

Hikyrus

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. EGYPT - PYRAMID - CORRIDOR - DAY

Cold, damp stone everywhere. Centuries of cobwebs congest the passageway.

A group of people moves along at a slow pace. PROFESSOR WILLIAM RUSSELL (50), distinguished, leads, holding a lantern.

His daughter, BOBBIE RUSSELL (25), an adventurous gal who looks her best when she's at her worst, walks by her father's side. She holds a hand-drawn map of the pyramid's interior as they move along. A lasso hangs from her belt. A pack strapped to her back.

A dozen men, locals and Americans, follow, most carrying packs with a few holding lanterns.

MARTIN (20s), a thin man with glasses, steps up to William's side.

MARTIN

Can I carry the lantern for you,
Professor?

Bobbie rolls her eyes.

WILLIAM

That's okay, Martin.

MARTIN

I really don't mind.

BOBBIE

He said he'll carry it.

MARTIN

I'm just trying to help.

BOBBIE

I am his right-hand man... person,
so just back the hell off.

WILLIAM

Hey! Can't you two be cordial toward
each other for once?

Bobbie and Martin exchange looks.

BOBBIE AND MARTIN

No.

Bobbie walks into a huge cobweb. She shrieks, jumping about in a panic.

BOBBIE

Shit. Get it off!

William, with the aid of DUFFY (30s), a geekish American, clears webs from Bobbie.

WILLIAM

Calm down, honey. It's just dirt.

Bobbie's messy hair droops over her eyes. She attempts to blow it back in one puff but it falls down again.

William chuckles. Others join him.

WILLIAM

My tough daughter grew up exploring caves and pyramids, yet she's afraid of spiders.

BOBBIE

Yeah, go ahead and laugh.

Bobbie reaches into her pocket and pulls out a rubber spider, tarantula-size. She squeezes it as she continues onward.

BOBBIE

(mumbling)

It's only spiders, it's only spiders.

MARTIN

What's with--

WILLIAM

Therapy.

MARTIN

Oh.

The group follows after Bobbie.

FURTHER DOWN

Bobbie stops. She studies the floor.

The men surround her.

BOBBIE

Wait. These two load-bearing stones
are separated by a paving stone.
This could be the hidden entrance.

The men search the floor.

DUFFY

Where?

Bobbie and William stoop for closer examination. They dig their fingers into centuries of embedded dirt in cracks that are virtually invisible. Together, they uncover a large square.

Both strain to lift it. A few of the men assist. They grunt with effort.

Inside the newly made opening, pitch black. Bobbie grabs a lantern, holds it down into the hole. The floor below is ten feet away. Lots of webs in the way.

Bobbie drops back onto the seat of her pants. She squeezes the rubber spider still in her hand.

BOBBIE

Webs can't hurt me, webs can't hurt
me.

WILLIAM

(smiling)

I take it you don't plan to go first?

Bobbie turns to him.

MARTIN

Let the men handle this.

Bobbie rolls her eyes.

An EGYPTIAN removes a coil of rope from a pack. He ties one end around him, lets the other dangle.

One-by-one, the men, except for William and the rope holder, climb downward via the rope. They clear out webs.

WILLIAM

(gesturing)

Ladies first.

Bobbie tucks the map safely into her belt and sticks the rubber spider in a pocket. She sits at the hole's rim, then climbs downward.

TUNNEL

Bobbie reaches the bottom, holding the rope taut while William descends. She pulls out the map and looks it over, turns to her left.

BOBBIE

This way.

Bobbie leads the others but stops short. She grabs a lantern from the closest man, uses it to light her way as she walks. When she comes across a web of either type in her path, she maneuvers around it.

DUFFY

(to William)

That's quite a girl you have there,
Professor.

WILLIAM

So, she's not perfect. Who is?

The men trail Bobbie.

UP AHEAD

Bobbie stops at what appears to be a dead end. She runs her hand around the border of a hidden door within the wall.

The men stop behind her.

WILLIAM

We're close.

Martin pushes ahead of Bobbie and takes her place feeling around the door's exterior.

MARTIN

I'll find a way in, sir.

BOBBIE

If you want to kiss Dad's ass, you
need to stoop a little lower.

She shoves Martin out of her way.

WILLIAM

Bobbie.

BOBBIE

You know he does it, Dad. All the time.

She resumes the task of feeling around the door.

Martin grins nervously at William.

MARTIN

That's not true, sir. I--

DUFFY

She's right. Everyone notices.

Bobbie glances back with a grin.

DUFFY

How can we be sure the Hikyrus is even here?

WILLIAM

Bobbie and I have gathered clues to its whereabouts for years. It's here.

EGYPTIAN #2 gestures to the door.

EGYPTIAN #2

These doors very heavy. Impossible to move.

BOBBIE

Not if you know what to look for.

Bobbie hands off the lantern. Her fingers come across a small button hidden off the door's edge. A RUMBLE comes from within the wall.

Everyone looks around them with unease.

MARTIN

Lord, what has she done?

The stone door topples toward them. Bobbie backpedals, the others recoil.

SLAM! The billow from the fallen door knocks over men and blows back Bobbie's hair. The thick slab comes to a rest an inch from her foot.