

The Library
BY JASON STEELE

INT. GIGANTIC DARK LIBRARY, NIGHT

A guy wakes up in a giant library.

GUY

Uh... man... my head... where am I?
Why am I covered in books? Eh...

Stands up.

GUY

What is this place.

JUICE BOX 20

It's a library!

GUY

Ah. Yeah I guess that's why I'm
covered in encyclopedias. Who are
you?

JUICE BOX 20

No, who are you?!

GUY

Uh. Well...

JUICE BOX 20

WHO ARE YOU?!

GUY

Well I asked you first.

JUICE BOX 20

WHOOOO AARRREEE YOOOUUU...

GUY

Actually I don't remember.

JUICE BOX 20

Seeeee? I don't remember who I am
either. So I came up with a name,
for meee..... Juice Box 20.

GUY

Juice Box 20?

JUICE BOX 20

At your service. It appears, that
you too... that you as welll...
have forgotten your name, so I will
name you.

(MORE)

JUICE BOX 20 (cont'd)
 I will bestow upon thee a name of
 great importance, one that you will
 hold for your entire existence
 inside the library walls.

GUY
 Great.

JUICE BOX 20
 Mango 12! Now stand up straight my
 friend, you must present yourself
 in a noble manor, for you now have
 a noble name, and must give it due
 respect!

MANGO 12
 Why are we in a library?

JUICE BOX 20
 As yes, question two. Never as
 interesting as question three.

MANGO 12
 And what's question three?

JUICE BOX 20
 What's question threeeee?

Silence.

MANGO 12
 Yeah. What is it.

JUICE BOX 20
 What's question threeeee?

MANGO 12
 Uh, yeah.

JUICE BOX 20
 Well that's it.

MANGO 12
 Ok, uh, is there an exit?

JUICE BOX 20
 Question four! No there is not,
 Mango 12.

MANGO 12
 Just call me like... Todd or
 something.

JUICE BOX 20

I will do no such thing, Mango 12.
If you'd like, I'll shorten it, to
Ango 12, but Todd is completely out
of the question.

MANGO 12

Alright, I'm getting out of here.

Mango 12 walks off.

MANGO 12

There's got to be an exit
somewhere. It's a library. How
will people get in? How did I get
in? God, it's all solid wall! Man
this place is huge though there's
got to be an exit somewhere.

JUICE BOX 20

I have personally checked every
wall, every room, every floor,
every ceiling, and nowhere is there
an exit, my friend.

MANGO 12

Yeah well I'm going to check
myself... why don't you go and read
or something.

JUICE BOX 20

I've read every single book in this
library. Twenty times.

MANGO 12

What? There's like ten thousand
books in here!

JUICE BOX 20

Thirty thousand. There's a second
level and a basement.

MANGO 12

Good god, how long have you been in
here?

JUICE BOX 20

I don't know, exactly. There are
no clocks, and no windows, no
indication of time whatsoever.

MANGO 12

That... sucks. No wonder you're such a nut.

JUICE BOX 20

If you'd like some book recommendation I'd be happy to give them!

MANGO 12

Nah... I don't feel like reading right now.

JUICE BOX 20

Well you'll feel like reading soon enough. Because that's, you know. All you can dooooo!!!! Ha ha!!

MANGO 12

Yeah. I'm going to go check out the basement.

JUICE BOX 20

Great! There's a staircase that will lead you right to it near the reference section.

MANGO 12

Thanks...

Mango 12 walks to the latch.

MANGO 12

Ok, reference section... here we go. Um, huh. Hey, Juice Box, where's the stairs?

JUICE BOX 93

Mango 22?! My goodness! I haven't seen you in... it must be decades!

MANGO 12

What. I was just talking with you. And aren't I Mango 12?

JUICE BOX 93

Where have you been? And you have both legs!

MANGO 12

Yeah. Seriously man I just saw you two seconds ago.

JUICE BOX 93

Two seconds ago I was finishing up my ninety third reading of all the books in this library.

MANGO 12

You told me you've read them all 20 times.

JUICE BOX 93

I am now Juice Box 93! A much more important title than the old Juice Box 92.

MANGO 12

Yeah. Were's the staircase?

JUICE BOX 93

The... the what?

MANGO 12

The stairs, to lead to the basement.

JUICE BOX 93

Mango 22, the basement stairs have been gone for years. That's how you lost your legs, the underground collapsed! I was able to save the books but unfortunately not your lower half.

MANGO 12

Huh. Yeah soo... is the second level still around... Juice Box uh...

JUICE BOX 93

Ninty three. And yes.

MANGO 12

Good. Where is it.

JUICE BOX 93

All the way in the back to your right, you'll find the stairwell.

MANGO 12

Thanks.

Mango 12 walks to the back.

MANGO 12

Ok... here we go. Up... up...
up... hmm. Hey, how did you get up
here so fast?

JUICE BOX 8

Hello Mango 3!

MANGO 12

Uh. No I'm... I'm Mango 12.

JUICE BOX 8

Where is Mango 3? We were supposed
to be reading biographies together
by now!

MANGO 12

I have no idea. Look, I just want
to look around, OK? No more of
this crap.

JUICE BOX 8

You do not speak with such language
in front of the great Juice Box 8!

MANGO 12

Eight now? Why do you keep
switching numbers?

JUICE BOX 8

I do nothing of the sort. I've
earned this right by reading...

MANGO 12

... yeah reading every book in the
library eight times, I get the
drill here. Let me look around.

JUICE BOX 8

Look if you like, you'll find
nothing of interest besides books.

MANGO 12

Well I'll decide that for myself.
Hmm lets see. Wall, wall. All
solid stone. I can see the first
level from here... hmm seems like a
long way down. Books, books,
books. Man there's got to be
something around here.... Huh. Is
that a... a fort made out of
romance novels? Well. Lets just
see what's inside here...

MANGO 12
... hello? Is anyone... hey... who
is that?

JUICE BOX 12
Juice Box 12, at your service.

MANGO 12
12 now? Well you can't be. I'm
Mango 12.

JUICE BOX 12
You can't name yourself. You're
Mango 7, you'll screw up the order.

MANGO 12
The order of what?

JUICE BOX 12
The Mango order.

MANGO 12
Right. Well you already named me,
and you named me Mango 12.

JUICE BOX 12
Impossible.

MANGO 12
Why is it impossible?

JUICE BOX 12
Because you should be Mango 7.

MANGO 12
Why did you build this... fort
thing.

JUICE BOX 12
It's to honor the memory of Mango
5.

MANGO 12
And what happened to Mango 5?

JUICE BOX 12
I'm afraid that's a sad tale, Mango
7. A sad tale full of much crying
and... salty tears.

MANGO 12

Listen. I'm tired of this. First you're Juice Box 20, then 93, then 8, now I'm Mango 22 or 7 or whatever, this is just crazy and I want no more of it.

JUICE BOX 12

Your speaking puzzles me sir.
PUZZLES MY FIZZY BRAIN!!

MANGO 12

Yeah... "puzzles." I'm going to go back down to the first level.

JUICE BOX 12

I know this is a long shot... but... if you see Mango 5... tell him I love him.

MANGO 12

Uh. No.

Mango 12 leaves.

MANGO 12

Ok... back down to the first level... first level... first level... hmm, all the encyclopedias are fixed up.

JUICE BOX 259

YOU!!!!!!

MANGO 12

What? Me?

JUICE BOX 259

It was you all along!!!!

MANGO 12

Me all along what?

JUICE BOX 259

It took me until the two hundred fifty ninth read of the library, but I finally figured youuuu out!

MANGO 12

Figured me out? Figured what out?

JUICE BOX 259

Let me guess... Mango 45?

MANGO 12

Yeah. Close enough. Sort of.

JUICE BOX 259

Thought you could get away with it?

MANGO 12

Yeah, yeah you've got me. On whatever.

JUICE BOX 259

You took away from me Mango 5, Mango 14, Mango 22 and Mango 34... many others, all I ever loved!

MANGO 12

Ok, stop coming so close to me...

JUICE BOX 259

Well not any more! Noooo not any more!!!! I see you've dropped THIS!!

Juice Box 259 takes out a large knife.

MANGO 12

No... I don't think I was ever carrying around a large hunting knife.... please put that down.

JUICE BOX 259

Oh... put it down... so you can go around and gut another one of my Mangos!!!

MANGO 12

No, I'm not going to... gut any Mangos.

JUICE BOX 259

That's right... because I... JUICE BOX TWO FIFTY NINE... will GUT YOU FIRST!!!

MANGO 12

Hey, hey stop!

Mango 12 slams a book into Juice Box 259's head.

JUICE BOX 259

Ahh!! My head... you... hit me with an atlas.... Ahhhhdg...gjhj....

Juice Box 259 collapses.

MANGO 12

Eh... ahh... sorry for... knocking you out, but... you know. Running at me with a knife and all. Yeah. I'm just going to take that knife... so you don't go stabbing at me again. OK. Lets continue the hunt for an exit.

Mango 12 gets up and looks around.

MANGO 12

Hmm, what's this over here... a layout of the library, cool. Hey this map shows a third floor. Alright, time to check that out...

JUICE BOX 3

You there!! Who are you?!

MANGO 12

What?

JUICE BOX 3

I said, who are you?

MANGO 12

Uh, Mango something, I guess.

JUICE BOX 3

Nice to meet you, I'm Juice Box 3. You're the first living person I've seen in... in quite a long time.

MANGO 12

Right. Listen why didn't you tell me there was a third level?

JUICE BOX 3

Thi... third level? There is no third level! Ha ha ha!!! What are you talking about?

MANGO 12

The layout here says there's a third level.

JUICE BOX 3

I thought I tore that down ages ago...

Juice Box 2 rips it down.

JUICE BOX 3

There we go... no better building layout than a ripped up building layout. No there's no third floor. Don't go looking for it.

MANGO 12

Why... are you... hiding something up there?

JUICE BOX 3

No... of course not. And if there waasss... a third floor... then I've probably set it on fire by now.

MANGO 12

Right.

JUICE BOX 3

So how did you get in here? I thought for sure this place was sealed shut.

MANGO 12

I have no idea. I just sort of, woke up here.

JUICE BOX 3

Interesting. It seems as if we have a lot in common, Mango. I love you.

MANGO 12

What?

JUICE BOX 3

Nothing. I was probably talking about reference books.

MANGO 12

Yeah. I'm gonna go.

JUICE BOX 3

See you around, Mango!

MANGO 12

Hopefully not!

Mango walks away.

MANGO 12

OK, so he doesn't want me to find the third level. That means I should probably find it. Quickly. OK, up the stairs, here we are, second level. What the... is that... is that TWO Juice Boxes?

JUICE BOX 2000

It's taken me forever, but FINALLY!! I... JUICE BOX TWO THOUSAND, will end your injustices!!!

JUICE BOX UNKNOWN

Injustices?! Look at this place! Do you not see what's going on?!?!?

JUICE BOX 2000

Yes, Mango 45, I do!!! You're going around killing my precious Mangos!!!

JUICE BOX UNKNOWN

I'm not killing anyone!!! Sure, I've slit a few throats, but have I really killed ANYONE?! NOOO!!!

JUICE BOX 2000

Die for your vile nature!!!

JUICE BOX UNKNOWN

Ahhhhh!!!!

MANGO 12

Holy crap, Juice Box 2000 just tossed the other guy off the second level. And onto the encyclopedia section.

JUICE BOX 2000

YOOUUUU!!!!

MANGO 12

Oh god.

JUICE BOX 2000

What kind of trickery is this?!!

MANGO 12

What are you talking about?

JUICE BOX 2000
I'm going to kill youuuu!!!!

MANGO 12
Oh god... gotta run.... ruuunnn...
over there... stairs! The third
level!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
Get back here!!! Juice Box 2000 is
going to strannnglllee
yooooouuuuuu!!!!

MANGO 12
Up up up... man there's nothing up
here. It's like an empty attic.
There's no way out!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
That's right! Raaaaa!!!

MANGO 12
Get off mee!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
This is for killing my dear sweet
Mangos!!!

MANGO 12
What are you talking about!? I am
a Mango! I haven't killed anyone!!

JUICE BOX 2000
I will avenge my Mango friends!!!

MANGO 12
I've got a knife... I'll use it I
swear!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
Oh I've got a knife too!!! And
before I kill you I'm going to use
it to carve my name into your arm!!

MANGO 12
Oww!!! Stop it!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
Jay.... You.... Eye... See....

MANGO 12
Stop it!!! Oh god my arm!!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
Eee... Bee.... Ohh... Exx....

MANGO 12
That's it!! I warned you!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
Ahhh!!!! You... you stabbed me!
Appropriately in my heart!! Oh
Mangoes, I have failed you!!!
Before I fade away into that...
dark night.... I'm going to give
Mango 45 one more hearty punch in
the face.

WHAM!!!

JUICE BOX 2000
There. That was a good one. He's
knocked the heck out. Now I die.
Blahhh...

Hours later.

MANGO 12
Ehh... what happened... my head...
where... where am I? Oh god what's
this dead body doing next to me?
Did I... did I... Eww... he's been
stabbed in the heart. I must have
killed him, I can't let anyone see
this... I'll go to jail... wait...
oh god I can't even remember my
name. What's this on my arm.
"Juice... Box." Maybe that's my
name. Juice Box. What is this
place? A library? Huh. I guess
I've got a lot of reading ahead of
me.