

DAN VS.

"New Mexico"

By

Chris Pearson and Dan Mandel

EP102

2nd Draft: April 13, 2010

TEASER

TITLE CARD

"DAN vs." fills the top of the screen. The bottom half of the screen sits empty.

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING 1

Dan's alarm clock gives off a loud BEEP BEEP BEEP. Dan sits up in bed, banging his head on a low-hanging lamp.

DAN

Aah!

The lamp swings away from Dan, and then back into his head again.

DAN (CONT'D)

Aaah!

EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING 2

Dan walks to his car, a small bandage over his right eyebrow.

DAN

(muttering to himself)

Don't even know why I put that lamp there in the first place. What the heck would you make a swinging lamp for? Makes me want to burn down the 70s. What the-?!

We see Dan's car. In addition to the three long scratches on the driver's side, the left rear window is broken.

DAN (CONT'D)

Not my car!

He runs to check out the damage. On the ground are cactus needles (maybe a frond or leaf or bud or whatever they're called; we'll look it up...) and some red dirt.

DAN (CONT'D)

Cactus needles? Red dirt?

He looks through the broken window. A red rock sits on top of a postcard that reads "Greetings from New Mexico".

(CONTINUED)

DAN (CONT'D)
So that's it.

Dan raises his fist to the sky and bellows the name of his adversary.

DAN (CONT'D)
NEW MEXICO!!!!

TITLE CARD

"NEW MEXICO" slams into place under "DAN vs."

ACT I

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - DAY 3

Chris types on a computer with his phone cradled to his ear.

CHRIS
Let's see... New Mexico became a
state on January 6th, 1912, making
it the 47th state in the union.
It's called the Land of
Enchantment...

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - DAY 4

Dan sits on the phone, listening to Chris talk.

DAN
I'll give it some enchantment...

CHRIS (ON PHONE)
The capital is Santa Fe, it's
population is just under 2
million... State bird is the
roadrunner... Elise hates
roadrunners...

Dan begins impatiently drumming his fingers on the table in front of him. He rolls his eyes as this is becoming boring.

CHRIS (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
State flower: Yucca flower; State
song: O, Fair New Mexico...

Chris sings the first line of "O, Fair New Mexico."

DAN
Enough already! You're not helping
me here. What are its weaknesses?

CHRIS (ON PHONE)
Uh, weaknesses?

DAN
How do I hurt it?

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - DAY

5

Chris looks confused as he scrolls down on his monitor.

CHRIS
It... doesn't say.

DAN (ON PHONE)
We need more information.

CHRIS
You should go to the library.

DAN (ON PHONE)
Fine. Be here in half an hour.

CHRIS
Yeah, I kind of have to work today,
so I can't -

There is a CLICK as Dan hangs up on him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Hello? Dan?

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

6

CHRIS and DAN pull up to the Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood in Chris's car.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

7

Dan and Chris look over a stack of books about New Mexico.

DAN
None of this is helping!

CHRIS
Shhh.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

What do you think you're doing
shushing me? You don't shush me.
Nobody shushes me!

CHRIS

Shhh!

Dan hits Chris with a book. Chris tackles Dan.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

8

Chris and Dan are thrown out of the library by two burly
LIBRARIANS. They get up and dust themselves off.

CHRIS

Well that's the first time I've
ever been thrown out of a library.

DAN

(shrugs)

You get used to it.

CHRIS

Now what? We still need
information.

DAN

Don't be stupid. We go to a
different library.

CHRIS

I need lunch first.

DAN

It's ten in the morning!

CHRIS

Brunch, then.

INT. DINER - DAY

9

Chris and Dan sit at the lunch counter. Dan has a sandwich
in front of him. Chris has three sandwiches on his plate.

DAN

Hurry up, you're wasting valuable
time.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Is there a time limit on revenge?

DAN

There's an old saying; "Revenge is a dish best served immediately."

CHRIS

I don't think that's a saying.

DAN

What would you know about it?

They eat in silence for a moment. Chris looks over at Dan's plate.

CHRIS

Are you going to eat your sandwich?

DAN

You have three sandwiches of your own, right in front of you!

CHRIS

I'm planning ahead. Thinking about the endgame.

DAN

The endgame of lunch.

CHRIS

Yeah, obviously.

(Beat)

So, you are going to eat your sandwich?

DAN

Yes, I'm going to eat my sandwich. That's why I ordered it.

CHRIS

(disappointed)

Oh. Okay.

