

# **The Survivor's Cave**

by

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## THE CALL

Scene set up is minor, but two rock formations are readied at either side of the black curtains, ready to be pushed on stage.

During the scene transition away from the last scene and to The Cave a lone cell phone rings among the audience, in ROWLING's coat pocket.

ROWLING

(standing up if sitting,  
putting out a finger to  
hush the crowd)

Hello- I'm still Rowling... Look  
Stanly this might be a bad time

STANLY

(on speaker, cuts in)

ROWLING! Get it in gear man! I've  
reserved you an on-site privet  
inspection! Where are you?!

ROWLING

Relax Stanly, how much does the  
reservation cost anyway?

STANLY

50,000 per day man!

ROWLING

See? That's nothing to worry about.

STANLY

That's my month's pay man!

ROWLING

Oh you poor man! I forgot your as  
cheap as a Biden.

STANLY

I'm Fine, Rowling! You said it  
yourself you need a place like this  
to make the plan work, and for that  
price the board is getting unhappy  
about-

ROWLING

(cutting in)

Hold on! Did someone tell the board  
about this?

STANLY

No no no, not the details, but they  
do know how much money you're  
spending-

ROWLING

(cutting him off)

Say no more Stanly! Where was the  
place again?

STANLY

In western-

ROWLING

(cutting him off again)

Say no more! Stanly! Forward the details to my pilot!

STANLY

But you asked

ROWLING

Yes I asked, but what do I pay you for Stanly!

STANLY

To read your mind.

ROWLING

That's right, now what do you say?

STANLY

The limo's outside, it'll take you to the Jet and I'll have that bring you to the nearest helipad.

ROWLING

That's better.

ROWLING hangs up.

ROWLING

(speaking now to the crowd)

So sorry everyone, but I must be on my way. Places to see, things to buy, you all know how it is.

Rowling starts for the door on stage right

ROWLING

Hahah, who'm I kidding no you don't.

ROWLING proceeds through the door.

Que Car door-limo driving- jet-helicopter flying sounds with ABBA's "money money money" instrumental transition for several seconds.

In the meantime, YLNATS, holding a lantern has positioned himself center stage facing stage left, hunch-backed, and smiling menacingly.

ROWLING enters from stage right

ROWLING

You sir! Are you the one who-

YLNATS  
(cutting ROWLING off by  
turning his demented  
grin on him)

ROWLING  
(jumping with surprise  
and fright)  
Dah! Could you, just, smile a bit  
less standing there?

YLNATS  
I'm sure that I could sir.  
(His leering grin inverts  
into an over-emphecised  
frown)

ROWLING  
That's better... I think. Now, I'd  
suppose you-

YLNATS  
(cutting in)  
Oh I know why you're here, Mr.  
Rowling.

ROWLING  
You do? Well then... Good. I guess  
then you're the one the seller sent  
to show me the place?

YLNATS  
Yess... You came alone, that's very  
brave of you.

ROWLING  
It is nothing. I find even my  
enemies know that I'm worth my  
ransom price. I even give a bonus  
for a good time while they're at  
it. -I've had a number of "surprise  
vachations" already. It's been  
quite thrilling.

YLNATS  
Yess. That's very adventurous of  
you sir.

ROWLING  
Now there's one thing that doesn't  
pay a good ransom and that's  
natural hazards, The cave's all up  
to specs I imagine?

YLNATS  
It's up to the specifications of  
the Giza plateau's own megalythic  
tunnel network sir, but far more...  
(MORE)

YLNATS (cont'd)

Private. Secure. You could spend a long time down there, Sir.

ROWLING

Great, well, where's the seller? I thought surely he'd come to meet a buyer as esteemed as myself.

YLNATS

Oh I'm sure you're already one of his favorite persons. He's already ahead of us. Waiting at the bottom you see.

ROWLING

Great. Good. Very normal. Shall we-

YLNATS

-get going? Why yes Mr. Rowling, lets.

(As they begin to walk  
stage left)

ROWLING

Say, what's your name then anyway?

