

Cyborg Shaman Ninjas

Season 1 - Episode 4

Call to Action

By Xei

ACT 1

Smash From Black:

INT. Briar House - Day

(SIMON, EMERALD)

SIMON BRIAR *is sleeping in his bed. A maths textbook and exercise book are lying open on the mattress.* EMERALD BRIAR *enters.*

EMERALD  
Simon!

*Simon is jolted awake.*

EMERALD  
It's time for school.

*Simon moans and falls asleep again.*

EMERALD  
(*claps her hands*) Simon! Wake up!

*Simon groggily gets out of bed and grabs his bedside table for support.*

END OF SCENE

**INT. Briar House - Day**

(SIMON, EMERALD)

*Simon walks to the kitchen in his day clothes. He opens up a cabinet, and pulls out a bowl of cereal, bowl, and spoon. He opens the fridge and pulls out a jug of milk. He despondently pours cereal and milk into the bowl and carries it to the table. He sits down and begins eating the cereal. He sighs.*

END OF SCENE

INT. Blitzen House - Day

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

DONNER BLITZEN *is woken in his bed by his alarm clock. He jolts awake, and slaps the alarm clock to shut it off. He gets out of bed, and comes down the stairs, dressed in his day clothes. DOMINIC BLITZEN is in the kitchen making an omelet. He is surprised.*

DOMINIC

I've never seen you get up so quickly.

DONNER

Yeah, well, I got some stuff to do.

DOMINIC

Alright.

*Donner is now seated at the table eating his omelet, while Bang Blam Baxter is playing on the TV. PENNY, a young woman is hanging precariously on the edge of a skyscraper while BAXTER drives a motorbike up the side of the building.*

PENNY

Ah! Help!

BAXTER

There's nothing to worry about!

*Penny screams as she falls from the building. Baxter jumps the bike and catches her as she falls.*

BAXTER

I got ya.

PENNY

Oh, Baxter!

*Donner changes the channel to a news report.*

REPORTER

The suspicions over the warehouse explosion are beginning to subside. Surveillance will continue until 11:30 tonight, but police will still be on high alert.

*off and finishes eating his meal. Dominic enters wearing his police uniform.*

DOMINIC  
Alright. Let's go.

END OF SCENE

**EXT. Derrenphale bus station - Day**

(REINA, JIM, SIMON)

REINA KOBAYAH I and JIM RODRIGUEZ are sitting on the stationary bus.

JIM

So, did you get the Dead Gods book?

REINA

Not yet. I'll go and get it tomorrow.

JIM

Do you think using Ralmevik would be a good idea? Maybe he won't have enough...

REINA

I'm sure he'll be fine.

*Simon appears, running towards the bus. He notices that the bus is early and begins running faster. The 48-year-old DRIVER closes the door just as Simon is about to get on.*

SIMON

Hey!

*The bus begins to drive away.*

JIM

Well he's going to be late.

REINA

Hang on, it's 6:45. The bus is early. (to driver) Excuse me! It's not 6:50 yet. You're not supposed to go yet.

*There is no response from the driver. Reina stands up and steps into the aisle.*

REINA

Hello? Did you hear me?

DRIVER

Sit down!

*Reina is shocked, but decides she has no choice and takes her seat.*

JIM

Wow. What a nasty guy.

REINA

You said it. I guess he just had a bad day?

*Simon watches the bus as it drives off. He takes a deep breath and makes a mad dash in the direction of the school.*

END OF SCENE

**EXT. Derrenphale countryside - Day**

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

*Dominic drives down the road with Donner in the backseat.*

DOMINIC

You seem to be waking up very easily now.

*Donner shrugs.*

DOMINIC

I mean usually, you're like dead.

DONNER

Well, I don't know what to tell ya.

DOMINIC

Anyway, what do you think we should get Molly for her birthday?

DONNER

We could get her that Driver game. Or final Fantasy VII.

DOMINIC

We get her a PlayStation game every year.

DONNER

We could get her a campaign book.

DOMINIC

Righty-oh.

END OF SCENE

**EXT. Derrenphale Elementary School - Day**

(DONNER, REINA, JIM)

*Donner retrieves his books from his locker. As he closes the locker, he finds Reina standing beside him.*

REINA  
I found Jerry Wilkes.

DONNER  
Awesome!

REINA  
He lives at 14 crescent. It's a 20 minute walk.

DONNER  
So how are we getting out of school?

REINA  
I could call them with your phone and pretend to be my mom, but I'm not sure about you.

DONNER  
I'll give myself a permission slip from my dad. I've gotten pretty good at forging his signature.

REINA  
Why?

DONNER  
Not important. Now, what are we going to do when we get to Jerry's place?

REINA  
We interrogate him.

DONNER  
How?

REINA  
You got a blade coming out of your wrist, Donner, you should know the answer to that.

DONNER  
Right.

REINA  
What are we actually gonna ask him?

DONNER

I wanna know why the nihiltrons attacked me on Monday. They're supposed to be really efficient. They wouldn't have chased me if there wasn't a reason.

REINA

Maybe you saw too much?

DONNER

But then why were they talking so loudly? And why did one of them specifically say "The nihiltrons have elected to end your life, by order from Lord Gage."?

REINA

Who's Lord Gage?

DONNER

The big robot dude in charge. I had a nightmare about him, actually.

REINA

Is he like Lord Vile?

DONNER

Kinda, except a lot more scary.

REINA

Okay.

DONNER

I also wanna know why the warehouse exploded. I wanna know what the Orsions were tryin' to get.

REINA

Orsions?

DONNER

The aliens that saved me.

REINA

Got it.

*The bell rings for first period.*

DONNER

I need to get back in touch with them somehow, and maybe we should go to the shrine to-

REINA

Quiet, quiet. Jim's coming.

JIM RODRIGUEZ *appears, enthusiastic.*

JIM  
Hey guys!

DONNER  
Heya.

JIM  
Did Reina tell you about what happened to Simon?

DONNER  
Uh, no.

REINA  
The bus driver ditched him. And Simon was on time.

DONNER  
What? Why?

REINA  
Who knows?

JIM  
*(enthusiastic)* Well anyway, I got some news!

DONNER  
Love to hear it.

JIM  
You're not gonna believe this.

REINA  
What is it?

JIM  
You really wanna know?

DONNER  
*(somewhat annoyed)* Tell us the exciting news.

JIM  
I did a which Dragonball character are you quiz, and  
after 3 tries, I got Bulma!

DONNER  
*(pause)* That's great, Jim. That's really great.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School classroom F6 - Day

(SIMON, COREY, DAMIEN, GREEN)

MARGARET GREEN *is teaching her students.*

GREEN

We will need to take a look into algebra next. Before, you've been given a maths problem and asked to solve it. But this is not the only form an expression can take.

*Simon opens the door and hurries in, exhausted. He bends over to catch his breath.*

GREEN

Simon! Why are you late?

SIMON

Sorry, Ms. Green. The bus left without me.

GREEN

Well, you should have been at the station on time.

SIMON

I was at the station on time. The bus left anyway.

GREEN

Don't be ridiculous! Why would the bus leave before the departure time?

SIMON

I don't know, but it did.

GREEN

Excuses, excuses! You've disrupted the class! Now no-one can pay attention!

SIMON

Sorry, I...

GREEN

Just sit down!

*Simon sits at his desk next to Corey. Ms. Green returns to the whiteboard.*

GREEN

Now, consider the equation (*she writes this on the whiteboard*)  $3 + x = 2$ . You might be wondering why there is a letter in the equation.

COREY

*(whispering to Simon)* I guess even the bus driver doesn't want to be around you. He realised you were a loser and ditched you.

*Simon says nothing.*

GREEN

This letter is known as a variable. It is a placeholder of value.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School classroom D2 - Day

(DONNER, REINA, JIM, VERNE)

ALISHA VERNE *is teaching her students, putting in as much energy as we can.*

VERNE

Today, we're gonna talk about object-verb agreement. Now, that sounds very complicated but it's actually pretty simple. You do it all the time without noticing.

*Reina leans in to whisper to Donner.*

REINA

*(whispering)* Should we head out now?

DONNER

*(whispering)* I suppose so.

REINA

*(whispering)* You'll have to fill me in on the details.

DONNER

*(whispering)* Will do.

VERNE

So, the duck swims, but the ducks swim.

*Donner scratches his arm and raises his hand.*

DONNER

Miss Verne, I think I need to go see the nurse.

VERNE

Really? Why?

DONNER

*(scratching his arm)* I got this really bad itchy rash. I think it may be contagious.

VERNE

Alright, well, off you go.

*Donner gets out of his seat and leaves the room. Jim looks at him wondering what's going on.*

VERNE

So, Reina, can you give us a sentence with a singular object-verb agreement, and change it to plural?

REINA

*(scratching her arm)* Uh, a man likes football, and men  
like football.

*Miss Verne looks at Reina with a concerned expression on  
her face.*

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School classroom F6 - Day

(SIMON, COREY, DAMIEN, GREEN)

*Green is beginning to finish the class.*

GREEN

I expect you to have completed exercise 45 by tomorrow.

*The bell rings out.*

GREEN

I'll see you all tomorrow.

*The students all stand and begin to leave. Ms. Green stops Simon.*

GREEN

Simon. Since you were late, I think it's only fair I give you more homework.

SIMON

What? But...

GREEN

You will need to complete exercise 46 as well.

SIMON

Ms. Green, I got to the bus station on time and-

GREEN

I don't want to hear it! Exercise 46, tomorrow.

*Simon sighs and leaves. As he walks out the door, Corey walks past him and deliberately bumps into him.*

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

EXT. Derrenphale - Day

(DONNER, REINA)

*Donner and Reina are walking on the way to Jerry's house.*

REINA

So, give me the down low. Who are these aliens, who are these robot aliens, and what do they want?

DONNER

Like I said, I got chased by the nihiltrons and I had to jump in the creek. I was rescued by the Orsions. I got cybernetically modified.

REINA

Like Bang Blam Baxter.

DONNER

Like Bang Blam Baxter, exactly.

REINA

Were you cyberized by a crazy doctor, like Dr. Slice?

DONNER

Yes, actually. His name was Dr. Scin. Freaked me the heck out. Anyway, after that I met Admiral Merris. She's the lady in charge of the Amaterasu, the ship I was on. I helped her protect some kind of device with data on it that was apparently pretty important.

REINA

What was that data?

DONNER

I dunno. It was something about "Operation Alleviate", their plan to purge all intelligent life of emotions and free will.

REINA

Why?

DONNER

They're evil robots. They think they're right.

REINA

And Lord Gage is in charge of this operation?

DONNER

Yep.

REINA  
Alright then.

DONNER  
I just wanna point out that when it comes to getting into any actual danger, I don't want you in the picture. You stay back, since I'm the one with the powers.

REINA  
Oh yeah. I can tell you I'm in no rush to see one of those things again. Next time I go to the dentist, I'm gonna faint if I hear that drill. I was afraid of it before but now...

DONNER  
That's fair.

END OF SCENE

**EXT.-INT. Jerry's house, Earth - Day Continuous**

(DONNER, REINA, JERRY)

*Donner and Reina arrive at Jerry's house, an ordinary suburban home.*

REINA  
We're here.

*Donner walks up to the door and knocks.*

JERRY  
(VO) Who is it?

DONNER  
(whispering to Reina) Wait, what do I say?

REINA  
(whispering to Donner) You didn't think of this?! (to Jerry) Uh, we're from Derrenphale Elementary. We'd like to talk to you.

JERRY WILKES opens the door.

JERRY  
Yeah?

REINA  
Hi. We'd like to interview you for the school paper. We have some questions about the warehouse explosion.

JERRY  
Everything that happened I pretty much covered on the news. There's not much more to say.

DONNER  
Well, there's rumors that the explosion was not an accident, but a deliberate act. Can you say anything on the matter?

JERRY  
Not really. I don't know what happened there. There's a bunch of men on the grounds where the warehouse was right now. Whatever was happening there is their business.

DONNER  
And we were also wondering if the theories are true that this is the result of a conflict between two alien races?

JERRY  
What? How do you- uh... What are you talking about?

DONNER

We're talking about the Orsion and the Nihiltrons of course. Do you have any comment?

JERRY

No! Look, I'm sure you're having great fun with your game of make believe, just don't bother me. Go fight the Nihiltrons somewhere else. Shouldn't you be in school right now?

REINA

I just said we were asking questions for the paper.

JERRY

You're clearly not.

DONNER

And you're clearly not telling the truth when you say you have no idea what we're talking about. I suppose you don't know about Lord Gage either.

JERRY

Look, I'm really busy, I got, uh, I'm watering my cactuses. So goodbye.

*Jerry slams the door. Donner knocks again. There is no response.*

REINA

So what do we do now?

DONNER

Something my Dad told me about his job. If you're knocking on someone's door, someone you've got questions for, and they're not answering? Knock harder.

*Donner breaks the door out of its frame. He and Reina enter the house. Jerry, who has moved to the living room, is shocked. Donner threateningly speedwalks towards Jerry.*

DONNER

Okay. You need to start talkin' buddy.

JERRY

What the- what di you do to my door? How did you-

*Jerry shrieks as Donner lifts him by the neck and pins him against the wall.*

DONNER

What do you know about the Nihiltrons!

JERRY

*(terrified)* I have no idea what you're talking about!

*Donner extends his wristblade and presses it against Jerry's throat. Jerry shrieks.*

DONNER

If you value your esophagus, you'll tell me.

JERRY

*(Incoherent terrified babbling)*

REINA

You know, I don't really think scaring the life out of him is going to help. He's probably already traumatized from the explosion.

DONNER

He sided with the Nihiltrons. He should have expected something like this.

JERRY

How do you know about that?

DONNER

A 10-year-old is holding you up off the ground and has a blade coming out of his wrist, and you're surprised by the fact I know the Nihiltrons?

JERRY

That's... That's Orsion tech, isn't it?

DONNER

Tell me what you know about the Nihiltrons!

JERRY

I don't know anything, I swear! I'm just the night watch.

DONNER

To protect the base?

JERRY

To have a presence outside the base so everything looks normal. Obviously, if the Orsions wanted to get in, I couldn't do anything to stop them. They'd just take an HF katana and slice me in two. I heard their bodies are a lot more frail than ours, though.

DONNER

And the Orsions did get in. How'd you get the job, anyway?

JERRY

Saw an ad for the job. Called the number and arranged an interview. You can imagine my surprise when the guy interviewing me wasn't human.

DONNER

And you still took the job?

JERRY

The pay is more than my previous job gave me in a year!

DONNER

You don't have a problem working for terrorists and murderers?

JERRY

I had no idea what they were doing! I just stood there and every now and then a few of them entered the base.

DONNER

You don't know anything about files the Orsions stole? Operation Alleviate?

JERRY

They told me Operation Alleviate was their objective. Whatever it means, I haven't the faintest clue.

REINA

They wouldn't have told him anything. Based on the way you described them, they'd be pretty secretive.

DONNER

Wait. Do you know why they attacked me on Monday?

JERRY

Well, I understand they will go after anyone they perceive as a threat.

DONNER

Why would they have perceived me as a threat?

JERRY

You have a blade coming out of your wrist, and you clearly are trying to stop them!

DONNER

That was before all of this! I had no idea they even existed before I ran into them.

JERRY

Well, maybe it's because they knew you'd be a threat in the future?

DONNER

What? How could they know?

JERRY

Apparently they can predict the future. They have some sort of algorithm. I don't know how it works. I don't know if it's even real.

REINA

Donner, did you say you went to investigate when you heard them talking? What did they say?

DONNER

One of the commanders basically called one of the others stupid and said not to do what he was doin' again.

JERRY

That's interesting. Apparently they communicate wirelessly and silently, unless they're specifically talking to someone else.

DONNER

Then why did I hear them?

JERRY

Maybe they wanted you to hear? *(pause)* Look, I don't think I have anything else for you. Can you put me down?

*Donner thinks for a moment, then retracts his wristblade, drops Jerry to the floor, and walks away. Jerry clutches his throat. Donner and Reina begin to leave.*

REINA

So, are we going to the shrine now?

DONNER

Probably.

REINA

*(to Jerry)* Sorry about your door.

*Jerry stares incredulously at Donner and Reina as they exit.*

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Elementary School cafeteria - Day

(JIM, SIMON, GREEN)

*Jim is sitting in the cafeteria with his lunch, a ham sandwich (uneaten). Simon walks past him, scanning for a seat.*

JIM  
Hey, Simon.

SIMON  
(meekly) Oh. Hey.

JIM  
Uh, do you need a seat?

SIMON  
Oh. Thanks.

*Simon takes a seat at the table.*

JIM  
Where's your lunch?

SIMON  
Corey took my lunch money.

JIM  
Darn. Someone should really give him... a what for. Is that a figure of speech? What's the word I'm looking for?

SIMON  
Well, he's the son of one the board.

JIM  
Yeah. But the board is terrified of Donner's dad.

*At this point, Simon has opened up and is becoming more conversational.*

SIMON  
He sounds like a pretty cool guy. Actually, where is Donner? And where's Reina?

JIM  
Uh, they went to the nurse's 'cause of some contagious rash or something. I dunno.

SIMON  
Contagious rash? That's a bit weird.

JIM

Yeah, and then they just disappeared. Hey, do you want some of my sandwich? I haven't touched this half.

SIMON

Oh. Thank you!

*Simon reaches to grab the sandwich just as Ms. Green walks past. She flares up.*

GREEN

No sharing food!

JIM

Sorry.

*Ms. Green storms off.*

JIM

So, are you gonna get Pokémon Gold or Silver when it comes out.

SIMON

Uh, probably not.

JIM

You don't like Pokémon?

SIMON

I dunno. I probably would. I just can't get it.

JIM

You can't ask your parents?

SIMON

No. I'm not allowed to have videogames.

JIM

What? Why?

SIMON

My mom says they're ungodly or something.

JIM

Darn. Listen, do you want the sandwich?

SIMON

Isn't it against...

JIM

They have the rule 'cause they're worried about some kid with allergies having a... allergy reaction and then they get sued or something. There's really no point. Unless you're allergic to ham.

*Simon reaches out and breaks off half of the sandwich. He begins, and clearly enjoys it.*

JIM

I'm allergic, by the way. Which is why this is a ham sandwich and not an ham and cheese sandwich.

END OF SCENE

**EXT.-INT. Derrenphale Anto Shrine, Earth - Day**

(DONNER, REINA, MONK)

*Donner and Reina arrive at the shrine of worship of the Anto spirits. It is situated in a field on the side of a road leading out of town. It is large, but with a modest design. A large open doorway leads into a tall chamber. Donner and Reina observe the shrine from behind a wire fence on the side of the road.*

REINA

So what do you know about the Anto spirits?

DONNER

Absolutely nuthin'. But turns out you can channel their power to shoot fire. And apparently, these monks know about what goes on out there in the cosmos. Maybe they know somethin' about the Orsions and Nihiltrons.

*Donner and Reina climb the fence. Donner ends up crushing the fence under his weight.*

DONNER

Ugh. I don't know if I'll ever get used to this.

*The two children walk across the field and enter the shrine. Reina is fascinated by the architecture. They are greeted warmly by an ANTO MONK (54). Other monks are laboring in the chamber, paying no notice to the children.*

MONK

Good afternoon, and welcome to our shrine! We always love to have visitors. What brings you here?

DONNER

We've just been interested in your culture, and we'd like to know more.

MONK

That's wonderful! But, shouldn't you be in school right now?

DONNER

We have the day off.

MONK

No you don't.

REINA

Yes we do.

MONK

No you don't.

DONNER

How do you know? You got spiritual mind reading powers?

MONK

Involuntary reverse telepathy is an ability that can be acquired. I, however, am incapable of this feat, since a human's spiritual connection dampens when reaching maturity. Hence why we use child seers. Even so, it takes years to build up sufficient aptitude to take a secret out of someone's mind, and most of our students will never achieve that skill within their short time under our guidance. No, I just know you're lying. I can see it in your face.

DONNER

You can see it in my face?

MONK

Yes. That's simply something I've become good at.

REINA

Okay, so we are skipping school, but this is very important. Our planet may be at stake here.

MONK

You're just kids. What could you possibly be involved with that would concern our world?

DONNER

From channeling the spirits, you learn things about the universe around us, right? So I don't suppose you know about the robots that are threatening Earth? The Nihiltrons?

MONK

Nihiltrons? How could you know about them? Their existence is a closely guarded secret in our order.

DONNER

I can explain how I know everything later. Can you just tell me what you know about them?

MONK

But why? Why does it concern you?

REINA

If these guys want to get rid of our emotions and free will, it concerns everyone.

MONK

But there's nothing you can do to stop them.

REINA

He could use spiritual channeling abilities.

MONK

It takes years of practice to attune yourself to the unseen world, let alone apply this knowledge in combat! We love having new students, but we induct them into training at the age of six. How old are you, ten?

DONNER

As of Saturday, yes.

MONK

A bit late.

REINA

Donner. Show him.

DONNER

Jigoko No Hee!

*Donner holds up his cupped hand and small flames erupt from his fingertips. The monk is astonished.*

MONK

That's... impossible!

*Donner stops the flames.*

DONNER

Now, the nihiltrons. What are they?

MONK

They're machine people.

REINA

We know that.

MONK

And you still haven't told me how you know.

DONNER

Are you familiar with the Orsions, the people fighting the Nihiltrons?

MONK

I know there are peoples out there in the universe who have the goal of stopping Lord Gage's machinations. We didn't know what they were called. You... you're different. You've met them, haven't you?

DONNER

Indeed.

MONK

Then you probably know more about the nihiltrons than we do.

DONNER

Why are they called that?

MONK

Latin roots. Nihil - nothing. Tron - instrument. Nihiltron - instrument of nothing. Of course, this is the human term for them. From what we know, they think and communicate in binary. But they do refer to themselves in their language, if you could call it a language, with the concepts of instruments of nothing.

DONNER

I want to know what was in the base under the warehouse that blew up.

MONK

I would have no way of knowing.

DONNER

Well, maybe we need to talk to an Orsion.

REINA

How? They live light-years away. Are they even in our galaxy?

DONNER

They're in Andromeda.

REINA

Andromeda?

DONNER

But here's the thing. Merris told me that a few Orsions lost their lives on this planet.

REINA

So?

DONNER

So, maybe they're still here.

REINA

I think if there were any Orsion souls stranded here, the monks would know.

MONK

They could just be hiding. Usually, to talk to a deceased individual, you have to know who you're trying to contact. We've probably never found any Orsion spirits because we didn't know they existed. I would highly advise against going into battle with these machine people, but to find out more about what's going on, I think it's worth a shot.

END OF SCENE

INT. Derrenphale Anto Shrine - Day

(DONNER, REINA, MONK, CHANNELER)

*Donner, Reina, and the monk walk towards an altar. A couple of other monks bring out a 12-year-old CHANNELER, who sits down with her legs crossed.*

DONNER

I thought you said kids like us should be at school?

MONK

She's on trainee leave. Now sit down.

*Donner sits and crosses his legs. The monk and several others begin lighting candles and placing them around the two.*

REINA

You sure this works?

MONK

Absolutely. They're trained not to lie, and often they channel the spirits of those who speak languages the conduits don't even understand. They could not fake this.

CHANNELER

Now, tell me who you want to contact. Describe them in as much detail as you can. I will embody them.

DONNER

I want to talk with an Orsion who was killed in action. Someone who knows Admiral Merris.

*The channeler closes her eyes, takes several deep breaths, and rubs her fingers together.*

CHANNELER

Person from another world. One who gave the ultimate sacrifice to help your kind in the struggle against the machine people. Hear me, ye who know Admiral Merris. Please, come to me. We need your knowledge.

*The channeler falls silent and takes several deep breaths. Suddenly, she pulls back violently, as if hit with a powerful force, and gasps. She then opens her eyes and looks around confused.*

CHANNELER

(in Orsion) Who are you? How do you know about us, and what do you want me for?

DONNER

Oh yeah, probably need the translator.

*Donner reaches behind his ear and switches on the translator.*

REINA

This is honestly incredible.

MONK

Hush. We mustn't interfere.

DONNER

Okay, so let's get down to business.

CHANNELER

You can understand me?

DONNER

I got a translator, courtesy of Dr. Scin.

CHANNELER

You know him?

DONNER

He saved my life. Anyway, who are you?

CHANNELER

I am Captain Rox. I was Admiral Merris's subordinate, and her friend.

DONNER

Subordinate and friend? Military policy on Orsia seems a bit lax.

CHANNELER

Understatement of the octogenerade.

DONNER

The what?

CHANNELER

The period of time it takes for the planet Amaterasu to travel around its star 80 times.

DONNER

Right, the base 8 thing.

CHANNELER

Look, I don't have much time. This vessel is a novice, in the grand scheme of things. If I stay here too long, it will take a toll on her mind.

DONNER

Alright, ma'am. The base under the-

CHANNELER

Ma'am? I'm a guy!

DONNER

Sorry. Now sir, the base under the warehouse. Merris and Gaija took a folder from their network that apparently contains the secrets of the Nihiltron's entire operation.

CHANNELER

Yes. They found the location and floor plan of that base in a derelict Nihiltron ship. Their computers also allowed Gaija to reverse engineer their OS to hack into their network. To get some help with the infiltration, they talked to me on this planet.

DONNER

Were you already dead at the time?

CHANNELER

Yes, I was dead. Thank you for rubbing it in.

DONNER

Sorry, sir.

CHANNELER

They told me what they were doing and asked if I had any advice, since I had a lot of time to get to know the area. Now, Gaija also found in the ship what he thought was a decryption key for the Nihiltron folders, but it was a fake. It was a dummy key.

DONNER

What's that mean?

CHANNELER

It means they won't be getting into the folder anytime soon. I only found out Amaterasu came to me.

DONNER

The planet?

CHANNELER

The spirit.

DONNER

Got it.

CHANNELER

She sees all.

DONNER

So, can I help with the folder?

CHANNELER

Why do you consider it your responsibility? You're a child.

DONNER

I have cybernetic enhancements, and a knack for spirit channeling. Human adults can't use spirit techniques. You can, but your bodies are too weak, and your electromagnetic pulse means you can't give yourself these enhancements. On top of that, I think the nihiltrons are after me. I'm a part of this whether I like it or not.

CHANNELER

Fair enough. You'll need to go into the base. The engineers. They know the key.

DONNER

Do they look like engineers?

CHANNELER

They look purple. They're the purple ones. You find one and take it.

DONNER

I take the engineer?

CHANNELER

You take the CPU. Twist its head off. They're non-combatants. They have basic self preservation instincts, but they're not weaponised. If they see you though, they'll alert the entire base to your presence, so make sure you take one by surprise.

DONNER

How do I get in?

CHANNELER

The elevator has been destroyed, and they have sealed the hole. They've made a new entrance in the woods nearby, under a pile of leaves. Another thing, since the base has been compromised, it's due for thermal sterilization, tonight, at midnight.

DONNER

Thermal sterilization? What does that mean?

CHANNELER

It means the whole place will be torched and disintegrated. With you in it if you're still there.

DONNER

And the engineers?

CHANNELER

-will evaporate with the base.

DONNER

I thought you said they wanna protect themselves.

CHANNELER

A Nihiltron will protect itself, but will not hesitate to sacrifice itself if it thinks it would be beneficial for the operation.

DONNER

What do I do when I have the engineer head?

CHANNELER

There's nothing you can do. The CPU is not compatible with any of the technology you have. But, if you can get in contact with the Orsions, they can help.

DONNER

Could you send a message to Merris?

CHANNELER

Telepathy requires the manipulation of chi. It can only be achieved by the living. Sending an intergalactic telepathic message is no easy feat, but a medium who has trained for the latter half of her life, and a strong soul with an aptitude for the unseen world, that just might do.

DONNER

Alright.

CHANNELER

One more thing. This is very important. When you have the CPU, you need to be careful, because every Nihiltron has been fitted with-

*The channeler gasps and breaks out of her serious demeanor. She takes a moment to realize what just happened.*

CHANNELER

Woah. Okay, cross channeling a dead alien's soul off the bucket list.

DONNER

What happened? Where did he go?

MONK

She was channeling him for too long. The connection was broken.

DONNER

But he was saying something important!

MONK

There's nothing we can do about that. But we just made history today.

DONNER

*(to channeler)* Okay, do you remember everything that just happened while you were channeling Captain Rox?

CHANNELER

I- I think so.

DONNER

Right. I need to send a message.

MONK

I'm sorry. Uh- what's your name?

DONNER

Donner.

MONK

Listen, Donner. I think she's been stressed enough today. An intergalactic telepathic message is too much.

CHANNELER

I think I can do it.

MONK

I can't let you do that in good faith.

CHANNELER

Our world is at stake.

MONK

*(sigh)* Alright. Link hands.

*Donner and the channeler link hands.*

CHANNELER

Who do you want to contact? Where are they, roughly, in space?

DONNER

Her name is Admiral Merris. She's on the moon Orsia in the Andromeda galaxy.

CHANNELER

Now close your eyes, and think of the message you want to send. It should be short and to the point. Direct it towards her.

*They both take some deep breaths.*

DONNER

Hi, Merris. It's me, Donner. Don't know if it's nice for you to hear my voice again, but you don't have the right decryption key. I'll get it now from the base under the warehouse, and you can get it from me tomorrow. You know where my house is.

*The channeler collapses. Several monks tend to her. Reina walks up to Donner.*

DONNER

So now we have our next mission.

REINA

When are we going to go? We should be back at school soon, or my dad will realise we're not there. Also, there's cops and officials crawling all over that area.

DONNER

Until 11:30.

REINA

A: You'll be at home with your dad, and he definitely won't let you out at that hour, and B: That doesn't give you a lot of time.

DONNER

A: I'll sneak out, and B: I don't think it'll take too long.

REINA

Alright then. When you're done, call my landline with your cellphone. If it's midnight and I don't get a call, I'll assume you're dead.

DONNER

Got it. (*thinks for a second then realises something and turns to monk*) Um, if you can help people talk with the spirits of those who passed away... Can you let me talk with my mom?

MONK  
Right now?

DONNER  
Not now. I have things to do. But maybe later?

MONK  
We don't usually use our seers to let a client talk with  
a loved one who has passed away. We've found it only  
causes more pain. But if you genuinely need to talk with  
her, we can do that for you.

REINA  
Come on. Let's head back.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

EXT. Jerry's house - Sunset

(JERRY)

*A nihiltron COMMANDER, and several soldiers appear at Jerry's door, which has been propped up in the frame. They knock, causing the broken door to fall forwards. Jerry answers the knock.*

JERRY

*(nervously)* Oh. Hey, guys!

COMMANDER

We have no need for greetings.

JERRY

Right. What brings you here?

COMMANDER

We are here to end your life.

*Jerry pauses as he is overcome with panic.*

JERRY

Okay, look. I'm really sorry. He had a blade at my throat. I tried to hold out.

COMMANDER

You betrayed information? We had no knowledge of this, and we don't actually care. That is not why we are here. The base is condemned, so we have no further use for you. We will erase the base and any trace of its existence, including you.

*The commander extends a drill from his hand and enters the house. As the soldiers enter, one of them picks up the door and places it back in the frame, obscuring our view.*

JERRY

Now hold on guys. Hang on. Just we just talk about this for a mome- *(screams in pain)*

END OF SCENE

INT. Briar house - Night

(SIMON, BEN)

*Simon sits at a desk in his room, an ordinary drab room with no implements that would be considered fun. and pulls at a maths textbook and exercise book. He turns to a specific page and starts solving the problems. BEN BRIAR enters.*

BEN

So you got two exercises today?

SIMON

*(sigh)* Yeah.

BEN

What's "yeah"? Maths is awesome! You just gotta have the right mindset.

SIMON

But this is gonna take me forever.

BEN

Well why are you so slow? Maybe you should learn to do it quickly.

SIMON

Yeah.

*Ben leaves and Simon continues with the exercise, clearly struggling and becoming frustrated.*

END OF SCENE

**INT. Blitzen House - Night**

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

*Dominic is sitting on the couch watching TV. Donner gets a drink of water from the tap in the kitchen. He begins walking towards his bedroom.*

DONNER  
Good night, Dad.

DOMINIC  
Already? It's a bit early.

DONNER  
Yeah, well I got a long day tomorrow.

DOMINIC  
Alright. Good night.

*Donner heads upstairs to his bedroom. Dominic sees a tape on the shelf underneath the TV and gets up to grab it. Donner enters his bedroom. As soon as he gets there, he climbs out the window and climbs down the house. His weight tears off a support beam, and he falls to the ground. Seeing Dominic turn a light on, he quickly runs away from the house.*

END OF SCENE

**EXT. Destroyed warehouse Site, Earth - Night**

(DONNER, REINA)

*Police officers and officials are preparing to leave.*

POLICE OFFICER #1  
Welp, guess it was a false alarm.

POLICE OFFICER #2  
Alright, let's go home.

*As all of the people on the grounds move away from the site, we see Donner sitting in a tree monitoring the situation. As they leave, Donner climbs down and begins looking for the entrance.*

DONNER  
Let's see if there's anything they put in my head that will help me here.

*He opens a flap of skin on his left arm revealing a panel. We see his vision change in different ways as he cycles through different options. Finally, he finds the thermal vision option. With this, he sees the heat signature of the entrance in the distance. He runs towards it, and sweeps the leaves away, revealing the entrance. He pulls out his cellphone and dials Reina's number.*

REINA  
(VO) 'Yello.

DONNER  
I found the entrance. I'm goin' in.

REINA  
(VO) Copy.

*Donner hangs up and enters the tunnel.*

END OF SCENE

**INT. Nihiltron base - Night**

(DONNER)

*Donner walks through a cold metal tunnel, his footsteps echoing. He comes up to a broken metal bridge at the top of a large chamber with metal support pillars running from the floor almost to the ceiling. He looks around the chamber, in awe of its scale. Soon, Nihiltron officers, soldiers and commanders pour into the room. Donner squints to see if any of them are purple, then waits for them to leave. He sees a pile of dilapidated junk that would make it possible to climb down. He carefully climbs down and continues down a hallway. An electronic voice is heard.*

ANNOUNCER

Five minutes to thermal sterilization.

DONNER

(VO) Why would they need an announcer if they communicate wirelessly?

*As he walks, another squad of Nihiltrons can be heard approaching. Donner quickly props himself up in the upper portion of the corridor. The Nihiltrons pass by unaware. Donner notices an engineer among them, trailing behind. Donner carefully descends back onto the floor and follows the group. After following them for a while, he sees a star metal scrap on the floor. He picks it up and throws it to another location. As Donner expected, the soldiers go to investigate the noise, and the engineer stays behind. Donner sneaks up behind the engineer and twists its head off before running into the shadows. Immediately, the Nihiltrons become alert and run to the destroyed engineer. They start searching for Donner. As they bear down on his position, Donner leaps over them and makes a break for it,*

**Fight Scene #1**

*Donner makes a mad dash for the exit and fights through the Nihiltrons using Jiu Jitsu techniques while holding the engineer head. Lakers fly at him, as well as a few rail gun shots.*

ANNOUNCER

One minute to thermal sterilization.

*As Donner nears the exit and runs past a gap in the floor, a charge grenade is thrown towards him and explodes, knocking Donner into the gap. He extends his wristblades and sticks them into the wall to slow his descent. He is thrown to the floor. He quickly stands, continues running, and finds another way to the large room. The Nihiltrons, however, knock over the pile of junk that would have allowed Donner to climb out. Donner destroys the Nihiltrons in the room.*

**End Fight Scene #1**

ANNOUNCER

Thirty seconds to thermal sterilization.

*Donner frantically looks around for anything he can use to escape. He runs up to the pillar.*

DONNER

Jigoko no hee!

*Weak flames spew from Donner's fingers.*

DONNER

(louder) Jigoko no hee!

*Slightly stronger flames spew from Donner's fingers.*

DONNER

(tries with more passion, but chokes from yelling) Jigoko no hee!

*Pathetic flames sputter in Donner's hand. Donner closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.*

DONNER

(calm and focused) Jigoko no hee.

*A torrent of flame erupts from Donner's hand and engulfs the pillar, heating it. Within seconds, the pillar begins to melt. It soon breaks and falls over, resting on the broken bridge. Donner takes the engineer head and runs up the pillar to the exit.*

ANNOUNCER

Ten seconds to thermal sterilization. Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three two, one.

*As Donner runs down the exit tunnel the entire base is consumed with flame. The flame pours down the exit tunnel behind Donner as he scampers to keep ahead.*

**EXT. Destroyed warehouse Site-Kobayashi house - Night**

(DONNER, REINA)

*Donner makes it to the surface and dives out of the way as flames shoot out of the hole. Donner takes a moment to catch his breath.*

*We see Reina in her house, waiting by the landline phone. As she looks at the clock, she is consumed with worry. Suddenly, the phone rings. Reina eagerly picks it up.*

REINA  
Donner?

DONNER  
(VO) Hey, Reina.

REINA  
Donner! Did you get it?

DONNER  
Yeah, Reina I got it. I guess I'll head back home. (pause)  
On second thought, I might stay here a bit. Take a  
breather.

*Reina hangs up. She then stares at her hand.*

REINA  
Jigoko no hee.

END OF SCENE

**INT. Briar house - Night**

(SIMON)

*Simon is still struggling with his maths homework. He looks at the clock on his desk. It is now 1:00 AM. He looks back at the books. As he sees how much work he has left to do, he begins to cry.*

END OF SCENE

**EXT.-INT. Blitzen house - Night**

(DONNER, DOMINIC)

*Donner arrives at his house and approaches the window. He opens the window and climbs through it, attempting to be silent, but falls and makes a loud noise. As Dominic, who is sitting on the couch, notices, Donner quickly shuts the window.*

DOMINIC  
Who's there?!

DONNER  
It's me, Dad. I got up to get some water.

DOMINIC  
Oh.

DONNER  
I would've thought you went to bed.

DOMINIC  
(*slurred*) Yeah, well, I didn't feel like it.

*Donner walks into the living room to check on his father. He is watching his wedding video. Dominic and Lydia are dancing in the video, eyes locked, and moving with grace.*

DONNER  
Your wedding video.

*Dominic slides over and pats the couch beside him.*

DOMINIC  
(*slurred*) Come. Sit.

*Donner walks over to the couch and sits next to his father.*

DONNER  
You've never shown me this before.

DOMINIC  
(*slurred*) When you were six I was thinking about showing you, but then... I never watched it after that, until now.

DONNER  
You two look very happy.

DOMINIC

*(slurred)* Oh yeah. She had the most delightful smile. She would just bring joy to any... it would light up any room, and lift the fog, the shrouds. You know what I'm trying to say.

DONNER

Yeah.

DOMINIC

*(slurred)* And when she held my hand, it always made me feel like everything was going to be okay. She had a way of doing that. *(pause)* But at least I still have you. With you, I know it's going to be okay.

DONNER

Yeah. We're gonna be okay.

*They share a moment.*

DOMINIC

*(slurred)* Alright. Off to bed.

DONNER

Should you get into bed too?

*Dominic lies down on the couch.*

DOMINIC

*(slurred)* I don't really wanna get up. I think I'll just crash here.

DONNER

Alright. See you tomorrow, Dad. *(no response)* Dad?

*Dominic has fallen asleep. Donner turns off the TV, pulls Dominic's legs up onto the couch, and grabs a nearby blanket hanging from a chair and drapes it over his father. He tucks Dominic in. As he does so, he notices six empty beer bottles lying beside the couch, one on its side. Donner sighs with disappointment. He then goes upstairs to his bedroom, and without changing into his pajamas, clubs into bed and turns his bedside lamp.*

END OF EPISODE