

# Unnatural Wonders

by

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INT. PIT/TOP

Open to a seemingly black screen. Before long a dim light from the left reflects off muddy white snakes. The camera starts to track left towards the light as it grows in intensity. Eventually there is enough light in the scene to make out that these white things are coils of rope. The camera tracks across a line of coils until it finds the end and an empty patch of dirt. The light, which hasn't moved, now shines down from directly above. THUD. Another coil of rope drops down onto the floor. The camera tilts up to MAVERICK (40'S) who is wearing a muddy blue cave suit and was carrying that last coil. He turns to DAVIT (30'S), who is dressed similarly to Maverick but carrying a couple more bags.

MAVERICK

I swear I'm never bringing rope  
through something like that again

DAVIT

You know you literally pay me to  
carry that for you

MAVERICK

Yeah but you know I had to get the  
last piece

Maverick turns to speak to the group. Alongside himself and Davit are SAM (28) and CARL (26). Sam's suit is yellow and Carl's is red, both are similarly equipped to Maverick.

MAVERICK

Twenty-one-hundred feet of rope

The groups headlamps illuminate the line of ropes, there are 7 300' coils. The line leads directly to the edge of a pit. As Maverick speaks, he lugs a boulder to the edge.

MAVERICK

3 advance trips, and 2 days from  
the entrance

He tosses the boulder off, 11 seconds of SILENCE follow, then BOOM.

MAVERICK

And now its time for us to find out  
whats down there. Sam, go ahead and  
start joining the ropes, carl, rig  
the top and then help sam.

While Carl & Sam do what they're told, Maverick sits down next to Davit, who has started to unpack

MAVERICK

You can still be one of the first  
people to see the bottom of this

DAVIT

It's tempting, it really is, but  
I've got a family that needs me to  
come back. Even the five-eighty-six  
on the way here is pushing it

MAVERICK

I plan on living

DAVIT

You do this, well I don't know why  
you do it, but I do it to make sure  
people like you keep on living. I'm  
sure whatever you find down there  
will be amazing, your name will be  
in newspapers, but I choose  
security for my family over all  
that

MAVERICK

Maybe your tone will change when we  
know whats at the bottom

SAM

Mav, can you check us?

MAVERICK

Yeah

Maverick gets up and goes to check them

LATER

Maverick is tied into and leaning back on the rope, ready to  
rappel, Carl, Sam, & Davit are gathered around him. Maverick  
has radio on his shoulder.

MAVERICK

(into radio)

Radio check

DAVIT

(into radio)

Good check

MAVERICK

Here I go

Maverick lowers himself over the lip, struggling with the  
weight of the rope. He tries to place the rope on a rope pad  
but his foot slips on the muddy lip and he falls. Carl tries  
to fix it but can't lift the rope.

MAVERICK

Don't worry about it, this lip is  
soft enough. Well, I'll see you  
down there

SAM

Goodbye

Maverick drops into the abyss.

INT. PIT

Maverick descends for what feels like forever. From the top the walls gradually bell out, leaving only one in sight. The light at the top of the pit shrinks until it disappears, leaving him floating alone in the darkness. Eventually, he meets a knot in the bottom of the rope, he still can't see the ground.

MAVERICK

Fuck  
(into radio)  
I'm short

CARL

(over radio)  
What?

MAVERICK

(into radio, yelling)  
I'm short

CARL

(over radio)  
By how much?

MAVERICK

(into radio)  
At least 200 feet, I can't see the  
bottom

He looks around, and sees a ledge about 70' above him.

MAVERICK

(into radio)  
We've been measuring from a ledge

CARL

(over radio)  
That's incredible

MAVERICK

(into radio)  
That's one word for it, that cuts  
our trip short

After burring his face in his hands for a bit, Maverick starts climbing. When he's about even with the ledge he looks over and notices a crack in the wall.

MAVERICK

(into radio)  
How's the rub up top

CARL  
(over radio)  
The pad's not in place but there's  
too much mud for me to tell

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
I'm going to swing to the ledge

DAVIT  
(over radio)  
This is Davit, that's not a good  
idea

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
Is there rub

DAVIT  
(over radio)  
Yes

Maverick pauses to think

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
You can't tell how bad?

DAVIT  
(over radio)  
Correct, and you have 2000 feet  
ahead of you

Maverick looks up at the rope stretched taught into the  
blackness above him, and then down at the end of the rope  
dangling below him

MAVERICK  
Screw it

Maverick swings across the pit.

CUT TO:

INT. PIT/TOP

The rope saws across the ledge of the pit

CUT TO:

Maverick lands on the ledge. He makes his way to the crack  
and shines his light through, it reflects off a floor, but  
nothing else.

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
I'm off rope

CARL  
(over radio)  
You found something?

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
Yeah, make sure the pad is good and  
get down here.

INT. THE GREAT HALL

Sam finishes squeezing through the crack, she secures the rope around a stalagmite before looking out.

SAM  
Oh my god

She's looking out into a massive room, their headlamps only illuminate a the base of a mountain of breakdown. Maverick turns on a high powered flashlight, it illuminates the top of the mountain but none of the other walls or ceilings.

MAVERICK  
Our first step is going to be to  
get to the top of that mountain

They start hiking, sam gets ahead of the group

CARL  
I've never seen breakdown like that  
before

Carl points to a triangular block supported by fluted columns.

MAVERICK  
Yeah... Hey Sam!

SAM  
(yelling from afar)  
Yeah?

MAVERICK  
We're gonna check something out

SAM  
Imma go ahead and wait at the top,  
I want to get the distro set up

MAVERICK  
Ok

They approach the strange formation and see that it creates a perfectly square tunnel.

CARL  
This is incredible, what could have  
formed this

MAVERICK

Look

Maverick points at the columns, the tops are intricately carved to depict faces, human-like but with wide mouths and sagging cheeks.

CARL

This isn't natural, this is construction, human construction

MAVERICK

Amazing

CARL

Whats that

MAVERICK

What

CARL

Listen

FAINT VOICES can be heard down the tunnel, the pair go to investigate.

INT. OLD CITY/HOUSE

They come upon the living room of an ancient house, there lights bounce off the yellowish pale skin of a chubby, 7-foot tall humanoid.

LITTLE ONE

Light! Sacrifices! We wondered why we awoke, so hungry, fulfilled.

Carl and Maverick look on in wonder and confusion

LITTLE ONE

Yes we know your speech, we know all, and we thank you. Thank you for feeding us

The creature moves quicker than lightning, lunging and grabbing carl, putting his head in its mouth. Carl's light shines through its fleshy cheeks casting a yellow glow on Maverick. Maverick pulls out a knife and tries to stab the creature, but the knife shatters against its skin. While the creature drags carl deeper inside itself Maverick runs away.

INT. THE GREAT HALL

Maverick reaches the great hall, looking up to the top of the mountain he sees Sam's outline silhouetted by a high powered flashlight. In front of her towers another creature, 70 feet tall with the same complexion, but lankier than the first. It reaches down to grab sam and her light extinguishes. Great STOMPS can be heard moving closer.

Maverick runs, he doesn't make it far before looking back and seeing the faint reflection of the tall one's skin, which is moving much faster than him. He dives into a cavity formed by the mismatching rocks in the mountain of rubble.

#### INT. BREAKDOWN

Inside it is claustrophobic, and his light illuminates the entire space. Mavericks escape is short lived because as the creature steps above the rocks shift against each other, changing the geometry of the space and threatening to crush him. Maverick has to keep moving to avoid being crushed. The tunnel he's in starts crunching down, he crawls for his life to a bigger room. A car-sized slab thrusts up from the floor and rolls off it, diving into the next space. An entire wall then starts to behave like liquid and slides down, forcing Maverick to climb the ceiling.

Maverick falls on his back after a final BANG, which sends rocks flying at him from all directions. The shifting stops. Maverick orients himself and looks up, finding a path through the rubble wide enough for him to fit, he squeezes in and climbs for a bit before coming to a dead end. He tests some of the rocks to see if he can move them. The first two don't budge, but the second he touches the third it pulls away from him, instead being a bit of the big one's skin. As it moves the rocks around him shift and he falls back down. He looks up and he sees the cloudy eye of the big one staring down at him, like a human's but without an iris. He jolts and squeezes into the next chamber over.

Here he sits in the quiet for a moment. He starts to cry and turns his light off, removing any visuals from the scene. After this he has a full on break down which goes on uncomfortably.

