

Daytona McKane & the Quest for the Golden Mole

By

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ACT I

Scene 1

Darkness. The sounds of the jungle are heard: insects buzzing, birds chirping, creatures moving through the brush. The lights come up dimly, dense foliage covers the stage. A girl, Debbie, emerges from the forest into a clearing. She is clutching a teddy bear.

DEBBIE

I am dying of heat stroke, covered in bug bites and my feet feel like they're about to fall off! Can't we take a break, Uncle Daytona? We've been hiking for hours!

(silence)

Uncle Daytona? Hey! Where'd you go? UNCLE DAYTONA!

(silence)

Where did he go? I could have sworn I was right behind him a minute ago. Edward, did you see where Uncle Daytona went? No? Some help you are. Should I retrace my steps? Maybe I should just wait here. I bet he's looking for us right now, Edward. Uncle Daytona would never leave us behind. Don't you remember? He promised that nothing bad would happen to us.

Rustling noises are heard from the jungle.

DEBBIE

I bet that's him! Uncle Daytona! Hey! We're over here! See? What did I tell you? Uncle Daytona always-

A menacing panther pounces from the brush and snarls at Debbie.

DEBBIE

(screams)

That's not Uncle Daytona! That's a man-eating panther with mandibles of death! And he looks hungry! Quick, let's check the young explorer's guidebook for tips on how to deal with jungle beasts of the feline variety!

Debbie pulls out a book from her knapsack and flips it open.

DEBBIE

(reading)

"Panthera Onca: a rare, intelligent, strong genus in the big cat family. It is possibly one of the most aggressive and feared animals in the world. Panthers

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (cont'd)

are so strong, they can lift heavy animals they kill up into trees to eat them."

(gulp)

"If encountered in the wild, the best strategy for dealing with panthers is to play dead...but to be honest, you will most likely be eaten before you get that far. Nice knowing you!" Gee, that sure was helpful...

The panther advances on Debbie.

DEBBIE

Good kitty...Nice kitty...

The panther snarls.

DEBBIE

Bad kitty!

Debbie hurls the book at the panther, who prepares to pounce.

DEBBIE

Edward, it was a pleasure knowing you. Who would have thought we'd end up as cat food? Goodbye, my dear friend!

Daytona comes swinging in and tackles the panther. They wrestle on the ground.

DEBBIE

Uncle Daytona!

Daytona and the panther scramble to their feet.

DAYTONA

Stay back, Debbie! I'll take it from here.

The panther swipes at Daytona, who leaps back just in time. They circle each other. Daytona pulls out his whip and cracks it at the panther, who flinches in pain. After a few more cracks, the panther runs off, defeated.

DAYTONA

Yeah, that's right! Go on back to your litter box!

DEBBIE

That was awesome, Uncle Daytona! You totally kicked that jungle cat's butt!

DAYTONA

I'm glad you're amused that we almost got mauled by a panther, Debbie! This isn't fun and games. It's life and death out here. If I had been two seconds later, you would have ended up as dinner for that cute little kitty cat!

DEBBIE

Sorry, Uncle Daytona. I got separated from you and I panicked.

DAYTONA

There's another thing! Am I gonna have to keep you on a leash? You keep wandering off when I deliberately instructed you to never leave my side.

DEBBIE

I promise I won't get lost again! I'll stay right by your side from here on out!

DAYTONA

These aren't the woods behind your house, Debbie. This is Tuziwawa jungle, the densest, most treacherous terrain on this planet. One false move out here and you're gone! And no one will ever find you or know what happened to you.

DEBBIE

I'm not stupid, I know how to take care of myself!

DAYTONA

All right, be my guest! You're on your own!

Daytona starts to leave.

DEBBIE

Wait! I didn't mean that...

DAYTONA

Maybe your friend Edward can help you fight off the next panther you come across. I bet he can take on the indigenous 4-tusked wild boar, or the giant red-striped python! And I'm sure he knows which plants are safe to eat out here and which ones will poison you! Or how to build a shelter at night and make a fire. Or-

DEBBIE

You made your point! Don't listen to him, Edward.

DAYTONA

I'm the explorer here, you're just a kid. You've still got a lot to learn.

DEBBIE

I've been reading the Young Explorer's Guidebook! It's got tons of great tips on how to become an adventurer like you!

DAYTONA

Great. Maybe your little book can tell us where the Golden Mole is. My trail is starting to grow cold.

DEBBIE

What about the map you found in the ancient Almerian archives?

DAYTONA

The map is written in a long lost language. It's nearly impossible to translate. And what I have been able to figure out just reads like a riddle. I can't make sense of it.

DEBBIE

What does it say?

DAYTONA

(reading)

"The idol sleeps in the Temple of the Mole." That part I get. The legendary lost Temple of the Mole is said to have been built thousands of years ago by the mysterious Gotigo people in honor of their God, a giant Mole Man named Chordata. The temple housed their most precious artifact, the Golden Mole, said to have been created by Chordata himself and possessing fantastic powers.

DEBBIE

Sweet! Mole men are awesome!

DAYTONA

Here's the part I don't get: "The near-sighted host has the key." What do you think that means?

DEBBIE

Hm...Beats me, Uncle Daytona. You're the expert, after all.

DAYTONA

Don't get smart with me, punk. The only reason I agreed to let you come with me is because I owed your mother a favor for rescuing me from those cannibals in Oktuku. As soon as we find the Golden Mole I'm taking it back to the museum to conduct my research and you're going back home where you belong.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Can we please make camp for the night? Edward and I are positively exhausted!

DAYTONA

I can't believe you still carry that thing around like a baby. How old are you?

DEBBIE

Edward is my best friend and I don't care what anybody thinks.

Debbie lays out her sleeping bag. She also lays out a sleeping bag to put Edward in. Alternatively this could be achieved by hammocks built into the set.

DAYTONA

I think most explorers don't cuddle up with a teddy bear every night.

DEBBIE

Then I'm going to be the first. Goodnight.

Debbie gets into her sleeping bag and turns away from Daytona with a "Hmph!" Daytona likewise gets into his sleeping bag.

DAYTONA

Goodnight, Debbie. Goodnight, Edward. Sweet dreams to you both. Don't forget to check your boots for scorpions in the morning.

Debbie puts on headphones.

DEBBIE

La-La-La! I can't hear you!

DAYTONA

Cute.

The lights dim, implying nightfall. The sounds of the jungle swell. In the darkness, two mole people come creeping out. First, they take a look at Debbie as she sleeps. They move on to Daytona and look him over. They pull him off into the jungle while he's still in his sleeping bag. Blackout.

Sc II

The lights come up slowly up as the sun rises. In the darkness, the stuffed animal has been replaced with a flesh and blood Edward, who snores loudly. Debbie gets up, yawning.

DEBBIE

My back is killing me! I must have slept on a rock or something. How'd you sleep, Edward?

Edward is unresponsive. Debbie opens her canteen and pours water on Edward's face. He sputters awake.

EDWARD

I'm drowning! Help! I can't swim!

DEBBIE

Edward, relax, you were just dreaming.

EDWARD

Thanks for the wake up call! Now I'm soaked!

DEBBIE

You needed a shower anyway, you stink.

EDWARD

Hey, that's just my all-natural bear musk! Ladies dig it.

DEBBIE

Ew, gross. Come here and give me a back rub.

EDWARD

(grumbling)
Yes, your majesty.

DEBBIE

Uncle Daytona, are you up yet?

EDWARD

Ugh, let him sleep. The longer he's out the less time we have to spend marching through this awful jungle.

Debbie bonks Edward on the head.

DEBBIE

That's the whole reason we came here, dingus! We'll never find the Golden Mole if we just sit around here all day. Hey, Uncle Daytona, wake up already!

(silence)

Hello? Earth to Daytona McKane! Your niece and her best friend are ready to go!

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

Speak for yourself.

DEBBIE

Wait a minute... His sleeping bag is gone!

EDWARD

What do you mean 'gone?'

DEBBIE

I mean it's gone! There's nothing here, not a trace! Uncle Daytona has vanished!

EDWARD

I'm sure he just went out to scrounge us some breakfast. He's probably up in a tree somewhere picking fruit as we speak.

DEBBIE

No, look! That's Uncle Daytona's lucky hat!

Debbie picks up the discarded hat and examines it.

EDWARD

It's possible he just left it here, or forgot about it.

DEBBIE

No way. My uncle loves his hat more than anything. He never goes anywhere without it. Something must have happened to him!

EDWARD

You really think so?

DEBBIE

It's not just the hat. All his stuff is still here, there's his pouch. He even left the treasure map!

EDWARD

I'm getting nervous, Debbie. We're all alone in the Tuziwawa Jungle. Your uncle said this is the most dangerous place on earth. What if that panther comes back? I'm starting to hyperventilate.

DEBBIE

Whoa, relax, Edward! It's going to be okay. We have the map, we can still find our way.

EDWARD

What about your Uncle Daytona?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

We have no choice. Whatever has happened to him, we've got to rescue him! He saved our lives yesterday and we didn't even thank him. I acted like a real jerk. Now he's gone.

EDWARD

Don't worry, Debbie. You've still got me. Together, we're bound to find your Uncle. He couldn't have gone that far in one night.

DEBBIE

Let's pack our gear and head out. We're wasting time. Uncle Daytona could be in serious trouble out there. We're his only hope!

EDWARD

Right! Let me just get my boots on!

DEBBIE

Wait! Did you check for scorpions?

Edward turns his boot upside down. Numerous bugs fall out. Edward and Debbie look at each other.

BOTH

Ewwww!

Blackout.

Sc III

Lights up on a forest clearing. A strange looking man comes stumbling out of the jungle, swatting at bugs. He has a sock puppet.

DR. SPRY

Confound it! How on Earth did you forget to pack the bug repellent?

REV

(the sock puppet, voiced by Spry)
Sorry, boss, but I had to ditch the stuff to make room!

DR. SPRY

For what?

REV

(fishing around in Spry's pack)
Where did I put it...A ha!

Rev pulls out a rubber chicken.

(CONTINUED)

DR. SPRY

A rubber chicken?

REV

I never leave home without it!

DR. SPRY

What purpose could a rubber chicken possibly serve in the Tuziwawa Jungle?

REV

It's funny! I thought we could use a few laughs out here since there's no TV.

DR. SPRY

You are useless, Rev... Completely and utterly useless...

REV

Hey, Dr. Spry, why did the chicken cross the road?

DR. SPRY

Why?

Rev smacks Spry in the face with the chicken.

REV

So he could slap you in the face!

Spry attempts to strangle Rev (his own hand).

DR. SPRY

Enough! I have had it with your foolishness! We traveled halfway across the world for one reason only: to find the Golden Mole before that cursed Daytona McKane does!

REV

Oh, right. What are you gonna do with the Golden Mole-a-majig once we get it?

DR. SPRY

We will harness its power and CONQUER THE WORLD!

REV

Sounds boring.

