

KID'S QUEST

Characters

BILLY GREEN - 10 years ago and now.

DARLENE SUMMERS - 10 years ago and now.

RONAN JACKSON - 10 years ago and now.

DIGBY - The Host.

Scene 1

Kid's Quest. 10 years ago.

Live on the set of a popular American children's adventure competition series, DIGBY the host jogs playfully onto the stage to address the audience. He encourages them to clap, then silences them.

DIGBY

Thank you, thank you.

(beat)

Summoned from his boring, ordinary life, an unlikely hero encounters a spectacular journey of ultimate feats, where danger and surprises await him.

The three contestants, wearing their helmets, jog onto the stage and join Digby. They are BILLY GREEN, DARLENE SUMMERS, and RONAN JACKSON.

As Digby calls out each name, the contestant gives an acknowledgement by nodding or posing.

DIGBY

Will Darlene "Anaconda" Summers seal the deal and slither into first place? Can Ronan "Mad Dog" Jackson beat her to it? Or, will Billy "Sabertooth" Green triumph in the end? I'm Digby, your Spirit Guide. Welcome to a dark and stormy night. This...is Kid's Quest.

(to the contestants)

(DO! YOU! ACCEPT THE QUEST?!)

DARLENE AND RONAN

Yes!

Billy stands still.

DIGBY

Billy?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIGBY (cont'd)

Billy?

(beat.)

BILL-LY!

Suddenly, Billy screams a highpitched squeal. He drops down to the ground, curling into a fetal position.

DIGBY

Uh oh.

SCENE TWO

Before the show. Still 10 years ago.

Billy, Darlene, and Ronan wait for the show to begin. Each ties their shoelaces, their helmets placed next to their feet. Ronan struggles unsuccessfully with his laces.

DIGBY (O.S.)

Standby!

BILLY

(to Darlene)

Do you think they'll ask us to be spies for the government? Darlene regards him with disdain. Billy is smaller than she is.

DARLENE

What are you, like 10 years old?

BILLY

Yeah right, lady. I'm like, old enough to ride any of the rollercoasters.

DARLENE

You look kind of scrawny.

BILLY

Well, I'm one of three kids picked from the entire country to compete on national television. You think I care if I look scrawny?

DARLENE

Yeah.

BILLY

Well, look at you.

(CONTINUED)

DARLENE

What about me?

BILLY

Come on. Why do you think you're here? Obviously they had to get a girl to compete against me. You know, for political reasons.

DARLENE

Oh, okay. You think you're gonna win?

BILLY

Of course. Don't you think that you're gonna win?

DARLENE

Nope. No way. Come on. Look at that guy.

They watch Ronan who still struggles to tie his shoes. Ronan appears quite thicker and stronger than either of them.

BILLY

(growling under his breath)

Ronan.

Ronan stops tying for a moment and considers a thought.

RONAN

Ronan hungry.

Darlene laughs.

BILLY

He can't even tie his shoes.

DARLENE

Yeah, but he weighs like, 200 pounds. He has to be 17 or something or even older. Look at him.

BILLY

You're wrong.

RONAN

Ronan piece of fruit.

(demonstrates)

Banana...split. Banana...split.

(beat)

Banana...split!

DARLENE

(to Ronan)

Oh I get it. You're peeling a banana.

BILLY

(to both)

Have either of you even read a book?!

DARLENE

Duh.

Ronan gives no acknowledgement.

BILLY

Well, if you ever stopped being girls and tried to read one, you'd know that the big guy always loses. It's a fact.

DARLENE

Is that so?

BILLY

He's Goliath. I'm David.

DARLENE

Sorry, man. You're just Billy.

BILLY

No, I'm the underdog! Everyone's gonna bet on Ronan, but against all odds, I will triumph. Now that's a true hero story. That's the way the quest works.

DARLENE

I like you Billy, I do. I just wish you were less stupid.

Ronan succeeds in tying his shoes. He stands up with delight.

RONAN

Ronan genius!

DIGBY (O.S.)

Reset! Contestants, take your places...

All three contestants put on their helmets.

BILLY

So, Darlene.

DARLENE

Yes, Billy.

BILLY

Do you want to kiss me or something?

DARLENE

You're joking, right?

BILLY

I've never been so serious in my life.

Darlene rolls her eyes.

BILLY

Come on. One for luck, lady. It might be the last chance we ever see each other again.

(beat)

Come on.

He leans in, gestures to his cheek.

Sighing heavily, Darlene leans in towards him. At the last second, Billy turns his head and they share a full on kiss on the mouth.

DARLENE

Ugh! Save it for the hero's circle, Billy.

BILLY

Who cares? I've already won.

He grins.

DIGBY (O.S.)

Places!

