

TOONED

"Pilot"

Written by
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DANIEL & JOSH'S APARTMENT - STUDY - DAY

DANIEL OZ, 27, goofy with an irrepressible fun spirit, CLICKS on the trackpad of his banged up MacBook. In this moment, he is completely triumphant. Ecstatic. He throws his MacBook against a wall and it bounces right back. She's sturdy.

DANIEL

Yes!

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Daniel jumps up and down on his bed, hitting his head on the ceiling each time.

DANIEL

(painfully excited)

Ow! Ow! Ow!

Daniel hops off the bed and starts jumping up and down on the floor to avoid further head injuries.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Not the same.

INT. DANIEL & JOSH'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Daniel whips out his cell and speed dials a number.

INT. JOSH'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT - INTERCUT

JOSH BENDER, 27, a homo-neurotic with hidden swag, answers the call in his boss G-Class SUV.

JOSH

Hey.

DANIEL

Big news. I am so excited, I baked a cake just so I could throw it against a wall.

JOSH

Did you buy another tambourine?

DANIEL

Check your visor.

Josh pulls down his sun visor and a TAMBOURINE FALLS onto his head.

JOSH

Daniel.

DANIEL
When we finally start our Fleetwood
Mac cover band, Fleetwood Masc, I
want us to be ready. But this isn't
about the tambourines I have or
haven't bought, or the rattlesnakes
I have or haven't bought.

SFX: RATTLE SNAKE. Josh's eyes dart.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
No, this is about us and our
future.

REVEAL Daniel hanging upside down, legs gripping the counter.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Now I am hanging from the kitchen
countertop like a bat, which means
I could easily fall onto my head
and die.

JOSH
What? Why?

DANIEL
I just want you to keep that mind
before I crack open this Cadbury
Creme Egg of news.

JOSH
Okay. Go on. Don't die.

DANIEL
Remember how we were going to that
place with sand and water for our
anniversary this weekend?

JOSH
Yes, a beach. And the plane leaves
in like --

DANIEL
Four hours? Yeah, wouldn't worry
about that. Got it covered, got it
refunded, got a great story from
Cheryl in customer support. Found
us a new destination.

JOSH
What? You know I specifically grew
abs for Barbados, the birthplace of
Rihanna and the future birthplace
of our one year anniversary! Why
you gotta do me like that, man?!

DANIEL
Honey bunch, take a chill. Where
we're going, we don't need abs.

INT. DANIEL & JOSH'S APARTMENT - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Daniel opens the door to reveal Josh.

JOSH
Where are we going?

DANIEL
Wall cake?

Josh reluctantly dips his finger into the "wall cake".

JOSH
Don't change the subject --
(tasting the "wall cake")
Or the frosting. That is so good.

Josh has another taste of the frosting.

DANIEL
Right? Thank you. I made it myself.
No, but I bought it myself. Well, I
bought it with your credit card.
The point is, I'm trash. Okay,
we're late. Come on.

Daniel spins Josh out of the house.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Bye wall cake!

Daniel SLAMS the door shut. A beat and some of wall cake
DROPS onto the ground.

INT. JOSH'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Josh drives nervously as Daniel rests his feet on the dash.

DANIEL
I'm not dropping any more hints.

JOSH
You've dropped exactly none, so...
(then, spooked)
Hang on. Has this relationship just
been some long con for you to
murder me? Am I being *Gone Girl*-ed?
This has happened to me before and
I know how to fight.

Josh squares up to roundhouse Daniel, who is not in the
slightest bit shook.

DANIEL
You think I'd commit to all that?
Please, I can barely commit to
staying awake.

Daniel closes his eyes and instantly starts sleeping. Josh nudges him awake.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
See? Great dream. You were in it.
Naked. Dipped in the wall cake
frosting. How long was I out for?

JOSH
Actual seconds.

DANIEL
Okay, stop.

JOSH
Are we there?

DANIEL
No, I want snacks.

INT. 7-ELEVEN - NIGHT

Josh exits the RESTROOM and finds Daniel at his spiritual home, the CANDY AISLE.

DANIEL
Payday?

JOSH
You know I'm on my keto cleanse.
You should really get on it too.

DANIEL
Let me weigh up my options. Column
A for artery deterioration.

Daniel lifts up his basket of goodies.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Column B for body.

Daniel lifts up Josh's shirt to REVEAL abs for days, maybe even weeks.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Jeopardy! thinking music
aaaannnd... the A's have it. One
day, Joshy, one day.

JOSH
(muttering)
You always say that.

Daniel hides that he's heard Josh.

INT. JOSH'S CAR - MOVING - LATER

Daniel alternates between Chili Cheese Fritos and Honey BBQ Flavor Twists Fritos. You try picking just one.

JOSH
Are we going to Canada?

DANIEL
No. I can't have that much access
to poutine and you can't have that
much access to rocky mountains.

JOSH
I do like to climb mountains.

DANIEL
Yeah, like a goat.

JOSH
Greatest of All Time?

DANIEL
I was referring to the common farm
animal, but sure. What I can reveal
is that we are going across borders
and maybe through space and time.

