

APPENDIX I

SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

Raya and the Last Dragon (2021), written by Que Nguyen and Adele Lim, is set in the fictional land of Kumandra, a region once united but now divided into five tribes: Heart, Fang, Spine, Talon, and Tail. The main conflict in the story stems from a struggle over the Dragon Gem, a magical power resources that provides prosperity. Dragon Gem is only controlled by the Heart tribe, which makes them more prosperous than other tribes, resulting in social and economic inequality. However, when all the tribes are invited to make peace by the Heart tribe, the other tribes betray each other by trying to seize the dragon gem, resulting in a fight between the tribes. The battle caused the Dragon Gem broke into five pieces, causing destruction throughout Kumandra. This moment triggered conflict between tribes, each tribes competing to seize the Dragon Gem pieces for the benefit of their own tribe.

After the Dragon Gem broke into five piece and each piece keep by each leader of the tribe, Raya as a daughter from Heart tribes who live in prosperity in the past becomes suffer and her dad changed into a stone. Because of this situation Raya start her journey to find the last dragon Sisu and collect every dragon gem pieces by steal it from every tribe. She hopes she can save her father and bring unity in Kumandra by doing that. Raya successfully find Sisu, then they work together to collect the dragon gem piece to resolve conflict in Kumandra. In their journey they find a lot of challenges, because Namaari from Fang tribe always try to thwart them. In addition, each tribe distrusted each other, so when a foreign tribe arrived in their tribe, they would be suspected and attacked so that they could not steal the dragon gem kept by their leader.

When Raya reached the first tribe, Tail, she succeeds in stealing the dragon gem piece, but is almost thwarted by Namaari. She is lucky to be able to escape with the help of a young Tail tribesman named Boun. Raya offers to rent Boun's boat, Boun, who is living in hardship, is very happy to get the offer. Raya then went to the next target tribe, the Talon, in a Boun boat. Arriving in Talon, Raya is tricked by a small local boy, as Talon is famous for its floating market life full of pickpockets. However, Raya eventually managed to steal the dragon gem piece from the Talon leader. When returning to the boat Raya feels pity for the kids and her pet who tricked Raya before, named Noi and Ongis. Raya finally allowed them to join in the boat. Afterward, Raya and her party headed to the

Spine tribe. There they met a great warrior named Tong, who initially suspected them. However, after going through various obstacles and misunderstandings, Tong eventually joined and helped them on their journey. They work together because they have same purpose to bring unity in Kumandra. The journey continues to the last tribe, Fang, which is the most difficult place to obtain the last shard of the Dragon Gem. This is where the climax of the story occurs, when the trust between Raya and Namaari is truly challenged. In a fit of tension and vengeance, Raya and Namaari engage in a violent battle. However, when Sisu is killed due to their dispute, the entire Kumandra region is again in grave danger due to the attack of the creature of darkness, Druun. Seeing that things are getting worse, Raya and the other tribes finally realize that only by working together and trusting each other can they defeat Druun. Raya decided to hand over her Dragon Gem shard to Namaari as a form of trust and sacrifice. This act inspired the other tribe members to do the same. Namaari then successfully unites the five Dragon Gem shards and activates them, allowing Druun to be defeated. The ending shows everyone who became stone coming back to life, including Raya's father. Kumandra is reunited, and the conflict that happen in Kumandra is finally ended through collective consciousness, inter-tribal cooperation, and the spirit of unity.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Que Nguyen is a Vietnamese-American playwright, screenwriter, and director who has become well known for his unique approach to storytelling. He was born and raised in El Dorado, Arkansas, as the child of Vietnamese immigrants who came to the United States after the Vietnam War. This background strongly influences the themes he explores in his works, especially topics like family, identity, cultural heritage, and the immigrant experience. Before joining the film industry, Que Nguyen made his mark in the American theater scene. He co-founded the Vampire Cowboys Theatre Company in New York City, a group famous for developing what the New York Times once called “geek theater.” This company combined live-action fight choreography, comic book aesthetics, video game references, and martial arts into stage plays that were exciting and fresh for young audiences. One of Nguyen’s most popular stage plays, *She Kills Monsters*, has been widely performed by schools and community theaters across the United States and is praised for blending adventure, comedy, and heartfelt storytelling. In 2021, he co-wrote *Raya and the Last Dragon*, a Disney animated film inspired by various cultures in Southeast Asia. Nguyen’s contribution to this project was significant because he helped craft not only the story structure and character arcs but also the cultural details that gave the film authenticity. He worked alongside cultural consultants to make sure the landscapes, clothing, food, and traditions shown in the film felt respectful and familiar to Southeast Asian audiences (Walt Disney Animation Studios, n.d.).

Adele Lim is a Malaysian-American screenwriter, producer, and director whose work has helped reshape the way Asian characters and stories are shown in Hollywood films. She was born in Malaysia and grew up in Petaling Jaya, where she was raised in a traditional Chinese-Malaysian family. Lim moved to the United States for her college education and began her writing career in the competitive world of American television. She started as a staff writer and worked her way up to becoming a supervising producer and screenwriter for well-known TV shows such as *One Tree Hill*, *Private Practice*, *Reign*, and *Lethal Weapon*. These early years shaped her skills in developing strong, relatable characters and writing dialogue that feels natural and authentic. Lim’s big breakthrough in the film industry came when she co-wrote the screenplay for *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018), which became a worldwide hit and was widely praised for its all-Asian

cast and its honest, humorous look at family life and cultural traditions. *Crazy Rich Asians* was a landmark film because it brought Asian-American stories into the mainstream in a way that had not been done by Hollywood in decades. In 2021 Lim returned to writing for a major studio project that highlights Southeast Asian culture entitled *Raya and The Last Dragon*. Working together with Que Nguyen, she helped shape the journey of Raya, the brave young woman who fights to reunite her divided land. Lim made sure that the dialogue captured the spirit of community, trust, and humor that is common in many Southeast Asian cultures. She worked with a team of Southeast Asian cultural experts to develop elements like the Dragon Gem, the architecture of the kingdoms, and the customs of the different tribes to reflect real cultural inspirations. Lim's commitment to telling Asian stories did not stop there. In 2023, she made her debut as a film director with *Joy Ride*, a bold comedy that centers on Asian-American friends who go on a wild adventure.



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LIM'S RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON
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