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BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE

"Voided"

By Jim Krieg

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben watches, irritated, as Gwen rummages around the mess in his closet.

GWEN

Ewww (grossed out)

BEN

Tell me about this 'message' already, Gwen. I've got homework.

GWEN

Let's just wait for Kevin, then I don't have to tell it twice.

BEN

Was it an email? Just let me read it.

GWEN

A telepathic SOS, sent through my energy field.

(beat)

Oh, look! A doll house!

She pulls a playset covered with tiny guns out of the pile.

BEN

It's not a doll house! It's a Sumo Slammers battle ring!

GWEN

With dolls in it.

BEN

Action figures! They're not dolls, they're collectables!

GWEN

They look like dolls to-- <Groan of discomfort.>

Ben understands, supports a woozy Gwen.

BEN

You okay?

GWEN

Something coming in.

Gwen's sparking energy signature appears in the air. In it, the face of HELEN, an XLR8, appears... but just barely.

HELEN

... Can you hear me, Gwen? Did you find Ben? We need...

BEN

Helen?

Kevin ENTERS and reacts to the hologram.

KEVIN

Holograms. It's never like I come over and you're just playing
video games or something.

HELEN

...I can't hear you...

BEN

(louder)

Helen! I'm right here.

HELEN

... You guys. if you're getting this message... please help us...

GWEN

Hard to focus. Can't keep connection.

HELEN

... terrible danger!... ...need help desperately... ... life and
death! Please!...

GWEN

<pained groan>

The image FRITZES out. Gwen collapses, but Kevin is there to catch her.

KEVIN

You okay?

GWEN

Yeah. Anyway, I'm doing better than those Plumbers Kids.

KEVIN

What did they expect going into the Null Void? Not like we didn't warn 'em.

GWEN

We have to go get them out.

KEVIN

You are not going in there! I've been there! It's--

GWEN

I can handle it!

Ben steps between them, stopping the fight.

BEN

No you can't. There's too much riding on us being here.

GWEN

You heard her! They need help!

BEN

I know. That's why I'm going alone...

Off their reactions...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KEVIN'S GARAGE - DAY

Gwen helps Ben into a compact Adam Strange JETPACK.

BEN

Last time I went into the Null Void I didn't need all this junk.

Kevin spools some kind of WEIRD CABLE onto a winch.

KEVIN

Last time you had a motor home full of cool state-of-the-art
plumbers gear.

BEN

Which you sold.

GWEN

The point is, it's going to be tricky to get you out. Even if I'm able to temporarily rip a doorway into the Null Void, this cable's the only thing connecting you to--

Kevin and Gwen buckle Ben into a HARNESS at the cable's end.

KEVIN

It's not a cable. The 'Plumber's Snake' is an unbreakable pandimensional retrieval system worth mucho dinero which you are very lucky I have.

BEN

Aw. You'd miss me.

KEVIN

I... I've got better ways to spend my time than going to your funeral.

Ben realizes that Kevin's dis is so lame it verges on an admission of friendship. There is an awkward BEAT.

Gwen CONCENTRATES, her energy field forming a RIP in the air.

GWEN

I retraced the energy path from Helen's message. Hopefully, it'll lead you to her location. But I don't know how long I can keep this open.

Now it's real. He exchanges looks with Gwen and nods with Kevin and... STEPS INTO the ENERGY FIELD...

EXT. NULL VOID - NIGHT

After a SPECTACULAR TRANSITION between dimensions, Ben finds himself in the weird, asteroid-filled

Ditko-esque Null Void. With the cable trailing behind him and vanishing into a tiny crackling tear in space, Ben activates his JET PACK and starts searching for Helen. The space seems VAST.

BEN

Pocket dimension. That's a big pocket.

ALIEN SERF (O.S.)

<Panicked screams>

Ben changes course and sees an lumpy, helpless-looking ALIEN SERF being dragged through space by a NULL GUARDIAN, a terrifying faceless drone suspended under bat-like wings. These soulless "guard dogs" are more than mere machines, less than animals and tough as nails.

ALIEN SERF

Helpers! Assist me! Helpers!

BEN

I'm coming!

Ben zips around with his jetpack, using the tether to whip off pieces of asteroid, sending it towards The Guardian. The Guardian drops its prisoner and pursues Ben through the asteroids

BEN

<effort>

The Guardian is faster than it looks. The Guardian starts firing ENERGY BLASTS from its EYE-STALKS.

BEN

This would be a lot easier without the leash.

