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BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE

"Alone Together"

Written by Charlotte Fullerton

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Open in the middle of a big fight already in progress between GWEN, KEVIN & BEN against a single enraged HIGHBREED. There are signs of DESTRUCTION all around from earlier in the fight: holes blown through the walls, beams askew, and smouldering debris. The three embattled teens converge on the snarling Highbreed. Kevin is disheveled. Ben holds up his OMNITRIX-wielding arm at the ready. Gwen's outstretched hands GLOW with recently expelled energy.

GWEN

It's trying to run! Cut it off.

KEVIN

<lead effort> <land> <impact>

BEN

I've got it covered.

HIGHBREED

<roars menacingly>

The Highbreed BLASTS at Ben, who DODGES out of the way in a tuck and roll, activating his OMNITRIX on the fly, and transforms himself into ECHO ECHO.

ECHO ECHO/BEN

(calls out)

Echo Echo!

Echo Echo quickly MULTIPLIES into a HALF DOZEN DUPLICATES and SURROUNDS the Hybreed, leaving Kevin and Gwen safely outside the circle.

MULTIPLE ECHO ECHOES

Going somewhere?

HIGHBREED

01:00:25:14 <missing>

<effort grunts>

The Highbreed leaps into the air, up and out of the CIRCLE OF ECHO ECHOES... and drops down right behind Kevin.

Gwen generates twin ENERGY PLATES from her hands and hurls them as SPIRALING ENERGY BEAMS directly at Kevin.

Kevin hits the deck, as Gwen's energy blasts sail over his head and strike the Highbreed behind him.

HIGHBREED

(impact grunt & land)

While crouched, Kevin places his palms on the CONCRETE FLOOR, and his hands/arms TRANSFORM into CONCRETE. In one motion, he stand, turns, and launches a one-two concrete punch, knocking the Hybreed backwards off its feet.

KEVIN

(effort grunts)

HIGHBREED

(impact grunt)

KEVIN

(to o.s. Ben)

Nice going, Mr. "I've got it covered."

ECHO ECHO/BEN

Hey, I'm all over it.

The multiple Echo Echoes grab the HighBreed everywhere they can, swarming over it.

HIGHBREED

(howls in rage)

Struggling in Echo Echo's multiple grips, the Highbreed's EYE catches the GLINT of something hidden here in the warehouse: One of its species' crystal quartz Teleporter PODS! It HEAVES itself towards the pod, pulling the Echo Echoes along.

HIGHBREED

Don't touch me, creature.

ECHO ECHO

(effort grunts)

Gwen and Kevin follow, Gwen's ENERGY BLASTS narrowly missing Echo Echo in his hand-to-hand struggle with the Highbreed.

GWEN

<EFFORTS>

Highbreed is still dragging himself and all the Echoes towards the pod. The Pod activates, producing an eerie glow.

KEVIN

Don't let him get in that thing, it's a Teleporter pod!

Kevin picks up a chunk of concrete and chucks it at the Teleporter.

KEVIN

<EFFORT>

The concrete hits the Teleporter assembly and the whole thing starts to spark and sizzle.

HIGHBREED

You've damaged the transmission field!

With the Teleporter's ENERGY tearing at the air around them, the Highbreed is PULLED into the pod -along with Echo Echo!

HIGHBREED

<CRY>

ECHO ECHO

<CRIES>

They all DISINTEGRATE in a FLASH! Gwen and Kevin react in horror.

KEVIN

Ben!

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - DAY

TIGHT ON Echo Echoes and the Highbreed as they MATERIALIZE, still fighting without pause.

WIDEN TO REVEAL that they are in the middle of a bleak, desert landscape. There are TWO SUNS in the strange PINK SKY.

FADE OUT

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

ECHO ECHO

<4 impacts>

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Echo Echo and the Highbreed continue to GRAPPLE. The Highbreed wrenches free and THROWS Echo Echo SKIDDING across the sand.

HIGHBREED

<EFFORTS>

HIGHBREED

Microcephalic, vermin-ridden carcass!

ECHO ECHO

<SEVERAL EFFORTS>

ECHO ECHO

That's an insult, right?

HIGHBREED

Your friend interfered with the Teleporter settings!

ECHO ECHO

Well, to be fair, we were a little distracted, what with you trying
to kill us and all.

ECHO ECHO

<ATTACK YELL>

HIGHBREED

<impact>

The incensed Highbreed RUSHES at an Echo Echo, who quickly MULTIPLIES
into TWO DUPLICATES, causing the attacking Highbreed to pass through
the open space now between the two of him.

Highbreed smashes into a rock.

