"Hit 'Em Where They Live"

Ben 10: Ultimate Alien

By Len Wein

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BEN 10: Ultimate Alien "Hit 'Em Where They Live: Written by Len Wein

TEASER

EXT. BEN'S HOME - EVENING - TO ESTABLISH

PUSH IN on the house's KITCHEN WINDOW so we can see Ben's mom SANDRA is listening to her iPOD and has EARBUDS plugged in so she really can't hear anything else. She's washing the dishes. (NOTE: It might be fun if what she's listening to is the original Ben 10 theme song.)

Finally, we get close enough to notice a THREE GREEN TARGETING DOTS maneuvering back and forth until they finally comes to a STOP directly in the center of Sandra's forehead. Still washing dishes, she doesn't notice a thing.

REVERSE ANGLE - back along the laser light beam to reveal:

SEVENSEVEN

Crouched in the bushes in the Tennysons' backyard, aiming his high tech WRIST BLASTER at the unsuspecting Sandra.

CLOSER - as SevenSeven's Weapon POWERS UP. He's about to fire.

1 MAX (O.S.) Hey! SevenSeven!

SevenSeven whirls toward the sound to find:

GRANDPA MAX

Standing behind him, wearing a bandolier of weapons slung across his chest, holding a pair of RAY GUNS, armed for bear and not at all happy.

2 MAX (cont'd)
You want to pick a fight with somebody, give me a try.

WITH SEVENSEVEN - as he swings his wrist blaster toward Max and <OPENS FIRE>.

3 SEVENSEVEN SEVENSEVEN

ON MAX - He tucks and rolls to avoid SevenSeven's blasts (which cut down foliage all around him) and comes up <SHOOTING> his own ray guns.

4 MAX <grunt of effort>

ON SEVENSEVEN - Max's shot demolishes SevenSeven's wrist blaster.

5 SEVENSEVEN <startled computer sounds>

ON SEVENSEVEN'S LEG - a pod on the side of the leg slides open so SevenSeven can pull out a trio of energized DISCS.

WIDER - as SevenSeven throws all three discs at Max at once.

6 SEVENSEVEN (cont'd) <angry computer sounds>

WITH MAX - who ducks quickly, avoiding all three discs, which <EXPLODE> behind him, taking down more foliage.

NEW ANGLE - Max glances at the kitchen window.

ON THE WINDOW - MAX'S POV - to see Sandra still washing dishes, utterly oblivious to the battle outside. Max yells out to Sevenseven.

7 MAX
My daughter-in-law is not a target.
You got that?

ANGLE ON SEVENSEVEN - those creepy extra arms of his pop out of his shoulders and he uses them to start throwing those RODS that jut from his shoulder blades at Max. As each rod is thrown, another rod springs up to take its place.

WITH MAX - he charges right through the barrage of rods, <FIRING> his ray guns at SevenSeven as he comes.

WIDE - as Max reaches SevenSeven, the alien uses Max's own momentum to spin him past and <SLAM> Max into the trunk of a nearby tree. Max takes the impact mostly on his right arm, the sheer force of the impact knocking both ray guns out of Max's hands.

9 MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd) --<startled grunt of impact!>

WITH SEVENSEVEN - as the alien closes in on Max for the kill, he TRANSFORMS his hand into that <WHIRRING> BUZZSAW BLADE.

FAVORING MAX - still leaning somewhat against the tree, cradling his injured right shoulder with his left hand, Max looks down and sees one of SevenSeven's thrown rods lying on ground in front of him.

WITH MAX - his right arm dangling limp at his side, Max picks up the rod with his left hand, as SevenSeven charges at him.

WIDER - stepping aside almost like a bullfighter, Max lets SevenSeven lunge past him, the blade barely missing Max.

CLOSER - as SevenSeven passes, Max <JAMS> the rod right between his shoulder blades into the works there.

ON SEVENSEVEN - he stops short, struggling in vain to reach the rod jammed into his back as his JETPACK starts to <SPUTTER AND SPARK> like crazy.

11 SEVENSEVEN <desperate computer sounds>

WIDER - As Max, still holding his injured shoulder, watches, SevenSeven's jetpack <IGNITES> and the alien rockets skyward, completely out of control.

UP ANGLE - Max watches the erratic pattern of SevenSeven's contrail until the alien is completely lost from sight.

WITH MAX - he glances towards the house just in time to see Sandra put away the last dish, then turn and leave the room. She has seen none of this.

12 MAX
<sigh> That's nine down, who knows
how many more to go.

CLOSE ON MAX - looking directly into camera.

13 MAX (cont'd)
I've got to find some way to stop
this insanity... before it's too
late.

And, off Max's grim expression, we:

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. TRAIN - EVENING - TO ESTABLISH

AN ARMORED TRAIN CAR is roaring down the tracks.

For a beat, we see only the top of the train car, then:

RATH comes flying backwards INTO FRAME, to <SLAM> into the roof of the armored car, and is momentarily stuck in the Rath-shaped depression he's made in the metal.

14 RATH <grunt of impact>

Grinning, Rath <PRIES> himself free, shouting at someone O.S.

15 RATH (cont'd)
Let me tell you something, Rojo--

Interlacing his fingers, Rath < CRACKS HIS KNUCKLES LOUDLY>.

RATH (CONT'D) (cont'd)
--Nobody robs a train when Rath is on the job!

REVERSE ANGLE - to reveal:

ROJO

Flanked by two FULLY-HELMETED BIKER BABES (from the episode "The Alliance"). All are riding on FLYING MOTORCYCLES, and wielding GLOWING ENERGY CHAINS. Rojo swings her chain overhead.

Rojo swings her Chain at Rath, who catches one end of it, as it wraps itself around his arm.

Rojo, GUNS it, dragging Rath face first across the roof of several cars.

18 RATH (cont'd) <OW! OW! OW! OW!>

SUDDENLY, METAL KEVIN is there, one hand shaped like an axehead. He cuts the chain with one swipe.

19 KEVIN <EFFORT>

But Rath's momentum sends him flying forward as the train rounds a corner, he's about to be thrown off, until he slams face first into an ENERGY WALL.

20 RATH

Ow.

He slides down the wall onto the train. It's Gwen.

21 GWEN

No thanks necessary.

22 RATH

That works out nice for both of us.

WIDER - as two henchwomens' souped-up MOTORCYCLES FLY INTO FRAME. They're holding a chain between them, intending to sweep the heroes off the train with it.

Rath sinks his toes into the roof to brace himself, then catches the chain in both hands.

The two motorcycles pivot around Rath and smash into each other. The bikes are demolished, both women land on the roof and roll to their feet, pulling energy pistols. Kevin crushes the pistols, one in each hand.

25 KEVIN

This is the part where you give up.

NEARBY, ROJO starts to fly away.

26 ROJO

Next time, Losers!

27 RATH

Ain't gonna be no next time, Rojo.

RATH picks up one of the ruined cycles he smashed and throws it at the airborne Rojo.

Hoving in midair, Rojo tries to avoid the ongoming cycle, but to no avail. What remains of the cycle <HITS> her bike cleanly, knocking her out of the sky.

She falls on the train at Rath's feet.

29 GWEN

Nice shot!

30 RATH

I was kinda aiming at her head.

31 GWEN

Ben!

Rath TRANSFORMS back into BEN. Kevin also powers down.

32 BEN

All's well that ends well. Anyway, this is our stop...

The train pulls into the trainyard. A crowd of REPORTERS awaits, microphones in hand.

33 REPORTERS

(excited WALLA: "It's him!" / "Ben,
can you tell us what happened?" /
"Is it true you're dating Jennifer
Nocturne?")

34 BEN

My adoring public awaits.

WIDER - to include Gwen and Kevin.

35 GWEN

Just have to have your minute in the spotlight, don't you?

36 BEN

Jealous?

NEW ANGLE - as a sudden downward burst of air stirs up clouds of dust between the kids and the approaching reporters.

37 REPORTERS

<awed WATITA>

And, with that, using its VTOL engines, the new RUSTBUCKET DROPS INTO SCENE directly between the kids and reporters.

38 BEN

Aw, not now.

ON THE RUSTBUCKET - an open hatch on the kids' side of the ship reveals:

GRANDPA MAX, his right arm now in a sling, gesturing for the kids to enter.

WIPE TO:

INT. RUSTBUCKET - MINUTES LATER

With the ship on autopilot, Max talks to the kids.

40 BEN

What was so important it couldn't wait until after my interview?

- 41 MAX
 Your newfound fame <u>is</u> the problem.
- 42 GWEN How?

Ben is having a hard time believing Max.

43 MAX

(to Ben)

Ever since the world found out about your powers, a lot of your old enemies have come crawling out of the woodwork, hoping to get revenge by hurting those close to you.

- 44 BEN Like who? \underline{I} haven't seen anyone.
- And I was hoping to keep it that way. So far I've been able to deal with them without your folks knowing what's going on...

ANGLE ON MAX - he touches his arm in the sling.

MAX (cont'd)
...but now... well, I can't do this alone anymore.

GWEN is really upset by this.

- 47 GWEN
 You should never have been alone,
 Grandpa. You should've let us help.
- 48 BEN (agreeing)
 All you had to do was tell us.
- You kids have enough to worry about.
- This isn't right. There's supposed to be <u>rules</u>. Family is off-limits.
- 51 KEVIN

 If that's how they want to play it, fine.

One of those creeps comes after our families, We put 'em down. Permanently.

52 GWEN Meaning what?

CLOSE ON KEVIN - looking as grim as we've ever seen him.

You know exactly what I mean.

Gwen gives Kevin an uncomfortable look. He can't really mean what she thinks he means... can he?

ANGLE ON MAX - breaking the uncomfortable silence.

