

# THE NATURE BOY

EXCERPTS from an unproduced feature-length SCREENPLAY;

written by C.R. TRUTE, in 2008.

## [1] SCENE based upon the English fairy-tale *THE LAIDLY WORM OF SPINDLESTON HEUGH*:

EXT. ASIAN TOR OR PLATEAU - EARLY MORNING

The Nature Boy, drenched, sits unmoving and silently before the smouldering remains of a fire. A drop of liquid falls into the embers, which rears up the flames rather than douses them. The Nature Boy raises his gaze and beholds a towering and laidly worm (dragon). He stands up slowly, and tenderly strokes the monster.

SHINJU (Mandarin w/ SUBTITLES)  
Save me, Brother.

The Nature Boy grabs hold of the beast and it writhes terribly. Even when - in defence of his hold - the creature breathes out flames which engulf them both, he falters not. SFX: Finally there is a pop, or cracking sound, and the shell of the worm splits like a pinecone in the fire. Smouldering then glowing then gradually fizzling out, the corpse falls away to reveal a girl (SHINJU) inside. There are tears in her eyes as the Nature Boy, sooty, steps away. He hands her a robe or blanket to put around her. Afterwards he offers her a piece of honeycomb.

NATURE BOY (Mandarin w/ S/T)  
Take back some of your sweetness.

The girl laughs.

## [2] SEQUENCE based upon the fairy-tale *RAPUNZEL* (set in the Middle East):

EXT. WILDERNESS (DESERT) - NOON

A scavenger scampers along the hot sand eying a blind, shell of a man, PRINCE MIRZAH, who is stumbling along - straining his ears desperately; he can't hear anything but the creature following him. He stops and panics.

PRINCE MIRZAH (Arabic w/ SUBTITLES)  
Stay away!

The animal is scared off by the Nature Boy.

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MIRZAH (Arabic w/ S/T)  
You won't have me! I'll find her yet.

Mirzah throws stones in anger and desperation. One hits off the Nature Boy, drawing blood, but he makes no sound. Instead the Nature Boy puts his flute to his blistered lips and plays a simple melody which echoes out across the expanse.

WILDERNESS ELSEWHERE - UNDER A TENT

The faint resonance of the Nature Boy's song reaches the ears of a woman, MARAM, resting beside her dozing twin boys (BILAL and BASIM). She sits up suddenly from her siesta while the lads stir.

OPEN SANDS

Mirzah cries out loudly; his many emotions (agony, anger, hope) erupt.

NEAR THE TENT

Maram stands up out in the midday sun, her ears and eyes straining.

OPEN SANDS

The Nature Boy plays on, gingerly, gently, as if he were the wind. The Prince listens.

MIRZAH (Arabic w/ S/T)  
My darling?Maram?!

He begins to follow the Nature Boy who walks away from the prince slowly.

MIRZAH  
Maram?!

NEAR THE TENT

Maram can hear her name being called very faintly.

MARAM (Arabic w/ S/T)  
My prince?!

She begins to walk and then run. Her boys get up from under

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the tent. They trail behind her.

BASIM (Arabic w/ S/T)  
Mother?!

OPEN SANDS

Mirzah is stumbling along. Then the Nature Boy stops playing.

MARAM (O/S) (Arabic w/ S/T)  
My prince?! My husband?!

MIRZAH  
Maram...

They both run to each other and meet in a remarkable embrace. He falls at her feet, while the two boys come up on them from behind. Maram weeps onto his face. He looks up blinking - but can't see her.

One of the boys, Basim, stands looking at the Nature Boy - at whose feet an astonishing plant has sprouted up. The Nature Boy motions for Basim to come to him, which he does, and to break off a piece of the plant. Somehow Basim and the Nature Boy have communicated without words because the boy then trots over to his father and applies the juice of the fleshy plant to Mirzah's eyes.

BASIM (Arabic w/ S/T)  
Open your eyes now, my father.

This time when he looks up blinking, he sees both his sons and his Maram. The whole family observes the Nature Boy, who seems very shy indeed, though pleased, at this moment.

## [3] SEQUENCE based upon the French fairy-tale *LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE*:

CHATEAU-KEEP - GARDEN WITH A POND - EVENING

The most mournful and hideous beast, clothed as a once-well-to-do man, weeps into the pond beside which he languishes. He turns after a while to glance at a gilded mirror in his hand. The glass shows the image of a beautiful girl laughing among others. As he looks away, she looks away..

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FARMHOUSE-KEEP - GARDENS - AFTERNOON

The beauty, JOLIE, turning away, has tears flowing down her cheeks; she is stricken with a tempest of emotions. Try as she might to get away from the other young women, Jolie cannot seem to quit their company.

From a distance a young man of similar features, JACQUES, sits under the trees with the Nature Boy. He is visibly upset about what he observes - namely his sister's plight - but he won't do anything about it.

NATURE BOY (French w/ SUBTITLES)  
Your turn.

They are playing at some game which involves gambling. Jacques ignores the Nature Boy, still staring at his sisters.

JACQUES (French w/ S/T)  
Why won't she do anything?

NATURE BOY (French w/ S/T)  
She can't. ...Your turn.

JACQUES (French w/ S/T)  
Why won't Father do anything? ...Those pigs!

NATURE BOY (French w/ S/T)  
He can't.

JACQUES (French w/ S/T)  
Why don't you do anything?

The Nature Boy remains completely unruffled by the lad. His face offers Jacques' back with the meaning behind his words.

NATURE BOY (French w/ S/T)  
Your turn.

Defeated, Jacques turns his attention back to their game.

JACQUES  
Oh...

Then he looks at the Nature Boy and at last clues in.

JACQUES (sheepishly)

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Oh.

He tears over to the group of women and wrenches off Jolie's massive pearl necklace then hurls it into the pig pen nearby.

JACQUES (French w/ S/T)  
Jolie - go! Now's your chance!

Jolie is shocked into reality by her brother's action and starts to leave. Her sisters think she is going after the jewels and plunge over the fence after them. She runs past instead, heading for a horse. The girls' and boy's father, JEAN, and a clergyman, who are relaxing nearby, stand up in indignation and surprise.

JEAN (French w/ S/T)  
What have you done?!

JACQUES (French w/ S/T)  
I beg your pardon, Father - father. I know what the Good Book says but sometimes it does pay to throw your pearls before swine. Excuse me.

He leaves off quickly. The Nature Boy is also gone.

CHATEAU-KEEP - WALL AROUND THE GARDEN - EVENING

The Nature Boy, on top of the wall, helps Jolie over it - even in all her finery. Jacques - below them - pushes her up.

INSIDE THE WALL - GARDEN WITH A POND

Jolie hurries to the beast's side and weeps over him.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
Sir, I beg you. You must live or I shall surely die.

The beast, ADONIS, murmurs something which ends up coming out sounding just like an animal noise.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
Sir! Shhhh... (to the Nature Boy) Quickly! We must get him to his chambers.

NATURE BOY (French w/ S/T)  
Listen, my child.

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JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
No - oh, my Lord. (to Adonis) Stay with me.  
(to the Nature Boy) Help me!

Finally after another groan, the Beast gets words out.

ADONIS (French w/ S/T)  
S-say it, p-pl-ease.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
Say what, my lord?

ADONIS (French w/ S/T)  
The w-words.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
I'll say anything you want me to.

ADONIS (French w/ S/T)  
Th-then tell me what is in your h-heart.

There is an uncomfortable pause as she searches within herself. Just when it's almost too late -

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
...I love you.

She is laughing, suddenly, and crying at the very same moment.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T, tenderly)  
I love you...

Adonis lies so still that Jolie thinks he's passed on. Then suddenly he breathes normally. He seems to improve instantly. Adonis wakes and gets to his feet. Jolie is so astonished that she does not move.

JOLIE (French w/ S/T)  
My Lord?!

Adonis looks over to the Nature Boy, then back at the woman.

ADONIS (French w/ S/T)  
No.

He steps backwards into the pond and submerges completely.

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Jolie gasps. From the Nature Boy's point of view, Adonis rises up out of the pond - a man. He comes to her naked and wet with the same eyes as the beast, but a new man. He offers her a rose.

ADONIS (French w/ S/T)  
My lady.

## [4] SEQUENCE based upon the Greek myth of KING MIDAS (set in Africa):

INT. THE PALACE OF KING SIPHO - HALLS

Solidified, golden food lies in a plate on an exceptionally long table, far more sumptuous and far less edible than Adam's meal. The room is empty. Other rooms attached to this one are equally empty and also bear golden 'treasures'. Echo-y wailing can be heard throughout these fine chambers and gradually grows louder the closer we come to the doorway of a library.

LIBRARY

A weeping giant of a man, KING SIPHO, holding his hands up before him, sits in a room filled with scrolls and tomes and skins and parchment, much of it gold, also. The Nature Boy stands in the doorway.

KING SIPHO (Yoruba w/ SUBTITLES)  
How did you get in here?

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Easily. The doors were left wide open.

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Then they are all gone from me?

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Yes.

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Are you not afraid?

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
No.

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)

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How is it that you are not afraid?

He puts out his hand to the king.

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Come.

The king is suspicious and humbled.

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Did the gods send you?

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Does that matter?

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
No.

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Come.

The king takes his hand and waits for a change, then marvels at the Boy. As they leave down the hall -

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Where are we going?

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Does that matter?

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
Are you sure the gods didn't send you?

EXT. LUSH, BROAD RIVERSIDE - DAY

The Nature Boy leads the king like a child down to a busy river where people of all ages, but from the lower and working classes, are engaged in numerous activities pertaining to the water. The Nature Boy brings Sipho to the edge, and going in, reaches down under the water. He lifts up silt from the riverbed with his hands. He then puts the silt in the king's hands.

SIPHO (Yoruba w/ S/T)  
What shall I do with it?

The Nature Boy picks up some more silt.



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NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)

Like this.

He rubs the silt between his hands and as it falls into the brown river the water clears up. All the people nearby become interested at this point. Siphon does likewise, only his silt becomes gold powder, which scatters and glitters into the water. The people are overjoyed and astonished. The Nature Boy hands him more silt.

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)

And again.

The king repeats his action to the same amazing result. The Nature Boy hands him more silt.

NATURE BOY (Yoruba w/ S/T)

And again.