

## Romancing the Stone

### **Panel 1**

Reference photo of a village bridge over water. Some tree branches are hanging at the top of the picture. For this panel, we are looking through the eyes of the main character as he hangs upside down from the tree. As such, the panel/photo reference is upside down. So is the dialogue that is originating off panel at the top, which is the ground.

Stone (off panel, top): Pssst. Little boy. I want to ask you something. Come closer.

### **Panel 2**

Boy drops from the tree and lands on the ground near the tree's base. Small, smooth stones are scattered on the barren earth. Patches of grass slip through here and there. The boy is looking left and right for the speaker from the previous panel.

Boy: Hey. Who's' there? Where'd you disappear to?

Stone (from under the boy's foot): Under your foot. You're stepping on my face.

### **Panel 3**

The boy bends down, elbows on his knees looking down at the talking stone. He appears calm and not startled by the talking stone as he listens to its offer. The talking stone has no distinguishing qualities from the other small nearby stones except the dialogue bubble.

Stone: Listen, little boy. I am a magic stone and today is a special day. For you were chosen long ago to receive a gift. I shall grant you one wish. Any wish. Anything and everything.

### **Panel 4**

Standing up, the boy has the stone in his open palm, while the other hand pokes it with a finger.

Boy: Hmmmm. Is this one of Joshua's new tricks? What's in there, a radio or something?

Stone: Stop poking me. It's rude.

### **Panel 5**

The boy throws the stone in the air as he's thinking and deciding on his wish. He's looking at the sky as he ponders. If it works perhaps have multiple instances of the boy throwing the stone in this panel or show the progression of the stone rising and falling.

Boy: Let's see. One wish, huh? Well, how about a zillion more wishes?

Stone: Done.

**Panel 6**

Quickly the boy snatches the stone in midair, as if snatching the next wish from the thin air.

SFX (from hand grabbing the stone): SNTKH

Stone: Very wise. For your first of a zillion new wishes?

Boy: Got it! Immortality would be kind of cool. Real cool.

**Panel 7**

Match-cut. The panel is the same as Panel 6 except the boy is completely black: his body, hair, clothes, shoes, his whole being. It is as if he was cut away from existence.

Stone (from within the boy's hand): Done.

**Panel 8**

Match-cut. Similar to Panel 7, except the stone has dropped to the ground, returned near its original position. Same as previous panel, the boy is absent and only a deep blackness resembling the boy's shape remains. The boy shape has not moved. The stone fell due to this absence in space/time.

Stone: Ha. Typical.