EXT. RANDO HOUSE - NIGHT

Daniel leads Josh from the G-Class to the front steps of a
HOMLEY HOME.

JOSH
Please I need to know what's going
on. You know I like structure. I
schedule my breaths.

DANIEL
I know. I've seen the chart.

JOSH
Can't you just give me some kind of
idea of where we're going?

DANIEL
When you were a kid, what were you
doing on Saturday mornings?

JOSH
I don't know. Little League.

DANIEL
Well, I was getting cultured.

Daniel takes out his iPhone 6 and opens up the YouTube app.
He scrolls and then finds a video. He tilts the screen for
that ultimate landscape viewing experience.

ON THE IPHONE - GRAINY VIDEO as a late '80s/early'90s CARTOON
THEME SONG starts PLAYING. Think *DuckTales*.

JOSH
What is --

DANIEL
Just go with me on this.

ON THE IPHONE - QUICK CUTS: showing THREE BEAR CUBS getting up to mischief and VILLAINS being thwarted throughout various locations in KRYSTAL KOVE.

SINGER (ON IPHONE) (V.O.)
"There's always adventure in the air, down in Krystal Kove. Baddies and goodies battle it out. These cubs will have them eating grout! It's Cub Club! Yeah!"

Josh BLINKS.

DANIEL
Well, I hope you liked it, because that's where we're going.

Daniel RINGS the doorbell.

INT. WESTON'S HOUSE - DAY

Daniel and Josh face WESTON SMALLS, 40s. A sprightly Rick Moranis type, but more of a dick.

WESTON
Boys, welcome! Now Josh, I trust Daniel has explained everything.

JOSH
Absolutely not.

INT. WESTON'S HOUSE - STUDY - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Josh sit opposite Weston.

DANIEL
Weston specializes in a thing called fictionalized science.

JOSH
Is that real?

WESTON
"Is that real", he says. Gee, I don't know, why don't we ask my PhD?

Weston turns to a blank wall behind him.

WESTON (CONT'D)
Oh, that's right, getting it re-framed. Visualize a PhD in fictionalized science. Can you guys do that for me? I really need you to do that for me. Please do it for me.

JOSH
We're doing it.

WESTON
Good. Needed that closure. So after
Daniel and I met on the dark web --

JOSH
How?

DANIEL
I was trying to Postmates a McRib
and got lost.

WESTON
We started chatting about animated
classics and he set the wheels in
motion for all this. How come Amy
Adams from *Enchanted* gets to have
all the fun? Why don't we have a
portal that can take us into an
animated realm? So I went ahead and
created that portal and here we
are.

Daniel turns to Josh, grabbing his hands.

DANIEL
Now I know that you had your heart
and abs set on Barbados, but this
will be just as neat, maybe even
neater.

JOSH
I still don't exactly, at all --

WESTON
How dumb is this guy? My god. I'm
going to be transporting you two
into an animated universe. A
tooniverse if you will. You'll be
dropped bang into Krystal Kove,
made famous by the iconic animated
series, *Cub Club*.

Josh and Daniel take a beat to register all this info.

JOSH
How?

WESTON
Look, I could explain the science
behind it further, but you both
wouldn't understand it, so what's
the point? A waste of screen time.

DANIEL
 Baby, picture it like a holiday,
 that lasts 100 episodes and one
 direct-to-video movie that ended up
 going theatrical.

JOSH
 We're staying for 100 episodes and
 a movie?!

DANIEL
 I mean, if we want, but I've been
 dark webbing with Syfy Channel over
 here and he says we can leave
 anytime we want.

WESTON
 If you really want to leave, you
 can. All you have to say is, "I'm
 in a cartoon," which will break the
 fourth wall and then you can freely
 exit from said fourth wall. I call
 it the meta escape plan. Now I've
 rendered composites of what you'll
 both look like as cartoons.

Weston flips over a legal pad to reveal crudely drawn stick
 figures of Daniel and Josh. Daniel is labeled as "McRibber"
 and Josh has his original name scratched out and now has "The
 Annoying One".

WESTON (CONT'D)
 (off their looks)
 I didn't say they were good.

INT. WESTON'S HOUSE - LABORATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Weston busies himself pushing buttons and other science-y
 looking things as Daniel and Josh step up to their respective
 portals.

JOSH
 How are we going to explain where
 we're going?

DANIEL
 Got it covered. Wrote a fun status
 update on the Facebook.

Daniel shows Josh the status off his iPhone.

JOSH
 BRB?

DANIEL
 It means, "Be Right Back."

JOSH
I know what it means, Daniel. We
can't just write BRB and then
disappear into a cartoon universe.

WESTON
Tooniverse.

DANIEL
Mmm, that's kind of what we're
doing, so get on board! It'll be so
fun. We're going to be cartoons!
What will you look like? *Who* will
you look like? Prince Eric?
Aladdin? That fox Robin Hood?

JOSH
(dreamy)
My first celebrity crush.
(then, serious)
No, we can't do this. I have a job.

DANIEL
And I don't? Oops, said that wrong.
And I don't.
(to Weston)
Was painting scenics at the local
playhouse, but things took a turn.

WESTON
Been there. Community theatre can
be a real drag. It's why I got into
fictionalized science.

DANIEL
Besides, I've already prepped your
out of work automatic email.

Daniel flashes his iPhone again: G2G. Weston finishes his
fiddling and approaches the pair.

WESTON
Now I should warn you both. The
animation era that you want to toon
travel in is, to quote my woke
niece, "Problematic to say the
least." If you're gay, you're
either a villain or a crocodile or
both. Think about it. Jafar from
Aladdin. Gay. Scar from *The Lion*
King. Gay. Cruella De Vil. Gay...
icon.

DANIEL
So we're going to be villains. We
can be villains.

JOSH
You're the nicest person I've ever
met.

DANIEL
We'll make it work. You want to
sleep on it? Let's sleep on it.

Daniel closes his eyes and instantly stand sleeps. Josh nudges him awake.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
This time I was covered in the
frosting. Not as good. So, are we
doing this?

JOSH
There's just one thing holding me
back. No, it's stupid.

DANIEL
No, it's not stupid. I'm stupid.
Who's the dumb-dumb who has to
garnish all of their savory meals
with Cheez-Its? Who's the dumb-dumb
who only watches Disney?
(to Weston, casual)
Still don't know what the F word
is. Please don't spoil it. I like
not knowing.

JOSH
I just... I never got to wear my
Gucci slides, I was saving them for
Barbados.

DANIEL
They'll be here when we get back.
(to Weston)
No looting.

JOSH
And then there's all the memes I'm
going to miss.

DANIEL
We can make our own memes.
Actually, probably not. There won't
be any computers. You know what
there will be? Amulets. You love
amulets!

JOSH
I don't even know what an amulet
is.

DANIEL
Well, you're about to.

WESTON
Especially when you live through
season two, episode eight, "The
Quickening of the Dead."

JOSH

Wait. Whoa. I thought this was a kids show.

DANIEL

There's still mild peril.

WESTON

Now your cartoon selves will be inserted into the narrative, thus changing the space-time cartoonuum within the show. Remember, you can leave whenever by breaking the fourth wall. However, if you choose to do that, the portal will close and you'll never be able to return. I call that built in stakes.

Daniel turns to Josh.

DANIEL

Are you ready for it?

JOSH

If you are.

They hold hands and SPARKS FLY.

WESTON

Sorry. Still a little glitchy.

JOSH

Glitch please.

DANIEL

Puns. Good. We'll need those.

ZAP. There's a FLASH and Daniel and Josh VANISH from their portals.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. EVIL LAIR - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

NOTE: Everything is now beautiful hand drawn animation.

There's a ZAP as Josh and Daniel FALL from the ceiling. They groggily pick themselves up and turn to each other. Both are still in their "human" clothing.

DANIEL

It worked!

JOSH

Whoa.

DANIEL

What is it? Oh no. Are we
crocodiles? Let me count my teeth.

Daniel starts "counting" his molars.

JOSH

You're like hot. Really hot.

DANIEL

What? Stop it.

Daniel runs to a mirror, mirror on the wall. There's two next to each other. Josh runs to the other mirror.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'm the fairest of them all and not
just because I'm super white. I
mean, you're still banging.

JOSH

I don't know. Am I? I look...
droopy.

An EXPOSITIONAL WIND BLOWS open a WALK IN WARDROBE, decked out with his and his black cloaks.

DANIEL

Ooh, our villain attire. Take that,
earth clothes!

Daniel starts to undress as he makes his way over.

JOSH

Whoa.

DANIEL

What is it? Are we crocodiles from
the waist down? Let me count my
penis.

JOSH

You're ripped.

Daniel looks down at his newly rockin' bod.

DANIEL

Oh yeah. That portal really knew
what it was doing with me, huh?

Josh takes off his shirt and his abs are as missing as Shelly
Miscavige.

JOSH

Okay, that's just rude. I spent
months growing those abs.

DANIEL

Draw 'em in. That's nothing a bit
of patience and a Sharpie won't
fix. Actually probably don't have
Sharpies here. That's nothing a bit
of patience and a feathered quill
and an ink well won't fix.

JOSH

What gives?

Josh goes all sad puppy face. Daniel comforts him.

DANIEL

Baby. This just means your other
not hot senses will become
stronger.

JOSH

You don't have to lie to me. I know
that's why we're even together. On
account of my face.

DANIEL

Hey. No it isn't. I didn't even
know what you looked like until
like a month into our Chappy DM-
ing, because of my cracked iPhone
screen. No, I like you because
you're kind, loyal and above all
else, a gentleman.

JOSH

Really?

DANIEL

Yes! And you're still all those
things even without a jawline that
can cut bread. You're still my
Joshy.

Daniel "boops" Josh's nose.

EXT. EVIL LAIR - BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Josh take in the view of Krystal Kove, now in
their villain garb. Their evil lair juts out on the edge of a
cliff, overlooking the entire town.

DANIEL

Oh, isn't it beautiful?

JOSH

Such nice animation. Wait are we allowed to say animation? That won't break the fourth wall, will it?

DANIEL

Animation. Animation. Animation!

Nope, think we're good.

