

SHORTS

By

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EXT. SUBURBAN STREET, "THE CLIFF" COMMUNITY - DAY

A street like any other in outer, soon to be over-developed suburbia. Where mixed use community developments pop up endlessly; each further away than the last, and that include their Central Workplace in the center of the neighborhood community around it. The entire grounds are gated in. It's a new way of living, yet oddly familiar. Mailboxes in front of both humble McHouses, and fancier McMansions. Dogs barking in yards, cars, people on the sidewalk, and frozen apple pie.

TOE JACKSON

(voice-over)

Welcome to THE CLIFF. What developers call "The Future of Yesterday." Which is today. Or tomorrow, too. Anyway, it's where I live. It's your ordinary mixed use community, I guess: dogs, cars, people, neighborhoods. All surrounding BLACK BOX INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED, or "*Black Inc.*" for short. They're the guys that make the Black Box thingy that's been sweeping the nation for the past decade.

We see a giant BUILDING in the Black Box shape. Like the Glass Apple Store in New York City, only this is the size of four square blocks. It sits in the middle of the community, looming large over the neighborhoods around it.

INFOMERCIAL MONTAGE INSERT for the BLACK BOX

GOOFY HOST

I've got a garage full of gadgets, Oscar. Why do I need this one? What does it do?

BRITISH HOST

No, Mike. The question is, "What DOESN'T it do?!"

Rapid-fire images accompany the laundry list of features on the Black Box. The device itself is a... well... it's a *black box* of varying sizes depending on the model. It's like a Rubik's Cube in that it can be reconfigured into different elegant but angular shapes to conform to it's current use.

BRITISH HOST (CONT'D)

It's a multimedia player. A can opener. A dog groomer. A hair restorer. It's a shredder. A humidifer. It's a "clapper." A PDA.

(MORE)

BRITISH HOST (CONT'D)

It calls the ambulance if you fall in your bathroom and can't get up. It removes rust, paint, blood and pet odors. And that's not all.

EXT. BLACK INC., LOADING DOCK - DAY

The delivery truck pulls up to the loading dock and is loaded up with boxes of the BLACK BOX.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

The whole operation is right here. Hundreds and hundreds of employees.

INT. BLACK INC., ASSEMBLY LINE

Black Boxes run down an assembly line belt as workers in black lab coats and safety goggles monitor their manufacture. We follow a BLACK BOX as it goes down the assembly line, which dissolves into--

INT. BLACK INC., COMPUTER LABS

The image of a BLACK BOX rotates in 3-d on a computer monitor. Men and women at banks of computers, working.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Development to manufacturing to shipping. One centralized location.

A woman in her mid-30s (JANE JACKSON) talks to another employee and nods at the image on the computer screen.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

This is where my parents work.

INT. BLACK INC., BOARDROOM

A bunch of suits sit at a huge black conference table. A man in his mid-30s (BOB JACKSON) stands at the head of the table. A giant screen behind him projects sales and growth figures for the company.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Around here, it's where *everyone's* parents work. Our neighborhoods surround Black Box industries. All employees live on premises. So as you can imagine, there's always something going on in our little community... but these past few days took the cake.

Suddenly a huge chunk of the Black Box building explodes from it and lands in the neighborhood street. Something big hit the building from behind. We can almost see it.

The people in the street all back up, turning to face some other giant "something" that is upon them. They almost trip over a giant CRATER in the middle of the street.

Millions of DUNG BEETLES swarm out. Then...

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(voice-over)

No, no, no. Wait. Is that how it went? It's all so fuzzy. Lemme see. Go back a bit.

Dung Beetles swarm in fast-rewind back into the hole. This time, a tiny SPACESHIP emerges from the hole, followed by countless others. They zoom toward the camera then freeze-frame.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(voice-over)

Yeah. I don't think that was it either. If I start with something I know happened, it'll trigger my memory and I'll get the story right. Let's go back a ways.

The picture then rewinds rapidly through the entire movie.

TITLE CARD OVER REWINDING MOVIE: *s h o r t s*.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(narrating)

Wait!

(rewinding stops)

Go forward a bit. Let me actually start HERE.

(picture freezes)

...by telling you about the CLEANEST KID *in the world*. A kid everyone calls NOSE.

Disembodied head of the kid pops up as if out of a TOASTER with a WET SNEEZY sound. His name appears beneath his big, air-filled noggin.

TITLE CARD: Episode 4:

“Nose” Noseworthy in: BIG BAD BOOGER

(MUSIC COMES UP: “BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE” by Thomas Dolby)

EXT. NOSE’S HOUSE - DAY

Nose’s house sits at the end of a street, away from the others. As Toe narrates, we see images that illustrate his words.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

A few years ago, Nose and I were in the same elementary school together. We were best friends.

Photos of NOSE and TOE, where Nose is PICKING HIS NOSE.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(vo)

His father, Dr. Noseworthy, was a really important scientist for Black Inc. But one day, while studying dirt and germs and basically getting too close to his research, his father just flipped.

We see DR. NOSEWORTHY, 30's, go SAUCER-WIDE EYED looking under a super duper micro-scope. We see him obsessively scrubbing his hands. Washing everything he touches.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(vo)

He was suddenly afraid of everything. E-coli. Avian flu. Staph infections. Germs. Smog. Basically, *the world*.

DR NOSEWORTHY takes Nose from school, puts him in the (now plastic covered) backseat of the car, and takes off. They go into the house and shut the door.

It dissolves to the Nose house with a clear ANTI CONTAMINATION BUBBLE around it.

EXT. NOSE'S HOUSE - (PRESENT) DAY

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Dr. Noseworthy threatened to quit his job at Black Inc. unless he was allowed to set up his *own* lab in his house. I don't think the boss, Mr. Black, liked that at all. Mr. Carbon Black, owner of Black Inc.

We see a shot of a disapproving MR BLACK, 40's, up in the Black Inc top floor window, looking down disapprovingly on the bag covered house below. He turns and walks away from the window...

CLOSE-UP of computer monitor showing a detailed blueprint for some kind of invention on it. Keyboard clicks then file CLOSED with TOP SECRET window across it.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

No one knows what Dr. Noseworthy's working on now. Not even Nose knows. And if Nose knows, no one knows what Nose knows, cause not even HE'S around. Nose was locked up that day, and never came out again.

Shot of NOSE in a room, alone, surrounded by monitors that show the world outside.

Shot of an attractive high school age girl wearing glasses, short bob cut with perfectly glued curls by her ears, walking to the house. This is STACEY JACKSON , NOSE'S TUTOR.

She stops as she notices a shiny Rainbow Colored ROCK on the ground, picks it up and pockets it before going inside.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

So Nose got homeschooled. And everyday the tutor came, she had to be decontaminated in the decontamination chamber before starting Nose's lessons. I know because she's my sister, STACEY.

INT. DECONTAMINATION CHAMBER

White walls, very *2001*, an oval shaped closet-sized room is lined up in the foyer, just after you enter the front door. Think “next stage” of airport security.

TUTOR enters and the door SHUSHES SHUT behind her. As Toe describes the process, it happens to Stacey.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

First she'd get the ion blast. Then the delta and gamma blasts. Then she'd get the zap of quick-freeze to kill any bugs that might be on her, even the tiny little mites that live on her eyelashes.

ZOOM IN to see the tiny little mites that live on her eyelashes. They give a HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM then FREEZE, flake off and die as they fall to the ground and are sucked up by the vacuum vent.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

I'd like to say it's just my sister that needs this kind of high-density deep cleaning, but truth is - EVERYONE has mini mites living in their eyelashes. It's true. Look it up.

INT. DAD'S LAB

A sealed, white room. Dad sits on a stool, his arms tucked inside gloves fitted into a box with three-inch glass around it. Protective goggles shield his eyes. He's holding something gingerly with the protective gloves inside the glass box. Below it is a dark metal square.

NOSE

Dad?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Aaaah!

Noseworthy drops the vial onto the square. It smashes into a smoky, inky mess.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

Didn't I tell you not to sneak up on me in here?

DR. NOSE takes a hit from an asthma inhaler.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

Don't break --

Nose knocks over a beaker. It shatters on the floor.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

-- anything.

NOSE

Sorry. My tutor's here. I was looking for your scientific calculator, mine's broken.

Dr. Noseworthy hits a switch and the lights go out. He hits a button on his protective goggles and can see Nose in glowing blacklight. Another button magnifies his view.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Have you been keeping yourself clean?

NOSE

Of course.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

If only you could see what I see.

He turns the lights back on and starts to clean up the mess in the glass box.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

Please don't interrupt me anymore today. The cell regulator still isn't working, and I've got to adjust the chromosomal relay. I tried recalibrating the mitochondrial synthesizer but I can't get it to work in an extracellular environment. On top of it all, I had a bad night. A very, very bad night.

Nose holds up a shredded Bio Suit.(will see reason later in movie) Dr. Noseworthy finishes cleaning up the mess inside the glass case. He turns around just in time to see Nose pick his nose.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

NOSE

(finger up his nose)

Huh?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

How many times have I told you not to pick your nose! It's completely unsanitary!

Nose flicks the booger away and it falls on his dad's experiment pad. Dad doesn't see and closes the glass case.

NOSE

Uh... dad...

DR. NOSEWORTHY

If you got a nose full of boogers you go to the bathroom and clean it out with the *ANTISEPTIC WIPES!*

NOSE

Sorry Dad. But...

DR. NOSEWORTHY

No BUTS. When your... BUTT's full of *doo* you don't use your fingers to clean it out and eat it do you? No! You go to the toilet and use the antiseptic wipes! The same should go for your nose! Boogers are like fecal matter. It's waste. Your body is trying to push it *all the way up* and out,

(does pushing up gesture)

but POP! *YOU* put it right back into your mouth and into your system and it has to start all over again.

NOSE

I'm sorry.

Dr. Noseworthy collapses into his stool.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Go wash your hands with antibacterial soap. And then wipe them with the...

NOSE

Sanitary wipes?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

(exasperated)

Yes. The wipes. I'm going to get some sleep.

Noseworthy exits. Nose looks at the booger now locked in the case, shrugs, and leaves.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

NOSE sits at the kitchen table. Stacey steps out of the decontamination chamber with her previously coiffed curls now in tangles, sets down her satchel, and they begin their lesson.

Stacey gives up trying to make a cellphone call and pulls her satchel up to the desk. A RAINBOW ROCK slides out.

STACEY

I can't get a signal in here.

NOSE

Yeah. It's all my dad's equipment. Interferes with the microwaves or something. What's this?

STACEY

Pretty rock. I've seen it before, but how did it end up outside your house?

NOSE

You found it outside, then it's technically mine.

STACEY

Well, sure, I guess it's been decontaminated.

She hands Nose the rock. He wipes it down. It shines. Bright.

NOSE

(holds it to the lamp)

What's it like out there, today?

Nose is mesmerized by the Rock.

STACEY

Don't you look out the window?

NOSE

I have security video screens, but they don't really show the sky.

STACEY

You know, you could go outside sometime. It wouldn't kill you to get some fresh air.

NOSE

That's where you're wrong. So-called "fresh air" is loaded with all kinds of pollutants. On top of that you've got Ozone Watch and UV rays and pollen and cedar and ragweed and -- I'm just not ready for that. It's what Dad says, anyway..

A door slams elsewhere in the house. She flinches.

STACEY

What's up with your Dad?

NOSE

He's just stressed. Something about the mitochondrial relay.

Nose holds the stone in his hands.

NOSE (CONT'D)

I just wish... that his invention worked the way it's supposed to.

(the rock GLINTS)

He'd be less agitated.

CAMERA ZOOMS into LAB. The Machine CHURNS. The Booger GROWS...

The doorbell rings.

Nose picks up a remote control and flicks on the security screen. TOE and LOOGIE are on camera at the front door.

