

SCRIPT TITLE

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EXT. KHAYELITSHA TOWNSHIP, SOUTH AFRICA - NIGHT

Rain falls over Khayelitsha, a township on the edge of Cape Town. Mostly, it is home to black South Africans who occupy the lower rungs of society. Poverty and hardship are rife here, but it is also a vibrant place, full of complexity and imbued with all the textures of life.

INT. GLAVU'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT

GLAVU (8) plays with a GI Joe figurine on a carpeted floor in the family room of his modest home. His Mother, THANDI (35), watches over him from a nearby couch. A prominent Christian cross hangs on the wall, looming over her,.

Suddenly Glavu's eyes go wide, the figurine falls from his hand and he *SEES*:

EXT. SPAZA SHOP - NIGHT

The spaza shop is a small food and general goods store. On the street, at the entrance of the shop, TENSON (43) and MPH0 (35) huddle under an umbrella and laugh together as they wait for ANDREW (51), to draw a chain around a security gate.

Tenson and Mpho fall silent as TWO HEAVIES, led by A MAN IN A FANCY SUIT, step into sight from out a nearby alleyway, large sticks in their hands.

Andrew closes a heavy padlock on the chain, turns and gasps as the men with sticks step up to confront them.

FANCY MAN

You were warned. You chose not to  
leave, now...

Before he can say anything else, Tenson steps forward and cracks his fist down on the bridge of the nose of one of the heavies, breaking it and dropping him to the floor.

The other heavy rushes at Mpho, who engages him as, in a few blurs of motion, Tenson picks up the fallen heavy's stick and rushes at the man in the suit.

Heavy #2 lands a blow on Mpho's head and she goes down, blood running from her face...

INT. GLAVU'S CHILDHOOD HOME - CONTINUOUS

Glavu screams. His mother rushes over and grabs him in her arms. She tries to comfort him, but he keeps screaming, as he *SEES*:

EXT. ALLEYWAY NEAR GLAVU'S FAMILY HOME

Thandi falls to the ground. Legs, belonging to several men, surround her. Then she SCREAMS.

INT. GLAVU'S CHILDHOOD HOME - CONTINUOUS

Glavu screams harder, then his GOGO (Grandmother, 63) rushes into the room with a pair of ancient gloves, made from some unidentifiable animal hide and puts them onto Glavu's hands. The gloves are much too big, but he instantly calms down.

THANDI

What have you done? What are those gloves?

GOGO

He feels the danger. We must go.

THANDI

When will you stop? We will not allow a few tsotsis to scare us from our home and steal what we have built.

GOGO

We must, or it will be our end. I have seen it.

THANDI

I will not tolerate your witchcraft. We are safe in the hands of the Lord.

The front door swings suddenly open and, dripping wet, Glavu's father Tenson and his Uncle Andrew half-lead, half-carry Glavu's aunt MPH0, bleeding badly, through the door and lead her to a couch at the other end of the room.

Glavu sees Mpho's bashed head, in the same moment that Thandi and Gogo jump up to tend to her.

Glavu bursts into tears, then hushes as he struggles to make out the adults tense words.

TENSON

Thandi is right. We overcame them.  
They will not try again.

Gogo shakes her head. As Glavu sneaks closer, Gogo turns and intercepts him.

GOGO

Bedtime.

GLAVU

No.

THANDI

Hey. You do what Gogo tells you.

Gogo picks him up in her large embrace and carries him out, but his face registers shock and his eyes linger on his bleeding aunt.

INT. GLAVU & GOGO'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The *indecipherable sounds of panicked adults and rainfall*, filters into the room, as Gogo sets Glavu down in a small bed, which rests beside her own in their shared room.

Gogo passes Glavu his pajamas, but he makes no move to take them.

GLAVU

What is happening?

GOGO

I want to tell you, but your mother  
has forbidden it.

Gogo takes off his shirt and tries to put on his pajama top, but he resists.

GLAVU

Tell me.

GOGO

The truth is disturbing.

GLAVU

I want to know.

Gogo puts her finger beneath Glavu's chin and lifts his face till he's eye to eye with her.

GOGO

The truth, my precious Glavu, is that most people are sick with fear and mad with pain. They have lost their light and become blind to the darkness, which infests everything. Evil has overcome this world and we stand at the edge of destruction.

GLAVU

But Mama says this is God's world. He would not allow that.

Gogo hands Glavu his pajamas.

GOGO

I will tell you what was told to me by my Great Gogo, whose gloves you wear.

Glavu takes his pajama's from Gogo, puts them on and gets into bed.

GOGO (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

Glavu closes his eyes.

GOGO (CONT'D)

The world is lost in a great deception and this word 'God' is at its heart. 'God' is not an old man with a beard who sits on a cloud rewarding the good and punishing the wicked. God is infinitely more than that.

Glavu opens his eyes.

GLAVU

What is he then?

GOGO

No He. No She and yet every he and she. God is a Great Spirit, which animates all of existence and holds all existence in the space of its being. The truth at the heart of all truth is that all things are a part of this Divine Oneness, including us. There is nothing else.

GLAVU

I don't understand.

Gogo gently kisses him. Then rubs her hand over the centre of his forehead, where the third eye is supposed to reside. He gets instantly sleepy and his eyes close.

GOGO

Hush. You are destined to know all.  
Our family has worked for millennia  
to shepherd the lost souls of  
humanity back to consciousness of  
our divine nature. We will watch  
over you, till it is your time.

Glavu *SEES* the room filled with ANCESTORS, who wear the costumes of healers and priests, spanning nations and ages.

The sound of GLASS BREAKING and a terrified SCREAM rips through from somewhere in the house. The Ancestors disappear and Glavu's eyes fly open as he wakes.

The atmosphere in the room has transformed. A yellow-orange glow flickers across the walls of the room and smoke billows through under the door.

Gogo grabs Glavu by the hand and opens the door, where she is confronted by a shirtless INVADER (32), bloody and wielding a knife, as flames flare through the burning room.

Glavu's eyes dart around his home. Beside the body of his Aunt, he sees fire quickly spreading, as men attack his Father and Uncle with sticks.

The Invader takes a step toward Gogo and Glavu steps in front of her, ready to defend her as best he can. Suddenly, Glavu's mother bears down from behind and breaks a glass bottle on the Invader's head. He collapses.

Thandi Grabs Glavu up. Gogo follows closely as they dash past the Invader, twitching on the floor, and burst through their flaming front door and out into the night.

CUT TO BLACK: