

NEW-FANGLED GIZMOS

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CHARACTERS

ARNOLD	A nice fellow, but one who cannot quite wrap his head around the new technology trends.
MONK	A monk. In robes. You know. A monk.
GORILLA	If you wanted something predictable, this might not be the script for you.

SETTING

Outside a library in pretty much any ancient setting where one might find a monk and a library.

(It is a street outside a library. An old man, ARNOLD, is standing around looking frustrated. A MONK happens to walk by.)

ARNOLD

Excuse me!

MONK

Yes? Can I be of assistance?

ARNOLD

What? Oh. Yes. Yes, thank you.

(Monk waits patiently, as monks are wont to do.)

Oh, right. Yes. Right. I'm having trouble finding a coal.

MONK

A... what?

ARNOLD

You know. A coal. One of those new-fangled things that are supposed to be oh so much better than the stone tablets that seem to have been working perfectly well for the past thousand years, I might note.

MONK

Do you mean a 'scroll'?

ARNOLD

Yes. Right. That's it. A scroll. I'm trying to find one, and the whole system just isn't working.

MONK

I see.

ARNOLD

My daughter told me that I'd find a lot of coals at the library, and I haven't seen a single one.

MONK

I see.

ARNOLD

I mean, the whole thing is just so blasted frustrating, do you know what I mean?

MONK

Uh...

ARNOLD

Anyway, I've been standing here for over an hour, and haven't gotten anywhere. It's like the library system has broken down completely.

MONK

Have you, um, tried going *into* the library?

ARNOLD

What do you mean? I'm *already* at the library.

MONK

No, not 'at'. Into. Going inside.

ARNOLD

Is that how they work?

MONK

I suppose you could say that.

ARNOLD

Well, let me give that a try. Honestly, that's the sort of thing they should tell you right from the start.

(The monk just stares at Arnold. Arnold points at the library. The monk nods.)

Thank you.

(The monk continues to watch him as Arnold walks over to the wall of the library, then stands there. After a moment, he walks back.)

It didn't work.

MONK

Inside. You have to go inside.

ARNOLD

There wasn't any way to get inside. It was just a wall.

MONK

You need to use the door. That's how you gain entrance to the building.

ARNOLD

Well they really should have marked that down, don't you think?

MONK

They did. On the door. Where it says 'library entrance'.

(Arnold gives the monk an appreciative nod. He then walks over to the door and taps on it.)

Pull.

(Arnold walks back.)

ARNOLD

What?

MONK

I said 'pull'. You have to pull.

(Arnold reaches out and pulls on the monk's robe.)

No. You have to pull on the door.

(Arnold goes back to the door and pulls. The door opens. He then lets it go and turns back to the monk.)

ARNOLD

I don't see my coal.

MONK

Scroll.

ARNOLD

Right. I don't see it.

MONK

No. You need to pull on the door, then walk in. All the coal— scrolls are inside.

ARNOLD

You're very kind.

Thank you. MONK

And patient. ARNOLD

Thank you. MONK

And bald. ARNOLD

Than— What? MONK

Inside, you say? ARNOLD

(The monk nods, and Arnold walks over to the door. He opens it, walks inside, and the monk starts to continue on his way. Before he can get far, however, Arnold comes back out.)

Excuse me!

MONK
(Taking an enormous sigh.)

Yes?

The library doesn't have any elves. ARNOLD

Sorry? MONK

Oh, it's not your fault, I'm sure, but they said that all the squids would be on elves. ARNOLD

Squids? MONK

You know. The... *(makes a gesture to indicate a scroll.)* ARNOLD

MONK

Scrolls.

ARNOLD

Right. My daughter said that I should just look on the elves.

MONK

Shelves?

ARNOLD

Yes. Right. But there aren't any.

MONK

I'm quite certain there are. I was in the library earlier today, and there are hundreds of shelves. Perhaps thousands.

ARNOLD

Well, I didn't see any.

MONK

I don't understand how that's possible.

ARNOLD

Well it's true.

MONK

Alright, perhaps if you just explain what you *did* see, I can—

ARNOLD

There were a lot of files. Very pretty files. Mostly blue, I think.

MONK

Files.

ARNOLD

Pretty blue ones. And some green.

MONK

Do you mean 'tiles'?

ARNOLD

Oh, yes. Right. Tiles. Lots of them.

MONK

Yes, blue tiles. That would be the floor.

ARNOLD

And some green. But mostly blue.

MONK

As I said, that woul—

ARNOLD

And they were square. Except for the one's that were triangles.

MONK

Yes, I kn—

ARNOLD

And the triangle ones were nearly all facing the exact sam—

MONK

STOP!

ARNOLD

What?

MONK

Stop. I have matters I need to attend to, and—

ARNOLD

But you monks are supposed to know all about the library, aren't you?

MONK

When you went inside, did you at any time... look up from the floor?

ARNOLD

Was I supposed to?

MONK

Why don't you give that a try.

ARNOLD

(With a shrug.)

Alright. Can you just wait here a moment?

(Before the monk can answer, Arnold rushes back to the library door. He opens it, and looks back at the monk with an expression of pride for having gotten so far without help, then rushes inside. A moment passes. Then another. Then another. He looks up at the setting sun. Finally, the monk decides that he's good to leave and turns away. He gets all of a single step, however, when Arnold comes rushing back out.)

Excuse me!

MONK

Oh dear god...

ARNOLD

You said that the elves would have lots of coals, but they didn't.

MONK

What did they have?

ARNOLD

Nothing. They were just flat, vertical boards.

MONK

Ah. I think I understand. You need to walk up toward them. You were just looking at the end of shelf.

(Arnold rushes off, goes through the door with same pride, and the monk starts to leave. An instant later, however, Arnold enters again with a...)

ARNOLD

Excuse me!

MONK

Now what?

ARNOLD

You're right. There are lots of coals—

MONK

Scrolls—

ARNOLD

...in there, but they're all blank, so I don't know how to find the one I'm looking for.

MONK

Blank?!

ARNOLD

Yes! Every single one. Just rolls of thin stuff with no writing at all.

MONK

Did you unroll one?

ARNOLD

Was I supposed to do that?

MONK

You know what? I have an idea. If you wait over there, the wandering gorilla will be coming past in just a few minutes, and it is very likely that it'll have the scroll you're looking for.

ARNOLD

Really?

MONK

Oh yes. Very likely.

(Arnold walks over to where the monk pointed. He turns back to wave at the monk, who smiles and waves back. Then the monk takes off in a rush. Arnold stands there patiently waiting. After a few moments, someone comes out in a gorilla suit. Lights out.)