The seven Echo Echoes reform into ONE, turn, and BLAST the Highbreed
who is now behind him.

Suddenly, the ground begins to VIBRATE. Both Echo Echo and the Highbreed FREEZE mid-battle and glance around them.

ECHO ECHO

Whoa!

<surprised>

ECHO ECHO

Was that an earthquake?

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

An eerily silent BEAT. Then an enormous indigenous predator creature, like a Sand Worm from DUNE (called a Dravec) REARS UP from under the sand with a MONSTROUS GROWL!

The Dravec lunges at BOTH Echo Echo and the Highbreed, its jaws SNAPPING at the air. Echo Echo poises to take on this new threat. The Highbreed, looking out for Number One, takes off RUNNING.

Echo Echo stays and fights the predator alone, but gets his butt kicked! He tries attacking the Dravec with a SONIC BLAST, but the creature is unaffected.

ECHO ECHO

<5 total>

(impact grunt)

Gonna need some back up.

DRAVEC

<roar>

Echo Echo MULTIPLIES himself to outnumber and confuse the predator.

MULTIPLE ECHO ECHOES

<3 total>

Now let's try this again.

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

The multiples ALL blast at the predator simultaneously, it seems to hurt him this time but the Dravec DIVES underground. The Echoes stand ready, he could come up anywhere.

MULTIPLE ECHO ECHOES

Not good, not good.

The Dravec EMERGES out of the ground right underneath one of the Echo Echoes and swallows it!

ECHO ECHO

(calling cry)

DRAVEC

<roar>

A Beat, then the Dravec SPITS the Echo Echo out.

DRAVEC

<PTOO!>

ECHO ECHO

<Falling CRY>

Echo Echo slams into the rest of his MULTIPLES, scattering them like bowling pins.

ECHO ECHO

<SEVERAL IMPACTS>

They REFORM into ONE Echo Echo, who holds his head DAZED.

ECHO ECHO

(groans)

The MOVEMENT of the FLEEING Hybreed on the periphery catches the Dravec's attention. It turns and tears after the Highbreed, ROARING.

DRAVEC

<ATTACK>

ECHO ECHO

Highbreed! Look out!

The Highbreed fires PROJECTILE THORNS from his hands (like automatic weapons fire). He's on the run, turning back occasionally to shoot at the Dravec, but the Dravec isn't much affected.

The Dravec's OPEN JAWS threaten the Highbreed, who continues to fire staccato THORNS at it, distracting Dravec from...

Echo Echo, who climbs up the Dravec's back, GRASPS its head and fires a SONIC BLAST at close range directly into its brain! The Dravec SHRIEKS in pain.

The Highbreed piles on, firing more Thorns, while Echo Echo stays CLAMPED onto the creature's head, pounding its brain with SONIC FORCE.

SMOULDERING now from the Highbreed and Echo Echo's combined simultaneous volleys, the injured Dravec beats a hasty retreat into the ground.

Echo Echo wrenches himself free at the last possible second just as the predator DIVES down into the sand. Its WAIL becomes more and more MUFFLED as it burrows deeper. Both Echo Echo and the Highbreed stand tensely at the ready, PANTING, as the WAIL of the Dravec fades.

DRAVEC

<KEEP ALIVE>

ECHO ECHO

What was that thing?!

HIGHBREED

(panting)

A Dravec. Its kind is numerous on this planet. In this planet.

Echo Echo glances down and nervously shifts his feet.

ECHO ECHO

Then we'd better get off this planet before any more of them show up.

HIGHBREED

"We?"

ECHO ECHO

Yes, "we." You couldn't defeat it alone. And I couldn't. If more of them come, our only hope of survival is to fight together.

The Highbreed Flowers, showing its colors in revulsion, never taking his wary eyes off Echo Echo.

ECHO ECHO

You know I'm right.

HIGHBREED

I know no such thing.

Echo Echo eyes the Highbreed warily right back.

ECHO ECHO

I don't like this any better than you do.

Echo Echo's gaze moves up to notice the TWO SUNS in the PINK SKY above.
He GAPES in wonder around their alien location, taking it all in for

the first time.

ECHO ECHO

Um. How do we get off this, this, planet-whatever-it's-called?

The Highbreed snorts condescendingly.

HIGHBREED

We are on Turrawüste, a desert world, useful only as a Teleporter relay station.

ECHO ECHO

So how come we didn't beam in to the Teleporter.

HIGHBREED

The damage to the pod must have temporarily shifted the focusing axis.

ECHO ECHO

Can you fix it?

HIGHBREED

If we find the Teleporter Pod station on this planet, we won't need to fix it. Simply avoid hitting it with a rock while it's activated.

ECHO ECHO

Okay, smart guy. Where is it?

The Highbreed SCANS the distant horizon in growing frustration.

HIGHBREED

Impossible to tell.

Echo Echo GRINS cockily and steps in front of the Highbreed.

ECHO ECHO

Impossible for you, maybe.

Echo Echo FIRES his SONAR! A visible, circular wave reaches far out over the horizon.

ANGLE following the SONAR SIGNAL as it emanates out over the barren alien landscape.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, Teleporter POD - CONTINUOUS

The SONAR SIGNAL strikes a sun-bleached, weather-worn Teleporter POD and radiates back in the direction it came.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - CONTINUOUS

The SONAR signal returns to Echo Echo. He points at the horizon.

ECHO ECHO

That way. It'll take a day or more to reach on foot. Let's go..

Echo Echo starts to trudge in the direction of the transmitter, but the Highbreed does not budge.

ECHO ECHO

C'mon, the sooner we get moving, the sooner we get home.

The Highbreed doesn't move.

HIGHBREED

Your kind disgusts me.

Echo Echo absently scratches his butt. He looks at his fingers.

ECHO ECHO

Huh? What did you say?

HighBreed is disgusted.

HIGHBREED

I will not allow such a filthy creature to spend a single moment longer in my presence.

ECHO ECHO

Creeps you out, huh? I can take care of that.

Echo Echo fires up the OMNITRIX and TRANSFORMS back into regular teenager Ben.

BEN

See? I'm really just a plain ol' human.

The Highbreed reacts in revulsion.

HIGHBREED

That is even worse. Be gone, foul thing. I shall traverse to the
Teleporter alone.

Just then a Dravec ROAR echoes MENACINGLY from somewhere out on the
landscape, startling both the Highbreed and Ben, reminding them of
the fatal consequences that are sure to befall them if they separate.

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

BEN

We'll have to watch each other's backs. We don't want any more Dravecs
to get the drop on us. Or under us... You know what I mean.

The Highbreed still does not budge.

BEN

Now what?

HIGHBREED

If I am forced to travel with you for my own safety, then you must keep ten paces behind me at all times.

BEN

But I'm the one who knows the way!

HIGHBREED

Ten paces.

BEN

(exasperated)

Fine. Whatever. Just get moving.

To the distant sound of a predator HOWLING, the Highbreed, with Ben walking ten paces behind, set off uneasily together under the TWIN SUNS into the foreboding unknown.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - MIDDAY

With its TWO SUNS, this planet is unforgivingly BLISTERING HOT during the day. The only other things on the barren landscape that appear to be alive other than our two travelers are a smattering of strange ALIEN CACTUSES. Ben (ten paces behind) and the Hybreed trudge along. The Highbreed is looking particularly WEARY.

BEN

Whew! Hot enough for ya? Heh.

HIGHBREED

(deadpan)

Yes.

BEN

No, see, I wasn't really asking. It's just an expression. It means
it is hot out.

HIGHBREED

(irritated)

It is obviously hot. I do not see the point of reiterating what we
both already know.

BEN

Makes me glad I didn't say, "it's not the heat, it's the
humidity."

HIGHBREED

There is no humidity. It is, in fact, the heat.

BEN

(exasperated)

I know!

BEN

(mutters)

Just trying to make conversation.

The Highbreed's footfalls grow slower and slower, until it eventually COLLAPSES from heat exhaustion! Ben, from his position ten paces behind, rushes up to see what's wrong.

HIGHBREED

<COLLAPSE>

HIGHBREED

Do not lay your hands on me, Vile thing!

Ben takes off his jacket and offers it to Highbreed.

BEN

Here, you can use it to keep the sun off of your head.

Highbreed throws the jacket aside.

HIGHBREED

I do not take charity from vermin. I merely require a moment's rest.

Ben ignores his jacket. He will not wear it agin this episode.

BEN

Rest won't cut it. You're dehydrated already.

HIGHBREED

The one true species thrives in a much cooler climate.

BEN

Humans like it cooler than this, too. But you're actually wasting away here.

The Highbreed is physically WITHERING.

BEN

I've got something that can help us both beat the heat. Hang on.

Ben activates the OMNITRIX and TRANSFORMS into BIG CHILL!

BIG CHILL

(calls out)

Big Chill!

Big Chill creates an ICY WIND.

HIGHBREED

(weakly)

Desist! Stop that... this instant.

BIG CHILL

Why?

HIGHBREED

I did not... request... your assistance.

BIG CHILL

I know. Chill, dude.

(getting his own joke)

Ha! See what I did there?

HIGHBREED

I do not.

BIG CHILL

I made a little pun, See... Hey! What's that?

There's a GLINT out on the barren landscape. Big Chill spies what appear to be a POOL OF WATER!

BIG CHILL

Water!

HIGHBREED

Your powers of deduction are truly staggering.

BIG CHILL

Whatever. I'm getting a drink. I'll bring some back for you.

Big Chill leaves the cooled Highbreed to gather its strength, and flies towards the POOL.

EXT OASIS - DAY

Big Chill approaches a pool of water and lands at the shore. Big Chill reaches out and touches the "water." It's slimy!

He sniffs it. As Big Chill's attention stays fixed on the pool of TRANSLUCENT SLIME, slowly all around him in a CIRCLE, a giant row of STALAGMITE-LIKE OBJECTS begins to jut up out of the sand, surrounding him like fence posts! As the objects continue to rise, it becomes apparent that Big Chill is actually standing in the middle of an OPEN MOUTH full of TEETH as some giant unseen creature emerges from under the sand!

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

BIG CHILL

(cry of surprise)

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Fade in:

DRAVEC

<struggles>

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

An enormous Dravec's has just eaten Big Chill, it continues to emerge from under the sand.

Intangible Big Chill FLIES THROUGH the closed teeth of the Dravec, freezing the creature in a thick, spreading coating of ice as he passes.

Big Chill leaves the frozen creature behind and flies over to Highbreed,

BIG CHILL

It was a trap!

HIGHBREED

Gullible prey can often be lured by the right bait. Many creatures use this to their advantage.

The Dravec Is trying to free itself, CRACKS appear in the ice...

Big Chill Is talking to Highbreed, quite a ways from the monster, neither of them notice the Dravic's struggles. Big Chill sprays Highbreed with COLD AIR.

The Dravec BREAKS FREE of the ice and roars, Ben and Highbreed react to the monster's roar.

BIG CHILL

That's thing's getting loose. Let's move!

HIGHBREED

You cannot issue commands to me, mongrel. Lesser beings do my bidding.

The DRAVEC Is moving rapidly towards Big Chill and Highbreed.

Highbreed looks nervously at it's approach.

DRAVEC

<Release ROAR> <Attack ROAR>

HIGHBREED

And I bid you to fight!

BIG CHILL

(sarcastic)

Oh. Alright then. If you say so.

Intangible Big Chill and the Highbreed double-team the predator, hitting it with simultaneous repeated attacks.

Big Chill PASSES THROUGH the Dravec, causing ICE to start SPREADING all over the predator's body. But the creature quickly SMASHES free of the growing FROZEN shell.

Whenever it looks like they're starting to get the upper hand, the searing heat of the TWIN SUNS beating down depletes the Highbreed of his energy, and he must intermittently be reinvigorated by Big Chill in order to be able to continue fighting!

The Highbreed and Big Chill have no choice but to repeatedly attack the Dravec in SHORT BURSTS this way, between the Highbreed's

revitalizing coolings, narrowly escaping the immense predator each time!

BIG CHILL

We can't keep this up this much longer!

HIGHBREED

Follow my lead.

BIG CHILL

And do what?

The Highbreed fires THORNS at the main part of the Dravec's body, slowing the beast momentarily.

HIGHBREED

(struggling)

Freeze him!

BIG CHILL

Already tried that.

HIGHBREED

From inside. Stay inside. Keep him frozen until I say otherwise.

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

Once again, Big Chill PASSES INTO the Dravec, causing ICE to start SPREADING over the predator's body. But this time Big Chill does not PASS THROUGH out the other side, and the creature starts to become FLASH FROZEN through and through.

HIGHBREED

Now!

Big Chill flies out of the creature, leaving it flash frozen. The Highbreed fires Thorns at the frozen monster. It cracks as the Thorns chip away at it. Finally, it FALLS in pieces to the ground.

His energy once again depleted by the heat, the Highbreed collapses on the spot.

HIGHBREED

(groan)

Big Chill moves to revive the Highbreed once again, but it snaps at him.

HIGHBREED

(strain)

Don't... you dare.

HIGHBREED

Leave me be. Now that the danger has passed, I can locate water myself.

The Highbreed surprisingly SPROUTS Roots from its chest. The tendrils

drill into the sand.

BIG CHILL

Eww. Gross.

HIGHBREED

There is water below the sand, if one looks deeply enough...There!

BIG CHILL

I didn't know you Highbreeds were some kind of plants.

HIGHBREED

We are not "some kind" of anything. The Highbreed is the only kind.

Big Chill gazes quizzically at the rooted Highbreed as it concentrates, its TENDRILS writhing.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Ben is DRINKING water out of his CUPPED HANDS.

BEN

(slurps, then)

Ah...

Ben trudges onward, ten paces behind the rehydrated

Highbreed.

As they pass by, unseen by them, various strangely uniform little "ROCKS" on the landscape seem to UNFOLD, SPROUT LEGS, and begin HOBBLING towards them!

BEN

(calls ahead)

Did you hear something?

Ben whips around, drawing the OMNITRIX, prepared for a fight. But the creatures have frozen back into their CAMOUFLAGE appearance as "rocks." Ben sees nothing unusual behind him. The Highbreed responds without ever turning around.

HIGHBREED

I heard nothing. Except you, human. Which is the same as nothing.

BEN

Ha. Ha.

HIGHBREED

I believe I am beginning to grasp your concept of "humor."

Ben continues walking forward, eyes DARTING side to side. Behind him, more "rocks" unfurl and start CLAMBORING after Ben and the Highbreed!

Ben hears them <CLICKING> and whirls around again, OMNITRIX drawn. But again, sees nothing unusual. Just some scattered "rocks" of strangely uniform appearance.

<CREATURE CLICKS>

Ben goes back to trudging, casting furtive glances back over his shoulder. Now the GROUND VIBRATES slightly, accompanied by the same <CLICKING> sound. The Highbreed FREEZES bolt upright now. He felt that!

<CREATURE CLICKS>

BEN

(terrified)

More Dravecs underground?

HIGHBREED

Worse.

BEN

C'mon! Worse?

The Highbreed and Ben both SPIN around at the same time, and are shocked to discover that the entire ground behind them is blanketed by a SWARM of little alien ARMADILLO-LIKE creatures!

<CREATURE ATTACK>

HIGHBREED

(on alert)

Dasypodidae!

BEN

(relieved)

They're little! How could these guys possibly be worse than Dravecs?

The dasypodidae SNARL en masse, and SWARM Ben all at once!

BEN

(comprehending)

Ah!

HIGHBREED

<efforts>

Before Ben can blink, they're all over him! Ben CLAWS at the little creatures and SWATS them off him, but like a swarm of killer bees, the dasypodidae just keep coming!

BEN

<& efforts>

Get 'em off me! (X2)

But the Highbreed is already covered head-to-toe in the tiny creatures as well!

HIGHBREED

(effort grunts)

The tide of dasypodidae quickly fully ENGULFS Ben, burying him in a pile of the teeming creatures.

A BEAT.

Then Ben's FOREARM, wielding the OMNITRIX, thrusts up out of the mound, followed by his other hand. He ACTIVATES the Omnitrix. A flash of GREEN LIGHT comes out of the pile.

SWAMPFIRE, stands up out of the pile!

SWAMPFIRE

(calls out)

Swampfire!

SWAMPFIRE tears through the army of little alien armadillos, cutting a FIERY SWATH through the throng!

SWAMPFIRE

This'll only take a second.

But brute force is insufficient to defeat this seemingly endless tide of dasypodidae. They're just too many of them!

SWAMPFIRE

Did I say a second? Cause I think maybe more like an hour.

The Highbreed, BLASTING futilely at the dasypodidae one at a time, is too buried in the creatures to be understood.

HIGHBREED

(muffled effort grunts)

Swampfire glances around the nearby landscape for anything that can be of use. His gaze falls upon the very ROCKY HILLSIDE above where the creatures first emerged from their camouflage.

SWAMPFIRE

Highbreed! This way!

HIGHBREED

<falling & catch>

Swampfire and the Highbreed take off running towards the ROCKY HILLSIDE, with the SWARM of snarling dasypodidae hot on their heels. As soon as they are under a rocky OVERHANG, Swampfire BLASTS the OVERHANG, causing a LANDSLIDE of the entire hill!

Swampfire GRABS the Highbreed's arm and DRAGS him out of there, as the LANDSLIDE efficiently buries the entire swarm of dasypodidae!

The chaotic noise of the landslide dies down, and the dust clears.

SWAMPFIRE

(leading)

You're welcome?

The Highbreed is incensed and forcibly removes himself from Swampfire's grasp.

HIGHBREED

How dare... you filthy... Unhand me!

SWAMPFIRE

What is with you? Yeah, you don't like the creatures I turn into, I get it. But c'mon! I was saving you! Cut an alien monster guy some slack once in a while.

Swampfire storms away in exasperation. The Highbreed doesn't budge. A BEAT. Swampfire RETURNS, shaking his head begrudgingly, and with a sarcastic sweep of his arm, GESTURES for the Highbreed to exit FIRST, which he does regally. Then Swampfire follows.

SWAMPFIRE

(gritted teeth)

"Ten paces behind" (mutters)...

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - TWILIGHT

The TWIN SUNS begin to SET. Swampfire and the Highbreed trudge across more endless desert, with Swampfire at his requisite ten paces behind. Swampfire LIGHTS the way - but just for himself, not for the Highbreed up ahead in the growing darkness.

SWAMPFIRE

(still muttering)

The second we're off this planet, I'll show him ten paces behind...

As DARKNESS falls, in the cool night air, the Highbreed grows noticeably STRONGER. Swampfire stops in his tracks.

SWAMPFIRE

This is as good a place as any to set up camp for the night.

HIGHBREED

No. We shall walk through the night.

SWAMPFIRE

(mocking)

"No, we shall camp here for the night."

HIGHBREED

I would not use such an insolent tone with me, lesser creature.

SWAMPFIRE

(challenging)

Oh, really?

HIGHBREED

You have not yet dealt with me at my full strength. See how the cool
night air has begun to restore me?

SWAMPFIRE

(warily)

Yeah, I've noticed.

HIGHBREED

I shall carry on from here on my own!

SWAMPFIRE

Alright. Go then.

HIGHBREED

You have outstayed your usefulness to me!

SWAMPFIRE

So have you!

Just then, a Dravec HOWLS viciously, unseen somewhere out there in the darkness! The monsters look at each other.

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

HIGHBREED

We shall camp here for the night.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Swampfire IGNITES a CAMPFIRE. Then, sitting by the fireside, TRANSFORMS back into human Ben. He warms his hands and addresses the Hybreed a little ways away.

BEN

Pull up a boulder, sit down.

HIGHBREED

(paranoid)

So your infernal pit can deplete me of my strength? I think not.

BEN

It's a campfire. It's a tradition. You sit around it and, y'know, talk.

HIGHBREED

To you? For what conceivable purpose?

BEN

(exhales tensely)

My name is Ben, Ben Tennyson. What's yours?

The Highbreed puffs himself up PROUDLY.

HIGHBREED

I am called Reinrassig the third, seventh son of the noble Highbreed House of Di Razza, direct descendent of the pure-blooded High Order of Rasecht, heir to the...

BEN

(interrupts)

I'm gonna call you "Reiny."

HIGHBREED

That is disrespectful, Benbentennyson.

Ben picks at the fire with a stick.

BEN

Its weird. Despite the fact that I honestly don't trust you any farther
than Humongosaur could throw you...

BEN

It's still pretty cool how we've managed to work together to survive.

BEN

(rambles)

I mean, we may not be friends exactly, but we're not full-on mortal
enemies anymore either.

HIGHBREED

You and I are enemies.

BEN

But we've been able to see past our differences. Probably because I
know what it's like to be, well, not a Highbreed exactly...

The Highbreed bristles and CLENCHES its fists.

BEN

But a whole bunch of other kinds of alien creatures kinda like you.

Ben shows Highbreed the Omnitrix.

BEN

Thanks to this, I get to walk a mile in other lifeforms' shoes. So I can totally understand what it's like to be them, since I have been them.

Ben proudly finishes his little soliloquy with a flourish and looks to the Highbreed for recognition, but his hopeful gaze is met with a SCOWL.

HIGHBREED

(scoffs)

Such presumption! But what else is to be expected from a genetically inferior creature?

BEN

I... I don't... What?

HIGHBREED

Why would I, a Highbreed, be the slightest bit interested in befriending the revolting likes of you?

BEN

I'm just trying to be nice here. Find some common ground or something.

HIGHBREED

You and I are more than mere enemies. Highbreeds were the very first race in the universe. All species hence, other than pure-blooded

Highbreeds, are nothing but mongrels, hideous abominations of nature
- especially humans!

HIGHBREED

As soon as I no longer require your aid for my own protection,
Benbentennyson, I shall eradicate you. And there will be one less
vermin infesting a grateful universe!

BEN

You can't really believe all that! Not after everything we've been
through, not after the way I've been helping you!

HIGHBREED

When you weren't trying to kill me.

Ben is speechless.

HIGHBREED

(evenly)

You are tired, human. I shall take the first watch.

BEN

Oh, no. I'm wide awake. You get some sleep. I'll take the first watch.

The Highbreed and Ben SUSPICIOUSLY eye each other over the cracking
campfire.

Dissolve to:

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ben is sound ASLEEP and SNORING by the dying fire.

BEN

(gasp)

The Highbreed sits silently nearby, his EYES wide OPEN. He glances furtively toward sleeping Ben. His EYES NARROW. The Highbreed CREEPS silently towards sleeping Ben. In a menacing flash of FIRELIGHT, the Highbreed raises his fist and produces a THORN, he's about to shoot Ben in his sleep!

Ben's eyes SNAP OPEN just in time to see the Highbreed FIRE his THORN, right at the camera.

Fade out

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Fade in:

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

BEN

(terrified scream)

The Thorn strikes a dog-sized dasypodidae armadillo alien, just as it is lunging at Ben, jaws open!

The Thorn knocks it down, it's badly injured.

Highbreed Reaches for it...

The tiny creature SHRIEKS. And instead of biting Ben, now as its last act before dying, it CLAMPS its open jaws down onto the Highbreed's plant-like arm, SLICING it cleanly off!

CREATURE

<LUNGE, SHRIEK, CHOMP>

HIGHBREED

(bellows in pain)

<KICKING EFFORT>

The little alien collapses, Highbreed KICKS it away. Ben realizes what's really going on and rushes to the aid of the injured Highbreed.

BEN

Can you regenerate it?

HIGHBREED

(screams in agony)

I am not a lowly *Homo Palustris*.

BEN

But it can be healed.

HIGHBREED

(wincing)

Not from such an injury as this. Not in these conditions.

The Highbreed indicates its severed plant-like ARM on the ground, already WITHERING away. Thinking quickly, Ben activates the OMNITRIX and TRANSFORMS into SWAMPFIRE again.

Swampfire picks up the severed arm and holds it in place against the Highbreed's remaining stump. A thick, green vine grows out of Swampfire's own ARM, SPIRALING out over the severed limb he is holding, and WRAPS around the two sides of the gap, holding the pieces securly together.

Highbreed clenches the fingers of the hand on his newly-repaired arm. It works. The Highbreed's painful facial expression subsides a little.

Swampfire TRANSFORMS back into Ben.

BEN

Better?

HIGHBREED

Why would you help me?

BEN

Why would you help me?

HIGHBREED

It was in my own interest to stop that creature from harming you.

BEN

Yeah? Well, it's in my interest to help anybody who needs it.

The Highbreed has a difficult time trying to fathom this.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ben sits on a ROCK picking at the campfire, while the injured Highbreed slumbers nearby with his splinted arm propped up. Suddenly, the ground under Ben RUMBLES! Ben leaps up off the ROCK he's sitting on, expecting it to sprout legs and start attacking him!

BEN

Ah!

The Highbreed snaps awake.

The Highbreed rapid-fires a stream of THORNES at the rock, all but obliterating it. Ben KICKS at the rock tentatively. Nothing.

The Highbreed starts to roll over to go back to sleep.

But the peace is interrupted dramatically when suddenly a Dravec predator creature ERUPTS up out of the ground right underneath their CAMPFIRE, scattering the burning debris!

BEN

<closed mouth impact>

DRAVEC

<ROAR>

Empowered by the cool night temperature but hindered by his splinted broken arm, the Highbreed launches into battle with the predator. The Highbreed repeatedly fires THORNES at the Dravec, WINCING in pain with every effort.

Ben ACTIVATES the OMNITRIX and starts to TRANSFORM...

...but before he can complete the transformation, the predator SWINGS around and surprisingly KNOCKS Ben right off his feet!

DRAVEC

<continue ROAR, Attack>

HIGHBREED

Benbentennyson!

Ben is groggy but okay. The snarling Dravec goes in for the kill!

DRAVEC

<ATTACK>

Marshalling all its strength against the pain in its arm, the Highbreed LEAPS between the charging predator and Ben!

The Highbreed fires THORNES at the beast at close range with as much power as it can muster.

At that same instant, Ben's hand gropes for the Stick he was stirring the fire with, it's still burning at one end.

As the predator starts to get the upper-hand on the compromised

Highbreed, Ben heroically returns the earlier favor by leaping into the fray in his vulnerable human form!

Ben swings the Torch around his head and swings it at the predator! The monster SHRIEKS in fear and RETREATS into the ground, its HOWLS receding into the night.

DRAVEC

<SHRIEK>

BEN

Maybe you were right. Maybe we should walk at night.

Ben heads off, the Highbreed follows.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ben and the injured Hybreed walk at a fast clip, looking back over their shoulders.

BEN

Thanks for saving me back there. Again.

The Highbreed says nothing. Ben can barely contain his excitement.

BEN

(rambles)

This is a huge thing! A sign of personal growth! Proof that underneath it all, Highbreeds aren't really so bad. That despite those terrible

things you may have said before, you really do want to try to be friends with a human.

Ben GRINS with self-satisfaction. He is feeling pretty good about the part he has played here in helping this Highbreed see the light and change his ways. Grinning Ben has a spring in his step. The Highbreed remains GRIMLY SILENT.

EXT. DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, Teleporter - SUN(S)RISE

As the TWO SUNS rise on the new day, Ben and the Highbreed finally catch sight of the sun-bleached, weather-worn TELEPORTER POD that can take them off this planet. Ben points to it on the next rise ahead.

BEN

There it is! C'mon!

Ben takes off at a run. The Highbreed doesn't budge.

BEN

Not the "ten paces behind" thing again.

HIGHBREED

(solemnly)

Go home, Benbentennyson. I shall remain here.

BEN

Did you hit your head or something? There's the Teleporter! We can finally get off of this sandtrap of doom and back to our lives.

HIGHBREED

I have spent too long with you, BENBENTennyson. And have therefore
myself become contaminated--

BEN

Contaminated?

HIGHBREED

--As clearly evidenced by my uncharacteristic behavior, risking my
own life to save you, a lowly human.

BEN

Reiney...

The injured Highbreed puffs himself up regally. Ben stares confused.

BEN

What you did was a good thing...

HIGHBREED

I have obviously become infected by your mongrel influence and am now
myself unclean!

BEN

But even if I believed that was true, why stay here?

HIGHBREED

In self-imposed exile. As it should be. For I can never return home. Or anywhere. I could infect the rest of my kind. The only honorable choice is to remain here.

BEN

No...

HIGHBREED

Because all lesser beings other than pure, unadulterated Highbreeds must be expunged from the universe! Including myself.

Ben is AGHAST.

BEN

I thought I had gotten through to you! I thought you had changed...

HIGHBREED

(grimly)

This much is true, I have changed. And now I must pay the price.

Ben hangs his head in dismay.

Ben and the Highbreed climb the sand dune to the sun-bleached, weather-worn TELEPORTER POD in silence. Ben stands on the pod. The Highbreed sets the coordinates for Earth. Ben puts out his HAND to shake good-bye with the Highbreed.

The Highbreed locks EYES with Ben, but will not shake his hand. Ben drops his HAND, turns, and DEMATERIALIZES on the Teleporter pod, solemnly leaving the injured Highbreed behind to his fate.

END ACT THREE

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS FROM TEASER

Gwen and Kevin are in the warehouse. Kevin's been working on the Transporter.

KEVIN

Everything looks fine, but I can't make it work.

GWEN

We've got to fix it, Kevin. We have to go find...

Ben MATERIALIZES in a FLASH on the Teleporter pod. He is filthy and exhausted.

GWEN

Ben!

KEVIN

You gave us a big scare.

GWEN

Where's the Highbreed? Did he get away?

Ben thinks about it for a moment, he's saddened.

BEN

I doubt it...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT.DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - SUN(S)RISE

Close on Highbreed, looking at his repaired arm. Sitting
stil.

PULL BACK on the injured Highbreed in self-exile, stranded alone on
the barren, desert planet. He stands up straight and proud, facing
his chosen fate with a skewed HONOR.

REVEAL that from different directions faraway on the bleak landscape,
several hulking Dravecs are slowly converging on him. And we...

DRAVEC (3)

<HOWLINGS>

FADE OUT.

THE END

Ben 10 #014 • "

Alone Together

" • 12/07/07 •

"Alone Together"

680-014

Ben 10: Alien Force

By Charlotte Fullerton

Story Editor

Dwayne McDuffie

Final Numbered Draft

12/12/07

As Recorded Script

12/13/07

As Broadcast Script

08/15/08

CARTOON NETWORK STUDIOS

Kevin

Gwen

Ben

Hybreed

ECHO ECHO

BIG CHILL

SWAMPFIRE

Dravec

<CREATURE CLICK>

CREATURE

MULTIPLE Echo echoES

ECHO ECHO/Ben

(V.O.)

(O.S.)

(O.C.)

(CONT'D)

(SUBTITLE)

(calls out)

INT

EXT

I/E

END TEASER

END ACT ONE

END ACT TWO

END ACT THREE

EXT> DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE

DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, TRANSPORTER POD

DESOLATE DESERT PLANET

DESOLATE DESERT PLANET, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

DESOLATE DESERT PLANET - DAY

FADE IN:

THE DRAVEC

DAY

NIGHT

AFTERNOON

MORNING

EVENING

LATER

MOMENTS LATER

CONTINUOUS

THE NEXT DAY

LATER THAT NIGHT

CONTINUOUS FROM TEASER

CUT TO:

FADE IN:

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO:

MATCH CUT TO:

JUMP CUT TO:

FADE TO BLACK.