

INT. CAVE - LOAD IN

Boarding large raft boats, we settle in for a gentle journey. The echoes of drips give beat to the flowing air of the cave. This breeze has a musicality of its own, like a peaceful fall day. Lighting feels dim but safe and tranquil. The blue-tinted water reflects upon the sides of the boat and the cave ceiling.

Looking up at the ceiling, the shards of crystals shimmer above. Their lights sparkle blue like the water and sometimes change color completely in the presences of humans. One may flash the color of excited anticipation or another in the color of joy with a companion. They dance like stars upon the night sky.

The raft pushes forward through the cave brook, covered by the natural barrel vault of the cave. We turn a corner...

INT. CAVE - SCENE 1

Around the corner, still covered by the cave ceiling, a large Master Crystal, the Dream Crystal, sits tall among a nest of smaller crystals. Deep inside swirls a foggy mist of energy. It pulses with a heartbeat that beats faster and faster as the boat approaches until it appears to burst from within.

Physically though, the crystal doesn't actually explode. No, it's still intact, but a collection of crystal dust emanates from it. Crystal dust rises, as well, from the cave walls and the ground, swirling and collecting together to form the shape of a body. It's an Ancient Protector in their giant rock-like form!

A look of surprise colors the face of the Protector as they look to their left where the exit to our cave is. They wave us near as if to encourage us to peek outside the cave exit.

Our raft continues toward the exit.

EXT. GROTTA - SCENE 2

The raft enters outside. The light is bright and warm. The stream curves around a small chunk of land. Green grass and lush moss cover the ground. A few dark gray rocks pierce the green earth. Upon the shore of this little strip of land sits a small canoe. It's quite decrepit and weather worn. Almost ancient in its appearance but completely undisturbed. Lastly, a medium-sized deciduous tree makes it home here, orange and yellow from the fall.

The crystal dust from within the cave drifts into this scene. Upon the strip of land which hugs the cliff exterior, a small tiny alcove exists. An area that would be perfect for a small child to hide in the rain. And that's exactly what the dust forms into! In this alcove, a child huddles underneath. They curiously poke their head out to look at the sky. The child reaches their hand out to feel for rain and feels nothing. They walk out, hugging the cliff walls and hear a low thud and a grumble. It's coming from the cave our raft is heading toward.

The child runs to the entrance of the cave, stops, and looks at their boat. They pause to consider, for the briefest of moments, before running headlong into the cave.

Our raft follows suit.

INT. CAVE HOME ENTRANCE - SCENE 3

We come back into another system of caves. From this entrance, we can see many different pathways. Some appear to open back up to outside, indicated by the streaming of the sunlight into the darker and dimmer space. Other cavern corridors appear to continue deeper and deeper. One even looks like it was covered over with massive rocks but almost intentionally so...

The crystal dust reveals that there are several Protectors roaming around the space. They seem to be in the middle of their daily tasks, traveling from one place to next when they all suddenly look toward where we have entered. They look almost fearful, their senses heightened. They jog to the walls and kneel, crouch, or stand against the cave walls, close their eyes, and blend in.

The crystal dust disappears from these beings, but we can see the clear outlines of where they stood still there in the rock! Are they still there to this day?

The child runs into the scene. And looks around, excited by the sense of adventure this maze of caves provides. In the ceiling, the crystals shimmer like stars as they did before for us. The child takes a few steps and peeks around. Then suddenly they dash down a cavern corridor.

Our raft continues further and curves down one of the corridors.

INT. CAVE HOME ENTRANCE - SCENE 4

The raft enters a small room of sorts with multiple cavern

corridors circling its outer perimeter. The child runs in from a different cavern entrance. The outside walls of this room have larger crystals embedded into the walls but it's a particularly massive rock formation in the center that catches the child's attention.

They walk forward slowly, with anticipation and curiosity. They reach out and touch what looks to be a large crystalline formation.

Suddenly, the massive object stands in its crystal dust outline! It's a Protector! The child, shocked, staggers backward against the wall and touches a crystal which surrounds and shields the child. The Protector gazes at this scene, curious and surprised by this ability. The child, too, is shocked by this event. The Protector crouches down and reaches out a friendly hand. Before departing the area, we see the child release their hand from the crystal, the shield drops down, and they begin to step forward.

INT. CAVE HOME - SCENE 5

Our raft continues down another small cave corridor. The crystals here are far more present. The crystal dust collects to form the Protector walking beside our raft with the child upon their shoulders. The child's eyes are alive with wonder. As they walk beside us, the crystals light up with the same joy and excitement we see within the child. The crystals hum harmoniously in the space, a sweet earthy fanfare of this child's arrival.

The Protector looks up at the child with fascination and glances around the cavern as if seeing their home anew through the eyes of this young human.

INT. CAVE HOME - SCENE 6

Our raft enters a dark space. We cannot see, but we hear the distant echo of a child's laughter, the sound far off as if a memory. It's accompanied by the joyful grunts and bellows of a Protector. The crystals alight briefly with vibrant color.

INT. CAVE HOME - SCENE 7

We enter a large clearing. Many Protectors are gathered here. The Protector with the child upon their shoulders places the child on the ground. The child, excited to meet a group of such wild, amazing beings, joyfully greets the group. The Protector points at the large crystal centered in this room, and the child, understanding, runs to go touch it.

Unlike anything before, the crystal not only alights but the crystals upon the ceiling, walls, throughout the room, alight and dance: a multicolored display, accompanied by the humming tune of the crystals in harmony together.

The many Protectors have their jaws open. They look around in shock, awe, and thrill as they watch the ability of this small child to light up the room! The child looks around happy and pleased with this effortless display.

As the lights twinkle above and around, a Protector or two dance and sway with delight. A couple others continue to gawk and stare, looking at each other with disbelief.

We exit this room into another dim corridor.

INT. CAVE CORRIDOR - SCENE 8

In another dim area, we can hear the singing of the crystals and their lights continue to pulse. Added to this symphony of sounds are the thuds of weighted feet hitting the ground. As more light enters, we see this noise belongs to the steps of the Protectors.

The raft begins to rise. Crystals that dot the shore near our raft light up, seeming to lift our raft against gravity. The crystal dust shows the various Protectors, many in number now, climbing upwards with us. Some of them carry tools in their hands and arms. These tools look like ones meant to shape and lift solid stone. They are construction tools.

The Protectors look on in excitement and the crystal hums get louder and more musical, more inspirational. Leading the pack are the original Protector and the child. Once again, the Protector lifts the child off their shoulders and places them back on the ground. Near the top of our climb, the Protector gestures broadly toward the mouth of the cave and the child, just like the beginning, looks up happily and then runs toward the cave exit.

EXT. ELEVATED CAVE RIVER - SCENE 9

From here, we are elevated above the Crystal Valley, providing an aerial view of the entire land. We're able to witness the various buildings, Firsttree, and the Seekers and Residents who walk freely around the land.

We enjoy the view of this beautifully constructed valley, a gift whose foundation was built by the Protectors for the First Human. A land that was shared at one time, before they slept. It's beautiful to behold in itself.

After our brief curve around we enter into one last cave entrance.

INT. CAVE LOAD OUT TRANSITION - SCENE 10

We enter an atrium of sorts in this cavern. From where we entered in, the crystal dust forms into the child running into this space from outside. The Protector stands tall and smiles at the child.

The child runs to hug the leg of the Protector, who, as massive as they are, just smiles more warmly. The child waves enthusiastically and then runs back outside. The Protector waves back and then moves backward toward the cave wall.

The crystal dust then forms to the wall where the shape is exactly that of the Protector. The crystal dust, their story finished, blows away with the wind and settles back upon the ground. In the exact spot where we just saw the Protector, its form appears to remain, sleeping, chest rising.

INT. CAVE LOAD OUT - SCENE 11

Our raft enters a new cave clearing where Residents are there to help us. This area is different than where we began (we're technically elevated at the moment). The Residents kindly assist us toward the cave exit either through the long walkway or with the elevator.