

BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE

Episode #680-003

"Inferno"

TELEPLAY

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"INFERNO"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - NEAR OIL DERRICK - DAY

WIDE ON a barren desert. SANDSTONE ROCKS and BOULDERS dot the flat landscape bisected by an asphalt two-lane road. There's a *No Country for Old Men* feel to the scene: de-saturated COLORS. Undulating HEAT WAVES. Too-long SHOTS.

LOW ANGLE - off the side of the road in B.G. is a <CREAKING> bobbing OIL DERRICK. An O.S. TRUCK DOOR <SLAMS>. A bowlegged OIL COMPANY WORKER wearing a cowboy hat and oil-stained coveralls trudges AWAY FROM CAMERA toward the rig.

CLOSER AT DERRICK - Clipboard in hand, the sun-baked Worker opens a dusty panel on the side of the <HISSING AND THUMPING> PUMP to view several PRESSURE GAUGES. As he takes notes...

BEHIND WORKER'S BOOTS - PATCHES OF SAND QUIVER and FALL AWAY.

THE WORKER - shuts the panel door. Then he hears something. A deep, <GUTTURAL GNAWING>. He puzzles. The SOUND STOPS, leaving only the derrick's <CREAKING>. The Worker shrugs.

RESUME LOW ANGLE - The Worker's boots turn and exit SHOT. More SAND DROPS AWAY like pieces of a puzzle.

ANGLE FROM ROAD - Unaware, the Worker shambles back to the PETROGLUT COMPANY TRUCK parked by the road. He grabs a PUSH-TO-TALK CELL PHONE off the passenger seat. <BLOO-DEEP!>

WORKER

This is Dodds at pump thirty-two.
Nothing new... as usual.

He glances at the pump, then clicks the phone, <BLOO-DEEP>:
Just then, [CAMERA SHAKE]. The Worker staggers. *

WORKER (CONT'D)

What in th' --

HIGH DOWN SHOT - The QUAKE CONTINUES. A SINKHOLE opens and swallows the <SQUEAKING> derrick in a SWIRL OF SAND AND DUST.

THE WORKER - staggers [CAMERA SHAKE].

WORKER (CONT'D)

<Gasp>

He turns and gapes as:

WIDE ON SINKHOLE - as a HERD of eyeless, elephant-sized creatures, PYROXOVORES, swarms up from the sinkhole!

ANGLE AMIDST HERD - as they <THUNDER> forward, a few rear up and ravenously <CHOMP> the ROCKS and BOULDERS.

ON HIGHWAY - The fearful Worker scrambles into his truck cab.

WORKER (CONT'D)

<frightened breathing>

INT. TRUCK CAB - CONTINUOUS - DAY

The Worker's HAND fumbles for the KEYS that dangle from the ignition. The <STARTER GRINDS>; the motor won't turn over.

THE WORKER - jerks around to look out the passenger window.

HIS POV - The horde stampedes toward the truck. They make an eerie sound, part lowing cow, part trumpeting elephant.

PYROXOVORES

<overlapping harmonized braying>

THE WORKER - <JACKS THE IGNITION> again, panicked.

WORKER

C'mon... c'mon...

EXT. DESERT OIL RIG SITE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

ANGLE AT RIGHT SIDE OF ROAD - the creatures' huge foreclaws <SCRAPE> the asphalt as they clamber up the side of the road.

CLOSE ON TRUCK GRILLE - the motor still isn't turning over.

FRAME FILLS WITH PYROXOVORES as they clamber across the road, right to left.

HIGH DOWN SHOT - The enormous herd surrounds the truck. PULL *
BACK as even MORE OF THE BEASTS swarm up out of the ever-
growing breach in the sand.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - DAY

CAMERA SWISH PANS as KEVIN'S CAR rockets past, heading off
down a four lane highway.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY

ANGLE OVER DASHBOARD - KEVIN drives. GWEN leans against the
front passenger window, slack-jawed as she sleeps.

GWEN

<adenoidal snores>

BEN leans forward from the back seat.

BEN

Are we there yet?

BEN'S POV - the dashboard's ALIEN-DESIGN GPS SCREEN shows a
CAR ICON inching toward a blinking TRIANGLE-SHAPED TARGET.
Kevin glances over his shoulder to retort to CAMERA:

KEVIN

Does it look like it?

PAST GWEN - as she stirs. Ben eyes her. *

GWEN

<stirring grumbles, snort>

BEN

(whispers)

I'm just saying we should hurry.

(MORE)

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BEN (CONT'D)

Max wants us to **check** out those things.

*
*

SIDE ANGLE PAST KEVIN - who rolls his eyes.

KEVIN

Another half-hour. Less, if I kick in the ram-jets.

*

BEN

(intrigued)
You have ram-jets?

*

CLOSE ON GWEN - now awake, but she doesn't open her eyes.

GWEN

(slurry)
No ram-jets. **Trying to sleep.**

*

ANGLE OVER DASHBOARD - A SENSOR PINGS. Gwen sits up, suddenly alert. Kevin scans the dashboard.

*

GWEN (CONT'D)

Kevin?

*
*

KEVIN

Speed trap coming up. Highway Patrolman with a radar gun.

*
*

CLOSE ON DASHBOARD - Kevin flips a switch and pushes a button.

*

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

MOVING WITH KEVIN'S CAR AT HIGH SPEED - as a REFLECTIVE SHIMMER washes over it, rendering it invisible.

WIDE AT BILLBOARD - A hiding HIGHWAY PATROLMAN aims a RADAR GUN at the road. The unseen car <BLOWS> past, stirring up dust. The Patrolman **spits the dust out of his mouth.**

*

PATROLMAN

(PTOO!)

*
*

He looks down the highwat after the car he **can't** see, then <THUMPS> the radar gun, nonplused.

*
*

WIPE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF DESERT HIGHWAY - SOON - DAY

Kevin's CAR DE-CLOAKS as it pulls over. At this point, an old RAILROAD TRACK runs parallel to the highway; several ABANDONED BOXCARS sit baking in the sun.

CLOSER - Kevin, Gwen and Ben have exited the car. *

GWEN *

Cloaking field gives me a headache. *

KEVIN *

Speeding tickets give me a
headache. *

Kevin peers through some ALIEN-TECH BINOCULARS, then hands them to Ben. *

BEN'S POV - BINOCULAR MATTE - The Pyroxovores <THUNDER> AT CAMERA. SWISH PAN to a COUPLE OF THEM eating a boulder.

BEN (O.S.)

Well, that's unnerving. *

RESUME GROUP - as Ben lowers the binoculars. Kevin shrugs.

KEVIN

So? What's the big deal if they
eat a few rocks? *

Gwen gives him a sideways glance.

BEN *

Looked in a mirror lately?

Kevin thinks about it for a beat then slips on his ID MASK. He shimmers and TRANSFORMS to his human form. *

BEN (CONT'D) *

Pretty cool. ID Mask? *

Ben knocks on Kevin's forehead. It sounds like he's rapping on metal. *

BEN (CONT'D) *
Well you look human, anyway. *

GWEN *
But you still want to stay away *
from those things. *

BEN *
Yeah, they'll have you for lunch. *

REVERSE PAST BEN - he climbs down from the road into the sand to confront the creatures <STAMPEDING> toward him.

BEN (CONT'D) *
Hero time. *

CLOSE ON BEN - who raises his hand and <SLAPS> the Omnitrix.

BEN (CONT'D) *
Humungousaur! *

He shuts his eyes. Nothing happens. He opens his eyes.

THE PYROXOVORES - <THUNDER> closer.

RESUME BEN - He repeatedly <SMACKS> the device. The SOUND of the <STAMPEDING> creatures is DEAFENING.

BEN (PARTIAL O.S.) (CONT'D) *
Humongousaur! Humongousaur! *
Humongousaaa -- *

The HERD PLOWS THROUGH SHOT, overrunning him.

BEN (CONT'D) *
<trampled CRIES> *

PYROXOVORES (B-TRACK)
<angry lowing>

ON HIGHWAY - Kevin TURNS HIS FISTS (one metal and one stone) INTO HAMMER SHAPES and hops off the road. *

KEVIN
I'll get him!

PAN - as Kevin wades into the herd and lands a few <CLANGING> BLOWS, sending a couple of the thick-skinned beasts flying.

PYROXOVORES (B-TRACK UNDER)

<howls of pain>

KEVIN (OVERLAP)

<effort grunts> Ben, where are you?
Ben?!

As Kevin turns, shouting in another direction:

ON PYROXOVORE #1 - nostrils flaring as it <SNIFFS> Kevin's stone-clad fist. It rears back, then <CHOMPS> down!

PYROXOVORE #1

<sniffs, piggy grunt, huge chomp>

CLOSE ON KEVIN - his eyes go wide.

KEVIN

Owwwww-WOW!

ZOOM OUT as Kevin looks over to see Pyroxovore #1 gnawing his hammer-shaped **fist**. He yanks his hand free, turns and flees. *
As one, the ravenous rock-eaters chase after him!

KEVIN (CONT'D) *

You gotta be kidding meeeee! *

PYROXOVORES

<hungry lowing> *

ON SIDE OF ROAD - Gwen runs her hands through her hair.

GWEN

(shouts) *

I got you! *

She then makes a sharp forward gesture, PROJECTS a LINE OF GLOWING STEPS in mid-air and charges off over the herd.

ON DESERT FLOOR - Gwen lands in front of Kevin, who nearly collides with her as he skids to a halt.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Don't move.

She wraps a FORCE BUBBLE around them both. The Pyroxovores STORM by, BASHING the field. Gwen strains to keep it intact.

GWEN (CONT'D)

<effort grunts>

SOME DISTANCE BACK - Ben woozily staggers to his feet --

BEN

<wheeze> With ya in a minute...

He <SLAPS> the Omnitrix; finally it works! BEN transforms...
but not into Humongosaur. Instead, after a FLASH OF LIGHT,
he becomes -- BRAINSTORM! He looks himself over and decides:

BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm? Bewildering!

HIGH DOWN SHOT - Rising into the sky, Brainstorm looks down.
The herd swarms toward the highway -- and the train tracks!

IN MID-AIR - Brainstorm's CRANIUM OPENS to expose his massive
BRAIN; it <CRACKLES> with ENERGY; he FIRES a MASSIVE BOLT --

ANGLE ON TRAIN TRACKS - the BOLT envelops the rails. They
rise up and bend around <CREAKING METAL SFX> in a circle to
form a corral -- penning the Pyroxovores!

CLOSE ON BRAINSTORM - as he turns his attention to:

KEVIN AND GWEN - as her FORCE BUBBLE CRACKS.

GWEN

<grunt> Can't hold it any more -- !

Another BRAINSTORM BOLT plucks them up out of the herd --

KEVIN AND GWEN

Whoaaa?!

And deposits them outside the makeshift corral. Brainstorm
touches down beside them. We hear the O.S. beasts <BUMPING>
the bars. Kevin rubs his knuckles.

PYROXOVORES (O.S.)

<braying and lowing continue under>

KEVIN

Those -- cow-things -- bit me!

ANGLE FAVORING BRAINSTORM - as he pats one of the boxcars.

BRAINSTORM

Precisely why I chose to surround
them with the metal rails. I
observed that they only eat stone.

*
*
*

He REVERTS to his NORMAL APPEARANCE. Kevin looks down at his
stone parts.

*
*

KEVIN

Lucky me.

*

WIPE TO:

EXT. DESERT OIL RIG SITE - SOON - DAY

CRANE DOWN from a HIGH VIEW of the SINKHOLE to Ben, Kevin and
Gwen. They stand facing a HOLO-VIEWER sitting on the hood of
the car. MAX'S 3-D IMAGE taps his chin, then realizes:

MAX (FILTERED)

Those are Pyroxovores. I haven't
seen one in years!

*

KEVIN

How come we never heard of them?

CLOSE ON 3-D MAX - shakes his head at his grandson's naiveté.

*

MAX (FILTERED)

Kid, there's lots of species here
on Earth you won't find in any
book. That's where fairy tales
come from! Unicorns. Trolls.
Pixies! They're all real.

REVERSE ANGLE - the Teens trade looks of incredulity.

KEVIN

Even Bigfoot?

MAX (FILTERED)

Don't be ridiculous, that's a guy
in a suit.

*
*

GWEN

Do you know what drove them to the
surface?

*
*
*

CLOSE ON 3-D MAX - remembering the point of their visit.

MAX (FILTERED)

I dunno. Something scared 'em -- or
made it too uncomfortable to stay
underground.

*

*

ANGLE ON TEENS - Kevin scoffs.

KEVIN

They're walking tanks. What could
make them 'uncomfortable?'

*

*

BEN

Let's go find out.

*

*

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND BURROW - SOON

Kevin's car descends the steep, bumpy incline chewed out by
the Pyroxovores. RUNNING LIGHTS provide ILLUMINATION.

*

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE FROM BACK SEAT OF CAR - Gwen, Ben and Kevin hang on to
their seat belts, JOSTLED by the uneven terrain.

*

BEN/KEVIN/GWEN

<Jostling moans>

*

*

Through the windshield, we see the car go round a bend.

GWEN

(jostled)

How far does this go?

*

*

KEVIN

I don't know, but this is as far as
we go. End of the road.

*

*

*

Kevin's right. The road ends only a few feet ahead. The car
breaks to a stop right at the edge...

*

*

BEN

Now what?

*

*

The cliff edge begins to CRACK under their wheels.

*

KEVIN

You had to ask...

*

*

INT. UNDERGROUND BURROW - CONTINUOUS

The cliff crumbles and the car drops straight down, O.S.

*

INT. FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

The car plunges away FROM CAMERA, down a very deep shaft.

BEN / GWEN / KEVIN (O.S.)

<descending screams>

As their SCREAMS ECHO...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - RESUME

DOWN ANGLE - KEVIN'S CAR <WHOOSHES> down the shaft toward certain doom. The RUNNING LIGHTS FADE into the darkness.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - FALLING - CONTINUOUS

Ben leans forward and shouts over the others' screams.

GWEN / KEVIN (B-TRACK UNDER)
<screams continue>

BEN
(shouts)
I'll turn into Jetray and slow us
down! *

Ben starts to reach for the ceiling; Kevin grabs his wrist.

KEVIN
You'll dent the roof. *

QUICK CUT - Kevin pushes a button on his console.

INT. FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

TILT WITH the falling auto as a PARACHUTE <POPS> out of the trunk. That slows the car for maybe two seconds -- until the chute snags on an outcropping of rock and <RIPS> away.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE OVER DASHBOARD - Ben, leaning between them, rolls his eyes. Gwen snaps at Kevin:

GWEN
Plan B? *

KEVIN
(offended)
I got one. *

INT. FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

TILT WITH CAR - FOUR JETS pop out of the corners of the car, PIVOT, then FIRE DOWNWARD, slowing their descent.

AT BOTTOM OF SHAFT - JETS <ROARING>, the car comes down in a CLOUD OF EXHAUST and DUST for a rough but survivable landing, <WHUMP!> Beat. Gwen, Kevin and finally Ben stagger out.

BEN

Cool.

*

Kevin looks down at the car.

*

KEVIN

Yeah, but that can't be good for
the suspension

*

*

ANGLE PAST BEN - By the GLOW OF THE CAR'S HEADLIGHTS, Ben points to a half-height TUNNEL OPENING.

BEN

The car won't fit. We'll have to
go on foot.

*

REVERSE - Kevin and Gwen walk over. Gwen eyes the cramped hole and hesitates, eyes darting, her voice tremulous.

GWEN

There must be another way.

*

KEVIN

(snickers)

What're you, claustrophobic?

Gwen replies, her voice rising.

GWEN

I am so not claustrophobic! I just
can't stand being in tight, closed
spaces, okay? You have a problem
with that?!

*

Her WORDS ECHO down the tunnel. Beat.

ON BEN - leaning against the opening. He deadpans:

BEN
I'll go first.

WIPE TO:

INT. MOULDYWARP'S WARREN - A MINUTE LATER

IN BLACK, they enter what we will soon discover is a large, underground CHAMBER. We hear their ECHOING VOICES: *

BEN
Dark. *

KEVIN
No problem. *

CLOSE ON KEVIN - who LIGHTS A MATCH and turns to a WALL OF CRATES. He leans closer with the match and squinting, reads: *

KEVIN (CONT'D)
T -- N -- T. *

Gwen quickly leans INTO SHOT and blow out Kevin's match. *

GWEN
<blowing> *

AGAIN, in TOTAL DARKNESS: *

KEVIN
What'd you do that for? *

Kevin relights the match. This time Ben and Gwen blow it out. *

BEN AND GWEN
<blowing> *

Total darkness again. *

KEVIN
Cut it out! *

BEN
You cut it out! The room's filled
with dynamite! You almost blew us
up! *

KEVIN (V.O.)

How was I supposed to know?

BEN

I dunno. Reading?

*
*

MEDIUM - We finally see the trio again as Gwen creates two large BALLS OF LIGHT with her GLOWING HANDS.

GWEN

I'll handle the lighting.

*

Ben looks up sharply as he hears <THUMP-THUD!> from above.

HIS POV - In the gloom, a medicine-ball sized BOULDER bounces down the carved-out wall AT CAMERA.

BEN - shoves Gwen clear as the boulder <WHOOSHES> by.

BEN

Move!

ON KEVIN - who protects his face with his arms as another BOULDER bounces down. It <SHATTERS> against him. He scowls.

KEVIN

Hey!

*

Ben and Gwen run by behind him.

BEN

Find some cover.

*

GWEN

I'll make some cover.

*
*

Gwen projects a force field dome over them. More BIG ROCKS rain down PAST CAMERA, bouncing off the force field harmlessly.

*
*
*

Gwen points upward:

*

GWEN (CONT'D)

There he goes!

*

UP ANGLE - In the HALF-LIGHT, a furtive FIGURE (hereafter, MOULDYWARP) skitters along an upper ridge ringing the cave. He shoves another boulder over the edge, then hurries along.

ON BEN - he raises his hand to slap the Omnitrix.

BEN
No he doesn't!

Ben TRANSFORMS into BIG CHILL. *

BIG CHILL
Big Chill! *

PAN ALONG RIDGE - Mouldywarp galumphs along. There's an O.S. FLASH OF LIGHT from below. Then suddenly, *intangible* BIG CHILL *rises from the ground* behind Mouldywarp and grabs him. *

MOULDYWARP
Whaaa'?! *

ON THE GROUND - Big Chill lands holding the wriggling, wild-eyed, gap-toothed, Mole-Man-type. He talks like Walter Houston in *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (or, Yosemite Sam) and his bandoleer is stuffed with explosives.

MOULDYWARP (CONT'D)
Get'cher paws off'a me! Leggo!

BIG CHILL
Cool down, or I'll do it for you. *

MOULDYWARP
As soon as you let me go, I'ma blowin' you up. *

BIG CHILL
Sure you will. *

Big Chill releases Mouldywarp. He brushes himself off, *then starts at Ben's transformation.* *

MOULDYWARP
It's possible-- Ahhhhh! *

BEN REVERTS TO NORMAL. *

BEN
Don't be afraid, it's still me. *

MOULDYWARP

Not really helping, sonny. You're
still ugly as all get out.

KEVIN

What's your name, old-timer?

MOULDYWARP

Mouldywarp.

BEN - looks askance at him.

BEN

That's what your friends call you?

MOULDYWARP - reels about, unhinged.

MOULDYWARP

Friends?! I don't got no friends!

GWEN is overcome with sympathy.

GWEN

You're the last of your kind.

WIDER - Mouldywarp pulls a CHAIN dangling beside him.
OVERHEAD FLOODS <KLUNK> ON. The Teens wince at the light.

MOULDYWARP

No such luck! The underworld is
crawlin' with folks like me. I jes'
don't like them much, and they
don't like me!

KEVIN

(mutters)

You don't say?

BEN

What are you doing with all the
explosives?

MOULDYWARP

Aw, I been stealing that stuff from
the surface dwellers for years!

UP ANGLE - Gwen eyes the dusty crates piled to the ceiling.

GWEN

Some of this looks pretty old.

DOWN ANGLE ON MOULDYWARP - who grins insanely.

MOULDYWARP

It is! TNT, blasting caps, nitro-glycerin. Primitive, but they sure gets the job done! Heh!

RESUME ON GROUP - as the Teens trade troubled looks.

BEN

What job is that?

MOULDYWARP

Protecting my herd. *

BEN

Your... herd.

MOULDYWARP

The Pyroxovores. Real beauties, ain't they? *

He winks. Kevin steps up beside Ben, objecting.

KEVIN

They tried to eat my hand!

MOULDYWARP

You shouldn't let them. *

KEVIN

Uh huh. *

CLOSER - Kevin pulls Ben aside and whispers: *

KEVIN (CONT'D) *

(whispers) *

He doesn't know anything, we should ditch. *

Mouldywarp pops up between them, goggle-eyed like Marty Feldman and sing-songs crazily:

MOULDYWARP

I heard you!

GWEN - glares at the guys, then turns to Mouldywarp.

GWEN

Why were you throwing rocks at us,
Mouldywarp?

*
*

WIDE ON GROUP - as Mouldywarp shrugs and heads for another opening -- the entrance to his MINE CAR TUNNEL.

MOULDYWARP

I couldn't get ta my explosives.
That's what I mostly use on the
other fella.

*
*
*
*

BEN

What other fella?

*

MOULDYWARP

The claim-jumper, don't you know
nothin'?

*
*
*

GWEN

No. Not so far.

*
*

CUT TO:

INT. MOULDYWARP'S MINE CAR TUNNEL - SOON

Mouldywarp uses a <SQUEAKING> pulley-and-chain system to lower a MINE CAR down a SEVERELY INCLINED TUNNEL; a STRING OF FLUORESCENT LANTERNS hangs along the back wall.

CLOSER IN MINE CAR - Gwen wipes her brow.

GWEN

No wonder the Pyroxovores came to
the surface. It's like a furnace
down here!

*

BEN

Is it always this hot?

*

MOULDYWARP

Nah, that's what I'm tryin ta fix.
It's only been hot since all that
magma started seepin' up!

*
*
*

BEN

Did you say "Magma"?

*

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. VULKANUS'S CAVERN - A MINUTE LATER

Mouldywarp stands in the entrance to another, much larger CAVERN. He gestures PAST CAMERA. The teens gape.

*

MOULDYWARP

That I did.

*

REVERSE ANGLE - PHOSPHORESCENT STALACTITES and STALAGMITES provide the light by which we see a massive James Bond villain-style lair, complete with SHINY FLOORS, PUMPS, BUBBLING TANKS OF MAGMA, a METAL SCAFFOLD and...

AN OVERHEAD CONVEYOR TRACK - from which hangs a gigantic DEPTH CHARGE-SHAPED BOMB. It <RUMBLES> into position over an enormous STEAMING OPENING built in the floor.

REACTION SHOT - Mouldywarp nods as the Teens go:

BEN

Whoa.

*

UP ANGLE - ON A CONTROL PLATFORM on the top level of the scaffold. A figure turns and looks over the rail: VULKANUS! [ART NOTE: he rides/wears a new ROBOTIC SUIT, one hand of which is a large DRILL.] He bombastically bellows:

VULKANUS

Who dares intrude on the lair of--

(sees them)

Awww, not you again?

*

*

RESUME ON GROUP AT ENTRANCE - Mouldywarp turns, vindicated.

MOULDYWARP

So ya do know him!

KEVIN

Vulkanus? Yeah, we know him. We don't like him though.

*

*

*

ON VULKANUS - who makes a sharp pointing gesture from above.

VULKANUS

The feeling is mutual.
(to Pike-Axe aliens)
Destroy them!

*
*
*

WIDE ON GROUP - who look around startled as EIGHT PICK-AXE ALIENS (from the episode, "Kevin's Big Score") surround the team, <SPARKING> tools in hand.

PICK-AXE ALIENS
<angry clacking>

CLOSER ON BEN - who regains his composure and scoffs.

BEN
C'mon, we hammered these nerds last
time! Is that **all** you've got?

*

WIDE ON SCENE - TWO HUGE EXCAVATION ROBOTS <ZIP> over, looming above our heroes, one with a <WHIRRING> CHAIN-SAW and the other with a <CLANKING> SHOVEL, both ready to strike.

TWO SHOT - Gwen glares at her cousin.

GWEN
You had to ask, didn't you?

As the ROBOTS' SHADOWS spread across them ominously:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. VULKANUS'S CAVERN - RESUME ACTION

The Robots rise up to strike. Ben gestures for a 'time out.'

BEN

Wait, whoa. We didn't even know
you were here, okay?

GWEN

And by the way, why are you here?

UP ANGLE ON VULKANUS - gazing down at them from the platform.