Ben fires his jets on full, pulling into a LOOP. The Null Guardian follows. As they increase speed, the G-FORCES get stronger and stronger. Both flyers begin to SHAKE from the strain.

BEN

(straining)

Let's see... how smart you are.

Ben threads his tether between asteroids, drawing it tight and CLOTHESLINING the Null Guardian, taking him out.

NULL GUARDIAN

<IMPACT>

Ben and intercepts the Serf.

BEN

You okay?

ALIEN SERF

I knew it! I knew once news of my capture had spread, the Wrench would never let me fall into the hands of D'Void!

ALIEN SERF

We must flee. He'll be back... and not alone.

BEN

Uh, yeah. Okay.

Ben grabs onto one of the serf's limbs and flies off...

EXT. CRAGGY ASTEROID - NIGHT - SHORTLY

PUSH IN - Ben and the Alien Serf sit in an rocky outcropping before a tiny fire of scrubby twigs.

ALIEN SERF

If you know the Wrench, he must be warned. This entire dimension is becoming destabilized.

BEN

Slow down. Who is the Wrench, anyway? What are 'the Helpers'?

ALIEN SERF

You're not a Helper? Even so, how could you not have heard of the Wrench, the only person who dares defy D'Void and his Null Guardians?

BEN

Back up and start again. I don't understand anything yo--

Suddenly, ENERGY BLASTS burst against the rocks around them.

ALIEN SERF

Null Guardians! They've found us!

Indeed they have. A small group of Guardian surrounds them, firing. Ben pushes the Serf behind him for protection and is just DIALING UP an alien on the Omnitrix, when...

MANNY (O.S.)

Yeeee-haaaaaaaaa!

Four-armed MANNY streaks into the scene riding some kind of Flying Alien Serpent. He holds ENERGY CROSSBOWS in three of his hands. His forth hand is now A HOOK and holds the reins.

ALIEN SERF

The Helpers!

The Guardians TAKE AIM at him, but before they can fire, Helen, tears through the scene, almost SPEEDSKATING on the rocks and floating debris that litter the Null Void.

HELEN

Eat my dust, doggies!

As she WHIZZES by, the Guardians go tumbling in her wake.

NULL GUARDIANS

<surprised inhuman barking>

She races over to Ben and the Serf.

HELEN

Come on, we don't have much-- BEN!! I knew you'd come!

Manny pulls up on his serpentine mount.

MANNY

What are you doing here?!

HELEN

I called him! We need him, Manny.

BEN

Don't worry, I can get you back home. Just take my hands and my friends'll pull us--

HELEN

No, Ben. You don't understand--

The sound of SNAPPING and SNARLING draws Manny's attention. A huge PACK of Guardians are coming their way.

MANNY

It's D'Void!

Manny and Helen are duly concerned. The Serf FREAKS out.

ALIEN SERF

The Null King is upon us! All is lost.

Manny leaps off of his steed, pick up the Serf and places him on the serpent's back.

MANNY

Not yet, old man.

(to beast)

Giddyap Ya!

The Serpent soars away with the Alien Serf. The Pack nears.

HELEN

Ben, you need to go, too. You're too valuable to fall into D'Void's hands. We'll act as decoys and lead him away.

BEN

What?! I'm here! I can help you beat this guy!

MANNY

Nobody can beat D'Void. Find the Wrench. Help him.

Manny ACTIVATES his Jetpack and BLASTS toward the approaching pack. Helen follows, speed skating through the void.

BEN

Oh, fine. I'll just sit this one out, then. Yeah, not too likely.

Ben ROCKETS after them. Suddenly, the cable that's been trailing him SNAPS TIGHT and he is YANKED to a dead stop!

BEN

<pulling effort>

BEN

<big pulling effort>

He PULLS and PULLS on the cable, but it won't give at all.

Manny and Helen STREAK into the crowd of Guardians, scattering them. Manny fires constantly at something OS.

NULL GUARDIANS

<Excited baying.>

Desperate to help, Ben YANKS on the cable with all his might.

Then, emerging from the darkness, an IMPOSING FIGURE. The master of the Guardians is STRUCK over and over by Manny's ENERGY BOLTS but doesn't even react to them. This is D'Void.

D'VOID

Who dares defy D'Void?

On Ben's face, a look of... recognition? D'Void moves into the light. He is a redesigned, scarier DOCTOR ANIMO.

BEN

Doctor Animo?

Though his energy bolts BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF D'Void, a defiant Manny continues to fire. He's so focused he doesn't see the Null Guardian appear behind him KNOCKING HIM OS...

MANNY

<Impact grunt.>

... and into Animo's VICE-LIKE GRIP!

MANNY

<Desperate grunting.>

DOCTOR ANIMO

What have we here? One of those annoying littel Helpers.

Helen REACTS to Manny's capture and angrily INCREASES SPEED.

HELEN

Manny! No!

She CHARGES Animo at top speed! Amazingly, he reaches out and CATCHES HER with his free hand!

HELEN

<Desperate gasps.>

DOCTOR ANIMO

There's no help for you, Helpers. And no hope at all.

Ben is SHOCKED.

BEN

(small tug)

He stops STRAINING at the cable. He looks at his helpless friends in Animo's hands, then back at the RIP in space, his only way home. Decision time...

INT. KEVIN'S GARAGE - DAY

Gwen and Kevin watch as the Plumber's Snake goes SLACK.

GWEN

What happened?

KEVIN

I dunno. Reel him in.

She means it. Kevin turns on the winch.

GWEN

Come on, hurry.

KEVIN

This is as fast as it goes.

Finally, something is EMERGING from the RIP. Gwen steps up to help him through. Kevin shuts off the winch.

Kevin looks up to see a horrified Gwen holding... Ben's EMPTY HARNESS!

He is TRAPPED in the Null Void!

Off their obvious concern...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. NULL VOID SKY - NIGHT

Surrounded by his snarling Guardians, a powerful Animo clutches the struggling Helen and Manny in his hands.

DOCTOR ANIMO

Now, tell me, Helen, where can I find your leader?

MANNY

Doesn't matter what you do to us, D'Void. We'll never betray The Wrench.

DOCTOR ANIMO

(to Helen)

Perhaps you'll feel differently, after watching my pets play tug-of-war with your friend!

Doctor Animo HURLS Manny into the pack of Guardians who SWARM around him like Piranha.

HELEN

No!!

MANNY

<Screams of alarm.>

Suddenly, an ELECTRICAL STORM explodes within the pack.

The small energy maelstrom causes the Guardians to flee REVEALING BRAINSTORM, who carries a stunned Manny.

DOCTOR ANIMO

Who dares?!

BRAINSTORM

That isn't how to tell the joke, miscreant. First I say "Knock Knock," then you say, "Who dares."

DOCTOR ANIMO

You would mock D'Void?

BRAINSTORM

D'Void , AKA Doctor Animo? I most certainly would mock you. I'm doing so now, albeit subtly.

Brainstorm's CLAWS latch onto Animo's arms, but do little good. He doesn't even drop Helen. This guy IS strong.

BRAINSTORM

<Grunts of effort.>

DOCTOR ANIMO

You know my name, Helper. How?

Animo doesn't break a sweat bending Brainstorm's claws back.

BRAINSTORM

Although I'm generally much too modest to boast, on rare occasions
I do come out of my shell...

Brainstorm's shell opens revealing his huge brain. ZAP! Another electrical storm is released, this time right in Animo's face.

DOCTOR ANIMO

<Scream of pain.>

Animo, momentarily STUNNED, releases Helen and Brainstorm.

HELEN

(panting)

BRAINSTORM

It's difficult to believe. That eletroencephalatic mind blast should have been more than sufficient to render him insensate.

HELEN

Believe it! Now, let's go!

Helen grabs Brainstorm and speeds over to Manny, scoops him up as well and RACES OS.

The Guardians gather around Animo as he regains his composure.

DOCTOR ANIMO

(Sotto voice)

So, a helper knows my name. But not for long...

Off his narrowing eyes...

EXT. NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

A wretched little farm on one of the asteroids. Behind its meager fields, a BARN straight out of Planet of the Apes.

Reveal a NULL VOID DIRT FARMER pleading with a pair of departing Guardians. One hauls a PALATTE of ALIEN PRODUCE. The other carries away the farmer's struggling TEENAGE SON.

TEENAGE SON

<screams>

DIRT FARMER

Not my son! I've given you everything you've asked for! Don't take my son! Please!

The Guardians FLY OFF, leaving the Farmer to collapse and WEEP in his own fields. We PULL BACK to find ourselves...

DIRT FARMER

(cries)

INT. BARN, NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

Ben, Manny and Helen watch from a nearby asteroid.

BEN

Come on, we've got to help him!

Manny manny puts a hand out to stop him. The hand is a prosthetic hook!

MANNY

No.

BEN

What happened to your...

MANNY

D'Void is too strong to fight.

BEN

What's going on here?

The solemn Farmer ENTERS, heartbroken but stoic. He warms his froglike hands over the small fire.

HELEN

Thanks for hiding us. I... I'm so sorry about your son.

DIRT FARMER

D'Void takes everything. Our only hope is The Wrench. And you
Helpers.

BEN

Okay, who's the Wrench?

(to Farmer)

Come to think of it, who are you? I thought the Null Void was a prison.

DIRT FARMER

No, not a prison. A penal colony...

PAN to the wall, where the SHADOWS cast by the flickering firelight take on a life of their own as a...

Flashback montage

Rough-looking ALIENS tumble through a DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY and into the Null Void.

DIRT FARMER (V.O.)

Long ago, the Galvin created this pocket dimension so they could banish their criminals from the universe itself.

TILT DOWN to asteroid surface to REVEAL an alien couple holding a BABY ALIEN. Behind them lies a HOMESTEAD.

DIRT FARMER (V.O.)

To some, it was a chance to start again. My ancestors have tilled these asteroids since the beginning.

HELEN (O.S.)

Over time, other worlds discovered the Null Void and started dumping their criminals here as well.

The Alien Homesteaders are now being menaced by a small gang of Monster Criminals, like extraterrestrial bikers.

MANNY (V.O.)

But the Galvin had foreseen that problem and created the Null Guardians.

A Null Guardian CHASES the Alien Bikers OS as we DISSOLVE TO:
The Dirt Farmer and his son working on their asteroid plot.

DIRT FARMER (V.O.)

It wasn't an easy life. But it was bearable. Until... he came.

TILT UP TO: A cloud of Guardians surround Dr Animo who stands on the backs of two of them, leashes in hand, malevolent.

DIRT FARMER (V.O.)

D'Void somehow gained control of Null Guardians. Now he reigns supreme...

The CITADEL, towering atop its asteroid like a spooky SPACE ACADEMY. We PULL BACK to reveal the surface of another Void world, where WEARY ALIENS march into a MINE ENTRANCE under the watchful eyes of circling Guardians.

DIRT FARMER (V.O.)

... conscripting anyone, everyone to dig for Kormite in his accursed mines.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARN, NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ben listens intently to the Farmer's story.

BEN

I've tangled with 'D'Void', before. On my world he calls himself Doctor Animo and he has the power to control animals. That's how he's controlling the Null Guardians.

MANNY

You tangled with D'Void?! How did you survive?

BEN

Not just survive, I won. This 'invulnerability' and the whole 'crazy strong' thing? All new.

MANNY

Okay, so you take us back to Earth, we load up on equipment, find some reinforcements and shut down D'Void once and for--

BEN

That's not an option. I lost my tether. There's no way to get my team here to help and I'm stuck here, just like you.

MANNY

Great! Some savior you brought us, Helen. Can't even save himself!

Helen pats one of his arms to calm him down.

HELEN

Settle down, Manny. He's fought D'Void before. Maybe he can help us. Anyway, that's not for us to decide.

MANNY

<Unsure growl.>

Off Ben's discomfort...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIST-SHROUDED PLANETOID - NIGHT

Manny and Helen lead Ben to a fog-covered planetoid. The fog CRACKLES with lightning and energy. A huge rocky SPINE protrudes out of the mist.

BEN

This is where you live?

MANNY

This is where he lives. We live... wherever.

PIERCE (O.S.)

Helen! What have you done?!

REVEAL Helen's brother PIERCE, covered with porcupine quills and hovering via a FLYING BELT of his own. Behind him, the peak of the SPINE from the planetoid looms.

PIERCE

You brought an outsider here? Nobody gets to see the Wrench!
Nobody!

HeLEN

He's a friend, Pierce. I told you, he's the whole reason we came to find you here.

PIERCE

Maybe. Or maybe this guy is just a shape-shifter showing you what you want to see.

Ben maneuvers closer to Pierce, tries to keep it light.

BEN

Look, if you want to take me to see your boss, fine. If not I'll find him myself.

Pierce gestures to the sparking mist below.

PIERCE

There's only one way to get to the Wrench. Across here...

Pierce LANDS on the SIDE of the SPIRE. Perspective now SHIFTS so it looks like he's standing on a LOG BRIDGE to the planetoid. He REMOVES his FLYING BELT and lets it drop.

PIERCE

... and through me.

Helen starts to approach, but Manny holds her back. This is between THEM.

BEN

Fine by me.

Ben LANDS on the bridge facing spiny Pierce and drops his jetpack , just as Pierce did. He then ANTICS swatting the Omnitrix , but at the last moment STOPS himself.

BEN

Some fight. You're a walking pin cushion and I'm empty-handed.

Pierce WILLs one of his spines to GROW and EJECTS it straight into the air before CATCHING it. He throws it to Ben.

PIERCE

Be my guest.

BEN

One spike against three-hundred. You're a real sport, Pierce.

PIERCE

And you're dead meat, spy.

Pierce rushes forward and BENDS, using his upper quills to attack Ben, who parries using his spike as a QUARTERSTAFF.

PIERCE

<Attack cry.>

BEN

<Grunts of exertion.>

Pierce's quill-blows come fast and furious now, it's as if Ben is facing attackers on several sides. Ben blocks the attacks with lightning speed. Then he SWEEPS with his leg, knocking Pierce's feet out from under him.

PIERCE

<Impact grunt.>

When he hits the ground, Pierce's SPIKES are sunk into the rock, momentarily trapping him.

BEN

Ahhhhhhh!

Ben CHARGES, but Pierce catches him with his feet and FLIPS him, sending Ben SPRAWLING and SNAPPING his staff.

BEN

<Impact grunt.>

One of the staff pieces TUMBLES off the bridge to FALL FOREVER. The other LODGES in the rock face.

Pierce BREAKS his own quills to free himself. Ben reacts.

BEN

Oh, great.

Now weaponless, Ben YANKS two of Pierce's broken spikes from the rock and uses them like Eskrima sticks (in Filipino Martial Arts), blocking the attacks of Pierce's NEW SPIKES which grow INSTANTLY.

BEN & PIERCE

<Grunts of fighting effort.>

One of Pierce's blows finds its mark on Ben's WRIST. He drops one club.

BEN

<pained impact>

BEN

That was my video game hand!

Ben DIVES between Pierce's legs and, now in back of him, grabs onto Pierce's spikes to SPIN him around.

BEN & PIERCE

<Fighting grunts.>

Pierce forcefully SHEDS the held quills, sending Ben toppling off the side of the bridge. He just manages to SNAG the rough surface, his feet dangling over an eternal fall.

BEN

(impact and fall)

PIERCE

There's more where that came from.

Ben notices he's only a few inches away from half of the QUARTERSTAFF that fell off earlier. He SMILES confidently. He can still win this! He PICKS UP the weapon.

CLOSER as a REALIZATION crosses his face. He lets go of the staff and lets it fall into oblivion.

BEN

Okay. You win.

A Pierce appears above him and offers a hand to him.

PIERCE

You didn't do too bad.

Ben grabs Pierce's hand and is lifted up to the bridge.

PIERCE

At least we know you're human. One of D'Void's spies would've mopped the floor with me in a fair fight.

BEN

Yeah.

New angle reveals Manny aiming his weapons at Ben.

MANNY

But he wouldn't have lasted long after.

Manny holsters his weapons.

PIERCE

Come on. I'll take you to the Wrench.

INT. THE WRENCH'S LAIR - DAY

Pierce holds open the tapestry door of the Wrench's hovel. Ben ENTERS, the electrified mist swirling behind him.

PIERCE

(confidentially to Ben)

Uh, Don't eat anything he offers you.

Ben steps into a primitive hermit's cave, but accented with HIGH TECH toys. A SHADOWY FIGURE is hunched by the fire.

BEN

Uh, Mr. Wrench? I don't mean to get in the middle of your war, but
this whole dimension is destabilizing and--

GRANDPA MAX

Why don't you tell me about it over a bowl of my famous Centipede
Gumbo?

He turns, REVEALING his face. It's GRANDPA MAX!!

Off Ben's SHOCK...

BEN

<gasp>

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. THE WRENCH'S LAIR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Max and Ben finally come out of a hug that clearly has lasted a
while. Ben surreptitiously wipes the tears from his eyes.

BEN & GRANPA MAX

<Joyful laughter subsiding.>

BEN

So, you going to make me ask?

GRANDPA MAX

Well, when I detonated that Null Void grenade, it didn't blast me to Kingdom Come... it blasted me here. I meant to come back home, but once I saw how badly the folks here were being oppressed--

BEN

-- you took it upon yourself to eighty-six Doctor Animo's reign once and for all.

GRANDPA MAX

Yeah. Or at least throw a monkey wrench into the machinery.

BEN

Hence "the Wrench." And the Helpers... Plumbers Helpers. I just got it.

GRANDPA MAX

Pierce here helped me round up everyone willing to fight D'Void. Enough about me. What are you doing here? How did you get here?

(beat)

And how on Earth did Pierce beat you?

Ben shoots an offended Pierce a guilty look.