YLNATS

"Yul-Nats"

ROWLING

Uh, huh, Foreign, isn't it?

YLNATS

Something like that.

YLNATS leads ROWLING off stage left, they circle the curtain, and re-enter from up-stage left. While they are gone, the projector changes from Cave-Exterior to Cave-Interior, and the two painted stonework frames are pushed onto the stage.

ROWLING

Very interesting hiroglyphs. I was told there was an anomalous feature of the radiological decay down here that was most intriguing.

YLNATS

The anti-entropic field sir, yes, it makes itself apparent the deeper we go. As in this location and this location only the carbon-dating leads to a later date carbon-date the deeper we go.

ROWLING

So, how recent is the bottom then?

YLNATS

(stops in his tracks,  
turns to look at ROWLING  
for an uncomfortable  
moment)

Why, nine hundred years in the  
future Mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

(pulls out a handkerchief  
to wipe his face)

Oh my, yes. That's very good  
indeed. Uh, do you-

YLNATS

I do know why you seek out these  
properties, mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

That's alarming.

YLNATS

Confidentiality is my specialty,  
sir.

ROWLING

That's very good to hear.

YLNATS

You survey, purchase, and retrofit  
these kinds of proto-historic  
underground bunkers into apocalypse  
shelters for your wealthy friends.

ROWLING

Yes, well, and I know just the  
person who'd be interested in this  
place

YLNATS

And the client in question is you  
for once, Mr. Rowling. Isn't it.

ROWLING

How would you know? I have to say I  
like the architecture. And I'll  
procure some site for my own one  
day but-

YLNATS

Don't take me for a fool, Mr.  
Rowling. It's the anti-entropic  
field you want. The Time-Field that  
is unique to this of all the caves  
of this cavernous Earth.

ROWLING

(coughs uncomfortably)

YLNATS

With it you could escape the effects of time altogether. At least, you could save yourself. Now won't you excuse me for a second, Mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

Excuse you? Wait, for what?

YLNATS

There is something I must get before we head further.

ROWLING

You're leaving me here?!

YLNATS

Just for a moment, my esteemed sir.

ROWLING

Well, I, but, you!

YLNATS

I will be back before you know I am gone. We're almost there and I must make sure he's expecting company.

ROWLING

He doesn't know I'm coming!?

YLNATS

It's been a long time for him, sir. He's not very much used to company. Really, I myself haven't been there in months.

YLNATS starts away up-stage right.

ROWLING

But-

YLNATS

(not stopping his stride)  
Just wait there, sir ROWLING.

ROWLING

(nearly throwing a temper tantrum)  
This is Absurd! That's it. I'm having backup.

ROWLING pulls his phone out and hits a speeddial

Sound effects of a speed dial "beep beep beep, beep beep beep beep"

ROWLING

Stanly!@!

"BEE-Boo-Beep" (A lady-auto reader voice chimes in) "We're Sorry, the Number you have dialed cannot be reached at this time. Please enter a service area and try again"

ROWLING

(pocketing his phone and  
then pacing in  
frustration.)

Owhh Jimmy Jamboree! I've had  
better treatment as a hostage than  
this. Who would dare to waste my  
time like this. I should've just  
sent the survey team and-

ROWLING is cut off by his phone ringing again

ROWLING

Thank capital! A signal! \*answers  
phone\*

Yes, I'm Still Rowling! -Listen  
Stanly! Who the Hell did you set me  
up with, this guy is off the rails,  
He actually left me standing here-  
(all alone for him to go do  
something)

The voice(pre-recorded) of ZOM breaks through on the full  
soundsystem. As he speaks, the lights of the cave brighten,  
and a audible rumble emphasises his words. As Rowling first  
hears him, he jumps with fright, dropping his phone like it  
was suddenly very hot.

ZOM

SILENCE YOUR SNIVELING MORTAL, FOR  
YOU ARE NOW IN SIGHT OF THE ALL  
SEEING WISDOM OF I, THE GREAT AND  
POWERFUL ZOM.

ROWLING

What the HELL! Who are you?

ZOM

YOU SHALL NOT ORDER THE GREAT ZOM.  
IT IS YOU WHO SHALL SHOW YOURSELF  
TO ME!

ROWLING

I don't take orders from anyone!

YLNATS

(from off stage, but  
stepping on stage)

Rowling. My master will see you  
now.

ROWLING

You!



YLNATS

Yul-Nats.

ROWLING

Whatever! You didn't tell me this cave had a P.A. System!

YLNATS

Oh it doesn't.

ROWLING

Then

YLNATS

Something Far better, and more situated to your desires, Mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

MY Desires?! My desires are to be back in New York, in my rooftop pool Youuuu....

YLNATS

-Lnats, Ylnats, sir.

ROWLING

Yuule Nats. You will take me to the surface at once. I'm no longer intersted in this excentric hole in the ground. or your arrogant employer.

YLNATS

(Pulls from under his robes a phaser gun)

I'm afraid I can't let you go just yet, Mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

You're going to threaten me with a plastic gun, Ylnats?

YLNATS

This is a temporal Gun, Mr. Rowling. I'm instructed not to kill you, but you don't need all your limbs.

ROWLING

Temporal gun? What's

YLNATS

Observe.

YLNATS fires the gun in a machine-gun arc across the projected backdrop.

Nothing changes.

ROWLING

Hah, I don't see

YLNATS

OBSERVE!

Suddenly, a spray of large lazer holes appear in succession along the same arc YLNATS fired the gun.

YLNATS

(aiming back at Rowling)

It's a Temporal Gun. Do I need to say more.

ROWLING

No, uh, you've quite made your point.

YLNATS

Then follow me and do exactly as I say. You have something to Learn Mr. Rowling.

ROWLING

Learn? What could I have to learn?

YLNATS

You used to say "Come Hell or High Water" Mr. Rowling. And they did. Consider me the ghost of christmas future and you won't be far off.

ROWLING

I-

YLNATS

Enough Banter! This way Mr. Rowling. Pick up the pace.

YLNATS gestures stage right with his gun.

ROWLING, proceeds, arms up. While walking he says.

ROWLING and YLNATS proceed offstage, stage lights dim and the projection switches to ZOM's inner sanctuary. They circle around to the door @ down-stage Right. Lights go down while they pass across the curtain. Of the stage while the Lamp and radio of ZOM are wheeled to center stage, along with ZOM's Chair, and a mask-clad and limp character ZOM who sits in it (who may or may not voice ZOM, who sits in chair. On the side the stonework frames are rotated to the Inner Sanctum side, where sci-fi elements are added to the stone.

The fog projector is run for the duration of this transition.

As this happens they pass across the curtain of the stage, speaking

When we get there you will do as I say, yes?

ROWLING

Yes.

YLNATS

You will behave for one with deference, yes?

ROWLING

Okay.

YLNATS

You have your lighter yes?

ROWLING

I don't smoke.

YLNATS

You will after today. Here, take mine. Once we get there, first you will light the lamp. Then mind your manners, my employer is quite mad, tell me, do you know about Post-humanism?

Before he can answer, YLNATS ushers ROWLING past the futuristic boulder through the front curtain on stage left. Then they round the curtain and enter from stage left to the now transitioned scene. As each of them enter, a "warp" sound effect is played.

YLNATS stands guard with his arms crossed to watch. as ROWLING proceeds.

ROWLING makes his way to the lamp, takes the lighter out and turns back to YLNATS who nods urgently.

Lighting the lamp, ROWLING takes a knee

ROWLING

Oh Great Zom. I, the humble mortal Baron Julius Rowling seek your wisdom and-

YLNATS facepalms at "wisdom"

ZOM

Mortal! I The Great ZOM give not Mere Wisdom! For I, the Great Zom have nothing less than the greatest of wisdom to give.

ROWLING

(visably straining not to  
lash out, he looks back  
to YLNATS who gestures  
circularly with his gun  
to keep going)

Yes Great Zom. I meant to ask you  
for your great wisdom to aid me  
with my puny mortal troubles

ZOM

FOOL! I, The Great Zom, Only Give  
the Greatest if Knowledge to aid in  
The Greatest, most Immortal of  
problems.

ROWLING

(visably straining to act  
this dimure)

Oh Zom, That's what I meant though

ZOM

Insolence! I See no Zom here! I am  
Zom the GREAT and am not to be  
trifled with by a mere Trifler who  
does not even know how to use my  
title!

ROWLING

(having no more of this)

That's it, You-

YLNATS

(alarmed seeing Rowling  
about to break protocal  
he advances and  
interjects)

Great Zom! I must apologize for  
this poor mortal's insolence. But  
you see, this mortal's name is  
Row-ling, if the Great Zom cares to  
remember. He is about to purchase  
this survival-bunker for Himself.

ROWLING

Nope, heheh that's fine, I don't  
really

YLNATS

(takes ROWLING by the  
shoulders and slaps him)

ROWLING

I mean yes, It's me, Rowling. And  
I'm clearly very interested in this  
place.

ZOM

Rowling... It's been so long since  
someone called me that. HOW DARE

YLNATS

No no no! O Zom the Great, it is He  
who is Rowling now. And it is You  
who would like to share your  
wisdom, Yes?

ZOM

Yes, You there!

ROWLING

Me?

ZOM

Yes ME!

ROWLING

You?

ZOM

Yes, You!

ROWLING

What about me?

ZOM

I was a Fool!

ROWLING

Parden?

ZOM

But now I am ZOM.

ROWLING

I'm confused

ZOM

No! I the Great Zom am Never  
confused! You have a daughter, yes?

ROWLING

What about my daugher?

ZOM

She is always telling you to start  
saving the world instead of buying  
protections for yourself when it  
colapses!

ROWLING

How do you-

ZOM

Because I am Zom the Great!  
I- I mean, I was You!

ROWLING

Bull hockey.

ZOM

Come, take up my mask and see for yourself!

ROWLING proceeds to ZOM's form and takes up the dark mask. Under it is a skull mask.

ROWLING

(jumping back with  
fright)

AAH! No you're a freaking skeleton!

ZOM

What?! Oh, right. Well... But look at my bone-structure!

ROWLING

(examining Zom's face)

You've had the same plastic surgery! Oh, god. What about my daughter, the priveleged brat who's following that loopy Grendel girl around

ZOM

Gretta! She was Right! Owwhhh I remember when her and Gretta we each just 40 she told me just before I'd moved in here that I'd have a long time to regret things.

ROWLING

You've gotta be kidding me

ZOM

I'm too old for that now!  
Time is of the essence You must do as I didn't. Save the biosphere instead of just yourself!

ROWLING

Why me? I'm not even that rich yet.

ZOM

You're richer than all of Austrelia!

ROWLING

Well, 'Austrelia'

ZOM

Go now! The longer you stay here the later it is there!

ROWLING

Wait just a minute!

ZOM

Every minute in this chamber lasts  
a week up there!

ROWLING

What?!

YLNATS

It's a Time Chamber you baffoon.

ROWLING

Fine, I'm going, Ylnats, lead me  
out of here!

YLNATS

It's a liniar path. Just get going!

YLNATS puses Rowling, who resists at first

ROWLING

Wait, you know my future! What  
investments are worth it?! When's  
America going to collapse? Are the  
socialists going to get elected  
this time?!

ZOM

How should I remember?

ROWLING

You're ZOM! The Great and-

YLNATS

(pushes ROWLING  
offstage.)

"Warp sound effect for ROWLING exiting.

ZOM

Thanks Stanly... Do you think... Do  
you think I Will I make enough of a  
difference this time?

YLNATS

I can't say. But you couldn't  
possibly have done much worse. Than  
this.

ZOM

Stanly... do you remember... Was I  
ever really that arrogant?

Stanly turns to look at Zom for a long moment.

YLNATS

It is possible, oh Great Zom.

Lights.