
Thumbnailing for Animation

Thumbnails from a sequence of Disney's Rescuers

Preparing for Animation: The Art of Thumbnailing: Part 1



The Art of Thumbnailing

Good animation begins with good planning. One of the first things an animator should do is thumbnail his scene. By thumbnailing we mean creating small quick drawings which provide a blueprint for the poses in the scene.

By working small and rough the animator can try out a number of different poses and come up with the best approach to the scene before committing to animation. This is the stage where problems in staging and acting can be resolved. Once you have worked out the action at this small size it is easy to blow it up on the xerox machine and paste it up to start your scene.

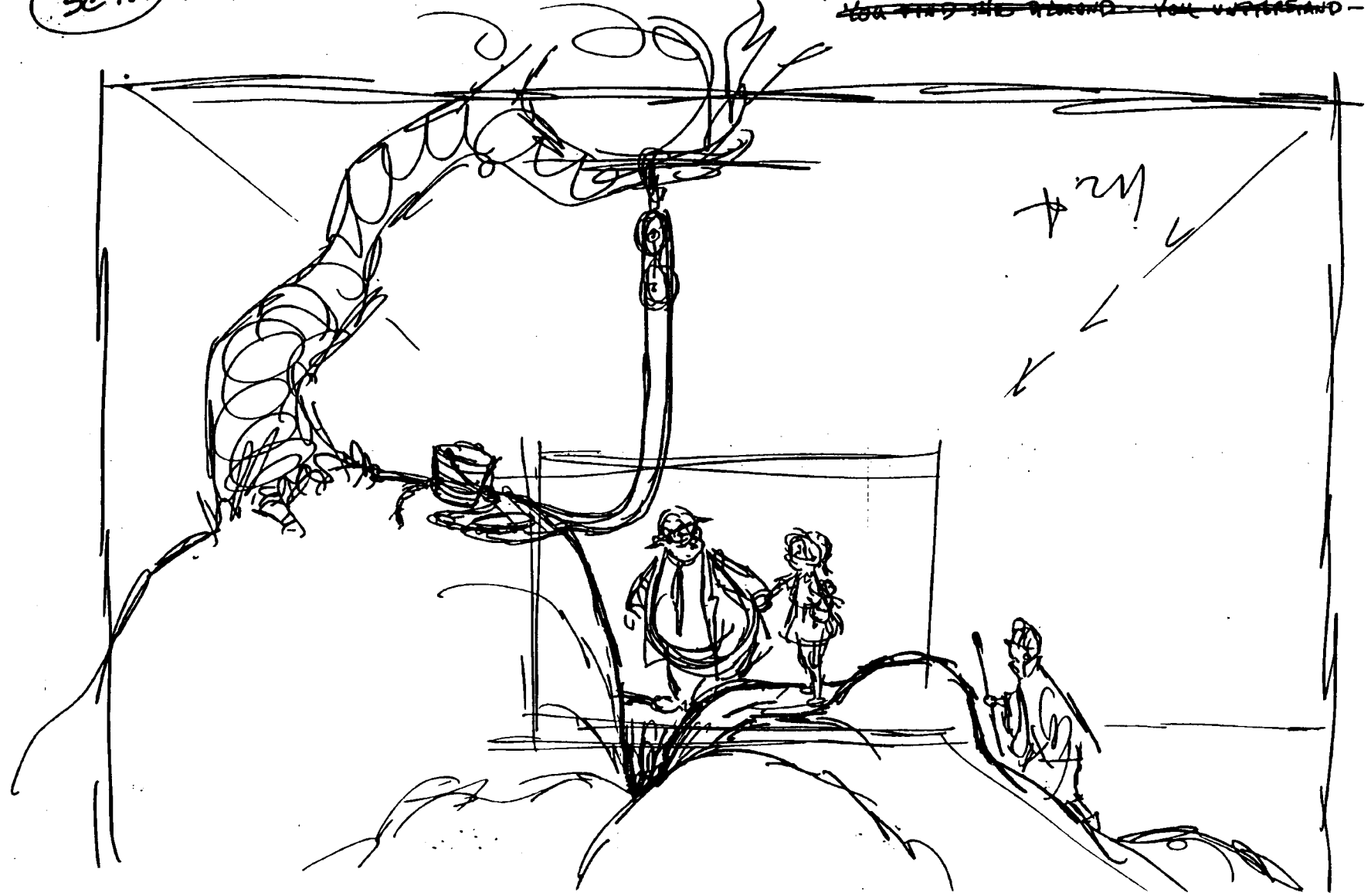
This set of notes shows a sequence from Disney's Rescuers where the animator has worked out his staging and action in a series of great thumbnails.

The Art of Thumbnailing

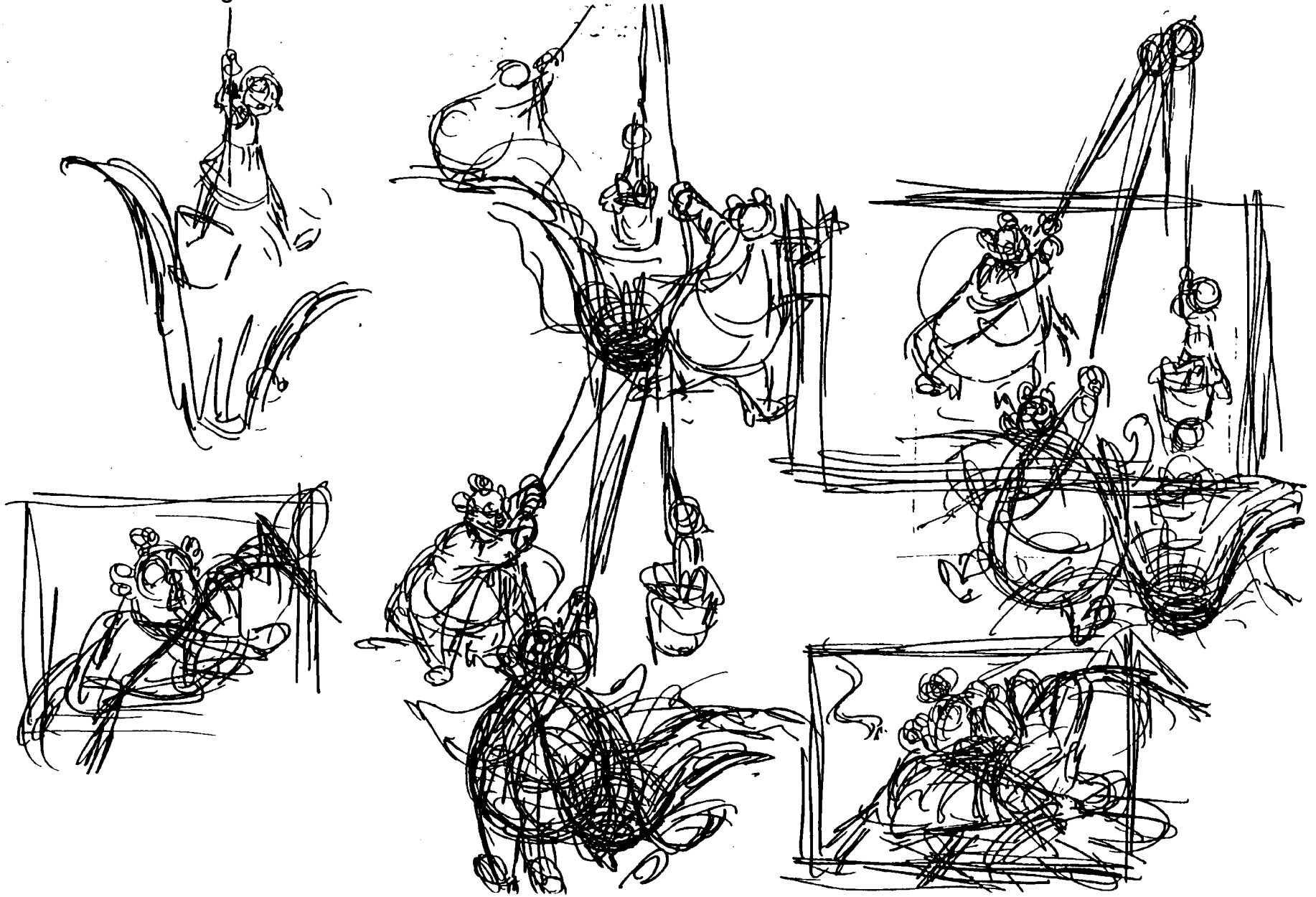
SNOOPS AND PRINNY ARRIVING AT HOLE - MEDUSA FOLLOWING

sc 1.1

SNOOPS: "ALL RIGHT YOU LITTLE BEAT, NOW YOU'RE GONNA GO DOWN IN THAT HOLE ~~AND BE HUNG~~
~~FOR THE REMOND YOU WASTED~~"



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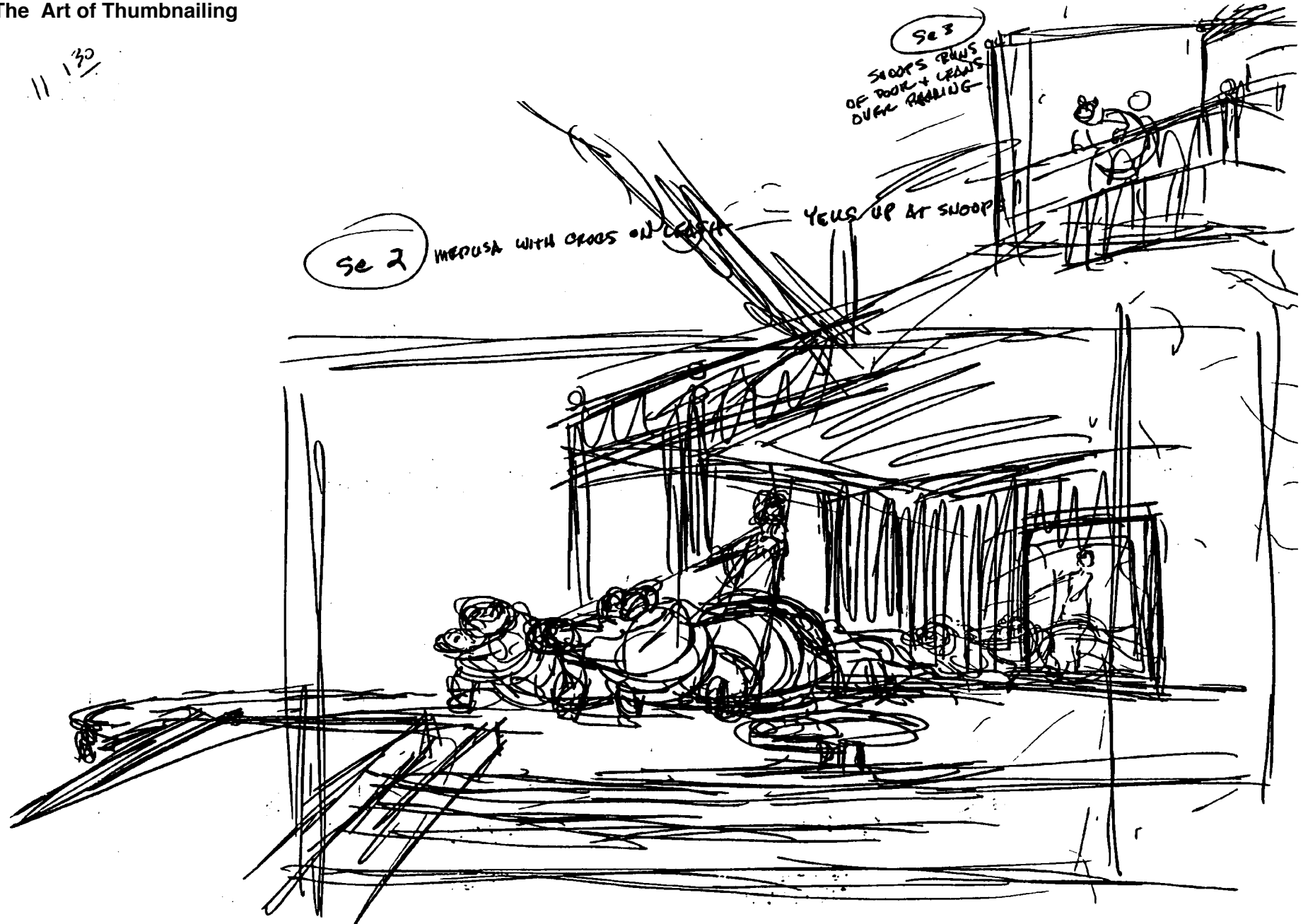


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"WHERE IS SHE?"
 SLAMS DOORS OPEN — VERY DRAMATIC
 ENTRANCE



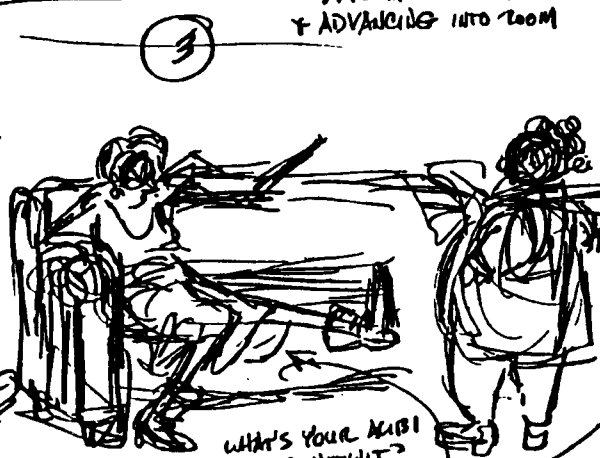
"WHERE IS SHE?"
 STARTS REMOVING GIPE
 + ADVANCING INTO ROOM



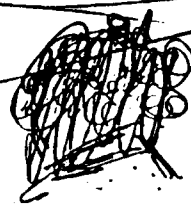
"WHERE IS SHE — I SENT HER TO
 HER ROOM."
 SNOOPS VERY NERVOUS & APPREHENSIVE
 — SICKS UP A FEW STEPS



DID YOU
 HEAR THAT?
 IS RAIN OR ARE
 "ESCAPE"
 HOLE & FRONT
 AS PER THE ONE



WHAT'S YOUR NAME
 THIS TIME, NITWIT?



FLEES DOWN ON
 SOFA + STICKS
 FOOT OUT



2. NITWIT
 SUPPOSED TO BE
 PATROLLING THE
 ISLAND

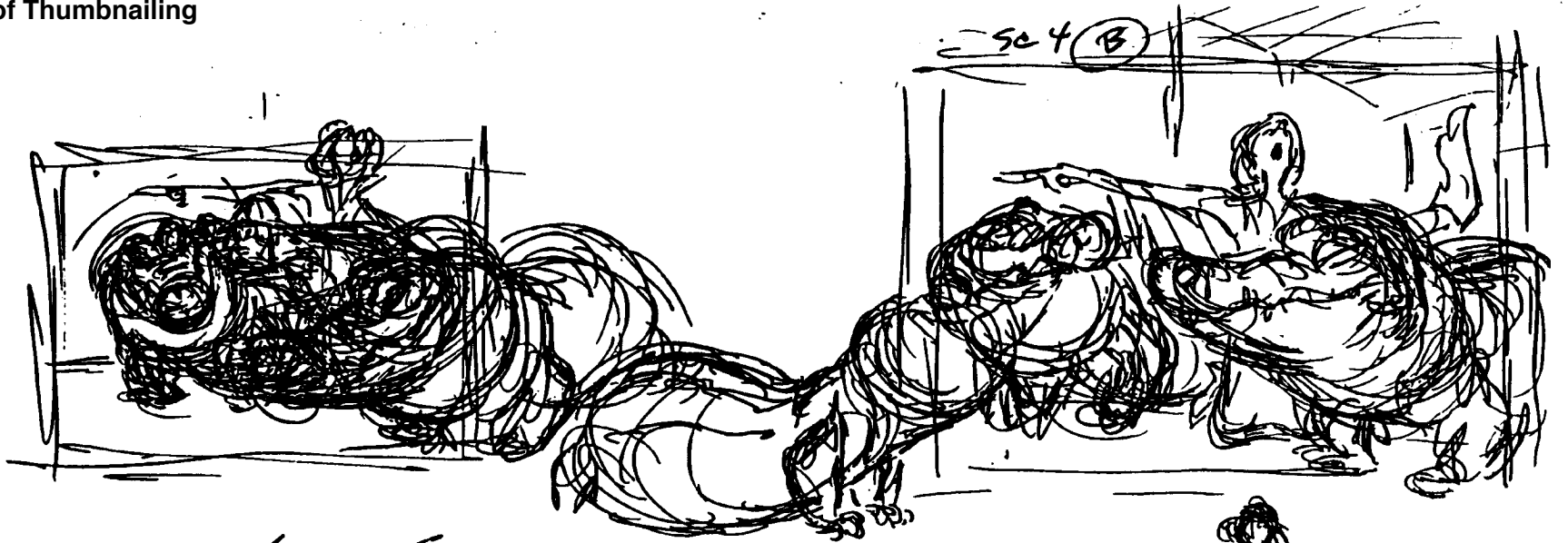


NITWIT

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SNOOPS! SNOOPS! GET DOWN HERE!
WHAT WA WHAT'S UP, MEDUSA? WITH WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT LITTLE BRAT HAS ESCAPED AGAIN!
NERO! BRUTUS! BRING HER BACK BOYS!



The Art of Thumbnailing



NICE TO PEEKER OF PENNY'S APRON - AND NO PASSING ME!
 PLEAS TO SNOOPS DICK GOE.
 O.S. SNOOPS - AND DIG UNTIL YOU FIND THAT DIAMOND - YOU UNDERSTAND?



O.S. MEDUSA: "AH AH AH - SNOOPS -"



THAT IS NO WAY TO SPEAK TO OUR LITTLE MISS PENNY."



O.S. MEDUSA: "OH-AY, O.KAY, BUSS, O.KAY"

"NOW MY DEAR - YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THE BIG SHINY DIAMOND FOR DUTY MEDUSA - ARENT YOU, HMM?"



SC 6
 C.U. HOLE + BUCKET
 BUCKET IS SWINGING - SNOOPS IS JUST FLUNGING LETTING DOWN -



"TEDDY DOESN'T LIKE IT PENNY THERE"

PENNY BACKS AWAY FROM HOLE - INTO MEDUSA'S MIGHT



MEDUSA STRAIGHTENS UP ON "HMM?" - LEAVING US ON C.U. OF PENNY, WITH MEDUSA BARELY ON R. SIDE OF FLEED.