As he controls his breathing and stops crying, a yellow light shines through the rocks from below. Maverick follows it and pokes his head through the hole it shines from. His head dangles into:

#### INT. OLD CITY/PROMENADE

The covered promenade is about 15 feet wide, rubble spills in from the sides but for the most part the path is clear and strait. The small one is there, wandering aimlessly. The yellow glow comes from it's stomach where the faint outline of Carl's head can be seen.

#### LITTLE ONE

Run away. Why do they run away.  
We're still hungry.

A grate, some sort of drain, runs along the right side of the passage. Maverick waits until the little one's back is turned and lowers himself into the passage. He lifts up a section of the grate and squeezes himself into the drain. As he's gently lowering it he loses his grip and the grate slams down with a CLANK. The little one is to the near end



of the hall in seconds, searching for the source of the sound. Failing to find Maverick it goes back to wandering.

LITTLE ONE

(aggravated)

So big, so careless. You excited me

Maverick pulls himself along the drain inch by inch, the light from the little one grows and fades as it passes by, casting hard shadows that travel with the bars of the grate along his face.

Maverick keeps pulling, his arms guiding him, until they stick out into open air. The light from the little one is dim, so he faces away and turns his light on, revealing that he is back to

INT. THE GREAT HALL

The promenade he is in is sticking out of the breakdown like a pipe from a wall. The end is broken off and large chunks of material are poking up through the rocks below. Maverick pulls himself from the drain and lowers himself down the six foot drop. He crouches, taking in his surroundings. We see his point of view as all the rocks look the same. He scrambles out from below the promenade to see if he can find anything.

Almost immediately, the STOMPS of the big one echo all around. Maverick runs, down the mountain. Quickly the wall of the chamber comes into view, and the crack the group entered through is nearby. As he nears it, the big one's hand reaches out into view. Its finger hits maverick, propelling him through the crack. Flying through the air Maverick bounces between the walls of the crack and into

INT. PIT

He tumbles along the ledge, stopping before he falls. A rock passes him and falls into the void.

Looking back the big one's finger can't fit through the crack. It pulls away and is replaced by the little one's face.

LITTLE ONE

I see you

It tries to squeeze but is too wide to fit.

LITTLE ONE

I'm hungry!

It disappears, leaving the crack empty and black. A thunderous BOOM echoes through the chamber, followed by rocks falling from above, they strike the ledge like bombs, Maverick takes shelter near a wall.

DAVIT  
(over radio)  
Come in, anyone, come in

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
Davit, leave, now!

BOOM! More rocks

DAVIT  
(over radio)  
What?

MAVERICK  
(into radio)  
Get out of here as fast

As Maverick speaks he is cut off by a rock tearing through his hand, breaking it and the radio.

MAVERICK  
God Dammit!

With a GRUNT Maverick scrambles across the ledge, dodging falling rocks and jumping onto the rope. He starts to climb, the room keeps shaking. BOOM, BOOM, BOOM.

Long after the ledge is gone from sight a BOOM turns into a CRASH. The wall of the pit collapses in below him, pushed down by he big one's fist. It steps out onto the ledge far bellow and reaches up. It cant reach high enough to grab Maverick, but it points at him with an outstretched finger. Along its finger the little one runs on all fours, casting it's yellow light on everything around. At the big one's finger tip the little one grabs hold of the rope and quickly climbs hand over hand.

LITTLE ONE  
Freeeeeeeee!

It quickly reaches Maverick, but doesn't pause as it climbs over and past him. As it passes him its fingers dig into his shoulder and crushes it, causing Maverick to SCREAM in agony.

Breathing heavily, Maverick regains his composure, he looks up at the little one rocketing up the rope, its light already dimming. A mix of anger and sadness crosses his face as he starts to swing the rope back and forth.

INT. PIT/TOP

The rope rolls off the pad as it starts to drag back and forth across the ledge. Davit gets up and looks down into the pit, in the depths all that can be seen is a dim yellow light, quickly growing.

INT. PIT

Maverick keeps swinging, the sadness is gone from his face, leaving only anger. He swings into the wall and grabs hold of a protrusion, and stands up against the wall. YELLING in anger, he jumps.

INT. PIT/TOP

The yellow light is now a clearly definable shape. The rope runs from one end of the lip to the other. It snaps, all the potential energy stored in the length at the lip is released, and it snaps up, throwing Davit back.

The cut end of the rope dangles limply above the pit, and below, only darkness remains.

END