DR. SPRY

When I possess the Golden Mole I will be unstoppable! The ancient writings of the Gotigo people say that he who wields the Mole shall have the greatest gift of all...immortality!

(CONTINUED)

REV

Ooh, sounds totally mystical! Can I get in on that?

DR. SPRY

Only if you do exactly as I tell you. For all we know, Daytona has already made his way to the temple of the Golden Mole. He could be holding it in his hands this very moment!

REV

How are we gonna find the temple in the first place, Dr. Spry?

DR. SPRY

That part I'm still trying to figure out, Spry. We must keep searching!

REV

Hey, do you hear that?

DR. SPRY

I don't hear anything.

REV

Shh! Pipe down, ya doofus! I hear something, all right.

DR. SPRY

What is it, Rev?

REV

Sounds to me like...a bear.

DR. SPRY

A bear?

REV

Yeah, a bear... And he sounds...hungry.

They do a double take, then leap into the bushes, cowering. As they do, Debbie and Edward enter.

EDWARD

Then I was like, I don't think so, bees! I'm gonna eat ALL your honey! And they were like, oh no you didn't! And I was like, Oh yes, I did!

DEBBIE

So that's how you got all those hornet stings.

EDWARD

Precisely. So worth it. Hey, Debbie, how close are we to the temple?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Hard to say... This map is kind of confusing... It's all written in hieroglyphics so it's hard to understand.

EDWARD

Let me take a look. I got pretty good grades in Geometry class at bear school.

DEBBIE

Don't you mean geography?

EDWARD

Whatever, just show me the map!

DEBBIE

According to this we should be right by this big, ugly looking plant.

EDWARD

Hmm...it sort of looks like...that plant right over there!

Lights brighten on a corner of the stage. A bizarre plant rests there. It resembles a Venus fly trap.

DEBBIE

Holy toot burgers! That's gotta be it!

EDWARD

Yes, the resemblance is striking.

DEBBIE

That's one funky plant. What do you think it is?

EDWARD

Beats me. Check the Young Explorer's Survival Guide.

DEBBIE

(Leafing through book)

Let me see... Flora and fauna... Tuziwawa region... Here we go! This looks like the culprit!

EDWARD

(Approaching the plant and poking at it)

Eww...It's all...sticky... Smells nice though.

Edward leans in very close to smell the plant.

DEBBIE

It's called the Giant Sundew!

EDWARD

Hey, it moved!

The plant's giant mouth opens slowly.

EDWARD

Cool! Check it out!

DEBBIE

The Giant Sundew grows in the moist, tropical areas of the Tuziwawa Jungle and is a distant relative of the-

EDWARD

Debbie, quick, take my picture!

DEBBIE

-Venus Flytrap... Edward! Get out of there!

EDWARD

What until you take my picture! I need something to put in scrap book after all this.

DEBBIE

Edward, you don't understand. Listen, "The Giant Sundew, like its cousin, the Venus flytrap, lures its unsuspecting prey with a sweet smell where it can swallow them whole. Its diet consists mainly of insects and small rodents, but occasionally it can trap larger creatures, like its favorite food...bears."

EDWARD

You mean this pretty plant is going to eat me? That's the biggest load of garbage I've ever-

The plant snaps shut on Edward.

DEBBIE

Edward! Hang on! I'm coming for you!

EDWARD

Oh no! I'm gonna end up as plant food!

DEBBIE

Let go of my friend, you overgrown weed!

The plant grabs Debbie.

EDWARD

So much for your big rescue.

DEBBIE

Sorry, Edward... I guess we're *both* gonna be plant food.

(CONTINUED)

A crazed Witch Doctor leaps from the brush.

WITCH DOCTOR

Zim Zeep Suuuuwaaaaaaa!!!!!!

The Witch Doctor pulls out a strange powder from a pouch and blows it at the Venus flytrap, you sneezes and drops Debbie and Edward.

WITCH DOCTOR

Quickly! Get away from the beast!

DEBBIE

That was amazing! Thanks, dude!

EDWARD

Nice getup.

WITCH DOCTOR

There's no time! The creature will soon recover from my enchantment. Come with me!

EDWARD

Why would we want to follow some crazy guy we just met into the dark, spooky woods?

DEBBIE

That's a good point, Edward. Even though you saved us...why should we trust you?

WITCH DOCTOR

Because I know the path to that which you seek... The Temple of the Golden Mole.

Debbie and Edward do a double take.

BOTH

Lead the way!

The three exit. Dr. Spry re-appears with hand puppet as before.

DR. SPRY

Well, well, well. It would appear we have found our ticket to the prize!

REV

The Golden Mole will soon be ours!

As Dr. Spry maniacally laughs, the Venus flytrap comes to senses. Spry stops laughing when he notices the monster. He gulps. Blackout as he screams hysterically.

Sc IV

Lights up on the Witch Doctor's hut. There is a large cauldron and a box full of weird stuff.

EDWARD

Do you have any shrunken heads or petrified lizard men or something cool?

WITCH DOCTOR

I have some petrified shrunken lizard men heads. Here, check it out.

EDWARD

Awesome!

DEBBIE

Okay, we've followed you this far. The least you could do is tell us your name.

WITCH DOCTOR

My...name? I have many names. Some call me Yatootoo the old one. Others call me Figdifferus the Wise. Some call me Rifeeeeeeeeepeeeeeeee. Others call me-

EDWARD

We get the point. But what can we call you?

WITCH DOCTOR

You may know me as...Nancy.

DEBBIE

Cute.

WITCH DOCTOR

Tell me, weary travellers, what are your names?

DEBBIE

I'm Debbie.

EDWARD

Edward. I'm a bear. Hi.

WITCH DOCTOR

The Tuziwawa jungle is no place for you two to be fooling around.

EDWARD

Says who? I think me and Debbie have been getting along just fine!

(CONTINUED)

WITCH DOCTOR

Right. I didn't just save you from being eaten alive by a giant plant or anything.

EDWARD

Ok, so we're a little out of our element!

DEBBIE

Listen, Nancy, Edward and I are lost. We were travelling with my Uncle Daytona, but he's disappeared!

WITCH DOCTOR

Yes, I already know.

EDWARD

How do you know, bone head, you just met us!

WITCH DOCTOR

I know all things.

EDWARD

Like what?

WITCH DOCTOR

I know what you fear most, bear.

EDWARD

Oh, yeah?

WITCH DOCTOR

(picks up a dead bat)
Here, catch!

EDWARD

Ahhh! Get it off me, get it off me!

DEBBIE

What did you throw at him?

EDWARD

It's a bat! I hate bats!

WITCH DOCTOR

It's an ingredient; for my recipe.

DEBBIE

You're cooking? Great, I am so hungry!

WITCH DOCTOR

Don't let your appetite get the best of you. This is something special. You must save it for when you really need it.

DEBBIE

What is it? Some kind of potion?

WITCH DOCTOR

Yes...some kind of potion. Drop the bat in my cooking pot here.

EDWARD

(drops bat in pot)

Ew, ew, ew!

WITCH DOCTOR

Then we add the head of a newt, the eyes of a vulture, the fangs of a viper, a dash of fire ant eggs, and some salt and pepper! Stir it around there!

DEBBIE

(stirring)

Like this?

WITCH DOCTOR

Good work, keep it up!

EDWARD

Ugh, smells horrible!

DEBBIE

Edward, that's not the potion. That's you.

EDWARD

(smelling armpit)

Oh. Yeah.

WITCH DOCTOR

Do they not have bath tubs where you come from?

EDWARD

Rude!

WITCH DOCTOR

Then we stir in some iguana tails, ground moonstone, a pinch of jambu leaves and finally-

The Witch Doctor looks directly at Edward.

EDWARD

What?

WITCH DOCTOR

...The fur of a bear.

(beat)

The Witch Doctor rips a patch of Edward's fur off and throws it in the pot. Edward howls with pain.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

I can't believe you just did that!

WITCH DOCTOR

Sorry, I was fresh out.

EDWARD

That is the last straw! I have had it with this guy! All he's done so far is rip at my fur and bombard me with dead flying rodents!

DEBBIE

Calm down, Edward. Don't be such a sissy.

WITCH DOCTOR

Yeah, sissy.

EDWARD

Just hurry up and finish your stupid potion so we can get out of here!

WITCH DOCTOR

Patience, my friend. Thanks to your generous contribution, my concoction is ready.

DEBBIE

What is it exactly?

WITCH DOCTOR

All you need to know is that this liquid will only work if you use it at the right time.

DEBBIE

But how am I supposed to know when that is?

WITCH DOCTOR

(smiling)

You will know. When that time comes, drink it, and victory will be yours!

EDWARD

Sounds like a load of moldy baloney to me. Can we please go now, Debbie?

WITCH DOCTOR

The temple you seek is not far from here. Follow the path of blue flowers from my hut, it will lead you to the entrance of the Temple of the Golden Mole.

DEBBIE

Thanks, Nancy!

WITCH DOCTOR

Be warned...the temple is most treacherous. Your uncle has been seized by the mole men who dwell within. Who knows what they may have done to him.

DEBBIE

If any wrinkly little mole men so much as breathed on my Uncle Daytona, I'm gonna kick their mole butts into next year!

WITCH DOCTOR

The mole men are not the only danger. Beware of the booby traps they have set, hidden where you'd least expect them! One wrong step...and you'll be gone.

EDWARD

Debbie, this sounds really dangerous. I don't know if I'm up for this.

WITCH DOCTOR

Never fear, my good bear friend! Here, take my mystical torch, it will light your way!

The Witch Doctor hands it to him.

EDWARD

This is a flashlight.

WITCH DOCTOR

Mystical torch.

EDWARD

Thanks.

DEBBIE

Really, Nancy, we owe you big time.

WITCH DOCTOR

No trouble at all, young one. The best of luck to you. I hope you find your Uncle Daytona...before it's too late. And don't forget what I said about the potion.

DEBBIE

Thank you, Nancy! We'll stop by next time we're travelling through the Tuziwawa jungle!

EDWARD

Goodbye, Nancy.

WITCH DOCTOR

Smell ya later, bear.

Edward glares at him. Blackout.

Sc. V

Lights up. Dr. Spry wanders aimlessly through the jungle.

DR. SPRY

Drat, I think we may have lost them, Rev.

REV

The trail does seem to have gone cold, Dr. Spry.

DR. SPRY

We were so close! Those two bumbling idiots would have lead us straight to the Temple!

REV

Quit your whining. We'll find 'em.

DR. SPRY

I think you're acting very unsupportive right now, Rev, and let me tell you I do not appreciate it.

REV

Hey, I think I hear someone coming!

DR. SPRY

It sounds like that little girl!

REV

See? What did I tell you?

DR. SPRY

Shh! Quickly, we must hide!

Dr. Spry dives into the brush as Debbie and Edward approach the temple entrance, a door covered with overgrown vines.

DEBBIE

We've got to be getting close by now. We've been following these blue flowers for miles.

EDWARD

Maybe that kooky witch doctor didn't know what he was talking about after all.

DEBBIE

Wait. Look!

EDWARD

Do you think that door leads into the Temple of the Golden Mole?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Only one way to find out.

Debbie tries to open the door but it won't budge.

DEBBIE

It's stuck. I can't get it open.

EDWARD

Step aside little lady. Allow me to use my incredible bear strength!

Edward stretches and flexes like a tough guy. He spits into his hands and tries to open the door, failing miserably.

EDWARD

Ouch, I think I pulled a muscle!

DEBBIE

Edward, check it out!

Debbie picks up Daytona's whip from the ground.

DEBBIE

It's Uncle Daytona's trusty bull whip! This has got to be the place! He's probably inside right now! We've got to find a way in there before those mole men hurt him!

EDWARD

Hmm...Didn't Uncle Daytona say something about a "near-sighted host" having the key?

DEBBIE

Yeah, that's right! On the map!

(reading)

"The near-sighted host has the key." But what does that mean?

EDWARD

Beats me. How are we supposed to tell if they're near-sighted anyway?

DEBBIE

Let's start looking. We don't have much time.

A giant bat wearing thick glasses comes swooping out from the jungle, screeching and flapping its wings.

EDWARD

AHHHHHH! IT'S IN MY HAIR!

DEBBIE

Hey, you! Leave my friend alone!

MEGABAT

No harm, no harm! Just say hello to you! Not many visitors we get out here.

EDWARD

Dont' let it bite me! It's gonna drink my blood!

MEGABAT

No, no hungry for that. Me fruit bat, me like sweets!

EDWARD

Ugh! You don't have to get so up close and personal!

MEGABAT

Me sorry I scare you. Me just lonely.

DEBBIE

Nice to meet you... What's your name?

MEGABAT

Me called Megabat! Me the biggest bat in whole jungle!

DEBBIE

What are you doing here, Megabat? Shouldn't you be hanging out in a cave somewhere?

MEGABAT

Ahhh, yes, this is where my friends all go! But not Megabat! Megabat has very important job here.

DEBBIE

What job is that?

MEGABAT

Me guard this special door!

DEBBIE

"Near-sighted host..." Say, how many fingers am I holding up?

MEGABAT

Uhhhh...twenty?

DEBBIE

You can't see very well, can you?

(CONTINUED)

MEGABAT

You know what they say, "Blind as a bat!" That's me!

EDWARD

(whispering)

There's a big key around his belt! Debbie, I think this guy is our ticket inside the temple!

DEBBIE

Just let me do the talking and follow my lead. Megabat, it is a pleasure to have met you. My name is Debbie and this is my companion, Edward.

EDWARD

Charmed.

DEBBIE

We would be eternally grateful if you would permit my friend and I to enter through this important door. We promise to be quick about it.

EDWARD

Yeah, you won't even know we're there!

MEGABAT

No, no, no! Nobody goes there unless Megabat say so!

DEBBIE

Please, Megabat, you've got to let us in! My Uncle is trapped in there! He's in trouble and he needs our help!

MEGABAT

I don't know about this Uncle. All I know is that nobody goes in unless *they* say so.

EDWARD

Who's "they?"

MEGABAT

You ask too many questions, bear thing. Megabat no like being asked so many questions.

DEBBIE

Okay, Megabat, no more questions. How would you like something to eat instead? You must get hungry working so hard to protect this door.

MEGABAT

Mmmm, yes, Megabat always hungry. You have fruit?

DEBBIE

Why, yes, I have some right here!

Debbie pulls an apple out of her pack and holds it up.

DEBBIE

You see it?

MEGABAT

No, I don't see so good, y'know. Show me where with your voice!

DEBBIE

This way!

MEGABAT

Here?

DEBBIE

A little further, almost there!

As Megabat feels around blindly for the apple, Debbie continues to back up. Edward circles around behind Megabat.

MEGABAT

Where is fruit? Megabat is mega hungry!

DEBBIE

You're so close, just a teensy bit more and it's yours!

Edward snatches the key from Megabat's belt as Debbie finally lets him have the apple.

DEBBIE

There you go! Tasty fresh fruit and it's all yours! Eat up!

MEGABAT

Mmm! Delicious! You are good friend to Megabat!

EDWARD

(whispeirng)

Debbie, I got it! Quick, let's go!

DEBBIE

I'm coming! Megabat, it's been real. Glad to have met you. Me and my friend must be leaving now!

MEGABAT

No, stay longer! Keep Megabat company! You got more fruit?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

There's some over that way!

MEGABAT

Which way?

Debbie spins Megabat around in circles. He becomes dizzy and staggers offstage.

DEBBIE

That way!

MEGABAT

Fruit? Where is fruit? Where are you, girl thing?

DEBBIE

That's it, you're going the right way!

MEGABAT

Here, fruit, fruit, fruit! Megabat wants you!

As Megabat stumbles around blindly, Edward unlocks the door and he and Debbie slip in.

EDWARD

I've heard of "Blind as a bat" before, but never "Dumb as a bat!"

Edward and Debbie enter the door. As they do, Dr. Spry pokes his head out from the brush.

DR. SPRY

More like, "Dumb as a bear!"

REV

More like, "Dumb as your face!"

DR. SPRY

Oh, put a sock in it!

Dr. Spry sneaks into the temple. Blackout.

Sc. VI

Debbie and Edward wander cautiously through the dimly lit temple.

DEBBIE

Boy, it sure is dark. Where's the light that Nancy gave to us?

EDWARD

Here!

Edward turns on the flashlight and scans the temple.

EDWARD

It sure is creepy in here.
(sneezing)
And dusty.

DEBBIE

Be careful, Edward. Remember, Nancy warned us there would be booby traps.

EDWARD

Booby traps, yikes! I sure hope we don't trigger any.

DEBBIE

Edward! Don't move!

Edward freezes mid-step.

DEBBIE

Look! A trip wire!

EDWARD

What do you think it does?

DEBBIE

Stand back.

Debbie pokes the wire with a stick from the ground. A pillar crashing down where they stood.

EDWARD

Holy toledo! These molemen mean business!

DEBBIE

If you had taken one more step, you would've been crushed! Watch out, you might not be so lucky next time.

EDWARD

You be careful too, Debbie. If anything happens to you in here, I'd never be able to forgive myself!

DEBBIE

Oh, stop, nothing bad is going to happen. Let's just find Uncle Daytona and get out of here!

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD

Agreed.

DEBBIE

And whatever you do, don't touch anything!

EDWARD

Gotcha. Ooh, shiny!

Edward notices a sparkling statuette amongst the ruins and goes to grab it.

DEBBIE

Edward, what did I just say?

Edward freezes.

EDWARD

Errrrr, you're right! It could be a trap. But it's so pretty-

DEBBIE

Am I going to have to put you on a leash? Come on, let's keep moving.

EDWARD

Fine. You are such a buzzkill sometimes.

Megabat enters with a shriek.

EDWARD

Gahhh, not the bat again! Mommy! Help!

DEBBIE

Drat, I thought we lost that guy.

MEGABAT

You think Megabat is no smart? You try to trick Megabat! I show you! Nobody messes with Megabat!

Megabat grabs the statuette.

DEBBIE

No! Don't-

Rumbling is heard.

MEGABAT

You is in for big surprise! Have fun getting smooched! Ha ha! Now Megabat fly away! Later, suckas! Ha ha!

Megabat exits.

EDWARD

Stupid dingbat! Debbie, what is that noise?

DEBBIE

I've got a bad feeling about this, Edward.

A giant boulder barrels onto the stage. It is moved by an actor(s) in black.

DEBBIE

Edward.

EDWARD

Yes, Debbie?

DEBBIE

Run!

The two run screaming through the temple as the boulder rolls at them. They slip into a crack of the ruins. During the chase, Debbie has dropped her hat. She notices it's gone and runs back out into the path of the boulder to grab the hat. At the last moment, Debbie jumps back into hiding, as the boulder goes by, rolling offstage. A large crash is heard.

EDWARD

Did you see the size of that thing? We almost got flattened!

DEBBIE

That was way too close.

EDWARD

I've never run so fast in my life. Phew!

DEBBIE

Hey, do you see that? The boulder smashed a whole through the temple wall! There's an opening we can go through!

EDWARD

Where do you think it leads?

DEBBIE

Who knows. Listen...Do you hear that?

EDWARD

Oh, no! Do you think it's another boulder?

DEBBIE

No, this sounds different. Like drums.

The distant sound of drums rhythmically beating is heard.

EDWARD

It's coming from in there.

DEBBIE

Maybe that's where Uncle Daytona is! We've got to investigate!

EDWARD

Oh, Debbie, I'm freaking out!

DEBBIE

It's okay. I'll protect you.

EDWARD

Can we hold hands?

DEBBIE

(sigh)
Yes. Hurry up!

The two exit. Dr. Spry emerges from the ruins.

REV

Say, Dr. Spry.

DR. SPRY

Yes, Rev?

REV

I bet we got a good chance of finding that Golden Mole if we go through that there hole in the wall.

DR. SPRY

You don't say.

REV

Furthermore, if we find that Daytona fella in there, I bet he'll be in no condition to put up a fight!

DR. SPRY

Correct you are, Rev. And I doubt that little girl and her teddy bear will be any problem for us to dispatch.

REV

Meaning we can do away with that pesky Daytona McKane once and for all, after we snatch that Golden Mole!

(CONTINUED)

DR. SPRY

Oh, Rev, right again! Nothing can stand in our way now! Soon the power to rule the world shall be ours!

REV

Ooh, look, a shiny thing!

Rev grabs a statuette. Rumbling is heard. The boulder comes back out. Dr. Spry screams and runs with the boulder chasing him. Blackout.

Sc VII

Daytona is tied up, standing at the edge of a pit of molten lava. Two mole men stand guard. The Golden Mole is set nearby. Beating drums are heard.

DAYTONA

C'mon, guys, really, can't we talk about this? We can work something out, I scratch your back, you scratch mine.

The mole men hiss at him.

DAYTONA

Jeez, touchy, touchy. I guess living underground makes you lose your sense of humor. That and being so ugly.

A mole man shoves him.

DAYTONA

Get your claws offa me, you beady eyed, wrinkly, little rodent!

Debbie and Edward enter.

DEBBIE

There's Uncle Daytona! And there's the Golden Mole!

EDWARD

Those mole men look like they're gonna shove him in that pit of boiling lava!

DEBBIE

Ya think?

EDWARD

What should we do?

DEBBIE

Maybe we can reason with them. Hey! Over here!

(CONTINUED)

DAYTONA

Debbie? How did you-

DEBBIE

I'll explain later, Uncle Daytona. Right now I want to talk to them.

The mole men make quizzical noises in return.

DAYTONA

Watch out for these mole men, Debbie. They're smarter than they look.

A mole man smacks Daytona upside the head.

DAYTONA

Sensitive too.

EDWARD

Debbie, are you sure you know what you're doing?

DEBBIE

Trust me.

(to mole men)

I don't know you and you don't know me. But that's my Uncle you're about to push into that lava and I won't stand for it. Now, I don't know what you've got against Uncle Daytona. Sure, he can be a jerk sometimes-

DAYTONA

Hey!

DEBBIE

-but that doesn't mean he deserves this!

MOLE MAN 1

Those who dare to defile our sacred temple shall taste the wrath of Chordata!

MOLE MAN 2

This foolish explorer will perish in Chordata's fire!

DAYTONA

Wait...you guys can talk?

MOLE MAN 1

Yeah, duh!

DAYTONA

How come you never said anything before?

(CONTINUED)

MOLE MAN 2

You never asked.

DEBBIE

I apologize for defiling your temple or whatever, but I can't let you push my Uncle into that pit of lava! So how about we make a deal. A little wager. I challenge you to...A DANCE OFF!

DAYTONA

Sounds fun.

DEBBIE

We win, you let Uncle Daytona go unharmed. If we lose...do with him what you will.

DAYTONA

I sure hope this kid can shake a leg.

DEBBIE

Do you accept my challenge?

The mole men look at each other, then give Debbie a thumb's up. One pulls out a boom box.

MOLE MAN 1

Bring it!

DAYTONA

You got this, Debbie!

DEBBIE

Oh, I'm not going to be the one dancing. Allow me to introduce the challenger: The Amazing Edward!

EDWARD

Say what?

DAYTONA

I'm a dead man.

EDWARD

Debbie, are kidding? I can't dance! Everybody knows I've got two left feet!

DEBBIE

Don't you remember what Nancy gave us?

EDWARD

The potion!

DEBBIE

I don't think we'll find a better time to use it than right now! Drink up!

EDWARD

I hope this works. Otherwise Daytona is toast.

Edward drinks the potion. He makes a face like it tastes bad, then leaps into the air with newfound energy.

EDWARD

Wow, I feel great! I feel like I could conquer the world!

DEBBIE

All you gotta do is dance! Now hop to it!

EDWARD

All right, mole dude. You ready to do this?

MOLE MAN

Bring it! I mean- Hissss!

Everybody gives the mole man a weird look. The music kicks in. The mole man does an impressive routine. Edward follows it up, they go back and forth a few times. Debbie cheers Edward on from the sides. The potion seems to be working. Edward performs an amazing move. The mole man submits. Edward is victorious.

DEBBIE

Edward, you did it!

EDWARD

Aw, no big deal or anything. That potion worked great!

DEBBIE

We had a deal, mole men. Let my Uncle go!

The mole men untie Daytona.

DAYTONA

Thanks, you guys are real pals.

Daytona and Debbie look at each other a moment. Daytona jumps down and embraces her.

DAYTONA

Boy, are you ever a sight for sore eyes. I was worried sick about you, kid.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

We were worried about you! We had no idea what happened to you!

DAYTONA

Those mole men caught wind of our plan to swipe their precious little statue so they dragged me off in the middle of the night.

DEBBIE

I'm just so glad you're okay.

DAYTONA

How did you find me?

DEBBIE

You left your map! And we had a little help along the way. Are we going to get the Golden Mole now?

DAYTONA

Who cares about the stupid Golden Mole? All that matters is that we're back together again. Let's go home.

DEBBIE

But we came all this way! Can't we just look at it really quick?

DAYTONA

Oh, fine! It's right over- Hey, where did it go?

Dr. Spry appears from behind a pillar clutching the Golden Mole.

DR. SPRY

Looking for *this*?

DAYTONA

Well, well, well. If it isn't my old nemesis, Dr. Spry. I thought I'd seen the last of you back in the ruins of Mazatlan.

DR. SPRY

You thought wrong, Daytona McKane.

REV

Dead wrong!

DAYTONA

Still letting that obnoxious handpuppet do all the talking for you?

DR. SPRY

I'm perfectly capable of speaking for myself, thank you!

REV

Yeah, right. Hey, Dr. Spry.

DR. SPRY

What now, Rev?

REV

Are those mole men over there?

DR. SPRY

Oh! Yes, it would appear so.

REV

They don't look very happy we took their little statue.

DR. SPRY

No, Rev, they most certainly do not.

The mole men hiss. Dr. Spry gulps. A sort of Benny Hill style chases ensues in which all participate. Dr. Spry ends up holding the golden mole over the lava pit.

DR. SPRY

Stop! Take one more step and I drop it!

REV

That's right, back off, punks!

DAYTONA

Enough of this nonsense, Spry. Hand over the Golden Mole.

DR. SPRY

Oh, you'd like that, wouldn't you? Everything always comes so easy for Mr. Perfect over here! I'm sick of you hogging all the glory, Daytona. It's my turn!

DAYTONA

This isn't about glory, Spry. I'm an archaeologist, I preserve history! What are you, but a jealous child playing sock puppet!

REV

Low blow.

DR. SPRY

Say what you will, Daytona. With the Golden Mole in my possession, I will be unstoppable! The world will be mine for the taking! I will make you bow before me!

(CONTINUED)

DAYTONA

I'd rather take a swim in that lava than bow down to the likes of you, Spry.

DR. SPRY

Then prepare to meet your doom!

REV

Hey! Wait a second!

DR. SPRY

What is it now, Rev?

REV

(to Edward)
Do I know you?

EDWARD

Rev? Is that you?

REV

Edward! Buddy!

EDWARD

Long time no see! You look great!

REV

You too! Man, how long has it been?

EDWARD

A few years at least!

DEBBIE

You know the sock puppet?

EDWARD

Yeah, we go way back! We met at Imaginary Friend School.

REV

Those were some wild times, right?

EDWARD

You still keep in touch with Joey the Unicorn?

REV

Yeah, as a matter of fact-

DAYTONA

As much as I'd love to sit in this cave and listen to a sock puppet all day, I'd really like to get going. Now gimme that mole.

(CONTINUED)

REV

Edward, you know this guy?

EDWARD

Yeah, he's cool.

REV

A friend of Edward's is a friend of mine. Here ya go, bub, you can have the stupid thing.

DR. SPRY

Rev, what are you doing?!

Rev takes the Golden Mole from the other hand and tosses it to Daytona.

DR. SPRY

You idiot! What have you done?

REV

It's only a mole, Dr. Spry. What's the big deal?

DR. SPRY

After everything we've been through! The preparations, the travel, the hardships! You've thrown it all away!

Dr. Spry breaks down crying.

DAYTONA

Ya win some, ya lose some, Spry. Let's split, Debbie.

DEBBIE

Can I just say one thing really quick before we go?

Daytona nods.

DEBBIE

Dr. Spry, I know you don't think very much of my Uncle Daytona, but he'll take good care of the Golden Mole.

MOLE MAN 2

He'd sure better...

DEBBIE

I don't know you that well, but you don't seem like that bad of guy. Giving us the mole was really nice. Stop being so bitter and have more confidence in yourself, Dr. Spry. You'd be a lot happier.

Dr. Spry looks up.

DR. SPRY

She's right, isn't she, Rev?

REV

Undeniably so, Dr. Spry. Maybe it's time we lightened up a little.

EDWARD

Listen to your friend, he knows what he's talking about.

DR. SPRY

Mr. McKane-

DAYTONA

Doctor McKane. I am an archaeologist after all, just like you.

DR. SPRY

Yes, we aren't so different after all, are we Dr. McKane?

DAYTONA

I wouldn't go that far.

DEBBIE

Will you come with us back to civilization?

DAYTONA

Debbie...

DR. SPRY

Actually, I think I'd rather stay here. These mole men seem like pretty fun dudes.

REV

All right! Partying with the mole men!

EDWARD

Here, take this!

Edward throws Dr. Spry the bottle of potion. He drinks it and starts dancing uncontrollably.

DR. SPRY

Oh, yeah! Here we go! Let's boogie!

The mole men join in dancing.

DAYTONA

I think that's our cue to exit.

Daytona, Debbie and Edward all exit as the party rages on.

Sc. VIII

Daytona and Debbie enter a jungle clearing. Edward is transformed back into a stuffed animal.

DAYTONA

Let's keep all that mole men stuff between you and me, Debbie. If your mother ever found out she'd kill me.

DEBBIE

It'll be our secret! Thanks for bringing me with you, Uncle Daytona. Sorry if I was a pain.

DAYTONA

You kidding? You saved me! You proved yourself to be quite the little adventurer after all.

DEBBIE

Do you really mean that?

DAYTONA

Cross my heart. You managed to navigate one of the most treacherous jungles on earth. Not only that, but you handled those mole men and that lunkhead Dr. Spry like a real pro. I couldn't have done it better myself.

DEBBIE

That's the nicest thing anyone's ever said to me!

DAYTONA

Y'know, you remind me of your mother. Stubborn as an ox, brave as...a bear.

DEBBIE

I know you think I'm too old to still have Edward, but-

DAYTONA

Save it, Debbie. You wanna know something? I've never told you this before.

DEBBIE

What is it?

DAYTONA

Let me ask you this. Who did you get Edward from?

DEBBIE

Mom. She had him when she was little.

(CONTINUED)

DAYTONA

And where do you think she got him from?

DEBBIE

I don't know.

DAYTONA

Her older brother. Me.

DEBBIE

Edward was your teddy bear?

DAYTONA

My best friend. We were inseperable, I took him with me everywhere. When your mother came along, I decided I was too old to be playing with toys so I gave him to her. Now he's yours.

DEBBIE

(to Edward)

Edward! You never told me that.

DAYTONA

You keep him safe, until you find somebody else who needs a friend like him.

DEBBIE

I promise I will, Uncle Daytona.

DAYTONA

The plane should be touching down soon, Debbie. Once we get back home, we can start planning our next adventure! How does Machu Pichu sound? I hear it's lovely this time of year.

DEBBIE

You can count me and Edward both in!

A mailman walks abruptly out of the foliage.

MAILMAN

Daytona McKane?

DAYTONA

That's me.

MAILMAN

Telegram for you.

The mailman hands him a telegram. Daytona starts to read it. The mailman holds out his hand for a tip. Daytona rolls his eyes and gives him some cash. The mailman exits.

DEBBIE

What does it say?

DAYTONA

Debbie, I need you to stay calm.

DEBBIE

What's the matter?

DAYTONA

It's from the embassy in Nuku Hiva. Your mother's been kidnapped by Diamond Smugglers.

DEBBIE

We've got to go save her!

DAYTONA

I'd say our plans have changed. We've got a rescue mission on our hands.

The sound of a plane approaching is heard.

DAYTONA

There's our ride. Ready?

DEBBIE

You betcha. Let's go kick some Diamond Smuggler butt!

DAYTONA

Atta girl!

The two take off. In her haste, Debbie forgets Edward. He lays onstage alone for a moment. Daytona comes running back on. He grabs Edward and hugs him, then runs offstage. Blackout.

THE END