54 MAX

At first I thought the attacks were random, but I was wrong. They're organized.

CLOSE ON BEN - his curiosity piqued.

55 BEN Organized? By who...?

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERTED CARNIVAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

PUSH DOWN the midway, tattered flags flapping in the wind, filthy candy wrappers blowing around. Frankly, this place couldn't be creepier if it tried.

As we PUSH THOUGH the grounds towards the tattered MAIN TENT, we hear:

VULKANUS (O.S.)
He said he was going to be here.

57 CHARMCASTER (O.S.) We'll he's not--

PUSH THROUGH INTO THE TENT to find:

VULKANUS, AND CHARMCASTER

Standing around a makeshift table, discussing the situation by candlelight.

58 CHARMCASTER (cont'd)
--and I don't know about you,
Vulkanis, but I don't wait around

for anybody.

Charmcaster sweeps towards the exit, pulling back the flap to reveal:

ZOMBOZO

Lit only by flickering candlelight, his creepy smile filling the frame.

59 CHARMCASTER (cont'd)

(afraid?)

Zombozo...

60 ZOMBOZO

My apologies, Charmcaster. I'm usually quite punctual, but I got a bit caught up in my work.

Charmcaster backs up as Zombozo, carrying a spade, enters the tent.

61 ZOMBOZO (cont'd)
Good help is so hard to find.

He tosses the spade aside and it <CLATTERS> on the ground.

62 ZOMBOZO (cont'd)

(explaining)

Particularly if you carefully bury the remains.

63 VULKANUS

Yeah, yeah, we get it. You're creepy and dangerous. That hasn't gotten your people any closer to Tennyson's family.

Zombozo stares hard into Vulkanus' face. Vulkanus' sneer melts away, replaced with fear. Zombozo smiles and pats him on the cheek, a little too hard.

64 ZOMBOZO

True. And that's why I've asked <u>you</u> here. I'm taking matters into my own hands. I need the best at my back, and that's you two.

FAVORING VULKANUS

65 VULKANUS

So what do we do now? Every time anybody attacks Tennyon's home, they're beaten.

CHARMCASTER reaches out, covers the candle flame with her hand.

66 CHARMCASTER
Then the answer is simple.

She turns over her hand, opens it palm up, to reveal the candle flame is now floating just above it, lighting her face in an eerie way.

67 CHARMCASTER (CONT'D) (cont'd)
We don't attack them at home. We
wait until they're not expecting
us.

Zombozo is pleased.

68 ZOMBOZO

That's it exactly, Charmcaster.

CLOSE ON ZOMBOZO - leering directly INTO CAMERA.

OMBOZO (cont'd)

Now we're finally thinkin' like a

team. <maniacal LAUGHTER>

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON

Sandra is doing Pilates, balancing on a big rubber ball while Ben sits around, anxiously.

70 BEN Everything okay?

71 SANDRA

My body and spirit are in total balance, son. <WHOOPS>

She slips off the ball and lands on the floor.

72 SANDRA (cont'd) Well, my <u>spirit</u> is in total balance.

She climbs back on the ball.

73 SANDRA (cont'd)
Why do you keep asking me if I'm okay? Is everything okay with you?

FAVORING BEN - he tries to cover, awkwardly.

74 BEN
Me? Sure. It's just... I, ah, hear
there's this nasty, uh, flu going
around and--

WITH BEN - looking out the front window to see his father CARL getting into the family car.

75 BEN (cont'd) Hey, where's Dad going?

FAVORING MOM - still exercising.

76 SANDRA

<u>Carl's</u> going to pick up a new grow lamp, why?

77 BEN
Does he really need to go?

78 SANDRA Unless you want the plants to die.

FAVORING MOM - she picks up her Ball and walks out of the room. Ben frowns, pulls out his phone and flips it open.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SOON AFTER

The Tennyson family car comes straight towards us. Thick WOODS rise up on either side of the road.

PUSH IN to see Carl at the wheel.

ON THE ROAD AHEAD - a handful of kids' toy JACKS come rolling across the road in front of the approaching car.

ON THE JACKS - as they suddenly sprout razor-sharp SPIKES on their tips.

WIDER - as the car drives over the jacks, <BLOWING OUT> all four tires.

WITH THE CAR - as Carl struggles to retain control, finally managing to pull the car over to the shoulder of the road amidst the <SQUEAL OF BRAKES>.

ON THE CAR - as Carl gets out and crouches down to examine the damaged tires. Seeing the damage, he frowns and pulls out his JACK.

79 CARL What next?

PULL BACK WIDER - to reveal Zombozo, Vulkanus and Charmcaster moving through the thick woods silently and menacingly towards the unsuspecting Carl, as we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Carl stands looking at the car, scratching his head.

ON THE WOODS - still some distance away, Zombozo, Vulkanus and Charmcaster close in.

See, what'd I tell ya? Pretty easy to take down now.

CLOSE ON ZOMBOZO - grinning that unpleasant grin.

BEN (O.S.)
Only way to get to <u>him</u>, ugly--

The villains turn at the sound to see

BEN, GWEN, AND KEVIN

BEN (CONT'D) (cont'd)
--is by going through us.

ZOMBOZO reaches inside his jacket.

84 ZOMBOZO
Nice entrance. Your exit's going to be even better. (LAUGHS)

He pulls out a nasty-looking SELTZER BOTTLE, then triggers the bottle, firing a sizzling SPRAY at our heroes.

GWEN blocks the liquid with her ENERGY SHIELD.

The "seltzer" rolls down the shield and drips on the ground, promptly DISSOLVING it.

WITH KEVIN - he touches a BOULDER and sheathes in STONE.

85 KEVIN That's not seltzer.

CHARMCASTER reaches into her bag and pulls out a handful of SEEDS. She throws them on the ground in front of Gwen.

CHARMCASTER
I've waited a long time for a rematch, Gwen.

WITH GWEN - uncertain of what the seeds may do, she throws up an energy shield.

87 GWEN

Careful what you wish for.

88 CHARMCASTER

Vitalis Eruptum!

With that, the seeds SPROUT, sending up rapidly-growing VINES that completely ENTANGLE Gwen before she can react.

89 GWEN

(startled gasp)

ON VULKANUS - he pulls out the blaster we saw in "Kevin's Big Score" and <FIRES>.

90 VULKANUS

You're out of your league.

91 BEN

Tell it to--

ben dials up the ULTIMATRIX, SLAPS it, and TRANSFORMS into SWAMPFIRE.

92 SWAMPFIRE

--Swampfire!

Swampfire meets Vulkanus's fire blast with one of his own, the two blasts meeting in midair.

Swampfire's blast pushes back against Vulkanus's blast until the sheer FORCE of it knocks Vulkanus back off his feet.

93 VULKANUS

AHH... <grunt of impact!>

WITH SWAMPFIRE - he fires another blast that knocks the deadly seltzer bottle from Zombozo's hand.

94 ZOMBOZO

Hey! That's not funny!

ON KEVIN - as he <SLAMS> his stone fists against the ground, creating a shockwave that knocks Zombozo off his feet.

WITH SWAMPFIRE - he looks down through the woods, to see his father by the car, changing his flat, still oblivious to the battle going on above him.

FAVORING GWEN - struggling against the tightening vines. Her eyes GLOW VIOLET, then her entire body begins to glow, surrounding her with an energy sheath that slowly EXPANDS, until it SHATTERS the vines that held her, freeing her.

NEW ANGLE - Stone Kevin, his right hand transformed into a giant stone mallet, charges at Zombozo.

96 ZOMBOZO (cont'd) Mine's bigger than yours.

95 KEVIN
Hey clown, laugh this one off!

ZOMBOZO grins, then reaches into his jacket.

WIDER - as Zombozo pulls out a huge MALLET that could not possibly have fit inside Zombozo's coat, yet did.

As Kevin almost reaches him, Zombozo swings the mallet like a baseball bat, and sends Kevin flying.

97 KEVIN (cont'd) <Impact>

98 ZOMBOZO <maniacal LAUGHTER>

ZOMBOZO'S POV - ON CHARMCASTER AND VULKANUS - back to back, barely holding off the assault of Swampfire and Gwen, who are both firing energy bolts at them.

Charmcaster GLARES at Gwen.

100 CHARMCASTER
Not before I put <u>her</u> down.

ZOMBOZO
You'll get your chance, I promise.

ZOMBOZO holds out his hand and opens it to reveal a small colorful BALLOON in his palm.

As we watch, the balloon EXPANDS, growing larger, larger.

102 KEVIN Now what?

lan].. +ba ba]].an 6

Suddenly, the balloon <EXPLODES> into a blizzard of colorful ENERGY CONFETTI, completely obscuring the three villains from sight.

Gwen puts up an ENERGY SHIELD, protecting the kids from the burning confetti.

BEN, GWEN AND KEVIN struggle to see through the blinding paper storm to no avail.

When the confetti clears, the three villains are gone.

Ben and Kevin both TRANSFORM back to NORMAL.

103 GWEN

Gotta give him credit. He really improved his bag of tricks.

104 BEN

We've fought him before? Really?

105 GWEN

Yes! You used to be afraid of clowns, don't you remember?

Ben shrugs.

106 BEN

Huh. Doesn't ring a bell. We fight a <u>lot</u> of people...

107 KEVIN

Scared of clowns. Priceless.

108 BEN

Right now I'm scared that Dad...

NEW ANGLE - the kids look down to the road, to see dad throwing his tire iron in the trunk. He goes around to the front and opens the driver's door.

Back on the Kids as we hea the car dooe ,SLAM>

109 GWEN

Never even knew he was in danger.

CLOSE ON BEN - looking grim.

110 BEN

And I'm going to keep it that way.

CUT TO:

INT. CARNIVAL MAIN TENT - SOON AFTER

Zombozo, Charmcaster, and Vulkanus sit around, licking their wounds. Vulkanus is cleaning a charred spot off his armor.

VULKANUS
So much for teamwork.

FAVORING CHARMCASTER - she pulls a stick of LICORICE from her bag of tricks.

I could have finally finished Gwen off, if you'd just let me. I'm better off on my own.

As we watch, the licorice TRANSFORMS into a nasty-looking SERPENT, then VANISHES in a puff of smoke.

FAVORING ZOMBOZO - gesturing urgently.

No, no, no. You're looking at this completely the wrong way.

114 VULKANUS
Yeah? How should we look at it?

Zombozo leans in, conspiratorially.

TOMBOZO

We learned a great deal from that battle. I finally know exactly how to put an end to Tennyson and company.

116 CHARMCASTER We're listening, clown.

CLOSE ON ZOMBOZO - his snake-like tongue licks his lips.

117 ZOMBOZO

Have either of you ever heard the term divide and conquer?....<

And, off Zombozo's <DIABOLICAL LAUGH>, we:

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. SMOOTHY PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY

Gwen and Sandra are walking across the lot, carrying shopping packages in one hand, and their Mr. Smoothys in the other.

118 SANDRA

Not that I don't enjoy your company, Gwen, but you really didn't have to come along with me.

119 GWEN

We don't spend nearly enough time together, Aunt Sandra. I wouldn't have missed this for the world.

They reach the family car and open the door.

120 SANDRA

You have a warm spirit, Gwen.

Sandra puts her bags inside and reaches for Gwen's.

121 SANDRA (cont'd) Here. Let me have those--

122 CHARMCASTER (O.S.)
I'll happily let you have it.

Gwen and Sandra turn to see

CHARMCASTER

Flanked by a half-dozen of her ROCK MONSTERS.

123 CHARMCASTER (cont'd)
Not what you meant, right?

Charmcaster raises her hands, they GLOW with mystic power, and her monsters start lumbering toward Gwen and Sandra.

124 GWEN

Stay behind me, Aunt Sandra. I'll keep you safe.

125 SANDRA

I'm the adult here. I should--

Stepping in front of Sandra, Gwen raises her hands to reveal they're surrounded by ENERGY SPHERES.

126 SANDRA (cont'd)

--stay behind my super-powered niece. Carry on.

126a GWEN

(efforts)

Gwen <BLASTS> several of the rock monsters to smithereens.

Charmcaster RAGES at her rock monsters, as the remaining ones close in on Gwen.

127 CHARMCASTER
She's just one girl! Can't you useless piles do anything right?

As a rock monster charges at Gwen from either side, she steps up on an energy PLATFORM, steps up on it and BACKFLIPS out of the way as the two rock monsters <SMASH> into each other.

FAVORING SANDRA - crouching behind the car for safety, as she watches Gwen confront Charmcaster.

128 GWEN

We've done this dance before, remember? It never ends well for you.

CHARMCASTER reaches into her bag, pulls out HEX'S STAFF OF POWER, despite it being four feet long.

129 CHARMCASTER
Third time's the charm.

130 GWEN Contego!

Gwen throws up a SHIELD that deflects Charmcaster's blast from Hex's staff.

131 GWEN (cont'd)
Your old power-draining trick won't work this time.

Gwen backs up cautiously, ready for what Charmcaster might throw at her next.

132 GWEN (CONT'D) (cont'd)
I'm way better at magic than I used to b--

And, thus, she backs right into Zombozo, who is standing behind Gwen, grinning.

133 GWEN (CONT'D) (cont'd) --huh?

ZOMBOZO
You really ought'a watch

You really ought'a watch where you're goin', missy.

CLOSE ON ZOMBOZO - holding up his hand so we can see the high-tech JOY BUZZER he's holding in his palm.

If they ain't careful, a person can get hurt.

He slaps Gwen on the back with his open palm, she LIGHTS UP with ELECTRICITY.

136 GWEN <electrified yell>...<faint>

As the stunned Gwen collapses, she sees Zombozo grabbing her aunt by the arm, dragging her to her feet. Charmcaster looks down at Gwen, ready to deliver the final blow with the Staff

137 GWEN (cont'd) <keep alive>

138 ZOMBOZO

C'mon, we got what we came for.

139 CHARMCASTER I haven't. Not yet.

Ido ZOMBOZO

Got a one-track mind, don't ya? But that ain't what we're here for.

Zombozo, shoots a cloud of gas into Charmcaster's face, she instantly collapses. Vulkanus catches her and drapes her over his shoulder.

142 VULCANUS Got her, Boss.

143 ZOMBOZO
Then we are outta here!

Zombozo grabs Sandra by the wrist and yanks her along behind him. She struggles, but is much too weak.

144 SANDRA Gwen, help--

Gwen tries to climb to her feet, but pitches forward, too weak to go on.

145 GWEN
(weakly)
<UGH> Aunt Sandra...<FAINT>

And, as Gwen lapses into unconsciousness, we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. BEN'S HOME - SOON AFTER

PUSH IN as we hear:

146 BEN (O.S.)

You lost her? You lost her?

INT. BEN'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

A woebegone Gwen sits on the couch, as a really upset Ben laces into her. Kevin stands by, for the moment.

147 BEN
You were supposed to <u>protect</u> her.

148 GWEN
I tried, Ben. I... I'm sorry.

149 BEN
"Sorry" doesn't get my mother back.

150 KEVIN
Cut her some slack. She feels bad enough.

Ben turns on Kevin, angrily.

151 BEN

It's not your mother they kidnapped.

Kevin steps up.

152 KEVIN

If it was, I wouldn't stand here blaming people, I'd go get her

back.

Ben calms down.

153 BEN

I'm sorry, Gwen.

154

GWEN

We'll find her.

155

KEVIN

How? Tracking device, Gwen's

spells?

ANGLE ON BEN - smiling slyly.

156

BEN

She was taken by Zombozo.

Ben heads for the door.

157

BEN (cont'd)

So I know exactly where to look.

And, as Gwen and Kevin look at each other, then rush to follow Ben into the night, we:

WIPE TO:

EXT. DESERTED CARNIVAL GROUNDS - SOON AFTER

Ben, Kevin and Gwen move cautiously along the deserted midway, as they walk past the SHOOTING GALLERY.

158

BEN

Be careful. They've gotta be

expecting us.

159

KEVIN

If this is the right place. Just

because he's a clown doesn't mean--

159a

GWEN

(Effort)

As they walk, the mounted LASER RIFLES on the shooting gallery turn and FOLLOW their movement.

WITH THE RIFLES - as they suddenly <OPEN FIRE>.

FAVORING GWEN - she throws up shields that DEFLECT the shots.

160

KEVIN

(conceding)

Okay.

With a sweep of her arm, Gwen uses her energy to <SHATTER> the rifles.

161 GWEN
They know we're here

The kids look around the Midway, ready for whatever else might be thrown at them.

163 BEN
This is a maze. We should split up.

We can cover more ground that way.

164 GWEN
Really? Split up so they can take us out one at a time? Great plan.

165 BEN
Whoever finds them first calls the rest of us. No heroics.

166 KEVIN (grim)

Never crossed my mind.

DOWN ANGLE - the kids move off in three different directions. Gwen puts a hand on Kevin's arm.

167 GWEN

Kevin, we're here to rescue my
aunt, not take the law into our own
hands. Got it?

168 KEVIN
Unfortunately, yeah. We'll do this your way.

168a SANDRA <SCREAM>

WIPE TO:

EXT. HALL OF MIRRORS - MOMENTS LATER

The place looks just like you'd imagine it would. Ben approaches cautiously, then he hears a <MUFFLED SCREAM> coming from inside.

169 BEN

Mom?

Ben rushes in.

INT. HALL OF MIRRORS - CONTINUOUS

Surrounded by MIRRORS, Ben finds himself facing a dozen images of himself. They MIMIC his every move.

170 BEI

How is this supposed to be fun?

Ben moves deeper into the hall.

Behind Ben, one of his images ripples and changes to that of Vulkanus, who STEPS OUT of the mirror to follow.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARNIVAL MIDWAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Kevin looks at the various rides he passes, the TILTAWHIRL, ROLLER COASTER, CAROUSEL, all rickety and old.

171 KEVIN

Used to love carnival rides. Now they just make me sick.

172 CHARMCASTER (O.S.)

You have precisely the same effect on me.

Kevin turns to confront Charmcaster, who is standing atop the decrepit wooden roller coaster.

173 KEVIN

Where's Ben's ma?

174 CHARMCASTER

Where's Gwen?

Kevin reaches out and grabs the iron support structure for the FERRIS WHEEL, sheathing himself in IRON.

175 KEVIN

Probably busy kicking one of your buddies' butts. Kind'a like what I'm gonna do to you.

Charmcaster reveals she's carrying the staff of Hex. It CRACKLES with mystic energy.

176 CHARMCASTER

Talk is cheap.

INT. MAIN TENT - SIMULTANEOUS

This is where Zombozo and company had been having their meetings earlier. Inside, the tent is dark. Gwen enters.

And a sudden SPOTLIGHT illuminates the center ring to reveal ZOMBOZO

standing there, arms wide, as if basking in applause.

177 ZOMBOZO

Ladies and Gentlemen and victims of all ages, welcome to the final act. I promise, it'll be a killer...(LAUGH)

Close on Zombozo, <LAUGHING MANIACALLY>.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF MIRRORS - CONTINUOUS

Sneaking up behind Ben, Vulkanus raises an oversized fist, about to strike Ben down from behind.

As Vulkanus swings, Ben drops and rolls, avoiding the blow, which shatters the ground.

Ben rolls up to his feet, GLARES at Vulkanus.

178 BEN

Shouldn't try to sneak up on someone in a hall of mirrors.

Ben SLAPS THE ULTIMATRIX. Instantly, he is TRANSFORMED into BIG CHILL!

179 BIG CHILL

Big Chill!

Big Chill glares at Vulkanus.

BIG CHILL (cont'd) Where's my mother, Vulkanus?

181 VULKANUS

Where you'll never find her.

Vulkanus <CLAPS> his hands, and a bunch of his MINING TROLLS come <SMASHING> out of the mirrors, picks in hand.

182 VULKANUS (cont'd)
Assuming you even live long enough to try.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARNIVAL MIDWAY - CONTINUOUS

Charmcaster <opens fire> on Iron Kevin with the Hex staff. Kevin easily dodges the blasts.

183 KEVIN

Not a very good shot.

184 CHARMCASTER

Don't have to be.

At which point, an army of her Rock Monsters move in out of the shadows, closing in on Kevin.

185 CHARMCASTER (cont'd)

I cheat.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN TENT - CONTINUOUS

Hands glowing, Gwen closes in on Zombozo.

186 GWEN

Where's Ben's mom?

187 ZOMBOZO

(taunting)

Oh. Like I'd just tell you. (evil

giggle)

Gwen raises her hands to fire her energy blasts.

188 GWEN

You never were much of a threat,

clown.

Zombozo raises his own hands.

189 ZOMBOZO

That was then, girlie. This is now.

With that, one of Zombozo's hands comes shooting out at Gwen on an accordion spring.

Gwen ducks. The fist barely misses her.

190 GWEN

You'd hit a girl?

191 ZOMBOZO

Have we met?

Zombozo's real hand comes out of his sleeve, holding one of those HOLIDAY POPPERS. He aims it at Gwen, and <FIRES>.

The popper spews out a barrage of STREAMERS that catch Gwen before she can react and start to tighten around her.

192 GWEN

(startled gasp, struggles)

CUT TO:

EXT. CARNIVAL MIDWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Rock Monsters charge Iron Kevin, their sheer weight of numbers pushing him back until he slams into the CONTROLS for the tiltawhirl.

CLOSE ON THE CONTROL PANEL - as Kevin's elbow slams into the lever, turning the ride on.

Recovering, Kevin throws the rock monsters off of himself, sending them scattering.

193 KEVIN

(straining)

Get. Off. Me.

ON CHARMCASTER - still shouting orders at her minions.

194 CHARMCASTER

Can't you clods do anything right?

195 KEVIN

What's the problem, can't handle me

yourself?

Charmcaster <FIRES> on Kevin with her staff.

Kevin dodges, moving back towards the spinning tiltawhirl, finally pausing in front of the now almost vertical ride, taunting Charmcaster.

196 KEVIN (cont'd)

C'mon, try harder.

Charmcaster <FIRES> again.

Kevin ducks, and the blast SEVERS the base of the tiltawhirl, freeing the wheel itself, just as Kevin had planned

Like a runaway War Wheel (for you old *Blackhawk* fans), the tiltawheel rockets forward, <SMASHING> through the Rock Monsters like they were made of clay.

WITH THE WHEEL - until it <SLAMS> into the base of the rickety wooden roller coaster, the impact causing the coaster to COLLAPSE completely, taking Charmcaster down with it.

198 CHARMCASTER

<startled scream>

CLOSE ON KEVIN - powering down.

199 KEVIN

And Gwen says I never take her anywhere fun.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN TENT - CONTINUOUS

As she had with the vines earlier, Gwen struggles to escape the streamers binding her.

200 GWEN

<STRUGGLES>

201 ZOMBOZO

Oh gwenygwenygweny you're wasting you strength. My streamers are like steel.

Zombozo approaches.

202 ZOMBOZO (cont'd)

So many ways to finish you. What to do? What to do...?

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF MIRRORS - CONTINUOUS

Big Chill sprays an ice blast around the room, freezing the mining trolls in place. But, for every one he freezes two more seem to take their place.

203 BIG CHILL Time to go ultimate.

Big Chill taps the Omnitrix symbol on his chest and begins a greater transformation. The Omnitrix grows metal tentacles in an "X" pattern, Big Chill grows bigger and stronger, becoming completely intangible, his dark eyes now burning with an inner light, and his VOICE sounds like a cold winter wind. He is now ULTIMATE BIG CHILL!

204 ULTIMATE BIG CHILL Ultimate Big Chill!

The mining trolls swing at him with their picks which just PASS THROUGH him harmlessly.

205 ULTIMATE BIG CHILL (cont'd)
You're tough with an army behind
you, Vulkanus.

Then blows his frigid breath in a circle around the mining trolls, creating a wall of ice cold flames that trap them completely.

206 ULTIMATE BIG CHILL (cont'd)
But now it's just you, me, and fire
so cold it burns.

Vulkanus backs away, nervous.

207 VULKANUS

Whoa! This wasn't my idea. If you want the lady back, I'll tell you where she is. Please don't hurt--

Ultimate Big Chill fires a frigid fire blast at Vulkanus, completely enveloping him.

208 ULTIMATE BIG CHILL For once, just stop talking.

ON VULKANUS - his armor is half-melted, completely fused. He is unable to move.

209 VULKANUS (small, timid)
Okay.

With that, Ultimate Big Chill TRANSFORMS first back to normal Big Chill, then back to Ben. Kevin enters.

210 KEVIN
Nice work. I took care of
Charmcaster.

211 BEN

That means Gwen's with...

Kevin's already running.

212 KEVIN

C'mon!

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN TENT - CONTINUOUS

Zombozo stands over a helpless Gwen, still lying on the floor.

213 ZOMBOZO

Scared?

214 GWEN

Do your worst.

215 ZOMBOZO

Not that I need your permission, but that's exactly what I had in mind. See, this isn't just about beating your cousin. It's about making him suffer.

A SPOTLIGHT shines on a HIGHWIRE, strung across the top of the tent, very high above. On the wire, holding a long balancing pole, is SANDRA who struggles to keep her balance, she can't look down.

215a SANDRA

<Scared off balance noises>

216 GWEN

Aunt Sandra!

217 SANDRA

Gwen? Is that you? Please help, I don't know how long I can keep my balance...

Zombozo looks at a ridiculously oversized pocket watch.

219 ZOMBOZO

About two minutes.

On the rope, it's burning, the flame inching towards Sandra from both sides.

ZOMBOZO (cont'd)
After that, the rope'll burn through.

ON angry GWEN, her eyes lighting up with PINK ENERGY. HER BONDS BURST. She's on her feet again.

Zombozo is still looking up at the highwire.

221 GWEN (O.S.) Zombozo.

Zombozo turns to see Gwen, Eyes glowing, looking at him.

ZOMBOZO How'd you...?

FAVORING GWEN - not at all happy.

223 GWEN
You have no idea who you're dealing with.

ZOMBOZO

We've seen what your cousin can do.

CLOSE ON GWEN - her eyes starting to GLOW VIOLET.

225 GWEN
I'm not talking about him.

ON ZAMBOZO, his face lit by the flickering pink light from Gwen, glowing brighter and brighter. Zombozo is frightened, he backs up as Gwen continues.

226 GWEN (O.S) (cont'd)
I want you to listen to me, then
pass the word to every lowlife you
know:

And brighter still.

227 GWEN (O.S.) (cont'd)

If you want to come after Ben, or

Kevin, or me, fine. That's the life
we chose.

Zombozo backs into the wall, presses his hands against it. Shadows take strange shapes, almost reaching for him. He cowers.

228 ZOMBOZO <WHIMPERS>

229 GWEN (O.S.)

I'm talking to you. Look at me.

(filtered) Look at me!

Almost lost in the glow, Zombozo looks up at camera,.

ZOMBOZO'S POV

Gwen glow is so bright, she is almost lost in it.

231 GWEN (cont'd)

As of right now, the Tennyson

family is off-limits.

Zambozo looks at the shadows and flickering lights playing across him. He bats at them, then sinks to his knees.

231a ZOMBOZO

<Scared whimpering efforts>

232 GWEN (O.S.)

> If any of you ever attacks one of our loved ones, or hurts one of our loved ones, or even bumps into someone we love in the street--

ON GWEN - ZOMBOZO'S POV

She is a Glowing, coruscating swirling, LOVECRAFTIAN MASS OF ENERGY TENTACLES AND TEETH. It's horrible.

233 GWEN (cont'd)

(filtered)

-- this is what awaits you!

ON ZOMBOZO - lit by her glow, utterly terrified. He curls up into a fetal ball.

234 ZOMBOZO

<SCREAMS>

And, off Zombozo's terrified face, we:

WIPE TO:

INT. MAIN TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Gwen is sitting quietly on one of those little platforms elephants usually stand on, eating a cone of COTTON CANDY. She sticks out her cone, offering some to Sandra. Zombozo is nowhere to be seen.

235 GWEN

You <u>sure</u> you don't want any?

236 SANDRA

Thank you, but processed sugar is poison.

Gwen takes a bite as Ben and Kevin rush into the tent, ready for anything. The boys stop short at what they see.

237 GWEN

Hey, guys.

238 BEN

Gwen, Mom? Are you all right?

CLOSER ON GWEN - smiling sweetly.

239 SANDRA

I'm fine, dear. A little concerned about Gwen's diet.

Kevin looks around and realizes:

240 KEVIN

Where's Zombozo?

PUSH IN ON GWEN - smiling a slight, self-satisfied smile.

241 GWEN

You don't have to worry about him anymore. We... came to an understanding.

And, off Gwen's truly unnerving smile, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE

ZOMBOZO

(efforts, impacts)