

Gully's Unexpected Travels

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Thunder echoes as we move through a dark storm cloud. With the hum of delicate wings, a proud ladybug in flight becomes visible as he twists and turns, navigating the tumultuous weather. Wearing old-fashioned flight goggles, his long scarf flaps in the wind. With a deep breath, he emerges through the clouds and into brilliant sunlight to reveal the Amazon Rainforest far below. Deep green foliage stretches as far as the eye can see.

The ladybug swoops towards the vast environment and through huge green lettering that reads 'GULLY'S UNEXPECTED TRAVELS'.

Hurtling through the letter 'P' he is joined by other, equally uniformed ladybugs. Weaving and winding in a spectacular display of aerial ability, one of the ladybug's scarves is suddenly caught in a gust of wind and is whipped off.

The scarf flutters through the air towards the forest canopy, landing gently in a large open, leafy space. A cute, picturesque city rests on the horizon.

Wham!

A trainer-wearing foot slams into frame as we find GULLY, a six-year-old uncharacteristically small ladybug. With a plump little face, large innocent eyes, and a jumper with sleeves way too long, she runs with all her might. A huge grin spread across her face as we realise she's chasing her mother, MILLY, a roguish and tall ladybug, wearing a similar scarf to that of the ladybugs in the opening sequence. With a clear thirst for adventure, Milly leaps over twigs and branches without a care in the world.

MILLY

Is that all you've got? You'll
never catch me at that speed,
Gully!

Gully scrambles to keep up. She stumbles, but she refuses to falter and keeps up the chase.

GULLY

You won't win again, mum! Today
is Gully's day! I just need to...

Gully's confidence outweighs her ability. Attempting to hurdle a tree branch, she misjudges and crashes face first into shrubbery.

Milly towers over the defeated Gully with a warming smile.

GULLY

The kids at school are right. I
am too small. I'll never keep up.

MILLY

Don't be so hard on yourself,
Gully.

GULLY

How can I not be when I look like
this?

Gully heaves up the long sleeves of her jumper, allowing her hands to pop through.

GULLY

How can I be like you when I
can't even find a jumper that
fits?

Milly hears Gully's pain before coming down to her level.

MILLY

Gully, when I started out...

Milly looks up to the flying ladybugs overhead.

MILLY

...every day was another day of
criticism and rejection. I had
two choices - I could listen to
them, accept their criticism and
let my dreams die, or I could
take their rejection and use it
as the motivation I needed to be
up there with the best.

Gully clambers from the shrubbery.

MILLY

Sure, you may be small. Sure, you
may have battles ahead that may
be harder than anyone could even
imagine, but if there's one thing
I know about you...

Gully's heart is full of admiration as they both stand tall.

MILLY

...it's that I have your nose!

A cheeky wink as Milly pretends to grab Gully's nose and darts off towards the trees. Caught off guard, it takes Gully a second for the gag to set in before leaping into pursuit.

Milly launches herself to a tree and in the blink of an eye expertly navigates her way to the top. Without giving it a second thought, Gully leaps towards the same tree and, without inhibition, finds she has also climbed to the top.

Milly glows with pride to find her daughter also in the branches.

MILLY
Too small, huh?

GULLY
I'd like my nose back, please.

MILLY
Of course.

Milly pretends to fumble with an imaginary nose.

MILLY
Oops. Dropped it.

Milly drops from the tree, expertly navigating her descent and lands safely on the ground. She pretends to pick up the imaginary nose and blows off imaginary dirt.

MILLY
Nothing a quick blow won't sort.
Get it? Because it's a nose. The
way you would blow a...

Looking up to the tree it is clear how unsafe Gully now feels.

MILLY
I know comedy isn't my forte but
it wasn't that bad.

Gully nervously clings onto a branch - the adrenaline has worn off, leaving her paralysed with fear.

MILLY
You're okay. You can do this.

GULLY
I can't. This is what you're good
at, not me. I can't even fly.

MILLY
It's not about flying Gully. You
can achieve anything, but first,
you have to believe in yourself.

Gully edges herself along, with every moment feeling higher.

MILLY
You've got this, otherwise I've
got a nose I need to get rid of.

Gully edges herself closer.

MILLY
You've got this!

Edging herself closer she is just about to jump when...

GULLY

I can't...

Gully slips off the branch, true terror flooding her face as she falls backwards (think Hans Gruber's 'Die Hard' fall).

CUT TO:

2 EXT. A LEAFY FIELD - PRESENT DAY

2

A shrieking cry:

SONNY

Gully!!!

Gully, now 13, desperately stares up at a small tree, as her carefree 10 year old cousin, SONNY, tumbles from a branch.

He crashes through the foliage eventually landing on Gully and sending them both to the ground in a pile.

NIGEL and SHIRLEY Lemington, two laid-back older ladybugs with a beatnik style, meander over.

NIGEL

Kids. What's all the kerfuffle?

GULLY (babbling)

I'm sorry. We were playing and
Sonny climbed the tree and...

Sonny bounces up with a grin and clambers into the tree.

SONNY

I'm fine. Catch me next time,
Gully!

GULLY

But Sonny, it's too dangerous.

SHIRLEY

Don't worry Gully. Your cousin is
a trooper.

Gully gets to her feet as Shirley smiles expectantly.

SHIRLEY

Maybe you could try climbing this
time?

NIGEL

Yeah! Let's see Gully take on
some adventures.

Nigel attempts to play fight with Gully who has none of it.

GULLY

I'm not someone who has
adventures. Can we go home now?

NIGEL

Come on silly. What's the rush?

SHIRLEY

Your uncle is right. I bet you'd be great if you just gave it a try.

GULLY

I would prefer to stay grounded.

Gully takes a deep breath on her inhaler. In the background, Sonny falls from the tree. Nigel & Shirley look to each other.

Without a care in the world, Sonny leaps to his feet and clambers back up the tree.

GULLY

Sonny, I don't know if you should...

Sonny cuts her off.

SONNY

Come on, Gully. Don't be a scaredy cat, or you'll get all stinky again.

Before Gully can respond, Nigel interjects.

NIGEL

Now Sonny, that's a normal, involuntary ladybug response. The stinky smell we release wards off predators.

GULLY

I'm not stinky.

NIGEL

Don't worry Gully, it's perfectly normal. We sometimes also play dead too.

GULLY

We do?

NIGEL

Watch.

Nigel turns and nods to Shirley, who does her best 'scary monster' impression. Nigel collapses to the ground, pretending to be dead. Gully looks unimpressed.

Sonny calls down again.

SONNY

Gully, get ready to catch me!

Shirley stops her monster impression and crouches down to Gully's level. Nigel remains motionless on the ground.

SHIRLEY

Your mum would be so happy if she
could see what a grown up bug
you've become.

SONNY (O/S)

Gully! You ready?!

GULLY

I just want to go home.

Before Shirley can respond, Sonny crashes out of the tree, once again flattening Gully.

SONNY

Let's go again, Gully!

Sonny leaps up and Shirley picks him up, throwing him onto her shoulders. Gully recomposes herself.

SHIRLEY

Alright, you two. Let's go. It's
a big day tomorrow.

Shirley playfully kicks Nigel who climbs to his feet with a self-satisfied grin.

NIGEL

And *that's* how you escape danger.

Sonny laughs. Nigel pops a jumper onto Gully. It fits, but the sleeves are way too long.

The family all set off for home. Swamped in her jumper, Gully harrumphs and follows as her sleeves trail on the ground. Gully is so used to heaving up the sleeves that it's almost become a tic.

The camera pulls out from the group to reveal the large ladybug city of Bugingdon, a modern day metropolis nestled in the trees of the Amazon rainforest.

3

EXT. BUGINGDON - MONTAGE

3

As the family trundle home, we are given the opportunity to explore the weird and wonderful city of Bugingdon. Passing through a guarded checkpoint, the family enter the hustle and bustle of a traditional city, but with everything having a 'bug twist'.

The family pass a row of shops. TVs line the windows of a store, all showing a ladybug talk-show with two hosts.

TV HOST #1

Hold onto your hats, folks. News through the grapevine says that a big storm is on its way to our fair old town of Bugingdon.

TV HOST #2

Forecast to be one of the biggest our city has ever seen.

TV HOST #1

No precise details on when it'll hit, but as ever the Flutter-By squadron will be keeping us safe.

TV HOST #2

Let's all be vigilant. Maybe bring pets inside on storm-day.

The family pass a small 'dog-like bug' who yelps with joy.

We continue moving through as the hustle and bustle of Bugingdon is revealed in all its glory.

A giant millipede zips by, resembling a tram with commuter bugs clinging to the side. Gully leaps out of her skin, tripping backwards but being caught by Shirley. Sonny takes it all in with glee.

Gully shyly recomposes herself. Sonny points to the sky and we get a glimpse of the Flutter-By-Squadron - sepia-toned goggle wearing hero-bugs, keeping watch for danger.

The sounds of hustle, bustle, music and life continue to build, leading to an explosion of senses.

4

INT. LEMINGTON HOUSEHOLD, DINING ROOM - EVENING

4

Nigel lights a candle on a big birthday cake. The candle is shaped like a big number 10. The family sing as the cake is put in front of a delighted Sonny.

In all the excitement, Sonny blows out the candles a little too vigorously, not only blowing them out, but sending them and a load of frosting over Nigel.

Sonny and Gully pause in shock for a beat, before Nigel grins back at them with a face of frosting. The whole family giggle as he wipes it off.

NIGEL

So, Sonny, the big 1-0. You know what that means? Are you ready for your Flutter-By Squadron trial tomorrow?

Sonny spins his arms wildly.

SONNY

Yeah! This'll be the first step
for the world famous flying duo
of Gully and Sonny!

Gully laughs.

GULLY

Duo?

SONNY

First step, Bugingdon. Then the
world!

Sonny continues to spin about.

NIGEL

That true, huh? So Gully, are you
trying out too?

Sonny accidentally knocks a glass to the ground with a smash.
Nigel leaps up to clean up the mess.

SHIRLEY

I think that's a great idea!

Gully is clearly uncomfortable.

SONNY

Yeah! You should join too!

GULLY

I really don't want to.

SHIRLEY

Why not give it a try?

Gully's uncomfortableness is building to frustration.

GULLY

It's not something I want to do.

SONNY

But Gully!

NIGEL

Come on! It'd be good for you
Gully bug!

Gully snaps.

GULLY

Like it was for mum?!

SHIRLEY

That's not what I meant Gully.

Gully stands up.

GULLY

Then what do you mean? You keep pushing me to be adventurous and join the Flutter-Bugs but where did that get mum? And I'm supposed to act like everything's okay.

Sonny is teary-eyed.

SHIRLEY

We all miss your mum, Gully. Not a day goes by where I don't think about her

GULLY

Then stop trying to make me be just like her!

Gully storms out. Nigel is about to go after her but Shirley stops him.

5 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY/SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

5

It's clearly much later in the evening. Gully sneaks out of her room and down the hallway towards Sonny's room. Through the crack in the door she spots Sonny watching a video.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER

Bugingdon Flutter-By Academy
Presents: Cadets - The future of
keeping our skies safe from the
dangers below

On screen we see large watchtowers jutting out through the trees with Flutter-By officers, keeping watch over Bugingdon.

6 EXT. MEADOW - DAY - VIDEO

6

LITTLE JIMMY, a young ladybug, walks with his Father. The father, dressed in Flutter-By uniform, ruffles Jimmy's hair.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER

Today's world is a world of
prosperity, safety and security.
We live safe in the knowledge
that our loved ones need not fear
the dangers from above or the
creatures below.

The father playfully picks up and throws Jimmy into the air.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER

But this isn't a world of
complacency.

(MORE)

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER (CONT'D)
 Sitting high in the rainforest,
 surrounded by potential threats,
 peace is no guarantee.

The camera drifts below the playful pair and through the canopy to a dark, shadowy world of monsters. We receive only glimpses, but this is a dark and scary world of dangerous creatures.

7 INT. SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 7

Gully covers her eyes as Sonny excitedly looks on. On screen, the father hugs little Jimmy.

8 EXT. FLUTTER-BY ACADEMY - DAY - VIDEO 8

The father salutes and flies off, joining a squadron of Flutter-By bugs who cascade beautifully in formation.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 That's why we must all do our
 part to ensure peace is
 preserved.

Jimmy watches proudly.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 And what about you?

Jimmy points to himself.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 Yes, you.

9 INT. SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 9

Uncovering her eyes, Gully finds Sonny enraptured by the video.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 Just because you're small,
 doesn't mean you can't play YOUR
 part.

10 INT. FLUTTER-BY ACADEMY - DAY - VIDEO 10

Jimmy marches into a Flutter-By recruitment office, eyes wide and hopeful. SMITH, a distinguished officer, greets him.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 Little Jimmy here, like his
 father, and his father before,
 started at the Flutter-By
 Academy. His future may be in the
 air, but first he must start on
 the ground.

Jimmy and Smith shake hands and look straight at the camera
 in a proud but awkwardly staged fashion.

11 EXT. FLUTTER-BY ACADEMY - DAY - VIDEO 11

A group of hopefuls training.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 After a period of training,
 you'll be shipshape and flutter-
 fit in no time.

Jimmy leaps from a wall, his wings flutter as he takes
 flight.

12 INT. SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 12

Sonny watches in awe as the young bug flips and spins,
 pulling off all manner of impressive manoeuvres.

Gully takes in Sonny's admiration. On screen, Smith gives a
 proud salute as one of Jimmy's tricks transitions into...

13 EXT. BATTLE GROUND - DAY - VIDEO 13

Jimmy, now in full uniform, lands and stands proudly on a
 large rock surrounded by other officers. We get a glimpse of
 monstrous shadows as the ghastly creatures scarp into the
 darkness.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 So, why not do your bit? Whether
 it's flying to dizzying heights
 above, or patrolling the depths
 below.

Jimmy looks into the air, his white scarf flapping in the
 wind heroically.

PROPAGANDA VOICE OVER
 Join the Flutter-By Cadets today,
 and live for a life of adventure.

14 INT. SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 14

The video plays heroic music as credits roll.

Sonny is caught up in the atmosphere and leaps onto the bed, but doesn't find his footing so tumbles right off the bed. Gully rushes in.

GULLY

Sonny!

Sonny leaps up.

SONNY

I'm okay.

Gully takes a seat on Sonny's bed.

GULLY

I'm really sorry about earlier.

Sonny sits down next to his older cousin but leans back too far, almost falling off again. Gully quickly catches him.

SONNY

I'm okay.

GULLY

You're the bravest bug I know.

Sonny smiles to Gully.

SONNY

Why don't you do the Flutter-By entrance exam with me tomorrow? We can do it together.

GULLY

Sonny, look at me. I'm too small. I'm not someone who goes on adventures. I could never do it.

SONNY

You could if you tried.

Gully looks to the patriotic credits rolling on screen before turning back to Sonny with a hesitant smile.

GULLY

I'm sorry, Sonny, but I can't.

Sonny reads the moment.

SONNY

Didn't your mum used to be a Flutter-By officer?

GULLY

She did.

SONNY

What happened to her?

Gully looks up to a wall of photos in Sonny's room. Nestled in the collage of happy memories is one picture of Milly, dressed in her full Flutter-By uniform.

15 EXT. LEMINGTON HOUSEHOLD, FRONT DOOR - NIGHT - 15
FLASHBACK

The photo of Milly comes to life as her scarf flaps in the high winds. She turns to a young and nervous Gully.

MILLY

Don't be scared Gully. There are lots of people out there who need help. It's Mommy's job to do everything she can to keep everyone safe. Your aunt and uncle will look after you until I get back.

Shirley and Nigel lovingly put their hands on Gully's little shoulders in an attempt to offer some comfort.

MILLY

I love you.

Milly kisses Gully's forehead then turns and leaps heroically into action, flying into the heart of a ferocious storm. Gully watches with huge, teary eyes.

16 INT. SONNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 16

Shirley is stood in the bedroom doorway.

SHIRLEY

She was the kindest bug I ever knew. She would do anything to help anyone.

Gully looks up to her aunt as Sonny gives Gully a huge hug.

GULLY

Okay, Sonny. You've got to sleep.

Shirley offers a warm smile to Gully. Sonny is overly excited, losing himself in fantasy, jumping on the bed again.

SONNY

It's going to be so exciting. I'm going to explore the world, go on all kinds of adventures...

He falls off the bed, again.

17 INT. GULLY'S BEDROOM - MORNING 17

SONNY

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)
Gully! Gully! Gully!

Gully is awoken with a fright as Sonny is stood right over her.

GULLY
Sonny, what are you doing?

SONNY
It's my trial day!

Gully rolls over to look at a clock.

GULLY
It's not for another 4 hours.

Nigel and Shirley burst through the door.

NIGEL
Big day today, you two!

GULLY
It is for Sonny but for me it's
still sleep time, lovely, lovely
sleep time.

SHIRLEY
Nonsense! We're all going
together!

Clothes get thrown over Gully's head.

18 EXT. BUGINGDON STREETS - DAY

18

Shirley, Nigel, and Sonny dart through the streets with Gully begrudgingly behind.

A group of ladybugs wearing matching goggles and scarves - the official uniform of the Flutter-By Cadets - zip by. Their wings beat casually as they pass by without a care in the world. Shirley catches a sight and nudges both Sonny and Gully.

19 INT. FLUTTER-BY ACADEMY, FRONT DESK - DAY

19

They arrive at the academy. Finding a crowd of numerous young hopefuls, they make their way to the front desk.

Smith, the recruitment officer from the video, is sat at a high desk. Now much older with a dusty, tired look, he peers down to find the hopeful family and the awkward Gully.

SMITH
Name?

The family stand silent.

SMITH

Name?

Nigel nudges Sonny.

NIGEL

Well, go on.

SONNY

I'm Sonny, and I'm here for the try outs.

SMITH

Very good. And you?

Smith points a stern finger to Gully.

GULLY

No, I'm just here to watch.

SMITH

Watch? There is no watching here, kid. Think the Flutter-By Squadron is made up of people who can just sit back and watch? Think we can keep the skies clear and Bugingdon safe from the monsters below just by sitting back and watching?

Shirley interjects.

SHIRLEY

Where would we find the crowd observation area?

Smith turns his stern gaze to a dry smile and a point.

SMITH

Oh it's over there on the right.

NIGEL

Great stuff.

Shirley leans over to Gully.

SHIRLEY

We'll go get Sonny settled in and we'll meet you at the observation area.

Smith can be seen peering over.

GULLY

Thank you.

A siren echoes through the hall. Smith stands to his feet.

SMITH

Alright, potential recruits.
Apparently there's a storm on the
way today, so let's get you in
uniform and out on the course.
Chop, chop.

Sonny runs over and gives Gully a big hug before heading off
with Nigel, Shirley, and the other potential recruits.

20

EXT. FLUTTER-BY ACADEMY, TRAINING GROUND - DAY

20

Gully takes a seat with a small crowd in an old bleacher-
stand, overlooking the training ground. Behind her are two,
rough-looking teenage bugs, HETTIE & DILLIAN both 15.

HETTIE

Hey! Down in front.

Gully turns around ready to apologise.

GULLY

I'm sorry...

She is met with sniggers.

DILLIAN

Why do the tall ones always sit
in front?

Gully turns away.

HETTIE

Don't cry, shorty.

DILLIAN

You wouldn't want to get washed
away!

They both burst into laughter. Gully pulls out her phone and
pretends to ignore them. Shirley and Nigel arrive to take
their seats. The bullies hush their giggles.

SHIRLEY

Are you okay, Gully?

Gully says nothing. A bugle echoes through the grounds and we
see Smith lead Sonny and the other cadets onto the field.
Shirley and Nigel leap up and start cheering. The bullies
also jump up and use it as an opportunity to pour a drink on
Gully.

HETTIE

Whoops!

Their laughs are drowned out by the cheers from the small crowd. Sonny waves back and begins running drills.

NIGEL

See, this is a great place to make friends. What do you think, Gully?

GULLY

I don't have any friends.

Gully is clearly uncomfortable. The bullies are revelling in the moment, subtly making sarcastic crying motions.

SHIRLEY

Now, Gully. Please don't be mad.

GULLY

Mad about what?

SHIRLEY

Your uncle and I had a chat with the recruitment officer.

GULLY

About what?

SHIRLEY

Well, we all agreed that it would be good for you.

GULLY

What? What would be good for me?

Smith blows a deafening whistle and addresses the audience.

SMITH

Recruits. I want you to be extra supportive as today we have an additional student joining us.

Gully's eyes widen. Shirley puts her arms around her.

SMITH

This will be her first time joining in. She also has some physical challenges to overcome so is going to need all the support she can get.

NIGEL

See. They're going to help you.

SMITH

I would like the young Gully to come on down and join us on the field.

Gully is horrified. The bullies struggle to hold back laughter.

HETTIE

That's good. I was worried you were going to be overlooked!

They both crack. Shirley turns to them. Nigel is oblivious.

SMITH

Come on Gully. No dawdling now.

Gully turns to Shirley.

GULLY

Why would you do this?

NIGEL

Come on honey. You need to put yourself out there and we've already spoken to them about your 'limitations' so they'll be very supportive.

Gully can't believe what she's hearing.

SHIRLEY

It's good to be out of your comfort zone once in a while.

GULLY

Not like this!

Sonny is waving from the field. He really wants his big cousin to join him. Gully starts to hyperventilate.

SHIRLEY

It'll be good for you. I promise.

Smith blows his whistle again.

SMITH

You're holding everyone up, young lady.

Gully takes a deep inhale of her inhaler. Dillian is unable to constrain himself.

DILLIAN

Obviously a little *SHORT* on time!

The bullies burst into hysterics. Shirley and Nigel finally realise what's going on, but it's way too late as Gully takes off and runs for the exit.

Sonny notices what's happening as Gully slips through the crowd. Nigel goes to chase her but trips on the bleacher, knocking Shirley over and crashing onto the bullies.

21 EXT. BUGINGDON STREETS - EVENING

21

Gully rushes through the streets. Distraught, she has no idea where she's going. The weather is starting to take a turn. Clouds have gathered overhead and raindrops begin falling.

She rushes by the TV store with the talk-show hosts continuing to address the weather situation.

TV HOST #1

And like that, the weather changes.

TV HOST #2

You'd think that for a city built in the 'rain' forest, we'd be better prepared for storms.

TV HOST #1

Well, this is one of the biggest we're about to see, and they can hit just like that.

TV HOST #2

Scary stuff.

TV HOST #1

Scary indeed.

Gully looks up to see Flutter-By Officers patrolling the skies. An OFFICER spots her and zips down.

OFFICER

For your own safety, please return home immediately.

Gully doesn't stop and keeps rushing. A loud air-raid siren begins to echo through the city as the storm picks up dramatically.

OFFICER

Child. You need to get home now!

The Officer is suddenly caught off guard as a huge gust of wind blows her off-kilter. Gully, tears in eyes keeps battling through the storm.

The storm is now unbearable as huge raindrops crash into the leaves beneath their feet. Gully stops. Terrified, she realises how dangerous the situation is. The drop below is exposed.

Rain pelts hard. Completely lost, Gully looks up to see Shirley, Nigel, and Sonny rushing towards her.

SHIRLEY

Gully! You have to get to us!

GULLY

I can't!

A huge raindrop crashes just in front of Gully. She is stranded on a small collection of leaves, with a huge chasm between her and her family.

Shirley leaps into the air, ready to fly towards Gully, but again a gust of wind blows her off back.

SHIRLEY

Gully. I'm so sorry.

GULLY

I'm scared.

Nigel hugs Sonny, who is also terrified.

SHIRLEY

Gully. I'm going to catch you. You need to be ready to hold on with all you've got. Are you ready?

GULLY

No. I can't.

SHIRLEY

You can.

Sonny is crying.

SHIRLEY

Gully. Get ready. In 5.

Gully can barely move.

SHIRLEY

4.

GULLY

I'm sorry.

NIGEL

It's going to be okay.

SHIRLEY

3.

Gully takes a deep breath.

SHIRLEY

2.

GULLY

This will never work. I'm too scared.

SHIRLEY

1.

Gully is paralysed with fear. Shirley takes a huge breath.

SONNY

Gully!

A huge great rain drop hits Gully and the leaf under her feet.

Her wings flutter, but it's not enough. Shirley, Nigel and Sonny watch in horror as Gully disappears to the depths below.

22 EXT. RAINFOREST - EVENING

22

Crashing from leaf to branch to twig to bush, the world Gully has always known disappears from view. The tumble seems to last forever, falling past all kinds of weird and wonderful ecosystems, each of which gets darker as the foliage sets in.

Two ants are playing a chess-like board game as Gully crashes past. Shocked, one ant seizes the opportunity to quickly cheat, moving some pieces before the other notices.

23 EXT. FOREST FLOOR, TUNNELS - NIGHT

23

Tumbling through the twigs and branches, Gully eventually impacts the mulch of the forest floor. Instead of stopping, she smashes through the leaves and into true darkness. With a thud, her fall finally comes to a halt.

Lying on the ground, Gully attempts to catch her breath. It is terrifyingly dark and eerily silent. It is almost impossible to make anything out in the cavernous system of tunnels where Gully now finds herself.

She cautiously sits up, and with a whimper, she calls out.

GULLY

Hello?

There is no response. Gully pulls out her phone but there is no signal. The light from the screen barely illuminates the darkness. Her voice quivers as she attempts to call out again.

GULLY

Hello? Please, can anybody help me?

Gully clambers to her feet. With a bump, she bangs her head on the low ceiling of the tunnel. Mulch and leaves have fallen in, blocking the hole she had crashed through, with a small amount of daylight just peeking through.

The tunnels are just tall enough for Gully to stand as long as she stoops a little. The walls, made from mushy brownish mulch are so soft, Gully's hand is swallowed up on touching. Gully is far from home. She calls out again.

GULLY

Hello?! Is anybody there?

Nothing. Gully is lost.

She doesn't know what to do. As the tears build she finds herself slumping back to the ground.

GULLY

I'm so sorry. Sonny, auntie, uncle. I didn't want this to happen. I don't know what to do. I wish you were here. I'm so scared. Please, I'm nothing without you.

This is all too much. She's lost, she's alone, it's the most scared she has ever been. Gully breaks down, collapsing in a heap.

That's when her sobs are interrupted by a scurrying sound. Terrified, she wipes away the tears and attempts to compose herself.

GULLY

Hello?

More scurrying sounds.

GULLY

Who's there? Please tell me.

More scurrying and now, distant voices can be heard.

VOICE (O/S)

Who's she talking to? Is it you, or me?

2ND VOICE (O/S)

How would she know?

Gully doesn't know what to do. It doesn't sound dangerous but how can she be sure? She tentatively approaches the source.

GULLY

Hello? Can you help me?

In the distance she can see a small green glowing object. The source of this strange illumination isn't clear. Gully continues her approach.

It's further away than she thought.

Closer - Gully now towers over the object and quietly leans in.

GULLY

Hello?

She realises too late that this is no object, as it suddenly whips its head around, letting out a deafening shriek.

Gully makes a run for it! She has no idea what this creature is, or if it's safe, but she's not stopping to find out.

The glow from the creature doesn't provide much light but it's just enough for Gully to hurriedly scramble through the cavernous tunnels.

Gully darts around a corner. Has she escaped the creature?

She keeps running but then, right there in her path, is another similar, but stockier, glowing creature!

She spins around in her panic, hoping to make an escape but, WHAM! She hits her head on a low beam and blacks out.

24

EXT. ILLUMIPUT, TUNNELS - DAY

24

Gully wakes with fuzzy vision. It takes a moment for her to realise where she is and what has just happened. She discovers that she has woken up in true 'Gulliver's Travels' style.

Lying down in a large chamber, she is tied down - wrapped in rope-like glowing 'snares'. Gully attempts to look around. In a larger and much more luminous chamber, she spots small, glowing pods littering the cavernous ceiling like starlight. Taking it all in, she spots the now familiar green glow.

Standing on a small rock, and clutching a glowing lantern, the oddly endearingly barrel-shaped glow-worm, SNAGGLE, turns to face Gully. Gully takes a moment to look at the surreal creature, with it's cute but almost slug-like appearance. Standing up-right, with a podgy belly and dimly glowing behind, Gully has never seen anything this odd. As unnerved as she is, its giant, friendly eyes do put her at ease.

The introduction is somewhat undercut when Snaggle slips and tumbles, falling feet over head, right off the back of the rock.

Gully watches as the creature struggles to climb back onto the rock. Any fear she may have had has now truly dissipated.

SNAGGLE

Hang on a second.

Snaggle eventually makes it up again. Even though Gully is twice the creature's size, it doesn't stop him from taking a proud and confident stance. He looks to Gully who quickly snaps her eyes shut and holds deadly still.

SNAGGLE

What are you doing?

Gully peeks open with one eye, then shuts tightly again.

GULLY

I'm playing dead.

SNAGGLE

You're playing dead? How does that work?

GULLY

You'll think I'm dead, so you'll leave me alone. I learnt about it from my uncle.

SNAGGLE

But I already know you to be very much alive. We've been having a conversation and everything.

Gully begrudgingly opens her eyes to see the weird creature peering over, with its lantern glowing much brighter than his own glowing behind.

SNAGGLE

And is that stinky smell another one of your survival tactics?

Snaggle makes the internationally recognised 'pee-ew' gesture.

GULLY

Smell? I don't smell!

SNAGGLE

Well, it certainly isn't me.

Gully looks sheepish.

SNAGGLE

So, by what name do they refer to you, other than stinky?

Gully is unimpressed.

GULLY

I'm Gully.

SNAGGLE

Welcome, Gully. I go by the name of Wild-Heart.

Uncontrollable laughter echoes from deep in the chamber. Snaggle turns with a huff.

TOOTH

Wild-Heart? Who calls you Wild-Heart?

TOOTH, a similar, but ganglier glow-worm, clambers from the darkness. The wiry worm leaps onto the rock with Snaggle. Gully gets a clear look at the two mis-matched glow-worms with their glowing behinds for the first time.

SNAGGLE

Why do you have to ruin everything?

TOOTH

Wild-heart, indeed. Who are you trying to impress?

Tooth slaps Snaggle on the back in a playful manner. Snaggle wobbles, as if he is about to fall again, but just regains his balance.

SNAGGLE

I'm not trying to impress anyone. I'm attempting to spook this one here.

Snaggle gestures towards Gully. Tooth leaps off the rock. As he does, the rock wobbles that bit too much. Snaggle scrambles to stay upright and just about manages to keep balance.

TOOTH

Spook? Is that why you let one rip?

Holding his nose, Tooth approaches Gully. Snaggle's feet slip out from beneath him and he falls face first, tumbling off the rock and crashing directly onto Tooth.

Snaggle leaps up and dusts himself off.

Embarrassed, Tooth quickly clambers up in an attempt to regain his composure and turns back to Snaggle.

TOOTH

We're going to get into so much trouble.

SNAGGLE

Ha! Trouble is my middle name.

TOOTH

No, it's not. It's Percy.

SNAGGLE

So, what do we do with the
gigantic beast?

Gully heaves herself up to a sitting position, snapping the
snares holding her down. Snaggle immediately hides behind
Tooth.

GULLY

I'm not gigantic. I'm at best...

Gully takes a good look at the the perplexing pair.

GULLY

...twice your size.

SNAGGLE

Please don't hurt us.

Tooth looks over his shoulder to the cowering Snaggle.

TOOTH

You're certainly living up to the
name Wild-Heart.

Tooth does his best to stand his ground. Snaggle's
cowardliness undercuts his sense of heroics.

TOOTH

So, you're not going to eat us?

GULLY

No. I'm not going to eat you.

Snaggle and Tooth recompose themselves. Gully, feeling more
at ease, climbs to her feet, but misjudges the low ceilings
and bumps her head. A number of the twinkling pods and rubble
falls to the ground.

Snaggle seizes the opportunity to pickup one of the pods and
take a chomp, much like he was taking a bite out of an apple.
Tooth looks at the falling debris before turning to Gully who
towers over them.

TOOTH

We best get moving.

Snaggle and Tooth take off through the tunnels. Confused,
Gully takes haste after them.

GULLY

Get moving? Where are you going?

Gully carefully avoids the low ceilings as Snaggle and Tooth
march on ahead.

Their path takes them through intricately carved tunnels. The small pods littering the ceiling provide delicate lighting.

TOOTH

So, I'm Tooth, and this wild-hearted individual is Snaggle.

Snaggle turns around and waves.

GULLY

Nice to meet you. I'm Gully.

SNAGGLE

Are you hungry?

Snaggle whips out a small sack of camu camu fruit, and waggles it around like a prize.

GULLY

Well, it wasn't my first thought after falling for what seemed like a thousand feet into the undergrowth to discover an underground glow-worm civilisation who initially assumed I was going to eat them, but sure - yeah, I could eat.

Snaggle pops open the sack like a bag of crisps and picks out a purple, cherry-like fruit.

SNAGGLE

I don't want you to ruin your dinner so I'll only give you one for now.

Gully careful reaches out to take the fruit, her hand being at least twice the size of Snaggle's.

GULLY

Thanks.

Gully swallows the fruit whole. Pulling a face of utter disgust. Snaggle shovels the remaining fruit into his gob. Tooth raises an eyebrow.

TOOTH

Yeah, don't worry about me.

SNAGGLE

Oh good. I was worried for a second you might have wanted one, but I guess that's my problem. I worry too much. That's why they call me the worry warrior.

TOOTH

No one calls you that, and I would worry for anyone who did.

As they venture through the tunnels, the space becomes more open and comfortable for Gully. The trio turn a corner to discover a small rickety bridge. Gully takes in her surroundings, looking down to find a stream of golden-red lava. Tiny little bugs cling onto debris and carefully ride the stream like they're vacationing in Venice. Occasionally, a bubble bursts and the bugs use the energy created to propel themselves along. Gully would love nothing more than to be able to tell Sonny about this.

She looks up to find that Snaggle and Tooth have marched on ahead, without a care in the world. Gully quickly catches up to them.

GULLY

Look, I know we've just met, and you both seem really nice, but I shouldn't be here. I need to get home.

SNAGGLE

We couldn't take you home. People would go crazy!

Snaggle playful throws his arms in the air and acts out his interpretation of someone going crazy.

GULLY

I mean my home.

They turn another corner to enter a cavernous chamber containing sights, the likes of nothing Gully has ever seen before.

Pink candy floss like fog fills the cavern. It feels beautiful, until Gully notices the eel-like creatures that swim within.

GULLY

What is this place?

SNAGGLE

I know. Boring, right?

TOOTH

These are the general outlying tunnels. Sure, they look dull, but you wouldn't believe just how dangerous they really are. Not to mention all the kind of weird creatures that live out here.

GULLY

Dangerous?

As they make their way through the fog, the eel creatures take a liking to Gully's presence and begin to nibble at her, much in the way a pedicure fish might.

SNAGGLE

Oh yeah. There's the ribbits.
Oily creatures with tongues as
long as trees. They'll eat you as
soon as they look at you.

TOOTH

Let's not forget the gooey-goos.
Gorgeous glass-like colours belie
the fact that they are actually
quite gooey.

Gully attempts to bat the eels away but they keep coming back for more. Snuggle and Tooth are oblivious.

SNAGGLE

There's the Lantern Fly.

TOOTH

The Arachnidnagns!

SNAGGLE

Oh the Arachnidnagns...

TOOTH

Don't let them fool you, or bite
you. Once bitten, the only way to
get cured you have to dip your...

The eels suddenly dart off. It is a brief moment of relief for Gully before realising why they left.

The pink fog quickly evaporates around them to reveal a small, wide-eyed and adorable termite like creature. Gully, Snuggle and Tooth stare at the creature in their path.

GULLY

Erm, hello. I'm...

Tooth stops the greeting.

TOOTH

I wouldn't.

Gully is taken aback so offers a gentle smile to the innocent looking creature. The creature responds by opening its eyes as wide as they can possibly get. What starts as adorable quickly becomes terrifying when its face goes from that of anime-like curiosity to a ghost faced banshee.

Both Snaggle and Tooth, who have some idea what is happening, step back behind Gully. Gully is mesmerised and watches through gritted teeth as the creature begins expanding like a balloon.

Gully realises that this isn't quite right so cautiously backs away. The creature continues to expand to an unnerving scale, ready to burst at any second. As Gully steps back, she's oblivious of the cowering pair behind her and trips right over them.

As they fall, the creature explodes in a haze of blue goo. The trio hurtle backwards, falling down a slippery slope. We just get a glimpse of the cute terminate creature scurrying away back at its normal size. Gully, Snaggle, and Tooth tumble down the tunnel.

26

EXT. ILLUMIPUT, OUTLYING CHAMBER - DAY

26

The tunnel spits them out into a chamber as they all crash into a heap. Snaggle and Tooth climb to their feet, dusting themselves off as if nothing has happened.

TOOTH

Well, that was closer than my calm demeanour suggests.

GULLY

Was that one of the Arch-na...na...ding...?

Gully is hyperventilating and struggles to pronounce the name.

TOOTH

Oh no. Not at all. The Arachnidnagns are much worse.

Gully begins to get her breath back.

SNAGGLE

Thanks for saving us Gully. I sure am glad to have a friend like you.

GULLY

Friend?

Without a care in the world, Snaggle and Tooth march on ahead. Gully allows a small smile to slip through and then rushes to catchup.

The trio head deeper into the huge chamber. Gully takes in the bizarre, colourful surroundings. Tiny orange huts are dotted around the edges of the chamber which almost give the appearance of melting as they surround an orange, wax like, lake.

The residents of these huts, curious glow-worms, poke their heads out to marvel at Gully, who even to them, is a bizarre creature to have in their homestead.

GULLY

Are we safe here?

Snaggle and Tooth chuckle.

SNAGGLE

Of course we are.

TOOTH

These are just curious outlying folk.

SNAGGLE

They're probably just wondering what all the commotion is about and who the big ugly creature is.

Snaggle turns to the pair.

SNAGGLE

I'll just tell them that his name is Tooth.

Snaggle bursts into hysterics and whacks Tooth on the back.

Tooth sighs before marching up to one of the residents. Snaggle turns to Gully.

SNAGGLE

Maybe try and keep the stinky smell to yourself.

Snaggle chases up to Tooth as they approach one of the locals. With all good intentions, Tooth ends up channeling an 'English bloke asking for directions in France' kind of vibe.

TOOTH

Do you know how to find her...

He points to Gully.

TOOTH

...home?

SNAGGLE

We need to get our big stinky friend here, home. Home?!

A number of curious glow worms surround Gully who towers over them.

GULLY

Erm. Hi? I'm Gully. Who are you?

Snaggle and Tooth are distracted. Gully awkwardly tries to navigate her situation when a military horn echoes through the chamber.

OLIVIA (O/S)

Halt!

The trio turn to see a small squadron of 'Scutter-Bugs' the official rag-tag infantry of the glow-worms, with a look of a medieval 'dad's army' home guard about them. They are fronted by the seemingly too-young-to-be-leader glow-worm, OLIVIA. Wearing a sharply pressed general's style uniform, she stands in firm contrast to the mis-match squadron around her.

Olivia steps forward as the Scutter-Bugs surround the trio.

OLIVIA

Oh, of course it'd be you two.

TOOTH

Hi, Olivia.

SNAGGLE

Lovely to see you. How's your dad?

Olivia ignores their question and stares dumbfounded at Gully.

OLIVIA

What's going on? Who is this giant beast?

Gully offers a warm smile but is met by Olivia's dumfounded stare. Attempting to offer reassurance, Gully turns and accidentally knocks a Scutter-Bug over, who in turn, knocks another over, starting a domino effect as all of the Scutter-Bugs tumble.

Their makeshift armour clangs together in much the way a full kitchen set would if it was falling down the stairs. Gully, Snaggle, and Tooth watch as the squadron fall around them. The only one left standing is Olivia, who is not impressed.

SNAGGLE

Don't worry, Gully is nice, and I should know. They do call me the Perceptive Ponderer after all.

TOOTH

Who calls you that?

Gully attempts to chip in but is interrupted.

OLIVIA

Silence, all of you!

Olivia notices something pungent in the air.

OLIVIA
Eugh. Now what is that smell?

SNAGGLE
Oh, that's Gully. She does that
when she's scared.

Gully sheepishly responds.

GULLY
I didn't mean to.

OLIVIA
Silence, large and stinky beast!

GULLY
I wish everyone would stop saying
that.

Snaggle and Tooth snicker. Olivia throws them a stern glance. As the Scutter-Bugs clamber back to their feet, Olivia turns to Gully.

OLIVIA
The Illumiput council will decide
whether you are a threat.

SNAGGLE
So you mean that your dad will
decide?

OLIVIA
Silence!

GULLY
What's the Illumiput council?

The Scutter-Bugs point their weapons towards Gully.

TOOTH
I think you're about to find out.

27 EXT. ILLUMIPUT TUNNELS - DAY

27

Gully is tied down again but this time, on a large cart. Snaggle and Tooth hitch a ride next to her. Olivia leads up in front, riding a slug like a horse. Scutter-Bugs ride alongside on their own tired looking slugs as the cart is pulled through further weird underground worlds.

The cart is lead into a larger cavern, and we get our first sight of Illumiput - the beautiful yet somewhat medieval looking city of glow-worms.

28 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY - DAY

28

Enclosed by a great protective wall, Illumiput is a vibrant hub of activity, housing an array of people from traders, craftsmen, dancers and jugglers.

The town is crowded with little pod-like buildings and a market square sprawling out from the heart of the city.

They make their way through the winding streets towards a tall mud-built spired castle. Merchants and citizens stare in disbelief at the giant creature. Gully returns a nervous smile as some citizens can't help but notice a stinky smell.

They pull up at a gate. Olivia turns to Snaggle and Tooth.

OLIVIA

The council will deal with you
two later. For now, 'op it!

SNAGGLE

You're very welcome.

Olivia stares at the pair.

TOOTH

That means we need to leave.

SNAGGLE

Oh, right you are.

GULLY

What?

The heavy gate begins a slow laborious opening.

TOOTH

You'll be fine.

Olivia calls to the guards.

OLIVIA

Prepare the chamber for council
and ensure the harrowing chains
of pain are fully operational.

Heavily armed, scary-looking guards emerge through the gates.

TOOTH

Absolutely nothing to worry
about.

Snaggle and Tooth hop off the cart as Gully is led through.

Gully finds herself tied up in the centre of a large high-vaulted gothic chamber. Raised seating, with exceptionally high-backed chairs, are filled with old and stiff bureaucratic glowworms - the council of Illumiput.

GULLY

Erm. Hello everyone.

OLIVIA

Silence large beast.

Olivia marches proudly as she heads the council.

OLIVIA

Esteemed Council of Illumiput. Please don't be alarmed, but in front of you is yet another act of aggression from our vile and nasty neighbours, the aggressive citizens of Arachnidnag.

GULLY

Bless you.

OLIVIA

No, that's the name of the distant and terrifying place.

GULLY

What is?

OLIVIA

Arachnidnag.

GULLY

Oh yeah. Sorry.

Olivia raises an eyebrow, before getting herself back on track.

OLIVIA

This clearly demonstrates how the evil townsfolk of Arachnidnag are up to their nasty old tricks. By sending this breed of threatening creature to our peaceful nation, they once again provoke us to war.

The chamber reacts in jeers towards Gully.

GULLY

I'm no threatening creature.

The jeers continue. Gully attempting to reason, breaks free from her shackles and rises to her feet.

GULLY

I'm Gully from Bugingdon. I have no idea where I am, or who you all are. I just want to get home to my family.

On climbing to her feet Gully accidentally steps backwards into a ceremonial alter - smashing it into pieces.

GULLY

Oops, sorry.

She attempts to tidy but crashes her arm into a noble-looking statue, which tumbles and commences a domino effect of destruction, knocking over several plinths and important-looking artefacts.

Gully trips and tears a large tapestry which tangles itself around her.

OLIVIA

Please, stop your assault.

GULLY

I really didn't mean...

Gully stands still, desperately attempting not to break anything else. A chandelier crashes down somewhere in the background.

GULLY

That one wasn't even me.

OLIVIA

Just tell us your demands.

GULLY

Demands? I don't have any demands. I just want to get home!

Olivia looks to the giant ladybug who's innocent expression suggests the truth.

Before Olivia can respond, a tall wiry character emerges from the crowd. With glasses firmly on the end of his nose, and more grey than green, MURTLE, stares down at Gully from the rafters, wearing an embroidered yellow gown.

MURTLE

Thank you, dear daughter. Allow me to take it from here.

Murtle sniggers, rubbing his hands together, almost forgetting where he is as a pantomime booing/hissing can be heard. Murtle turns to find an old, bearded bug, snoring loudly. Murtle gives a sinister nod to a guard who grabs the old creature, waking him with a fright.

SNORING WORM

I was only resting me eyes!

The old bug is dragged away by the guard. Murtle turns back to Gully with a sharkish grin.

MURTLE

I am the chief of this wonderful glow-tribe. You, my giant-but-simple creature are in the beautifully peaceful city of Illumiput: a haven for all glow-worm types.

Gully looks to Murtle with a simple expression of hope.

MURTLE

As the chief of Illumiput, let me apologise for any hostility shown towards you. We have had trouble with neighbours and invaders you see.

Murtle turns to Olivia.

MURTLE

Olivia. Fetch our guest some tea.

Olivia sneers before hurrying off. Murtle steps towards Gully.

MURTLE

These are trying times.

Olivia returns and carefully places a teacup on a small table.

Gully reaches down, delicately picking up the tiny teacup. She looks to Murtle, who nods. In one gulp, the tea is gone.

MURTLE

More tea?

GULLY

Sure.

Olivia hurries off as Murtle turns to address the council.

MURTLE

If you allow me to be so bold.

A council member pipes up.

COUNCIL MEMBER #1

It's not like we have any choice.

Murtle gives the nod to a guard who drags away the insubordinate council member.

Shouting and comically loud destruction can be heard off-screen as the insubordinate council member is dealt with. Murtle and the entire chamber wait patiently. As silence returns, Murtle turns back to the council.

MURTLE

I believe that I may have an arrangement to discuss with our visitor that could benefit both Gully and Illumiput.

Olivia returns, this time with a watering can full of tea which Gully carefully raises. Murtle picks up a small tumbler containing a stronger drink and turns to Gully.

MURTLE

May I be so bold?

As Murtle looks to the captive audience, one council member desperately attempts to stifle a sneeze. This doesn't go down well. Murtle gives the nod and three burley guards dive on top of the council member before dragging him away.

Murtle turns back to Gully.

MURTLE

Shall we?

Gully takes a swig from the watering can.

30

INT. ILLUMIPUT MURAL TUNNEL - DAY

30

A tall-ceilinged tunnel with beautiful and vibrantly coloured murals and artworks adorning the walls. Murtle and Gully casually stroll the halls as Olivia follows, keeping a careful eye on Gully. Glow-worm citizens are shocked to see the giant ladybug strolling through their city.

MURTLE

It's a good job we built this tunnel so high. Am I right?

Murtle chuckles. Gully does her best to join in, but can't ignore all of the eyes watching her.

GULLY

What is this place?

MURTLE

Oh, this? This is the Illumiput mural chamber. It tells the stories, young and old, of our fair nation.

We move into the images on the wall that begin to animate in a cute cartoon fashion, representing the stories Murtle shares.

31 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - CARTOON SEQUENCE 31

Glow-worms dance happily around a maypole. Scutter-Bugs wave to adorning townsfolk as they carry their foraging baskets towards the tunnels.

MURTLE (V.O.)
Illumiput had once been a hugely prosperous nation with plentiful resources.

Scutter-Bugs hack away mulch in tunnels which are lit and well maintained.

MURTLE (V.O.)
The proud people of our city rejoiced as their favourite foraging season returned. As the top layer of mulch from the forest floor oozed into our tunnels, it would be time to dig for treasure.

GULLY (V.O.)
Mulch doesn't sound like somewhere you'd find treasure...

MURTLE (V.O.)
Maybe not to you, but to us glow-worms mulch is our compost of life.

GULLY (V.O.)
Still sounds icky.

We see the glow-worms collecting small glowing pods in a dark tunnel. One glow-worm pops one into her gob and chows down so that we know it's food. They are happily collecting these pods and popping them into baskets.

MURTLE (V.O.)
The mulch brings us the famed 'tangy-tang-toe'. Not only a delicious treat, but also a resource that enabled our society to grow, building roads and hospitals. Castles and libraries.

We see a cartoon time-lapse of Illumiput growing from a few huts into a beautifully illuminated city.

32 INT. ILLUMIPUT MURIAL TUNNEL - DAY

32

Gully turns to address Murtle on this point.

GULLY

So this 'tangy-tang-toe' is not only food, but a valuable building resource?

MURTLE

It is rather complicated. We don't have time for that detail right now.

33 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - CARTOON SEQUENCE

33

We're back in the tunnels with the merry glow-worms working away, digging through the mulch. This time the animation has a slightly darker aesthetic.

MURTLE (V.O.)

We were truly in the golden age, happily going about our business, entirely unaware of how our world was going to change.

As one glow-worm rummages through the mulch, she pulls out a handful of tangy-tang-toe, dropping most into her basket and sneaking one into her mouth. As she happily chews away, the lamps in tunnels flicker and go out.

The glow-worm lights her glow, illuminating the small area around her. She investigates, moving further into the dark tunnel. There is a hint of a shadow, but this is not her shadow.

Apprehensively, she approaches until...

A screech!

The glow-worm turns and runs for her life. The others follow suit, fearing for their lives. We get glimpses of the shadows, horrid, monstrous, spider-esque silhouettes.

MURTLE (V.O.)

That was when we realised the nasty folk of Arachnidgnag were invading our tunnels and stealing our supplies.

We see the city beginning to stagnate. The maypole is empty. Scutter-Bugs nervously clutch their baskets and head into the tunnels.

MURTLE (V.O.)

With the delicious 'tangy-tang-toe' being stolen from right under our noses, our resources are running scarce and the good people of Illumiput are becoming restless and scared.

The animation style now looks somewhat scrappy. Terrified workers hurriedly scramble to collect the pods and shove them into baskets. No time to sneak a quick treat.

MURTLE (V.O.)

The Arachnidnagns continued lurking in the shadows, their faces so darn repulsive that if you were to lay your eyes upon them, you would be certain to lose your mind.

A number of Scutter-Bugs desperately hammer away as they attempt to put up fencing.

MURTLE (V.O.)

Our bravest bugs built fences in the hope it would keep these monsters out, which for some time allowed us to build up reserves.

Scutter-Bugs scramble to collect as much tangy-tang-toe as they can. One bug paints "Danger Lurks in the Dark" on the fencing.

MURTLE (V.O.)

But this was short lived.

As workers scramble in the dark, there is a larger, deeper screech than ever heard before. The bugs turn to see a larger, heavier shadow, surrounded by the familiar spider shadows.

There's no time. They grab everything they can and run.

In the dark we get a glimpse of the fencing being torn down.

34 INT. ILLUMIPUT MURIAL TUNNEL - DAY

34

Gully is still looking at the murals. Murtle approaches and plants his finger on an image that almost looks like a giant demon.

MURTLE

Our fences were torn down by a much larger beast that helped these repulsive creatures storm our tunnels.

Gully is mesmerised by the pictures.

GULLY

It's mad. I mean, these are just pictures, yet I really felt like that whole story came to life. And is this you?

Gully points to an image of a particularly evil looking glow-worm wearing spectacles.

MURTLE

That's not important right now.

Gully explores the mural as Murtle continues his spiel.

MURTLE (V.O.)

Our once prosperous city is now on the brink of collapse. These putrid creatures lowered us to searching for scraps. Nowadays, we live through rations and everyone is fearful of the shadows, especially fearful that the giant Arachnidnag might return.

GULLY

I'm sorry, but what would you like me to do about it? I'm just a simple ladybug.

MURTLE

A simple but giant ladybug. How would you feel about joining our Scutter-Bug Squadron? Joining the team who travel into the tunnels. Your sheer presence would surely scare off those nasty folk of Arachnidnag.

GULLY

Arachnid-ni?

MURTLE

Arachnidni-gn-ag.

GULLY

Arachnid-ni-gn

MURTLE

Yes. Arachnidnag! So, what do you say?

Gully can sense the glow-worm citizens looking down on her.

GULLY

I wish I could help, but I shouldn't be here. I need to get back to my family. Back to my home.

MURTLE

What if I was to tell you that we could help you get home?

GULLY

I would say thank you and yes please.

Murtle calls out to his daughter.

MURTLE

Olivia. Please join us.

Olivia shrugs.

OLIVIA

You know that I've been here this whole time, right?

Murtle raises an eyebrow as Olivia approaches a very specific and much brighter part of the mural.

OLIVIA

Deep into the tunnels lies an area known as The Great Clearing. This area marks a dangerous bridge between glow-worm and spider territory.

Gully listens with hopeful intent. She stares at the beautiful image of the clearing, but doesn't quite get it.

OLIVIA

With clear open skies, it is dangerous, but a great spot for resources, as the open nature of the place means that more valuable mulch can get in and maybe, I guess...

Gully jumps in!

GULLY

It could be the way back home?!

A grin spreads across Murtle's withered face.

MURTLE

You help us in the tunnels, collect supplies, scare off the horrific monsters of Arachnidnag, and in exchange...

Olivia looks Gully up and down before begrudgingly answering.

OLIVIA

...we'll lead you to the clearing.

MURTLE

What do you say?

Gully looks to the murals on the walls. Looking past the monsters depicted in the pictures, she sees a small image illustrating a loving family.

A bitter-sweet smile crosses her weary face when we...

CUT TO:

35 EXT. ILLUMIPUT CITY - DAY

35

Gully apprehensively marches alongside a small collection of Scutter-Bugs, all dressed in mis-matched and worn-out makeshift armour that has clearly been patched together from other pieces of armour. We hear a familiar voice.

SNAGGLE

Well, this sure is exciting. Our first real Scutter-Bug adventure. Who knows what kind of hi-jinx we're about to get into.

36 EXT. ILLUMIPUT, TUNNELS - DAY

36

The troops march through the tunnels. Snaggle leaps to the front and begins a patriotic speech.

SNAGGLE

Today there is not a worm nor bug in here that shall stand alone. Today we face the monsters that are at our door and bring the fight to them! Today, we cancel Illumiput's decimation!

Snaggle leaps onto a slug and turns to give Tooth a nod. Tooth, who is also riding a horse-like slug gives Gully a nod. A bugle horn echoes through the cavern and the troops ride into battle.

Bursting through a wall, Snaggle and Tooth lead the charge, their slugs galloping through beautifully vibrant landscapes. Gully chases behind, a huge smile across her face. Gully also feels larger than she ever has before, a real giant in a tiny yet mysterious world.

Echoing the Flutter-By video, ghastly monsters run in fear from our heroes into a dilapidated tower. Snaggle and Tooth, now wearing flamboyant general uniforms, turn to Gully.

TOOTH

Gully! Let's end this!

Gully is now enormous and easily smashes through the tower. Snaggle and Tooth watch as rubble crashes everywhere, that is until Olivia appears out of nowhere.

OLIVIA
 What do you two think you're
 doing?

37 EXT. ILLUMIPUT CITY - DAY

37

Olivia is stood in front of the two glow-worms. Everyone is back to their drab selves with Gully nervously trailing behind.

SNAGGLE
 We were about to head off on our
 first big adventure.

OLIVIA
 Under whose authority?

Olivia gives the pair a look that could freeze vegetables before turning back to her troops.

OLIVIA
 March on.

Gully looks to her friends who return an empathetic smile.

TOOTH
 Good luck!

SNAGGLE
 We believe in you! Do everything
 we would do.

Gully heads on with the troops. After ensuring that Snaggle and Tooth are staying put, Olivia turns and leaps onto her slug, which trudges along after the troops and into the caverns.

38 EXT. ILLUMIPUT, TUNNELS - DAY

38

Gully awkwardly attempts to join in with the troops as they scurry about the tunnels. Wooden beams hold up the tunnel made of soft and sticky mulch. The tunnel is just large enough to comfortably host Gully.

GULLY
 So this is safe right?

A Scutter-Bug turns and nods before getting back to work. Patrolling the tunnels, they hack away at the mulch, collecting the small glowing pods littering the tunnel and popping them into baskets. Gully helps out, but there's really not that much left in this tunnel.

Gully reaches to the top of the tunnel. Out of reach of the glow-worms, this area is not illuminated. She is able to pull a handful of pods from the darkness, and is quite clearly pleased with herself. Gully presents them to the group.

Olivia marches forward.

OLIVIA
What're you doing?

GULLY
I'm helping. Look how many I've got.

OLIVIA
You can't just reach into the darkness. Where do you think the Arachnidnagns lurk?

GULLY
I figured this area was safe because it's your tunnel.

OLIVIA
None of these are *our* tunnels. We may look like a collection of poets, dancers and good-time-loving folk, but Illumiput is in real danger. I mean real butt-clenchingly savage danger. You get me?

GULLY
I was just trying to help.

Olivia glares at Gully before turning to a number of her troops.

OLIVIA
You three, with me.

Gully watches as Olivia and the chosen troops move further into darker and smaller tunnels. A nearby Scutter-Bug leans over.

SCUTTER BUG #1
Don't worry about her. She's just stressed about the existential crisis facing Illumiput and all of our civilisation.

Gully returns an unsure look. The Scutter-Bug looks down to Gully's hoard.

SCUTTER BUG #1
Pop 'em in here if you like.

Gully nods and smiles, being welcomed to join a small squadron of Scutter-Bugs. Scurrying around in the dark they point to the hard to reach places which Gully reaches with ease. It's not much, but it feels good to be accepted.

They move into a particularly shadowy area.

Unsure, Gully looks back to the team who nod supportively. She reaches in before before she can find any pods, mud and mulch begin to fall. Olivia emerges from the darkness.

OLIVIA
Everybody out! Now!

The squadron scatter. Gully and Olivia run as the tunnel caves in behind them. They leap into a side tunnel, narrowly avoiding the cave-in.

Olivia clambers to her feet, letting out a deep, frustrated sigh. She looks at the ladybug.

OLIVIA
Sit still. Don't touch anything.

Gully does as she is told, taking a seat in the dark tunnel. Olivia begins to dig at the blocked tunnel.

Gully peers into their dark tunnel. A chain-link fence with a large sign reading "Danger Lurks in the Dark" is just about visible. The fence has clearly seem some damage. Makeshift repair just about holds it together.

GULLY
What's that?

OLIVIA
It's the reason I don't want to be trapped here a minute longer than we have to be. Now be quiet.

Gully is worried but does as she's told.

39 INT. ILLUMIPUT CHAMBER - NIGHT

39

Gully and Olivia place the supplies in front of Murtle. Although not a huge stash, it is clearly more than the Scutter-Bugs have collected in some time, and Murtle is delighted.

MURTLE
Absolutely exquisite. We will eat well tonight.

A series of butlers scurry about the room, prepping a large banquet table in the background.

OLIVIA
Wouldn't it make more sense to keep the city rations stocked?

Murtle chuckles, clearly ignoring Olivia's plea. One butler eagerly snaps up the supplies and hurries away with them.

MURTLE

Not only will we have a great feast, but the city will come together to celebrate Gully as a symbol of hope and prosperity.

OLIVIA

So we're going to invite all of Illumiput?

MURTLE

It's getting late. We'll just have me and a few dignitaries. Now then...

Murtle rings a bell and armoured guards surround Gully.

MURTLE

Let's get Gully some rest so we can keep up the hard work in the morning.

In the background, a butler drops a plate with a smash and immediately turns to Murtle with a desperate expression of apology. Murtle doesn't even flinch and a burley guard heaves the culprit away. Murtle turns back to Gully.

MURTLE

You are free to go for the night.

GULLY

Go? Go where?

MURTLE

Oh, of course. As our guest we'll make sure you're kept in the upmost luxury.

Murtle gives Olivia a nod. Gully naively smiles back.

40

INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S BARN - NIGHT

40

A dilapidated cottage, with a run-down barn. Gully shelters in the barn with her new friends, Snaggle and Tooth. Bulbous 'cattle' slugs meander about, regularly 'mooing'.

GULLY

Thanks for having me at your home.

She looks around.

GULLY

Well, barn...

TOOTH

Glad we could help.

SNAGGLE

It was more of an order to our parents from the 'high council' truth be known. A punishment for strolling about in the outer tunnels and harbouring a potential criminal. Dad's really worried about what the neighbours will think.

TOOTH

Let us not worry about that now. Our home is your home. Well, barn.

GULLY

Thank you.

Gully looks around the baron barn.

GULLY

I really won't be here long. The Scutter-Bugs have promised they'll help me find the great clearing. I just want to get home. I miss my family.

Seeing that Gully is getting a little upset, Tooth nudges Snaggle who steps forward with a smile.

SNAGGLE

Well, we figured you might be a little homesick.

Snaggle and Tooth excitedly scramble through a cattle pen and up a make-shift ladder. Confused, Gully follows them up the ladder and into a crude tree-house-like shack. Although no trees exist underground, the glow-worm pair have done their best with all kinds of knick-knacks to give it as much of a homely feel as possible.

Gully is overwhelmed, taking in the space and kind gesture. A small balcony area looks out onto the glowing city of Illumiput in the distance.

GULLY

This is incredible!

TOOTH

We wanted to do our best to make you feel at home.

SNAGGLE

This must be something like your home in the trees right?

Gully steps forward & the whole structure wobbles. Before they can be too taken aback, Tooth hands Gully something she'd been missing.

GULLY

My phone!

TOOTH

Snaggle thought it was a glass bar of soap.

Slightly embarrassed, Snaggle interjects.

SNAGGLE

You might want to give it a little scrub.

Tooth hands the phone back to Gully.

TOOTH

What does 'phone' do?

Gully scrolls through her phone but is left disappointed.

GULLY

It doesn't do much. It has no signal.

SNAGGLE

Signal? How does it signal?

GULLY

It doesn't. It has no bars.

Snaggle looks closely at the phone.

SNAGGLE

It doesn't have any restaurants either.

Snaggle nudges Tooth for a reaction. Tooth rolls his eyes.

SNAGGLE

If you think that's peculiar, check this out.

Snaggle pulls out an inhaler from his pocket.

GULLY

My inhaler?! How did you get all this stuff back?

TOOTH

We nabbed it back from Olivia.

SNAGGLE

That's why they call me the ghostly white slippery shadow.

TOOTH

Who calls you that?

Snaggle attempts to pass the inhaler but it pumps out a soft mist. Terrified, Snaggle throws it on the floor and smashes it with his staff. Tooth sighs before turning back to Gully.

TOOTH

Keep things up with the Scutter-Bugs and I'm sure you'll be home in no time.

41 EXT. HARVEST TUNNELS - MONTAGE 41

Gully is back in the tunnels, awkwardly working away. Olivia passes and glares before carrying on with her own work.

A friendly Scutter-Bug gestures for Gully to join their team, which she does with a smile. Gully is close to knocking a beam with her head again but just manages to prevent herself in the nick of time. A Scutter-Bug throws Gully a thumbs up and the group begin a classic morale boosting sing-song.

SCUTTER BUGS (SINGING)

We Dig in the morning and we dig all night. Digging in the evening, makes us feel all right. We dig and we dig and we, dig, dig, dig...

42 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S BARN - MONTAGE 42

The tune continues as Gully returns home, exhausted after her hard days work. She plonks herself down next to Snaggle and Tooth. Snaggle is chomping away at a bag of figs and offers Gully one.

SNAGGLE (SINGING)

Hey there, Gully, would you like a fig?

Gully takes one and eats it out of politeness, but her face says nothing but repulsion.

43 EXT. HARVEST TUNNELS - MONTAGE 43

Gully is getting on great with the Scutter-Bugs as they delve deeper into the tunnels revealing more weird worlds. Olivia is clearly still being difficult with Gully, but it doesn't matter as Gully is getting on great with the other Scutter-Bugs. They point out other pods that are in easy reach for Gully.

SCUTTER BUGS (SINGING)

Digging for our city that we made in the dark. We dig quietly because Arachnidnags lurk...

44 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S BARN - MONTAGE 44

Snaggle, Tooth and Gully are washing the cattle slugs. With soapy bubbles everywhere, it quickly devolves into a water fight.

SCUTTER BUGS (O.S. SINGING)
 ...in the shadows and the mulch
 and the filth and the grime...

Snaggle is about to throw a bucket of water when Tooth leaps up in protest.

TOOTH (SINGING)
 Whoa whoa whoa.... have you seen
 the time?!

Snaggle sadly lowers the bucket. He thinks for a moment before still throwing it in excitement.

SNAGGLE
 Sleep over!

45 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S TREEHOUSE - 45
 MONTAGE

Both Snaggle and Tooth happily snuggle up to Gully in a makeshift campout in the treehouse. The trio gasp as the treehouse creaks loudly. A beat, and they all let out a big sigh and settle back in.

SCUTTER BUGS (O.S. SINGING)
 Dig, dig, digging is our main
 task...

46 EXT. HARVEST TUNNELS - MONTAGE 46

Gully continues to join in with the Scutter-Bugs, but it's clear that something is troubling her.

SCUTTER BUGS (SINGING)
 Where, and why, (and how and for
 who) we never do ask.

As the sing-along continues, Gully does her best to sing along whilst asking a question.

GULLY (SINGING)
 I'm sorry to pry but I really
 must know. How long to the Great
 Clearing will it take to go?

The Scutter-Bugs and the music suddenly stops. Olivia, having overheard the question marches over as everyone else gets back to work. Gully obliviously continues trying to sing, with no backing track.

GULLY (SINGING)

You see, I'm happy to work, you
can rely on me. I just want to
make it back safely with my
family.

Gully only realises that everyone has returned to work when she turns to find Olivia glaring up at her.

OLIVIA

Do you have a problem with our
work?

Gully takes a deep gulp.

GULLY

No, not at all. I just wondered
when we might get to the clearing
is all.

Olivia stares at the giant ladybug. Even though she is half Gully's size, she still commands the authority.

OLIVIA

We get there when we get there.

Olivia gives Gully no more time and marches deeper into the tunnels. Once she is out of sight, one of the larger bugs leans over to Gully.

SCUTTER BUG #2

Let's just keep working ey Gully?

Gully smiles a hopeful smile back.

GULLY

And we'll get to the clearing
soon?

The Scutter-Bug doesn't respond and instead points to a collection of pods.

SCUTTER BUG #2

Look. There's loads up there.

They get back to work as a bug kicks back into the song.

SCUTTER BUG BARITONE (SINGING)

What do we actually dig for?

47 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S BARN - MONTAGE 47

In the barn, Gully is showing Snaggle and Tooth photos of her family on her phone. She flicks through a series of loving family photos, with Sonny falling over in almost all of them.

SCUTTER BUGS (O.S. SINGING)
Who decides where we dig, is not
our concern. Keep your head down
is the lesson that we learn.

Snaggle offers Gully some camu camu fruit, Gully takes a handful, throws them in the air and catches them in her mouth. The trio laugh.

SCUTTER BUGS (O.S. SINGING)
Arachnidnags are scary as can
be.

Snaggle attempts the same trick, but with all the berries hitting himself square in the face.

48 EXT. HARVEST TUNNELS - MONTAGE 48

Gully and the Scutter-Bugs move into a chamber.

SCUTTER BUGS (SINGING)
Their fangs and claws are what
you never want to see.

The squadron hack away at mulch.

SCUTTER BUGS (SINGING)
We dig for you and we dig for me,
we dig for the families of
Illumiput-ey. We dig for honour
and we dig for luck....

One Scutter-Bug leaps to his feet.

SCUTTER BUG CHUCK (SINGING)
And my bum lights up, because my
name is Chuck!

All the Scutter-Bugs and Gully wave at Chuck. Gully bashes her head accidentally against the low ceiling and a bountiful number of pods fall all around them. Olivia appears and looks to the work being carried out. She's impressed but quickly composes herself.

OLIVIA
Chuck, get back to work!

He complies. Olivia swanthers off. The Scutter-Bugs look back to Gully, who laughs and they all get back to work.

SCUTTER BUG #3
 With you here, Gully, we'll keep
 all those nasty Arachnidgnags
 away forever!

The Scutter-Bugs greedily snatch up any falling pods. Gully smiles, she is finally fitting in.

49

EXT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S BARN

49

Gully returns to the barn to find Snaggle chasing a cattle slug around a pen.

Gully is about to approach until Tooth stops her.

TOOTH
 It is in these moments that I
 prefer to just watch.

Snaggle steps into a bucket which gets lodged on his foot as he continues to chase the slug. Tooth perches on a fence and Gully sits, crossed legged next to him so they can chat.

TOOTH
 How's it going with the Scutter-
 Bugs?

Gully looks back to Tooth with a grin.

GULLY
 Yeah it's great! We've found
 loads of resources.

Tooth smiles but takes a deep breath before responding.

TOOTH
 And what about the clearing? Did
 they say when you'll reach it?

Gully sheepishly squirms.

GULLY
 I'm sure it'll be soon.

Snaggle, still chasing the slug, steps on a rake, which pings up. Snaggle quickly ducks as it flies up over him, narrowly avoiding Gully and Tooth, and hitting a barrel with a clang.

TOOTH
 Gully, I know you're doing well,
 but I think it would be best to
 be on guard with them.

GULLY
 What?

TOOTH

Are they really taking you to the clearing?

Gully is taken aback.

GULLY

Of course they are!

Snaggle manages to lasso the slug with a rope, but it overpowers him and pulls him off his feet, dragging him face first, through the mud.

TOOTH

They're not the most trust-worthy bunch. We're just worried that they might be using you.

Gully is furious. She stands and stamps on the rope, which brings the slug to a screeching halt. The sudden stop sends Snaggle flying through the air and crashing into a giant pile of mulch.

GULLY

Why would you say that? They're helping me get home! They've done more for me than either of you ever have!

Tooth is shocked by Gully's response. Snaggle clambers out of the mulch pile, taking the rope from Gully.

SNAGGLE

But I gave you some of my fruit?

Gully is clearly upset. She can't be here anymore.

GULLY

I need to go.

TOOTH

But...

With tears in her eyes, Gully sets off towards the market. Her glow worm friends are about to chase, but the slug rears up, tripping Tooth and pulling Snaggle back into the mud.

50

EXT. ILLUMIPUT CITY - NIGHT

50

Gully marches into the heart of Illumiput, with no idea where she's heading. It's all too much. She moves into a side alley where she can stop for a moment.

Slumping to the ground and holding her head in her hands she hears some passing Scutter-Bugs in conversation.

SCUTTER BUG #1 (O.S.)
 I can't believe how lucky we are
 to have that giant ladybug
 working with us.

This is the pick-me-up that Gully needed.

SCUTTER BUG #2 (O.S.)
 Everyone's talking about her. The
 saviour of Illumiput they're
 calling her.

Gully climbs back to her feet and is about to join them.

SCUTTER BUG #3 (O.S.)
 Yeah, and she's huge.

SCUTTER BUG #1 (O.S.)
 A huge idiot!

The Scutter-Bugs burst into laughter. This catches Gully off-guard and she stops in her tracks.

SCUTTER BUG #1 (O.S.)
 The city may love her but I don't
 understand how she can be so
 naive.

SCUTTER BUG #2 (O.S.)
 Does she really think we'd risk
 taking her to some clearing?

SCUTTER BUG #3 (O.S.)
 She'll end up leaving soon
 enough, mark my words. Might as
 well get the most out of her
 before she does a runner.

Gully can't believe what she's hearing.

SCUTTER BUG #1 (O.S.)
 Which wouldn't be a problem if
 she wasn't so clumsy.

SCUTTER BUG #2 (O.S.)
 Not to mention that stench.

SCUTTER BUG #3 (O.S.)
 You could cut through it with a
 bread knife.

All three Scutter-Bugs begin to laugh.

Gully doesn't know where to go, but knows that she can't stay here. She turns to find Olivia peering at her.

OLIVIA

You think you're something really special, don't you? What with everyone singing your praises? Well, don't think I don't know what you're up to.

GULLY

All I wanted was to get home.

Olivia clearly has no interest in listening to Gully.

OLIVIA

I've scuttered for long enough to know that you can't trust another kind. Illumiput was far more prosperous and frankly a better place before the others turned up. First the Arachnidgnags, then your kind.

GULLY

I didn't choose to be here.

OLIVIA

And I didn't choose to babysit you.

Olivia whistles and a patrol of Scutter-Bugs appear, aiming their weapons at Gully.

OLIVIA

I'm putting an end to this.

51 INT. ILLUMIPUT COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

51

Gully is back in the Council Chamber, alongside Olivia. Murtle is sat at a grand table, eating a large pod with finest silverware. A nervous butler tends to his needs.

Olivia points at Gully.

OLIVIA

This charade has gone on long enough.

Murtle picks up a napkin and dabs his face.

MURTLE

Not now Olivia. We have more pressing issues to tend to.

He stands and marches towards a small doorway

Olivia follows. Gully clammers through, unintentionally breaking a few items, which servants desperately tend to.

Crowds are gathered as Murtle steps up to a podium. Bewildered, Gully and Olivia look on.

MURTLE

Citizens of Illumiput. I know we all feel the same way.

CROWD MEMBER #1

What's that? Hungry?

Murtle laughs before giving a nod. The trouble-maker is dragged away by guards.

Murtle goes back to addressing the crowd.

MURTLE

Allow me to present the scourge of Arachnidngnag and saviour of Illumiput.

Olivia breaks the flow by leaning into Murtle.

OLIVIA

Dad, what's going on?

Murtle turns back to the crowds.

MURTLE

The Great Gully!

The crowds burst into celebration.

OLIVIA

What?

GULLY

What? I'm not great. I'm not anything. I'm nobody. I'm only here because you said you'd help me get home!

The crowd are suckered in and begin chanting.

CROWD

GULLY! GULLY! GULLY!

Murtle turns to the pair.

MURTLE

See. They love you.

Olivia leans into Murtle.

OLIVIA

What are you doing?
(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Resources are worse than ever and now you're pretending that this Arachnidnag spy is a hero?

GULLY

I'm no spy, and I'm definitely no saviour. I'm just a kid who needs to get back to my family.

Murtle ignores their pleas and continues to address the crowd.

MURTLE

My Friends. I, for one, can tell you Illumiput's future looks bright.

Murtle gives the nod to a guard who in turn nods to another, who nods to another, and pulls a rope which drops a large curtain, revealing a giant Gully statue.

CROWD

GULLY! GULLY! GULLY!

Gully backs away from the balcony as a butler approaches Murtle carrying a tray. Gully is almost paralysed, completely lost in the confusing situation. Olivia glares fiercely at her.

Gully trips into the butler knocking the tray to the ground with a loud clang. Olivia and Murtle turn to the Butler. The butler sighs, he knows what happens next.

Gully seizes the moment of distraction and makes a run for it.

53 INT. ILLUMIPUT CITY, SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S HOUSE - NIGHT 53

Gully rushes back to Snuggle and Tooth's barn. On entering, Gully finds Snuggle and Tooth being held up by Scutter-Bugs. The energetic cattle slug is restrained on a lead.

GULLY

What's going on?

The Scutter-Bugs push Snuggle and Tooth up against the walls.

SNAGGLE

Oh, nothing to worry about here...

Tooth sneers at Snuggle.

SNAGGLE

Just trying to make it not seem as bad as it really is.

(MORE)

SNAGGLE (CONT'D)
That's why they call me the
helpful helper.

TOOTH
Who calls you that? People who
don't own a dictionary?

Gully calls out to the guards.

GULLY
Leave them alone. They haven't
done anything wrong!

Before the guards can respond, Olivia, flanked by Scutter-
Bugs, steps into the barn.

OLIVIA
What about harbouring an
Arachnidnag spy?

Snaggle obliviously interjects.

SNAGGLE
Well, when you put it like that,
that does sound kind of bad.

