

♪ upbeat theme music playing ♪

**JONATHAN:** Welcome to Hear/Now: A Season of Audio Theater from Keen Company. We are an award-winning, non-profit theater in New York City. Championing identification and connection through stories about the decisive moments that change us. I'm Jonathan Silverstein, the artistic director, and it's my pleasure to welcome you to "Adventurephile" by Melissa Lee and Kit Yan, the final production in this Season of Audio Theater. Join us in embracing the virtual off-Broadway experience. Take a moment to find your seat, silence any distractions, and lower your house lights. It's time to settle in for a night at the theater and enjoy....

## Adventurephile

♪ upbeat music playing ♪

EVERYWHERE I GO  
I KNOW THAT I'M FREE  
EVERYWHERE I ROAM  
ADVENTURE'S WAITING FOR ME  
(I HEAR YOU CALLING ME)  
NO MATTER BANGKOK  
JO-BURG OR AMSTERDAM  
BABY EVERYWHERE I GO  
THERE I AM!

♪ ~ ♪

*(Music plays in the background as the host speaks from a studio.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Hey globe-trotting babes! Welcome to Adventurephile, a travel podcast that feeds your wanderlusting soul. Each episode, we bring you with us to explore a new exotic destination in daring and unconventional ways. I'm Savannah Yamamoto, your Excursionista in Chief—

**MASON**

-and I'm Mason Lee, Executive Producer and fellow nomad.

**SAVANNAH**

Co-Executive Producer. And my companion on the road and in life.

**MASON**

Yup, I'm the boyfriend that pays for *everything*. Thanks to me, we're able to be the only podcast that takes you with us on location every week. Stay in school kids, it buys you nice things.

**SAVANNAH**

As long-time listeners already know, I grew up in a loving Chinese-Japanese household, but I didn't always feel connected to my heritage. My family was so poor, we could only afford one international vacation a year, so I never got to see the world. But even at that young age, I knew that travel was a human right.

**MASON**

It absolutely is. My parents were even poorer than yours. But I said screw that. I worked hard, and now I travel whenever I want, even just for the weekend. I grabbed my own fate by the balls.

**SAVANNAH**

*(passive-aggressively)* No one wants to hear about your “balls” on this podcast.

*(normal)* People are nomadic and migratory creatures. Seeing worlds you've never seen

and taking it in -- and keeping a piece of it for yourself -- that's what enriches your soul. On today's episode, we are sharing the wealth once again by taking you somewhere no one's ever been before. *Lit-er-all-y*.

**MASON**

We mean it. No one has ever set foot here.

**SAVANNAH**

Our intern Kaitlyn scouted a tiny piece of land off the coast of Southern China, about 30 leagues southeast of Hong Kong.

**MASON**

It's so obscure, it's not even on Google Maps. Who knew there was still unexplored land in China, right?

**SAVANNAH**

We're now on our 44th episode, and this is the first time I feel a genuine connection to this land because of my heritage. It's kinda like a homecoming.

**MASON**

We'll be the first explorers to set foot on that gorgeous terrain.

**SAVANNAH**

I've already named it the Island of Asa, which means "morning" in Japanese. I love mornings.

**MASON**

Me too. The early bird gets the worm.

**SAVANNAH**

In just a few moments, our helicopter is gonna pick us up and drop us off on its beautiful untouched shores. But first? Let's introduce our super special guest this episode, shall we?

## **MASON**

Let's do it.

## **SAVANNAH**

I'm sure you've seen him go against himself in that epic TikTok rap battle with over 1.3 million views. Better known as DJ Phan, please welcome fellow adventurer, and our college bestie, Noah Phan!

## **NOAH**

Yo DJ Phan in the houuuuse, wassup, wassup to all my Phanboys and girls? So hyped to be here wit ch'all, fam.

## **SAVANNAH**

Now you're a big star on the Internet, but what folks don't know about you is that you're also an amazing person to adventure with. Mason and I have watched every episode of Alone, but you have actual bushcraft skills aaaaand...you're an excellent free solo climber, whaaaat???

## **NOAH**

Yeah, I ain't scared of death, naw I'm sayin'? I grew up in da hood and I'm jungle Asian. My fams taught me all their village ways. And unlike my boy Mason - no disrespect - scrapin' by, hustlin', that's in my blood. And that's the theme of my new album Phanmail, P-H-A-N mail, that's right, dropping June 19.

## **SAVANNAH**

We're so excited to have you with us Noah. Okay, before we get started...this episode of Adventurephile is sponsored by Fuse Mini - the world's best travel diffuser for on-the-go aromatherapy. Everyone gets a little stressed when you're away from the comfort of your own home. Now, with the Fuse Mini, every moment can be a lavender eucalyptus moment. We're definitely bringing ours on this trip, and you can too! Just use promo code "adventure" for 20% off your first purchase. The Fuse Mini - when you need a little bit of home, on your vacation.

*(pause)*

All right, boys. So. Shall we go to Asa?

**NOAH**

Hells yeah.

**MASON**

Let's do it, baby!

*(Helicopter blades whirring intensifies then fades. It is replaced by the ocean lapping in the background. We hear them gasp as they take it in. We are listening to Savannah's mic, her voice is nice and crisp while Noah's and Mason's are farther away.)*

**SAVANNAH**

*(in awe)* Our own personal paradise. Not a soul in sight.

**NOAH**

*(in the background)* Woohoo, this shit is lit!

**MASON**

So breathtaking, man.

**SAVANNAH**

*(reverent)* Here we are, listeners, on the island of Asa, for the first time. Listen to the sound of these waves. Take it in.

*(We hear the waves nice and loud, ocean birds cry in the background.)*

*(quietly)* We've just landed about fifteen minutes ago and we'll be staying here and exploring for three days. As usual, we've got our Backpacker's Essentials, including our Comfort+ tents, our NatureTech headlamps, and of course, our Fuse Mini.

(pause)

Wow, so I noticed this in the aerial photos and didn't know if it was real, but now I see

the distinctive olive color of the sand. Until now, there's only been four known green sand beaches in the world. And now...I've discovered the fifth! Asa is a lush 37-acre piece of land surrounded by crystal clear blue waters. We're standing on the southern tip of the island right now, but if we follow the ocean eastward, there's a stretch of caves–

**MASON**

Look at that water, babe!

**SAVANNAH**

If we follow the ocean eastward, there's a stretch–

**NOAH**

I gotta TikTok this, dawg. Maybe there's monkeys. I wanna hug a monkey!

**MASON**

Dude, there's no internet. Come swim with me!

**NOAH**

Serious? No internet?

**SAVANNAH**

*(irritated)* If we follow the ocean eastward, there's a-

**MASON**

C'mon, babe! Let's go for a dip!

*We hear him take his shirt off and start fumbling with his clothes.*

**SAVANNAH**

*(breaks character talking to Mason)* Can you, like, not?! I'm describing the island. Then we're setting up camp. And then we do the swimming segment.

**MASON**

But this is so gorgeous! Let's swim now.

**SAVANNAH**

We talked about this. This isn't the plan.

**MASON**

Who cares? Just edit it later.

**NOAH**

*(to himself)* Aight, guess I gotta record a video like a regular-ass millennial.

*(to his camera)* Hey shoutout to my Phandom, y'all look at this baller shit!!!! Hoooo, perfect place to spit some sick bars, amirite?

**SAVANNAH**

No!, the two of you aren't here on my podcast to do your own thing. Adventurephile is *my* show.

*(she takes a breath then switches back to her upbeat podcast voice as Noah begins freestyling in the background.)*

**SAVANNAH**

If we follow the ocean eastward, there's a stretch of caves dotting the shore, partially obscured by a dense grove. It's picturesque. And fitting for a place so close to my ancestral homeland. Being here, it feels in a way like I've journeyed across the globe to claim what's always been mine--

.....why are you looking at me like that?

**MASON**

**NOAH**

*(freestyling)*

*Paradise island all I see is green  
Sand in my pocket, I bleed aquamarine  
Livin' like a king, livin' the dream  
Stacks on stacks, so rich it's obscene*

I'm not.

**SAVANNAH**

Spit it out.

**MASON**

Why are you being such a bitch?

**SAVANNAH**

Excuse me?

**MASON**

Your show? This is our show.

**NOAH**

*(even farther now)* Yo, y'all see that kid?

**MASON**

Stop fucking around Noah.

**NOAH**

*(further still)* It's a little girl. Hey, kid!

**MASON**

What's this about?

**SAVANNAH**

I'm fine, I just wanna finish my intro.

**MASON**

No, talk to me.

**SAVANNAH**



*(podcast voice)* Okay adventurephiles, pro tip. On most tropical islands, despite clear skies, weather can change on a dime, so pack for every kind of climate—

**MASON**

Savannah. I'm serious. Talk to me.

**SAVANNAH**

*(drops podcast voice, irritated)* You wanna talk? Fine. You wanna talk about the massive fucking bomb you dropped on me on the flight here?

**MASON**

Wait, what? Oh...I said I liked your buckwheat cookies, it's just that buckwheat isn't my-

**SAVANNAH**

About you and Noah!

A beat.

**MASON**

Oh, that?

**SAVANNAH**

"Oh, that?" Like it's some random fucking thing that happened in college, no big deal.

**MASON**

It is a random thing that happened in college.

**SAVANNAH**

I'm your romantic best friend, okay? This is not news I was prepared to receive.

**MASON**

Noah and I are not even gay. It was just one time. We laughed about it and then we never talked about it again.

**SAVANNAH**

Really? "We"? I feel so betrayed right now.

**MASON**

This was before you and I even started dating! You're the one who's all about queer exploration, gender non-conformity, poly-whatever--

**SAVANNAH**

I just feel like you're not listening to me or respecting my feelings.

**MASON**

I'm *trying* to talk to you about it, but you're overreacting-

**SAVANNAH**

I feel really gaslit right now.

**MASON**

What do you want me to say?

**SAVANNAH**

I need to you tell me that you're sorry you betrayed me so deeply, and that you promise to go with me to therapy to process, examine, and confront your feelings for Noah.

**MASON**

That's fucking nuts, Sav.

**SAVANNAH**

Is this how it's gonna be for the next three days? You insulting and invalidating me?

**MASON**

*(takes a breath)* You need to chill.

*(beat)*

Wait, hang on. Where's Noah?

*(Tape rewinding plays. We're listening in to Noah's mic now. His voice is nice and crisp while Savannah's and Mason's are farther back. We hear him unlock his phone again.)*

**NOAH**

*(to his camera)* Hey shoutout to my Phandom, y'all look at this baller shit!!!! Hoooo, perfect place to spit some sick bars, amirite?

*(freestyling)*

Paradise island all I see is green

Sand in my pocket, I bleed aquamarine

Livin' like a king, livin' the dream

Stacks on stacks, so rich it's obscene...

*Child's laughter, He pauses. Spots something.*

--Ayo. Who's that? Hey!

**MASON**

*Why are you being a bitch?*

**SAVANNAH**

*Excuse me?*

**MASON**

*Your show? This is our show.*

**NOAH**

Yo, y'all see that kid?

**MASON**

*Stop fucking around, Noah.*

**NOAH**

It's a little girl. Hey kid!

*Noah starts to jog. We can hear him breathe heavy. We can no longer hear Mason and Savannah.*

**NOAH**

I thought ya'll said it's uninhabited.

*(yells out)* Yo, wait up! Damn, you fast. Hold up!

*(We hear his shoes scrape against rocks as he scrambles up a hill. The atmosphere is changing again, the acoustics more airy and his voice echos slightly.)*

Holy shit. A fucking cave.

*(We hear him snap a few pics.)*

My mic's on, yeah?

Good 'cuz it's pitch black and the camera's not gonna catch a damn thing in here. Aight y'all. Here's what happened- so- I spotted this eight-year-old-ish girl out on the cliff by the beach and started tailin' her. Then, she led me to this fucking majestic-ass cave.

*(trips on something)*

Oh fuck, gotta be careful in here. Can't see shit but my phone's flashlight is working.

*(calls out)* Hey kid?! You still there?!

*(We hear a giggle in the distance)*

Wait up!

(to the mic) It smells like salt in here. And wow, the acoustics are amazing.

(We listen to the natural sounds of the cave -- they start to form a rhythmic soundscape. An eerie voice is heard signing as Noah starts to rap.).

(rapping)

♪ na-na-na ♪

Yo, yo, yo. DJ Phan in the house.

Paradise island, all I see is green

Sand in my pocket, I bleed aquamarine

♪ na-na-na ♪

Livin' like a king, livin' the dream

Stacks on stacks, so rich it's obscene

Beats so sick, like a rhymin' machine

♪ na-na-na ♪

The hard bass, make your heart race like a jolt of caffeine

Cuz my presence is in essence turning dirt into a dream

Imma gift to this land when I'm spittin' on the scene

♪ NOBODY CAN HOLD ME DOWN

I'M TAKIN' BACK WHAT THEY OWE ME

I'M CLAIMING THE LAND I FOUND

♪ na-na-na ♪

MY TERRITORY.♪

Hey kid, go and tell your fam that I'm the GOAT

I'm Phan to my fans, the man with the plan

I'm captain of this boat

♪ na-na-na ♪

Like Noah with the ark, I'm Noah with the black card

I go hard, I throw the bars I stole outta your throat, oh!

I thrive, I'm the strongest

You disagree? Be honest

You lyin' through your teeth son

♪ na-na-na ♪

Go see an orthodontist

This land is my conquest  
No second best, no contest  
I'm livin' large and takin' charge  
And baby that's a promise!

♪ NOBODY CAN HOLD ME DOWN                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
I'M TAKING BACK WHAT THEY OWE ME  
I'M CLAIMING THE LAND I FOUND  
MY TER-RITORY

DOWN IN THIS CAVE I'M THE MAIN MUTHAFUCKA  
LORD OF THE FLIES MAN, GOING UNDERCOVER  
THIS CAVE IS A BOX, AND I'M PANDORA  
I USED TO SLING ROCKS, NOW I'M CLIMBING THEM FOR A  
LIVING ON THE EDGE                                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
SLIPPIN' THROUGH THE CRACKS                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
DON'T MEAN TO BE VAIN, GOTTA COVER MY TRACKS  
BUT I'M BRINGING THE PAIN LIKE A BRAZILIAN WAX

SODOM AND GOMORRAH, EXPLORE LIKE DORA  
AS THE OCEAN FADES, THERE'S A MYSTICAL AURA  
SURE UH, CALL IT A HOUSE OF HORROR              ♪ na-na-na ♪  
I STEEL MY MIND AND PREPARE FOR WAR

NOBODY CAN HOLD ME DOWN                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
I'M TAKING BACK WHAT THEY OWE ME  
I'M CLAIMING THE LAND I FOUND                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
MY TERRITORY

NOBODY CAN HOLD ME DOWN                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
I'M TAKING BACK WHAT THEY OWE ME  
I'M CLAIMING THE LAND I FOUND                      ♪ na-na-na ♪  
MY TER-RITORY ♪

Paradise island, all I see is green  
Sand in my pocket, I bleed aquamarine  
Don't try to stop me when I'm feeling kinda naughty  
You think you can control me?  
(Scoffs)  
Over my dead body  
  
*(faint child's giggle)*

## **NOAH**

Aha I see you!

*(We hear a giggle, and the kid's little footsteps running.)*

Hey, wait up!

*(We hear Noah running after her)*

Damn, how deep is this cave? Fuck, my phone's almost dead.

*(to the kid)* Hey kid! It's dangerous in here! We should turn back and find your parents!

*(Long, dead silence as Noah waits for a response.)*

*Then...we hear a faint tap and air whooshes)*

Fuck, who touched me?!

*(Bats flutter by. Noah yelps. We hear the sound of a phone hitting the ground.)*

Aw fuck, my phone!

*(He's breathless as he scrambles to pick it up. We hear the sound of water dripping.)*

The hell is dripping on me? Fuck my phone's wet.

Oh god what the fuck, it's blood!

*(A high-pitched screech - kind of supernatural and inhuman - we hear Noah slip again and tumble. He screams. His mic hits the ground with a thud and it cuts out. Static.)*

~

*(Sounds of a breezy beach fade in and the waves lap against the beach.)*

**MASON**

Wait, hang on? Where's Noah?

**SAVANNAH**

I need you to focus on me right now.

**MASON**

No, I'm serious. He just disappeared!

**SAVANNAH**

He's better at survival than both of us. He's the last person I'd be worried about.

**MASON**

This is an island we've never been to. You don't know what the wildlife is like here. We should stick together-

**SAVANNAH**

We're literally in the middle of talking about your secret sex history with Noah and you don't even have the decency to not fixate on him???

**MASON**

I can't talk to you when you're like this!



*(He starts to stomp away. We hear him fumbling with equipment in his bag.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Where are you going?

**MASON**

I'm getting Noah. And I'm taking the radio with me in case I need to airlift myself away from your fucking drama.

**SAVANNAH**

Fine! I don't need you and your boyfriend on my show anyway. I'm setting up camp!

**MASON**

Good! Eat something! It might cure your PMS!

**SAVANNAH**

Fuck you!

(a beat; then)

Make sure your mic's on, in case you catch something we can use!

*(She takes a deep, centering breath.)*

**SAVANNAH**

(podcast voice)

Fellow travelers. The key to setting up camp...

*(Her voice trails off as we transition to Mason's mic and we hear his footsteps in the sand)*

**MASON**

*(mumbling to himself)* I don't get it, you know? Girls. They can experiment, do whatever they want in college, hook up with another girl, wear boys clothes, boom, no one bats an

eye. No one gives a shit. No one questions whether or not she's straight, you know?  
Double fucking standard.

*(Far off, a child giggles).*

## **MASON**

Noah?

*(The atmosphere shifts again. We hear the echo and airy atmosphere at the mouth of the cave.)*

Noah? You in there?!

*(Another giggle. Then we hear the child hum the motif.)*

Hey man, we're setting up camp now.

---Noah?

*(to himself)* Shit, should've brought my headlamp.

*(calls out again)* Noah?!

----All right fuck it. I'm going in.

~

*(Beach sounds fade in once again. Savannah half-sings, half-mumbles to herself the lyrics of the podcast tag as she tries to start a fire.)*

## **SAVANNAH**

*(Humming continues throughout the action)*

...NO MATTER BANGKOK  
JO-BURG OR AMSTERDAM  
BABY EVERYWHERE I GO  
THERE I AM

*(Rustling. We hear a match being lit, then the gentle sound of a flame. The flame catches onto kindle and grows.*

*Then suddenly, a sharp gust of wind blows. The flame extinguishes.)*

## **SAVANNAH**

Ugh.

*(She lights another flame. Same result - it catches, then get blown out by a sudden gust.)*

## **SAVANNAH**

Come on!

*(podcast voice)* All right, wanderlings. Some days, starting a fire can be downright depressing, even for a pro like me. When you're on a beach, the wind can be unpredictable, so remember to pack a firestarter cube. They're small, you can get 'em anywhere, usually they're drenched with lighter fluid, but I get the organic kind made of tumbleweed. Better for the environment.

*(She talks as we hear her try again to light another flame.)*

Hopefully this does the trick. Sometimes even paradise can give you a hard time. But you know what? I'm a tough vegan cookie who's gonna get this fire going even if it kills me.

*(We hear the flame catch and grow into a healthy crackle.)*

Yes! There we go!

See? Anything can be conquered.

*(She sits in silence and watches the flames for a few moments.)*

So, it's just me here. The sun's going down now, a dusty orange yolk melting into the water. Unless the boys come back like, now, they're definitely gonna miss out on this view. But maybe they're having the time of their life right now not thinking about me.

Who cares about a stupid podcast anyway, right? They're probably fucking bareback in a

cave for all I know. Or, I dunno, maybe they got eaten by an island coyote, which honestly is what they fucking deserve. Sorry, cut. Cut.

*(She takes a breath, then back to podcast voice, cheerier this time. )*

The boys went to gather some wood, but they'll be back just in time for a nice hot meal. You know, this breeze is so warm, I think {static} we might just skip the tent tonight and sleep under the stars— What the hell is that distortion?

*(We hear her fumble with her recording device and we hear beeps as she presses a few buttons.)*

Okay do-over. *(podcast voice)* You know, this breeze is so warm, I think {Distortion static, this time louder.} we might just—

Christ on a stick!. What is that?!

*(She rewinds and replays her voice)*

## **SAVANNAH ON TAPE**

"You know, this breeze is so warm, I think {static} we might just—"

*(She replays it again.)*

"You know, this breeze is so warm, I think- {static}"

## **SAVANNAH**

Weird, lemme isolate it.

## **SAVANNAH ON TAPE**

*(slowed down x2)*

"I think- {static}"

*(again slowed down x4)*

"I think—"

*(From the static emerges a clear, raspy, ghostly voice of a child.  
It's hard to tell what it's saying but it sounds like: "mama")*

**SAVANNAH**

What?

*(Suddenly, a gust of wind and a voice from behind her, right by  
her ear (crisp in the mic).)*

**GHOSTLY CHILD VOICE**

Mama!

*(Savannah screams. A gust of wind, and the crackling is gone. She  
starts hyperventilating.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Who is it??? Who's out there!? Mason?? Noah???

Who's fucking with me? Come out!

*(We hear her fumbling for something in her bag. We hear her grip  
something metallic.)*

I got a gun, motherfucker!

Mason! Noah!

*(Wind gusts, rain starts to pour and the fire sizzles out  
immediately. She starts to run).*

~

*(Jump back to Mason's mic. His voice echos slightly at the mouth  
of the cave)*

**MASON**

All right fuck it. I'm going in.

*He starts to walk in. Slowly, gingerly. Step by step.*

*(to himself)* God this is dangerous.

*(A few more steps. Suddenly, a scream from inside the cave. It's Noah's voice).*

Noah??? You okay?

*(The sound of Mason going deeper into the cave. Cavernous sounds. Echoes, bats, dripping water.)*

Fuck, where are you, man? I can't see anything!

*(Then a hard thud.)*

Ow!

*(He seems to have hit a wall and has fallen down backwards.*

*We hear him groan and pick himself up slowly.*

*Silence. All we hear is Mason's heightened breathing. The fear is palpable. We hear the sound of his fingers running against the walls of the cave, feeling his way through. It's intensely quiet. )*

**NOAH**

BOO!

*(Mason screams and Noah laughs.)*

**MASON**

WHAT THE FUCK, MAN!?!?

**NOAH**

*(creepily and very dry)* Hello. Mason.

**MASON**

This isn't fucking funny, dude!

**NOAH**

It is funny.

**MASON**

*(starting to calm down)* All right fine, you got me, dickhole. But you can't just leave like that.

**NOAH**

No one's leaving.

**MASON**

Now's not the time for pranks. Savannah's in a mood.

**NOAH**

Well, maybe the tide will wash up and drown her in her sleep.

**MASON**

What? What the fuck's gotten into you, man? Give me your light. Let's get outta here.

Holy shit dude! Why are you covered in blood?

**NOAH**

Do you smell that?

**MASON**

Smell what?

**NOAH**

That. *(He takes a big sniff)* ...Disease....

**MASON**

Dude, you need first aid, stat. We gotta get back to camp.

**NOAH**

Not that way. Follow me.

**MASON**

No, I'm pretty sure that's going deeper in.

**NOAH**

Listen. There's an incredible spot, not much deeper. Let's camp there tonight.

**MASON**

I didn't use all my vacation days to sleep in a nasty ass cave, bro.

**NOAH**

Trust me. There's a clearing with good light and a hot spring. I can't explain it. You have to see it yourself.

**MASON**

*(interested)* A hot spring?

**NOAH**

Yes.

**MASON**

I don't think--- We still gotta get Savannah.

**NOAH**

It's not far. We'll check it out and go out the other end.

**MASON**

All right, but we have to get back to the beach before it gets dark. We still gotta record the swimming segment.



**NOAH**

Is your mic on?

**MASON**

Yeah.

**NOAH**

Turn it off.

**MASON**

Why?

**NOAH**

Just do it.

**MASON**

Dude, what's wrong with you?

**NOAH**

*(more menacing and more intense)* I said just do it.

**MASON**

No.

**NOAH**

*(terrifying, monstrous, otherworldy)* JUST DO IT YOU MOTHERFUCKING  
COCKSUCKER!!!

**MASON**

Arggh! Get the fuck off m–

*(Noah's voice almost seems to transform into some sort of  
monstrosity, doubled with a high-pitched screaming child. There's*

*a struggle as the two men wrestle each other.*

*The sound cuts out. Static)*

~

*(Rain pours. We hear Savannah's mic. Her voice echoes at the mouth of the cave)*

## **SAVANNAH**

Mason?

*(waits; no response)*

Noah???

*(no response; then, podcast voice)*

Okay adventurers. My favorite thing about traveling is that sometimes you find yourself in unexpected situations, and you have to rely on your preparedness, good instincts, and decision-making skills. That's why I always have on me a mechanically powered flashlight, or a Shake Light.

*(We hear the soft clatter of the flashlight as she shakes and clicks it on.)*

No batteries needed-- AHHHHH!!

*(She shrieks. We hear the patter of the child's footsteps and giggles.)*

Who are you??? I thought-- Jesus!

*(The child giggles.)*

Who the hell are you? What are you doing here?

## **CHILD**

Mama?

**SAVANNAH**

Where's your mom?

**CHILD**

*(Giggles)* Play with me, Mama.

*(The child laughs as she runs away.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Hey. Stop. Hey!

*(The child sings na-na-na)*

Kaitlyn said this was supposed to be uninhabited! Where's your mom? Why are you here?

**CHILD**

*(mimicking)* Why are you here?

**SAVANNAH**

Where's your people?

**CHILD**

*(mimicking)* Where's your people?

**SAVANNAH**

Listen, little girl. I'm not in the mood for games. I'm the host of an extremely popular podcast and being on this island for this episode is really fu-- effin' important, okay? You and your mom and whoever else you're with are not going to ruin this for us. Do you understand me? We were here first.

**CHILD**

Mama's angry.

**SAVANNAH**

No one is supposed to be here!

*(mutters)* I'm gonna kill Kaitlyn.

*(to the child)* Look, I don't know why you're here, little girl, and frankly, I don't give a rat's ass. Just do us a favor. Stay out of our way, we'll stay on the beach for three days and pretend we never saw y-

**CHILD**

Mason.

**SAVANNAH**

--Mason? Did you see him? Where is he?

**CHILD**

Noah.

**SAVANNAH**

Where are they?

**CHILD**

Dead.

*(The child giggles and scurries ahead.)*

**SAVANNAH**

That's not funny. Get back here!

*(The child hums again.)*

**CHILD**

Play with me, Mama.

**SAVANNAH**

Mama? Do I look like I'm even old enough to be your--

**CHILD**

We're not supposed to be here, Mama. Let's go home.

**SAVANNAH**

*(more or less to herself)* Did someone leak our trip to the public? I know we don't pay her, but Kaitlyn is so fired! She assured us we'd be the first--

**CHILD**

"The first." That's what they said when they landed. Before they took us away.

*(The child's mood is no longer playful. She's contemplative, remembering a lost memory.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Who took you away?

**CHILD**

...But it wasn't their land. And this isn't ours either, Mama.

**SAVANNAH**

It's totally my land, I'm part Chinese!

**CHILD**

No one told you what happened here?

**SAVANNAH**

I don't know where you're from, I don't know what you're talking about, and I'm not in the mood to be fucked with!

**CHILD**

Shhh. Mama, listen. I'll tell you what happened to me.

*(She hums na-na-na. This time it sounds sad music joins her.)*

(spoken) I still remember our home. Our small fishing village in 1841. You taught me how to weave baskets, and make jook, and Baba rode the junks out into the water. Each morning we woke up to the grandest view of the large green mountains.

And then they landed. In their big ships, their fancy costumes. They took our tea and gave us poppies that made our minds melt away. They saw how rich we could make them, and they took it. The water. The land. The people. They took it.

♪(*erie, ghostly singing*) ♪

OCEANS CRY

MOUNTAINS CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

(spoken) They lived among us, but made us feel small. Drugged us with porcelain and pound cakes. Mesmerized us with the camera obscura. Infected us with their disease. The plague. The one that only affected children. The one that made our eyes bulge out of our sockets. Made us cough up blood. Made our skin grey like ash. Made our insides liquid. Every night our cries echoed across the port, past the polo fields, the libraries, past each pier. They didn't know what to do. They didn't want to hear us, see us. So they rounded us all up, as young as 4 and as old as 13, and shipped us away. An entire generation of children, gone.

♪(*erie, ghostly singing*) ♪

MOTHERS CRY

FATHERS CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

MOTHERS CRY

FATHERS CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

(spoken) They sent us here to die alone. A place where our cries couldn't reach their ears. To a place where they could shield their eyes from our suffering. I cried for you, but you couldn't hear me. We were our own mothers and fathers. We found shelter, we ate grass, we ate leeches. But then the leeches started eating us. From the inside. Many of the children didn't make it - so we started eating the little ones. I was the lookout, so every day I went to the shore and waited for someone to come back for us. Every\_ day\_

♪(*erie, ghostly singing*) ♪

BABIES CRY

CHILDREN CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

BABIES CRY

CHILDREN CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

(spoken) For 180 years, I have been the master of the souls on this island. I never gave up. I knew some day you would find me again and take me home. You're here to take me home, right? You're here for me? To take me away? To bring me back? Mama, you know this is not paradise! This is our hell!

♪(*erie, ghostly singing*) ♪

HEAR US CRY

HEAR US CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

HEAR US CRY

HEAR US CRY

CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN

(spoken) And thanks to the others that came with you, I will taken a soul as my host, so I can

finally leave.

*(Music fades abruptly. Long silence) .*

**SAVANNAH**

What...the...(loses it)...**FUCK?! Stand back, don't come any closer.**

**CHILD**

Mama...

*(We hear Savannah's footsteps, followed by the child's footsteps.  
She's fumbling in her bag.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Stand back, I mean it. I've got a--

...Fuse fucking Mini. Goddamn it.

*(She hurls it at the kid. It clatters to the ground).*

That's it, I'm tapping out. Where's the goddamn radio?

*(She fumbles in her bag, searching.)*

Fuuuuuuckkkk Mason has it!!!

*(to the child)* Listen creepy kid. You tell me where they are right now!! Right. Fucking. NOW!

*(She runs. Heavy, terrified breathing. The voice of the child seems to trail behind her, following her.)*

**CHILD**

Mama?

**SAVANNAH**



*(maniacally)* MASONNNN! NOAAAAH!!!!

*(She keeps running and running. The atmosphere starts to shift from dark cave to an open area. We hear a subterranean waterfall in the distance, very quietly, then louder.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Oh my god, oh my god, Mason! Noah! Wake up!

**CHILD**

Mama...

**SAVANNAH**

*(to the child)* I said back away!!

*(She digs in Mason's bag and pulls out a radio. We hear the click of the knob as she twists it to turn it on. Then a radio beep.)*

Kaitlyn! Kaitlyn! Emergency extraction on the beach! And we need a medic, stat!

**CHILD**

Take me home.

*(A big gust of otherworldly wind. We hear the motif echoing through the cave.*

*A crackly voice comes through on the radio.)*

**KAITLYN (V.O.)**

Roger that, Savannah! We're on our way.

**SAVANNAH**

*(to herself)* Where'd the kid go? She was just here.

*(The men start to wake up. They're groaning.)*

**MASON**

*(waking up) Savannah?*

**SAVANNAH**

Mason!

*(Noah starts to groan as well. Suddenly, Mason shouts and lunges towards Noah. They shout as they wrestle each other.)*

**NOAH**

Watch out, Sav! Mason's dangerous!

**MASON**

Baby, don't listen to him!

**SAVANNAH**

What the fuck, you guys are bleeding!

**NOAH**

Don't come any closer, Sav! I know this sounds crazy but Mason is possessed by something. / He attacked me.

**MASON**

Don't listen to him, baby. I can't...*(chokes)*...he's trying...to kill me!

*(They continue to wrestle each other.)*

**NOAH**

If I let go, he will kill me. He cracked my head open.

**MASON**

He was like that...when I found him!

*(We hear Savannah grip something. It's the gun.)*

**SAVANNAH**

Don't you fucking move, both of you. What's going on?

**MASON**

Don't shoot me!

**NOAH**

Don't trust him!

**MASON**

He's possessed by demons! Please, talk to your ancestors! Make them stop!

**SAVANNAH**

They're not my fucking ancestors, I'm from Ventura County!!!

**NOAH**

I can't hold him off anymore! Savannah, it sounds insane but you gotta take him out.  
He's...choking me...

**MASON**

No! Savannah! You know me!

**SAVANNAH**

Which one???

**MASON / NOAH**

It's him!!!

**NOAH**

Mason attacked me.

**MASON**

I'm your boyfriend. I need you to believe me.

**SAVANNAH**

I don't know who to believe.

**NOAH**

If you kill me, we're all dead.

**MASON**

Trust me, baby. Trust me.

**KAITLYN (V.O.)**

We're at the extraction point, Savannah. Where are you?

**SAVANNAH**

I just wanted to make a podcast, guys.

(beat)

We didn't even get to the swimming segment.

*(She cocks her gun.)*

**MASON / NOAH**

No, wait!!

*(She shoots. Silence.)*

~

*(Sounds of an airplane taking off. We hear the ding of the seat belt sign.)*

**SAVANNAH**

*(podcast voice)* Hello, adventurers. Wanderlings. My fellow journeying brethren. If you've made it this far, you know that we survived. Well, at least two of us. Hopefully you'll never complain about your vacation from hell again. We're proud to announce that thanks to listeners like you, that episode had the highest number of downloads in Adventurephile history, shooting us straight to #1 on the charts. Ever since our little

brush with death, we no longer sweat the small stuff. We're focused on the big picture now. So with great pleasure, I'm excited to announce that Adventurephile is being developed for television, and coming to the Travel Channel this fall!

(beat)

As for the two of us? We're closer than we've ever been. We're headed home now with more than a few scars, but with a new approach to life. On our next episode, we'll process our grief together on a beautiful desert island off the coast of southern Belize, where ancient Mayan remains await our discovery. And this time, some of us will try not to wander off alone into a cave anymore. Right, Noah?

**NOAH**

*(chuckles)* You bet. Not gonna make that mistake again.

**SAVANNAH**

Since Noah's been such a great guest to have on the pod, it's really an honor to promote him officially as my co-host!

**NOAH**

We're gonna have such a great time.

**SAVANNAH**

Absolutely. But before we begin, let's take a moment to honor...Mason. Ever since he accidentally shot himself in that cave, we've started a foundation in his honor -- The Mason Lee Travel Fund -- to encourage kids to see the world and, like Mason, make it their own.

**NOAH**

We'll miss you, bro.

**SAVANNAH**

So Noah, you ready for the next adventure?

**NOAH**

You bet...*Mama*.

♪ EVERYWHERE I GO  
I KNOW THAT I'M FREE  
EVERYWHERE I ROAM  
ADVENTURE'S WAITING FOR ME  
(I HEAR YOU CALLING ME)  
NO MATTER BANGKOK  
JO-BURG OR AMSTERDAM  
BABY EVERYWHERE I GO  
THERE I AM  
EVERYWHERE I GO THERE I AM ♪

*End of play.*

♪ *upbeat theme music playing* ♪

**JONATHAN:** Thank you for listening to this performance of Hear/Now, Keen Company's Season of Audio Theater. If you've enjoyed what you have heard so far, hit the subscribe button in your podcast app and please take a moment to rate us and leave a review. This will help Keen connect to more audio play lovers like you. You've just listened to "Adventurephile".

Music, book and lyrics by Melissa Lee

Book and lyrics by Kit Yan

Directed by Morgan Green

With Stephanie Mieko Cohen as Savannah,

Kennedy Kanagawa as Mason,

Zachary Noah Piser and Noah,

and Emiko Dunn as the child.

Sound Design by Fan Zhang

Musical Direction by Mona Seyed-Bolorforosh

Music Assistance by Bronwen Chan

Music Mixed by Jay Eigenmann

Audio Engineered by Garrett Schultz

Transcription provided by **Inclusive Communication Services, Inc.** [www.InclusiveASL.com](http://www.InclusiveASL.com)  
"Adventurephile" is copywritten by Melissa Li and Kit Yan. Please do not share.

Casting by Michael Cassara

Stage Managed by Norman Anthony Small

This performance is a part of Keen Company's Hear/Now: Season of Audio Theater lead by artistic director Jonathan Silverstein. This season's audio consultant is Garret Schultz. The Hear/Now theme is composed by Billy Recce.

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