

BUBBLE EP. 6

HANG ONTO YOURSELF

Written by

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SFX: Packing

Morgan and Annie's apartment

Annie, Morgan, and Mitch are packing their bags, preparing for their expedition into The Brush. For Annie, "packing" means "cramming stuff haphazardly into garbage bags."

ANNIE

(to the tune of "Happy")
Because I'm packing. Pack a bag if
you think that a bag could hold
your stuff...

MITCH

How can you sing packing-related
parody songs at a time like this?

ANNIE

I'm stoked! What, you're not
stoked?

MITCH

No! We're about to head out onto
the surface of a deadly alien
world.

ANNIE

A deadly alien world crammed to the
tits with psychedelics! We can get
messed up, bring the stuff back,
sell it, get rich and then we can
afford to get REALLY messed up!

MITCH

I don't see any weapons in your
bag. What are you packing?

SFX: Mitch going through Annie's bag.

MITCH (CONT'D)

This is all loose snacks and DVDs.

ANNIE

I'm just trying to allow for every
possibility. Who's to say I won't
be in the mood to watch classic
episodes of Tales From the Crypt?

MORGAN

It's going to be dangerous out
there. We're going to need to move
quickly, so just bring the
essentials.

ANNIE

What do you mean by "essentials"?

MORGAN

Food, water, weapons, and season 6 of Frasier.

ANNIE

There's some really good Eddie moments in that season.

MORGAN

I know, right? But I want to re-emphasize that this trip isn't about getting fucked up. It's about retrieving a weird gem that Tandem wants for... reasons. We have to stay alert.

MITCH

Well I'm appropriately prepared. Let's just say I did a little shopping to make sure I had a "leg up." Huh? Right?

ANNIE

What are you gesturing at?

MORGAN

Your legs? What did you do to your legs?

MITCH

No, my feet! Check out my shoes.

Mitch is wearing those fucking individual toe hiking shoes.

MORGAN

Oh Mitch. You got the worst shoes.

ANNIE

Yeah, plus the "leg up" thing was confusing.

MITCH

No way! These are high performance and good for my... bio-mechanics I think the guy at REI said?

SFX: Door, opens closes

VAN

Hey guys, ready to get our Brush on? Oh Mitch, bitchin shoes.

MITCH

See?

VAN

I'm jealous of your arches. Plus it's really going to do wonders for your bio-mechanics.

MITCH

Why aren't you wearing them, Van?

VAN

Oh, I just can't wear them because they look so bad.

MORGAN

Speaking of, Van, what are YOU wearing? That's so much neon! We're trying to keep a low profile.

VAN

Sorry but it's my Bear Fist Energy sponsorship gear. They'll drop me if I don't wear it while I'm hunting.

MORGAN

No one will know you're not wearing it because no one is supposed to know we're going on this mission. It's a secret mission. Secret!

MITCH

I know this is an important discussion, but can we all take a minute to appreciate how cool that sounds.

ALL

It really does/Hell yeah/For sure.

SFX: Transition

SFX: Footsteps in the hallway.

A short while later, in a long, sterile hallway, deep in the bowels of Tandem HQ, shit's starting to get real.

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Bonnie, CEO of Tandem industries and also, weirdly, Morgan's surrogate parent - sort of - is escorting the gang down the tunnel, flanked by two armed guards

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BONNIE

I'm excited for you guys, I really am. Morgan has been dying to get back out into that death swamp for ages! I think this will help you get rid of your ya-yas, I really do.

MORGAN

(to herself)
I don't have ya-yas.

BONNIE

Just a couple of reminders before you guys get out there: Van, we love the social media you've been doing on behalf of Tandem, but you've got to stay off the grid for this one. Davidson, deal Van's Go-Pro if you would?

The guard grabs the Go-Pro off Van's head, throws it to the floor and then blasts it with a shotgun

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SFX: The guard snatches the Go-Pro off Van's head Smashes it and then BLASTS it with a shotgun.

