

What The Hell!?

Written by

Benjamin J. Gohs & Kent A. Ludwig

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Contact
benjamingohs@gmail.com
Kent.a.ludwig@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. AFRICAN PLAIN - DAY

A Land Rover hauls a utility trailer down a dusty two-track in the beautiful wilderness of Northern Kenya.

INT. LAND ROVER - DAY

ALGER "FATHER AL" KING, 40s, Black, ex-military, drives. He's accompanied by three college kids.

Fr. Al sings badly along with a song on the tape deck.

MALE STUDENT ONE and MALE STUDENT TWO argue in the backseat.

MALE STUDENT ONE
This ain't Hatfields and McCoys. You
can like *both* Trek and Wars.

MALE STUDENT TWO
Your ass get sore straddling the
fence that way?

FR. AL
Hey now.

A FEMALE STUDENT rides in the front seat.

FEMALE STUDENT
Looks like a right at the next—road?

Fr. Al looks both ways despite the crossroad being empty.

In a few miles, they come upon a group of natives roadside.

Fr. Al addresses them in Swahili.

FR. AL
Unahitaji msaada? (Need help?)

NATIVE MAN
Hapana Asante. (No thank-you)

As Fr. Al starts to pull away, he sees several women in brightly colored wraps tending to a SICK BOY under a tree.

FEMALE STUDENT
What's wrong?

Fr. Al starts out of the truck.

INT./EXT. LAND ROVER - DAY

FR. AL
Stay put.

FEMALE STUDENT
Here to help. So, lemme help.

FR. AL
Might be a diabetic and he might have Ebola. We don't know.

MALE STUDENTS
(droning)
Better safe than sorry.

Fr. Al looks sternly at the students as he ties a handkerchief over his face.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Fr. Al looks both ways before crossing the road and jogging to the women with the sick boy under the tree.

FR. AL
Mimi ni daktari. (I'm a doctor.)

The women gibber nervously among themselves.

FR. AL (cont'd)
Amekuwa hivi kwa muda gani? (How long has he been like this?)

NATIVE WOMAN
Siku mbili. (Two days.)

Female Student appears at Fr. Al's elbow.

FEMALE STUDENT
What's wrong with him?

FR. AL
Cover your face.

Female Student lifts her t-shirt over her nose.

Fr. Al checks the boy's pulse, his forehead.

The boy shakes, screams, and opens his bloody eyes.

FEMALE STUDENT
Oh!

FR. AL
Back to the truck. Now.

Fr. Al backs off, scoops a big handful of dirt and rubs his hands vigorously as he goes to the truck.

SICK BOY
Aduva! Aduva! (Help, help.)

FEMALE STUDENT
What is it?

Fr. Al holds his shaking palms out.

FR. AL
Water, please. Quickly.

Female Student brings a bottle of water and pours it as Fr. Al scrubs his hands and dries them on his pant legs.

Fr. Al takes a satellite phone from his hips and dials.

FR. AL (cont'd)
(into phone)
Hello? Yes. This's Father Alger King with Christian Water Fund. Yes. I'm out here in Turkana County. Yes, thank-you. Child here, maybe seven or eight. Appears to have several symptoms consistent with. Yes, that is correct.

FEMALE STUDENT
Whatta they say?

Fr. Al holds up a finger to shush her.

FR. AL
(into phone)
That hasn't been confirmed. I don't know. Far, probably. Look, we're out in the middle of. Yes, I understand.

Fr. Al hangs up and puts the phone back in its holster.

FEMALE STUDENT
Well?

FR. AL
Next time I tell you stay—

FEMALE STUDENT
We hafta do something.

FR. AL
It's been reported. Now we need to
go. C'mon.

FEMALE STUDENT
He's a child for God's sake.

FR. AL
Watch your mouth.

EXT. AFRICAN VILLAGE - DAY

The Land Rover arrives at a small village consisting of a
brick building surrounded by shacks and stick huts.

INT./EXT. LAND ROVER - SAME

Fr. Al parks at the brick building. Female Student stares
out the window, arms crossed.

The others get out.

EXT. LAND ROVER - SAME

Fr. Al and the male students groan and stretch while a
couple dozen villagers assemble to greet them.

FR. AL
Let's make camp.

The Male Students groan in unison.

FR. AL (cont'd)
C'mon. Better now than in the dark.

INT./EXT. LAND ROVER - SAME

While the Male Students unload the gear, Fr. Al leans at
Female Student's window. She whispers the rosary.

FR. AL
Could use a hand.

Female Student ignores him, continues the rosary.

FR. AL (cont'd)
Promised I'd get you guys home safe.
And we promised to build these people
a water system.

FEMALE STUDENT

He was so sick.

FR. AL

Gonna see a lot of senseless suffering in this job. I don't expect you not to feel bad. Trick is not to let it paralyze you in the process.

Female Student nods.

FR. AL (cont'd)

Can't help everyone. Just a fact. So, it's all the more important we do what we can for who we can.

Female Student nods, wipes her eyes, and opens the door.

EXT. AFRICAN VILLAGE - SUNSET

Fr. Al's crew adjusts a pipe running to a rooftop.

Female Student on a ladder pours water into the rooftop trough. Water flows to a plastic barrel.

Villagers watch Fr. Al turn a lever. Water splashes from a spigot into a little girl's bucket. Everyone CHEERS.

INT. FR. AL'S TENT - NIGHT

Fr. Al sweats, breathes heavily in fitful sleep.

FOOTSTEPS O.S. come quickly outside his tent.

MALE STUDENT TWO (O.S.)

Father. Please wake up.

Fr. Al, in the grip of a nightmare, bolts upright.

FR. AL

Sergeant!

INT./EXT. LAND ROVER - NIGHT

Fr. Al and Student Two hurry down the road from the village.

They come upon a pride of lions feeding.

Fr. Al maneuvers carefully around the feeding frenzy that's taking up the entirety of the narrow road.