

Steve goes to Carnival

By Joshua Button and Robyn Wells

Notes by Robyn Wells, March 2018

4. CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Manila folder containing 1 piece of original artwork

This illustration was always intended to be an important double-page spread. We found out from our research that a tram actually travels from the Rio de Janeiro Zoo, which is located at the Botanical Gardens, past the statue of Christ and the favelas and then into the city, so we incorporated this tram route into our story, making all the details as accurate as possible.

It is a critical scene showing Steve heading headlong into an unknown, mysterious world. The atmosphere for this scene was directly inspired by an image in the Time-Life book, *Great Cities of the world/Rio de Janeiro* (p.17). We loved the misty, ethereal image of Christ on the peak of Corcovado.

This scene appears in all the early storyboards and drafts; in addition, several pencil versions were made prior to commencing the final artwork. This artwork was originally made in 2008, and has numerous layers, having been painted over and over again: the final layer of the telegraph lines was added as late as January 2018, just prior to our deadline!

The favelas in this scene are shown at a distance, dwarfed by the dark ranges behind them; you can just get a sense of the tumbled-down buildings and washing hanging on the line: a small glimpse of people's domestic lives in the grandeur of the universe.