Treasure Hunt

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1. EXT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY - ESTABLISHING
   A large library at the center of a university campus.

2. INT. LOWER LIBRARY - DAY
   The lower floors of the library are bustling with students,
   full of noise and activity.
   Food is served and eaten at the cafe.
   People are chatting, laughing joking.
   It is a lively place.
   We see the elevator doors slide close with a ding.

   CUT TO:

3. INT. UPPER LIBRARY - DAY
   The elevator doors slide open with a soft whoosh.
   On the upper floors all is quiet.
   A handful of students sit studying.
   Every turn of the page, or clearing of the throat, echoes
   through the silence.
   SAM, 20, and PAT, 20, are walking through an aisle in the
   stacks. They speak in whispered tones.

   SAM
   Remind me again why you come here?

   PAT
   It helps me think.

   SAM
   About what? Obsolete technology?

   PAT
   Books aren't obsolete. They're antique.

   SAM
   I could put every book on this
   floor on a thumb drive. A small
   one. This is a waste of space.

    PAT
    Look, see this book.

    SAM
    (reading)
    "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." Never heard of it.

    PAT
    I doubt anyone has heard of it. That's not the point. The point is that a book is a thing. A physical thing. This one is probably like a hundred years old.

    SAM
    Certainly smells like it.

    PAT
    People made this. They held it in their hands, they turned its pages...

Pat leafs through the pages of the book, and a folded, yellowed piece of paper flutters to the floor. Sam picks it up.

    PAT
    What's that?

Sam unfolds the paper to reveal what looks like a map.

    SAM
    It looks like a... map.

    PAT
    A map?

TITLE CARD: TREASURE HUNT

4.

INT. UPPER LIBRARY - DAY

Sam and Pat hunch together in a study carrel, poring over the map.

The map shows a series of boxes linked together by lines. The first box contains a number. The rest are empty. The last is marked with an X.

    SAM
    What the hell is all this?
PAT
How the hell should I know? It looks like a... flowchart. Or something.

SAM
It's certainly something.

PAT
Look at this.

The map is dated, Pat reads it aloud:

PAT
December 12th, 1917.

SAM
Holy shit. That's like exactly a hundred years ago.

Sam points to the number in the first box.

SAM
What's this number?

PAT
Give me the book.

Pat flips to the spine of the book. Nothing. Opens the front cover. Inside is a number.

They compare the number in the book with the one on the map.

SAM
They're different.

PAT
Yeah. But I wonder...

5.
INT. INFORMATION DESK - DAY

Sam and Pat approach the information desk, where CLERK, 22, is reading a book.

SAM
Hi. Excuse me? Hi.

CLERK
Yes?

Pat points to the number in the book.
PAT
Can you tell me what this is?

Clerk looks at number.

CLERK
Dewey.

SAM
Could you elaborate on that please?

CLERK
(annoyed)
The Dewey Decimal System. A records system used by some libraries for the classification of books.

SAM
Not this library?

CLERK
Not anymore, no. We switched over in like the nineties or something.

SAM
What was I saying about obsolete technology?

PAT
Is there a way to find the old numbers for books here? Like if I had the number, could I find the book.

CLERK
The Dewey records aren't searchable. If you tell me the book I could tell you the number. If you tell me the number...

SAM
(hopefully)
You tell us to stop wasting our time?

CLERK
I tell you your only option is to look in the card reference.

PAT
Where can I find the card reference?
6. INT. THE CARD REFERENCE - DAY

Sam and Pat stand before an imposing wall of card catalog drawers.

SAM
You've got to be kidding me.

PAT
Listen, somebody took the time to draw the map, there must be something worth finding at the end of it. If we find the book with this number, I bet we find another number, then another book...

SAM
And we'll be here all night.

PAT
Don't act like you got something better to do. Cuz I know you. And you don't.

SAM
I hate the library.

7. BEGIN MONTAGE: THE HUNT

-Sam and Pat rifle through cards. Find numbers.
-They go up the stairs.
-They prowl the stacks, find a book, inside is a note with a new number.
-They go down the stairs.
-Decline and Fall goes in a pile. Bleak House goes on top.
-Back at the cards. Another number. Another book.
-Up the stairs. Down the stairs.
-The dig one last number from the catalog.

END MONTAGE.
8. INT. UPPER LIBRARY - NIGHT

Sam and Pat pull a final book down from the shelf. It is Moby Dick.

PAT
This is it.

SAM
What do you think is in there?

PAT
It could be a love letter from a soldier who died in the Great War.

SAM
It could be a Savings Bond that's now worth a million dollars.

PAT
It could be nothing. A hundred year old practical joke.

SAM
If it's a practical joke I'm gonna be genuinely pissed.

PAT
Listen, no matter what it is, as far I'm concerned, we've already found a buried treasure.

SAM
What's that?

PAT
This. You and Me. This is true love.

SAM
Fuck you.

Together Sam and Pat open the book to reveal...

CUT TO BLACK--