

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY

From the stories of BIRDIE, BO & BINGO

Written by Keith English and Mike Gordon.

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Telephone for more details: 805-729-5911  
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FADE IN:

EXT. MED WIDE SHOT

A tranquil meadow on a summer's day. Blue sky with puffy clouds. In the distance a small hamlet of cottages. A couple of random birds are flying in the distance. Closer to camera some flowers. A bee lands on a flower. The flower sways gently.

A beat and then ...

Butterfly flutters through the set left to right.

A beat and then ...

The bee looks frame left and then flies off frame right. Turmoil erupts as first Bingo bounces through the scene, closely pursued by BIRDIE (net in hand) who comes into frame half a frame behind Bingo. They both exit.

A beat ... the bee flies back into frame and settles on the flower again.

BO runs across, jar in hand, his shorter legs and an awkwardly coordinated very young run giving him a slower speed than the others despite his effort. The bee just looks up this time and does a tiny shake of it's head just as BO exits frame. As he leaves the bee turns its attention back to flower.

BO  
(going off frame)  
Out de way ... out de way ... I'm  
coming ...

CUT TO:

EXT.MED SHOT ON MEADOW AND WOOD

To the right and a hundred feet away down the path is the wood. We stand in an area of cut grass, but just off the path is much longer grass.

In frame, Butterfly with Bingo in close pursuit, are reaching center of frame. Butterfly suddenly stops and executes a backwards roll (evasive fighter jet style). At the precise moment the butterfly climbs to make its roll, Bingo now in midair with mouth wide open, ready for the kill, sails by under just him, landing off frame with a winded thud.  
(possibly animate in slo-mo)

Butterfly still hovers and flits. BIRDIE runs into frame and applies her brakes in a very smooth controlled slide, kicking up a little dust. She freezes, net poised kung-fu style, to strike. BIRDIE stealthily creeps one step forward towards the butterfly who is still facing away from her flitting and fluttering in a small radius. She takes another step and swings the net at her target so fast that she is a blur (Road runner style). The butterfly appears to side step it, also in a heavily blurred movement.

She's stunned ... A beat ... the butterfly appearing unfazed ... She swats again at incredible speed. Same result. A beat ... Now she swats rapidly, over and over with the butterfly side stepping every swat of the net as though she's an Olympic boxer. BIRDIE and butterfly are blurs with fractional pauses where we see their new positions between swats.

BO runs into frame as the final swat ends up with the net over his head, the handle now bent and broken and netting torn. BIRDIE stops. Her hair a little more dishevelled now The butterfly flies off towards the wood. BIRDIE turns to look at butterfly. She turns to BO.

CUT TO:

MED OF BO

Head and BIRDIE pushes into frame. Broken net is still over BO's head. She grabs jar out of his hands.

BIRDIE  
 (super-in-charge ala Ellie  
 from UP)  
 Sorry about that. A-l-most had her.  
 Come on let's go. I can tell she's  
 tiring.

She pulls out of frame in a blur.

BO  
 (slightly muffled and  
 trailing off as he  
 accepts she's gone)  
 But Pwincess how ...

BO pulls net off of head with humorous sound effect.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE SHOT NEXT TO PATH

Butterfly flies by camera towards the wood, then the BIRDIE' boots run into frame until we can see her running away from us in pursuit. She puts the opens jar to her mouth as though it's her communication device.

BIRDIE

(Shouted into a jar fading with distance)

Full speed ahead. Let's cut her off before she makes it to the wood.

BO's feet come into frame together with Bingo bouncing beside him. As he runs by us he looks down to Bingo.

BO

(talking to bingo)

Who's she talking to in de jar  
Bingo.

They all fly, run and bounce away from us, the BO trailing further behind but unperturbed he is energetically waving the limp net still attached to the broken stick ... just.

BO (CONT'D)

(Distant shout)

Out de way ... I can get her wid de net.

Nobody is even close to being in his way.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW DOLLYING

We are alongside BIRDIE (center of frame) as she gains on butterfly (right of frame). In front of her the jar in one hand and the top in the other poised to capture the butterfly. Background is the meadow.

Bingo is bouncing just behind her (left of frame). She is now almost close enough to capture the butterfly, the jar and top now moving either side of the blue-winged wonder.

BIRDIE

A-a-a-and ...

Suddenly butterfly accelerates forwards in a "warp-fly" speed, just as BIRDIE claps the lid over the jar where the butterfly should have been. Camera comes to stop, while BIRDIE and butterfly run into the wood and exit frame right.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO WOOD

A small amount of grass to left of frame, and then the line of trees running away into the distance. We are by an entrance to the wood. A very old sign is nailed to a tree with a skull stenciled on and a red cross painted over that, all of which is flaking off and falling apart.

Bingo applies his brake-paws and skids to a stop with a wisp of dust. He looks up at the ominous sign and then to where BIRDIE vanished then the sign again.

BO runs into frame, stopping suddenly and rocking back and forth as though his feet just hit some instant glue. Bingo looks at him.

BO  
S-i-i-i-s ... we're not supposed to  
go in the woods.

Bingo looks back into the wood.

BIRDIE  
(off frame. Distant shout)  
It's ok-a-y ... just this once.  
Come o-n!

CUT TO:

MED TWO SHOT LOW CAMERA ANGLE

BO bends down into frame to talk to Bingo.

BO  
(whispering)  
Mom and Dad will be f-u-rious.

He straightens up

CAMERA TILTS UP TO FOLLOW

BIRDIE pushes into frame to meet him, face to face. (Shock shot)

BIRDIE  
Are you coming or do I have to  
catch the blue butterfly a-lone?  
  
(whispering as if a secret)  
It's the only blue butterfly  
... Ev-er!

BO  
(in awe)  
It doesn't look like a flutterby.

She gives two quick excited nods and then leans closer to his face.

BIRDIE  
(as if revealing a secret)  
That's because it's like a  
butterfly

... but blue.

Now pick up those toes. We've gotta  
trap that little lady.

BO  
(worried)  
With my toes?

He looks down at his feet. BIRDIE zaps backwards out of frame in a blur (whoosh).

A beat.

He looks up again and his eyes blinking and searching rapidly to find BIRDIE, his raised brows signifying success. He sighs, his shoulders dropping, and "whoosh" vanishes out of frame right.

FAST DISSOLVE  
TO:

LOW ANGLE CAMERA BY SIDE OF PATH AHEAD OF LOG CROSSING.

The butterfly flies through frame and down a darkening path ahead.

Bingo arrives, jumps up on, and bounces part way across a log we can see following the line of the path we are on. He looks down to the side of the log.

BIRDIE runs into frame and stops dead by the side of the log looking down. BO runs in and stops. Both are looking down and start to take a very slow step forward.

CUT TO:

CAMERA DOWN BY RIVER LOOKING BACK UP AT THEM.

We see their heads appear over the edge looking down. We can hear the water's roar.

CUT TO:

HIGH ANGLE CAMERA LOOKING DOWN ON THEIR POSITION

We see a torrential river rushing below and only the log as a way across. BIRDIE and BO in bottom left of frame and Bingo in the middle of the log.

BIRDIE/BO

A-r-r-r-gh

They both recoil backwards.

Bingo looks back at them.

BINGO

Woof, woof!

He turns and bounces across the rest of the log and out of frame.

CUT TO:

CU TWO SHOT BO AND BIRDIE

Both look stunned

BIRDIE

Bingo STOP!

BO

(whining and then rapid)

No-o-o-o, we're going to lose him

BIRDIE

No silly, Come on!

She gestures an upper cut punch and starts to move out of frame.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE BY SIDE OF LOG

In the mid-ground Bingo is bouncing along the path and deeper into the wood. Just ahead of him the butterfly. We see BIRDIE' boots step into frame and onto the log

CUT TO:

MED BIRDIE' FACE

See Brothers top of head and eyes behind her looking worried. She puts the open jar to her mouth again to speak, as though it's connected to some type of announcement system.

BIRDIE  
This is one small step for  
explorers ...

She raises her hand holding jar top, as if to signify she's one.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
... but one giant leap for  
ordinary people.

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD SHOWING LOG AND RUSHING RIVER

She extends her arms still holding jar and lid, balances, starts slow to balance and then wobbles across, faster and faster, to the other side looking as if she might lose balance a couple of times.

BIRDIE  
(just a little scared)  
A-r-r-r-r-gh

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE BY SIDE OF LOG

Bingo and butterfly just a little further away. We see her last two steps and see her jump off the end and jump around to face backwards.

BIRDIE  
Come on, it's easy.

CUT TO:

CU ON BO'S FACE

BO  
(worried)  
Alw-i-ght

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE BY SIDE OF LOG

Bingo sometimes visible as he bounces but now vanishing around a bend in the path. BIRDIE standing at the far end. We see BO's shoes step on to log.

BIRDIE  
Just don't look down and z-o-o-m  
across.

She begins to turn to run away.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE BY SIDE OF LOG

Close to river looking up. Some splashes in bottom of frame so we know we are next to the water. BO is on the log on his hands and knees, broken net in one hand, his head looking upwards to the sky as he hurries across.

BO  
(to himself)  
Don't look down, don't look down.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED SHOT ON PATH LOOKING BACK

The wood is now looking gnarly. Butterfly flies through and out of frame as we dissolve, followed by Bingo and BIRDIE who comes to stop close to camera. She's panting and bends hands on her knees for a moment. Then she straightens up blocking the path behind her from view.

BO  
(distant off frame)  
Out da way, out de way I'm coming.

BIRDIE glances back over her shoulder and shrugs her shoulders.

BIRDIE  
 (to herself)  
 This is getting a bit creepy.

She looks around.

A beat ...

Suddenly she's pushed aside by BO (who had not been visible to camera - shock shot). He runs past her, net dangling from his hand.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
 OUCH!

BO  
 (off frame and tailing off  
 with increasing distance)  
 I'm coming to save you Bingo.

BIRDIE pulls herself together. Lifts up the empty jar and looking through it ...

BIRDIE  
 (determined ... letting  
 out a breath)  
 RIGHT!

She runs past camera and out of frame a bat almost unseen fluttering across in the mid ground.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
 (off frame and trailing  
 with distance)  
 Don't go too far without me.

DISSOLVE TO:

CU ON GNARLY TREE TRUNK

The rest of the wood now looking twisted and dark in the background.

The butterfly flies into frame from left and flops onto trunk showing exhaustion with its panting body and droopy wings.

Two beats ...

Entering from left of frame at high speed (a blur) comes the jar. It slams onto tree, perfectly enclosing the butterfly with touching it. The butterfly frantically flutters inside the jar.

BIRDIE  
(off frame)  
GOTCHA!

BO  
(off frame)  
Finally.

CUT TO:

ECU BUTTERFLY POV INSIDE JAR

We see BIRDIE and BO's partial faces heavily distorted by the glass push in towards the jar. We can just see Bingo's ears and tail wagging in bottom of frame.

BO  
(muffled by jar ... in  
love)  
She's bootiful.

BIRDIE  
(muffled by jar ... wistful  
... becoming aware that  
perhaps she shouldn't  
have captured this  
beautiful creature)  
Yes she is isn't she.

CUT TO:

ECU BIRDIE' POV OF BUTTERFLY IN JAR

It's stopped fluttering now and its body language shows defeat and sadness.

CUT TO:

FOUR SHOT

BIRDIE and BO side by side, butterfly in jar, and Bingo's ears.

BIRDIE  
We should get back. Mom and Dad  
will be getting worried.

BO

Camera tilts upwards to low angle as they stand.

BO (CONT'D)  
Which way do we go?

BIRDIE  
H-m-m-m ...

BIRDIE starts to point hesitatingly but stops and looks around.

CUT TO:

BIRDIE' POV PANNING GNARLY WOOD

Each direction looks the same with multiple possible paths to take. She ends by looking down at BO. His back of head turning to look at her.

BIRDIE  
(off camera)  
I ... think ...

She pans the wood again. As she pans her POV passes a glimmer of blue light and her view doubles back quickly to look more closely.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
There!

Pointing at lighter area.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE BY SIDE OF PATH

First Bingo, then BIRDIE with the jar, then BO walk towards the lighter area of trees ahead.

DISSOLVE TO:

WIDE SHOT STEEP PATH UP HILL

At the top is a stand of tall trees and we can see blue beams of light showing from between. Still no indication of what is in the stand of trees.

Our four characters traipse up the steep incline. They are half looking down to navigate the steep path

BIRDIE

Something's up there. It looks a-m-a-zing.

BINGO

Woof, woof

Bingo bounces ahead of the others to the top of the path

CUT TO:

MED SHOT LOOKING DOWN FROM INSIDE TREES

Two kids climb up the last steep part, heads down looking for grip until they reach the top, joining Bingo who is already gazing up stunned, and turn their heads upwards towards the camera. They are gobsmacked. Their faces are bathed in blue light.

A beat

BIRDIE/BO

(chorus of disbelief)

Wooooooooow!

CUT TO:

BIRDIE' POV

We are looking at a circular opening in the woods lined with greener, taller trees and circling in a random spiral are millions of Blue Morpho butterflies just like the one they just caught, iridescent and sparking.

CUT TO:

CU BO

BO

(in awe and deadly serious)

Are they f-a-i-ries?

CUT TO:

CU ON BIRDIE' FACE

BIRDIE  
 (breathless)  
 They sure look like it. But no they  
 are all beautiful butterflies. Just  
 like this one ...

She holds the jar in front of her face. Her expression  
 saddens.

CUT TO:

CU TWO SHOT BO AND BIRDIE

Their eyes looking at the butterfly locked inside, their  
 smiles fading, then up at the butterflies ...

CUT TO:

THEIR POV OF BUTTERFLIES

CUT TO:

CU TWO SHOT BO AND BIRDIE

... and then back down to the butterfly who is against the  
 jar as if trying to get out. One front leg of the butterfly  
 seems to pathetically scratch the jar as if to dig out

CUT TO:

SIDE CU OF JAR

BIRDIE' and BO's faces push close to the jar framing it on  
 either side, talking to butterfly. The butterfly stops  
 scratching and turns its head to look at them.

BIRDIE  
 (really concerned)  
 Is this YOUR family?

The butterfly does a tiny sad nod. BIRDIE and BO's eyes meet.  
 Tears well up in their eyes. They look back at the butterfly.

CUT TO:

ECU ON LID AND NECK OF JAR

Hand comes into frame and unscrews the lid. Butterfly, looking up at the other butterflies above, climbs up onto rim of jar. She does a little shake and flies out of frame.

CUT TO:

BIRDIE' POV

We see her flying up and she soon vanishes into the mass of beautiful butterflies.

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT BO AND BIRDIE

They look at each other and give a big sigh. They look back up at the butterflies.

BIRDIE

That's so beautiful, we helped her find her home.

BO

No one will ever believe we've seen this.

BIRDIE puts her arms around BO and hugs him.

BO (CONT'D)

Do we have go home?

BIRDIE

(reluctantly)

I think we do.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT GNARLY WOOD

Looking at their backs, the three are just standing looking at the grey gnarled wood ahead of them.

A beat

BIRDIE

F-o-l-l-o-w me.

She beckons with a "wagons-roll" arm.

They walk off, marching, BIRDIE, BO and last Bingo in a line and ...

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

They are now further down the path and heading to the right side of the screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

They are now closer but walking into frame from the left side of the wood.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

They are now much further down and walking slightly over to the left and walking towards out direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

They now walk into frame from behind us.

BO  
(whining)  
Are we there yet?

BIRDIE comes to a stop. She doesn't turn around but points ahead.

BIRDIE  
A-l-most. We should see the edge of  
the wood any time now.

A beat

Suddenly from behind us thousands of butterflies fly just above their heads making them jump. (Shock shot)

BIRDIE/BO  
(together)  
YIKES!

The butterflies fly ahead curving as they follow a path.  
Bingo bounces off after them.

BIRDIE  
They're showing us the way home.  
Come on!

They skip off, Bingo now well ahead.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

The kids and butterflies are now further away.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

Ditto

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SET

Ditto

DISSOLVE TO:

THE TWO KIDS BY THEIR GARDEN GATE

Bingo is bouncing to get it. BO's net is now dragging along  
the ground. BIRDIE puts her hand on the gate then stops.

BIRDIE  
(whispering)  
We can't tell anyone. No one will  
ev-er believe us.

She holds up the empty jar as she says it.

BO  
So no one will ever know about the  
butterflies?

She opens the gate and they walk through the gate closing  
behind them.

BIRDIE

Well maybe one day, I'll make a  
movie about it, then e-veryone will  
know.

They exit out of frame. Credits roll. The following dialog is  
all off camera becoming quieter as they get further away.  
Music gradually fills in.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

I'll call it DO PRINCESSES GET  
BUTTERFIES?

BO

Well do they?

BIRDIE

I did in my tummy in that dark  
wood.

BO

Can I be a movie star?

BIRDIE

Of course you can.

BO

Woof, woof.

BIRDIE

Yes you too Bingo.

FADE TO BLACK