

The Fortune of Fortunes

By

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Joel Bradley, 2014

INT.HOME OFFICE - MORNING

CAMERA PEERS THROUGH ROTATING CEILING FAN BLADES. A CLOCK TICKS.

RUDY sits at a desk. He stares at a blank word document with his hands on his cheeks.

RUDY

Ugh!

Rudy hits head on desk and rolls his head around. A couple seconds pass and then he raises his head and looks back at his computer. He sees a fortune cookie sitting on his desk out of the corner of his eye. Rudy picks up the fortune cookie and cracks it open. He pulls out the piece of paper.

THE CAMERA DOES NOT SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

CU RUDY LOOKS AT CAMERA WITH DETERMINATION.

CUT TO

EXT. FROZEN TUNDRA - EVENING

Rudy walks through icy plains, and holds his hands up to block his face from the high winds. The winds die down and he looks through binoculars. In the distance he sees a group of penguins. He watches as they waddle around. He puts down his binoculars and pulls out his backpack. AS he opens his traveling bag He finds a fortune cookie inside. He opens the fortune cookie and reads the piece of paper.

THE CAMERA DOES NOT SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

CU RUDY LOOKS AT CAMERA WITH DETERMINATION.

CUT TO

EXT. SKY - DAY

Rudy jumps out of an airplane and skydives. He falls for a while and then pulls his parachute. He laughs in excitement. He looks over and sees a fortune cookie with a small parachute attached to it. Rudy opens the fortune cookie, and reads it.

THE CAMERA DOES NOT SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

CU RUDY LOOKS AT CAMERA WITH DETERMINATION.

CUT TO

EXT. RAIN FOREST - DAY

Rudy walks through a rain forest and sees many different creatures he has never seen before. He brings out a camera and takes a picture of the many different animals. A PARROT sits on a tree branch.

PARROT

Awk! What does your future hold?

Rudy looks at the parrot confused.

PARROT

Awk! What does your future hold?

Parrot swoops down close to Rudy and drops a fortune cookie. Rudy opens the fortune cookie and reads the note inside.

THE CAMERA DOES NOT SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

CU RUDY LOOKS AT CAMERA WITH DETERMINATION.

CUT TO

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Rudy stops by the ancient Egyptian pyramids. He gazes at them in awe. A scorpion walks up next to him. Rudy sees the scorpion has a fortune cookie stuck in its stinger. Rudy quickly grabs the fortune cookie off of the scorpion, opens it, reads it, and then quickly walks away from the scorpion.

THE CAMERA DOES NOT SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

CU RUDY LOOKS AT CAMERA WITH DETERMINATION.

EXT. BOAT DAY

Rudy goes whale watching and sees three large whales jump out of the water in the distance. CARL the boat driver turns the boat to get closer to look at the animals.

CARL

So what brings you out here t'day?

RUDY

Would you believe that a fortune cookie told me to come here?

(CONTINUED)

CARL

Hey, when you have been out on seas for as long as I have you hear a lot weirder things than that. What did the fortune say exactly?

RUDY

Well...actually.

CUT TO

FLASH BACK TO ALL OF THE FORTUNE COOKIES RUDY HAS OPENED SO FAR EXCEPT FOR THE VERY FIRST ONE ON HIS DESK.

RUDY (V.O.)

It was a series of fortune cookies, it wasn't just one. Each one told me something new, and each one had a new adventure waiting for me. Each of them never let me down. I experienced things I never would have experienced and I began to see things I never dreamed of seeing before in my life.

CUT TO

INT. HOME OFFICE - MORNING

FLASHBACK TO FIRST SCENE

Rudy looks over at a fortune cookie on his desk.

RUDY (V.O.)

And you know the thing is.

Rudy slowly grabs the fortune cookie and reads it.

RUDY (V.O.)

The words were not set in print or ink. Instead, my fortune was what I wanted it to be.

CU OF BLANK FORTUNE COOKIE PAPER.

RUDY V.O.

'Cause you see the thing is, we can believe in fortunes, but fortunes are meaningless without some sort of desire to fulfill that fortune for ourselves. Fortunes shouldn't shape us, but rather we should shape our fortunes.

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4.

CUT TO

EXT. BOAT - PRESENT DAY

RUDY

It would be great if fortunes really did come true without action and our entire life was laid out for us, but the thing is that simply isn't possible. We all have a choice as to what we do with our lives, and it is a matter of choosing how fulfilling of a life you want to live.

CUT TO

INT. HOME OFFICE - MORNING

Rudy gets out of his chair and leaves.

THE CAMERA IS LEFT STARING AT A BLANK FORTUNE COOKIE PAPER.

CUT TO

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Rudy packs his bags, and the camera sees many of the items he wore throughout his journey.

RUDY (V.O.)

And I don't think I would have been inspired to have done anything if I didn't choose for myself to constantly pursue an adventure and get out of my comfort zone.

CUT TO

EXT. BOAT - PRESENT DAY

CARL

I'm not sure I fully understand.

A whale rises out of the water near the boat. It sprays a fortune cookie out of its blow hole and it lands in the boat. Rudy looks at the fortune cookie and picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

RUDY

Well this is the easiest way for me
to explain.

Rudy Gives the fortune cookie to Carl.

RUDY

Best of luck wherever you end up.

Rudy walks off screen.

Carl opens fortune cookie and reads it.

HE LOOKS AT THE CAMERA DETERMINED.

CUT TO

A Fortune cookie sits on the black background. It opens
itself, and a quote by Mark Twain reads "Twenty years from
now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't
do than by the ones you did do. Explore. Dream. Discover."

FADE TO BLACK