

BUBBLE EP. 8 "DIE HARD"

Written by

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We're starting with a flashback again. This one is a flash WAY-back. We're in the Brush. An outdoor religious service is taking place.

PASTOR DOUG
What. A. Year we've had!

SFX: Applause

Pastor Doug addresses his congregation. He has flowering vines growing out of his skin. Some of the onlookers have plants and flowers coming out of their skin too.

Pastor Doug (CONT'D)
They said that humans couldn't survive here, but look at us. Not only are we surviving, but we're thriving! And it's all because of this. The Core.

SFX: He taps the stone

He taps something resting in the middle of his chest. It's the two stones, but joined together as one.

Pastor Doug (CONT'D)
Let's give thanks for everything that's happened in the last year.
Let's hear some testimonials!

A woman with palm fronds growing out of her hair stands up.

PALM WOMAN
Pastor Doug, because of you, I've finally learned to commune with The Core and the planet is speaking to me more clearly than ever.

SFX: Applause

A man with baby corn growing out of his face stands up.

CORN MAN
I'm growing baby corn out of my face.

SFX: Applause

PASTOR DOUG
And it's gosh-darn delicious Nick.
Seriously, if you ever get a chance, taste Nick's face corn, do it! Just ask his wife first.

Everyone laughs.

Sitting in the middle of the crowd, next to her mother and father is a teenaged Bonnie. She's restless, like all teenagers are in church... even if this one does have crazy plant-hybrid people.

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BONNIE

Mom, do we have to stay for this whole thing? I want to leave.

SFX: Bonnie's Mom SHUSHHHH-ing her

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Ugh. Fine.

PASTOR DOUG

Anyone else have a testimonial?

RANDOM MAN

I finished my novel! I know that doesn't have a lot to do with communing with the Core of this planet and becoming one with the native plant life, but I've always told myself I was going to finish it and I finished it.

PASTOR DOUG

Hey, don't downplay that. It's easily one of the best erotic political thrillers I've ever read, so give yourself a major pat on the back. And now if everyone will close their eyes, I want to lead the group in a very special prayer...

Blessed Core, we ask of you: Even though you have no mouth, speak clearly to us. Even though you have no ears, listen to our prayers. Even though you have no arms, hold us close.

SFX: Vines shooting up out of the ground. People screaming

He raises his hands and vines shoot out of the ground and start enveloping the congregation. Some of them scream, some of them just close their eyes and let it happen. Teenage Bonnie gets up and runs while vines lash at her feet.

BONNIE

Fuck!

SFX: Transition

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Fuck! How many times do I have to tell you? Yes: This is a holiday party, but I'd like the ice lugue to be non-denominational. I'm by no means a religious person, but I just think it's in poor taste to do vodka shots out of baby Jesus's manger.

Back in the now, we're in Bonnie's office at Tandem.

Morgan sheepishly enters and looks for somewhere to sit. Her yoga balls are gone. Now there are just poles sticking out of the floor where chairs should be.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, a candy cane should be fine. I don't see anything blasphemous about that. Merry whatever to you too.

(gets off the phone)

Morgan! How's my favorite?

MORGAN

I never got why you always call me that. Haven't I always been kind of a pain in your ass?

BONNIE

You got me. In the past, that's been a skooch sarcastic, but after you and your Super Friends brought us BOTH stones, you're absolutely my favorite, not my "favorite."

MORGAN

You finally got rid of those yoga balls everyone used to sit on huh?

BONNIE

Yeah, it turns out the bouncing was dangerous when combined with drinking. You know we brew beer here and have daily happy hour and Wine Wednesday and St. Patrick's Day Third Thursday of Every Month?

(MORE)

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Well some kid in social media
couldn't handle his shit and
bounced right out a plate glass
window.

MORGAN

Oh God. Did he die?

BONNIE

Oh no! He went right to the
cybernetics division and now he's
more machine than man, which I'm
sure is fun for him.

MORGAN

So you replaced the balls with
poles?

BONNIE

Oh yeah! Our posture specialist
says they're great for your glutes.

MORGAN

So... do you lean on them?

BONNIE

Oh no. They're not built for that.
Just stand near them.

MORGAN

You just stand near them? Why even
have them?

BONNIE

Morgan, please don't take your non-
sarcastic favorite status for
granted. If you want to talk about
issues surrounding your glutes I
can set a meeting with our posture
specialist, but you had some actual
Tandem business to discuss?

MORGAN

As much as I like working for
Huntr, maybe there's something more
job-like I can do around here?
Something without monsters or just
monster-adjacent?

BONNIE

Oh of course! It's always secretly
disappointed me you Brush Babies
weren't taking more initiative.

MORGAN

Secretly disappointed? You tell me
like all the time.

BONNIE

Is there anything in particular you
had in mind?

MORGAN

Well, you have the company holiday
party coming up. I'd love to help
with that.

BONNIE

Now, don't take this the wrong way
but I wouldn't say "planning or
having fun" is your wheelhouse.

MORGAN

Maybe I can get Annie to help me.
She's fun!

BONNIE

Honey, if that roomie of your plans
the party everyone will just get
high and eat Cheez-its while they
sit on a tarp or something. Isn't
now a good time to maybe trade up
in the friend department?

MORGAN

What does that mean?

BONNIE

Just look at everyone working down
there. They have 401Ks and fuel
efficient cars. Look how the men
have their shirt sleeves rolled up.
They're business, but not ALL
business!

MORGAN

But I think our trip out into the
Brush changed us. Just let me ask
Annie to help out. I'm sure she's
up for it.

SFX: Transition

ANNIE

God, I've never been up for
anything less than that.

MORGAN

We're not actually going to be working at the Christmas party. We're going to try and get the stones back. There will be commotion and drinking and limited security.

ANNIE

I just can't with this anymore. I'm not a mission person. I'm an idea person.

MORGAN

What does that mean? What's an idea you've had?

ANNIE

The pump for the shower that instead of shampoo dispenses shower beers.

MORGAN

And what ever happened with it?

ANNIE

Not my department. I had the idea and put it out in the universe. Not my fault if the universe is a lazy asshole.

MORGAN

Come on, I need you on this.

ANNIE

I told you. I am done. I'm tired of almost dying. It's been happening a shit-ton lately and I'm not into it.

MORGAN

This Christmas party is going to have an open bar.

ANNIE

Really? Man, those tech guys only drink the good stuff too. I've been dying to try that vodka made by the guy who plays the brother on Transparent... no, wait, I'm insulted. Why did you think free booze was enough to convince me?

MORGAN

I mean... it was really close to working.

ANNIE

Was not.

MORGAN

Hey, I need you. You're seriously the most amazing person I know at breaking the law.

ANNIE

This is a good tactic. Continue with this.

MORGAN

I need your criminal mind. We both know Tandem shouldn't have those stones. Let's do this together.

ANNIE

Okay. Together is good. You know, I HAVE been working on something that might help us if this gets fight-y. You know that bug that got Mitch?

MORGAN

The Sinker. Right. Burrows into your skin and gives you unimaginable powers before it kills you.

ANNIE

Good recap. Yes, that's the one. I saved it's little corpse and made what's in this vial. A small amount will give you a small power boost, but it won't kill you.

MORGAN

And what will a large amount do?

ANNIE

A LARGE power boost. And then kill you.

MORGAN

Neat!

ANNIE

Yeah, I guess it's for the best we made up. I did NOT want the hassle of finding a new roommate.

MORGAN

You were thinking of finding a new roommate?

ANNIE

Yeah. There's actually someone looking at the place now. There she is.

HIPSTER WOMAN

The bathroom is really nice, but you seem to have quite a few oozing monster skulls in there.

