

DuckTales Spec: Ant No Mountain High Enough

written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

SCROOGE paces, talking to HUEY, DEWEY, LOUIE, and WEBBY. He makes a hill out of coins, slams his cane through it.

SCROOGE

These blithering scunners ram-shacked my mansion and stole one of mankind's most dangerous pieces of treasure: the Ruby of the Mind.

LOUIE

Is this some sort of metaphor? Because if there's no actual treasure, I'm out of here.

DEWEY

You're on a plane... so you're out of the plane? Sounds kinda fun! Should we use parachutes?

WEBBY

It's *not* a metaphor. The Ruby of the Mind is one of the most powerful pieces of treasure of all time! Whoever holds it controls the minds of whoever they want!

LOUIE

Sounds safe and like nothing bad can happen at all, also where are the parachutes and what's the best plane door to open up in the air?

SCROOGE

They took as much of my treasure as they could to their hideout in Mt. Insectia. We're going there to steal it back.

LOUIE

So there's a lot of treasure? Fine, I'll stay on the plane.

LAUNCHPAD walks up behind them.

LAUNCHPAD

Hey, I'm a little confused on the directions.

SCROOGE
Launchpad, who's flying the plane?

LAUNCHPAD
I am!

Beat.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
Oh, right.

Launchpad walks back to the pilot seat. Everyone joins.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
As I was saying, I'm noticing
something strange on the flight
path.

SCROOGE
Looks about right to me!

They all look out the window.

EXT. MCDUCK MANOR - CONTINUOUS

DONALD whistles, waters the grass outside his houseboat. He looks up, sees the plane heading toward him. He stops whistling, slowly waves his arms. The plane continues toward him, he waves more frantically, starts screaming in fear.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

HUEY
We're going to crash into Donald!
Pull the plane up at a thirty-seven
degree angle! Going approximately
885 kilometers per hour, we should-

SCROOGE
No, Launchpad, don't change the
direction!

HUEY
It's not specifically stated in the
Jr. Woodchuck Guide, but I'm pretty
sure it's against Woodchuck Code to
crash a plane into someone!

The plane nears Donald. Inter-cut between him and everyone in the plane screaming. Besides Scrooge, talking over everyone.

SCROOGE

Of course it's not, but don't worry
about that! We won't be crashing
into Donald, at least not today.

Scrooge pulls the SHRINK-RAY out of his coat, zaps the plane
right before crashing into Donald. The plane zooms over
Donald's head. He finishes screaming, faints. Everyone on the
plane stops screaming, except Dewey.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

And here we are. Welcome to- Dewey!

Dewey opens his eyes, stops screaming, embarrassed.

DEWEY

What? I was screaming because it
was fun.

SCROOGE

As I was saying: Welcome to
Insectus, home of Mt. Insectia!

EXT. INSECTUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The plane lands on a leaf, slides down into a mound of dirt.
Everyone looks out the windows at Insectus: filled with
different kinds of INSECTS hustling about as if at a market.
Behind them is a large anthill, Mt. Insectia.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

LAUNCHPAD

I would have known we were on the
right path if the name was more on-
the-nose than Mt. Insectia. How
does that relate to bugs at all?

Everyone face-palms in unison.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**EXT. INSECTUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

Everyone exits the plane, landing on a tiny leaf. The leaf slides down the small mound of dirt, everyone except Launchpad jumps off with ease. Launchpad tumbles.

SCROOGE

We're safe until we get inside Mt. Insectia.

LOUIE

Then maybe we shouldn't go *inside* the mountain...

SCROOGE

Come on, now. There's never been worthwhile treasure without danger! Let's make our way up the mountain!

Webby looks around in awe. She watches younger insects using leaves to ski down the mountain's lower parts. Webby looks up at various leaf types.

WEBBY

I wish we had more time here! So many different leaves and blades of grass to do things with! Like skiing, or paragliding, or snow-er, sandboarding, or-

SCROOGE

No time for shenanigans. Goodness knows what kind of mischief that ninny is causing with my Ruby.