STACEY

What's he doing here?

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

NOSE appears on the screen by the front door, frightening LOOGIE and TOE for a second. They are both same age as Nose. Loogie has funny hair. Toe has DOUBLE CASTS on each arm!

NOSE

(on screen)

Yeah?

TOE JACKSON

Hi, Nose.

NOSE

Toby? What are you doing here? I haven't seen you in two years. What happened to your arms?

TOE JACKSON

Long story, but that's not why I came. I lost something and thought maybe you had found it.

INT. LAB

The booger continues growing.

NOSE

(os)

How would I have it? I never leave this place!

An eyeball rises to the surface with a slurping sound.

TOE JACKSON

(os)

Well, it sort of... came in this direction.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Nose still on the screen.

NOSE

Look, Toby. This isn't a good time. Stacey's here and it's time for my lesson.

TOE JACKSON

It's a rock -- that looks like a rainbow. About...

(holds up cast arms)

This big.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

Nose looks at the rock in his hand.

STACEY
Haven't seen it. Gotta go. Bye!

Stacey clicks the remote control and the screen goes black.

NOSE
Why'd you do that? If it belongs to your
brother, I should give it back.

STACEY
Maybe you'll get lucky and he'll go away. Then
you can keep it.

INT. LAB

GIANT BOOGER oozes until it fills the glass case and shatters it. The Booger
slides off the table like a HUGE SLUG, growing bigger.

INT. DR. NOSEWORTHY'S BEDROOM

Dr. Noseworthy is lying in bed, a sleepmask over his eyes. He JOLTS when he
hears the crash, lifts one side of the mask to reveal one wide eye.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

Nose and STACEY hear the sound.

STACEY
What was that?

NOSE
Probably just Dad breaking things in his lab
again. I'll go check on it.

EXT. FRONT DOOR

LOOGIE pushes Toe up the trellis to the second floor balcony. Toe tries the
door on the balcony with his cast-bound arms. It's locked.

LOOGIE
What are you doing? He said he didn't have it.

TOE JACKSON

He was lying.

LOOGIE

How could you tell?

TOE JACKSON

His lips were moving.

Toe uses his cast to BREAK the windowpane and unlock the door.

LOOGIE

Are you crazy?

TOE JACKSON

We HAVE to get that rock back before Nose says the wrong thing and gets into trouble. Plus, we get the rock back we can make everything right again.

INT. DR. NOSEWORTHY'S BEDROOM

Noseworthy rises from bed again, ripping off the mask and flinging it aside.

He spots a security monitor and sees LOOGIE and Toe breaking into the house.

DR. NOSE

No, no, NO! They're contaminating my house!

He rushes back and grabs a whole BOX full of Sanitary Wipes.

INT. LAB

BOOGERMONSTER is now man-size and slides across the floor, leaving a SLIME TRAIL in its wake.

Nose opens the lab door and sees it! He looks from the booger creature to the lab device and realizes what has happened.

NOSE

Oh no.

INT. HALLWAY

Dr. Noseworthy comes down one end of the hall -- and LOOGIE and Toe down the other. They converge at the door of the LAB.

DR. NOSE

What are contaminators doing in my house!
(recognizing Toe)
You?! YOU gave me this headache! You and
that ROCK. Both of you wipe yourselves down,
quickly!

He slaps giant wipes on their heads, sliming them. STACEY appears.

STACEY

Toby! You're not supposed to be in here. You
want me to lose my job?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

You know this hooligan?

STACEY

He's my brother.

LOOGIE

(to Stacey)
Hi. I'm Loogie.

Nose comes rushing out of the lab, rock in hand. He slams the door shut.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

How did you get that ROCK?

TOE JACKSON

I need the rock back, Nose!

NOSE

Remember when you guys told me not to eat
my boogers?

TOE JACKSON/DAD/LOOGIE

A million times..

NOSE

Well, now my booger is trying to eat *ME!*

Off blank expressions:

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Oh, no. I've transferred my totally rational phobia of unclean things into you, son.

NOSE

I'm serious! My own BOOGER is trying to eat ME!

TOE JACKSON

Give me the rock.

Loogie tackles Nose and the rock goes flying!

In slo-mo--

The LAB DOOR bursts open and the BOOGERMONSTER appears -- its GAPING HOWLING MOUTH OPEN -- and the RAINBOW ROCK gets SUCKED INSIDE IT.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Oh NO!

Dr. Noseworthy's eyes go wide.

DR. NOSE

I told you not to pick your nose!! Now look what you've done!

Noseworthy activates a second Plexiglas door that separates them from the Boogermmonster. It splats against the Plexiglas and slides its body around, making gross sounds and faces.

NOSE

How could it get that big?

DR. NOSE

It must have triggered the chromosomal relay on the cell regulator. But that means...

NOSE

Your invention works! My wish came true!

Loogie and Toe exchange looks. The BOOGERMONSTER howls.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Nonsense. The relay must have reset itself and began spontaneous replication.

(MORE)

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

But even that has its limits, unless the organism restores its primary genetic material.

NOSE

Meaning?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

It has to keep feeding to stay intact!

LOOGIE

Well, since humans eat boogers, I'd guess that *booger* wants to eat humans.

STACEY

That is the stupidest logic I've ever heard.

The Plexiglas begins to crack--

STACEY (CONT'D)

But it's making a lot of sense.

The Boogermonster crashes through this barrier.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

The decontamination chamber!

They race toward it -- the BOOGERMONSTER surprisingly fleet-footed following them quickly behind.

TOE JACKSON

Not without the rock!

LOOGIE

Forget it, we've lost this round!

LOOGIE has to push and pull Toe along, Toe drawn to the rock hidden inside the BOOGERMONSTER.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Get them through... I'll be right back with my cellular devoluminizer.

NOSE

But you'll have to go through that thing!

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Not through. Over.

Noseworthy lowers his goggles and trudges deliberately toward the booger monster.

INT. DECONTAMINATION CHAMBER

STACEY reaches it first.

NOSE

One at a time! One at a time!

STACEY steps inside. It almost shushes shut behind her but LOOGIE dives in with her and holds her hand. They're zapped together and are squirted out the other side.

LOOGIE

(to STACEY)

Hello again.

Nose rolls his eyes.

INT. HALLWAY

Noseworthy eyes the configuration of items along the hallway -- light fixtures, doorknobs, wall hangings -- and mumbles his calculations. As he nears the Boogermonster, he springs into action, climbing the walls using those footholds and catapulting himself over the Boogermonster. He lands safely on the other side with a smile and heads into his lab.

At the entrance to the decontamination chamber, Nose grabs Toe.

NOSE

You're next!

Toe tries to put up a fight.

TOE JACKSON

Wait!! I need that rock!

Toe swings Nose into the decontamination chamber door, denting it. Now it won't close.

NOSE

No! Are you crazy! It's just a rock! I'll order you one online!

(o.s.)

That's how we get everything around here.

(MORE)

NOSE (CONT'D)
*Food, supplies... It all comes to the door. We
never even have to step OUTSIDE!*

Toe jams his hand inside the Creature's belly, but is grabbed by the monster who then carries him up to his mouth!

STACEY and Loogie are trapped on the other side of the Decontaminator. Nose tries to figure out what to do. The monster is in front of him. He thinks thinks thinks...

NOSE (CONT'D)
Think think think....

EUREKA! Nose shoves his finger into his nose DRAMATICALLY and pulls out a fresh booger.

He WAVES it in front of the approaching BOOGERMONSTER.

NOSE (CONT'D)
Wait! If you eat my friend...

(BoogerMonster stops)

NOSE (CONT'D)
I'll. Eat. *YOURS.*

The boogermonster's one good eye goes wide!

He drops Toe instantly, who falls on his butt.

Toe joins him as they back into the decontaminator.

Nose flicks the booger and goes inside.

The Booger catches his lil' friend and rocks him back and forth like a baby.

NOSE (CONT'D)
That's ... weird.

Decontaminator door shuts and cycle begins. They come out the other side. Decontaminator door shushes shut behind them.

LOOGIE
Okay, NOW let's get out of here!

They start to run but STACEY, Toe and LOOGIE see Nose is too scared to go outside.

TOE JACKSON

What are you waiting for!

NOSE

I haven't been outside in years. I'm not ready.

Booger monster ROARS and smashes the decontaminator, getting him that much closer to Nose.

TOE/LOGGIE/STACEY

NOSE!!

NOSE

(frantic)

I know I know! But I still don't think I'm ready.

Tough decision for him. Contamination outside, contamination inside.

EXT. NOSE'S HOUSE

They blast out the front door, a terrified Nose LEADING THE WAY!

HIGH VIEW shot as the kids run away from house. There are no other houses built immediately around it, just dirt patches.

They all trip and fall in mud, Nose goes flying face first in it. He lifts up into a standing position, can't believe he's muddy. He can't move, he's so flabbergasted.

The door explodes. BOOGERMONSTER exits and goes for Nose.

Nose shuts his eyes as the BOOGERMONSTER zeroes in on him. Dr. NOSEWORTHY appears at the front door with his DEVOLUMINIZER in hand. He ZAPS the Boogermonger with a beam that sucks it up like snot through a straw into a thick glass JAR at the end. The RAINBOW ROCK isn't sucked through but lands with a plop on the ground, bouncing towards Toe.

Nose opens his eyes.

TOE JACKSON

Are you okay?

LOGGIE

You did it on your own!

Dad walks up with the shrunken booger monster inside the tank. Roaring.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

This will make a fine specimen.

Toe grabs the rock.

TOE JACKSON

Good seeing you, Nose. Gotta go!

Loogie and Toe run off.

STACEY

Maybe we should talk about a raise.

INT. NOSEWORTHY HOUSE

Nose goes on about his adventure and how great it was that he was able to run outside on his own, and that he really was ready... all while dad cleans him off with the antiseptic wipes.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

I hope you learned your lesson, though. I know I go on about hygiene and cleanliness, but I do it for a reason. Don't ever ever ever EVER -

Nose had stopped talking. He's making a strange tight face. Almost breaking a sweat.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

What's the matter? Say something.

Nose squeezes out a tiny fart sound. He's mortified.

The fart is suddenly a giant FOUL green GAS monster ROARING at them.

THEIR HAIR STANDS ON END.

CUT TO BLACK. We hear the Devoluminizer.

TOE JACKSON

(vo)

Sorry. I got ahead of myself again. I know that was a little out there, but it's ALL TRUE. Every single bit of it. You don't believe me? Maybe I should go back when I first came into possession of the *rainbow colored rock*.

The Movie REWINDS again.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Wait! Too far. Here we go...

Disembodied head of kid pops up as if out of a TOASTER with an eerie, sci-fi theremin sound. His name appears beneath his big, air-filled noggin.

TITLE CARD:

EPISODE 2

“TOE’ JACKSON IN...ALIEN8ED”

EXT. THE JACKSON HOME - DAY

Establishing shot of a nice suburban home. Name on the mailbox is “THE JACKSONS.” Birds chirp as morning breaks.

INT. TOE JACKSON’S BEDROOM

Alarm clock goes off. Toe rises into camera view with major bedhead. Droopy, drowsy eyes.

INT. BATHROOM

Toe checks himself in the mirror. He raises his arms in a stretch and we see he has NO CASTS ON.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Since I didn’t explain before, my name is Toby, Toby Jackson. I wanted to give you an idea of how I start every morning. Maintaining a mouth like this is no small task.

He opens his mouth to reveal braces, rubberbands, wires, etc.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

First, I use a special toothbrush between the wires and my gums to loosen any food particles that may have lodged in my braces.

(MORE)

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Then I start on the outside of my upper teeth, positioning the bristles at a 45 degree angle, brushing toward the gum in a circular motion, like this. I do the inside and the tops the same way, then repeat the whole process for the lower set. Rinse. Spit. Wash my toothbrush. Mirror check.

Camera starts to pan away.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

No, no. Not done yet. Now I floss and use a special pick to get under the brackets. Rinse. Spit. Mirror check.

Camera starts to pan away again.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Nope. Still more. Next I use a water squirter that helps remove food particles that the toothbrush may not reach. Like this. Rinse. Spit. Mirror check.

Camera stays on him.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

That's it. All done now. Time for breakfast!

INT. DINING TABLE

Toe eats "Great White Bites" breakfast cereal.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Toe walks to school.

TOE JACKSON

Kids with braces aren't usually the most popular kids in school, but I've got my own little fan club. In fact, they can't wait to shower me with attention as soon as they see me.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - DAY

Wild ZOOM into a GANG OF KIDS.

GANG

TOE!!!!

They bound into action, grab Toe and drag him across the school grounds. Their leader is a grubby-looking punk named COLE BLACK.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Somehow I got the nickname "Toe," I guess because "Toby" was too long and complicated for these geniuses. *That grubby-looking punk is Cole Black. Not to be judgemental, just so you know who the bad guys are.*

The drag-out ends with the COLE AND THE GANG dropping him unceremoniously head-first into a trash can.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

You're probably thinking, "This has got to be the worst kid in the whole school." Well, you haven't met his sister. HELVETICA BLACK.

Camera pans over as HELVETICA steps up, smiles, revealing a MOUTHFUL OF BRACES.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

The leader of the pack. (And coincidentally the only one in the school with braces worse than mine.)

HELVETICA

(slapping his foot)

Same time tomorrow, Toe Jackson.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

Another day, another dumpster. Welcome to my life.

INT. CLASSROOM

Toe quietly enters. Teacher sits at the front as Loogie wings it through a science presentation. Spotlight several of the students -- HELVETICA, COLE and the GANG of THUG KIDS as student continues.

LOOGIE

My science report today is about ... science.
The scientific part of it. Which would be ...
science.

AN AQUARIUM sits on a table in the corner of the classroom. TOE feeds the fish from a little plastic jar.

TOE JACKSON

(quietly)

Hi, Miles.

A COOL BLACK FISH swims into view, seeming to wink at TOE.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

Miles Davis. My main fish. And sadly, about
the only friend I have in this whole rotten
school. Don't get me wrong. It's a really good
school. It's just the people in it that suck.

LOOGIE

In olden times, they burned scientists at the
stake and called them witches. Because the
townspeople didn't understand science and
they thought it was magic. Like using a magic
rock to make wishes come true.

TEACHER

Loogie.

LOOGIE

Yeah?

TEACHER

You didn't do the assignment, did you?

LOOGIE

I did. But, a crocodile ate my homework.
Really.

Class laughs.

TEACHER

Fine. For that compelling presentation, you've earned the grade that most closely corresponds with the notation for Fahrenheit.

LOOGIE

(figuring it out)

An "F"??

(realizing)

Oh.

TEACHER

Next presenter. Helvetica Black.

Helvetica rises to the front of the classroom. Clicks on a PowerPoint presentation. Screen comes up: AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN FEMALE PAPER WASPS.

HELVETICA

Scientists who study wasps have long observed aggressive behavior in stronger females toward the weaker males of the colony, including threats of stinging and mauling.

She produces a trashcan.

HELVETICA (CONT'D)

But recently they've discovered that some females will force a male headfirst into an empty cell in the nest, a behavior known as "male-stuffing." I'd like to demonstrate this phenomenon with this trashcan and a volunteer. *Toe Jackson*.

Everyone turns to see him. Toe gulps.

INT. CAFETERIA

Toe eats alone in the cafeteria. He sees LOOGIE and his BROTHERS at their own table.

The BLINKERS -- two kids engaged in a stare-off competition -- are at another, staring each other down.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

I've heard all about how when you're older, nobody really cares that you were picked on as a kid, that basically, one day, all the stuff that's so important now won't matter a single bit.

Toe drops his leftovers into the trash and sucks the last bit of chocolate milk from a straw with that last-bit-of-chocolate-milk sound. Cole and the Gang rush Toe and dump him headfirst into the trashcan, then snicker and walk away. Toe's feet stick out of the trashcan helplessly. Helvetica saunters by.

HELVETICA

Consider it a bonus dump.

Helvetica walks away.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

I have a hard time believing that.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - DAY

End of class day. School bell rings and kids swarm out of the front doors. Toe sits on the steps to wait for Dad, visibly upset.

Toe notices The BLINKERS exit, still staring each other down. The Blinkers are followed by Loogie.

LOOGIE

They're going for the record. They've been in a stare-off since 2nd period.

TOE JACKSON

(surprised someone's talking to him)

My name's--

LOOGIE

"Toe." I know. Why do you let them push you around like that?

TOE JACKSON

It's not like I have a say in the matter.

LOOGIE

Sure you do. It doesn't matter who their dad is. Even though he does basically own us all.. It only matters who *you* are. Or who you want to be.

LUG and LASER, Loogie's BROTHERS, exit the building. Lug whacks Loogie across the back of the head.

LUG

Come on, Loogie, you big dork! We gotta get home.

LASER

Yeah, we're gonna try to get Baby to give us the Lotto numbers.

LOOGIE

Remember! Don't let anyone push you around!

They yank Loogie along. Lug takes out a handheld video game and begins playing.

TOE JACKSON

See ya. "Sort of" friend.

Toe heads in the opposite direction.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Toe walking. Lost in his own thoughts.

TOE JACKSON

(thinking, v.o.)

It shouldn't be this hard to make friends. I'm smart. I'm funny. Funny "haha" not just funny "weird." But I'm an all-around good kid.

(out loud)

So what's wrong with me?

Suddenly, Cole and the GANG are there in front of him. He's walked right into them without knowing it.

COLE

"What's wrong with you?" Oh, buddy. Where do I begin?

Toe purses his lips like he's trying to work up the courage to speak truth to power but instead he runs, and Cole and the gang give chase.

Toe looks for an out, and races down an alley. They cut him off and he ducks between houses towards a neighborhood park.

EXT. PARK - DAY

There's some CONSTRUCTION being done. A small SCORPION scurries across a BIG MOUND OF DIRT. Toe makes a break for the dirt mound, but is cut off by COLE and the GANG.

Cole and his cohorts start pelting dirt-rocks at Toe.

Toe dives in COOL SLO-MO AS THE DIRT-ROCKS EXPLODE around him. He serpentine into a trench and out the other end.

One of Cole's THUGS runs out of rocks, and picks up THE RAINBOW ROCK. He's about to throw it, but he stops in mid-throw, and stares strangely at the rock.

Toe scrambles up a tree. Cole reaches to pick up a rock but a SCORPION is on top of it, arching its stinger. Cole recoils.

COLE
(searching)
Give me a rock! Give me a rock!

Cole grabs the RAINBOW ROCK out of THUG's hand and lobs it at Toe. It bounces off Toe's head as Toe is KNOCKED OUT COLD. He goes sideways, stuck between the branches.

COLE (CONT'D)
Score! Come on! Let's go!

EXT. TREE - DAY

Toe sits bolt upright in the branches, coming to, quick. He falls out of the tree and hits the ground with a WHUMP.

TOE JACKSON
Ouch.

The rainbow rock rolls off a branch and hits him in the gut.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Oof.

He just lays there. Staring at the sky.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Where was I? Oh... friends.

He squeezes the rock.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

I wish I had friends as interesting and unique
as I am.

The ROCK GLINTS, and glows... causing star-like hot spots to reflect off Toe's
face.

Suddenly, LIGHTS GLOW IN THE SKY and ZOOM DOWN towards Toe. He
recoils, frightened.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaah!

Toe stands and sees that the lights are really TINY SPACECRAFT. They zoom
around him. He puts up his hands and they all land. One on each shoulder and
one in each palm.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

"Friends!"

They levitate Toe a little off the ground, spin him 360 degrees slowly. He
smiles, impressed. Then they spin him REALLY FAST. He gets the G-FORCE
face.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Okay! Put me down!

They drop him.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

What do you guys wanna do?

INT. ARCADE

Toe playing arcade games as spaceships watch from his shoulders. His
character in the video game gets smushed. Spaceships zap the arcade game
in retaliation. They hurry out of there as the arcade manager yells after them.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Toe, alone, playing basketball with the spaceships. He makes all kinds of trick shots with their help.

EXT. PAINTBALL FIELD - DAY

Toe lowers his visor. Aims and FIRES his paintball rifle, missing the spaceships. They ZAP him... with paint. He rolls on the ground, laughing.

EXT. TOE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Toe arrives at the front door of his house, still being followed by the spaceships. He unzips his backpack and they all slip inside. He opens his front door and steps inside.

INT. FRONT ROOM, TOE'S HOUSE

Toe closes the door behind him. His appearance is pretty disheveled. Mom doesn't notice as she's engaged in sending messages on her portable Black Box re-configured into cell phone/PDA mode.

MOM
(not looking at him)
Toby?

TOE JACKSON
Yeah.

Dad comes into the room, his bluetooth earpiece on, eating a bowl of noodles. Not looking at him.

DAD
Did you walk all the way home?

TOE JACKSON
It's only five blocks, Dad.

DAD JACKSON
A lot can happen in five blocks.

Toe tosses the backpack into the kitchen and shuts the kitchen door.

INT. KITCHEN

Spaceships unzip the backpack and tumble out. They zip around, scanning the kitchen and beeping. They turn on a countertop TV and zip through the channels. A Food Channel show is on.

INT. FRONT ROOM, TOE'S HOUSE

MOM

Why didn't you take the bus? That's always the backup plan.

TOE

Just wanted to walk.

DAD

Sorry ,son, I texted your mom to pick you up because my meeting ran late.

MOM

And I texted your Dad back, saying I couldn't go so that he could get out early anyway and pick you up.

DAD

Your text message must have gotten lost in a sea of my text messages.

MOM

Same with yours. Mine. Whatever.

(to Toe)

Noodles?

TOE JACKSON

I'll go serve myself.

Toe makes for the kitchen but stops as STACEY enters the room, looking sad. She tosses her cellphone across the room.

MOM JACKSON

You having texting problems, too?

STACEY

No. I just broke up with my boyfriend. He thinks he's mature but he's such a child.

Sounds come from the kitchen.

MOM JACKSON

What was that?

TOE JACKSON

(good poker face)

I'll go see.

INT. KITCHEN

Toe enters the room frantically looking for them, and sees they've recreated the same meal on TV -- plates and plates of food.

TOE JACKSON

Do you guys come from the "gourmet planet?"

Using their alien beams, they pull out his chair, put a napkin under his chin.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Wow. You guys rock.

Toe digs in. The spaceships beam/eat all the food like a swarm of teeth.

Mom enters as the spaceships ZOOM into the backpack.

HUGE BURP comes from the backpack. Toe covers his mouth like it was him.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Mmm. Delicious noodles, Mom.

Out of Mom's view, the backpack starts to levitate.

Toe distracts her, grabs the bag and exits.

INT. TOE JACKSON'S BEDROOM

Toe opens the door to his bedroom to find it a mess.

The spaceships ZOOM past him, pushing open the door and straightening up his room, putting everything away lightning-fast, and then hovering as if awaiting his next command.

Dad enters.

DAD

Time to clean your room and do your homework, sport.

Dad looks up from his black box device. Impressed.

DAD JACKSON

Are you bucking for a raise in your allowance?
Keep it up, guy.

He leaves. Toe eyes the spaceships.

TOE JACKSON

Do you do teeth?

INT. BATHROOM

Toe stands in front of the mirror while the spaceships brush his teeth, repeating his specialized routine of brushing, flossing and WaterPik-ing. They take it to the next level, zooming around his head, beaming into his mouth and jaws, taking x-rays of his teeth, which show up on small screens. ‘

INT. TOE'S BEDROOM

STACEY enters, talking on her cellphone, apparently looking for something.

STACEY

Toby! Where are my keys? I know you're
hiding them you little alien.

INT BATHROOM

TOE JACKSON

(mouth full of spaceships)
I donth knowth! I didnth taketh themth!

INT. TOE'S BEDROOM

Looking around while talking...

STACEY

(on phone)
No, no. *I* broke up with *you*. So why are *you*
calling *me*?

Stacey stumbles over backpack on the floor. She kicks it away with her foot, and the RAINBOW ROCK slides out. She reaches over to pick it up.

STACEY (CONT'D)

Ooh. Pretty.

(on phone)

Yeah? Well, I wish you would grow up!

Garbled sounds on the other end, screaming, then nothing. She shrugs, hangs up.

She attempts to pocket the rock, then realizes there's something in her pockets. The keys she's been looking for. She shrugs, drops the rock back in his backpack and leaves.

INT BATHROOM

The spaceships finish their work and float around Toe's head. He stands in front of the mirror, eyes closed. He opens his eyes.

TOE JACKSON

Mirror check.

He SMILES slowly, turning into a GIANT GRIN. The braces are GONE. His teeth gleam. The spaceships are hovering around his head,

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

How tough are you guys? I mean... if you really had to be strong against an enemy. Cause I MIGHT have a job for you tomorrow at school.

One lands on the sink. Toe lowers his head to that level. A tiny thumb sized ALIEN slides out on a rocket sled and lands in front of Toe.

ALIEN

I will show no mercy...

Toe smiles at the cute alien. The alien leaps up and hits Toe's forehead, taking him out of frame and crashing to the ground.

TOE JACKSON

(off screen)

You're hired.

EXT. TOE'S HOUSE - DAY

Toe steps outside, cleaned up and ready for the day, starts walking down the sidewalk. Stacey pulls by in her car, on her cellphone.

STACEY

(on phone)

I have *no time for you*, but now I'm suddenly having to chase *you* down?

(beat)

What do you mean you're in the hospital? My fault? Yeah right. They're making a bigger room for you? What? Hello? Hello?

(to Toe)

Dad says I have to give you a ride.

TOE JACKSON

It's okay.

STACEY

You look different. Did you bathe or something? Freak.

Stacey drives away. As Toe watches her go, he is levitated an inch off the ground and zooms on to school, seemingly walking on air as the spaceships carry him along.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - DAY

Toe stops.

TOE JACKSON

I'll take it from here.

His feet touch the ground. He spots COLE and his GANG waiting for him in their usual spot. They don't see him coming in this way as their eyes are peeled on the drive-up kids.

Helvetica spots Toe sneaking into the school building.

HELVETICA

Grab him!

TOE JACKSON

(to aliens)

Actually... *Blast off.*

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Toe is slightly levitated again, allowing him to zig-zag effortlessly among the throng of kids in the hallway. Papers fly as he whizzes through the crowd. The bell rings and the kids all head toward the classrooms.

Toe reaches the door to the classroom and looks around to see he's in the clear. He's about to enter when Helvetica steps in front of him.

HELVETICA

You missed our little appointment. Care to re-schedule?

TOE JACKSON

You'll have to talk to my secretary. Not to mention my bodyguards.

HELVETICA

Your mouth is gonna get you in some serious-
(realizing braces gone)
Your braces... where are they...

Toe smiles widely and walks past her into the room.

INT. SCIENCE LAB CLASSROOM

Toe walks past the aquarium toward his seat, makes sure no one's looking, then talks into his jacket lapel.

TOE JACKSON

There's a candy bar in my front pocket and my Black Box is in music mode, in case you get hungry or bored.

He turns to see HELVETICA looking at him.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

I wasn't talking to you.

HELVETICA

Then who? The voices in your head?

TEACHER

We're going to continue with our experiments with combustible liquids, so everyone needs to take their seats and be sure to wear eye protection.

INT. POCKETS

Aliens flick on their lights. They find candy bars. The Black Box re-configures so the speakers pop out. Eat and jam. Party time.

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Toe trying to keep his jacket on. Helvetica eyes him suspiciously.

TEACHER

Now that you've isolated the agents for the experiment, you can make a hypothesis as to the outcome.

The aliens are dancing in his clothes. Toe tries to sit still but he can't. Inside his clothes, the aliens turn up the iPod louder -- loud enough for others to hear the music.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Toby, can you stifle your inner High School Musical long enough to observe this chemical reaction?

He sticks his hand into his pocket to retrieve the Black Box but the aliens won't let it go. He finally jerks it free but smashes it into Helvetica's face.

HELVETICA

Ow!

TOE JACKSON

Oops.

TEACHER

If you're not going to pay attention to the experiment, at least you can make yourself useful and feed the fish.

HELVETICA

I'll do it!

Helvetica walks over to the aquarium.

The aliens climb out of Toe's pockets and hunt for the iPod. Toe doesn't notice, his eyes are fixed on Helvetica.

She scoops "Miles Davis" the fish out of the aquarium and holds him up between her fingers. The whole class is watching HER and not TEACHER.

LOOGIE doesn't notice as the spaceships start beaming candy bars out of his pocket. (we'll find out why he has so many candy bars later.)

TEACHER

Now to get back to our experiment. Once we introduce the catalyst--

TOE JACKSON

Don't do it!

TEACHER

Oh, Toby's correct. You must be certain to add the proper amount of catalyst, in this case, one drop.

Toe shakes his head slowly "no." Helvetica shrugs then DROPS THE FISH INTO HER MOUTH AND SWALLOWS.

TOE JACKSON

That's it!

He throws his jacket open with a big flourish.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Say hello to my little friends!

Nothing happens. Toe starts checking his pockets for the aliens but they're gone...

TEACHER

Uh, Toby, I think you need to go to the Principal's office. Possibly the school psychologist.

Toe TACKLES Helvetica around the midsection and she OOFs the fish out of her mouth -- it sails into the air and SLAPS the TEACHER who squeezes a stream of the chemical from the dropper into the beaker. The experiment goes KABLOOEY!!! as they both go FLYING OUT the open WINDOW -- the spaceship catches the fish and lands it safely back in the aquarium.

Explosion FRIGHTENS the spaceships -- they rear back and begin zooming around the room, zapping things.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

That wasn't supposed to happen.

Kids duck for cover. The spaceships zap everything trying to find a way out.

They knock over things as they go, sending the teacher and other school props flying.

The classmates are actually enjoying the mayhem.

The spaceships zoom out the window.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - DAY

Toe and Helvetica are splayed out on the ground.

TOE JACKSON

Ow.

HELVETICA

Ouuuuuuuuuuuch.

The spaceships look down on Toe and then float away into the sky. Empty candy wrappers fall from the sky and land on Toe's and Helvetica's faces.

TOE JACKSON

Goodbye. Friends.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Helvetica and Toe share a semi-private room. Both are sitting up in bed, with shoulder-length CASTS on their arms. Toe's head is bandaged. Loogie sits in a chair between them, holding a newspaper-wrapped bouquet of flowers.

TOE JACKSON

(turning to Helvetica)

I'm going to squash you.

HELVETICA

Not if I squash you first.

LOOGIE

(changing subject)

So you don't know what those things were?

Beat.

TOE JACKSON

I just thought of another way to squash you.

HELVETICA

I just thought of three.

INT. CAFETERIA

Toe and Helvetica in pretty much the same position, now opposite each other at a table in the cafeteria. A sign on the table reads "DETENTION ZONE." They have to sit alone with each other. Their food trays are in front of them, but they're in stare-down mode. Loogie sits across from them.

Toe reaches for a roll with his bandaged hands and tries to bring it to his mouth. It falls in the soup, splashing him.

HELVETICA

Ha-ha.

TOE JACKSON

Well, let's see you do it.

Helvetica kicks off her shoes, and her feet appear over the table, like an extra pair of hands, amazing control and poise. Her toes wiggle.

Her foot lifts the spoon while the other one grabs the roll and she scoops soup to her mouth and takes a bite of the roll. She drops the spoon with the right foot and grabs her cup and takes a sip of the drink.

She then grabs the butter knife, cuts a slab of butter and spreads it on the roll in her other foot. She holds the roll out to him. Toe refuses. LOOGIE swoops in and takes it, smiles and eats it.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

So, we weren't exactly friends, but at least we were no longer enemies. And where did my other friends go? I couldn't say. But I had a new friend.

LOOGIE

So tell me about those ships. Where'd they come from?

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

And why is he so curious? Because he's the one who started this whole thing. Him and his brothers.

Characters' disembodied HEADS pop up as if out of a TOASTER with dings, zings and farts. Their names appear beneath their big mugs.

TITLE CARD:

EPISODE ONE: "LOOGIE, LASER AND LUG IN..."

"THE WISHING ROCK"

MUSIC UP: "FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK" by AC/DC

Alt: "ROCK THIS TOWN" by Stray Cats

EXT. THE SHORTS' HOUSE, RAINING - DAY

SHOTS of BLACK CLOUDS, swirling closer. Lightning flashes, thunder CRACKS.

INT. THE SHORTS' HOUSE - DAY

The TV switches to an EMERGENCY REPORT on the biggest rainstorm in Texas history that is now happening.

LOOGIE

Let's do something.

LUG

Put on your favorite show.

LOOGIE

I'm tired of video games and I'm bored with TV. Let's do something.

LUG

We've been through this before. There's nothing else to do. Come play games with us, we need a third person.

LOOGIE

Let's go on an adventure. Outside!

LASER

It's a huge thunderstorm!

TV FOOTAGE of the THUNDERSTORM -- blowing roofs off buildings, trucks floating away in the high water, etc.

Suddenly the storm completely stops outside. And only outside. The News is carrying on with its LIVE FEED.

LOOGIE

That's strange. It's raining everywhere else.

Suddenly the sunlight beams through the window, casting Laser in glorious light.

LASER

Holy cow.

LUG

(beaming)

Outside!

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The kids walk the back trail through the woods.

The sun beats down.

LUG

It's so hot. It just rained like a zillion buckets.
How can it be so hot? Even my brain feels hot.

LOOGIE

I read once that yawning cools the brain.

LUG

Well, just keep talking, I'll start yawning for sure.

A PERFECT RAINBOW APPEARS ABOVE THEM, arching in the sky.

WIDE EXT. CLIFF COMMUNITY

We see a wide shot of how it soars over the community and the BLACK INC. Building.

LASER

Look at that! Loogie, what is they say about the end of the rainbow?

They all stop and stare in admiration.

LOOGIE

It's where a pot of gold is!

LASER

No! It's where the leprechaun is!

LOOGIE

And if we catch him, we can make him give us wishes!

LUG

Let's go kick some green leprechaun butt!

Laser and Loogie break off running, and Lug shrugs and follows.

EXT. TOP OF THE CLIFF - DAY

The kids near the summit of The Cliff where the rainbow seems to end.

LOOGIE

It's the end of the rainbow!

The boys stop through the rainbow's end.

Loogie puts his hand through it, and reaches down for a RAINBOW COLORED ROCK that lies atop a boulder.

Lug takes it.

LUG

Feels powerful.

LOOGIE

What do you think it does?

LUG

I wish I knew.

ZING!

LUG (CONT'D)

It's a WISHING ROCK!

LASER

How do you know?

LUG

It just told me!

LOOGIE

Wish for something!

LUG

I wish for a boat!

The Rock GLINTS, and has it's now familiar sound effect.

A small toy BOAT appears a few feet away. Loogie grabs it.

LOOGIE

It works!

LUG

That's the boat?

LOOGIE

It's what you wished for.

LUG

I meant a really big boat.

The ROCK GLOWS. (From here on out, the rock will either glint or glow depending on the size and complexity of the wish. Sometimes for surprise effect, it will seem to do nothing at all except suddenly grant the wish.)

Suddenly the boat becomes a GIANT OCEAN LINER and begins sliding down the mountainside, taking out trees and boulders on the way down.

LASER

Quick, gimme that before you kill somebody!

Laser grabs the ROCK from Lug.

LASER (CONT'D)

I wish the boat would disappear -

The boat disappears, leaving the destruction behind. Loogie grabs it.

LOOGIE

-I wish for a never ending supply of chocolate bars!

Nothing happens.

LASER

Uh.

Loogie reaches into his pocket and pulls out a candy bar.

LUG

Well, there's one.

Loogie reaches in and pulls another out. Then ANOTHER. AND ANOTHER. A PILE has formed on the ground. They laugh.

LOOGIE

A never ending pocket full of candy!

LASER

Do you realize what we have here? This is, this is, this is--

Lug grabs it.

LOOGIE

-Mine. It was my idea to go on an adventure so the Wishing Rock belongs to me.

LUG

Don't make any wishes, Loogie. We don't know the rules yet. I mean, this thing doesn't even come with instructions. No strategy guide, cheat codes... anything.

LOOGIE

(closing eyes)

I wish for the instructions.

A HUGE LEATHER-BOUND BOOK falls from the sky with a LOUD THUD at Loogie's feet.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

I can't read all that! I wish for the short version of the instructions.

A fortune cookie falls out of the sky into Loogie's hand. He snaps it open.

LASER

What's it say?

LOOGIE

"Make a wish."

LUG snatches it away and closes his eyes.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

HEY!

LASER

You're probably going to wish for a video game.

Lug silently wishes, and a fantastic handheld videogame appears in his hands. Lug smiles and starts to play.

Loogie grabs the rock.

LASER (CONT'D)

You guys don't realize what we have here. This might be the most powerful thing on Earth. More power than any kid has ever had. Ever.

LOOGIE

I wish for a castle.

They turn, and a castle juts out from the earth and rises above them.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

With a canyon around it filled with man eating CROCODILES and venomous snakes, to protect the rainbow rock from thieves.

The ground around them breaks away creating a huge canyon that surrounds their castle.

LASER

Wish for world peace, jerky beef.

LOOGIE

I will, let me finish my canyon of doom first. People are gonna try and get this.

LASER

How about wishing for 1 million more wishes in case you lose it. You always lose things.

LOOGIE

(quietly)

No I don't.

Laser lunges for it. They struggle for the rock and it flies down into the now deadly canyon.

Loogie slapkicks Lug across the face with a karate blow.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

I was about to wish for SuperPowers!

They rush over to a bridge that crosses the canyon and look down. They hear the roars of Crocs and creatures.

LASER

I think one of us has to go get it.

Loogie and Lug look at Laser.

LASER (CONT'D)

Well... You wanted an adventure, didn't you?

EXT. CANYON - DAY

The kids make their way down the canyon, searching for the Rainbow Rock. Except for LUG, he's plays his video game as he walks. They are all keeping as quiet as they can.

LASER

What did you wish for again? Snakes?
Crocodiles?

LOOGIE

I think that's all.

They see it in the creek, lying on top of a strange jagged stone.

Loogie walks stealthily across a trail of rocks in the creek.

With "Indiana Jones" grace, he reaches out to it.

Laser realizes the "rocks" Loogie's been walking on are moving. They are CROC HEADS.

LASER

(loud whisper)
Loogie!

LOOGIE

I've almost got it!

LASER

No... it's almost got YOU!

The Crocs all SNAP THEIR JAWS at him, and Loogie bounces away.

THE MAIN crocodile that the rainbow rock was sitting on LEAPS UP and SWALLOWS THE ROCK.

Laser falls back into the dirt as cobras pop up around him.

LASER (CONT'D)

Nice wish!

He runs and the snakes chase him. They're fast.

Loogie and Lug go in opposite directions. The snakes start to gain on Laser, who stumbles and falls.

LASER (CONT'D)

Wish them away!

Loogie sees the big croc that swallowed the rock. He races towards it. The Croc opens it's jaws.

Loogie leaps RIGHT INTO IT, goes down and the CROC swallows him WHOLE.

LASER (CONT'D)

Loogie!

LUG

We gotta get him back!

The Snakes close in on Laser.

All of a sudden, the croc BURPS loudly and VOMITS Loogie out of its mouth.

Loogie rolls out and into a standing position, covered in croc-yakk. He has the rock in his hand.

LOOGIE

I wish the snakes would disappear!

Just as the snakes rear back their heads to strike Laser, they disappear with a fart.

Lug examines Loogie.

LUG

Did he chew?

LOOGIE

No. But not only did he eat my homework... I think I felt him make a wish.

LASER

What would a crocodile possibly want? It's fast, it's strong, it can run on four leggggggsssss...

He can't believe his eyes as the crocodile hoists itself up into a prone position!

The Crocodile stands! It's "hands" summon his other crocs who also STAND.

One brings him his crown.

LOOGIE

I think I know what it wished for! RUN!

LUG

Of all the crocs to get angry, you had to pick the KING!

The CROC KING waves his hand and the ARMY OF CROCS thunder after them.

LASER

Wish us out of here!

LOOGIE

I wish something would take us out of here!

Without warning, the PTERODACTYL swoops in and picks them up. They hop on its back and it soars into the sky, leaving the CROCS in the dust. The CROC KING shakes angry fists at them.

EXT. PTERODACTYL FLYING - DAY

The pterodactyl drops them off atop the roof of the castle.

LASER

A pterodactyl? Could you have been more specific?

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

They are dropped off on top of the castle, landing hard on their butts. They stand and survey the surroundings.

They now have a birds'-eye view of the scene.

LOOGIE

At least we're safe up here.

LASER

Are we?

They see the crocs emerge from the woods like an army.

LOOGIE

I don't get it? How did they climb out of the canyon?

The crocs get to the base of the castle and keep walking! Right up the wall!

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

Holy beef jerky!

LASER

Quick! Wish us home!

Loogie hunts for the rock. Checks his pockets.

LOOGIE

I don't have it. Lug, you have it?

LUG

(playing video game again)

I don't have it. Laser you have it?

LASER

I don't have it!

The CROCS are getting closer.

LOOGIE

Then where'd it go?

They all look up at the same time to see -- THE PTERODACTYL swooping and dropping it.

It hits them ALL in the head, by hitting Loogie, bouncing off and hitting Laser and Lug and then ending up back in Loogie's hand.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

If I wish for Super Powers I can get them to fall off!

LASER

Just hurry it up whatever you do!

LOOGIE

I wish I had *TELEPHONISIS*.

A big read telephone appears coming out of his head.

LASER

Telekinesis, you dummy!

LOOGIE

I wish I had telekinesis!

A huge turbulence rocks the entire castle. The kid's almost get blown off the roof.

The crocs go flying with the enormously heavy winds.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

Okay. We got a castle. We have telekinesis. A pterodactyl. Now what?

The pterodactyl swoops down and poops on his head.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

(thinking)

I guess we should think this through a little more. I wish we could go back home and start over.

Castle is gone, wind is gone. Everything is back to normal.

INT. SHORTS' HOUSE

They are back in their TV room.

Lug is playing his game still.

Loogie and Laser are eating "Great White Bites" cereal in the kitchen. Loogie still has the telephone sticking out of his head.

LOOGIE

(chewing)

It's too dangerous to have around. We've got to keep it out of the wrong hands.

LUG

(from other room)

Yours *are* the wrong hands.

LASER

(re: Telephone head)

Change your head back, Loogie.

LOOGIE

This has certain advantages.

LASER

What advantages?

The phone rings. Loogie turns his head slightly to answer. It clicks.

LOOGIE

Hello?

Laser slaps his own forehead.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

All right. I wish the phone was gone.

It's gone.

LASER

Loogie! We need to be smart about this.

LOOGIE

Well, then that's the answer.

They step into the next room.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

Ready?

(holds out rock)

I wish one of us was super smart!

They look at each other, trying to figure out if it worked.

VOICE

It is I.

They turn to look to see where it was coming from. They look at their little 2 year old sister, standing nearby.

LOOGIE

Did you just say something?

VOICE

My modes of transference are beyond yours, now. I don't need words to communicate. Only thoughts. You are hearing me with your MINDS.

Their jaws literally DROP to the ground. As the jaws clang to the ground, a gumball bounces out of Loogie's.

He hands the rock to Laser.

LOOGIE

You're right.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

They walk outside.

LOOGIE

I am completely heartbroken.

Laser closes his eyes to make a wish, and a CATAPULT APPEARS.

Loogie reluctantly places the rock in the catapult as Laser starts setting it up.

LOOGIE (CONT'D)

Just think of all the things we could do.

LASER

Too risky.

LOOGIE

We could-

LASER

Too dangerous.

LOOGIE

How about-

LASER

Too ridiculous.

He's ready to launch. A beat.

LASER (CONT'D)

Although... We could take care of that world
peace problem.

LOOGIE

Now you're talking.

They reach for the rock and the catapult fires off. They turn, stunned looks on
their faces. Baby sister is there with the switch.

BABY

My calculations show... You would have
figured out a way to screw it up.

She nods and walks off.

LOOGIE

Who? Us?!

They turn and see the rock fly at least several blocks away, over houses and
several neighborhoods.

TOE JACKSON

(v.o.)

*So maybe baby was smart to get rid of it. But
it didn't really matter. Because the rock...
kept..coming... back. You should see how it
changed things for my mom and dad. Boy did
it ever.*

The movie suddenly fast forwards through episode 2 and stops.

Disembodied heads of adults pop up as if out of a TOASTER with cellphone
ringtone sounds.

Title:

EPISODE THREE : THE GROWN-UPS in ...

THE MISCOMMUNICATORS!

INT. TOE JACKSON'S HOUSE -DINING ROOM

Mrs. Jackson on her cellphone, texting from one end of the table. Toe sits in the middle, eating dinner with his TWO BROKEN ARMS. Mr. Jackson at the other end of the table, talking on his bluetooth earpiece between bites of food. He also has a laptop open with charts and graphs on the screen.

He's rapid one-handed typing on the computer.

MOM JACKSON

I just texted you to ask what time we were going to the costume party.

JACKSON

(not looking at her)

I just texted you back.

Mom checks out her phone.

MOM JACKSON

Oh. You did? What time are we going?

JACKSON

Did you read the text?

MOM JACKSON

I didn't GET the text.

JACKSON

It's coming.

MOM JACKSON

It is not coming. Just tell me--

Her phone beeps. She looks at it. It says, "7:30."

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)

Oh, Seven-thirty.

Computer screen beeps -- YOU HAVE NEW MAIL. Jackson clicks the mail open.

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)

That doesn't give me much time to get ready.
I'd better start.

Mom's cellphone rings. She answers. Listens, perplexed.

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)

Because...

(calling out to the other room)

Because he's your brother and this is an emergency and we didn't have time to make other arrangements.

Stacey walks into the room as Mom talks.

STACEY

(hanging up the phone)

But MOM!

MOM JACKSON

Do it for us okay. Tonight is very important.

Stacey gives Toe a dirty look.

JACKSON

Yes. If I land this deal tonight, I make partner.

MOM JACKSON

(surprised)

You didn't tell me that before.

JACKSON

Sure I did. I texted you. Or emailed you. Possibly both.

MOM JACKSON

Hm.

A phone rings. Everyone reaches for their phones and opens them, "Hello?"

But the phone still rings. Puzzled, Toe pulls out his own cell with some difficulty. It's ringing.

It reads IDENTITY BLOCKED. Toe looks nervous.

STACEY

Who's calling *you*?

TOE JACKSON

Nobody. A friend from school, probably wanting help with the math homework.

Mom smiles.

MOM JACKSON

Do you have a girlfriend?

TOE JACKSON

No.

Toe turns beet-red and leaves the room.

STACEY

He does.

INT. TOE'S ROOM

Toe shuts the door behind him and answers the phone.

HELVETICA

Your parents are coming the costume party at my dad's house tonight.

TOE JACKSON

I know. At 7:30.

HELVETICA

You coming?

TOE JACKSON

NO.

HELVETICA

Good.

TOE JACKSON

BYE.

HELVETICA

Wait. Have you told them about me?

TOE JACKSON

What would I say? "Mom and Dad, there's a girl who throws me in the trash every day at school. You know, the one who broke my arms."

HELVETICA

That's funny. Don't come over, and don't say anything about me.

TOE JACKSON

I won't.

Phone clicks off. Toe looks at it, shrugs, then puts it down on the bedside table. He kicks off his shoes. They land near the RAINBOW ROCK which lies on the floor near a pair of jeans. Toe lays down, broken arms stuck out and up.

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM

Mom is doing her makeup in front of the makeup mirror while typing a text message. Jackson is putting on his suit. Looks dapper. Both still have bluetooth earpieces. Dad gets the text. Reads it aloud.

JACKSON

(reading)

"We should be closer?"

(typing)

Closer... to... what?

We pan over the long mirror and realize they are in the same room, not 5 feet from each other.

MOM JACKSON

Look at us. We're in the same ROOM and we're still texting each other. What happened to two people talking?

He finally looks up at her reflection in the mirror and sees her making eye contact.

JACKSON

We live in a fast-moving world, and these gadgets, made by the company we work for by the way, keep us connected.

MOM JACKSON

But we're *disconnected*. Don't you see?

JACKSON

Do you want me to put it away?

MOM JACKSON

I didn't say that. I like my phone, email, text messages, movies, ham radio, and music. I can talk to people, it's like the world at my fingertips. I--

(MORE)

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)
(phone beeps)
I've got mail.

His cellphone rings at the same time.

BOTH
Don't answer/open that.

MOM JACKSON
(re: Black Box)
I mean... How much more can these things
do?

JACKSON
We'll find out tonight, won't we?

They're really close now -- about to kiss. A moment passes between them.
One of hope.

BOTH
I have to get this.

JACKSON
You see? You prove my point.

He steps away, taking the call. Mom opens her email.

MOM JACKSON
I still think we oughta be closer.

INT. TOE'S ROOM

Mom enters, dressed for the costume party as a BEAUTY PAGEANT WINNER
in a sequined dress, a crown and a sash across it that says, "MISS
COMMUNICATION."

She sees that Toe is crashed out on the bed.

The phone is buzzing. (silent mode) Mom It reads: IDENTITY BLOCKED: DEAR
TOE, I'M NOT KIDDING.

TOE JACKSON
Mom?

She's startled that's she's caught spying. Tries to cover.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

MOM JACKSON

I was just... looking for my compact.

She reaches down to the floor and grabs the RAINBOW ROCK, puts it in her purse and snaps it shut, so he can see the weight of it going in.

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)

Here it is. What do you think of my costume?

(pointing out sash)

"MISS COMMUNICATION."

TOE JACKSON

It fits.

MOM JACKSON

Good night, son. We'll be in after bedtime so you just... take it easy on your sister.

TOE JACKSON

I will. Have a good time.

Mom leaves.

EXT. BLACK HOUSE

People arrive for the costume party.

INT. BLACK HOUSE - COSTUME PARTY

Guests arrive and enter. Helvetica appears in a totally uncharacteristic PRINCESS dress. Usually the TOMBOY, this is a very different look for her. The double ARM CASTS are out of place, though. Her DAD still shows her off. COLE is also there, dressed as a football player. [SCORPION is TEAM MASCOT].

As BLACK greets guests, Helvetica takes Cole aside.

HELVETICA

You look stupid.

COLE

So do you.

BOTH

Dad made me wear this.

COLE

You think Toe's going to show up?

HELVETICA

He wouldn't dare.

COLE

The trashcan is ready if he does.

She thinks.

INT. TOE'S BEDROOM

Toe watching TV. His cellphone rings. He answers.

TOE JACKSON

Stop calling me!

LOOGIE

I never call you.

TOE JACKSON

Oh, hey Loogie. What do you want?

LOOGIE

I gotta tell you about this rainbow rock I found. Granted wishes. I got rid of it. Now I wish I hadn't. Have you seen it?

TOE JACKSON

Slow down. What wishing rock?

LOOGIE

It's a rock, and you wish on it, and your wish comes true. It looks like a rainbow. And I think it has something to do with your flying saucers.

Toe searches the floor. The rock's gone. He remembers...

TOE JACKSON

(whispered)

Mom...

LOOGIE

(hears phone hang up)

Hello?

EXT JACKSON HOUSE

We see Stacey on the phone through one window, then pan over to Toe's window. He's opening it and leaping out, fully dressed. He grabs his bike, his cast-bound arms fitting easily to the handlebars.

Camera rises as he rides across the street from his house. Camera continues to rise until we can see a few streets down where the Black's lit up house is.

EXT. BLACK HOUSE

People arrive for the costume party.

EXT. BLACK HOUSE - NIGHT

Jackson's car drives up. They step out and start walking to the door.

MOM JACKSON

Remember our honeymoon?

JACKSON

The Yucatan.

MOM JACKSON

Tulum.

JACKSON

Right.

MOM JACKSON

We could go back there. No phones. No emails. No texts. No *black box*. Just the two of us. You even used to do yoga with me. We had balance.

Mom trips on the curb. Her purse spills. He helps her steady herself, then starts gathering the things from her purse. Sees the rock, it's glowing. Tosses it in.

Mom holds the purse close to her.

MOM JACKSON (CONT'D)

(ringing the doorbell)

I just wish we were closer, that's all. Really close. You know?

Blinding light shoots up from inside the purse and is gone in an instant. Suddenly their bodies are MELDED INTO ONE, half beauty queen, half pageant emcee.

JACKSON

What just happened?!

MOM JACKSON

Get off me!

JACKSON

You get off ME!

They see themselves. They are conjoined twins.

MOM JACKSON

We can't go in there looking like this!

JACKSON

Looking like *THIS!*?!? How am I going to get Mr. Black to take me seriously when I'm wearing YOUR DRESS?

MOM JACKSON

Someone's coming!

They DIVE into the BUSHES. Mom's purse falls to the ground.

BLACK answers the door, but there's no one there. Looks around.

INT. PARTY

Black takes Helvetica aside.

BLACK

Someone just rang the doorbell and ran off. Are you making enemies again? To maintain community morale, I'll have to punish you twice as harshly.

HELVETICA

I'd *never* do *anything* you didn't want me to,
Dad.

BLACK

Well, if they come back, let me handle it. Don't
YOU handle it, understood?

Black goes back to his guests. Helvetica narrows her eyes and heads in the opposite direction.

EXT. BUSHES - NIGHT

Mom/Dad look like the Thing With Two Heads.

JACKSON

Change us back!

MOM JACKSON

I didn't do this!

JACKSON

You said you wanted us to be closer. And then
we were. TOO CLOSE. Change us back now!

MOM JACKSON

I want us back the way we were!

Nothing happens.

JACKSON

Why didn't it work? You did it wrong!

MOM JACKSON

It's a sign. Something out there is trying to
teach us a lesson.

JACKSON

About what? Anatomy?!

The cellphone rings. They both reach for it.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

That's me.

(fumbling)

I can't reach it. Help me-

MOM JACKSON
(getting pinched)
OW! Let it go to voicemail!

EXT. KITCHEN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Helvetica steps out the back way and scans the area for Toe. Mom and Dad spot her and fly back into the bushes. Helvetica sees the movement and heads that way.

She picks up the purse on the ground, looks around. She peers closer to the place where MOM/DAD lie hidden.

Mom and Dad have their hands over each others mouths, shushing each other. They push each others hands off.

TOE drives up on his bicycle and hops off behind her, startling her.

TOE JACKSON
What are you looking for?

She wheels around and whacks him with the PURSE.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)
Ow!!

HELVETICA
I warned you to stay away, TOE JACKSON!

TOE JACKSON
What was that for?

HELVETICA
Fun?

Helvetica rears back to strike again as Mr. Black opens the door. Looks at Helvetica and TOE.

HELVETICA (CONT'D)
Dad? This is Toe, I mean, Toby. He was coming to bring me my math homework.

BLACK
Your math homework is a purse?

HELVETICA

Uh... Yeah, it's about figuring out the cost differential between a real Louis Vuitton handbag and a knockoff.

Mom and Dad still in the bushes...

MOM JACKSON

Did she just call my bag a knockoff?

JACKSON

Shhh!

BLACK

Please accept my apologies, young man. My daughter has the unfortunate habit of bringing unwanted attention upon herself.

HELVETICA

But Dad--

MR BLACK

Take him inside, put some *ice on his head...* and we'll talk about this later.

INT. KITCHEN, BLACK'S HOUSE

Servers prepare party trays and take them in and out of the kitchen.

Toe touches the bump on his head. Helvetica hands him a kitchen rag filled with ice.

TOE JACKSON

Is it bleeding?

HELVETICA

Not yet it isn't.

TOE JACKSON

My mom's purse.

Toe takes the purse and grabs the ROCK. He hops up to leave.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Thanks for the ice, Bye!

HELVETICA

Hey, what's that?

Helvetica tries snatching it away. They struggle.

TOE JACKSON

Let go of the wishing ro...!

Helvetica jerks it away.

HELVETICA

Wishing Rock? How does it work?

TOE JACKSON

I meant a Fishing rock. It attracts the fish. They jump right into the boat whenever I go fishing.

Cole bounds in and tackles Toe, dumping Toe into the kitchen trashcan.

COLE

Haha! Two points!

HELVETICA

Cole, you stupid excuse for a brother! I wish you were a stupid little DUNG BEETLE.

Cole instantly morphs into a tiny Dung Beetle and scurries across the kitchen floor. All the servers and kitchen workers try to stomp on him as he zigzag to avoid their feet.

COLE

(in tiny bug voice)

Help meeeee!

HELVETICA

Wow.

Helvetica, stunned, Gets whacked by Toe, (who still has the Trashcan on his head) and she drops the rock onto a server's tray as a SERVER enters, picks up the TRAY and leaves the kitchen back into the party.

EXT. BUSHES

MOM/DAD watch stunned.

JACKSON

Did you see that?

MOM JACKSON

We need to go in there and get that ROCK.

JACKSON

How are we going to do that when we look like Siamese twins!?

Beat.

INT. PARTY

Doorbell rings. The door opens revealing The Jacksons standing there with half-hearted smiley faces.

BLACK

Mr and Mrs Jackson -- excellent costume! Pity we're not giving out prizes.

JACKSON

Honey, this is Mr Black. Mr. Black, allow me to introduce ... um...

MOM JACKSON

His better half. I work for you, too, by the way.

BLACK

I'm sure you do.

Mom Jackson smiles, tries to extend a hand. Jackson extends his instead. Black shakes his hand.

MOM JACKSON

Pleasure to meet you.

Black looks at the sash over their conjoined bodies.

BLACK

"Miss Communication." Our theme for the night! If you would please join the others, I'll be addressing everyone shortly.

Mom/Dad quickly scan the trays, looking for the stone, bumping into other odd costumes.

They are trying to walk through the crowd, and get in step with each other.

MOM JACKSON

(low, to Dad)

So far so good. Nobody's really noticed us.
Try and stay in step.

JACKSON

Let's just find the rock and change ourselves
so I can seal the deal.

Some people talk business. Mom notices how, even though people are talking, they're secretly carrying on text conversations behind their backs or just out of eyesight.

MOM JACKSON

Look at that. Half communication with each
other at best. It's not natural.

JACKSON

You and me stuck together like Chang and
Eng, THAT'S not natural.

INT. KITCHEN

Helvetica stands by the refrigerator whispering to Dung Beetle Cole as servers pass. He's hiding behind the fridge, squealing.

HELVETICA

I'm gonna change you back. Just stay here so
you won't get squished! Quit your whining!

Toe yanks Helvetica's ponytail.

TOE JACKSON

Give me that rock back.

HELVETICA

My brother's a bug!

TOE JACKSON

So what's new?

HELVETICA

The rock's out there somewhere. I'm going to
get it.

He locks casts with her.

TOE JACKSON

We go together. Like Siamese twins.

INT. PARTY

The door opens to Mr. Noseworthy, in full germ free biohazard suit.

BLACK

Mr. Noseworthy, welcome! And in a full anti-germ body suit, same as every year. How consistent. Come in, you're late. That's... also consistent.

We follow the tray with the rock as it goes to Noseworthy. Mr. Noseworthy reaches past the rock for an hors d'oeuvre and tries to bring it to his mouth, but the biohazard costume blocks his face.

Music plays. Toe and Helvetica dance with their locked casts to get across the party, but they're tracking servers and their trays.

HELVETICA

First thing we do is wish off these casts. My arms are scratchy, bloated masses of scabby flesh.

TOE JACKSON

Not while there's food near, please.

At the opposite end of the room, Mom/Dad are doing the same thing, but much clumsier.

DAD JACKSON

Will you let me lead?

MOM JACKSON

I'm trying to, but you've got two left feet!

BLACK

I need everyone's attention!

All the partygoers look to Black, who stands above them all on a dais.

BLACK (CONT'D)

VERSION X OF THE BLACK BOX -- is delayed indefinitely.

(crowd reacts)

No, no.

(MORE)

BLACK (CONT'D)

I made a promise to myself, and more importantly, to the world, that I would never release an upgrade that wasn't worthy of the Black mantle. Version X has simply failed to meet our highest standards of "wow." So I come to you with this message: Do whatever it takes. Industrial espionage? Fine. Traffic in trade secrets? Perfect. Murder? Well, only you know what you must do.

Mom and Dad nervously scratch and adjust their tie etc with each other's hands. They're not quite in sync.

BLACK (CONT'D)

Whoever comes to me with the magic solution can have just about any position he wants at Black Inc. Maybe even mine.

(laughs)

No, but you get the idea. That's how important it is.

Mom and Dad BOTH put their hands up.

JACKSON

I have it honey, you can put your hand down.

MOM JACKSON

My hand is up for a reason.

JACKSON

You didn't tell me you were going for the same promotion.

MOM JACKSON

Yes I did. I emailed you, or texted you. Possibly both.

BLACK

Well, TWO entries from the same household. Now that's the competitive, go for the throat spirit I'm talking about!

Toe and Helvetica and Mom/Dad spot the server with the rock on his tray walking toward Black.

HELVETICA

Over there!

BLACK
(taking the rock off tray)
One for all and all for ME. I mean us.

Everyone claps. Mom/Dad watching Black closely. Toe/Helvetica too.

BLACK (CONT'D)
I wish each and every one of you had that "GO
FOR THE THROAT" spirit.

Giant BLAST of GLOW sweeps over the entire ROOM!

EVERYONE in the PARTY turns to the person next to him and STARTS
CHOKING THEM. Black can't believe his eyes.

Noseworthy's eyes go WIDE behind the biohazard mask as someone
RUSHES him and tackles him to the ground.

ONLY HELVETICA/TOE can't do it -- because they can't REACH EACH
OTHER'S NECKS!

BLACK (CONT'D)
What's happening! What are you doing? Have
you all gone mad?!

People are fighting each other, mayhem has broken out.

Tiny DUNG COLE steps out from under the kitchen door to see the mayhem
and scurries through their feet.

Mom/Dad come stumbling through the partygoers like a mad beast. They try to
avoid the mad grabs of the others.

MOM JACKSON
Remember our yoga!
(calling out yoga positions)
Eagle pose! Cobra pose! Locust pose! Half-
tortoise!

Mom/Dad do the positions quick-like and knock people out of their way.

Black lets the rock drop from his hand -- and Mom/Dad and Helvetica/Toe run
for it -- both meeting in the middle.

TOE JACKSON
Mom! Dad! Mom? Dad?

Helvetica forces Toe down and they snag the rock.

BOTH

Give us the rock!

BLACK

Jackson! Do you know what's happening?

JACKSON

Mr. Black, I think I've found the solution to your little upgrade problem.

HELVETICA

I've got the rock now, Dad! We can have anything we want. Just wish for it!

BLACK

This is all your doing, isn't it! We're here to talk about a box. A BLACK box. Not a round, colorful rock! This BOX needs to be able to do everything! This is the last straw, Helvetica. Go to your ROOM!

HELVETICA

I wish you would JUST LISTEN TO ME for a CHANGE!

Black's ears start to GROW-- his expression changes. Helvetica's the boss.

TOE JACKSON

Helvetica! Don't!

HELVETICA

I wish these casts were off!

Both Helvetica's and Toe's casts disappear.

HELVETICA (CONT'D)

No, not his, just mine!

Toe's reappear.

TOE JACKSON

You're mad right now, and your wishes are coming out of your anger.

HELVETICA

I wish for a rocket bike!

A rocket bike appears. She hops on, revs up.

TOE JACKSON

I know what it's like to think no one's your friend. Helvetica, I'm your friend.

She shuts her eyes, then opens them. SMILES WIDE -- NO BRACES.

HELVETICA

See ya, stooges!

She revs up and barrels out the front door, narrowly missing tiny Dung Beetle Cole.

Mom and Dad run after her and they get on Toe's bike.

DAD JACKSON

Are you crazy!?

MOM JACKSON

I want that rock! Now PEDAL!

The MAYHEM of the MOB spills out into the front yard. Helvetica looks back at the mob. She immediately crashes and flies RIGHT INTO A TRASHCAN!
Upended.

TOE JACKSON

Will you look at that...

The rock goes rolling down the street.

MOM JACKSON

Faster!

DAD JACKSON

(struggling uphill)

I can't!

MOM JACKSON

(pedaling)

I wished us to be closer but it's the same problem. We're close physically, but we're disconnected. Not in sync.

(A pratfall to illustrate the point follows.)

The rock rolls past Mom/Dad on the bike. They start to go backwards downhill.

EXT. OUTSIDE BLACK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Toe sees the rock rolling downhill. Gaining speed. Starts to run toward it.

Mom/Dad hit the curb backwards and go flying into the front lawn towards the house.

The rock breaks through the huge front window, making a tiny hole. A beat later the ENTIRE WINDOW breaks open as the bike and everyone else comes pouring in.

Toe raises the rock high!

TOE JACKSON

I wish you were all back to normal!

MOM/DAD become two separate people with a loud sound like velcro separating.

People who were fighting shake the mess from their clothes and shake hands reluctantly.

Noseworthy, bio-suit in tatters, stumbles through the house.

NOSEWORTHY

Contaminators! All of you!

Toe runs to the front door, and opens it.

Helvetica is there, covered in trash, looking worse for wear. She lunges for the rock, but Toe maneuvers away.

Toe runs out the window but she still grabs for him, so he spins like a discus thrower and flings the rock far away.

INT. HOUSE

Mr Black realizes his ears are back to normal. He makes his way quickly through the recovering crowd, pushing aside the now-normal COLE, and heads to the window for the rock.

BLACK

Well, someone obviously spiked the Kool-Aid.
You will remember none of this tomorrow.

EXT HOUSE

Black steps out and stands with Helvetica who watches Toe run off.

BLACK (CONT'D)

Where is that funny little stone of yours?

HELVETICA

The idiot threw it. Clear over there
somewhere.

BLACK

Did he....

BACK INSIDE

Mom and Dad see that they are separate again. They're happy. Sort of.

MOM JACKSON

We're back to our old separate selves.

JACKSON

We don't have to be.

MOM JACKSON

That rock could have gotten one of us that
promotion.

JACKSON

We can still get it. The promotion, I mean. Just
not that way. We can make anything happen
together. If we're in sync.

MOM JACKSON

One foot in front of the other? One step at a
time?

JACKSON

For all time.

Their cellphones ring.

BOTH

Don't get that.

BOTH (CONT'D)

I won't.

They kiss.

A big bright light. Then over black.

TOE JACKSON

Alllllright. You get the idea. They learned their lesson, and decided from then on they would stand TRULY together. They were going to need it where they were headed. We all were.

TITLE CARD

EPISODE FIVE: "EVERYONE" IN:

"THE END"

EXT. NOSE'S HOUSE - DAY

(Repeat from the opening story:)

The rock has just rolled away from the blasted Booger Monster. Toe, Stacey, Loogie and Nose lie on the ground.

Nose opens his eyes.

TOE JACKSON

Are you okay?

NOSE

(weakly)

Uh-huh.

Toe grabs the rock.

TOE JACKSON

Good seeing you, Nose. Gotta go!

Loogie and Toe run off. (End of Repeat)

EXT. STREET - DAY

Loogie and Toe run down the street, talking while they run.

LOOGIE

We've got the rock! I can't believe it!

TOE JACKSON

Me neither!

LOOGIE

What should we wish for first? I could never figure that out. Kept getting myself into trouble.

TOE JACKSON

Well... besides wishing my casts off...

ZING! They disappear!

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

This is bigger than "The Cliff." There are so many options that don't just impact us but the entire world. So we have to be careful. What if we started by--

COLE tackles TOE and LOOGIE to the ground. HELVETICA snatches the rock midair.

HELVETICA

--handing the rock over to me! You two little losers aren't bright enough to wield this kind of power.

Laser and Lug appear.

LASER

Hey, she's got a rock just like ours.

LUG

It IS ours, you dummy!

Nose appears.

HELVETICA

Look who's here. Everybody's favorite booger-eating scaredypants. What are you doing outside? Aren't you afraid?

COLE

Yeah, what did YOU wish for. Guts?

TOE JACKSON

He came out here on his own.
(off their looks)
He didn't need the rock.

NOSE

I'm not afraid of anything anymore. Not even
you, typeface.

Helvetica's eyes widen. She's never been so insulted.

SCREECHING SOUND off camera.

All turn.

A FLEET OF CLIFF COMMUNITY SECURITY GUARDS PULL UP AND MAKE A
BARRICADE WITH THEIR SQUAD CARS.

NOSE (CONT'D)

Uh-oh, Cops.

(whisper to Toe)

My first day out in the world and I'm gonna be
arrested. Jail is full of germs.

TOE JACKSON

They're not real cops. They're the community
patrol and they all work for "you know who."

MR. BLACK steps out of his Black Car and walks towards the barricade.

Black's Security Guy breaks the silence.

SECURITY GUY

(into Megaphone)

Put the object on the ground and step away.

HELVETICA

It's just a stupid rock. See?

TOE JACKSON

(whispering to Loogie)

Grab it and wish for something!

LOOGIE

I don't know what to wish for. You do it!

MEGAPHONE clicks.

SECURITY MAN

Young lady, you don't understand what you
have there. Put it down, Now!

HELVETICA
Don't understand, eh?

Helvetica holds the ROCK high above her head.

Loogie leaps up and grabs it out of her hand and runs.

BLACK
Get it, Helvetica! DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!

HELVETICA
I thought you told me not to bully!

BLACK
It's not bullying if you WIN. Now DO IT!

She scowls at him, for this goes against her antagonistic nature towards him. She also hates being told what to do.

Helvetica turns back and leaps on them all, tackling them to the ground.

She squeezes the rock and it glows.

Cut to the rock rolling out of the "pile up."

Nose grabs it and runs with it.

They all chase Nose.

NOSE
I wish I could FLY!

FLOOP! He turns into a bird and flies away. The rock falls into LASER'S hands.

LASER
I got it!

Laser runs into a nearby house.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET - DAY

The Jacksons are driving in their car -- still dressed in the costumes from the night before -- looking for TOE.

MOM JACKSON
Where could he be?

JACKSON

We'll find him. And we'll find that rock.

MOM JACKSON

You want the rock after what happened to us?!

JACKSON

Just imagine what the company could do with something like that--

Mom gives him a look like he's suddenly drunk with power.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Exactly. So that's why we have to destroy it.

She smiles a proud smile at him.

INT. BLINKERS HOUSE

The BLINKERS sit in the front room, still in their STARE-DOWN.

Laser runs past them, followed by kids and adults.

Laser holds the rock high up above the other's heads.

LASER

I wish I had really long arms!

They leap and jump, flailing and grasping but Laser's hands stretch to the ceiling.

Close on his hand as he mysteriously loses grip and the rock floats away.

He and everyone else stare at it in wonder as it goes.

LOOGIE

Somebody must've wished themselves invisible!

Just then, Helvetica appears. She has the Rock!

She crawls back down to the floor (she was sticking to the ceiling like a spider) and runs.

They chase after her.

She turns a corner and is gone.

BLACK (CONT'D)
I said LISTEN UP, everyone!

Mom and Dad Jackson step up, looking at each other nervously. So do the other gathering adults.

BLACK (CONT'D)
YOU'RE ALL FIRED!

Gasps. As Black speaks, his "wishes" come true.

BLACK (CONT'D)
Because you see... This little doo dad is the ULTIMATE Black Box. The only update we'll EVER need. Late last night it occurred to me I could fire you all, and completely automate my factory using this lovely little talisman. No pesky workman's comp claims. No redecorating the break room. Then I thought, WAIT. Why even automate the factory to make little black boxes to sell at a profit, when I can just forget the business altogether and simply wish for a MOUNTAIN of MONEY?

HE CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF THE MONEY platform that's now under him and that keeps rising till he's several stories tall, equal to the ROOF of the BLACK INC BUILDING.

EMPLOYEE
(yelling up)
What about profit sharing?!

BLACK
Let me think about it. Hmm. No. Because you see... BLACK becomes COLORFUL... SQUARE becomes ROUND... and YOU become OBSOLETE. While I hold the KEY TO THE WORLD!

Helvetica and Toe exchange a look. Toe just shakes his head.

HELVETICA
(yelling up)
Come on, Dad... you MUST be joking...

She winks at Toe.

BLACK
OH, my girl.. *I wish I were!*

THE MONEY disappears and he starts to fall but manages to hang onto the edge of the Black Inc roof.

The rock rolls along the ledge. All eyes on it. Black edges closer to it. Makes a grab for it but misses it as it falls down into SECURITY GUY's hand.

BLACK (CONT'D)
Excellent. Now wish me down safely!

SECURITY GUY
You fired us, remember?

BLACK
I'm re-hiring you. At double your salary. Now will you get me down from here?

SECURITY GUY
I don't need your money, Mr. Black. I've got the rock. *My turn.*

Security Guy holds up the rock.

DAD JACKSON
Don't do it!

TOE JACKSON
(to kids)
We gotta ruin their wishes. If the adults get hold of that rock, they'll wreck this place for sure!

LOOGIE
Right!

SECURITY GUY
I wish I was an --

NOSE
(grabs security guy's hand)
Oscar Meyer Weiner!

Loogie let's go just before the Rock GLOWS bright. The security guy turns into a big hot dog FRANK bouncing in the street. The rock bounces.

Helvetica and Cole dive for the rock at the same time -- both hands grab it.

COLE

You already had a turn.

HELVETICA

I'm taking another one.

COLE

I'm sick and tired of taking orders from you!

HELVETICA

You want to go head-to-head with me?

COLE

Anytime.

Helvetica holds it up.

HELVETICA

I wish I were a giant WASP -- ten stories tall!
With an army of GIANT ALIEN INSECTS at my
command!

Since she has no hands, the rock FALLS to the ground. As she speaks, her body transforms and contorts into the giant WASP and the army mobilizes behind her.

HELVETICA (CONT'D)

(as giant wasp)

Insect Army -- ATTACK!!!

The ALIEN INSECT ARMY swoops down on everyone. People scramble.

Cole takes the rock.

COLE

I wish I was a GIANT DUNG BEETLE with a
GIANT DUNG BEETLE ARMY!

It happens. Cole contorts into a GIANT BEETLE with an ARMY OF BEETLES behind him.

The rock falls from his grasp and Laser catches it.

LASER

I wish for a giant flyswatter!

A HUGE FLYSWATTER falls on top of him. He struggles to get out from under it. Loogie heaves but it won't budge.

LASER (CONT'D)
Forget me, Get the ROCK!

The WASPS and SCORPIONS TEAR UP THE STREET. They crush cars, houses, in their wake.

The NEIGHBORHOOD people scurry away!

TOE JACKSON
(watching all the neighbors run)
There goes the neighborhood.

INT. HOUSE

The BLINKER kids are staring each other down by the front window.

BLINKER #2 blinks. Astonished at what's outside.

BLINKER #1
YOU BLINKED!!

BLINKER #2 mouthing silent words of awe.

BLINKER #1 (CONT'D)
35 hours, 15 minutes and 20 seconds and
YOU blinked! YOU LOSE, LOSER!

We see creatures walking by as Blinker #1 gloats.

EXT. BLACK INC. BUILDING

Black hanging from the roof. WASPS fly by, menacing him.

Suddenly sees a GIANT TEENAGER watching the mayhem next to him.

BLACK
You! Come here! Help me down!

Big teen hoists Black down.

BLACK (CONT'D)
Careful!

Stacey runs out into the crowd. Sees the big teen.

STACEY
John?

BOYFRIEND

You wished I would grow up. I guess I did!

Stacey faints.

Rock keeps rolling and rolling and rolling --

Right into Loogie's and Toe's hands.

TOE JACKSON

We need backup.

LOOGIE

I wish for my Crocodile army.

TOE JACKSON

I wish for my alien friends.

THE CROCODILES step out of the bushes. The adults can't believe their eyes.

Mom Jackson spots Loogie's BABY SISTER stepping into the mayhem.

MOM JACKSON

Bob! There's a baby out there!

A SWARM of tiny Spaceships flood from behind TOE, causing even more mayhem.

Tiny ALIEN SPACESHIPS appear -- they beam onto the rock and lift it up again --

CROC KING swipes at them but the ROCK levitates away --

Into baby's hands. Her lips don't move as she "speaks."

BABY SISTER

(v.o.)

Stop.

Everything freezes.

BABY

(v.o.)

You've made the ANIMATOR angry.

TOE JACKSON

The what?

BABY

(v.o.)

The Animator has given life to your petty desires.

LUG

Uh, excuse me, but why are any of you listening to her? She's a BABY.

LOOGIE

But it TOLD us it was a WISHING ROCK!

BABY

And look at how you've used it. How you've squandered it. In your greedy hands, it could mean the end of the world, even the end of the universe.

LOOGIE

She's right.

LUG

Is it wrong to want to smack a baby?

BABY waves a hand and an ALIEN SPACESHIP smacks LUG.

LUG (CONT'D)

OW!

Baby holds a hand to her face.

LOOGIE

What's wrong?

BABY

The animator grows weary. It cannot sustain the strain on its powers.

Baby drops the ROCK. It spins like a gyroscope.

LOOGIE

What's it doing?

TOE JACKSON

It's making it's own wish...

The ROCK starts to grow -- larger and larger and larger -- spitting out sparks as it spins.

Everything around them starts to UNFREEZE -- the battling armies of insects -- the CROC KING and his ARMY -- the battling parents --

A GIANT STORM CLOUD BREWS in the sky... swirling... lightning flashing, threatening to pour down on them all.

The ROCK starts to change color... One by one the bands of the rainbow fade into grey and finally BLACK.

Helvetica and Cole, no longer giant insects, fall to the ground.

BABY

We have to get rid of it or it will destroy us all!

JACKSON

How?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

I've got it. Something I've been working on to increase black box battery life.

MR BLACK

Really?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Germs that actually harness our energies to power the Black Box. It's in the testing phase.

He opens his coat, and inside are WHITE JARS. He opens them.

ALL

Germs!?

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Dip in! Don't worry, they're sanitized.

They pass them around. Noseworthy dips first. Slimey wormy things.

TOE JACKSON

I don't get it.

DR. NOSEWORTHY

They collect and magnify the energy from the mitochondria in every cell in your body. This will eventually allow us to -

BLACK

Spare us the science lesson, Noseworthy,
what do we do!

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Hold hands!

ALL

EWWWWW!

DR. NOSEWORTHY

Our own combined energy can get rid of the
Rock, but we have to all stand together...

They do.

DR. NOSEWORTHY (CONT'D)

(to himself)

...and hope I didn't accidently bring the jars of
snot.

A power comes from them as they all hold hands. They are fighting back
against the rock with their own inner energies.

BABY

We know we have disrespected you... leave
us now, and we shall pick up the pieces...
learning from our mistakes.

Huge EXPLOSION! Everything spinning around in a whirlpool -- all the
creatures and wishes-gone-bad sucked into the vortex... all disappearing into
nothingness.

BOOM!

A quick FLASH OF TORRENTIAL RAINFALL on them. They are drenched. As
quickly as it came, it went.

The ROCK EXPLODES and is gone.

A NEW RAINBOW appears in the distance.

LOOGIE

A new rainbow. Where is the end of it?

TOE JACKSON

Far away. I guess for someone else to have a chance. Maybe they'll be a little smarter about it.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

People pick up the pieces of their neighborhood and all can be whispering to themselves and each other all the things they could have wished for... things that are good that they didn't think about... all the missed opportunities.

Camera tracks from person to person as they pick up their mess and dust off their clothes.

LASER

I told you we should have wished for world peace... this never would have happened!

TOE JACKSON

Maybe we're *supposed* to figure it out ourselves. Anything else would be *wishful thinking*.

Stacey and her boyfriend in tattered HULK clothes walk arm in arm. Exhausted. We see others reunite.

Toe and Helvetica approach each other. A TRASHCAN is rolling down the street and stops between them, hitting the curb and rolling top side up.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Don't even think about it.

HELVETICA

That's not what I had in mind.

Helvetica extends a hand.

Toe takes it. They shake.

Mom and Dad walk up.

MOM JACKSON

Is this your... special friend?

HELVETICA

(nods)

I'm Helvetica.

MOM

Nice to meet you.

TOE JACKSON

(leaning over)

So we're friends?

HELVETICA

Let's settle for "no longer enemies."

TOE JACKSON

Well, it's a good start.

Camera pulls back on the scene... fading into shots of the various players as Toe describes them...

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

(v.o.)

So that's pretty much how that week went. I made some new friends. Loogie and his brothers got the adventure of their young lives. My parents are together. For the first time, really, or at least that's how they put it.

Shot of Mom and Dad doing yoga together beachside.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

Nose and his Dad teamed up and continued working on experiments in personal hygiene.

Shot of Nose and Dr. Noseworthy, smiling, as camera flashes and their picture appears in the local paper.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

My dad didn't make partner, but he and Mr. Black became friends. Not best friends, but good friends, seeing as how they might get to be family someday.

HELVETICA

Hold on. I never agreed to that.

TOE JACKSON

You will.

A shot of the black box.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

The black box was never perfected. In fact, Mr. Black initiated a top-to-bottom redesign. He thought he should do something to change the world for the better. So he went GREEN.

Recycling logo appears on the "black box," now GREEN.

TOE JACKSON (CONT'D)

But it could never do what the rainbow rock could do. And even if it could, would we really want it? Sometimes wishing does make it so, so be sure you're wishing for something *worth* wishing for.

LOOGIE

I wished we were in a Hollywood movie.

HELVETICA

Yeah, like that's gonna happen.

Loogie turns to face the camera. Smiles BIG.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END