

The Quest For Dryland extract

From Three's Company's 'Adventure Time Ltd'

F/X: _____ DOOR OPENING.

ARCHIE I'm sorry Ronnie. I mean I can't believe you got fired.

RONNIE Oh that's alright Archie.

ARCHIE I guess it's the economy isn't it. A lot of businesses are having to cut back now. There's so many redundancies...

RONNIE Well I did drive one of their shipments into a river. And another into a building... that was on fire.

ARCHIE Yes but still... the economy...

RONNIE So what is this place?

ARCHIE My father's office. He bought this place just before he died.

RONNIE I thought he was an actor?

ARCHIE Oh he was. But he'd always had this dream of setting up a crime-fighting agency. We were going to run it together. Adventure Time Limited. He'd put out adverts and everything.

RONNIE I guess this world doesn't have place for true heroes any more.

ARCHIE Well... not when they're dead, no.

F/X: _____ DOOR OPENING.

ARCHIE Nigel, you found it!

NIGEL Yes just about. Good to see you both. I was so sorry to hear about your father Archie.

ARCHIE Well he had a good career. And he died doing what he loved. Stage fighting in Shakespearean dress.

NIGEL And this was the office he bought for an adventuring company? Can I ask why you've brought us here?

ARCHIE Look around you guys. What do you see?

NIGEL The door.

RONNIE My back?

ARCHIE This was my father's one dream. This is all he left me. This and a box of theatre make-up. And I for one am not going to let it go to waste.

NIGEL You're going to start wearing make-up?

RONNIE Hang on. Are you saying we're *not* here to move the sofa?

ARCHIE Look, how's your accountancy going Nigel?

NIGEL Oh terrible actually. When I figure out how much companies are making they realise they don't have enough to pay me.

ARCHIE That's no way to live. Is it? Nigel, with your brains and business acumen, Ronnie, with your strength and fighting spirit, and with my leadership and ability to advance the plot - we could run Adventure Time Limited from this office.

RONNIE Solving crime... fighting evil?

ARCHIE Whatever people need.

NIGEL I don't know Archie. I mean is there actually any demand for that sort of thing nowadays?

F/X: KNOCKING AT DOOR.

ARCHIE It sounds like we might have an answer!

RONNIE It sounds like a knock at the door.

NIGEL I'll get it!

F/X: DOOR OPENING.

NIGEL Good morning. Do come in.

FLORA Thank you. Er, my name is Flora. Am I right in thinking these are the offices of Adventure Time Limited?

NIGEL Erm...

ARCHIE Yes, yes they are. We are Adventure Time.

FLORA Oh, thank goodness I found you! It is three months now since I, a lowly slave girl set sail in a stolen boat from the distant island of Dryland. Guided only by ancient prophecy, your advert on Gumtree and Google maps.

RONNIE Is this a joke?

FLORA There is nothing funny about the evil dark lord of the island kidnapping the Steward and taking power for himself.

NIGEL I don't know - it has a kind of dark humour to it...

ARCHIE And do you want us to travel to this island of yours and defeat the evil lord?

FLORA I know it is a lot to ask.

ARCHIE Nigel, Ronnie, this is quite sudden I admit, but this fair lady needs our help. What do you say we give it a go? After all, what better way could there be to get started?

NIGEL A lengthy committee meeting perhaps?

RONNIE I'd sure like to teach that evil lord a lesson.

NIGEL How much you can you pay us for this little excursion Flora?

FLORA I have not a penny myself - but there are many on the island who can reward you. The few who still stand against evil in these dark times.

ARCHIE And we shall join them. We shall not be deaf to your call.

RONNIE We shall show them what for, no matter what it takes.

NIGEL We shall bill you for expenses at the end of the trip and accept cash in hand.

FLORA I can't thank you enough. Let us go forth. We have a long journey ahead of us.

MUSIC: BRIDGE. (VERY SHORT!)

Scene Three.

F/X: CRASHING WAVES & SEAGULLS ETC. UNDER.

RONNIE Well here we are.

ARCHIE You know, that really didn't take as long as I was expecting.

FLORA Dryland welcomes us. The wind was in our favour and the Gods have smiled down on us this day.

NIGEL Yes, and I think the flight from Cape Town helped save a bit of time as well.