VULKANUS

Remember all that Tadenite that I
took off of you?

ON GROUP - Kevin glowers, rubbing his shoulder at the memory.

KEVIN

(containing anger)

Yeah. I remember.

*
*

VULKANUS

Well it was worth a fortune! And
you'll be glad to know I spent it
wisely.

WIDE - A HOLOGRAM of SEVERAL ALIEN-GLYPH DOCUMENTS APPEARS in
front of Vulkanus's captives.

VULKANUS (CONT'D)

See? This is my planet now! I
filed a claim, paid the fees, the
whole bit. Completely legal.

ANGLE THROUGH HOLOGRAM - Ben squints at the paperwork.

BEN

What does that mean, 'Planetary
Renovation Permit?'

ON VULKANUS - who makes an open-palmed, 'what-else' gesture.

VULKANUS

Exactly what it says. I get to
change the atmosphere, the terrain,
the oceans -- any way I want!

*

WIDE ON SCENE - The HOLOGRAM FADES. Gwen points to the huge
spherical weapon hanging over the open shaft.

GWEN

(realizing)
That's what the bomb's for.

*

*

VULKANUS

Yup. I drop it down the shaft, it
explodes in the magma at the center
of the Earth, and before you know
it, I have all the comforts of
home!

*

*

*

*

KEVIN

Wait, 'Home?' Where you come from,
on a cool day, it's 850 degrees!

Vulkanus nods.

*

VULKANUS

Un-huh.

ON GROUP - as Mouldywarp asides to Kevin:

MOULDYWARP

Heh! And you thought I was crazy.

BEN

(shouts up at Vulkanus)
You can't do that!

ANGLE ON PLATFORM - Vulkanus snorts as he pulls a lever.

VULKANUS

Of course I can, watch.

*

ON CONTROL PANEL - A DIGITAL CLOCK counts down seconds. 300,
299, 298...

ON GROUP - Ben turns to Kevin and Gwen:

BEN

You handle the runts and the robots. I'll stop Vulkanus!

GWEN

I'll give you some cover!

MOULDYWARP

Yee-haw! I was hopin' we'd get to some fightin'!

WIDER ANGLE - Kevin GROWS HIS HANDS into oversized mallets and backhands several of the Pix-Axe Aliens, scattering them.

PICK-AXE ALIENS

<clicks and yowls>

GWEN - launches a few POWER PULSES upward, <VING-VING-VING!>

VULKANUS - ducks as the PULSES BURST around him. One melts part of the platform. Vulkanus shouts over the rail:

VULKANUS

Somebody do something about her!

ROBOT #1 - rolls forward on tank treads and brandishes his drill. Gwen PROJECTS A FORCE SHIELD, blocking it, <WRRRR!>

GWEN

<big effort grunt>

MOULDYWARP - safe behind Gwen and her shield, lights and lobs a few sticks of dynamite at the bad guys.

MOULDYWARP

<whistles tunelessly>

The dynamite explodes.

PICK-AXE ALIENS

<clicks and yowls>

Gwen looks askance.

GWEN

Harsh.

MULDY

Nah, I blows them up all the time.
I think they likes it!

BEN - runs toward the scaffold, then skids to a halt to avoid
ROBOT #2's SHOVEL as it <SMASHES> the floor in front of him.

BEN

Whoops!

UP ANGLE ON ROBOT #2 - towering overhead. It raises its
shovel-hand to strike again <WHIR-RREEEE!>

BEN - glares up at the machine, hand over his Omnitrix.

BEN (CONT'D)

It's hero time, Tin Man.

He slaps the Omnitrix. It <SPUTTERS>, then WINKS OUT.

BEN (CONT'D)

Maybe my watch is fast.

He leaps clear as the SHOVEL <CLANGS> down again.

KEVIN - wades into the Aliens, swatting them like flies.

PICK-AXE ALIENS (B-TRACK UNDER)

<ad-lib 'wah's' and 'yee's'>

ANGLE PAST GWEN - with hands raised, creating LAYERS OF FORCE
SHIELDS. The Drill <GRINDS> through one, then the next.

GWEN

(shouts, straining)

Ben! What are you waiting for?!

ON BEN - with his back to the wall beneath the scaffold. He
slaps the Omnitrix a couple of times to no avail.

BEN

(shouts)

Maybe it's the heat!

Ben does a shoulder-roll to avoid another SHOVEL <SMASH>.

RESUME GWEN - struggling as her last SHIELD <SHATTERS>!

GWEN

Maybe you're doing it wrong! --
aahh!

*

WIDE ON SCENE - Robot #1 rears back to bisect Gwen when --

CLOSE ON ROBOT #1'S TREADS - A FLAME races up a FUSE to a BUNDLE OF DYNAMITE tucked into the treads.

WIDE - the resulting EXPLOSION pitches Robot #1 to one side, <SMASHING> into Robot #2. Both keel over, <SPARKING>.

ON BEN - coming out of his shoulder roll on one knee. ROBOT #2'S HEAD <CRASHES> down next to him. He looks off and sees:

BEN'S POV THROUGH CLEARING SMOKE - Mouldywarp holds a SMOLDERING PUNK. He gives a jaunty salute with it.

MOULDYWARP

Now git that varmint!

RESUME BEN - he shakes the Omnitrix <RATTLE-RATTLE> then <SLAP!> This time <VWOMP!>, Ben turns into SPIDER-MONKEY!

SPIDER-MONKEY

Spider-Monkey!

*

TILT UP - Spider-Monkey quickly scrambles up the scaffold. Near the top, he executes a somersault that lands him --

ON THE CONTROL PLATFORM - facing Vulkanus. He shrieks:

SPIDER-MONKEY (CONT'D)

Stop the countdown!

VULKANUS - yanks a pull cord on his wrist and starts his drill-bit hand like Leatherface firing up a chain-saw <VRRR!>

VULKANUS

Make me.

SPIDER-MONKEY - ducks as Vulkanus thrusts the drill-bit at him. It slices through the hand rail in a SHOWER OF SPARKS.

QUICK CUTS - Spider-Monkey executes a manic gymnastic routine, using his hands, feet and tail to swing above, below and around the scaffold, evading the <WHIRRING> weapon.

VULKANUS (B-TRACK UNDER) (CONT'D)
Stay put, will ya? <building growl>

SIDE ANGLE - Then Spider-Monkey lands facing Vulkanus and nails him right in the face with a <SPURT> of WEB-GOO.

VULKANUS (CONT'D)
Gaaah!

Spider-Monkey ducks as the half-blinded Vulkanus wildly swings the drill around and jams it into the wall, <WRRZZZ!>
Spidermonkey webs the hand in place. *

VULKANUS (CONT'D)
Unh! I'm stuck!

SPIDER-MONKEY
I know, I stuck you. *

QUICK CUTS - Spider-Monkey peppers Vulkanus with a SUPER-SPEED FLURRY of punches and kicks, <BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!>

VULKANUS
<staccato grunts and yelps>

SPIDER MONKEY - stops BLURRING to examine his handiwork. Vulkanus teeters woozily; his bionic suit is covered in dents. SPARKS FLY. Then he drops to his knees, dangling from the drill that remains stuck in the wall.

VULKANUS (CONT'D)
<fainting groan>

UP ANGLE ON SPIDER-MONKEY - standing over his vanquished foe.

SPIDER-MONKEY
Now, stop the countdown! *

DOWN SHOT - Glaring up AT CAMERA, Vulkanus smirks and uses his free hand to <CLICK> a rocker button on his armor.

CLOSE ON CLOCK - with two minutes remaining, the COUNTDOWN rolls ahead -- to the final 30 seconds! A <KLAXON SOUNDS>.

SPIDER-MONKEY (CONT'D)
I said stop it, not speed it up!

VULKANUS

My mistake.

SPIDER-MONKEY

When that bomb goes off, the magma
will come right up into this
chamber, It'll kill you too! Are
you crazy?

*
*
*
*
*

VULKANUS

That would be crazy.

*
*

Vulkanus <CLICKS> another button on the suit.

OVERHEAD - a HATCH irises open in the ceiling, <SCRAPE!>

TWO SHOT - Spider-Monkey gawks up at the hatch as Vulkanus
disengages from the drill-hand and then --

ANGLE ON VULKANUS'S BOOTS - a PAIR OF ROCKETS <IGNITE>.

TWO SHOT - Spider-Monkey cringes from the BLOW-BACK as
Vulkanus <ZOOMS> up the escape hatch. Spider-Monkey tenses,
preparing to pursue him -- until he glances O.S.

HIS POV - the CONTROL PANEL. Every LIGHT BLINKS RED. TILT
past the rail to the bomb, held by Kirbyesque clamps.

ON SPIDER-MONKEY - alarmed. Then, inspiration strikes. He
<SNAPS> four sets of fingers and scampers off the platform.

DOWN BELOW - Kevin reacts as the Pick-Axe Aliens turn tail...
and dive through an ESCAPE HATCH like rats deserting a ship.

PICK-AXE ALIENS (PARTIAL O.S.)

<panicked clicks and gargles>

MEDIUM ON KEVIN - his HANDS SHRINK to normal size and shape.

KEVIN

That doesn't look good.

AT MOUTH OF BOMB SHAFT - Spider-Monkey scurries up to the
opening, looking up at the bomb; he adjusts his position and
looks up again. Gwen, Kevin and Mouldywarp run IN.

GWEN

Ben, what're you doing?

SPIDER-MONKEY

I can grab the bomb when it drops!

GWEN

Spider-Monkey isn't strong enough
to catch something that heavy!

SPIDER-MONKEY

No, but I know someone who is!

CLOSER - Spider-Monkey slaps the Omnitrix and shouts:

SPIDER-MONKEY (CONT'D)

Humongousaur!

*

As Spider-Monkey starts to GLOW, he opens his arms wide in a grab-the-falling-baby pose. Only instead of turning into Humungosaur, he becomes -- JETRAY! He looks down at himself.

JETRAY

I really have to get that fixed.

UP ANGLE - The overhead CLAMPS <SNAP> open. The bomb drops --

MEDIUM ON GROUP - and <WHOOSHES> down the shaft past Gwen, Kevin and Jetray. Jetray leaps up, preparing to go after it.

KEVIN

Ben, if that bomb reaches the
Earth's core--

*

*

GWEN

--We're toast.

*

*

Jetray corkscrews down the shaft after the bomb!

JETRAY

I'm on it!

*

INT. BOMB SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE PAST FALLING BOMB - as it plummets down the shaft. Far below, the earth's layer of MOLTEN MAGMA ROILS AND GLOWS.

TILT WITH JETRAY - as he gains on the falling weapon. He fires TWO BEAMS from his eyes at the top of the bomb.

*

ON BOMB - bits of metal GLOW and peel away. It's not enough!

WIDER - As he drops, Jetray brings his tail around and uses NEUROSHOCK BLASTS from his tail plus the EYE BEAMS. Now the bomb starts heating up. We HEAR a warning <WEEEEEE!> build -- *

ANGLE DOWN SHAFT - the receding BOMB EXPLODES! Jetray turns and flies up, just ahead of the fireball. FLAMES race up the shaft after him. *

INT. VULKANUS'S CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

[CAMERA SHAKE] Gwen and Kevin run away from the opening and dive O.S. PAST CAMERA. (Mouldywarp is no longer present.)

GWEN / KEVIN
<cries of fear>

Then Jetray <ZOOMS> out of the shaft, CLEARING FRAME, followed by a giant FLAME-THROWER STREAM OF FIRE AND SMOKE.

GWEN AND KEVIN - get to their feet as SMOKE CLEARS. Jetray swoops around, lands and reverts to a slightly singed Ben.

BEN
Well? *

KEVIN
We're still here, aren't we? *

GWEN
So then, everything's okay?

CLOSE ON BEN - as he grins, then frowns and looks around.

BEN
Abso -- wait. Where's Mouldywarp?

CUT TO:

INT. MOULDYWARP'S WARREN - A MINUTE LATER

Ben, Gwen and Kevin hurry in. They stop and gape at:

THE WARREN - now strewn with <TICKING> TIMERS, dozens of them, tucked beside the various stacks of explosives.

MEDIUM - The teens cross over to Mouldywarp as he twists the dial on the last timer <CLICKITY-CLICK!>

GWEN

Um, what's with the timers?

MOULDYWARP

I figger, what's to keep Vulkanus from coming back and dropping another bomb down the shaft? After all, he did fill out the paperwork.

The Teens trade despairing looks. *

CUT TO:

INT. BOTTOM OF FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - A MINUTE LATER *

EXT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS *

Kevin starts the car; the others strap in, screaming. *

BEN / GWEN / KEVIN

Aaaahhhhhhhh!

INT. BOTTOM OF FIRST VERTICAL SHAFT - SOON

...And still screaming as the car <ROCKETS> upward --

BEN / GWEN / KEVIN (O.S.)

Aaaahhhhhhhh!

INT. MOULDYWARP'S WARREN - SIMULTANEOUSLY

-- Mouldywarp's TIMERS go <PING!> His vast COLLECTION OF EXPLOSIVES goes up in a massive FIREBALL --

INT. VULKANUS'S CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

-- which races back down the tunnel, engulfing the robots, collapsing the scaffold and BURSTING THE VATS of magma! As the CAVERN BLOWS TO SMITHEREENS --

EXT. DESERT OIL RIG SITE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Kevin's car sails out of the Pyroxovores' burrow --

BEN / GWEN / KEVIN (O.S.)

<Doppler shifting scream>

FAR DOWN SHOT - a vast CIRCLE OF DESERT SAND quavers, then settles, as seen in old footage of underground nuclear tests.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIN TRACK CORRAL - SOON - DAY

Ben, Gwen and Kevin stand facing Mouldywarp amidst the quiescent Pyroxovores. We hear the odd GRUNT or SQUEAL.

KEVIN

I love it. Vulkanus spent a fortune on filing fees -- and got nothing in return.

GWEN

And, we saved Earth from being turned into a giant hotplate.

BEN

Now all we have to do is get the Pyroxovores back underground again.

ANGLE FAVORING MOULDYWARP - rubbing his hands.

MOULDYWARP

I'll handle that. First, what say we celebrate with a nice supper!

BEN - looks askance at Mouldywarp.

BEN

Supper?

MOULDYWARP - genially pats one of the Pyroxovores.

MOULDYWARP

Yessiree-bob, this looks like a plump one.

GWEN - reacts, disgusted.

GWEN

You eat them?

MOULDYWARP - gives her another of his demented looks.

MOULDYWARP

Heh! 'Course I eats 'em. They're
my herd. Now -- who want's
barbeque?

*
*

Ben and Gwen are revolted. Kevin is intrigued.

*

BEN/GWEN

<ew>

*
*

KEVIN

Now that you mention it, I haven't
had anything all day...

*
*
*

Gwen hits Kevin on the shoulder.

*

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Ow! What?

*
*

Ben grabs Kevin by the arm, yanking him into step as he and
Gwen walk away.

*
*
*

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE