

Spirit of the Rain

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FADE IN:

EXT. ABOVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST - MORNING

Bright blue sky with puffy white clouds, frames an endless deep jungle below, cut only by a great green-brown river. A horse-shoe waterfall floats on mists and rainbows above the river, its waters broken by crags coated in mossy green.

An iridescent blue butterfly flutters past and is caught in the wake of MARA (fast and spirited female adult amazon blue macaw) swooping past. Mara glances over her shoulder and barrel-rolls out of sight.

MARCO (Playful and persistent adult male amazon blue macaw) pauses and hovers. He observes where Mara has gone.

MARCO

(Smirking)

Ha! I have you now! You can't  
escape the Blue Streak!

MARA

(from a distance)

You mean 'Blue Freak!'

MARCO

Hmm!

With a burst of speed and aerial acrobatics Mara dives behind the waterfall.

MARCO

Madre!.. I married a crazy person!

Marco smiles, accelerates and dives behind the falls.

Mara weaves through the falling waters and mists, banking, turning and just missing a rocky outcrop she shoots out beyond the waters and banks toward the dense jungle.

MARCO

Slalom course. Yeah!

Marco dives to follow.

Around and through narrow passages of trees and vines they fly.

Past brilliant red and blue poison frogs they streak.

Tiny marmosets laugh and wave.

OWO (A cranky old female sloth) turns and appears from under the camouflage of moss carried on her back.

OWO  
(grumbling)  
Feather-heads, always in a hurry.

Marco, in pursuit, loses sight of Mara. She's gone.

He hovers.

The jungle is SILENT.

MARCO  
(to himself)  
From 'Tag' to 'hide and seek.' I  
know your little tricks.

Marco lands on the branch of a gnarled tree and peers around the trunk.

MARCO  
Got ya!

Nothing.

A sudden push from behind knocks Marco off the branch and into the depths of the forest below.

MARA  
I don't think so!

Mara leaps into flight and shoots straight up like a rocket.

Marco regains control. He powers his way skyward.

A thunderous BANG echoes throughout the forest.

Marco hovers in mid-air above the trees.

From below, a net shoots up, WHOOSH, past Marco.

Mara falls tangled into the dense brush below.

MARCO  
Mara!

Marco's eyes widen. He dives at the falling net.

Marco sees several strange two-legged creatures on the ground below, all covered in mosquito netting.

Marco stops dead.

One of the two legged creatures looks up and stares at Marco, then disappears into the jungle, a sack hoisted on his back.

EXT. A LARGE BRANCH JUST BELOW A NEST HOLE - DAY

CHICO (Impatient and over eager fledgling amazon blue macaw) peers out of his family nest opening and edges out on a great mossy branch.

A breeze blows bits of downy white baby fluff that poke through his new adult blue feathers. He brushes the fluff from his eyes.

Chico glances over the edge into the green abyss below. He immediately withdraws, blinks a few times and steadies himself.

CHICO

Dizzy. That can't be right.

Chico looks straight ahead. He extends his right wing and then his left. He examines his new flight feathers, and shakes one wing, dislodging some of the baby fluff.

CHICO

Ugh. It'll work.

Chico tests his left wing with a slight flap. It catches the air. Chico smiles with the upward push.

CHICO

Yes!

Excited, he flaps his left wing again, but hard.

The thrust throws him off the top of the branch. He swings under and catches himself with his beak and one toe-claw.

Adolescent LAUGHTER erupts from above. An audience of two YOUNG MACAWS (Chico's annoying peers) watch from above.

1ST YOUNG MACAW

(laughing)

Nice move Fluff-Head! Did you forget you had two wings, or can't you count to two yet?

Laughter erupts again

CHICO

(through his beak)

Funny. So.... a little help here?

## 2ND YOUNG MACAW

Why don't you get the Spirit of the Rain to provide you with a ladder. Isn't that what your high priestess mom always says, "The Spirit of the Rain will provide?"

More LAUGHTER. It stops as the FLAPPING of strong wings signal that, LORENZO (Chico's great and noble father) has arrived.

Lorenzo's face appears from above. He looks down at Chico, hiding his amusement.

## LORENZO

What happened to staying inside like we agreed? It's not safe.

## CHICO

(through his beak)  
You agreed. Everyone else has been flying for weeks now!

Lorenzo hoists Chico back on top of the branch.

## LORENZO

That's because they were born weeks before you, at the time of...

## CHICO

At the 'Normal' time. I know.

## LORENZO

You were born when the red Kapok trees bloomed. That makes you special.

## CHICO

It makes me a "fluff-head."

## LORENZO

I'll make you a deal. Promise me no more venturing out alone, and I'll bump up the flying lessons. Okay?

## CHICO

When?

## LORENZO

Tomorrow morning. The first lesson will be on... eh balance.

## CHICO

Yes!

Lorenzo puts his wing around Chico and shepherds him back to the nest hole.

Marco lands nearby, panting . His, eyes wet and red.

Lorenzo looks at Marco, lowers his eyes then turns to Chico.

LORENZO

I'll be back later, son. I need to go with your uncle Marco.

CHICO

Is everything Okay?

LORENZO

Nothing you need to worry about. Stay safe. Go inside or the ground demons'll get you.

Lorenzo attempts a smile.

Chico rolls his eyes.

Lorenzo turns away.

CHICO

Dad?

Lorenzo looks at Chico.

LORENZO

Yeah, son?

CHICO

Thanks.

Lorenzo smiles for a moment then flies off with Marco.

EXT. ABOVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST - DAY

Lorenzo and Marco fly to the site of Mara's abduction.

MARCO

I see it over and over.

Lorenzo looks at Marco.

LORENZO

We'll find her, Marco.

Marco looks down.

MARCO

Now I know how the others feel. How many now?

LORENZO

Three missing and we're the only ones looking. Could they be back after so long?

Marco closes his eyes and shakes his head.

MARCO

The old stories said they would return when the forest grew silent.

LORENZO

No one believes the old stories now.

MARCO

But when have we seen, or heard another flock like ours?

LORENZO

Not for a generation.

Marco nods. He slows his flight as they arrive at the abduction site.

LORENZO

Is this it?

MARCO

Down there. There were three of them.

Lorenzo raises an eyebrow, then dives toward a branch near the ground.

Marco follows.

EXT. THE ABDUCTION SITE

Lorenzo and Marco land on a branch.

LORENZO

What else can you tell me?

MARCO

They walked on two legs like sticks. One demon was fat.

They all had spider webs over their bodies, head to toe and made swishy sounds when they walked.

LORENZO

Strange. I can't see anything from here.

Lorenzo flies down to the ground.

MARCO

Lorenzo! No. It's bad luck!

Lorenzo ignores Marco. From the ground he grabs a shiny silver key on a chain.

LORENZO

Look, Marco.

MARCO

Leave it alone.

Lorenzo flies back to Marco.

MARCO

What is it? It sparkles like the river at sunrise.

LORENZO

I don't know. I'm going to give it to Chico; a gift for his first flying lesson tomorrow.

MARCO

It might be evil.

LORENZO

Or it might be good. Just look at it. So shiny.

They both look at the object. A flash of a reflected lightning streak makes them blink.

A crack of THUNDER sounds.

MARCO

We better get back.

Lorenzo nods and they fly off.



EXT. ABOVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST - EVENING

Lorenzo and Marco fly toward their ancestral home, Macaw Island, in the middle of a remote Amazon tributary.

They glide through shafts of setting sunlight above the brown swollen river.

In the distance clouds build with the threat of rain.

LORENZO

Just this morning I told Chico to stay in the nest or the ground demons would get him.

MARCO

And he came out anyway, right?

LORENZO

Of course. The fledglings called him "fluff-head." He hates that.

MARCO

Maybe if he knew the story was true he'd have stayed inside.

LORENZO

Don't bet on it.

Lorenzo surveys the dark clouds as the first drops fall.

LORENZO

We'll keep looking tomorrow after Chico's lesson.

They arrive and hover at a great tree.

MARCO

Tomorrow at the clay cliffs?

LORENZO

Right.

Lorenzo nods, glances down and sees two strange amorphous two-legged creatures covered in mosquito netting just below.

LORENZO

Marco look! Is that them?

Marco looks down and gasps.

Lorenzo's eyes narrow and he dives straight down at the creatures.

Marco is frozen.

MARCO

Lorenzo!

The net explodes from below at Lorenzo.

MARCO

No!

Marco backs away as Lorenzo, tangled in the net, WHOOSHES skyward past Marco.

LORENZO

Marco!

As the net slows to its apogee Lorenzo throws Marco the shiny key. It drops past Marco.

LORENZO

Take this to Chico! Tell him...

Marco dives hard. He catches the key just above the brown river.

MARCO

Tell him what?

Lorenzo disappears in thick bush.

MARCO

(to himself)

I'll take it to him, Lorenzo.

He flies up, hovers and looks about.

All is silent save the approaching THUNDER.

Marco circles and looks as the shadowy humans disappear into the jungle, carrying brown sacks. He shudders.

MARCO

That's four.

He flies away, head bowed.

A few large drops of rain fall.

Lightning flashes in the distance, and thunder rolls.

INT. ALA'S NEST HOLE - SUNSET

A roomy hollow in another great tree. Last rays of the setting sun illuminate the space with golden light.

Scattered rain pelts the nearby foliage.

Chico looks out of the opening.  
He looks left and right and up and around as he hops left and right.

ALA (regal high priestess, beautiful adult blue macaw, Chico's mother) watches him from the back of the nest hole.

CHICO

Rain sucks!

ALA

Chico!

Chico glances at his mom.

CHICO

Dad promised he'd teach me to fly tomorrow. What if it rains?

ALA

You have to be patient. Rain is life. And we can't just change the weather anymore.

CHICO

Anymore?

ALA

Mm hmm. Rain by night and sun by day, or so the stories say.

Ala closes her eyes, and raises her wings in prayer.

ALA

Spirit of the Rain wake the sun to warm the day, and bring rain by night to cool the heat away.

Ala opens her eyes and smiles and blinks at Chico.

CHICO

So it'll be sunny tomorrow?

ALA

No idea.

CHICO

What? I thought... well you're the high priestess.

ALA

Only a Guardian's prayer can charm the rains dear, and they're...

CHICO

Not here anymore.

ALA

Right. Sorry

CHICO

So where did they go, anyway?

Ala SIGHS and looks away.

ALA

They came a long time ago, the demons of the ground, large things like shiny black beetles, with silver heads, walking on two stick-like legs.

Outside a distant flash, THUNDER rolls.

CHICO

Demons?

ALA

Sure you want to hear this story?

CHICO

Yeah!

EXT. THE VILLAGE OF THE GUARDIANS 500 YEARS AGO - DAY

Several Macaw elders watch from a branch above the Guardian Village clearing below.

A Guardian Priest, his wife and a few family groups stand in the center of the Guardian village of raised circular thatched huts. They are surrounded by Spanish soldiers wearing silver helmets and dressed in black armor.

A lieutenant approaches the high priest and his wife. He tears off a small gold amulet from around the high priest's neck and takes it to the commander, JUAN HIDALGO DE LA VEGA. (Middle aged, proud, arrogant Spanish conquistador with black hair, beard and eyes).

The old priest's wife grips her husband's hand. She holds another amulet. They look at each other and nod.

SPANISH LIEUTENNANT

Comandante De La Vega. This is all the gold in the village.

COMANDANTE DE LA VEGA

Hmm. A worthless expedition. Bring them. They'll be building my hacienda.

SPANISH LIEUTENNANT

Si. Comandante.

The commander examines the amulet. Its angular form glows with warm golden light. A macaw head is framed by several golden rain drops.

COMANDANTE DE LA VEGA

This will make a nice gift for my daughter.

SPANISH LIEUTENNANT

Si. Comandante.

He pockets the charm.

A soldier pokes the old priest.

The conquistadores herd the tribe from the village.

The macaw elders look from above and bow their heads.

BACK TO SCENE

ALA

The Guardians never returned. Since then the spirits do as they choose, one season for the Spirit of the Rain and one season for the Spirit of the Sun. Wet and dry.

A FLAP of wings outside.

Chico turns toward the opening where Marco has landed.

CHICO

Dad!

Chico looks puzzled.

MARCO  
(panting)  
They took him! Nearly got me too.

Ala pulls Chico closer.

MARCO (CONT'D)  
Boom! Like thunder from the ground.  
... Couldn't do anything.

Ala bows her head and leans on the wall of the hollow for support.

CHICO  
Dad? No, no. He was teaching me to  
fly tomorrow. He can't be...

Chico looks at Marco. A tear starts from one eye.  
Ala puts a wing around Chico and gathers him close.

MARCO  
...gone, I'm afraid.

Marco holds up the shiny key by its string and hangs it on a twig-hook by the nest opening.

MARCO  
He was bringing you this. We found  
it where Mara fell. It's a gift for  
your first flying lesson.

A warm glint of last light flashes into Chico's eyes. He raises his head.

The rain slows.

Chico stares through wide, tear-filled eyes.

The key sparkles in last light. Reflected far away lightning flashes flicker in the gloom.

Ala widens her eyes.

MARCO  
He wanted me to tell you something.  
He was gone before ....

Chico and Ala look at Marco.  
Marco turns away for a moment.

ALA  
Marco, have they returned?

MARCO

(looking back at Ala)

I think so. I'm sorry, Ala. It's getting dark. Let me know if you...

Ala steps toward Marco with a wing tip.

ALA

Thank you Marco. The Spirit of the Rain will provide.

With a glance at Chico, Marco nods at Ala. He flies off.

Chico sits in silence.

Ala folds her wings around him. They look out of the nest opening into the last rays of sun.

The key reflects the last gold glimmers of light on to Chico's face.

Lightning flashes break the gathering darkness.

Clouds drown the last light.

CHICO

I'll find you, dad. Somehow...

The rain falls outside. Thunder rolls.

EXT. THE BASE OF A GIANT TREE - EARLY MORNING

Golden rays of light illuminate the mists near the damp forest floor.

YAKO (dark, handsome, young, lean, long-hair, native, self taught wildlife biologist) stands in a misty shaft of light at the base of a large tree. He closes his eyes tilts his head back and breathes in the warm moist air.

YAKO

Thanks for this fresh new morning.  
Bless my Guardian Ancestors for  
this life. Thanks to the Wind Lords  
for carrying this prayer to the  
Spirit of the Rain, who has  
provided all of this.

Yako opens his eyes, drinks in his surroundings and steps up to the tree directly ahead.

YAKO

Okay tree I'm going to climb you  
now. Please don't drop me.

He pulls a leather strap out of his back pack and fixes it  
between his ankles.

With a bear hug around the tree trunk Yako pushes with his  
feet and pulls with his arms. He climbs up.

He sings as he climbs.

60 feet up he stops at a large hole in the trunk.

Yako peeks in and smiles.

He reaches into a special pocket in his pack and brings out a  
fluffy, wide-eyed, fat and funny looking blue macaw chick.

He places it in the nest and retrieves an egg.

YAKO

They'll praise the spirits for  
giving them such a healthy and fast  
growing little guy.

He slips down the tree.

At the bottom he takes off the strap and strides to another  
giant tree. He bows his head for a moment.

YAKO

Hello tree. I'm back. Don't drop  
stuff on me..

He fixes the strap to his ankles and climbs.

At 80 feet Yako doesn't see AMOR (Young, mischievous,  
flirtatious, lovely blue macaw)

Amor's blue feathered face appears from a nest hole high  
above. She drops a well-aimed large and very hard palm nut on  
Yako's head.

YAKO

Ouch!

Amor's face disappears into her nest hollow.

YAKO

Amor!

AMOR

Squawk.



Yako stops at the opening and scowls in.  
He breaks into a pained smile.

YAKO  
Your aim is getting better Amor,  
but could you use something softer  
next time?

Amor looks at Yako, unaffected.

AMOR  
What did you bring me?

Yako throws a weighted rope around the tree to hold himself  
and free his hands.

YAKO  
Bring you? Why would I bring YOU  
anything when you just beaned me  
with a palm nut?

Amor tilts her head in silence.

YAKO  
Alright. I did bring you a little  
something to make you beautiful...

Amor raises an eyebrow.

YAKO  
Ah... even more beautiful. It's a  
bracelet with your name on it. It's  
quite the fashion these days.  
Everyone is wearing these.

She hangs her head out the nest hole. Her eyes widen.

AMOR  
Let me see it!

Yako smiles.

He slips the back pack down a little and takes out a shiny  
blue metal band with writing on it. It says 'Amor.'

Amor leans for it with her beak.

AMOR  
Nice!. Just my color.

Yako pulls it away.

She backs up a little with her eyes locked on it.

AMOR

What are those markings?

Yako holds it for her to see.

YAKO

That's your name in my language,  
and where I can be found in case  
you're lost and one of my kind  
finds you.

AMOR

Sweet! Put it on!

Amor puts her leg out to Yako. Yako leans in the nest and  
clips the band around Amor's leg.  
Amor leans over to Yako.

AMOR

Are we mated now?

Yako flinches and bumps his head on the opening.

YAKO

Ow, Ow, Ow again!

Yako rubs his head.

YAKO

Aren't you a little young for that?  
Besides, I'm a HUMAN not a Macaw.  
You need to find yourself a nice  
young macaw boyfriend.

Amor blinks and tilts her head sideways.

AMOR

Hmm. Know anyone cute?

Yako feels the bump on his head and looks sideways at Amor.

YAKO

Sometimes you scare me, Amor.

Amor admires her new fashion statement.

YAKO

Well you have your present, and I  
have mine... a couple of them.

He touches the bumps then looks at his fingertips.

YAKO

I should go before your foster  
mother comes back. Adios Amorsita.

Yako slides down the tree.

EXT. PET TRAPPER'S CAMP - DAY

Three grungy tents sag in a hacked out clearing.  
Beer cans and junk food wrappers lay around cages with  
several trapped Blue Macaws.

EMIL (middle aged, short, greedy, nasty, swarthy, pet  
trapper) chomps on a huge cigar as he looks into Lorenzo's  
cage. FLACO (huge gut, sweaty, pet trapper) swats a mosquito.  
MOQUITO (slow, thin, pet trapper) sits on the ground and  
leans against some cages with a slouch-hat over his eyes.

FLACO

Stupid mosquitos. I'm beginning to  
wonder if this is worth the  
trouble. The last one took at least  
a pound of me.

Emil looks up, grins.

EMIL

You should hope he takes a few  
more.

MOQUITO

Wear your mosquito nets.

FLACO

Too hot.

EMIL

That's good. You might melt some of  
that belly.

He slaps Flaco on his gut.  
Emil points at the birds.

EMIL

Remember, these are worth twenty  
thousand Soles each. Capture enough  
and you can retire to a fat farm.

Flaco whacks another mosquito.

FLACO

... if there is any of me left  
after these bugs. And shouldn't we  
leave some of the birds...

Emil gives Flaco the evil eye.

Flaco shuts up.

Moquito lifts his hat with a finger.

MOQUITO

You know, something was in my tent  
last night. It smelled very bad.

Emil stuffs Moquito's hat over his head.

EMIL

That was you, idiot. You haven't  
bathed in three weeks.

Emil jerks away from Moquito.

MOQUITO

The piranhas would eat me.

EMIL

(snorting sarcastically)  
I'm sure they have better things to  
eat.

MOQUITO

But really. I have the feeling we  
are being watched.

Emil glares at him.

EMIL

Estupido. There's no one out here  
but us.

EXT. A BRANCH ABOVE EMIL'S HEAD

Two tiny adult pygmy marmosets PACHA (tiny male pygmy  
marmoset, brave, quick, steady), MAMA (his mate, shy, sharp)  
and a baby KUAJI (adorable and wide eyed) who clings to mom,  
watch the pet traders from their branch above Emil's head.

Pacha watches the traders and eats cotton candy beans from a  
long pod. He pops the fluffy white-coated bean into his  
mouth, strips off the sweet cottony stuff and spits out the  
bean.

PACHA

Hmm. Kind of like big, ugly fur-less monkeys, but they don't climb. Really weird, these things.

He looks at Mama, who nods and pinches her nose.

MAMA

Oof. Smelly too. Look, they have some of the Wind Lords.

Mama picks a flea from her squirming fur ball, Kuaji, who clutches her around the neck.

She feeds him the flea.

MAMA (CONT'D)

We should tell the Wind Lords about these things. Kuaji was born in one of their old nesting holes. It's the least we can do.

Kuaji looks out from Mama's embrace and CHIRPS.

Pacha groans.

PACHA

That's really a long way, sweetie.

MAMA

But we owe it to them.

Pacha looks at Mama and spits out a bean.

The bean drops and lands squarely on Emil's head.

EMIL

Ow.

Pacha's eyes widen.

Pacha and Mama look down just as a chunk of dead branch flies up and hits the couple's perch.

Mama, Kuaji and Pacha are flung into the air.

Mama manages to grab a branch with one hand and Kuaji with the other.

Pacha drops into Emil's pocket.

Emil sticks a beefy finger into his pocket and retrieves the terrified Pacha.

Pacha clings to the finger and closes his eyes.

Emil chuckles

EMIL (CONT'D)  
Heh. Now that is cute.

Emil holds up Pacha to show the other trappers.

EMIL (CONT'D)  
What a teeny weeny, fuzzy wuzzy  
little cutie.

Pacha opens one eye.

The other pet trappers look askance at Emil.

EMIL (CONT'D)  
What! You think I can't be  
sensitive? I'm a sensitive guy!

The other trappers smile halfheartedly at Emil and look at each other.

Pacha opens both eyes.

EMIL (CONT'D)  
You're just like my little fuzzy  
bear when I was a ...

Pacha bites Emil's finger, jumps onto his nose and leaps to the top of his head. He looks up.

Mama, with Kuaji, swing to the rescue on a vine, grabs Pacha by the arm and they fly off.

Pacha waves at Emil, smiles and sticks out his tongue as they disappear into the jungle.

They land on a safe branch.

PACHA  
Okay. You convinced me. We'll go  
tell the Windlords.

Mama smiles and nods.

Kuaji CHIRPS.

EXT. ALA'S NEST HOLE - MORNING

Golden light fills the nest opening.

A few drops of water fall from nearby leaves after last night's rain.

Ala looks in at Chico as he wakes.

ALA

Chico, m'hijo. With your father gone it will take me longer to gather food. Stay inside. Don't worry, the Spirit of the Rain will provide. It always has.

Ala pauses to look at Chico, steps out and flies off.

Chico waits for the wing-beats to fade and lunges to the opening.

He grabs the chain and key that hangs by the opening.

He places it around his neck and looks out.

CHICO

If I'm going to find you, dad, I gotta learn now, lessons or no lessons.

Chico climbs out on the lip of the opening, and eases himself down to the limb just below the nest.

The bright light of morning makes him squint.

He looks down and shudders.

CHICO

This is crazy. I can't do this by myself.

A deep tunnel of shadowy shapes and dappled light undulate in the forest below.

Chico swoons and looks back at the opening to the nest hole.

He pauses.

Chico looks away and flaps his wings a few times.

He flaps faster and sways side to side.

CHICO

Balance! Okay. Yeah!

He heaves and flaps with mighty strokes. Bits of downy fluff fly off.

He grips the branch.

Chico's feet lift slightly off the branch.

CHICO

Yes!

OWO (Old Wise One, the cranky female three toed sloth) hangs up side down below the branch, camouflaged by moss on her back, and unseen by Chico.

OWO

Hey! Who's making the racket down there?

Chico looks up.

He loses balance and flings himself around the branch.

He grabs hold with his beak and both feet.

Chico hangs upside down, eyes shut tight, and face to face with Owo.

CHICO

(through his clenched  
beak)

Not again!

OWO

Ah. A young feather head. Nice of you to drop in. So what was all the ruckus about!

Chico opens one eye wide.

Chico's beak is clamped to the branch.

CHICO

Ah! I was trying to..

OWO

What, drive me nuts?

Chico looks at Owo nose to nose.

CHICO

No, I just... eh. What are you, anyway?... a tree spirit?

Chico looks at the mossy branch.  
He looks at Owo's matching mossy back.

Owo LAUGHS.



OWO

Oh, you mean the moss? Watch this.

Owo demonstrates. She hugs the tree tightly and virtually disappears as she becomes a lump of moss.

CHICO

That's cool.

Owo moves and reappears.

OWO

They call me "Old Wise One."  
Technically I'm a sloth, of the  
three-toed variety.

Owo slowly extends her arm with three massive claws on the end.

Chico leans into the branch and grabs it tighter in his beak.

OWO

And who exactly are you?

CHICO

Uh, Chico. I'm Chico.

Chico's chain shifts.

It dangles below his neck.

OWO

Hah! And what do we have here?

Owo's eyes widen, then narrow. She extends her great claw and pulls it closer.

Chico chokes a bit.

CHICO

Hey. You're pulling me off the ...

OWO

Quiet. Where did you get this?

CHICO

Uh, My dad. It was supposed to be a  
present for my first flying lesson.  
But ...

OWO

Hmm. Another one gone. Bad. Very  
bad.

Chico strains to get loose. He Fails.

Owo examines the key.

CHICO  
Could you let go? Please.

Owo lets go of the key chain.

Chico nearly loses his grip.

A gust of wind rattles the leaves.

Owo looks up and around, widens and narrows her eyes and nods. She looks back to Chico.

OWO  
Or maybe this is good thing.

CHICO  
How is this a good thing?

OWO  
The spirits of the green world have a job for you, Chico. But first you need to fly.

Chico nods and COUGHS.

OWO  
I can teach you.

CHICO  
You? Teach me to fly? Right!

Owo peers at him.

OWO  
Old Wise One, remember? Anyway, you already know how to fly.

He glares at Owo.

CHICO  
If I did I wouldn't be hanging down... ah... or up here with you.

OWO  
Mind your manners, fluff-head.

Chico's eyes narrow.

CHICO  
Don't call me...

With lightning speed Owo swats Chico off the branch.

He falls down through the forest canopy and into the deep dark green below and disappears.

CHICO

Ahhhhh!

Owo watches. Her long neck stretches out as Chico falls.

She hooks her arm on the branch.

She rolls her eyes and looks down into the abyss.

OWO

He's a little dense, but he does have that key, and he was born with the KapoK flowers. Maybe this **is** the time. Maybe he's the one... or not.

EXT. FOREST CANOPY

On the way down Chico flaps like mad.

He crashes through leaves and twigs that knock off the baby fluff, then gains control and rises up to Owo.

RETURN TO SCENE WITH OWO AND CHICO

CHICO

Why did you do that? I could'a been killed!

Owo smiles and nods at Chico.

OWO

Ha! Told ya you knew how to fly. Hey, and no more fluff!

Chico looks at his wings.

CHICO

Woo hoo! Look at me!

Chico whirls around in mid-air and nearly loses control.

Owo reaches out and grabs the key on the chain.

Chico grabs the side of the branch again for dear life.

CHICO

Hey!

OWO

Not so fast! This thing belongs to those who took your father and the others.

Chico's eyes widen.

CHICO

The Demons?

Chico struggles to get rid of the key.

Owo stops him.

OWO

No! This thing can free them all.

Owo holds up the key.

CHICO

But it's full of demon magic!

OWO

Not demons. **Humans**. They've been here before.

CHICO

The Guardians. They took the Guardians didn't they?

OWO

Very good young tree hopper.

CHICO

I gotta find these evil humans and get my Dad back.

OWO

It's bigger than just your dad. They will take you, your mother and everyone else too if they can. Are you sure about this?

Chico's eyes glaze.

CHICO

I have to, but I'm alone.

OWO

Alone? Who said you're alone? The spirits are all around. They'll help you. Just find them and ask.

Owo smiles.

CHICO

So what do I do now? Where do I go?

OWO

(in grandiose tone)

On this path you've chosen, you'll find friends and allies you never imagined. You'll go where you've never been...

Owo gestures with her long arm.

CHICO

I've never been anywhere.

OWO

Mm. Right. Guess that was an easy one. So who saw your father last?

CHICO

Uncle Marco.

OWO

Start there. At the clay cliffs.

Chico looks sidelong at Owo.

Owo winks and points to her head.

OWO

'Old Wise One.'

Chico nods.

CHICO

Okay, then. The clay cliffs.

Chico lets go of the branch again, falls but rises almost immediately.

Owo gives him a wink.

He flies off.

OWO

Uh!

Owo points with her claw in the opposite direction.  
Chico circles around.

CHICO  
Right. Thanks Owo.

OWO  
Don't mention it ...to anyone.

Chico flies off in the right direction.

Owo shakes her head.

OWO  
(to herself)  
... and he's supposed to be the  
one? I hope the spirits are right.

A gust of wind rustles the leaves. Owo looks up and around.

OWO  
Alright. If you say so. I'll get  
started. Rush, rush, rush.

EXT. BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION - MORNING

Yako carries two buckets of bird food to the nursery cages near the central clearing of the research station. His long black hair, old shirt and khaki shorts are covered in bits of down.

The large fluffy baby macaws squawk and flap as he approaches with the breakfast bucket.

A THWAP THWAP THWAP of a helicopter drowns out the noisy chicks.

A sleek black helicopter lands in the central clearing. Its motor slows to a stop.

The pilot opens the passenger door. A young government woman, CARMEN LONDONO DE LA VEGA (tautly dressed, hair tight in a bun and dressed in expensive designer business attire, steps carefully out, on her high heels.

Yako walks toward the helicopter.

Carmen approaches Yako.

CARMEN  
I am Carmen Londono de la Vega of  
the Ministry of the Interior.

I must speak with your superior...  
Senor Yako, I believe.

Yako hesitates for a moment.

YAKO  
Uh..I'm not superior, I'm Yako.  
Uh..I mean I have no superior. It's  
just me here.

From above and behind, a suspicious Amor swoops down and  
lands on Yako's head. He smiles.

YAKO  
...And this is Amor.

Amor crouches on Yako's head, narrows her eyes and poops on  
Yako's shirt.

CARMEN  
(with disdain)  
I see.

YAKO  
To what do we owe this visit?

Amor hunches down and SQUAKS a complaint.

CARMEN  
Did you not receive my fax?

Carmen looks around, sees no power lines or modern equipment.

YAKO  
Maybe when the next supply boat  
comes... about a week, maybe.

CARMEN  
Mm.

YAKO  
Can I offer you some breakfast?

Yako raises his arm. He holds a bucket of grubs and fruit  
bits. Carmen looks in restrained horror.

YAKO  
Ah, no, I meant, you know, human  
food, inside at a table.

CARMEN  
No thank you. I'm not very hungry.

Some mosquitos begin to hover around Carmen. She tries to swat them away. They return in greater numbers.

Yako chuckles.

YAKO  
They seem to like imported food.

Carmen frowns. Her eyes narrow.

CARMEN  
Perhaps I should change into something more appropriate. Then we can talk.

YAKO  
Yes! Absolutely! There is a guest hut over there.

Yako points at a dilapidated grass hut on stilts.

Carmen looks at the cabin and frowns, signals her pilot to bring her bags and stomps off towards the cabin.

She stops to instruct the pilot.

CARMEN  
(Imperiously)  
24 hours. Don't be late.

PILOT  
Si senora.

Carmen storms off to the cabin.

The pilot grabs the bags and runs to follow.

She slams the door and dislodges some of the outer thatch.

Yako looks dismayed, but interested.

YAKO  
24 hours. Dios mio Amor, she's really... I mean...

Amor hovers in front of Yako, then slaps him in the face with one of her wings.

She flies off.

YAKO  
Ow!. What was that for?



EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST CANOPY - DAY

Endless trees of various heights give way to great mountains far to the west. The brown-green river is below.

Chico practices his swoops and turns.

He nearly hits a branch.

He rises to join other BLUE MACAWS.

Chico bumps into one of the young macaws who taunted him yesterday.

1ST YOUNG MACAW  
Hey. Look who's flyin'

The second young macaw flies up and flanks Chico's other side.

2ND YOUNG MACAW  
Fluff-head! What's up?

CHICO  
Hey guys. I need to get to the clay cliffs.

1ST YOUNG MACAW  
Clay cliffs. Boring! We have a better idea.

The first macaw blinks at the second.

They each grab Chico by a wing and all three dive towards a floating log below.

The log has eyes.

Just above the swimming cayman they release Chico.

Chico skids onto the cayman's back just as the creature's great mouth begins to open wide.

Chico barrel rolls head over tail toward the snout that rises up like a ramp. He rolls up the snout and back into the air.

The two macaws latch on to Chico's wings again.

1ST YOUNG MACAW  
Not bad, fluff-head.

2ND YOUNG MACAW  
Yeah. That deserves a fast trip to the clay cliffs.

The two macaws, with Chico in tow, fly fast toward the clay cliffs but swerve toward the hanging basket nest of a great Oropendola bird.

They release Chico.

He rockets into the hanging nest. It's propelled in a great arc up and over the branch.

On the down turn Chico is flung out of the nest forward, out of control.

He hurtles toward the throng of birds perched on the clay cliffs, as the two young macaws watch with glee.

EXT. THE CLAY CLIFFS - DAY

On a wide ledge, Amor and two of her girl friends chat and gossip.

GIRLFRIEND 1

(To Amor)

That guy, over there, likes you.

She nods toward a clueless male macaw nearby.

Girlfriend 2 GIGGLES.

Amor SIGHS.

AMOR

Really? I want to feel like he  
could knock me over with a feather.

CHICO

(panicked and from behind  
Amor)

Look out! Can't stop!

Chico barrels, out of control, toward the red cliffs.

Amor turns to look.

Chico crashes into Amor. They tumble, with Amor ending up on top of Chico, who lies on his back on the clay ledge. Chico's shiny key necklace has tied Amor to him.

CHICO

(up at Amor)

Have you seen my uncle Uncle Marco?

A wave of LAUGHTER ripples through the flock.

GIRLFRIEND 2

(smirking)

Knocked her over all right.

The two girlfriends look at each other, laugh and fly off.

CHICO

Ow! Sorry.

AMOR

What was that?

Amor untangles herself from Chico and the necklace.

Amor sees the shiny key.

AMOR

Hm, that's nice.

Chico dusts himself off, but doesn't look up.

CHICO

Owo didn't teach me how to stop.

AMOR

(Still looking at the key)

Owo?

CHICO

Owo. Old Wise One? The sloth?

AMOR

(Looking at Chico)

A sloth?

Chico looks up at her. He freezes.

Amor checks Chico's head with her wing tip.

CHICO

(dazed)

Ah, my flight teacher ...

Amor just stares and cocks her head.

CHICO

She's a really smart sloth.

Amor laughs.

AMOR

You're funny. That's not something  
you hear every day.

Chico smiles.

CHICO

Yeah.

Chico stares at Amor.

AMOR

And your uncle Marco hasn't been here. Two more disappeared this morning.

CHICO

(loudly)

What? Uncle Marco was taken?

Nearby elders stare at Amor and Chico.

AMOR

Keep your voice down. The flock doesn't speak of those things.

CHICO

Someone has to. I'm losing my family. My dad was taken, aunt Ala... Now uncle Marco? Is my mom here?

Chico scans the crowd.

Amor looks at Chico.

AMOR

What are you saying?

CHICO

I'm gonna find my family. I'm gonna get 'em back!

A hush comes over the crowd.

Amor's eyes widen.

Chico looks around at the staring crowd.

Amor pulls Chico aside.

AMOR

You don't want to anger the elders.

Several elders look at Chico.

AMOR

Just follow my lead, Okay?

Chico nods.

Amor pulls at the shiny key around Chico's neck.

Chico looks left and right.

Amor winks at him.

AMOR

(loudly)

That's a nice necklace you have there. It would go nicely with my shiny blue bracelet.

Amor shows Chico the blue metal ID ring around her leg.

He steps back, faces her and looks her over.

CHICO

(loudly)

Yeah, Um, it was a gift from my dad. You like it?

Amor fluffs her wings.

Chico looks over at the nosey elders.

Amor pulls him back.

The elders return to their discussions.

Chico gets closer to Amor.

CHICO

(quietly)

Careful with that. Owo says it can save everyone.

AMOR

(quietly)

From what?

CHICO

Uncle Marco called them ground demons.

AMOR

(loudly)

Ground demons? From the stories?

She steps back and looks him over.

Chico looks down.

The elders glance over at them.

CHICO  
I'm Chico, by the way.

AMOR  
(whispering)  
Amor. What do you know about the  
Ground Demons?

CHICO  
(whispering)  
Just that they came a long time ago  
and took the Guardians.

The birds around Amor and Chico fall quiet and stare.

Amor and Chico glance at the flock.

Amor's eyes widen. She straightens.

AMOR  
So what are you planning to do?

CHICO  
I don't exactly know yet.

The elders look in their direction.

Amor whispers.

AMOR  
They think you're crazy.

CHICO  
Great.

Chico looks away.

Amor leans in toward Chico.

AMOR  
Crazy can be nice.

Chico turns to Amor with wide eyes and a slight smile.

CHICO  
I was hoping they could help?

AMOR  
They won't help you, but I will.  
I'm not like all the others.

Chico gazes at her.

CHICO  
No. You're beautiful.

Amor smiles.

AMOR  
I know. But what I mean is that I  
have connections.

CHICO  
Connections?

Amor whispers.

AMOR  
Yes. Someone you need to meet. But  
first let's talk somewhere more  
private.

CHICO  
Okay.

The two fly off together.

An elder WHISPERS to a younger LIEUTENANT.

The lieutenant waits a moment then flies after the couple.

EXT. ABOVE THE RIVER - MORNING

Chico and Amor play at aerial acrobatics. Amor leads and  
Chico follows clumsily.

The lieutenant follows at a distance and nearer to the trees.

Amor notices. She flies to Chico's side.

AMOR  
Chico. Don't look but there's a spy  
on our tails.

CHICO  
What? Why?

AMOR  
All that talk about going after the  
demons.

CHICO  
What do we do?

AMOR

Lose him. Keep going I'll draw him  
off.

CHICO

No. Wait. I just learned a little  
maneuver that might do it.

The lieutenant watches as Chico and Amor split off in mid  
flight.

Chico flies left and Amor flies to the right. They arc back  
behind the lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT

(to himself)

What are they doing?

The lieutenant hovers, watching.

Amor and Chico complete their turn and power forward toward  
the confused lieutenant. They flank him and each grab a wing  
tip.

They drag him forward toward the hanging nest of the great  
Oropendola bird.

The Lieutenant struggles.

LIEUTENANT

Stop! You can't...

The Lieutenant breaks free and turns just before smashing  
into the nest.

He hovers by the hanging nest.

Amor and Chico break left and right. They look over their  
shoulders and dash away.

LIEUTENANT

Hah. I invented that game. Can't  
stop me that easily.

The Lieutenant hears a loud AWK from above.

The great and angry mother Oropendola stares down at him.

She spreads her black wings and long yellow tail and takes  
after the Lieutenant, chasing him back towards the clay  
cliffs.

Chico and Amor look back and smile.



AMOR

Not bad.

CHICO

Teamwork!

They laugh and continue on.

INT. THATCHED OPEN-AIR LANAI AT THE RESEARCH STATION -  
MORNING

Beneath the thatched roof of the lanai, Yako sweeps and straightens up around a small rustic dining table.

He rushes in to an adjacent kitchen shack and returns with a small platter of fresh cut mangos and shelled brazil nuts.

YAKO

There. Oh!... some plates and  
napkins and...

Yako disappears again into the kitchen shack.

PABLITO (A thieving young black and gold keel-billed toucan), looks over the edge of the thatched roof and flies down to the plate of food.

He grabs several pieces of mango and some brazil nuts and, one by one, pops them into the air with his colorful, enormous beak and lets them fall down his gullet.

He looks about and flies off.

Yako returns with the plates.

YAKO

What else, maybe a little cheese. I  
hope it's not rotten yet.

Yako glances a moment at the fruit plate, pauses, and is off to the kitchen.

Pablito appears again. He devours all but a few bits of fruit and a brazil nut.

Yako returns, puts the cheese down and sees the devastated plate. He turns to look for the culprit.

YAKO

Pablito, you little thief! Just  
wait 'til....

Pablito sneaks behind Yako and grabs some cheese.

Something approaches from in front of Yako.

Pablito's eyes widen and he flies off.

Carmen makes her entrance.

Yako's jaw slackens.

Carmen is dressed in the latest designer khaki jungle-wear and covered from hat to boots, finger tip to finger tip in a fine cloud of mosquito netting.

CARMEN

Senor Yako. Who are you speaking with?

Yako stares a moment. He stifles a laugh.

YAKO

Ah... Uh... No one. Just a little... Uh... I made us a snack.

Yako grabs the nearly empty fruit plate and shoves it in Carmen's net-covered face.

CARMEN

Oh. No thank you. If you don't mind I'd like to see what you do here, and then we can talk.

YAKO

Sure. Welcome to the Guardian Biological Research Station. Right this way.

Yako leads Carmen off to begin the tour.

EXT. ABOVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST NEAR RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

Trees shroud a green-brown river below. Puffy white clouds dot the sky as far as the eye can see.

Chico follows Amor's lead as they fly towards a jungle clearing near the base of the great waterfall.

Mists from the falls mix with sunlight and paint rainbows in the air.

Amor flies close to Chico.

AMOR

There's a special place where we  
can talk. It's beautiful there.  
It's a sacred place, so it'll be  
private.

Amor speeds up and Chico follows.

CHICO

Private?

EXT. RAIN FOREST CLEARING NEAR THE GREAT WATERFALL

Misty, painterly impressions of lavender orchid flowers blend  
with forest greens.

Amor and Chico land on a branch near the edge of the  
clearing. Iridescent butterflies of many colors flutter up  
and away.

Chico looks all around in awe, as Amor edges close to him.

AMOR

Amazing isn't it? So romantic.

CHICO

What is this place?

Amor gestures out with a spread wing.

AMOR

This is the home of the Spirit of  
all Colors. All the colors of the  
world are born here. See the  
butterflies?

Chico looks at the multi-colored butterflies that rise from  
all around.

CHICO

Yeah.

AMOR

They bring the colors to the rest  
of the world. Without them  
everything would be grey.

They admire the scene.

A red butterfly lands on Chico's beak and it turns instantly  
red.

Amor giggles.

CHICO

What?

AMOR

See, your nose is red.

Chico looks cross-eyed at his nose.

CHICO

Oh... that's not right.

AMOR

Don't worry. It'll turn back. Red's not your color.

Amor sweeps the butterfly off with her wing tip.

Chico's beak turns black again.

CHICO

Whew!

Amor points a large blue morpho butterfly.

AMOR

There. See the great blue butterfly? Legend says our color came from her.

Chico looks closely at Amor and the yellow around her nose.

CHICO

What about this yellow color?

Amor steps away and closes her eyes.

Chico steps back from her.

EXT. LOG AT RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

TILAC (large brown adult female macaw with straight beak) stands on the log and gazes at her reflection in the brown river water.

AMOR (V.O.)

A long time ago Tilac, the mother of our kind, was brown like the river and her nose was straight and pointed.

A large blue butterfly lands nearby on a twig.

Tilac's eyes lock on the butterfly and she lunges at it.

The butterfly flits off at great speed.

Tilac chases the butterfly through the forest to the clearing of all colors.

AMOR (V.O.)

One day Tilac saw the great blue butterfly by the river. She tried to eat it, but it escaped and flew to this place. Tilac chased the butterfly and was about to catch it.

The BLUE BUTTERFLY slows.

AMOR (V.O.)

But just as she was about to eat it, the butterfly spoke to her.

BLUE BUTTERFLY

Set me free and I will make you as blue and as beautiful as the sky.

Tilac stops.

AMOR (V.O.)

Tilac agreed.

The butterfly lands on Tilac's head, and a deep azure blue washes away her brown color.

AMOR (V.O.)

The great blue butterfly, who was really the Spirit of all Colors, flew to the top of Tilac's head and the blue of the summer sky washed over her like the waters of the great falls.

BACK TO SCENE

Amor opens one eye and looks at Chico's face.

Chico leans back a little.

CHICO

What about her straight nose?

AMOR  
Getting to that.

BACK TO SCENE

Tilac, now all blue, looks at her wings and flies up and up.

Tilac swerves and banks. Her eyes are closed as she approaches the great glowing SUN SPIRIT. She crashes headlong into him.

AMOR (V.O.)  
Tilac flew high and fast into the  
sky and crashed right into the Sun  
Spirit and bent her nose.

CHICO (V.O.)  
I know how that feels.

Chico rubs his beak.

Amor smiles.

AMOR (V.O.)  
The Sun Spirit turned and smiled at  
the one who could fly so high.

SUN SPIRIT  
You are the first, my child, to fly  
so high, and the only one as blue  
as the sky. Words and prayers from  
the ones below you will bring to  
share with us on high. From now  
until the world grows dim will you  
and your kind be the lords of the  
sky.

BACK TO SCENE

AMOR  
The sun spirit kissed Tilac here.

Amor leans toward Chico's face, as if for a kiss, and points to the yellow ring around her nose.

Chico is mesmerized, steps back into empty space and falls out of sight.

CHICO (O.S.)  
Ahhhh.

Amor steps to the edge and looks down.

AMOR

Oops.

EXT. WEAVER'S GULLY - MOMENTS LATER

A deep dark grotto of rock, tangled vines, ferns and flowers.  
A vast spider web blankets the scene.

Amor peeks down from high above.

Chico falls into the grey tangle of web.

CHICO

The demon's got me!

Out from the shadows steps WEAVER (a giant bearded Goliath  
Bird-Eater spider fourteen inches across).

Chico struggles in the web.

Weaver reaches to grab him as Chico wiggles away.

WEAVER

Nope. Old Weaver's got ya now. Hey!  
Stop squirming. You're a messin' up  
my web.

Weaver stops to complain.

WEAVER

That's the trouble with prey these  
days. No respect for workmanship.

Chico slows his struggle.

CHICO

Web?

Weaver crosses his front four legs.

WEAVER

Yeah. You know. The web you just  
got yourself stuck in. The web  
you're messing up with all that  
wiggling. The web that has my  
dinner in it!

Weaver waves two of his crossed legs.

Chico looks at the web left and right.

CHICO  
What Dinner?

WEAVER  
You're a little dense, boy.

Chico looks at Weaver.

Weaver leans in to Chico and looks him over.

WEAVER  
Boy! If Martha were only here to see this. Things might 'a been different.

CHICO  
Martha?

Weaver sits back and crosses four of his legs.

WEAVER  
The wife. You know she threatened to eat me one time. That's the trouble with females. Testy! Unpredictable!

Weaver waves all four front legs.

WEAVER (CONT'D)  
A little romantic dinner. Everything's going just right, then boom; She tries to sink her fangs into you. What's that about, anyway?

Weaver stands on all eight legs and leans in toward Chico, who pushes his head back as far as he can.

CHICO  
So what did you do?

Weaver spreads three legs out. One points up.

WEAVER  
I took off. Skeedaddled! Out 'a there!

Weaver leans back and forth.

WEAVER  
She was twice as big as me and had fangs out to here.



He stretches two legs up and two legs out in front of himself.

WEAVER

What a woman!

Amor swoops down, landing behind Weaver.

WEAVER

Speak of the devil...

Amor ignores Weaver.

AMOR

What's taking you so long?

She leans in at Chico.

CHICO

Oh, I got a little tied up. Mr. Weaver here wants me over for dinner.

Weaver grabs his web. He chuckles.

WEAVER

No, no, no, kid. You're not gettin' it. You **are** dinner.

Amor turns to Weaver.  
She puts her face in his face.

AMOR

Not with my boyfriend you don't.

Weaver cringes.

She looks back where the web attaches to a bush and clips a line.

Weaver spins around, waving his legs about.

WEAVER

Oh no! No! Ya don't wanna do that.

Chico's eyes widen.

CHICO

Boyfriend?

Amor glares at Weaver, steps to another line then clips it.

WEAVER

No! Not that one.

The web rolls up over Weaver and Chico.  
It traps him face-out against Chico's chest. Weaver's legs go limp.

Weaver tilts several of his eyes toward Chico.

WEAVER

See what they do? They get you all  
flustered and all wrapped up in  
their web, then they eat you.

Chico struggles with little movements.

CHICO

I don't think she is going to eat  
us, Weaver.

Amor looks at Weaver.

WEAVER

Oh... she looks like a mean one!

AMOR

I won't eat you if you promise not  
to eat Chico.

Weaver relaxes.

WEAVER

Dang. Oh. Alright. I promise.

Amor frees them.

Weaver looks at the remains of his web.

WEAVER

Ya know, I could have eaten for a  
week with you. Just look at this  
mess. It'll take me that long to  
fix this.

Chico puts a wing on Weaver's hairy back.

CHICO

Sorry.

Weaver looks at Chico.

WEAVER

What were you doin' up there  
anyway? Your kind don't usually  
just drop in like that.

Chico adjusts his wings.

CHICO

Uh-well...

Amor opens her wings a bit.

WEAVER

Ah! ...I get it. 'Nuff said.

AMOR

We were trying to figure out a way  
to save Chico's father from the  
stick-leg demons.

Chico looks at Amor then Weaver.

CHICO

Uh-yeah.

Weaver folds two legs and strokes his furry beard-like  
mandibles.

WEAVER

Stick-legs eh? What do they look  
like? Maybe I seen 'em around.

CHICO

Well, we're not sure, they live on  
the ground and walk on two legs.  
Somehow they reach up with  
something and tangle us until we  
fall from the sky.

Weaver sets all his legs down and perks up.

WEAVER

Tangled eh? Sounds familiar. Hmm.  
And with only two legs. Not bad.

Weaver scratches his head.

WEAVER

Must be some kind of super web that  
they sort of throw up in the air.  
Never thought a that!

Weaver puts his legs down and turns back and forth.

WEAVER

I'd sure like to see how they do  
that.

Amor looks at Weaver then Chico.

AMOR  
We should go.

CHICO  
In a minute, honey.

Amor's eyes narrow.

CHICO  
You think they're maybe like big  
two legged spiders?

Weaver looks at Chico.

WEAVER  
Maybe, except for the two legs  
part. And man, that flying web  
trick is cool!

Amor looks at Weaver.

CHICO  
Maybe you could help us out. You  
could be like our technical  
advisor.

Amor tilts her head at Weaver.

AMOR  
After all, you're the great web  
master. Right?  
(To chico)  
Okay let's go.

Chico ignores her.

Weaver raises a leg straight up.

WEAVER  
You're right there chicky. I'm the  
guy when it comes to webs. There  
was this one time...

Weaver gets four legs going and spins a mini-web.

Amor bumps Chico's side with her wing tip.

AMOR  
Uh, Weaver, we'd love to stay,  
but...

Amor tugs at Chico.

Chico doesn't move.

AMOR

But we need to go and meet someone  
right now.

She grabs Chico's wing with her beak.  
As she walks away she pulls Chico with her.

CHICO

But I want to hear...

Amor tugs on his wing hard.

CHICO

Gotta go. Maybe we'll be back later  
when we have a plan.

Amor lets his wing go.

They take to the air.

Weaver watches them as they fly away.

WEAVER

Good luck. Good riddance! I'm not  
going anywhere! I'll just be here,  
all alone, rebuilding this dang  
mess!

He turns toward his destroyed web.

EXT. OVER THE AMAZON RIVER

Brown-green water snakes below a vast forest canopy.

Chico and Amor fly above the river with Amor in the lead.

Amor looks back at Chico.

AMOR

I thought we'd never get out of  
there.

Chico looks ahead.

CHICO

He's not so bad. I sort of liked  
him. Kind of like my grandpa, only  
hairier, and uglier.

Amor shakes her head.

AMOR

He wanted to eat you!

CHICO

No one's perfect. Besides, maybe he can help.

AMOR

What would a big hairy bug know about stick-legs?

CHICO

You never know until you ask. You'd be surprised.

AMOR

Mm.

Chico sidles up close to her.

They fly together down river.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - DAY

Yako and Carmen return to the open air lunch area from the tour of the station.

They return to the dining table to sit.

YAKO

.... so the moment that little thief Pablito could fly he was causing trouble. Toucans can't resist poking their big noses into every nook and cranny looking for something to steal.

CARMEN

Senor Yako....

YAKO

Please, just call me Yako.

Carmen moves uncomfortably under the cloud of mosquito netting covering every inch of her.

CARMEN

Very well, Yako. I must tell you why I am here, but first let me get this net off. I'm a bit hot.

Carmen stands up to remove her full-body net and hat. Her long silky black hair flows down behind her.

Yako watches Carmen. He smiles a little as she removes the net and opens the top button of her khaki blouse.

A glint of light from a gold chain reveals an antique gold pendant, with a macaw and raindrops, just hidden under her blouse.

Yako's eyes widen, his face slackens and he stops blinking.

Pablito peers out from behind a wooden roof support beam. His eyes lock on the gold chain.

YAKO

So what brings you to our home in the jungle?

Yako looks at Carmen's chest and gold chain.

Carmen adjusts her blouse.

CARMEN

It would have been easier if you'd gotten the FAX. I'm sorry. I'm here to shut you down.

Yako stands.

YAKO

What? But you can't... it's too... what will happen to the flock?

CARMEN

Wait. I have 24 hours to evaluate this place for unique cultural or biological value to see if it should be a preserve, or....

YAKO

Or what?... some sort of tourist trap, w'w'ith a jungle hotel and a mini-mart?

CARMEN

Calm down. No... well, maybe. Look, tourism could help this place and it brings in a lot of....

YAKO

Who are **you** to destroy this place for money? No.

This was the land of my ancestors.  
It's the heart of the world.  
There's no way....

Pablito, from his hiding place, moves closer to his new obsession, the gold chain around Carmen's neck.

CARMEN

I'm sorry, but the government has  
to cut costs. It's my...

Pablito dives down, lands on Carmen's shoulder, and with his huge long beak reaches down Carmen's blouse and makes off with the gold charm.

Carmen SCREAMS.

YAKO

Pablito! Now you've really done it!  
(to Carmen)  
I'm so sorry. I'll get it back, I  
just have to trade him something he  
likes more.

Yako runs to the kitchen and retrieves a small butterball.

Carmen stands wide-eyed.

YAKO

Here Pablito... a nice butterball  
for you. Just put the chain on the  
table

Yako pats the table indicating where to put the chain.

Pablito peers from around a roof support pole, tilts his head and flies toward the butterball.

He circles once around and lands on the table.

He drops the chain on the table but stands close, with an eye on the chain.

YAKO

Now step away from the chain.

Pablito takes one reluctant step away. His eyes are locked on the chain and the butterball.

YAKO

Pablito. Step away.

Pablito takes one more step.



Yako approaches and places the butterball on the table near Pablito. He snatches it and flies off.

Yako picks up the chain and looks at the charm. It is very old antique solid gold with the head of a macaw, and raindrops on the side, done in the native way.

Yako stops in his tracks.

YAKO  
(amazed and upset)  
Where did you get this?

CARMEN  
My Grandfather gave it to me when I left for college. It's from when my family arrived from Spain.

Yako reaches down his shirt and pulls out an almost identical gold charm. He shows it to Carmen.

YAKO  
My mother gave this to me. It's from the time of the Guardian priests. Now I know who you are. **Your** ancestors took my people away 500 years ago. I'm the last of my people, and now you're back to destroy us again, ...to finish the job, just like the old stories said.

CARMEN  
Guardians? Grandfather told me stories, but they're a myth... natives speaking to animals, controlling the forces of the nature. Fairy tales. So you're supposed to be...

YAKO  
The last Guardian.

Yako and Carmen stare at each other.

EXT. SKY ABOVE THE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION - DAY

Chico and Amor fly in from the river. They circle the neat thatched buildings that sit on stilts in a groomed jungle clearing.

They head for a railing near the entrance to the open-air lanai.

EXT. THE LANAI

They land on the polished railing.

Chico looks down as he lands. He struggles for balance and recovers as he looks at the floor.

Yako breaks away from Carmen to greet Amor and Chico.

Chico sees Yako's two legs, and Carmen's mosquito netting and freezes.

CHICO

Stick Legs! Ground demons!

Chico grabs at Amor's wing.

Amor pulls her wing away as he flies off.

Amor looks at Yako, SIGHS, rolls her eyes and follows Chico.

EXT. TREE TOP ABOVE THE CLEARING

A tall, open tree.

Chico lands near the top.

Amor lands next to him.

CHICO

Whew, it nearly got us.

Amor looks sidelong at him and slaps him with her wing.

He nearly falls off.

AMOR

That was really rude!

CHICO

But, that was...

Amor looks straight ahead.

AMOR

That was Yako, the one I was bringing you to meet.

She turns and looks at him eye to eye.

Chico hunches down.

CHICO

But he's a...

Amor crowds Chico on the branch.

AMOR

He's a Human.

She glares at him.

CHICO

Human? Evil!... took my Dad,...  
Aunt Ala and the Guardians...

Amor looks up at the sky.

AMOR

(exasperated)

He **is** a Guardian!... He's my  
guardian. He raised me from the  
time I hatched. I was born here.

She points her wing toward Yako's building.

CHICO

What? A Guardian? But he's a human.  
How...?

AMOR

Just follow me down there. He's the  
one who can help you.

Chico nods.

They fly back to the railing below.

EXT. THE LANAI RAILING

Yako takes a few steps back. He watches as they land on the  
rail.

Chico lowers his head, feathers flaring, and glares at Yako.

Yako steps up to Amor and scratches her neck.

YAKO

Mi Amor. You didn't waste any time,  
I see.

Yako studies Chico, who paces on the rail.

AMOR  
Neither did you.

Amor glances over at Carmen, who clasps the chain of her necklace and buttons her blouse.

YAKO  
Trust me, Amor, it's not like that.

Carmen glances at Yako and the birds and hears only BIRD NOISES from Amor.

AMOR  
Hmm. Anyway, I met him at the clay cliffs. His name is Chico.

She leans to Yako as he leans down to her.

AMOR  
(in a whisper)  
Isn't he cute?

Chico leans in to eaves drop.

Yako stands up and looks at Chico.

Chico flinches.

He loses his balance on the slick rail and swings upside down.

YAKO  
... and a little clumsy too.

Chico hangs upside down. Chico's key drops from his neck onto the deck, partially hidden between the slats. Chico doesn't notice.

Pablito notices from his hiding place.

CHICO  
Ugh.

Yako steps over to Chico.

YAKO  
Here, let me help you.

He rights Chico with a simple lift.  
Chico shuffles his wings.

CHICO

Thanks.

Amor moves closer to Chico on the rail.

AMOR

See, Chico, he's not so bad.

Carmen approaches from behind Yako. She listens to their conversation but still hears only bird squawks and noises.

CARMEN

You can't be serious. Are you trying to tell me you understand these birds?... and they understand you?

YAKO

Of course. I understand them all.

CARMEN

Huh. Grandfather said the Guardian priests spoke to the animals and birds, but those were just bed-time stories.

YAKO

When I was a kid in Lima I always thought everyone could understand the animals. You should hear what the dogs say about their masters.

Carmen's eyes widen.

Yako turns to Amor.

YAKO

Amor, from now on speak in my language, like I taught you, as a courtesy to our guest, alright?

Amor narrows her eyes, looks at Carmen and hunches down.

AMOR

Fine.

Carmen's jaw drops with surprise.

Amor growls under her breath.

YAKO

So what brings you back so soon, besides showing off your new boyfriend?

Chico stands a bit taller and takes a step toward Amor.

AMOR

Things are taking the flock. They took Chico's father yesterday.

YAKO

Things? What sort of things?

CHICO

(In human language)  
Ground things.

Startled, Yako stands up.

Chico flinches.

YAKO

Chico. How do you know our language? I taught Amor, but you...

CHICO

Same way you know ours, maybe.

CARMEN

It must be a trick. You must have taught him....

Chico looks at Carmen.

CHICO

What is "trick?"

Carmen stares in amazement.

YAKO

Go on, Chico.

CHICO

Demons with stick-legs, like you, took my father, aunt Ala and maybe uncle Marco. I think others gone too.

Yako stares at Carmen.

YAKO

Carmen, these birds, and their flock are the last of their kind. They're the birds you see on that... these necklaces we have. They are the soul mates of my ancestors, the messengers to the sky spirits.

**They** are unique in all the world;  
more unique than even I imagined.

Yako looks at Chico.

CARMEN

So what's happening here? What are  
these demon stick-leg things?

Yako glares at Carmen.

YAKO

People, Carmen, who've come to  
destroy this world.

CARMEN

Who would do that?

Yako pauses and stares at Carmen.

Carmen glances away.

YAKO

Pet trappers, here for the money.  
Unless we do something they'll take  
the whole flock. They'll be gone  
for ever.

CHICO

(to Amor)

We'll be the last ones.

YAKO

Not if I can help it.

Carmen looks down.

Chico and Amor look at each other. Their eyes widen.  
They stare at Yako.

AMOR

What can we do?

Chico steps next to Amor.

Carmen steps closer to Yako.

CHICO

We have to make Pet Trappers go  
away and never come back.

Yako looks at Chico.

YAKO

We do, but it's dangerous. It would take a miracle. They can become very rich if they sell you to other humans in the cities.

Amor tilts her head.

AMOR

Rich?

YAKO

Mm. It means that they can buy more things than they really need.

Yako Glances at Carmen in her fine clothes.

Chico looks confused.

Amor looks at Carmen's jewelry.

CHICO

Hmm. That's why they come to take us?

Amor and Chico look at Yako.

YAKO

I know, it doesn't make any sense. Anyway, we don't even know where their camp is. And if we do find them they'll try to catch you, and do even worse things to me.

CHICO

So we be careful.

Chico and Amor step toward Yako.

Yako sits next to Chico on the railing.

YAKO

Well, I could pretend to be just another local tribesman cruising the river in a dugout, and you both can look from the air.

CHICO

Teamwork!

Yako sits upright.



YAKO

Right! If we do find their camp, we have to find the cages where your family are kept. And we need to meet back here before dark to figure out a plan. Agreed?

CHICO

Yes! I guess we're not so alone after all.

Amor nods.

Amor and Chico glance at each other and fly off together. Carmen grabs Yako and turns him around.

CARMEN

I'm going with you.

YAKO

NO. You're not in the city now. You're in my world. You could be...

Carmen steps closer to Yako.

CARMEN

I'm going.

YAKO

You don't have to...

CARMEN

I have my reasons. Something my Grandfather said once.

Yako looks at Carmen for a moment. Their eyes lock. Carmen's eyes gleam with a new fire.

YAKO

Alright, but you'll have to look the part.

Carmen nods and they walk off together.

EXT. THE LANAI RAILING - MOMENTS LATER

Pablito flies down from his hiding place, lands on the railing and looks down at where Chico lost his key-chain. He drops down and pulls it from between the slats. He flings the chain in the air, points his bill up and the chain slips down the bill, over his head and onto his shoulders.

He fluffs his feathers, does a little dance step and flies off in the direction of Yako and Carmen.

ABOVE THE FOREST CANOPY - DAY

River below, with trees blue sky and puffy clouds as far as the eye can see.

Amor and Chico fly together.

AMOR

We should split up. You go upriver and I'll go down. We'll cover more area.

CHICO

Right. Let's meet at the great rock near our island before we go back to Yako's place.

AMOR

That's good. Okay. See you there.

They fly off in opposite directions.

EXT. THE GREAT ROCK - DAY

A sheer granite knob, shaped like half of a giant vertical grey almond, overlooks the river.

A once massive tree lies dead against the granite point, its canopy, barren of leaves, is a tangle of perches that lies as a crown at the top of the monolith.

Pacha, Mama and Kuaji, the pygmy marmosets, scan the sky from the shadow of the dead tree.

MAMA

I hope a Wind Lord lands soon  
Pacha. Kuaji needs food and a nap.

Pacha looks at Mama as she cradles Kuaji.

PACHA

Don't worry, Mama, some of them  
always show up here in the  
afternoon.

Chico approaches from above the river.

PACHA  
See Mama, here's one now.

They huddle in the shadows as Chico lands clumsily on the tree branch, nearly tipping over.

MAMA  
How gracefully he lands.

PACHA  
Hmm... seems a little dorky,  
sweetie. Maybe we should wait for a  
more coordinated one.

Kuaji chirps in agreement.

MAMA  
Don't be silly, he's a wind lord.  
He's magnificent.

Mama smiles and raises her arms.

Pacha raises an eyebrow.

PACHA  
Well, he's what showed up. We can  
to tell him what we know. Then we  
can go home.

They leap to the limbs of the tree and jump from one to another with ease. They stop near Chico's feet.

EXT. TOP OF THE OLD TREE

Chico steadies himself on the gnarled branch.

CHICO  
(To himself)  
Boy! Land slower next time.

He gazes past the granite rim down river.

CHICO  
Amor, where are you? I was sure  
you'd already be here by now. I  
hope you had better luck.

From below, Pacha CLEARS HIS THROAT.

PACHA (O.S.)  
Oh great Wind Lord.

The wind drowns out Pacha's voice.

Chico does not respond.

MAMA  
(loud whisper)  
Yell louder!

PACHA  
(louder)  
Oh great Wind Lord!

More wind. Still no response.

PACHA  
Stupid Wind.

MAMA  
Here, try this.

Mama yells into the end of a hollow branch that leads, like a tube to about where Chico's ear is located.

MAMA  
**Hey Wind Lord!**

Mama shrugs.

CHICO  
What?

Chico looks up and around.

CHICO  
Who said that? Where are you? Are you a spirit?

PACHA (O.S.)  
We are here Lord.

Chico looks behind himself and around.

CHICO  
Two spirits? Where? Are you invisible?

PACHA (O.S.)  
Down here, Lord.  
(laughing to Mama)  
He thinks we're spirits.

Chico looks down.  
At his feet are two small blobs of fur with eyes.

He prods them with a wing feather.  
Pacha looks up with wide eyes and waves.

CHICO  
Funny little fur spirits.

MAMA  
(breathless)  
We saw them, Lord. The large, ugly,  
smelly, hairless monkey things have  
them. They're trapped!

Pacha struts around, grabs a twig and pretends to smoke it,  
sneers and pantomimes the trappers, then smiles up at Chico.

Chico shakes his head.

CHICO  
What? Wow. What are you talking  
about? Hairless monkey creatures?

MAMA  
With two legs like sticks and no  
fur.

Pacha and Mama smile.

CHICO  
Legs like sticks? The pet trapper  
camp! You know where the camp is!  
You know where my father is!

Pacha nods his head quickly.

PACHA  
Yup. We said that.

Chico spreads his wings.

CHICO  
That's great! Where is it?

Chico leans down toward Pacha.

Pacha's eyes dart.

PACHA  
(breathless)  
Well... uh... down the great rock,  
through the mossy log, over the  
spider lair, swing from the purple  
vine over the slimy gorge...

Pacha acts out the directions, gesturing and hopping about.

Chico glares at Pacha.

PACHA

What?

MAMA

He's not very good with directions,  
Lord.

CHICO

Well, I'm not like ... whatever you  
are, so ...? What are you anyway?

MAMA

We are marmosets, lord.

Kuaji chirps in agreement.

CHICO

Climb on. We're going to fly there.

PACHA

Cool!

MAMA

Is it safe?

CHICO

Absolutely. I just learned this  
morning.

Pacha and Mama look at each other and shrug. Little Kuaji  
giggles.

Mama tosses Kuaji to Pacha.

Mama jumps onto Chico's back and Pacha follows with Kuaji.

They snuggle into Chico's neck feathers and hold tight.

CHICO

Hold on! I'm getting the hang of  
this.

Chico dives past the edge of the granite cliff and down  
toward the river.

KUAJI

Wheee!

Pacha and Mama SCREAM.

Chico swoops and takes to the sky.

PACHA  
Head the way of the river.

Chico leans his head back.

CHICO  
South on the river. Right!

EXT. OVER THE AMAZON RIVER - DAY

The brown river snakes through a vastness of trees.

Chico flies with the Marmosets on his back.

Pacha points ahead.

PACHA  
Down along there, I think.

CHICO  
You think?

PACHA  
I've never seen it from the air  
before.

Chico peers ahead.  
A small blue dot makes it's way toward them.

CHICO  
It's Amor!

He flies fast.

Amor comes into view.

CHICO  
Amor. Great news!

A sharp BOOM! like thunder RINGS out ahead.

A net flies up to engulf Amor.

She tumbles out of the sky, into the brush.

CHICO  
Amor!

Chico, stops in mid-air and drops, then remembers to hover.

He flies to where Amor fell and looks down at the brush.

A short stout sneering man with a cigar glares up at him.

Chico backs off and heads for a tree just up river.

As he lands on a branch he MOANS.

Mama and Pacha look at each other.

MAMA

She was your mate?

They slide off Chico's back to the branch.

Mama holds Kuaji, who looks concerned.

CHICO

No. Maybe. I don't know.

Mama pats him on his neck.

CHICO

She said I was her boyfriend. Now she's gone just like my dad. It's my fault.

PACHA

Ahh. Uh-huh. Been there.

Mama glares at Pacha.

Pacha shuts up.

MAMA

We know where they're going, Lord.  
We'll show you the way.

Chico looks at Pacha then Mama. A tear falls from his eye.

CHICO

Don't call me Lord. My name is  
Chico. And thanks for helping me.

PACHA

That's why we're here. Your kind  
always helps us.

Chico raises his head to see the place where Amor fell.

He stands a bit straighter.

CHICO

Okay. Let's go find that camp.

Chico stretches his wings wide.

He leans down to Mama and Pacha.



Pacha and Mama jump to Chico's back.  
Mama holds Kuaji.

Pacha points down river. A small curl of smoke rises from the jungle near the river's edge.

PACHA  
That's where they'll take her.

CHICO  
Where the forest burns.

Chico, takes a breath and leaps into flight.

He turns down river towards the smoke.

EXT. THE PET TRAPPER CAMP

Piled by three tents in a rough clearing are numerous rusty cages. Some are empty, several have birds in them. No humans are there.

Chico and the Marmosets float down out of the canopy.

They lands near the cages at the edge of the clearing.

The marmosets leap to a bush.  
Pacha points at the camp.

PACHA  
Look Chico, there is no one here.  
You can free your Dad and the others.

Chico looks over to Pacha.

CHICO  
I don't know how. Only Yako knows.  
I'll have to bring him here, but  
what if they come back. I can't do  
this by myself.

The familiar voice of Owo the sloth emanates from above.

OWO (O.S.)  
You're not alone, Chico.

Chico looks around and up but sees nothing.

Pacha and Mama pull each other close.

MAMA

Spirit.

CHICO

Owo? Where...

OWO

Are you blind? I'm right here... oh  
yeah forgot the camouflage. Let me  
turn that off.

Chico looks up as Owo shakes her body. She reveals herself  
directly overhead hanging from a low branch.

Pacha and Mama OOOH and AHHHH.

OWO

Ta daaa!

CHICO

Wow. You said I'm not alone.

OWO

Think about it. Who did you meet?  
What do they know? What can they  
do? And besides, you had that key  
around your neck. That's what opens  
those doors.

Chico looks down for the key. It's gone.

CHICO

Oh no!

OWO

You DO have the key don't you?

CHICO

I lost it.

OWO

Featherheads.

Chico scans the camp and the cages.  
He turns to Pacha.

CHICO

Wait. Stay here. I think I see my  
dad.

MAMA

Be careful.

Chico nods then turns to fly to the cages.

## THE CAGES

Dilapidated, rusty metal cages.

Chico looks from cage to cage as he lands.

CHICO

Dad, uncle Marco, aunt Mara... and  
mom, you're here too? I didn't know  
so many were missing.

Chico looks up and down the cages.

LORENZO

Chico! You can fly now.

Chico flaps to his parent's cage.

CHICO

It was sort of a crash course, Dad.  
I'll tell you later, but I'm going  
to get you out.

ALA

Chico, get away from here. Be safe.  
We are lost to you, m'hijo.

MEN'S VOICES approach from the clearing.

The three Trappers emerge from the trees.

CHICO

They're bringing my girlfriend.  
Tell her I was here and I'll be  
back with help.

Chico flies off.

LORENZO

Girlfriend? That's my boy.

## BUSHES AT CAMPS EDGE

The marmosets huddle on the branch.

Owo fades back into the overhanging branch.

Chico lands on the ground in front of them and  
he steps into the shadow.

The three trappers stomp up to the cages.

Flaco holds a bag in one hand.  
Moquito trails behind.

As they reach the cages Flaco pulls Amor from the bag.  
Hooded, she struggles in his hands.

Emil slips a chain, with a single key, from around his neck  
and opens the cage.

Chico leans forward to see.  
A flash of sunlight glints from the key.

CHICO  
That's how they do it.

EMIL  
I'm holding on to this key since  
you idiots lost the other one.

Emil stuffs the chain back around his neck and stuffs the key  
into his shirt.

CHICO  
That's it.

Chico steps out of the shadows and strains to see the key.

Moquito points toward Chico.

MOQUITO  
Look! It's another one.

Flaco throws Amor into the cage.

Amor rushes at the trapper.  
Emil slams the door shut.

Moquito grabs a bag and lunges toward Chico.

CHICO  
(to the marmosets)  
Stay here. I'll be back with help.

He leaps into flight as Moquito lands face down with a bag in  
the dirt.

The marmosets crawl deep into the bush.

EXT. ON THE RIVER IN A DUGOUT CANOE - MID AFTERNOON

Carmen and Yako scan the river banks. Carmen is dressed as a native, as is Yako. Carmen's hair has been cut short in the native way.

YAKO

You know, you remind me a lot of my mom... when she was young.

Carmen glares at Yako with contempt.

CARMEN

My mother would die if she saw me like this.

Carmen folds her arms and looks only out at the river.

YAKO

It looks nice.

EXT. ABOVE THE RIVER

Chico flies as fast as he can to find Yako. He spots the dugout ahead on the river.

Chico lands on the outrigger rail of the dugout near Yako.

CHICO

They get Amor! Marmosets took me to camp.

Chico gestures in the direction of the camp.

CHICO

Mom, Dad, uncle Marco, aunt Mara, others there. Demons brought Amor and opened cage with a shiny thing like I had, but I lost it.

Chico bows his head.

YAKO

The key to the cages.

CHICO

Short, mean, ugly demon has one.

Yako strokes Chico on the neck.

YAKO

That makes things more complicated.

CHICO  
We need to get key.

Yako nods.

YAKO  
We need to create a distraction so  
we can tie him up.

Chico flaps his wings.

CHICO  
Oh! I know expert. Wait here.

Chico takes off.

Yako waves as Chico lifts off in flight.

Carmen nods and smiles.

YAKO  
Maybe the Spirit of the Rain will  
provide after all.

Carmen looks at Yako.

CARMEN  
What does that mean, "The Spirit of  
the Rain will provide?"

YAKO  
My mom's favorite saying. It's from  
the ancient Guardian prayer to the  
Spirit of the Rain.

EXT. THE GREAT ROCK - EVENING

Atop a great granite promontory, over the river, an OLD NATIVE MAN (short but regal in ceremonial regalia) stands with hands held toward the sky. His eyes are closed. He chants. The golden parrot amulet hangs from his neck.

Several adult blue macaws are perched nearby. They watch the ceremony.

YAKO (V.O.)  
The Guardian priest would raise his  
hands and pray as the Wind Lords  
listened.

## OLD NATIVE MAN

Spirit of the Rain hear your sons  
and daughters. When the Sun Spirit  
travels below the world renew, our  
lands and bring the healing rains.

An OLD NATIVE WOMAN, with a similar amulet sits and  
cultivates a small fire by burning small offerings.

## YAKO (V.O.)

His priestess would burn sacred  
offerings.

The Blue Macaws bow and take flight.

They fly in a grand circle rising higher and higher.

## YAKO (V.O.)

The Wind Lords, the macaws, would  
then fly in a wide rising circle  
and carry the prayer to the Spirit  
of the Rain who, at night, would  
provide the gentle rains from which  
all life flows.

## BACK TO SCENE

## CARMEN

That's beautiful. So my necklace  
was from---

## YAKO

Yeah.

Carmen looks down at her necklace and places her hand over  
it.

## EXT. A TREE BRANCH ABOVE THE DUGOUT

Pablito leans from his perch to look down at the golden  
necklace in Carmens' hand. He waits.

## EXT. WAEVER'S WEB - DAY

Weaver works on his web.  
He stops to look up.

Chico flies down and lands nearby.

WEAVER

Oh no, not you again. Go away.

Weaver looks around.

WEAVER

Is that Amazon woman with you?

Chico surveys Weaver's work.

CHICO

No, just me, and I have a golden opportunity for you, Weaver.

Weaver looks at his work.

WEAVER

Don't tell me. You want to sell me an automatic web making machine. Right?

Chico leans against the gully wall, a glint in his eye.

CHICO

I want to give you a chance to make the biggest catch ever.

Weaver hesitates at his work.

WEAVER

Talk to me.

Weaver looks at Chico.

WEAVER

What do I have to do?

Chico turns his back to Weaver.

CHICO

I'll tell you on the way. Climb on.

Weaver taps a leg on the gully wall.

WEAVER

Uh...I don't know...

CHICO

Don't worry Weaver. I only crashed once.

WEAVER

Peachy.



Weaver climbs on.  
Chico glides away from the wall and flies off.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - YAKO'S CANOE

Yako and Carmen sit in the canoe among the shore bushes.  
He looks up as Chico lands on the prow in front of Carmen.

Weaver hops off Chico's back to a landing just in front of  
Carmen.

Weaver sizes up Carmen.

WEAVER

Well hello, chicky!

Weaver waves his two front legs.

Carmen SCREAMS and tries to climb out of the boat. She loses  
her balance and lands in Yako's lap.

Yako smiles.

CHICO

Wait. This is Weaver. He's going to  
help us.

WEAVER

Is she the one you want me to  
catch? She looks tasty.

CHICO

No... She's a friend.

WEAVER

Him? He's all bones.

Weaver points at Yako and waves him off.

CHICO

No, that's Yako. He's a friend too.  
The ones I want you to catch are  
like him but bigger and juicier.

Yako smiles.

YAKO

Carmen, look... a Goliath bird-  
eater spider, the greatest spider  
on the planet.

Weaver strikes a pose.

Carmen grabs on to Yako.

Yako raises an eyebrow and grins.

CARMEN  
Wonderful.

WEAVER  
I think I like this guy.

Yako pushes the canoe away from shore.

YAKO  
All right Chico, it's getting late.  
Let's go. You're leading the way.

Yako paddles them down river.

EXT. PET TRAPPERS CAMP

Near the tents, Emil smokes a cigar as he leans against a tree. A glint of light reflects off of the key chain around his neck.

EMIL  
Get as many as you can so we can  
get out of this miserable jungle.  
Don't forget the gun powder ...and  
try not to drown too many. They're  
not worth anything dead.

Flaco and Moquito nod and disappear down a trail northward.

BUSHES AT CAMPS EDGE

Pacha, Mama and Kuaji look out from the bush. Owo is hidden above.

PACHA  
I hope they come soon Mama. This  
looks bad.

Wings FLAP.

They turn to look behind them. Chico, with Weaver, lands.

Yako and Carmen arrive and crouch down.

Pablito lands not far away in a tree hidden from everyone. He eyes Emil's shiny key.

Pacha perches on a branch in front of Chico.

CHICO  
Okay. Off Weaver.

Weaver jumps down next to Pacha and gives him 'the eye.'

Pacha cringes and steps away from Weaver.

PACHA  
(to Chico)  
Chico, big problem! Two of these things just left and they said something about grabbing the rest of your flock!

CHICO  
What? How?

PACHA  
Something about burning the island to drive the others into... something.

CHICO  
Burn the island?

Yako peers through the bush at the camp.

YAKO  
They're going to drive the flock into the nets by setting the island on fire.

CARMEN  
How could they do that?

YAKO  
They'll destroy everything to get what they want.

Carmen nods.

CHICO  
We have to stop them!

Yako nods.

YAKO  
Can you and your friends get the key from this Trapper?

They all look at each other.

ALL TOGETHER - IN SEQUENCE  
Absolutely. Yes. No problem.

PACHA  
What is "key"?

CHICO  
The small shiny thing the trapper  
uses to open the cages.

PACHA  
You mean that thing around his  
neck?

They all look out at Emil with dread.

YAKO  
Chico, get the key. Free your  
father and the others. Then go and  
warn the flock. Carmen and I will  
try to stop the others.

Carmen nods in surprised agreement.

CHICO  
How will we find you?

YAKO  
You won't be able to miss me.

Yako and Carmen turn and leave.

The rest look at Chico.

WEAVER  
All right Big Bird, now what do we  
do?

There is a RUSTLE of leaves from above.

OWO (O.S.)  
You need a distraction, kid.

Chico and weaver look up.

As she moves, her camouflage gives way to reveal the wise  
face of Owo.

WEAVER  
Where'd you come from?

OWO  
Been here all along, hairy bug.

WEAVER

The name's Weaver, not Harry.

OWO

Whatever.

CHICO

Distraction. That's what Yako said.  
How do we do that?

OWO

Well, Think about it, Chico. What  
do we have here?

CHICO

Well. Weaver's a web-master. I can  
fly. The marmosets are small and  
quick and you can disappear... Hmm.  
I think I have an idea.

Owo Smiles.

OWO

Good boy. You're seeing it now.

CHICO

Weaver, how fast are you on the  
draw?

Weaver sits up and fires off a couple web-lines.

WEAVER

Fastest web in the Amazon.

CHICO

Good. So, here's what we do...

EXT. ON THE RIVER IN A DUGOUT CANOE

Yako and Carmen motor their canoe north toward Macaw Island  
and the Guardian Research Station.

As they approach the island Yako lands the canoe at the foot  
of a tall sheer granite knob above the river near the south  
end of the island.

YAKO

Carmen, I need your help.

CARMEN

What can I do?

YAKO  
Have you done any rock climbing?

CARMEN  
What?

YAKO  
This rock has the best view of the  
river and Macaw Island.

Carmen looks straight up the sheer face of the rock. She  
blanches.

CARMEN  
Ah no, no.

YAKO  
It's easier from the back. Really.  
There are steps from the ancient  
times.

CARMEN  
Why don't **you** climb it, then?

YAKO  
I'll be way higher than this, trust  
me. I just need you to get to the  
top and look for the bad guys. Keep  
me updated on the walkie. Just  
push the button and talk. Easy.  
Alright?

Yako hands her the walkie-talkie.

Carmen gets out of the canoe.

Yako smiles and departs in the canoe.

CARMEN  
Where are you going?

YAKO  
(yelling)  
I'll be back. You'll see.

Carmen watches, sighs, then turns to find a way up.

EXT. A PATH IN THE FOREST

Near the three tents of the trapper camp

Chico and Weaver face each other in the middle of the path.  
Weaver points a leg at a partially built web across the path.

WEAVER

It'll never work. Trust me, it's  
not sticky enough, there's not  
enough time... and he'll see it  
stretched across like that.

Chico paces as he looks at Weaver then the web.

CHICO

Don't worry, we just need a little  
time.

Weaver waves four legs in the air in frustration.

WEAVER

All right. Man, how did I ever  
agree...

Weaver continues to work on the web.  
Chico flies low to a bush near the clearing.

EXT. BUSHES AT CAMPS EDGE

Chico, on the ground, looks in at Pacha, Mama and Kuaji.

CHICO

So, you understand the plan, right?  
I run through the hole in the web.  
Mama, when we get the key you take  
it to the cages and let the others  
out. Do it like you saw the pet  
trappers do. Pacha you stay here in  
case we need help. Got it?

MAMA

Got it!

PACHA

Yup!

KUAJI

CHIRP!

CHICO

Let's do it!

EXT. TREE NEAR THE TENTS

Emil flourishes his cigar like a gentleman uptown.  
He leans against the tree, eyes half closed.

Chico flutters to the ground in front of him.

Emil jerks open his eyes.  
He tamps out his cigar and moves toward Chico.

EMIL

So you want to join your little  
friends eh? Emil is happy to help.

He steps to a pile of capture bags and grabs one.

EMIL

Just stay still and then you'll all  
be together again, nice and cozy.

Chico walks away from him at a clip.  
He pretends a wing is hurt.

Emil follows him down the path.

Chico runs.

Emil's eyes are glued on Chico.

Mama carries Kuaji and trails Pacha as they scamper, partly  
hidden, down the trail behind Emil.

Chico half hops half flies through a hole at the bottom of  
the huge web.

He looks back at Emil.

Emil stops short of the web.

EMIL

Clever, but I won't fall for that  
one, you stupid bird.

WEAVER (O.S.)

Did you say fall? Wa Hooo!!

Emil hears only a spider HISS, turns around and looks up.

Weaver descends in his own spider web para-glider.

WEAVER

I haven't done this since I was a  
spider-ling!



Weaver lands squarely on Emil's face, nearly covering it.  
Emil's panic is reflected in Weaver's eight eyes.

WEAVER  
Hellooo dinner.

Emil stumbles backward.

EMIL  
Huge! Ahhhhhh. No! Get off me.  
Ahhhhh.

Emil falls into the middle of Weaver's web.

WEAVER  
Gotcha! Hah! Yeah!

Weaver spins a web all over Emil.

Chico flies to Emil's shoulder and tries to take the key.  
Emil frees one of his arms, swats Chico and grabs the key.  
He swallows it.

The remaining loose chain falls to the ground.

EMIL  
Just try to free your friends now.

The marmosets look on wide eyed.

ALL TOGETHER  
Chico!

EMIL  
Mangy dirt balls. I'll get you too!

Emil struggles to free himself.

Pablito swoops from a perch just above. He lands by the loose silver chain.

Chico and Pacha stop dead.

PACHA  
Look! That toucan has another key.

CHICO  
That must be my key. He's from  
Yako's place. Toucan, please give  
us the key. It's the only way to  
free everyone.

Chico points at the cages full of birds.

Pablito steps back, looks at Chico and Pacha, then at the cages.

CHICO  
I promise we'll give it back.

Emil stops struggling and looks at Pablito.

EMIL  
Hah. Good toucan. Give the nice key  
to me.

Pablito takes a step back. He flies to Pacha and drops the key into Pacha's hands.

CHICO  
Thanks.  
(To Pacha)  
Hurry. There's not much time.

Emil GROWLS and tears away some of the web.

Pacha passes the key to Mama.

Mama, with Kuaji on her back, leaps and runs down the path.

Kuaji laughs as he bounces.

Chico turns to Weaver as Pacha watches.

CHICO  
Quick, do something Weaver!

Weaver shoots some web at Emil.  
It doesn't help.

WEAVER  
I told you this wouldn't work.

Owo's face emerges out of the tree above.

OWO  
Remember what Amor did to the web  
lines!

Owo points at the main web lines the connect it to the trees.

Chico looks at Owo then the web.

CHICO  
Right!. You saw that?

Owo just looks at Chico with a head tilt and smile.

Chico smiles and turns to Pacha.

CHICO

Pacha, you cut that line and I'll  
get the opposite. Owo, you cut the  
top?

Pacha hops to the far line.

Owo nods from her tree.

Chico jumps to the nearby line.

CHICO

OK. On three, two, one, cut.

They cut the lines.

EMIL

Ahhh. Miserable....!

The web rolls up in a sticky mass around Emil.  
He barely moves as the remaining lines trap him.

WEAVER

Heh heh! Never thought that would  
be my new technique. Learn  
somethin' new every day, and from a  
bird no less.

EMIL

It's too late. Your island is on  
fire and we'll have the rest of you  
in our nets.

Chico lays a wing down.

CHICO

Get on!

Pacha and Weaver climb on.  
Chico runs and launches himself into the air.

EXT. THE CAGES

Mama struggles with the key in the lock, but it doesn't turn.

Kuaji sits by and looks on.

Mama looks as Chico lands.

Weaver and Pacha jump off.

Mama struggles and hangs from the key string.

CHICO  
It doesn't work?

Chico hears a noise, turns and looks back.

Emil charges at them, bag in hand.

EMIL  
You're mine!

Pacha leaps up to Mama in a panic. The momentum carries them both up and over. The key turns.

The door swings open.

Amor and the others fly out of the cage.

They drive Emil backwards.

AMOR  
(yelling to Chico)  
I got this!

Amor flies to a branch of a Brazil nut tree.

Amor aims and snaps off a large heavy round Brazil-nut pod the size of a cannon-ball.

It whacks Emil on the head.

AMOR  
Direct hit! Perfect aim every time!

He flops back, unconscious.

Chico looks up.

CHICO  
(To Amor)  
Danger girl!

Amor smirks.

AMOR  
Didn't want a softer one that time.

Amor lands in front of Chico. She beams.

Chico steps up and gives her a kiss.

The Marmosets run to them and hug Chico.

CHICO  
Thanks Mama and Pacha.

Mama holds up little Kuaji.

CHICO  
And Kuaji too. You have the undying  
gratitude of this Wind Lord.

The Marmosets bow to him and chuckle.

The other birds land all around Chico and the team.

CHICO  
Weaver. One of us can take you back  
to your gully now.

Weaver leans against Emil.

WEAVER  
Don't bother. I got what I came for  
kid... lunch for a month! I like a  
leisurely meal.

CHICO  
Enjoy.

PACHA  
Ick! No accounting for taste, I  
guess.

Mama giggles and elbows Pacha. They smile.

From her tree limb Owo looks down.

OWO  
You'd better get going. The  
island....

Chico looks at Owo.

CHICO  
Right. Thanks Owo. You're a  
miracle!

OWO  
No kid, that's yet to come.

Chico turns to the Marmosets.

CHICO  
 You know the secret of the Key.  
 Free them all!

Mama and Pacha run to open the rest of the cages.

Chico turns to Amor and his parents.

CHICO  
 They'll burn the island. We have to  
 save the others.

LORENZO  
 You're the leader now, son. Let's  
 fly.

Chico, and the others leap into flight.

EXT. NEAR AND ABOVE MACAW ISLAND

A small island near the far shore of the river.

Chico and the others fly quickly as smoke and flames rise at  
 the far end of the island.

CHICO  
 Hurry!

Chico looks back at the others.

LORENZO  
 We're too late.

A burst of flame leaps up where the smoke column was.

As Chico's group flies on, a wall of fire leaps up the length  
 of the island.

Birds of all kinds take to the air.

In the middle of it are the rest of the flock.

CHICO  
 They don't know it's a trap!

The flock heads across the river, right for them, in panic.

CHICO  
 Stop! Stop!

LORENZO  
 It's a trap! Stop!

Chico looks back at the opposite shore.

Two men stand with cannons pointed at the sky and a folded net between.

A WHIR draws Chico's attention. An ultralight aircraft approaches.

CHICO

What is that?

Lorenzo looks at the approaching wings.

LORENZO

I don't know. A huge bird?

CHICO

No. It's Yako the Guardian, and he's flying!

LORENZO

The Guardians have returned? This is the time foretold to restore the bond that was broken. Chico, you **are** the one. The Guardian Prayer. He must speak the prayer. It's the only way to save the island.

In the distance an ultralight approaches with Yako as the pilot.

Lorenzo looks ahead at the approaching flock.

LORENZO

They're not stopping. They don't hear us.

Lorenzo and Chico fly in front of the flock to head them off.

BOOM! Cannons launch the nets from below, directly in front of the flock.

Yako flies his ultralight into the net, entangling him and the aircraft, plunging him into the swirling river below.

LORENZO

No! He saved the flock, but the island... the prayer...

CHICO

No. There's another. Look!

Chico points to a bright glint of gold that shines from the promontory of rock that overlooks the river and the island. It catches their attention.

LORENZO

The golden symbol. The Priestess!

Lorenzo points to Carmen standing on the pinnacle, watching the disaster.

CHICO

Hurry!

They fly toward Carmen.

EXT. ATOP THE GRANITE PROMONTORY

Carmen stands as a helpless witness to the destruction of the island and Yako's fall into the brown river. She talks into the walkie-talkie.

CARMEN

Yako, are you there?

Only static.

CARMEN

Yako!

Carmen stares out at where Yako has fallen, in near tears.

Wafts of smoke obscure the two blue specks flying swiftly towards her.

Suddenly, like spirits they are there, Chico and Lorenzo arrive and hover in front of Carmen.

LORENZO

Guardian priestess, the prayer must be spoken!

Carmen hears only bird squaks. She looks blankly at them.

CHICO

(In English)

Carmen! The Guardian prayer must be spoken. Its our only chance to save our island.

Lorenzo looks wide-eyed at Chico.



CARMEN

But I'm not a Guardian! How do I..

CHICO

You wear the symbol of the priestess.

CARMEN

No. It was my family... They took it. They destroyed the Guardians.

LORENZO

(to Chico)

Tell her she must choose. Is she destroyer or Guardian?

CHICO

Carmen, choose now. Are you destroyer or Guardian?

Carmen stops, her breathing slows, the scene before her comes into quiet focus. She closes her eyes.

CARMEN

Grandfather, this is what you meant. I choose...

Carmen takes a deep breath, opens her eyes, raises her face to the sky, lifts her arms and speaks against the rising winds.

CARMEN

Spirit of the Rain. Forgive us our past. Save your messengers and Yako, the last of your Guardian children. Bring the healing rain to save our world!

Lorenzo and Chico look at each other and turn to the flock in disarray.

They fly to meet the flock.

LORENZO

Messengers! The guardian prayer is spoken!

CHICO

Fly the great circle! Call the Spirit of the Rain.

The flock ceases their panic.

Carmen watches as Chico and Lorenzo lead the flock.

They fly in a wide circle around the smoke. The island burns.

The flock, one by one, join the circle. They spiral higher, ever upward around the column of smoke.

They CHANT the prayer.

EXT. IN THE SWIRLING BROWN RIVER

Yako, tangled in the wreckage of the ultralight, struggles to keep his head above the swirling waters. He gains some stability and sees the figure of a Guardian Priestess, hands raised to the sky. The low sun illuminates her like an angel. He hears the echoes of an ancient prayer as the birds fly the sacred circle.

YAKO  
Carmen? How...?

EXT. ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER

The two hapless pet trappers stand dismayed by the confusion.

FLACO  
This is your fault! Emil will skin us and leave us for the caymanes.

MOQUITO  
What! How is this my fault? It was that stupid plane.

Moquito points to Yako who floats prostrate on the wreckage down river.

FLACO  
Let's get him!

MOQUITO  
Wait, something is happening. Look at the sky.

Flaco and Moquito watch as the birds rise in a spiral above the burning island.

FLACO  
Estupido! It's just those birds. Emil is going to...

MOQUITO  
No. It's not just that. Look!

The mists of the forest rise, the winds pick up and clouds gather and swirl as rumbles warn of an impending rain.

FLACO

It's just the afternoon rains, like always.

MOQUITO

No. Look. It's not normal.

They look as the clouds gather in a spiral overhead.

EXT. HIGH OVER THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST IN THE SPIRAL OF BIRDS

The birds struggle in the wind.

VOICES IN THE FLOCK

Forgive the past. Bring the healing rain to save our world.

The flock merges in the air into a great circle above Yako. In a great voice, Lorenzo and Ala speak.

ALA AND LORENZO

Once parted, spirits of earth and sky, together again. We join the great circle. Let the Spirit of the Rain provide!

The flock circles with strength and grace against the wind.

Mists rise from the forest.

Sunbeams dance among the clouds as they gather.

The wind picks up.

Dark clouds cover the low sun.

EXT. ATOP THE GRANITE PROMONTORY

Carmen watches the great swirl of clouds above the birds. The winds carry VOICES of the past, of her grandfather and of others in language not familiar.

VOICES IN THE WIND

Sacred lands. Keepers of the world, mistake... Carmen... make it right....

CARMEN  
Grandfather?

VOICES IN THE WIND  
You have chosen well.

A lightning strike near Carmen breaks her trance. She turns to descend from the rock.

EXT. ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER

Flaco continues his denial.

FLACO  
Venga. Let's get that fly-boy so  
Emil doesn't take it out on us.

Flaco gestures to Moquito to follow.

Moquito relents. They run toward where Yako drifts.

Lightning strikes within a few yards of the pet trappers.

MOQUITO  
Aiee! Still think it's just an  
afternoon rain?

FLACO  
What? Come on. He's getting away.

They take a few steps forward. Another lightning strike just ahead.

The two stop in their tracks and look at each other.

Moquito nods and they both run into the forest.

EXT. HIGH OVER THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST

The flock spirals up, up, up.

Mist rises from the river.

Lightning cracks and blazes from the clouds as they build.

Rain bursts out of the sky.

The birds in the flock struggle with all their might to stay aloft in the deluge.

EXT. AT RIVER'S EDGE

The rain falls hard.

The river picks up speed.  
The waters rise at river's edge.

The waters rise and sweep Yako into a shallow eddy out of the current and near shore to where Carmen has descended. They're within view of the island.

Yako struggles against the net and the debris of the ultralight.

He frees himself and crawls onto the sandy shore.

Carmen runs to him. She is drenched to the skin. Her once expensive hair is now a mess, yet she beams.

YAKO  
(exhausted)  
Is this "unique" enough for you?

CARMEN  
I didn't see before. This **is** the heart of the world.

YAKO  
And you still have almost a whole day left.

Carmen cries with relief and joy.

They watch as the rains subside and the last flames on the island are extinguished.

EXT. HIGH OVER THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST IN THE SPIRAL OF BIRDS

The flock circles.  
Clouds break open.  
Sun beams glow in the mist.

Rainbows shimmer over the river and the forest.  
The wind calms to a breeze.

Chico, his father and mother fly together. The flock disperses, and they fly back toward the burned island.

CHICO  
Dad, I think I know what you wanted to tell me when you were captured.

LORENZO, ALA, AMOR AND CHICO TOGETHER  
The Spirit of the Rain will  
provide.

Chico shakes his wet feathers.

They laugh together.

CHICO  
Yeah I think I got it now... And  
mom, I think I learned to like the  
rain too... well some, at least.

Amor winks at Chico.

Chico smiles.

EXT. AT RIVER'S EDGE BY YAKO AND CARMEN - EVENING

Yako and Carmen stand to behold the miracle in the glow of  
the brilliant sunset.

YAKO  
Mom's stories were true. The Spirit  
of the Rain did provide. And you  
were the one to make it happen.  
Huh! How about that.

CARMEN  
My grandfather always said,  
"Carmen, you have to make things  
right." I didn't know what he meant  
until now.

A beam of Sunlight illuminates the two and shines from the  
golden amulets on Yako and Carmen.

EXT. MACAW ISLAND - IN A BURNED TREE NEAR THE SHORE

Burned devastation across much of the island. Chico, his  
family and other members of the flock gather among the  
charred branches near the shore. They chant.

FLOCK  
(Together)  
Chico! Chico! Chico!

LORENZO  
(to Chico)  
Not bad for a "fluff-head."

Chico rolls his eyes and looks at Amor.

AMOR

It's almost all destroyed.

Chico brushes the black soot from a green shoot.

CHICO

Look.

Amor looks where Chico's wing points.

She smiles at Chico with a glint in her eye and slaps him on the shoulder.

AMOR

You're it!

Amor launches herself into flight.

Chico grins and looks at his parents.

Lorenzo winks.

Chico grins and leaps into flight after Amor.

They fly high above the rain forest as golden shafts of light glow with the setting sun; the end of the first day.

FADE OUT.