

BEN 10

“Voided”

OUTLINE

01/08/08

Krieg

TEASER

1. INT. BEN’S GARAGE – DAY

Ben, Kevin and Gwen receive a faint, garbled message. It’s an S.O.S. from Helen, one of the Plumbers’ Kids who went to the Null Void. All they know is that the situation is desperate. Ben feels responsible for letting the kids go there in the first place. He must help them if he can. Gwen reminds him that getting into the Null Void is one thing, getting out... not so easy. With Kevin’s “borrowed” technology, they can open a gateway for a limited time, but have to keep a physical connection with whomever they send in.

They use “the SNAKE”, an unbreakable Plumber cable that the kids attach to the winch on the front of Ben’s dad’s Range Rover. Ben straps himself into a harness. When Gwen opens the portal, she notices that the “wall” that separates our world from that pocket dimension is getting thinner. Dangerously thin, in fact. If something isn’t done soon, the Null Void could collapse in on itself. Ben steps in...

END TEASER

ACT ONE

## 2. EXT. NULL VOID – NIGHT

With the cable trailing behind him and vanishing into a crackling tear in space, Ben makes his way through the Null Void. He happens upon a hapless DENIZEN of that world being DRAGGED AWAY by a Null Guardian. These soulless sentries are more than mere machines, less than beings... and tough as nails.

Ben becomes BLUESTREAK and saves the grateful victim and sends the Null Guardian packing. The rescued Voider asks Ben (once he's changed back) if he is one of "the Helpers"? He knew The Wrench would save him when it became known that Degredus was arresting him for treason. The Voider tells Ben they must find a place to hide, quickly. The Guardian will return soon... with reinforcements.

## 3. NULL VOID ASTEROID - NIGHT

Ben, of course, doesn't have any idea what his new friend is talking about. The Helpers? The Wrench? Who is Degredus? Suddenly, they are surrounded by an entire group of Null Guardians. Before Ben can transform, the Guardians are attacked by Manny, Helen and the other Plumber's Kids he met earlier. Plumbers Helpers. Now he gets it. Helen recognizes Ben. He answered her S.O.S.! Hothead Manny is upset, of course. What do they need him for?

Helen orders the Helpers to lead the Guardians away from Ben. He's too valuable to be captured! The Helpers elude the Null Guardians... until the terrifying DEGREDUS,

Lord of the Null Void, himself appears. In a world of criminals, he is the Alpha Dog. Strong, cruel and invulnerable, he was the villain for whom the Null Void prison was originally designed. Degredus soon overwhelms the Helpers and orders the Guards to drag them back to his Citadel.

But Ben is literally at the end of his rope. Of course he wants to save the Helpers, but there's no slack left in his tether line. If he comes to their aid, he could very well be trapped in the Null Void forever! What should he do?!? Suddenly, the tether starts to PULL him away from the fight!

#### 4. INT. BEN'S GARAGE – DAY

Back on Earth, Gwen is starting to get worried about Ben. He's been in there long enough! Kevin is less concerned, but willing to humor Gwen. As they're REELING IN the Plumber's Snake, it suddenly goes SLACK. Gwen and Kevin pull in the rest of the cable as fast as they can, only to find... Ben's harness is EMPTY!

### END ACT ONE

### ACT TWO

#### 5. EXT. NULL VOID - NIGHT

Kevin becomes BRAINSTORM and fights Degredus. He survives, but only by the skin of his teeth. The good news? Brainstorm manages to free the Helpers. They flee into the

Void. Ben has only been in the Null Void for thirty minutes and he's already made a powerful enemy in Degredus.

#### 6. EXT. NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

On the run, they are hidden by a Null Void Dirt Farmer, who, like many, eeks out a living from the soil of the asteroids that fill the Void. From their hiding place, Ben and the Helpers watch helplessly as Null Guardians, who've come to collect the food tribute, also drag off the farmer's son to work in Degredus' mines. Hopelessly outnumbered, there's nothing they can do... yet.

Ben gets up to speed on the situation here.

#### 7. NULL VOID HISTORY - FLASHBACK

The Null Void is a pocket dimension created millions of years ago as an intergalactic prison. In fact, it was created for Degredus... considered the most dangerous megalomaniac in the Galaxy. Soon, he was joined by miscreants of all kinds.

But, just like Australia, for many what started out as a prison has just turned into a home. Stuck there, many (reformed) criminals made the best of things and created a new, if somewhat bizarre, world. That was before Degredus managed to gain control over the Null Guardians, the biomechanical automatons built to police the Null Void by its original creators. From his floating Citadel, Degredus dispatches his Null Guardians to conscript any able-bodied creatures to work in his mines digging a toxic element called KORMITE.

#### 8. EXT. MIST-SHROUDED PLANETOID – NIGHT

The Helpers take Ben to The Wrench's lair, a planetoid covered by electrified mist. This mysterious outlaw is the head of a rebellion against the tyrant Degredus. For the people of the Null Void, The Wrench is their only source of hope.

But the only way to The Wrench's hideout is across a (Steve Ditko-esque) stone bridge. Helen's brother Pierce guards the bridge. Despite Manny and Helen's assurances, he doesn't believe that Ben is who he claims to be. He's probably another of Degredus' shape-shifters. No one sees the Wrench. No one. But Ben must see him and tell him about Gwen's discovery of the thinning of the barrier between the dimensions.

Ben and Pierce do battle like Little John vs. Robin Hood. They are pretty evenly matched, but just as Ben is about to up the ante, he thinks better of it, and Pierce wins. Pierce is convinced that Ben is not one of Degredus' men and agrees to take him to the Wrench.

#### 9. INT. THE WRENCH'S LAIR - NIGHT

In the misty cave, Ben starts to explain why he's there, when a familiar voice interrupts him. *"Why not have a bowl of my famous Grasshopper Gumbo first, Ben?"*

Ben's jaw drops. The Wrench is none other than... GRANDPA MAX!!

END ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

### 10. INT. THE WRENCH'S LAIR - NIGHT

Ben and Max's joyous reunion brings the house down. Grandpa Max explains the explosion in MAX OUT didn't kill him, but simply BLASTED him into the Null Void. Once he saw how badly the people here were oppressed, Max vowed to topple Degredus once and for all. *"You know, throw a monkey wrench into the machinery."*

What is Ben doing here? And how did Pierce end up beating him?

Ben admits that he let Pierce beat him. He figured that was the only way to get Pierce to lead him to the Wrench (he figured right!). As to why he's come, Ben explains about the S.O.S. and the thinning wall between dimensions.

Max grows very concerned. He doesn't have as much time as he thought. He tells Ben and the Helpers that Degredus has been mining Kormite to feed the giant furnace that powers his Dimensional Bore. With it, he will "pop" the bubble of this pocket universe, destroying the Null Void but freeing his army of dangerous criminal followers to ravage our universe. All those in Null Void who don't join him will instantly vanish along with the dimension itself. And there isn't much time left to stop Degredus.

The Helpers' guerilla-slyle attacks aren't enough. Grandpa Max decides to risk everything in an all out attack on Degredus' citadel. They don't stand much of a chance

against the fortress' defenses, but they can't just sit back and do nothing. Ben speaks up. He has a better idea...

#### 11. EXT. NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

The demoralized Dirt Farmer complains bitterly as the Null Guardians cart off the last of his food. How will he feed what's left of his family? The Guardians tell him he won't have to worry about that for long...

#### 12. INT. DEGREDUS' CITADEL - NIGHT

As soon as the Null Guardians haul the farmer's load of alien produce inside the Citadel's gates, Ben, Max and the Helpers leap out of the blimp-like "cart" and attack! Max has trained the Helpers well, and they mop the floor with the Null Guardians. The battle seems to be going their way... until Degredus shows up.

This is better than he could have hoped for. Not only is he about to break free from centuries of captivity with an unbeatable army at his beck and call, but he gets to destroy his greatest foe, The Wrench, as an appetizer!

Degredus isn't bluffing. As powerful as he is, his strength seems to be AUGMENTED here in his Citadel. Max leads his assault like a great general, coordinating the attacks of the Helpers and barking out the name of alien-form Ben should use next. But it becomes clear to Ben that they're LOSING.

Finally, Max orders Ben to charge again, but Ben shakes his head. It's no use. Degredus is too strong. They'll never win that way. Instead, Ben climbs onto the edge of the furnace and stands there precariously. Grandpa Max watches helplessly as Ben LEAPS IN!

As Ben falls, he transforms into BIG CHILL. He's about to see just how COLD Big Chill can get! There is an agonizing pause. Then... the fire goes out. Then the furnace itself is covered in a sheet of frost before SHATTERING into a million pieces!

Degredus's strength vanishes. The Helpers easily overcome him as his Null Guardians head for the hills. Ben climbs out of the pit as the Helpers release the captives from the mines.

When Ben saw how much stronger Degredus was here in his Citadel, he figured Null Lord's power was tied into the furnace. Max beams at Ben, proudly. Looks like Ben figured right. Again.

Just then, a RIP in the fabric of space/time opens right where Degredus' dimensional bore was "digging". It's Gwen! But she says she can't hold this portal open for long. Ben must come through. Now!

Ben turns to his Grandfather and tells him they can both make it through. But Max shakes his head. His work here isn't done. They may have caught Degredus, but his



followers are still on the loose. And the Null Guards have to be re-programmed to be the peacekeepers they were originally designed to be. When he's restored balance to the Null Void, he'll find a way home... with the Helpers.

Ben can't stand it. He needs Grandpa Max's help to defeat the DNAliens! Max disagrees. Everything Ben has done here has just proven that Ben is more of a leader than Max ever was. Max assures his grandson that he'll always be with Ben, one way or another.

With the gate closing, Ben makes a hard decision... but the only one he can make. The Earth is in trouble. And, like it or not, humanity's only hope is... BEN 10.

THE END