VAN

Aw man. That had my cardio pole dancing recital on it.

BONNIE

Not my fault that you're not backing your stuff up. And Annie, in regards to bringing anything back in, try and keep it to mild narcotics, don't bring us anything that's going to get us a zombie outbreak.

ANNIE

(playing dumb)
What are you talking about? I don't... drugs. I mean I stopped drugs-ing, like... when you told me not to last time.

BONNIE

Ha! Oh come on. We know. We know about The Dark District and we know about your little side-hustle.

ANNIE

What are you talking about? What's the... Dork District?

BONNIE

You're bad at lying. Stop. It actually doesn't disrupt our business model that much.

MORGAN

This is a bluff, right?

BONNIE

Not in the least! We're keeping very close tabs on you.

ANNIE

Okay, prove it. What's Mitch's porn search history?

MITCH

Hey.

BONNIE

Computer?

COMPUTER VOICE

Yes Bonnie?

BONNIE

Get me Mitch Murray, Huntr member 7744's last three searches on Porn Hub.

COMPUTER VOICE

Accessing. Last three searches: Loving Relationship. Romantic Spooning. Understanding Partner.

MORGAN

Aw Mitch, that's sweet.

MITCH

It's just more enjoyable if it seems like they're really in love.

ANNIE

Holy crap. Tandem is really up in our guts.

BONNIE

Our communities have something for everyone, including people who want to "fight the system" or whatever. We're fine with a little controlled, manageable rebellion if it helps people get out their ya-yas.

ANNIE

(to herself)

We don't have ya-yas.

BONNIE

So, just to reiterate: Only get a teensy bit of drugs, grab that stone and bring it right back here lickety-split!

MORGAN

It might help us if we knew what the stone was.

BONNIE

Sorry gang, that's about as classified as it gets.

ANNIE

I mean... it's gotta be a Doomsday weapon.

MITCH

Yeah, because you're not telling us, we're automatically going to assume Doomsday weapon.

VAN

99% chance it's a Doomsday weapon.

BONNIE

It's not! Its... something else.

ANNIE

You're bad at lying. Stop.

BONNIE

You're worse.

MITCH

Maybe it's a virus?

MORGAN

Yeah but a virus could also be used as a Doomsday weapon.

MITCH
Oh, great point.

BONNIE
Not a Doomsday weapon! Oh look,
here we are at the end of the
hallway and the exit to the
surface!

MORGAN
Cool, so we'll just grab that
Doomsday weapon and head right
back.

SFX: Hatch opening

BONNIE
Fine. Whatever.

ANNIE
So you admit it!

BONNIE
Go. Out. Now. And thanks!

SFX: Hatch shutting

SFX: Lush desert with distant animal sounds

The gang gazes out onto the surface of The Brush. The dark red sky blends into bright turquoise foliage. The trees subtly pulse in and out, as if they're breathing. It's like the most beautiful blacklight poster you've ever seen.

Morgan and Van both look like they're home.

MITCH
Wow. I was picturing something more
Wasteland-y.

ANNIE
Yeah, it's beautiful.

MORGAN
I've been wanting to show you guys
forever.

VAN
Yeah... just make sure you stay
away from the shadow sea after
lunch.

MORGAN
(laughing)
Van, that's hilarious.

MITCH
What? What does that mean?

ANNIE
Oh God, is this whole trip just
going to be Brush Baby inside
jokes? Well... me and Mitch have
inside jokes too... hey Mitch...
caramels, huh?

She's interrupted by a flock of feathered snake-like
creatures fly overhead. They perch in a giant tree and softly
squak at each other.

SFX: Flapping, squaking

MORGAN
Pretty cool huh?

MITCH
Absolutely. Hey, will those things
kill us?

VAN
Nah. Not everything out here does.

MORGAN
I mean... don't fuck with them.

MITCH
Oh yeah, of course not. Totally.

SFX: Transition

SFX: The gang tromping through the brush.

