

Dialogue Scene #8 - Final Words

(BG is the same as the first Dialogue Scene. A roadside turnoff overlooking a misty, moonlit pine forest)

SCENE START:

Audrey & Clint talk face to face, continuing their first conversation in the game.

Clint:

So. Did you find it?

Audrey:

Find what?

Clint:

C'mon.

Clint:

You know...

Clint:

Did you find what you were looking for?

Clint:

Way out in that desert?

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

No.

Audrey:

I never found it.

Clint:

...what?

Audrey:

I never found Kalahari. I searched for months out there, not a trace.

Clint:

But the evidence? The ruins in Peru? Indonesia??

Audrey:

I don't know.

Audrey:

A coincidence?

Audrey:

Some kind of ancient shared mythology?

Audrey:

All paths led into the desert, but...

Audrey:

Nothing was out there besides wind, sand, and dust.

Clint:

I'm sorry.

Audrey:

It's okay.

Audrey:

If it's real, I don't know if it can be found.

Audrey:

And, I think- maybe...

Audrey:

Kalahari was never a place I wanted to find...

Audrey:

Not really, at least.

Audrey:

I just-

Audrey:

I just wanted answers.

Clint:

Okay...

Clint:

You mean to tell me this friendship and everything we built-

Clint:

was worth less to you than something you didn't even want to find??

Audrey:

God, Clint. You will NEVER understand this will you?!

Audrey:

You know what I think of when I go to sleep?

Audrey:

God, its fucking sad.

Audrey:

I don't think about Kalahari.

Audrey:

I don't think of the 'riches' I could find there

Audrey:

or my future-

Audrey:

All I think about is her.

Audrey:

Obsessively.

Audrey:

I think of my mom.

Audrey:

And if I'm lucky, in my dreams, I can see her again.

Audrey:

I have to dream of her.

Audrey:

Because she has no one to remember her for who she REALLY was.

Audrey:

She's been diminished to some insane professor who BURNED HERSELF ALIVE!

Audrey:

She's nothing more than a ghost story now.

Audrey:

And after dreaming of her, when I wake up, all I'm left with is 'why?'

Audrey:

Why was she in so much pain?

Audrey:

Pain so great she had to end her life?

Audrey:

She died in flames SCREAMING. For what?! WHY??

Audrey:

For a place that doesn't fucking exist??!

Audrey:

A place she never ONCE mentioned to me??

Audrey:

Why was that place more important than me!? Her daughter??

Audrey:

Why would she LEAVE ME!?

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

And that's why I searched for Kalahari.

Audrey:

I was obsessed with it-

Audrey:

It was burned into my mind-

Audrey:

Just like how her face in that newspaper
was burned into my retinas.

Audrey:

I lived in the shadow of a place that was
always hidden from me, no matter how
hard I tried to find it.

Audrey:

Knowing the 'why' is all I cared about.

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

I loved her more than anything...

Audrey:

But I can't forgive her.

Audrey:

How am I supposed to do that?

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

And when I wake up...

Audrey:

I just lay there.

Audrey:

The same ceiling.

Audrey:

Everyday.

Audrey:
Just blank.

(PAUSE)

Audrey:
Why?

(PAUSE)

Audrey:
And I've come to terms with it. I've moved on.

Audrey:
I've accepted that I'll never know.

Audrey:
But that doesn't change the fact that there was nothing in that fucking desert.

Audrey:
And now it feels like...

Audrey:
There's nothing left of me.

(PAUSE)

Clint:
No, Audrey-

Clint:
There is more!

Clint:
There's always more-

Audrey:
No, Clint.

Audrey:
There isn't.

Audrey:
Everything that made me "me" came from her.

Audrey:
And now that she's gone, there's nothing left for me.

Audrey:
I don't have anyone that understands, not even you.

Audrey:
My dad, wherever he is, probably doesn't even know mom is GONE.

Audrey:
The forest, all those memories from when I was a kid...

Audrey:
Nothing but ashes now. Literally ashes.

Audrey:
The house I grew up in. Sold. Gone.

Audrey:
My friends, strangers.

Audrey:

My family has just faded into an urban myth.

Audrey:

And now I just waste away. Drowning.

Audrey:

I can't get a job.

Audrey:

The college won't even let me lecture.

Audrey:

The same college that named an auditorium after MY OWN MOTHER!

Audrey:

Everyone thinks I'm insane, like my mom's memory is stained onto me.

Audrey:

It's like they're scared of me.

Audrey:

Any future I had-

Audrey:

-just becomes harder and harder to see.

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

And you can't get that.

Audrey:

You can't understand.

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

I worked hard.

Audrey:

I did everything right.

Audrey:

And for whatever fucking cosmic reason,
EVERYTHING has been taken from me.

Audrey:

I'm

Audrey:

Just

Audrey:

So...

Audrey:

Empty.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

I- I don't know what to say.

Audrey:

You have what's been taken from me.

Audrey:

A family-

Audrey:
A future...

Audrey:
I... resent you for that.

Audrey:
It's horrible.

Audrey:
But I can't help it.

(PAUSE)

Clint:
Audrey, do you know why I sent you that letter?

Clint:
Even though you ditched me on the other side of the world?

Clint:
Even though you refused to talk to me?

Clint:
After everything?

Audrey:
Couldn't guess.

Clint:
You stand there and judge me.

Audrey:
But you never asked.

Audrey:

Fine, tell me.

Audrey:

Why?

(PAUSE)

Clint:

I lost my best friend.

Clint:

Way out there. In the desert.

Audrey:

Oh.

Audrey:

Very enlightening.

Clint:

Oh shut up and listen.

Clint:

You're right. I don't understand. I couldn't possibly imagine what it's like.

Clint:

But that doesn't mean I don't want to try.

Clint:

And it doesn't cheapen how I feel.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

You know why I actually talked to you?
When we were kids?

Audrey:

Rocks? Right?

Clint:

No, for real.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

When I was a kid, I waited.

Clint:

For so long.

Clint:

Waited for some kind of moment that would
jumpstart my life...

Clint:

Something to inspire me

Clint:

Something to guide me

Clint:

It never came.

Clint:

Not until I met you.

Clint:

You saw a magic in the world I thought only
I could see.

Clint:

In the stars, forests, and yeah... the rocks.

Clint:

A kind of beautiful mystery flowing in from...
“out there.”

Clint:

And when I stepped into those woods, to
go stargazing with you all those years ago,
my life began.

Clint:

Because I knew, in that moment, that you
saw it too.

Clint:

That intangible thing.

Clint:

I know that you still do.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

I can't understand your pain, but I can
always understand that.

Clint:

And I think that counts for a lot right now.

Clint:

And...

Clint:

I'm sorry-

Clint:

About... like..

Audrey:

It's ok.

Audrey:

I'm -

Audrey:

I'm sorry too.

Audrey:

I was afraid.

Audrey:

My entire life I've been afraid.

Clint:

No.

Clint:

Going out there, into that wasteland?

Clint:

Alone?

Clint:

Facing everything that you've been feeling
head on?

Clint:

That wasn't an act of fear.

Clint:

You're my hero, Audrey.

Audrey:

Thanks.

Audrey:

And you're not the complete asshole I've treated you as.

Audrey:

Not that any apology can take back the things I said.

Audrey:

I've been a jerk. I know that.

Audrey:

But you?

Audrey:

You're a genuinely good person Clint.

Clint:

I'll take that.

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

I still have it... the artifact.

Clint:

On you? Right now?

Audrey:

In the car.

Audrey:

I take it with me everywhere.

Audrey:

It's, uhh...

Clint:

Parasitic?

Audrey:

Yeah, feels that way.

Clint:

Well, here's an idea.

Clint:

We drive up to Archer's Bluff, wayyyy up high above the river-

Clint:

-and cast it into the fiery pit from whence it came!

Audrey:

Haha, oh god.

Audrey:

You mean it? Just... throw it over the cliff?

Clint:

Why not?

Clint:

Let the river wear it down, disintegrate it.

Clint:

Once it's thrown off that edge, you'll never be able to find it again.

Clint:

Not even if you tried.

Audrey:

I like that idea.

Clint:

Me too.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

Okay, smeagol, let's go.

Audrey:

Smeagol!?

Clint:

Yeah! The parallels are shining bright as day here.

Audrey:

Fair.

Clint:

Also, ya know, you got the scraggly hair, the pale, wrinkly skin-

Audrey:

OKAY - NOT FAIR.

Clint:

Just sayin!

Audrey:

Unbelievable! You say the sweetest things
and then have the audacity to call me
Smeagol.

Clint:

Only a true friend can break the hard truths

Audrey:

I'll get you for that one

Clint:

You can try!

Audrey:

When you least expect it!

(PAUSE)

Audrey:

I missed you Clint.

Clint:

I missed you too.

(PAUSE)

Clint:

Okay, hop in. I'll drive.

(END SCENE)

Transition to The Crash Flashback Level.