ANNIE

Don't touch those! Those are for work!

SFX: TRANSITION

Morgan sits on a stained gamer chair in Mitch's apartment. It's a mess of miss-matched furniture and Star Wars Action figures, weirdly all from the prequels. Mitch is struggling to put together an Ikea bookcase.

MORGAN

Come on Mitch. We both know Tandem shouldn't have those stones. Let's do this. Together.

MITCH

No freaking way. That won't work on me and it's definitely not going to work on Annie.

MORGAN

It did work on Annie. Basically that exact speech.

MITCH

Huh. That's a surprise.

MORGAN

I tried "there's going to be an open bar" first, but then pivoted to sincerity.

MITCH

Okay well I'm not signing up. We boned things so incredibly bad and we're lucky we're not dead. Plus, I've got a new job, as you can see.

MORGAN
Building Ikea bookcases?

MITCH
Mostly, yeah. It's Task Rabbit,
this app where you do chores for
people.

MORGAN
Okay, I can see how that would be
fun. Might lead to some lonely
housewives who need some "chores"
done in the bedroom.

MITCH
Maybe. Mostly it's just building
Ikea bookcases. I've already done
this same FLERN six times.

MORGAN
I can tell. It's a good FLERN.

MITCH
I'm sick of FLERNS. And I'm sick of
things here. Maybe I should go back
out into the Brush where I can
psycically communicate with nature
or back to Mission Beach where I
can eat TGI Friday's every day and
be happy.

MORGAN
Well, that's why you should come
with me! Tandem has us all caged
up. If we take them down we can all
live the life we want to.

MITCH
Will that work?

MORGAN
Maybe? But Annie is definitely in.
And she was just saying how
impressed she was that you
experimented with those Brush drugs
and talked to that jellyfish.

MITCH
Ah crap. This is working. I might
actually do it.

MORGAN
Yes! I rule at assembling teams!

MITCH

I guess. But there's still one missing piece.

MORGAN

I was going to visit Van next.

MITCH

I was talking about the Flern. I need a screw that I can't find. But yeah, get Van.

SFX: TRANSITION

SFX: Knock on the door. Door opens.

VAN

Oh, hey Morgan.

MORGAN

Hi Van. I know you probably hate me for getting us almost killed and making us do that failed mission where tandem got the stones but I'm planning ANOTHER mission to infiltrate their company Christmas party and steal back the stones and I know it's going to take a lot to convince you...

VAN

Oh no, that sounds cool. Let's do it.

MORGAN

Oh... you're into it? Just like that?

VAN

Sure. Sounds rad.

MORGAN

Huh. You're not mad about the last mission?

VAN

Nope. It was cool.

MORGAN

Well great then. Man, I should have asked you first.

ACT 2

SFX: Office party noises. Acoustic guitar can be heard playing an Xmas song.

The Holiday party is underway. Funny description of the party to come. A holagram of Lisa Loeb is performing. Morgan is talking to a very nerdy tech guy.

NERD

I mean, my job is in tech, but my passion is film... well, "movies" I'm not pretentious. I think it's worth taking a serious look at "popcorn" movies like Jaws or Die Hard.

MORGAN

Uh huh. Well I...

NERD

Hey, speaking of Die Hard, it's weird that we're at a Christmas party because Die Hard is ACTUALLY a Christmas movie.

MORGAN

Yeah, I know that.

NERD

I mean I know it LOOKS like a typical shoot-em-up, but it happens ON Christmas and has themes like "family" and "homecoming..."

MITCH

(entering)

Hey guys. What are you talking about?

MORGAN

This guy was telling me about how Die Hard is really a Christmas movie.

MITCH

Oh cool.

The guy continues to talk. Mitch slowly crouches down behind him.

NERD

Lethal Weapon is ALSO set around Christmas, which is a recurring theme for screenwriter Shane Black...

SFX: Shove

NERD (CONT'D)

Hey! Ouch.

Morgan has pushed him over Mitch.

MITCH

Sorry. It was an accident.

MORGAN

Total accident.

NERD

(storming off)

Not cool.

MORGAN

Thanks for the save. I know we're trying to look natural and mingle, but it's really tough.

MITCH

Yeah, these people are really hard to talk to.

MORGAN

We've only been here five minutes and already I've listened to a monologue on how to fold a pocket square and two on the ethics of polyamory.

MITCH

Cool that they got that Lisa Loeb hologram though.

MORGAN

You know, I think that's technically Lisa Loeb now. She was one of the first celebrities to upload their consciousness so I think she's a sentient digital being.

MITCH

Oh cool. She still sounds great.

MORGAN
Yeah, for sure.

MITCH
It's almost stone-stealing time.
Where's Annie?

SFX: Cheering

MORGAN
Looks like she's under the ice luge
having straight vodka poured right
into her mouth.

MITCH
Crap. I'll get her.

ANNIE
Wooo! Oh hell yeah! The guy who
plays the brother on Transparent
makes a MEAN Vodka!

MITCH
Hey Annie, it's almost time.

ANNIE
Yeah, time for you to DO. A. SHOT!

MITCH
No, it's mission time. Morgan
scheduled a beer delivery for ten
minutes from now. Most of the
security will be there supervising
so we can slip in back.

ANNIE
Yeah, duh. I know that. I was at
the same briefing thing as you
were.

MITCH
(whisper yelling)
Hey, don't get wasted.

ANNIE
You are.

MITCH
I'm not! Come on, we need you.

ANNIE
I'm doing what Morgan said, I'm
mingling. I'm acting natural.
(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

YOU'RE the ones drawing attention to yourselves because you're at an open-bar party and no one is dumping celebrity vodka into your mouth.

MITCH

We're all really trying here. Try with us. You're the whole reason I agreed to come.

ANNIE

Mitch, get over it. We had a bad first date and I made up my mind that we weren't ever going to be a thing.

MITCH

Well, then why did you agree to the second one?

ANNIE

Because I needed something to do while our internet was getting fixed. It's weird being in the house while a repair guy is there. Do you make chit-chat with him? Do you offer him a drink? It's just too fucking stressful.

MITCH

But we made out.

ANNIE

Sorry but making out just isn't a big deal to me. I do it a lot. It's like pizza. Something delicious that you can eat five or six times a week.

MITCH

You eat pizza five or six times a week?

ANNIE

Yes Mitch! I am a modern woman and I make out with people when I want to and I eat pizza five or six times a week.

MORGAN

(entering)

Hey what the hell guys? Our window is closing!

ANNIE

Mitch is being a baby because he's still not over getting ghosted.

MITCH

No I'm not! I'm being a baby because you're drunk... and like... maybe you could have just called and said you weren't into it.

MORGAN

Annie! Don't get drunk when you have something important to do and just call and say you're not into it!

ANNIE

Why do I have to account for how fucking fragile everyone is? Mitch: If someone doesn't text you back in a few days, they're not into it. Morgan: I infiltrate strongholds better when I've had a few drinks.

MORGAN

I know you guys are new to missions, but when they include feelings and arguments and shit, they go really wrong.

ANNIE

Right, like I've never had to drop everything to hear about Van...

MORGAN

Van. Shit. Where is he?

MITCH

Isn't that him over by the hologram Lisa Loeb?

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LISA LOEB

I'm going to take a little break and do some buffering.

SFX: A chuckle from the crowd.

LISA LOEB (CONT'D)

But I wanted to invite on my good friend, social media star Van Joyce to play a few songs.

VAN

Thank's Lisa Loeb's hologram!

SFX: Van's strums the guitar

VAN (CONT'D)
I know Santa is from the North
Pole... but I think he vacations
in... Margaritaville.

SFX: Cheers

MORGAN
Fuck team-ups. I'm doing this on my
own.

Morgan storms off. She looks at her phone. The countdown says 2 minutes. She slumps against a wall and puts her head in her hands. The Lisa Loeb Hologram materializes next to her.

SFX: Hologram materializing

LISA LOEB
Hey, sorry to intrude but I spied a
little scuffle from the stage.
Everything ok?

MORGAN
What? How did you...

LISA LOEB
I know I'm pure digital energy that
exists in the cloud, but I'm still
very present.

MORGAN
I just... am in the middle of
something really big right now and
I thought my friends were going to
be able to put their shit aside for
one night but no luck.

LISA LOEB
I don't know if this applies, but I
learned a long time ago that you
can't expect people to give more
than they have. If you know who
someone is, don't expect something
else from them.

MORGAN
Yeah, I guess so.

LISA LOEB
The reason I've had so much success
as a solo artist is that I know the
limits of collaboration.

(MORE)

LISA LOEB (CONT'D)

I like working with people, but sometimes you just have to be the master of your own destiny.

MORGAN

Yeah... I guess you're right.
Thanks Lisa Loeb's hologram.

LISA LOEB

Please, just call me Lisa Loeb.

ACT 3

SFX: Transition

Morgan is now mastering her own destiny. With the guards distracted by the beer delivery, she's managed to steal a key card and is making her way deeper and deeper into the Tandem building, buzzing through a series of increasingly imposing doors as she does so. *

SFX: Keycards buzzing. Doors opening. *

Finally, she reaches a giant, almost empty chamber with four numbered doors and the stone, now joined as one and glowing intensely, floating in a liquid-filled jar. *

MORGAN

This is going to take a delicate touch...

She takes out two daggers from her fanny pack and raises them to smash the jar, when from behind her she hears...

BONNIE

There's my favorite. I see you couldn't keep your shit-head crew together. Figures. You've always been a selfish loner, no matter how much help people try and give you.

MORGAN

Fuck them. And fuck you too Bonnie.

BONNIE

What a disappointment you turned out to be. You can take the girl out of the savage alien wasteland...

MORGAN

Tell me what this is. Tell me what they are or I smash.

BONNIE

(worried)

Okay, don't smash. It's very important that you not smash. It's very dangerous. It changes people, speeds up the mutation process.

MORGAN

Why do you want to change people?

BONNIE

What do you think this whole place is for? Fairhaven and Mission Beach and Founders Circle and all the other bubbles aren't just "planned communities," they're control groups. They're petri dishes that rich assholes pay to live in.

MORGAN

What do you mean? Mitch and everyone else that's been changed is part of the plan?

BONNIE

In a way. We're trying to create predictable, boutique, custom mutations. Imagine if you're into rock climbing and you could get big crazy claw-feet or you wanted to be like, a magnet person... maybe that's not the best example, I'm not in marketing.

MORGAN

That's why the Imp attacks have been so bad lately.

BONNIE

We created a few strategic breeches. We wanted to see what would happen if some of this planet's natural chemicals were added to the mix. But now that we have the stone...

MORGAN

Wait, you said is was dangerous. How do you know?

BONNIE

Because... it is the thing that killed my parents.

(MORE)

BONNIE (CONT'D)

It's nothing when it's in two, but
when it's one, it's very powerful.

MORGAN

It killed your parents? Why don't
you want to destroy it?

BONNIE

Because that's too good for it! I
don't want it dead, I want it in
chains. I want to cage it and suck
it's power. That's what it
deserves.

MORGAN

Enough crazy. I'm smashing.

BONNIE

Shame we're not going to see eye-to-
eye on this. I was sure you were
going to clean up your act someday.
That's on me I guess. Oh, I brought
my special briefcase.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I noticed.

SFX: Robot suit expanding

Bonnie clicks open her case and the robot exo-skeleton fuses
to her body. She gets in a fighting stance. But before she
can throw down, she hears... *

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VAN

Time to check out baby!

BONNIE

Hey, there's that catchphrase I've
never been nuts about.

MORGAN

Van! Annie! Mitch! You came! You
followed through!

ANNIE

Yeah, we were kind of up in the air
about it, but the Lisa Loeb
hologram convinced us that teamwork
was the answer.

MORGAN

Huh. She convinced me that I needed
to take care of things for myself.

VAN

She's versatile, that's for sure.

ANNIE

Mitch put The Sting on all your guards, so you're SOL. Time to give up I guess.

VAN

Hey, what are the four numbered doors in here for?

BONNIE

Glad you asked.

SFX: The doors opening

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Maybe you remember Book Club? Three fun Moms who operate as a collective, driven by a ceaseless hunger for more members?

BOOK CLUB

We are Book Club. Soon you will all be book club. We hope you're game for bottomless mimosas.

SFX: Door opening

BONNIE

And then there's these beer snobs. Rage-driven tentacle beasts driven mad by the sheer intensity of their opinions.

JULIAN

We will destroy you. Just like DC Comics destroyed it's chances of having a successful film universe by giving Zack Snyder creative control.

SFX: Door opening

BONNIE

And then there's this Standard Guy. He's a guy who's like, big and good at fighting.

STANDARD GUY

I'm here too.

MITCH

Hey, what's behind that other door?

ANNIE

Yeah, was there supposed to be a fourth guy?

BONNIE

What? No. It's just an extra door.

ANNIE

Uh huh. Sure. Whatever.

BONNIE

It is! This is a multi-purpose chamber. It wasn't designed specifically for this showdown you know.

MITCH

There's going to be a showdown?

MORGAN

That's what I assumed.

MITCH

Cool. I can roll with that.

BONNIE

Well, seems like we're all on the same page now.

Act 3

In a cavernous room deep inside Tandem HQ, Mitch, Annie, Morgan and Van are facing off against Bonnie in her robot suit, The Book Club, The Beer Snobs and Standard Guy.

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MORGAN

(unsure)

Hey, before shit goes down can we like... have a minute.

BONNIE

Take all the time you need.

MORGAN

(sotto voice)

First of all: Thanks for coming back you guys. I know I don't open up a lot but it means the world that you have my back. I love you.

SFX: hugging

VAN
I'm really glad we're doing this.

ALL
(*They ad lib. "Oh yeah" "Me too"
"The best"*)

MORGAN
So, we didn't plan for her having a super-powered fight team.

VAN
I'm glad we're getting this time to plan ahead. I wonder what the other team is talking about over there?

SFX: Transition

JACK
So basically what people call "pop-punk" now is what we would have called "emo" back in the 90s, but I can't imagine any of these bands have listened to the seminal band, Rites of Spring...

SFX: Transition

MORGAN
Let's get a plan going. Van, you were once a part of The Book Club, so you know them best. Can you handle them?

VAN
Totally. Also, Christine and I made love on a few occasions, so there's a carnal connection there as well.

MORGAN
Van, gross.

ANNIE
Don't slut shame him. Christine is a gorgeous older woman who looks amazing considering she's had two kids.

ALL
(*They ad lib "Yeah, you're right"
"She looks great" "Pilates? Do you think she does Pilates? "Lifting kids is GREAT for the arms"*)

MORGAN

Mitch, you take care of the beard
boys, I'll get Bonnie...

VAN

Wow, that's dramatic. Because of
your shared history?

MORGAN

Honestly? Just kinda wanted to
fight someone in a robot suit. And
I guess I could try and get
Standard Guy too...

ANNIE

No, let me. Seems like a good
chance to try this untested super
liquid.

MORGAN

I like your initiative, but have
you figured out the amount that
will give you powers versus the
amount that will give you powers
and then kill you?

ANNIE

Nope.

SFX: Annie takes a sip, hulks out

Annie hulks out with giant muscles and strange spiky fur

MORGAN

Okay, we're ready!

Music: Fight music

Everyone rushes at their intended target. Van fights the book club.

VAN

Have you guys always been so good
at fighting?

BOOK CLUB

We've retained some of your skills.
From when you were a part of book
club.

VAN

Oh cool! Actually, now that you mention it, I came out with a lot of positive feelings about Magic Mike XXL, which I've never seen.

BOOK CLUB

Join us again Van. Know the true bliss of surrender. Become part of something greater.

VAN

A tempting offer. It was a real load off giving my will to the collective, and you guys are all doing a great job keeping it tight...

BOOK CLUB

Thanks. That's Pilates.

VAN

I thought that's what it was! Anyway, it was cool being part of Book Club for awhile, but I'm kind of set with another group right now, and they're super cool.

Meanwhile, Annie squares off against Standard Guy

ANNIE

(to standard guy)

Here's a bright side to look on:
You're going to be a lot less in love with me once I kick your ass.

STANDARD GUY

Oh, I'm totally over you.

ANNIE

What? No way.

STANDARD GUY

Oh totally. I don't think I'm even in the right head space for dating. I just need to concentrate on me for awhile, and my new life as a mutant enforcer for a shadowy Corporatocracy.

ANNIE

Pssh. Whatever. You're still totally in love with me.

On the other side of the room, Mitch faces down the beer snobs, who's tentacle beards have grown considerably.

JACK

You know it's funny we're having
this battle in an office AT
Christmas, because Die Hard is
actually...

MITCH

Stop. Shut up. We've already been
through this tonight.

JULIAN

Come on Mitch, why do you fight us?

JOSHUA

We KNOW you have some opinions
about the rebooted Star Trek
movies.

JACK

Just say it: They totally betray
the ethos of the original series.

MITCH

Fellas, I might agree with you on
some points, but there's one reason
I'll never be one of you: I just
don't like IPAs.

JULIAN

Well, maybe not at first, but you
have to train your palette!

JOSHUA

You have to learn to appreciate the
notes! The notes!

MITCH

Sorry. I'll always be a Coors Light
man.

SFX: The Sting

In the center of the room, Morgan vs. Bonnie. That's happening.

MORGAN

(fighting)

See, my shit-head crew came back
for me.

BONNIE

(fighting)

I'll give you that. It's a shame
things turned out like this. You
could have had a future as a
manager.

MORGAN

Oh please. I can't hear a "join me"
speech right now.

BONNIE

Oh don't worry, we're WAY past
that. Bridge burnt.

Bonnie swings at Morgan who leaps back, but Bonnie's robot fist snags her fanny pack. She rips it off and flings it across the room.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

I always hated this thing.

MORGAN

*It's practical. It leaves my hands
free to beat the shit out of you.*

BONNIE

Oh whatever. You're totally going
to loose.

Bonnie is right. The Beer Snobs are all whipping Mitch, who can't get his aim straight. Standard Guy is wailing on Annie. Book Club has dogpiled on Van.

MORGAN

Shit. Fall back everyone!

ANNIE

I can't! I'm going to get some more
juice!

Annie takes out her vial again but Standard Guy knocks it out of her hands. It rolls over to Mitch who snags it.

MITCH

I've got it! I'm going to take it!

MORGAN

Mitch, NO! That's too much!

SFX: Mitch's energy tentacles shoot out of the ground

Mitch's energy tentacles blast out of the ground and knock back all their attackers.

VAN/MORGAN/ANNIE/BONNIE/OTEHR
ATTACKERS
(All react to being blown away) *

VAN
Mitch dude! You did it! *

ANNIE
Mitch? *

MORGAN
Shit! He's hurt. I don't think his
body can take all that power. *

SFX: The gang run over to Mitch *

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Mitch, are you ok?

MITCH
You know what, I don't think so.
Annie, you made this stuff. Am I
going to die?

ANNIE
Well... yeah. I think so. I'm so
sorry Mitch. You saved us.

VAN
Yeah, way to go out like a total
boss.

MITCH
I'm really glad I could help. This
has been the best thing I've ever
been a part of. I've got to see
tons of alien stuff and become
super powered... and I never told
you this but when we were in the
Brush village, I snuck off into the
sex pit and I think I handled
myself really well.

ANNIE
Atta boy Mitch.

MITCH
Annie, I'm sorry if I made you feel
weird about rejecting me. Honestly,
I just really like you and it hurt
when you didn't feel the same. But
I should have just been glad that
you wanted to hang out with me at
all.

ANNIE

It's okay Mitch. Honestly, you're the least weird guy in here that I went on two or two and a half Tinder dates with. The other one is a hulking mutant that tried to kill us.

MITCH

That's really nice of you to say. And Morgan, I know it's hard for you to let people into your circle. Thanks for finding me and making me a part of this, even though I sucked at first.

MORGAN

No problem buddy.

MITCH

And Van... I think it's really cool that you like the same shitty bands as me.

VAN

No dude. I like the same AWESOME bands as you.

MITCH

Oh yeah. Cool.

Mitch closes his eyes. On the other side of the chamber, Bonnie has extricated herself from the wreckage of her robo-suit. She spots one of Morgan's throwing knives on the floor and picks it up.

*
*
*
*

ANNIE

Look out!

Morgan rolls out of the way. The knife smashes into the chamber that holds the stone.

SFX: Knife toss. Glass smashing.

BONNIE

No! It can't be out of it's suspended animation!

ANNIE

Well maybe you shouldn't be throwing knives around it like an asshole while our friend is dying!

SFX: Floor cracking. Vines growing.

The stone falls to the ground. Instantaneously, a vine bursts through the floor, snatches up the stone and pulls it downward, leaving a massive hole in its wake. Then, a huge stalk rockets out of the ground and bursts through the Tandem ceiling. It continues upwards and smashes though the top of the dome.

*
*
*

SFX: Stalk shooting up, glass shattering, electricity whirring

MORGAN

Holy shit. You can see the sky. Not the projected digital one... but the real, actual sky.

VAN

The Bubble is broken... or burst?
One of those works better than the other one.

BONNIE

You idiots have no idea what you've just done.

As the gang gazes up through the hole in The Bubble, a flower blooms off the side of the stalk.

SFX: Flower blooming. Gunk spilling on the floor.

It opens up, and spews a naked man onto the ground. He stands up on wobbly legs. The stone glows in his chest. It's Pastor Doug.

PASTOR DOUG

Oh Lordy. It's good to be back.

Bonnie's eyes fill with rage. She rushes at him, but another vine bursts through the floor and knocks her back.

*
*

SFX: Vine whacks Bonnie

PASTOR DOUG (CONT'D)

Not back for even a whole minute and already everyone is making with the violence. It's a shame nothing has changed. I need to rest up. Get my strength back. But don't worry, soon my arms will be strong enough to hold you close. All of you.

SFX: Vines envelop him and pull him down.

A mess of vines envelops him and pulls him back into the hole. Everyone stands agog.

VAN

(helping Bonnie up)

Hey, I'm not exactly sure what that was... but are we all going to have to team up on this?

BONNIE

Yeah... probably.

MORGAN

Well shit. Someone get me my fucking fanny pack.

Epilogue

SFX: Mitch's body being heaved onto a table

Bonnie and Morgan drag Mitch's limp body into a medical room and heave him onto an operating table.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Is he going to be okay? Please, we need him to be okay.

BONNIE

Well, the bad news is that he's almost dead. The good news is that "almost." And the extra bonus good news is that if he doesn't make it, I can get you a nice employee discount on another one.

She flicks on a light, illuminating the room. We see a dozen of fluid-filled chambers with a dozen sleeping Mitch's floating inside.