The Neglected Species – Shooting Script

[Music plays under dark screen. Fade in]

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| 1 | Anthropology conference. Knowles announces his new discovery to the audience. | Auditorium | Knowles | Suit |

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 47th annual conference of the International Society of Anthropologists. Please join me now in welcoming to the podium our keynote speaker for this year. He’s a world-renowned anthropologist specializing in the development of tribal cultures. Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Malcolm Knowles.

KNOWLES: It is an honor to speak with you today. And how fortunate that this conference should happen to fall at this time – a time when I was ready to share one of the greatest discoveries of our generation. Ladies and gentlemen, I have discovered a lost tribe. This group of people has long been suffering from their detachment from society. For all intents and purposes they are a neglected species, wandering aimlessly without guidance. Yet this tribe was not discovered in a far-off country or in some remote wilderness. No, my colleagues, the tribe was found right at the edge of this very city. They have been living there for generations without ever having been noticed. Over the last few months I have managed to open communications with the tribe. I have begun to earn the trust of one of the tribesmen. He is called Lurna. He refers to his people as the Aydoolts. Communication with Lurna is extremely difficult, but we are slowly finding ways to understand each other.

Immediately following this conference I will be leaving to immerse myself fully in the Aydoolt culture. I hope to find ways to educate Lurna, to allow him to benefit from all of the wonders of the modern world.

VOICE FROM THE CROWD: How will you teach him, Dr. Knowles?

KNOWLES: (laughing) Well, I don’t think we need rediscover the wheel here. We all know how to teach. We’ve been doing it for years. The methods used to teach children how to read and write should work perfectly on this primitive tribesman. With my experience as an educator, I can probably have Lurna advanced to the point where he can make this keynote address next year! (laughter from the crowd) But seriously, ladies and gentlemen, I am eager to return to the Aydoolts and begin my work with Lurna. I hope you will invite me back next year so that I may share my results with you. Thank you very much. (applause from the crowd)

[Scene fades out as main titles play over music. Titles fade to…]

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| 2 | Knowles explains the preserve the NS are being kept on and begins his approach. | Campground, gates | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: We have established a perimeter around the Aydoolt tribal village to protect its isolation. I will be entering the preserve alone. Hopefully I can make contact again with Lurna and begin the slow process of educating him in the ways of modern society. I do not plan to leave until I have been successful. I will be documenting the process to allow other anthropologists to benefit from my experiences.

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| 3 | POV of walking into campground | Campground, entrance road | None – POV | n/a |

KNOWLES: We are following the path that leads into the Aydoolt village. I am going to be very cautious as I reenter the tribal area. My relationship with the Aydoolts is still very new. I cannot be sure if I will even be remembered by the tribe. The tribal homelands begin on the other side of this small ravine.

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| 4+ | Additional shots of campground, with voiceover. | Campground | None – POV | n/a |

KNOWLES: Notice how neglected this area has become. The evidence suggests that buildings once stood here. You can see the remains of a roadway. Vegetation has started to reclaim most of the area.

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| 5 | Pan to shot of trashed camper. NS is revealed, approaches the camera. Voiceover. | Campground, trashed camper | NS | Tribal |

KNOWLES: I have had success finding members of the tribe near this abandoned camper. They may be drawn to it for some reason, although it certainly does not look to be very good shelter. Wait! I think one of them is coming.

[LURNA enters the shot and stares at the camera.]

KNOWLES: I am not sure he remembers me. Lurna! Lurna! It’s me, Malcolm. I have come back. I’ve come back to teach you. Lurna!

[LURNA slowly advances towards the camera, recognizes KNOWLES and makes gibberish greeting. ]

KNOWLES: Hello, Lurna! Yes, I am glad to see you too. Excellent! He remembers me. Now I can begin the important work of educating this tribesman.

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| 6 | Knowles explains his approach to teaching NS. Hands NS a book, attempts to explain what reading is. | Campground, woods 1 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: Day 1. I am going to begin today by teaching Lurna the basics of the alphabet and reading. I am planning to use the same techniques primary school teachers have been using for years. Once he has mastered reading, the world of knowledge will be open to him. Lurna. Lurna! Come here, Lurna. Here take this. It’s a book. [Hands the book out of shot.]

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| 7 | NS takes the book, listens to Knowles’ explanation. He seems to understand, but instead starts tearing pages from the book and eating them, resisting efforts from Knowles to get the book back. | Campground, woods 1 | NS | Tribal |

KNOWLES: Good. Now look at it. Open it up. See those markings inside? Those are called letters. Each represents a different sound. Do you understand, Lurna? Letters. [LURNA promptly tears out the page and proceeds to eat it.] Lurna, what are you doing! That isn’t for eating. Give that back. [LURNA refuses and continues eating.]

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| 8 | Knowles explains failure (I’ve instilled in him a love of books – just not the way I intended) and attempts to teach NS math using a portable white board. | Campground, woods 2 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: Day 2. Well, I was trying to instill in him a love of books. I succeeded, just not the way I intended. Since Lurna has now eaten the small supplies of books I brought with me, I have determined to teach him mathematics instead. I have brought along this small whiteboard that I hope he finds less palatable. Lurna, this is called math. It lets you count the things around you. See: 1 stick. Add 2 more sticks to it. What do you get? 3 sticks. You would write that like this: 1+2=3. See that? Now I’ll write the problem again and I want you to write the answer. 1+2=

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| 9 | NS takes great interest in the white board | Campground, woods 2 | NS | Tribal |

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| 10 | Knowles shows again how to write a number (3?), encourages NS. | Campground, woods 2 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: You can do it, Lurna. 1+2=3. Three. Now I’ll erase it and you can write it it. 1+2=.

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| 11 | NS takes marker, begins to write. Instead of writing a number he draws a picture of a bee. | Campground, woods 2 | NS | Tribal |

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| 12 | Knowles corrects him: No, not BEE, THREE. | Campground, woods 2 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: No, Lurna. Not bee, three.

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| 13 | NS more emphatically draws the bee, then starts adding numerous dots around it. | Campground, woods 2 | NS | Tribal |

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| 14 | Knowles looks confused, then is attacked by a swarm of bees and runs out of shot | Campground, woods 2 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: That is not a three. That is a bee. Why do you refuse to… [He is attacked by bees and goes screaming out of the shot.]

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| 15 | Knowles, with numerous stings on his face, comments on the obvious intelligence of NS, wonders why he cannot get him to learn what he needs to know. Decides to bring out the big guns – technology. | Campground, woods 3 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |

KNOWLES: Day 3. My numerous bee stings are starting to heal but my mind is still buzzing over my failure to teach Lurna anything. He is obviously very intelligent. He immediately seized on how to use the whiteboard and tried to use it to warn me about the bees. Why will he not use that intelligence to learn how to read and write? I have decided that I need to use more modern methods to reach Lurna. I am going to introduce him to technology. Perhaps if I can get him comfortable using my computer, I can interest him in learning. They say that music can soothe the wild beast. The Aydoolts sing tribal songs, Lurna always participates. Maybe I can lure him into using the computer through music. Lurna. Lurna! Come and try something new. This is a keyboard. When you push the buttons on it you will hear nusic. Do you understand? This will help you make music.

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| 16 | NS takes the proffered keyboard and looks at it quizzically. | Campground, woods 3 | NS | Tribal |

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| 17 | Encourages him to press the buttons and make music | Campground, woods 3 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |

KNOWLES: It’s okay. Try it. Make some music.

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| 18 | NS takes the keyboard, rips it out of the computer and makes music with it by pounding on trees | Campground, woods 3 | NS | Tribal |

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| 19 | Frustrated, Knowles decides to hunt for lunch with bow and arrow. | Campground, woods 4 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |

KNOWLES: Day 5. I am frustrated by my total lack of success with Lurna. My books are gone, my computer equipment is damaged, and my whiteboard is heavily guarded by a swarm of angry bees. I have decided that I need a little break from teaching. I need to hunt for food to augment my supplies anyway, so I am heading away from the village for a few hours with my bow. Maybe I can think more clearly after a good meal. Ah. Rabbit. I’m using the bow today so as not to alarm the tribe with a gunshot. Now…easy…easy [He lets the arrow fly.]

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| 22 | NS goes crazy with excitement | Campground, woods 4 | NS | Tribal |

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| 23 | Montage – Knowles demonstrates bow | Campground, woods 4 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |

KNOWLES: Yes, it was a rather good shot, wasn’t it? What? You want to learn how to use a bow and arrow? I suppose it can’t hurt. You see you hold it like this…[He demonstrates as the music comes up and a typical skill-learning montage begins.]

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| 24 | Montage – NS uses bow backwards, hurts his hand | Campground, woods 4 | NS | Tribal |
| 25 | Montage – Knowles demonstrates again | Campground, woods 4 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |
| 26 | Montage – NS uses bow better | Campground, woods 4 | NS | Tribal |
| 27 | Montage – Knowles demonstrates bow with arrow | Campground, woods 4 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |
| 28 | Montage – NS attempts to shoot arrow, arrow falls | Campground, woods 4 | NS | Tribal |
| 29 | Montage – Knowles shoots the arrow perfectly | Campground, woods 4 | Knowles | Field gear, bee stings |
| 30+ | Montage – NS attempts several more arrows, gets frustrated and throws the arrow, finally fires several perfectly | Campground, woods 4 | NS | Tribal |

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| 31 | Knowles explains the change in NS after learning the bow. Time has passed. | Campground, woods 5 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: Day 14. Lurna mastered the bow and arrow with amazing speed. He soon surpassed me as teacher and continued to train on his own. His interest and dedication to learning about the bow has been nothing short of remarkable.

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| 32 | NS returns, now decked out in multiple ties | Campground, woods 5 | NS | Tribal with ties |

KNOWLES: Lurna’s new-found prowess with the bow and arrow had another consequence. His social status within the Aydoolt tribe grew exponentially as he provided more and more game for the good of the community. He wears the ceremonial adornments of a tribal leader with obvious pride.

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| 33 | Knowles explains the discoveries that he made in how NS learns. He decides to revamp his teaching process. | Campground, woods 5 | Knowles | Field gear |

KNOWLES: I have made several important discoveries about Lurna over the last few weeks. Lurna was not interested at first in what I had to teach him. Yet, when he saw something that might help him improve his life and his standing within the tribe he threw himself into learning about it. It was like he needed to learn for a purpose, to clearly understand why he was learning. When this was clear to him, he did not need me to encourage him to learn. He was self-directed in the learning process, even to the point of continuing to seek knowledge about the bow and arrow when I could no longer teach him.

I also realize now that Lurna was trying to draw upon his own experiences to save me from the bees. I failed to recognize that he brought a lifetime of learning into our sessions. As an educator I should not have discounted Lurna’s knowledge, I should have used it, worked from it.

I have decided to try to teach Lurna about reading, mathematics, and the rest once again. Now, however, I will stop trying to teach him like a child. I am going to adjust my teaching to fit how he learns.

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| 34 | As Knowles narrates, NS is revealed reading a book. | Campground, woods 6 | NS | Tribal plus ties |

KNOWLES: I acquired some new books for Lurna. When he discovered that he could learn useful skills from the books, he suddenly became an avid student of reading. Right now he’s learning how to cook from books – instead of eating them.

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| 35 | Knowles narrates, NS is seen doing math problems on the board and counting his many ties | Campground, woods 7 | NS | Tribal plus ties |

KNOWLES: Lurna took to mathematics too. Afterall, he needed some way to keep up with the many new ceremonial adornments he had earned from his adoring tribe.

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| 36 | Knowles narrates, NS is seen using the computer to start music and then dancing about | Campground, woods 8 | NS | Tribal plus ties |

KNOWLES: Even technology seems to have its uses…

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| 37 | Knowles is back at the podium addressing a later conference, explaining his final discoveries. | Auditorium | Knowles | Suit (different tie) |

KNOWLES: After a year spent with the Aydoolts, I have come to some conclusions about how they learn. As they grow older, they become more self-directed with their learning. They have a huge amount of valuable experience to use to inform their learning. They are more eager to learn if it will help them improve within their social roles. They are also more interested in knowledge that will help them immediately. The Aydoolts are more likely to learn when influenced by internal motivations. They are also much more likely to learn if they know why they need to learn the subject in the first place.

Yes, fellow colleagues, I have learned a lot in my time spent with Lurna and the Aydoolt tribe. I am sad to say that I will not be returning next year to share more of this knowledge with you. I have made another more important discovery that will require all of my time.

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| 40 | Knowles is seen walking into the preserve | Campground, gate | Knowles | Suit (different tie) |

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| 41 | Knowles is revealed in the woods, takes off his tie, puts on tribal paint & tie around head. Announces that he has discovered that he is part of the tribe he has studied. Walks out of frame. Shot continues. | Campground, woods or camper | Knowles | Suit (different tie) |

KNOWLES: The discovery I made was about myself. In all my time studying the Aydoolt tribe, I failed to realize the most obvious thing. I am one of them. I am a member of the Aydoolt tribe. It is high time that I started learning about myself.