Billy and Darlene insert their mouth guards. Take their positions.

SCENE THREE

The Game. 10 years ago.

Billy, Darlene, and Ronan are joined by Digby, the host.

DIGBY

Go ahead, Ronan, which journey did you pick?

RONAN

Ronan wants Curse of the Three Dog Knight.

DIGBY

Ah, the Curse of the Three Dog Knight. It's a doozy, folks. Contestants will have to make their way through the thick weeds of the Fearsome Forest, race past the Silent Guards of Tyberia's Bosom, dive under the Blue Gate of Fate, and...jump on the tuffet to blow up Mabel's Mine. DO! YOU! ACCEPT THE QUEST?!

RONAN AND DARLENE AND BILLY

Yes!

DIGBY

And...they're off! Darlene takes the lead, barreling through the thick stalks, Ronan a close second, oh there's Billy, his shirt is stuck on a thorn, will he catch up? Darlene makes her way into the Night Watch of the Silent Guards, oh! Ronan passes her, this is getting exciting! His big muscles make him unstoppable, he's the one to beat. Billy's still at the beginning, making his way through the weeds, he stops to catch his breath, the other two have long passed him, Billy, you gotta keep going, keep making your way through the journey. Billy gets up, races to the Night Watch, the Silent Guards of Tyberia's Bosom...WILL! HE! DEFEAT THEM?!

DIGBY

Whoah, the guard just surprised him!

Billy screams the same high-pitched squeal as in the beginning. He drops down to the ground, curling into a fetal position.

DIGBY

Uh oh.

SCENE FOUR

Reunion Episode of Kid's Quest. Present Day.

Billy stands in front of the audience. He is ten years older and more serious. He appears less confident, perhaps even angry.

Digby jogs onto the stage. Commands applause, then silences the audience as he joins Billy.

DIGBY

(to audience)

Thank you, thank you. You haven't aged a bit.

(beat)

We're here with one of our most infamous contestants throughout the years...Billy "Sabertooth" Green. Remember Billy? Of course you do. I can't believe ten years have passed since we last saw each other, Billy.

BILLY

William. I go by William now.

DIGBY

We're so excited to have you back here, Billy. Time flew by so fast.

BILLY

I wish I were dead.

DIGBY

What was it like, being a small kid from Cave City, Kentucky, picked to compete in a nationally televised competition?

Billy says nothing. Only stares sullenly.

DIGBY

Wasn't it surreal? Wasn't it fun for you?

BILLY

They left a lot of things out.

DIGBY

Like what, Billy?

BILLY

Oh I don't know, Digby. Like the fact that I competed against kids that were both two years older than me? Was that fair? And the fact that we didn't even know all the rules before we had to start the game. The fact, that---

(CONTINUED)

DIGBY

(to audience)

---You're watching Behind The Game: A Kid's Quest. Coming up next, we'll talk about some of the highlights that made this game popular, but first...the clip that made Billy unforgettable.

SCENE 5

The Game. 10 years ago.

Billy, Darlene, and Ronan compete in the game, jumping and crawling over hurdles.

DIGBY

Billy you gotta keep going, keep making your way through the journey. Billy gets up, races to the Night Watch, the Silent Guards of Tyberia's Bosom...WILL! HE! DEFEAT THEM?!

DIGBY

Whoah, the guard just surprised him!

Billy screams a high-pitched squeal. Billy drops down to the ground, curling into a fetal position.

DIGBY

Uh oh.

SCENE 6

Back to Reunion Episode of Kid's Quest. Present Day.

Billy stares at the screen where the clip played. A horrible reaction washes over his face.

DIGBY

Millions of people have watched you on YouTube. Thousands of comments. Some have even posted response videos remixing your scream with 1980's disaster movies. How does it feel to be the world's worst Kid's Quest contestant?

(beat)

Billy? Are you okay? Let's give him a minute.

BILLY

You're an--- [asshole]

DIGBY

(censoring him)

Bee-eeep.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

What the-- [fuck]

DIGBY

--Bee-eep--

BILLY

--,dude?

DIGBY

You're angry.

BILLY

Yeah I'm angry. My life sucks now after this stupid show!

DIGBY

Billy--

BILLY

--William.

DIGBY

If you had to do it all over again, would you still accept the quest?

BILLY

No! Of course not!

DIGBY

Billy, lots of reviled C-list celebrities have parlayed their defeats into profitable ventures...their own reality show, their own clothing line, heck--even their own cologne.

BILLY

Good for them.

DIGBY

We're told you didn't finish college. Do you still live in your parent's basement?

BILLY

I just want to be left alone.

DIGBY

Then why are you here with us today?

Billy says nothing.

DIGBY

A-ha! Well, we want to give you a second chance. Billy, if you accept the quest one more time...the network has

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIGBY (cont'd)

agreed...to pay...for four years of college at any school of your choosing. Will you accept?

BILLY

What if I lose again?

DIGBY

Believe me, you have nothing to lose. Ha! You just have to accept.

Offstage, someone hands Digby a gigantic check with Billy's name on it.

DIGBY

(extends hand)

Billy "Sabertooth" Green, it's your participation tonight in exchange for the money to fix the rest of your life, do we have a deal? Billy, do you..Accept..The..Quest?

Billy sighs. He lingers for a moment before accepting.

DIGBY

Let's bring out his competitors. Surprise, Billy! We have managed...to find...your original competitors, Darlene "Anaconda" Summers and Ronan "Mad Dog" Jackson. Come on out you guys!

Darlene and Ronan walk onto the stage with more adult grace. Darlene sees Billy. Both acknowledge each other quietly.

DIGBY

Darlene, you're in Nevada and you have a son. It must be crazy to raise a child there, right?

DARLENE

Well, Ben and I order room service every night in our hotel. My fiancée's a dancer, so we travel around a lot.

DIGBY

Must be nice to be a stay-at-hotel Mom. Ha! Ronan, we're so glad you could be here tonight. You might recognize Ronan from his widely popular exercise videos--straight to DVD--"How To Get Big and Get Bigger."

RONAN

Thank you. There's a population of us that struggle to gain weight. We literally just can't get fat, Digby. At

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RONAN (cont'd)

HGBG, we provide a foundation and recommend professionally tested lifelong habits to help you gain the weight.

DIGBY

Sounds a niche market. All right, folks! Let's get started. For today's Quest, we've brought you back the story of the Tale of the Three Dog Knight. DO! YOU! ACCEPT THE QUEST?!

Darlene and Ronan nod.

BILLY

Ugh, fine.

DIGBY

And...they're off! Billy "Sabertooth" Green sprints ahead of Ronan, Darlene lagging behind, she just had her first baby, son Ben, last year, still carrying a bit of that extra weight...all three pass the Fearsome Forest, oh! Billy just knocked over one of the Silent Guards--the ones that he previously had so much trouble defeating--well, it's much easier to play this game when you're an adult, Ronan's gaining on him, both dive under the Blue Gate of Fate--

RONAN

Woooo-hoooo!

DIGBY

--Neck in neck, Darlene's still at the Guards, at her size, she should be able to knock them down, it's anyone's race, down to Billy and Ronan, Ronan and Billy, they just have to jump on the tuffet to blow up the mine, WHO! WILL! WIN?!

Ronan jumps on the tuffet, blows up the mine. He wins. The other two fall short, collapsing with exhaustion. Digby hangs a medal over Ronan's neck. He also hands him a bouquet of flowers and a giant check.

DIGBY

Congratulations to the final winner of Kid's Quest. Ronan, now's your time, once again, to begin the hero's circle.

Ronan smiles and struts as he walks around in a circle, waving to the audience.

Suddenly, Billy rips Ronan's check out of his hands and tries to destroy it. Then he grabs Ronan's flowers and throws them to the ground.

BILLY

How do you like that? How do you feel now?

DIGBY

It's over, Billy. It's done. Ronan won, again.

BILLY

No, it's not. I am mother--(fucking)

DIGBY

--beep--

BILLY

Billy "Sabertooth" Green and I just destroyed the shit--

DIGBY

(a little late)

--Beep--

BILLY

--Out of your game. How does that make you feel, Digby?

DARLENE

What are you doing?

Billy takes the check and grabs a handful of the flowers.

BILLY

These are for me! See? For me!

RONAN

(shrugs)

Ronan allergic.

BILLY

Gimme your medal.

Billy tries to grab it from him, but Ronan holds an arm out, shielding Billy's blows. Billy finally wrestles the medal from him.

BILLY

I won! I am the underdog!

DIGBY

Well, there you have it, folks. Shamed by his former loss, William Billy "Sabertooth" Green came back and embarrassed himself once again for our entertainment.

Billy walks over to Darlene, and takes a knee. He offers her a flower.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

You're special, lady. You've always supported me, through thick and thin, even when I was scrawny. Darlene, will you marry me?

DARLENE

Billy, I have a husband. And a kid. (beat.) No! I will not marry you!

Defeated, Billy drops the flowers, the giant check, and the medal. He screams his high-pitched scream and crumples to the floor.

DIGBY

What a show, folks! This is your spirit guide, reminding you to always be safe on your journey and don't talk to strangers, especially if they look like me. Ha! I'm John "Digby" Roberts, it's a dark and stormy night, and you're watching Kid's Quest. DO! YOU! ACCEPT! THE QUEST!?!

END.