guarding Jenny whose hands are tied with rope.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

That is Dr. HOGAN, he should be dead.

SS NAZI OFFICER

I don't know what happened. I ordered two of my best men to kill him and his friends.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

I see they failed on all accounts.

SS NAZI OFFICER

This time I will personally see his death.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Not yet, we will let Dr. HOGAN guide us to the treasure site

SS NAZI OFFICER

We must follow him now so we do not lose him inside the temple.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

You're right my friend. Let us make our way to the temple and see what he has found so far. I am sure the woman will be motivation for him if he has not yet found the treasure.

SS NAZI OFFICER

(smiling)

Yes, it is much better if he figures the booby traps than us.

They move down the hill toward the Temple of the Green Tomb.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN TOMB - MOMENTS LATER

Jack enters the temple holding a flaming torch, followed by Don Juan carrying their burning torch.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN TOMB - CONTINUOUS

Jose remains outside the temple and reaches for his satellite phone. He punches in some numbers and waits as it rings.

JOSE

I have found the treasure site. It is at the Altun Ha ruins outside Belize City at the Temple of the Green Tomb. Send a copper and some men to recover the treasure. Land in the plaza.

Jose puts the satellite phone back into his pack. He enters the Temple.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN TOMB CONTINUOUS

The walls are covered with Hieroglyphics bas-relief all painted green. They see some work tables with some pottery sitting on it and some wooden crates on the floor. An altar stands in the middle of the room.

DON JUAN

I am sure the archeologists have removed all of the valuable Mayan artifacts, I remember reading that some three hundred artifacts were found.

JOSE

So does that mean the Aztec treasure is gone?

JACK

No, it means that the treasure is still here.

JOSE

How can that be?

JACK

The Aztec were a crafty people, they hid their treasure so the Spanish Conquistadors would never find it.

DON JUAN

Okay, so where do we start?

JACK

We can start with the altar and see if it will slide back to reveal stairs.

DON JUAN

Yea, like we would be so lucky.

Jose walks to the altar and checks for any hidden lever, but he finds nothing.

JOSE

It was worth a shot.

JACK

Okay, let me think. This temple was build almost at ground level, so there must be a set of stairs to lead to the lower sections. Look for any kind of secret lever in the glyphs.

Jose and Don Juan quickly start examining the hieroglyphic bas-relief icons on the wall. Jack walks to another wall and begins his search for a secret cache.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN TOMB - MOMENTS LATER

Prof. Wolfstein is standing in the doorway of the Green Tomb holding a torch. He has Nazi soldiers with him, and each is pointing a rifle at Jack, Don Juan, and Jose. Behind the Nazi goons, Jenny is standing Guarded by two Nazi goons.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

DR. HOGAN, please continue, you were just about to show us where the treasure is hidden.

JENNY

(angry)

Don't show this bastard anything.

The SS Nazi Officer slaps her across the face. Jack stares at the Nazi goon.

JACK

Hit her again and I'll kill you.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

DR. HOGAN, you are in no position to make threats. Now where is this treasure?

JACK

If you want the treasure, find it yourself.

SS Nazi Officer puts his hand on her face and slides it down her cheek. He pulls out a large wicked looking dagger and turns to face Jack.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

We can do it the easy way, or I can make it very unpleasant for Jenny.

SS Nazi Officer slowly slides the dagger down Jenny's face.

JACK

Stop, I will help you.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

I thought you would want to help.

Jack walks over to the wall holding his torch and studies the many panels of hieroglyphic icons. He moves along the wall until he comes to a stone panel that appears different. He runs his fingers over the panel.

DON JUAN

What did you find?

JACK

This stone panel has no hieroglyphics bas-relief, almost as if it was added at a later date. There could be a passage way behind this stone slab.

Prof. Wolfstein turns to his Nazi Goons.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Plant the explosive at the base of that panel.

Jack turns to prof. Wolfstein.

JACK

You can't use explosives; you could cause the passage way to collapse.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

My boys are experts, they will use just enough to destroy the stone panel.

JACK

They better be good, or else this ceiling may come crashing down and bury the treasure forever.

One of the Nazi goons removes a stick of dynamite and breaks it in half, using a half stick, he places it in front of the stone panel. He lights the fuse, turns, and says something in German.

SS NAZI OFFICER

(smiling)

He suggest we wait outside before the explosion or stay and be killed.

JACK

That is damn good advice.

They quickly retreat out of the temple. Suddenly an explosion, then dust and smoke pour out of the arch way. After the smoke and dust settles, they race back into the Green Tomb room.

The stone panel is gone, broken stones are scattered on the floor. A dark and forbidding tunnel is visible. Prof. Wolfstein walks over to Jack.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Now, DR. HOGAN, we will see just how smart you really are. You will enter the tunnel first.

JENNY

JACK, the tunnel will be booby trapped. The Aztecs always set booby traps and all of them are deadly.

JACK

I know, I've read the same books.

Jack looked at Jenny and then turns toward the tunnel. He holds his torch out in front of him as he looks into the dark tunnel. Jose and Don Juan are forced to the ground with nazi goons pointing rifles at them.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

JENNY will follow DR. HOGAN and the rest of you stay here as my guests. My friends will keep you company.

NAZI GOON 1

What do you want us to do if you do not return.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
(smiling)  
Shoot them.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN TOMB TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Jack, Jenny, SS Nazi Officer and Prof. Wolfstein enter the dark tunnel. Jack holds his torch in front of him as he slowly walks down the tunnel. SS Nazi Officer has his Lugar pointed at Jenny and Jack.

Jack lights the various torches along the wall of the tunnel. The flickering flames dance along the tunnel walls. The walls, floor, and ceilings are compacted dirt reinforced with bamboo poles. After walking down the tunnel for a distance, he stops and examines the floor.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Why have you stopped DR. HOGAN.

Jack points to the dirt floor.

JACK  
There is an indention here in the floor.

JENNY  
Do you think it is a trap?

JACK  
It could be like the floor in the last temple we explored. Remember the floor dropped out and only stone columns remained. I guess there is only one way to find out.

Jack takes his torch and hits the handle against the dirt floor with the indention. Suddenly, the floor gives way and a shallow pit with barbed bamboo spikes to impale its victims. Jenny looks at Jack.

JENNY  
That was a close

JACK  
Those barbed bamboo spikes would sure give a guy some pain.

They move around the trap and continue down the tunnel. The flickering lights of their torches dance along the walls. They come to a bend in the tunnel. Jack stops.

SS NAZI OFFICER

Why have you stopped, is it another trap?

JACK

The Aztecs build this tunnel, there is no reason for it to bend, unless it is another trap.

JENNY

So if it is a trap, how are we going to trip it?

JACK

I have to figure out first if it is a trap.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Well, get on with it.

Jack gets down on his belly and crawls up the bend. He raises his torch to see beyond the bend. Just around the bend, his flickering light reveals a thin trip line stretching across the width of the tunnel.

He reaches out and pulls on the line, suddenly, a bamboo pole with barb-spikes driven through the bamboo pole whips across the width of the tunnel at belly height.

Jenny walks up to Jack lying on the ground and examines the bamboo pole with the barb-spikes embedded in the pole. She sticks a finger on The end of the spike.

JENNY

God, that point is sharp.

JACK

The Aztec often poisoned their tips, I hope it wasn't poisoned.

Jenny jumps back from the bamboo pole.

JENNY

Now you tell me.

JACK

Sorry, I thought you knew.

SS Nazi Officer motions them on with his Lugar. They continue down the tunnel.

Jack is followed by Jenny, SS Nazi Officer, and prof. Wolfstein. Flickering flames dance across the walls. Jack stops suddenly. There before him the tunnel branches off into three separate tunnels.

They walk up to the entrances of the three tunnels and stop.

The first tunnel has the serpent bas-relief, the second tunnel has the jaguar bas-relief, and the third tunnel has the moon bas-relief.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Which tunnel do we enter?

JENNY

If we choose wrong, it could be a death chamber.

Jack smiles and points to the tunnel with the moon bas-relief.

JACK

I think this is the tunnel to follow.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

How do you figure that?

JACK

Mexicas was what the Aztec called themselves and Mexicas translated is the naval of the moon. The tunnel would be the representation of the naval.

JENNY

That's right, the moon's role is that of keeping the waters of the cosmos, sending rain, and preserving the moonlight, all so important to their agriculture based society.

JACK

(smiling)

Thus, we follow the tunnel with the moon bas-relief.

They enter the tunnel with the moon bas-relief and travel down the length carefully, constantly on the lookout for more booby traps. They round another bend in the tunnel after Jack carefully examines the bend for any traps. Finding none, they round the corner and find that the floor angled downward.

JENNY

I think we are in trouble.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Why is that?

JENNY

The Aztecs favored a slanted floor with a dead fall trap at the bottom.

JACK

What kind of dead fall trap?

JENNY

They would angle the floor so there was a gentle slope, but at the bottom of the decline they would have a deep pit filled with scorpions or spikes so anyone falling into it would be killed after impaling on the spikes.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

That is not a problem, we just turn around and come back up this tunnel.

JACK

However, they would have to have a way to get across the pit so that they could recover the treasure at a later date.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(smiling)

We will continue on.

JENNY

(worried)

We should turn back.

SS Nazi Officer shakes his head no and points his Lugar at JACK motioning him to move along.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

We have come too far to turn back. When we get to the bottom, I am sure you will figure out how to get across.

They travel down the tunnel as it angled downward. They came to the end where a large open pit filled with barb-spikes.

JENNY

It is too far to jump across and too deep to climb down and then back up on the other side.

Jack studies the walls that span the deep pit. He sees protrusions projecting outward from the wall, spaced evenly along the wall. A smile comes to his face, as he points to the protrusions.

JACK

See those protrusions on the wall, there are 13 of them. Do you know what that means.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

13 is an unlucky number?

JENNY

Yes, in our culture thirteen is unlucky, but in Aztec cosmology, 13 is the key to their counting days in their calendar.

JACK

The Aztecs had a 365-day solar calendar called xiuhpohualli, which consisted of 18 months of 20 days, and an unlucky 5-day period at the end of the year.

Jenny suddenly breaks out in a smile.

JENNY

So you are suggesting that the unlucky 5-day period is incorporated into these 13 protrusions.

JACK

Yes, that is exactly my thinking.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

What in hell are you talking about?

JACK

We will cross this pit by holding onto these protrusions, but do not grab every fifth one, it is booby trapped.

They toss their torches across the deadly pit. The flickering flames dance across the wall as Jack and Jenny, slowly swing across the deadly pit by gripping each protrusion. Once across the SS Nazi Officer crosses. Once on the other side, he holds his Lugar on Jack and Jenny as prof. Wolfstein crosses the open pit.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN TOMB - MOMENTS LATER

Don Juan and Jose are sitting with their backs to the wall. Three of the Nazi goons had gone outside to smoke leaving one to Guard the two prisoners. The Nazi goons were restless and bored.

The sounds of a helicopter is heard then automatic gunfire coming from the outside of the temple.

The Nazi Guard turns toward the entranced. Jose slowly reaches down to his boot and pulls out his dagger. He motions for Don Juan to create a diversion. Don Juan stands up and the nazi goon immediately steps forward with his rifle. Jose throws his dagger underhanded and it hits the nazi goon in the leg. Don Juan leaps for the nazi goon, who fires his rifles hitting Don Juan in the head.

Jose jumps to his feet and kicks the nazi goon in the groin. He collapses to the floor. Jose shoots him in the head. Armed black marketeers enter the room. He greets his friends as they enter the green tomb.

JOSE

Where did you land the chopper?

THUG 1

We landed behind the hill as we saw the Nazi goons taking a cigarette break.

JOSE

Bet you they never realized that smoking was hazardous to their health.

THUG 1

Too late now, they will never smoke again.

JOSE

Good.

Thug 1 points to Don Juan.

THUG 1

Is he dead?

JOSE

Who cares. If he is alive when we come out with the treasure, I will kill him at that time.

THUG 1

(smiling)

I see you have everything under control. Where is the treasure?

JOSE

I don't know yet, they went ahead to find the treasure. We will follow.

THUG 1

I will get the rest of the men and we will follow them and when we catch up with them, they are dead men.

JOSE

Not so fast, we must let JACK find the treasure first.

THUG 1

What ever you say.

The Thug 1 turns around and exits the Green Tomb. He returns a few minutes later with five other men, all armed with Ak47s.

CUT TO:

INT. BRANCHING TUNNELS - LATER

Jose walks to each of the three tunnels, kneels down and examines the floor of the tunnel in each tunnel. He stands up and walks back to his men.

JOSE

They took the tunnel with the moon bas-relief.

THUG 1

How can you be so sure?

JOSE

The other two tunnels still have dust on the floor, the Moon tunnel has footprints.

They enter the third tunnel. They make their way slowly down the tunnel, passing the bamboo spring trap along the way until they come to the open pit trap.

CUT TO:,

INT. OPEN PIT - LATER

The armed thugs are standing at the deep open pit filled with barb-spikes. Jose looks around and sees the protrusions along the wall and smiles.

JOSE

So the Aztecs provided a way across and they found it.

Jose points to the projections.

THUG 1

The damn Aztec's were not too smart.  
Anyone could see that was the way to  
cross over the pit.

JOSE

Don't be so sure.

Thug 1 looks tag JOSE and smiles. He points to his men.

THUG 1

Okay, start across the open pit using  
those projections.

Thug 1 holds back as his men start across.

The men jumps to the first protrusion and works their way  
across the gap. When the first man grabs the fifth  
protrusion, something happens. The protrusion breaks away  
and he falls into the deadly trap, impaling himself on the  
barb-spikes.

JOSE

The Aztec's built clever booby traps.

THUG 1

No Shit.

JOSE

We must find another way across. Go  
back to the chopper and get the rope  
and grappling hook.

Thug 1 disappears back into the tunnel. A few minutes later  
he returns to the open pit with the grappling hook and rope.  
He walks to the edge and tosses the grappling hook across  
and hooks onto a boulder. He ties his end off and then they  
make their way across the open pit, hand over hand until  
they reach the other side. They enter the tunnel and  
disappear into the darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. LONG TUNNEL - LATER

Jack, Jenny, SS Nazi Officer, and prof. Wolfstein walk down  
a long tunnel and stop as they see two branching tunnels in  
front of them. They walk up to the two entrances, one has a  
rabbit glyph, and the other has the eagle glyph.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

If I were to guess, I would choose  
the tunnel with the eagle glyph,  
because the eagle is on the Mexican  
Paso.

JACK

Actually, the eagle is not the right choice. Remember we entered the last tunnel with the moon glyph, here we need to enter the tunnel with the rabbit glyph.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Why the tunnel with the rabbit glyph instead of the eagle?

JACK

This is basic Aztec 101. Since the positions of the lakes, upon which Mexico City was founded, are shaped like a rabbit and correspond to the same pattern on the moon. This means that Mexico is considered to be the Rabbit's Navel.

JENNY

The sun and its nahual 'double' the eagle are one and the same their names are interchangeable. We have two tunnels with symbols representing the sun and the moon. We must follow the moon route, and in this case it is represented by the rabbit icon.

Jack turns to jenny and smiles.

JACK

You really do know your Aztec Mythology.

They enter the tunnel with the rabbit glyph. They slowly walk down the tunnel fully expecting another booby trap. The tunnel floor slopes downward at a steep angle.

JENNY

Not another dead fall trap.

JACK

Only one way to find out.

JENNY

My God, I just remembered reading about another kind of trap with a death trap at the bottom.

JACK

What are you talking about?

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

What kind of trap are you talking about?

JENNY

The Aztec also employed some kind of spherical object or perhaps a swinging log that would be released and come crashing down the tunnel knocking anyone standing in the tunnel into the death pit.

JACK

That is a lovely thought. Let's hope this is not that kind of trap.

SS Nazi Officer motions them to move on with his Lugar. They descend down the steep slope. Suddenly they hear the sound of thunder. They look behind them and see a large suspended log swinging toward them.

JENNY

(shocked)  
Oh shit.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

(fearful)  
We're dead men.

JACK

We're not dead until the fat lady sings, now run.

They start running down the steep slope. Toward the bottom, they come to an alcove in the wall. Jack quickly jumps into the alcove followed by Jenny and prof. Wolfstein. The SS Nazi Officer was too slow to enter the alcove, he screams as the huge swinging log hits him and knocks him into the death pit. The huge swinging log then resets itself. Jenny screams.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Keep moving. He's not worth any tears.

JENNY

You have a cold heart.

Jack examines the alcove and discovers it is a narrow entrance to a larger room.

CUT TO;

INT. LARGER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter the large cavern like room. The walls are filled with Aztec pictoglyphs. Jack shines the light around the room examining each of the bas reliefs.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
Okay, so where is the treasure?

JACK  
Good question.

JENNY  
They would not have carved this room out of solid rock for the fun of it.

JACK  
I know, give me a second.

Jack walks to the only section that has no bas relief. He runs his hand over the edges of the stone slab. He feels an indentation in the stone.

JENNY  
What did you find?

JACK  
I think I found the keyhole to open this door.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
So what is the damn key?

JACK  
Good question.

Jack blows dust from the indentation and runs his hand along the outer edges of the slab.

JENNY  
It almost looks like a stone door.

JACK  
I think it is a door to the treasure chamber.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
So how in the hell do you open it.

JACK  
There is no lever, no hidden latch, no nothing.

JENNY

You must think like the Aztec. If you have no apparent mechanism to open the door, it must be sealed from the inside.

JACK

That's it.

JENNY

What do you mean this is it.

JACK

The Aztec were very crafty indeed. I think they did seal the door from the inside.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

You mean that they left a warrior inside to seal the door after they left?

JACK

No, it is even more ingenious.

JENNY

Don't keep us in suspect, how did they seal the door.

JACK

With air.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

Now, I know you are crazy.

JACK

Let me show you.

Jack removes a hammer and chisel from his backpack. He places the chisel in the indentation on the stone slab and strikes the chisel with the hammer. Nothing happens. He hits the chisel multiple times. Still nothing happens. JACK takes one last swing with the hammer and the chisel breaks through the wall and is sucked inside the door. Air hisses outward and slowly the door swings open.

JENNY

My God, you're a genius.

PROF. WOLFSTEIN

What in the hell just happened?

JACK

When they sealed up the treasure chamber, they created a vacuum in it by sucking out all of the air. The door could not open in a vacuum, but once I equalized the air pressure the door opened on its own.

JENNY

How did you know it was a vacuum inside.

JACK

I didn't, but it was the only explanation possible.

JENNY

How did they do it?

JACK

I have no idea, but after they sucked the air out, they plastered the vent hole closed to keep the vacuum inside. All I did was open that vent hole and like Ali Baba, the door opened.

Prof. Wolfstein pointed his lugar at Jack and motioned him to enter the chamber. Jenny followed Jack into the chamber.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Jose and his men start down the long sloping tunnel. Midway way down they hear the sound of thunder, they look behind them and see a swinging log rushing toward them.

JOSE

Run.

THUG 1

You led us into a trap.

Jose and his men dash down the sloped tunnel and stop on the edge of a deep pit. They look back and scream. The swinging log hits them, pushing them into the open pit with hundreds of scorpions. The scorpions climb over the bodies stinging them hundred's of times.

CUT TO:

INT. TREASURE CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Jack, Jenny, and prof. Wolfstein enter the large treasure cavern.

Their torches flicker light reveals the massive treasure trove. Huge stacks of gold artifacts including figurines, amour, discs, along with chests of emeralds and rubies. In the center of all this treasure is a stone pedestal with a large gold mask with huge emeralds attached to it. Jenny looks back the way they came.

JENNY

(concerned)

I thought I just heard screaming coming from behind us.

JACK

(smiling)

Maybe someone discovered the Aztec traps.

JENNY

(worried)

I hope it wasn't my brother.

JACK

No, I suspect it was JOSE. Your brother suspected him of being a black marketeer.

JENNY

Why JOSE?

JACK

JOSE has a way with his hidden dagger, I have seen him kill the Nazi goons who were going to shoot us. He can easily handle his guards.

JENNY

I never did like that creep.

Prof. Wolfstein rushes over to the first stack of gold and runs his hands over the idols and figures. He then rushes over to a chest filled with emeralds. He sees a large gold mask with huge emeralds embedded in it sitting atop a stone pedestal. He runs to the altar. He starts to lift it off the pedestal. Jack starts to yell out a warning, but Jenny stops him.

Prof. Wolfstein lifts the mask off the pedestal that triggers a huge stone slap to fall from the ceiling, crushing prof. Wolfstein.

JACK

Why didn't you let me warn him?

JENNY

He was going to kill us, so I figured  
I would let the Aztec have their  
revenge.

The camera zooms back to the stone slab, only PROF. WOLFSTEIN  
legs are visible.

JACK

You're right, it is only fitting  
that the Aztecs have the final word.

Suddenly water starts pouring into the cavern from where the  
slab had fallen from the ceiling. The cavern starts to fill  
with water.

JENNY

Looks like PROF. WOLFSTEIN set off  
another booby trap.

JACK

Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

JENNY

His death also means we will not be  
able to recover this treasure.

JACK

(worried)

Yea, and in a few minutes this cavern  
will become flooded.

JENNY

We must take some of this back with  
us, so not all of it is lost forever.

Jack quickly removes his backpack followed by Jenny removing  
her backpack. Together they reach down and stuff handfuls  
of emeralds into their backpacks. Jenny grabs gold figurines  
and sticks them in her backpack. The water is raising fast  
in the cavern.

JACK

At least we will not leave empty  
handed.

JENNY

I think it's time to get out of here  
before we are trapped.

JACK

I'm with you, lets move it.

Jack looks back one last time at the treasure trove.

FADE OUT

THE END