EXT. DIFFERENT LIBRARY - DAY

10

Chris and Dan pull up to the Santa Monica Library. They get out of the car and walk to the entrance.

CHRIS

Are you going to behave this time?

Dan pinches Chris.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Ouch! What was that for?!

DAN
You want to talk to me like a
child, I pinch-a you.

CHRIS
Can you just keep your cool?

DAN
(considering)
We'll see.

INT. DIFFERENT LIBRARY - DAY

11

Chris and Dan walk up to the help desk.

DAN
Hey Magellan, the books are that-a
way.

CHRIS
I want to ask that librarian. Maybe
he can help us find what we're
looking for.

DAN
Help us? For free?

CHRIS
That's what they do.

DAN
(disbelieving)
Doesn't hurt to try, I guess.

ARTHUR, the librarian, walks up to help them. He's a middle
aged guy, buttoned-down, a bit unstable.

ARTHUR
May I help you?

DAN
I doubt it.

ARTHUR
(to Chris)
May I help YOU, sir?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Yes, we're looking for information on New Mexico.

ARTHUR

Right over there between the 900s and the 908s.

DAN

He's talking in code. Get him!

Dan leaps for Arthur. Chris calmly holds him back.

CHRIS

It's not code, Dan. It's the Dewey Decimal system.

DAN

Which is a code.

CHRIS

Well, yes. But a benign one.

DAN

So he's just talking about books?

CHRIS

He is a librarian.

DAN

(to Arthur)

Hey buddy! Don't you think we've tried all the normal books?

CHRIS

(calmly)

We need some specific information.

Dan leans forward menacingly. He speaks, deadly serious.

DAN

How do we hurt New Mexico?

ARTHUR

Hurt New Mexico? Why would you want to do that?

DAN

It's personal.

ARTHUR

That's not the kind of information we usually carry here.

DAN
I didn't think so.
(to Chris, bitter)
I told you this guy couldn't help
us.

ARTHUR
I didn't say that. I can help you.
But I want something in return

DAN
I knew it! Librarians are jerks!

CHRIS
Let's hear him out.

Arthur points to GARY, browsing through the bookshelves.

ARTHUR
You see that guy over there?

Chris and Dan look.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
He slept with my wife.

Chris starts backing away.

CHRIS
We... really only came in for a
book.

ARTHUR
You want help with something, I
want help with something.

DAN
And this guy just mulls around your
library?

ARTHUR
Silently mocking me.

DAN
The gall.

EXT. DIFFERENT LIBRARY - DAY

12

Chris and Dan wait outside the library in Chris's car.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS
I don't think I feel right about
this. I mean, isn't this the
librarian's business?

DAN
No, it's perfect. We help someone
else get their revenge, and in turn
he helps me. Karma!

CHRIS
Yeah, but-

DAN
But nothing. Shut up.

CHRIS
Okay, but I'm not killing anyone.

DAN
What?!?

CHRIS
I'm not killing someone for some
librarian! That's a deal breaker.

DAN
You were ready to kill the Wolfman.

CHRIS
That was different. The Wolfman's a
menace. This is just some guy.

DAN
And now you tell me?!?

CHRIS
Yeah. Well, I mean, I was going to
say something inside, but...

DAN
(angry)
But?

CHRIS
(weakly)
But then I didn't. You're right. I
should have.

DAN
You should have!

CHRIS
I know. You're right.

Dan glares at Chris. GARY walks out of the library, smug, whistling and carrying a stack of books.

DAN
So he walks away?

CHRIS
Yeah.

DAN
I wonder if he knows how lucky he is.

Gary steps into traffic and is immediately run over by a bus.

CHRIS
Ooh. Not anymore.

DAN
Yeah.

CHRIS
Well, let's go talk to the librarian.

INT. DIFFERENT LIBRARY - DAY

13

Arthur looks up from his book when Dan and Chris walk in.

ARTHUR
Is it done?

DAN
Yup.

CHRIS
Not by us, specifically.

ARTHUR
What does that mean?

DAN
Nothing. Now help us.

ARTHUR
All right. You want to know how to hurt New Mexico?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

He does. I don't really care much,
either way.

Arthur furtively slides a book across the table to Dan, who picks it up. There is a picture of hot air balloons on the front.

DAN

Hot air balloons.

ARTHUR

You want to hurt New Mexico, that's
how you do it.

DAN

(reading the book)

"Each October, Albuquerque is the
home of the largest hot air balloon
launch in the United States." So?

