

THE CAVE OF THE GREEN LIGHT

Written By

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Characters

GERALD WAGNER Rescue team leader

WINSTON BENSON Rescue team assistant

SGT. HAROLD JENNINGS Rescue commander

SARAH YUNG Cave surveying sketcher

Playwright Notes:

****Audio is filtered to resemble that of a walkie-talkie. The story is to take place through radio transmissions between ground and rescue crew members****

Italicized words are heard in the background of someone else's feed.

// in the middle of the line means next the speaker should begin saying their next line over-top.

(Static fades in and crackles before giving way to Sgt. Harold Jennings voice.)

SGT. HAROLD JENNINGS

Alright, it's 15:34 meaning Dr. Basler and his survey team have been missing for 6 days, 2 hours if everything went as Basler planned. He's with two of his graduate students, Wesley Davidson and Sarah Yung, and supposedly they were hoping to find some sort of gem while they surveyed the caves. Not much has been mapped so Mrs. Basler said that they were hoping to explore the East Tunnel-- that will be your best bet to start. Since there's no way Basler would've taken inexperienced cavers, I'd say Basler and his team are probably in a pretty tight pickle. Over.

GERALD WAGNER

I can't imagine Basler would've let that happen, Sarg. He could speak to rocks, they'd tell him if they were gonna cave in on him.

SGT. JENNINGS

The rocks caving-in sounds like just about the only thing that would've kept 'em in there.

WINSTON BENSON

Not unless they're still exploring.

SGT. JENNINGS

Now's no time for jokes Benson. Get down there and get them out. Over and out.

WAGNER

Come in, Sarg.

SGT. JENNINGS

Hear ya loud and clear, Wagner. Over.

WAGNER

We've made it to the bottom of the great hall. Their ropes are still in place. We found a broken flashlight here on the ground.

SGT. JENNINGS

Does it look like it's been there long?

BENSON

It seems like they dropped it on their descent.

(Faint clicks)

Doesn't work. Probably fell from a bag, figured they'd get it later.

WAGNER

Don't seem to see anything else that they might've left behind. I see footprints...

(Paper rustling)

Yep, they're going towards the East Tunnel. Over.

SGT. JENNINGS

It's been about an hour, how're we looking, Wagner?

WAGNER

No sign of Basler or any of his team. All these survey stations look relatively old and we're still in mapped territory right now, but we seem to be reaching the end.

BENSON

Gerald, look here!

WAGNER

Hold on, Benson just found something. Over... We found a side passage that must've been ignored while making the principal map.

BENSON

You can see these // footprints all on the ground.

WAGNER

Seems like they followed this passageway, it's pretty tight.

SGT. JENNINGS

Are you sure their lead stops there?

BENSON

Yeah. The way we were walkin', we were followin' their tracks, nothin' too distinct but the ground'd definitely been disturbed. Ahead of this squeeze, the dirt's settled too nicely.

WAGNER

We can see how they had to lay down to get in.

SGT. JENNINGS

Alright. Well, good luck. Over and out.

BENSON

Good luck's the only thing you can hope for in a passage like this.

WAGNER

We found something. Over.

SGT. JENNINGS

What is it?

WAGNER

Survey station. Looks fresh. Seems we're on the right track. Right now we're in a small chamber taking a rest before we go on.

SGT. JENNINGS

Any estimate of where you are?

WAGNER

Umm...

(Paper rustling)

Somewhere between below the East Tunnel and Coral Corridor.

BENSON

Honestly, the turn probably took us closer to the Southern Hall.

WAGNER

It's cooled down to 62 degrees. I figure we're probably a mile, mile and a half below ground.

BENSON

The cave's startin' to come alive the deeper we get. Walls are gettin' wetter. I'm worried that if we keep goin' deeper we'll end up underwater.

SGT. JENNINGS

Hopefully, you'll find them before that. Over.

WAGNER

We will. We're moving on, Sarg. Over and out.

WAGNER

Come in, Sarg(?)

SGT. JENNINGS

Go.

WAGNER

We found another survey station. Good thing we saw it first, otherwise we might've just fallen down an escarp. There's a chimney that we're gonna have to shimmy down.

BENSON

Took us 2 hours to get here. I can't imagine surveying this-- having to take measurements and sketch out these passages, it probably took them 4 hours to reach this point.

WAGNER

Not the way Basler worked, I'd say closer 6.

BENSON

Balser's team installed some anchors, their ropes are still here.

WAGNER

Rocks are so slick ya need it.

BENSON

Mrs. Basler say how long he'd expected to be down here?

SGT. WAGNER

She said they were camping out by the cave. Trip was supposed to be three days.

WAGNER

They probably got this far on the first day and went back to camp the night, then came back.

BENSON

I'm worried about how much farther they got by day three.

WAGNER

If someone's injured, I'm worried about this next leg, it's gonna be hard to get them out. Doesn't seem to be a bottom to this thing.

SGT. JENNINGS

Maybe it opens up to something bigger, spreading your light out more. Over.

BENSON

We'll let you know. Over and out.

WAGNER

(Heavy breathing)

The walls just dropped out. Shining my light around, I don't see anything but stalactites. I still don't see a bottom. Over.

BENSON

We're still good on rope up here. I got probably another 200 feet.

WAGNER

It's starting to get cold.

BENSON

(Lighthearted)

Once you get to the bottom you can put your cardigan on.

WAGNER

Get me down then. Over.

(Wagner and Benson's voices have reverb)

WAGNER

Looks like the map's wrong, Sarg.

SGT. JENNINGS

How so?

WAGNER

Well, they called the main entrance the *Great Hall*, but it's not that great.

SGT. JENNINGS

Oh yeah, why's that?

WAGNER

We're in a cavern right now. I'm talking a ceiling a hundred feet up and I don't know how wide across.

BENSON

We're standing in the middle and we can't find any walls. Bunch of columns and travertines--

WAGNER

This place is a maze.

BENSON

We're probably 3 miles down. I don't know where to go from here?

WAGNER

Dr. Basler! Yung! David--

(Beat)

BENSON

We heard someone. It sounds like Yung.

WAGNER

Trying to follow her voice but everything's echoing too much. We can't hear anything but what we said a minute ago.

SGT. JENNINGS

Be careful, last thing we need is you guys getting excited and breaking an ankle 'cause you aren't taking the time. Over.

WAGNER

(Panicked, breathing heavily)

Sarg, we found Yung.

SGT. JENNINGS

Any sign of the others?

WAGNER	BENSON	SARAH YUNG
<p>We have other things to worry about, she's hurt badly. Her hands are broken. There's a big chunk taken out of her leg: a bite. Don't know</p> <p>what from but she's</p> <p>Losing a lot of blood. It doesn't seem like she can stand at all. Over.</p>	<p><i>Sarah, Sarah, what did</i></p> <p><i>This to you?</i></p> <p><i>Sarah, what did this to</i></p> <p><i>Your leg?</i></p> <p><i>Sarah, you need to calm down, calm down it's going to be ok, we're here to help you. We're here to get you out of here.</i></p>	<p>(Chaotic, lucid)</p> <p><i>The light the light the light</i></p> <p><i>He light... Dr. Basler touched the...</i></p> <p><i>the light the light... it got</i></p> <p><i>him it got him it got him...</i></p> <p>(Hyperventilating)</p>

SGT. JENNINGS

I'm sending down a medic crew right now, it's gonna be a while. Over.

WAGNER

She was smart enough to make herself a tourniquet -- I worry now about infection. Over.

SGT. JENNINGS

It took 3 hours 12 minutes to get to her. Medical team should be faster.

WAGNER

We left markers. I'm not sure how we're going to be able to get her out of this corridor let alone through the belly crawl.

SGT. JENNINGS

Right now the only thing you can do is keep her calm and try to get her back to the belay.

WAGNER

Copy that. I found her book. Seems like they got up always mapped out. I'm gonna use it to see if I can find the others. Dried blood on the ground, she probably crawled back to here. I can't imagine the others are too far off. Over.

SGT. JENNINGS

Don't forget to mark those tracks. Right now, you're the only person with a map of that place. Over and out.

WAGNER

Benson.

BENSON

Yeah?

WAGNER

I'm leaving the Grand Cavern. You gonna be okay with Sarah?

BENSON

Yeah, she's calmed down, she can't walk but I've got her up and limpin'.

WAGNER

Good. The blood trail's getting thicker and darker. Whatever happened to her, I'm getting--

(Pause)

I hear something. I think someone's down this tunnel.

BENSON

Or something.

WAGNER

I'll take my chances.

BENSON

Sarg, Wagner, I don't know how fruitful this rescue's gonna be.

YUNG

The light the light... Dr. Basler... the light... Dr. Basler killed...

SGT. JENNINGS

Why's that?

BENSON

She's saying he's been killed.

SGT. JENNINGS

She's saying who's been killed?

BENSON

Basler. Basler's been killed.

WAGNER

I found a footprint. Over.

SGT. JENNINGS

Come again?

WAGNER

A barefoot print in the dirt. The ground's getting a little wetter. This cave is still alive.

BENSON

What would someone be doing without shoes on down there?

WAGNER

That's a good question-- oh shit!--

(Dry heave...cut out)

SGT. JENNINGS

Wagner? What's wrong? Wagner?! Come in! Gerald, come in!

WAGNER

I'm okay, I'm okay. I think I just found Davidson. You're gonna need to send a body bag... And a shovel-- Jesus-- . . . He's been attacked by something. There's something else in this cave with us, his flesh has been shredded apart-- he doesn't have a face--

(Wretches again)

SGT. JENNINGS

Why don't you head back, Gerald?

WAGNER

No, no, I gotta find Professor Basler.

BENSON

I think Yung saw Beson get killed-- it's probably when she got hurt. She heard you say his name over the radio and she started having another panic attack or something-- we were making progress towards the exit but now she's got concrete feet.

WAGNER

There's a light coming from one of these tunnels-- I think it's Basler with a glowstick; he might still be alive... Oh, I see claw marks. They're about the size of... that doesn't make any sense-- it's like somehow a human scratched gouges into the rock.

SGT. JENNINGS

Wagner, I think you better get out of there.

WAGNER

If he's dead we're gonna need to get his body out of here.

BENSON

Sarg! She just passed out, hyperventilated, and just went cold... her breathing's calmed. She's lost a lot of blood, this is probably the best for her, but she needs medical and psychiatric attention fast.

SGT. JENNINGS

Let me get in contact with the medic crew. Over and out.

WAGNER

I found more footprints. They look human but it seems like their nails are claws. There's no clear direction, almost like they were pacing or--... I found a compression sock... and the other. Jesus, the shoes, pants, belt, shirt... that's his pack. Sarg, I found Basler's bag, and his clothes... there's not much in the bag... all the flashlights are broken, I don't see any flares or glowsticks. I don't see him anywhere but he can't be in a good condition.

BENSON

Gerald! Gerald, I need you to listen: She's coming to a bit-- she wasn't saying it all before. Basler killed Davidson. Basler wasn't killed, he killed. It seems like he went crazy down in the caves. You need out get out and come back.

WAGNER

I've found his stuff he has to be nearby.

BENSON

That's why I want you to come back.

WAGNER

I'm not leaving him down here, crazy or not. Murderer or not, he's not being left in this cave.

BENSON

Isn't that what Dr. Basler always wanted? To be buried amongst the rocks?

(Beat.)

WAGNER

Sarg?

SGT. JENNINGS

Yep?

WAGNER

Did Mrs. Basler say what kind of gem he was hoping to find?

SGT. JENNINGS

She didn't go into the specifics.

BENSON

Gerry! Green light! Yung's saying Basler went crazy when he saw a green light.

WAGNER

(Like he's falling into a trance)

Green light. What... What about a green light?

BENSON

Gerry, don't look at that gem! Don't look at the thing, Gerry!

WAGNER

But... it's so... its... so...

(Hear the sound of his falling. There's faint footsteps in dirt and then a guttural seemingly-inhuman. sound crescendos until the radio cuts out to static.)

THE END

