



Act III Scene 1

“Right, where are we,” asked Attila with renewed vigour. Lara, having pressed the orange face, had immediately been subsumed by it. And Attila was dragged right after her. It was windy, and the sand swirled in exotic shapes around them. The sun was melting into a blood orange haze in the -atmosphere. And over the waves of dunes, right above the horizon a fleet of undulating tanks was making its way to a junction in a cratered highway.

The leading tank paused, the pursuing cloud of dust overtook it, and, in the blur, Lara and Attila observed it turning to its left. A fireball lit the evening sky in glorious orange hues and a muted explosion followed. Soldiers jumped out of the leftover tanks down onto the bloodied sand. Creeping figures bore down on the stranded column.

“Seems downright dangerous, this place,” proffered Attila wryly.

Lara inhaled sharply. “What on earth are we supposed to do?” she exhaled, despondently.

As if in answer to her prayer, a vulture swooped past, alighted on a small mound of desert sand, and promptly exploded — right in front of them. The bird’s feathers chose to join the sand’s eternal windy dance, but its entrails excused themselves and rested heavily on Lara’s locks and Attila’s weathered face. It was a grim response to prayer.

“I mean, that’s good to know” remarked Lara, recovering from the shock enough to deduce the minefield’s presence.

Rodents emerged from the aether and feasted on the vulture’s scattered remains, apparently unaware of the irony.

Attila had put on a braver than usual front and began his descent, assuming, correctly, that no I.E.Ds could lie in the heights of nature’s improvisatory and changeable shapes. For the moment, the worrying had been left to Lara.





















“Be careful!” she implored.

“It’s okay, you can come to the bottom,” he shouted up at her.

She stumbled through the steep sand and together they surveyed the vast expanse.

But before they could even begin to resolve on a plan of action a mechanical rumble pervaded the eerie silence and they both looked up at the crest of the dune directly before them. An armoured truck was ploughing towards them...

AOLY 'POLY

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