

LARA CROFT
TOMB RAIDER

THE DIAMOND TOTEM

ENGLAND

FADE IN:

EXT. MOTORWAY - NIGHT

RAIN SPLATTERS DOWN onto the window on an SUV as it screams along the motorway at an almost frightening speed.

It's just crossing a large section of bridge, in the pitch blackness of the night.

It's the only thing around, and it's incredibly late - possibly very early morning.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

At the drivers wheel is a SUITED MAN, looking frantic. Every so often, he checks his SATNAV - which is directing him towards CROFT MANOR.

He attempts to speed up, but he's going at full speed. He grimaces and slams his hand on the wheel, frustrated.

EXT. MOTORWAY - NIGHT

Back watching the exterior of the car - until a small EXPLOSION on the back right wheel BLASTS it into the air.

The SUV SAILS through the air - CRASHING down onto the road in it's roof - and completely CRUSHING it. There's no way the man inside could have survived.

And then, a pair of BOOTS come into frame. TRACK UP to reveal the owner of the boots is none other than JACKSON HYDE. He lets out a triumphant smirk, and walks forward.

With a lot of pushing, and the help of two GRUNTS, they flip over the car.

Then, they pull the mangled body of the suited man out of the car.

With a grimace, Hyde reaches out and puts his hand in the man's inside suit pocket - and pulls out a DIAMOND SHARD - an ARM.

He smirks, and turns to walk - when he notices his grunts are no longer with him!

Because in front of him stands a ROBED MONK, with a STAFF clutched in his hands!

Hyde raises an eyebrow, digging a hand into his pocket and pulls out a HANDGUN. The Monk doesn't even flinch.

They stand in silence for several seconds, both waiting for each other to strike -

HYDE

So are you going to -

WHAM!

The handgun shoots out of Hyde's hand and over the edge of the bridge as the Monk SWINGS his staff round.

Hyde recoils in shock, clutching his injured hand as the Monk darts forward, SWOOPING Hyde off his feet with the staff.

Hyde SLAMS to the ground, groaning and as he tries to get up, the Monk steps forward and places one end of the staff on his chest.

With surprising speed, Hyde grabs the staff and thrusts it back, jumping to his feet.

Wielding the Diamond Shard like a weapon, Hyde SWINGS it - and a blast of WHITE ENERGY shoots towards the Monk!

The Monk uses his staff to hoist himself over the beam - but it SLICES the staff in half!

It doesn't seem to phase the Monk, however, as he lands on both feet. Dropping the half of the staff in his hand to the floor, he raises his arms into a fighting stance.

A second later he launches himself at Hyde, barreling him to the ground - and the shard bounces across the ground...

Flipping to his feet, the Monk races after it and scoops it up in one fluid moment when - BANG!

Hyde, still on the floor has another HANDGUN aimed at the Monk. With a grim smile, he falls unconscious -

- just as the Monk JUMPS over the edge of the bridge and out of sight.

And off the wreckage of this place, we -

FADE TO:

INT. CROFT MANOR - MORNING

Footsteps echo in the large entrance hall of Croft Manor as LARA CROFT steps down the grand wooden stairs and across the stone floor towards Bryce's office on the other end of the hall.

The man himself, ZIP, is seated at his computer. Lara's faithful butler, HILARY is with him.

Lara raises an eyebrow - this isn't something that happens too often.

LARA

You've found another shard then, I presume?

Bryce merely grunts a reply. Winston casts him a disgruntled look before replying to Lara:

HILARY

Yes, Lady Croft, I believe Master Bryce has.

BRYCE

(raises eyebrows)
"Master" Bryce?

LARA

(ignoring him)
So, what exotic location am I off to now, then?

HILARY

Uh, actually, it's no-where exotic -
(beat; off look)
- it's here, in England. Just off the "bad part" of London to be specific.

LARA

(surprised)
London?

HILARY

Don't act so surprised - you did translate that table after all.

BRYCE

We're sure of it. My program chased it from Glasgow all the way up to London - before it stopped for several minutes and strayed a little towards the capital at a much slower pace.

Lara furrows her brow, looking on in interest.

