

Fool's Errand  
By Collin Jose

EXT. ANCIENT CAJA CAVE ON A SMALL COAST IN DENMARK - DAY

An expedition crew scrambles to set up their technology, tents, and temporary camp. The small group move fast and efficiently to make sure things are correct.

DAVID (DAVY) PACE (32-34ish) is the lead explorer on the mission. He is extremely MUSCULAR, extremely confident and highly intelligent. He stands around six foot two, strong jaw, and piercing eyes.

Davy sets down a heavy box that reads FRAGILE.

CAMERA: SETTLES ON THE FRONT OF THE BOX THEN AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE TO DAVYS BOOTS THEN UP HIS LEG. HE POPS THE LID OPEN WITH HIS MACHETE, REVEALING OXYGEN TANKS. HE SMOOTHLY SLIDES HIS BLADE INTO THE SHEATH ON HIS HIP THEN THE CAMERA KEEPS MOVING UP HIS BODY TO REVEAL HIS FACE.

DAVY  
(To himself)  
Thats not what I was looking for.

He turns around, facing the tent.

DAVY  
Any heat signatures?

He signals to the nerdy computer operator, PERCY, rapidly tapping the keys of the computer. He is thin, has thick glasses, and curly hair.

PERCY  
There is no definitive answer. The caves walls are jamming my signal.

DAVY  
I can work with that.

WREN, a young explorer (32ish), overhears the conversation. She carries herself with a sense of certainty and is usually wearing a baseball cap. Wavy blond hair and has an ATHLETIC build.

Wren takes off her sunglasses and clips them in her shirt. Shes holding a clipboard (a list of all the equipment).

WREN  
Before anyone goes in, put on the scuba suits! Could be flooded in there! I'm talking to you Briggs!

BRIGGS, a heavyset man with a kind face, puts up his hands in surrender.

BRIGGS  
It was ONE time!

NOVA  
This time we don't have an  
excavator!

Wren smiles to herself.

She digs in a box in the bronco, pulling out a scuba suit and holds it up.

She then looks up to see Davy slipping a rope on his ankle.

DAVY  
Here's the rope. Pull me out if I  
scream.

He winks at her, tossing her the rope.

WREN  
Davy! Wait. The suit!

Davy slides out his machete and begins to wade into the water approaching the caves mouth.

DAVY  
This is my suit.

Wren looks around at the crew astonished. Everyone proceeds with their tasks like its nothing new.

WREN  
I hate when he does this!

She looks at the water. The tides are growing larger and more aggressive.

DAMIEN, a lean technician/ engineer, puts down his toolkit.

DAMIEN  
The boss knows what he's doing...  
usually.

WREN  
(Visibly irritated)  
Usually.

NOVA is a Hispanic young attractive photographer.

NOVA

Smile!

NOVA comedically flashes a picture of Wren.

She looks at the Polaroid picture.

NOVA

(chuckling)

Boss is going to love this.

INT. ANCIENT CAJA CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Davy wades through the dimly illuminated cave. Daylight faintly peeks through gaps in the walls and ceiling. He is holding his flashlight and his prized machete in each hand.

He notices something etched into the walls. There is overgrowth covering the ancient art.

He gently uses his machete to push the weeds out of the way, revealing his blade with intricate emerald-colored markings down the metal.

He stops to look at inscriptions on the walls. The old drawings seem to be saying to turn back judging the dead stick figures. He soon notices bones floating here and there in the knee-high water.

He looks up to see a stone platform raised above the water surrounding it.

The water gently slaps the inscriptions on the stone steps. As soon as he steps on the first stair a flock of bats shoot past him. He pauses, stoically watching them and then continues up the stairs cautiously making his way to the dry platform.

At the far side of the platform, there is a stone throne with skeletons and bones sprinkled around it.

The platform has deep holes carved into it containing poorly concealed spears ready to dart up at any given moment. He also notices arrows stuck deep in the ground around the stone seat.

He steps around to the perimeter stones, making sure not to step on the interior with the "hidden" spears.

CRUNCH.

A stone gave way beneath his foot and fell into the water.

SWOOSH. SWOOSH. SWOOSH.

A small series of blow darts concealed in the walls flew his direction. He covers his head just in time, but several small darts puncture the right side of his body.

He falls in agony into the inner platform containing the spears.

CAMERA: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE, JUST SEEING DAVYS EYE PEERING DOWN.

He opens his eyes, and he was looks down a hole with a spear instantly shooting up.

He rolls out of the way just in time and jumps back to the perimeter stones. Still regaining his foothold, he looks at the spears still fully juttet out of the floor.

Suddenly a long plank horizontally swings out from the wall.

Davy hears the sound coming and stops the plank in its path with his bare hands. Once he stops it. He punches the board in half and continues on.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

WREN

I wonder what's taking him so long.

THEODORE sports the classic explorer attire, an older man, 60s.

THEODORE

You know Davy. Even back when I apprenticed him, he would always take his precious time regardless of what he was doing... Well, whatever is consuming his time in there must be an ancient wonder.

INT. CAJA CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Davy looks down and sees the darts protruding from his skin.

DAVY

Ahh. Wonderful.

He plucks one from his forearm and flicks it to the floor.

CAMERA: CLOSE UP ON THE DART SLOWLY ROLLING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE EDGE OF THE PLATFORM. IN THE BACKGROUND DAVYS FEET SLOWLY ITCH FURTHER DOWN THE PERIMETER STONES. IT STOPS ROLLING HALF ON AND HALF OFF THE PLATFORM. AFTER A MOMENT IT FALLS.

SMALL SPLASH.

A large log with a rope tied to each end suddenly swings from the ceiling and hits him in the chest, taking him off his feet.

He desperately clings to the log so that he doesn't fall onto the spears on the inner platform.

As the log swings back towards the throne, Davy takes his machete and cuts one of the ropes connecting the log to the ceiling.

The logs bottom side skids along the tops of the spears and crashes into the side of the throne.

The log causes cracks to splinter down the throne and the ground around where it sat.

Davy shimmies off the log onto the safe stones around the throne.

DAVY

Not big on guests I see.

He investigates with care and sees the trident sitting in its place, used as a backpiece to the throne.

Kicking aside the bones and arrows, he places his hands on the trident ready to pull it out. The cracks grow and the ground starts to thunder echoing through the cave.

DAVY (CONT'D)

Not again.

Suddenly the floor crumbles and the throne along with Davy falls through the ground.

Water rushes in through the gaping hole in the ground. His flashlight slips his grasp, and the light is drowned out by the murky water.

EXT. CAJA CAVE - DAY

Percy and Theodore have been monitoring the computers, while Damein, Briggs, and Wren have been securing the rope tied to Davy. Nova documents the scene in the background.

NOVA

Operation Trident has begun! It has been located and is in the process of being secured. We are off a coast in Denmark at Caja Cave, and we've successfully detected the ancient weapon of kings in less than 72 hours.

Nova's voice rants on in the background.

BRIGGS

This has been the smoothest outing we've had in a while.

DAMIEN

Knock on wood.

Briggs knocks Damein's head.

Damien

Get off me!

Wren notices Percy and Thoedore's sudden shift in body language.

PERCY

Oh boy.

WREN

What do you mean "oh boy".

THEODORE

We lost Davy's signature.

The team sees the water rush into the cave faster and the rope nailed down begins to yank and strain.

DAMIEN

(To Briggs)

I told you to knock on WOOD!

WREN

Get to the rope. Pull him in. NOW!

The whole crew leaves their stations and tugs at the rope.

They pull and pull until they see Davys "lifeless" foot protrude through the surface of the water.

They pull him onto the bank, one arm still limp in the water.

Wren sees the darts, gashes, bruises, and blackeye that litter Davys skin.

She gasps and runs to him.

Just as the suspense peaks, Davy coughs up water, smiles, then triumphantly pulls the trident from the stream.

DAVY

We found it.

Fade in TITLE: "Fool's Errand"