

JAZZ BAND

EPISODE 108

"SAD CLOWN A-GO-GO"

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Based on
"The Autumn Rain Sessions"
The Animated Series

1 INT. SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY - THARSIS - NIGHT 1

Dark. Ominous. Only a shaft of light on a set of double doors illuminates a LOGO: THE SAME LOGO SEEN ON EIN'S COLLAR IN EP. #103.

Text under the logo reads "**CHERIOUS MEDICAL**". Suddenly, from behind the door, we hear RAISED VOICES followed by the RAT-A-TAT-TAT of THE rapid fire of a machine gun. Then--

A POOL OF BLOOD seeps under the doors a moment before--

The logo SPLITS. The doors BURST OPEN to REVEAL **DOCTOR EMILY GODARD** (mid 30s). **SHIN** and **LIN**, behind Godard, force her into the room at gunpoint.

Godard's eyes are wide with fear, her pulse racing, as she steps over TWO BULLET-RIDDLED SECURITY GUARDS, slumped in unnatural positions on the floor.

GODARD
*... you don't understand -- he's an
experiment gone wrong--*

An impatient **VICIOUS** steps in behind them, looking around.

VICIOUS
Let there be light.

Shin FLIPS a SWITCH and LIGHTS CRASH ON revealing an operating table in the center of the room. Beside it are several instrument tables. *

Against the wall, A BANK OF 9 CAGES -- EACH HOUSING A SINGLE DOG: 3 IDENTICAL CORGIES (THAT LOOK REMARKABLY LIKE EIN); 3 IDENTICAL FRENCH BULLDOGS; AND 3 IDENTICAL DASCHUNDS. All with Cherious Medical tags, just like Ein's. *

On the far wall are THREE HUMAN SIZED CAGES WITH BARS ACROSS THE DOORS. In one of them, a MAN sits on a cot. He remains quite still in his darkened environment. *

LIN
(to Vicious; re: the man in the cage) *

They say he's the best hit man in the solar system. *

GODARD
(panic growing)
-- you can't let him out--

Shin shoves Godard toward a COMPUTER TERMINAL as Vicious LEVELS HIS GUN AT GODARD.

SHIN

(to Godard; re: Vicious)
He says we can. So we will.

GODARD

Please-- this isn't someone you put
in the world. We hooked him on Red-
Eye to control him. It's why we
invented the stuff, but... it
scrambled his brain. That and the
time he spent fighting on Titan.

(then)

**He's a violent. Homicidal. Loose
cannon.**

VICIOUS

Well then, he's my kind of guy.

Vicious cocks the hammer.

Capitulating, Godard activates the door release on the Man's
cage. The bars of the cage recede into the wall, and the Man
inside rises and steps out into the light, revealing--

*
*
*

PIERROT LEFOU. Six-three, jacked, with long hair and a
bearded face. His arms are restrained in a straight jacket.

*
*

Vicious stares at LeFou -- who stares back. The two size each
other up for a moment, then:

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

What's your name, soldier?

LEFOU

LeFou. Pierrot LeFou.

*

At the sound of his name, the dogs in the cages all begin
barking furiously--

LEFOU HISSES back at the dogs, and they all quiet and cower
in the back of their cages.

GODARD

He hates dogs. It's a... thing.

LeFou's lips CURL INTO A DISTURBING SMILE, eyes on Godard.

LEFOU

Not... just... dogs.

ZOOM IN ON LEFOU'S EYES as we **SNAP** INTO A FLASHBACK:

2 OMITTED (COMBINED W/ SCENE 1) 2

3 INT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT [FLASHBACK] 3

Godard, in surgical scrubs, hovers over LeFou lying strapped to a table -- Godard puts a metal mouthguard in LeFou's mouth as a NURSE hands her a very nasty looking HYPOSPRAY.

SNAP: Godard JAMS the hypospray into LeFou's neck... as LeFou bites down on the mouthguard:

SNAP: Godard pulls out a NASTY LOOKING BONESAW... the dogs watch LeFou, growling from a corner of the room...

SNAP: Godard brings the bone-saw down on LeFou's leg. As blood SPATTERS everywhere, LeFou bites down harder in excruciating pain -- as the corgis, and the other dogs, watch, growling.

RESUME ON THE PRESENT:

3A INT. SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY - THARSIS - NIGHT 3A

Godard is scared out of her mind: facing her biggest fear:

GODARD

This is insane. There's a reason we call him "Mad Pierrot." He's--

Vicious TURNS and SHOTS GODARD in the head. Then--

LEFOU

Thank you.

VICIOUS

Care to return the favor?
(off LeFou's creepy smile)
Do a job for me and you'll have all the Red-Eye you want.

LeFou's smile WIDENS with an addict's thirst:

LEFOU

What is the job?

Vicious lifts his phone to show an IMAGE OF SPIKE: *

VICIOUS

Kill Spike Spiegel.

3,2,1 LET'S JAM!

COWBOY BEBOP -- MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

Over BLACK we hear a GROWING RUMBLE as we SMASH UP ON:

4

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - ALBA CITY - NIGHT

4

CLOSE ON: JET BLACK'S PERSONALIZED BOWLING BALL, rolling down a lane... **IT CONNECTS WITH A FULL FRAME OF PINS**, and-- "Bed Posts" - THE DREADED 7-10 SPILT. Jet, in a bowling shirt and matching bowling shoes, grumbles:

JET

Damn.

WIDE TO REVEAL: We're in a retro bowling alley. It's a slow night. Just our guys, and a few lanes over the THREE AMIGOS - CARLOS, ANTONIO, and JOBIM each wearing an outfit that reminds us of the Lebowski trio.

He walks back to the scoring table where Spike and Faye sit in plastic chairs. Ein sits at their feet.

FAYE

When do I get to go?

JET

When it's your turn.

As Jet collects his ball from the ball-return...

FAYE

But you already knocked down the... things.

SPIKE

I'm pretty sure you get two throws in a frame.

FAYE

This sport is weird.

SPIKE

Jet claims it's relaxing.

FAYE

(to Jet)

Why are we even here?

As Jet lines up his ball, getting his form perfect..

JET

Because it's family time. And during family time we do fun things together. Like bowl.

Jet throws the ball down the lane... and -- the ball **just** kisses the 7 pin, wobbling it... But it stays standing.

JET (CONT'D)

Damn.

As Jet returns to the score table--

SPIKE

I can see how this really helps you find your inner zen.

JET

Just roll the ball down the lane, smart guy.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Spike grabs a ball, and tosses it, like it ain't no thang. *
Doesn't even bother to look, as it hits a strike! *

Jet's slack-jawed.

SPIKE
Faye, you're up. I'll go grab some *
more beers.

Spike heads off as Faye eagerly grabs a bowling ball. She's
about to swing when--

JET
Wait.
(nods to another lane)
It's bad luck to bowl when a ball's
on it's way back.

FAYE
Like the bowling gods give a crap. *

Faye tosses the ball down the lane, and-- the bowling gods do *
seem to give a crap, because it veers right into the gutter. *

FAYE (CONT'D)
This game sucks balls.

Bummed, Faye turns around and her face twists in confusion.

REVERSE to REVEAL: Spike holding a birthday cake with lit *
candles. Jet and Ein beside him. All smiles. *

FAYE (CONT'D)
What's happening?

JET
Well, after recent events, we
wanted to do something special for
you.

Faye goes over and takes in the cake with "Happy Birthday, *
Faye" written on it in big swirly letters.

FAYE
Guys, I don't even know when my
birthday is.

SPIKE
That's why we're making today your
new birthday.

Faye is visibly touched.

FAYE

Wow, you two are the sweetest
dickheads a girl could ever want.

(then)

But don't sing. Seriously.

SPIKE

Oh, God no.

JET

Of course not.

Then--

SPIKE/JET

(singing)

"Happy birthday to you..."

And as the Three Amigos join in the singing, we SMASH TO-- *

4A

EXT. ALLEYWAY - ALBA CITY - NIGHT

4A

BIRD'S EYE VIEW of the ALLEYWAY, looking down on Spike and Jet walking, Faye struts ahead with Ein on a leash.

FAYE

It's my birthday, It's my birthday.

It's my...

(she stops)

Hold on.

(counts her fingers, then)

I'm a Virgo? Huh. I'm not sure that
works for me.

Jet shakes his head, about to comment when Spike chimes in:

SPIKE

Faye's got a point. A typical
Virgo's intelligent. Practical.
Reliable. And Modest.

FAYE

Bite me. I'm totally a virgo.

Ein suddenly yanks Faye to the corner of the alley to pee. *

JET

(to Spike)

Didn't know you were into all that
astrological wu-wu.

SPIKE

I'm a deep guy. You know, layered.
Like nachos.

(then, to Jet)

That was a nice thing you did. *

JET

Yeah well, I'm not all bark **and**
bite.

Spike and Jet exit the alley--

4B

EXT. STREET - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS

4B

ANGLE OF A MYSTERY POV: watching our Bebop Crew from high
atop the rooftops.

The guys continue walking. Ein sniffs around for a spot to
pee when he stops. Ears perk up, alert. Faye gets impatient.

FAYE

Go on. The world's your toilet.

But instead of peeing, EIN LOOKS UP TO THE ROOFTOPS AND LETS
OUT A LOW GROWL.

Faye looks up to see what's got Ein's attention when a
LOOMING SHADOW CROSSES OVER HER FACE. Her eyes GO-WIDE.

FAYE (CONT'D)

Holy shit...
(then)
Guys! Incoming!

The guys turn back to Faye just as LEFOU DESCENDS down into
the center of the dark street.

SPIKE

What. The actual. Fuck?

LeFou wears tactical gear under a LONG BLACK DUSTER. LeFou
grins. Then, he opens his duster wide - revealing the
interior, which is covered with weapons of all shapes and
sizes... *

LEFOU *

Let's party! *

And LeFou draws a TRI-BARREL, PISTOL-GRIP, LEVER-ACTION,
SHOTGUN with one hand, and a FULL-AUTO, 30-ROUND GLOCK. *

Spike doesn't have to think about it, he draws his GUN and
OPENS FIRE. Jet pulls his gun from his bowling bag and FIRES.

Faye draws her gun as she pulls Ein back into the safety of
the alley--

BANGBANGBANGBANGBANGBANGBANG!

LeFou is peppered with SHOTS but his ABLATIVE ARMOR -- some kind of energy field -- diffuses the fast-moving BULLETS. Which sprinkle to the floor around his feet. He smiles. Then--

LeFou fires his GLOCK and flip-cocks a round into his shotgun. Fires--

Spike ducks behind cover. Automatic gunfire hammers Spike's cover. Jet takes cover behind a PARKED CAR, but LeFou's shot gun is making Swiss-Cheese of it! Then--

LeFou pulls a MODEL 1924 STIELHANDGRANATE-esque explosive, pops the cap, and underhands it toward the Parked Car...

Jet sees it coming, and ducks back into the alley as--

The Stielhandgranate lands under the front bumper of the parked car. And on impact--

BOOM--! The car explodes, flipping it ass over tea kettle and landing it on its roof, blocking the mouth of the alleyway--

Spike peeks out from cover to see LeFou moving fast in his direction-- Spike FIRES, but **HOLY SHIT--!**

-- **LEFOU IS SUDDENLY MOVING WITH SUCH SPEED - ZIG ZAGGING DOWN THE STREET - THAT NONE OF SPIKE'S BULLETS LAND.**

AND AS LEFOU ARRIVES AT SPIKE, DELIVERING A CRUSHING BLOW--

4C

EXT. ALLEYWAY - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS

4C

Trapped in the alley by the burning Parked Car, Jet and Faye can only watch as LeFou kicks the shit out of Spike.

But what they are watching isn't the beating itself, **it's what every fan of the anime has been waiting for...**

A SHADOW REPRESENTATION BROADCAST ON A BUILDING WALL ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES OF THE PARKED CAR:

LeFou GRABS SPIKE and FLINGS him up into the air with such force that Spike winds up in a graceless, UPWARD FLIP.

LeFou LEVITATES and CATCHES Spike in mid-air, leveling a Baryshnikov-level HIGH KICK that sends Spike back upward... LeFou RISES AGAIN and KICKS HIM BACK INTO ANOTHER FLIP. And another. And another. And another... **SHIT THAT HURTS!**

LeFou finally GRABS Spike, and THROWS him down the street--

4D

EXT. ALLEYWAY - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS

4D

Jet and Faye look search to find something to use to get around the burning parked car... Jet finally sees an OLD 8x10 SHOP SIGN beside a DUMPSTER. As he grabs it and flips it onto the roof of the car, CREATING A PATHWAY THROUGH THE FIRE...

4E

EXT. STREET - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS

4E

LeFou looms over Spike, who is flat on his back. He reaches down and grabs a fist-full of Spike's shirt bringing him up to eye level, his voice a terrible **whisper**:

LEFOU

Vicious sends his regards.

Realizing he's in even deeper shit than the shit he's already pretty deep in, Spike grapples with LeFou to free himself--

CLOSE ON SPIKE'S HAND: It goes THROUGH the ablative armor, which doesn't repel Spike, it only deflects bullets.

Spike latches onto the high-tech CUFF around LeFou's forearm and accidentally hits a BUTTON causing LeFou, and himself, to LEVITATE BRIEFLY off the ground.

As they comes back down, LeFou activates a high-tech FLAMETHROWER from a CUFF on his other forearm. **FWOOM!**

Spike's arm catches fire. He SCREAMS in PAIN. But suddenly--

-- Jet SLAMS INTO LEFOU, who releases Spike. As Jet tries to pound on LeFou--

-- Faye uses her jacket to put out the fire still burning n Spike's arm--

-- LeFou counterstrikes Jet, sending him backwards. LeFou turns back toward Spike and Faye

LEFOU (CONT'D)

Die-Die-Die--!

LeFou draws his Shotgun, flip cocks it to chamber rounds. But then -- ***the oddest thing happens:***

EIN, STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, GOES FULL CUJO, BARKING AT LEFOU LIKE A RABID SHEPHERD...

And LEFOU ACTUALLY BACKS AWAY. More like COWERS, ***as if having a panic attack, consumed by some horrific past trauma.***

Registering this, Jet looks to Faye:

JET

We gotta move!

FAYE

No shit!

Faye helps Spike. Jet grabs Ein. And they haul ass out--

ON LeFou regaining his composure. As he stands there, his SHADOW LOOMING LARGE across the alleyway.

Off LeFou's SHADOW, as it slowly dissipates, we SMASH CUT TO--

5 INT. HALLWAY - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT 5 *

Ein skitters in and disappears around a corner.

Jet barrels in with a nearly unconscious Spike over his shoulder, his charred arm hanging limply. Faye follows them, the gunfight, ambush, and rescue still sizzling the air...

FAYE

You see the firepower that guy was packing? Who the hell can afford that--

JET

-- get the burn-kit! Third shelf.
Big tubular box--

... and Jet slips into the BATHROOM with SPIKE, as Faye hustles for the STORAGE LOCKERS...

FAYE

(calling back to Jet)
-- you think someone sent him after us?

5A INT. BATHROOM - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT 5A *

As Jet lowers Spike, fully clothed, into the empty BATHTUB, Spike let's out a pained groan.

JET

(to Spike)
Sorry, pal... don't worry, I got something to fix this--
(yelling to Faye)
-- Where's that kit?

5B INT. STORAGE LOCKERS - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT 5B *

As Faye digs through piles of crap, trying to get to a locker in the back, where she can see, on the third shelf, **TWO 25LB BAGS OF UNGUENT PELLETS.**

FAYE

(calling back to Jet)
I mean, I've pissed off a lot of scumbags in my time, but I never thought--

INTERCUT BETWEEN JET AND FAYE AS NECESSARY:

JET
(yelling back to Faye)
Not now, Faye. A-holes and elbows!

As Faye grabs the two bags off the shelf:

FAYE
(calling back to Jet)
You got any enemies who could hire
someone like that to kill you?

JET
(ignoring her, to Spike)
We're gonna get you fixed up.

5C **INT. HALLWAY - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT** 5C *

Faye charges down the hallway, a bag of Unguent Pellets slung on each shoulder...

FAYE
Total creeper -- he looked me in
the eye and yelled "DIE! DIE! DIE!"

And as she enters --

5D **INT. BATHROOM - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS** 5D

Jet turns to find Faye entering, grabbing the bags from her --

FAYE
You think he was there to kill me?

JET
(to Faye)
No, I don't.
(then)
Just help me get this on him...

Jet holds a bag as Faye tears open the top of the bag. Then:

JET (CONT'D)
(to Spike)
Okay. Here comes the bad news, this
might hurt.

Spike looks at Jet -- eyes gone glassy, mouth still snarky:

SPIKE
Might?

JET

Will. You'll probably pass out from
the pain.

SPIKE

Cigarette?

JET

Not a chance.

Faye grabs a LOOFAH ON A STICK from the shower's soap rack.

FAYE

You'll want this in you mouth
instead.

(off Spike's look)

Trust me. I saw a guy once - **waaaay
less banged up than you** - get one
of these chem treatments... cried
like a baby in a blender.

SPIKE

Not helping.

Faye puts the Loofah STICK between Spike's teeth.

FAYE

Just bite down.

And as Spike does, Jet dumps the contents of the bags,
hundreds of SMALL BLUE BALLS, into the tub, covering Spike.

And as the Blue Balls land on Spike, he SCREAMS OUT IN PAIN
THROUGH THE LOOFAH STICK. Then his eyes ROLL BACK. He's out.

Jet and Faye each take deep breaths... a pause... Then:

FAYE (CONT'D)

(a thought)

You'd think, through the marvels of
modern medicine, they could easily
add some anesthetic properties to
that stuff. What's the deal..?

Faye realizes Jet's not listening to her. Then, shifting back
their previous conversation: *

FAYE (CONT'D)

Okay. Jet. Real talk. That guy...
he was coming after me, right?

JET
Probably not.

FAYE
But he shot at me. Do you have any
idea who--

But Jet is already exiting into...

5E INT. HALLWAY - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - CONTINUOUS 5E

As Jet charges down the hall, Faye steps out of the bathroom.

FAYE
(calling after him)
Where you going?

Jet turns.

JET
To talk to someone who can tell me
who that maniac is.
(then, re: Spike)
Give him fifteen minutes in the
solution. Then get his arm wrapped,
and get him to bed.

*
*
*

Jet heads off. Faye watches him go - a guided missile of
purpose - and as Jet rounds the corner--

6 OMITTED 6

7

EXT. NOODLE CART / NAKED ANGEL CLUB - NIGHT

7

Outside the NAKED ANGEL (rave club), RAVERS grab late night eats from the mobile eatery. At one of the few empty tables sits Jet's old pal, **WOODCOCK**. Her eyes tick around the crowd, until she clocks--

Jet making his way towards her. As he approaches:

JET

Thanks for coming, Woody.

WOODCOCK

When you called, I hoped we'd be meeting some place more... **andlelit**. But after doing the digging you asked...

On the tabletop, Woodcock taps A FILE FOLDER WITH A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA IMAGE OF LEFOU FIXED TO ITS COVER.

WOODCOCK (CONT'D)

... I can't say it got my whistle wet.

JET

Must be bad. Normally you get off on this kind of stuff.

As Woodcock pushes the File Folder across the table to Jet.

WOODCOCK

(shaking her head)

No. This is dry mouth, cold sweats bad.

*
*

Jet opens the File Folder. But it's empty inside.

JET

You joking?

*

Woodcock leans over and flips the File Folder shut, and as she taps the image of LeFou--

WOODCOCK

Making a point. Your boy here is a phantom. Scrubbed cleaner than my bikini line in summer time.

(off Jet's look)

No sign of him ever existing. Anywhere. Even my old buddies from the service responded with a big fat... **nischt**.

*
*

Woodcock continues at Jet's wheels turn.

WOODCOCK (CONT'D)

Now who has the kind of access? Or
money for this level of
invisibility?

*
*

Jet knows the answer to this question spells real trouble.

JET

Special forces. Black bag outfits.
Syndicate.

WOODCOCK

Since when do you have that kind of
heat on you?

JET

Since never.

WOODCOCK

Yeah, well... I had a feeling
you're into clean living, even in
your dirty business. But what about
your partner?

JET
What about him?

WOODCOCK
You ever run a search on the guy.

JET
Saving my life was his job
interview. Guy pulls my bacon out
of the fire, I don't question his
integrity.

WOODCOCK
Well, I took the liberty... and
your partner, Spike Spiegel. He's
even less conspicuous than--
(re: LeFou)
-- the phantom. *

JET
Really, with all that hair?

Woodcock levels a grave stare at Jet.

WOODCOCK
For real. You got issues. *

But Jet's mind is elsewhere, and it's not a dire place:

JET
I got all sorts of them, but not my
partner. *

(off Woodcock)
Sure, he's got off-the-charts
weapons proficiency, fights like a
Wu-Tang monk, and he never talks
about his past.

(conclusively)
He's Special Forces. I'd bet on it. *
Straight up no chaser. War hero
fits his profile.

Woodcock shrugs, realizing her words have fallen on deaf
ears.

JET (CONT'D) *
Thanks, Woody. I owe you. *

As Jet rises and starts away: *

WOODCOCK *
The greater the tab, the greater *
the payback. So protect that ass, *
Jet. I'm gonna want what's mine. *

And as Woodcock watches him head off, her eyes glued to his *
ass like she were Money Penny and he were Bond, we-- *

GODARD (PRE-LAP) *
Go to your happy place...

And off the image of LeFou... as that haunting piece of *
language ECHOES, we MATCH CUT TO-- *

7A EXT. PARK - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT 7A *

LEFOU'S FACE... FILLING THE FRAME

Teeth chattering as his eyeballs VIBRATE... and he hears *
Godard's voice in his head:

GODARD (V.O.) *
Go to your happy place...

As LeFou closes his eyes -- CUT TO A FLASHBACK:

8 INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY [FLASHBACK] 8 *

*LeFou lies strapped to a table. The nurse SHOVES the *
mouthpiece in. Godard HOVERS over LeFou with a hypospray.*

GODARD *
Go to your happy place...

9 **EXT. PARK - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - DAY [FLASHBACK]** 9

A LITTLE BOY holding colorful balloons -- LITTLE LEFOU -- makes his way under the park entrance... a jovial sign reads "EARTH LAND"... CALLIOPE MUSIC plays... a RECORDED VOICE -- a faint echo -- reverberates...

*RECORDED VOICE (V.O.)
Welcome to Earthland... where the
magic of Old Earth never ends!*

*The little boy TURNS TO STARE STRAIGHT BACK, and as he does --
MATCH CUT TO LEFOU IN THE PRESENT DAY, at:*

10 **EXT. PARK - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT** 10

As the frame WIDENS TO REVEAL that he is in the same park that was his "happy place" -- and turning to enter under the now decrepit "Earthland" sign.

SNAP TO FLASHBACK -- Little boy LeFou... holding the balloons... walking under the same sign at a happier time...

SNAP TO PRESENT DAY -- LEFOU CONTINUES ONTO A SHABBY, DESULTORY MAIN STREET LINED WITH WRECKED GAMING AND VENDOR STALLS, AND A BROKEN DOWN CAROUSEL AT ITS END.

*
*
*

*GODARD (PRE-LAP)
Go to your happy place...*

And as his body WRACKS with bizarre SPASMS:

11 **INTERCUT - INT. OPERATING ROOM / EXT. EARTH LAND - NIGHT** 11

OPERATING ROOM - Godard JAMS the hypospray into LeFou's neck. A SOUL SHATTERING GRUNT escapes through LeFou's mouthpiece.

The lab dogs watches, growling a low growl.

RESUME ON PRESENT DAY LEFOU -- Falling to his knees, LeFou pulls out vials of Red-Eye. He takes one, and pours it all into his mouth. And as he SWALLOWS:

*
*
*

SNAP BACK TO THE FLASHBACK: To show LeFou still strapped and suffering... and as his eyes painfully flutter open...

LEFOU'S POV STILL IN FLASHBACK: Godard places a Corgi, a French Bulldog, and a Dachshund on a table next to a bank of computers, and then places a HIGH-TECH HEADBAND on each of the dogs -- connected via GLOWING CABLES to the computers.

GODARD
*Initiating neural link... begin
downloading his memories...*

RESUME ON PRESENT DAY LEFOU: Swallowing the Red-Eye... slowly
steadying himself... and smiling...

12 **INT. SPIKE'S QUARTERS - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT** 12 *

Spike is in bed. The sleeve of his suit jacket has been
ripped away, and his arm is wrapped in bandages. His eyes
FLUTTER open as the sounds of footsteps approaching pull his
POV to the door where -- *

Jet enters carrying a RUM BOTTLE, two tumblers of ice. *

JET
How you doing?

SPIKE
(re: his arm) *

JET
Good thing I brought something for
the pain.

SPIKE
Is that--?

JET
Hell yes it is.
(pouring)
From the secret, secret stash.
Fleming's Commander Jamaica rum.
Distilled in Old Earth before the
fall.

SPIKE
I thought all you had on this ship
was whiskey.

JET
I only use this for medicinal
purposes.

Jet hands Spike a glass. Spike WINCES as he takes it. Jet
offers an "air toast" -- Spike ignores it and GULPS it down.

JET (CONT'D)
Easy, Ace, it's a sippin' rum.

SPIKE

And I just sipped it. So what are we toasting? Getting our asses whupped?

Jet takes a sip of his rum.

JET

I'm toasting you being alive, despite throwing yourself at that maniac when he came at you.
(then, delicately)
What did he say to you?

*
*

This is not a question Spike wants to answer, so he plays stupid:

SPIKE

Who?

JET

The maniac. I saw him talk to you.

Spike's a bit too defensive:

SPIKE

Now I'm friends with him?

JET

You're friends with me. You don't have to keep secrets.

SPIKE

(a head shake)
I think you've had a little too much of the Fleming's, pal...
(then, kidding -- maybe)
He yelled "DIE DIE DIE" at Ein.

Jet shoots him a "**sure thing buddy**" look.

*

JET

Yeah, okay, partner.

As Spike climbs from the bed and heads for the door.

*

SPIKE

Probably shoulda checked the dog's past before letting him on board.

*

And Spike exits, leaving Jet wondering. After a beat, Jet follows him out, and we CUT TO--

*
*

13 **EXT. MAIN STREET - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT** 13 *

Breathing steadily now, LeFou activates his forearm cuff. Its VIDEO SCREEN lights up with the **CHERIOUS MEDICAL** logo. Then-- *

An icon reads **EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS**. LeFou scrolls through **IMAGES OF THE LAB DOGS** (from the flashbacks). *

LeFou SNARLS hatefully at the dogs that are all equally hateful towards LeFou. They sit on a lab table: a French Bulldog (SUBJECT E9L); a Dachshund (SUBJECT E4M); **AND A CORGI (SUBJECT E1N)** - yes! Our Ein. *

And as LeFou CACKLES and begins typings commands-- *

14 **INT. GALLEY - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - NIGHT** 14

Faye sits at the island writing out a long list of suspects on a legal pad. The Vid-Sticks in her reach.

Spike enters with purpose.

SPIKE
Scooch, I need the gizmo.

FAYE
What for?

SPIKE
To figure out who that hitman was in the alley.

As Spike gets to work on the Vid-Sticks, he clocks Faye's legal pad: *

SPIKE (CONT'D) *

What're **you** doing? *

FAYE
Making a list of people I pissed off.

Before Spike can respond to Faye, Jet enters:

JET
Come on, Spike... The guy said something to you. Who is he?

As Spike continues to work the Vid-Sticks:

SPIKE
I'm trying to find out.

JET
I already did the research. I'm twenty steps ahead of you.

SPIKE
You did research into why he hates dogs?

From the BRIDGE, Ein HOWLS!

FAYE
He did yell "DIE! DIE! DIE!" after he saw the dog.

JET
(getting tired of this)
Enough bullshitting around. You can tell me if you know this guy. I understand what it means to have a past.

Jet waits for an answer, but Spike isn't forthcoming with it. As Jet stares him down--

15 INTERCUT - INT. VARIOUS - BEBOP / EXT. EARTH LAND - NIGHT 15

EARTH LAND - LeFou runs his finger up a VIRTUAL SLIDE SWITCH by Ein's image... a process bar above Ein reads **INTER-ASSET HANDSHAKE IN PROGRESS... NEURAL LINK ESTABLISHED.** *

BEBOP - BRIDGE - Ein HOWLS again! He POPS to his feet. And we TRACK WITH EIN as he moves from the bridge, and through the living room-- *

EARTH LAND - And as Ein moves through the ship, EIN'S POV IS BROADCASTING ON LEFOU'S FOREARM MONITOR... *

BEBOP - LIVING ROOM - Ein makes his way through the living room, and INTO THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE GALLEY where he comes to a stop. *

And as his body shakes--

INT. GALLEY - BEBOP - Faye clocks Ein.

FAYE

Uh... guys...

Spike and Jet turn to look at what Faye is looking at--

*

Ein's eyes are GLOWING COBALT BLUE... They look at Ein with growing alarm.

JET

(re: Ein)

Am I alone in finding this to be some weird ass fucked up shit?

SPIKE

FAYE

No.

No.

EARTHLAND - RESUME ON LEFOU -- as the **PROCESS BAR GOES RED** -- and the dialogue box reads **NEURAL LINK ESTABLISHED**.

BEBOP - EIN'S EYES PROJECT A 2D IMAGE OF LEFOU.

Spike, Jet, and Faye take a collective JUMP back at the sight.

LEFOU

Spike Spiegel. I have traveled all this way to take your life.

Faye CRUMPLES the paper in her hand and lets it drop.

FAYE

Okay, that settles that.

LEFOU

I will kill your friends. I will
destroy your ship. I will rip your
heart out.

SPIKE

I'd rather you didn't.

LeFou holds his hand to the holographic display - a map
appears... showing a portion of the ASTEROID BELT... zeroing
in on one asteroid: **EARTHLAND.**

LEFOU

You will face me or see all that
you love destroyed. You have two
hours or the killing begins again.

LEFOU'S IMAGE BLINKS OUT - Ein WHIMPERS AS HIS EYES POWER
DOWN. HIS LEGS GIVE OUT FROM UNDER HIM. Exhausted. *

AN OVERWHELMING AND DREADFUL SILENCE FALLS... UNTIL:

FAYE

The dog. Shows movies. From his
eyes!

(to Spike and Jet)

Seriously. What. The. Hell?

Spike turns and walks away. Jet and Faye exchange looks:

16 **INT. SPIKE'S QUARTERS - BEBOP - ALBA CITY - MOMENTS LATER** 16

Grim and determined, Spike OPENS A LOCKER to find his GUN,
hanging from its holster. But he doesn't grab it, as he knows
bullets are no good against LeFou. Instead--

Spike digs out a half dozen THROWING KNIVES.

JET

(entering)

I know what you're doing.

As Spike grabs a fresh shirt and jacket, and dons them.

SPIKE

Then step aside and let me.

JET

Not on your life. You're going up
against a military grade killer and
you think you can go at him alone?
Guy's got a **force field**.

SPIKE

It's ablative armor. Diffuses kinetic energy from explosives, fast moving bursts.

(Spike holds up a knife)

Useless against a blade though. If I can get close enough with one of these... I might be able to--

JET

What? Draw a drop of blood before he tears out your lungs?

SPIKE

That's not going to happen.

JET

I get that you think that. With your past and all. Your penchant for violence.

(then)

Yeah, I know who you used to be.

Spike looks at Jet: has he figured out that he's a criminal?

SPIKE

Do you?

Jet moves in.

JET

Where'd you serve? Shoulder of Orion? Titan? Tanhauser Gate? I get it, you were on some kind of special ops team. No shame in that. I know how a man's deeds can follow him around. Haunt him.

Spike takes a moment... okay, so Jet doesn't know the truth about him. It's all Spike can do to keep the relief from his face as he tries to play it off:

SPIKE

I don't want to talk about it.

JET

Be that as it may, you're on my ship now. My team.

(meaning it)

You wanna go on a suicide run, you gotta go through me first.

Faye has made her way to Spike's threshold. Ein at her feet. *

FAYE
Me too, nut-bucket. *

Spike looks at these two - touched by their genuine love for him. But he's also haunted by the lies about his past he has let them believe. A moment as he considers. Then--

SPIKE
All right. Together.

JET
I'll set a course for Earthland.

FAYE
What about the dog? I'm just saying. I like the dog. He's cute. And fuzzy. And shit. *
(off the looks)
But, you know, he shoots video from his eyes. And that may not be the least of it...

As everyone looks over to Ein, WE SMASH CUT TO--

17 **EXT. SPACE DOCKS - ALBA CITY - NIGHT** 17

Ein sits alone on the DOCK. He looks up to see the Bebop -- TAKING OFF WITHOUT HIM.

The ship flies off, and Ein WHIMPERS. As he lowers himself to the ground and buries his face in his paws, we CUT TO--

18 **EXT. ROOFTOP GARDEN - SKYSCRAPER - THARSIS - NIGHT** 18

Vicious stands before the roses in the garden, *admiring them. Or is it loathing?* It's hard to tell.

He FLIPS A SMALL DEVICE, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SILVER DOLLAR, in his hand... and pockets it as--

Julia steps out to the garden and addresses Vicious:

JULIA
The Eunuch's ship is on approach.

Vicious nods, his attention still on the skyline, the mountains beyond... the moons in the sky.

VICIOUS

My father used to call me weak. He never believed I could go the distance. I suppose we'll see whether he was right.

Vicious exits to the living room, and as Julia follows...

19

INT. MAIN STREET - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT

19

LeFou, eyes burning with Red-Eye, moves through the park, past the defunct wares and gaming stalls when suddenly--

LIGHTS SPARK TO LIFE on a FORTUNE TELLER IN A GLASS BOX ATTRACTION (think ZOLTAR). But in this one the name of the attraction is:

TONGPU. And the "Teller" inside is A FRENCH CLOWN, replete with a RUFFLE NECK COLLAR and TOP HAT (looking very much like LeFou from the anime). The attraction reads: **POUR DEUX PENNIES JE VOUS DIRE VOS PENSÉES <<FOR TWO PENNIES I WILL TELL YOU YOUR THOUGHTS>>.**

*
*
*

LeFou wheels around on it, drawing his weapon up. But he stops himself from firing on it. **He's not threatened by it-- He's mesmerized...**

And as he draws himself closer and closer to it... He begins cackling to himself as he reveals his own thoughts:

*

LEFOU

*J'ai vu tant de choses que vous,
humains, ne pourriez pas croire...
tous ces moments seront perdus dans
l'oubli... comme les larks dans la
plume... Il est les temps de
mourir.*

And as LeFou laughs insanely, we--

SANTIAGO (PRELAP)

The Elders have agreed to meet...

20

INT. LIVING ROOM - PENTHOUSE - THARSIS - NIGHT

20

Vicious and Santiago don't greet one another -- these two may be allies in a murderous plot, but they are not friends.

Santiago holds out a hand, and one of his Guards hands over the shackles.

SANTIAGO

Time to lock you down, Vicious.

Vicious doesn't even look at the shackles, just keeps eyes trained on Santiago.

VICIOUS

(re: the Guards)

We agreed it would only be the two of us.

SANTIAGO

When we see the Elders, sure, but--

VICIOUS

Send your men away.

Julia clocks the tension between Vicious and Santiago. Her brow furrows, as her eyes surreptitiously tick to Santiago...

SANTIAGO

To where?

VICIOUS

Figure it out. I'm the one in chains. I will not walk into your ship with your guards and their guns.

Santiago stands his ground.

SANTIAGO

You are one paranoid sonofabitch.

VICIOUS

And you're not? We take my ship. Just you and me.

SANTIAGO

We made a deal.

VICIOUS

With my ship, my men can at least track me if you decide you want to eat my testicles with tea. Lose the guards. Lose the ship. Or lose the deal.

Santiago and Vicious eye-fuck... Then:

SANTIAGO
(to his guards)
Beat it. Keep my ship in orbit and
wait for my signal.

The guards exit. Vicious holds his hands out to be shackled. And as Santiago locks the shackles on Vicious' wrists, and Julia and Santiago exchange a glance, (Vicious unaware of their knowing looks)...

Vicious looks to Julia.

VICIOUS
Don't be afraid.
(then)
When I return, everything will be
different.

JULIA
And all for the better.

Julia steps to Vicious placing her lips to his -- **a kiss of death? Or a pained and regretful goodbye?**

JULIA (CONT'D)
I love you.

And as Santiago leads Vicious away, leaving Julia alone in the penthouse, **her treacherous plans in motion--**

JET (PRE-LAP)
Alright, ladies and gentlemen...

21 **INT. GALLEY - BEBOP - ABOVE EARTHLAND ASTEROID - SPACE** 21

ANGLE UP, LOOKING DOWN at a DIY MODEL OF EARTHLAND created with pots and pans, utensils form a ROLLERCOASTER TRACK, the HANGING LIME GREEN WOK, turned on its side, depicts a FERRIS WHEEL. Jet's even included his BONZI TREES for foliage.

Jet, Faye, and Spike regard the map on the galley table. In sharp contrast to Jet, they both look really bored:

JET
(re: his model)
... I know we've been through this
a dozen times, but since we're
fighting a nearly unstoppable
assassin here--

*
*
*
*

FAYE
We don't know he's unstoppable.

SPIKE

We know.

JET

But there's only one of him and
there's three of us, and that gives
us a tactical advantage.

(to Spike)

Right, war hero? *

Spike lets out a breath -- this is almost worse than Jet
knowing the actual truth.

FAYE

War hero? Since when? You guys ruck
the muck together? Is that how this
bromance was born? *

SPIKE

Yeah, we marched in the battle of
mind your own business. *

JET

Let's tighten this shit up, guys.
And go again. *

(then)

Phase one.

Spike and Faye look at one another. Then--

SPIKE

Phase one.

(deep breaths then)

Spike takes his ship from the
bay, flies down to the park,
walks the rest of the way...

FAYE

Phase one.

(deep breaths then)

Spike takes his ship from the
bay, flies down to the park,
walks the rest of the way...

During this, Jet takes a beer bottle (representing Spike's
Swordfish) and flies it down to the map of Earthland.

SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Then Spike does like the
killer said and faces him
down like a man with no
dread...

FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Then Spike does like the
killer said and faces him
down like a man with no
dread...

Jet uses a SALT and PEPPER SHAKER to represent Spike and
LeFou approaching each other on the Earthland midway.

JET

Which leads us into Phase Two.

FAYE	SPIKE
Unknown to our killer...	Unknown to our killer...
Faye's flying down in her Red Tail thriller...	Faye's flying down in her Red Tail thriller...

During this, Jet takes a bottle of HOT SAUCE (representing Faye's Red Tail) and flies it over the map of EARTH LAND.

FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And while he's distracted staring at Spike...	And while he's distracted staring at Spike...

ON the SALT and PEPPER SHAKERS (re: Spike and LeFou) as Jet SWOOPS IN the bottle of Hot Sauce making FLASH BANG GRENADE sounds engulfing the Pepper Shaker.

FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Faye fires flashbangers in a dazzling first strike.	Faye fires flashbangers in a dazzling first strike.

BACK ON OUR BEBOP CREW:

JET
Paving the way for Phase Three--

SPIKE
--Hey, what's with all the rhyming?

JET
Helps retain the plan. Saw it in an
old Lee Marvin picture.
(then, back on point)
Paving the way for Phase Three...

*

Spike and Faye roll their eyes and repeat it with Jet:

SPIKE/FAYE/JET
When Jet flies the Bebop into the
atmosphere...

During this, Jet takes a SKILLET from the overhead rack and hovers it over the Pepper Shaker (LeFou). Then, as Jet shoots out his METEL HAND like a claw.

SPIKE/FAYE/JET (CONT'D)
And fires a grapnel like a man with
no fear...

As Jet's METAL HAND CLOSES around the Pepper Shaker, he makes a mechanical CLATTER sound effect. Then he hovers the skillet over to a BIG POT and drops the Pepper Shaker inside.

SPIKE/FAYE/JET (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Then he drops the bad man into that sinkhole... and puts in some gas to finish our big goal.

Jet squirts lighter fluid into the BIG POT, lights a match, and tosses it in creating a WHOOSH of FIRE for effect.

SPIKE

Aaaaand scene.

(then)

I think we got this down.

FAYE

Meh. It feels like we need more phases to get the meter right.

Jet cuts Faye a look.

JET

(to Faye)

I like the meter just fine, smart-guy.

(then, to Spike)

Let's go again. I didn't come up with this plan to fail or to lose either one of you, so I wanna hear it again.

(back to Faye)

With more feeling.

SPIKE

Phase One...

FAYE

Phase one...

Off this, we CUT TO--

21A INT. THRONE ROOM - ELDERS' TEMPLE - ASTEROID CERES - NIGHT 21A

The Elders are on their Ottomans. The temple guard is positioned around the room, swords at the ready.

The doors SWING OPEN TO REVEAL VICIOUS -- LED IN BY SANTIAGO --
- bound in manacles, his leg motion restricted by thick, high-tension wires looped through his ankle restraints, and his voice stifled by a ball gag, Vicious truly is at the mercy of the Eunuch, who -- adding insult to injury -- carries Vicious' katana in his hands. *

Mao follows them in and they all take a position in the center of the room. As Vicious is forced to his knees by the temple guard, Santiago does a deep bow.

SANTIAGO
(a deep bow)
Your Excellencies. May I express my
gratitude for your receiving us in
your--

Miranda RAISES her hand -- shutting him up like a punch to
the throat -- no time for his obsequious bullshit.

MIRANDA
Spare us your platitudes.

PROSPERO
The only thing we are interested in
hearing is your corroboration of
Mao's accusation against Vicious.

CALIBAN
Did he? Or did he not? Approach you
and Mao with a treasonous plot to
murder us?

Santiago takes a long beat... breathes in, then:

SANTIAGO
He **did**, your Excellencies.

Vicious GRUNTS through his ball gag -- the only sound that
gets through is a MUFFLED SHOUT OF PROTEST.

PROSPERO
Treason.

MIRANDA
Treason. *

Caliban considers a beat, then cements the verdict with:

CALIBAN
Treason.

Vicious continues his muffled objections, but--

MIRANDA
Let it be written.

PROSPERO
Let it be conducted.

CALIBAN
By his own weapon.

Mao takes Vicious' sword from Santiago. (And if you're paying
just enough attention you may just see the hint of an *

equilateral inverse hexagonal scar on the back of his left wrist peeking out from his cuff.) *

CALIBAN (CONT'D)
(off Vicious' GRUNTS)
You've disappointed me, boy. **You
have always disappointed me.** *

Vicious' eyes sharpen... **Now is the moment. To break free. And take the throne.** Vicious pulls on the cuffs binding his wrists, but-- *

They hold firm. He yanks at the cuffs again, with as much strength as he can muster, but still they hold--! *

Remember how they were supposed to be breakable...? *

Vicious looks up to Santiago, **"What the fuck...?"** *

Santiago shakes his head with a small smile: **"Sayonara, sucker."** *

Then-- Mao leans in close to Vicious. **She is anything but friendly:** *

MAO
You should have known better,
Vicious. *

This is bad. Really bad. **Vicious is gonna get Ned Starked.** *

Vicious STRUGGLES against his bonds as Mao raises Vicious' Katana above her head, ready to deliver the death blow... *

Mao looks to Caliban. *

CALIBAN
Proceed! *

Now... you might be wondering what the last minute save is... I mean, we're not going to kill one of our leads... our Big Bad for the season... right? We wouldn't...

We couldn't!

MAO BRINGS THE SWORD DOWN FULL FORCE. *

Arterial spray STRIPES her victorious face.

VICIOUS'S HEAD FLIES FROM HIS BODY... AND ROLLS TO THE FLOOR:
THAT LOOK OF "HOLY SHIT I'M FUCKED" STILL ON HIS FEATURES AS
THE HEAD COMES TO A STOP.

And then... silence. So yeah. We did that.

UNTIL A FRITZING FILLS THE ROOM. EVERYONE TURNS TO LOOK AT
ITS SOURCE... THE SEVERED HEAD!

VICIOUS' DISEMBODIED FACE CHANGES INTO THAT OF SANTIAGO.

*

The Elders LEAN FORWARD, not entirely sure what just
happened. Mao turns to Santiago next to her, confused.

*

SANTIAGO TAPS A MODULE HIDDEN UNDER THE SCAR ON THE BACK OF
HIS WRIST -- and his face FRITZES out to REVEAL VICIOUS--

*

***[Remember how facial hologram technology was established in
EP. 103? That is what screenwriters call "a plant". And this
is what we call "a payoff."]***

VICIOUS

(to Mao)

You shouldn't have made Julia sing.

VICIOUS POUNCES ON THE STILL STUNNED MAO -- ELBOWING HER FACE
AND TAKING THE SWORD FROM HER HANDS. VICIOUS RUNS THE KATANA
INTO MAO'S STOMACH. MAO FALLS.

As Vicious turns on the Elders.

TEMPLE GUARD

Protect the elders!

The Temple Guards attack--

VICIOUS THRUSTS INTO THE FIRST TEMPLE GUARD'S DEFENSIVE
CIRCLE. The temple guard SPINS his sword to block. Vicious

grabs the temple guard's hand, using his momentum to SEND HIM DOWN. Vicious SNATCHES the weapon and SHUNKS it into the temple guard.

The other temple guards are not about to attack one by one like some chop-socky villains. Several leave their posts and CHARGE Vicious - leaving one with their charges.

Vicious TOSSES the temple guards' sword up, catches it with a better grip, and THROWS it, IMPALING one temple guard.

Vicious LIFTS HIS HILT to eye level, POINTING THE BLADE at the temple guard... the temple guard assume their *kamae*...

Vicious shoots the Elders a glare that says "**you bitches better settle your affairs.**"

In a spectacular series of deadly clashes, Vicious makes short work of the temple guard -- then looks to his targets on the dais:

CALIBAN TURNS TO THE ONE TEMPLE GUARD WITH THE ELDERS and motions him to enter the fray...

Vicious cuts the temple guard's arm off and SLITS his throat in a single, fluid motion. All that now stands between Vicious and control of the Solar System's most powerful criminal Syndicate is Caliban. *

Caliban rises from his throne. Pulls his mask off. He can still control this. He's always been able to control Vicious: *

CALIBAN
Don't be rash, boy-- *

But Vicious doesn't seem to be moved by this. Instead he begins the slow climb up the stairs towards Caliban. *

VICIOUS
I've always loathed that... "**term of endearment**" for me. I would've preferred... **son**.

And if you think we just dropped the mic, we did. Caliban is, in fact, Vicious' father. Then-- *

CALIBAN
We can still fix this. *

Can they? Can they really fix things? Vicious doesn't look like he's in a fixing mood as he stalks forward... *

VICIOUS

It's a crime mother is no longer
with us to witness this...

At the mention of "mother", Caliban knows he's fucked. That
these next moments will be his last moments.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

She did always want us to be
closer...

Vicious presses the tip of his blade menacingly under
Caliban's sternum--

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

... I'd say we're finally having a
proper father-son moment now,
aren't we...?

And Vicious drives his blade into Caliban, who grimaces...

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

A true heart-to-heart...

Vicious pulls Caliban close, sinking the blade to the hilt
and through Caliban's heart.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

... didn't you dream that one day I
would "prove myself to be man
enough"...?

Vicious twists the blade as he forces Caliban back into his
chair. And as he looms over him...

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

How about now--?

Caliban's eyes burn with contempt and his face contorts into
a bloody smile.

CALIBAN

You're nothing... but a scared
little boy... And you... you will
never be... anything more.

Vicious watches Caliban gasp his last breath, savoring the
sweet-sweet taste of patricide... Then, he pulls the blade
from Caliban, and stands tall.

VICIOUS

I beg to differ, dad.

Off this, we SMASH TO-- *

21B INT. GALLEY - BEBOP - ABOVE EARTHLAND ASTEROID - SPACE 21B *

Spike, Jet and Faye finishing running through the plan one final time. *

SPIKE/FAYE/JET *
... Then he drops the bad man into *
that sinkhole... and puts in some *
gas to finish our big goal. *

After a beat. *

FAYE *
Can I just say something? *

JET *
Yeah. *

FAYE *
Poison gas feels a little intense. *
I mean... overkill much? *

SPIKE *
You're a pacifist now? *

JET *
What else am I supposed to do with *
a canister of poison gas? I've had *
that stuff sitting on a shelf for *
years, I finally get a chance to-- *

FAYE *
Fine, fine. Sorry I brought it up. *

Jet leans in, dead serious: *

JET *
Listen, we got a lot riding on *
this, and we're only going to get *
one shot at it. *
(holds up his hand for a *
high five) *
So let's do this thing. *
(off the lack of response) *
Really? It's like that? *

Faye and Spike exchange glances, then: *

SPIKE *
Yay us. *

As they RETURN the high five-- *

22 INT. SWORDFISH II - BEBOP - ABOVE EARTH LAND ASTEROID - SPACE

Spike HITS the toggles, TURNS the dials, and PULLS the levers... the Swordfish II COMES TO LIFE around him.

23 INT. / EXT. SWORDFISH II - ABOVE EARTH LAND ASTEROID - SPACE3

The Swordfish II zips around the Bebop, giving an eye-line through the Bebop's front windshield to--

24 INT. BRIDGE - BEBOP - ABOVE EARTH LAND ASTEROID - CONTINUOUS4

Jet and Faye watch as Spike peels away, heading for the Earthland asteroid.

SPIKE (VIA COMM)
Phase one here we go...

25 INTERCUT - INT. SWORDFISH II / BRIDGE - BEBOP - CONTINUOUS 25

SWORDFISH II -

SPIKE
...I'll ping you when I'm ready for phase two.

But as he's saying this, Spike's expression hardens. He pulls out the Cowboy Bebop equivalent of a FLASH DRIVE and JAMS it into a slot.

A DISPLAY lights up on a nearby console:

"CAPTAIN KANGAROO STANDING BY"

Spike hits a red button:

"CAPTAIN KANGAROO ENGAGED"

BEBOP - Spike's voice crackles through the comms and abruptly dies!

JET
What the--
(into his earpiece)
Spike, can you hear me? Spike?

Suddenly, the Bebop's main screen LIGHTS UP WITH A MESSAGE:

"GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN"

Jet looks at the screen - and then his bridge GOES DARK console by console:

JET
No. He didn't.
(then)
So he fried the fusion module and
lame ducked us. Son of a bitch.
It's gonna take at least an hour to
replace.

*
*
*
*
*
*

As Jet gets to work. Urgent:

JET (CONT'D)
(re: Earthland below)
We gotta get down there.

*
*
*

Faye is not about to offer an argument... and off Jet, his
face lit by lanterns, his resolve twice as bright...

28 OMITTED (MOVED TO SC 21A) 28

28A INT. THRONE ROOM - ELDERS' TEMPLE - ASTEROID CERES - NIGHT 28A

A smear of BLOOD leads to Mao, still alive... but barely...
HEAVING wet, bloody breaths as she DRAGS herself to the exit,
keeping her guts in her belly with a pressing hand.

UNTIL THE TIP OF VICIOUS' SWORD BLOCKS HER PATH -- HE
CASUALLY ROLLS HER OVER WITH HIS FOOT:

VICIOUS
Did you truly believe I would trust
you with my life... that I didn't
have a plan?

Mao may be at death's door, but she has one final shank to
sink before she shuffles off the mortal coil:

MAO
Tell Julia... I'm sorry.

VICIOUS
(not what he expected)
For making her sing?

Mao knows these are her last words, she makes them count:

MAO
For failing... *to deliver your head
to her.*

Vicious' face goes RED. Mao LAUGHS.

Vicious STANDS, bringing down his sword like an AXE.

And off the terrifying SLASHSQUISHTHUNK that ensues...

29

EXT. MAIN STREET - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT

29

Spike's LONG SHADOW precedes him as he makes his way through the park. A piece of waste flutters before him like a tumbleweed. Then, suddenly---

The park lights come to life. Revealing gaming stalls and attractions, one after another... finally lighting up a carousel at the end of the thoroughfare.

Spike's eyes tick to the carousel to find--

LeFou, ***now dressed in the French Clown, TONGPU'S, OUTFIT***, stands atop the carousel. A TRICKED OUT BREN GUN in hand. And A BANDOLIER OF STIELHANDGRANATE across his chest.

Spike steels himself for battle as--

LeFou levitates down from the top of the carousel, landing on the street, facing Spike. LeFou tips his top hat, and: *

LEFOU

Hello, boy. *

LeFou levels the machine gun at Spike and unleashes Hades--!

Spike, having brought a knife to a gun fight, charges LeFou in a zig-zagging pattern, FLINGING ONE THROWING KNIFE AT LEFOU AFTER ANOTHER as he finds cover behind various stalls--

The knives scream through the air, each one on target for a bullseye, but--

LeFou dips and side-steps them all at the last second, until--

Spike's penultimate throwing knife finds its mark on the Brem Gun's trigger guard, causing LeFou to lose his grip on it--

And with the flurry of gun fire interrupted, Spike emerges from his covered position, HIS LAST THROWING KNIFE locked and loaded in his grip... But just as Spike is about to let it fly--

LeFou let's out a terrifying cackle, and draws a MULTI-SHOT GRENADE LAUNCHER. ***Holy-shit!***

Spike hits the brakes, and beats a fast retreat, chased by explosive grenades that are decimating the world around him... And then - SCHWOOOOOOMBANG! An explosive shockwave propels Spike into--

30 INT. GAMING STALL - EARTH LAND - CONTINUOUS 30 *

Spike flies in like a rag doll shot out of a Howitzer. He lands with a HARD THUNK, smashing through several shelves filled with OLD AND FETID KEWPIE-DOLL-ESQUE PRIZES. *

Spike doesn't get up... *is he dead?* Then, his eyes OPEN. He looks over to see, illuminated by a shaft of light: *

A PAIR OF SAD EYES STARING AT HIM. *

As a HAIL MARY IDEA forms in his brain...

31 OMITTED (MOVED TO SC 28A) 31

32 EXT. MIDWAY - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT 32

LeFou STALKS down the midway toward the gaming stall Spike is in. His steps slow and deliberate, and his laughter GROWING in intensity... Until something coming into view steals his thunder-- *

ARCING THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS HIM, like a high fly ball heading for deep center field... LeFou's eyes narrow - *what the fuck is this...?*

It passes over his head and lands a few feet behind him. It tumbles to a Hollywood-stop, coming to rest on its four furry feet, revealing itself to be: *

A SMALL PLUSHY TOY DOG (looking very much like a Dachshund).
The WIND UP KEY STICKING OUT OF ITS BACK begins turning, and--

WIND-UP-TOY-DOG
Woof-- Woof-- Woof-- Woof-- Woof--

LeFou's eyes go wide-- Terror builds as he FLASHES WITH PTSD--

FLASH: THE DACHSHUND FROM THE LAB - BARKS!

-- The DACHSHUND'S BARKS mixing with the Wind-Up-Toy-Dog's bark... And as the flashes grow in intensity and speed the cacophony of dogs barking becomes overwhelming.

FLASH: GODARD WITH THE BONE SAW!

FLASH: THE DACHSHUND, THE FRENCH BULLDOG, AND THE CORGI (EIN) THEY ARE ALL STARING AND BARKING!

FLASH! GODARD DIGGING IN WITH THE BONESAW - BLOOD FLIES!

FLASH! THE CORGI STARES!

RESUME ON LEFOU IN THE PRESENT:

LEFOU SCREAMS IN FEAR, PANIC, AND AGONY, and--!

HE FIRES A GRENADE INTO THE DOG TOY - **FOOMP!!!** THE WIND-UP-TOY-DOG VAPORIZES--! *

And as LeFou PANTS for oxygen, trying to recover from his panic attack...

SPIKE RUSHES UP - FLANKING LEFOU - DRAWING HIS BLADE, AND MOVING TO SLASH LEFOU'S THROAT-- But--

LEFOU REACTS AT THE LAST SECOND, CATCHING SPIKE'S HAND, AND REDIRECTING THE BLADE AWAY -- IT MISSES HIS NECK BY A MERE INCH, (slicing partway through the grenade bandolier)--

LEFOU REDIRECTS THE BLADE AND BACK AT SPIKE'S FACE--

SPIKE COUNTERMOVES, DUCKING THE BLADE -- IT ARCS AROUND HIS HEAD, AND SPIKE DRIVES IT DOWNWARD--

THE BLADE SLAMS, HILT-DEEP, INTO LEFOU'S THIGH--

Both Spike and LeFou register the blade sticking out of LeFou's leg for beat... Then--

LEFOU, who had forgotten what pain feels like until now -
GUTTERAL MOANS AND TEARS OF ANGUISH BEGIN TO POUR OUT OF HIM.

LEFOU CRUMBLES TO THE GROUND, REGRESSING TO A **FULLY-CHILD-LIKE STATE.** *Spike can't believe what he's seeing, LeFou melting down before his eyes...*

LEFOU
*It hurts... Mommy... Mommy, it
hurts--! Augh... MOMMMMMMMY--!*

Spike seizes the moment of opportunity as his eyes lock on LeFou's forearm cuff-- **He knows what he needs to do...**

Spike drops to a knee and activates a familiar button on LeFou's forearm cuff.

And... **LEFOU, STILL SCREAMING, SLOWLY LIFTS OFF...**

Spike's entire body is jelly, broken and bruised. He CRUMBLES down to his back.

AS LEFOU JUST KEEPS RISING...

LEFOU (CONT'D)
(dopplering away)
WHYYYYYYYYY! MOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMY!

LeFou WAVES his arms wildly, and the aforementioned krambit-sliced-grenade-bandolier gives way...

And as Spike watches LeFou rising higher and higher, he suddenly sees--

THE GRENADE BANDOLIER FALLING TOWARDS HIM... **Oh-shit!**

THE GRENADES IMPACT THE GROUND WITH A RIPPLE OF LOUD CLANKS, THE DETONATION LEVERS POP FREE-- Oh-Shit!

WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH, SPIKE CLAMBERS TO HIS FEET AND RACES AWAY, THROWING HIMSELF, AT THE LAST SECOND, INTO AN EMPTY POOL just as--

KERROOOOOOMMMMMMM! The explosion BLOOMS over the park.

AND BENEATH LEFOU.

And as LeFou ENTERS THE STRATOSPHERE and continues up to his final destination in the inexorable vacuum of space...

*
*
*
*

33 INT. BRIDGE - BEBOP - ABOVE EARTH LAND ASTEROID - SPACE 33

Faye stands by the command chair, looking at the ASTEROID, the explosion CLEARLY VISIBLE even from this distance.

FAYE
Jet! *Jet!*

Jet races in and clocks the fireball.

The two look at one another in silent dread... neither wanting to say it: that Spike might be burning in that fire.

JET
No. No way Spike Spiegel goes out like that.

FAYE
(wanting to believe)
I'm sure he'll be pulling up in the Swordfish in no time.

After a beat of them seeing no sign of the Swordfish.

JET
Goddamnit. He needs us.
(getting back to work)
Come on, help me get the systems back on line.

Jet turns back to see Faye still staring out the window.

JET (CONT'D)
Come on-- I owe that guy my life a dozen times over.

And as Faye follows Jet, and the two of them get back to work trying to reset the Bebop's systems--

34 EXT. EMPTY POOL - EARTH LAND ASTEROID - NIGHT 34 *

Some time later. Smoke rises from the ground above. *

Battered and bruised, Spike struggles to open his eyes with the strength left in his body... and looks up from the bottom of the pool to see: *

A WHITE LIGHT FROM ABOVE.

Is this it? What everyone sees before they meet their maker?

No... it's a light... from a flashlight...

And bursting through the wash-out? Looking down from the edge
of the pit?

A HUMAN FIGURE. But whose?

FADE TO WHITE--

35 INT. LIVING ROOM - PENTHOUSE - THARSIS - NIGHT 35 *

Julia sits in an armchair... holding up her phone... but the device is completely inert.

Whatever she is waiting for, it is vehemently not happening.

THEN THE FRONT DOOR OPENS -- and Julia LOOKS UP... and an expression of pure, unadulterated fear moves into her face as she sees:

VICIOUS ENTERING, COVERED IN BLOOD, still wearing Santiago's suit -- a sadistic grin on his face, one arm behind his back.

Julia would stand up... but her legs are paralyzed.

VICIOUS
Hello, sweetie. Don't get up.

VICIOUS WALKS TOWARD HER -- getting uncomfortably close... she can feel his breath on her cheek as he smiles...

AND THEN HE HOLDS UP THE SEVERED HEAD OF MAO.

Julia would RECOIL in shock and revulsion, but the chair gives her nowhere to go.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)
You have a good day? Mine was good.
Bloody good.

As Vicious tosses Mao's head aside. He throws a death stare at Julia.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)
And I have a feeling it's only gonna get better.

Vicious pushes the severed head closer to Julia's face.

Julia shuts her eyes, hard. There's no way in Hades her feminine wiles are getting her out of this one.

Julia is FUUUUUUUCKED. Her plan failed. Her allies are dead. *

Vicious has come to get payback.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE EIGHT