

THE CROODS

Written by

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SEQ. 75 - PROLOGUE

FADE IN:

A cave painting of the Dreamworks logo. Push past the moon to the sun. Bright. Beautiful. The sun DISSOLVES TO:

Cave paintings of a family of cavemen -- we will come to know them as The Croods.

EEP (V.O.)

With every sun comes a new day. A new beginning. A hope that things will be better today than they were yesterday.

The Croods scurry out of their cave like mice looking for food. Scared. Fast.

The Croods are chased by beasts across the desert. They escape from creatures up trees. They hide behind rocks.

EEP (V.O.)

But not for me. My name's Eep. This, is my family, the Croods. If you weren't clued in already by the animal skins and sloping foreheads - we're cavemen. Most days we spend in our cave, in the dark. Night after night, day after day. Yep. Home sweet home. When we did go out, we struggled to find food in a harsh and hostile world. And I struggled to survive my family.

The Croods are chased by beasts across the desert. They escape from creatures up trees. They hide behind rocks.

EEP (V.O.)

We were the last ones around. There used to be neighbors. The Gorts, smashed by a mammoth. The Horks, swallowed by a sand snake. The Erfs, mosquito bite. Throgs, common cold. And, the Croods. That's us. The Croods made it...

Grug protects his family from a GIANT BEAR OWL.

EEP (V.O.)

Because of my Dad. He was strong... and he followed the rules.

A shadow falls across their feet and Grug ushers his family home.

EEP (V.O.)
... the ones painted on the cave walls.
Anything new is bad, curiosity is bad,
going out at night is bad. Basically,
anything fun is bad. Welcome to my
world.

They all run back into the cave where Grug slams the rock door closed.

SLOWLY LIGHT ON CAVE PAINTINGS COMES UP AGAIN. But this time the light casts an ominous tone.

EEP (V.O.)
But this is a story about how all that changed in an instant.

RAPID SHOTS OF THE GREAT SPLIT CUTTING THROUGH THE LAND. HEADED TOWARDS CROOD VALLEY.

SHOTS OF CATACLYSM. CUT FASTER AND FASTER UNTIL...

EEP (V.O.)
Because what we didn't know, was that our world was about to come to an end. And there were no rules on our cave walls to prepare us for that.

CAVEMAN HANDS PRESS against the rock wall. They PUSH. A BLINDING LIGHT FLOODS the screen.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 100 - MEET THE CROODS

A HUGE CAVEMAN, GRUG, RUSHES forward, screaming, growling, and throwing handfuls of dirt in a THREAT DISPLAY. He BLINKS in the bright morning light. He LIFTS and HURLS a large boulder.

GRUG
Raaaaar grooooOooOooowwll ERF ERF
Glaaaaaabbblllllllllthhhh!

As suddenly as he began, Grug stops. Panting, he waits for the echoes of his outburst to fade.

Grug TURNS to the cave entrance, he prepares to BELLOW a signal, but before any sound escapes his lips--

A CAVE GIRL, EEP, bursts from the cave.

GRUG (CONT'D)

You're supposed to wait for my signal
Eep. Eep?

Eep scares a pack of nearby Liyotes away. They pounce on Grug briefly before scampering off. Eep spreads out on an overhanging rock. She BASKS IN THE SUN.

EPP

We've been in that cave forever.

GRUG

Three days is not forever.

EPP

It is with this family.

GRUG

Eep would you come down here? You're being so dramatic.

A LITTLE GIRL, SANDY, charges out next. Her display is more terrier-like.

GRUG (CONT'D)

No, no, no Sandy, come back here.
Remember the signal. Good girls wait for the signal.

A CAVE WOMAN, UGGA, scrambles out next. She is mostly focused on catching Sandy, giving only cursory effort to her display.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Ugga.

UGGA

As soon as I get Sandy, I'll go back in,
and you can give the signal.

GRUG

No, I mean, you're already out now.

THUNK (O.S.)

I am waiting for the signal, dad.

We HEAR the voice of Grug's nine-year-old son from inside the cave. THUNK is eager to please his dad and emulates his every move.

GRUG

Never mind, Thunk. Just, come out.

THUNK

(not so fast)

Uhh, but if you don't give the signal,
how do I know you're my dad?

GRUG

The signal isn't so you know it's me,
it's so you know I wasn't eaten by an
animal.

Beat.

THUNK

Then why is the signal an animal noise?
I mean, doesn't that just confuse things?

Grug sighs.

THUNK (CONT'D)

I don't know... I'm still waiting for the
signal.

GRUG

Sigh. Hoo hooooo! Hoo hooooo!

Thunk comes out growling, and barrels into Grug. Thunk
picks up a boulder and throws it. It ricochets off the
cliff wall and careens into Grug. Grug gets plowed over
by the boulder.

UGGA

Mom, we're ready to leave.

(beat)

Mom!

Grug sits up and smiles.

GRAN

Still alive!

Grug's face drops.

GRUG

It's still early.

GRAN

And you're still fat.

GRUG

Breakfast formation!

The Croods form up in a flying wedge, with Grug in the
lead.

GRUG (CONT'D)

I want to see some real caveman action out there. We do this fast. We do this loud, we do this as a family and never not be afraid. Go!

THUNK

YAY, BREAKFAST!!!!

COMPRESSED TIME - The Croods RUN out of Crood canyon, across the wide expanses of desert.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 150 - SMASH & GRAB

EXT. MOUTH OF CROOD CANYON - MORNING

Grug and the Croods come to a stop at the HUNTING GROUNDS. They are spent from a fifteen-mile run.

THUNK

(huffing)

Yeah... breakfast...

We see a nest with a huge unguarded blue egg. The Croods take shelter behind a rock. Grug PEERS over the top.

GRUG

Who's up?

Eep's hand SHOOTs up. Thunk is less than enthusiastic.

GRUG (CONT'D)

We'll flip for it.

Grug LIFTS Gran on his hand, and FLIPS her up in the air.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Call her in the air.

EEP

Heads.

Gran FACE-PLANTS, her head buried in the sand. Only her tail is showing.

GRUG

Tails. Thunk's in.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Positions.

The family fades back and splits up. They get into fighting/running position.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Ok. Thunk. Go. Come on Thunk.

Thunk BREAKS COVER. He dashes into the open, SNATCHES the egg.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hah! Way to go. Take it to the cave!

Thunk PASSES Grug and makes a bee-line for Crood Canyon.

A Gerf bird smashes Thunk and steals the egg back.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Oooh!

GRUG (CONT'D)

Release the baby.

Eep and Sandy MOVE IN on the bird. Sandy NIPS at its heels while UGGA CLIMBS up onto its head. She PULLS the egg from its beak.

Down range, TRIP GERBILS SURFACE. They STRETCH their shared tail across the Ramu's path like an arresting cable on a carrier.

Ugga RISES to THROW the egg to Grug - the gerbils WRAP their tail around the Ramu like a bola. The Ramu GOES DOWN hard. Ugga and the egg ROLL forward. The Trip Gerbils SNATCH up the egg and make off with it.

UGGA

Get um Mom! Do it for the Croods!

Gran's cane HOOKS the gerbils in the middle of their tail and WHIPS them up and over her shoulder.

ON GRAN

DRIBBLING the egg down-range with her cane like a hockey player. LIYOTES POP UP from behind hoodoos. They SWARM in behind her.

The Liyotes TRIP Gran. They steal the egg, and HIT THE GAS. They are INCREDIBLY FAST.

GRAN

Old lady down! Eep, avenge me.

ON EEP

Crouched in the shade of a scrubby bush, like a runner on the blocks - she has the Liyotes in her sights. Eep LAUNCHES.

Eep runs after the Liyote with the egg, cutting him off in his tracks he slams into a cactus launching the egg into the air. Eep leaps into the air taking back the egg.

EEP

Thanks!

A bunch of Jackrobats see Eep and swarm around her. She loses her footing and throws the egg to Grug.

GRUG

Eep!

EEP

Heads Up!

Grug catches the egg and runs by the entrance of a small cave. Thunk following close behind accidentally trips over the tail of a sleeping Bear Owl knocking Grug to the ground and fumbling the egg once again.

Thunk catches the egg just as the Girelephant bears down on him from behind and lifts him onto one of its tusks. The family members meet up as they begin their long run back to the cave.

An entire swarm of animals chase the Croods as they head back to their cave.

The Bear Owl is awakened and goes after everyone on the chase.

Grug protecting his family from the BearOwl tosses each family member onto the Girelephant's back.

Grug dodges the BearOwl's attack and uses him as a launching pad to get himself safely on the Girelephant.

Thunk is happy to see Dad is safe.

THUNK

Oh hey Dad, can we eat now?

GRUG

Just wait till we get home. Eep put on the brakes.

The entrance to Crood canyon appears on the horizon.

Eep hangs off the edge of one of its tusks as Grug takes over the other. Together they dig their heels into the ground, slowing down the Girelephant.

The Bearowl continues the chase. The Croods maneuver the Girelephant to fend off the Bearowl.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Eep!

The Girelephant moving way too fast readies for the crash. The Girelephant crashes into the entrance of the canyon, sending the Croods flying in. They all tumble. Grug makes an extraordinary football catch. He holds tight to the meal as he slams into a rock. Grug holds up the egg.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Who's hungry?

THUNK

Alright! Good one, dad!

GRUG

Here you go, Thunk. Drink up.

Grug tosses the egg to Thunk, Thunk fumbles it and it cracks open.

THUNK

Sorry, dad.

UGGA

Looks like fast food tonight!

The family passes the leaky egg around quickly, each Crood gets a taste. Thunk is the last Crood to get a mouthful, he hands it over to Grug-- the egg is empty.

GRUG

That's alright. I ate last week.

A SHADOW TOUCHES Grug's feet. He looks up - the sun is setting behind the canyon wall. He HOLDS UP his hand to gauge how much daylight is left.

GRAN

Two knuckle warning.

UGGA

Come on Croods. Go, go, go.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 200 - WELCOME TO CROOD CAVE

INT. CROOD CAVE - EVENING

GRUG

Come on, come on. Darkness brings death!
We know this.

The Croods RUN INSIDE THE CAVE. Ugga picks up a heavy stick off the floor.

UGGA

The moon is full. Bath night.
(grumbling, Gran tries to run
away)
You too, Mom.

GRAN

Run for your life.

Ugga pulls Gran back.

GRAN (CONT'D)

I don't want to lose my protective layer.

UGGA

Mom, you've got ants.
(hanging Sandy up)

Whack! Like she's cleaning a rug, Ugga SMACKS Sandy hard with the stick. Dust and bugs fly off of her.

UGGA (CONT'D)

See? Sandy doesn't fuss.

Ugga CLAPS her hands together and Sandy knows to let go. She hits the floor and SCAMPERS away.

GRAN

(upset)
Aaaaaaaaah.

Grug enters and looks around the cave.

GRUG

Is she still out there?

UGGA

You know she hates the cave, Grug.

ON EEP clinging to the side of the sheer rock face above Crood cave. She RAISES HER HAND to 'catch' a few more moments of sun.

EEP

Please come back tomorrow.

ON GRUG getting his 'bath.'

GRUG

How can she not like the cave? It's so cozy.

UGGA

It is a little, dark, Grug.

GRUG

It's not that dark.

Grug is finished with his bath.

GRUG (CONT'D)

(losing patience)

Eep! Eep?

Eep begins to climb down the wall outside when she hears a sound in the distance. Curious, she begins to climb even higher. Grug leaves the cave, searching for her.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Come on, I gotta close the cave...

ON GRUG exiting the cave... Grug sees that Eep is at the very top.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Eep!

Eep continues to climb.

EEP

Okay, okay!

GRUG

Come on.

Behind Grug, the Bear Owl appears up the canyon. It SPOTS Grug and the open cave and RACES to attack. Grug sees the BearOwl in full attack mode.

GRUG (CONT'D)

EEP! COME DOWN!!

Grug throws a rock which momentarily stuns the creature, allowing Eep to JUMP DOWN and DART into the cave. Grug barely gets the cave closed in time.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Sigh

CUT TO:

SEQ. 210 - BEDTIME STORY

The Bear Owl PUSHES his paw through the narrow opening, and FEELS around for the Croods. The Croods are like mice in this world.

GRUG

That was too close!

EEP

I was watching. I was fine.

GRUG

What were you doing up there, Eep?

EEP

I don't know.

GRUG

What were you looking for?

EEP

Nothing.

GRUG

Well then why did you go up there?

EEP

(annoyed)

I don't know.

GRUG

Why don't you know? Stop looking for things. Fear keeps us alive Eep. Never not be afraid.

Eep climbs up on a ledge and curls up in the corner where a tiny spot of light seeps in.

EEP

(to herself)

What's the point of all this?

GRUG

Hmmm? What was that?

EEP

(a little louder)

I mean, why are we here? What are we doing this for?

CROODS

Groan

GRUG

No one said survival was fun.

EEP

Nothing is fun.

GRUG

Hmm? Would you come down here. Eep?

No answer. Grug CLIMBS up. Uggga PULLS Grug back down.

UGGA

Grug. Off.

GRUG

Yes.

Grug climbs back up.

UGGA

Off!

GRUG

I just don't see why she needs her own ledge. That's all. That's what this is about.

UGGA

She's working through some things and needs her own space.

GRUG

What things? How long is this going to take? Really? I mean she already doesn't listen to me.

A pebble hits Grug in the head. It came from Eep's ledge.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hey!

UGGA

See? She's listening.

GRUG

If she wants to survive, she has to follow our rules.

UGGA

How about a story? Eep loves those.

Grug brightens.

GRUG

(brightening)

That's a good idea ... How about a story, huh?

THUNK

Oh yeah, tell us a story.

The Croods minus Eep gather in a semi-circle on the ground. Grug retrieves Sandy and her Krispy Bear from the bone-crib.

GRUG

Ok. Can I borrow that? Thank you. Eep! Your old favorite?

EEP

I haven't played with that thing in years.

GRUG

Tonight we'll hear the story of Krispy Bear.

Grug sits and waits a beat for Eep to join, but she stays put.

As Grug talks, he gestures at a rough sketch on the wall of the cave.

GRUG (CONT'D)

A long time ago, this little bear was alive. She was alive because she listened to her father and lived her life in routine and darkness and terror. So she was happy. But Krispy had one, terrible problem. She was filled with... curiosity.

UGGA

Grug!

Ugga covers Sandy's ears.

GRUG

Yes. And one day, while she was in a tree, the curious little bear wanted to climb to the top.

THUNK

Wha?

GRUG

And no sooner than she climbed to the top, she saw something new and died.

Grug SWATS the painting.

THUNK

Just like that?

GRUG

Yes! Her last moments of terror still frozen on her face.

Grug holds out Krispy Bear. The family is terrified.

GRAN

Oh, same ending as everyday.

THUNK

(freaked out)

I get it, dad. I get it. I will never do anything new or different.

GRUG

Good man, Thunk.

Pan across the walls to reveal they are covered with stories all seemingly with the same ending.

UGGA

Alright, everyone sharpen your teeth and let's pile up.

All their worst fears confirmed, the Croods snuggle into one big heap, warm and comfy. Grug casts a glance to Eep's ledge. She doesn't budge.

FADE TO BLACK:

SEQ. 500 - FOLLOW THE LIGHT

INT. CROOD CAVE - NIGHT

The Croods sleep peacefully in their pile. Except Eep, who tosses restlessly on her LEDGE. Outside, we hear the ROARS and HOWLS of prehistoric creatures fighting.

But then, SILENCE.

And then cutting through the primordial night is a MUSICAL SOUND. Unsettling. Unearthly. Eep creeps around her sleeping family and cautiously approaches the "door" to peer outside, when suddenly--

WHOOSH! A bright light blazes through the gaps around the boulder door, bathing Eep in an OTHER-WORLDLY GLOW. She chases the flash of light around the cave trying to catch it in her hands.

Eep presses her face against the cold boulder, trying to get a look at what is outside, but she can't get more than a blurred glimpse of the canyon beyond - and the disappearing light.

Desperate to see more, Eep braces her back against the cave and PUSHES the plug rock with her legs. Slowly, she shifts the rock, careful not to wake her father. It takes all of her strength, but she manages to move it just enough for her to BARELY SQUEEZE out.

EXT. CROOD CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Eep stands outside at night for the first time ever. Her heart races. The hot night wind blows against her face and through her hair. The forbidden sensation is exhilarating.

The canyon beyond is quickly swallowing the light - it will be gone in another few seconds. With one of her hands pressed tightly to the cave 'door', she steels herself.

Eep LETS GO and DASHES after the light, SCRAMBLING through the SANDSTONE NARROWS, bounding from side to side. As she disappears into the darkness of the canyon, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. CANYON

The light ahead is growing brighter. Eep is closing on it. In her excitement, she missteps and SNAPS a stick underfoot.

It was barely audible. Eep instinctively FREEZES.

A huge SHADOW of a TUSKED CREATURE is cast on the wall above her. Eep throws a rock at the shadow.

She POWERS STRAIGHT UP the stone wall with unexpected speed.

The Creature RUNS. Eep tops the wall and...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 550 - CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

EXT. ROCK ARCH - NIGHT

Eep steps into a small clearing. Stuck in the ground, is a TORCH. As far as Eep knows, this is the thing she was following. Eep crouches down and cautiously approaches.

REVERSE ANGLE - Eep can feel the heat from the fire on the palms of her hands and her face. TENSE. EXCITING.

But camouflaged against the rock wall behind her, something MOVES. A WARTHOG CREATURE stands upright and creeps up behind her.

Eep reaches out to TOUCH the flame. The torch blows away from her. The wind has changed direction. The breeze at her back, Eep smells the Creature behind her. On her face, awe turns to determination as she wheels and grabs the creature. She THROWS and FLIPS it over her shoulder. It hits the torch, knocking it to the ground. Eep jumps back, GRABBING a good-sized rock - she's poised to bash the Creature's brains in.

CREATURE

Nuh! Nuh!

The Creature defensively raises its arms, hands in front of its face.

GUY

No!

Hands? Eep GASPS, shocked to see HUMAN HANDS attached to this monstrosity.

The Creature slowly puts his hands to the sides of his grotesque head, and RAISES its mask. It's a boy... he's BEAUTIFUL! This is GUY.

EEP

Augh!

Eep LEAPS BACK a few paces, DROPPING the rock on Guy's foot.

GUY

AAAAAAAUGHHHHHHHHH!

EEP

Shhh!

Eep moves swiftly to silence him. She POUNCES on him and TWISTS his head sideways. Guy is SUFFOCATING. He feels around for a stick and BASHES Eep in the side of the head.

EEP (CONT'D)

Ow!

GUY

(gasping)

Air.

EEP

...You talk.

GUY

I'm a person, like you.

Eep TOSSES the boulder aside and LIFTS Guy with one hand.

GUY (CONT'D)

Sort of... like you.

Eep OPENS Guy's mouth and pokes around inside. She SNIFFS at him. Turns him upside-down.

GUY (CONT'D)

Okay, could you not, hee hee hee, that tickles. Hey!

Eep looks closely at BELT, a sloth wrapped around Guy's waist. Belt's eyes OPEN.

EEP

Augh!

Eep DROPS Guy on his head.

GUY

OW! Wow. --

Eep jams her foot over Guy's mouth.

EEP

Quiet! I'm not supposed to be out here.

Guy BITES her foot.

EEP (CONT'D)

OW!

She KICKS Guy in the stomach. He ROLLS sideways. Guy is getting the worst of this encounter. Eep kicks Guy off-frame. We HEAR the fight continuing.

CUT TO:

INT. CROOD CAVE

Grug is awakened by wind coming from the cave opening. He pushes the "sleep pile" off of him. Checks Eep's ledge... but she is gone.

GRUG

(to Ugga)

Eep's gone.

UGGA

What? Grug!

GRUG

Stay in the cave!

Grug stands outside the entrance to the cave. Peering into utter darkness. He steels himself... and then releases his hand from the "door."

CUT TO:

SEQ. 560 - CLOSE ENCOUNTERS (PART II)

EXT. ROCK ARCH

Guy is still on his knees.

GUY

(in pain, defeated)

Wow. You're really strong.

The flame DWINDLES. Guy MOVES toward it. Eep BLOCKS him.

EEP

No! It's mine. No, no. I caught it!

No way Guy is getting past her.

GUY
It's dying. I can fix it!

Eep doesn't want to.

GUY (CONT'D)
Please. I hate the dark.

Eep sees a kindred spirit. She gets out of his way. Guy PICKS UP the torch and BLOWS. Eep scoots closer to Guy, staying in the circle of light around him. As Guy brings the fire back to life, the relief on his face is familiar to Eep. This boy seems to have power over light itself. Eep is smitten.

EEP
It does what you tell it?

GUY
Well, yeah, sort of.

EEP
The sun?

GUY
No, no. Fire.

EEP
(to the flame)
Hi, fire.

GUY
(laughing)
It's not alive.

EEP
But you said it was dying.

GUY
Uh sorry,--

EEP
It comes from where you come from?

GUY
No. I make it.

Eep BALLS her fist, GRABBING Guy tightly by the hair.

EEP
Make some for me.

GUY

Ow. Okay, it doesn't come out of me.

EEP

Make. MAKE! MAKE IT!

Eep SQUEEZES Guy like a tube of toothpaste.

GUY

You do this a lot.

Something CRACKS. Eep DROPS Guy - he's broken.

EEP

Are you dead? Can I have your fire if you're dead?

Belt RUBS two flat rocks together and places them on Guy's chest like defibrillator paddles. Guy BOLTS upright.

GUY

Hey, those are cold!

BELT

Squirf!

GUY

You think? Listening shells, activate.

Belt AND Guy use shells to LISTEN to the ground.

GUY (CONT'D)

I concur. Tiger girl, we need to leave immediately.

He tries to pull her by the arm. She stays put like an anchor.

EEP

I don't even know you.

GUY

(pained, rushed)
Ow. I'm Guy.

EEP

Guy?

GUY

And this is Belt. Cook, conversationalist, navigator, also keeps my pants up.

BELT

Hhiiyaa! Yaaa!

EPP

What are "pants up?"

GUY

Who are you?

EPP

Eep.

GUY

(cutting her off)

Let me clarify, Eep. The world is ending.

EPP

What?

GUY

I'm calling it...

(very dramatic)

The... End.

BELT

Da da daaaaa.

EPP

How do you know?

Guy and Belt both do gestures to accompany the Da da daaaa. It seems very important to them.

GUY

I've seen it. It's coming this way. First, the Earth is going to shake. Then it breaks open. Everything falls in. Fire. Lava. I don't mean to sound too dramatic, but Aaaaaaugh. Believe me, everything we're standing on, all this right here, will be gone.

Again with the gestures. It's a little weird to Eep.

GUY (CONT'D)

We've got to get to high ground. I know a mountain, that way--

He points into the distance.

GUY (CONT'D)
It's our only chance.
(extending his hand)
Come with me.

Guy and Belt reach out their hands to Eep.

Eep
I can't.

Guy hands the shell to Eep. And Eep is mesmerized. Guy pulls his hog-mask back down.

GUY
Okay. Here. If you survive, call me.

Eep test-blows the shell. It makes a sound, she giggles. When she looks up to thank Guy, he is GONE.

Eep
Thank you. Hello? Hey!

Eep BUMPS directly into Grug.

Eep (CONT'D)
Dad!

GRUG
Are you hurt? What took you?

Eep
Nothing. I left on my own.

GRUG
You... youuuuuuu... ww-what!?

Eep
Dad, let me explain...

A low GROWL interrupts them.

ON THE BEAR OWL Sniffing around. It passes over a log.

CRANE DOWN to reveal Grug hanging under the log by one hand, Eep dangling in the other.

Eep (CONT'D)
(whispered)
You never let me talk.

GRUG
You're grounded.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 610 - EARTHQUAKE

EXT. CANYON - OUTSIDE THE KEYHOLE - MORNING

Grug and Eep move up the canyon. Eep furiously kicks a rock, it nearly hits Grug.

GRUG

Hey!

Things are tense between the two. At the KEYHOLE, they are met by the rest of the Croods.

UGGA

Eep!

EPP

Mom!

UGGA

Grug! What happened!?

GRUG

You know what, I am so mad right now, that I can't talk to her.

UGGA

Eep?

EPP

You'll never believe it. I found something new.

CROODS

New!!!!

The Croods all SNATCH up stones. They form a defensive circle.

GRUG

New's a big problem!

Eep is trapped in the middle of the defensive formation. She SQUEEZES out.

EPP

Wait. Wait!

UGGA

Eep. Stay inside the family kill circle.

EPP

It wasn't bad.

GRUG
New is always bad.

EEP
No. He was nice.

GRUG
What!? Excuse me? He?

EEP
Oh. Well, I thought he was a warthog,
but then he turned into a boy.

GRAN
Strange. Usually it's the reverse.

Grug RAISES an eyebrow.

THUNK
Eep's got a boy hog! Eep's got a boy
hog!

Eep ELBOWS Thunk in the back of his head.

EEP
There was a boy. Watch, okay. I'm gonna
call him.

Eep pulls out the SHELL. She BLOWS into the shell - the
sound ALARMS the Croods.

They SMACK the shell from Eep's hand and SMASH it with
their rocks.

Eep is incredulous. The dust clears - the panting Croods
are satisfied the object is gone.

EEP (CONT'D)
What is wrong with you?

GRUG
It was dangerous.

EEP
(very angry)
It was beautiful. You want to see
dangerous? Here.

She pelts Thunk with a rock.

THUNK
Owww! My sniffer!

GRUG

Okay Eep, that's it. We're going back to the cave and you're going to stay in there until you're older than... her!

EEP

What!?! You can't keep me inside forever!

Eep throws a tantrum of epic proportion. She SLAMS a rock on the ground. It SHATTERS to dust.

CREAK! A strange GROAN is heard from under the ground. Then a small amount of sand falls from up above. A crack starts to splinter under their feet.

EEP (CONT'D)

He said this would happen.

Then BOOM! The ground starts to SHAKE!

GRUG

Get to the cave! GO!

The Croods RACE through the CANYON NARROWS, fighting their way through falling boulders and shifting ground, heading towards the safety of their cave.

The Croods see the cave entrance. The canyon walls above their home start to crack. Grug sees that the falling rock will crush the cave.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Look out! Stop!

Grug leaps and tackles his family, protecting them from the mass of rocks crashing down.

The top of the canyon collapses and the Crood's cave is destroyed. Everything is engulfed by dust. The earth settles.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 710 - CROSSING OVER

The dust clears a bit - the Croods are in a tight ball, covered by Grug. Grug stands, all Croods were sheltered and safe under his mighty arms.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Is everyone okay?

UGGA

Yes. Grug, the cave, it's gone.

Grug looks back to Crood cave. It is gone.

GRUG

No.

Grug searches the rubble for any sign that the cave might still be there. He finds one handprint, split in two.

He carefully fits them back together. Emotional, he lowers his head.

As Eep steps forward, a shaft of light filtering through the dusty veil from the wreckage crosses her face--

As the dust descends, Eep sees A NEW WORLD beyond.

EEP

You really need to see this...

The dumbfounded Croods stare in awe at the beautiful world.

The Croods look out at the new world.

EEP (CONT'D)

We should go there!

GRUG

No. No one is going anywhere.

Grug pulls Eep back from the precipice.

GRUG (CONT'D)

What else did that boy say?

WHOOSH! Suddenly, bursting from the New World is a giant flying creature - a TURTLE DOVE.

The Croods reel back as it sails overhead. They turn to watch the Turtle Dove as it flies away.

They hear a familiar menacing growl. It's the BEAR OWL!

It roars and charges toward the Croods.

Grug instinctively GRABS a giant boulder and rolls it in front of his family.

The Bear Owl runs and swats the massive boulder away like a ball of yarn.

But the Croods are not behind it. They are running towards the New World.

UGGA

Grug?

GRUG

Just go! Go! Go!

The Croods run towards the precipice with the Bear Owl closing in.

They reach the edge. The Bear Owl dives.

The Croods LEAP. They hang for a moment and begin tumbling down a steep jungle hill.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 776 - NEW WORLD

EXT. NEW WORLD. DAY

The Croods tumble through a twisty mess of giant roots and strange plants and land in a heap. They all lie on their backs, disoriented, but momentarily calm.

Grug sits up first. He turns to the high, high, cliff above them -- to the top, where they have lived all their lives up to this moment. A few loose pebbles continue to tumble down. There is no sign of the BEAR OWL.

The others stand up, and they take in this new place.

Grug takes a deep breath and then quickly counts:

GRUG

One, two, three, four, five --

BEAT. Grug smiles.

Gran lands in a heap behind him.

GRUG (CONT'D)

(defeated)

Six.

GRAN

(winces in pain)

Oh... Where are we?

GRUG

I don't know, I'm not sure. Down. In a lower place. One thing's for sure, we can't go back the way we came.

The Croods SIT UP. They are disoriented.

ON SANDY

SANDY
Sniff sniff sniff
Grrrrrrrrrrrr.....

UGGA
(hushed, urgent)
Sandy? What is it?

Sandy LUNGES at something almost disappearing into a bush.

Grug BARELY catches Sandy by her leg. Grug PULLS her back like a dog on a leash.

GRUG
No, no! Come back, Sandy!

Sandy has a MOUSEPHANT in her mouth. Grug knocks it from Sandy's mouth. A gaggle of mousephants run out from the bush and scurry away.

GRUG (CONT'D)
(tense whisper)
We can't be out in the open like this.
We need a cave. Now step where I step.

They start moving.

GRUG (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Okay. Stay quiet. Hopefully nothing big knows we're here yet.

PULL BACK - a huge colorful predator, THE MACAWNIVORE senses something. He SITS UP and STALKS OFF.

ON THE CROODS moving fitfully through the strange forest.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Wait. Okay. Wait. Okay. Wait. Okay.

The Croods cautiously move in fits and stops through the middle of this thick, pre-historic rainforest.

THUNK
(rambling)
So Dad, just to be clear, are we looking for the exact same cave?
(MORE)

THUNK (CONT'D)

If it was me, I'm just throwing this out there, if it was me choosing the cave, I would go with a smaller cave.

As they trek, strange creatures (BEAR PEARS, PUNCH MONKEYS) watch these foreigners.

In the front of the line, Grug is freaked out. But in the back Eep is taking in the wonders. They pass through a curtain of hefty hanging pears. After they pass the "pears" all turn to watch the Croods.

A leaf FLUTTERS down.

GRUG

Wait.

Eep and Grug LOOK UP.

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY PUNCH MONKEYS.

THUNK

Dad?

GRUG

I'll take care of this.

Grug launches into his Threat Display -

GRUG (CONT'D)

WWAAAAaaarrgghhaarrrraaaarrgghh!!

He flails his arms around and jumps about in front of the nearest Punch Monkey. No reaction from the Punch Monkey.

Grug stops, confused... The Punch Monkey now breaks into a BROAD GRIN... Then hauls off and - THUD - Punches Grug in the face! Grug reels back, surprised - turns... Right into another Punch Monkey. It winds up and - THUD! - it hits Grug - Grug reels back - into another Monkey - THUD! -

THUNK

Alright dad, go get 'em! Oh, oh, now you got em-- Now they're really hitting you. Dad I got it, just stop running into their fists.

Gran joins in and punches Grug in the nose.

GRAN

Hah, I'm loving this.

UGGA

Grug, when you're done, we should get going.

Wide shot: Grug is being bounced back and forth like a pinball from one punch Monkey to the next. The Punch Monkeys are whooping and hollering - this is great fun! The Punch Monkeys let go of Grug and begin running away for no apparent reason.

Grug staggers backwards into the family.

GRUG

That's right! You can't get past this!

CHUNKY

ROOOAR!

A colorful 'bush' rears up - it's not a bush, it's a MACAWNIVORE! The Croods react, terrified

Grug throws a rock at it. The Macawnivore catches the rock and SPRINGS! -

CROODS

gasps

GRUG

Climb! Climb! Climb!

Grug pushes and forces the Croods up a huge tree then as it steps away-- it is actually a giant animal.

GRUG'S POV: A cave!

GRUG (CONT'D)

CAVE! GO! GO!

The Croods jump off the bird leg in hopes of getting to the cave.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Come on! Hurry up, let's go! Come on!

The Croods all RUN LIKE CRAZY in the direction Grug pointed. They step inside the "cave." SLAM! The front of the cave comes down. The Croods have jumped inside the MOUTH of a LAND WHALE!

THUNK

Hey look! This cave has a tongue.
Awesome!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 1250 - GUY TO THE RESCUE

The Land Whale stands up and then SPITS the Croods out through its blow hole. The Croods land in a heap.

GRUG

Okay, that's one, two, three, four,
five... six...

GRAN

And seven... if we're counting Chunky the
Death Cat.

CHUNKY

Grrrrrrrrrr.

The Macawnivore appears from behind some nearby grass. It looks at the Croods with delight. Suddenly, the shadow of the setting sky passes over the Macawnivore. It freaks out and retreats into the forest.

THUNK

Hah! It's scared of the dark... wait...
we're scared of the dark.

And for good reason, because as the SHADOW from the setting sun falls across the Croods.

Suddenly, thousands of PIRANHA OWLS BURST from the grasses around the Croods and form a huge undulating cloud above them. It's a beautiful sight.

The cloud of Piranha Owls then SETTLE on a massive LAND WHALE.

Moments later, they fly back into the air - the whale is SKELETONIZED. It CRUMPLES to the ground.

GRUG

Kill circle!

The Croods form their defensive circle, brandishing rocks.

Eep spies a SKULL lying in the sand. She SPRINTS for it.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Eep! Eeeep!

Eep breaks a horn from the skull and BLOWS on it loud and long.

ON GUY hearing the horn. He is happy to hear the sound, knowing it's Eep calling him.

Then as Guy begins walking towards the sound, Guy notices the circling birds in the sky. Alarmed, he DASHES off.

Guy appears at the treeline. He spots Eep standing alone in the clearing. He sees the birds heading towards her. He runs and leaps off a ROCK OUTCROPPING jumping right over the CROODS who are huddled near the ROCK.

Guy lands and in one fluid motion knocking the horn out of Eep's hand to stop the noise then STRIKES a spark with two STONES. The birds close in, blotting out the remaining light. All goes BLACK.

Then, a tiny leaf of flame FLUTTERS to life before Guy. He THROWS two more handfuls of grass on it, and it FLARES UP! The light SPLITS the onrushing red tide of birds like a knife. For a few moments the Croods are inside a TORNADO of the tiny monsters. The mass PASSES.

Grug SLAPS at one last smoldering bird FLUTTERING past.

Grug TURNS to see Guy, HOLDING his daughter. Grug's expression DARKENS. He SNARLS.

GUY

Ta-da.

EEP

(Sigh.)

Grug pushes Eep aside and shows Guy his threat display.

GRUG

Auughhauhhgggh!

SMASH CUT TO:

SEQ. 1275 - FIRE GOOD, FIRE BAD

Suddenly, Guy and Eep are circled by the Croods. They are in defensive ape-like positions. Each doing their threat display.

CROODS

Raaarr,
grOooO000Oowwlllll,
ERF ERF
GLaaabbblllllelllelller!

Guy stands in front of Eep defensively.

GUY

Cavies!

EEP

Cavies?

GUY

Cavemen! Stand back! They're
practically animals. See their bony,
sloping foreheads?

EEP

Oh... yeah!

GUY

The huge primitive teeth?

EEP

Er... yeah...

GUY

The excessive body hair? Oh, that one's
got a tail...

EEP

Uhhh... yeah...

Guy PULLS his knife.

GUY

Close your eyes. I'm going to have to
take their lives.

EEP

(slapping the knife away)
No. It won't help.
(embarrassed)
They're my family.

GUY

What?

Eep nods toward Thunk.

THUNK

Ah, the sun is in his hands!

The Croods keep circling.

EEP
No. No. It's "fire."

UGGA
Where did it come from?

EEP
(proudly)
He made it.

Grug grabs him and squeezes him tight.

GRUG
Make some for me!

EEP
It doesn't come out of him.

GRUG
Make. Make it.

POP! Guy's ribs are cracked for the second time.

GUY
You know, you're a lot like your
daughter.

Guy falls in a heap.

EEP
Great, now he's broken.

UGGA (O.S.)
Oh, it's a baby sun.

Grug turns to see Ugga, Thunk, Gran and Sandy are now sitting very close around the fire, transfixed.

GRUG
Whoa! Stay back. We don't know what it
wants.

As Grug moves around the circle, picking up sitting Croods and placing them a safe distance from the fire, he talks to them like a kindergarten teacher:

GRUG (CONT'D)
Now we'll all sit here, and wait for the
sun to come back. And tomorrow we'll
find a new cave, and pretend today never
happened.

(MORE)

GRUG (CONT'D)
(looks at the fire)
Isn't this fun, Eep?

Grug looks around to see that Eep is kneeling beside Guy.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Eep, don't touch him. Goodness knows
where he's been.

Suddenly, behind Grug, Sandy ATTACKS the torch. She
shakes it with her teeth, EMBERS FLY EVERYWHERE.

THUNK
Dad, Sandy's hurting fire.

Grug reaches down and scoops up Sandy. (NOTE: From this
point, Grug will hold onto Sandy, no matter how much she
struggles, kicks and bites.)

GRUG
Sandy! No! Fire is not a play thing!

UGGA
Aww, what a cute little guy.

GRUG
Hey, stay back.

The Croods snatch at the embers as they dance in the air
around them.

GRUG (CONT'D)
No, no, no, wait!

One of the embers has caught onto Thunk's tunic.

THUNK
It likes me!
(after a beat)
Hey! IT'S BITING ME!!

Thunk takes off running like a maniac.

The flame explodes into embers, which starts more fires
in the grass around him. Grug looks at the growing fires
with utter confusion.

THUNK (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Ow! You're not my friend. Stop, stop
touching me!

GRUG

Thunk! Uh, try hiding from it in the tall dry grass!

Thunk sprints through the grass, arms flailing, as a ring of fire blazes up.

THUNK

(pleading with fire)
Stop please, please. I'm only nine.

Gran cackles at her grandson's misfortune, but then she realizes her WALKING STICK IS ON FIRE.

Angrily, Gran starts to slam the burning end of the stick on the ground, trying to put it out.

But she only ends up making more small fires.

UGGA

Ooh, more fire babies.

While Gran tries desperately to save her cane, Ugga starts throwing sticks on the small fires, which begin to grow in size.

CUT TO:

EEP AND GUY.

EEP

Hi.

GUY

So, your Dad, he's trying to kill me.

EEP

Yeah. But I won't let him.

CUT TO:

Eep and Guy witness the FIERY MAYHEM:

GRUG (O.S.)

Hold on son, come back!

SERIES OF SHOTS:

* GRUG is chasing THUNK in circles, throwing rocks at his flaming butt.

THUNK

I don't like you anymore!

* Sandy, who is still in Grug's arms, but facing backwards, is now holding onto a burning stick and lighting everything she passes on fire.

SANDY

Weeeee!!!!

* Gran, who is still trying to put out her stick, is batting it into every tree and bush she can hit.

GRAN

Get out! Out!

* Ugga carries a REDWOOD above her head and then tosses it onto the small fire.

UGGA

Eat up, babies!

WHOOSH! Ugga ignites a massive bonfire.

The Croods appear like a bunch of violent, lunatic pyromaniacs.

CLOSE ON GRAN

Gran is pounding her walking stick on the ground.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - she is standing on the edge of a giant corn field that is slowly catching on fire.

GRAN

Die! Die!

POOF! The fire on her cane has finally gone out.

GRAN (CONT'D)

I win!

She smiles. And then WA-POP!

The giant ear of corn explodes blasting Gran off frame who slams into Thunk. The speeding ear picks up Ugga, Grug.

ON EEP AND GUY

EEP

They're not so scary once you get to know them.

Eep and Guy are HIT by the speeding corn.

GUY
Who are you people?

UGGA
Oh, I'm sorry. We're the Croooooods!
And you are?

GUY
Uh, Guy.

CROODS
(waving)
Hi, Guy.

The speeding ear CRASHES into a lone tree, sending Guy and the Croods sprawling across the tundra. The flying ears ROCKET SKYWARD and BURST like colorful fireworks.

THUNK
Wow! Looks like magic. And smells like food.

Popcorn kernels RAIN DOWN upon the Croods. They are BURIED.

GRUG
Don't eat it, it's new.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 1425 - THE GOAL IS SET

The Croods burst out of a mountain of popcorn.

CROODS
Still alive!

ON THE BASE OF THE POPCORN PILE

GUY (O.S.)
Come on, keep eating.

BELT
Squirf!

Guy BURROWS out the side of the popcorn pile like a prisoner escaping Alcatraz.

GUY
gasping for air
(checks to see if he's been spotted)

EEP
Hey, where's Guy?

Guy RUNS for the mountain. Eep POUNCES on Guy like a tiger.

GUY
No!

EEP
Going somewhere?

GUY
The mountain? High ground? End of the world, remember?

EEP
That already happened. It destroyed our cave.

GUY
(struggling)
Noooo. That was just the beginning of the end. The end of the end is still coming.

GRUG
(as if to a dog)
Eep. Drop it.

Eep SETS him down. Guy BOLTS but discovers Eep hasn't let go of his hand. Guy is YANKED backwards like he's been tied to a piling.

EEP
We can't let him go! What if we don't find a cave before sunset? What if it takes a few days? What if the birds come back?

BEAT.

GRAN
We need his fire, dummy!

WHOOSH! Grug grabs Guy and throws him in a log.

GRUG
Fine. You're staying with us till we find a cave.

Grug hoists Guy in the log onto his shoulder.

Grug moves out, AWAY from the mountain. The family falls in behind Grug. Thunk is carrying a huge piece of popcorn that he's snacking on.

GUY

What? No I'm not. Don't make me part of this. Stay here if you want, but let me go. I've got a dream, a mission, a reason to live.

EEP

(brightly)

Not anymore.

GUY

(thinking fast)

Umm... I've got an idea. Let's go to that mountain.

ON THE TALL MOUNTAIN way in the distance.

GRUG

(barely looks)

It's too far.

EEP

Dad really has his heart set on a cave.

GUY

Uh, there, are, caves on that mountain.

EEP

Have you been there?

GUY

It's a mountain. Mountains are safe. Mountains have caves. And water. And sticks.

THUNK

Mom? Did you hear that? I can get my own stick!

GUY

Yes. Sticks. Caves and sticks. Crazy sticks. Let's go.

On cue, a RUMBLE. This gets Grug's attention. Grug STOPS. The Croods wait to see what's going to happen next. A Mammoth FALLS out of sight, SWALLOWED by the ground.

BELT

Da da daaaaa.

Sandy tries to attack Belt.

THUNK

Ugh. That thing is weird.

Belt antagonizes Sandy by sticking his tongue out at her. Sandy goes at Belt again.

Eep

No no, it's okay Sandy. That's just a belt.

Grug takes a step back. Turns.

GRUG

I've made a decision. We're going to, that mountain! Don't ask me why. It's just a hunch. It just feels right.

UGGA

I don't know Grug. We've never really walked that far.

THUNK

I don't think my feet can do that.

GRAN

I'll never live long enough to get there.

GRUG

(lighting up)

Let's do it.

(pause)

Oh come on, just think. Our whole family, packed together on a long, slow trip across country? Days and nights with just each other. We'll tell stories. We'll laugh.

(glancing at Eep)

We'll become closer as a family.

Eep RAISES one eyebrow.

SMASH CUT TO:

SEQ. 1460 - FAMILY ROAD TRIP

EXT. BURNT OUT SHRUBS

The Croods have not traveled far. The camera starts tight in on Thunk and Sandy. Sandy is harassing Thunk.

THUNK

Aaaaaaaugh. Get her off. Get off.

UGGA

If you're not ready to challenge her,
then don't look her in the eye.

We follow Sandy as she moves past Gran.

GRAN

Could you keep your big giant arms on
your side of the trail!

Sandy moves past Ugga, Eep and Guy who is still stuck in
the log and being carried by Grug.

UGGA

No more touching. No more touching.

EPP

Isn't this fun? We're taking our first
trip together.

Thunk accidentally bumps into Eep.

EPP (CONT'D)

Stop shoving, or I will pull out your
tongue!

GRUG

Do you want me to turn this family
around? Do you?! Because I will turn
this family around so fast!

The camera slowly pulls out from the family in chaos as
they walk across the burned out landscape.

X-DISS TO:

The Croods are traveling across the dry land. The camera
has pulled out from the family as they travel. Family
chaos continues.

THUNK

Dad, I gotta go!

GRUG

Come on, you can hold it.

THUNK

I don't think so.

THUNK MOANS

THUNK (CONT'D)

(near tears)

I gotta go really bad.

Thunk starts to HOP WITH HIS KNEES GLUED TO EACH OTHER.

GRUG
(relinquishing)
Go behind one of those lumpy things and
make it fast.

THUNK
Ow! Something bit me!

GRAN
(loud)
I don't blame it.

UGGA
Maybe we should have stopped for water.

X-DISS TO:

A Liyote turns to watch the Croods as they travel.

EEP
Dad, can I take a turn carrying him?

GRUG
No.

EEP
How about now?

GRUG
No.

EEP
Now?

GRUG
No.

EEP
NOW?!?!

GRUG
NO!

EEP
(even louder) NOW?!?!

GRUG
I can do this all day long. No, no, no,
and still no.

X-DISS TO:

Oh yeah, more traveling. Now we are in the Turkeyfish hunting grounds. The camera is so far away the Croods are only a speck in the frame.

SMASH CUT TO:

Grug, exhausted, in the foreground with family chaos over his shoulder.

GRAN

I'm not dying on an empty stomach.

UGGA

Grug, we're all pretty tired.

THUNK

I'm pretty dizzy, so I'm just going to lay down for a minute.

GRUG

We'll eat when we get there.

GRAN

It's taking too long! I'm grabbing a snack.

Gran jumps up and tries to grab Belt. Belt pulls a bone knife and defends himself.

GUY

No. No. No. Don't do that. He will cut you. That's not food, he's a pet. My pet.

GRAN

What's a pet?

GUY

An animal that you don't eat.

GRAN

We call those children.

GRUG

No man should have a pet. It's weird, and wrong. It's--

(spies giant bird)
...It's food!

GUY

No, no please!

GRUG
Not that. That.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 1075 - FOOD FIXES EVERYTHING

A WHOOPING sound comes from the grasses ahead. A giant TURKEY FISH raises its toothy head.

GRUG
Food fixes everything.

Grug grabs Thunk.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Alright, show me your hunting face.

THUNK
Arrgh.

Eep shows her hunting face.

GRUG
Not you! You're still grounded!

GRUG (CONT'D)
Come on, Thunk.

THUNK
My feet hurt.

ON GUY

Leaning against a rock next to Gran, Sandy, Eep and Ugg. Guy notices Eep is agitated. She STARES in the direction the men went.

GUY
You look tense.

EPP
I'm not tense.

GRAN
Angry girl wants to be doing what they're doing.

THUNK
Ow! I wasn't ready!

Thunk CRASHES THROUGH the bushes, PURSUED by the Turkey Fish. Grug is being DRUG behind.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hang on Thunk, I'm coming!

THUNK

Why are you doing this?

GUY

What are they doing?

UGGA

Hunting.

THUNK

Get it off! You stay away from me.

GUY

No seriously, what are they doing?

The Turkeyfish squashes Grug into the ground. Then continues chasing Thunk.

THUNK

(to Turkey Fish)

You've got a ton of eggs. Just make another egg!

Thunk FLIES INTO FRAME and SPLATS against the rock. The Turkey Fish climbs to the top of a nearby rock and dives off.

THUNK (CONT'D)

Now you're just rubbing it in.

ON A GIANT BRONTO SCORPION

SLAPPED on a rock in front of the Croods.

The Bronto Scorpion suddenly STRUGGLES.

GRUG

There! Who's hungry for scorpion?

The Croods PULL at the legs. They TWIST and SNAP OFF like lobster legs.

GUY

What happened to the egg and the bird?

THUNK

(still punchy)

You know, we lost him. But when the bird stepped on me and pushed me into the ground, the scorpion grabbed a hold of me and one thing led to another and here we are eating him. Win win.

The dismembered legs continue to STRUGGLE. Guy looks ill.

GRAN

Not enough. Not enough. I need more. I need more!

Gran looks hungrily at Guy.

GUY

(concerned)

Oh, look at that. She's not gonna eat me right?

UGGA

You're too skinny. If she was gonna eat anyone it would be--

THUNK

AAAAAAAAAAUUGHHHHHHHH!

THUNK (CONT'D)

Owww! She's locked her jaw!

UGGA

Mom!

Sandy gets up from the table.

THUNK

Someone get a stick! Get her off!

Guy looks on, horrified.

THUNK (CONT'D)

Oh you sick old monster! Hurry! Put the stick in her mouth!

Belt gives Guy a "let's get out of here" look. Belt rolls Guy away from the family.

GRUG

Hold her still. Use a rock. Ugga would you just hit her legs.

Guy LEAVES. Eep chases him and pins him down.

EEP

Why are you rolling away?

GUY

Owww! I just want something to eat.

EEP

You have bug for dinner. Plenty of bug!

GUY

Please... I'll let you help me hunt.

EEP

Really?

THUNK

Ahhh! They're all over me... Tell my story...

EXT. GRASSLANDS - AFTERNOON

Guy lays a snare in the low grass. He WALKS to the base of a rotund, spikey tree, unwinding more rope as he goes. He TIES the rope around the base of the tree. Then he hands the loose end to Eep. Belt stretches his arms WIDE. Guy STOPS jumping and points up to the top of the tree.

Eep takes the cue. She LEAPS up and grabs the leaning top of the tree. Her weight gently BENDS the tree top down to the ground.

GUY

Okay.

Guy carefully SETS the trigger.

EEP

What do you call this?

GUY

A trap.

EEP

What does it do?

Guy makes sound effects to get his point across as he describes the trap.

GUY

(explains with sounds)
soft whistle Raargh, Thump thump thump,
thubububububub *soft whistle* poom!
Tadaaaaaa!

EEP

How long have you been alone?

Belt opens his arms wide showing Guy has been alone a long, long time.

EEP (CONT'D)

... So what do we do?

Guy pulls out a weird miniature TURKEY FISH PUPPET.

GUY

How's your acting?

ON THE TURKEY FISH getting ready to eat the TRIP-GERBILS. The Turkey LIFTS the creature to his mouth to DEVOUR it, but he's INTERRUPTED by a WHISTLING sound. He TURNS to see the silly little puppet dancing about. The Turkey Fish DROPS his meal and cautiously APPROACHES the puppet.

ON GUY AND EEP working the puppet. Eep is having the time of her life.

GUY (CONT'D)

Oh, you're good at this.

They are so into what they are doing, they accidentally get TANGLED UP.

GUY (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry, I...

EEP

Just move your arm... no, your other arm.
Oh, that one's mine.

In their struggle to UNTANGLE themselves, Eep and Guy inadvertently insult the Turkey Fish. It CHARGES. Eep and Guy don't notice.

The Turkey Fish MISSES the snare, LEAPS the rock and SNATCHES the fake bird off of Guy's head, THRASHING it.

EEP (CONT'D)

Uh... It didn't step in your trap-y, thing.

GUY

Yeah, I noticed.

Eep BOLDLY STANDS in front of the bird. The Turkey Fish grabs Guy and tosses him high across the open field. He goes flying through the air, screaming.

ON GRUG - hearing the commotion. Guy lands back in the log.

GRUG

Where's Eep?

Eep is in full parkour as she runs from the Turkeyfish.

GUY

She's awesome.

Grug STEPS FORWARD. He's going to SPRING the trap.

GRUG

Eep!

EEP

Dad, no!

She LEAPS the snare, PUSHING Grug DOWN.

The Turkey Fish HITS the trigger. The snare TRIPS. The bird BITES at the cavemen, but comes up short. The Turkey Fish WHOOSHES BACKWARDS into the air. He FLIES a couple hundred feet up...

... and CRASHES down in a cloud of feathers.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 900 - BBQ/CAPTIVATING CAPTIVE

EXT. BARBECUE

ON THE TURKEY ROASTING over an open fire. It looks golden and juicy. Grug is agitated. The Croods are devouring the Turkey Fish.

THUNK

It's an avalanche of flavor.

THE CROODS are eating like wild animals. They practically MAUL each other for scraps. HOWLS and SNARLING fill the night air. Guy is amazed and shocked at how the Croods are wolfing it down.

Guy sits to the side, his ankle roped to a heavy rock. Guy and Belt share a concerned LOOK as they politely eat their meal. Eep comes over and sits next to Guy.

GUY

(to Belt)

Looks like we won't be having any leftovers.

Eep

What are "left-overs?"

GUY

(confused)

You know, when you have so much food to eat you have some, left over.

Eep

We never have that much food.

Grug is struck by Eep's words. Ugga sees Grug is hurt. Guy and Belt are struck by this as well.

UGGA

Grug, how about a story?

GRUG

That's a good idea. How about a story huh?

THUNK

Yeah a story, tell us a story!

Croods gather around Grug.

GRUG

Once upon a time there was a little tiger who lived in a cave with her family. There were a lot of rules, but the big, simple one was to never leave the cave at night. And the door was so heavy, you'd think it would be easy to remember.

THUNK

So easy to remember!

GRUG

I know! But, while everyone was asleep, she went out anyway.

CROODS

No!

GRUG

Yes! And no sooner than she did, her cave was destroyed and everyone had to go on this long, sucky walk, with some weirdo they met, and died! The end.

GUY

Whoa! I did not see that coming. Twist ending. My stories never end like that.

THUNK

Yes! Two stories in one night!

The Croods LEAVE Grug and GATHER around Guy. Guy is uncharacteristically dumbstruck.

A BEAT -

GUY

Okay. But it won't be as good as Grug's. Um, once upon a time, there was a beautiful tiger. She lived in a cave with the rest of her family. Her father and mother told her, "You may go anywhere you want but never go near the cliff, for you could fall."

GRUG

And die. Good story.

Thinking the story is over, the Croods begin to get up. As Guy begins talking again they settle back down.

GUY

But when no one was looking, she would go near the cliff, for the closer she came to the edge, the more she could hear, the more she could see, the more she could feel. Finally, she stood at the very edge, and she saw a light. She leaned out to touch it, and slipped.

GRUG

And she fell.

GUY

And she flew.

CROODS

gasp

THUNK

Where did she fly?

GUY

Tomorrow.

EPP

Tomorrow?

GUY

A place with more suns in the sky than you can count.

THUNK

It would be so bright.

GUY

A place not like today, or yesterday, a place where things are better.

GRUG

Tomorrow isn't a place, you can't see it!

GUY

Oh yes, yes it is. I've seen it. That's where I'm going.

Grug studies Guy. Is he crazy? Eep though is entranced. Eep and Guy lock eyes. There is something growing between them. Grug and Belt see it too. Grug is not thrilled.

GRUG

Well, WE are going to shut our eyes and sleep. And when we wake up we're going to find the place that has everything we want.

EPP

Tomorrow?!

GRUG

A cave.

Grug stuffs Guy neatly back inside the log. Grug CURLS UP by the fire with the LOG TUCKED UNDER HIS ARM far away from Eep.

DISSOLVE TO:

ON GRUG'S FACE.

GRUG

snoring, tossing and turning

Morning light kisses Grug's cheeks. He's sound asleep. PULL OUT to reveal that Guy's log is now teetering over a cliff edge - there was another subduction during the night, and half of the Croods' sleeping platform has sunk two hundred feet. Grug is still grasping Guy's log, which now hangs over the fresh abyss, and the still-asleep Guy is now SLIPPING out of one end. In the nick of time, Grug SHIFTS position, inadvertently TURNS the log, and Guy starts slipping out the OTHER end. Guy WAKES UP, looking down.

GUY

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAUGHHHHH.

SMASH CUT TO:

SEQ. 1600 - CROODS GET SHOES

EXT. CORAL FIELDS - MORNING

The Croods trudge behind Grug as he cautiously makes his way to the mountain. Grug SNIFFS, and TESTS the ground - he moves like a man in a mine field. Meaning SLOWLY.

THE LOG

Eep walks alongside Guy, who is still being carried by Grug in the log.

GUY

That was too close. It almost caught us.

GRUG

I was watching. We were fine.

GUY

We've got to move faster. Do you people have any other speed aside from "wander?" I'll take a shamble at this point.

EEP

Hey, do you have a minute? How did the tiger fly?

GUY

I only share when I'm outside the log. I'm funny that way.

EEP

(winking)
Leave this to me.

Eep FALLS BACK behind Thunk, getting him between she and her dad.

EEP (CONT'D)
Hey Thunk, you have a spider on your face.

Eep SMASHES Thunk in the face, KNOCKING him into Grug, sending Guy and the log FLYING. Grug shoots Eep an annoyed look.

EEP (CONT'D)
(shrugging)
Oops.

Grug sees Guy has ROLLED away.

GRUG
He's loose!

Grug goes to retrieve Guy, and STEPS on something sharp.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Aaaaahhhhhh! Do not step on those weird, pointy rocks!

THUNK
You mean these rocks? Ahh owww! Do not step on these rocks!

Thunk steps on the coral - it CRUNCHES under his feet.

GRAN
Step aside, girls!

Gran steps out, and then SCREAMS.

GRUG
Hello? Nobody's listening! No one is listening. You cannot walk on those!

Guy stands on the coral without flinching.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Arraughrragh come back here now.

GRAN
Well, there goes our chance for survival.

THUNK
And our log!

Grug must make the choice to go after Guy.

GRUG

Okay. Arraugh!

Grug cringes and bellows with every step. Guy still locked inside the log, hops away as fast as he can. Grug leaps out and grabs the log only to loosen it as Guy jumps to a coral patch below.

GUY

Ow, ow, ow.

Guy now free runs and hides behind a giant shell. He looks back at the Croods as they try in vain to cross the field and feels pity for Eep.

THUNK

Ow! Jumping doesn't help, I mean, just briefly, but it doesn't get better! Ow! Do not walk on your hands, the hands do not help at all.

Guy looks back at the stranded Croods. Then he looks again to the tall mountain. Belt sees that Guy is having a hard time leaving the Croods. He needs to make a choice. Belt makes it for him.

BELT

Eeccoomme on!

Belt walks Guy back to the Croods

HARD CUT TO:

GUY STANDS AT THE EDGE OF THE CORAL, ONLY A FEW FEET FROM GRUG AND THE CROODS. GUY'S ARMS ARE FILLED WITH SUPPLIES.

GUY

I can help you, but we're going to have to make a few changes around here. The log ride is over. Drop the log.

Grug grudgingly DROPS the log.

GUY (CONT'D)

Now, kick it away.

Grug BARELY NUDGES it.

GUY (CONT'D)

Farther.

Grug KICKS it a quarter-mile.

GUY (CONT'D)

Really?!

GRUG

Okay, smart, Guy... now what?

Guy SMILES.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. CORAL FIELDS - LATER

Everyone is now wearing "shoes" -- some made of leaves, sponges and some are actually fish!

Ugga and Gran wobble on their new shoes.

Thunk is covering his eyes, too afraid to look down. Thunk looks down at his horrifying fish shoes. They blink at him.

THUNK

Ahhhh! Good fish.

Eep is covering her eyes.

GUY

Okay. Now you can look.

Eep peers down at her new boots.

EEP

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh! I love them! Where are my feet!?

GUY

They're still there!

EEP

Oh, okay.

Eep slips, and falls into Guy's arms.

GUY

Whoa. You're really
(getting crushed)
... heavy.

EEP

Really? Thank you!

Grug walks over as the two fall to the ground.

GRUG

Hey, wait. Whoa. Whoa. WHOA!!

GUY

(sweating)

Okay! She's up. I'm good. We're good...

GRAN

These shoes are great! Where do you get these ideas?

GUY

Ah ha.

On cue, Belt produces a piece of chalk.

Guy stands Thunk against a wall. Guy stands next to him. Belt OUTLINES them. Guy excitedly gestures to the silhouettes.

GUY (CONT'D)

I'm calling it, a brain. I'm pretty sure it's where ideas come from.

THUNK

Dad. I don't have a brain.

GRUG

We've gotten along just fine without brains till now. Cavemen don't need brains. We have these. Heeya! Haha!
(balls his mighty fists)

That's what I'm talking about! Ideas are for weaklings.

Grug punches at the air in front of Guy making him wince.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Now, let's get to that mountain.

Ugga and Eep notice each other's shoes.

UGGA/EEP

Oh wow. I love those!

THUNK

Good fish. Don't eat my feet.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 1710 - GOING GUY'S WAY

The Croods run, slowly at first, then faster. And faster. The shoes make the difference.

ON THE CROODS

Grug encounters a bunch of Punch Monkeys again. He readies himself for a fight.

Guy hands out bananas.

Grug throws his banana to the ground only to slip on it.

ON THE CROODS

Grug sees the Macawnivore down below in the crevasse waiting for his Croods dinner.

Grug sees Guy making something out of sticks.

Traveling by stilts over a crevasse.

The family hobbles across a canyon on their stilts. Guy helps Eep from falling.

EEP

So... How'd the tiger fly?

GUY

He jumped on the sun and rode it to tomorrow.

Grug doesn't like seeing his daughter so close to Guy.

GRUG

No, no, no!

The family moves across, Grug is the last to follow.

Grug spies Chunky the Death Cat below him. Grug WHACKS Chunky in the face with a stilt.

Chunky ponders the strange sticks Grug is perched on, then WHACKS a chunk out of them. Grug DROPS down by a yard or so. Panicking, Grug RACES across the chasm, losing stilt height with every SWIPE of Chunky's paw. Grug doesn't make it across - SNARLING and BITING sounds emanate from the canyon.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Ooowwww!

The Croods stand at the top of a cliff.

Grug tries to maneuver his way down the cliff by clinging to the side.

Guy and the other Croods sit on a giant leaves, sledding down the side of the canyon past Grug.

They pass Grug up as he continues to make his way down by tiptoeing. Grug stumbles and falls down the slope.

THUNK

Hi dad! Bye dad!

CUT TO:

BOOM! A FLASH POPS against the Croods. SWING THE CAMERA AROUND to reveal A HUGE STORM hanging like a purple curtain before them. The Croods stop dead.

The rain line BEARS DOWN on them.

Grug tries to PUNCH the drops.

ON EEP AND GUY

GUY

You've seen rain before... right?

EEP

We don't get out much.

Guy opens an Umbrella to cover himself from the rain. Belt pulls Eep under the umbrella to be close to Guy.

BELT

Hmmmmmm.

Belt makes an Origami boat. He and Sandy sail across the rain puddles.

Grug seeing Guy and Eep snuggling under the umbrella, grabs the umbrella away from Guy. Grug gets hit by lightning.

The rest of the Croods open their umbrellas to take cover as they enjoy the RAIN.

ON THE CROODS UNDULATING REFLECTION

The Croods stand on a tiny island in a shallow ocean - Eep is pointing at her own reflection.

GRUG

(frustrated)

Eep, looks dangerous.

EEP

Oh dad, you say that about everything.

Eep goes to jump in the water. Guy STOPS her.

GUY

Careful.

EEP

Oh really? Okay.

Guy CANNONBALLS. Then SURFACES.

Eep tentatively HOPS in. Guy STEADIES her. Then shows her how to move her arms in a swimming motion.

Guy SUPPORTS Eep by holding one hand under her tummy. She begins to SWIM.

Gran and Uggla SMILE mischievously - a positive vibe is building.

The Croods ALL JUMP at once.

Grug is left alone. Belt uses Grug's arm as a diving platform. Gran, Sandy and Belt are doing synchronized swimming. Then Grug sees Eep and Guy SURFACE - Eep is on Guy's shoulders! This is too much for Grug!

GRUG

Augh! No no no! Not cool. Not cool.
Not cool.

Grug DIVES IN to put a stop to any potential shenanigans.

Grug's huge tidal wave SWAMPS Guy and Eep. Grug SINKS to the bottom.

ON GRUG laying on the bottom. His family SWIMS above him on the tails of Fishcats, confident and free and buoyant.

A lone bubble escapes Grug's nose, like oil oozing from a sunken wreck. He's feeling mighty extraneous.

Grug sees the Macawnivore swimming towards him. Grug swims for his life. Ends in a big splash.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 1725 - MAZE

PAN UP TO THE ENTRANCES TO THE MAZE

GUY

So the bear says, "Your cave?" I've been dumping my bones here since last week.

GRAN

Last week, haha. That's a funny story!

GUY

It's not a story! It's a joke.

GRAN

What's a joke?

GUY

You know, just making something up... to make you laugh.

GRAN

Hah, I don't get it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TUFA MAZE - AFTERNOON

The Croods stand motionless before an open plain, deeply sculpted with meandering grooves which form a massive MAZE.

Guy is handing out SHELLS to the Croods.

GUY

Here you go, one for you, and this ones for you.

THUNK

Thanks.

Grug is annoyed by everyone blowing their shells.

GRUG

Okay. Okay. That's enough. I don't see why the kids need their own shells.

GUY

So if anyone gets in trouble, we can call the others.

GRUG

Wait-- you're saying we should split up?

GUY

We can try more paths at once. It's the fastest way through.

GRUG
Croods stick together.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Your way isn't safe.

GUY
They can handle it.

EUP
We can do it, dad.

GRUG
No no no no no. It's my job to keep you
safe. I'm still in charge and we are not
splitting up.
(seeing Eup and Guy together)
Except for you two. And that's final.

Grug SITS down like a silverback gorilla.

Just then, A HUGE RUMBLE. The EARTH STARTS TO SHAKE
VIOLENTLY. The Croods and Guy are KNOCKED DOWN into the
Maze each 'falling' into a separate entrance.

They disappear into the rift like a penny dropped down a
drain.

As Grug and Guy slide passed each other. Frustrated Grug,
tries to punch Guy.

GUY
Oh, hello.

INSIDE THE MAZE

The SHAKING COMES TO A STOP. Everyone (now separated)
gathers themselves.

ON GRUG-- finding himself alone.

GRUG
(very frightened)
Hello? Is everyone alright?

UGGA
(trying to calm him)
We're okay, Grug.

THUNK
Dad? I'm freaking out a little bit.
Just tell me what to do. Just what do I
do right now?

GRUG

Stay where you are. I'll find you.

GUY

No. Too slow. Everybody, keep moving forward and we'll get out.

THUNK

Dad?

GRUG

(almost hyperventilating)

Yeah. Okay.

ON THUNK

Looking very frightened.

GRUG (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Remember never not be afraid.

GUY (O.S.)

You can do this.

THUNK

It's gonna be okay. I'm gonna pass out.

Thunk PICKS UP his shell, and tentatively makes his way, alone, into his branch of the maze.

ON EEP (OR GUY?)-- in another part of the maze. She puts her hand on the giant wall to her LEFT.

PULL BACK and see that they are actually in parallel 'channels' but with the huge wall between them.

ON Gran and Ugg - encountering carnivorous flowers.

ON Thunk - encountering a croco-pup.

ON Eep - finding a flower dropped on her path.

ON Grug - reaching a fork.

Ugga and Gran don flowery camouflage.

Thunk THROWS his shell at the Crocopup, MISSES. To his surprise the Crocopup returns the shell.

Thunk plays fetch with this portly beast, which shows him the way through the maze.

Eep PICKS UP the flower, puts it in her hair, then finds a more flowers dropped on her path. She playfully begins hunting for Guy.

Guy and Belt are secretly and playfully tossing flowers in Eep's path.

Grug POPS out of a passageway - he's back where he began. He chooses another tunnel.

Ugga and Gran pass unharmed through the flower grove - the colors and smells are overpoweringly vibrant.

Eep surprises Guy and Belt in their hideaway as the two of them continue to throw flowers over the edge and onto Eep's path.

EEP

You dropped these.

Guy slips and falls onto a huge lily pad. He smiles up at Eep.

They share a moment before Eep shyly vanishes again.

Grug finds himself back at the entrance of the maze. He grumbles and enters a different tunnel.

ON THE MAZE EXIT -

Guy appears at the exit and puts his hand up to the setting sun that kisses the top of the mountain. Guy is amazed that he and Eep are both doing the same thing. He is smitten. Guy goes over to Eep.

Guy takes her hand.

GUY

Come with me.

Eep and Guy turn to each other, just as Thunk emerges and tosses a rock for the Croco-Pup to fetch.

THUNK

Here boy, catch!

A shell note signals Ugga, Gran and Sandy's arrival. There is an obvious change in the ladies.

THUNK (CONT'D)

Gran?

Ugga removes her hat to reveal her new look.

EEP

Mom?

BELT

(approving)
Raaah raaah.

A loud shell blast interrupts. It is followed by two others.

UGGA

Grug?

Grug lets out another blow on his horn.

UGGA (CONT'D)

I'll go get him.

ON GRUG still stuck in the maze. He holds his head in defeat, and TOSSES the shell down.

TRUCK-IN on Grug.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 1175 - UNDER THE STARS

PAN UP a giant redwood tree. The Croods are gathered in a cozy crook of the tree.

Belt mixes drinks while Gran relaxes in a hammock. Thunk is playing with his new pet.

THUNK

Good boy. Whose my good boy? You need a name, you want a name? I'm going to call you - Douglas. Look at him. Can you do tricks? Roll over. Come on Douglas, roll over.

Douglas ROLLS OVER, right OFF the tree.

THUNK (CONT'D)

Good boy Douglas!

Belt POURS a drink for Gran. Sandy takes Gran her drink as she spins over to her on her starfish shoes.

GRAN

I was in love once. He was a hunter, I was a gatherer. It was quite a scandal. We fed each other berries. We danced.

(MORE)

GRAN (CONT'D)

Then my father smashed him with a rock
and traded me to your Grandfather.

SANDY/THUNK/EEP

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

BELT

Ha ha ha ha.

PAN DOWN TO TREE BASE

Ugga and Grug approach. They hear the LAUGHING coming
from high above. Grug peers up and sees the SWINGING
HAMMOCKS, torch lights.

GRUG

(panic)

Croods! Come get down here!

UGGA

Grug, they're okay. Guy's with them.

GRUG

Oh, oh, 'Guy'. 'Guy' is with them. Well
thank you for bringing me that
interesting Guy update!

A BEAT - Ugga regards her husband

UGGA

Oh, okay. I'm gonna go up and why don't
you join us when you stop being a big
drag!

Ugga climbs up the tree to be with the rest of the
family.

Grug isn't thrilled with Ugga's shot at him. He picks up
two rocks and tries to make fire.

GRUG

Sleep pile? How about a story, huh?
Anyone?

Grug listens intently. All he hears is laughter.

TREE TOP

Thunk, Sandy Belt and Gran are sitting around a torch,
listening to one of Gran's stories.

GRAN

And then Torg said "Know it? I drew it!"

THUNK GRAN SANDY BELT
Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

THUNK
That makes no sense.

Ugga arrives and sits next to Guy. She takes in the scene.

UGGA
(to Guy)
I know it was hard for you to bring us along, but they had the best day of their lives... Thank you for that.

A RUMBLE distracts Guy. He looks to the horizon. FIRES and SMOKE on the horizon mark the leading edge of the collapse. Eep comes to his side.

GUY
I want to show you something.

Guy LIGHTS A TORCH and leads the Croods up, up, to the forest canopy.

Guy BLOWS OUT his torch. The night sky is revealed in all its glory. The Croods are amazed.

Music POUNDS as the spectacle SWEEPS around the Croods. Perched on the canopy of the forest the Croods seem to sit at the very brink of the universe.

THUNK
More suns in the sky than you can count.

GUY
Every sun that crosses our sky, comes to rest up there.

EEP
Tomorrow.

GUY
That's where we'll be safe.

ON GRUG ARRIVING at the tree top. When he sees the stars he DUCKS back down, terrified.

He overhears the rest of the conversation.

Eep with tears in her eyes.

EEP
I'm going with Guy.

Grug is beside himself with panic, sick at the thought of losing Eep.

GRUG
(whispered)
No. Not my little girl.

EEP
Come with us.

UGGA
I can't go without Grug.

GRAN
Well, that makes one of us. Count me in!

UGGA
Really Mom? Now?

Grug continues to listen in.

GRAN
Grug has no idea how to protect us. In fact, he has no ideas at all.

UGGA
No, that's not true. What about that one time when he a...

GRAN
Face it! If he actually had an idea of his own I'd, I'd have a heart attack and die!

ON GRUG

Grug smiles to himself.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 1550 - GRUG TRIES TO CHANGE

EXT. TREE - SUNRISE

ON UGGA

UGGA
Grug?

The whole family is searching for Grug. He has disappeared.

THUNK

Dad?

EPP

Dad?

GUY

He's a big guy. How can he just disappear like that?

THUNK

Hey wait. Let's ask that ugly lady if she's seen dad.

UGA

Yeah.

Grug SPINS AROUND. He's wearing a rasta-style wig made from knotted grass. The sight SHOCKS Ugga.

GRUG

Haven't seen him.

UGGA

Augh!

ON GRUG with the family standing around him.

UGGA (CONT'D)

(concerned)

What are you doing?

GRUG

(Playing to Eep)

Yeah, Wow. Like, I was up all night cuz like all these, ideas just kept coming to me.

Grug LIFTS his tunic, a Boa Constrictor is wrapped around his waist.

GUY

Is that a snake?

GRUG

Belt! New and improved! It's even self-tightening. Ow!

The constrictor SQUEEZES Grug till he turns blue. Grug SMACKS it and it relaxes a little.

UGGA

What is that on your head?

GRAN

It's called desperation.

Grug strokes his weird, fake rasta-hair.

GRUG

(swings his long hair around)
I call it a "rug." Rhymes with Grug.
And this one. I call it a "ride."
Rhymes with Grug.

Grug regards a boulder as if it's a Ferrari.

GUY

That, doesn't--

GRUG

It's gonna get us places faster than
shoes.

Grug climbs on top of the rock, facing the wrong way.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Yeah. Try to keep up.

He LEANS FORWARD. The "car" ROLLS downhill and SMASHES
through a redwood, TOPPLING it.

THUNK

I wish I had a ride.

ON THUNK

His face SLATHERED with reddish mud.

GRUG

Painting is a thing of the past. I call
this, a "snap-shot."

Grug takes a huge flat stone and SMASHES it against
Thunk, forcibly transferring the mud image to the rock.

Grug shows the Croods.

THUNK

Let's do it again. I think I blinked.

Thunk PASSES OUT.

ON THE CROODS

Wearing wooden sunglasses. They are effectively wearing
blindfolds.

GRUG

I call them "shades."

THUNK

The sun doesn't hurt my eyes anymore!
Where do you get these great ideas?

GRUG

Since I don't have a brain, they're
coming from my stomach. Down deep below,
and then up again into my mind.

Thunk walks into a tree. All the other Croods RAISE their
"shades" in time to see Grug walk over a cliff.

GUY

Grug. We have to keep moving.

ON GRUG

GRUG

See, I got ideas, I got thoughts.

ON Grug lifting a huge flat rock over his head.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Like this. I call it a "mobile home."
Isn't that something?

A huge BEAST BUNNY JUMPS into the opening of the rock.
Grug is smashed flat.

ON GRUG

Standing on one side of a primitive Teeter-Totter.

GRUG (CONT'D)

And I'm calling this one a "lifterator."

EPP

Mom?

UGGA

I know. It's bad.

Grug tosses a massive boulder on the opposite end. Grug
is LAUNCHED into the sky. Grug becomes a speck in the
sky. He is HIT by LIGHTNING.

GRAN

I almost feel sorry for him.

Grug falls back down onto the teeter totter dislodging the boulder from the other side. The boulder rolls back down onto Grug.

GRAN (CONT'D)

Hah, no I don't.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 1950 - TRUTH REVEALED

Guy is rowing a SHELL BOAT with everyone inside.

UGGA

What are you trying to do Grug?

ON GRUG

Burned and battered, laying in the bottom of a turtle shell boat.

Ugga is attending to his injuries.

GRUG

I thought if I could have ideas like Guy, maybe Eep would listen to me. Maybe she wouldn't want to go with Guy.

Ugga gets a PAINED look on her face.

UGGA

Oh Grug, is that what this is all about?

Ugga is about to confess her thoughts of going to Tomorrow with Guy when Grug interrupts her.

GRUG

And I also thought it would kill your mother. So you know? Win win.

GUY

We're here.

The view of the mountain is beautiful.

Thousands of birds fly overhead darkening the sky.

The shell boat hits the shore. The Croods step out onto land.

An explosion goes off on a nearby mountain. A PLUME of magma BURSTS from the water in the distance.

Grug looks around for shelter and spots a cave.

GRUG

Cave! Everyone inside. Come on! Hurry up, let's go. Go, go.

The Croods don't want to move.

EEP

No.

UGGA

(gently)
No more caves, Grug.

GRUG

What?

GRAN

We're gonna jump on the sun and ride it to Tomorrow with Guy.

GRUG

Wait, so you're all going to do this?

Silence from the Croods answers his question.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Thunk?

THUNK

Sorry, dad.

Thunk joins the others. It's the last straw.

EEP

You have to stop worrying for all of us.

GRUG

It's my job to worry. It's my job to follow the rules.

EEP

The rules don't work out here.

GRUG

They kept us alive.

EEP

That wasn't living, that was just, not dying. There's a difference.

GRUG

Ugga, everyone, you have to listen to me.

Ugga doesn't move.

EEP

We would be dead if we listened you.

Grug is STUNNED.

EEP (CONT'D)

We have to follow Guy now.

Grug slowly turns around to face Guy. He is smoldering.

GRUG

Guy?

UGGA

Guy, run.

Grug lunges toward Guy, SCREAMING.

GRUG

AAAAAAAAAAUGHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

Grug ATTACKS Guy - they fall down an embankment.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 2100 - TAR PIT

Grug CHASES Guy across a TREMBLING landscape.

GUY

This is pointless. We're running out of time. Everything is collapsing. You're being irrational and counterproductive.

GRUG

Big words anger me. Keep talking.

GUY

Countermeasures.

Belt THROWS fruit at Grug. The fruit HITS Grug square in the face. He's blinded. He doesn't stop.

GUY (CONT'D)

Remember how you were this morning? You changed, remember? Idea man? Modern man?

Guy comes to a sudden stop - he's stepped in a small puddle of TAR.

Grug wipes his eyes clean of fruit.

GRUG

I... am... a... CAVEMAN.

GUY

No, no, no wait.

Guy and Grug do a slow-motion PLUNGE over a tar-fall. As they descend Grug SWINGS at Guy, coating himself with tar. Grug's arms are held like glue. His punches stop well short of Guy's face. Guy and Grug arrive in a wide pool of tar. They SINK slowly.

GRUG

Hnnnnnng! No. What is this stuff that saves you from my punches?

GUY

(hollow)

Tar.

The tone of Guy's voice SINKS IN. Grug CEASES his attack.

GUY (CONT'D)

Please Grug. You have to stop struggling.

GRUG

No. I have to get back to them.

GUY

Grug! Stop!

Grug looks to Guy.

GUY (CONT'D)

No one gets out of this. Believe me. I know.

Grug gets it.

GRUG

Your...?

GUY

Family. Yeah.

GRUG

Sorry.

Grug looks at Guy again - he needs more than that. Guy takes a deep breath - this is going to be hard.

GUY

I was little when it happened. The last thing my parents told me was, "Don't hide. Live. Follow the Sun. You'll make it to Tomorrow."

This resonates with Grug.

A thread of light trickles through the storm, falling just near enough to Guy he can gather it in his palm.

GRUG

You followed the light. My daughter is a lot like you.

GUY

No. She's like you. She loves you but always forgets to say it. Just like you forget to tell her.

Grug ponders this. A CHANGE comes over Grug. He focuses on Guy. This hits Grug hard.

GRUG

(crushed)

I guess I was just busy keeping them all alive.

Guy considers Grug.

GUY

It's okay. That's what Dads do.

Grug smiles. He regards Guy in a different light. He sees him not as a boy but a man. Someone good enough for his little girl.

GRUG

That's right... but we can't do that from here. We need one of your ideas.

The music TURNS.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Come on. You can do it.

Buoyed by Grug's encouragement, Guy swings into action mode.

GUY

Belt! Emergency Idea Generator, activate!

Belt hits Guy in the head with a rock.

GUY (CONT'D)

Ow!

(then)

I've got it!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 2250 - GRUG & GUY ESCAPE

We are tracking with the MACAWNIVORE. Suddenly, the big cat stops. His eyebrows raise.

MACAWNIVORE'S POV - a FEMALE MACAWNIVORE PUPPET.

BELT

Ta-daaaaa

GRUG

Wow.

GUY

Yeah, I know. But he's doing the best with what he has. Let's go.

Grug and Guy are holding bones connected to the puppet. Belt SIGNALS to Guy.

GUY (CONT'D)

There he is. Belt, I want romance, drama, sincerity. Move me.

Belt makes music, which grabs the Macawnivore's attention.

GUY (CONT'D)

Okay he sees us!

Belt plays a little melodramatic tune.

Grug halfheartedly moves the bones he's holding.

GUY (CONT'D)

That's our cue. Now work it!

The puppet starts shaking its tail.

GUY (CONT'D)

He's not coming over. I don't think our puppet looks scared enough.

GRUG

Scared? I'll show you scared. Hand me those acting sticks!

Grug shakes the puppet and makes a frightening sound of terror.

Suddenly, the Macawnivore leaps forward and jumps on the puppet. He grabs it and pulls it up out of the tar, bringing Grug and Guy along with it.

Grug and Guy hang on to the bones of the puppet frame.

The Macawnivore shakes the puppet, pulling it out of the tar along with Grug and Guy.

GUY

Hold on!

The puppet breaks apart, the Macawnivore turns to Grug and Guy. He is not pleased.

BELT

Da da daaaaaa...

The Macawnivore dashes towards the pair. They try to run from him. The Macawnivore's paws slip slowly backwards into the nearby tar--he's stuck. The tar snaps him back and throws him far from Grug and Guy.

Belt blows a whistle signalling a field goal!

GRUG

Yes. You did it!

Grug PATS Guy on the back. Grug realizes his hand is stuck to Guy's back.

The Croods come running to help them.

UGGA

Grug.

THUNK

Dad!

Grug and Guy TURN to see the rest of the Croods. Grug waves to the family with Guy stuck to his hand.

GUY

Hey, we're okay!

The family stops to take this in.

GUY (CONT'D)

Yeah, we're okay.

The ground shakes violently. Meteors stream across the sky.

GUY (CONT'D)

Grug. Your call.

Grug knows his answer.

GRUG

Take us to Tomorrow.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 2925 - TO TOMORROW

EXT. EDGE OF THE WORLD - EARLY EVENING.

ON THE CROODS

RUSHING up the gun-sight into the bright rays of the sun.

GUY

Hurry! Come on. We're gonna make it!

When the Croods rush toward "Tomorrow," it is a golden, ethereal image created by a perfect alignment of sun, clouds, and mountain. From the Croods POV it looks as if they can cross a solid bridge of clouds and climb onto a waiting sun.

EEP

You were right.

GUY

There it is. The sun. We can do it! We can ride it to Tomorrow.

Even Grug is taken with the sight - it's there after all.

The Croods stare at the open meadow across from them. Tremors violently SHAKE the ground.

GUY (CONT'D)

Run!

When the rift OPENS in front of them, the hot gasses and blasts of hot ash BURST the clouds from beneath. The debris shades the sun, revealing a very Earthly landscape beyond.

From the Croods perspective, Tomorrow vanished before their eyes.

A SHOCKWAVE knocks a large chunk of rock off the edge the Croods are standing on blowing them backwards.

GUY (CONT'D)

I don't understand. The sun was right here. It was right here.

KABOOM! A gargantuan jet of ash STABS at the sky. Uggia PULLS the Croods away from the ledge. She herds them back toward the gunsight.

UGGA

We have to go back to the cave. Hurry, hurry, stay together. Let's keep moving. Move, move! Everybody hold my hand. Think let's go. Go! Let's stay together.

But Grug doesn't join them. Instead, Grug takes a step TOWARD the precipice, peering into the curtain of ash as if trying to burn a hole straight through it.

UGGA (CONT'D)

Grug? What's wrong with you? Grug we'll die if we stay here!

Grug spies a wispy shaft of light STRUGGLING through the ash cloud. He HOLDS UP his hand to feel it. A beam of light settles on his palm. Grug is ENLIGHTENED.

UGGA (CONT'D)

(softly to Grug)

Grug. Listen to me. We've gotta get back to that cave.

Grug looks back at his family - huddled, terrified. The picture of what he would have wanted in the beginning. The sight bothers him.

Grug TURNS to face them.

GRUG

No more dark. No more hiding. No more caves.

BEAT

GRUG (CONT'D)

What's the point of all this?

BEAT

GRUG (CONT'D)

To follow the light.

A smile breaks across Eep's face - her dad has answered the question.

GRUG (CONT'D)

I can't change. I don't have ideas. But I have my strength. And right now that's all you need.

UGGA

No. We don't know what's over there. Maybe nothing. It's too risky.

GRUG

It's a chance.

Belt wipes a tear off his face.

GUY

I'll take that chance.

Grug LIFTS Guy above his head.

GRUG

You know, I've wanted to throw you away ever since I met you.

GUY

Heh. That's a joke, right?

GRUG

What's a joke?

Grug's comment freaks Guy out. ANOTHER ANGLE shows Grug with a twinkle in his eye.

Belt puts on his helmet for safety.

With a titanic effort, he HURLS Guy in to the void.

The Croods wait an eternity. Then - a HORN SOUNDS.

UGGA

He made it... He made it...

GRUG

Okay, Thunk. Your turn.

THUNK

You're not coming, are you?

GRUG

When you make it, so will I.

Grug HURLS Thunk.

Ugga KISSES Grug. She whispers in his ear.

UGGA
You did good.

SANDY
Daddy.

Grug wipes a tear from Ugga's eye. Then lifts her above his head. He HURLS her across.

GRUG
Gran.

Gran is next in line.

GRAN
No mush, just throw me.

Grug LIFTS her above his head.

GRAN (CONT'D)
Wait. You surprised me today. Lunkhead.

Grug SMILES and throws her next.

GRAN (CONT'D)
(landing on the other side)
Still alive!!!

Another TREMBLER. MORE cliff FALLS away. Now the distance is even greater.

Eep is next in line.

GRUG
Time to go.

EEP
No. I have too much to say to you. I need to fix everything and I don't have time.

GRUG
I can fix it.

Grug embraces Eep.

EEP
This works good. What do you call it?

GRUG
I was thinking of calling it a Hug.
(clears his throat)
(MORE)

GRUG (CONT'D)

Because it rhymes with Grug. But you can change it if you want.

EEP

No. I like a "Hug."

A BEAT.

GRUG

I love you.

Eep takes in the full effect of her dad's words.

EEP

I...

The ground begins to shake and break apart around them.

EEP (CONT'D)

Dad, I'm scared.

GRUG

Never be afraid.

The gap grows wider. Grug lifts Eep and makes the greatest throw of his life.

The tumult parts briefly. Grug can see his entire family safe on the other side. He waves a last goodbye. To his surprise, a shaft of sunlight has settled on his open hand.

GUY

There. I see him!

The family waves to Grug to let him know they are okay.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 2750 - FAMILY PORTRAIT

EXT. CLIFFSIDE

Grug is startled by another earthquake. The ground is ripping itself apart as meteors begin to fall around him. Grug dodges falling debris and lightning and manages to crawl into a nearby cave-- a familiar place for him.

INT. CAVE

Grug grabs two pieces of flint and starts clicking them together, just as Guy did earlier. They ignite. Grug has created his very first fire.

GRUG
(pleased)
Hey, I did it.

Another earthquake shakes the cavern. Grug moves over to a wall and uses some nearby mud to paint a portrait of his family. He paints each member individually and then looks longingly at the family he will never see again.

The torch begins to go out. Grug blows on it and is startled by the massive Macawnivore beast, growling at him.

GRUG (CONT'D)
Ahhhh! Back! Stay back! Stay back!

The Macawnivore blows out the torch. Another meteor hits the cave with a loud boom! The Macawnivore stops growling and starts blowing on the torch along with Grug. It is just as frightened as Grug. Grug reaches out and pets the now gentle carnivorous beast.

INT. CAVE

Grug and the Macawnivore huddle together in a prehistoric armistice. When suddenly, Grug hears the dim tone of Eep's "shell signal." He rushes to the entrance to the cave. He surveys the raging CATAclysm outside the cave as the world is being torn asunder.

He hears the SHELL ALARM blow TWO MORE TIMES. His family is in trouble.

GRUG
They're in trouble. Hang on! I'm coming.

The scale of his problem sinks in.

GRUG (CONT'D)
How do I get across? Gotta think. What would Guy do? What would Guy do?

Something occurs to Grug.

GRUG (CONT'D)

What would I do?

He absent-mindedly hands the torch to the Macawnivore.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hold this.

Grug CLOSES HIS EYES, and CONCENTRATES.

The ember of a thought FLICKERS TO LIFE in Grug's brain.

GRUG (CONT'D)

I... have... an... **IDEA!**

MACAWNIVORE

Erm?

CUT TO:

SEQ. 2975 - GRUG CROSSES THE DIVIDE

EXT. FIELD

Grug uses a log to wipe tar all over a giant rib cage. Grug runs out of the cave and into a nearby field and startles a pack of nesting PIRANHA OWLS. He turns back to the Macawnivore.

The meat-eating birds begin to chase Grug.

GRUG

Run!

Grug leaps onto the Macawnivore's back as the birds move in closer. The ground begins to break up violently as lakes empty themselves and entire forests turn sideways.

The Macawnivore rushes into a giant rib cage that Grug has coated with tar. The Piranha Owls hit the rib cage and stick to it. As they fight to free themselves, the rib cage lifts off the ground. Grug takes a giant tree branch, ignites it, and uses it as a rudder, scaring the Piranha Owls and prompting them to fly in one coherent direction.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Yes!

As the cage flies, above the fiery landscape, Grug sees Douglas, sitting forlornly with the shell still in his mouth.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Douglas?

Grug doesn't even debate it, he runs back for the little monstrosity.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hey, I know that guy.

Grug JUMPS out of the cage and rushes over to grab the gerbils. Then Grug notices a familiar Liyote hiding under a nearby rock. He GRABS the Liyote. Grug sees the TRIP-GERBILS stranded as well. Grug TWIRLS the Trip-Gerbils around his neck like a scarf.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Get up!

A ROAR BUILDS behind Grug - the pyroclastic flow is SPEEDING closer.

Grug CATCHES UP to the lumbering blimp-cage. He PUSHES it to go faster.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Hold on.

The pyroclastic cloud BLASTS up the narrow passage. Finally, with Grug's strength, the cage CLEARS the edge of the cliff.

The CLOUD HITS them all, SWALLOWING the Cage like a speck.

CUT TO:

SQ 3000 REUNITED - 05.16.2012

EXT. "TOMORROW"

ON EEP

Standing at the edge of the cliff alone, BLOWING her shell horn. Behind her, Sandy HOWLS. Gran puts a comforting arm around her grandchildren, even she has a tear in her eye.

The ground begins to shake softly.

GUY

It's not safe here.

GRAN

I'll tell her.

Gran walks up to Eep. Eep continues to blow her shell horn. Eep and Gran share a moment. Eep breaks into tears. Gran looks at her shell horn and BLOWS it loudly. Eep is happily surprised.

The whole family, even Guy, steps up next to Eep and begins BLOWING their shell horns.

It's clear from Eep's expression she has no intention of budging.

EEP

I never got to tell him.

Ugga appeals to Eep.

UGGA

Eep, if your Dad were here, he would tell you to--

GRUG (O.S.)

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!!

THUNK

Wow, you sound just like him.

Ugga looks up. Guy LOOKS UP. Everyone looks up!

GRUG (O.S.)

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!!

SANDY

Daddy!

EEP

He did it!

GUY

He's riding the Sun... but not very well. Everybody out of the way!

Grug CRASHES near the family. They run to meet him.

THUNK

Dad!

UGGA

Grug!

GRUG

Ahhh! Where's the danger? Who blew their shell?

But all Grug sees is his astonished family staring back at him.

Eep RUNS to him, HUGS him ferociously, nearly knocking him down.

Eep

I love you too.

The rest of the Croods begin running to Grug. Grug hugs each of them like never before.

GRUG

One, two, three, four, five, six...

Grug puts his arm around Guy.

GRUG (CONT'D)

... and seven.

Belt wants to be acknowledged as well.

BELT

Eerrghh.

GRUG

And a half.

All the animals join in hugging Grug.

GRUG (CONT'D)

And eight, and nine.

Douglas runs up and licks Thunk.

THUNK

Douglas! Dad you saved him!

GRUG

Well, a boys gotta have a pet.

Suddenly the group rises up as the Macawnivore stands near them.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Turns out, I'm a cat person.

Grug notices a TAIL sticking out of Chunky's mouth.

GRUG (CONT'D)

Uh! No.

Chunky SPITS OUT the TRIP-GERBILS. He GRINS sheepishly. The TRIP-GERBILS run to Gran knocking her over in their excitement.

EEP

You really need to see this.

The whole family takes this amazing view in then looks to Grug for his decision.

GRUG

We should go there.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 3500 - EPILOGUE

RUSHING TOWARD A SHORELINE covered in dense palms, gentle waves lapping at the sand.

On Eep, fixing her hair. We PULL OUT to see the whole family preparing for a family photo.

EEP (V.O.)

This is me. My name's Eep. And this, is my family. The Croods. If you weren't clued in by the sun tans and pets, we're not exactly cavemen anymore.

Grug has a wonderful picture making contraption they are about to experience. The slab of rock smacks them all in the face leaving the first family photo.

THUNK

Let's do that again. I think I blinked.

BACK TO THE SHORELINE, RUSHING ever closer to the beach.

EEP

Our world is still plenty harsh and hostile. But now we know the Croods will make it.

ON BELT riding on the back of the Crocopup, delivering a drink to Gran, PULL OUT to reveal she is in a sled, hitched to a team of Liyotes. The liyotes are tending to her. Gran sips her drink.

EEP (CONT'D)

Because we changed the rules. The ones
that kept us in the dark.

On Ugga sharpening a spear. The Macawnivore comes in to
frame with Grug riding on top. Ugga tosses him the spear.
Eep, flips from out of the trees. She blows her horn to
call Guy and the BearOwl for a ride.

EEP (CONT'D)

And because of my dad, who taught us that
anyone can change...

The Macawnivore LEAPS through the trees onto a broad,
beautiful beach with Grug and Ugga atop.

GRUG

Release the baby!

EEP

Well, sort of.

Thunk breaks through the trees riding a LANDWHALE. Sandy
and Belt are riding the Crocopup. Eep and Guy are riding
the BearOwl.

EEP (CONT'D)

So from now on we'll stay out here.

The first camera picks them up as it reaches the beach.
It FOLLOWS the Croods as they TURN and ride toward a
sunrise.

EEP (CONT'D)

Where we can follow the light.

FLARE TO WHITE

BEAT

Belt and Sandy poke their heads up at the base of the
screen.

BELT/SANDY

Da da daaaaaaaaaaaaa.