HUEY

Wait... how do we make sure he doesn't control our minds?

SCROOGE

Don't let the leader look at you directly in your eyes.

DEWEY

How do we know who the leader is? And who is he the leader of?

SCROOGE

He'll be wearing one of my golden crowns.

LOUIE

A crown?! I want a crown! What other treasure is there? Can I have it?

SCROOGE

The only thing that matters is me getting my Ruby back.

WEBBY

Hold on, how do you know it's a he? Wouldn't a queen rule Mt. Insectia?

SCROOGE

Yes, of course. But someone with evil, dastardly desires would take over, for power, and wealth!

Louie stares at the mountain with greedy eyes. Turns back to everyone.

LOUIE

Did you say something about me?

SCROOGE

No, I'm talking about-

Scrooge grimaces.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Red Poison...

Everyone looks at Scrooge. They double-over laughing.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

What are you laughing at? He's evil and has an appropriately evil name!

DEWEY

Who would name them-self that?

WEBBY

That's such a ridiculous name!

LAUNCHPAD

Red... it's a color!

HUEY

Let me guess, he's a fire-ant?

SCROOGE

Yes, he is, and-

LOUIE

Uncle Scrooge is afraid of a fire-
ant! Who names himself Red Poison!

Scrooge is displeased.

LOUIE (CONT'D)

You've faced perilous danger, but
you can't handle a little bite and
itchiness?

Everyone continues laughing.

SCROOGE

We'll see who's laughing once we're
inside that mountain.

Scrooge, everyone following, heads toward the mountain. Near
the mountain, Launchpad gets pulled aside by a Cockroach
wearing black eye-goggles.

COCKROACH

Hey pal, about to head up the
mountain, are ya?

LAUNCHPAD

Sure am!

COCKROACH

Well then, you're gonna need to rub
some fine leaf oil on your
forehead. Protect your brain.

LAUNCHPAD

My brain? What would happen to my
brain?

COCKROACH

A big, strong, ideally hard-working
guy like you wouldn't want a
brilliant mind like yours
controlled by Red Poison.

Launchpad giggles.

LAUNCHPAD

Heh, Red. Yes, sounds like a good
idea! Where can I get this oil?

COCKROACH

From me, of course! How much you
wanna buy? How about all of it?

LAUNCHPAD

I'm trying to remember what Scrooge said about buying things from Cockroaches hiding their eyes. Probably to do it. Sure, all of it! How much?

COCKROACH

Hmm, how about 250 bug-bucks?

Launchpad checks his pockets. Empty.

LAUNCHPAD

Do you take credit cards? And can I go get one?

COCKROACH

What? No, of course not! There are no credit cards here. But you could pay with some hard work.

LAUNCHPAD

I don't want to get my brilliant mind controlled, and you seem like a trustworthy guy. Put me to work!

COCKROACH

Excellent, come with me.

LAUNCHPAD

I should let the others know where I'm going.

COCKROACH

No, no, no. They'll find their way.

Launchpad walks away with the Cockroach.

EXT. MT. INSECTIA - DAY - LATER

Scrooge, Huey, Dewey, Louie, and Webby climb the mountain. Dewey and Webby race ahead.

SCROOGE

We should be fine going up the mountain, just need to adjust to the-

A shift in the sand. Dewey and Webby fall backwards to the bottom. A sand-cloud flies into Scrooge's face.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Sand.

DEWEY
That was awesome!

WEBBY
Race you to the top again!

They run back up past Scrooge, Louie, and Huey.

LOUIE
Just don't get sand on me, I want
to look great when I wear my crown.

Dewey and Webby fall down again, yelling with excitement.
Sand covers Louie.

LOUIE (CONT'D)
Of course. It's because I said
something.

SCROOGE
Be quiet! We don't want to let
anyone inside know we're here.

DEWEY
How would anyone know we're here?

WEBBY
Yeah, anthills are formed so
structurally sound our noise can't
break through! It's quite
impressive, actual- Weeeeeee!

Dewey and Webby tumble down the hill again.

HUEY
I think *they* could hear us and let
the inside know.

Huey points at LARGE ANT GUARDS standing atop the mountain.

SCROOGE
We don't want them knowing we're
here. Quick, cover yourself with
sand. Blend into the mountain!

Louie cleans off the remaining sand on his sweater. Sighs.
Everyone lies down, covers themselves in sand. They crawl up
the mountain, reapplying sand as needed.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)
Excellent! We need to do this all
the way to the top. Stay quiet-

Suddenly, Scrooge is lifted by FELIX'S ant-hand.

FELIX (O.S.)
Scrooge?!

Off Scrooge's scared look:

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK OF MT. INSECTIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Cockroach guides Launchpad to a tunnel leading into the mountain's base.

COCKROACH
See this sand surrounding the mountain? Bring it inside, finish building the fifth cage on the left.

LAUNCHPAD
Fifth cage on the left. Got it.

COCKROACH
Whatever you do, don't go into the cage on the right.

LAUNCHPAD
You got it! Left is right. Right is... not left. So, right is not right. Right?

COCKROACH
Yes, right, or... left. Right. Now, get started!

LAUNCHPAD
You got it, trustworthy Cockroach!

Launchpad grabs a pile of sand, walks through the tunnel. He walks past several cages containing the remnants of previous travelers: skeletons, shields, swords...

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
Seem like sturdy sand-cages! Ahh, safety.

Launchpad applies sand to a cage's unfinished bars. Goes back outside, grabs more sand.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
How many cages do you need me to finish?

COCKROACH

Let's start with... all of them.

LAUNCHPAD

If you say so. Also, what are these cages for?

COCKROACH

Good things, of course!

LAUNCHPAD

Good things, of course. That makes sense. Cages have only ever been used for good things. Sorry for the dumb question.

Launchpad walks back through the tunnel. He trips on a skeleton by the fifth cage on the left, tumbles into darkness. He rises, turns around, picks up the sand.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

I fall so much. Hurts every time!
Where was I? Right, left is right.

Turned around, across from the right cage, Launchpad opens the cage on his left. Door shuts behind him.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

Wait. Which left was-

SHAKING. From the cage's darkness... two eyes appear. Red and yellow flashes. The eyes of a LARGE LADYBUG. She walks with menace toward Launchpad. Stares down at him.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

Okay, so it was the other left.

Off Launchpad's concerned look:

Camera zooms out of cage, pans up the mountain's inside: several rows of cages, a glamorous royal quarters near the top... out the mountain. Camera passes by ant-guards, stops on Scrooge, held by Felix.

SCROOGE

Hi, Felix.

Reveal Felix is smiling. No threat.

FELIX

Hi, Scrooge! Oh, it's nice to see you!

SCROOGE

It's nice to see you, too, Felix.
But we need to be quiet!

Huey, Dewey, Louie, and Webby stare in confusion.

DEWEY

Who is that, Uncle Scrooge?

FELIX

I'm Felix! Your Uncle Scrooge here
saved me from Red Poison.

They try not bursting out laughing.

HUEY

Wait, you've been here before?

FELIX

Of course! Came down here wearing a
crown with a really nice Ruby in
it. Red Poison stole it from him
and took over everyone inside.

HUEY

I thought you said they stole it
from your mansion?

WEBBY

What were you trying to do with the
Ruby?

LOUIE

Am I covered in sand for bad
reasons?

SCROOGE

Eh... I can explain.

FELIX

Explain what? Running away from the
mountain after saving me because
you couldn't take on the entire
army by yourself?

DEWEY

Ran away?

HUEY

Army?

LOUIE

My shirt is so sandy!

SCROOGE

Okay, maybe they didn't steal from my mansion. And maybe I originally came down here with bad intentions. And *maybe* Red Poison created an army I ran away from in fear.

HUEY

And maybe his name isn't so funny anymore, now I know he has AN ARMY!

SCROOGE

It's going to be okay, because we'll be QUIET and sneak into-

Scrooge is interrupted by RED POISON, eyes flashing red and yellow. The guards' eyes match. Red Poison wears the crown holding the ruby.

RED POISON

Sneaking into where, Scrooge?
Guards, grab them!

Scrooge looks around at everyone. Except for Felix, they all look at him with disappointment.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. MT. INSECTIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

Guards run down the mountain toward Scrooge, Huey, Dewey, Louie, Webby, and Felix.

SCROOGE

I'm sorry I wasn't fully honest with you guys. I didn't want you thinking poorly of me. I was young and selfish with my wealth.

HUEY

Are you saying you wanted to take over the minds of a bunch of bugs because you were power-hungry?!

SCROOGE

Well, to boil it down to the simplest answer... yes.

Nearby guards approach.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Use the sand to your advantage, we can take two of them on!

Ants bombarded with balls of sand; sand version of a snowball fight. Dodged sand-balls hit Louie. He sighs each time.

HUEY

Don't try distracting us from the real problem just because we're being attacked!

DEWEY

Uhh... It's a pretty real distraction, Huey.

SCROOGE

No, you're right, Huey. I was blinded by the possibility of controlling them.

WEBBY

But, why ants?

SCROOGE

They were eating my yard!

HUEY

You mean they were BEING ANTS?!

SCROOGE

I wanted them to do my bidding,
foraging small pieces of gold they
could leave atop the grass for me.
I thought it was a brilliant idea.

One of the guards lifts Scrooge.

HUEY

Still think it's a brilliant idea?

Louie throws a sand-ball, hits Scrooge's face. Louie looks pleased, Scrooge disgruntled. Webby and Dewey flank the guard with sand-balls, hitting his face. Guard drops Scrooge. Scrooge knocks the guard off his feet with his cane. Huey, Felix, and Louie throw multiple sand-balls at the other guard. He goes down. Louie keeps throwing sand-balls at him out of aggression. Huey taps him on the shoulder.

LOUIE

Sorry, I got carried away. I
just... I hate sand!

SCROOGE

I'm sorry, let's get out of here.
I'll take care of this another
time.

DEWEY

I don't think that's possible.

SCROOGE

Why's that, Dewey?

DEWEY

Maybe you should look around, Uncle
Scrooge.

Scrooge looks, sees an entire ARMY of ants standing around them. More ants come out of the anthill. All their eyes flash red and yellow.

SCROOGE

It's no problem, we'll reverse the
shrink ray and-

Scrooge pats his jacket, concerned.

HUEY

Let me guess. You left the shrink
ray in the airplane to make room
for your treasure.

LOUIE
Brilliant idea! Except, not now.
Now it's not a brilliant idea.

SCROOGE
No, it's really not. Launchpad, run
away and get the airplane!

No response.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)
Launchpad?

They look around for Launchpad. Nothing.

RED POISON
Bring them to me, alive!

The ants grab them. Off Scrooge's apologetic look:

CUT TO:

INT. CAGE - CONTINUOUS

The ladybug peers down at Launchpad, now wary.

LAUNCHPAD
Hey there, my name is Launchpad. No
need to-

Ladybug head-butts Launchpad, knocks him down.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
Alright, miss ladybug. I- what's
wrong with your eyes, ma'am?

Ladybug flies above Launchpad. He's confused...

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
Uh oh.

The ladybug tries crashing onto Launchpad. He rolls away.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
I would not feel very lucky if you
landed on me, madame.

Ladybug backs Launchpad against a wall. Face to face,
Launchpad prepares accepting defeat. Covers his eyes, reaches
his hand out in mercy, desperation.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

It's okay! I'm not going to hurt you!

Ladybug retracts. Eyes stop flashing red and yellow, return to normal. Ladybug runs to Launchpad; he screams in fear. Instead of attacking Launchpad, ladybug nuzzles him.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

There we go, much nicer and less death-threatening. I gotta finish building these cages for this Cockroach guy I fully trust. You wait here, I'll be right back.

Launchpad exits the cage, goes back outside through the tunnel, approaches Cockroach.

COCKROACH

Where have you been?! I got worried my strongest, hardest worker was eaten alive by the ladybug.

LAUNCHPAD

Oh, no, of course not. She and I are best buds now, actually.

Cockroach backs away.

COCKROACH

What do you mean? Are you two going to team up and eat me?!

Cockroach trips over a mound of sand. His goggles pop off, revealing flashing red and yellow eyes. Launchpad extends his hand to help him up.

LAUNCHPAD

Of course not! As I promised to the ladybug, I'm not going to hurt you, either.

Cockroach's eyes stop flashing red and yellow. Hops up, hugs Launchpad.

COCKROACH

Thank you! Thank you so much! But come on, let's run away before he takes control of my mind again!

Cockroach runs away. Launchpad calls after him.

LAUNCHPAD

I've gotta finish building your cages! I'll grab the oil from you when I'm done!

(to self)

What a guy, trying to let me off work early.

Launchpad brings more sand into the tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTHILL - CONTINUOUS

Ants hold Scrooge, Huey, Dewey, Louie, Webby, and Felix. On a leaf-platform, they're lowered by a spider-web rope. The platform stops at a cage. Red Poison speaks to them.

RED POISON

You thought you could steal back your precious treasure? This Ruby gives me the power to control this entire army and overthrow the Queen! Everyone listens to me and does my bidding. I would never let you take that away from me! After you tried forcing us to work for you?! My fellow ant brethren, throw them in the cage! I don't want to take over their minds. I want them to be conscious for this.

Ants throw them into the cage. Red Poison grabs Felix, looks into his eyes. They flash red and yellow...

RED POISON (CONT'D)

Except for you, Felix. You thought you could remain free forever, but now you're just another toy soldier in my army. Don't let them escape!

Felix shuts the cage, locks it.

SCROOGE

Felix, no! You're off your head, Red Poison! Let him free.

RED POISON

Never! He'll follow me, as will everyone once my army grows large enough to make me the most powerful ant in the world! Bring me to my chambers, brothers.

The platform rises. Red Poison leaves them in the cage. Webby takes a small twig out of her pocket, strikes the wall, creating a small torch.

WEBBY

I know you're about to argue with each other, so how about we find a way out of here instead?

HUEY

(to Scrooge)

Now look where your hunger for power has gotten us!

Webby sighs. Dewey joins her, looking for a way out.

LOUIE

At least I'm not going to die by the hand of sand.

Ground trembles, sand falls on Louie.

LOUIE (CONT'D)

Oh, that's right. This whole place is made of sand. Great!

HUEY

Fantastic, we're going to drown in sand and I'll never get all of my Jr. Woodchuck Badges.

DEWEY

That's what you're worried about right now?

WEBBY

And besides, I don't think drowning in sand is our biggest threat.

SCROOGE

What makes you say that, Webby?

Webby flashes fire-light over multiple skeletons covered in spider-webs.

WEBBY

Just a guess. Hold on... There's a message written in hieroglyphs on these webs.

Webby rubs her finger along a web covering a skeleton.

LOUIE

Oh, no, eww! Don't touch that!

WEBBY

Interesting, it seems to be a message of peace, looking for help.

Webby moves the fire-light, illuminating a GIANT SPIDER hanging upside down from the ceiling. Giant spider flips over, lands on the ground. More sand falls onto Louie. Louie groans. Spider shows its fangs.

DEWEY

That doesn't look very peaceful.

SCROOGE

Listen here, you blithering bundle of legs, stay away from my-

Spider shoots a web at Scrooge, sticks him to the ground.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

I know this might be a bad time to ask, but... can you guys help me out a little?

Scrooge smiles, pleading. Everyone, disappointed, looks at him. Spider starts shooting webs. Everyone dodges.

CUT TO:

INT. CAGE - CONTINUOUS

Launchpad returns with more sand, continues building cage bars. Ladybug hits the bars inside her cage, gets Launchpad's attention.

LAUNCHPAD

What's wrong, Lady Luck? Want me to let you out?

Ladybug continues hitting her cage bars.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

I don't speak bug, ma'am, but I'm going to take that as a yes.

Launchpad opens the cage. Ladybug bursts out, forcing Launchpad onto its back.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)

Woah, there! Are you going to help me build these cages? It might be faster, but I don't think you'll be able to fit through that tunnel.

Ladybug starts flying. Its largeness crashes into and destroys multiple cages.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Hey, now! Not very kind, ma'am. I'm going to have to rebuild all those if I want to pay for my fine leaf oil!

Ladybug flies up. Destroys all the cages.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Oh, no! That's so much work!

They fly by the cage containing everyone else. Felix prevents the cage from being crushed. Ladybug continues flying.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Turn around! My friends are down there, testing a cage to see if I need to fix it.

Ladybug face-palms, shakes its head, continues flying.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 This is important, I need to talk to them! Stop flying up!

Launchpad realizes...

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Flying! You're flying! I know how to fly things.

Launchpad grabs ladybug's back, pilots to the cage. Felix throws Launchpad off ladybug, pins him down.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Why do I keep getting pinned against things?!

Felix draws his fist to knock Launchpad out.

LAUNCHPAD (CONT'D)
 Please, stop! I know you might think I'm here to hurt you, but I promise I'm not going to hurt you. I just need to build cages so that-

Felix's eyes return to normal. He hugs Launchpad.

FELIX
 Thank you!

LAUNCHPAD

Wow, lots of bug hugs today. Heh.
Bug hugs.

(to everyone else)

Hey, guys! How is the cage? Looks
like you're having fun in there!

Spider continues shooting webs. Everyone tries avoiding
danger.

SCROOGE

Launchpad! Where have you been?

LAUNCHPAD

Well, I went to work for the man,
who is a cockroach. He sent me to
build cages where I met the lady,
who's a ladybug. They both had
crazy eyes, kinda like that spider!
Then they didn't, and I got bug
hugs. Which is a fun phrase. "Bug
hugs."

WEBBY

How did you make their eyes return
to normal?

LAUNCHPAD

I dunno! I got pinned down a bunch.

DEWEY

Scrooge already tried that, what
else did you do?

LAUNCHPAD

I ran around a little bit.

LOUIE

I'M SO SANDY, LAUNCHPAD, AND I HATE
IT! SO TELL US, WHAT DID YOU DO?!

Launchpad checks the cage bars.

LAUNCHPAD

Those are sturdy, someone did good
work.

ALL

LAUNCHPAD!

LAUNCHPAD

Oh, yeah! I promised them it's okay
and I wasn't going to hurt them.

WEBBY

Oh, that makes so much sense!

HUEY

You guys distract the spider, I'll
get close to it!

Webby, Louie, and Dewey dodge spider's webs and attacks. Spider runs into the wall. Sand falls over Louie. Louie forms a sand-ball, throws it at spider. Spider turns to Louie. From the cage's opposing sides, Webby and Dewey swing on webs, tie spider down. Before spider breaks free, Huey approaches it, extends his hand, scared.

HUEY (CONT'D)

Hey there, Mr. Spider. Huey here,
very scared. Just want to let you
know I promise it's okay, I'm not
going to hurt you.

Spider breaks free from the web, eyes return to normal. Spider prances on Huey, hugging him.

LAUNCHPAD

Yay, bug hugs!

HUEY

Too close! This is too close!

Spider jumps off Huey, nuzzles everyone. Scrooge breaks free from the web, pets spider's head.

SCROOGE

(to spider)

It's okay, I know you didn't mean
any harm. I'm sorry if I did when I
first came here.

Spider nuzzles Scrooge. Forgiveness.

HUEY

Now, how do we get out of here?

LAUNCHPAD

I don't know, the architectural
structure of this cage is very
impressive. Wish I was responsible
for building it.

SCROOGE

I've got an idea.

Scrooge hops onto spider's back, aims at the gate, presses spider's head with his cane. Web flies out, attaches to cage's bars.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Alright, pal, let's pull back with
all your strength!

Everyone pushes spider back, web still attached to bars. They continue pushing until cage breaks open. Everyone jumps on spider. Felix and Launchpad get on ladybug. Spider climbs the mountain's inside. Ladybug flies up. Felix looks down.

FELIX

Wait, I can't leave yet! I don't
want to leave my family behind
again this time.

SCROOGE

Don't worry, Felix. We're not
leaving yet. We're facing Red
Poison.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. MT. INSECTIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Climbing continues. The group reaches Red Poison's quarters.

SCROOGE

Launchpad, stay out here with the insects. Huey, Louie, Dewey, and Webby, come with me. Don't make eye contact with him.

Scrooge, Huey, Louie, Dewey, and Webby sneak into Red Poison's quarters. Red Poison sits on a lavish chair made of grass blades, facing away. Scrooge sneaks up behind him, grabs him, turns him around.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Listen up! It's okay and I'm not going to hurt you!

Nothing happens to Red Poison's eyes.

RED POISON

(sarcastic)

Oh nooo, I'm becoming a better bug, thank you so much.

WEBBY

It won't work unless you mean it!

SCROOGE

Oh now that's a load of-

Scrooge realizes something. Closes his eyes.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Close your eyes!

The group closes their eyes. A large army emits from Red Poison's quarters.

RED POISON

Oh, when will you learn, Scrooge McDuck? My army will take control of you! We will reverse your shrink-ray and grow! Then, I can squish you. I'll take over your mansion, and soon, the world!

HUEY

And I thought your plan was evil,
Uncle Scrooge! I mean, it still
was, but wow, this one's worse!

SCROOGE

Whatever you do, don't open your
eyes!

RED POISON

My ant brethren, attack those
ducks!

WEBBY

Wait, the only one who can control
our minds is Red Poison, right?

SCROOGE

That's right! Everyone, open your
eyes!

Everyone opens their eyes. The army's closing in.

LOUIE

Actually, this is really scary. I
prefer keeping my eyes closed.

DEWEY

Every part of this place is made of
sand. Use your surroundings!

The group makes sand-balls, throws them at incoming ants.
Some ants are knocked down. Scrooge tries fending ants off
with his cane. Too many ants... Defeat is imminent...

SCROOGE

I'm sorry, lads. There are too
many, we can't take them all alone.

Launchpad BURSTS into the room riding ladybug, Felix right
behind riding spider. Everyone has their eyes closed.

LAUNCHPAD

We're here to help!

HUEY

You can open your eyes, we're
fighting off the army!

LAUNCHPAD

What's that? I can't hear you, I'm
blindly leading everyone! Good
thing I have Lady Luck on my side.
Alright Felix, lean forward and go!

Launchpad and Felix lean forward on their insects. They charge forward, mow down several ants.

SCROOGE

Felix, press down on the spider's head to shoot a web!

Felix pushes down on spider's head, shoots a web at Scrooge. Huey frees Scrooge from the web. Everyone fights off ants.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Do that, but with better aim!

FELIX

You got it, Scrooge!

Scrooge, finally free, gets shot with another web. He sighs. Huey again takes him out of the web.

HUEY

If we want to get out alive, you need to promise Red Poison you're not going to hurt him.

SCROOGE

Oh, but I really want to hurt him!

HUEY

I know. But you need to forgive him.

SCROOGE

But he stole from me!

HUEY

And you tried to steal his mind! You tried stealing the lives of every ant here. He's just as power-hungry as you were. That's how you could have ended up.

Scrooge lets this sink in.

SCROOGE

You're right, Huey. I'm sorry. It's time to-

Launchpad grabs everyone, hoists them onto ladybug. They fly off. Felix follows.

LAUNCHPAD

Escape! I love finishing people's sentences.

SCROOGE

That's not what I was going to say!
I was going to say it's time to
forgive Red Poison and promise I'm
not going to hurt him.

LAUNCHPAD

Uhhh... A little late for that.
We're approaching daylight.

The group makes it outside, land atop the anthill, dismount
the insects.

SCROOGE

That's too bad. I was looking
forward to forgiving him. Huey,
there's something I think you
deserve.

WEBBY

Can it wait? Because I guess we
forgot ants can leave their hill!

Ants exit the hill, led by Red Poison.

RED POISON

Get them!

SCROOGE

Launchpad, get me to Red Poison!

Launchpad puts Scrooge on ladybug. Webby grabs two leaves,
hands one to Dewey. They share a nod. Webby and Dewey grab
onto ladybug, flying up. Louie, Dewey, and Felix hop on
spider, web ants, chase them down Mt. Insectia.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

(to Webby and Dewey)

What are you two doing?!

Webby and Dewey give each other a thumbs up. They leaf-
paraglide down the hill, kick ants down. Ants tumble into
each other; domino effect! Webby and Dewey land on their
leaves, ride them like snowboards. Swerve! They kick sand
into ants' faces. Their leaves split in two; they ski-ride
them to the hill's base. Ants, Felix, Huey, and Louie catch
up. Scrooge jumps off ladybug, lands on Red Poison, pins him
down with his cane. Scrooge closes his eyes.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry. I'm sorry for
trying to take over you and the
rest of the ants' lives.

(MORE)

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

And I forgive you for stealing from me and craving this power.

RED POISON

How do I know you mean it?

SCROOGE

Because...

Scrooge opens his eyes, looks directly at Red Poison.

SCROOGE (CONT'D)

I promise it's okay. I'm not going to hurt you.

Reveal Scrooge no longer pinning Red Poison down with his cane, instead offering his hand to help him up. Red Poison takes off his crown, puts it in Scrooge's hand. Ants break out of their haze, hug everyone.

LAUNCHPAD (O.S.)

Buuuuug huuuuugs!

Launchpad flies into frame on ladybug, joins in on hugs. Red Poison embraces Scrooge.

LOUIE

Too many bugs. Too many hugs. Too little treasure. At least there's no more-

Group of ants pour a leaf-made-bucket of sand onto Louie, like football players pouring Gatorade on their coach.

LOUIE (CONT'D)

Yep, that's about right.

QUEEN ANT appears atop the hill. All ants turns to her, bow.

FELIX

Mom! I've missed you so much! In fact, I believe we all have.

Ants cheer in agreement.

QUEEN

I've missed you, too, my children. Thank you to the big, strong, hard-worker who crashed his ladybug through my cage.

LAUNCHPAD

Would you like me to fix it?

QUEEN

No, I prefer a cage is never made again. Except for one bad little boy.

All turn to Red Poison, trying to sneak away.

RED POISON

I'm sorry, mama. I just wanted to-

QUEEN

Take a time-out?

LAUNCHPAD

She likes finishing others' sentences, too!

QUEEN

Because that's where you're going, for a long time.

SCROOGE

Well, Red Poison, at least I forgave you.

Ants take Red Poison back into Mt. Insectia. Felix rides spider into the mountain. From atop the mountain:

FELIX

Thanks again, Scrooge! Can't wait to see you again!

SCROOGE

I'll have to think about coming back. Huey, as I was trying to tell you earlier, there's something I think you've earned: your Jr. Woodchuck Compassion Badge. Thank you, Huey.

HUEY

Thank you, Uncle Scrooge.

Louie takes the crown out of Scrooge's hand. Webby takes the crown before Louie places it on his head.

LOUIE

Hey, I went through a lot of sand to earn that!

WEBBY

No way we trust you with it.

Louie lunges for the crown, Webby passes it to Dewey.

DEWEY

Yeah, I'm not ready to do your bidding.

They continue passing it back and forth over Louie. Launchpad says goodbye to ladybug and spider.

LAUNCHPAD

You've provided me with a lifetime of luck, ma'am. I hope I have done even a fraction of that for you. Now, fly off and be your own pilot, Lady Luck.

Ladybug flies off. Launchpad waves goodbye, a tear in his eye.

SCROOGE

Alright, let's head back home!

Everyone inside the airplane, time to fly home. They land on the yard... ZAP! Big again. Donald wakes up from his fainting spell, stands up, turns around, walks head-first into the airplane, falls down.

END EPISODE