ARTHUR

New Mexico is crazy about hot air
ballooning. They love it. It's like
candy to them.

Chris looks doubtful.

CHRIS

Really?

ARTHUR

Trust me. I'm a librarian.

EXT. DIFFERENT LIBRARY - DAY

14

Dan and Chris walk out of the library.

DAN

Librarians. He better be right
about this.

CHRIS

Hey, check it out.

In front of the library, two PARAMEDICS load Gary into an ambulance.

GARY

Am I going to make it?

(CONTINUED)

PARAMEDIC 1
Of course you are, son.

They close the ambulance door. Paramedic 1 looks at Paramedic 2, his eyes wide. He shakes his head and gives a LOW WHISTLE.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - DAY 15

Chris packs a small bag while Elise, his significant other, looks on.

ELISE
So you're going to New Mexico, why?

CHRIS
Dan wants to disrupt the annual Hot Air Balloon Festival.

ELISE
Because...

CHRIS
New Mexico broke his window.

ELISE
Oh.
(thinks for a second)
Can I come along?

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY 16

Dan throws stuff into a backpack.

DAN
Crowbar... hammer... caltrops...
flashlight... survival knife...
candlestick... bricks for
throwing... half a turkey
sandwich... That ought to do.

With great effort, Dan lifts the backpack up and slings it over his shoulders. With a RIPPING sound, the bottom of the backpack tears open and all the stuff falls out with a CRASH.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Perfect.

Chris KNOCKS on the open door and walks in.

CHRIS

All packed?

DAN

Shut up.

CHRIS

By the way, Elise is coming with us.

DAN

No. I did not authorize that.

CHRIS

I already told her it was okay.

DAN

Unacceptable. She stays.

CHRIS

Then I stay, and you can go to New Mexico by yourself.

They stare at each other for a moment.

DAN

I get shotgun.

CHRIS

Nope.

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DAY

17

Chris drives. Elise rides shotgun. Dan sits in the back seat behind Chris, stewing. Music plays as they ride along. Dan is kicking Chris's seat at a steady pace.

CHRIS

Dan! Stop kicking my seat! I'm trying to drive.

DAN

(mocking Chris)
"Dan, mamamananaa."

(CONTINUED)

ELISE
Something on your mind, Dan?

DAN
(to Chris)
How come SHE gets to sit in the
front seat?

CHRIS
Because it's our car.

DAN
That's not fair! This is madness!
What is she even doing here?

ELISE
You're not the only one with a
grudge against New Mexico, Dan.

DAN
Yeah? What did it do to you?

ELISE
I don't see how that's any of your
business.

In Elise's eyes, we see a pain too unspeakable to mention.

EXT. NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR - FLASHBACK - DAY 18

A YOUNG ELISE walks with her family at the State Fair. They walk along a fence towards the rides. Elise is carrying cotton candy and a balloon. Suddenly, a ROADRUNNER tears by, swiping her cotton candy.

ROADRUNNER
Meep-meep!

YOUNG ELISE
My cotton candy!

A cactus reaches over the fence and pops her balloon. The busted balloon (probably red in color) sinks to the ground. Young Elise raises her fist to the sky.

YOUNG ELISE (CONT'D)
NEW MEXICOOOO!!!

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DAY 19

Back in the present, Elise's eyes become grim with determination.

ELISE
It's been a long time coming.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY 20

The car drives along the desert.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY 21

They pull up to the pumps. Chris, Elise, and Dan get out of the car. Chris starts pumping gas.

ELISE
Anybody want anything?

DAN
Only my sweet, sweet revenge. And maybe some peanut brittle.

Elise walks off. Dan stretches. Suddenly, he's hit in the back of the head of his head with a clump of sand.

DAN (CONT'D)
Gyah!

He turns around to see who threw it.

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT - DAY 22

From Dan's POV, we see nothing but desert, stretching for miles and miles. A tumbleweed tumbles in the distance.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY 23

Dan points out into the desert accusingly.

DAN
You'll get yours, Arizona.

Dan pulls out his "Enemies List" and writes in "Arizona," under "Polish Sausage" and "The Reptile House."

INT. GAS STATION CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

24

Elise and Chris walk through the aisles, buying snacks.

ELISE

Okay, I've got the granola, some fruit, a six-pack of fennel juice and Dan's peanut brittle.

CHRIS

Did Dan give you any money for that?

ELISE

No, but don't worry, I have enough.

CHRIS

I got chips, some crunchy cheese wads, some chewy cheese wads, chocolate soda...

ELISE

Chris?

CHRIS

...some fizzle sticks, cocoa blasters...

ELISE

Chris, remember what we talked about?

CHRIS

Which time?

ELISE

About eating healthier.

CHRIS

It doesn't count if we're on a road trip.

(Beat)

Does it?

ELISE

It does.

CHRIS

(dejected)

All right, all right. I'll only get one thing.

(CONTINUED)

ELISE

Thank you. I only worry about your health because I love y-

Chris drops everything (literally) and points to a machine in the corner that he hadn't noticed before.

CHRIS

Yes! Milkshake machine! I choose milkshakes!

ELISE

Okay.

CHRIS

With cookies in them! It's still one thing if the cookies are inside the milkshake.

ELISE

Okay, but we're having salad for dinner.

CHRIS

Dan said we were having burgers.

ELISE

If Dan jumped off a cliff, would you?

Chris thinks about this for longer than Elise is comfortable with.

ELISE

Chris?!

CHRIS

Uh, I mean... It depends-

ELISE

Don't jump off a cliff!

CHRIS

Well, I wasn't planning on it.

ELISE

But if Dan jumped, you would?

Again, Chris thinks about it for too long.

ELISE

Chris!

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

25

Elise and Chris walk back outside to an impatient Dan.

DAN

Took you long enough! I have to pee!

CHRIS

So, go inside and pee. We'll wait.

DAN

There's no time!

ELISE

Dan, calm down. Here, I got you some peanut brittle.

Dan snatches the peanut brittle out of her hands.

DAN

I'm saving it for later.

CHRIS

You should at least say "thank you."

DAN

You're welcome. Now hurry up!

Dan gets in the car and looks straight ahead, waiting for Chris and Elise, who have not yet gotten in. Dan turns to face them and begins yelling, but with the windows shut, he's so muffled that we can't hear what he's saying. The window fogs up a bit where Dan is.

ELISE

Should we go?

CHRIS

Hold on. I want to see if he can fog up the entire window.

We see Dan disappear behind an increasingly foggy window.

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DAY

26

The three drive along once more. They pass a sign that says "Welcome to New Mexico", then a sign that says "Go Home, Dan".

(CONTINUED)

DAN
It knows we're here!

ELISE
Hey, drop me off at the next exit.

CHRIS
What?

ELISE
I want to do a little shopping.

CHRIS
In Roswell?

ELISE
Yeah. You can pick me up on the way
out.

EXT. NEW MEXICO HIGHWAY - DAY

27

The car stops at a sign that points "Roswell" to the right
and "Albuquerque" straight ahead. Elise hops out.

CHRIS
We'll take you into town...

ELISE
This is good. See ya!

Dan gets into the front seat.

DAN
FINALLY.

The car takes off again. Elise starts walking towards
Roswell.

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DAY

28

Chris looks confused as he drives.

CHRIS'
That was weird, wasn't it?

DAN
What was?

CHRIS
Elise just asked to be dropped off
in the middle of the desert.

(CONTINUED)

DAN
(shrugging)
Some people are desert people.

CHRIS
Elise is not desert people!

EXT. AREA 51 - DAY

29

Wearing desert camo, Elise low-crawls up to an electrified fence and looks through a telescope at what appears to be a large industrial facility.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DESERT- DAY

30

Chris and Dan drive through an arid, empty desert.

DAN
I'm starving. Shouldn't there be a rest stop or something? This state hates me.

CHRIS
I'm hungry, too.

DAN
Well, you're not getting any of my peanut brittle.

CHRIS
Dan, there's something I should tell you.

Dan reaches into his bag of peanut brittle. His hand comes out the bottom of the bag, that's been ripped open.

DAN
Where is it?

CHRIS
I, uh, ate it. And I'm sorry.

DAN
What?!?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

It was just sitting there and I
wasn't doing anything.

DAN

You were driving the whole time!
When did you even have time to eat?

CHRIS

You were looking out the window.

DAN

For, like, two seconds!

CHRIS

I said I was sorry.

Half beat as Dan's eyes "slowly" purse to a glaring squint.

DAN

I will mangle you!

Dan attacks Chris. The car swerves as Chris tries to defend himself.

CHRIS

Hey! Stop it! I'm driving!

DAN

Brittle thief!

Suddenly, they SLAM into something. The car SCREECHES to a halt.

CHRIS

Oh no. Oh, no. Please don't let it
be another cyclist.

DAN

Okay. Maybe we should just calm
down for a minute. A whole minute.