MITCH (CONT'D)
You guys ripped on my shoes but my
feet feel great.

VAN
How are those bio-mechanics?

MITCH
I'm gonna say solid.

SFX: people in the distance. A faint roar.

MORGAN

Quiet for a sec. That's people...
and something else, but definitely
people. Maybe they can lead us to
wherever my Dad is.

SFX: People fighting with a giant monster.

Music: Fight music

They come to a clearing. A giant hippo-like reptile is
fighting a group of Brush folks. They're all wielding
different weapons and dressed like they're from a really
hardcore Burning Man camp or a Ren Faire, but cooler.

Talia, their leader, barks orders.

TALIA

Sage, get a rope around it's neck!
Deck, see if you can get a spear
under it's belly! That's where it's
scales are the weakest!

Half of the Brush warriors jab the creature with spears while
half thow ropes around it. The monster is tied down but still
thrashes and roars.

TALIA (CONT'D)

(tough)

Can we wrap this up? I'm ready to
head back for lunch.

She runs up to the creature and jump-kicks it right in the
face.

SFX: The creature getting jump-kicked in the face. It's roar
goes silent.

VAN

It's a real shame we can't
Instagram all this.

RANDOM WARRIOR

What was that?

TALIA

It's Tandem. Get them.

MORGAN

(exasperated)

Well, I guess we're fighting them.

SFX: Weapons unsheathing

SFX: the gang and the brush warrior fighting

Talia rushes in and tackles Morgan to the ground before she knows what hit her. Before she can deliver a death blow...

SFX: The creature roaring

...the hippo-reptile creature breaks free and charges! It's almost on top of Talia and Morgan when...

SFX: The Sting

MORGAN (CONT'D)
(exhausted)
Good shot Mitch.

TALIA
He's got the Sting.

TALIA (CONT'D)
It's okay! Stand down! Wow, I am just so sorry about attacking you back there. Why didn't you mention the Sting?

MITCH
Oh... I kinda wanted it to be a surprise.

TALIA
Ah, THIS GUY! Hey, why don't you all come back to camp with us. Maybe we can get you some different shoes?

Act 2

Talia leads the gang through the Brush camp. It's a little hippie paradise... like I said earlier, a really hardcore Burning Man camp or a Ren Faire but cooler.

TALIA (CONT'D)
I'm impressed you guys were able to escape The Bubble. Only a few people from camp have ever been in there. Is it true they pump it full of a nerve toxin that makes people complacent?

MORGAN

Not true. Maybe somebody with an agenda is giving you guys bad intel.

ANNIE

It does have a really cool art scene and great coffee.

TALIA

If you like coffee, come by my tent sometime. I make it in a pot.

MITCH

(whispers to Morgan)
Are they flirting?

MORGAN

It's Annie, so... probably. Don't be jealous.

MITCH

I'm not jealous, I'm just super into the mission.

MORGAN

(chanting)
Mitch loves the mission. Mitch loves the mission.

MITCH

I do. I want to marry the mission. Not Annie. Don't care about marrying her. Just the mission.

TALIA

Hey, there's one of our elders. Let me introduce you. Eli! Found some Bubble Jumpers out there.

SFX: Blades drawing.

It's Eli, Morgan's Dad. He wrecked the British pub awhile back? Keep up. Anyway, they notice each other. Morgan draws her blade and gets into a fighting stance.

ELI

Woah. Not a good idea Tater. You're about as outnumbered as you can get.

ANNIE

(whispering)
He's right. We totally are.

MORGAN

Well, we've got a secret weapon!
Mitch has The Sting!

ELI

Good for Mitch. We've got a fella
that's got it too.

(calling to someone far
off)

Isn't that right Stuart?

STUART

(cheerful)

Yep! Sure do!

ELI

De-weapon why dontcha?

SFX: Weapons being put down.

ELI (CONT'D)

Aces.

(to the camp)

Hey everyone, maybe some of you
remember my daughter Morgan. She's
been inside that toxic dome for a
few years, so please forgive her
unnecessarily violent behavior. He
brain has been infected with gas
and... tacos.

MORGAN

I'm fine! There's no gas.

VAN

There ARE a lot of interesting
things going on in the taco space
right now though.

ELI

Van Joyce? Well I'll be damned, the
kid who couldn't stop wetting his
bed has come back to destroy us.

VAN

Oh, I haven't wet the bed for
years. Guided meditation was a huge
help with that.

ELI

Good to hear. How about you guys
wash up, grab some food, and take a
load off for the night?

STUART

(cheerful)

I'll keep an eye on the guy with the Sting! If it looks like he's about to try something, I'll kill him where he stands!

ELI

Stu, you're the best and I don't know what we'd do without you.

SFX: Transition

SFX: Bonfire crackle. Drum circle.

There's a big bonfire party at the brush camp. Everyone is smoking strange looking joints and drinking mysterious glowing liquids.

ELI (CONT'D)

Sorry Tater, I just can't tell you where the stone is.

MORGAN

Well, at least tell us what it does.

ELI

I will admit I don't really know. I just imagine if Tandem wants it, it's for something nasty like a suepr-weapon or Doomsday weapon....

ANNIE

Shut up. We were JUST talking about this. No way it's not a Doomsday weapon, right?

ELI

I'd bank on it. We do know it's something the First Settlers found. Tandem's army raided Camp a few years before you were born and they were dead set on getting it. We divided it up and gave one bit to a little girl...

MORGAN

Karin.

ANNIE

Hey, do you think they're doing trivia again this week?

MORGAN

Probably not. I think their bar is pretty destroyed.

ELI

We figured hiding it in plain sight was the way to go, but just so happens that little girl got grabbed when you got grabbed and it's been in Fairhaven ever since. I don't think Bonnie had any idea.

MORGAN

Well, whatever it is, you probably shouldn't have it either. We're going to find it.

ELI

That's super. Tell you what, enjoy your evening and in the AM if you still feel like attacking me and taking the stone, I'll be glad to kick all your asses then. Night Tater.

MORGAN

Night dad.

ANNIE

I was not expecting to love it so much out here.

MORGAN

Oh yeah?

ANNIE

For sure. It's like a Tuesday night and everyone is smoking and drinking and enjoying life. I think they even have a sex pit over there.

MORGAN

They sure do. Is that their guy with the Sting?

ANNIE

Oh yeah.
(calling)
Looking good Stuart!

STUART

(cheerful)

Just because I'm in the sex pit
doesn't mean I'm not keeping my eye
on you. Remember: I can kill you
where you stand!

ANNIE

(calling)

For sure dude!

(to Morgan)

I mean... We're staying right?

MORGAN

Not me. Nice place to visit, but
take it from someone who's lived
here, you wouldn't want to live
here.

ANNIE

Not really seeing any drawbacks at
this point.

MORGAN

It's just a roller coaster.
Partying all night. Death struggles
all day.

ANNIE

I thought you missed the Death
Struggles.

MORGAN

Sometimes... but other times I just
want to get Thai food delivered and
watch a dumb 90s sitcom. There's
very little patience for that up
here.

TALIA

(entering)

Hey there Bubble jumpers, can I
offer you guys some smoke?

MORGAN

No thanks. I'm gonna find Van.

ANNIE

I can do smoke.

(sniffing)

Is that Cainhurst root? How did you
get that?

TALIA

It grows wild here. Have a bit.

SFX: Smoking

ANNIE

Wow. Smooth. Is it cut with something?

TALIA

You've got a sophisticated smoking palate.

ANNIE

(blushing)

Oh, I do not. I just like getting fucked up.

TALIA

It really shows. Yes, there's just a bit of Forgotten Stalker blood in there.

ANNIE

That's why it has such a mellow flavor! Super-heated?

TALIA

Oh of course, you have to super heat it. You want to see my set up? I'm doing some really interesting things with Santa Compana leaves.

ANNIE

I'd LOVE to see your set up.

SFX: Transition

MORGAN

Weird to be back, huh?

VAN

Yeah, but good. It's nice to be off social media. I was spending so much time cultivating my brand that I wasn't being super present.

MORGAN

You're tough to have a moment with.

VAN

Sorry. I think I get what you mean. You never felt quite right here, so you went to Fairhaven and that didn't feel right and now you're back here and things are a little right in one direction but not right in another.

MORGAN

Yeah, that about covers it. Am I crazy?

VAN

Nah. You just like a lot of different stuff. Maybe there's a world where we can have a little bit of everything?

MORGAN

Yeah. A little bit of everything sounds perfect.

MITCH

(entering)

Hey guys, we have to do something about Annie. She went into a tent with someone.

VAN

That's just Annie. If there's a tent where something fun might happen, she's gonna go in that tent.

MORGAN

Yeah if you're going to be her friend or try and date her or whatever, you just need to accept that she'll occasionally go into a drug tent.

MITCH

Yeah. I know. I just feel like I can't hang with the Brush people. They have a pit for sex. How do they do it? I can't have sex if there's any lights on or if the bed has flannel sheets...

VAN

Well don't feel like you have to get to pit sex right away. That's pretty advanced.

MORGAN

Just chill. Maybe have a smoke with us?

MITCH

I'm not great with drugs honestly. I tried shrooms in college and called my Dad and told him that I couldn't come to Christmas because I was a dragon now. Then, a week later I threw up in my hands.

VAN

I don't think those two things are related.

MORGAN

You get too down on yourself. You took down a really serious beast today and saved all our asses.

VAN

For sure. You're the reason we're here and not dead in the Brush.

MITCH

I guess I did save us a little bit.

MORGAN

No, you saved us a lot. And it's not the first time.

VAN

You've gone from delivery guy to five-star monster killer in a few weeks. You're impressive.

MORGAN

Chill out, have a smoke and get in that tent buddy!

VAN

Well, maybe not the tent Annie is in right now...

MORGAN

Oh no, don't barge in. She's probably doing it by now. I'm using the tent as a metaphor.

MITCH

Yeah, a metaphorical tent. I like it. Hey, let me hit that.

SFX: Mitch taking a LOOOONNNGGGG puff.

MORGAN

Uh, Mitch. That might have been too much.

VAN

It was totally too much.

MITCH

Oh. Whoops. Well... I guess I'll just hang out here and look at this fire.

SFX: The fire crackling.

Wild lines: Some chatting between Van and Morgan to fade out on.

Mitch feels himself sinking into the ground. He can hear Morgan and Van's voices getting further and further away. A figure emerges from the fire.

FIGURE

Mitch, can you hear me? I've been trying to get a hold of you for a long, long time.

MITCH

Oh my God. How did you find me?

FIGURE

I've been with you for years, watching over you. Now your mind is finally ready for us to talk face-to-face.

The figure steps out into the light.

MITCH

I can't believe it's really you. P-Nut, the bass player from 311.

P-NUT

Yes Mitch, it's me. P-Nut, the bass player from 311. I noticed you when you came to our show in high school. You sang along. You knew all the words.

MITCH

Right? I feel like I really get you guys.

P-NUT

Oh, you totally get us. And still to this day you sing along with us, even though people give you shit for it.

MITCH

Right? Why do they do that? They're such dicks.

P-NUT

They just don't understand you. But I do. All of 311 does. And we think your shoes look awesome.

MITCH

Thanks man... so what are you up to.

P-NUT

I'm here to lead you into a new world. A world that appreciates how much ass you kick. Come with me.

MITCH

Ok. I will, P-Nut from 311

SFX: The fire roars

Act 3

It's the morning after and Morgan is frantically looking around for Mitch. She barges into the tent where Annie is sleeping in a pile of limbs.

MORGAN

Annie, are you awake?

ANNIE

Morgan? If you're going out can you get coffee and a breakfast quesadilla and a cold-pressed juice...

MORGAN

No! I'm not getting us food, Mitch is missing.

ANNIE

Oh relax, he's probably just in the deadly woods... wait, maybe don't relax. This is a problem.

SFX: Skillet sizzling

ELI
(entering)
Hey kids, who wants breakfast
quesadillas?

ANNIE
Hell yeah.

MORGAN
Dad, we can't find our friend
Mitch.

ELI
The kid with the Sting? He can fend
for himself.

MORGAN
He can't really. I mean, he's got a
laser hand but he forgets to pay
his gas bill and one time he tried
to make a smoothie in the garbage
disposal.

ELI
When was the last time you saw him?

MORGAN
Last night. He smoked too much
Cainhurst root and just kind of
zoned out. I guess he wandered off
when I wasn't looking.

ANNIE
Shit. That poor noob. We can find
him.

MORGAN
Okay, I'll grab Van and we can head
out.

ANNIE
Cool. Before we do, can I have six
bites of that quesadilla?

SFX: Transition

SFX: Walking through the Brush

ELI
Well, I'll say this for those
terrible shoes of his: They leave
some pretty easy-to-follow tracks.

MORGAN

Annie, you know he was just taking all that shit to impress you.

ANNIE

He smoked so much alien root that he went into a fugue state and wandered off into the woods. I'm kinda impressed.

VAN

Guys... you gotta see this. Are those Mitch's shoes in that tree?

MORGAN

Shit. How are we going to find him now?

VAN

His bio-mechanics are probably all out of whack.

ELI

Hey kids, I think I found him.

They follow Eli's gaze to see Mitch is standing on the edge of a cliff staring out into the raging sea. A strange glow is coming off him. Also of note: He's totally naked.

MORGAN

Oh boy. Naked and glowing.

MITCH

(warped voice)

Hey dudes. I hope you're not going to try and get me to go back with you. I'm good here.

MORGAN

Are you okay?

MITCH

I'm amazing. I'm realizing my full potential. The power that's been inside me ever since I got The Sting is growing. I'm destined for more. P-Nut told me so.

ANNIE

Who's P-nut?

VAN

The bassist from 311?

MORGAN

I can't imagine that's who he's talking about.

ELI

Ah shit. Look at his neck. He's got a Sinker.

ANNIE

What's that?

MORGAN

It's like a tick. It burrows into your skin. It's going to enhance Mitch's power, but then it's going to start to kill him.

MITCH

Shut up you jerks! It's not a bug, it's me! I can do amazing things, even if you don't think I can.

MORGAN

We didn't say that Mitch, we all think you're...

ELI

Ah the hell with this. Let's just rush him and yank that damn bug out.

SFX: Eli rushes towards Mitch, but BOOM!

SFX: Ultra sting

Mitch lets loose an enhanced version of The Sting that knocks Eli back. He's out.

MITCH

Sorry. But you don't get to tell me what to do. You're just my friend's Dad.

MORGAN

Dad!

VAN

Mitch, we gotta get that thing off you!

MITCH

No freaking way!

SFX: Boom! Earth cracking

Mitch raises his hands and huge tentacles of energy blast out of the earth. Everyone takes cover. Morgan and Annie duck behind the same rock.

ANNIE

Shit. Mitch is trying to kill us.

MORGAN

Hey, you know what worked really well when Van got assimilated into that evil collective.

ANNIE

Hmm?

MORGAN

I was able to buy us some time by telling him how I really felt about him. An appeal to his humanity.

ANNIE

Wow. Not really an area you excel in.

MORGAN

Right. So, maybe that will work with Mitch.

ANNIE

Oh yeah. Go for it.

MORGAN

No, like you should do it.

ANNIE

Me? Why?

MORGAN

Because he's in love with you!

ANNIE

All the more reason for it to not be me! What am I going to say? I went on two dates, both of which your fly was down for and mostly forgot about you until you started killing monsters with my roommate.

MORGAN

Oh come on. Just try it.

ANNIE

Ugh. Fine. Hey Mitch.

MITCH

What? Oh... hey Annie.

ANNIE

Hey. Look, please don't kill us with energy tentacles. I know it was shitty of me to ghost on you awhile back, but I'm really glad I'm getting to know you now.

MITCH

You're just saying that because of the tentacles. The only reason Morgan asked me to hunt with her is because of my powers.

MORGAN

Sure, that's the reason I asked but the reason we're still a team is that I care about you. And I don't tolerate people I don't care about.

ANNIE

It's true. She can even get kind of rude about it.

MITCH

But you make fun of my shoes and the bands I like.

VAN

Hey man, I think the bands you like rule.

MITCH

It's different for you though. You're a handsome charisma guy and one of the five people in the world who looks good with a man bun. When you like lame stuff it's retro or charming or whatever.

MORGAN

Please Mitch, fight it please. We need you.

MITCH

Nah.

SFX: The tentacles whip around

Morgan and Van bat at the tentacles with their weapons, but it does little. They retreat back behind the rock.

ANNIE

Wow, that didn't work.

MORGAN

Well it did for the other thing.
Gimmie a break.

Mitch's tentacles are about to crush them, when BAM! a sting hits him from out of nowhere.

SFX: Bam! The Sting

Mitch is knocked unconscious. Annie runs up to him, pinches the bug off his neck and gingerly squishes it.

SFX: Squish

ANNIE

Hey, I finally helped with killing something. Good for me.

VAN

That Sting... where did it come from? Oh wait, is that Stuart?

STUART

(cheerful)

Hey guys! It's a good thing I followed you. I could have killed him where he stood but I chose not to. Anyway, I'm going to head back.

VAN

He seems nice.

SFX: TRANSTION

SFX: Ocean noises

Back at camp, Mitch is recovering. He's wrapped in a blanket and is eating orange slices. He's sitting on a ridge overlooking a beautiful view. Morgan sits down next to him.

MITCH

Hey. Sorry.

MORGAN

Nothing to apologize for. The Sinkers are really tough. Looks like you're tougher.

MITCH

Thanks. Hey, I remember all that nice stuff you guys were saying. I know it didn't really break through like you wanted, but I really appreciate it.

MORGAN

All true. Every word of it.

MITCH

Hey, did I kill your Dad?

MORGAN

Nah. You fucked him up pretty good though, which I'm in favor of. Everyone out here has little venom inside them, so they're going to be more resilient to The Sting.

MITCH

Oh, that's great.

MORGAN

How do you feel?

MITCH

A little less "one with the planet" than earlier. Kinda hungover. But mostly good. Glad I have friends who will try to find non-lethal ways to stop me when I'm driven mad by parasites.

ELI

(entering)

Hey kids. What's the good word?

MITCH

Hey Mr. Kay. Sorry about blasting you earlier.

ELI

Not the end of the world. It was a solid blast. You should be proud.

MORGAN

Hey Dad, we're talked it over and we're taking off. Seems like everyone's on the same page about why Tandem wants this gem and we're not about to deliver it to them.

ELI

We were thinking the smart thing to do would be to reunite them. Hang on...

SFX: Efforts from Eli takes off his boot and the gem comes out

MORGAN

It was in your boot the whole time?

ELI

Anti-climactic huh?

MORGAN

Just a little.

ELI

Your crew can clearly handle your shit. Plus, Tandem trusts you, which gives you an in. We'll give you some supplies. You should find the other half and bring it back here.

MORGAN

Do you have any idea where it might be in Fairhaven?

ELI

Oh, it's not in Fairhaven. It's in there.

Eli gestures out to the horizon. In the far distance, there's another, bigger Bubble. A flickering sign, barely visible on the side, reads "Welcome to Mission Beach." *