

OVER BLACK: A GUNSHOT.

SMASH CUT:

EXT. PULAU RAKATA KRAKATOA, INDONESIA - 1948 - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS - THE ISLAND

A) TREE TOPS - Birds and monkeys SCREECH and scatter.

B) CANYON - Mist from a distant waterfall fills the gorge.

C) JUNGLE - Lush and green. Thick and impenetrable.

A deflated and torn hot-air balloon, and its crumpled basket hang high from a snarl of branches.

The distinct BUZZ of an approaching plane(O.S.)

INT. PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

The noise is deafening. The co-pilot taps the pilot, and gestures out the window, to below.

EXT - WHITE SAND BEACH - DAY

The ROAR of twin props(O.S.)

PRESTON PHOENIX(30s), lean and muscular, beautiful but bloodied, looks skyward and waves his tattered shirt.

The DC-3 circles and dips its wings.

EXT. THE PHOENIX COMPOUND - COLOMBO, CEYLON - DAY

Calls of wildfowl pierce the air. Gardeners trim and sweep the grounds of the impressive two-storey Colonial.

INT. SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM/STUDY - DAY

White sheers drape an open-to-the-outside room. Safari trophies decorate the space. A WHITE BENGAL TIGER preens on an oversized bed. A TWO-WAY RADIO sits on a table.

An man's arm hangs over the side of a wingback chair. A pistol lies on the floor beside. He's slumped over a desk. Under his head, a newspaper soaks in a pool of blood.

The headline:

*"Flamboyant British Adventurer Missing And Feared Dead"*

From the radio:

This is Rescue Command. Come in. Over.

(pause)

Teddy, are you there? Over.

CUT TO BLACK.