

"The Jungle"
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FADE IN:

EXT. JUNGLE -- DAY

Soaked to the skin LEONARD looks up into the darkened sky. He breathes heavily as the rain pours down upon him. Behind him bright sunshine peeks through the trees near the edge of the jungle.

Leonard looks longingly in the direction of the sunlight. He takes a step towards it when he hears a MAN'S VOICE.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

You can't go back.

Leonard whips around toward the sound of the voice and comes face to face with himself-a physical manifestation of his conscience.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE nudges Leonard on.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

You have to go forward.

LEONARD

I know.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

When you get to the other side-

LEONARD

(cuts him off)

I know. I know. I just have to get through it.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

Then do it.

LEONARD

I am! Damn it just leave me alone.

Leonard's conscience suddenly disappears leaving Leonard utterly alone. A large boulder blocks his path. With no way around it he has to go over it.

Leonard uses the vines attached to it to steady himself. Once at the top Leonard doesn't stop. He powers through the overgrown foliage pushing over giant leaves and jumping over fallen trees and branches.

EXT. JUNGLE -- LATER

The rain has stopped but Leonard is still soaked. Sweat beads from his forehead. He stops to catch his breath and admire his progress.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE (O.S.)
Don't pat yourself on the back yet.

Leonard looks up to see his conscience.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
You've hardly gone fifty feet.

LEONARD
What?

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
Fifty feet.

LEONARD
Impossible.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
See for yourself.

Leonard looks in the direction in which his conscience points. The thick foliage fades away revealing the giant boulder that marks Leonard's starting point. It is less than fifty feet away.

LEONARD
No.
(collapses)
I've been working so hard.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
It took you a while to get on the right track but now that you know where you're going it'll be a piece of cake.

LEONARD
Cake!

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
No cake yet. It's too early for a reward.

Leonard's conscience offers Leonard his hand. Leonard takes it.

As Leonard comes to a standing position his conscience disappears.

Leonard brushes himself off and continues on.

EXT. JUNGLE -- LATER

Leonard is in a particularly dark and scary part of the jungle. He looks around, goes left, then doubles back and goes right. He stops.

LEONARD

Where am I?

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE (O.S.)

Hopelessly lost.

Leonard turns to see his conscience.

LEONARD

But how?

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

I don't know. One minute you were headed in the right direction and the next-

He motions to the surrounding area.

LEONARD

I need a break. How about that cake now?

Leonard's conscience hands Leonard a package of cupcakes. Leonard rips into them and hungrily wolfs them down. After he finishes the cakes he licks the icing stuck to the packaging.

A BIRD CRIES loudly in the distance. Leonard snaps toward the sound.

Satisfied that he's not in danger he turns attention back to his cupcake wrapping but its no longer in his hand.

LEONARD

Huh?

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

Break time is over.

LEONARD
But I don't know where I am.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
Back track to the beginning.

LEONARD
Start over?!

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
Do you want to get out of here or
not?

LEONARD
Of course I do but that's ridiculous.
Can't I just...

Leonard turns to his conscience but he's gone. Leonard
backtracks to the start.

EXT. JUNGLE -- LATER

Leonard reaches the big boulder where his adventure began.
He climbs to the top and surveys the area.

Leonard squints as he concentrates.

LEONARD
Now I remember!

Leonard jumps off the boulder and moves quickly and
deliberately through the underbrush. As his confidence builds
he starts to run. He covers a lot of ground quickly.

EXT. JUNGLE -- LATER

Leonard continues to run at a fast pace. He pushes through
the leaves, and then, out of nowhere-

-a brick wall.

The wall is so unexpected that Leonard runs right into it.
Dumbstruck he falls to the ground. He looks up at the unusual
sight.

LEONARD
What the hell is a brick wall doing
in the jungle?

Leonard climbs to his feet. As he looks around he realizes
there's no way around the wall.

He looks up and it's impossible to climb.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE (O.S.)
It's a dead end.

LEONARD
Where did it come from?

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
How should I know?

LEONARD
I'm this close to the end and now
this.

Leonard points to the wall.

LEONARD
I quit.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
If you quit now you'll beat yourself
up for months. I can't live with
the guilt.

LEONARD
But there's no way out of here!

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE
What do you mean? This is your
creation. If anyone can get out of
here you can.

Leonard closes his eyes and concentrates. Suddenly Leonard's eyes pop open. He dashes to the wall.

LEONARD
I think I remember...

Leonard walks along the wall feeling the bricks.

LEONARD
There should be...

Suddenly Leonard pushes through a weak point in the wall. He falls through to the other side. Bright sunlight temporarily blinds him.

Leonard holds his hand up blocking the light from his eyes. As his eyes adjust he can make out a clearing in the distance. His conscience looks down at him.

LEONARD'S CONSCIENCE

Aren't you glad you didn't give up?

Leonard smiles humbly. Leonard's conscience offers Leonard his hand. He pulls Leonard up. Together they walk towards the clearing.

As they walk Leonard and his conscience get closer and closer until they fuse seamlessly into one.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Leonard sits on the couch typing excitedly on his lap top computer. With a flourish he types "The End."

LEONARD

The end!

He jumps off the couch.

LEONARD

Oh yeah! Oh yeah!

He runs through the house doing a silly victory dance.

KITCHEN

Leonard dances into the kitchen. On the counter is a package of cupcakes. He makes his way over to them.

He catches his reflection in the microwave. The reflection winks at him. Leonard holds the cupcake up as though it is a toast and then bites into it.

The End.