

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
Shawna McDermott, Ph.D.

# Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1987)

Steven Spielberg

**Contents** (Overview-Synopsis-Characters-Character Analysis-Themes-Scenes)

## OVERVIEW

*Auteur* Stephen Spielberg's work spans many genres. While he is most famous for blockbuster films such as *Jaws* (1975), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), and *Jurassic Park* (1993), each of which has a firm foothold in horror and science fiction, his filmography also reveals a deep commitment to asking questions about history and humanity. Spielberg's diverse collection of work has been widely recognized as pioneering, frequently engaging with unexplored themes and techniques that have earned Spielberg a reputation as an innovator and a master artist. He has been awarded three Academy Awards, the AFI Life Achievement Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His films have likewise collectively placed him at the top of the list of the most profitable film directors in history.

*Film* The third film in the Indiana Jones series, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* was envisioned as the end to a trilogy and a return to the spirit of the first film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981). After critics marked *Temple of Doom* (1984) as too dark and violent, Spielberg used *Last Crusade* to return to many of the themes of the first film: Nazis as enemies of the free world, Judeo-Christian artifacts as the object of the quest, and an ethical archaeologist/academic as the hero. The film was well-received for its sense of humor, well-paced action and adventure, and the addition of the character Henry Jones, played by Sean Connery. *Last Crusade* was followed in its franchise by *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (2008) and *Dial of Destiny* (2023), though Spielberg did not direct the last installment.

*Background* Although a third film in the Jones series had been conceived from the start by Spielberg and his collaborators George Lucas and Philip Kaufman, the film's concept went through many revisions before producers decided to explore Indiana Jones' fraught relationship with his academic father alongside a quest for the Holy Grail. Before these themes were chosen, writers considered setting the story in a haunted mansion, a garden of immortal peaches, and a cannibalistic African tribe. *Last Crusade* was immensely popular and profitable upon its release and remains well-reviewed today.

## SYNOPSIS

*Last Crusade* opens on the adventures of a young Indiana Jones exploring the American wilderness with his Boy Scout troop. While Jones and a friend explore a cave, they happen upon a group of men who have found the golden Cross of Coronado. While the men celebrate finding the treasure, young Jones insists that it belongs in a museum and steals it. While Jones gets away, the men later show up at his house with the sheriff and reclaim the cross, much to Jones' disappointment.

Many years later, Jones is shown reclaiming the Cross of Coronado from the men and taking it home with him to his university, where he donates it to the museum. As he leaves the university, Jones is approached by men in black suits who take him to meet with Donovan, an American businessman who has an interest in the antiques market. Donovan tells Jones that the Nazi party is currently in the pursuit of the Holy Grail, the cup that Christ used at the Last Supper. Jones also learns that his father, Henry Jones, a Grail scholar with whom Jones has a fraught relationship, is missing from his home. Jones goes to Venice to meet an Austrian art historian who Jones believes has information about his father's whereabouts. Jones brings along his father's Grail diary, which contains little-known knowledge about how to find the Grail.

Jones meets Schneider, the Austrian art historian, and together they find new information regarding the location of the Grail. This leads them on an adventure in which Jones finds his father, learns that both Donovan and Schneider are Nazi sympathizers, and joins forces with his father to reach the Grail before the Nazis do. Upon finding the location of the Grail, Jones must pass tests that prove he is worthy of the treasure and the immortality it offers. While Schneider and Donovan prove themselves unworthy and die,

Jones and his father leave the Grail behind in its temple and ride happily into the sunset, their relationship renewed.

## MAJOR CHARACTERS

<i>Indiana Jones</i>	an archaeologist and adventurer
<i>Henry Jones</i>	Indiana's father, a medieval historian
<i>Elsa Schneider</i>	an Austrian art historian
<i>Walter Donovan</i>	an American businessman and relic collector

## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### Indiana Jones

Jones is an academic and an adventurer. The film begins with insight into Jones's young life, which demonstrates that he was from a young age very capable, determined to defend his ethics, and interested in the pursuit of treasure. These traits persist in Jones' adult life.

*Capable* – As in the previous two films in the franchise, Jones demonstrates himself to be very capable of handling himself in difficult environments. Jones can solve riddles about Grail secrets that are hundreds of years old in one scene and, in the next, can drive a speedboat while dodging bullets. Whatever the plot throws at Jones, he handles with apparent ease.

*Wounded* – *Last Crusade* adds a level of depth to Jones' character by allowing the audience into his personal life. Jones for the first time, is given a true weakness: his relationship with his father. Although he can survive all else, Jones shrinks under his father's rebukes and quails when his father calls him "Junior" instead of "Indiana." The film is in many ways about how Jones heals this wound by learning to work with his father and earn Henry's respect.

### Henry Jones

A serious medieval historian, Henry Jones' life is consumed by research about the location of the Holy Grail. He is a disinterested father, much more intrigued by medieval manuscripts than his son's activities.

*Studious* – Even when his son is accosted by the sheriff in the living room and is forced to hand over a precious relic, Henry remains in his study looking over medieval manuscripts. While this marks him as a disinterested father, his studies are ultimately very valuable. Without Henry's research on the location of the Grail, which has been lost for centuries, neither Jones nor the Nazi party would have found it.

*Disappointed* – Throughout the film Henry is unimpressed with his son, consistently remarking that Jones should use his mind more than his fists to solve his problems. When Jones appears to rescue Henry, the father is aghast at his son for being stupid enough to bring the Grail journal back to Europe so that it can fall into Nazi hands.

### Elsa Schneider

The Austrian art historian is beautiful and clever, but she is also motivated by greed. Unlike Jones, who refuses to serve the Nazi party because he is aware of their violent desire to take over the world, Schneider allies with the party because she sees it as her best chance to acquire more wealth, power, and prestige.

*Conniving* – Schneider initially presents herself to both Indiana and Henry Jones as a sweet, clever young woman. She seduces both, and in doing so gains their trust enough to have both captured by the Nazi party. While Schneider's affection for the younger Jones seems to be real, she turns away from it multiple times to renew her allegiance to the Nazi party.

*Greedy* – While she does not seek the eternal life that the Holy Grail offers, Schneider does desire to keep the Grail for herself, seeing it as a great treasure and an important part of history. Schneider pays for this greed with her life, falling to the bottom of a chasm when she could have lived if she had merely stopped reaching for the treasure.

## Walter Donovan

An American businessman with an impressive collection of historical relics, Donovan is ultimately motivated by his desire to own more objects and to live forever.

*Power-Hungry* – Donovan tricks both Indiana and Henry Jones into finding the Grail for him by posing as a man simply interested in the object for its historical significance. However, when his connections to the Nazi party are revealed, Donovan makes it clear that he seeks the Grail for the eternal life it offers.

*Naive* – Unlike Henry, Jones, and Schneider, Donovan does not have any knowledge of his own regarding the Grail. Instead, he relies on others to find its location. When he is in the chamber that holds the Grail, he allows Schneider to choose the cup from which he drinks, trusting her expertise as an art historian. Schneider chooses the wrong cup and, in trusting her expertise rather than doing his own research, Donovan seals his own fate and dies.

## THEMES

**Quest** Like the two Jones films that precede it, the story of *Last Crusade* surrounds the quest for two relics. The first is the Cross of Coronado, which a teenage Jones steals from the hands of greedy treasure hunters and finally places in a museum later in his life. The main quest in this film is for the Holy Grail, which literature and history suggest many people have sought throughout the centuries. In placing Jones on a Grail quest, Spielberg marks the hero as a kind of knight on a pilgrimage for a great, sacred reward. While Donovan and Schneider, who likewise seek the Grail, desire rewards that the film marks as base – immortality and wealth – Jones is rewarded with what the film marks as the best treasure: a renewed relationship with his estranged father.

**Love** As in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Temple of Doom*, Jones has a love interest in *Last Crusade*. Elsa Schneider is beautiful, clever, and challenging, but her relationship with Jones is superficial and fraught with betrayal. Jones quickly discovers not only that she is a Nazi sympathizer, but further that she also had a romantic relationship with his father, Henry. As Schneider falls out of the story as a true love match for Jones, the relationship that comes more prominently to the surface of the film is that between Jones and his father. Jones and Henry bond over their mutual relationship with Schneider, and though both are disgusted by the connection they also laugh about it. The movie ends not with a Hollywood kiss and the hero getting the girl, but instead with father and son rededicating themselves to their relationship with one another. *Last Crusade* ultimately suggests that familial love is more important and sustaining than a fleeting boy-girl romance.

**Power** The quest for the Holy Grail in *Last Crusade* is not simply the pursuit of a sacred relic. Instead, as in the previous Jones films, Spielberg chooses to imbue the sought after object with magical powers. The Holy Grail in this film has the power to give eternal life to those who drink from it. By including the Nazi party as Jones' enemy in this film, *Last Crusade* suggests that the Nazis desire the Grail not only as part of Adolf Hitler's well-documented interest in religious artifacts but because it would be used to grant immortality to Hitler himself. Donovan, an American working alongside the Nazis, seeks the Grail for this purpose as well. The film as a whole, however, marks this kind of thirst for eternal life as undesirable and fatal. Donovan drinks from what he believes is the Holy Grail and pays for the "poor" choice by instantly dying. Jones, who is able to identify the correct Grail for its humble nature, possesses the humility that allows him to leave the temple alive.

**Greed** Alongside power, *Last Crusade* makes a strong statement about greed. While Donovan dies because of his inappropriate thirst for power, Schneider is similarly punished for her greed. At the end of the film, Schneider seizes the Grail for herself and, though she does not drink from it to gain eternal life, tries to take the Grail out of its temple so that she can keep the treasure for herself. In attempting to remove the Grail, however, Schneider fails to listen to the warning of the knight who guards it and who says it cannot leave. A great chasm cracks the floor of the temple and Schneider falls into it. Jones attempts to save her, but Schneider's persistence in reaching for the Grail in the chasm below her – just outside of her reach – results in her falling to her death. While *Last Crusade* is the last film in a trilogy that promotes the pleasure and adventure of treasure hunting, it concludes – as does *Temple of Doom* – that it is not the treasure that is the reward, but instead the adventure and the relationships that result from that adventure.

**Religion** *Last Crusade* marks Spielberg's return to the exploration of Judeo-Christian mythology. Like the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy Grail is an object that features in the Bible and has developed its own repertoire of stories over time. As in the other films, Jones himself is not a character who is notably religious or who seeks the Grail as part of a Christian pilgrimage. The film thus walks a fine line between the religious and the secular, marking the Grail as a piece of magical treasure rather than a sacred Christian object worthy of veneration because of its relationship to Christ.

**Family** Like several other of Spielberg's movies, *Last Crusade* explores a son's difficult relationship with his father. While Spielberg features fathers who actively abandon their children in his other films, Henry Jones is marked as a father who is simply disinterested in his son's childhood activities even though he is present. A serious scholar, Henry remarks to Jones that he [Jones] left the house for college just at the moment when he started to be interesting. This focus suggests that it was Henry's seriousness as a scholar and his fascination with the Grail quest that made him an inadequate father. Interestingly, Henry defends his choices when Jones confronts him, suggesting that the complete freedom that he gave to the young Jones was a greater gift than the overbearing attention of an attentive father. Jones protests that what Henry marks as freedom was, to him, neglect. The two repair their relationship over the course of the film and discover that they have a great deal more in common than they originally thought. As a whole, *Last Crusade* marks familial relationships as more important than ephemeral treasures and suggests that broken relationships between parents and children can and should be restored.

## SCENES

**The Cross** A troop of scouts rides their horses through a rocky red canyon. Their troop leader orders the boys to dismount and they explore the rocky landscape. Two boys go into a cave, where they stumble upon four men digging for something. The men find a box and the leader, wearing a leather coat and a brown fedora, lifts a golden cross from it. As the two scouts watch, one calls the other 'Indy', asking him what the men are doing. Indiana shushes his friend and informs him that the treasure is the Cross of Coronado, an important artifact that belongs in a museum. The boy, a teenage Indiana Jones, tells his friend to go get the sheriff while he stays behind.



**Circus train** Jones steals the cross and climbs a rope, escaping from the cave and running away. He calls for his troop leader, but the entire troop is gone. Jones mounts his horse and rides away. The men give chase in two cars. A circus train passes and Indiana leaps from his horse onto the train. Two men chase him, following Jones over the box cars and into a car filled with snakes and crocodiles. Jones screams when he falls into a box filled with snakes, but he escapes and is pursued onto the top of a train car housing a rhinoceros and then into one that holds a lion.



**Lion Tamer** Indiana finds a bullwhip on the wall and uses it to make the lion back away. The men chasing Indiana call to him from the top of the car, telling him to toss up the whip. Jones does, and the men pull him free of the lion's car. On top of the car, Jones argues with the four men about who owns the cross and where it belongs. Jones escapes when a snake hiding in his sleeve frightens the man grabbing him. Jones ducks into a caboose labeled 'Doctor Fantasy's Magic Caboose' and hides in a magician's chest. When his pursuer opens the chest, he finds it empty. The man dashes to the back of the train and sees Indiana running away along the tracks.



**Father** Jones runs into a house shouting, “Dad!” His father does not immediately respond, instead telling “Junior” to count to twenty in Greek before he will respond. A car arrives outside as Jones’ father works on an illuminated manuscript. The sheriff comes into the house and Jones reports the crime, but when the treasure hunters arrive, the sheriff calls them the “owners” of the cross and gives the treasure back to them. Jones is dismayed, but one of the treasure hunters gives Jones his distinctive fedora as a consolation prize.



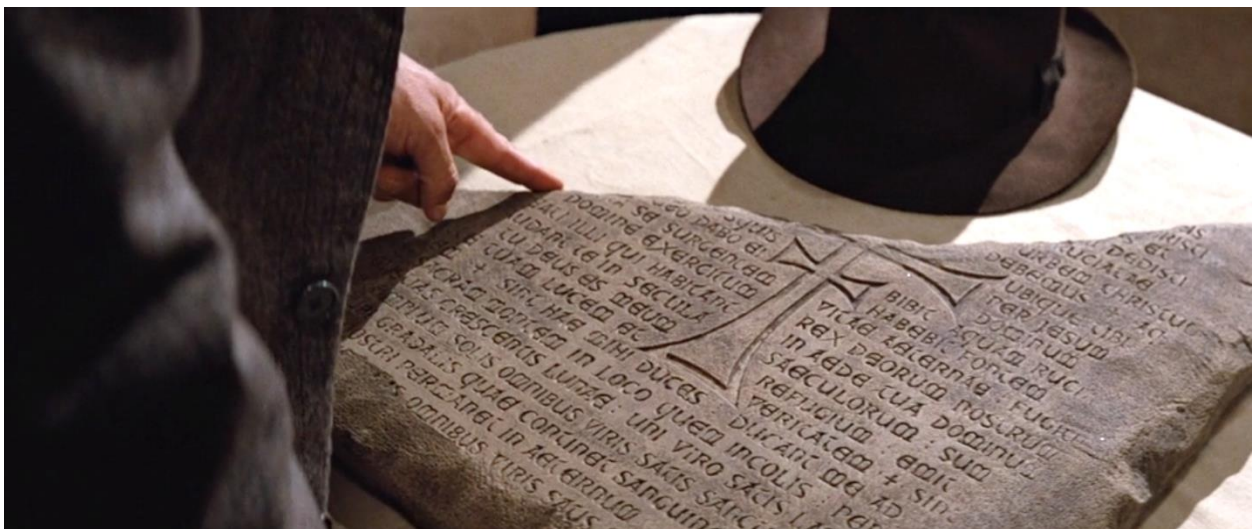
**On Ship** The scene cuts to an adult Jones, wearing the same fedora the treasure hunter gave him. He is standing on a boat in the rain and is immediately punched in the face before two men hold him by the arms. A man arrives on the deck wearing the same outfit as one of the men who first stole the Cross of Coronado. The man says, “Small world, Dr. Jones,” before taking the Cross from Jones and ordering his men to throw Jones over the side of the ship. Jones uses the rough weather to his advantage and attacks the man, regaining the cross. Jones leaps from the ship, cross in hand, just before it explodes.



**In Class** Jones teaches an archaeology class. His friend Marcus arrives to observe and, after the bell rings, Jones shows Marcus the Cross of Coronado, saying he is glad it will finally go to the museum. Jones goes to his office and is swamped with students begging for his help. He agrees to see them but locks himself into his office alone for a moment. There, he finds a small package waiting for him. Jones climbs out a window to avoid his students, taking the package with him. Three men in a black car watch Jones walk away.



**Donovan** The men in the car stop Jones and surround him. The scene cuts to a fancy room filled with relics. There, Jones is greeted by a man in a tuxedo who introduces himself as Donovan. Donovan shows Jones a stone with writing on it, which Jones studies with curiosity. Jones interprets the writing and says that it speaks of a cup that holds the blood of Christ. Donovan elaborates, saying that it is the Holy Grail, the cup used by Jesus Christ during the Last Supper. Donovan says that the Grail holds the key to eternal youth and mentions that Jones' father sought it.



**The Holy Grail** Donovan tells Jones that a mission to find the Grail is currently underway and shows Jones a manuscript that reveals that two markers indicate the location of the Grail. Donovan says the first marker is on the table, but the other is in Venice, Italy. Donovan informs Jones that the project leader has vanished and that he wants Jones to take the job. Jones says that Donovan has the wrong Jones and that Donovan should ask his father. Donovan replies that they already have – Jones father is the man who disappeared.

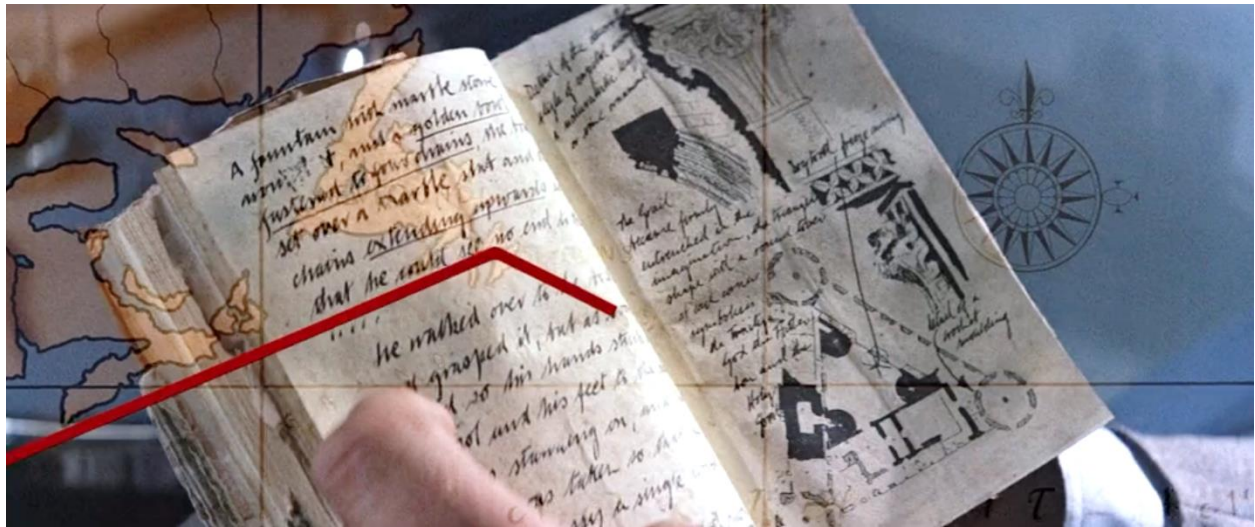


**Missing** Jones goes to his father's house with Marcus and they find the place ransacked. Jones pulls the package that was on his desk from his pocket and says that it is from Venice, Italy. He rips it open and reveals his father's "Grail diary" inside, which includes every discovery Henry Jones has ever made about the Holy Grail. Jones tells Marcus to call Donovan and say that he'll go to Venice. Marcus says that he's going, too.





**Travel** Jones and Marcus board a plane and the screen shows a plane traveling over a map. Behind the map are shown the pages of the Grail diary with Jones' fingers turning the pages. When they arrive in Venice, Jones and Marcus meet Dr. Elsa Schneider, who says Jones has his father's eyes.



**A Mission** Schneider leads Jones and Marcus through the streets of Italy to a library, saying it was the last place she saw Henry Jones. She shows them a stained-glass window which Jones recognizes from his father's diary. Excited, Jones says that the library, which used to be a church, probably contains the knight's tomb in which the second stone marker can be found. The three search the library and Jones uses Roman numerals from the window to determine that the tomb will be located under the main floor.



**The Tomb** Jones breaks through the floor of the library and reveals a passage beneath. Jones entrusts Marcus with the Grail diary as he and Schneider go into the passage below the floor. As they search, men with guns walk quietly into the library and knock Marcus over the head, dragging him away. Beneath the library, Jones and Schneider encounter thousands of rats in their search for the tomb. The men with the guns follow them beneath the floor. Jones and Schneider wade through waist-deep water and petroleum before they find the knight's tomb and the second Grail marker in the form of a shield.



**Second Marker** While the first marker was broken in half, this one is complete. Jones uses tracing paper to take a rubbing of the second half of the tablet. Behind them, one of the men who is pursuing Jones and Schneider lights a match and throws it onto the petroleum floating on top of the water, setting it ablaze. Schneider and Jones duck under the lid of a coffin to avoid the fire. Jones leads Schneider out of the tomb and they emerge at street level through a sewer, surprising people who are having a pleasant lunch. Their pursuers emerge from the library and begin to chase Jones and Schneider through the streets.



**Boat Chase** Jones and Schneider climb into a speed boat and drive away. One man jumps onto the boat with them while the others take two more boats, giving chase. Schneider drives while Jones fights the man on his boat. After he dispatches the first man, Jones drives the boat. The first boat of pursuers explodes when it is squeezed between two larger ships. The second catches up with Jones' boat and pulls Jones aboard. However, Jones gets the better of the man driving the second boat and demands information as the boat is slowly destroyed by the propeller of a larger ship. When the man says that he will die before giving information, Jones pulls him aboard the boat with Schneider and they drive away.



**The Map** Jones interrogates his captive, who promises to take him to his father if Jones will let him go. When Jones and Schneider let the man go, the man reveals that Henry Jones is being held in a castle on the border between Austria and Germany. Jones and Marcus meet in a hotel room, discussing the details provided by the other half of the Grail marker. They determine that a city called Alexandretta is where they must travel in order to find the Grail. Jones tells Marcus to go there while he goes to get his father.



**Ransacked** Jones returns to his hotel room to find it ransacked. He goes to Schneider's room and hers, too, has been roughly searched while she was in the bathroom. She discovers that he was hiding the Grail diary from her and confronts him. The two fight and then kiss.



**The Castle** Jones and Schneider travel to a castle in Austria and are admitted to the castle when Jones pretends to be a Scottish lord who is visiting to view the tapestries. When the man who admitted them does not believe the story, Jones knocks him out and Jones and Schneider move further into the castle. Inside, Jones discovers that it is a secret Nazi stronghold. Jones and Schneider sneak through the castle looking for his father. Jones must leave Schneider behind to swing through a second-story window. He lands in the room and someone breaks a vase over his head.



**Henry Jones** When Jones stands again, he discovers that the man who hit him with the vase is his father, who calls him "Junior." Jones tells his father about the progress he made on the Grail quest, telling Henry that he found the tomb and the next Grail marker. Henry is excited about the advances, saying he wishes he could have been there to see it. Henry tells Jones that the Nazis want the diary and he's glad he sent it to Jones, who looks suddenly guilty. Nazis suddenly break into the room, demanding the diary. Henry yells at Jones for bringing the diary.



**Tricked** Jones gets angry, shouting "Don't call me Junior!" before he snatches a machine gun from a Nazi. Jones shoots the Nazis, grabs his father by the arm, and pulls Henry from the room. The two walk into the next room to find Schneider held at gunpoint. Schneider begs Jones to do as the man says so he won't kill her. Henry tells Jones not to believe Schneider, as she is a Nazi. Jones does not believe Henry and gives over his gun so that Schneider will not be hurt. Schneider tells Jones that she is sorry before taking the Grail diary and going to stand with the Nazi commander.



**Betrayal** Captured again, Henry asks Jones why he trusted Schneider as they are brought into a room downstairs. A voice calls, "Because he did not take my advice," and Donovan stands up from a chair by the fire, revealing that he, too, is in league with the Nazis. Donovan, looking through the Grail diary, says that it is missing pages. Schneider says that the diary is missing the map to the location of the Grail and that he has clearly given the pages to Marcus. Jones says that they will never find Marcus because he is too good at blending into his locations. The scene cuts to Marcus, who is lost in the streets of Iskenderun and struggling to get along before he meets Sallah, Jones' friend from his adventure with the Ark of the Covenant.



**Marcus** Two men in black meet Marcus in the streets, telling him that a car has been sent for him by the Museum of Antiquities. Marcus is eager to follow, but Sallah urges him to run. Sallah urges Marcus to hide in a doorway that turns out to be the back of a truck marked with a Nazi swastika.



**Tied Up** Jones and Henry are tied up back-to-back in the castle. The Nazi commander wishes to kill them, as they are useless to them now, but Schneider orders that they be kept alive. When Schneider whispers in Jones' ear, reminiscing about how their romance was wonderful, Henry thinks she is speaking to him and replies that he feels the same. Henry is shocked and dismayed when he turns to see Schneider kissing his son. Schneider leaves and Henry and Jones are left alone in the room.



**Second Escape** Jones asks Henry to reach into his pocket. Henry does so, retrieving a lighter that he attempts to use to burn through ropes holding them. However, he drops the lighter and sets the floor on fire. The two frantically hop across the room in their chairs, still tied together. Donovan gets in a car outside of the castle. He receives a missive that the Nazis have hold of Marcus and the map. Donovan tells the commander that he can kill Henry and Jones now. Inside, the fire grows and Henry and Jones seek refuge in the fireplace.



**Secret Room** In the fireplace, Henry and Jones accidentally trigger a mechanism that spins the floor and reveals a secret Nazi meeting room. The Nazis see them and give chase, but Jones and Henry escape from their chairs and use the spinning fireplace to trap the Nazis in the burning room, going themselves through the meeting room. Outside the meeting room, Jones and Henry find a secret staircase that leads them outdoors, where they find several boats. Jones starts the motor to one boat and unties it, letting it drive away as he and Henry go in a different direction. When the Nazis get in another boat to chase the first empty one, Henry and Jones steal a motorcycle and a sidecar and drive away.



**Pursuit** Four motorcycles chase Jones and Henry. The father and son escape three of the motorcycles when Jones uses a flag pole as a jousting spear, knocking one man from his motorcycle. He falls and takes out two others. The fourth motorcycle is dispatched when Jones throws a stick between the spokes of its wheel. Although Jones laughs in triumph, his father frowns at him in disapproval. Jones and Henry fight over which way to go next. Jones insists that they have to go meet Marcus, but Henry says they must go to Berlin to get his diary. When Jones asks why they need the diary when Marcus has the map, Henry says that the diary contains other important information





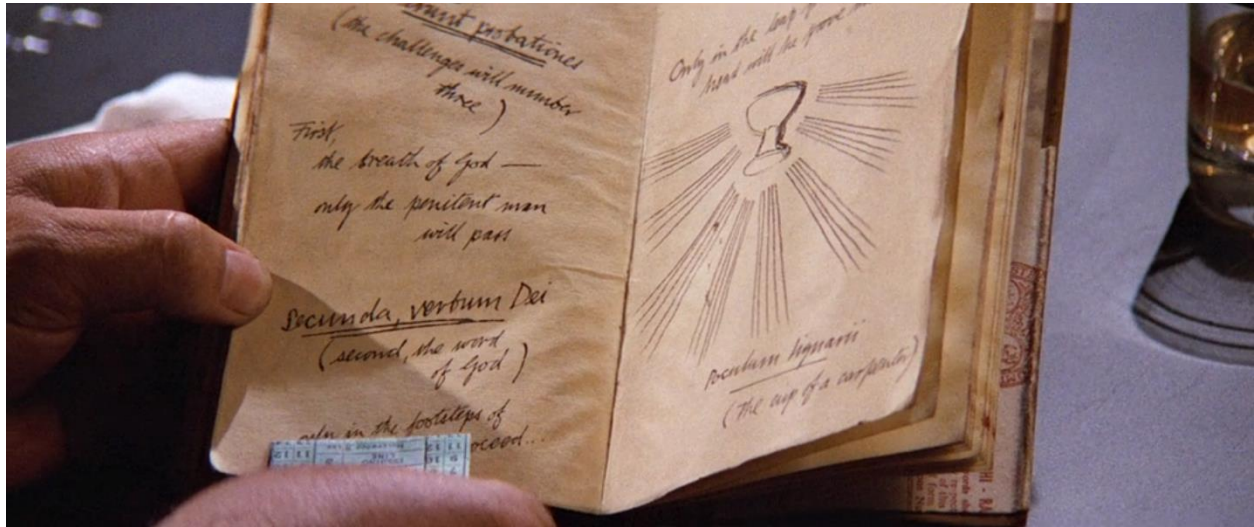
**Berlin** Jones and Henry discuss their project, with Henry passionately proclaiming that it is a fight against evil. The two travel to Berlin, where Nazis march and burn books at a rally. Jones dresses as a Nazi officer and sneaks up behind Schneider, who cries to see the books being burned. Jones takes the Grail diary back from her. In his escape, Jones accidentally comes face-to-face with Adolph Hitler, who signs the diary, thinking it is an autograph book. At the airport, Jones and Henry board a zeppelin headed out of Germany.



**On Board** A German officer boards the Zeppelin, looking for Jones and Henry. Jones moves away from the man who is checking tickets. The officer shows a picture of Henry to the other passengers, who say they have not seen him. Jones returns, dressed in the ticket-checker's ill-fitting uniform. The officer finds Henry, but Jones punches him and throws him out the window. When the passengers gasp, Jones says, "No ticket." Frantic, all the passengers quickly produce their tickets, holding them in the air. The zeppelin takes off and Jones and Henry share a drink and talk, Jones lamenting that they have had a strained relationship.



**Three Challenges** Henry dismisses Jones' accusations that he was a bad father and says they have work to do. He then shows Jones the diary, describing the three challenges that they will face once they reach the location of the Grail. The zeppelin begins to vibrate and Jones realizes that they're turning around and heading back to Germany. Jones and Henry climb inside the structure of the zeppelin and steal the plane beneath it, which is used to take off and land the zeppelin. Fighter pilots appear behind them and Jones orders Henry to man the machine gun in the back of the plane.



**Dog Fight** Henry shoots at the planes that chase them but accidentally shoots the tail of their own plane. Jones is forced to land the damaged plane in a rural area amongst a herd of cows. They steal a car from a local farmer. They are chased by two German planes that attack from above. One plane crashes when it attempts to chase the car into a tunnel. The second plane drops a bomb into the road in front of the car when it emerges from the tunnel and Jones and Henry crash in the bomb's crater. They continue on foot to a beach.



**Losing the Tail** Henry watches as the second plane approaches, flying low. He uses his umbrella to scare a flock of seagulls into the air, which overwhelms the plane and causes it to crash. The scene cuts to the Republic of Hatay, where Donovan trades a Rolls Royce Phantom for permission to travel into the land and seek the Grail. Schneider informs Donovan that Jones and Henry have escaped and that they must move fast.



**Three groups** Henry and Jones ride with Sallah through crowded streets. Sallah tells them that the Nazis have Marcus and the map to the Grail. The Nazis move forward on the road to the Grail, using trucks and a tank to traverse the desert landscape. Jones spies on the train of cars from a cliff above. However, the Nazis see them and shoot the tank's large gun, which destroys their car. Men in white suddenly attack the Nazis from the hills. Henry wonders aloud who they are, but Jones tells him it doesn't matter, as long as they keep Donovan busy. The Nazis trap one of the men, who turns out to be the man from the speed boat. Before he dies, the man says that he and his people are sworn to protect the Grail.



**Tank** Henry climbs into the tank, greeting Marcus like an old friend. They move to escape, but the Nazi officer traps them. While the officer questions Henry, Donovan shouts that Jones is getting away. Jones rides past the tank with four horses. Sallah tells Jones that Henry is in the tank. Jones takes a single horse and rides ahead of the tank, which fires at him but misses. Jones leans from the back of the horse and grabs a rock from the ground. He sticks the rock into the barrel of the tank's gun. When the tank fires at Jones again, the bullet backfires, ruining the gun. Jones calls for Henry inside the tank, who answers back.



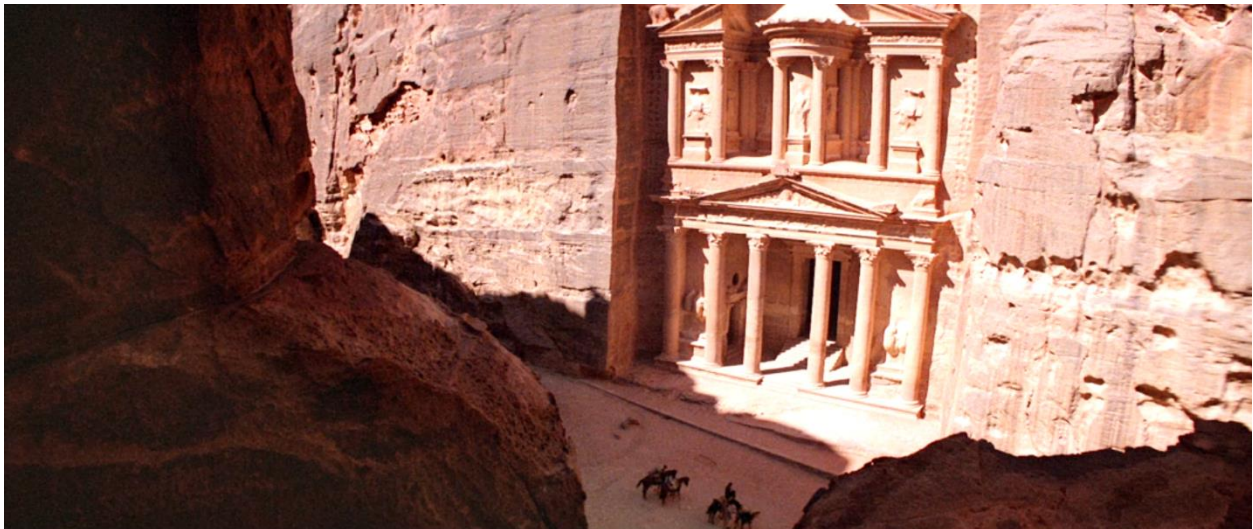
**Fight** Jones and the Nazi officer shoot at each other with guns, but neither hits the other. Jones Leaps from his horse onto the tank and fights four Nazi soldiers before facing the officer, who chokes Jones with a chain. Jones drops his gun into the body of the tank and Henry grabs it. On top of the tank, the officer holds Jones face to the tread. Henry overtakes a soldier in the tank by spraying ink from a pen into his face. Jones falls from the side of the tank and must hold on to the ruined gun to avoid falling to his death. The tank attempts to crush Jones by skidding against a canyon wall. Just before he dies, a stray bullet kills the tank driver and the tank moves away from the wall. Jones climbs back on top of the tank.



