

WARRIOR - PREADOLESCENT CLASS

Logline : A young boy eager to prove his manhood is escorted through a harrowing adventure by a young female warrior and ultimately earns her respect.

FADE IN:

INT. DARK TUNNELS OF AN ABANDONED GRANITE CAVE - DAY

A slight, freckle-faced 9-yr-old boy carefully penetrates the passageways of a cave. He wears a soccer uniform, a bandana is tied around his forehead and a rustic wooden spear hangs from a makeshift belt around his waist. He is LIAM. He walks on his tiptoes, softly as he goes, toward a dim yellowish-red light far off in the distance. He turns and looks behind him every few steps.

A BELLOWING NOISE suddenly fills the space. He stops, gazes toward the source, then carefully moves forward.

(V.O.)

Shhhhh.

A small girl, around 7, sneaks up behind him. She's dressed in a Kimono. A bright green amulet hangs around her neck. Her face is painted for battle. She is MAIZIE.

MAIZIE

Don't move.

He doesn't.

She circles him, looks him up and down.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

Follow me.

LIAM

Why? Who are you?

MAIZIE

Get behind me. Hostile territory.

He slips behind her and the two pad on.

The BELLOWING NOISE reverberates the cave walls.

Both of them freeze. He taps her.

LIAM

What was that?

MAIZIE

Shhhhh.

LIAM

(whispers)

Who are you?

MAIZIE
Maizie. Warrior...preadolescent
classification.

LIAM
Liam. Me too...what you said.

She looks at him skeptically.

MAIZIE
Your first time through?

LIAM
I don't know. What is this place?

She checks him up and down again, pulls an ice pick from
beneath her kimono and points it at him.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Be careful with that thing.

She moves closer.

MAIZIE
Who are you?

LIAM
I just told you. Liam.

A colony of bats SWOOSHES overhead like a sweeping charcoal
cloud. Liam and Maizie hit the ground hard.

LIAM (CONT'D)
What the?

MAIZIE
They're hunting.

LIAM
Hunting what?

MAIZIE
Freckle faced boys in over their
heads.

He glares at her.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)
C'mon. I'll explain life to you
later.

LIAM
Kind of full of yourself aren't
you.

MAIZIE

You would be too...if you were me.

Ahead in the tunnel, a LARGE DARK FORM, moves from one side of the tunnel to the other momentarily blocking the light.

LIAM

What was that?

She puts her finger to her lips to quiet him, then pulls him to the wall of the cave next to her.

MAIZIE

(softly)

Not a sound.

He shivers.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

You cold? Or scared?

LIAM

What? Oh,...cold.

She smirks.

MAIZIE

You cannot be the same class as me.

LIAM

Oh, I am.

She scoffs.

MAIZIE

We need to find a spot to rest and get ready for tomorrow.

LIAM

What's tomorrow?

MAIZIE

The battle of the flame?

His eyes widen.

LIAM

Battle?

MAIZIE

Making it to the light is the first step.

(MORE)

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

The battle of the fire is the second. Obey my every order if you want to see the Rim.

LIAM

The Rim?

She's exasperated with him.

MAIZIE

Liam, or whatever your name is, try to keep up, or I will leave you and never look back. Guaranteed.

His chest swells.

LIAM

I'm the one who is gonna get us out of here. Don't worry about me.

MAIZIE

(picking up the pace)
Oh boy.

LIAM

Hey, wait up.

She raises her palm in a stop motion.

MAIZIE

Could you possibly lower your voice. Bats aren't the only hunters in this cave.

He gulps, takes a deliberate look around and catches her.

They continue toward the light. Water drips from overhead.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

It's slippery here. Be extra careful.

He examines his footing, takes another step and slips. He's airborne. His head hits the granite hard.

She turns back and carefully approaches him.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

You alright?

He fights tears, rubs the back of his head.

LIAM

I think so.

She helps him up and he slips halfway. She steadies him until he gets to his feet.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I think I need to rest. Can we stop for awhile?

MAIZIE

We can make this our resting spot, but that means we have more ground to cover tomorrow before we reach our destination.

He gets situated and turns to her.

LIAM

What's our destination?

MAIZIE

I don't know who you are, but no way you're PA warrior class. And what is that robing you're wearing? It's not traditional PA gear.

He looks his uniform over, straightens it.

LIAM

What's wrong with it?

MAIZIE

Everything. Uggg. Get some rest.

She doubts him greatly.

LIAM

Maizie, what's making that loud noise we keep hearing?

MAIZIE

The fire.

LIAM

What fire?

MAIZIE

Are you for real?

LIAM

What about the big shadow? Wanna fill me in on that? And, aren't you a little young to be a warrior?

MAIZIE

No, no, and I'm special. Get some sleep. Tomorrow is going to be the biggest day of your young life.

He leans on her. She grimaces and moves away.

LIAM

What? There's no pillow.

She acquiesces. They get comfy and doze off.

LATER

Maizie shines her amulet, then rises, stretches, kicks Liam.

MAIZIE

Get up. We need to get moving.

He stirs, stretches.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

You should get your amulet out and be prepared. There may not be time when we reach the fire.

LIAM

Amulet?

She pushes hers in his face.

LIAM (CONT'D)

That necklace? Not my style.

MAIZIE

(backing away)

You have no amulet? How did you expect to get to the Rim?

He shrugs.

She walks away, then turns back to him.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

Once we clear the fire, you're on your own.

He makes a sour face, but quickly goes after her.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

No amulet. Unbelievable.

They make their way through the tunnels, closer and closer to the light.

The footing is iffy in places and they have to slow down and help each other several times. Liam is getting tired.

LIAM

I'm hungry and really thirsty. Can we rest?

MAIZIE

Sit here for a bit.

She rolls up one side of her Kimono and unties a small pouch from inside her frock. She removes several pieces of jerky and a small tube that holds water.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

Here. Eat these and you can have this water. Make it last. It's all you're getting.

He gobbles up the jerky and sips some water. She offers him a hand and pulls him up.

LATER

EXT. CAVE - DAY

They emerge from the tunnel. The fire is way more intense up close. A ridge, the Rim, is visible on the other side of the flames.

He's overwhelmed. Maizie turns to him, sees his condition.

MAIZIE

Get behind me and hold on tight. Maybe it's better if you just keep your eyes closed 'til I tell you to open them.

He follows her directions.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

We're in luck. The sun is bright today.

She removes her amulet, polishes it and points it at the sun. A path opens up through the fire and they start to cross.

MAIZIE (CONT'D)

Know how to use that spear?

LIAM

Yep.

MAIZIE

Good. We're gonna need it.

LIAM

Can I open my eyes now?

MAIZIE

Yes, please.

He removes it from his belt and prepares for battle.

For at least 100 yards, they strike and stab at numerous fire breathing creatures that surface through the flames. They both show courage beyond their years as they turn back one ugly beast after another.

When they reach the other side, they both fall to the ground, soot-covered and exhausted.

She struggles to her feet and hikes to the top of the ridge. He scrambles up and follows her.

LIAM

What's over there?

MAIZIE

Home. And next level for me.

He smiles.

LIAM

Home.

MAIZIE

Good job. Maybe you are a real warrior. Or you could be.

LIAM

(validated)

Thanks.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - BOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

V/O

Liam. Buddy, wake up.

Liam, dressed in his soccer uniform, is spread across a huge bean bag. He snoozes near a paused Fortnite game on a big screen. He sits up. Disoriented.

LIAM

Where am I?

His dad stands over him. He is JAKE.

JAKE
What? You're home.

LIAM
Where's Maizie?

JAKE
Little Maizie? Your cousin?

LIAM
She saved me.

JAKE
What? You were dreaming. C'mon,
get moving. Your mom's in the
driveway.

LIAM
Why's Mom here?

JAKE
Geez, son. Soccer practice.
What's with you?

LIAM
Huh? I'm not sure.

A horn HONKS in the distance.

Liam stands up and a piece of jerky falls to the floor. He looks up at his dad wide-eyed.

JAKE
Liam James, have you been eating up
here again?

He slowly shakes his head.

The horn HONKS again.

Jake points to the door.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Go!

Liam heads out the bedroom door and down the stairs.

Jake follows.

In the entry, a primitive wooden spear is leaned in a corner.

Liam stops and stares at it, then looks up at his dad.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(pointing at the door)
Now!

LIAM
Hey, how 'bout some respect? I'm a
warrior, preadolescent class!

JAKE
(losing patience)
Son...

Liam grabs his soccer ball from a basket near the door,
throws the door open and runs out.

Jake picks up the spear.

JAKE (CONT'D)
This thing needs to go before
someone gets hurt.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

Jake steps out onto the front porch, waves as the car drives
away, then walks to the curb and tosses the spear in the big
black trash can. The lid SLAMS shut.

FADE OUT.