

ROCK RAIDERS

Shooting Script - version 4

Part 1. Story Introduction

Fade up from black to:

01. Opening Montage.

This montage begins with a succession of slow cut dissolves between Raiders and machines... long panning shots in close up of Raiders working at the rock face. We can see and hear the equipment being employed. They are using a variety of Raider hand tools, such as pneumatic drills, buzz saws, hammers, chisels etc. These dissolve in to shots of drill vehicles drilling into the rock face. Clouds of dust fill the air.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

We worked hard in those days... You were straight out of Rock Raider Academy and within a week you were on your first mission. (Pause) In my case the first mission turned in to a frightening crisis. We found ourselves sucked through a wormhole in space and time, and hurled across the galaxy ; to emerge again, where? It was our worst nightmare. (Pause) The power was depleted, the ship was in peril. And so a major mission was instigated to mine more crystals, the source of our power. (pause) Every Day was the same old Business.

We continue to dissolve into shots of the Raiders as they drill with machines. This process of cut dissolves continues as we proceed down the tunnel, and eventually reaches the end of the tunnel, where we see a large number of crystals embedded in the rock face. One crystal is bigger and brighter than the rest.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

The Nightmare began with that damned super power crystal. How were we to know THEY wanted it so much...

As several Raiders continue to chisel out the crystals, the camera closes in on the big bright crystal as it is removed from the rock face by a Raider. Camera closes in for an extreme close up on the crystal which fills the frame.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

When it was tested it was the most powerful crystal ever found... To the captain it was the most important find ever, and if we could get more we'd be able to get home.

Dissolve to:

02. EXT Rock Raiders Base, Great Cavern, Early Night.

A long shot head on of a group of Raiders leaving the base in fast moving vehicles. We see the captain is at the head of the convoy in a large laser vehicle. The convoy also includes small trucks, hover boards, small diggers, they zoom past the camera.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

I'd never been too lucky so it was no surprise when we were thrown in to the hot seat almost immediately. The captain and most of the other Raiders went off on a mission that night in an attempt to find more super crystals, leaving us with the responsibility of guarding the base.

Dissolve to:

03. EXT, Great Cavern, Early Night.

Shot of silent barren landscape in an immense cavern, streaks of light jet down from large holes where the cavern roof has collapsed. As the planet is immersed into night the jets of

light move across the cavern, slowly fading out. Night falls, the silence is broken by the sounds of hundreds of insects, although its now night, parts of the cavern are still lit up by what looks like illuminous plants.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

How were we to know they were to come that night...

In the foreground a small swarm of fireflies fly past the camera lighting the scene as they go. There are small insects scurrying around the floor, suddenly all the insects scurry off and small rocks on the floor starts to vibrate like a slow heart beat... Smoke, one of the fireflies hits the camera and falls to the ground.

Flint

(O/S Male-firefly)

Smoke look out!

Smoke

(Female-firefly)

Arrrrrrggghh!

...She struggles to get back to her feet. The camera is close to the floor. Smoke the female firefly looks up in horror as a shadow falls over her.

Smoke

(Female-firefly)

Flint! HELP!

Flint

(Male-firefly)

Don't worry, I'll save you!!

We see Flint fly up in to the air, and turn to swoop down to rescue Smoke. We cut to a shot directly under the foot of the Rock Monster as Smoke is engulfed by shadow. Flint zooms in under the monsters foot, grabs Smoke and flies out with her at the very second the foot comes down, narrowly missing them both. The giant foot impacts on the floor in front of the camera creating a large foot print in the sand. The camera shakes from the impact. We can see the feet of a large looking Rock Monster plodding along. The camera tracks along with the feet not revealing any more of the creature.

Dissolve to:

04. EXT Rock Raiders Base, Great Cavern, Night.

Long shot looking over a quiet base which is lit by night-lights. In the foreground there are insects scurrying about in the night. The cavern itself is lit by the eerie light of a hundred fireflies. We can hear a buzzing noise as bars of glowing energy stream between posts on the perimeter fence.

V/O STONE

(wise old charismatic voice, slowly)

I'll never be able to forget that night when it happened, It was the worst night of my life. Cook, our superior, had got us patrolling the fences, while he relaxed by the controls. I should have known there would be trouble when Hill, as always, had, yet another of his bright ideas.

Looking back, It was inevitable that listening to him would get us in to deep... deep... trouble...

....(voice fades out).

The camera moves in on to two Rock Raiders Hill and Stone, and pans along with them as they patrol out side the perimeter fence. Hill comes to a sudden stop, and Stone who is

flicking peanuts in to the air in an attempt to catch them in his mouth walks into him knocking him off balance.

STONE

OWWWW! What's up? Why are you stopping?

HILL

Why are we walking? What good is it doing? There's nothing out here, but empty caverns and a lot of dust. I'm tired, I've worn my feet down to the knees, or the nearest thing I have to Knees!

STONE

Hill, you've just got no discipline. *(He resumes flicking peanuts into the air, we can hear the tap, tap of the peanuts bouncing of his plastic face!)* I can never seem to get the catch part right! *(Pause)* Anyway what do you expect in the Raiders? Instant promotion to drill master general on your first day – and a nice cup of tea and a biscuit?

HILL

No! Just a little variety. *(Hill starts walking slowly, expressing his words with arm movements. Stone slowly follows him)* See the world, not the inside of the world. *(They approach Cooks control room)* Tell you what, why don't we brew up a vat of steaming hot coffee. What d' you say?

STONE

And just how are you going to achieve that? Considering that we're on the outside of the fence.

HILL

(Hill pauses, thinking for a moment, and looks over at Cooks control room.)
Y' know, Cook might very well be asleep. *(He grins Evilily)* Lets see. *(He shouts over to Cook)* HEY COOK!! COOKY!! Are you awake? *(Hill jumps up and down, waving his arms)* Heey!! OOHOOOO!! *(He pauses)* Well, no answer. *(We cut here to a shot of Cook who is lying back in his chair asleep, snoring next to an empty pack of chocolate cookies, his face is covered in chocolate.)* I figure Mr Cook must definitely be asleep.

STONE

Well how can you be so sure?

HILL

Well I've got a feeling for these sort of things.

STONE

*(Resignedly)*What have you done now?

HILL

Oh nothing. But you know how Cook loves a cookie? I just happened to give him a packet out of the kindness of my heart. A big packet. And we all know the effect they have on him. He'll eat the whole lot, and then.....sleepy bo' bo's.

STONE

OK Master-brain, but I think you forgot something. We're on this side of the fence, and cook and the control room are on the other side. So how do we get in? What's your next party trick?

HILL

This! *(Hill pulls out a spanner from one of his pouch pockets and brandishes it in front of Stones face. Stone flinches)* If I throw a spanner in the works, it'll short out the fence. Right?

STONE

If you say so. Your pretty good at throwing spanners in the works, as I remember.

HILL

(Moves over to the fence) If I were to just...well...accidentally ... er ...deliberately thrust this spanner in between these two impressively dangerous bars of energy.....like SO!

STONE
DON'T!

Hill thrusts the spanner between the energy bars. He turns as he does so... There is a terrific flash of light, and Hill is fixed on the spot by the shock, his skeleton flashing on and off like an X Ray. Suddenly he is blown backwards. The camera follows him as he hits the floor on his backside. He is crackling with energy and his body is smoldering.

HILL

G..ggggive mmmeeee a a a a hhand!!

Stone without thinking gives him his hand to help him up. They are suddenly both covered in crawling energy bolts, and now they are both smoldering. They begin to shake uncontrollably and to pogo about for several moments before the energy finally leaks away. Even when there is no more energy they carry on pogo-ing as if dazed.

HILL

(Talking gibberish)

No more buttered frogs for me Cynthia, my Giraffe is on fire!

STONE

(Who is also a little groggy)

Snap out of it Hill *(shakes him)* we're on guard ,remember? Nobody in the base remember?

HILL

(Childishly) Don't let the nasty men take me away mommy...*(Coming to)* W..what happened?

STONE

Your a Rock Raider. Is it all coming back?

HILL

Rock Raider? Raid? Rock? *(It starts to all come back)* The fence, Spanner. *(He looks around)* hey, I remember! We were going to get some coffee. *(Still a little uncertain)* Yeah, lets go and get some coffee.

STONE

I didn't think you were going to make it then.. It's all right, you stay here. I'll get the coffee.

Hill is left standing, shaking his head. The camera tracks along with Stone past Cooks Control room, where through the window we can see him still sleeping.

Cut to:

Close-up of a spider crawling along the ground, the camera pulls out and we can see the spider approaching Hills feet. As the spider touches the feet the camera whip-pans up, we see an extreme look of terror on Hills face. He turns and sprints off after Stone.

HILL

Wait for meeee....*(fading)*

Cut to:

05. EXT, Great Cavern, Night.

From Rock Monsters POV approaching base. Large menacing shadows spread across the ground towards the malfunctioning fence.

Cut to:

Close up of large prints in the sand with large shadows moving across them.

Cut to:

06. Rock Raiders Base, Night.

We see a dead square close up of the window of Cooks control room, then the camera tracks around to an angle shot. Cook is fast asleep in his chair, the table covered with cookie crumbs. As before we see his face covered in chocolate. Cut to exterior shot of the wall of the control room. We see a shadow of a rock monster approach the room. We see from the Rock Monster POV, that there are lots of large boulders lying against the wall. The shadow moves over to the boulder. Two large Rock Monster hands cut into frame and grasp the boulder. Cut to Interior of cooks control room. Suddenly the large boulder crashes through the window and hits the wall to the side and behind Cook. He leaps up in shock and surprise, starts back in terror, falls over the back of his chair and hits his head, on some shelves. He falls sitting on to the ground, as the shelves deposit their contents over his head. Knocking himself unconscious.

Cut to:

07. Rock Raiders Base, Night.

Camera pans along some barrack windows, as we pan past the next window we can see the two guards standing next to an ancient vending machine. Cut to interior of the barrack , close up of Hill putting money in to machine slot, he is still faintly smouldering. We see a large notice balanced on top of the machine which says 'please do not hit this machine'. As the camera draws back we can see through the window a group of vehicles and a smallish structure from which lead a number of power cables . The structure is open and inside we can see a large power crystal which emits a pulsating glow. This is the Super Crystal.

HILL

Coffee?

STONE

Yeah, go on.

The machine starts to vibrate, then shudder slightly along the floor. It bounces on the ground with tremendous thumps. It stops suddenly, but they get no drinks. Hill becomes angry and bangs on the side with his fists.

HILL

Give me my coffee!

The machine starts to rumble again while Stone stands by disapprovingly watching Hill pummel the machine. We cut to an exterior shot showing a rock monster in silhouette picking up whole vehicle, smashing it to the floor.

Cut to:

Interior shot: a gigantic thump which lifts Hill, Stone and the machine off the ground. They land again a second later but Hill and Stone don't notice, they're so absorbed in getting their drink. Through the window behind them we see several giant silhouettes of strange creatures who appear to be wrecking the base. Hill continues to bash the machine as the destruction outside progresses.

STONE

The sign Hill, the sign... *(Stone is pointing at the sign on top of the machine, it starts to wobble as he speaks. Then suddenly the sign flies off).*

HILL

WHAT SIGN?! *(It hits him on the head.)* AAARGGG!!

STONE

That sign.

Cut To: Another piece of machinery Crashing Down on to the ground.

Cut To: Close up shot of the wheels of large vehicle as they bounce off the ground and land again in a cloud of dust.

Hill and Stone are unaware of what is going on outside. The vending machine eventually gives in and delivers two coffees. Hill and Stone take them but the machine still appears to be making a thumping noise...

HILL

(After taking a large slurp of coffee)

Ahh, that's better. It hit the spot. *(pauses)* Should that machine still be making that racket?

STONE

I warned you, you've broken it now! Now they are going to want to know who broke this and when they find out your chances of promotion will be rarer than a walking rock!

HILL

Enough about your relatives! Just find the off switch.

Stone hands his coffee to Hill and frantically paws all over the machine looking for the off switch. The thumping and general vibrations caused by the Rock Monsters continues. Stone dodges behind the machine looking for the 'off' switch.

STONE

Got it!

HILL

(Who Isn't listening to Stone)

Well what are you waiting for? Switch it off!

STONE

(panicking) I have, but it doesn't do anything! what do we do?

HILL

Pull the power out!

There is a flash of blue light from behind the machine as Stone pulls the cord... He jumps as he gets a mild shock...

STONE

ARRGGGHHH!

HILL

Oh! And by the way, be careful you could get a shock

Stone emerges from behind the machine with smoke coming from his ears, (or the place where his ears would be if he had ears!) He raises an ironic eyebrow as if to say 'no kidding' and they both stand back looking at the machine.

HILL

Are you sure you unplugged it properly?

STONE

(Irritated)

Well, lets see shall we? I got the plug in my hand, I removed the plug from the socket, now a dictionary definition of unplugging a...

HILL

Skip it. what inside the world is making that noise? That knock to the head, I must be dreaming!

Slowly it begins to dawn on them that perhaps it isn't the machine making the noise after all. Slowly they begin to turn around, looking out of the window to the side. The sight of the rock monsters devastation outside rivets them to the spot momentarily, frozen in fear and disbelief.

HILL & STONE

(panicking)

AARRGGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

Rack focus as the camera zooms in quickly on their faces, the panic hits home.

STONE

(In a trembling voice)

There's something very big out there! Very....very....BIG! And it doesn't look one little bit friendly. I TOLD YOU THIS PLANET WAS WIERD!!!!

Stone begins to run around in circles, getting more and more panicky as he freaks out, not being able to handle the situation. Hill looks on the sight of Stone panicking is beginning to fluster him. Stone screams as he talks to himself in panic.

STONE

Call out the police! Raise the shutters! Get the cavalry! Call my mum, HELP!!!!, we need help, must get help.....

HILL

Stone calm down, this isn't as bad as it looks, it's just a load of never before seen, *(Slowing down his speech as he thinks about the possibilities)* enormous ...eight foot ...mindless.....things destroying the base,..... and er...our careers too. *(he pauses as if examining his last words, and then shakes his head as if he can't quite follow what's happening)* And right now, losing our careers doesn't sound such a bad option.

STONE

Aarggg Aargg *(suddenly comes to his senses)* the alarm, that's it, the alarm. That'll bring help, raise the alarm! Don't panic, don't panic!

HILL

Stone no!

Stone runs to a large red emergency button on the wall, with all his might he strikes it causing it to press in and then spring out, taking most of the internal parts with it. The alarm begins to sound loudly...

Cut to:

Close up shot of power crystal unit. In close up we can see that it has a big placard on it showing a crystal cut through by an energy bolt. Two huge Rock Monster hands cut in to frame and grab hold of the unit. We see the hands tear the unit out of the ground accompanied by vast burst of energy, sparks, fire, etc, as the cables are severed. Lights close by flicker out.

Cut to:

We can see the shadow of a Rock Monster cast over rock monster prints on the ground. The shadow is seen shaking the power unit violently. The Super Crystal drops into frame from above and bounces along the floor. The camera tracks into a close-up of the crystal. We hear a large thud and the camera shakes as the Rock Monster drops the unit. A hand cuts into shot grabbing the crystal.

Cut to:

As Hill and Stone continue to panic, we see through the window the creatures walking towards and past the room. They are still in silhouette but are clutching a number of glowing power crystals.

STONE

(The sound of the alarm begins to die) Oh no, the alarm (the lights begin to dim) Oh no the lights!

A look of sheer terror washes over Stone. He begins to run around in panic again, looking for a solution to the problem.

Cut to:

An exterior shot of the hut, looking through the window. The voices of Hill and Stone can still be heard from inside. The thumping begins to die down as the monsters depart.

HILL

CALM DOWN! Look what ever was out there has gone now, I really think you should calm down, so we can figure out how we can get out of this mess.

STONE

Oh great, the man who's afraid of spiders suddenly becomes mister brave.. WHAT THE HECK HAS GOT INTO YOU, WE SHOULD BE MINING YOUR HEAD FOR CRYSTALS, YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO GO OUT THERE?

Camera quickly pans around to the front of the hut focusing on the door as the argument continues inside

HILL

Look I just figure that this could cost us our chances of promotion, that's all.

STONE

The last thing on my mind at the moment is promotion... (He stops mid sentence, as if he has suddenly had a brainwave) THE MANUAL SIREN!!

HILL

Oh no. Stone, think about it, noise, hello. Waking Cook, trouble, am I getting through!

STONE

Aaarrggg!!!!

Stone bursts through the door, he is in such a hurry he forgets to open it. There is a large Stone shaped hole left where he passed through it. Hill pops his head through the hole, peering out at Stone as he heads for the siren.

HILL

Obviously not, (sigh).

Cut to:

08. Rock Raiders Base, Night.

Medium shot of an old wind up siren. Stone enters the shot from the right, and runs up to the handle grabbing it tightly with both hands. He pushes against the handle, struggling to get the old siren to turn. Slowly the siren picks up speed, giving out a loud droning sound. The siren begins to get faster and faster and it's clear that it is now dragging Stone around with it as it goes. Hill enters the frame from the right, shaking his head, with his hands covering his ears.

HILL

Stop it, *(looks around, hoping Cook hasn't woken)* STOP IT, please, I'm begging now Stone, stop the siren.

STONE

(vibrating voice) I can't its out of control.

Hill picks up a pole from the Rock Monsters wreckage and jams it into the mechanism of the siren, the Siren stops suddenly as the pole locks it. Stone is catapulted into the air, screaming as he goes. He reaches maximum altitude, waving his arms frantically, in a vain attempt to fly. He stops momentarily between two fireflies.

FLINT

(Male-firefly)

Woww. I didn't know these things could fly!

Stone suddenly begins to descend...

SMOKE

(Female-firefly)

Hmmm. Obviously they can't!

FLINT

(Male-firefly)

Ohh, somebody's going to be sore in the morning!

The sound of Stone's screams can be heard growing fainter as he heads for the ground.

Cut to:

Shot from the ground where Stone is due to land. Hill is looking up watching Stone descend. Stone's screams start to become louder, as he rapidly approaches the ground.

HILL

Don't worry I'll catch you, just stay calm. And throw out your underwear. It'll make you less heavy!

Cut to:

Waist up shot of Hill as he zigzags around trying to line himself up to catch Stone. Stone enters the frame from above, landing neatly in Hill's arms. The camera shakes violently as the pair unite.

STONE

Thanks buddy, y'know I thought I was a goner there for a minute.

The camera begins to pull out to reveal Hill waist deep in the ground, driven in by the weight of Stone landing in his arms.

HILL

(Groggily)

Don't mention it pal, luckily you found something soft to land on.

Cut to:

09. EXT, Great Cavern, Night.

Interior cave entrance, leading off from the main base cavern. The camera is low to the ground and intermittently obscured by large stalagmites. Through the cave entrance we can see the base in the distance. From the entrance is a narrow path of rock which winds of into the darkness of the cave tunnels. The camera pans along the stalagmites tracking along with the Rock Monsters, as they leave the base cavern, their arms filled with glowing crystals. As they pass the stalagmites they are obscured for a moment, then seen again, then obscured, and so on. The camera follows them until we can only see their progress by the glow of the crystals they are carrying. Eventually their glow becomes nothing more than points of light in the blackness, until they are lost from sight.

Cut back to:

10. Rock Raiders Base, Night.

The wreckage of the base. Hill and Stone looking around them in dismay.

HILL

Now wait a minute...er... this isn't as bad as it looks...we can fix this...

(Panning shots of the general devastation around him.)

...a three year old could do it *(Pause)* do we have any three year olds? *(Pause)* It's just a matter of getting the right bits and putting them in the right place!

STONE

You know, that's just about the best idea you've ever had!

HILL

It is? *(Stone leaves the frame while Hill remains in shot. He looks bewildered, for a moment then begins to smile, nodding his head.)* Yes! Yes it is!

STONE

I know it's a first for you but stop pondering on your big idea and get moving! *(He comes back in to frame and grabs Hill by the arm and yanks him away.)*

HILL

Do we have any construction manuals with nice *(he indicates with his hands the idea of 'big')* big pictures in....*(fades out as he is dragged off screen).*

Cut to:

An above shot looking down over the base, Hill and Stone zoom amongst the wreckage at exaggerated speed so that they appear blurred to the eye, they attempt to put everything back together again. They continue for three or four seconds as a dust cloud forms around them filling the camera frame. This cloud gradually clears to reveal a close up shot of them panting and out of breath. They are facing the camera. They turn to look at their handy-work.

HILL

(still out of breath) Well, it's not too bad.

The camera draws back rapidly so that we get a shot of the monstrosities that they have actually made. Absolutely everything is wrong.

STONE

(still out of breath) You see what we can achieve when we put our heads together.

HILL

You're right there. How will they ever tell? *(He yawns)* well, I for one, could do with some sleep after a night like that, time for bed I think.

Dissolve to:

11. EXT. Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

Long shot of base. As the sun rises streaks of light shine through the holes in the cavern roof. In the foreground a few insects crawl under some rocks for cover, on top of the rock is one of the fireflies sunbathing himself. Suddenly from behind the camera a hoverboard zooms past heading for the base, the under-draught blowing flint over. He gets back to his feet and shakes his arm in the general direction of the hoverboard. Smokes head pops up from under the rock.

SMOKE

Hey Flint! I told you to hide under this rock!

FLINT

ARRGGH! CRUMBLING CACTUSES!

Suddenly Flint turns looking straight into the camera, the camera zooms in onto his face as his jaw drops in shock.

FLINT

ARRRRGGGHHH!

Flint dives under the rock narrowly missing being crushed by the returning convoy of Rock Raider vehicles.

Cut to:

12. EXT, Rock Raiders Base, Great Cavern, Early Morning.

Long shot of the convoy approaching base through the tunnel. They are led by a hover board scout. We cut to a front on through the canopy shot of the captain sitting in the front of the laser vehicle, next to the driver. We see a second shot in close up of the hover-board driver as he skims over the ground. Suddenly he notices the placard from the power crystal unit lying on the ground. It is slightly twisted, and has a big dusty footprint over it. He is astonished and turns to look at it as he goes past. He doesn't look where he is going and crashes into the stork of a large alien plant growing near the base entrance. He is showered by the sticky pollen of the plant, which we briefly see him struggling with.

Cut to a shot of the captain in the front of the vehicle who suddenly sees that the fence is down. He looks shocked and angry. He isn't concerned about the hover board driver. The convoy continues.

CAPTAIN

The fence! What's happened to the fence!

The camera moves over to the driver who shrugs, and then it draws back as the truck moves off out of frame.

Cut to:

13. Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

Shot inside Cooks control room. He is just coming to and our POV looks directly over his shoulder and out of the window, where we can see the convoy pass through the gate and in to the compound. He panics as he realises the fence is down, he springs to his feet, knocking himself back out on a remaining shelf.

Cut to shot of laser vehicle pulling up into a docking bay, where a short metal ladder is cemented into the ground. We can see that this particular ladder is bent, mangled and has missing rungs, but it still reaches the cockpit. The cockpit canopy opens and the captain

attempts to descend the ladder. We get a low level shot of his backside as he precariously manoeuvres his way down. He furiously turns into the camera .

CAPTAIN

I want to know what's been happening here, and I want to know NOW!

A Rock Raider runs up from behind them with the offending spanner

ROCK RAIDER

We found this sir, jammed in one of the fence posts.

The captain takes the spanner, and looks at it thoughtfully.

CAPTAIN

So they shorted out the fence eh? Just who did this? (*Sees vehicles for the first time, does a double take.*) AND WHAT IN THE DRILL MASTERS NAME ARE THOSE!!!

Cut to shot of Hill and Stones ridiculous contraptions. A wheel drops off one, followed soon after by a door.

GEOLOGIST

Sir have you seen these prints? They're all over the place.

CAPTAIN

What prints?

GEOLOGIST

These prints sir! (*He points to a mass of prints on the ground*)

The captain stoops down to look at the prints.

CAPTAIN

Did these creatures cause all this damage? How did they get in? What do we have a fence for anyway? Decoration! (*He ponders the print: Eventually*) What's that?

GEOLOGIST

What Sir?

CAPTAIN

That. (*He points closely to something on the ground, in the footprint*)

The Geologist bends down and takes out his tweezers, picks up the object and then taking out a large magnifying glass he elaborately goes through the motions of focusing the object correctly. We see a shot of his face distorted by the glass. Eventually he gives his verdict.

GEOLOGIST

It's a peanut!

CAPTAIN

(*Tolerant, but Irritated*)

No jokes please.

GEOLOGIST

(*flustered*)

No Sir, it is a peanut.

The captain takes the tweezers suddenly, and looks closely, then throws down the peanut in disgust. Cut to close-up of sergeant he is scratching his chin as if thinking...

SERGEANT

(listening in on the conversation) I think I'm beginning to see what's been happening. I know who's hand has been at work here...

The Raiders begin to disperse about the compound. The captain is about to leave the vehicle when some muffled bumping noises begin to sound from the laser pods of the machine. They look up at them and we see the laser housing shaking slightly on its base. Suddenly the maintenance hatch on the side of the laser pod springs open, swinging down on its hinges, and out tumbles Mad Jack. He falls, hitting the tyre and bounces off on to the ground. He scuffles about on the ground, finally sitting up. He looks around him and notices that he is surrounded by Rock Monster prints. He leaps up in horror, whirling around until he suddenly comically leaps in to the arms of the captain

MAD JACK

Help! Help! They're everywhere, Save me from them!

The captain drops him and he falls to the ground. He scrabbles about and then bolts off. He runs towards one of the crazy vehicles that Hill and Stone built and leaps in through a window. The vehicle abruptly collapses in a heap of wreckage and clouds of dust.

SERGEANT

You crazy fool. Hiding in that laser pod. If we'd fired it you would have been fried!
(*The sergeant climbs up to the laser pod, he is curious as to how Jack had room to hide in the pod.*)

MAD JACK

(*Popping his head out from the heap*)

I'd rather be fried than see another Rock Monster.(He pops his head back in to the wreckage)

SERGEANT

Sir, he's taken all the laser mechanism out of the pod.!

CAPTAIN

(*Shouting to the wreckage*)

Jack, what did you do with the laser?

MAD JACK

That's for you to know, and me to find out!!

CAPTAIN

What IS he talking about?

SERGEANT

He's mad sir. His head's filled with Rocks. I guess we'd all be the same if we'd been trapped like that for six months.

The captain loses interest in the question of Mad Jack and begins to move off, with the camera following. The Sergeant, geologist and one or two other Raiders follow him

Cut to:

Close up of wrecked power crystal unit, the camera pulls back and the Captain walks into shot. He stops and looks down at the wreckage.

CAPTAIN

WHERE IS THE SUPER CRYSTAL?

SERGEANT

Er... I have absolutely no idea sir – but I'll find out!

CAPTAIN

Lets have a head count first, meet you at the assemble point.

Cut to:

14. Barracks, Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

Long pan down barracks... The camera pans across several sparkling clean bunks. Each bunk has freshly folded sheets on it, everything is very neat and tidy. Just what you would expect from highly trained Rock Raiders. The camera continues to pan across the Barracks. As the camera pans across the faint noise of snoring becomes apparent and gets louder as the camera comes to rest on a messy bunk which still contains two sleeping Rock Raiders (Hill and Stone). On the table beside the bed is an alarm clock, which is making a muffled ring ring sound as the bells are wrapped up in tape! The camera focuses onto the clock, its 6.32am.

Cut to:

15. Parade, Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

The camera pans along the parade as the Sergeant is taking a register.

SERGEANT

Parry!

PARRY

Sir, Hear Sir!

SERGEANT

Cook!

COOK (muffled sound)

Mmrrr, Mmeeaaarr Mmrrr!

This Rock Raider has his entire head wrapped up in a bandage, with just two slits for his eyes. The sergeant decides to question cook on the previous night.

SERGEANT

Cook, do you have any explanation for what happened last night?

COOK

MMMffffr ggreeee meer dsdds!!

SERGEANT

(Pulls the bandage back from Cooks mouth)

What did you say?

COOK

MMMffffr ggreeee meer dsdds!!

SERGEANT

Aaaah, you've got nothing to say for yourself! (He lets go of the bandage and it smack sharply back into Cooks face. He then continues with the head count.)

SERGEANT

Barrett!

BARRETT

Sir, Hear Sir!

SERGEANT

Hill!

Silence...

SERGEANT
Stone!

Silence... The Sergeant screams out their names again.

SERGEANT
Hill! .. Stone!

Silence... The Sergeant screams out their names even louder.

SERGEANT
HILL! .. STONE!

Cut to:

16. Barracks, Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

Close up of the two Rock Raiders sleeping. We can hear the Sergeant shouting it echoes around the barracks, startling the two sleeping Rock Raiders. The camera moves into an extreme close-up as they bolt upright, Stone on the bottom bunk hits his head on the top bunk.

STONE
Owww!

They stumble over each other as they grab their berets and run for the door, struggling to fit through it together.

Cut to:

17. Parade, Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

The two Rock Raiders come running from the barracks and join the parade. Joining on to the front of the line.

HILL
Were in for it now!

SERGEANT
HILL! .. STONE!

HILL
Sir, Here Sir!

STONE
Yawn! Sir, Here Sir!

CAPTAIN
(Crisply)

Right men, as most of you already know the base was raided last night, we're not sure how. Or by who, but we'll get to the bottom of that, rest assured. Somehow whoever it was slipped passed the guards and were able to steal a substantial amount of power crystals. But that's not the worst of it. They didn't just steal power crystals, they took the power crystal. The super crystal! I want two volunteers to go out into the unknown and retrieve it.

All eyes look at Hill and Stone, their heads drop in shame...

SERGEANT
I want two volunteers to step forward now!

STONE
(whispering)
Well we should volunteer really!

SERGEANT

Come on, what's the matter? Want your mommy to hold your hands? *(The sergeant is pacing up and down before them, his hands behind back, leisurely berating them in time honored Sergeant fashion.)*

HILL

(whispering frantically)

SHHHH! Are you insane. Do you know the kind of things that live out there? People with six heads and...and....

STONE

(whispering)

But it was our fault!

SERGEANT

What's the matter? You all yellow or something?! *(Sergeant has turned his back on them as he continues to pace, he doesn't see the following*

Cut to shot of the whole rank of Raiders. They all momentarily look at one another and then facing front, nod agreement.

The Sergeant turns and winks at one of the troops standing directly behind Hill, he pulls out a spider from behind him and puts it on Hills back. It crawls onto his shoulder. Hill who is terrified of spiders jumps forward in fright...

HILL

ERRAAAGGGHHH!!!

SERGEANT

Ah Ha we have a volunteer, thank you Hill! Now just one more!

HILL

Stone get it off, get it off, get it off!!!

STONE

OK OK OK Don't Panic! *(he jumps forward and knocks the spider off Hill).*

CAPTAIN

(He looks up suddenly and doesn't realise what is going on, he thinks Hill and Stone have genuinely volunteered.) Congratulations Gentlemen! And your prize is....you have been given a once in a life time opportunity to trek off in to unknown territory, brave what ever perils fate may throw at you, put your very lives at risk and recover our super Rock Crystal.

The two Rock Raiders gulp as they realise the enormity of the task ahead. We hear laughter from the crowd.

CAPTAIN

All ranks dismissed... Hill, Stone, meet the Sergeant in the briefing room.

The Camera switches focus on to the Sergeant who is recovering his pet spider, he strokes it and then pats a rock raider on the back. They chuckle and walk off.

Dissolve to:

18. Brief room, Rock Raiders Base, Early Morning.

The two Rock Raiders are arguing in a long empty lecture room. The camera pans over empty chairs and closes in on the duo.

HILL

What about well, just running away?

STONE

They always catch us, remember? Well what happens now I wonder? I suppose they give us a nice big present for losing their crystal. 'Hill and Stone' please accept these wonderful – smacks around the head, in recognition of your classic bungling and incompetence over the years. And let's face it. It's all completely unfair that we share the blame. It was all your fault.

HILL

What! My fault? You had no problem guzzling down the hot coffee. It was every bit as much your fault as it was mine.

STONE

Only when viewed through the eyes of the deeply insane!

HILL

Oh! Right. You've done it now. Come on then, put 'em up. (*He puts up his fists boxing style, and slowly starts circling Stone, who also puts up his fists. They continue to circle like true professional boxers*)

STONE

You don't stand a chance. My farther was a regimental boxing champion. (*He smiles in satisfaction*)

HILL

Oh yeah? Well mine was a regimental Kick boxing champion! (*He suddenly kicks Stone in the shins. Stone leaps about clutching his leg in agony. Suddenly the Sergeant appears around a corner.*)

SERGEANT

Are you two idiots playing hopscotch again?

HILL

Oh no Sergeant. Er... It's a new fitness regime I'm trying to introduce, 'Hop yourself Thin'. (*laughs encouragingly*) ...And look at him sergeant, it's doing him the world of good, he's literally bouncing with health and.....

SERGEANT

SHUT UP! Get yourselves in to that store room NOW!! Hup, Hup, Hup!!!

Hill and Stone are marched at double quick time in to the stores room by the sergeant.

SERGEANT

Halt!

Hill and Stone halt in front of the stores desk. The Stores man leaps up from his chair, hastily pushing his Lego comic under the table.

SERGEANT

Stores man, you are dismissed.

STORE MAN

Yes Sergeant!

The store man makes a hasty exit. The sergeant goes behind the desk and leans on it, looking at Hill and Stone. He turns to one of the shelves behind him and takes down a glass jar. It has the sergeants pet spider in it. He places it on the desk.

SERGEANT

You've already met Wolfie haven't you?

HILL

(Sardonically) Oh yes, we've already met cuddles

SERGEANT

(Patiently) Did I give you leave to speak? You're both a waste of space and this is where I get my chance to get rid of you once and for all. You see, I've arranged for you to have two bags of standard provisions – Which are half empty; won't that be fun? And equipment? Well we have a walkie-talkie, which doesn't work properly. That's even better isn't it? And as far as maps are concerned, for you, we have this special map. A map that should have been recalled by the publishers and re-pulped, because it's useless. Happy Navigating!

The sergeant hands them the map, which they stare at open mouthed in dismay.

Dissolve to:

19. Main Gates, Rock Raiders Base.

There are a crowd of Rock Raiders in lines along each side of the gate, the Captain is pacing up and down looking at his watch.

CAPTAIN *(to himself)*

Where are those two?

Hill and Stone appear, each with a haversack of provisions on his back. They have the map and are each trying to take possession of it.

SERGEANT

(As he walks them in.)

Here they are captain.

The captain turns and looks at them. They have stopped and are pulling the map between them.

CAPTAIN

What are you two standing there for?

HILL

Er...Everyone's got to be somewhere captain.

CAPTAIN

Will you get over here quick.

They run to the gate and stand to attention in front of the Captain. Stone gives him a superb snappy salute, he almost bounces off the floor. Behind him, Hill does an insolent wave of the hand.

CAPTAIN

Right men. Your mission is to retrieve the stolen crystals. Are we all clear on that?

HILL AND STONE

Yes Sir!

CAPTAIN

Any Questions?

HILL

Well, If we're successful is there any chance of a promotion?

CAPTAIN

(mildly humorous) If you are, I might consider raising you to the rank of village idiot. Well have a merry old time, send me a postcard! *(they open the gate.)* Oh by the way, I've been wrestling with my conscience and so I think you should have this; a maps no good without it.
(He hands them a compass.)

Cut to Sergeant smiling to himself until he realizes its his compass the captain has given to them.

SERGEANT

(spluttering)

But sir, that was my compass. I was awarded it for exemplary Conduct on Altair3 Sir. A ton of crystals sir mined, with my bare hands!

CAPTAIN

I Know! If you'd been a little more careful who you put on guard duty this would never have happened.*(he hands the sergeant an obviously broken compass.)*

Cut to:

20. EXT. Rock Raiders Base.

Exterior shot looking trough gate as they step out. The large doors slam behind them. The two Rock Raiders start to walk off from the base, as they walk, A dust storm starts picking up.

HILL

(Mock Childishly) I wanna read the map, let me read the map, go on, let me, let me, let me.

STONE

Don't you ever let up? Here take the silly map.

HILL

This navigation stuff is no problem, I'll have us there in no time, I have a natural talent for directions. I took a correspondence course.

STONE

Even with a map that should have been re – pulped? *(He watches as Hill struggles with the map)* You've got the map upside-down, Christopher Columbus!

HILL

I knew that, just testing you!

The two Rock Raiders fade away as they disappear into the dust storm... In the foreground we can see Flint the firefly trying to put up a wind block. He struggles with it as the wind gets stronger, suddenly a strong gust blows the wind block away with Flint still clinging to it...

HILL (O/S)

Hey! I can't see anything!

STONE (O/S)

Try opening your eyes!

HILL (O/S)

OH! YEAY! Hu, hu...

STONE

Looks like a dust storm blowing up, could be trouble

HILL

Don't worry I like the taste of dust, mmmm my favourite. You'll like it, peanut flavour.

(Fading off)

STONE

Are you going to keep this up the whole way?

HILL

Probably.