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Return to Nim's Island

By Cathy Randall

[ARBIE CHIRPING]

Arbie!

Not again!

Don't even think about it!

[SQUAWKS MOCKINGLY]

Not cool!

- Those are for Jack.

- [CHIRPING]

I know where you nest and you're
so grounded when we get home.

Careful, Arbie.

You know how cranky my dad gets
about his protozoa samples!

Surrender the goods

or it's into the volcano with ya!

You know, Arbie, it'd be great
if you could be like Selkie
and actually help once in a while.

Fred! That's no place for
a cold-blooded guy like you.

Mr Rusoe, your table is ready.

Oh, well, I hope there's no dress code.

I've come straight from the office.

- Traffic?

- Brutal.

Please tell me you

have the macadamia nut

- and mealworm sandwich on special today?

- But of course.

So, I think Arbie's been stashing
all the shiny things he keeps swiping
at the Cormorant Cliffs.

I know just where he'd nest.

- If you'd just...

- Uh-uh. There's no way.

You're not scaling those
cliffs by yourself.

If you fell to your death,
who would make my lunch?

Come with me.

I saw some brilliant lizards there.

I don't think Felix would
let me play hooky.

Hey, Felix! Take a break.

Nim brought lunch.

Oh, I'm uh... I'm good.

I got some dehydrated beef stroganoff
back at the lab.

But who can think about lunch
in the midst of Jack M. Rusoe's
ground-breaking quest
to find new classes of protozoa?

- You've got a, uh...

- Food?

- Nim!

- Did I get it?

- Don't move.

- What? Why?

You have a Chimera sea
slug on your face.

Chimera? I'm not familiar with it.

- Don't they release a deadly poison?

- You're going to be fine.

Whatever you do,

- don't freak out!

- [BOTH SCREAM]

Call poison control!

And if I don't make it, tell Susan H,
the one from my chemistry symposium,
that I've always...

[NIM LAUGHING]

We wouldn't prank you,
if we didn't love you, buddy.

Nice.

NIM:

I made a mealworm-free
sandwich just for you.

[ON ANSWERING MACHINE] Jack, it's Grant,
your favourite and only father-in-law.

Look, I wish I had better news,

but those scoundrels at
the Buccaneer Resort Company
will stop at nothing

to get their hands on your island.

They've even hired this hotshot lawyer
from Melbourne, who argued that, legally,
you're nothing more

than a well-respected squatter.
Which means the government's
going to allow the Buccaneers
to build one of their ghastly resorts
right on top of you.

Those swindlers are sending surveyors
out at the end of the week.

So if you have any tricks left, son,
now is the time.

- [ANSWERING MACHINE BEEPS]

- The end of the week?

You said they'd never get permission.

It's not over yet.

It's time I brought the fight to them.

I want those bureaucrats

to look me in the eye

and tell me they'd rather have

the money from some resort

than finding protozoa,

which could cure disease.

They've heard all this before.

What if they still don't listen?

What if they let them buy the island?

What if we have to leave?

I'm not going to lie.

It's a long shot, but sometimes

those are the ones worth taking.

SKATEBOARDER:

[MIMICKING MUM] You never
do the dishes any more!

[MIMICKING DAD] I bought those dishes.
You don't appreciate me.

[MIMICKING MUM] What's going to happen
to all our nice things?

Find a new job!

[MIMICKING DAD] I can't.

[PARENTS ARGUING IN DISTANCE]

No one's hiring Gummies.

DAD:

give me another loan!

MUM:

of a father who doesn't even try?
You want us out on the streets, then?
Your family?

DAD:

MUM:

That's what you're saying?
- I can't keep having this argument.

- **DAD:**

We had it yesterday, we're having it now,
we're going to have it tomorrow.

MUM:

and move to my mum's.

EDMUND:

Can I book you for tomorrow?
[COMPUTER BEEPS]
"Slip 12. We push off by 8:00."
Here goes.

DAD:

MUM:

What kind of an example is this setting?

DAD:

MUM:

Things can't go on like this.
You're useless.

DAD:

MUM:

What kind of an example is this setting?

DAD:

MUM:

Things can't go on like this.
You're useless.

NIM:

threat to rare and endangered species
"by constantly developing or destroying
entire ecosystems in the name of progress."

I don't think tacky pirate resorts
can be called progress, Selk.

"Some scientists believe we lose
"one endangered species an hour
to extinction,
"which could be why biodiversity
is on the decline on every continent."

I've been up all night looking
for something bigger than protozoa.

[SNUFFLING]

Right. We need something more
Selkie-sized to save our home.

This could be it!

[BARKS EXCITEDLY]

Current endangered species list.
Bilby Bandicoots, Southern Cassowaries,
Bulmer's Fruit Bats,
Fijian Crested Iguanas,
Mahogany Gliders.
There's so many.

NIM:

to protect our island,
but the law changed two years ago.
So all we have to do is prove there are
three or more endangered species
on the island

and no one can build anything on it.

It becomes a protected habitat.

Look, it's a great idea.

I just don't think we can afford
pushing this trip off.

You should come with me.

They heard about my
research from you.

A 14-year-old?

A voice from the generation
that's going to have to
deal with what we've

done to the ocean.

We need a backup plan.

- This is our island we're talking about.

- We don't have time.

We don't have time to find
one endangered animal, let alone three.

I can rhyme off a half dozen
I've already seen around the island
and I know all of the
best places to look.

You have to let me try.

Okay.

You have to promise to be careful.

- And you have to watch out for Felix.

- I won't have time.

I'll be too busy looking
for Southern Cassowary,
Bilby Bandicoots, Rock Rats.

I swear I've seen Bulmer's Fruit Bats
in the caves near Fire Mountain.

This is the last of it, sir.

Can I just say that if anyone can
single-handedly mount a brilliant campaign
to preserve this treasure trove
of biological samples and data points...

Your crush on my dad is so embarrassing.

Do me a favour, Felix. Get out of the lab.

Do some field work.

It's just that there are
so many variables in the field.

That's the point.

Look, you are fantastic at cataloguing
and scheduling.

But science is the study of life
and life is chaotic.

Embrace the chaos. Have a little fun.

Get outside. Get your feet wet.

Yes, sir. I won't let you down.

"Embrace the chaos."

And while you're at it, prank Nim back.

The fact you haven't done it yet
is embarrassing.

NIM:

[FISHERMEN SPEAKING INDISTINCTLY]

[CAMERA SHUTTER CLICKS]

FRANKIE:

who chartered our boat?

I thought you said you were 18.

Yeah, I'm cursed with a baby face.

BEN:

right, Frankie?

ID'd everywhere I go.

Mum says I'll really appreciate it when I'm older.

I'm sorry, kid.

I can't have someone's mother accusing me of kidnapping her little prince.

You're Dad's little princess, Frankie.

- But you already have my deposit.

- Yeah.

But it's not enough for me to risk getting into trouble.

How much would be enough?

BOOKER:

FRANKIE:

I'm Booker.

Where is it you're trying to take my boat?

[CHUCKLES]

That's in the middle of nowhere.

There's supposed to be this amazing gold back triggerfish.

It lives on this gorgeous coral, right around there.

I can take you to plenty of spots to find triggerfish.

No, no, it has to be this spot.

Okay, this fish.

You know how rare gold backs are?

Alive, they're worth at least \$1,000.

[CHUCKLES]

Frankie, help Ben with the gear.

We've got a guppy to ferry.
Frankie, get the rest of the gear.
[SIGHS]
[CAMERA SHUTTER CLICKS]
Ben! Ben, you're mucking
up my clean decks!
I can't get a signal. Moira's
expecting my kiss good night text.
We're only a couple gajillion miles away
from the nearest cell tower, numbskull.
What'd you call me? Hey?
What'd you call me?
Pull it through two cat
paws and voila!
Ain't no one untying that little sucker
without a manual and a couple of hours.
- Hey, Ben, deck looks great.
- Thanks, Dad.
- How long till we reach the spot?
- Not long.
Doubt we'll find your
gold back trigger, son.
They'll be there.
Almost everywhere has been
picked clean these days.
Of everything.
I still think there's plenty out there.
Uncharted worlds waiting
to be discovered.
Flying lizards, talking
sea lions, mermaids.
No, I've got a sixth sense
about these things.
There's nothing out there not charted.
Adventures have all been had.

EDMUND:

just before sunrise.
Getting the lay of the land.
Meeting all sorts of interesting locals.
Still, no sign of the
gold backtriggerfish.
Hi, little guy.
Oh, wow, look at that.

Is that a lab?
[GASPS]
There she is!
[SELKIE SNUFFLING]
If you want something, ask me to get it.
You know I worked very hard
to find places for everything.
"Empty 500-milliliter plastic jar.
"Purpose TBD."
You have some serious issues.
Serious labelling issues.
You might thrive on chaos, but that's
not how the rest of the world works.
Society thrives on order, control.
Maybe moving to the mainland
might be the best thing for you.
Go to a proper school,
work on your people skills,
improve your manners.
Learn to respect your elders.
I don't need people skills.
It's just me and Jack
and that's the way we like it.
And you're not my elder.
You're not that much older than me.
I've been in school longer
than you've been alive.
So? I've learned why the barometric
pressure drops before a storm,
what starfish eat for breakfast,
all without setting foot
in some stuffy classroom.
Don't you want to be around
kids your own age?
You know, have friends?
How can you imply I don't have friends
in front of Selkie?
And you say I'm the one
who needs to improve my manners.
If you'll excuse me, I've got
three endangered species to find
before the Buccaneers show up.
Come on, Fred.
Let's get some pictures of

our favourite Central Rock Rats.

[BARKING URGENTLY]

I know you want me to go out into
the field, but I'll go out later.
The field can wait.

[STUTTERS] I told you

I'd go do it, and I will.

Just as soon as I finish with this.

[SELKIE BARKS]

The lab is not a petting zoo.

I refuse to be guilt-tripped
by a sea lion.

[BARKS]

[SCREAMING]

Fascinating!

The nitrogen seems to
have frozen my pants.

Solid!

[BARKS MOCKINGLY]

Please keep this between us, Selkie.

Fred, I really thought we had

Central Rock Rats on the island.

This just looks like

your average black rat, doesn't it?

[TWIGS SNAPPING]

[WHISPERING] You hear that?

Sounded big.

Maybe it's our Southern Cassowary.

If we startle it, don't be afraid, Fred.

They sometimes make these terrible
rattling, booming calls.

[BOTH SCREAMING]

Who are you,

and what do you think you're doing here?

[STAMMERING]

The name's Edmund.

- Where are the others?

- Others?

The last time our island was invaded there
was a whole ship full of pasty tourists.

- But I took care of them.

- I know.

I was there, remember?

I talked to you and everything,

which is a miracle
because back then I was absolutely
terrible at talking to girls.

You've gotten, uh,
taller.

- That was you?

- Yeah.

My mother says I've really
grown into my ears. [CHUCKLES]

Are you taking pictures?

Are you a spy for the Buccaneers?

No way. That's just my video camera.

See, I like to film.

I guess you could say it's my hobby.

I've heard of these.

You've never seen a video camera before?

[BOTH SCREAMING ON VIDEO CAMERA]

Is that you?

The high-pitched screaming?

That's all you.

That camera's a few years old,

but that model's perfect

for being out in the wild.

Cool. How do I delete everything?

- What?

- I can't have you bringing proof
of how amazing our island is
to the rest of the world.

We're already about to be
overrun by invaders.

But I've been trying to
get back here for ages.

Start deleting, or I start testing
how shark-proof that thing is.

Hey, no one's looking for me.

Okay, no one even knows where I am.

I won't take more footage.

Save your breath.

It's a long row

back to civilisation.

I've saved for three years

walking dogs,

looking after the twins

in the apartment below

and they were just pure evil.
But dinghies, tents, camping stoves,
they're not cheap.
This isn't a camp ground.
This is our home.
And I've got more important things to do
than to argue with an invader.
Get in.
What could you possibly
be worried about?
This place is amazing. It's perfect.
And I'd like to keep it that way.
Are any ships gonna come by soon
that could give me a ride?
Ships hardly ever come by.
One of the advantages of living
on a remote, deserted island.
How do you expect me to paddle
all the way back to the mainland?
[AIR HISSING]
Oh, no. No, my boat!
Look!
It's ripped. Now I'll have to stay.

JACK:

the Minister of the Environment,
face to face, how
important the island is
there's no way she'll let
those Buccaneers buy it.
Yeah, I'm walking in now.

GRANT:

Of course I have shoes on.
Flip-flops do not qualify as shoes.
I'll have your meeting with the Minister
rescheduled for tomorrow.
- What?
- We'll need to buy you a suit.
No, that's ridiculous.
I'm sure I have something that works.
[MOBILE RINGING]
Nim's calling.
- Nim, is everything...

- There's a boy on the island,
but I tried to get him to leave
and his boat sank.

- If you ask me...

- Nim, slow down.

- What if we're stuck with him forever?

- Slow down. A boy?

He says his name's Edmund,
but I don't trust a word he says.
Good instincts. Put him on the phone.
Here.

- Hello?

- Careful with that!

- Careful.

- Is this a bad time?

Yes. How old are you?

What are you doing on the island?

How'd you get there?

Are you alone?

I'm 14 and I took a
charter fishing boat.
But I ditched them last night,
in my dinghy.
Which sank.
Unexpectedly.
That's my lunch.
Don't smush my lunch.
Oh, dear.
I won't touch your lunch, I swear.
I just came here for a
bit of an adventure.
With my daughter?

Well, sure.
But I don't think she likes me very...
There will be no adventures
with my daughter.
Nim is not like other girls.
She can outrun, out-climb
and definitely outwit you.

- So no funny stuff.

- Yes.

"Yes"? That's all you
have to say is "yes"?

I mean, yes, sir.

I'm going to assume that your parents don't know where you are.

Yeah. I mean, no.

Whichever one means they know I'm here and they're totally cool with it.

What's your home number, Edmund. Now! 049-157-0158.

They're never going to let me set foot outside the apartment again, are they?

I wouldn't.

Put Nim back on the phone.

So what should I do?

Anchor him out in the bay on one of the emergency rafts?

[CHUCKLES] That's funny.

Just keep an eye on him.

Whatever you do, Nim, do not trust teenage boys.

I should know, I used to be one.

Mmm.

Gross.

Good luck, Jack.

- This is awful.

- Yeah, agreed.

Come on, to the shops with you.

And you just have to get used to boys taking your daughter on adventures.

I had to.

So,

wanna see what's on TV?

- That was meant to be a joke.

- I don't have time for jokes.

Sorry!

Didn't realise this was such a busy time for you.

You don't know anything about me.

This whole island is depending on me to keep it pristine and untouched and you're touching it.

Well, you don't know anything about me either, okay?

And unless I learn to fly, I can't help touching your stupid island.

- If it's so stupid, Why'd you come?

- I don't know!

Hey, you reckon that dumb kid's nearby?

Maybe he's found his goldfish.

This is where he was headed

the whole time, idiot.

We'll catch up to him tomorrow.

Island like this isn't

safe for a guppy like him.

Do you think there's a super-rare
creature that lives out here, Dad?

Like a woman ugly enough
to go out with you?

- Ugly like Moira?

- Moira's gorgeous!

- If you like big feet.

- They're not that large!

Frankie, stop messing about.

Go and unload the rest of the gear.

Frankie do this, Frankie do that.

Why can't you be more like
your idiot brother, hmm?

Maybe because I've got more
than two brain cells to rub together.

What do you think, Dad?

Sixth sense telling you anything?

Ooh...

I'm having a vision right now.

This time tomorrow

all of them cages'll be filled
with rare and valuable
animals.

Yeah.

Whoo! [LAUGHS]

[WHOOPING]

Classic Felix.

He sleeps while the island's
being besieged by an invader.

One inflatable dinghy's hardly a siege.

I'm more like a spy.

I'm not an invader, exactly.

Really I'm an innovator.

- [SELKIE BARKS]

- Wh...

[SNUFFLING]

This is your room?

It's, uh...

It's cool.

Alex Rover!

Is okay, you know.

If you like the whole brilliant sense of
humour meets death-defying action thing.

You'll be out here

until Jack gets back.

This is great!

I guess I'll be all right
sleeping in the tree house.

With its own zip line!

That should foil your escape plan.

Hey, what about going to the...

Going to the

bathroom?

[SNUFFLING]

Never mind.

[HOOTS]

[CROAKING]

[CHUCKLES] Hey, mate.

Hey, you want a Gummy?

Here.

- Green's the best.

- Stop.

Fred's on a diet.

Fruit and wingless insects only.

If you want to feed him, try this.

Sorry, buddy.

You sure you don't want a delicious
piece of mango instead? Hmm? Mmm!

Knew it!

Those lizards at the Cormorant Cliffs
have to be Fijian Crested Iguanas.

They love heights,

and they're gorgeous.

[MOUTH FULL] That's so weird.

What?

Sorry. Where can I, uh...

[BARKING]

Whoa.

Where can I spit?

[SIGHS]

Thanks.

I didn't want Gummy
between my teeth all night.

Excuse me, Fred.

Hey, that's so weird
you have all the Alex Rover books.

I know people who've read one or two,
but you have the whole collection.

I mean, I've got to have
a lot of respect...

[BARKING]

I've got to have a lot
of respect for a man
who doesn't even break a sweat when he's
dangling from an icy cliff by the...

...quickly unravelling thread
of one of his gloves?

I thought you weren't into
the whole "Alex Rover" thing.

Come on, who wouldn't be into Alex Rover?

He's a great character.

So's the author, Alexandra Rover.

Wait, what?

She uses a pen name, which you
would know if you were a real fan.

She's actually in Bora-Bora right now,
researching her next book.

Whoa...

I've always imagined some
grizzled, bearded man
banging on a typewriter in a hut somewhere.

But that's brilliant.

Explains the sensitive side.

Have you read the latest one,
Alex Rover Never Surrenders?

I'm almost at the end.

It's torturing me that I don't have
time to finish it right now.

I think it's genius when
Alex gets the queen bee,
and drops it in the enemy camp
and the swarm comes.

And you haven't got to

that chapter yet, have you?

Nope.

Uh...

Spoiler alert.

[SNUFFLING]

EDMUND:

suspicious of my presence here
the island remains absolutely gorgeous.

It's as if the creatures here,
they're trying to tell me,
"Hey, buddy, she'll warm up to you."

"Your parents can't legally
ground you for life."

Or can they?

There.

That should do it.

I have everything I need.

I'm ready for the field.

Ready to conquer the field.

I have the situation
completely under control.

Here goes.

As soon as I have double checked
that I am truly prepared.

Some dehydrated stroganoff
in case I get a bit peckish.

In which case I'll need
some purified water
and the camping stove.

That means the burns kit.

In fact, I should bring
the entire first aid kit.

And some insect repellent.

Scratching bites is not conducive
to work in the field.

Where the potential to get lost
increases exponentially.

I need to bring some extra maps
and a compass.

[CLICKS SWITCH]

Unacceptable.

Ooh, disaster averted.

[TOY MONKEY SQUEAKS]

[SQUEAKING CONTINUES]

[SQUEAKING CONTINUES]

Some guard you are, Selk!

Who knows where he's run off to.

Had to use the little boys' room.

So about these animals that you
need to find all over the island...

How do you know about that?

I peeked at your list.

And the map.

But I put two and two together
and I think I can help.

Help how?

I don't know exactly,
but I'm sure I can do something.

What do you want to do
with the animals once you find them?

Take their photo?

Is that what you're using
this old Polaroid for?

I love my camera. It's not old.

It's a cool camera, yeah.

Old school, but...

Look, I can capture these animals
in action, okay?

We can make our own nature video
right on your computer.

There's no "we" here.

And tracking animals
is serious business.

If yesterday proves anything,
it's that you have no idea
how to move through the jungle.
You'd be like, "I'm here, I'm here!

"Hurry up and hide
from my fancy camera!"

[LAUGHS] See?

You think my camera's fancy.

- You want me to come with you.

- Absolutely not.

Are you sure you want to
leave me alone with her?

She looks like someone
who's fond of taking naps.

And WWARD.

Wward?

What Would Alex Rover Do?

Keep his enemies close.

Fine, invader. Come on.

[SQUEAKING CONTINUES]

If Susan H could see me now.

I wonder where she is.

At school, probably enjoying
the state-of-the-art equipment,
the air conditioning.

What was I thinking
taking this internship?

I don't want to let Jack down,
but what if I can't...

[SCREAMS]

[HYPERVENTILATING]

[GROANING]

[GRUNTING]

Oh...

I really liked having depth perception.

Oh.

Oh!

We've been here for ages.

Is this Bilby creature
ever going to show up?

Not if you keep talking.

Maybe some of the other endangered animals
on your list are less camera shy?

You and Fred are obsessed with...

Worms!

Yuck! Yuck!

Oh! That's the most disgusting thing
I've ever done.

You said you wanted to help.

NIM:

Oh, gross! Gross, gross!

Oh! [GROANS]

- After all that, you had to scare her off.

- Not on purpose.

It was the worm's fault.

It left a slime trail on my arm.

I didn't mean to scare it.

We don't have worms
that slimy in Brisbane.

Nim?

"Embrace the chaos."

Ooh!

Life is chaos.

"Embrace the..."

That's a Dendrocide excelsa.

The Stinging Tree.

[GRUNTS]

It's not deadly, just painful.

You're going to live. Live!

Survive! You will survive!

"Embrace the chaos"!

[EXCLAIMING IN PAIN]

EDMUND:

NIM:

We wasted the whole morning
scaring off a Bilby
and I need evidence of three
endangered species yesterday.
So, no, I will not slow down.
Hopefully the family of Mahogany Gliders
still lives near Keyhole Cove.
Great.

I'm right behind you. I just...

I just need a second.

[PANTING]

She's really fit.

[SCREAMING]

Nim!

Nim!

[SCREAMING]

Edmund!

[BOTH PANTING]

NIM:

EDMUND:

NIM:

EDMUND:

I can get behind.

[WHISPERING] Nim, bats. Bats.

[GASPS]

NIM:

Edmund, you're brilliant!

EDMUND:

[CHUCKLES SOFTLY]

EDMUND:

saw bats on your list.

I'm good for more than just my camera.

My memory is practically photographic.

I had no idea that colony

of Bulmer's Fruit Bats had moved.

I had no idea Bulmer's

Fruit Bats existed.

NIM:

Invade more islands.

EDMUND:

NIM:

EDMUND:

You're just using me for my camera.

- Why can't you like me for me, Nim?

- You're such a weirdo.

- I'm a useful weirdo.

- Absolutely.

Without you, I would have searched

the caves by Fire Mountain for hours.

So you're not still mad at me

for scaring the Bilby off?

Of course I'm still mad.

He was right there.

Here we are.

- Where are the gliders?

- Up this tree.

Oh.

Are you...

Horribly afraid of heights?
It's natural when you think about it.
See, heights mean long falls,
meaning brutal landings.
Hand me the camera.

NIM:

No sign of them.
Maybe Jack was right.
This could take ages.

BEN:

A very nice lorikeet.
Look at the pretty colours.

- BOOKER:

- Oh, no.
They're all over the mainland.
Practically pests.
Just turn it loose.

FRANKIE:

come here for stupid lorikeets.
Arbie.
- We came here for... For...
- Don't hurt yourself, Ben.
Ben is right. We're onto something
big here, I can feel it.

FRANKIE:

cages full of bearded dragons,
gliders, birds, blue-tongued skinks
and enough eggs
to make an enormous omelette.
Check the traps every hour.
We're missing something.

BEN:

find that Edmund kid
and thank him for bringing us here.
With our haul, I'm going to be
able to spoil Moira rotten.
Nim, wait!
I'm not with them.

- I didn't mean to...
- Bring poachers to my island?
No, I thought they were fishermen.
I even made up this great lie
where you were a gold back triggerfish.
You told them about me?
No, it was a metaphor.
[VOICE BREAKING] I was
starting to trust you,
but this whole time
you were working with them.
- I haven't. I just...
- Liar!
That's why you were so interested
in helping me find a Bilby and the Gliders!
I just wanted to help.
I want you off my island now.
And take your friends with you.
Nim.
I said, go.

JACK:

I know you have pressing
environmental issues here in Brisbane,
but I need your help.
It's easy to think of our island
as remote, disconnected,
inconsequential even.
Um...
But, uh...
Um...
It's funny, my daughter,
she likes to make fun of me.
She thinks I'm only
interested in protozoa,
it's this single-cell organism.
But protozoa's the key to understanding
more complex species, entire ecosystems.
It's easy to spot change
more quickly in a single cell.
It gives you time to react,
time to make changes
before it's too late.
And our island,

it's like a single cell.
It's a litmus test.
Whatever hits our island,
is coming to the mainland next.
And if you put a, uh...
If you put a pirate resort
in the middle of the island,
who's going to notice?
Dr Rusoe,
I admire your passion.
But it's going to take
a lot more than a speech
to keep the Buccaneers
off your island.
But let's see what we can do.
How long can you stay?
Pick up. Pick up.

AUTOMATED VOICE:

Please leave a message at the tone.
[ANSWERING MACHINE BEEPS]
Jack, you have to come home.
I can't find Felix.
And there are poachers, and Edmund...
You were right.
I couldn't trust him.
Just come home, please.
Daddy, I need you.
Without the invader's camera,
I'll have to start over
on the endangered species search.
We need three, or we
could lose the island.
Every animal is worth saving,
but those poachers said
they had cages full of animals.
[SNUFFLING]
We have to free them first.
[BARKING EXCITEDLY]
The Buccaneers have sent
surveyors out early.
I'd better find Nim before
she unleashes her army
of deranged animal allies on them.

[CHIRPING]

Huh?

- [SQUAWKS MOCKINGLY]

- [FARTING NOISE]

Oh!

Speaking of, if that colourful bird is you,
Arbie, I will not forget this.

[SCREAMING]

- [POACHERS WHOOPING]

- **FRANKIE:**

All right!

All right!

You men there!

Thank goodness you're here.

I don't know if this net belongs to you

or it belongs to

the Buccaneer Resort Company

but either way

I need to be extricated immediately.

- [CHUCKLES]

- I wonder how much he'd go for

on the black market.

Why would they want a chubby nerd?

Nerd? I am an academic.

It was a joke, Ben.

Your face is a joke!

Let me down, or I'll call your manager.

- It means...

- Don't hurt yourself, Ben.

- Your face!

- You think you're funny, but you're not.

Dear Buccaneer complaint department,

"I am writing you

to inform you of an altercation

"with two of your employees

who left me stranded."

I know it's tough being

stuck in a small space,

but it's only for a few more minutes.

If Alex did her research,

your drones are already

mounting a search and rescue party.

They'll have their queen back soon.

Wait for me here
and if anything happens,
we rendezvous back at base camp.
Arbie, no!

BEN:

Might have found you
a girlfriend, finally, Frankie.
You would know. You have
experience dating an ugly animal.
Moirra's not ugly.
Yeah, yeah, of course. Of course.
Compared to a warthog,
she's downright lovely.
She pitched a fit
when you bought her daisies.

BEN:

I know she likes roses better.
The girl of my dreams deserves roses.

FRANKIE:

Get out of my face!
Think you're funny,
but you're not funny.
- Watch me. I'm funnier than you.

- BEN:

[GLASS SHATTERS]
[BUZZING]
Way to go, Arbie.
[ALL EXCLAIMING IN SURPRISE]
Get out of here!
[BUZZING APPROACHES]
[GASPING]
[ALL EXCLAIMING IN FEAR]
Into the water! The water!

BEN:

Please, I don't like stings!

BOOKER:

Ben! Ben!
- [BEES BUZZING]

- What'd I ever do to you?
Pack your bags and tie your shoes, guys.
Oh, get off!
This is a jailbreak.
Not the face! Not the face!
That's your favourite son?
That was so brave of Ben
leading all them bees away from us.
What?
[GRUNTING]
Wow. Okay. Plan B.
[EQUIPMENT CLATTERING]
[BIRDS SQUAWKING]
Come on. Come on!
Stupid dull knife.
Poachers need to take
better care of their things.
[SELKIE BARKING]
[SNUFFLING]
Well, hello, my pretty girl.
[BARKING]
How do you know it's a girl?
Maybe it's her long eyelashes
and that pink bow in her hair.
Do you know how much
the Russian Circus would pay
for a trained seal with
both its flippers?
- Dad, I think that's a sea lion.
- Shut up, Frankie.
- Come on, Ben. Have a guess. How much?
- 50 bucks.
Exactly! \$50,000.
[ALL CHUCKLING]
You can't stay out there forever!
Yeah, good one, Ben.
That's the perfect size for a sea lion.
Right size for you, runt!
I know, I'm trying.
[SIGHS]
I'll be back, guys, I promise.
With my machete.

NIM:

The cages were...

Selk?

Selkie's fine. She has to be fine.

[SELKIE SNUFFLING]

What?

I know I'm late,

but that's no reason to yell at me.

She was trying to warn you.

Just so you know, when my dad gets home
he's going to kick your...

- [OBJECTS CLATTERING]

- That's him! Jack!

Sorry to disappoint you, but that's
just my boys looting the place.

BEN:

Ugh.

We saw the mooring for a boat
on our way in, but no boat.

My dad's here. He's just on
the other side of the island.

Oh, right.

You sure you want to keep lying?

I've gutted fish bigger than you.

Where's your other accomplice?

Where's Edmund?

The boy? [CHUCKLES]

No, he's not one of us.

No, he's just some runaway.

Ever notice how people think their problems
won't follow them wherever they go?

That's why I always like to make sure
I tie up loose ends.

BEN:

Oh, you poor girl! How
do you pass the time?

I read!

Do you really want to come between
me and my pay day?

You really want to call
my best friend a pay day?

[SNUFFLING EXCITEDLY]

Oh!

Go, Selk!
Get out of here!
[SCREAMS]
[LAUGHS MENACINGLY]
Oh, you're brave, I'll give you that.
Do you know what happens
to brave little girls?
No, neither do I.
They don't live long enough
to tell their tales.
Now, you gonna let me
take your seal here?
Sea lion.
You can't save her.
Better to give in
than watch me hurt her, hey?
Come on, don't feel so bad.
You're unarmed, outnumbered.
Not a lot of choice, really.
I'm not giving up.
I'll figure something out.
[SNUFFLING]
Go, Selkie, go!
Thanks for training her so well.
Circus pays extra for that.
Pack it up, boys. We're casting off!

BEN:

FRANKIE:

- What?
- I said...
Always had a feeling
we'd find something worthwhile here.
Something big.
Just remember, you try to follow me,
you pull any of your other little tricks
and I take it out on your pet.
A dead seal's better than no seal.
We just don't have any legal recourse
to reverse the sale.
But if there was something else
unique about the island
besides the protozoa.

What if there were several
habitats for endangered species?
I don't have any
documentation for it yet,
but I know my daughter has seen...
We can't get an extension
based on the word of a child.
I'm starving. What about a break?
Fourth floor, there's a vending machine
with a very tasty selection.
NIM ON ANSWERING MACHINE:
Jack, you have to come home.
I can't find Felix.
And there are poachers...
Nim's in trouble.
I've gotta go.
You go. I'll do what I can here.
And ask my granddaughter
to come and visit me one day, will you?
She looks more and more like Emily.
My daughter would have been
very proud of you today, you know.
I know.
It's a long shot,
but Emily would have tried.

FELIX:

"Do some field work!"
Is this what you meant
by "embrace the chaos," Jack?
[GRUNTING LOUDLY]
When you come across my bones
picked clean by all
manner of claw and fang
I hope you feel terrible for luring me
to this island to participate
in ground-breaking scientific research
when you knew, you knew
I'd be scraped, stung, rained upon.
Tormented by lawless children
and laughed at
by psychopathic
pirate-theme resort developers!
Have at me, bird!

Do your worst!

[SQUAWKS MOCKINGLY]

Well, what do you know!

Now I don't suppose you could recommend a good optometrist?

[SQUAWKS]

Wait a minute.

Rope's not the only thing that's gonna burn around here.

Nim, you okay?

What happened?

They took Selkie.

He had a knife and I couldn't...

Oh, no.

Selkie's my best friend.

More than that.

She's been there for me every day since my mom died.

She's family.

- What if we can...

- We can't call for help.

We can't go after them.

All the boats are gone.

- There's nothing we can...

- [JINGLING]

[CHIRPING]

That little kleptomaniac.

Hey, these are Booker's boat keys.

- Which means...

- There's still time to save Selkie.

[SIGHS]

We need to be prepared.

Let's check the lab.

Maybe we'll find something labelled,

"Take Out Maniacal Poachers Kit"!

[EQUIPMENT ZAPPING]

Who are you and what

have you done with Felix?

Felix went into the field, Nim.

I'm what the field spat back out.

Great, because we could really use your help.

We're under attack.

You think? I'm all over it.

Okay. A, love the initiative.

Don't lose that.
But B, Jack would never sign off on us
shooting them with poison darts
and leaving their bodies
to be picked apart by rabid warthogs.
I find, in moments like these,
it's best to ask...
"What would Alex Rover do?"
[ARBIE CHIRPING]
Come on!
We ready?
Is Mission No Circus for Selkie a go?
Give us a speech, fearless leader.
Oh. [STUTTERS]
I'm not.
I mean, I don't know what to say.
Except that Selkie makes a much
better friend than sideshow act.
And those guys won't stop
until they've put everything
that crawls, flies and swims in a cage.
I don't know how things work
on the mainland,
but we don't stand for
that kind of thing here.
I say we put them in a cage.
Yeah! Cage them!

BEN:

you're so grumpy, Frankie.
Being ugly hurts.
[SELKIE GROANING]
Oh, now, look at that. See, Frankie?
Even the dumb seal knows
it's important to keep fit.

BOOKER:

Bad enough you lost my keys, but how
long does it take to hotwire a boat?
Any longer we'll be peddling
a seal carcass to the Russkies.
They're not going to fall
for that trick again.
[KEYS JINGLING]

[SQUAWKS]

Why would a bird want keys?
See, those are Dad's keys.
I made that keychain myself.
Ripped the tooth out of the shark
that got your mom.
That's what happens to animals
who mess with Booker and son.
Sons.
Shut up, Frankie, you'll scare him.

[ARBIE SQUAWKS]

I thought we didn't
want any lorikeets?

FRANKIE:

Just chase the pretty bird.

BEN:

FRANKIE:

dummy. Open your eyes.

BEN:

BOOKER:

What'd I say about spooking the bird?

BEN:

the element of surprise.

[ARBIE CHIRPING]

[LORIKEETS CHIRPING LOUDLY]

[FARTING NOISES]

[ALL EXCLAIMING IN SURPRISE]

Phase One complete.

Oh!

Why couldn't we have kept that bird
in the cage when we had the chance?

Shut up, Frankie!

[ALL EXCLAIMING IN PAIN]

Why'd the stupid lorikeet
have to fly down the path
with the pooping birds
and the angry leaves?

Yeah.

Why don't you two guys go on ahead?
Selk, you in here?
She has to be close by.
Wait. I can't leave them here.
Not again.
This might work better.
What?
I play a lot of video games.

FELIX:

bring them to Papa Bear.
Papa's got claws now.
- Come on!
- [CHIRPING]
Why are you so smug?
You're supposed to lead them
into the quicksand.
Felix was right!
Liquid nitrogen is so useful!

NIM:

machete.

BEN:

Forget the bird. We've got these.
[CHUCKLES]
Hey, Frankie, look.
It's the nerd from the net.
You're gonna have a very different name
for me when I get through with you.
Like Felix the Ferocious.
Feral Felix. No! The Frightful Felix.
- Quicksand!
- What?
Quicksand!
Move your foot!
Get ready to have sand in
all the wrong places, boys.
[BOTH EXCLAIMING IN FEAR]
Guess that's the last time you'll mess
with a marine biologist
with a focus in psychology.
[FELIX EXCLAIMS IN FEAR]
Thanks for the backup,

but I totally had the situation covered.

EDMUND:

NIM:

EDMUND:

[SELKIE GROANS]

Selkie.

- Nim! Nim!

- [SNUFFLING]

Nim, I've found her.

[SELKIE GROANING]

She's overheated.

We have to get her to the water.

EDMUND:

I know I'm stronger than I look,
but even I can't carry her.

NIM:

But Arbie has the keys.

No, Arbie has the keychain.

Go, go, go!

Keep going!

Almost there.

Straighten out, Edmund! Into the bay!

NIM:

Ready to get out there with your camera?

- Can we nap first?

- No time.

Operation No Circus for Selkie

was an unmitigated success,

but the Buccaneers

will be here tomorrow.

First we'll head back

to the grasslands for the Bilby.

Nim.

Push play.

EDMUND ON VIDEO:

direct eye contact with the Bilby.

A ferocious creature,

they're known for shocking people
to death with adorableness.

You sneak!

That means we only need one more.

I know just where to look,

but Jack won't like it.

Nim!

Nim!

Nim? You up there?

Where are you?

Sorry, Jack, but it's the only way.

What'd you say?

- Felix?

- You're back?

And, sir, gotta say the new look is...

Felix, where's Nim?

- [CHUCKLES NERVOUSLY]

- Felix, where is she?

See, I was supposed to

watch these poachers here while...

- Poachers?

- Cormorant Cliffs.

If you want me to resign my post I will,

but I've come to learn

how to embrace the chaos of life!

Use your arms and your legs!

You're doing great!

The sharp rocks below are more

scared of you than you are of them!

EDMUND:

sharp rocks at a time like this?

NIM:

Where's your sense of humour?

[EDMUND GROANS]

I'm too crippled by fear to laugh.

NIM:

loose rocks through here.

Just think, the climb down

is going to be much easier.

The sun will be setting,

the bats will be out.

It'll be beautiful!

Oh!

[EDMUND GRUNTING]

- You're heavier than you look.

- Thanks.

I've been trying to fill out
so I can play football next year.

Sorry.

Seems like I'm always
messing up your big plans.

No, this wouldn't be
half as much fun without you.

This is fun?

EDMUND:

any endangered species
who live in nice, safe,
low to ground places?

Okay.

Let's, uh... Let's lure this iguana out
for its close-up.

I mean, a week ago baiting iguanas
with candy would have
seemed crazy to me.

What was so different a week ago?

Well, I was planning
my adventure on your island,
not living it.

There are lots of places you could
have run away to for an adventure.

Yeah, I know, but this
island has everything.

Friendly natives, angry poachers,
terrifying cliffs.

Why run away at all?

I had to get away from my parents.

Why would you want to do that?

Uh...

Well, they fight.

All the time.

Dad lost his business
and Mum's afraid

of what's going to happen to us.

I was tired of feeling totally useless.

Sol left.
Which I know is stupid,
because they're probably beyond worried
about me, but...
Edmund,
I don't think you're useless or stupid.
I think you're...
I'm...
Nim Rusoe, you've just found
your first Fijian Crested Iguana.
That's three species. The island's safe.
- How did it?
- it's a defence mechanism.
We must have scared it.
Sorry, little guy.
[ROCKS CLATTERING]
Hey! Stop it!
There's an endangered species down here!
Funny, I see three endangered species.
Wait, wait, wait, wait!
There's nowhere to hide out there.
Come on. Come on.
It just keeps getting
smaller and smaller.
Are you okay?
[PANTING] You know
how you feel about heights?
That's how I feel about tight,
cramped spaces.
Really?
This is roomy compared
to my place in Brisbane.
Stop trying to be funny! We're trapped.
Which is exactly what
Alex Rover always thinks
right before he makes
his miraculous escape.
Without ropes, we'll never
get out of here before the fire comes.
Nim, Nim, look at me.
Hey, we're gonna get out of here.
We're going to save the island.
We can do this.
Here.

Hurry, it's getting crispy in here.

That's it!

[GROANING IN PAIN]

You go. You're a better climber.

Go.

Nim!

I guess we finally find out
what happens to brave little girls.

[JACK YELLING]

Huh?

[BOOKER GROANS]

Their fathers ground them
for the rest of their lives.

JACK:

everything we could to save the island,
- but it looks like we're going to have to...

- Show him, Edmund.

Show me? Show me what?

- Is that...

- A Fijian Crested Iguana?

And that's our third species, too.

We've got them all in there.

The Bilby is particularly
well documented.

Nim, this changes everything.

You are amazing.

And, Edmund, you're
starting to grow on me.

Yeah, he does that.

I'm her best human friend.

Third overall after
Selkie and Fred.

At least I trump Arbie.

I wonder if they'll let
Moira visit me in prison.

Oh, she's going to get one look at you
and your ugly mug and dump you.

And I'm telling the authorities
that you two put me up to everything.

BEN:

The Coast Guard arrested all of us
because we're a family.

Booker and sons stick together.

Sons?

What, so now we're a family?

Come on, don't keep a girl hanging.

[UPBEAT ROCK MUSIC PLAYING ON STEREO]

You're so gonna miss us.

Are you kidding?

I'm going to miss everything.

The island,

sunshine,

my freedom.

I'm so grounded when I get home.

[ROARS]

[LAUGHS]

[BARKING]

Hey, um, so before I leave

I just wanted to, uh,

uh, tell you that...

Mmm-hmm?

Um...Well, see, I...

Felix!

Wake up!

[CHUCKLES]

Oh, you're truly evil.

And you can expect a whole lot more
where that came from.

I just told my professor

I'm staying for another semester.

Just enough time to get
plenty of revenge.

Hmm.

Stellar performance, buddy.

You don't know how much

I'm going to miss you.

Okay, so...

Sol made you this.

It's papaya in the shape of a Gummy.

See?

I hope you like it.

What's my email?

Nim@rusoesanctuary

forrareandendangeredspecies.com.

[STAMMERS]

So as I was trying to say before,

this was just, like,
the best week of my life, and...
- We almost died, like, 12 times.
- I know.
But, um...
- Uh, you...
- Whatever it is, spit it out.
Hmm...
Weirdo.
Edmund! Gotta get going.
Don't want to miss the tide
or you'll be stuck here another day.
Shut up, you. He's just a friend.
[COMPUTER BEEPS]

NIM:

my favourite invader.
"I bet you're already missing
my island desperately.
"Well, before you get any ideas
about storming Turtle Beach again
"I thought I'd give
you a heads-up.
"You should start watching
the horizon,
"because I might invade
your island next."