Tooth quickly interrupts.

TOOTH
She's not an Arachnidnag spy!

Snaggle snaps back.

SNAGGLE
I know. I'm just saying that it
sounds bad when you put it like
that.

Olivia has had enough of this nonsense.

OLIVIA
Silence!

The Scutter-Bugs point spears directly at Gully.

OLIVIA
No more nonsense. You're all to
be locked up in an Illumiput
dungeon.

Snaggle interrupts again.

SNAGGLE
Now *that* sounds bad!

Tooth sneers again. Gully steps forward.

GULLY

You can't lock us up. Surely
Murtle would never allow that?

OLIVIA

You have no idea how this works,
do you? You're no hero. All he
needs is the illusion of a hero.
It doesn't matter whether you're
out working away in some dark
tunnel, or locked away in a cell.
All he needs is the idea that
Illumiput is a strong force to be
reckoned with.

Gully is taken aback.

GULLY

Please. I don't want to cause any
trouble. All I want is to get
home, to my family. You have to
understand.

Tooth breaks free from his guard and steps forward.

TOOTH

Illumiput is a beacon of hope. A
light in the darkness. Sure,
we're going through some tough
times, but we need to work
together, not lock away the
people we don't understand.

Snaggle calls across, still being seized by his guard.

SNAGGLE

Especially when those people are
us.

Olivia is not backing down.

OLIVIA

This isn't a fairytale. You have
no idea how hard we have to work
to keep Illumiput safe from all
manner of threats, including bugs
like you.

Olivia is done listening.

OLIVIA

Guards. Take them away!

Surrounded by guards, the trio are trapped. They look to each
other. What can they do?!

Without a lick of hesitation, Snaggle reaches for the lead of the energetic cattle slug and throws it off the hook.

It doesn't take the slug anytime to seize the moment of freedom as it goes berserk, crashing throughout the barn. The commotion gives Gully, Snaggle, and Tooth the moment they need.

TOOTH

This way!

Tooth dashes towards the cattle pen as Gully and Snaggle hurry after. Once inside and mingled between the cattle slugs, Tooth slams the shutter.

SNAGGLE

Wow. Defying authority. What's your plan now?

Tooth shrugs. There is clearly no plan. The Scutter-Bugs hammer at the door.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Come out this instance!

SNAGGLE

We'll be out in a minute.

Snaggle shrugs before sniffing and holding his nose.

SNAGGLE

Oh Gully, not now.

The Scutter-Bugs continue banging on the door.

GULLY

We're surrounded!

More banging.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Come out or we'll break the door down! You have until the count of 3.

SNAGGLE

Mum and Dad are going to be so mad.

Tooth looks to Snaggle, then back to Gully.

GULLY

What?

TOOTH

Gully. You need to make a run for it!

GULLY
What? How could I?

More banging.

OLIVIA (V/O)
3.

SNAGGLE
Tooth's right. We can cause a
distraction - that'll give you
the time you need to escape!

GULLY
But what about you two?

More banging.

OLIVIA (V/O)
2.

TOOTH
This isn't about us. It's about
you being able to get home and
right now, this is your only
chance!

Gully, wide-eyed, stares at her friends. With a smile,
Snaggle nods.

SNAGGLE
After all, they do call me the
distractful...

Even more banging.

OLIVIA (V/O)
1!

Tooth interrupts.

TOOTH
Gully! Go!

Gully scrambles up into the treehouse.

Scutter-Bugs prepare a battering ram, ready to take out the
barn shutter when suddenly, it bursts open and in a haze of
chaos, the entire herd of cattle slugs leap through, being
ridden majestically by Snaggle and Tooth. The Scutter-Bugs,
including Olivia, are sent flying.

55 EXT. SNAGGLE & TOOTH'S TREEHOUSE - NIGHT

55

Gully emerges on the treehouse balcony. Chaos ensues below as Scutter-Bugs attempt to regroup and chase the escapees. There's no time to halt - she looks below at a giant pile of mulch.

A deep breath and she leaps, landing on the soft pile.

As Gully struggles to catch her breath, a straggling Scutter-Bug emerges from the barn and is gob-smacked to see the giant ladybug there in a the pile of mulch. There's a short moment of disbelief before the officer quickly recomposes and sounds a horn.

Gully leaps out of the mulch and takes off towards Illumiput.

56 EXT. ILLUMIPUT - NIGHT

56

Gully rushes through the town pursued by a couple of Scutter-Bugs. The townsfolk are delighted to see their new hero and begin cheering, unaware of what is really happening.

Gully rushes through the adoring crowds who get in the way of the Scutter-Bugs, giving Gully the head start she needs.

SCUTTER BUG #3
Get out of the way!

The Scutter-Bugs aggressively push their way through, but are held back, caught up in the crowds.

Gully charges through. Illumiput is no longer safe. Gully rushes through the gates of the city and into the harvest tunnels, now pursued by only a handful of stragglers.

57 EXT. HARVEST TUNNELS - NIGHT

57

Being pursued by the remaining Scutter-Bugs, Gully has no choice but to run into the dark tunnels. Up ahead is the fence and warning message, "Danger Lurks in the Dark".

Gully crashes through the gate and into the darkness.

A couple of bugs approach the tunnel, but daren't enter. Gully can't risk stopping, so charges further into the dark, just turning to see the final few bugs retreating.

Gully continues on until the tunnel entrance is completely out of view. She is lost, she is alone, and now without a plan.

She stops and sits in the dark, retrieving her phone and bringing up a photo of her family. A seemingly simpler time, with herself and Sonny goofing around with Shirley and Nigel.

A tear rolls down her cheek as the phone beeps "battery low". The phone beeps once again and shuts down, plunging Gully into darkness.

She sits in the darkness for what feels like forever, when a light flickers somewhere deep in the tunnel.

Gully looks to the light and then back to her dead phone, utterly defeated.

GULLY

I can't do this anymore. All I wanted was to get home to my family. I never wanted to be a part of this. I don't know who you want me to be but I'm nothing but a tiny, useless, pathetic bug.

Tears are streaming down Gully's cheeks. All hope is gone, she's lost. A glowing figure steps forward.

SNAGGLE

Gully. I don't know how you got any of those thoughts in your mind. I wish I could be half the bug you are.

Gully turns to see Snaggle, clutching his staff and offering a warming smile.

GULLY

Snaggle?

SNAGGLE

Call me Wild-Heart.

Tooth trundles up into the light joining Snaggle.

TOOTH

By all means keep trying, but I don't think Wild-heart is going to catch on.

Gully can't believe her eyes.

GULLY

I'm so sorry for dragging you both into this.

SNAGGLE

Despite knowing that dad is going to be furious about the chaos in the barn...

TOOTH

...and our arrest warrant...

SNAGGLE

...we're in this together.

TOOTH

And really, what's the worst they could do?

SNAGGLE

Exactly! Public shaming? Lock us up for 40 years? Corporal punishment. Pah.

TOOTH

Pah indeed.

GULLY

That sounds awful.

SNAGGLE

Only if you think about it too much.

Both Snaggle and Tooth leap into action without a lick of fear, heading deeper into the tunnels.

TOOTH

Well, let's make it worthwhile.
Let's get you home!

Gully scrambles after.

58 EXT. LAPUTA TUNNELS - MONTAGE

58

Time-lapse of the threesome as they walk through vast and varied back-drop scenery. Scrambling through dark, crumbling, and terrifying tunnels, they enter a lush deep green and orange cavern. Looking ahead, Gully is mesmerised by a swarm of beautifully golden shielded bugs high upon a ledge who appear to be dancing and singing in some kind of ceremony.

The trio approach, hoping for a kind welcome, but when the ceremony grinds to a halt, they know they're in trouble. On spotting the intruders, the bug's beautiful golden colour drains to that of a dull red and they begin hurling rocks.

Gully attempts to shield her friends as they hurry away, continuing their journey.

59 EXT. GLUB CHAMBER - MONTAGE

59

Through more darkness they scramble into a new chamber. Purple and blue shadows hang across the rocks. With each challenge, the trio clearly demonstrate how much they're supporting each other.

Gully helps Snaggle and Tooth up into a large cavernous chamber. Snaggle's lamp offers little illumination in the dark. Adorning the walls and ceilings are weird shapes that almost create the illusion of large faces watching as they pass through. It's unnerving to say the least.

They quickly hurry through, but are stopped in their tracks when one of the 'faces' emerges from the darkness to confront the trio.

Gully, Snaggle, and Tooth stare in horror as a large peanut-headed lantern fly stands prominently and defiantly in their path. Like a deer in headlights, they're paralysed with fear, but watch as the peanut-headed creature topples over under the weight of its own giant head.

Smashing into a thousand pieces, they realise how the creature had been wearing a giant peanut-shaped helmet. With this destroyed, Snaggle chuckles at the reality of the tiny headed creature with bulbous bug eyes.

Tooth grins an apprehensive grin, collects the other two and they all quickly scramble away.

60 EXT. MALDON CAVERN - DAY

60

The trio clamber into another cavern where sheets of white and purple calcite twinkle like ice.

GULLY

I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't met you two.

SNAGGLE

Be locked up in an Illumiput dungeon, I imagine?

Tooth throws a disapproving look to Snaggle.

TOOTH

What he really means is, we're both so happy to have met you.

Gully looks to Snaggle who returns a warm smile.

SNAGGLE

Yep, that's what I really meant.

Gully smiles back, before marching on.

SNAGGLE

You're one of a kind, Gully. I just know that as long as we stick together, we're going to be alright...

A pastel pink frog tongue, shoots out of nowhere, sticking to Snaggle's back. He is whisked from view, dropping his staff. This goes unnoticed by Gully and Tooth.

TOOTH

For once, well, three times now.
Snaggle is actually starting to
make sense. We should be able to
get you home in no time Gully....

The same frog tongue shoots into view, this time attaching to
Tooth's back before he is quickly taken from view.

GULLY

We really do make a great team.

Gully fully expects some kind of smart-aleck response, but
receives nothing. She turns back to find her friends gone.

GULLY

Snaggle? Tooth?

Gully spots Snaggle's staff on the ground so picks it up.

GULLY

This can't be right?

Gully looks around. Nothing.

She ventures deeper into the cave and hears a chewing sound.
As she ventures a little further she finds a red-eyed tree
frog with it's mouth full, busily munching away.

GULLY

Hello?

RED-EYED TREE FROG

Hello.

Gully is taken aback by the casual nature of the frog.

GULLY

Have you seen my friends?

RED-EYED TREE FROG

I see a lot of things

GULLY

Okay? Have you seen my friends
though?

The Red-eyed Tree Frog starts coughing and hacks up Snaggle
and Tooth, stopping himself from fully spitting them out.

RED-EYED TREE FROG

No.

Snaggle and Tooth are clearly visible in the frogs mouth,
drenched in saliva and contorted out of shape.

GULLY

You're eating my friends!

RED-EYED TREE FROG
I eat a lot of things.

GULLY
Spit them out.

The red-eyed tree frog shoots out its tongue towards Gully. With quick thinking, she throws Snaggle's staff in the way.

Gully clutches the staff and is thrown up and onto the frog's head. The red-eyed tree frog leaps around frantically with its tongue stretched over its head and wrapped around the staff.

Gully holds on for dear life. Bouncing around, the frog suddenly comes to a grinding halt and Gully is launched into the dirt.

A vomiting sound is heard. Snaggle and Tooth tumble out of the frog's mouth and land either side of Gully. Another vomiting sound and the staff lands with a clatter in front of the trio.

The frog bounces away.

SNAGGLE
Maybe it is more dangerous out here than we give it credit for...

Snaggle collects his staff and walks on ahead.

TOOTH
Let's just be thankful that the Scutter-Bugs never caught us. Or worse yet, at least we didn't bump into any Arachnidnags...

Snaggle is stood in front of a wall of mulch.

SNAGGLE
Erm, guys?

GULLY
What is it now?

Tooth pulls back some of the mulch, allowing bright light to flood in and illuminate his face.

SNAGGLE
I think you'll want to see this.

They clamber through into the bright sunlight.

61 EXT. THE GREAT CLEARING - DAY

61

For the first time in a long while, Gully is in natural light. Gully squints as she looks up. They're here! The Great Clearing, in all its splendour.

SNAGGLE

Eugh. No wonder no one ever comes this far. This is horrible.

GULLY

Is this it?

TOOTH

For the sake of another death defying adventure, I am going to say yes.

Gully points to the leaves high above them.

GULLY

That must be Bugingdon up there. That's home!

Tooth marches towards the tree and looks up.

TOOTH

Well, even if it's ugly. Home is home.

SNAGGLE

Let's get you up there.

They all approach and begin climbing.

The initial climb takes them back into darkness of shrubbery and branches. Both Snaggle and Tooth light up to show Gully the way.

As their climb gets higher, Snaggle and Tooth are really beginning to struggle.

They're back in natural light. Gully is determined to keep going, but the glow-worms are looking exhausted.

TOOTH

Gully. I think we've done all that we can do here.

SNAGGLE

Yeah. I'm pooped.

Gully looks all the way down to the ground then to her friends.

GULLY

Why don't you come with me? You can make a new home in Bugingdon.

Tooth responds with a smile.

TOOTH

I think we all know how much our species won't get along. If yours are anything like ours, we'd be cast out in days.

Snaggle nods.

SNAGGLE

Just to note, that by pooped I meant tired. I didn't, you know...

GULLY

We know.

TOOTH

Let's head back and face the music.

Tooth looks to Gully with a bittersweet smile.

TOOTH

It's been great, Gully.

GULLY

Thank you, Tooth. Thank you, "Wild-heart".

Tooth playfully whacks Snaggle on the shoulder. Gully gives the pair a huge hug.

GULLY

Alright. Here goes nothing.

Gully reaches out for one of the tree's lower branches and commences her climb home. Snaggle and Tooth begin their climb down, heading back into the dark.

We follow Snaggle and Tooth on their climb down.

SNAGGLE

This was a whole lot easier than I'd expected.

TOOTH

I know what you mean.

SNAGGLE

Sure we were eaten by a frog and you almost fouled yourself when you thought that toadstool was a wild-eyed Salamander. Hilarious.

TOOTH

And you did foul yourself when that family of Chameleons burst out of the foliage and all had a bit of a dance in a blur of multi-coloured mayhem.

SNAGGLE

It makes you wonder why the folks back in Illumiput make such a big deal about the Arachnidnagnags.

TOOTH

I know what you mean.

A shadow of a dark creature stirs behind the pair.

62 EXT. THE GREAT CLEARING - DAY

62

Gully reaches for a branch. The climb is getting harder. She makes the mistake of looking down. She's now so high that, with every branch, the climb is becoming increasingly more dangerous.

GULLY

It's just like climbing a normal tree.

Gully flutters her tiny wings but they're no help.

GULLY

A normal tree. Just a thousand feet in the air. No big deal...

The adrenaline has worn off. Gully realises just how high this tree really is.

The next branch is just too far away to reach. If she is going to do this, she's going to have to leap for it. Terrified, she takes a step back, ready for a run-up.

63 EXT. THE GREAT CLEARING - DAY

63

Snaggle and Tooth continue their climb down with Snaggle continuing to yammer on. Within the shadows a spider-like creature quietly lurks in the darkness. Tooth catches eyes with it.

Snaggle is completely unaware as he laughs to himself.

SNAGGLE

Ha! What did they say the hideous folk of Aga-gag-a look like again?

TOOTH

A multitude of eyes.

SNAGGLE

What was it? Eight legs?

A petrified Tooth continues staring into the darkness where the creature lurks.

TOOTH

Yep. 8 hairy legs.

SNAGGLE

Gruesome yellow fangs?

TOOTH

Uh huh...

SNAGGLE

You're awfully quiet all of a sudden.

Snaggle shrugs and walks forward being caught in a web.

SNAGGLE

Eugh... Who left this here?

He fights with it for a moment before turning to his friend.

SNAGGLE

Tooth, what's going on?

Snaggle finds the Arachnidnag staring at Tooth. Looking up he sees a multitude of bright blinking eyes. They are surrounded!

64 EXT. THE GREAT CLEARING - DAY

64

She takes a deep breath, here goes nothing. Gully starts her run.

She charges toward the edge but last minute she slams on the brakes, just as the branch in front snaps and falls to the depths below. Gully is safe on her branch, but she can't go any further. It's too high. It's too dangerous.

That's when she hears a piercing scream.

GULLY

Snaggle?!

Still clinging tightly to a branch, Gully leans over to get a glimpse of the shadows scurrying about in the darkness.

GULLY

Tooth! Snaggle!

The Arachnidnags have found her friends!

The adrenaline kicks in as she scrambles down. Climbing back into the darkness, she prepares to face the unknown.

It is quiet. Through the darkness, Gully sees a small, glowing object. She scurries to it.

Snaggle's staff sits glowing on the floor.

Gully looks up the tree. There isn't anything else she can do. She can't leave her friends.

She picks up the staff and uses it to clamber through the darkness and back to the bottom of the great tree.

Here she finds a tunnel entrance with a crudely scrawled signpost. An arrow points left towards Illumiput and right towards the very hard to pronounce "Arachnidngnag".

Gully takes a deep breath. Here we go. She charges down the trail.

65

EXT. ARACHNIDNGNAG, TOWN SQUARE - DAY

65

After all the horror stories she's heard since arriving in the underworld, she now stands in front of Arachnidngnag. At first glance the city looks like a winter wonderland caught in a glorious deep freeze, a vast city of great twinkling buildings. This is not the terrifying nest she had expected. She is awestruck by the intricate design of the palace-like buildings

Gully walks to the gates of the seemingly dangerous nation, but no one is to be found. She pushes open the door, which is made entirely from sticky white interlaced spiderwebs.

Gully is terrified, and even though she knows she has to do whatever it takes to save her friends, she isn't ready for what she finds.

Gully turns a corner and unwittingly steps straight into a bustling market place, straight out of an Oliver Twist musical. Market trader type spiders continue their hustle and bustle.

MARKET SPIDER #1

Who will buy my boiled flies? Get
yer boiled flies, good for yer
noggin...

MARKET SPIDER #2

Cheese, Cheese, Cheese. Can I
introduce you please, to a lump
of cheddar cheese?

Market Spider 3 is found sitting on a mound of dirt.

MARKET SPIDER #3

Who will buy this wonderful dirt?
This wonderful, wonderful dirt?

The spiders stand around the same size as the glow-worms, with Gully standing at about twice their height. Their multitude of eyes blink irregularly on their otherwise cute-ish faces. Four arms and four legs protrude from their ragged, thrown-together outfits.

The Spiders spot Gully and the tune screeches to a halt. Murmurs echo throughout the crowd. A baby can be heard crying as the spiders surround Gully with a look of curiosity.

CROWD

It's her? How can that be?

MARKET SPIDER #3

Do my many, many eyes deceive me?

The spider rubs her many, many eyes in disbelief. Gully stands defiantly.

GULLY

What have you monsters done with my friends?

The crowd surrounding Gully grows.

MARKET SPIDER #1

Monsters?

MARKET SPIDER #2

Well, that was rude.

The spiders sure are odd-looking but they aren't the monsters she feared. They can't stop starring at Gully.

GULLY

What?

MARKET SPIDER #4

Can anyone smell anything a bit funky?

A military style horn screeches through the crowd.

The spiders immediately bow. Gully realises that she is surrounded by military-style spiders in very crude and makeshift armour. The armour is painted to make them look fierce but in the light they can't help but resemble children's paintings.

The spider military leader, TRESSA, steps through the crowd. Wearing a pristine and pressed general's outfit, she is clearly the Arachnidnag equivalent of Olivia. Looking at Gully in their city, she can't believe her many many eyes.

TRESSA

This isn't possible. How are you here?

Gully is really beginning to lose her patience.

GULLY

I'm here for my friends, and if you need to know, it really isn't that hard to just walk into your impossible to pronounce city.

TRESSA

No. I mean, there's really no way that you could be stood right in front me right now.

Another horn sounds, interrupting the moment. This time it has more of a regal flourish.

GULLY

Now what?!

A bulbous and aged figure emerges from the crowd, surrounded by a harem of magnificent maidens. Wearing a jewel-embellished top hat and jet black cape, in all his finery, stands the Arachnidnag leader, HERMAN. The malnourished and poorly dressed Arachnidnag locals look on.

HERMAN

Citizens of Arachnidnag. As it was written, so again it has come to pass.

GULLY

What?

HERMAN

It's one of those important sounding phrases that demonstrates the weight and significance of a particular moment.

Gully is unimpressed. Tressa continues to stare at Gully.

HERMAN

It seems that our saviour has returned. Today will be the day that our champion fights back for the rights of all Arachnidnags. Today we fight back the impending and nasty armies of Illumiput.

The crowds begin cheering.

GULLY

Oh, not this again.

Herman addresses the crowd.

HERMAN

I know we all feel the same way.

MARKET SPIDER #4
What's that? Hungry?

Herman laughs before turning and whispering to a guard.

HERMAN
Remove that trouble-maker.

Gully chips in.

GULLY
This is bonkers! You're worse than the Illumiputians, or maybe, exactly the same? I just want my friends back, then I'll leave you in peace.

Gully cautiously steps back and accidentally crushes a bench.

GULLY
That was obviously an accident.

Tressa steps forward.

TRESSA
Your friends? So you mean to say that you've been working with the Illumiputians?

HERMAN
Tressa, please.

Herman steps forward.

HERMAN
Surely, you were working with them as a means of deceiving them, no?

GULLY
No.

Herman winks and taps the side of his nose

HERMAN
No?

GULLY
No.

Gully has had enough.

GULLY
If you won't tell me where they are, then I'll find them myself.

She forces her way through the crowds. No more nonsense. She's going to find her only friends in this crazy world.

HERMAN
Milly, come back!

That's when Gully stumbles across a sight she could have never anticipated.

Right there, in the centre of the market square stands a tall ladybug statue which strikes an eerie resemblance to Gully.

Gully approaches. The crowds respectfully give her space. Gully can't take her eyes off the structure. She knows this isn't a statue of her...

HERMAN
What do you think? We had no way of knowing that you would come back so this was put up in your honour. We needed a way to stop the common folk revolting...

Herman looks around at the confused locals.

HERMAN
...and by that I clearly mean, inspire hope in our citizens. We dreamed that one day you would return and work with us to fight off the nasty conspiring armies of Illumiput.

Gully stares at the familiar statue. Herman had clearly expected a brighter response.

HERMAN
We hoped that you would like it, but here we are. Never build up expectations is what I'll take from this...

A tear rolls down Gully's cheek. She knows who this must be.

GULLY
Mum?

The crowd remain silent. Herman and Tressa step forward.

HERMAN
Mum?

GULLY
Is this a statue of my mum?!

HERMAN
Mum? Gully?!

Herman rubs his eyes. Tressa takes a deep breath.

HERMAN

Gully? Well, as I live and breath. Milly never stopped talking about you, and now here you are, and what a striking resemblance, I must say!

One of the crowd members looks to the statue and then back to Herman.

HERMAN

Despite our many, many eyes, we do, in fact, have terrible eyesight.

GULLY

What is going on?

Tressa steps up.

TRESSA

Look. This is a confusing situation for everyone.

Gully interrupts. She's had enough.

GULLY

You want to know what's confusing? I'm standing in a medieval kingdom of spiders, which is called something no one can pronounce. I escaped from a tribe of power-mad glow-worms which I ended up in after falling 2000 feet from my home in the canopy. Now, whilst trying to rescue my only friends, I find myself standing in front of a statue of my mum! My mother, Milly, who I haven't seen, spoken to, or even heard from in 6 years after she disappeared! So yeah, I can say I'm a little confused!

The spiders look at her, not daring to say a thing.

GULLY

Where is she?

The crowd are silent.

GULLY

Where is she?!

Herman and Tressa look to each other than back to Gully.

Another, more aggressive military horn rings through the city. Herman looks to Olivia.

TRESSA
That's not ours.

Panic strikes the crowd.

MARKET SPIDER 1
The nasty Illumiputians are invading.

MARKET SPIDER 2
We were warned about this day.

MARKET SPIDER 3
I still have so much dirt to sell!

TRESSA
Close the gate! Or at least do something with the gate to make it in any way effective!

It's too late. Olivia and many Scutter-Bugs, all in full yet dishevelled military garb storm the city. A seething Tressa looks to Gully.

TRESSA
Illumiputians! She's brought them here! I knew this monster was up to no good.

The invading army squares up to the Arachnidnagns. Olivia spots Gully in the midst of the spiders.

OLIVIA
Working with the Arachnidnagns? I knew we couldn't trust that monster.

The crowds fall into a tense silence as Olivia speaks up.

OLIVIA
Disgusting and vile creatures of Arachnidnagn. As representatives of Illumiput, we demand that you surrender the beast.

TRESSA
Surrender the beast? Pah. So she can give you all our secrets?

GULLY
Secrets? You haven't told me anything.

OLIVIA

Oh, I get it. You get her to fight for you like you did with the last beast? Think you can take back the tunnels?

Gully can't take this bickering.

GULLY

I need to get out of here.

Gully pushes her way through the crowds. She can't be here anymore. Olivia and Tressa respond in unison.

OLIVIA & TRESSA

Stop the beast!

Gully runs through the gates and back into the darkness, tears running down her cheeks. Olivia and Tressa take after her.

66

EXT. ARACHNIDNGNAG TUNNELS - EVENING

66

Gully rushes through the darkness pursued by Olivia and Tressa.

OLIVIA

Stop!

TRESSA

No! Stop for us!

GULLY

Why would I stop for either of you!

The tunnels are getting darker. No one slows.

OLIVIA

It's more complicated than you think.

GULLY

It seems pretty simple to me.

TRESSA

She was a great champion of Arachnidngnag. She kept our people safe.

OLIVIA

She would have been great for Illumiput, but you distorted her view of our world.

Gully doesn't want to hear their nonsense.

TRESSA

Beast, stop!

GULLY

You're the beast. You hurt my mum. I don't want anything to do with any of this. I want to be home.

In her hurry, Gully steps on a leaf which skids under her foot. She's unable to control herself as she hurtles down a dark tunnel.

Olivia and Tressa, try to grab Gully but both slip, knocking each other over. They land on another leaf which toboggans them down the hill.

In the tumble, Gully smashes through mulch and rock. Olivia and Tressa alternate between holding onto each other for dear life and being repulsed by each other as their leaf spins uncontrollably.

Gully smashes through yet another wall, this time sending her plummeting down a steep, volcanic-like tunnel. Olivia and Tressa tumble after.

67

EXT. VOLCANIC CHAMBER - EVENING

67

The trio are eventually spat out, landing with a heavy bump in a large cavern.

Gully, still furious climbs to her feet. Olivia & Tressa continue to bicker. They're on a small island of rock, surrounded by a mighty pool of golden-red lava. Bubbles erupt aggressively, pumping out hot steam into the air.

OLIVIA

Well, this is incredibly lucky.

TRESSA

Please do enlighten me on how this is lucky, Illumiputian?

OLIVIA

You don't have sarcasm back in Arachnidnag?

Silence. Gully has her back to the pair.

GULLY

What did you do?

OLIVIA

I didn't do anything. And if anything did happen, it's probably the fault of this ridiculous spider-monster here.

TRESSA
Coming from this glowing-worm
idiot.

Gully does not acknowledge their bickering.

GULLY
What did you do to my mum?

Gully is done taking nonsense.

GULLY
I want answers.

TRESSA
Maybe now isn't the best time...

A bubble of lava bursts sending hot steam into the air.

OLIVIA
We really need to get out of
here.

Olivia and Tressa are terrified but Gully remains focussed.

GULLY
Tell me, now!

A tense moment of silence. Tressa approaches.

TRESSA
Her wings were badly damaged
after she fell from her homeland.

68 EXT. ARACHNIDNGNAG TUNNELS - MONTAGE

68

Sunlight peeks through a hole in the top of a mulch covered dark tunnel. Milly is in bad shape when Tressa and a number of other Arachnidngnags find her.

TRESSA (V.O)
We found her in the tunnels and
she ended up working with us.

Milly's wings are bandaged up as she works alongside Tressa and the Arachnidngnags.

TRESSA (V.O)
She was so very kind, and would
help us collect resources. Her
sheer size also meant she was
able to keep those monsters at
bay.

Tressa gestures towards familiar looking fencing in a dark tunnel and Milly goes to work, helping pull it down.

69 EXT. VOLCANIC CHAMBER - EVENING

69

Tressa gestures to Olivia.

OLIVIA

You stole from us. You would climb into our tunnels and steal what was rightfully ours. There was no way to stop you when you were working with the giant beast.

GULLY

That beast was my mum. What did you do to her?

TRESSA

We didn't do anything. She helped us reclaim what was rightfully ours.

Gully approaches Olivia.

OLIVIA

The beast, sorry, your mum, broke into Illumiput.

70 EXT. ILLUMIPUT CITY - EVENING

70

MILLY approaches the medieval gates of Illumiput. Olivia and her Scutter-Bugs maintain defensive positions as Murtle attempts to make his case.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

When she found our city my dad attempted to reason with her. He tried to get her to work with us...

Milly looks past the Scutter-Bugs to the nervous citizens of Illumiput. They're no different to the Arachnidnagnags. With tears in her eyes, Milly has had enough. She can't be here anymore, she needs to get away from this whole situation and get back home.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

...but she wanted no part. She did us no harm and then took off.

Milly turns and darts off into the tunnels. Murtle looks to Olivia who takes off after Milly into the darkness.

71 EXT. THE GREAT CLEARING - EVENING

71

Milly rushes into the clearing and desperately scrambles her way up the tree. Olivia appears at the base and shouts up.

OLIVIA (V.O.)
I tried to stop her. It wasn't safe.

Tressa rushes into the clearing, resentfully noticing Olivia before looking up to discover the injured Milly dangerously scrambling from branch to branch.

TRESSA (V.O.)
We just wanted her to come back down to be with us again. We could see that she was too hurt to make it.

Olivia and Tressa are full of panic as they shout up to Milly who is desperate to get away.

TRESSA
Milly. It isn't safe! You need to come back with us!

OLIVIA
Don't trust them. Come to Illumiput.

Milly looks down at the pair.

MILLY
I don't want to be with either of you. I need to get back to my family. Back to my little girl.

Milly looks to the next branch that she needs to scale. It is some distance away.

OLIVIA
We'll help you.

TRESSA
No. We'll help you.

Milly takes a deep breath.

MILLY
No one here is going to help me. I have to do it on my own.

Milly makes a run for the branch. Before she can even make the leap, the branch beneath her breaks. Olivia and Tressa watch in horror.

Both Tressa and Olivia struggle to keep their emotions at bay, hanging their heads in shame. Gully is horrified.

OLIVIA

Neither of us ever spoke about that moment again. I never told anyone in Illumiput what really happened.

TRESSA

Everyone in Arachnidnag believed that she had left. They would have continued to believe so, but then you showed up and chose to work with them.

Gully stands up.

GULLY

Choose? I didn't choose any of this. I never chose to be here. You're both just as bad as each other! You pretend you're civilised and you're doing what's best, but you caused all of this. There could be more than enough for everyone if you could stop pretending you're the hero in your own story. Stop making everyone else the villain just because you don't understand them.

Olivia and Tressa look to each other.

GULLY

That way none of you would be in this mess and maybe, maybe my mum could still be here.

Another lava bubble bursts and more rocks tumble into the cavern. They roll into the lava.

GULLY

But she's not. She's gone.

With a deep rumble, a small earthquake ripples through the cavern which tumbles the trio over.

A wall of rock collapses and a vicious stream of lava bursts through. The lava pool is filling up. Olivia and Tressa clamber up the small island as the lava level raises. Gully remains motionless.

TRESSA

We're trapped.

OLIVIA

The only way out is the way we
came in.

They look up to the entrance of the tunnel. It's too high and
almost impossible to see in the darkness.

OLIVIA

How do we even get up there?
There's no way of climbing.

TRESSA

And even if there was we couldn't
see anything in the dark.

The lava level is rising.

TRESSA

We're doomed.

OLIVIA

That's one thing we can agree on.

They're running out of time.

Another bubble of lava bursts. The impact of the hot air
forces Olivia and Tressa to tumble again.

As a single tears rolls down Gully's cheek, she looks at the
panicking pair, Olivia and Tressa. For all their misgivings,
the pair are helpless and terrified. Gully wipes away her
tear and rises to her feet, she knows that in this situation,
she has to be the bigger person.

GULLY

Olivia. If we could get you up
there, could you hold on long
enough to light up the tunnel?

OLIVIA

I guess? But how would you get me
up there?

GULLY

We need to work together.

Gully grabs hold of Tressa.

GULLY

Tressa. Hold Olivia.

Tressa sheds a moment of apprehension and holds Olivia.

The lava level is rising. It is now or never.

Gully takes a deep breath. A moment of hesitation then she leaps into the air and launches Tressa and Olivia towards the tunnel entrance.

Olivia's instinct to glow kicks in, which illuminates the tunnel, as both she and Tressa fly through the air. With the entrance clearly illuminated, Tressa grabs a small outreach of rock and pulls both herself and Olivia to safety.

With them secure, they look down. Gully remains on the dramatically reducing small island of rock.

OLIVIA

Gully!

TRESSA

I can't reach you.

Gully looks around and sees another bubble burst.

GULLY

It's okay.

TRESSA

It's okay?

OLIVIA

Gully, I'm sorry I ever threatened to lock you up.

TRESSA

Us too!

GULLY

You never threatened to lock me up.

TRESSA

I know, but we would have if you had refused to work with us.

Olivia looks to Tressa. They're obviously shocked but pleased to be working together. The lava level is almost reaching Gully. There is no time left.

GULLY

For too long, we've been fighting against each other. We may be different and that can be scary, but it's our differences that are our greatest strengths. And for once, we need to be confident enough to trust this, and believe in ourselves.

Gully looks to the pair.

OLIVIA

What are you going to do?

Gully closes her eyes and runs with what little space is left on the rock.

OLIVIA & TRESSA

Gully!

Gully leaps into the air. Fear and horror overcome both the glow-worm and spider. It looks like this is it.

As Gully glides over the lava pit, she flutters her tiny wings. Getting just the right elevation, a lava bubble bursts underneath Gully which provides all the momentum she needs.

Gully is launched towards the tunnel entrance towards Olivia and Tressa. Gully grabs the pair and they crash through the rubble and mulch.

73

EXT. ARACHNIDNGNAG TUNNELS - EVENING

73

The trio burst through the cave and land onto the forest floor, gasping for breath.

Gully clambers up and finds a sight she could have never anticipated.

Snaggle and Tooth are stood right in front of her but working together with two equally goofy looking spiders - TILLY and WILLOW - their Arachnidngnag equivalents.

SNAGGLE & TOOTH

Gully!

GULLY

Guys. What are you doing here?!

TOOTH

After you left, we realised a valuable lesson. We had been led to believe that all creatures from above were vile monsters, and then we met you.

SNAGGLE

You taught us that although you are indeed monstrously huge you are not, in fact, a monster.

TOOTH

You showed us not to fear what we don't understand.

SNAGGLE

I would even go as far as to say we could be friends with what we don't understand.

TOOTH

I'm friends with you after all.

He gestures towards Snaggle who returns a cheeky grin.

TOOTH

After years of Illumiput and Arachnidngnag animosity, maybe we're not that different after all. Maybe we could actually work together and achieve far more as a team than we could alone.

GULLY

But you left your staff?

SNAGGLE

I really am a klutz sometimes. That's why they call me the forgetful goat.

TOOTH

That's one I do call you.

SNAGGLE

So what have you been up to?

Gully looks to Olivia and Tressa. The exhausted trio share a smile.

OLIVIA

Let's just say we've all been learning a valuable lesson then.

Olivia and Tressa share a smile as Gully hugs her friends.

Breaking the beautiful moment, Snaggle starts sniffing the air?

SNAGGLE

Oh Gully? Seriously? Is that you again?

GULLY

What? Of course not.

Snaggle holds his nose.

TOOTH

Oh yeah. That's the worst one yet...

The group all start to walk off together as Gully tries to justify that that one wasn't her.

GULLY

We just survived underground lava. That is obviously the sulphur you can smell.

SNAGGLE

Hmm... I've never smelt sulphur
that bad.

TOOTH

When have you ever smelt sulphur
before?

SNAGGLE

All the time. That's why they
call me...

The conversation tails off as they all head down the tunnel.

74

INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - CARTOON SEQUENCE

74

We see a cartoon sequence of both the Illumiput and
Arachnidnag citizens working together.

SNAGGLE (V/O)

That's when both societies
realised that instead of
fighting, they could work
together.

We see a cartoon sequence of glow-worms entering the tunnels
and illuminating the space. Spiders gracefully swing through,
knocking tangy-tang-toe from the ceilings.

Glow-worms are ready with large baskets, which catch all the
pods.

TOOTH (V/O)

With Illumiputians illuminating
the situation, Arachnidnags
were free to snatch all the
resources that both societies
could share.

We see both cities, Illumiput and Arachnidnag grow and glow
brightly in the dark with citizens from both societies
passing freely.

SNAGGLE

Turns out that by working
together, the cities became
bigger and more exciting than
they'd ever been.

Murtle and Herman stare at each other before reluctantly
shaking hands. After a moment, a smile breaks on both of
their faces, but this is quickly interrupted by the sound of
a bug clearing their throat for attention. Herman and Murtle
turn to see a long line of Glow-Worms and Arachnidnags all
holding bowls. The camera pulls out to reveal that the two
former leaders are now working in a kitchen and serving
tangy-tang-toe to members of both societies. All the previous
bugs that had been dragged away by guards, all stand happily
in pride of place.

The camera drifts from the chamber and through the multi-cultural society, as we see creatures from all races hugging and celebrating. We get glimpses of all the key supporting creatures from both Illumiput and Arachnidngnag, including Chuck and the dirt-selling spider who lead the crowd in a sing-song.

We move out even further to a view of the society from afar. Fireworks burst overhead in a flurry of celebration.

As the cartoon fireworks burst, the cartoon image merges from the childish drawings to the 'real world' as we see the city in all of its glory featuring both Illumiput and Arachnidngnag architecture.

We move into the celebrating crowd of all races to find our heroes celebrating together. With a final spectacular firework explosion, the gang throw their arms into the air for a picturesque screen-shot moment.

75 INT. ILLUMIPUT & ARACHNIDNGNAG MURIAL TUNNEL - DAY 75

Tilly and Willow are staring at the murals of the newly decorated tunnel, which depicts stories from both societies, and how Gully's arrival brought them all together.

TILLY

These are just pictures, yet they really do make the story come to life.

WILLOW

They really do.

76 EXT. GREAT CLEARING - EVENING 76

Gully is stood at the bottom of Great Tree, surrounded by creatures of all races. Standing prominently in crowd, we see Olivia, Tressa, Snaggle and Tooth.

GULLY

Well, I guess this is goodbye?

OLIVIA

Yeah. I guess it is.

TRESSA

How can we ever repay you?

GULLY

Just don't screw it up again.

Gully smiles and they all giggle. Gully leans down to Snaggle and Tooth.

GULLY

I'm going to miss you two.

Tooth has tears in his eyes. Snaggle is trying to hold it in which is forcing him into becoming a blubbering mess.

SNAGGLE

I don't get upset. That's why they call me "No Emotion Jerry".

TOOTH

Who calls you that?

Snaggle bursts into tears.

SNAGGLE

No one. Absolutely no one calls me that!

Gully hugs her friends.

GULLY

Stay in touch.

Tears fill Gully's eyes as she walks towards the tree, grabbing the first branch. Gully is about to climb.

OLIVIA

Erm, Gully. What are you doing?

Gully turns to face her friends.

GULLY

I'm climbing home.

Her friends all smile.

TRESSA

Not on your own you aren't.

Snaggle and Tooth run up to Gully and give her a big hug. The team of spiders and glow-worms all work together supporting their climb.

Snaggle and Tooth leap into the air and are pulled up by Tressa. Snaggle lights his staff and illuminates the way.

Gully grabs Tressa's hand and begins her ascent home.

77

EXT. BUGINGDON STREETS - EVENING

77

With all the help from her friends, Gully reaches up and lands a hand on the first Buggingdon leaf she has felt in some time.

She clambers up and takes a huge look around in wonder. Gully is back in Buggingdon! She's home!

That's when she spots two ladybugs stood in her path, Hettie and Dillian. They're both absolutely dumbfounded to see Gully climbing from up from below.

DILLIAN

Short stuff? What are you doing here?

HETTIE

Didn't they lose you in the wash?

Gully looks to the bullies and smiles.

GULLY

If you have a problem with my size, maybe you want a word with my friends?

That's when all of her friends, Snaggle, Tooth, Olivia & Tressa surface.

HETTIE

Monsters?!

The bullies scarper.

Gully looks up to see several Flutter-By cadets soaring the skies.

They spot the commotion on the streets and, without hesitation, they hurtle towards Gully and her crew. In the front and most urgent position is Sonny, who stares in disbelief.

SONNY

Gully?!

Sonny and the cadets land and immediately take defensive positions.

SONNY

Get away from her, you monsters!

Gully steps in front of her glow-worm and spider friends. Snaggle and Tooth also nudge their way to the front.

GULLY

Sonny!

Gully runs up and gives Sonny the biggest hug she can muster.

SONNY

But what about the monsters?

Gully looks to Sonny with a full smile.

GULLY

Sonny. I would like you to meet my friends.

Snaggle and Tooth leap towards the cadets.

SNAGGLE

I'm Snaggle. This is Tooth. You lot are even more monstrous than our best buddy, Gully.

Gully looks to the cadets with a smile and shrugs.

The cadets drop their guard and the groups begin to mingle.

Gully turns, and she sees her aunt and uncle standing in the street. They can barely move, they're so happy.

SHIRLEY

Gully!

Without any hesitation she throws herself at Gully. Surrounded by spiders, glow-worms and ladybugs, Shirley throws her arms around Gully, closely followed by Nigel.

Shirley, Nigel, Sonny and Gully all have tears in their eyes.

SHIRLEY

Gully. I'm so sorry about the Flutter-By trial. I should never have put you in that position. Your mum never would have wanted that.

Gully steps back and looks to Shirley with a confident smile.

GULLY

No, auntie. It's exactly what my mum would have wanted.

Shirley throws her arms around Gully again.

NIGEL

You must have been terrified.

GULLY

Nah. I had great friends supporting me all along the way.

Snaggle, Tooth, and many of the creatures look up and wave towards the group.

SHIRLEY

Your friends?

Sonny clings tightly onto Gully. Nigel turns to Shirley.

NIGEL

I thought Gully might have made some friends with some of the other cadets but here we are surrounded by...

Nigel has no way of describing the creatures all around them.

NIGEL
 ...what-sits, and who-da-ya-ma-thingys?

Shirley steps up.

SHIRLEY
 And we couldn't be prouder of you.

GULLY
 I have so much to tell you about my adventure.

SONNY
 I can't wait to hear all about it.

Full of pride, Gully looks to Sonny in his uniform.

GULLY
 So, Mr Big-Shot, when's the next Flutter-By Trial? Figured I might give it a shot this time.

Sonny beams with delight.

In the background, we see the Red-Eyed Tree Frog and Cute Termite clamber up onto the Bugingdon streets.

NIGEL
 Are they also your friends?

The frog whips out his long sticky tongue and pulls Snaggle into his mouth

SHIRLEY
 He seems to be eating another one of your friends.

RED-EYED TREE FROG
 I eat lots of things.

Tooth turns to the group and rolls up his sleeves

TOOTH
 Excuse me.

The camera pans up to the evening sun.

78 EXT. BUGINGDON - EVENING

78

The sun is setting. Gully, Sonny, Snaggle, Tooth, Tilly and Willow, sit together on a picnic blanket.

They look out over the leaves of Bugingdon, watching the evening sun descend on the edge of town. Gully shuts her eyes and breathes in the city air.

GULLY

You know you can stay right?

TOOTH

We know, but we best get back.

SNAGGLE

If dad was that mad about the barn, then wait until he hears about how we snuck off to go visit an entirely new civilisation.

TOOTH

You didn't tell him we were here?

SNAGGLE

Why would I?

Tooth drops his head into his hands.

GULLY

Please make sure you visit.

TOOTH

Oh, of course we will.

They all share a hug and prepare for their descent home.

SNAGGLE

This is all quite incredible really.

Gully turns to Snaggle with a smile.

GULLY

Yep, it's been quite the adventure.

SNAGGLE

No, not that. The fact we all thought you were grotesquely humongous and actually you're pretty tiny when you compare yourself to the others that live here.

GULLY

Grotesquely?

TOOTH

You have a strange way with words, Snaggle.

SNAGGLE

I most certainly do. That's why they call me the thesaurus kid.

Tilly, Willow, Snaggle and Tooth all commence they're climb down as Gully and Sonny watch on

TOOTH

Who calls you that? People who don't understand metaphors?

SNAGGLE

Meta-what now?

Gully gives Sonny a huge hug as they watch the sun set over Bugingdon.

GULLY

I love you, guys.

CREDITS ROLL

79

INT. GULLY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

79

Photos adorn the walls of Gully's room featuring all kinds of new memories with Gully and Sonny at the Flutter-By academy, Snaggle and Tooth goofing about alongside cattle-slugs and many pictures of her happy family.

Gully enters the room, wearing an official Flutter-By cadet uniform. She removes her scarf and hangs it up before turning to the wall of photos. Placed proudly in the centre of the montage is the picture of Milly dressed in her uniform.

Gully looks to the picture with a warm smile, before quietly uttering under her breath...

GULLY

(whispering)

I love you mum.