

THE NAVIGATOR

"The Pilot (and the Stowaway)/The Beach"

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALL - MORNING

An open air hallway. Like one you'd see at a school in Los Angeles. Or maybe in Africa. Several teenage animals roam the hall on their way to class.

NAVI, (13), a large upright walking reptilian, struggles to open his locker. WADE, (12), a yellow Egyptian Plover, flies in circles around Navi's head.

NAVI

Come on.

Navi slams the locker. Tries the combination again.

NAVI

Wade. Go away. I need to get my books. And I can't concentrate with you buzzing around my head.

WADE

Just keep your mouth open, Navi.

NAVI

Why?

WADE

Your teeth are dirty.

*BRING BRING*

NAVI

Ugh. I'm going to be late.

Navi rips the locker open with his mouth, pulls two books out, and runs down the hall.

NAVI

Close that for me.

The locker door hangs on by a thread. Wade pushes it closed with his beak.

The door crashes to the ground.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Geography class. Desks create a grid. Various African animals occupy the seats. Lions. Tigers. No Bears. Some crocodiles though - they look like Navi but are just slightly different.

The TEACHER, a large hippo, stands in the back of the room and clicks through a series of slides that project onto a screen at the front of the class.

Navi doodles in his notebook. Crudely drawn images of himself in various modes of flight. Him in an airplane with a propeller. Him with a giant zeppelin strapped to his back. Him zooming around with helicopter blades coming out of his head a la Inspector Gadget.

TEACHER

And this ladies and gentleman is an Alligator. While most people tend to confuse them with crocodiles they're actually quite different.

This is really important information. Navi continues to draw.

TEACHER

They tend to be smaller. They are less aggressive, thrive in fresh water and they can be found in...

Navi sneezes. He looks up to find the entire class looking at him. He doesn't notice the side by side comparison slide on the screen.

NAVI

What?

He wipes his nose - a difficult feat with his short arms.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Navi walks out of the school with some books in hand. On his way to the bus he passes a group of CROCKS, they're the older, popular kids. Each one has their arm around a pretty little cheetah (the cheerleaders).

Navi keeps his head down as he walks to the bus. One of the crocks notices Navi and swats the books out of Navi's hands.

NAVI

Hey!

CROCK #1

You don't belong here, freak.

Navi is taken aback.

CROCK #2

Yeah. Go back to where you came from. Loser.

The populars laugh. Wade sees what's happening and swoops in.

WADE  
Leave him alone.

Wade digs and dives by the crocks. He's so small that they just swat him away.

CROCK #1  
Buzz off, twerp.

Someone connects and Wade falls to the ground.

WADE  
Oww.

NAVI  
You okay?

Navi picks Wade up.

NAVI  
Why are you guys all so mean?

As the crocks laugh, Navi and Wade make their way to the --

BUS STOP

And they arrive just in time to see the bus pull away. Navi hangs his head. He places Wade down.

WADE  
Thanks for helping me out.

NAVI  
Those guys are jerks.

WADE  
Why were they picking on you?

NAVI  
I don't know. They do it all the time. But today seemed worse for some reason.

Navi looks to see if the bus is going to stop. It doesn't.

NAVI  
I should start walking home.

WADE  
You should say thank you, as well.  
That's the polite thing to do.

NAVI

For what?

Navi looks to Wade, as he dusts himself off.

NAVI

Oh yeah, sorry. Thanks.

Navi walks away.

Wade flies after him.

WADE

Mind if I tag along.

NAVI

(dismissive)

Maybe some other time. I really need to get home. Lots of homework and all.

WADE

Oh. Sure. Some other time.

Navi keeps walking. Wade gets really close. Navi is weary. Wade tries to pry open Navi's mouth.

Navi keeps his mouth clenched.

NAVI

(mumbled)

What are you doing?

WADE

I saw some food wedged between your teeth.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Navi sits at the end of a long table. He has a very large family. A plate of food is passed around but everyone just grabs at the plate. Navi just sits back and waits his turn.

The plate finally makes its way to Navi. There is one piece of meat left and a bone. Navi reaches for the meat. A hand comes from under the table and grabs it.

Navi looks under the table and finds the family's pet dog about to bite into the meat.

NAVI  
Hey! That was mine.  
(holding out a bone)  
This is yours.

The dog growls.

NAVI  
Fine.

Navi chews on the bone.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Navi lays in bed waiting for everyone to go to sleep. The loud SNORING tells him its safe --

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Navi tiptoes out of the house and sneaks into the marsh out back. He brushes aside some branches to reveal a work bench covered with pieces of model airplanes.

