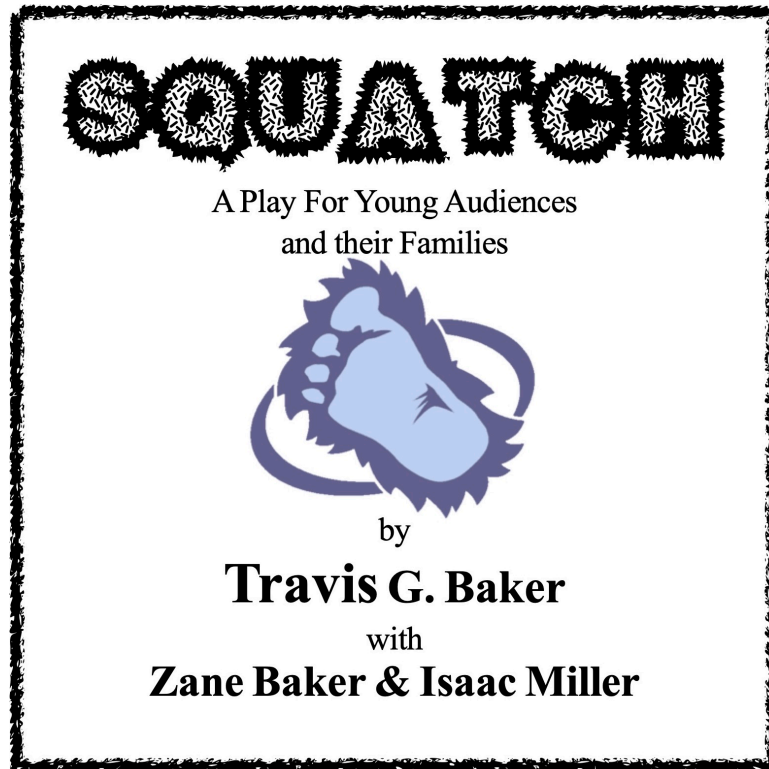


PERUSAL SCRIPT



Newport, Maine

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SQUATCH

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CHARACTERS: 3b, 1g, 2 either, 2m, 1f, 1either, Bear, Dragon, Unicorn

Zane — Jr. Cryptozoologist, 10, M
Isaac — Jr. Cryptozoologist, 10, M
Augi— Zane's little brother, 6, M
Carmen — Isaac's little sister, 6, F
Officer Carl/Carla — Local Deputy, 30-70, M/F
Wayne St. Jamison — Famous Squatch Hunter, 40-50, M
Sally St. Jamison — Reluctant Squatch Hunter, 30-50, F
Bigfoot — A Sasquatch, 40-50, M
Mamafoot — A Sasquatch, 30-50, F
Littlefoot 1 — A juvenile squatch, 6-10, M/F
Littlefoot 2 — A juvenile squatch, 6-10, M/F
Bear — a bear
Dragon — a dragon
Unicorn — a unicorn

Note: Additional woodland creatures (bunnies, squirrels, chipmunks, etc.) can be added as needed by the producing group. Officer Carl can be played by multiple actors. All roles can be played by youth actors. Cast can be made up of one particular gender, or a mix of genders.

SQUATCH by Travis G. Baker. 3b, 1g, 2 either, 2m, 1f, 1either, Bear, Dragon, Unicorn. Outdoor locations. Contemporary Costumes, Running Time: 45 minutes to an hour. Isaac and Zane are ten years old but have been best friends since before kindergarten. Standing in Isaac's backyard, which also happens to be the edge of the Maine woods, the boys are preparing to set out on an adventure of epic proportions. They are each carrying packs loaded with the essentials: cameras, flashlights, water, and apples. Lots of apples. Because any Squatch hunter worth their salt knows how much Bigfoot loves apples. Armed with the preeminent guidebook for tracking a Squatch and enough cheese puffs to sustain them on their journey, the search for the elusive Sasquatch begins. **Order #3368**

TRAVIS G. BAKER - *Hockey Mom* premiered at the Penobscot Theatre Company in March, 2022 after earning the Literary Award for Drama by the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance in 2021. . Other PTC productions include *SQUATCH* (2019), *Hair Frenzy* (2016) and *One Blue Tarp* (2014) - named the Best of Maine in the 2013 Clauder Competition for New England Playwrights. *Boy Missing* (2018) and *The Store* (2019) were included in the Maine Playwrights Festival. New York plays include: *Sex & Violence* (2010) and *God & Mr. Smith* (2001 and 2003) with Kaleidoscope Theatre Co. He received a Berilla Kerr Award for *Cold* (NYFringe-1997) and *The Weatherbox* (Rattlestick-1998) and was an Edward F. Albee Foundation fellow. He studied theatre at the University of Houston and went on to work at the Signature Theatre Co. (1995-98) in New York. He has an MA in English (University of Maine-Orono) and an MFA (Fairfield University). He is an Illustrator for Foundations EIC and BHP for Watch Me Shine, a pre-school for children with special needs. He resides in Orono, Maine with his wife, Holly Twining, and their boys, August and Zane.

SQUATCH

PROLOG:

AT RISE: Officer CARL enters.

CARL: Welcome to the town of Clara, Maine. I'm Officer Carl Ray, but everyone just calls me Officer Carl on account of it being one word shorter. That's a little joke I make. I try to say one funny thing a day and exercise three times a week. I suppose you're all here because you heard about the story of the two boys, well three boys actually and one little girl, that supposedly found themselves a bigfoot if you believe Augi...that's one of the boys. Augi is the younger brother of Zane and it was Zane and Isaac, they're best friends, been best friends since before Kindergarten and now they're both ten and play hockey and run track and look for bigfoots in their spare time. Now, Isaac has a little sister, Carmen, who's about the same age as Augi which is how all the worry and concern started. Zane and Isaac decided to go on a deep woods bigfoot hunt one day which isn't hard to do around here because there's Isaac's backyard and then there's the deep woods behind it, and those woods go on for quite a ways. You see what happened was that Augi and Carmen, being little siblings decided to follow their older brothers into the woods and all of them were gone a whole night. Now, it's one thing for a couple of Maine boys to be off in the wild, that happens pretty regular. They go up mountains and paddle down streams and have a pretty good record of coming back, but it's another for two little kids, six-year-olds they were at the time, to go missing. Seems like the whole state gets involved then. It was me that found them. Come out here kids!

(ZANE, ISAAC, AUGI and CARMEN enter.)

CARL: This is Zane and that's Isaac and that's Augi and that's Carmen there and I found them not more than a hundred yards from Isaac and Carmen's back door, I did. What were you kids doing out there all night?

ZANE: Nothing.

ISAAC: Nothing.

CARMEN: Nothing.

AUGI: We found Squatchie!

ZANE, ISAAC, CARMEN: Augi!

AUGI: What?

(ZANE, ISAAC, CARMEN and AUGI all start talking at once.)

CARL: Okay! Okay! Deer ears! I'm holding up my listening fingers! QUIET!

(The KIDS hush up.)

Thank you. Now, I guess we'll start this story at the end and then we'll go back to the beginning which is the way most stories get told, backwards to frontwards and then back to the back of the beginning, if you follow me? You don't. We'll just show you then.

(LIGHTS out.)

SCENE 1 — THE MAINE WOODS BEHIND ISAAC'S HOUSE — *All is quiet in the morning light save for a few birds chirping about and a critter or two scurrying through the brush. ZANE and ISAAC enter with their packs and walking sticks.*

ISAAC: Zane, we'd better check our gear. If we're going to find Bigfoot we'd better make sure we have everything.

ZANE: Okay, Isaac.

(The BOYS drop their packs.)

ISAAC: Flashlights.

ZANE: Check.

ISAAC: Cameras.

ZANE: Check.

ISAAC: Multi-tools.

ZANE: Survivorman never leaves home without his multi-tool.

ISAAC: I know. Bag of apples to give to Bigfoot.

ZANE: Why do I have to carry the bag of apples?

ISAAC: They're your apples.

ZANE: Oh, right.

ISAAC: Water bottles.

ZANE: Check.

ISAAC: Emergency supply of cheese puffs.

(ISAAC pulls out a massive jug of bright orange cheese puffs.)

ZANE: Check.

ISAAC: And our *Ultimate Guide to Squatch Finding* by Wayne St. Jamison.

ZANE: Check.

ISAAC: I think that's everything.

ZANE: Yep. That's everything. This is going to be epic!

ISAAC: Legendary!

ZANE & ISAAC: AWESOME!

(AUGI and CARMEN enter. AUGI carries a stuffed cheetah. CARMEN has a stuffed pink pony.)

AUGI: Where is Zane and Isaac going?

CARMEN: I don't know. Zane and Isaac! Where are you going?

ZANE: Squatch hunting.

ISAAC: Yeah.

AUGI: What scotch bunting?

CARMEN: Yeah?

ZANE: We're going to find bigfoot.

ISAAC: And no, you can't come.

ZANE: We're going to be legendary.

ISAAC: And epic.

AUGI: We want to come!

CARMEN: Carmen and Augi want to come!

ZANE: No.

ISAAC: No.

(AUGI and CARMEN look at each other and then start to cry.)

ZANE: You're too young! And crying proves it!

(AUGI and CARMEN manage, with difficulty, to stop the tears.)

ISAAC: Go home and play with your stuffed animals.

AUGI: Augi wants to go swatch hunting with big brother Zane!

CARMEN: Carmen wants to go sloth hunting with big brother Isaac!

ISAAC: It's Squatch hunting and you're too young. This is dangerous business.

ZANE: You have to be a trained bigfoot hunter. We've done tons of research and we're members of the Jr. SaSquatch Hunters Society of Maine and America founded by Wayne St. Jamison in 1994.

ISAAC: We've got badges. Do you have badges?

(CARMEN and AUGI shake their heads.)

ZANE: Then I'm sorry, you can't come. Now go home.

ISAAC: We'll be back in a few hours and we'll have real pictures of a real bigfoot to show you.

AUGI: Don't want pictures.

CARMEN: Want to find bigfoot.

AUGI & CARMEN: Want to be LEGENDARY EPIC!

ZANE & ISAAC: GO HOME!

(ZANE and ISAAC exit. CARMEN and AUGI wait a moment.)

CARMEN: Not fair.

AUGI: Not fair. We can be epic legendary bigfoot hunters.

CARMEN: Isaac said we need badges.

(AUGI looks around. He picks up the top of an acorn.)

AUGI: Acorn can be a badge.

CARMEN: Yeah!

AUGI: You can have this acorn badge, Carmen.

CARMEN: Thank you, Augi. Here's one for you.

(CARMEN picks up an acorn top and hands it to Augi.)

AUGI: Don't forget Cheetah.

CARMEN: Don't forget Pony.

(The TWO pick up some more badges for their animals.)

AUGI: Now we're legendary epic bigfoot hunters with badges.

CARMEN: Let's go!

(AUGI and CARMEN exit. CARL enters.)

CARL: So that's how the whole adventure started apparently. Two boys with a dream and two little siblings trying to keep up. Now kids, let this be a lesson to you about not wandering off without proper supervision. That makes it sound like you can wander off if you're being supervised which doesn't seem possible. You can't really wander off if someone is supervising properly. Hey, don't wander off! That's more to the point and a better warning because what none of the kids knew and we us adults didn't find out about until later was that they were being followed...

(WAYNE and SALLY enter. They are dressed in professional cryptozoologist gear. WAYNE has a tranquilizer gun.)

SALLY: Where the heck are we Wayne?

WAYNE: My home state! The Maine woods, my dear Sally.

SALLY: It looks like some kid's backyard.

WAYNE: It is. Backyard here. Maine woods there. Bigfoot...close at hand. I can smell him.

SALLY: Oh, Wayne. You say that every time and every time it's the same thing...

WAYNE: We're close. I can feel it.

SALLY: ...the same thing. We're close. We almost had him. He just got away. We've been to Oregon, to Alaska, to Minnesota, to Manitoba and now we're in Maine.

WAYNE: Where I have reliable information of confirmed bigfoot sightings.

SALLY: What sort of reliable information?

WAYNE: Reliable information.

SALLY: What kind? Pictures? Footprints?

WAYNE: A couple of my highly trained junior investigators have posted some highly intriguing suppositions on the website.

SALLY: We're following a couple of kids?

WAYNE: Yes.

SALLY: Ten years I've been chasing this thing with you, Wayne.

WAYNE: And haven't they been ten wonderful years?

SALLY: Just once I'd like to go to Florida for vacation.

WAYNE: To look for the skunk ape of the everglades?

SALLY: No. Just to sit on the beach, read a book, have an adult beverage with a little umbrella in it.

WAYNE: Sally my dear, this is my life's work. You know that. Ever since I was a kid and got lost in these very woods. When I realized I was lost I cried out for help and was answered by a low hum hum, hum hum. I called again and again I was answered by hum hum, hum hum. I followed that voice and was led out of the woods to my very backyard. But all that time I never saw my rescuer. I was convinced on that day that I was rescued by a SaSquatch or as it is commonly referred to, a Bigfoot.

SALLY: Yeah, yeah, I read the book, Wayne.

WAYNE: And so too have millions...

(SALLY coughs)

...thousands...

(SALLY coughs again)

several hundred others. This is it. I can feel it. I can smell him. He's close at hand. And when we find him and we shoot him with our tranquilizers and drag his big hairy butt back to civilization and collect the \$10 million prize we'll spend the rest of our lives on the beach enjoying adult beverages with little umbrellas in them.

SALLY: What about these kids? If they find Bigfoot too, we'd have to share the prize with them.

WAYNE: It's a big prize.

SALLY: I want to see a lot of beaches.

WAYNE: We'll give them some badges and candy. Every kid likes badges and candy. Are you with me? Can I count on you my little chupacabra?

SALLY: Stop it.

WAYNE: Mothy-dothy.

SALLY: (*giggles*) You always say the sweetest things.

WAYNE: Nessie-bessie.

SALLY: Okay, fine, but this is the last time. But, unless you put a real live knocked out Squatch at my feet I'm going to Florida with or without you.

WAYNE: Deal. Let's go.

(WAYNE and SALLY exit.)

CARL: At this point, I should tell you, this is the point where the kids stories get a little far fetched. We talked to Wayne and Sally and they confirmed what most of us know. There is no such thing as bigfoot.

(Something moves in the brush.)

What was that?

(listens)

Just a squirrel. We have lots of squirrels around these parts. Squirrels, turkeys, deer, the odd moose and even a black bear or two. Nothing to be concerned about really. The creatures of the woods tend to keep to themselves and there's no such thing as bigfoots.

(CARL exits. A figure in the brush moves. It is a massive, ape-like shape that moves off quietly after them with a low hum hum, hum hum.)

SCENE 2 - DEEPER IN THE WOODS— *Several branches have been bent or placed to make a large skeletal tent-like structure. ZANE and ISAAC enter.*

ZANE: Whoa!

ISAAC: What is it?

ZANE: Look at that?

ISAAC: Whoa! Classic Squatch tree formation!

ZANE: Look at the weave.

ISAAC: Yeah! Wait! We have to be skepticsical.

ZANE: Right. I'll consult the guide.

(ZANE takes the guidebook out.)

ISAAC: We have to eliminate natural occurrences.

ZANE: According to Wayne St. Jamison a classic Squatch tree formation can be confirmed as being constructed by a Squatch if it has three key elements.

ISAAC: Right.

ZANE: Is there a central bent branch that holds all the others in place?

ISAAC: Yes.

ZANE: Are there snapped branches that do not line up with broken stumps, indicating that the branch was carried from another location?

ISAAC: Found one! So that's a yes.

ZANE: Are there any indications of human interference which may account for the structure?

(ISAAC and ZANE look around briefly.)

ISAAC: I'm gonna go with a 'no' on that.

ZANE: Then it must be Squatch built. We should leave an apple.

ISAAC: And have a snack.

(ZANE pulls out an apple from his pack while Isaac pulls out the cheese puffs.)

ISAAC: Make sure it's high enough that forest creatures can't get to it.

ZANE: Duh!

(ZANE climbs up a ways and sticks the apple on the structure. ISAAC opens the tub of cheese puffs, spilling several.)

ISAAC: Darn it. Five second rule!

ZANE: Leave it. The forest creatures might like cheese puffs.

ISAAC: Bigfoot might like cheese puffs.

ZANE: According to Wayne St. Jamison, Bigfoots don't like junk food.

ISAAC: It's a good thing ten-year old boys do.

ZANE: It is.

(ZANE and ISAAC stuff their faces for a moment.)

ISAAC: We should try a bigfoot call.

ZANE: Okay. After we finish chewing.

ISAAC: Right.

(The BOYS finish chewing and put the cheese puffs back, spilling a few more.)

ZANE: Here goes...

(ZANE calls)

ISAAC: That was a good one.

ZANE: Thank you. Your turn.

ISAAC: Okay...

(ZANE calls)

ZANE: Nice.

ISAAC: Now we listen. Shhhh....

(THEY listen. A bird squeaks.)

ZANE: Bird.

(A bush rustles.)

ISAAC: Squirrel.

(A BEAR growls.)

ZANE: Bear.

ISAAC: Man...nothing...wait, did you say bear?

ZANE: Yes.

ZANE & ISAAC: Aaaaigh!

ISAAC: We better get out of here. Bears love junk food.

(ZANE and ISAAC grab their packs and exit. A BEAR enters. He sniffs at the ground and cheese puffs.)

AUGI: *(off)* Where Zane?

CARMEN: *(off)* Where Isaac?

(The BEAR rumbles off as AUGI and CARMEN enter.)

AUGI: I'm hungry.

CARMEN: Look! Food!

AUGI: Oh, good.

(AUGI and CARMEN skip over to the spilled cheese puffs and gobble them up.)

CARMEN: Mmmm...cheese puffs.

AUGI: Hey, look!

CARMEN: What?

AUGI: Apple!

CARMEN: Yeah, apple! It's up high.

AUGI: I can get it.

(AUGI scrambles up the structure and grabs the apple.)

CARMEN: Yeah!

AUGI: Catch Carmen!

(He tosses the apple down.)

CARMEN: Thank you, Augi.

(AUGI climbs down and they sit and share their apple with each other and their stuffed animals.)

AUGI: Where are we?

CARMEN: I don't know.

AUGI: Are we lost?

CARMEN: I think we are.

AUGI: I'm scared.

CARMEN: Me too.

AUGI & CARMEN: Help! Help! Help!

(They listen. A bird chirps.)

CARMEN: Bird.

(A bush rustles.)

AUGI: Squirrel.

(A low hum-hum, hum-hum.)

CARMEN: What's that?

AUGI: Don't know. Let's go find out, Carmen!

CARMEN: Okay, Augi.

(AUGI and CARMEN exit. WAYNE runs on followed by SALLY.)

WAYNE: Did you hear that, Sally?

SALLY: Here what?

WAYNE: That sound! The hum-hum, hum-hum sound. THE sound!

SALLY: No.

WAYNE: Listen.

(THEY listen. THEY hear nothing.)

SALLY: Nothing.

WAYNE: I heard it. I heard a Squatch!

SALLY: You always think you hear a Squatch. Do you think you might hear them just because you want to hear them?

WAYNE: I've worried about that. Alone, at night, in the deep woods, I think I hear them but then sometimes I wonder if it isn't just my imagination...well look at this!

SALLY: What?

WAYNE: A classic Squatch tree weave. You'll note the central key-pin and the obvious indication that a certain number of these limbs have been brought here for this very purpose and what's this...?

(WAYNE investigates where the apple was stuck on.)

SALLY: What?

WAYNE: An apple leaving. Meaning that someone was already here and that someone left an apple for the Squatch and it was apparently taken by the Squatch less than ten minutes ago by my reckoning. Do you

realize what this means, Sally?

SALLY: No.

WAYNE: It means were not alone in these woods. Ahha!

SALLY: Now what?

(WAYNE investigates the area where the cheese puffs were.)

WAYNE: Cheese puffs! And look here! Small prints...

SALLY: Probably a raccoon.

WAYNE: Wrong shape...Sally, I don't think we're tracking a bigfoot.

SALLY: A little foot, then?

WAYNE: No, littlefeet! A family! There must be a den around here. We'll capture the whole family and we'll be rich and all my years of research will finally pay off!

SALLY: *(to herself)* I wouldn't count on it.

WAYNE: What's that?

SALLY: Nothing. Which way?

WAYNE: This way I think! The hunt continues!

(WAYNE and SALLY exit. A large, quiet figure moves through the brush.)

SCENE 3 - A SUNNY CLEARING EVEN DEEPER IN THE WOODS — ZANE and ISAAC come running on.

ISAAC: Do you think we lost it?

ZANE: I think so.

ISAAC: Where are we?

ZANE: I think we're lost.

ISAAC: Check the GPS.

ZANE: We didn't bring the GPS.

ISAAC: Why didn't we bring the GPS?

ZANE: We said we wouldn't get lost.

ISAAC: Dang it.

ZANE: That was kind of dumb of us. What should we do?

ISAAC: Run around like zombies with our heads cut off screaming in panic?

ZANE: Sounds like fun.

(ZANE and ISAAC run around like zombies with their heads cut off screaming in panic for a minute.)

ISAAC: I don't think that helped.

ZANE: It was fun though.

ISAAC: Let's do it again.

ZANE: Okay.

(THEY do it again. SALLY and WAYNE enter.)

WAYNE: What are you two boys doing? Hey! Hey you two!

ZANE: What?

ISAAC: Who are you?

WAYNE: I am Wayne St. Jamison the famous...

ISAAC: THE Wayne St. Jamison?

ZANE: The author of *Sasquatch and Me* and *The Ultimate Guide to Sasquatch Tracking*?

WAYNE: You've heard of me?

ZANE: We have all of your books.

ISAAC: We have the guide right here.

(ISAAC holds it up)

You taught us lots of good techniques for finding a Squatch.

ZANE: Like leaving an apple and how to recognize a tree weave.

ISAAC: Did you see the one back there?

WAYNE: We did. Most impressive don't you think?

ISAAC: We do.

ZANE: We do.

WAYNE: Not as impressive as the ones I found in Washington four years ago. I remember I was...

ZANE & ISAAC: We know. We've read all of your books.

WAYNE: Right, of course. Sally, look, pupils.

SALLY: Lovely.

WAYNE: And what are your names, young explorers?

ZANE: I'm Zane.

ISAAC: And I'm Isaac. It says it on our badges.

(WAYNE inspects the badges.)

WAYNE: So it does. And what are you doing out here besides running around like two chickens with your heads cut off?

ISAAC: We were Zombies with our heads cut off.

ZANE: Yeah.

SALLY: Of course.

WAYNE: Yes, of course. But still, what are you doing out here?

ZANE & ISAAC: We're tracking a Squatch!

WAYNE: Ah, ah-hah...yes...

ZANE: We left an apple at the trees. Did you see it?

WAYNE: Do you know, it was gone!

ZANE & ISAAC: Cool!

WAYNE: Yes. I suspect bigfoot activity.

SALLY: Oh, brother.

ISAAC: Is she a skeptic?

WAYNE: Who, Sally? No, she's just tired is all.

SALLY: You know what, Wayne? Maybe I am a skeptic. Maybe after all these years of sounds in the night

and indistinct foot prints and pictures of guys dressed up in gorilla suits has finally gotten to me. You know what? I am a skeptic. More than that, I think I can now say, I'm not even skeptical. I can now say most definitely that there is no such thing as bigfoot!

ZANE: Is she feeling well?

WAYNE: Obviously not.

ISAAC: You should probably go see a doctor, Sally.

SALLY: I probably should. And you two should go find a healthy activity like football or sky-diving before you end up like this one. I'm going home.

(SALLY starts to exit and then stops.)

Which way is home?

(ISAAC, ZANE and WAYNE all point in different directions.)

ISAAC, ZANE, & WAYNE: This way!

(THEY look at each other.)

ISAAC, ZANE, & WAYNE: That way!

WAYNE: Boys, when I was about your age, I got lost in the woods. I was alone. I was scared. I cried out and then...

ZANE & ISAAC: Bigfoot rescued you!

WAYNE: That's right.

ZANE: We read the book.

ISAAC: More than once.

WAYNE: Shall we try it now? You two cry out, a Squatch will come to rescue you and I'll hit him with the tranq gun and collect the \$10 million reward. That sounds good doesn't it?

ISAAC: \$10 million reward?

ZANE: Tranq gun?

WAYNE: Why yes. You didn't know about that?

ZANE: We did.

ISAAC: But we're not in it for the money.

ZANE: We're in it for the adventure.

ISAAC: And to prove he's real.

WAYNE: And \$10 million dollars.

ISAAC: That would buy a lot of hockey gear.

ZANE: And cheeseburgers.

ISAAC: And apps.

ZANE: And scooters.

ISAAC: And cheese puffs.

ZANE: Okay, we'll split the reward with you, Mr. St. Jamison.

15 MORE PAGES TO THE END