

Courage, the Cowardly Dog

“Invisible Muriel”

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FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Courage is digging in a field -- a large expanse of land with nothing around.

CLOSER ON COURAGE

as he digs... deeper... and a look of surprise crosses his face -- and so does a glow of light from the hole!

COURAGE'S POV: HOLE IN GROUND

as he dusts the remaining dirt off a beautiful glowing stone.

ANGLE ON COURAGE

as he lifts the stone from the hole, examines it, turns it, wonders what it could be... then puts it in his mouth and carries it away.

As Courage walks off, we linger... and PAN UP to reveal a sign reading: RESTRICTED AREA! KEEP OUT! BIG TROUBLE! (with a skull and crossbones under the lettering).

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - SIMULTANEOUS

A satellite orbiting the Earth BEEPS and changes direction. It's monitoring something. In a series of closer and closer shots -- CLICK CLICK CLICK -- we see Courage, walking, holding the glowing stone. The image is on a surveillance monitor.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The Farmer is at the stove, sipping from a spoon, sneaking a taste of something cooking in a pot. He hears MURIEL ENTER and quickly puts the spoon back into the pot, trying to act nonchalant.

MURIEL

Eustace, I'll get t'makin' dinner soon as I'm done cookin' that batch of my Special Secret Recipe Blue Ribbon Dog Food.

FARMER

(spits)

PTOOIE!

The Farmer pulls out his tongue and scrubs it with a horse brush. Muriel begins to stir the pot.

MURIEL

This batch is for the County Dog Food Contest and this year no one's stealin' my Special Secret Recipe.

Courage enters through the back door, the stone in his mouth, the glow strong on his face. Muriel looks at Courage as she continues to stir the pot.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Courage, ya got a tan. It's dashing.

Courage shakes his head and proudly displays the stone.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Oh, how lovely. Is it for me?

COURAGE

(nodding; affirmative sounds)

Muriel pulls out a string and ties the stone around her neck.

MURIEL

How does it look?

FARMER

Like a big ugly rock.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - SIMULTANEOUS

The satellite... BEEPING, locking in...

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT OBSERVATION ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

ANGLE ON A BIG SCREEN

As before, the image pushes in -- CLICK CLICK CLICK -- getting closer, showing the hole Courage left when he dug up the stone. From O.C., we hear two OFFICIAL MILITARY VOICES.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
Sir, security has been breached. The rock has rolled. Big boy's gone bye bye.

GENERAL (O.C.)
You mean...

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
Someone found where we hid the stone... and they took it away.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Well, I'll be stuffed and basted. Do we know where it went to?

On the screen, the image changes to something in the far distance. Then -- CLICK CLICK CLICK -- the image enlarges. It's the Farmhouse.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
That house.

As we PUSH IN slowly on the image of the Farmhouse:

GENERAL (O.C.)
Well I'll be sliced and served with gravy...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Courage and the Farmer are sitting at the dinner table, ready to eat.

MURIEL (O.C.)
Okay, boys. Dinner's ready.

Muriel enters, carrying a dinner tray. She's only fifty percent visible -- she's fading away!

ANGLE ON COURAGE

as he takes out a finger bowl, takes the eyes out of his head, rinses them in the finger bowl, then puts them back in his head -- and screams!

COURAGE
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!!!

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

ANGLE ON A DESKTOP

A small spotlight shines down on the desktop. An official folder is dropped onto the desk.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Here are your orders to retrieve the Invisibility Stone. They come from on high.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
You mean...

GENERAL (O.C.)
That's right: The Big Salami. Primo Domo. Papa Oo Mow Mow. He authorized billions of tax dollars spent on this project -- and he wants the stone back.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
Our national security is worth every penny.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Actually, he just likes to put the thing on so he can slip out past the Mrs.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
Ah.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Retrieve the stone -- and anyone who has worn it.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
How will we know if someone has worn the stone?

GENERAL (O.C.)
You won't be able to see them.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
So whoever isn't there...

GENERAL (O.C.)
Bring here.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Morning, next day...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The Farmer is at the table reading the newspaper.

ANGLE ON COURAGE

as he enters the kitchen. He looks up and sees...

MURIEL

serving breakfast. But she is now totally invisible! All that can be seen is her outer clothing, her glasses and the glowing stone. Muriel is acting like everything is perfectly normal.

COURAGE
(hysterical babble)

MURIEL
Courage, I made ya a sandwich of my
Special Secret Blue Ribbon Dog Food --
just the way ya like it.

Invisible Muriel brings Courage a huge, over-stuffed hero sandwich, dripping with dog food, with a decorative umbrella on top.

MURIEL (CONT'D)
(while setting down sandwich)
I just know I'll win the contest with
this batch.

Muriel turns and walks back to the stove. Courage leaves the sandwich on the table.

ANGLE ON COURAGE

as he picks up the telephone and dials.

ANGLE ON MURIEL

She takes a bite of her breakfast; we see the bolus in her mouth as she chews.

WIDER: INCLUDE FARMER

FARMER
Muriel! Close yer mouth when ya chew!

ANGLE ON COURAGE

on the phone.

COURAGE
(babbling on phone)

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Dr. Vindaloo is cradling the phone between his head and shoulder while he shaves his leg; his pants leg is rolled up.

VINDALOO
(on phone)
You should immediately remove the stone from the invisible one.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Courage scrams from the phone, yanks the stone from Invisible Muriel, races back to the phone and resumes babbling...

COURAGE
(babbling on phone)

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Dr. Vindaloo, shaving leg, on phone.

VINDALOO
(on phone)
Still invisible? What's up with that?!

COURAGE (V.O.)
(babble; from Vindaloo's phone)

VINDALOO

You bring me the stone and I'll run some tests.

(cuts leg)

Ouch! ...And dog -- bring a bandage.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Courage hangs up the phone. Then... DEEP RUMBLING. The sound of HELICOPTERS OUTSIDE.

WIDE ON ROOM

as Courage runs to grab onto Muriel, who looks around, confused. The Farmer doesn't look up from his meal.

Suddenly, several GOVERNMENT AGENTS BARREL IN ON ROPES...

One through the window.

One through the door.

One from the ceiling.

Like outtakes from The Matrix, they swiftly perform a series of thoroughly unnecessary acrobatic moves around the room -- stopping only to take a bite of toast -- then continuing.

The Farmer doesn't look up from his meal.

Finally, the agents grab Muriel and head back out the way they came in. But Courage takes hold of Muriel's boot and hangs on -- resulting in a tug of war with the agents.

They struggle, then Muriel POPS out of her boot...

...leaving Courage with only the boot.

As quickly as they arrived, the agents are gone.

Then, an AGENT sticks his head in the window.

AGENT

Don't worry, kid.

The Agent displays his ID.

AGENT (CONT'D)

Federal Agent. Your mother's working for us now, and so's her stone.

(MORE)

AGENT (CONT'D)
Stay in school, sleep often and practice
good hygiene.

The Agent pops out again.

Courage is scared soundless. He takes from behind his back
the glowing stone and looks at it in horror. Then...

COURAGE
(screams)
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!

ANGLE ON FARMER

not looking up from his meal.

FARMER
Told ya it wuz an ugly rock.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

HIGH ANGLE ON INVISIBLE MURIEL

in this spartan, official room. Her glasses go back and
forth as she follows the O.C. conversation.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Ya got her but ya didn't get the stone!

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
I thought the stone was invisible.

GENERAL (O.C.)
The stone just makes you invisible,
idiot. Just track the stone and get it!

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
Uh, sorry General. No can do. We lost
the satellite.
(pointedly)
Seems that someone forgot to charge it up
this morning.

GENERAL (O.C.)
My bad.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
'Nuff said.

MURIEL

If it's my Secret Blue Ribbon Dog Food recipe you're wantin', then you should know I'm not talkin'.

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY

Courage and the Farmer are watching Dr. Vindaloo as he examines the stone.

FARMER

Ugly rock, ain't it?

VINDALOO

If I am to find the antidote, someone has to put the thing on and disappear.

The Farmer points at Courage. Courage shakes his head.

VINDALOO (CONT'D)

My tests show the stone doesn't work on dogs... Don't know why. Curious...

FARMER

Stoopid dog.

Vindaloo puts the stone around the Farmer's neck.

FARMER (CONT'D)

Stoopid ugly rock.

VINDALOO

This will take some time. Dog, go sniffing around for the invisible one. By the time you find her, I hope I have the antidote.

Courage picks up Muriel's boot and sniffs it. He sniffs the air and follows the scent out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. WORLD - DAY

LOW ANGLE ON COURAGE

sniffing the boot, sniffing the trail, searching...
searching...

CUT TO:

MAP OF THE WORLD

We hear SNIFFING as a dotted line shows Courage's trek, this way, that way, around in circles...

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Invisible Muriel is still in the hot seat. Now a bright light shines on her -- and right through her.

GENERAL (O.C.)

Give it up, lady. We want it and we want it now!

MURIEL

I don't care how badly you want t'win that dog food contest. I'm not talkin'.

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY

The Farmer has become invisible. His clothing, glasses and hat are all that can be seen. Vindaloo stands by, holding a clipboard.

VINDALOO

Good good. You have become invisible very well.

FARMER

Yeah. Thanks a heap.

VINDALOO

Okay. Antidote test number one.

Vindaloo puts a giant lobster down the back of the Invisible Farmer's pants. The Farmer starts hopping around in pain.

FARMER

(screaming)

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!

He does not become visible.

VINDALOO

Didn't think that would work. But I'm sure glad I tried it.

Vindaloo jots on his clipboard.

CUT TO:

MAP OF THE WORD

SNIFFING is heard. The dotted line showing Courage's search as he zigs and zags through continents around the world.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Invisible Muriel still under interrogation.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Knock knock

MURIEL
Who's there?

GENERAL (O.C.)
(sarcastically)
You'll find out when you tell us what we
want to know.

MURIEL
You're a cruel one ya are.

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY

Vindaloo is BOPPING the Invisible Farmer on the head repeatedly WITH A WHALE. With every hit, a portion of the Farmer becomes visible, then disappears again. Vindaloo finally stops, jots a note and looks at his watch.

VINDALOO
Okay. Lunch break.

Vindaloo and the Invisible Farmer sit at a table set with sandwiches and milk. They reach for their sandwiches. The Invisible Farmer pulls out his sandwich.

ANGLE ON THE SANDWICH

It's the dog food sandwich Muriel made earlier for Courage -- the over-stuffed hero with the umbrella on top.

The Farmer takes a bite and the sandwich spills out -- GLOOP -- from the other end all over him. He immediately spits it out, dropping the sandwich -- SPLOITCH.

FARMER
(spits, then:)
Stoopid dog food! Musta gotten the
sandwiches mixed up!

The Invisible Farmer, covered in dog food, starts to fade in and out and in and out and... IN! He's visible again!

VINDALOO
What did you say was in that sandwich?

FARMER
Lousy stinkin' dog food.

VINDALOO
That's the antidote. Lousy stinkin' dog
food!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

LOW ANGLE ON COURAGE

sniffing, sniffing, still holding Muriel's boot. Finally -- he's close! Courage looks up and sees...

A DOOR IN THE HALLWAY

labeled "TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT FACILITY." From behind the door, Courage hears...

MURIEL (O.C.)
(muffled)
Okay! Okay! The secret ingredient is
vinegar! I put vinegar in the dog food!
I use it in all my cookin'. I hope
you're satisfied!

Courage looks across the hall from the door and sees...

ANGLE ON ANOTHER DOOR

labeled: "DR. VINDALOO, M.D., Q.U.Ac.K."

The door is ajar. Courage looks inside and sees -- Dr. Vindaloo!

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Vindaloo is taking a taste of the dog food sandwich as the now visible Farmer watches.

VINDALOO
You know, it's not bad.

Courage bolts into Vindaloo's office, pointing excitedly out the door and waving Muriel's boot. Vindaloo looks out the door.

VINDALOO'S POV: "GOVERNMENT TOP SECRET FACILITY" DOOR

ANGLE ON VINDALOO

VINDALOO (CONT'D)
(looking out door)
That's very funny. Right across the hall all the time. Ironic.
(turns to Courage)
You are lucky, dog. Through my extraordinary powers of deduction, I have found the antidote to the invisibility stone: lousy stinkin' dog food.

Vindaloo eats dog food out of the can.

VINDALOO (CONT'D)
Tangy... Well, now we have to get the antidote to your Muriel. One of us has to get invisible --
(turns to Farmer)
again.

FARMER
Beats eatin' dog food.

VINDALOO
And this time, please remove the clothing.

CUT TO:

INT. TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT FACILITY RECEPTION AREA - DAY

The Invisible Farmer is walking past TWO GUARDS. Only his hat and glasses are seen floating by. After the Farmer passes by:

GUARD ONE
That look odd to you?

GUARD TWO

Uh... that? Uh... no. Must be the, uh,
Stealth Hat Program. Yeah... Didn't you
get the Stealth Hat memo?

GUARD ONE

Stealth Hat memo. Affirmative.

ANGLE ON INVISIBLE FARMER

coming to a fork in a corridor. He spots two signs, each
pointing down a different corridor.

FARMER'S POV: ONE SIGN

pointing down one corridor. It reads "SECRET INVISIBILITY
TESTING" with a picture of the invisibility stone around the
neck of someone invisible (represented by a dotted line in
the shape of a person).

FARMER (O.C.)

Secret Invisibility Testing.

PAN TO OTHER SIGN

pointing down the other corridor. It reads "SECRET GOLD
STORAGE" with dollar signs around it.

FARMER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Secret Gold Storage.

ANGLE ON THE FARMER

FARMER (CONT'D)

Works fer me!

The Farmer heads down the corridor towards the gold. His hat
pops up, revealing Courage hiding underneath, holding a can
of the dog food antidote.

COURAGE

(babbling objection)

FARMER

Shaddap.

The Farmer slams the hat down on his head.

CUT TO:

INT. GOLD ROOM - DAY

The Invisible Farmer walks into the room, turns on the light, and is practically blinded by...

ALL THE GOLD

stacks of bricks, rows of stacks, everywhere... GOLD!

FARMER

Gold! I'm rich! I'm rich!

While the Invisible Farmer is distracted by the bullion, Courage hops off his head and sneaks out of the room with the dog food.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Outside the Secret Invisibility Testing Room...

Courage walks up to the door. Suddenly, three government agents descend from above and block the way.

AGENT

That's the invisible lady's dog! He knows where the stone is!

COURAGE

(screams)

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!!!

Courage runs off.

AGENT

And now he's running away.

The agents take chase...

CUT TO:

INT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

...following Courage into Vindaloo's office.

ANGLE ON VINDALOO

standing, holding the stone and examining it. The stone is out in the open, apparent to any fool. Courage runs past, followed by the agents who take no notice of the stone.

AGENT
(shouting after Courage)
You can't hide that stone from us!

ANGLE ON COURAGE

as he throws himself through the window. The agents follow him out.

CUT TO:

EXT. VINDALOO'S OFFICE / ROOF - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The agents climb out the window and follow Courage up to the roof.

Courage runs across the roof and spots a skylight. He looks down through the skylight, then throws himself through it...

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

...to where Invisible Muriel is still seated. Courage douses her with dog food. She becomes visible immediately.

MURIEL
Courage, how lovely that you dropped
by... and you brought my Special Secret
Recipe Blue Ribbon Dog Food!
(whispers)
Don't show it to anyone official lookin'.

CLATTERING from above. Courage looks up and sees...

THE AGENTS

climbing down from the skylight on government-issue climbing line. Courage hides under Muriel's apron as the agents do their typical unnecessary acrobatics, then stop.

AGENT
I don't see any dog or invisible lady.
(ponders)
Perplexing... I'll tell the General.
You get that visible lady with the dog-
shaped bulge under her apron out of here.

The agents escort Muriel and the hidden Courage out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Same desktop as before.

GENERAL (O.C.)
The invisibility stone is lost forever.
I guess we can mark the case...

A big stamp stamps the folder "CLOSED."

GENERAL (CONT'D; O.C.) (CONT'D)
...closed.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
The big guy's gonna be awfully
disappointed.

GENERAL (O.C.)
We'll just give him a lump of coal and
tell him he's invisible.

FIRST OFFICIAL VOICE (O.C.)
That's why you're a General, General.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Now let's get back to the patriotic work
of making statues out of gold.

CUT TO:

INT. GOLD ROOM - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

The Invisible Farmer is juggling gold bricks, kissing them.

FARMER
(kissing, hooting and whooping)

The sound of MACHINERY STARTING UP is heard. The Invisible Farmer doesn't notice as he and all the gold start to move; they're on a conveyor belt.

The Invisible Farmer and the gold are being moved through a doorway into another room.

As the Invisible Farmer passes through the doorway, we PAN UP to reveal a sign: "SECRET GOVERNMENT STATUE FACTORY."

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Courage is burying the stone. Muriel is at his side, holding a blue ribbon, admiring it.

MURIEL

So I won the dog food contest after
all... It just goes t'show ya, Courage,
ya always get what ya deserve.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

ANGLE ON A SHEET OVER A STATUE

From O.C. we hear:

GENERAL (O.C.)

It is with great pride that I dedicate
this great statue to our great nation.

The sheet is yanked off, revealing -- a solid gold statue of
the Farmer! He's wearing his hat, glasses and a fig leaf.
We hear from under all the gold...

FARMER

Rich, I tell ya! I'm rich!

IRIS OUT

THE END