BEN

I kinda let him win.

PIERCE

what?

BEN

(explaining to Pierce)

I figured it was the only way you would lead me to the Wrench...
er, Grandpa.

(to Max)

What I've learned is that the Null Void is actually disintegrating.

Max looks into the fire, concerned but not surprised.

GRANDPA MAX

Then it's happening faster than I thought. Pierce, gather your
team--

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE WRENCH'S LAIR - SHORTLY

A war council. Ben is there with Pierce, Manny, Helen and the rest
of THE HELPERS This small band of aliens, many of races we've
already encountered, look like a cross between Robin's Merry Men
and the Baker Street Irregulars. Max shows them a GLOWING ROCK.

GRANDPA MAX

This is Kormite.

MANNY

We know that. Half the Null Voiders are slaving away in D'Void'
mine, digging the stuff up.

GRANDPA MAX

What you don't know is why.

Max lets the bad attitude pass and switches on the beat-up HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR which displays a huge MACHINE (the DIMENSIONAL BORE), something between an oil derrick and heavy artillery. Next to it there is a GIANT BLAZING PIT OF FIRE.

PIERCE

(pointing to pit)

D'Void burns the Kormite in this furnace which feeds his Dimensional Bore, which is literally ripping a hole in the barrier between the two dimensions.

HELEN

D'Void wants to escape... and bring his army of Null Guardians with him to conquer the Earth.

Max calls up a HOLOGRAM SCHEMATIC of the Citadel.

PIERCE

Guerilla tactics are no longer an option. We have to mount an all out attack on his Citadel.

Uncomfortable being the center of attention, Ben PAUSES, then-

BEN

Why fight our way in when we can hitch a ride?

Off the Helpers, exchanging curious glances...

EXT. NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

Two Null Guardians glare at the Dirt Farmer, who finishes loading SACKS into a rough-hewn CART dangling below a small BLIMP. The first Null Guardian begins to PULL it away from the asteroid like a pack animal. The farmer pleads...

The Guardians FLY OFF, oblivious to his cries.

EXT. GATES, ANUMUS'S CITADEL - NIGHT

At the massive gates of the fortress, two more Null Guardians, standing sentry, allow the FLOATING CART to pass.

EXT. COURTYARD, ANUMUS'S CITADEL - NIGHT

The cart drifts into the stronghold's enormous courtyard. It is laid out just like the hologram. The DIMENSIONAL BORE towers over the huge smoldering FIREPIT, where downtrodden aliens dump Kormite from the baskets on their backs.

GRANDPA MAX (O.S.)

NOW!!

The SACKS are thrown clear of the cart. Max, Ben and the Helpers POUR OUT, surprising the Null Guardians.

THE HELPERS

<Roaring battle cries!>

Ben immediately uses the Omnitrix to TRANSFORM into Chromastone.

CHROMASTONE

Chromastone!

Chromastone acts as a living GATLING GUN, firing LASERS OS.

The Null Guardian overseeing the MINERS is BOOTED OS by Manny. Other Helpers race through the FRAME.

MANNY

<GROWL of attack.>

Helen uses her speed to RICOCHET off several Guardians like a PINBALL.

HELEN

Yaaaaaaaaaaah!

Grandpa Max is in the thick of it, with Pierce behind him. They race up to the still-firing Chromastone.

GRANDPA MAX

(efforts)

GRANDPA MAX

Ben, clear us a path to the bore. Pierce, you're with me. We're taking that thing out!

Chromastone's LASERS send the Guardians around the Bore running. The few who remain face Max's boots and Pierce's spines. But not for long. Ben takes a moment to look back at Chromastone.

GRANDPA MAX

Nice work, Ben.

CHROMASTONE

It's not over.

Just then a SHADOW falls over the entire courtyard.

The shadow is cast by an imposing Animo, just emerging from his castle. Another pack of Guardian BURSTS out of the door with him.

Chromastone FIRES lasers at Animo, which bounce off harmlessly. Chromastone TRANSFORMS back into Ben.

Animo seems happy about the attack, he BELLOWS to the crowd.

DOCTOR ANIMO

Max Tennyson. So you're the mysterious Wrench! And Young Ben, always a pleasure to try and end your miserable interfering life.

Ben darts through the ongoing battle, quickly reaching Animo.

BEN

Are you still a doctor, Animo?

DOCTOR ANIMO

What?!

BEN

'Cause it hurts when I do this.

Ben SLAMS the Omnitrix and turns into Humungousaur right at Animo's feet. As Humungousaur immediately GROWS to 20 FEET, Animo gets a free ride up to the top.

HUMUNGOUSAUR

Humungousaur!

Humungousaur then HURLS Animo down, creating a CRATER.

HUMUNGOUSAUR

See? I told you it hurts.

Animo immediately rises out of the crater, powerful as ever.

DOCTOR ANIMO

Give me a moment and I'll show you real pain.

HUMUNGOUSAUR

Thanks anyway, I'll pass.

Humungousaur raises his FOOT and STEPS on Animo, who VANISHES under the massive scaly paw. There is a quiet beat, then...

HUMUNGOUSAUR

<Falling ROAR.>

Animo HURLS the massive creature like he was a doll! He lands in a heap!

HUMUNGOUSAUR

<Impact grunt.>

DOCTOR ANIMO

(victorious laughter)

It's a shame to have to end this! But I've almost drilled through the dimensional wall and I've a whole planet to conquer.

Humongousaur TRANSFORMS into BRAINSTORM.

BRAINSTORM

BRAINSTORM! Here's a display of electrocranial power that I know you'll get a charge out of...

Brainstorm lets fly with the ELECTRICAL STORM from earlier.

DOCTOR ANIMO

<Evil laughter.>

There is NO EFFECT AT ALL! Animo SWATS Brainstorm across the courtyard...

BRAINSTORM

<Impact grunt.>

... where he becomes Ben again as Max reaches his side.

GRANDPA MAX

Ben, try Swampfire's methane attack-

BEN

It's no use, Grandpa. He's getting stronger. When I fought him outside the Citadel, Brainstorm scrambled his eggs, but here--

Ben has a EUREKA moment as Animo STRIDES closer and closer.

BEN

That's it! Hang tight, Grandpa.

Max is shocked to see Ben FLEE in the opposite direction.

GRANDPA MAX

What are you doing?

Animo stalks through the melee toward Max.

DOCTOR ANIMO

Ben Tennyson fleeing before me! The Wrench at my mercy! And then a world to conquer.

Max defiantly braces for the final blow.

BEN (O.S.)

Sounds like a busy day...

Animo and Max turn to see Ben standing on the lip of the huge FIRE PIT. Below him, the Kormite Furnace BURNS dangerously.

BEN

... I hope you had a big breakfast.

DOCTOR ANIMO

What..?

GRANDPA MAX

Ben, get away from there.

BEN

This furnace. It doesn't just power the drill, it powers him. That's why he's so much stronger here in his fortress... and that's why it has to go.

Ben stretches his arms out and lets himself FALL BACKWARDS...

GRANDPA MAX

Nooooooooooooooooooooo !!

As Ben falls, he SLAPS the Omnitrix and BECOMES BIG CHILL.

BIG CHILL

Big Chill!

Still falling, Big Chill radiates COLD from his body...

BIG CHILL

Big Chill! Let's see just how cold I can make it!

At the top, Grandpa Max rushes to the lip of the pit. Looking down, he can see nothing but the flames.

GRANDPA MAX

Ben...

Max is so DEVASTATED, he is unaware of Animo's approach.

DOCTOR ANIMO

You'll join him soon enough.

Max TURNS, silently focusing his rage and loss on Animo. He takes a cylinder from his belt which immediately TELESCOPES into a high tech quarterstaff. He will go down fighting.

Suddenly, the ground SHAKES. It grows DARK as the light from the furnace is SNUFFED OUT. A white covering begins to radiate from the pit, quickly covering the entire Citadel.

DOCTOR ANIMO

What?

DOCTOR ANIMO

Impossible!

The frozen courtyard, the ground, the rock begin to CRACK. The Null Guardians immediately FLY OFF into the sky.

DOCTOR ANIMO

No... NOOOOOOOOO!

DOCTOR ANIMO

(2 hits and an impact)

Animo CHARGES at Max like a crazed animal. Max calmly DROPS his weapon and...

WHAM! He SLUGS the now powerless Animo, FLOORING him. Behind them, a TOWER OF ICE grows out of the pit with Big Chill at it peak. He TRANSFORMS back into Ben.

BEN

Nice work.

GRANDPA MAX

I did have a big breakfast.

Suddenly, the Helpers RUSH into FRAME, triumphant.

MANNY/PIERCE/HELEN

<Excited cheers.>

Several MINERS pick up the stunned Doctor Animo.

GRANDPA MAX

Pierce, take charge of D'Void. Helen, Manny, make sure everyone is out of those mines. And keep a lookout for Guardians. We've still got a lot of work to--

He is interrupted by the appearance of a FLICKERING LIGHT. All LOOK UP to find a CRACKLING RIP in space opening above their heads.

Gwen's concentrating face appears in the rip.

GWEN

Ben! Is that you?

Ben and Grandpa Max rush beneath the rip, all smiles.

BEN

Gwen! Check out what I found!

GRANDPA MAX

Hi, pumpkin.

GWEN

Grandpa!

As her EMOTIONS take over, Gwen loses her concentration and the RIP almost vanishes. Then... it OPENS again.

GWEN

(effort) I can barely keep this doorway open. You've got to hurry.

BEN

You heard her, Grandpa. Get the Helpers. Time to go.

Max looks at Ben regretfully. Ben's smile vanishes.

GRANDPA MAX

I can't go, Ben. We have to finish things here. Get those Guardians working like they're supposed to. Make sure everyone's safe.

BEN

Then I'll stay, too. I can help--

GRANDPA MAX

The Earth needs you to protect it, Ben.

BEN

Then help me! I need you.

Max BEAMS with pride at his Grandson.

GRANDPA MAX

Not anymore, Ben. You proved that today.

BEN

I can't lose you again.

GRANDPA MAX

Never happen. We'll find our way back when our work here is done.
And besides... I'm always with you.

They HUG.

GWEN

Ben! Hurry!

GWEN

(effort)

BEN

(effort)

Ben STEELS himself, all LEADER again. They EXCHANGE a look, then Ben reaches up and takes Gwen's hand. She PULLS but he is too heavy. Suddenly, Kevin appears in the rip as well. He reaches through and grabs Ben's other hand. No jokes.

KEVIN

Time to come home, Ben.

Kevin and Gwen LIFT Ben into the rip, which then VANISHES.

Off Grandpa Max's sad but proud face we...

FADE OUT.

THE END

BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE "Voided" 02/24/08

BEN 10: ALIEN FORCES "GROUNDED" KRIEG 01/07/08

"Voided"

680-023

Ben 10: Alien Force

By

Jim Krieg

Story Editor

Dwayne McDuffie

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BEN

GWEN

KEVIN

SWAMPFIRE

ECHO

JETRAY

HUMONGOUSAUR

HELEN

ALIEN SERF

BLUESTREAK

MANNY

NULL GUARDIAN

NULL GUARDIANS

ANIMUS

DOCTOR ANIMO

BRAINSTORM

DIRT FARMER

PIERCE

BEN & PIERCE

GRANDPA MAX

BEN & GRANPA MAX

THE HELPERS

SHARD

BIG CHILL

HELPERS

TEENAGE SON

CHROMASTONE

(V.O.)

(O.S.)

(O.C.)

(CONT'D)

(SUBTITLE)

(effort)I can barely keep this doorway open. You've got to hurry.

INT

EXT

I/E

BELLWOOD

TENNYSON MINI-VAN

TENNYSON MINI-VAN - DAY

BELLWOOD STREETS - DAY

BEN'S HOUSE

LIVING ROOM, BEN'S HOUSE

KARL'S WORK ROOM

BEN'S ROOM

ACT TWO

END ACT ONE

BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CREEPY SHIPYARD OFFICE/BEN'S HOUSE

FOYER, BEN'S HOUSE

DECK, EUSTACIA VYE

CARGO HOLD, EUSTACIA VYE

DINING ROOM, BEN'S HOUSE

BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, BEN'S HOUSE

ATTIC, BEN'S HOUSE

ATTIC, BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BELLWOOD DOCKS

BEN'S GARAGE

NULL VOID

CRAGGY ASTEROID

CRAGGY ASTEROID - NIGHT

NULL VOID SKY

BARN, NULL VOID DIRT FARM

NULL VOID DIRT FARM

FLASHBACK MONTAGE

BARN, NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

MIST-SHROUDED PLANETOID

THE WRENCH'S LAIR

END ACT TWO

THE WRENCH'S LAIR - DAY

NULL VOID DIRT FARM - NIGHT

ANUMUS'S CITADEL

GATES, ANUMUS'S CITADEL

ANUMUS'S CITADEL - NIGHT -

COURTYARD, ANUMUS'S CITADEL

DAY

NIGHT

AFTERNOON

MORNING

EVENING

LATER

MOMENTS LATER

CONTINUOUS

THE NEXT DAY

DUSK

DAWN

S

SHORTLY

CUT TO:

FADE IN:

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO:

MATCH CUT TO:

JUMP CUT TO:

FADE TO BLACK.

DISSOLVE BACK TO: