

Cyborg Shaman Ninjas

Season 1 - Episode 3

Back to Normal

By Xei

ACT 1

Smash From Black:

INT. Donner's nightmare

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, DOMINIC, GAGE)

DONNER BLITZEN *gets up in a dark void. He walks around in a state of confusion and fright.*

GAGE
(VO) Donner...

Donner spins around to face the voice in the darkness.

GAGE
(VO) I know you're scared. You should be.

DONNER
(*frightened, but defiant*) I think you're the one who's scared. You're hiding because you're too chicken to fight me.

LORD GAGE *emerges from the darkness in front of Donner.*

GAGE
I have nothing to hide. You really think you can take me?
I suppose we'll have to meet eventually. You can't go back, can you? Not after what happened.

Donner looks down at himself.

GAGE
You understand now, of course, that the world you live in isn't the world you knew. There are forces at work here, things you wouldn't understand.

An army of nihiltrons appear out of the darkness, surrounding Donner.

DONNER
I'm not afraid of you.

GAGE
You think you're not afraid, because you're willing to put your life on the line. But what else are you prepared to lose? Your friends?

REINA KOBAYASHI and JIM RODRIGUEZ *appear, floating lifelessly in the void, as if having drowned.*

GAGE
Your dad?

DOMINIC BLITZEN *appears floating lifelessly as well.*

GAGE
Your aunt? There are things out there in the cosmos.
Things you wouldn't believe. Beings that make me look
like small fry in comparison. There is no escaping this
fight, Donner. So I ask you. What are you prepared
to lose?

*Gage grabs Reina from where she is floating, extends a
drill from his hand, and moves to drill into Reina's
forehead.*

END OF SCENE

INT. Blitzzen house – Day

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

Donner jolts awake in his bed. He takes a moment to breathe and sits up, wearing his pajamas. Dominic can be heard speaking on the phone, and comes into view in the hallway.

DOMINIC

Yeah. I'll be sure to have a talk with him. *(to Donner)*
Good, you're awake. Breakfast is downstairs.

Donner walks down the stairs in his day clothes and sits at the table, on which an omelet has been placed.

DOMINIC

Just a regular omelet this time. I was out of cheese.

DONNER

Thank you.

Donner begins eating as Dominic walks away and continues speaking on the phone. The TV is running and displaying a news report. The headline reads "Donner found." A REPORTER is speaking.

REPORTER

Missing child Donner Blitzzen has turned up at his home at 3 AM this morning, apparently having become lost after falling in Derrenphale creek.

Donner groans.

REPORTER

The nine-year-old appears to have sustained no physical or emotional damage.

DOMINIC

Yeah, I don't know what I was thinking. I'm a horrible father. If Lydia was here, I'd never hear the end of it. *(pause)* That would be wonderful. So I'll pick him up from your place? *(pause)* Yeah. Thanks, Sasuke.

Dominic hangs up the phone. The news program displays the Derrenphale national connection tower under construction.

REPORTER

The council is making swift progress on the national connection tower. Daniel Gray is on the scene.
Daniel Gray...

Donner grabs the remote and changes the channel, to a channel showing Bang Blam Baxter, an American cartoon about a cyborg cowboy fighting robots. In the program, BAXTER, the cyborg cowboy, is engaged in a battle with LORD VILE, another cyborg, in a high-tech base.

BAXTER

Alright, Lord Vile. Time to cash in your chips!

VILE

Curse you, Baxter! Will you never cease to get in my way!
Vilebots! Eliminate him!

Dozens of robots come out of the shadows and surround Baxter. While this program plays, Donner looks at his fingers, and reminisces on his time with the Orsions.

DONNER

(quietly) Jigoko no hee.

His attempt at using fire channel has no effect. In the television program, Baxter pulls out an oversized and cartoony revolver. He aims it at a wall, and it ricochets, eliminating all of the vilebots.

BAXTER

You had enough?

Donner groans again, with disdain. Dominic grabs the remote and switches off the TV.

DOMINIC

One of the cops looking for you found your bag.

DONNER

My pokémon! Thank god.

DOMINIC

And all of your textbooks, and your homework?

DONNER

Uh, yeah. That too.

DOMINIC

I was sitting here all night thinking "I'm never going to see my son again.", and you're just worried about your pokémon cards.

DONNER

I had a good rhydon.

DOMINIC

If you fell in the creek, how'd you end up dropping your bag ten feet away?

DONNER

Uh, it was heavy. I put it down for a bit.

DOMINIC

Alright. Anyway, I need to give you something.

Dominic walks over to a bag on the kitchen bench and fishes through it.

DOMINIC

I know it's a little early for your birthday, but I've got something for you.

Dominic pulls out a Nokia 5110 mobile phone in it's box and offers it to Donner. Donner's face lights up.

DOMINIC

Sorry, I haven't wrapped it. Happy birthday.

DONNER

Awesome! Thanks!

Donner takes the phone out of the box.

DOMINIC

It's a Nokia 5110. The latest thing available. Dunno what the difference is with all the earlier models, but now you'll have a way to dial 911 if need be. And you remember my phone number, of course?

DONNER

5465 999 341. But if this thing's in my pocket, and I fall in the creek, it's not gonna be much help.

DOMINIC

Ah. Well guess what?

Dominic pulls a waterproof phone case out of the bag.

DOMINIC

Also, don't fall in the creek again.

END OF SCENE

EXT. California countryside – Day

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

Dominic drives down the road to Derrenphale, with Donner in the backseat.

DOMINIC

So apparently, Sasuke offered to give you a lift, have you stay at Reina's, and you declined.

DONNER

I thought I could handle myself.

DOMINIC

Well evidently, you can't. Jeez, Reina was out looking for you, Sasuke was out looking for you. Jim was out, Juanita was out. It was terrifying for everyone.

DONNER

Man. Sorry.

DOMINIC

Now look. After the explosion, the state's been on high alert. The government seems to think it wasn't an accident, that it was a terrorist act. They're saying it might be a prelude to a greater attack. So, they've changed our hours. They want a greater police presence in the area. For the time being, I can't be there to pick you up.

DONNER

Huh.

DOMINIC

So, it's been organised. Sasuke's taking you to Reina's after Jiu Jitsu, and I'll be picking you up at 7.

DONNER

Alright.

They continue to drive in silence for a few moments.

DOMINIC

Anyway, tell me about your first day back at school.

DONNER

Eh.

DOMINIC

Eh?

DONNER
Eh.

DOMINIC
Eh.

DONNER
The principal had another one of her speeches.

DOMINIC
One of her power mad rants?

DONNER
Yeah.

DOMINIC
Now doubt she's still pushing that idiotic "zero tolerance" policy.

DONNER
Yeah.

DOMINIC
Protecting kids from the crime of self defence. You'd think after I literally sued the school for that, they would've finished with that. Anyway, how was Miss Verne?

DONNER
She was great. But she wasn't there when homeroom started, and Ms. Green took the role.

DOMINIC
Oh boy.

DONNER
Yeah. She exploded on Jim, basically over nothin', and she said how she wished schools still hit kids.

DOMINIC
(*sarcastic*) Yeah. That's a great idea. Because every parent should have to send their kids off to education, knowing there's a chance they'll receive corporal punishment, and there's nothing they can do about it.

DONNER
Yeah.

DOMINIC

Well anyway, at least we're not in that time anymore. The general trend of the world is to improve. Hence why I could marry your mother and be friends with Sasuke. And also, parenting standards have improved, which is why I'm such an idiot for leaving you to walk home by yourself.

So, I'll pick you up from Reina's and take you home.

(sigh) I need a drink.

DONNER

(pause) You said you'd quit, Dad.

Donner looks at Dominic with an expression of disappointed. Dominic thinks of what to say, but realises he has nothing to say. His expression becomes sheepish. They continue to drive in silence.

END OF SCENE

EXT. Derrenphale Elementary School – Day

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

Dominic pulls up at the front entrance.

DOMINIC

Some of these days, I could scream. Anyway, bye Donner.
You sure you'll be okay? You must've got barely 3 hours
of sleep. You don't look tired at all!

DONNER

I guess I must be pretty shaken up.

DOMINIC

Alright. See ya at 7.

Donner exits the vehicle.

DONNER

See ya!

*Donner pulls his bag, full of heavy textbooks, from the
backseat with no difficulty. Dominic notices how peculiar
this is. Donner closes the door and walks away, but
Dominic opens the window and calls out to him.*

DOMINIC

I love you.

DONNER

I love you, Dad.

Donner walks to the entrance.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School halls – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM)

Donner walks into the building where children are being processed through a metal detector. He approaches the checkpoint, remembers that he is a cyborg, becomes fairly panicky. The SECURITY OFFICER, the same one from the first day, beckons Donner to come forward. He apprehensively passes through the detector, which trips the alert.

SECURITY

Donner. You're Okay?

DONNER

I'm fine.

SECURITY

Do you still have that metal pen?

DONNER

I left it at home. If it's such a problem.

SECURITY

Could you remove your jacket and empty your pockets?

Donner does as he is instructed and passes through the detector again, tripping the alert. The security officer is confused.

SECURITY

It doesn't look like you could be concealing anything.
And you were fine yesterday.

DONNER

Uh... I had a hip implant.

OFFICER

(pause) Since yesterday?

DONNER

Uh, yeah.

SECURITY

You were lost in the country the whole day, the news report said you got back at 3 in the morning.

DONNER

Yeah.

SECURITY

And you got the hip implant after that?

DONNER

Yeah, I broke my hip when I fell in the creak, so I had to go to ER, and they fixed it up. I was knocked out, so I got some sleep that way.

SECURITY

The report said you didn't have any serious injury.

DONNER

Uh, well, don't believe everything you hear on the news.

SECURITY

So you got an implant.

DONNER

Yep.

DOMINIC

So, you're a cyborg?

DONNER

(chuckles) I guess so.

SECURITY

Alright, well I don't think you're any risk. You can go.

DONNER

Thanks.

Donner walks away from the security guard and breathes a sigh of relief. He enters the hallways, where children are milling about and getting supplies from their bags, and police officers are wandering around. We see from first person view that Donner's senses are overloaded. He squints and twists his mouth as he tries to deal with it. He gets strange looks from the children and police, as they notice the boy who made the local headlines.

REINA

(VO) (anxious) Donner!

REINA KOBAYSHI is waiting for Donner at the end of the hall, looking anxious. Standing next to her is Jim RODRIGUEZ. Reina rushes over to Donner and throws her arms around him, hugging him tight. Donner hugs her back.

REINA

I was so worried.

DONNER

I know. I'm sorry.

Reina releases Donner and the two stand in silence for a couple of seconds. Reina breaks into a smile and slight chuckle, causing Donner to do the same. Reina slowly curls her hand into a fist and playfully throws it at Donner, who catches it as part of their handshake. Jim starts smiling as well.

JIM

Well, Reina and I knew you'd be okay. No creep on the road would dare mess with the Don.

DONNER

Okay, Jim. I'm not invincible.

REINA

So nothing happened?

DONNER

Nup. Just got lost, and walked back to my place. Nothing unusual... nothing out of the ordinary happened.

The bell rings out.

DONNER

We'd better get going.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School halls – Day

(DONNER, GREEN)

Donner is at his locker (Reina and Jim are absent) with many other children getting things from their lockers. He opens his locker, places his bag inside, and start retrieving items from his bag. As he does this, his wristblade extends from his left hand. Donner becomes alarmed. He moves his hand, attempting to retract the wristblade, and failing to do so.

DONNER

Uh-oh.

His hand is hidden in the locker. With his right hand, Donner tries pushing the blade back into his wrist, without success. He begins bashing the blade against the back of the locker, attracting the attention of the other children.

DONNER

(bash) Come on. *(bash)* Come on, you little...

He bashes three more times. This attracts the attention of MARGARET GREEN.

GREEN

Donner, what on Earth are you doing?

Donner turns to face her. His hand is still hidden in his locker.

DONNER

Uh, I got a bad wrist cramp.

GREEN

Show me your hand.

DONNER

What?

GREEN

Show me your hand!

Donner hesitates, and slowly pulls his hand out of his locker. As he does so, he relaxes his wrist, and the blade retracts. When it retracts, he quickly pulls his hand out of his locker and holds up his hands in a surrender pose.

GREEN

Don't be stupid like that.

GREEN turns to walk away. Donner breathes a sigh of relief.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School classroom D2 – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, VERNE)

The bell rings out. Reina and Jim are sitting in the classroom along with their classmates, while ALISHA VERNE is standing in front of the class.

VERNE

Okay everyone. Now, as you may know, Donner has been reported as a missing child case. I'm sure we're all very happy to have him back. I've asked him to wait outside. He probably doesn't want to be reminded of his ordeal, so we're going to treat this as if it's a normal day, alright?

Verne goes to open the door and beckons Donner to come inside. He enters the room and sits at his desk. Miss Verne gets out the role.

VERNE

Now then, let's mark the role. Donner Blitzen?

DONNER

Here.

VERNE

Okay, that's the end of homeroom, so let's get out our textbooks and open them to page 65. And get out your exercise books too.

The class does so.

VERNE

We got kind of a dumb exercise here. I didn't write this. So, as you know, a story with a three act structure is called a narrative.

Donner stops paying attention to what Verne is saying and looks at his exercise book. He discretely rips out a corner and holds the slip in his fingers.

DONNER

(whispering) Jigoko no hee.

Nothing happens.

VERNE

But this is not the only kind of prose. On the page, you should see a set of examples of prose, and you will have to classify them according to what kind they are.

Donner tries concentrating harder on the paper slip.

DONNER
(whispering) Jigoko no hee.

Nothing happens.

VERNE
There's narrative prose, heroic prose, poetry prose.
Although poetry can tell a story it's not the same
as a narrative.

Donner closes his eyes, inhales and exhales slowly, and opens his eyes.

DONNER
(quietly) Jigoko no hee.

The paper chars where it touches Donner's fingertips, and spreads outwards. The paper is lit with a small flame, which, consumes the paper. This catches the attention of the class, including Reina and Jim, and Miss Verne, who stops her speech. Donner is almost as surprised as they are. When Donner realises everyone is watching, he puts the paper down on the desk and pats out the fire.

VERNE
Donner, did you just light that paper on fire?

DONNER
Uh...

VERNE
Do you have a lighter on you?

DONNER
(sheepish) No.

VERNE
Well, how'd that paper catch fire?

DONNER
Uh... spontaneous combustion?

VERNE
I'm sorry. Stand up.

Donner does so.

VERNE
This is school protocol. Empty your pockets, please.

Donner does so.

VERNE

Could you roll up your sleeves?

Donner does so.

DONNER

No lighter.

VERNE

Okay. You may sit down.

Donner sits down.

VERNE

That was weird. I guess that was just... spontaneous combustion.

LINETTE

What's spontaneous combustion?

As Miss Verne explains, Reina looks at Donner and gives him a questioning expression. He shrugs at her.

VERNE

(VO, muted) Spontaneous combustion is when things catch fire for no reason. You probably don't have to worry about it though. It's extremely unlikely you'll ever have any problems with it. (normal) Anyway, you need to sort the following examples of prose. "Penny was upset that her milk carton did not run faster than her curtain rod."

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School classroom F6 – Day

(SIMON, GREEN, COREY, DAMIEN)

Ms. Green is talking to a disinterested, but nervous, maths class. Among the students are COREY HYES and DAMIEN TURNER.

GREEN

Now, we've got a lot to cover before the tests. You're in fifth grade now, which means a higher standard is expected of you, so you'd better step up to the plate. To start off, I think we should brush up on our times tables. Just to make sure you're up to speed. Dylan! $6 \times 4!$

DYLAN

24.

GREEN

Corey! $11 * 9!$

COREY

99.

GREEN

Emily! $3 * 6!$

EMILY

Uh, 36.

GREEN

Too slow! You need to understand that the test does not wait for you! Faster, faster, faster! Jonathan! $2 * 6!$

JONATHAN

(quickly) 12.

GREEN

Liam! $4 * 5!$

LIAM

(quickly) 12.

GREEN

Simon! $7 * 8!$

From the back of the room, SIMON BRIAR, a small, meek, freckled, and bespectacled ten-year-old boy is startled out of a daze.

SIMON
Fifty-four?

The rest of the class laughs at him, especially Corey and Damien, while Ms. Green stares him down. He shrinks into his seat with a mixture of fear and humiliation. No one speaks for three seconds.

GREEN
(hostile) Simon, have you been practicing your times tables over the holidays?

SIMON
Uh, yes, I have, Ms. Green.

GREEN
I highly doubt it. I think that will conclude times tables. We will start with the first chapter of the textbook. You will have to work hard if you don't want to get left behind. Each week, we will cover a chapter from the book, which you will read at home. At the start of each week, I will check in with a series of questions from the chapter. If you prove that you have not read the chapter by getting a question wrong, than you will write the entire chapter out by hand four times, and present it to me the next day on top of the chapter exercises that you must solve for homework.

The children quiver in apprehension as the thought of this.

GREEN
As I know some of you (*motioning her head at Simon*) are too lazy to do what is expected of them, I thought I'd give you all some motivation. Now. Let's get into the first exercise.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School Cafeteria – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, SIMON, COREY, DAMIEN, GREEN)

The bell rings out for recess. Donner, Reina, and Jim enter the cafeteria with their packed lunches. The murmur of the students permeates the space. Reina and Jim are still astounded, and Donner is nervous about his secret being revealed.

REINA

What was that?! What just happened?!

DONNER

I dunno. I'd like to know what happened too.

JIM

(bemused) Do you actually have fire powers?

DONNER

No, Jim, I don't have fire powers.

As this is happening, Simon, who has queued in the line for food with a tray, steps up to the servers. He gives them two dollars. They dump a ladle of revolting slop on his tray. Simon is visibly disgusted. He takes his tray begins to move towards a table, when he is approached by Corey and Damien. He sighs when he realises what is coming.

COREY

(mockingly) Fifty-four?

SIMON

Go away, Corey.

COREY

(mockingly) Hey, that's not very nice. And you really should know by now that $7 * 8$ is fifty-six. Hey Damien, what's $7 * 8$?

DAMIEN

(smugly) Fifty-six.

At this point, Simon begins to walk around the pair of bullies, but Corey steps in front of him. Donner and his friends begin to notice.

COREY

We just want to help you. Stupid kids like you might get picked on.

Damien

Yeah.

COREY

Like, they might take your lunch.

Corey hits the tray and knocks it out of his hands and onto the floor. Corey and Damien laugh at Simon's misfortune.

SIMON

What the heck?!

Damien crouches behind Simon and Corey pushes him over Damien, causing him to trip and fall. Corey and Damien laugh even harder. Donner has had enough and confronts Corey.

DONNER

Hey! Don't you have better things to do? Maybe putting cling-wrap on toilet seats, like you usually do? Or drawing swearwords on walls?

DAMIEN

Yeah, what's it to you?!

COREY

Aw, you feeling sorry for the poor little thing?

Corey gestures towards Simon, who has now stood up and is backing away from the scene. By now, the ambient murmur has fallen silent, and all of the children in their cafeteria are directing their full attention at Donner and Corey, as are several police officers.

COREY

You think I'm being mean?

DONNER

I think you're a chicken who only picks fights he knows he'll win.

COREY

Really? Well what about you? You think you're tougher than me? You think you could take me?!

DONNER

I don't care.

COREY

(raises fists) You know, that was a pretty cool performance you put on, but we both know I'd whoop ya in a straight fight!

DONNER

You think so?

COREY

I know so!

DONNER

Go ahead. I dare you.

Corey stares at Donner for a few seconds, then thrusts his right fist into Donner's chest with all of his might. The bones in his hand audibly break. Donner doesn't even flinch from the attack. He looks down at the fist in his chest, then back up at Corey, and raises an eyebrow. Corey stands in shock for several seconds with his fist in Donner's chest as the pain sets in. He then recoils and screams in pain as he clutches his right hand with his left. The children, including Damien, Simon, and Donner's friends, stare in astonishment. At that very moment, Ms. Green enters the cafeteria.

GREEN

What is going on here?!

COREY

He broke my hand!

GREEN

Right! Donner, right this way!

A police officer approaches Ms. Green and interjects.

POLICE OFFICER

Uh, actually Ms., he didn't break that kid's hand, he just stood there.

REINA

Yeah, Donner was just standing there, and Corey punched him and... it broke his... what?

DONNER

You know what? I'm not feelin' 100%, so maybe some time out would be nice.

There is a momentary pause.

GREEN

Donner, Corey, this way.

Ms. Green walks out of the cafeteria, and Donner and Corey follow, Corey still clutching his hand in pain. Simon steps towards Donner and reaches towards him.

SIMON

(meekly) Donner. Thanks.

There is no indication that Donner heard. Reina and Jim stare at Donner as he walks away.

END OF SCENE

**INT. Derrenphale Elementary School Principal's
office – Day**

(DONNER, COREY, SIEBERT, JORDAN)

Donner and Corey are sitting in chairs in front of the desk of Principal DIANNE SIEBERT. Standing next to her is Vice Principal KIERAN JORDAN. Donner has an expression of derision and Corey is clutching his hand in pain, as the two adults eye Donner with uncertainty.

SIEBERT

Corey, I need you tell us exactly what happened.

COREY

I was just having a talk with Simon, and Donner came along and shoved me!

DONNER

Just having a talk with Simon. That's a funny way of putting it. Looked to me like you were making his life a living hell, as usual.

SIEBERT

And so you broke his hand?

DONNER

No. I just stood there. He threw his fist at me. You can ask everyone else.

JORDAN

Well, how did that break his hand?

DONNER

I really can't explain. I can only tell you what happened. He punched me, and broke his hand.

JORDAN

(whispering to Siebert) Look, we might not want to do this, it might be-

SIEBERT

(whispering to Jordan) Yeah, yeah, I know. *(to Donner)* Listen, I think I'm going to give you a warning.

COREY

What?!

SIEBERT

Corey, not now. Mister Blitzen, we can't confirm that you've done anything wrong, so we're not going to pursue this further.

DONNER

Translation: We don't want Dominic to sue us again, so we're gonna let you go.

Siebert pauses briefly, before lightly slamming her fist on the desk.

SIEBERT

I can see you inherited your father's unsavory attitude.

DONNER

You could call it unsavory, or you could call it; not acceptin' the unfair stuff.

SIEBERT

I'm sure you've heard this saying before: Life's not fair. Get used to it.

The bell rings out.

SIEBERT

(sigh) Just get to class. Both of you.

END OF SCENE

EXT. Derrenphale Elementary School Pool – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, ANGEL)

Donner, Reina, and Jim are lined up at the pool along with several other children. The 26-year-old PE teacher, EMILY ANGEL is managing them.

ANGEL

Alright, everyone! On your mark, get set, go!

The children all jump in the pool. While the others begin to swim across, Donner immediately sinks to the bottom. He remembers that he can't swim anymore, and begins to panic. Seeing that the ladder is on the other side of the pool, he tries to jump and climb out. Miss Angel notices something is wrong.

ANGEL

Donner? Donner!

As Miss Angel rushes to help Donner, the children see what is happening and stop swimming. Miss Angel reaches out her hand. Donner grabs it, but pulls Miss Angel into the pool. As he is running out of air, he extends his wristblade, digs it into the side of the pool, pulls himself up onto the ledge, and gasps for air before retracting his wristblade. Miss Angel climbs out of the pool as well.

ANGEL

Donner! Are you alright?

Donner looks at her and nods as the other children stare in horror.

ANGEL

Maybe you should sit this one out.

END OF SCENE

EXT. Derrenphale Elementary School – Day

(SIMON, EMERALD, BEN)

Children pour out of the doors as it is home time. Among them, Simon is walking down the steps, clearly struggling to carry his bag on his back. Students bump him without care as they walk past him. A car is waiting for him on the curb. Sitting in the driver's seat is 42-year-old EMERALD BRIAR, and 38-year-old BEN BRIAR, Simon's parents. Emerald beeps the horn.

EMERALD

Simon! Where were you?! You know you have piano lessons on Tuesdays!

SIMON

Mister Brent wanted to talk to me after class.

EMERALD

Well, you could have run twice as fast to make up for it!

SIMON

Sorry.

EMERALD

Come on!

Simon opens the back door, loads his bag into the car, sits on the backseat, and closes the door. Emerald drives away.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School gymnasium – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, SASUKE)

Donner, Reina, Jim, and the other students are sitting in front of SASUKE KOBAYASHI, all of them wearing keikogis.

SASUKE

Welcome back, everyone. I'm very glad to see you all back here. Simon has his piano lesson today, but I've been told he'll be joining us tomorrow. Let's start with some basic sparring to warm up.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School gymnasium – Day

(DONNER, REINA)

Donner and Reina step onto a mat as other children are sparring around them.

REINA

What happened back there?

DONNER

I had a cramp. I dunno, I guess I'm not feelin' it today.

They fist-bow to each other, and raise their fists. Donner realises, however, that it would be unfair for him to beat Reina now that he is far more powerful than her. As Reina charges at Donner, he pretends to fight, but allows her to flip him and strike him. She is confused at how easy it was. Sasuke notices.

SASUKE

Donner! You're not focusing.

DONNER

Sorry, sensei.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School gymnasium – Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, SASUKE)

The class is concluding.

SASUKE

Thank you everyone. Tomorrow we'll have tryouts for the Derrenphale Jiu Jitsu tournament. I'm looking forward to seeing your abilities!

As the students leave, Sasuke walks up to Donner and Reina.

SASUKE

Alright. We'll be heading off.

DONNER

I'm sorry, Sasuke. I should have gone with you.

SASUKE

No, it's fine. *(puts hand on Donner's shoulder)* I'm just glad you're safe. Come on, let's go.

END OF SCENE

INT. Briar house, Earth – Sunset

(SIMON, EMERALD, LING)

Simon is sitting at the piano in his lounge room, playing a depressing song known as "Damaged". Sitting next to him is 62-year-old VIOLA LING supervising, while Emerald watches from behind. Simon appears to be fairly stressed, and at one point plays a wrong note. He continues, hoping his mother didn't hear.

EMERALD
No, start again.

SIMON
Sorry.

EMERALD
I don't want your sorry. I want you to not make mistakes.

VIOLA
Mrs. Briar, if I may, I think we should create a positive environment for the child, so that he enjoys learning.

EMERALD
I don't pay you for your opinion. He's going to be a great pianist when he grows up, and he needs to make progress.

SIMON
(to Viola) She's right. I should've been more careful.

Simon starts the piece from the beginning, but makes another mistake. He winces and starts again, but soon makes another mistake and stops.

EMERALD
Simon! Focus!

SIMON
Sorry.

VIOLA
Perhaps we should try a different song. There's this Arabic folk song I know, about a price who forms a bond with a magic donkey.

Simon giggles.

EMERALD
A what?

VIOLA

A donkey with magical power, and he helps the prince see
the world in a new way.

EMERALD

No.

VIOLA

No? No what?

EMERALD

No, he's not playing that song.

VIOLA

Why? It's a beautiful song.

EMERALD

Because I don't want to teach him that hocus pocus!

VIOLA

We're not indoctrinating him. It's just a song.

EMERALD

Doesn't matter. The content of that song goes against the
teachings of the bible, and I won't stand for it! There
will be no pagan songs played in this house! Not while
I'm alive, anyway.

Viola takes some time to let Emerald's words sink in.

VIOLA

Okay. Should he keep playing "Damaged"?

SIMON

This song kinda makes me feel down.

EMERALD

You will wow everyone with that song. Now play.

*Simon plays "Damaged" again, as Viola looks at Emerald in
bewilderment.*

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

EXT. Derrenphale – Sunset

(DONNER, REINA, SASUKE)

Sasuke is driving down the road with Donner and Reina in the backseat.

SASUKE

So Reina, what did you and Donner do at school today?

REINA

We were learning about prose or something.

DONNER

With really weird sentences.

REINA

Donner's paper lit on fire.

SASUKE

What? How?!

DONNER

Spontaneous combustion.

REINA

Well, he says that, but I have trouble believing him.

SASUKE

Huh.

REINA

After that, Donner stood up to Corey when he was havin' a go at Simon.

SASUKE

Good on you, Donner. Cowards like Corey have no place in this world.

DONNER

Could we put some music on?

SASUKE

We're almost there, but alright.

Sasuke turns on the radio. "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi starts playing. Soon after this, however, Sasuke pulls his car into the driveway of his house and turns off the engine, which shuts off the radio right as the lyrics of the song were about to play.

DONNER
(*simultaneously*) Aw!

REINA
(*simultaneously*) Aw!

SASUKE
Sorry. Can't kill the planet with our fumes because we
want to listen to Bon Jovi.

END OF SCENE

INT. Kobayashi House, Earth – Sunset

(DONNER, REINA, SASUKE)

Donner and Reina run upstairs to Reina's room as Sasuke slowly walks in.

REINA
Smash Bros.?

DONNER
Smash Bros.

END OF SCENE

INT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, LINDA)

Donner and Reina are playing Super Smash Bros. on Nintendo 64. They are playing on the Corneria stage, with Donner playing as Captain Falcon and Reina playing as Pikachu. Reina smashes Donner's Captain Falcon and launches him into the sky, resulting in the announcer yelling "GAME!".

REINA

Whether it's in real life, or in Smash Bros., I can still kick your butt.

DONNER

Yeah, whatever.

Donner picks another stage.

REINA

Anyway, after school yesterday, I went to the board game store, and the Dead Gods book wasn't there.

DONNER

Oh.

REINA

What should I do if I can't find it?

DONNER

You could make your own campaign?

REINA

I don't really have time to do that now.

DONNER

Well, we'll figure something out. Molly will probably have something.

LINDA

(VO) Kids! Dinner!

REINA

Alright, Mom! Just a sec!

Donner and Reina are playing as Ness and Luigi respectively on the Magicant stage. Ness beats Reina in the game.

DONNER

Yes!

REINA

Yeah, that wasn't too bad.

Rein turns off the Nintendo 64, and she and Donner go downstairs.

END OF SCENE

INT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, DOMINIC, SASUKE, LINDA)

Donner and Reina come to the dining room where plates of seafood are placed. 58-year-old LINDA KOBAYASHI, Reina's mother, is waiting for the children.

LINDA

Sorry it's later than usual.

REINA

Mm! Looks delicious!

LINDA

The Oysters Kilpatrick will be ready in a minute, Donner.

DONNER

Thanks, Linda.

Donner and Reina sit at the table, as does Linda. Sasuke enters the room and sits down as well, and the four of them begin eating the fish.

LINDA

Your dad should be coming about now, shouldn't he?

The doorbell rings.

DONNER

That'll be him.

Sasuke stands and goes to door. He opens it, and Dominic is standing there.

SASUKE

Hi, Dom!

DOMINIC

Hey, Sasuke. Thanks.

SASUKE

Oh no! It's no imposition! We were just having dinner.
Would you like to come in?

DOMINIC

You wouldn't mind?

SASUKE

We have plenty of cod left. Otherwise we'd have to put it
in the fridge.

DOMINIC
(*sniffs*) Is that Oysters Kilpatrick?

Sasuke smiles.

END OF SCENE

INT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, DOMINIC, SASUKE, LINDA)

Donner, Reina, Dominic, and Sasuke are finishing their fish as Linda places the Oysters Kilpatrick on the table. Donner and Dominic each take an oyster.

DONNER
Thank you.

DOMINIC
Thank you.

SASUKE
(*chuckles*) You know, Donner, you're the only kid I know,
at your age, who actually likes oysters.

Donner shrugs as he finishes his oyster.

SASUKE
(*teasing*) Do you want some oysters, Reina.

Reina smiles and shakes her head.

DONNER
(*takes another oyster*) Well, more for us!

Linda sits, and she and Sasuke start helping themselves to the oysters as Reina start eating from a bowl of potato wedges that Linda has prepared for her.

DOMINIC
So what happened at school today?

REINA
Donner got in a fight.

DONNER
It wasn't a fight, really.

REINA
Well, I guess not. Still didn't work out that well
for Corey.

DOMINIC
(*chuckles*) Corey. What was he doing this time?

DONNER
He was picking on Simon.

DOMINIC
Simon? Do I know him?

DONNER
No, I don't think you do.

DOMINIC
So, what'd you do?

DONNER
I dared him punch me.

DOMINIC
And then what happened?

REINA
He took a swing at Donner and broke his hand.

DOMINIC
(*pauses*) When you say his hand, you mean-

DONNER
Corey's.

DOMINIC
(*amazed*) Wow! Ha, ha, ha! Then what?

DONNER
I got called to the principal's, but she let me go.

DOMINIC
They don't want to touch you.

DONNER
Yeah. If it had been anyone else..

DOMINIC
They would've gotten a detention, if not a suspension.
Bloody zero tolerance policy.

SASUKE
I know. A lot of things about school suck, but we do need
education for our society to function. And as bad as
things are now, it used to be a whole lot worse.

DOMINIC
That's true, I guess. The general course of the world is
to improve.

SASUKE

I agree. You kids don't know how lucky you are to not have been born fifty years ago. I spent my sixth birthday incarcerated in a camp in one of the most desolate places in America, because my family and I looked like the guys America was fighting.

Sasuke sigh and looks down. After a moment, he decides to change the subject.

SASUKE

So, Donner, you broke Corey's hand without even doing anything?

DOMINIC

Well, I guess our Don's tougher than we think. Just today, I saw he didn't even struggle to lift his bag. And they were some very heavy books.

REINA

(Suspicious) Really?

Reina gives a suspicious glance at Donner, who shrugs.

DONNER

(trying to change the subject) Any other news?

SASUKE

Well, we've decided to start growing rice. It's turning out quite nicely.

REINA

Yeah, we got some sprouts. Wanna see?

DONNER

(finishing his last oyster) Alright.

Donner and Reina get up and head for the back door.

END OF SCENE

EXT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, SASUKE, LINDA)

Reina shows Donner the rice sprouts.

DONNER

Yeah. Those are definitely some sprouts.

REINA

So, Donner. (*Donner turns to face her*) You lit a paper on fire with your fingers, you almost drowned despite being a great swimmer, I beat you at jiu jitsu with no effort. I mean, come on. You're not THAT bad. You apparently had no problem carrying your bag even though we now need 6 500-page textbooks, and Corey took a full swing at you, broke his hand, and you didn't even flinch! You mind telling me what the heck's going on here?

DONNER

Well, something happened yesterday when I was walking home.

REINA

So what you said about falling in the creek and getting lost, that wasn't true.

DONNER

Oh no, it was true. In a way. It's just a bit... more complicated than that.

REINA

Please. Do tell.

DONNER

Uh...

Suddenly, a loud explosion sound reverberates from beyond the back fence. This draws Donner and Reina's attention.

REINA

What was that? Another gas explosion?

DONNER

Stay here. I'll be back in a minute. (*starts walking towards the fence*)

REINA

Where are you going?

DONNER

I need to investigate this. I have a feeling who it might be.

Donner leaves Reina as she stares at him incredulously. Donner walks over to the fence and attempts to climb over it, but ends up crushing the fence and rolling down the hill on the other side. Waiting for him are several nihiltron soldiers and a commander.

COMMANDER

There is the cyborg. Efficiently conclude his life.

SOLDIER

Copy.

Donner raises his fists and extends his wrist-blades as the nihiltrons morph their hands into buzzsaws.

Fight Scene #1

Donner fights the nihiltrons using jiu jitsu techniques. Shortly after the fight begins, Reina enters the area through the hole in the fence. She is very surprised to see Donner fighting robots.

REINA

Donner?! What the-

DONNER

Reina! I told you to stay back!

The commander ponders this occurrence for a moment.

COMMANDER

He values the female larva. Bring her here.

SOLDIER

Copy.

DONNER

Wait. No!

As one of the soldiers bears down on Reina, Donner tries to stop him, but is blocked by several soldiers who occupy him. Reina sees the danger she is in and tries to run away, but trips, falls, and is grabbed by the soldier who brings her to the commander.

REINA

Ugh! Let me go, you walking toaster!

The soldier hands Reina to the commander as Donner destroys the remaining soldiers. The commander holds up Reina by her neck.

End Fight Scene #1

COMMANDER
Donner.

Donner races towards the commander, but he extends a drill from his hand and holds it up to Reina's forehead.

COMMANDER
Careful.

This forces Donner to stop. Reina appears frightened, but defiant.

DONNER
Stop. Please.

COMMANDER
You care about her deeply. If you had the choice, would you trade your life for hers?

DONNER
Yes.

COMMANDER
You would give up your life, knowing you will receive nothing in return. I hope you understand now, why we must do what we do.

The commander moves to drill into Reina's forehead.

DONNER
No!

Reina manages to move her head out of the way, causing the commander to drill into his own head. He drops Reina, who jumps and kicks the drill further into his head. He collapses to the floor. Donner and Reina both breathe heavily.

DONNER
Reina. That was amazing.

REINA
What was that?

DONNER
Well...

REINA

Why were you just fighting robots with buzzsaws, why do you have blades coming out of your wrists, and why did I almost get a flippin' drill through my flippin' forehead!

DONNER

Short answer?

REINA

We could start with that.

DONNER

When I was walking home yesterday, I got attack by killer robots, the ones you see here. I jumped in the creek out of desperation, got bashed around a bit, got shanghaied by some aliens, got cybernetically enhanced, and then I helped the aliens on their ship fight off those same robots, before they dropped me off at my place.

REINA

(pauses) Okay, I think I got it. So, you're a cyborg.

DONNER

I guess so.

REINA

Cool! What have you got.

DONNER

Uh, super strength, super senses, nanomachines that heal me, and titanium reinforced bones apparently.

REINA

That's amazing! (chuckles) Corey had no idea what he was dealing with. Wait, why did you sink in the pool?

DONNER

'Cause I'm a lot heavier. I can't swim anymore.

REINA

Seriously?

DONNER

Yeah. Also, I set off metal detectors, and I got these blades that pop out when I don't want them to, and I don't know how to retract them. When I was fighting those mech people, I felt like I finally had a reason to be here. I thought, "This is awesome!" Now, everything's just massively inconvenient. Oh, you can't tell Jim.

LINDA

(VO) Reina!, Donner!

REINA

(To Linda) Coming, Mom! (To Donner) We gotta go.

Donner gestures at Reina with his wrist blades, showing her the problem.

REINA

Well, pull them back in.

DONNER

I told you, I don't know how.

REINA

Let me see.

DONNER

Careful, they're sharp.

Reina starts feeling the blades.

REINA

These are really, really cool. (Cuts herself) Ow!

DONNER

I told you they were sharp!

REINA

Okay, try relaxing your wrist.

DONNER

I am relaxed.

REINA

No, you're not. Just-

Reina grabs Donner's hand and bends it back somewhat.

REINA

Release all the tension, and..

Donner's blades slowly slides back into his wrist. He does the same motion with his other hand and retracts the other blade.

REINA

And there you go.

LINDA

(VO) Reina!

Donner and Reina can hear Linda walking towards them.

DONNER

We need an explanation for the hole in the fence!

REINA

Uh...

Donner looks around and sees a tree near the fence. He runs and shoulder slams the tree, knocking it over and causing it to land in the hole in the fence. Donner and Reina walk back towards the house and meet Linda.

LINDA

Reina. (*Notices the falling tree*) What happened!

REINA

The tree fell. We wanted to take a look.

LINDA

Sasuke!

Sasuke appears and notices the fallen tree.

SASUKE

Oh! (*sigh*) Come on.

END OF SCENE

INT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, DOMINIC, SASUKE, LINDA)

Donner and Sasuke are preparing to leave.

DOMINIC

Thank you for everything. And the food was marvelous.

SASUKE

It's not a problem at all. Now, we love having Donner here, but we can't have him everyday. Linda and I work late at the factory starting next week.

DOMINIC

Can't he stay in the library with Reina?

DOMINIC

I was banned from the library, remember?

DOMINIC

Oh, yeah. Well, we'll figure something out.

DONNER

Oh. I left my bag in Reina's room.

Donner and Reina hurry upstairs.

DONNER

Okay, I think I know what I need to do now. I need to do some diggin' and find where those robots are based.

REINA

You want to look for the things that tried to kill us?

DONNER

I don't think I have a choice. They came here because they're after me. Either I find them or they find me.

REINA

Alright. Can I be your sidekick? I can keep all your leads together and everything.

DONNER

If you want.

REINA

Where should we start?

DONNER

Well, you know that warehouse that blew up?

REINA
Yeah?

DONNER
That was actually a nihiltron base.

REINA
Nihiltron?

DONNER
That's what they're called.

REINA
Wouldn't people know if there was an alien robot base in
Derrenphale?

DONNER
People do know. The government. You saw that guy on TV,
Jerry Wilkes?

REINA
Yeah?

DONNER
He was with them.

REINA
Really?

DONNER
I think we need to go for him.

REINA
We could look him up in the phone booth, I guess. But
when are we going to go to his place?

DONNER
Not in the afternoon. Dad won't let me out of his sight
now.

REINA
So you either sneak out at night, or sneak out of school.

DONNER
I guess school. We'll talk about it tomorrow.

REINA
Right.

They head downstairs.

END OF SCENE

EXT. Kobayashi House – Night

(DONNER, REINA, DOMINIC, SASUKE, LINDA)

The Kobayashis are bidding the Blitzens farewell.

DOMINIC
Bye!

SASUKE
Bye!

REINA
Bye, Donner!

Linda
Bye!

DONNER
Bye!

Dominic gets in Dominic's car and they drive off. Sasuke and Linda head inside. Reina remains outside and stares up at the sky.

SASUKE
Reina. You coming in?

Reina enters the house.

END OF EPISODE

Logline: A cybernetically enhanced young boy tries to adjust to normal life after his incident with an alien war.

Blurb: Donner is forced to adjust to a normal human life after his cybernetic transformation, and his stint fighting the nihiltrons on the Orsion vessel. We meet Simon Briar, who's school and home life leaves much to be desired.