**Off a Cliff** Henry and Marcus join Jones on top of the tank, where the officer still stands ready to fight. Marcus falls off and Sallah pulls Henry off the tank while Jones fights the officer. The tank rolls closer and closer to the edge of a cliff. Jones does not realize how close they are until it is too late. He dives towards the edge of the tank, but it flies off the cliff. Henry, Marcus, and Sallah run to the edge of the cliff, screaming for Jones as the tank rolls to the ground. Henry mourns the loss of his son, regretting that he didn't tell him enough. Jones uses the roots of a plant to pull himself up the cliff and comes up behind the three sad men, peering over the cliff with them. Henry wraps Jones in a hug.



**The Temple** The four men continue along the road to the Grail. The Nazis reach the top of the canyon which houses the Grail's temple. Then Jones and his friends arrive at the temple built into the canyon's wall and go inside. They crouch behind some stones and watch, seeing that the Nazis are already inside. The Nazis send a man forward through a set of large stone lions. He walks through cobwebs and passes the body of a beheaded comrade. A breeze blows and the man gasps. There is the sound of metal-on-metal and the man's head comes rolling into the room where the Nazis wait.



**Caught** Nazis find Jones and his comrades and force them into the center of the room. Donovan tells Jones that he will go recover the Grail, which he says gives eternal life. Jones refuses and Donovan shoots Henry in the stomach. Donovan says the only way to save him is with the Grail. Jones moves forward past the stone lions. He recalls the three trials that his father told him about in the zeppelin and remembers that he must be “penitent” when he feels the “breath of God.” When he feels a breeze, Jones suddenly drops to the ground as if falling to his knees in prayer, avoiding a series of spinning knives that would have killed him.



**Second Task** Jones proceeds to the second task, in which he must walk in the footsteps of the “word of God.” He reaches an area where the floor is covered with letters. Henry attempts to get up, but Marcus makes him lie down. Henry whispers, “The name of god.” In the temple, Jones whispers “Jehovah,” and Henry murmurs that in the Latin alphabet, ‘Jehovah’ begins with the letter “i.” Jones steps on J and very nearly falls through the floor to his death. He curses himself and corrects his mistake. The Nazis begin to follow him.



**Leap** Jones emerges onto the side of a cliff. He reads the diary, which says, “Only a leap from the lion’s head can he prove his worth.” Jones murmurs, “Impossible” and looks out over the huge canyon. Marcus calls to Jones that he must hurry. Jones realizes that it is a leap of faith and steps out into what he believes is the open air. However, his foot lands on a bridge that has been disguised to blend in with the far wall, so that it looks invisible. He crosses it and enters a chamber where an old knight kneels before an open book.



**The Knight** The knight suddenly turns and swings his sword at Jones, but Jones dodges it and the knight falls over. Jones helps the knight to sit up and the knight says he has been waiting over seven hundred years for someone to come and challenge him to single combat. The knight passes his sword to Jones, saying that he “vanquished” him. Donovan and Schneider suddenly enter the room and look around, fascinated, at a series of cups that line the walls. The knight tells them they must choose and that while the true Grail will give them life, the false Grail will take it from them.



**Choice** Donovan says he is not a historian and does not know which chalice to choose. Schneider asks him to let her choose and he agrees. Schneider picks an elaborate gold chalice, handing it to Donovan. He takes it to a font and fills it with water before saying, "Eternal life!" Donovan drinks and everyone waits in suspense until Donovan doubles over in pain. Donovan grabs Schneider, who screams as Donovan begins to rapidly age until he's nothing but a skeleton and then dust that blows away in the wind. The knight says, "He chose poorly."



**The Grail** Jones moves forward and chooses his own cup – a simple wooden cup that Jones remarks is "[t]he cup of a carpenter." Jones fills the cup with water and drinks, turning back to the knight, who says, "You have chosen wisely." But the knight says that the Grail cannot pass out of the temple, which is the price of immortality. Jones fills the Grail again and rushes out to his father, pouring the water into his mouth and then over the bullet wound in his stomach. The wound fizzes and then is immediately healed. Henry stares in wonder first at his son, and then at the Grail. Schneider looks at the Grail greedily.





**Chasm** Jones helps his father to his feet, placing the Grail on the floor. Schneider picks it up, but she moves too close to the exit of the temple and the temple begins to shake. She falls, dropping the Grail, and a huge chasm opens in the floor. Schneider falls into the chasm. Jones tries to pull her out, but she sees the Grail on a ledge close behind her. She stretches her arm for the Grail, saying she can reach it, as Jones begs her not to try. She persists and slips from his grasp, falling into the chasm. Jones falls too, but his father grabs his hand. Jones attempts to reach the Grail but finally listens to his father when Henry calls him "Indiana" for the first time in the film. Henry tells Jones to let it go and Jones gives his father his other hand, allowing himself to be pulled from the chasm.



**Indiana** The temple continues to shake and collapse. Jones and Henry turn back to see the knight standing at the edge. He raises a hand to them before Henry, Jones, Sallah, and Marcus flee the temple. Outside, Henry mourns that Schneider never believed in the Grail, and only saw it as a treasure. The four men climb onto their waiting horses and Henry reveals that he calls Jones "Junior" because he is Henry Jones Jr. and that Indiana was actually the name of their dog. The four men gallop out of the canyon and out into the sunset.