CHRIS

What did we hit?!?

EXT. CHRIS' CAR - DESERT - DAY

31

They both jump out of Chris's car to inspect. Dan looks off to the shoulder and spots the culprit.

(CONTINUED)

DAN
Dude! I think you killed a
celebrity!

Chris runs around the car. He sees-

A roadrunner, dead and mangled, on the side of the road.
Chris glares at Dan.

CHRIS
It's a roadrunner.

DAN
I'm pretty sure it's THE
roadrunner.

CHRIS
How could you even think that?

DAN
Well, how many of these things can
there possibly be?

CHRIS
Are you kidding? He doesn't look
remotely the same. At all!

Beat.

DAN
They use a lot of make-up on TV.

CHRIS
Poor little guy. I feel terrible.

DAN
Quit whining. We've solved two
problems here. One, the out-of
control roadrunner population.
Two...

EXT. CHRIS' CAR - DESERT - EARLY EVENING

32

Dan and Chris are sitting next to a fire they've started.
Pieces of the roadrunner spin on their crudely made spit.
They are both eating roadrunner.

CHRIS
This is really good.

(CONTINUED)

DAN
Like the mighty Native Americans.
Living off the land.

CHRIS
I'm pretty sure they didn't run
stuff over with their cars.

DAN
Sure they did. Pass the ketchup.

CHRIS
I don't have any ketchup.

DAN
Useless!

He attacks Chris again.

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DESERT - EVENING

33

Chris and Dan drive along once more.

CHRIS
So how are we going to-

DAN
Hydrogen.

CHRIS
Hydrogen?

DAN
Shut up.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

34

Dan and Chris pull into the truck stop. They get out of the car and walk into the diner.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

35

Through the giant bay window of the diner, we see the sun setting over the beautiful New Mexico landscape. Chris and Dan eat dinner.

DAN
I can't believe they don't serve
roadrunner. I thought you said it
was the State bird.

(CONTINUED)

Chris is lost in thought, staring at the sunset.

CHRIS

It's really pretty out here.

DAN

Whose side are you on, anyway? You got a crush on New Mexico?

CHRIS

No! I just said-

DAN

Shh. Here we go.

They see a semi pulling up to the gas pump. On the side of the truck, we see the logo "Crazy Jeff's Hydrogen Distribution".

DAN (CONT'D)

Let's go. You pay.

Chris throws some money down on the table and they get up and walk out.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

36

JEFF, the hapless truck driver, is set upon by Chris and Dan, who beat him mercilessly. The beating goes on just a little too long.

INT. SEMI - NIGHT

37

Chris drives the stolen truck. Dan wrings his hands in evil glee.

DAN

Good work back there. For once in your life, you didn't let me down.

CHRIS

I wonder how Elise is doing right now...

EXT. AREA 51 - NIGHT

38

Elise walks up to a large barbed-wire fence. She is dressed head to toe in a black jumpsuit and ninja mask. A large sign on the fence reads "No Trespassing - Area 51". Below it, in smaller letters, are the words, "Really. We'll shoot you."

(CONTINUED)

Below that, in even smaller print, it says, "Serious. They'll never find you."

Elise menacingly pulls the ninja mask down over her face. With a fluid back-flip, she jumps over the fence, landing silently on the other side. She crawls towards the military base, disappearing into the darkness.

EXT. BALLOON LAUNCH SITE - NIGHT

39

Chris and Dan pull up to the balloon launch site, where the balloons have not yet been inflated.

CHRIS

How come nobody's here?

DAN

They're all at the pre-balloon launch bacchanalia.

CHRIS

Nuh-uh!

DAN

Yuh-huh. I read it in the book. It happens every year, the night before the launch. Every fifth year they sacrifice a maiden to their pagan gods.

CHRIS

You're making that up!

DAN

(shrugs)

Believe what you want.

Beat.

CHRIS

You're not making that up?

DAN

Nope.

CHRIS

Sick freaks.

DAN

What did you expect from Hot Air Balloonists? They're just bad people. Come on, let's get started.

Dan hops out of the truck and takes the air hose that's connected to the trailer. Chris drives the truck slowly forward, while Dan begins filling the hot air balloons with hydrogen.

INT. AREA 51 - NIGHT 40

A SECURITY GUARD is pulled into the shadows, never to return.

EXT. BALLOON LAUNCH SITE - NIGHT 41

Dan finishes filling the last hot air balloon.

DAN
That's the last one.

CHRIS
(yawning)
About time. I'm getting sleepy.

Dan hops into the truck and they drive away. Just before they leave the field, Dan flicks his Zippo open, lights it, and throws it at the nearest balloon.

DAN
Oh, nuts!

Dan jumps out of the truck and grabs his Zippo. He gets back into the truck.

CHRIS
What's the deal?

DAN
I just realized I was throwing away
my lighter.

CHRIS
So?

DAN
It's nice. I like it.

Dan pulls out a book of matches, lights the whole book, and tosses that instead.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

42

A banner above the banquet hall reads "Pre-Launch Bacchanalia!!!" A large group of BALLOONISTS are chanting in unison as a MAIDEN in white robes is being led to the sacrificial altar in the center of the room.

BALLOONISTS
Noollab! Noollab! Noollab!

Suddenly, the sound of not-too-distant EXPLOSIONS fills the room.

BALLOONIST 1
What was that?

BALLOONIST 2
We'd better check it out.

BALLOONIST 1
But the sacrifice!

BALLOONIST 2
It'll wait ten minutes.

EXT. BALLOON LAUNCH SITE - NIGHT

43

The hot air balloons on the ground burn like a field of mini Hindenburgs as the Balloonists rush outside. They SCREAM in agony.

BALLOONISTS
Nooooo! All is lost! Aaaahhhh! Why
has Noollab forsaken us?!?

Dan and Chris watch from a small mesa nearby. Dan looks triumphant.

DAN
(haughty)
Cry, you balloon goons, cry!

CHRIS
(fierce whisper)
Dan, be quiet! They can hear you!

DAN
YOU be quiet!

Dan and Chris are noticed by the Balloonists.

(CONTINUED)

BALLOONIST 1
THEY must have done this!

BALLOONIST 2
Get them!

DAN
Uh oh.

Dan and Chris are backed into an ever-shrinking circle of balloon-loving cultists. It looks bleak.

CHRIS
This looks bleak.

Dan is suddenly filled with resolve.

DAN
I've seen bleaker.

CHRIS
When?

DAN
Before. Shut up.

Someone in the crowd throws a rock. Chris is hit from behind and slumps to the ground as if someone reached inside and took out all of his bones. Dan picks up a stick and brandishes it at the angry mob.

DAN (CONT'D)
Back, Balloonist Cult! Back! That means you too, Ugly.

Suddenly, lights shine down from above. The Balloonists scatter as a FLYING SAUCER descends from the heavens. Dan and Chris are swept up in a white beam of light and carried towards the ship. Dan shakes his fist at the spacecraft.

DAN (CONT'D)
You better not try anything rectal probe-related.

INT. ALIEN SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

44

Dan and Chris get dropped on the floor of the alien ship. Elise is at the controls. Dan gets up swinging.

DAN
Keep your filthy tentacles off my-
Oh, hi Elise.

(CONTINUED)

ELISE
What happened to Chris?

DAN
Cultists. Ready to go home?

ELISE
Almost.

Elise hits the button on the control panel marked "Death Ray Controls". A crosshairs appears on her screen.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Take that, New Mexico.

EXT. SANTA FE - NIGHT

45

The "Santa Fe City Limits" sign goes up in a Death Ray inspired conflagration. Citizens crowd the streets in PANIC, just like in the movies.

CITIZENS
Oh no! Aaaahhh!

INT. ALIEN SPACESHIP - NIGHT

46

Dan points to the people on the scanner screen. Chris sleeps silently in the back of the ship.

DAN
Ooh! Oh-ho no, that was bad-ass-ery in action! Get that one! And that one! Get that one in the stupid hat!

ELISE
I have that same hat.

DAN
Seriously? It's so gauche.

ELISE
Whatever. My revenge is nearly complete.

DAN
(offering)
Roadrunner burger?

She takes the burger from his hand. She fires one more burst of the Death Ray.

(CONTINUED)

ELISE

Now we can go home.

DAN

So long as New Mexico's learned its lesson.

ELISE

It better have.

(menacingly)

Otherwise, I'll be back.

INT. CHRIS' CAR - DAY

47

Chris starts to awaken. He is a little groggy and sitting in the back seat of his car. Elise is driving and Dan is riding shotgun.

CHRIS

Where are we? What happened?

DAN

We blew up the balloons. You fell asleep. That's all.

ELISE

Yes, that is all. We're almost home. You rest.

CHRIS

Oh, okay.

Chris rests his head against his hands against the window. Dan and Elise share a knowing look. They nod to each other. Mission accomplished.

THE END.