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BEN 10: ALIEN FORCE

"The Gauntlet"

(was "Sticks and Stones")

Written by Rob Hoegee

TEASER

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL AREA (RE-USE IF POSSIBLE) - DAY

<DEBRIS FLIES> as a powerful ENERGY BLAST slams into CONCRETE KEVIN, shattering the concrete shell at his shoulder.

KEVIN

<IMPACT>

BEN

You okay?

CONCRETE KEVIN

Been better.

WIDEN to see that our heroes (BEN, GWEN and CONCRETE KEVIN) are in the midst of a thrilling BATTLE against a TECHADON SUIT - a menacing (and much larger) ROBOT ASSASSIN. The TECHADON stalks towards the fallen heroes.

GWEN

<effort>

GWEN

We're in trouble.

CONCRETE KEVIN

You think?

Kevin touches the pavement and re "armors up," repairing his broken concrete shell.

GWEN

How long before you can change?

Ben looks at the Omnitrix and frowns.

BEN

Still need a few seconds.

GWEN

I'll see what I can do...

Gwen stands and throws up a series of 3 ENERGY SHIELDS, blocking Techadon's path.

GWEN

<3 EFFORTS>

The Techadon smashes the first shield.

GWEN

<IMPACT>

Trepidatious Gwen looks at Ben.

GWEN

Ben?

GWEN

<effort>

Ben looks at his watch and shrugs. The Techadon smashes the Second shield.

GWEN

<IMPACT>

GWEN

Running out of time, here...

GWEN

<effort>

BEN

Almost...

The Techadon smashes the final energy barrier.

GWEN

<Impact> That's it, Ben!

But it's not. Concrete Kevin steps between Gwen and Techadon, then POUNDS the Techadon with all his strength.

CONCRETE KEVIN
<striking EFFORT>

The Techadon staggers back two steps, then rights itself, lashing out at Kevin with a big punch that sends him flying.

CONCRETE KEVIN
<charging punch>

CONCRETE KEVIN
<impact/landing OOF!>

Fallen Kevin is helpless. Techadon reaches down for him with his gigantic hand and wraps his fingers around Kevin's chest! He squeezes so hard that cracks radiate out on Kevin's concrete shell.

KEVIN
<GROANS>

GWEN
Let him go!

GWEN lashes at the Robot with a razor-sharp ENERGY PLANE. The Techadon looks up confused.

A BEAT... then Techadon's ARM falls off (cleanly severed just below the elbow joint. It's the Zorro, "you missed," bit.) <CACHUNK!>. Gwen looks pleased. Kevin grouses.

The Techadon's eyes light up, it's not finished by a long shot.

GWEN

Uh, oh.

Ben smiles, excited. His turn.

BEN

It's okay, I'm back in business. You know who would be perfect for this?

KEVIN

The suspense is killing me.

Ben smacks the Omnitrix on his wrist, and after a cool TRANSFORMATION, we see him as GOOP for the first time!

GOOP

Goop!

GWEN AND KEVIN Both recoil at the gross, gelatinous glob.

GWEN/KEVIN

(in unison)

Ew.

GOOP

You know this is cool.

GOOP moves into position. The Techadon takes a SWING (with his good arm), cleaving GOOP in two.

Goop
(mildly annoyed)
Hey!

GWEN AND KEVIN react. A little worried, a little grossed out.
GOOP however instantly RE-FORMS into a solid mass.

CLOSE on the robot... who lifts up its arm stump (NOTE: It's a robot, so the inside is servos and rods, not anything alive) and begins to REBUILD the missing piece.

GOOP
Oh, that's not gonna happen.

GOOP STRETCHES himself and POURS inside the machine before its finished sealing up. A clump of Goop "caps" the opening of the arm, like a whitehead on a pimple. The rest of Goop snakes inside.

GOOP POV
...snaking our way up through the circuitry of the robotic menace.
GOOP Swells, filling every space available.

BACK OUTSIDE

Techadon swells from the internal pressure. GOOP begins to OOZE out of every crack and joint on the robot as he EXPANDS inside. Then... <BOOM!> the Techadon EXPLODES in a shower of sparks and GOOP.

The Techagon is completely destroyed, there's only smoldering debris left.

REVEAL Goop not so pleasantly covers Gwen, Kevin, the car, the streetlamp, etc.

Gwen realizes what's on her.

GWEN
Ben! Get off of us.

GOOP
(disembodied)
Sorry.

KEVIN
You ought to be.

Goop quickly re-pools and then TRANSFORMS back to Ben.
Kevin picks up the robot arm (all that remains of the TECHADON) and tosses it in the trunk of the car. Goop REVERTS back to Ben.

BEN
That was pretty cool, though. Like the old days.

KEVIN
Whatever. Long as we took care of this thing for good.

Kevin slams the trunk closed.

CUT TO:

INSIDE THE TRUNK

The disembodied robot hand TWITCHES, clenching its fingers before going motionless again.

ACT ONE

EXT. "MR. SMOOTHY" - DAY

Think Jamba Juice. Outside, the cool kids hang.

PARKED OUT FRONT is the GTO - Kevin methodically polishing a spot with a cotton rag.

KEVIN

I swear there's still Tennyson goo on here.

GWEN

(dismissive)

No there isn't.

ON BEN

Emerging from the store. He carries an extra-large DRINK CARRIER full of SMOOTHIES with BOTH HANDS. Having just defeated the robot with a new cool monster, he's on top of the world.

BEN

<sniff> Nectarine smoothies for everybody! Hey!

<SPLAT>

BEN LOOKS DOWN to find the drink now dripping down the front of his clothes.

BEN

Aw! Should have said on everybody.

Ben looks up to find CASH and JT - laughing.

CASH/JT

<laughing>

CASH

Whoops. Hey, JT? Looks like somebody had an accident.

JT

Yeah, lookit that mess, Cash. Need me to get you a sippy cup, Ben?
Or maybe a diaper?

CASH/JT

<more laughing>

WIDEN - Cash and JT are the only ones laughing however. The rest of the HIGH SCHOOL AGED KIDS (Stock) take cautious, uncomfortable steps back.

KIDS

<nervous MUTTERING>

ON KEVIN AND GWEN - Kevin takes a step towards the confrontation. Ben is quick to raise a hand and shoot him a look says: "back off - I've got this."

BEN

(unconcerned)

Okay, you got me. Good one.

Cash gets in his face, close.

CASH

Well... what are you gonna do about it, HUH?

Cash give Ben a shove... and gets smoothie on his hand.

BEN

<shove>

CASH

<disgusted GRUNT>

As Cash wipes his hand on his jeans, a few of the kids laugh.

KIDS

<TITTING LAUGHS>

Cash is embarrassed.

CASH

Now look what you made me do.

Cash takes another step forward. Ben quickly moves his Ominitix into striking position. Eyes narrowed. Showdown.

ON GWEN - eyes wide. She knows what's coming.

BACK TO BEN - who puts his arm down.

BEN

You know what? You two aren't even worth it.

Cash and JT look confused.

CASH

Huh?

BEN

It's ridiculous. Could you at least try being original for a change? You've been doing the same old bully routine since the second grade, Cash. It's tired. Spilling my drink? Seriously?

Cash doesn't know what to say. Around them, the GATHERED KIDS can hardly believe Ben is talking to Cash this way. Jaws are dropped.

BEN

I can't believe I used to be afraid of you. Look around, Cash. We've all grown up. But you're still the same pathetic loser who has to torment others just to feel good about himself. You're just sad.

KIDS

<surprised MUTTERING>

Without another word, Ben walks out of the shot, leaving Cash in stunned silence.

KIDS

<"oooooooooh!">

On Cash's face as we hear the sound of KEVIN'S GTO <DOOR CLOSING> Cash is left in silence, until the gathered crowd ERUPTS IN CHEERS.

KIDS

<CHEERS!>

Cash turns BEET RED and quickly walks away in the other direction, JT following right behind.

CUT TO:

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Establish Kevin Driving, Gwen shotgun, Ben in the back seat, buckling his seat belt.

GWEN

I'm proud of you Ben. You could have totally gone alien on that creep.

Kevin turns the ignition.

The GTO DRIVES OFF.

KEVIN

(disagreeing)

I would have decked him.

CUT TO:

EXT. AN EMPTY STREET - MINUTES LATER

CASH and JT. Cash is still steamed. He kicks at a SODA CAN. JT is a pace or two behind, not helping.

CASH

<kick>

JT

Man, he got you good, Cash. You should have seen your face. When, when he said--

CASH STOPS and turns on JT - silenced.

CASH

Nobody does that to me, JT! Ever. Tennyson is going to pay. I'll get him back - then everybody'll be laughing at him.

JT is nervous - looking around as he searches for words. He finds them across the street. Perking up as he notices:

JT

Hey, it's Kevin's car.

ACROSS THE STREET

The GTO is parked on the side of a DINER.

CLOSER

And we can see Ben, Kevin and Gwen sitting in a WINDOW SEAT. Eating salad.

Cash sees them. JT signifies as they both look at the car.

CASH

Yeah, so?

JT

So, if it was me, I'd go trash it. Leave Ben for later. You mess up Kevin's car and everybody will know you're bad. The baddest in town. They'll be talking about it for years.

Cash thinks about it... and SMILES.

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER:

The GTO is silently moving away from the diner.

WIDER

CASH/JT

<push>

KEVIN

<funny noise>

GWEN

<lil laugh>

and we see it's because Cash and JT are PUSHING it out of the lot and right to the edge of a...

STEEP HILL:

where with one big push, they send it over the crest.

JT/CASH

<pushing efforts>

CASH

<open mouth>

TRACK WITH THE CAR As it ROLLS BACKWARDS down the steep, rocky hill. It bounces up and down, picking up speed as it rolls. The Hood pops up from one of the bumps.

BACK TO CASH and JT - wide eyed with wonder.

ON THE CAR

It HITS a TREE STUMP at the bottom of the hill (it's the divider for the road at the bottom of the hill). The car stops dead, its REAR fender takes most of the damage, but the sudden stop sends Alien Technology, including the robot arm from the Teaser, flying out. It's scattered all over the place<HORN BLARING>.

BACK TO CASH AND JT - morbid disbelief. Cash may even look a little bit worried. Clearly a prank that went too far.

JT

Dude, that's hard core.

Cash looks over his shoulder at the Diner.

CASH

C'mon.

They start down the hill...

CUT TO:

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

<THE HORN> still blaring. Cash KICKS the car. It stops.

CASH

<kick>

WIDER as they marvel at the high- tech debris in the trunk.

JT

Look at all this weird stuff! Think we could sell it?

But before they can grab any, from the top the hill OS:

KEVIN (O.S.)

(shoutin)

Hey!

REVEAL: Kevin, Ben and Gwen at the top of the hill.

KEVIN

(shouting)

What did you do to my car!?!

The three begin to RUN towards them - Kevin well ahead.

BACK DOWN THE HILL

Cash and JT share a look - and then RUN.

CASH

Grab something!

JT grabs the first thing he sees: the ROBOT ARM from the teaser.

They DUCK into THE WOODS just as...

KEVIN reaches the car a few steps ahead of Gwen and Ben. His face is contorted in pain.

KEVIN

(deeply hurt)

Oh.

GWEN

(sympathetic)

Kevin...

She puts a hand on his shoulder. He shrugs her away. Ben's look hardens. He begins to CHASE after the two...

BEN

They won't get far.

But as he reaches the dark Woods, they're already gone. Ben's about to activate the Omnitrix, but Gwen (having followed) stops him.

GWEN

Don't, Ben.

BEN

I can fly after them. I'll find them.

GWEN

Then what? Give up your secret? Like you said - they're not worth it. Besides. They can't hide forever.

CUT TO:

INT. MANNY AND KEN'S FAMOUS FORMS AND DISPLAYS - EST. 1902 -DUSK

But now very much out of business. It's an abandoned MANNEQUIN FACTORY, turned Cash and JT's hangout. Cash looks over the arm with disdain.

CASH

All that cool stuff, and you grab an ARM?

JT picks it up after Cash discards it.

JT

I think it's pretty cool. Kinda like a glove. Look.

The hollow of the arm fits perfectly around JT's. After slipping it on, he plays make-believe.

JT

Behold the awesomeness of my mighty robot arm! <laser sounds>

Much to their surprise, it actually shoots an ENERGY BEAM. JT is KNOCKED BACK.

JT

<falling> Ahhh ... Ooooff.

As he sits back up, he looks at the HOLE the beam made in the wall. JT and Cash share an excited look.

QUICK CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

A row of BOTTLES has been lined up. <PLINK!> One of them is KNOCKED DOWN.

JT

Whohoo!

CASH

All right!

REVEAL - JT has the arm on, the INDEX FINGER extended. <PLINK, PLINK, PLINK> he knocks three more down with a fairly subdued beam of ENERGY.

CASH grabs at the arm and PULLS. It RESISTS.

The arm tears free.

CASH

Give it.

JT

I found it.

CASH

So?

JT

So, it's my turn.

JT

Ow, ow!

JT

<struggle, release> Oooofff..

CASH

It ain't finders, keepers, JT. It's mine.

Cash sips it on. It SEALS TIGHTLY around his arm. He then turns to a row of tattered DRESS FORMS and makes a FIST with the glove. <WHOMP!> It fires, knocking a form backwards through the air and into the WALL where it <EXPLODES> in a cloud of stuffing.

CASH

<excited laughter>

Cash takes aim again and proceeds to MOW DOWN the whole row.

When the STUFFING SETTLES, Cash has an almost WILD, VACANT look in his eyes. He laughs again. This time it has a barely perceptible METALLIC TINGE.

CASH

(slightly metallic)

<laughing>

JT

Cash, you okay?

CASH

(slightly metallic)

Oh yeah. This'll scare the juice out of Tennyson. Last time he'll ever talk smack to me.

JT

<laughs> That'd be hilarious.

(then, realizing)

You're not joking.

JT instantly quiets. A subtle metallic SHEEN glosses over Cash's eyes for a scant moment.

For the first time, we see a sense of serious concern on JT's face.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESS SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT:

Moonlight spills through broken factory windows. CASH is sitting in silhouette, his face and body obscured by shadows.

JT moves into frame. He silently reaches for the arm. Cash STIRS. JT flinches - holding steady. A BEAT and he tries again.

But just as he's gets close enough to touch it...

CASH's eyes OPEN and GLOW RED. What's more, the arm is STILL ATTACHED and the tech has begun to SPREAD. It now covers MOST OF HIS ARM.

JT steps back with alarm as Cash speaks with a now pronounced metallic voice.

JT

<startled cry & impact>

Cash

I said it's mine.

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. KEVIN'S BORROWED GARAGE - MORNING

The GTO is up on blocks. Still a mess. Parts strewn everywhere. Kevin is on a mechanic's sled under the car. We can only see his legs. Gwen is asleep nearby in an old swiveling office chair, her magazine open on her lap.

KEVIN (O.S.)

<incoherent angry mumbling>

AT THE BAY DOOR - BEN enters - he's got a Mr. Smoothy Juce for each of them.

BEN

You've been here all night?

Kevin answers back from under the car.

KEVIN (O.S.)

And I'm not leaving until my ride is cherry.

BEN

Want some help?

Kevin slides out from under the car. Bleary eyed. Covered in grease.

KEVIN

You wanna help me? Go away.

Ben cocks an eyebrow. He takes it in stride.

BEN

Fine by me.

Ben turns to go, leaving two smoothies on a WORK BENCH. He takes a step, re-considers, then turns back and takes one of them back.

BEN

No juice for you.

And he's gone.

ON GWEN - now awake. She steps in next to the workbench.

GWEN

I'm sorry about your car, Kevin. But you don't have to be a jerk to Ben.

KEVIN

Yuck

Kevin "ignores" her, taking a theatrical sip of the Smoothie Ben left behind. Kevin makes a face and sticks out his tongue in displeasure.

KEVIN

I got some kind of fruit bone in it...

He looks over at Gwen, her arms folded. She glowers at him. He folds.

KEVIN

Yeah, okay. I'll go get him.

He starts to leave the shop, but just as Kevin steps out, JT arrives in a panic.

JT

<panting, running>

JT

(frantic)

Where's Ben? I gotta warn him. Something's wrong with Cash.

Kevin puts it together.

KEVIN

The guy who messed with my car?

(then recognizing JT)

And weren't you with him?

Kevin takes a step towards JT. JT takes a nervous step BACK.

JT

It... it was his idea! Really!

GWEN

(skeptical)

Uh huh.

JT

Cash is looking for Ben, says he's going to teach him a lesson.

KEVIN

I wouldn't worry about Ben, I'd Worry about your friend. Where is he?

JT

At, at the old mannequin factory downtown. We hang there sometimes.
Okay, all the time...

KEVIN

Got it.

GWEN

Kevin! Don't do anything stupid!

Kevin storms off.

JT

GWEN

(to herself)

Waste of breath.

JT is still there, unsure of where to go. Gwen gives him a curious look.

GWEN

What happened to you, JT? Back in first grade, you and Ben used to eat paste together. You were nice. Then you started hanging with Cash.

JT

Cash isn't so bad.. I make him laugh and he always has my back.

GWEN

Both of you act like total jerks.

JT is quiet for a second, then:

JT

Cash is Cash. What do you want from me?

GWEN

Seems to me you have a lot of influence over him.

JT

Enough so I get to watch him beat people up, instead of getting beat up myself.

GWEN

Sounds like the basis of a great friendship.

Another 'huh?' look from JT. Gwen switches tacks.

JT

<grunt> <gasp>

GWEN

(giving up)

Why are you still here, anyway? If Cash is such a good guy, why don't you go hang out with him?

JT lowers his head and looks at his feet. He's afraid.

JT

Look, I just wanted to warn Ben...

GWEN

Don't. It's not like when we were little, Ben can take care of himself.

JT

What about me? Cash is seriously bent. I mean, something's wrong. And if he finds out I told...

GWEN

Nothing will happen to you, JT.

CUT TO:

INT. MANNY AND KEN'S - DAY

A DOOR is kicked in.

WIDEN - as the light spills in behind him, Kevin steps into the factory.

KEVIN

Knock knock.

Kevin looks around. The place is empty.

KEVIN

Don't bother hiding. Your weasel friend already told me you were here.

Then, from the shadows:

CASH (O.S.)

(metallic filter from now until he's cured)

Levin? I don't have any beef with you.

KEVIN

That's where we differ. You trashed my car.

Out from the shadows steps CASH. His eyes GLOW. More than HALF his body is covered in TECH.

KEVIN

Okay, that's a surprise.

Cash FLEXES his metal arm.

CASH

Pretty cool, huh? I can also do this.

CASH fires an <ENERGY BLAST> at the wall next to Kevin. It blows a hole through it.

CASH

You were just about to leave, right?

Kevin touches a concrete post. The concrete begins to SPREAD, creating a giant, stone club of a fist. KEVIN ARMORS UP.

CONCRETE KEVIN

No, this is good. This is really good.

CASH

What are you talking about?

CONCRETE KEVIN

See, now that you're all jacked up I don't have to hold back.

Kevin SMASHES the floor, creating a SHOCKWAVE that bounces Cash into the air. Almost in the same move, Kevin SIDEARMS a heavy WORK TABLE that FLIES across the room and flattens Robot Cash against the wall. It's a Cash sandwich. The wall and the table are the bread.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<pounding/ punching effort>

CASH

<kicking>

CASH

<bounced/slammed OOF!>

A BEAT...

Then the table SPLINTERS as Cash frees himself. Cash is actually surprised.

CASH

That didn't even hurt!

CONCRETE KEVIN

Yeah? How about this? <EFFORT>

Kevin takes a BIG SWING at Cash, who BLOCKS the blow and returns with another ENERGY BLAST that sends Kevin flying across the room - this time with enough impact to send stone Kevin THROUGH the wall.

CASH

<blocking effort>

CONCRETE KEVIN

<2 punches> <block>

CONCRETE KEVIN

<impact> <keep alive>

Cash is wide eyed with surprise. He smiles, looking at his gauntlet as it still <CRACKLES> with energy.

CASH

No way.

Then a <RUMBLE> from below. The floor BUCKLES as something fast approaches Cash from underneath. Like a shark just under the surface. It's KEVIN, and he BREAKS through the floor with such power that Cash is toppled over.

CASH

<impact OOF!>

CASH

<impact>

Clasps both hands together over his head and brings them pounding down on the METAL half of Cash.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<swinging EFFORT>

CONCRETE KEVIN

<impact>

CASH Raises a fist and BLASTS Kevin off of him. Kevin hits the Ceiling with a THUD, then comes FALLING back down into the HOLE he just made in the floor a second ago.

CONCRETE KEVIN (O.S.)

<IMPACT>

Cash gets back to his feet. A hollow, cracked IMPRESSION of him is left in the floor from Kevin's strike.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<effort>

ANGLE DOWN - CASH'S POV

In the basement below, Kevin is slow to get up. Cash takes aim and blasts at Kevin RAPID FIRE. The DIRECT HITS begin to CHIP pieces off of his concrete armor.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<keep alive>

CONCRETE KEVIN

<multiple HITS>

KEVIN ROLLS out of the line of fire, and reaches out to a STEEL GIRDER.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<strain>

CASH Jumps down into the hole and continues his BLASTING. Before Kevin can fully "steel up"...

CLOSE ON KEVIN

CONCRETE KEVIN

<weak struggle>

All he can do is attempt to SCRAMBLE out of the way as Cash keeps blasting.

CONCRETE KEVIN

<2 impacts> <Keep alive>

Finally, Kevin is cornered. No where to run. This doesn't seem to phase him though. Defiant:

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

Take your best shot.

BACK UP ABOVE

On the main floor of the factory, mostly steel Kevin is BLASTED up through the floor. He lands back down with a <THUD>.

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

<2 IMPACTS>

Kevin tries to move... but can't. The metal part of his body is twisted and damaged, like his car's bumper. Cash has arrived, and stands over him.

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

(pained)

Okay, that was pretty good.

CASH

Guess this means you're not the coolest kid in town anymore, Levin.

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

(pained)

<groan> And you are? Not on your best day.

Cash's blasting arm begins to <CHARGE UP>. He points it at helpless Kevin.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. MANNY AND KEN'S - CONTINUOUS

The factory windows are <BLOWN OUT> in a tremendous FLASH of light.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MANNY AND KEN'S - CONTINUOUS

ON CASH

TENDRILS of TECH extend from the suit, SPREADING further over his body.

KEVIN Looks up, just conscious. It isn't a pleading look, but Cash mistakes it as one.

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

<KEEP ALIVE>

CASH

You don't have to worry Levin. This isn't about you. Ben Tennyson ,
that's who this is about.

KEVIN looks worried.

CASH

You tell him. 3:00. Mr. Smoothie parking lot. If he doesn't show,
I'm coming for him.

CASH walks away.

ON KEVIN, totally and utterly defeated.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. MR. SMOOTHIE - DAY

Just like before, the Kids are out in force.

ON BEN

Sitting on the curb, sucking down another two-hander smoothie.

BEN

(SIGH of pleasure)

Ahhhh!

Gwen enters the shot, arriving in a rush.

GWEN

There you are. I've been looking everywhere for--

(re: smoothie)

--how many of those things have you had today?

BEN

Let me put it this way - enough to know carrot and chocolate aren't two great tastes that taste great toge-- oh.

REVEAL JT Stepping in behind Gwen. He still looks worried - as if Cash is going to jump out from behind a parked car and give him the business at any second. He tries to be cordial to Ben, but it's just plain awkward.

JT

Hey.

Ben ignores JT, addresses Gwen.

BEN

Why is he here?

GWEN

He came to warn you.

JT

(quickly clarifying)

It's Cash...

GWEN

I wasn't worried at first, but Kevin went after him hours ago.

Ben nearly chokes on his beet smoothie.

BEN

You're worried about Kevin? Kevin's going to destroy him!

Gwen isn't so sure. At first.

GWEN

Kevin's not like that, Ben - he's changed. A little.

(considers it)

Okay, maybe this is bad. We should go.

JT leads the way.

JT

I'll show you. We're not far.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANNY AND KEN'S - DAY

The windows blown out from before.

BEN, GWEN and JT are walking towards the building.

GWEN

(trepidatious)

It's all messed up. Like there was a fight.

BEN

It's abandoned. It probably always looked like this.

JT

(disagreeing)

Those holes in the wall are new. But the garbage has been there forever. And there by the loading dock--

WIDEN

JT is talking to no one. Ben and Gwen are already entering the building in the BG.

CUT TO:

INT. MANNY AND KEN'S - DAY

ON GWEN AND BEN, reacting with worry.

BEN
Kevin?

REVEAL Kevin is exactly where Cash left him. He looks bad.

KEVIN
Bet you're loving this.

GWEN
Kevin, what happened? Are you hurt?

KEVIN
(toughing it out)
Not as bad as it looks.

BEN
Hold on a minute. Cash did this to you?

Kevin's silence is a yes.

BEN
<laughing>
(off Gwen's dirty look)
Right. Stopping now.

KEVIN
(straining)
He must have got a hold of some Alien tech. He kinda looks like
that Robot we fought yesterday.

GWEN

An exasperated look.

GWEN

(shouting)

JT!

JT sheepishly steps in.

GWEN

Is there anything you forgot to tell us?

JT

Um ... maybe. When we - I mean Cash - trashed your car and all that stuff fell out, we grabbed something. A big metal glove. It shoots lasers.

BEN AND GWEN share a concerned look.

JT

I tried to get it back. But he wouldn't give it up. It's like it possessed him. I'm telling you, he's not himself.

KEVIN

He called you out, bro. 3:00. The Mr. Smoothy.

BEN

Okay, this is going to end. Now.

BEN heads for the door.

KEVIN

<cough> More like in 15 minutes.

BEN STOPS. Huh? Kevin holds up his watch. Ben looks at his Omnitrix and shrugs.

BEN

(explaining)

Doesn't tell time.

BEN exits. Gwen watches Ben go, then looks to Kevin, then back to the door.

KEVIN

Go, I'll be okay.

GWEN

I'll come back for you after.

She follows her cousin.

JT waits for an uncomfortable beat with Kevin, then runs to catch up.

JT

Wait up!

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. SMOOTHY PARKING LOT - 3:00PM

CROWD

<Walla>

<WHOMP!> a car is knocked off the road by a powerful ENERGY BLAST. Cash is now almost completely covered by the robotic plating. His VOICE is now fully metallic.

CROWD

<scared walla>

KID 1

<running and falling>

KID 2

<running and falling>

CASH

You guys thought I was so funny? Who's laughing now?

WIDEN As we see the kids outside the store - the same group who witnessed Cash's earlier humiliation by Ben. They shrink back in fear.

KIDS

<fearful walla>

Eyes glowing, Cash moves towards the "cool kids". He stops when a VOICE calls out from behind him.

BEN (O.S.)

Hey!

REVEAL BEN

He's standing in the middle of the now DESERTED street. Like Gary Cooper in "High Noon". It's Ben alone.

BEN

What is your problem?

CASH

You're my problem, Tennyson. But now I've got power. And no one can stop me, not even your friend, Kevin

Cash then turns to the kids to make his point.

CASH (CONT'D)

That's right. I kicked Kevin Levin's butt.

(turning back)

And you're next, Tennyson.

BEN holds his ground.

BEN

I'm not going to fight you, Cash.

CASH

Well then, this should be over pretty quick.

Cash CHARGES up to fire, just as GWEN AND JT arrive.

JT

Cash!

CASH turns to face them. JT takes a cautious step towards Cash.

JT

Look, this is messed up. We were supposed to be having fun. This is
ain't you, man.

CLOSE ON CASH. His eyes burning with anger. He turns his aim on JT.

CASH

You ratted me out!

CASH FIRES... but in the blink of an eye, the beam is BLOCKED by an
ENERGY FIELD. Gwen is now protecting JT. She nods to JT.

GWEN

<effort>

GWEN

Nice friend you got there.

Ben is about to hit his omnitrix as CASH CHARGES Gwen and JT.

CASH

<charging ROAR!>

CHROMASTONE (O.S.)

Chromastone!

Right before robot Cash reaches Gwen and JT. <CRASH!> he's TACKLED out of frame by CHROMASTONE.

CASH

<impact OOOH!> <4 tumbles>

CHROMASTONE and Cash tumble and roll. When the dust clears, the two are squaring off. ChromaStone raises a cautioning hand.

CHROMASTONE

Cash, listen to me. You don't want to do this.

CASH quick draws with a massive <ENERGY BLAST>.

CASH

<grit teeth effort>

It BOUNCES harmlessly off crystalline ChromaStone and DESTROYS a nearby TRAFFIC LIGHT. Cash tries again, and this time ChromaStone ABSORBS the blast. He GLOWS from the energy.

CHROMASTONE Discharges the energy right back at Cash, who's sent FLYING backwards.

CASH

<impact OOOH!>

CHROMASTONE

You can't beat me, Cash.

CASH sits up, more determined than ever.

CASH

You think just because you're some kind of freak I'm going to stop?
I'm never going to stop. Ever.

Cash KNOCKS Chromastone over with a powerful blow, then picks him up by the ankles.

CHROMASTONE

<IMPACT, then CRY of surprise>

Wielding ChromaStone like a CLUB, Cash proceeds to cause damage to everything but ChromaStone.

The corner of a BUILDING is taken out...

CHROMASTONE

<IMPACT>

A CAR is dented down the middle...

CHROMASTONE

<IMPACT>

A LIGHTPOST bends over on itself..

CHROMASTONE

<IMPACT>

Finally, frustrated Cash THROWS ChromaStone into the side of a parked SEMI TRAILER.

CHROMASTONE

<IMPACT>

A beat later, ChromaStone emerges from the truck, not a scratch on him.

CASH

Told you.

CASH approaches once again. ChromaStone and Cash GRAPPLE hand to hand in a "test of strength."

CASH

<growling attack>

CHROMASTONE

(straining)

Why are you doing this? Why me?

CASH

(straining)

Why not?

CHROMASTONE

I'll show you why not. <EFFORT>

Chromastone redoubles his effort, forcing Cash backwards, bending his wrists back and forcing him to his knees.

CASH

<losing EFFORT>

The robotic suit is now cracking and <SPARKING>.

CHROMASTONE

It doesn't have to be this way Cash. Neither of us win anything by fighting. Just stop.

CASH looks down at the damaged robotic shell that's now nearly covering him completely. Resigned:

CASH

(panicked)

I can't.

ON JT

As he steps out of Gwen's protective bubble towards his friend.

JT

Yeah, you CAN.

CASH

(panicked)

No. The machine wants to fight. Look, it's fixing itself already.

Cash's metal parts are repairing themselves.

JT

The Cash I know isn't gonna let a pile of scrap metal tell him what to do. You're the toughest kid in school. **Fight** it!

CASH

How?

JT

That thing doesn't control you, you control it.

CASH

Maybe.

Cash concentrates, then grimaces.

CASH

01:20:54:23

<pained EFFORT>

The metal parts of Cash flow off of him, heading towards his arm.

CASH

(the metallic filter is gone)

Get off me!

Nothing's left but the original ARM. JT pulls it off of Cash.

JT

<EFFORT>

JT

<effort & throw>

Then lets the repulsive thing drop to the ground. Cash is free of the robotic shell.

JT/CASH
<falling>

CASH
<exhausted panting>

JT puts a hand on his shoulder, then helps his friend up.

JT
C'mon, Cash. Let's go.

Chromastone

Cash and JT walk past ChromaStone. Not a word is said between them. Only a look. This fight is over. Permanently.

When JT passes by Gwen, he stops.

JT
Thanks.

Gwen smiles. JT looks over at Chromastone as Chromastone REVERTS back to Ben.

JT
You too. We should get together sometime and eat paste.

BEN
Huh?

JT AND CASH - Walking away. Their backs are to us. Walking off into the sunset kinda shot. After a beat:

GWEN

I feel like I'm forgetting something.

BEN

You did. We have to lock that Robot glove up someplace where it can't take control of anyone else.

GWEN

True. But that's not it.

Ben grabs Gwen's arm and drags her towards the front door of the Mr. Smoothy.

BEN

You forgot to buy me another Smoothie?

They go inside and the door swings shut on them, leaving us outside.

GWEN

No...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MANNY AND KEN'S - AFTERNOON

Kevin still laid out, waiting.

KEVIN

Hello? Anybody? Hello?

Kevin stands up and begins walking laboriously away from camera.

KEVIN

(mocking Gwen)

"I'll come back for you after."

And as his solitary voice echoes through the factory, we...

END

JÜCE

Jüce

Süper

punchline

smoothie

"The Gauntlet"
(Formerly "Sticks and Stones"
680-010
Ben 10: Alien Force
By
Robert Hoegge
Story Editor
Dwayne McDuffie

As Broadcast Draft 06/04/08

JT

GWEN

CASH

KEVIN

BEN

GOOP

GWEN/KEVIN

CASH/JT

JT/CASH

KIDS

CHROMASTONE

CASHCASH

CONCRETE/STEEL KEVIN

CONCRETE KEVIN

CROWD KID 1

KIDS<CHEERS!>

(V.O.)

(O.S.)

(O.C.)

(CONT'D)

(SUBTITLE)

(adr)

(panicked)

INT.

EXT.

I/E.

KEVIN'S CAR

MANNY AND KEN'S

SÜPER JUICE

SÜPER JUICE

BOTTOM OF THE HILL

ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL AREA (RE-USE IF POSSIBLE)

MR. SMOOTHY PARKING LOT

DAY

NIGHT

AFTERNOON

MORNING

EVENING

LATER

MOMENTS LATER

CONTINUOUS

THE NEXT DAY

DAY

3:00PM

CUT TO:

FADE IN:

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO:

MATCH CUT TO:

JUMP CUT TO:

FADE TO BLACK.

QUICK CUT TO:

CUT BACK TO: