

CINDY BONES

by Isla Sheremeta

The Pyramid

Cindy jolts awake as the bus hits a bump in the road. Her gaze goes to the beautiful scenery around her. Pyramids tower over them. Cindy smiles this is exactly where she wants to be. The bus grinds to a halt. Somebody beside her groans. "Joe" she says, "Move I need to get out". Joe sits up yawning. "We there yet?" he asks sleepily. "What do you think?" "By the tone in your voice yes" Joe says. "Now scoot I need to get out" Cindy says laughing. Joe gets up and starts going down the aisle. Cindy gets up and follows him.

As soon as she gets out, she is greeted by their guide. "Hello, my name is Mandy, and I will be your tour guide into the giant death trap, I mean pyramid" she says. A couple of the college kid's cringe. "Now follow me", Mandy says, and all the students follow. Then three students push their way to the front where Cindy and Joe are. "Hey Cindy, what's up" asked one of the students. Cindy smiles "Hello to you Rebeca". Right behind Rebeca was Jude who always had a fiery temper and her twin brother Dylan who was the tech guy. They were Cindy's best friends, practically her family. "Ok now everybody single file into the pyramid, and any slow pokes will be left behind, just kidding", Mandy says. They all filed into the giant death trap; I mean pyramid.

They continued down the winding tunnels of the pyramid until they get to an opening. "This is the burial chamber; I think these Egyptians are very confusing" Mandy says. A couple students look worried. They all walk into glorious nothing. Mandy grumbles "Must be one of those fake tombs dumb Egypt..." she doesn't finish what she was going to say because she falls through the floor!

Booby Traps

Cindy grabs her just in time, right before she falls to her doom. She drags her up onto solid ground. Mandy brushes herself off "thanks girl" she says. "Um you know I have a name, right?" Cindy asks. "If I tried to know everybody's name, we'll be here the whole day" Mandy says. Cindy rolls her eyes. "Come on everybody were heading out" Mandy says everybody follows her. Just as Cindy is about to go out of the room something catches her eye. In the light of a small torch on the wall the floor appears to have faint letters engraved into it. Cindy leans

down and blows. A giant layer of dust rises up. Cindy smiles “guys” she says, “I think I know why Mandy fell through the floor”. Everybody comes rushing back into the small, cramped room. Joe leans down “Good work Cindy” he says. Cindy’s eyes search the floor for any possible words that could be made out. Then her eyes spot it engraved in the floor is the word Egyptian.

She turns to the other students “I found out how to get to the other side” she says. “Now whoever wants to go with me can”. Nobody answers. Cindy’s smile falters. Just then Joe stands up “I will” he says the rest of Cindy’s friends step up as well. “Fine, I will do so to” Mandy says. “Uh you sure, I think the other students will need your help getting out” Cindy says. “We can just wait here” one of the students says. Cindy groans “fine” she says, “follow me.” Cindy treads carefully and makes it to the other side. She feels around the wall to her hand finds a lever and pulls it down. Suddenly the wall opens up. Cindy pokes her head in and screams.

Below her is a drop that goes down a thousand or so feet with no way of crossing. Cindy feels Joe’s hand clamp on her shirt and pull her back in. “thanks” she says in barely a whisper. “Well,” Joe says, “I guess we’ll have to go back”. “wait” cindy says “Jude is there still a long plank by one of the walls”? Jude turns around “yeah there is”. “Good now we will need it” before she can finish Jude interrupts her “already on it”. Jude comes back with the tan plank in her arms. She passes it to Rebeca who passes it to Dylan and well you get the point. As it gets to Cindy, she lays it down and it luckily reaches the other side. Cindy walks over it into another hole in the wall followed by everyone.

As Cindy goes through the wall, she comes to a fork in the road. Everybody else piles into the room. “We’ll have to split up” she says. They all nod “Me, Joe and Rebeca will go in one while Mandy, Jude and Dylan go in the other one”. Jude groans but nods. “If you come to a dead end, call me” Cindy says. Then they all run down a tunnel.

Ten minutes later. Cindy, Joe and Rebeca turn a corner and reach a dead end. Cindy whips out her phone and dials Dylan’s number. What would have been two second call ends up being two a minute wait. Suddenly, an ear-piercing scream rings out they all look at each other “Jude”!

Mummies

Just a few minutes earlier. “you guys got us lost” Mandy whines. “Please for our sake stop complaining” Jude says fists clenched. “No can-do pretty princess” Mandy says. “What did you just call me?” Jude says angrily. Mandy smiles “I called you pretty princess”. Jude lunges and Mandy fists raised while Dylan tries to hold her back. Dylan looks up and his mouth drops in amazement. “Guys look at this” he says.

Jude and Mandy look up their eyes go wide. In front of them is an open room filled to the brim with gold and in the middle of it is a gold sarcophagus. They all walk into the room. "Maybe there's a mummy in there", Mandy says her gaze goes to Jude "And I know the perfect person who is definitely not a pretty princess who will love to go see". Jude gulps but slowly approaches it. She grasps the lid with both hands and opens it. Inside is a decaying mummy with hollow eye sockets and no teeth. "Bleck" Jude says she puts her hands up to close it but stops. There are hieroglyphics on the lid she slowly reads them out loud. "Let the one who is gone rise again" Jude gasps and stumbles back. Slowly the dead queen rises out of the sarcophagus.

The Queens Defeat

They come out of their tunnels at the same time. "Why didn't you answer" asks Cindy angrily. "Sorry" Dylan says, "I have no idea how I didn't hear my phone, oh no,"! he shoves his hands into his pockets frantically. "I must have dropped it while we were running"! Cindy looks puzzled "running from what" she asks. Suddenly, a sound like nails on a chalkboard comes from their tunnel "that" Dylan says.

The Egyptian queen rounds the corner and everybody who wasn't in that tunnel gasps. "um" Mandy says, "I think we should run" Cindy nods "yeah, run"! As they make it out, they are greeted by the other students. "No time to celebrate" Cindy says, "we need to run". Then she takes off. Finally they see light and just in time because the queen comes into view. As soon as her arm comes in contact with the sun she screams and slinks back into the pyramid. "I know what to do" Jude says and walks to the queen.

"I know who you are" Jude says. "I'd like to see you try to guess" she rasps. "you" Jude says, "Are Aleena my ancestor". Suddenly Jude takes her scab necklace off and runs full force at the queen. She clamps the scab down on the queen's arm. The queen shrieks and slowly withers into nothing. Everybody is in shock not only at Jude's confession but also her strength. "Um I'll get the bus" Mandy says and races off.

Graduation Ceremony

"How did you know that the Egyptian queen was your ancestor"? Rebeca asks Jude. "Because of the necklace she had the other half" Jude says holding up a now whole necklace. Finally, Jude is called. She steps on stage with a smile. "Not only has Jude graduated Hellcrow University with amazing grades but she has also saved her peers" the dean says. "Any words" he asks Jude. "All I have to say is, I couldn't have done it without my team" she gestures to them as she says it "come on up guys". As they come up the students in the crowd cheer. "Give

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a round of applause to Cindy,” but before he can finish Cindy stops him and whispers in his ear. “I mean J E B explores”! “What does J E B stand for” asks Rebeca. Cindy smiles “Jared Eglor Bones”.