LARA

Why, what happened?

HILARY

I crash, I believe. It was on the news this morning.

LARA

You think the person at the wheel has the shard?

BRYCE

Had, actually. He's... well, dead now.

Bryce and Hilary exchange a glance that Lara does not see, continuing on in thought.

LARA

Oh, so someone else took it from him before the cameras arrived, then?

HILARY

Yes, as horrible as it is. And, I have some more bad news, Lady Croft.

LARA

Why? What is it?

HILARY

The victim was Mr. James Rutland.

LARA

Oh, no. James. He must have found the piece and tried to.... Blast! If I hadn't have lost my mobile phone back in Mesopotamia then maybe he wouldn't have...

(beat; quick)

So what happened after the crash? Any news on who took the piece from James?

Bryce starts to tap away at his computer, and brings up a rotating simulation of one of the Diamond Shards. Annotations surround it.

BRYCE

We don't know. But my program registered a large amount of energy coming from the crime scene.

(beat)

It appears the Diamond's can be used as weapons, using energy to burn a subject.

LARA

So there was a fight?

(beat; dark)

Hyde.

BRYCE

Actually, I don't think so. He would have had a chopper on hand to take him back to his HQ, right?

(beat)

(MORE)

BRYCE (CONT'D)

Well, this person walked all the way towards London before stopping at a remote location. It's an abandoned church just south of the crash site but just north of the capital.

LARA

Right, send the co-ordinates to my satnav, and I'll get going as soon as possible.

HILARY

There's, ah, one other thing, Lady Croft.

LARA

Yes, Hilary?

Politely, he directs her gaze to the large glass window to the outside over the staircase, and Lara notices what she hadn't before. It's SNOWING.

LARA (CONT'D)

(shocked)

But, it's only July!

BRYCE

We believe that it's one of the effects of so many Diamond Shards being in one place. The weather's pretty much only screwing up in the south of England.

LARA

Right, well, they'll have to stay with me until I can get back to Peru with all the pieces.

(beat)

Get me those co-ordinates, ASAP. Hilary, have my guns waiting by the door, would you?

HILARY

Certainly, milady.

And as everyone moves off to do their jobs, Lara lets out a sigh and returns to the staircase -

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - DAY

White snow is piled up on the ground and on the roof of the abandoned church. An SUV pulls in, making huge tire tracks in the snow.

The car door opens and out steps Lara, dressed in a blue sweater with a thick brown coat over it and long trousers. She's dressed in winter gear, not her usual outfit in July.

BRYCE (O.S.)
(over headset)
This is it, but the shard is
somewhere underground, because my
scanner can't pick up the exact
location, it just indicates it's in
the church somewhere.

Eyes scanning the area, Lara starts to step towards the door, reaching her hand up to her headset as she does.

LARA
Thanks, Bryce. I have no idea how
the connection will be in here, so
you might get cut off.
(muttering; to herself)
I hope.

BRYCE
What was that?

LARA
Nothing to worry about.
(beat)
Alright, I'm going in.

Lara reaches for the handle and pulls - of course, it's locked. Sighing, she steps back - and then KICKS the lock in! The door slowly swings open and Lara enters...

INT. ABANDONED CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

And Lara's eyes have to adjust to the darkness of the church. Light barely peeks in through the ice-covered windows, and snow whistles past her as she walks forwards.

Dots of snow litter the blood red carpet and Lara's boots echo loudly off the stone floor as she walks towards the center of the church.

She halts, looking round, as if confused.

LARA
(to herself)
What now?

And then, a low RUMBLING.

LARA (CONT'D)
I really don't want to make a habit
out of this.

Frowning, Lara looks around - as the ground below her GIVES WAY and she FALLS into darkness!

CUT TO:

INT. VAULT

With a THUD, Lara lands on a stony floor in a crouch. Drawing her guns, Lara rises to her feet quickly, aiming everywhere.

She's in a dark passage, with a speck of light at the end - an opening. She begins to race towards it, but skids to a halt when she glances at the ground -

- and a few metres in front of her the ground has multiple cracks in it. Nervous, she pulls an empty clip out of her belt and throws it - and SPIKES shoot from the ground!

Lara takes steps back, wondering how she can approach - and races at the wall, RUNNING across it and over the spikes!

Flipping backwards, she lands perfectly, now even closer to the opening.

She takes more steps - and a BLADE swings across the passage in front of her! Lara recoils backwards, breathing heavily.

She considers her options, before dropping to the ground and shuffling across the floor, under the blade.

And as she gets to her feet, a similar blade appears in front of her, but coming from the ground!

Lara sighs, wearisome of these traps, and DIVES over it and through the opening -

INT. THE MONK'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

- and she lands in a perfect roll, getting to her feet quickly with her guns at the ready.

And then her sight falls on something ahead. A robed man with a fatal wound. The Monk.

He raises his head as Lara approaches. She doesn't lower her guns. He smiles weakly at her.

MONK

I am sorry about that. I cannot be too safe, you see. There are people looking for me.

She looks at him, suspicious and her guns still raised. He notices, breaking into a wide smile, as if he finds this amusing.

MONK (CONT'D)

Put them away, you have no need for them here. I will not harm you, could not even if I wanted, for you are the Protector.

Lara lowers her guns slightly, but is still alert and suspicious.

LARA

(on edge)
Who are you?

MONK

I am but a Monk, here to help you on your quest.

LARA

You have the shard?

MONK

Of course.
(beat)
Here.

He raises his hand - and in it is the Diamond Shard he took from Hyde. He indicates for Lara to take it; she does so.

She pockets it, and smiles at him.

LARA

How did you get this?

MONK

That is a long story, and one that will be told at another time. For now, you must leave. Trouble is on the way, that even you may not be able to avoid.

LARA

(nods; grim)
Hyde.

Lara nods curtly, at him.

LARA (CONT'D)

I'll come help, get you the medical help you need.

The Monk only nods at her. Overhead, the sounds of footsteps can be heard. Sighing, Lara turns to the entrance and begins to walk back into the darkness of the tunnel.

And as she disappears, the Monk sighs, leaning back - and we can see that the blood has spread over his entire torso, and it's still seeping out!

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Lara races out, quickly DIVING for cover behind her SUV as a hail of bullets stream towards her from a line of MERCENARIES, with Hyde at their head.

Lara grits her teeth, taking out her pistols and reloading them. After a few seconds and a couple more dents in her car, Lara stands from her hiding place, shooting out.

ONE mercenary goes down in an instant, a shot in the head KILLING him. A stray bullet catches ANOTHER in the arm, but he isn't out.

Lara sinks back, reloading quickly before jumping back out into a sideways roll, shooting all the while. The wounded mercenary is riddled with bullets, as is the one next to him.

Soon, only Hyde and TWO OTHERS are left. Lara ducks behind the side of the church, reloading. She peeks round the corner - and the trio are approaching. Muttering a curse under her breath, she steps out -

- and a BULLET rips through each of the mercenaries on either side of Hyde. He recoils in shock and horror, whereas Lara lets out a triumphant smirk.

Approaching Hyde slowly, she dodges all the shots her FIRES at her - and SPIN KICKS him in the jaw! He's out for the count.

Lara holsters her guns, stepping backwards. After a last look on the scene, she checks her pocket for the Diamond Shard, before returning to the SUV.

BRYCE

Anyone else scared?

HILARY

(quiet)

Me.

LARA

(grim)

Nice to have you two back. Now, I'm coming home. Put the kettle on and run a nice warm bath, I think I'm going to need it after that.

(beat)

Oh, and get an ambulance here straight away. The Monk deserves all the help he can get.

BRYCE

All ready done.

HILARY

I'll get on that tea and the bath,
then?

LARA

That would be lovely.

BRYCE

Got any clue where you want to go
next? Venice, Germany, China - got
a preference?

LARA

(sighs)

Anywhere - just hopefully it's
warmer than this!

And Lara opens the door to the SUV, sliding in and out of
sight.

Seconds later, the engine ROARS to life and Lara reverses the
car out and away from the Church, back onto the motorway.

And as the car roars out of sight, we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ENGLAND