

GOLD MINERS

Written by

Madeline Khare

No unauthorized reproduction or reference. All content is owned by
and registered to Madeline Khare.

17 November 2020 (1st Draft)

8 MAINE 8
Wow, it is worse than the last one.

9 LORRIE 9
Hey, your father needs this.

Jet turns back to see Lorrie and Maine quickly fake a smile and give a thumbs up.

15 JET 15
It's not so bad, right?

16 LORRIE 16
Only one way to find out.

Lorrie heads into the cave. Maine uneasily glances at Jet, and the two follow suit.

INT. CAVE HOME - CONTINUOUS

Lorrie flips on an ELECTRIC LANTERN. The cave is adorned with STALAGMITES and STALACTITES that glisten with little GEMS. There's a small body of water that flows down a cave tunnel.

Lorrie and Maine wander in with their SLEEPING BAGS. At first, they're taken aback by the beautiful gems. Then, they notice all the bat-guano and wince.

10 JET 10
It... has some work to do... but it could be fun!

11 LORRIE 11
It does have a lotta work to do...

Lorrie notices Jet's blubbery eyes and frown.

12 LORRIE (CONT'D) 12
...it's like... a blank canvas!

BACK ON: Jet's blubbery eyes remain, but now he smiles.

13 MAINE 13
Sure, a canvas covered in bat doo-doo. Delightful.

Jet frowns again. Lorrie shoots Maine a sharp look.

14 LORRIE 14
We can make it our own.

Jet holds his hands up, creating a frame.

17 JET 17
Just picture this! Here, we could
have the fire place - er... pit.
And over here, we could put the
stove. And over here -

POV: Jet's hands frame a random TOILET installed in the
middle of the cave.

18 JET (CONT'D) 18
Looks like we've already got a
bathroom.

19 MAINE 19
...does it... work?

Jet shrugs. Lorrie and Maine share a concerned look.

20 LORRIE 20
It's very... open concept.

21 JET 21
That's the spirit!

22 MAINE 22
How...Do I get my own room?

23 JET 23
We could put up some sheets and
make a few walls. Eh? Eh??

Maine <GROANS> and unrolls his sleeping bag. Lorrie drops
hers and wanders towards the water, which disappears into a
cave tunnel adorned with even more gems. She squints.

24 LORRIE 24
Do you know where that creek leads?

25 JET 25
Only one way to find out.

Jet winks. He opens one of the suitcases and beings pumping
up an INFLATABLE KAYAK.

26 MAINE 26
Oooh can I come?

27 LORRIE 27
It's best you stay here in case we
need you for something. Besides,
someone has to unpack.

28 JET 28
Got your walkie?

Maine fiddles with his WALKIE-TALKIE, clipped onto his pants.

29 MAINE 29
Yeah-yeah, I got it.

30 LORRIE 30
There are snacks in the cases if
you get hungry.

Lorrie gives Maine a hug. She pulls back.

31 LORRIE (CONT'D) 31
I promise we'll turn it into
something you love.

She wipes a smudge from his cheek, and heads to the kayak.

32 JET / LORRIE 32
So long, son! / B'bye now!

They wave goodbye and disappear to...

INT. CAVE CREEK - MEANWHILE

...the Creek tunnel. It's quiet here - the only sound is
echoing water dripping from the walls into the still water.

76 JET 76
Do you think we did the right
thing? Moving out here?

Lorrie lets out a <SIGH>.

77 LORRIE 77
I don't know what the right thing
is anymore. I just hope Maine will
come around.

80 JET 80
I wish he could understand we
didn't have any other choice.

Lorrie grimaces, darts her eyes.

81 LORRIE 81
Well, we did but--

82 JET 82
Lorrie, you know I would have been
laid off - or worse - if I didn't
take this mining promotion.

83 LORRIE 83
It's just not much of a promotion
if they pay you less, move you to
the middle of nowhere, and force
you to do manual labor!

84 JET 84
We always knew that the crystal
business could be this way. But the
alternative?! Remember Sammie?!

Lorrie is quiet.

85 LORRIE 85
It's just not fair.

86 JET 86
Life isn't fair. Neither is death.

They row silently into a large open area...

INT. CAVE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

...where the creek meets a lake. The lake is glowing with
mystical crystals on its bottom.

The crystals emit a ringing sound and the water starts to
ripple.

87 LORRIE 87
What in the...

The water starts to bubble and rise. Jet and Lorrie brace
themselves as they watch a SUBMARINE covered in barnical-like
crystals emerge from below the surface.

The hatch opens with a puff of steam. EDDIE, a shaggy man
wearing a jorts/ wifebeater/ baseball cap combo, <COUGHS> and
bats away the steam. He notices Lorrie and Jet, mouths agape.

90 EDDIE 90
Who the heck are you?!

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE HOME - MOMENTS AGO

The cave is now completely unpacked. Maine claps his hands -
a job well finished. Then looks down at his phone.

There's no service.

Maine looks towards the entrance of the cave, then back to the tunnel. He shrugs, and...

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

...steps outside, searching for a signal. Looking only at his phone, Maine climbs above the cave entrance.

He wanders through a forest - not noticing the HIDDEN CREATURES, a GEYSER that glows rainbow, or the OTHER CAVE ENTRANCE. He keeps walking until...

EXT. CELL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

...he is practically touching a small cell tower.

33 MAINE 33
Finally! A signal!

Maine refreshes for notifications - but he has none. He goes to his own social media page and sees a photo of him eating pizza alone in the city - 0 likes.

He goes back to the main feed. Sees his friends went to the same pizza place together, without him... Frowns. 37 likes.

34 MAINE (CONT'D) 34
Hmm...

WIDEN ON: DAKOTA, 14 years old, shaved head wearing cut-offs and a tank top, drops their jaw.

35 DAKOTA 35
Who the heck are you?!

36 MAINE 36
Wha- Ahh!

Maine stumbles and lands on the ground.

37 MAINE (CONT'D) 37
There are other people out here?!

38 DAKOTA 38
No! That's why this whole interaction's weird!

They size each other up.

39 MAINE 39
Hm. In that case-

Maine stands up. Dusts himself off.

40 MAINE (CONT'D) 40
I'm Maine.

Maine extends a hand. Dakota <CRACKS UP> and slaps their knee, totally ignoring the hand.

41 DAKOTA 41
There's no way your name is Maine.

Maine rescinds his hand.

42 MAINE 42
Why is that weird?! It's my grandpa's name.

43 DAKOTA 43
Hoo-wee! It's just- my name's Dakota - we're both states!

44 MAINE 44
Heh, I guess you're right.

45 DAKOTA 45
I've never met another state before. What on earth brings you to these parts?

Maine's face drops as he remembers.

46 MAINE 46
My family moved away from the city. Just got to this dump today.

47 DAKOTA 47
You say that like it's a bad thing.

48 MAINE 48
Isn't it?

Dakota bursts out <LAUGHING>.

49 DAKOTA 49
Someone's trash is another's treasure!

Maine stares blankly. Dakota sees the phone in Maine's hand.

50 DAKOTA (CONT'D) 50
Oooh, what's that?

Dakota reaches for the phone. Maine resists.

51 MAINE 51
Hey! That's none of your business!

After a slight struggle, Dakota scores the phone. Starts scrolling and liking all the photos.

52 DAKOTA 52
Aww, who are these folks?!

53 MAINE 53
They used to be my friends.

54 DAKOTA 54
Oooh, I love their sweater! Like!

55 MAINE 55
What?! No! Don't like it!

Maine reaches for the phone. Dakota turns away and scrolls.

56 DAKOTA 56
Why not? I do like it! So chic...

57 MAINE 57
Yeah, but then they'll think I like it. I don't want them to know that!

58 DAKOTA 58
Oh- right. And you don't like it?

Dakota holds the phone up higher than Maine can't reach. Maine jumps for it.

59 MAINE 59
I mean, <JUMP> I guess I do, <JUMP> but that's not the point - ugh!

60 DAKOTA 60
Isn't it?

Dakota taunt-wiggles their eyebrows. Maine crosses his arms.

61 MAINE 61
Well, they didn't like my photo. So why should I like theirs?

62 DAKOTA 62
Oh.

Dakota thinks. Hands the phone back silently. Maine takes it and crosses his arms again without making eye contact.

63 DAKOTA (CONT'D) 63
Well, if I followed you, I'd like
your posts.

64 MAINE 64
Really?

65 DAKOTA 65
Yeah.

Dakota smiles. Maine smiles softly back.

66 MAINE 66
I'd like your posts too.

Dakota's eyes sparkle. Smile widens... a lot.

67 DAKOTA 67
Does this mean we're friends?

68 MAINE 68
It can?

69 DAKOTA 69
HOMYGOSH. I don't think I ever had
one of those before!

Maine looks back down at his phone - still at 0 likes.

70 MAINE 70
Y'know, I'm not sure if I ever had
one either.

71 DAKOTA 71
My mama always said there's a first
time for everything. Shake on it?

Dakota extends a hand. Maine sets his phone and walkie down.
He reaches out for Dakota's hand - when Dakota hacks a fat
loogie directly into it. Maine winces.

72 DAKOTA (CONT'D) 72
C'mon, you do the same!

73 MAINE 73
That's so gross!

74 DAKOTA 74
That's friendship.

Maine's eye twitches, but he complies. They spit-shake on it.

75 DAKOTA (CONT'D) 75
Welcome to Buntuck!

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

91 JET 91
Who are we?! Who are YOU?!

Eddie furrows his brow. BAY, wearing daisy dukes and a cropped top, <COUGHS> her way to the top.

92 BAY 92
I think the toaster's busted.

Bay stops coughing and notices Jet and Lorrie.

93 BAY (CONT'D) 93
Who the heck are you?!

94 LORRIE 94
We were just asking you that.

They stare each other down, Mexican-stand-off style.

Lorrie furrows her brow, determined. Eddie wiggles his mustache, determined. Bay lifts an eyebrow, determined. Jet's eye starts to water - less and less determined when--

95 JET 95
OKAY FINE!

He closes his burning eyes with a puff of steam. Holds it.

96 JET (CONT'D) 96
I'm Jet and this is Lorrie!

He waves his free hand towards Lorrie. Lorrie elbows him.

LORRIE	JET (CONT'D)
Jet! How could you give us away like that?! I mean come <u>on!</u>	What! My eyes hurt, you know I'm no good at staring contests.

Bay and Eddie share a look.

97 BAY 97
Okay... I'm Bay, that's Eddie. Why
are you in our home?

Jet and Lorrie stop <BICKERING> and look at Bay.

98 JET / LORRIE 98
Your home?!

Jet and Lorrie quickly smile at each other - aw, so in sync.
Then back to business.

99 JET 99
This is our home!

100 LORRIE 100
Yeah! Y'all better explain
yourselves, or... else!

101 EDDIE 101
Your home?! Ha! Since when?!

102 BAY 102
What he means is -- we're the only
ones who have lived here since
yesterday!

Lorrie pulls Jet aside.

103 LORRIE 103
(angry whisper)
Since yesterday?! Did we move into
someone else's home Jet?!

104 JET 104
I- I- nooo-mayyyybeee?

Jet shakes it off and turns to face Bay and Eddie.

105 JET (CONT'D) 105
Well... we moved in today and we're
not gonna leave!

106 BAY 106
Well we ain't movin' either.

Bay crosses her arms. Eddie <SPITS>.

107 EDDIE 107
What are you gonna do about it?

Jet scoops up some rope on the floor of the kayak. Fashions a
lasso. Dramatically looks up.

108 JET 108
<BATTLE CRY>

Jet steps to the front of the kayak. Winds up the lasso.
Dramatically jumps in the air as he throws the it!

The lasso barely makes it two feet in front of the boat.
Eddie and Bay <CRACK UP>.

109 EDDIE 109
 Hoo, you think that'll make us git?

110 LORRIE 110
 Well... you got anything better?!

Bay and Eddie fall serious. They reach in the submarine and pull out CRYSTALS, like the ones at the bottom of the lake.

111 BAY 111
 Oh we got *better*.

Eddie crushes a crystal in his hands, and the dust absorbs into the water beneath their submarine.

The water starts to swell - Eddie assumes a powerful stance and controls the wave.

112 LORRIE / JET 112
 AHHHHHH!!!

They smile at each other briefly - aw, so in sync! - then continue <SCREAMING>. They hi-tail it outta there, rowing as fast as they can.

 EDDIE
 You're not gonna get away that
 easily!

Eddie pulls the water to form a whirlpool underneath the submarine. It starts to suck Lorrie and Jet's kayak towards it. Jet reaches for his walkie talkie.

CUT TO:

EXT. CELL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Maine and Dakota are watching videos on his phone, sharing a set of headphones. They <LAUGH>.

113 DAKOTA 113
 I'm gonna have that song stuck in
 my head all night!

114 MAINE 114
 Ha- I know right?! And then when
 they stole his kidney?! Classic.

Their <LAUGHTER> is interrupted by a muffled static sound-

115 JET 115
(through walkie)
MAINE! COME IN, MAINE! WE NEED YOUR
HELP! NOW-- OW!! Hey--

116 MAINE 116
Oh my gosh, Dad!

Maine hops up and snatches his walkie.

117 MAINE (CONT'D) 117
(to walkie)
Dad? Is everything okay?

118 JET 118
(through walkie static)
Under -- Attack! -- Need help!

119 MAINE 119
(to walkie)
I'm coming Dad!!!

Maine looks up at Dakota, eyes full of worry.

120 MAINE (CONT'D) 120
I gotta go!

121 DAKOTA 121
I'll come with you!

Maine nods. They run O.S. to...

INT. CAVE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Dakota follows Maine inside. Maine rumages through an emergency kit.

122 DAKOTA 122
Wait, you live here?

Maine finds another kayak. Starts pumping it with air.

123 MAINE 123
Yeah, why?

Dakota's eyes are wide. They clearly recognizes this place.

124 DAKOTA 124
Uh, no reason... It's just, I might
know why your parents are in
trouble now.

The kayak is inflated. Maine tosses a knapsack in and gestures for Dakota to follow.

125 MAINE 125
What do you mean? Is this place
haunted or something?

Dakota hops in. Maine launches the boat into the water and they start rowing through...

126 DAKOTA 126
Not exactly...

INT. CAVE CREEK - CONTINUOUS

The two row down the creek path. Maine is furiously paddling. Dakota's body language is small, covered, nervous.

127 MAINE 127
Then what?

128 DAKOTA 128
How do you say... My parents and I
sort of- kind of-- live here too?
That place was our guest bathroom.
Never finished the renovations...

131 MAINE 131
Whaaa-yup that explains the toilet.

The creek meets the lake.

INT. CAVE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

The sound of the whirlpool echoes throughout the cave.

Maine turns around and witnesses Eddie and Bay <LAUGHING MANIACALLY> in their submarine, which is atop a water-tornado causing a whirlpool that Jet and Lorrie are sinking into.

132 MAINE 132
MOM!!! DAD!!!

133 JET 133
SON!!!

134 LORRIE 134
HELP!!! Also who is that?

135 DAKOTA 135
I'm Dakota! So nice to meet you!
Sorry about my parents!

136 JET 136
Those guys are your parents?!

Dakota shrugs. Maine pulls out a harpoon from the backpack and some rope. Ties the rope around an arrow and a nearby stalagmite. Then Maine furrows his brow at Dakota.

137 MAINE 137
You better hope this works.

Dakota frowns. Maine shoots the arrow at his parents' kayak. Jet catches it. But the arrow catches Bay's eye. She sees Dakota. Stops laughing.

138 BAY 138
DAKOTA?! What in tarnation are you doing with them?!

Dakota gives a little wave with a smile. Maine is pulling his family to safety.

139 DAKOTA 139
Hi Mom!

Bay stares at Dakota, eyes wide, and starts patting Eddie's arm urgently. Bay starts <HYPERVENTILLATING>.

140 BAY 140
(between breaths)
Eddie- Eddie... they have our child... Eddie-

141 EDDIE 141
Huh? Oh my... DAKOTA!!!

Eddie's eyes widen with fear for a second - then he furrows his brow and <SCREAMS>. There is only rage in his eyes.

The water-tornado intensifies and waves start to surround Lorrie and Jet's kayak. It pulls closer to the submarine despite Maine's efforts.

142 EDDIE (CONT'D) 142
YOU! TOOK! MY! CHILD?!?!?!?!!

143 LORRIE / JET 143
Uhhh...

Lorrie and Jet share a growing smile - aw, so in sync!

144 LORRIE / JET (CONT'D) 144
Yes!

145 LORRIE 145
 That's right! We have your child!

146 JET 146
 Uhhh... Yeah! And if you hurt us,
 we'll have to hurt them!

Maine drops the rope and looks at Dakota. Dakota moves away cautiously. Maine shakes his head "no" and reaches out -

147 MAINE 147
 I would never hurt you-

148 LORRIE (O.S.) 148
 Yup! We're definitely gonna hurt
 whats-their-face... Dakota?

Maine turns to Lorrie.

149 MAINE 149
 This is ridiculous! You can't hold
 their kid hostage?!

Lorrie ignores him. Dakota darts their eyes.

Eddie's eyes fill with sorrow. He falls to his knee. The water tornado subsides. Bay puts a hand on his back.

150 EDDIE 150
 We'll do anything, just don't hurt
 our child...

151 BAY 151
 What do you want?

Maine reels his parents to safety. They climb aboard.

152 JET 152
 We want you to leave. And... those
 crystals.

153 MAINE 153
 You can't be serious right now!

Jet looks down at Maine, brow furrowed, stern frown.

154 JET 154
 Oh, I'm serious.

Jet turns back to Eddie and Bay - this time prepared to win a staring contest.

Maine looks at Dakota, now cowering in the corner of the small kayak. Maine turns to see the second kayak, now empty.

He looks back at Dakota. Nods. Maine lunges at Dakota, picks them up, pushes past his parents, and throws Dakota in the empty kayak.

155 JET / LORRIE 155
 What are you doing?! / Maine- no!!!

Maine looks at Dakota one last time, trembling in the kayak.

156 MAINE 156
 Go.

He shoves the kayak away right before Jet and Lorrie can stop him. Dakota bites back tears and rows as fast as they can towards the submarine.

Maine turns to face Lorrie and Jet, towering over him.

157 JET 157
 What did you just do!?!?

158 LORRIE 158
 We almost had them! You are so grounded.

Lorrie grabs Maine by the arm. Jet starts rowing away.

Maine looks back one last time to see Dakota tearfully hugging Eddie and Bay. Maine lets out a <SIGH OF RELIEF> and quietly smiles to himself.

Bay looks up from the hug with contempt.

159 BAY 159
 YOU WILL REGRET THIS!

BLACKOUT.

INT. CAVE HOME - NIGHT

Maine, in his sleeping bag, stares at his recent post: him in front of the cave with the caption, "New home, who dis??". He refreshes. 0 likes. He rolls his eyes.

Then: "Dakota47 liked your photo."

Maine sports a big cheesy smile, knowing he has a new friend.

IRIS OUT.