

National Treasure 3

Kyle Ayers

National Treasures 1 & 2

ayerskyle@gmail.com
<http://www.kyleayers.com>

INT. NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - WASHINGTON DC - NIGHT

Benjamin Franklin Gates (think Nicolas Cage-type), our hero, is giving a presentation in a large conference room. He's dressed like if Steve Jobs believed in modern medicine: wearing a turtleneck under a tweed jacket, and he did not die from a very curable cancer. Next to him is a projector. Not a new, digital projector, but the older kind. The kind of projected where if you sat next to it during class in middle school, the air from the little fan could whirr against your cheek like a warm version of a fan on an airplane.

The auditorium is filled with scholars, like a graduate English course before everyone realizes college might be a waste of money.

Projected up on the large screen is an old photo of four men. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and a young man dressed in plaid with thick glasses, who is shaking hands with Neil Armstrong.

We pick up in the middle of Ben Gates' presentation:

BEN GATES

...and after they successfully splashed down, and returned to mission control, here they are with a young intern at NASA...

Ben Gates removes the photo from the projector, and replaces it with a close-in version of the same photo, focusing in on the hands of the intern and Neil Armstrong.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

...and this, to the normal eye, is what, a handshake? But look closer...

Ben removes THAT photo and puts an even CLOSER photo of the handshake.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

...not entirely. Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, a worldwide hero, is handing something to this intern. But what is it? I'll tell you...

Ben removes THAT photo and puts an EVEN CLOSER UP photo of the handshake on the projector.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

...a treasure map. How do I know?
That man in the photo is none other
than my uncle: Francis Lightfoot
Lee Gates. It's a map to the Moon
Treasure.

A hush falls over the theater. It's been a year since Ben Gates found the City of Gold, and two years since he found that other massive treasure under that church at Ground Zero that somehow wasn't discovered when the world trade buildings fell, or when they were zoning to build the tallest building in the United States on top of it.

After a moment, we hear CLAP CLAP CLAP. In the back of the room, one man stands. It is Mitch Wilkinson (think Ed Harris-type). The audience turns to face him, and he is just clapping. CLAP CLAP CLAP.

He sarcastically claps for a half hour. We cross-dissolve through time and see him exhausted, sweating, but still clapping. People in the audience have lost interest, and are checking their phones and shit. He sort of snaps-back, and realizes that he's been clapping this whole time. He stops, takes a step into the aisle of the auditorium.

MITCH WILKINSON

Very impressive, Ben. Very impressive. Unfortunately, not a damn thing you said was true!

BEN GATES

What do you want, Wilkinson? I already credited you for helping find some of the last treasure.

MITCH WILKINSON

The truth, Ben, that's all. Nothing but the truth.

Mitch starts to walk down the stairs of the auditorium. He addresses the entire audience.

MITCH WILKINSON (CONT'D)

Benjamin Gates here wants you to believe his uncle got a treasure map from Neil Armstrong. But that's no treasure map. It's proof.

BEN GATES

Proof of what, Mitch?

MITCH WILKINSON

That's a copy of the script. That's proof we never landed on the moon, and your dipshit uncle helped cover it up. Your family name is tainted!

The crowd goes crazy. Ben Gates family name is all that is important to him. That and the billions of dollars in gold he found. Dishonoring the Gates family name really pissed Ben off.

MITCH WILKINSON (CONT'D)

The Gates family is not a bunch of heroes they are bad people! They suck!

The audience goes batshit. They are screaming, blood is coming from the corners of their eyes. One guy keeps yelling SAY IT AIN'T SO, BEN, like that old commercial with the football player.

BEN GATES

It's not true! And I'll prove it!

MITCH WILKINSON

How, Ben? How?

BEN GATES

I'll find the map, and I'll find the Moon Treasure.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN GATES' OFFICE - NIGHT

Ben is sitting at his desk. Standing next to him is Abigail Chase (think Diane Kruger-type), his girlfriend/wife at the end of every movie, but they are probably fighting now so it'll make when they work together even cooler later in the movie, like a "will they get back together?" type of thing. Also in the room is Patrick Henry Gates (think Jon Voight-type), who is Ben's dad, and Riley Pool (think Justin Bartha-type), a cool tech guy who seems pointless until he really comes in handy later despite everyone thinking they are smarter than him.

BEN GATES

He said Uncle Francis was a fraud, dad. A frickin' fraud! We have to prove them wrong!

PATRICK HENRY GATES

And how do we do that?

BEN GATES

We have to find the treasure.

PATRICK HENRY GATES

Ben, we don't even know where to start!

ABIGAIL CHASE

Patrick, did your brother ever tell you anything that could help lead us to the treasure? Or even the map?

PATRICK HENRY GATES

Hmm, let me think.

Two seconds pass.

PATRICK HENRY GATES (CONT'D)

Wait, he did used to always say "My favorite president was Harry Truman and I loved his 'The Buck Stops Here' placard on his desk."

ABIGAIL CHASE

Ok that could be a start.

BEN GATES

Let's think about it. Harry Truman... buck stops here... placard... buck stops here... Harry Truman...

ABIGAIL AND BEN come to the realization at the same time.

ABIGAIL AND BEN

The Harry Truman placard that says "The Buck Stops Here!"

RILEY POOL

I mean I'm sure that placard is on display somewhere...

ABIGAIL AND BEN

At the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.

RILEY POOL

They're not gonna just let us walk in and take it.

BEN GATES
We're going to steal the Harry
Truman Buck Stops Here Placard.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRY TRUMAN LIBRARY - INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI - NIGHT

A close up shot of the Harry Truman Buck Stops Here Placard, beneath glass, dimly lit up in the dark halls of the Truman Library. One guard, a middle-aged man of seemingly no physical threat to anybody, circles through the museum. Ben and Abigail repel down from the ceiling on wires. We sometimes cut back to a van where Riley is sitting on a computer hacking the security system, and Patrick is hanging out because he's too feeble to rob a library.

Ben's repelling has him hovering inches over the casing protecting the placard.

BEN GATES
Are we good?

RILEY POOL
(O.S. in the van)
All clear.

Ben pulls out a little glass laser cutter and starts to cut a hole in the glass. Suddenly, his rope starts to break.

ABIGAIL CHASE
Ben! Your rope!

Ben looks up at his rope but it is too late. It rips apart, and Ben falls to the ground, there's a really loud SLAM.

Silence for a moment. Then, footsteps. Riley, looking on a little overhead map of the museum that is definitely plausible technology-wise, speaks up.

RILEY POOL
Security guard is heading right for
you!

Ben sits up, and dusts himself off. The security guard walks in.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey! Who the hell are---

Ben pulls out the glass cutting laser and begins slicing through the security guard's face with it.

The security guard screams in agony, his pain echoing through the halls of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. The heat from the laser is so hot that the guard's blood boils into vapor before it can even drip from his face. Abigail, still hanging from her repel wire, uses this distraction to swing over and smash the glass, grabbing the placard.

The guard's hollowed screams finally fade out. Ben stands up, and proceeds to cut the legs of the guard off with the laser, one at a time.

BEN GATES

Just to make sure he doesn't follow us.

Abigail nods. The two make their way to the van, and open the back doors.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

Did you know that the 'S' in Harry S. Truman doesn't stand for anything? He didn't have a middle name, just a middle initial.

EVERYONE ELSE

Very interesting, Ben.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN GATES' OFFICE - NIGHT

There is a pentagram of candles, with the Buck Stops Here Placard placed in the center.

BEN GATES

We need to find the next clue on this placard.

Abigail grabs a baby goat from the corner.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

It'll lead us to the map, which takes us to the treasure.

Abigail slits the goat's throat above the placard. Blood spurts out like an un-tied water balloon. She begins chanting in latin. The Buck Stops Here placard starts glowing.

RILEY POOL

It's working!

Suddenly the placard explodes, leaving only a tiny pieces of paper on the floor. Ben picks it up.

BEN GATES
 (reading the paper)
 "The reality star leader thought to
 himself, 'you're in trouble.'"

PATRICK HENRY GATES
 Time to think about history and
 stuff and solve this riddle!

ABIGAIL CHASE
 The reality star leader is
 clearly...

ABIGAIL AND BEN
 Donald Trump.

ABIGAIL CHASE
 And he thought "you're in trouble"
 when...?

RILEY POOL
 The Mueller Report?

BEN GATES
 No, that can't be it. He's never
 actually felt in trouble.

RILEY POOL
 But it says, "You're in trouble."

BEN GATES
 Wait, Riley, say that again.

RILEY POOL
 "You're in trouble."

BEN GATES
 Now say it faster.

RILEY POOL
 (faster)
 You're in trouble.

BEN GATES
 That's it.

RILEY POOL
 What?

BEN GATES
 Urine trouble.

ABIGAIL CHASE
 URINE TROUBLE!

BEN GATES
We're going to steal the Pee Tape.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE KREMLIN - NIGHT

A literal shot-for-shot replica of the heist at the Harry Truman library, except this time it is in the Kremlin. They even kill another security guard, except this one is Russian. Could even be the same actor. They steal the pee tape and get back to the van, which is somehow also in Russia with them.

Ben pops the Pee Tape DVD into the van's DVD player. They watch an entire 25 minute video of President Donald Trump getting pissed on by various sex workers. He's really into it. He pays them all, and leaves a nice tip, which is almost as refreshing as the pee that coats his entire body. The pee tape finishes. There are even credits that roll.

BEN GATES
Well that didn't help. There's no new clue.

Suddenly, a post-credits scene rolls, like in a Marvel movie. The hotel room is empty, and we hear someone quietly speaking in Russian. Abigail has known Russian this whole time so she translates.

ABIGAIL CHASE
A like-sample from a sitting president on the case, will take you to the next place...

The DVD player screen goes black.

BEN GATES
A like-sample from a sitting president? We need to get a pee sample from a sitting president?

ABIGAIL CHASE
We need a sitting president to pee on the case for this tape, and the treasure map will reveal itself.

RILEY POOL
We need to get Trump to pee on that DVD case? We can't break into the White House. It's not going to happen.

There's a beat. There's no way they can break into the White House, they have cameras probably.

PATRICK HENRY GATES
Wait. Don't you all see it?

BEN GATES
What do you mean, dad?

Patrick starts to chuckle a bit. It's rare that he's the one in room with answers.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)
Jesus fucking christ dad just fucking tell us or I'll fucking kill you.

PATRICK HENRY GATES
We need a like-sample, so pee, right?

EVERYONE ELSE
Right.

PATRICK HENRY GATES
From a sitting president.

EVERYONE ELSE
Right.

PATRICK HENRY GATES
But they don't mean a Sitting President, they mean a president WHO IS SITTING. So we need pee from a president who pees sitting down.

EVERYONE AT ONCE
JIMMY CARTER!

PATRICK HENRY GATES
There's no way he has the strength to pee standing up, anymore.

BEN GATES
We're going to steal pee from Jimmy Carter while he's sitting down.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARTER FOUNDATION / HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK SITE - DAY

Former President Jimmy Carter and a large group of people are working to build houses somewhere, doesn't really matter where, honestly.

Jimmy Carter takes a big swig from a water bottle, and wipes sweat from his brow. He calls out to everyone else at the worksite.

JIMMY CARTER

Gonna take a piss!

Jimmy Carter walks over to a port-a-potty, flanked by his secret service. He goes in and locks the door. As he sits, the camera pans down, revealing all four of our heroes hiding in the part of the port-a-potty that all of the shit and piss is stored. Riley is constantly vomiting, and gets hushed for being too loud every time the stream of bile spews from his mouth.

ABIGAIL CHASE

We have to position the DVD case right under where he pees.

BEN GATES

I know, Abigail!

Ben holds the DVD case up toward where Jimmy Carter is sitting. Jimmy Carter begins to poop.

ABIGAIL CHASE

Ah crap, we need pee!

BEN GATES

Not poo!

Lots and lots of poop. Then finally, after the pooping has stopped, a tiny amount of pee trickles out of President Jimmy Carter's penis, and lands squarely on the pee tape DVD case.

The case begins to transform. Words begin to appear, like that magic map in Harry Potter. Abigail reads them as they appear.

ABIGAIL CHASE

... One giant leap... for the truth...

BEN GATES

One giant leap...

ABIGAIL CHASE

Wait... it's...

ABIGAIL AND BEN

The moon!

BEN GATES

We're going to steal the moon.

CUT TO:

EXT. NASA - DAY

The four heroes are taking a regular ol' tour of NASA, given by a regular NASA tour guide. The tour guide is going on and on about stuff and it takes every fiber of Ben's entire being to not interrupt the tour guide with tiny corrections to their information. Ben bursts a blood vessel in his eye he is trying so hard to not say smart shit.

ABIGAIL CHASE

Ben, not now. We need to distract this tour guide so we can steal a spaceship.

RILEY POOL

Yeah Taj Mowry, hold off smart guy.

BEN GATES

Wait, I have an idea.

Ben pulls a rock out of his pocket.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

(yells)

Look everybody! A moon rock!

Ben throws the moon rock down a hallway. The tour guide, and everyone on the tour, run after it.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

Ok, we're alone.

Riley pulls out a tiny computer and locates a spaceship on it.

RILEY POOL

There's one in that room over there!

They run through a door and there's the spaceship. They get on the ship, and Riley hacks into the shuttle's system with a wire. The ship starts. They're still in street clothes. The ship takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - DOESN'T MATTER WHAT TIME IT IS

The spaceship approaches the moon. Ben releases a rope from the back of the spaceship.

BEN GATES

We need some time alone with the moon so we can inspect it for clues.

Ben lassos the moon with his giant rope.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

Riley, can you make a projection of a fake moon so no one will notice this one is gone for a minute?

Riley types on a keyboard a bunch.

RILEY POOL

Got it. And I hacked the fake moon to give it a gravitational pull so tides won't get messed up.

BEN GATES

Fuck yeah, bro.

Ben flies the real moon away from where it's supposed to be. He and Abigail board a lander and head down to the moon.

CUT TO:

EXT. SURFACE OF THE MOON

Ben and Abigail land safely on the moon and get out. They're in spacesuits now. They're walking around the moon and Abigail trips over something.

ABIGAIL CHASE

It's a... golf club.

Ben walks over.

ABIGAIL CHASE (CONT'D)

And there's something inscribed on it.

She reads the inscription.

ABIGAIL CHASE (CONT'D)

There is truth or there is
treasure, not both, for there is a
hole in one for a whole of the
other.

BEN GATES

Hole in one, whole of the other...
hole in one...

ABIGAIL AND BEN

We need to hit a hole in one with
this club into that hole over there
using probably a moon rock as the
ball and then that's how this ends!

Suddenly, another lander comes crashing into the moon. The
lander reads TESLA on the side. The lander door opens with
that psssshhhhaaaaa sounds we all know. Out walks Mitch
Wilkinson, the bad guy if you don't remember, and he's with
Elon Musk. They're in Tesla Spacesuits.

MITCH WILKINSON

Thank you Ben, for leading me right
to the treasure.

BEN GATES

You got Elon Musk to fly you up
here?

MITCH WILKINSON

All I had to do was tell him that
teenagers on the internet would
think it was "sick as balls" if he
did this for me, and he was in.

ELON MUSK

Sup nerds?

BEN GATES

Look Mitch, I just need to clear my
family's name.

MITCH WILKINSON

Oh Ben, your family's name is fine.
I made everything up earlier so
you'd lead me to the treasure.

BEN GATES

Goddammit Mitch this is bigger than
treasure! This is about the truth.
Help us golf these rocks into that
hole so we finish this thing, once
and for all.

Ben, Abigail, and Mitch all take turns trying to hit moon rocks into a hole using the golf club they found. Elon Musk is on his phone adjusting his Tinder-location-distance to try and fuck an alien.

They hit and hit and miss and miss until there is only one moon rock left on the entire moon.

Ben takes a breath, swings the club, and the rock goes in.

Sound effects go off like a carnival from the 80s. Tiny little fireworks that work in the vacuum of space are triggered.

The moon opens up. It is full of solid gold.

BEN GATES (CONT'D)

Maybe the reason everyone thought the moon was made of cheese is because gold sort of looks like cheese.

ABIGAIL CHASE

Sure.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. LECTURE HALL AT HARVARD - DAY

Riley is standing in front of an audience, with his new book "Moon Pee Treasure" standing upright next to him.

RILEY POOL

(to the audience)

And that's how we found the Moon Pee Treasure. Any questions?

Everyone's hands shoot up.

We see Abigail, Ben, and I forget Ben's Dad's name but that guy too, all sitting in the back.

FADE OUT.

END.