Navi glues some wings onto the body of the airplane. This is where Navi feels comfortable. This is his sanctuary.

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Navi, still asleep, is curled up underneath his work bench. He's a heavy snorer. His mouth is wide open --

Wade quietly hops along the ground. He gets closer and closer. He jumps up into Navi's mouth. A wave of pure joy washes over Wade. He dives right in. Picks a Navi's teeth.

Navi's eyes slowly open. Because of the shape of his head he can't actually see what's going on.

NAVI  
Ade? Ih at oooo?

Wade flies up so Navi can see him.

WADE  
Hey, buddy. Good morning.

NAVI  
What are you doing?

WADE  
Somebody didn't brush their teeth  
last night.

NAVI  
Yeah, I guess I forgot.

WADE  
It's cool. This is how I like to  
start the day anyway.

Navi stands up.

NAVI  
Why are you here?

WADE  
I though we could walk to school  
together.

NAVI  
I mean, sure.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

Navi walks to school. Wade buzzes around his head. He tries to land on Navi's mouth but Navi shakes him off.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Navi walks up to the LIBRARIAN, a giraffe with large black rimmed glasses, who sits awkwardly behind the counter.

NAVI  
Hi.

LIBRARIAN  
Shhh.

NAVI  
Huh?

LIBRARIAN  
Shhh.

Navi doesn't know what to do. The librarian whispers.

LIBRARIAN  
What can I do for you?

Navi understands now.

NAVI

Do you have any books on airplanes?

LIBRARIAN

Son, this is a library.

NAVI

So you do, or you don't?

LIBRARIAN

Of course we have books on airplanes. We have books on everything here.

NAVI

Can you tell me where they are?

LIBRARIAN

Third aisle from the left. Right next to the books about the differences between alligators and crocodiles.

Navi nods and walks away.

NAVI

What an odd way of pointing out the aisle.

Navi ducks into the aisle and pulls a book down. He reads it on the floor.

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

Navi works on his model plane. Attaches the tail. Tests it to see that the rudder moves.

Navi's older brother FRANK come to find him.

FRANK

Mom wants you to come in for dinner.

Navi is startled.

NAVI

How did you find me?

FRANK

Everyone knows that you're out here. Did you think it was a secret?

NAVI  
(bashful)  
No.

Frank laughs.

FRANK  
You're so weird, Navi. Why do you  
hide out here?

NAVI  
Because I don't really fit in  
anywhere else.

FRANK  
That's because you're adopted.

NAVI  
What?

FRANK  
Didn't you ever wonder why you were  
a slightly different color than the  
rest of us?

Navi looks at this arms and storms into the house.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Navi's PARENTS sit on the couch watching TV. Navi storms in  
like a banshee.

NAVI  
I'm adopted?!

DAD  
Quiet! We're watching *The Amazing  
Race*.

Navi shuts the TV off.

DAD  
What do you think you're doing?

NAVI  
Am I adopted?

MOM  
Who told you that?

NAVI  
Franks said that's the reason I  
don't fit in around here.



DAD

I on the other hand prefer to the story of you being flushed down the toilet as a child and then you were mutated into a grown boy.

Mom looks at Dad with sadness.

NAVI

I like mom's story better.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

World Cinema class - *The Flight of the Navigator* is shown. As Navi sits and stares at the screen he has several quick flashbacks:

The Alligator vs. Crocodile slide from geography class. Including a map of where they inhabit.

The sign in the library: Books about Alligator and Crocodiles and What's the Difference. NAVI YOU SHOULD READ THESE.

The cover of the VHS copy of the movie ALLIGATOR.

Navi snaps out of it:

NAVI

Holy crap! I'm an Alligator!!!

Navi runs out of the classroom. His classmates laugh.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Navi runs home. On his way he grabs bed sheet after bed sheet off of clothes lines.

Wade is not far behind, as per usual.

WADE

Navi! What are you doing?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Navi threads a needle through the sheet. He sews the sheets together. Wade lands on Navi's work bench.

WADE

What are you making?

Navi carefully pulls the needle back through a sheet.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Navi runs down the hall, flings open the closet door and sticks his head inside. He starts throwing stuff over his head into the hallway.

NAVI

Here we go.

He slowly drags something out. It's heavy. Then we see it.

A LARGE WICKER BASKET

It's overflowing with stuff. Navi tips the basket over, emptying it out. He hauls it out of the house.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Navi and Wade's faces. A mixture of wonder and confusion.

WADE

What is it?

NAVI

It's a hot air balloon.

There it is in all its glory. A big basket and a limp mountain of sheets.

WADE

I don't know a lot about hot air balloons. But isn't it supposed to, you know, have a balloon, or something?

Just then Frank comes into the clearing holding a BUNSEN BURNER.

FRANK

Here. You can use this.

NAVI

Where did you get this?

FRANK

I borrowed it from the school's science lab. You can return it when you come back.

WADE

Where are you going Navi?

NAVI  
I'm going to find my parents. Find  
out where I came from.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Navi is surrounded by his whole family. His mother cries  
crocodile tears.

MOM  
We're going to miss you.

NAVI  
I'm sure I'll be back some day  
soon. But I have a lot of ground to  
cover.

Navi shoves a folded map and compact brass telescope into his  
satchel.

DAD  
Maybe this can help.

Dad hands over a POLAROID of Navi as a baby. The background  
of the photo is kind of blurry.

NAVI  
Thanks, dad.

Navi puts the picture in his bag and tosses it into the  
basket. Navi hugs his parents and hops into the basket. He  
turns up the flame and the balloon rises.

NAVI  
Bye, every one. I love you. See you  
soon.

Everyone waves back. They get smaller and smaller as the  
balloon gets higher and higher.

INT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

Navi looks over his map of where alligators live. China and  
the Americas are highlighted. As he looks over the map, Navi  
picks at his teeth.

A look of worry comes over Navi's face.

NAVI  
Did I forget my toothbrush?

Navi rummages through his bag. He sees something inside that startles him. He bounces back from the bag.

Wade pops out.

WADE

So where are we going to first?

NAVI

What are you doing here?

WADE

I wanted to come along on your adventure.

NAVI

We're going to have to turn around. I need to bring you back.

WADE

Oh come on, Navi. You said it yourself that you'd be coming back soon. Can't I just stick around for awhile.

Navi takes in Wade's face. How could he possibly say no?

NAVI

It could be dangerous.

WADE

That's okay.

NAVI

We could meet some really strange creatures.

WADE

Sounds fun.

NAVI

We'll have to eat things we're not used to eating.

WADE

Great! And then I can pick it out of your teeth.

Navi realizes he won't be able to talk Wade out of it.

NAVI

Well then, Wade, I suggest you buckle in because it looks like it's going to be a bumpy ride.

The two look out at the horizon where a massive storm cloud looms. Flashes of lightning. And then:

INT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

The sun may still be up, but it is so dark that it feels like it's the middle of the night.

Loud CLAPS of thunder and FLASHES of lightning surround our two friends, as gusts of wind drag the balloon through the clouds. Up and down. Down and up.

NAVI

We need to get above the clouds.

WADE

How do we do that?

NAVI

We need to lose some weight.

WADE

That's easier said than done. My sister's been trying to lose weight since the day she was born.

NAVI

Now is not the time for goofing around.

WADE

I know. I'm sorry. When I'm scared I deflect with humor.

Navi scans the basket.

Wade burrows himself deep into Navi's bag. After a moment, he sticks his tiny beak out.

WADE

Navi - we have to get out of this storm. I'm scared!

NAVI

I'm scared too!

Navi grabs a hold of the railings. He watches as small pieces of the wicker basket get ripped off. They spiral out into darkness.

WADE

You're my best friend, Navi.

NAVI  
 You're my only... You're my best  
 friend too!

The two hang on for dear life as the storm continues to rage  
 around them --

Off their terrified faces we...

FADE TO BLACK.

FROM THE BLACK SCREEN --

We slowly open back up on a clear blue sky. We are in NAVI's  
 POV as we wakes up. His eyes blink, until he can finally  
 focus on --

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

He sits up on the shore and stares out at the vast ocean  
 before him. Nothing but water as far as the eye can see.

He takes a moment to regroup and then suddenly he remembers:

NAVI  
 WADE!!! Where are you?

He frantically looks around. No Wade. No hot air balloon.

Navi runs along the shore.

NAVI  
 Wade, can you hear me? Wade!

After a moment, Navi sees two little legs sticking out from  
 under a fallen palm. He scurries over and pushes the palm  
 aside to reveal --

WADE

He's just laying there. Not moving. Eyes closed.

NAVI  
 Oh no!

Navi pushes Wade. Shakes him.

NAVI  
 Come on, buddy, wake up.

But nothing. Tears well up in Navi's eyes. He's lost his--

WADE  
(eyes shooting wide)  
GOTCHA!!!

NAVI  
I hate you.

WADE  
Oh, I'm sorry. It was just a joke.

NAVI  
Well, it wasn't funny.

Navi gets up. He leaves Wade laying on the ground, and starts to walk back toward the water.

Wade, still staring up at the sky, calls to Navi:

WADE  
Hey Navi?

NAVI  
What?

WADE  
Isn't that our balloon up there?

Navi turn back and looks up --

And sure enough, there high up in the trees is their balloon.

NAVI  
How on earth are we going to get  
that down?

Wade springs to his feet.

WADE  
I'll get it.

NAVI  
Come on, Wade, you know you're not  
strong enough.

WADE  
(optimistic)  
Have a little faith.

Wade flaps his tiny wings and soars high up to the --

## TREE CANOPY

And settles on a branch next to the basket and deflated balloon. With his wings, Wade gives the basket a strong push.

He grunts as he tries to dislodge the basket.

## DOWN ON THE GROUND

Navi stares back up. He struggles to even see Wade, he's so far up there.

NAVI

Any luck?

## UP IN THE TREES

Little beads of sweat are starting to form on Wade's head. This is really tough for him.

He plops down on the branch. Defeated.

He hears the echo of what Navi said to him:

NAVI (V.O.)

You know you're not strong enough.

With new determination, Wade gets up and walks to the tree trunk. He stares down the basket at the end of the long branch.

WADE

(to himself)

I am strong enough!

Wade runs FULL SPEED at the basket and throws all of his weight into it.

## DOWN ON THE GROUND

Navi quits looking up.

NAVI

This is never gonna work. I'll have to find a way up--

*CRASH!!!*

The basket smashes on the ground next to Navi and the deflated balloon drapes over him.

The balloon raises and falls with Navi's breath.

Wade flutters down next to his friend.

WADE

You in there Navi?

Navi scurries out.

NAVI

How did you get this massive thing  
out of the tree?

WADE

I used my head.

The two inspect the damage. There is a TEAR in the balloon  
and a small CHUNK of the basket is missing.

NAVI

We're going to need to find some  
supplies to fix this. Some branches  
and heavy leaves might do the  
trick.

As the two walk into the woods, WE SKIP AHEAD A LITTLE --

EXT. FORREST - DAY

Navi and Wade come back out of the dense forrest with stacks  
of branches, vines, and large palms in their hands.

NAVI

Wow. That was so easy.

WADE

Yeah, it's like all these essential  
supplies were waiting just beyond  
those trees.

They drop the items onto the ground only to see that --

THE BASKET IS GONE

Navi spins around in circles, while Wade hovers a few feet  
above his head.

WADE

Where's the basket?

NAVI

I could have sworn it was here. He  
must be in the wrong place.

As Navi scans the area it becomes clear that this the exact right spot, but the balloon is nowhere to be seen.

Navi plops down on the ground. Wade lands on Navi's head.

NAVI  
I don't know what to do.

Wade hops down into Navi's mouth. Navi shakes him off.

NAVI  
Stop it, Wade.

WADE  
But I'm hungry.

NAVI  
(softening)  
I know.  
(a deep sigh)  
Maybe we should just head back home. I don't know that we are cut out for all of this.

#### IN THE TREES

We are watching Navi and Wade through the trees. We are in the POV of some unidentified creature lurking in the shadows.

We BLINK and open back up right behind our heroes.

*GRRRRRRRRRR*

We leap out of the trees into --

#### THE OPEN PLAIN

Navi and Wade turn to see a MASSIVE WILD BOAR charging at them. Instinct kicks in and Navi hops on all four and bears his razor sharp teeth --

But before the boar gets to them --

#### A MONKEY

Flips down from the trees and BASHES the boar over the head with a coconut.

This is DAPHNE.

If there is anything we need to know about Daphne it's that she's full of sass.

The boar falls hard to the ground and slides to a stop inches before Navi and Wade. The two are showered with dust.

Daphne does a flips over the guys and lands like a gold medal gymnast. Or a ninja.

DAPHNE

I know where your ship is. Come with me. Quick, before he wakes up.

She lunges for a vine and swings off into the woods.

Navi and Wade share a look.

NAVI (V.O.)

Who was that?

WADE (V.O.)

Can we trust her?

The boar stirs.

NAVI (V.O.)

Let's hope so!

And then:

NAVI/WADE

Wait for us!

They run deeper into the woods.

EXT. FORREST - SMALL POOL - DAY

Navi and Wade come upon a sparkling pool in the middle of a clearing. They sit down to rest for a moment.

NAVI

Where did she go? She said she was going to help us.

Like magic, Daphne appears on a rock on the other side of the pool.

WADE

Jeeze - what are you? Some sort of ninja?

DAPHNE

What's a ninja?

WADE  
It's like a--

NAVI  
(cutting Wade off)  
We don't have time for that. You said you could help us find our balloon. You said you knew where it was.

WADE  
(to Daphne)  
You know you should introduce yourself whenever you meet someone new. That's the polite thing to do. I'm Wade and this is Navi.

DAPHNE  
It's nice to meet you. I'm Daphne. I'll bring you to your ship, but first I gotta now, how did you guys end up here?

NAVI  
Well --

The entire episode, every single frame from the beginning is played again in FAST FORWARD. Like on a VHS. There's Navi and Wade in school. Navi out by his bench. Him sitting in the library reading. Building the balloon. The storm. Them waking up on the island. Daphne saving them. The three sitting around the pool.

And now we're back:

NAVI  
And that pretty much catches you up.

DAPHNE  
Sounds like you had a pretty exciting adventure.  
(then)  
I saw who took your -- balloon, as you called it. I'll help you get it back, but it won't be easy.

Off Navi and Wade's collective worried look WE JUMP AHEAD --

EXT. FORREST - DAY

Navi, Wade, and Daphne crouch down behind a fallen tree on the edge of the forrest.

Daphne uses a stick to draw a crude map in the dirt.

DAPHNE

On the other side of the island is an ancient temple. It's controlled by a local gang. They're very tough.

WADE

Should we be worried?

DAPHNE

You can do whatever you want. They're nothing I can't handle.

NAVI

So what's the plan?

Navi and Wade look on with anticipation and wonder.

EXT. FORREST - DAY

Navi, with Daphne on his back, runs on all fours. They burst through the trees into --

A CLEARING

At the center, the ruins of an ancient temple. The whole area is crawling with monkeys. And there, stuck at the top is --

THE BALLOON

Wade comes soaring over Navi and heads straight for the top of the temple.

He pecks at the monkeys. But there are more on their way up. They scale the sides of the temple.

Wade starts to stitch the balloon back together.

NAVI

(sotto)

Oh, boy.

Daphne hurls coconuts that she seems to pull from nowhere. They explode like hand grenades, clearing the path to the temple.

AT THE BASE

Daphne hops off.

DAPHNE  
 You go help Wade fix the balloon.  
 I'll keep these guys under control.

NAVI  
 Are you sure you can handle them  
 all?

DAPHNE  
 Oh, don't worry about me. Just go  
 help your friend.

More and more monkeys head toward them.

DAPHNE  
 Quickly. This is your best shot.

Navi scurries up the side of the temple --

*CRACK!*

He knocks the monkeys of his sturdy snout.

*FWAP!*

Slaps them with his tail. Until he's at --

THE TOP

Navi grabs hold of the basket.

NAVI  
 Time to go, Wade.

WADE  
 We still need to fix the basket.

Navi pulls some palms from his bag and weaves it into the  
 basket.

BACK ON THE GROUND

A gang of monkey has surrounded Daphne. She calls up to Navi:

DAPHNE  
 You guys better get out of here!

Then she squares off against the encroaching circle.

DAPHNE  
 Show me what you got!

AT THE TOP OF THE TEMPLE

Navi and Wade take a quick scan of the balloon and basket.

NAVI

Looks good to me. Now, let's get out of here.

WADE

What about Daphne? Shouldn't we help her?

NAVI

There's no time.

Navi pushes the basket off of the top of the temple. As it drifts through the air, Navi notices a handful of monkeys hanging on. He drops them like bags of sand.

They shake their fists at the balloon as it drifts further and further away.

Navi and Wade look down as the circle of monkeys pounce onto Daphne. She disappears from sight.

Navi and Wade sit back. They're filled with sadness.

NAVI

I'm sorry we couldn't help her, Wade. But it's because of her that we got away. She saved us.

WADE

Still doesn't feel right though.

NAVI

I know. I guess we should head home.

DAPHNE (O.S.)

You can't head home.

The boys turn to see Daphne sitting on the edge of the basket, eating an apple.

NAVI

(dumbfounded)

What?

DAPHNE

We still need to find your parents, right? That's the whole reason you're out here.

WADE  
(re: her being there)  
But how?

DAPHNE  
No time for all that, Wade. We've  
got places to be and things to see.  
So let's get that map out.

Navi digs through his bag.

NAVI  
We're gonna need a bigger basket  
now too.

Navi, Wade, and Daphne look over the map as the balloon  
drifts toward the setting sun.

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END.**