Suddenly a MONKEY SWINGS onto the balcony.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Heck yes! It's our non-talking animal sidekick. All the best animated villains have one.

JOSH

You're right, it's like the ultimate accessory.

DANIEL

Yes. The ultimate accessory... to murder.

JOSH

What now?

DANIEL

Come on, there's more.

The Monkey hops onto Daniel's shoulder and the pair exit, leaving Josh spooked.

INT. EVIL LAIR - OBSERVATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel spots a huge crystal ball.

DANIEL

Oh look, a crystal ball. This can
be our Netflix!

JOSH

I thought our Netflix in here could
be watching a crackling fire place.

DANIEL

That can be our Hulu.

Daniel turns back to the crystal ball.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm still watching.

Daniel SWIPES some cursive smoke text that reads: *Are you
still watching?* He leans in and is revolted at what he sees.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Disgusting!

Daniel SHUDDERS as Josh leans in see what the deal is.

JOSH

Aww.

REVEAL the CUBS from the *Cub Club* theme song. CONNIE, sassy,
CODY, sour and CRISPIN, sweet, all 8 years-old. They wear
matching denim overalls.

JOSH (CONT'D)

They're so cute.

DANIEL

That's what they want you to think.
We're not the villains, they are!

JOSH

No, pretty sure we're the villains.
That's the whole conceit of this
thing.

DANIEL

The villains never think they're
the villains. Keep up!

Daniel glares into the crystal ball.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Look at 'em. Nasty brats. Here we
are, trying to just live our lives
and they have to ruin it for us.

JOSH

Okay, they haven't done anything.

DANIEL

Yet. They haven't done anything
yet. Just you wait.

An OMINOUS MUSIC STING.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Did you hear that music too?

JOSH

I did. Or did I?

A SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC STING.

INT. EVIL LAIR - HALLWAY - LATER

Josh and Daniel make their way down a hallway.

JOSH

Man, this hallway is endless.

DANIEL

Who drew this? Hanna-Barbera?

(THEN, EXPLAINING) They used to
loop backgrounds in their shows to
cut costs.

JOSH

They also gave us John Goodman as
Fred Flintstone.

DANIEL

Our shared celebrity crush!
The monkey starts to CHATTER.

JOSH

What is it Chuckles? You like that
for his name? Chuckles?

DANIEL

If I loved it any more, it would be
John Goodman as Fred Flintstone.

Chuckles hops off Josh's shoulder and PUSHES open a door. The
room REVEALS a hoard of HENCHMEN.

HENCHMAN

We're here to do your bidding.

JOSH

Oh, we're buying property?

DANIEL

No Snickers Bar, not for auctions.
They're our henchmen for henching.
If we need help maiming and
decapitating, they've got our
backs.

HENCHMAN

When you need our help, we'll know.

JOSH

Awesome. I guess. What do you do
for the rest of the time?

HENCHMAN

Stand and wait. If you'll excuse
us.

Henchman nods at the trio and closes the door. Daniel and Josh SHRUG, then continue their evil lair journey.

INT. EVIL LAIR - CANDY VAULT - LATER

A SAFE DOOR WINDS OPEN and Daniel and Josh step in to discover MOUNDS UPON MOUNDS OF CANDY.

DANIEL

I told you I smelled candy. Column
A for artery deterioration wins
again!

Daniel and Chuckles DIVE into a candy mound. They start SPLASHING candy back and forth like it's water.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Chuckles, you are too much!

Chuckles tugs at Daniel's cloak, tilts his head towards Josh, looking super left out. Daniel "swims" over to Josh.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Hey, let's check out some other
rooms.

INT. EVIL LAIR - MYSTICAL ROOM - LATER

Daniel and Josh walk into a dark room. An OMINUS GLOW guides them deeper into the room.

JOSH

What is that?

DANIEL

Oh my stars. The amulet! It's ours!

HARP MUSIC STING as we PUSH IN on a FLOATING AMULET encased in a glass bell jar.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

The source of our powers.

JOSH

What does it do?

DANIEL

Basically, whoever has the amulet
works the magic within Krystal Kove
and I guess for this week, it's us.

JOSH

Can I wear it?

DANIEL

I'd love nothing more.

Josh lifts up the glass bell jar and reaches for the amulet.
He's interrupted as the DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. EVIL LAIR - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Josh make their way down a grand staircase.

DANIEL

Now who could this be? Were you
expecting guests?

JOSH

Clearly I wasn't.

Daniel and Josh open this door to find RUFUS, an
anthropomorphic lion. He's sardonic, bitter, loves his mane.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Look out! It's a friggin' lion!

Josh runs to find a "weapon". He THROWS a spindly wooden
chair at Rufus in an attempt to "protect" Daniel.

DANIEL

No, Josh. It's fine. He's not wild.
He's anthropomorphic.

RUFUS

Good morning to you too.

Rufus BRUSHES off some splintered wood.

DANIEL

I am so sorry. We're new to the neighborhood. Very different to where we used to live.

Daniel pulls Josh closer and squeezes his shoulders.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He's a little rattled.

RUFUS

Like my caged vultures when they misbehave.

DANIEL

Sure.

RUFUS

Well, I'm Rufus. Saw the lights on, so thought I'd come and say hello to my new neighbors. Didn't think I'd be also be saying hello to a chair to the back, but here we are!

Rufus CHUCKLES.

JOSH

Cool. Well, I'm Josh and this is Daniel. We're, um... "roommates" and also boyfriends.

RUFUS

Oh, so you're both villains.

JOSH

Sure, let's go with that.

RUFUS

Well that's simply excellent,
because I'm actually holding a
little soirée with all the villains
this weekend.

DANIEL

No way. Will Stunt Queen be there?
What about Willickers?

RUFUS

How do you already know the other
villains? You're both fresh to
these surrounds.

DANIEL

Big fan of this town. I've done my
research.

RUFUS

They'll all be there. It's going to
be such a treat. We're going to
come up with a plot most foul to
off those little cubs once and for
all. Might watch a bit of drag race
too. You know, the racing car
festival around the coast. Goes
right past my tower.

JOSH

We'd love to go.

Josh holds Daniel's hand and squeezes it three times.

RUFUS

Look at you two. So nice having
some new villains in town. So nice.

Suddenly, Chuckles scrambles into the room MONKEY SCREAMING.

DANIEL

What is it, Chuckles? Trouble at
the old mill?

Chuckles EXPLAIN MONKEY SCREAMS.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

That's fine. I only care about if
there's trouble at the old mill.

Chuckles tugs at Daniel and Josh's cloaks and they follow him
up the staircase.

RUFUS

Suppose I'll let myself out.

Rufus has one last sinister glance around the evil lair.

INT. EVIL LAIR - MYSTICAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Josh rush in with Chuckles leading the way. The
glass bell jar has been toppled over and...

DANIEL

Our amulet. It's been stolen!

JOSH

Who would do such a thing?

DANIEL

Oh, I have an idea.

INT. EVIL LAIR - OBSERVATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Josh peer into the crystal ball to see The Cubs
playing catch with the amulet. Chuckles climbs up onto Josh's
shoulder to get a better view.

DANIEL

See? What did I tell you? Brats!
Rotten, stinkin', brats.

JOSH

Aww, I wanted to cast a spell with
that. I was going to swish my cape
and everything.

DANIEL

Don't you worry about a thing.
We're getting that amulet back.
I've seen every episode. I know
exactly where they are.

INT. MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

Daniel and Josh follow a mine track around and find The Cubs.

DANIEL

Thieves!

CODY

Hey dingus! Who's that? Your
boyfriend.

DANIEL

Ah, yes.

CONNIE

Looking for this?

Connie pulls the amulet out from her overalls front pocket.

DANIEL

Obviously. Yes.

The Cubs start THROWING the amulet around to each other.

CODY

What's the matter? Can't catch?

DANIEL

I clearly can't. (SOTTO, TO JOSH)
Josh, I don't know if I can villain
them. They're really getting in my
head. This is like my middle school
animated.

CODY

Let's kick 'em in the nuts!

DANIEL

What? No! That would hurt. Now give
that amulet back. It's mine! Get
it? 'Cause we're in a mine shaft.

CRISPIN

Mmm, I think you should start
mining for some better material.

The Cubs LAUGH at their sick burn. Josh steps up to them.

JOSH

Listen, ya little twerps! You give
us the amulet back or we'll make
you into slippers or a bath mat or
both! (QUICK ASIDE TO DANIEL) How
was that? Was that good?

DANIEL

Good? (RUBBING HIS LEFT SLEEVE) You
feel that? Goosebumps.

Daniel lowers his sleeve and *Goosebumps* novels FALL OUT.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Found them in our library.

Josh picks up two *Goosebumps* novels, turns to The Cubs.

JOSH

Time to join the book club!

He slams them together with a MEAN THUD.

DANIEL

You know, I've never had a book
sandwich, but I'm ready to try one.

Daniel and Josh's Henchmen march in from around the mine's
bend. A noticeably HOT HENCHMAN catches Daniel's eye.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Ah, just in time.

JOSH

Dude. You totally just checked that
henchman out.

DANIEL

Did I?

CRISPIN

I saw it too.

DANIEL

Can it! (TO THE HENCHMEN) Take 'em
away! Specifically to our evil
lair. More specifically to our
torture chamber.

The Henchmen round up The Cubs and carry them out. Daniel and
Josh follow a few beats after them.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'm telling you, that henchman
means nothing to me.

JOSH

Yeah, yeah.

INT. EVIL LAIR - TORTURE CHAMBER - NIGHT

CLOSE ON The Cubs inside a steel cage, hanging by a rope. A fire pit is below them. Daniel and Josh menacingly pace.

JOSH

Quick side note, this is exactly like the fire pit I wanted for the backyard.

DANIEL

Okay, now that I'm seeing it, I totally get it. (THEN, TO THE CUBS) This could all end now if you give us back the amulet, cubbies.

CODY

We'd rather die then give you back the amulet!

DANIEL

Fine!

A Henchman CRANKS the cage closer to the fire pit.

JOSH

We'll take it from here, Henchy.

The Henchman relieves himself. Josh CRACKS his knuckles.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey Daniel, did I ever tell you my favorite Christmas movie?

DANIEL

No, what is it? *Home Alone 5: The Holiday Heist*?

JOSH

Christmas with the Kranks!

Josh CRANKS the cage down closer to the LEAPING FLAMES.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Get it? 'Cause the crank.

CRISPIN

Please, we're children!

DANIEL

Okay, you're young. We get it.

JOSH

Let's see if you live up to your
name, Crispin! You'll be mighty
crisp in that fire. Look, I'm doing
it. I'm being a villain!

DANIEL

Never prouder, baby. Never prouder.
The pun work alone.

Crispin starts CRYING. Josh freezes.

INT. EVIL LAIR - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh storms into the room, royally steamed. Daniel follows.

JOSH

I made a kid cry.

DANIEL

I know, great job. You feel that?
Harry Potter.

Daniel lowers his sleeve and *Harry Potter* novels FALL OUT.

JOSH

I can't be here. This is like some
messed up version of the Stanford
Prison Experiment. More messed up.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

This place has turned me into a monster.

DANIEL

No, not a monster. A villain.

JOSH

Is there a difference?

DANIEL

Yes, monsters usually have some mid-range scaling on their backs, unless they're Little Monsters, who brought yaaaass, to the mainstream. (THEN, VULNERABLE) I thought that you'd like it here.

JOSH

Please. This was all for you.

DANIEL

Okay, maybe it was. A little. Yes, I'll never age as a cartoon. Yes, I can just wear the same clothes again and again, which I already do, but now I won't be judged for it.

Josh rolls his eyes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

The real world isn't easy for me Josh. I'm not you, okay? I'm not some bro-mo, who can just straddle between the straight and gay worlds. I'm niche, I'm weird.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I don't fit in. At all. This place is the first time I've ever felt like I'm home. I've known since I was a little kid that this is where I belonged and if you didn't want to do this, you could have told me.

JOSH

And when exactly could I have done that? Hmm? Wasn't exactly a time when I could have jumped in. Did you ever think that maybe I didn't want to be transported into a fantasy cartoon land? I had a job, I had Netflix, I had abs! Now what do I have?

DANIEL

You have me. Isn't that enough? And not for nothing, but we almost have the amulet back too.

JOSH

Ugh. You fuck!

DANIEL

Is that the F wor --

JOSH

It fucking is.

A quiet beat, then.

DANIEL

I know this is a really bad time,
but I have to go pee. I'm gonna
pee, I'm gonna come back and we're
gonna sort this out. We can work it
out. We always do.

Daniel exits. Josh watches him go.

INT. EVIL LAIR - MASTER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel walks back into the room.

DANIEL

Josh?

He's gone. Chuckles walks in and holds Daniel's hand as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. EVIL LAIR - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Daniel pours his heart out to Chuckles.

DANIEL

Remember in Katy Perry's *Part of Me* movie, when Russell Brand dumped her over text and she still had to go on and perform in Brazil? That's how I'm feeling right now. How am I meant to go back out there and be all evil when I've been emotionally dumped by text? This isn't even like him. He wouldn't just leave.

Chuckles TALKS IN MONKEY.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No, you're right. I'll do it.

INT. EVIL LAIR - TORTURE CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel enters with Chuckles on his left arm.

DANIEL

Get 'em Chuckles!

Daniel flings his arm out and Chuckles leaps into the cub cage, snatches the amulet from Cody's pocket.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Go on, scram! Show's over.

Daniel BANGS a wizard staff on the granite floor. Chuckles motions to throw the amulet down to Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't. My only catch is gone.

CODY

What was that? Couldn't hear you
over the lameness.

DANIEL

My honey. He's peaced out.

CRISPIN

Why?

DANIEL

If you must know, your crying got
him real spooked.

CONNIE

Please. Don't flatter yourselves.
Villains try and thwart us meddling
cubs every week.

CRISPIN

I wasn't crying because of him, I
got soot in my eye.

DANIEL

Really?

Daniel excitedly cranks The Cubs down.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So you weren't left emotionally
scarred?

CODY

Whoa, slow down!

INT. EVIL LAIR - MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

Daniel walks with a new spring in his step. Chuckles is on
his shoulders and passes him down the amulet.

DANIEL

Thanks Chuckles, but I'm gonna need
more than magic to get Josh back.

Daniel walks in to find Crispin rifling through the wardrobe.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Hey, I thought I said to scram!

CRISPIN

Sorry. I was trying to find some
rubies.

DANIEL

No way. You're into rubies? I'm
more of a jewel boy myself.

Connie and Cody pop out from a drawer.

CONNIE

You haven't been a boy for a long
time.

CRISPIN

Um also, I found this in that pile
of clothes.

Crispin indicates over to Josh's earth clothes and hands
Daniel a ring box.

CODY

Hey, we could've swiped that!

CRISPIN

Look at him, he needs this.

CODY

You're right, he does.

Daniel opens up the ring box, then looks down to The Cubs.

DANIEL

You think we he was going to
propose?

CONNIE

No he just likes keeping rings in
his pocket. Yes, he was going to
propose!

DANIEL

Why didn't I see the signs?!

We *THAT'S SO RAVEN* ZOOM into Daniel's eye.

INT. JOSH'S CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK: LIVE-ACTION)

Daniel and Josh on their way to Weston's.

DANIEL

Bye wall cake!

Daniel guides Josh towards the car, clocks the ring box in
his pocket.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Is that a box in your pocket or are
you just happy to see me?

INT. DANIEL & JOSH'S APARTMENT - DAY (FLASHBACK: LIVE-ACTION)

Josh measures Daniel's finger with a tape measure as he reads
a Highlights magazine.

EXT. PROMENADE - DAY (FLASHBACK: LIVE-ACTION)

Daniel and Josh walk arm in arm down a boardwalk.

JOSH

Hey, next weekend when we go on our
anniversary vacation, I'm going to
propose to you.

INT. EVIL LAIR - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel takes a step back. Startled.

DANIEL

Why wasn't he more obvious?!

Daniel rushes to an organ and PLAYS a D MINOR CHORD. Chuckles
rushes to Daniel's side and makes REASSURING MONKEY NOISES.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

No Chuckles, you're just saying that. He's run away. He's gone. He's probably broken the fourth wall and --

CRISPIN

Did he leave you a note? Anything?

DANIEL

No, I went to pee and I came back and he was gone.

CRISPIN

So you didn't actually see him go?

DANIEL

Wait. What are you saying?

CRISPIN

What if he didn't run away?

Daniel plays a D MAJOR CHORD on the organ.

INT. EVIL LAIR - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel PUSHES the organ down the staircase.

DANIEL

Do you think there's still time?

CONNIE

Yeah, if you stop talking.

DANIEL

And you cubs are fine with me maybe marrying another guy? In this era?

CODY

We're bears, not bigots.

EXT. EVIL LAIR - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel BURSTS out the front door, still pushing the organ. Chuckles and The Cubs catch up.

DANIEL

We'll have to *A Thousand Miles* it.

Get on!

The gang jumps onto the organ. Daniel starts to PLAY the opening notes to Vanessa Carlton's white person classic, *A Thousand Miles* and the organ ROCKETS DOWN the driveway.

EXT. KRYSTAL KOVE - MOMENTS LATER

We're a few bars in and Daniel is really BELTING IT. The organ twists and turns down a cobblestone road, passing OLD TIME-Y SHOPFRONTS. It's like an animated Provincetown.

DANIEL

"And I need you, And I miss you,

And now I wond --

The organ CRASHES into a brick wall. Daniel and The Cubs BOUNCE off the organ seat and CUTE LITTLE BLUE BIRDS FLUTTER around Daniel's head.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Amazing. I've got the cute little
blue birdies! I've reached peak
cartoon. I mean... peak human.

Daniel winks.

CONNIE

Why are you winking? Did one of
them poop in your eye?

DANIEL

Not yet.

The birds fly OFF.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(DISAPPOINTED) Aww.

Daniel hits his head against the guttering and new BLUE BIRDS appear. The Cubs exchange looks of grave concern.

INT. RUFUS' TOWER - LATER

Daniel runs up the front steps of Rufus's looming tower and RAPS on the door. The Cubs and Chuckles watch on from a few feet away. Rufus opens the door.

DANIEL

Where is he?!

RUFUS

I don't know what you're talking about.

DANIEL

I'm talking about Josh being locked away in your tower.

RUFUS

Oh, right, Josh. Sorry, had a mental blank. Come on in, I'll take you to him.

DANIEL

Easier than I thought, but going with it.

INT. RUFUS' TOWER - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel rushes in to find Josh bound and gagged in the VULTURE CAGE. Rufus swishes into the room.

RUFUS

If I can't be happy, no one else can be! I don't care how hot you both are!

DANIEL

Come on, villain to villain, there's gotta be some kind of arrangement we can come to.

RUFUS

How about a throuple?

DANIEL

How about I just use the amulet?

Daniel takes out the amulet from underneath his cloak. He *I Dream of Jeannie* nods and Josh and Rufus SWAP PLACES. Rufus' Vultures start PECKING at Rufus.

RUFUS

This is only the start! Wait until
the other villains hear about this!

Daniel and Josh link arms like their day on the promenade and peace out.

EXT. KRYSTAL KOVE - LATER

Chuckles struggles to push the organ back up the hill. Josh and Daniel ride shotgun, The Cubs sit on top.

JOSH

I like it here.

DANIEL

Really? You're not just saying that
because I like it here?

JOSH

I like it here because you're here.

CONNIE

Aww.

Connie's brothers look at her.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I mean, gross. Yuck!

JOSH

I also got a pretty good view of
Krystal Kove from my cage.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

I think there's some kind of farmers market here and I saw a sign for an open air cinema! It's seasonal.

DANIEL

Like my depression! Now listen, I know I just kind of flung this whole new world onto you and I know I'm trash --

JOSH

No, you're the best trash. You're compost.

DANIEL

I am. Thank you for saying that. (A BEAT, THEN) Do you really want to do this? Because we can say the magic words and go back home like that, because I fucking love you Josh.

JOSH

Your very first fuck!

DANIEL

I was saving it just for you.

INT. EVIL LAIR - FOYER - LATER

Daniel, Josh and the rest of the gang walk back in.

DANIEL

And then Cheryl said, "That wasn't a colander".

Everyone LAUGHS.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Now Josh, got a wee bit of a surprise for you. Know you might have a bit of a ring box shaped surprise for me too.

JOSH

Let's survive the week first.

DANIEL

You got it.

INT. EVIL LAIR - CANDY VAULT - LATER

The candy mounds are gone and a slide in the shape of the Gucci letters is now in the middle of the vault. A sea of Gucci slides cover the ground.

DANIEL

Can you even?

JOSH

A Gucci slide into Gucci slides.

How?

DANIEL

Magic. Also animal labour. Lot of elephants got whipped. What? We're still villains and now, we're chilling like villains. Who wants tusk soup? I'm kidding. All magic.

Josh admires the creation, lost for words.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And that's not all. If you swim deep enough into the Gucci slides, you drop into a home gym and fresh produce area. Why?

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Because double surprise, I'm going
on the keto cleanse! I even made
sure that they put in the fruit
that Gwen Stefani spells in
Hollaback Girl. So much fun.

JOSH

You know what this is? Better than
Barbados.

Josh turns to the cubs.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey, you cubs wanna stay over?

CONNIE/CRISPIN/CODY

Yeah!

DANIEL

It'll be so much fun. We'll order
pizza and the healthy stuff Josh
and now I have to like.

CRISPIN

We'll have to get permission off
our dad first.

EXT. CUBS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A WILD BEAR not at all anthropomorphic, starts GNASHING
WILDLY at Josh and Daniel. The Cubs aren't bothered.

CONNIE

Okay, thanks Dad. Bye!

The Cub's Dad closes the door.

INT. EVIL LAIR - GUCCI SLIDE VAULT - LATER

Daniel and Josh sit on the edge of the vault, kicking their
feet around in the Gucci slides. Chuckles serves them up some
cocktails.

The Cubs SPLASH around in the Gucci slides. Daniel takes out the amulet.

DANIEL

Hey kids!

The Cubs wade over to Daniel. He holds out the amulet.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I've got all the amulets I need
right here.

CONNIE

Grammatically and factually
incorrect, but thanks!

Connie yunks the amulet and wades back over to her brothers.

DANIEL

What are you thinking about?

JOSH

Tusk soup.

DANIEL

Again, that was just a joke.

JOSH

I know, but brainwave. Tusk. The
song. We can cover that in
Fleetwood Masc.

DANIEL

Why wait? Let's cover it today.

INT. EVIL LAIR - GUCCI SLIDE VAULT - LATER

Daniel, Josh, The Cubs and Chuckles stand on top of the Gucci slide. They're all wearing Stevie Nicks inspired shawls. The Cubs and Chuckles all PLAY marching band instruments.

DANIEL

"Why don't you ask him if he's going to stay? Why don't you ask him if he's going away?"

JOSH

"Why don't you tell me what's going on? Why don't you tell me who's on the phone?"

DANIEL

"Why don't you ask him what's going wrong? Why don't you ask him who's the latest on his throne?"

DANIEL/JOSH

"Don't say that you love me, Just tell me that you want me, Tusk!"

One of Rufus' vultures SWOOPS down and grabs Josh by one of his talons and carries him out of the Gucci vault.

DANIEL

Well, it's a Wednesday.

CRISPIN

Should we chase after him?

DANIEL

After the song.

The Cubs and Chuckles start the song up again.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

"Just say that you want me, Don't say that you..."

Chuckles performs a mean DRUM SOLO.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

"Tusk! Real savage-like".

Daniel bows his head, then.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Okay, let's fucking get him.

Daniel hops into the Gucci slide, The Cubs and Chuckles follow behind him. They wade through the Gucci slides and rush off.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. EVIL LAIR - FOYER - NIGHT

Daniel, The Cubs and Chuckles bounce in to find Josh chilling at the base of the staircase.

DANIEL

Oh. What happened to the vulture?

JOSH

I think because we're in a... "c word", it knew it had resolve the conflict by the end of the episode.

DANIEL

Right, because each week everything goes back to normal and nothing hurts. It's like if "Control-Z" was sentient.

JOSH

How do we know when the next episode sta --

EXT. CUBS' HOUSE - DAY

Daniel and Josh are MATCH CUT-ED to this new location.

JOSH (CONT'D)

-- rts?

DANIEL

Like that.

The Cubs bump past them and open their door.

CONNIE

Thanks for the pizza-keto party!

DANIEL

Don't mention it.

CONNIE

Well, I already have, so what do you want me to do about that?

CODY

Lamewad.

DANIEL

Oh, I haven't been called that since high school! (THEN) I was walking past a high school last week and someone called me that.

CONNIE

Wait... Dad?

INT. CUBS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Connie steps in, followed by the rest of our team. The walls have more slashes on them than a slasher movie. The struggle was real.

CRISPIN

Papa, can you hear me?

JOSH

But I thought everything goes back to normal and nothing hurts.

DANIEL

Okay, this wasn't in the re-runs.

Daniel and Josh share a look. Well, shit. This is a case for the FBI... or, I guess, these guys.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE