

THE EXOSKELETON CHRONICLES

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

A teenage boy's bedroom, filled with books about insects, posters of insects and live insects trapped in jars. There is a faint sound of adults arguing from downstairs.

Lanky, bespectacled 15-year-old JEREMY BOON walks into his bedroom with a sneaker in his hand. Tears are streaming down his face because his parents are fighting. He opens a jar and lets a grasshopper out onto his window sill.

JEREMY

Splat!

Jeremy coldly crushes the grasshopper with his shoe. He releases another insect and does the same thing. He crushes the insects, one-by-one, saying "Splat!" each time.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Splat!

Jeremy crushes an insect.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Splat!

When there are no more insects to crush, Jeremy angrily throws an empty jar into the wall of his room and drops to his knees. He is emotionally drained. He sobs into his hands, having a panic attack.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I just killed some of my best friends.

LATER.

Jeremy looks out his bedroom window at his mother, JANET, as she loads boxes into a station wagon. Jeremy sits on the floor of his now-empty room, writing in his journal. He and mom are moving away.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Well, except for Elaine. She understands what it's like to have parents that argue all the time. But she won't understand what I did to my bugs. I've collected them my whole life.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE. Jeremy remembers different times in his life as he writes in his journal.

EXT. THE WOODS - DAY

Jeremy and his tomboy friend ELAINE LANCTOT, elementary school age, are chasing each other through the woods. Elaine lifts up a log and finds a whole slew of bugs underneath.

YOUNGER ELAINE
Jackpot, Bug-Boy!

JEREMY (V.O.)
She helped me find some of the coolest bugs I've ever had. Back when we used to take walks into the woods. Back when I lived in the trailer park.

Jeremy selects an insect and places it into a jar that he brought with him.

INT. A UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

Jeremy's father DR. ANDREW BOON lectures students about insect biology. The wall behind him is full of diagrams of insects and their DNA.

JEREMY (V.O.)
My father always said we would move out of the trailer park when we had enough money for a new house, which we eventually did.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

Jeremy, middle school age, in his mom's car, driving away from his trailer park home one last time. The car is filled with the last of their belongings. Some of it is tied to the roof.

JEREMY (V.O.)
Thankfully, the neighborhood we moved into was not that far away. I didn't have to change schools. I didn't have to leave Elaine behind. She's someone I've always felt safe with.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Jeremy and Elaine are onstage in front of parents and teachers. Elaine is reading names of different insects, so Jeremy can rattle off the Latin scientific name. A banner behind him reads 'Science Fair'.

YOUNGER ELAINE
Spur-throated grasshopper.

YOUNGER JEREMY
Melanoplus bivittatus.

YOUNGER ELAINE
American cockroach.

YOUNGER JEREMY
Periplanta Americana.

YOUNGER ELAINE
Cricket.

YOUNGER JEREMY
Oenecanthus fultoni.

The crowd applauds. Jeremy looks out into the audience and sees his father, beaming with pride from the front row as he applauds.

JEREMY (V.O.)
My father and I used to be
inseparable. He's the one who taught
me everything I know about insects.
He used to be a biology teacher at
the University of New Hampshire. He
used to come home early from work
just to help me with my science
homework.

BACK TO JEREMY'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Jeremy is sitting on his empty bedroom floor, writing in his journal.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But when he got a higher-paying job
at Null Tech, one of the best
scientific research facilities in
the world, everything took a turn
for the worst at home.

FLASHBACK - INT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Jeremy and his parents are sitting in a lavishly decorated dining room, under a chandelier. No one is talking to each other. They are coldly looking down at their food and avoiding eye contact.

JEREMY (V.O.)
My dad used to come home and talk
about work all the time, which was
of moderate interest to a bug-nerd
like me. But his new job was military
classified. He couldn't talk about
any of it.

JEREMY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jeremy, with a backpack on, climbs out of his bedroom window as his parents scream at each other downstairs. He jumps into a tree and climbs down from there.

JEREMY (V.O.)

Plus, he was working late hours and coming home really tired at a different time every night. That was when my parents started arguing a lot.

EXT. THE WOODS - LATER

Jeremy and Elaine, sitting on a tree branch together. Elaine puts her arm around her friend to comfort him. These two lifelong friends enjoy a beautiful sunset.

JEREMY (V.O.)

But Elaine was always there for me. Even when guys like Wally Crimson were busting my chops.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

WALLY CRIMSON, a thick, 17-year-old school bully with a Karate Kid bandanna on his head, carries 15-year-old Jeremy on his shoulders as he struggles to get free. He walks towards a dumpster until Elaine stands in his way.

ELAINE

Drop him, Wally!

Wally does. Hard. Jeremy painfully gets back up onto his feet as Wally smiles flirtatiously at Elaine.

WALLY

Y'know, you are too cute to be sticking up for such a loser!

Elaine scoffs at Wally, clearly disgusted by him. Laughing, Wally struts away. Elaine walks over to Jeremy.

ELAINE

Jeremy, what did I tell you about staying away from Wally?

JEREMY

Me?

ELAINE

I'm not going to be around to stick up for you when you move to Rhode
(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Island. Just remember. There are two kinds of people who study martial arts, Asians and psychopaths. Wally's Irish.

Jeremy laughs at Elaine's joke. He turns to look at Wally, who is throwing rocks at a hornet's nest attached to the school. Jeremy is visibly angry to see Wally harassing insects.

Without warning, Jeremy runs towards Wally, screaming. He jumps onto his back and starts punching and kicking him. It doesn't take long for Wally to throw Jeremy to the ground and start punching and kicking him. His friends join in.

Elaine runs over and tries to help, but doesn't stop Jeremy from getting beat up.

EXT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER

Jeremy is sitting on a bench with a cold pack on his head and bruises on his face. Elaine sits next to him, compassionately putting her arm around him.

JEREMY

Those hornets didn't do anything to him.

BACK TO JEREMY'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Jeremy peers out of his bedroom window and watches his mother pack the car. He nervously taps the window sill with a pen.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We're leaving tomorrow. And I can't even bring myself to go over to Elaine's house and say goodbye.

Jeremy's mom is carrying a box. A book falls out. She picks it up. It is a book called 'Children on the Autism Spectrum'. She looks up and sees Jeremy in the window, staring into the sky blankly.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She knows how I freeze up in social situations, especially if I get emotional. My brain just shuts down. But I'm leaving for good. Elaine will be upset if I don't at least try. She's my best friend.

EXT. A WOODED ROAD - LATER

Jeremy is in the passenger's seat of his mother's packed station wagon as they drive by a trailer Jeremy recognizes. It is Elaine's. Lights are on. Someone is home.

After they pass, an insect lands on the dashboard. Jeremy angrily crushes it with a magazine that he was thumbing through, coldly studying the remains of the insect on the magazine.

JEREMY (V.O.)
Looks like one more friendship is
about to go splat!

BLANK SCREEN. TITLE CARD.

"THE EXOSKELETON CHRONICLES"

EXT. A FARM - NIGHT

A woman sits on the porch of her farmhouse, rocking back and forth in her rocking chair. She is knitting a blanket.

"TWENTY YEARS LATER"

Suddenly, she hears a loud noise that sounds like a combination of chirping and buzzing. It keeps getting louder and louder. She stands up and looks around. She sees a thick black cloud off in the distance.

When the black cloud comes overhead, anthropomorphic, man-sized insects of different species drop out of it. The woman is speechless. The insects start taking apart a plow that is there, making various bladed weapons out of its parts.

NOTE: These insects have four arms and two legs, six appendages like most insects. And this swarm, while multi-species, does not contain any blood-sucking insects like mosquitoes.

The woman watches in horror as more mutant insects fly by, carrying a few of her cows in their lower appendages. The cows let out a frightened 'moo' as they whip by. A man-sized termite picks up a 2X4 and bites into it. The woman faints.

EXT./INT. A HOTEL - AFTERNOON

A forty-story hotel a few blocks away from the U.N. building. A maid is cleaning one of the rooms. She has the television on and is listening to the news as she cleans. The PRIME MINISTER of a country called Bhelkashan is being interviewed.

PRIME MINISTER (V.O.)

My primary concern has been the security of my people, but that cannot be accomplished by undermining trust.

A female reporter on TV stands in front of the United Nations building.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

It will likely prove to be the most noteworthy treaty signed in decades. Dignitaries from the country of Bhelkashan, who made headlines last month by turning over many of their chemical weapons to American allies in Europe, will come here to sign a treaty with the United States--after which they will turn over their remaining chemical arsenal to the U.N.

The maid shuts off the TV and leaves. She takes her cleaning supplies with her into the next room.

She reacts in horror as she sees cockroaches crawling all over everything in this room. More cockroaches come out of the vents. The maid lets out a scream and gets out of this room as fast as she can.

HOTEL OFFICE - LATER

TIMOTHY LANDO, the hotel manager, speaks on the phone to his boss about the problem.

TIMOTHY

I know this is the oldest hotel in the city, but I had a pest-control guy in here last week and he didn't find a thing! No bed bugs, no nothing.

(listens)

I don't care! We have the President of the United States and royalty from a foreign country coming to this hotel in the next few days. We can NOT cancel their reservations!

(listens)

By calling in the big guns, that's how!

Timothy turns to his computer and starts typing feverishly. He arrives at a website for a pest control business called 'Bug-Busters'.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)

My buddy Glen told me about this guy. Trust me, he's the best there is. My only concern is that he's centered in Rhode Island. Not sure if I can get him here in time.

(listens)

Let me worry about corporate! We need this job done right!

Timothy looks up from his computer and sees his secretary walking in.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)

Get me Jeremy Boon!

INT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

A cockroach crawls through a ventilation duct. A man observes it, wearing a helmet with two lamps attached that look like antennae. This is Jeremy Boon, twenty years older (age 35).

When the cockroach crawls through a small crack in this small tunnel, Jeremy shines his light on it. He can see more roaches in there.

Wearing a brown jumpsuit and a tank of pesticides on his back, Jeremy gets down off of the chair that allowed him to see into the vent. He talks to his business partner, BILL. The manager of this office, GLEN, is also there.

JEREMY

I see the nest, but they've imbedded themselves in the insulation. It's mating season for them which means there will be more of them if we don't act soon.

Bill places a thick metal case on a nearby table. Jeremy opens it, revealing many small vials of various colored liquid.

GLEN

What are those?

JEREMY

Pheromones for every kind of insect that I normally have to deal with.

Jeremy grabs one vial.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Cockroach. *Periplanta Americana* from the order Blattodea.

GLEN

Interesting. I didn't know you used pheromones to catch insects.

JEREMY

Well, the pheromones for certain insects have only recently been discovered and usually by scientists in other countries. The big pest control companies either haven't gotten wind of them yet or don't think they're cost effective--so they use more pesticides than they need to. Which, ironically, costs more. Not to mention being dangerous.

Glen nods, not sure what to say.

BILL

Ha! See what I mean, Uncle Glen? This guy studies bugs! He knows what they do, how they live, even how they think!

(turns to Jeremy)

Go time?

Jeremy dons his gas mask.

JEREMY

Go time!

Bill pulls a clear plastic dome out of a bag and places it on the table. Jeremy screws the vial of cockroach pheromones into the bottom of this dome, spilling the fluid into it as Glen watches from outside the room.

After it is plugged in, the dome starts to evaporate the pheromones, sending smoke into the air. Thirty seconds later, a wave of cockroaches pour out of the vents above and flood into the dome, attracted by these pheromones.

Jeremy seals off the dome, which is now filled with cockroaches that are mating. Bill attaches the tube from the tank of pesticides on his back to the dome. This fills the dome with pesticides, killing the bugs mating inside.

BILL

It's like spring break in there.
Roaches gone wild!

When the pesticides are vented out of the dome, hundreds of insects inside are dead. Bill dumps the dead insects into a trash bag for disposal. Glen is astonished, having never seen a device like this.

GLEN

That was amazing! You invented that thing?

BILL

Jeremy did. We call it the Bug Dome.

JEREMY

Bill calls it the Bug Dome.

GLEN

You ever think about selling these things? I mean, what an efficient way to get rid of pests.

JEREMY

We thought about adding a disposable trash bag inside so we won't have to bother cleaning it with ammonia every time.

Glen hands Jeremy a business card from his wallet.

GLEN

Here. I have a friend who owns a couple hardware stores in New York. I'm sure he'd be interested in seeing this.

JEREMY

Really? I just built this thing to make my job easier.

GLEN

Well, you need to think bigger, son! I see these Bug Domes on the shelves of every hardware department in the country.

Bill gives Jeremy an 'I told you so' look.

OUTSIDE - LATER

Jeremy and Bill carry their fumigation equipment out of the building. They start loading it into Jeremy's van, which has a logo painted on the side.

The logo is a 'no' symbol crossing out a cartoon cockroach with the words BUG BUSTERS underneath. Bill is whistling the theme song to 'Ghostbusters' as he gets into the van. Jeremy drives away as they continue talking.

BILL

So--are you going to call that guy?

JEREMY

What guy?

BILL

The hardware tycoon.

JEREMY

Bill, you know I can't talk to people.
What am I supposed to do, walk into
this guy's office and pitch the
Amazing Bug Dome like I'm on that
Shark Tank show?

BILL

I could go with you. I could help
you spice up your pitch. I used to
do improv comedy, remember?

JEREMY

I remember.

Bill starts humming the 'Ghostbusters' theme again.

BILL

(sings)

Who ya gonna call? Hopefully that
guy!

Jeremy laughs and keeps driving.

LATER.

BILL

So, I'm having some friends over
tonight from my other job. You can
come by if you want.

JEREMY

I don't think so, Bill.

BILL

Come on! Actually, I have quite a
few female friends who are getting
over break-ups. You might have a
shot with one of them. Their self-
confidence is right down there with
yours.

JEREMY

Gee, thanks.

BILL

(laughs)

I'm just busting your chops.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)
Seriously, it might help you to get
out of the house once in a while.

JEREMY
Maybe another time. We just finished
a big job. I need to decompress
tonight.

BILL
Okay.

EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jeremy drops Bill off at his house and then heads home.

EXT. STARLIGHT WIENERS - NIGHT

Jeremy stops in front of a small diner. He wants to go inside
and get something to eat, but he runs upstairs to his
apartment first. Jeremy lives upstairs from this diner.

JEREMY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jeremy grabs a prescription pill bottle and takes one of the
pills with a swig of water.

JEREMY
Step aside, social anxiety. Jeremy
Boon is stepping out.

STARLIGHT WIENERS - LATER

Jeremy walks into the restaurant and catches the eye of an
attractive thirty-something Puerto-Rican woman named MARIA.
She greets him with a big smile.

MARIA
Hola, Jeremy! Como estas?

JEREMY
Muy bien, Maria! Just finished a
big job. Worked up an appetite.
Came to see you.

Jeremy sits on a stool at the counter.

MARIA
Eeesh! How you could ever work up
an appetite spraying for cockroaches
is beyond me!

JEREMY

Well, it's kind of like working for the mob.

(silly Godfather accent)

I take care of problems and dispose of the bodies.

Maria laughs, touching Jeremy's arm when she does. The owner of the restaurant, QUINCY, walks into the room.

QUINCY (O.S.)

The Bug Father!

Jeremy laughs and shakes Quincy's hand.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Hey, Jeremy. I'm glad you showed up tonight, because I think my kitchen is due for another bug-busting.

MARIA

It's disgusting!

A few customers, who are already eating, take notice of Maria's words.

QUINCY

You'd be proud of Maria. This morning, she was standing in front of the refrigerator with a boot on either hand--dispensing justice.

Quincy pantomimes what Maria would look like, squishing insects with a boot on either hand. The customers are now grossed out and put their food down. Quincy goes back in the kitchen.

MARIA

Quincy's a weird guy. I'm sure gonna miss him.

JEREMY

Why? Are you quitting?

MARIA

Si. I'm going back home to my family in Columbia.

Jeremy tries to hide the fact that he is disappointed.

JEREMY

Oh, wow! That's exciting.

MARIA

Yeah. Can I get your usual?

JEREMY

Si.

Jeremy watches Maria prepare his hot dogs. His mind starts racing as he nervously taps the counter in front of him. He is becoming very nervous.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(internal monologue)

She's leaving. She's moving to the other side of the equator. Can't believe I never asked her out for coffee. A stinking cup of coffee! How hard would that have been? I've been eating here for years. She's always been friendly. We have a good rapport. She touches my arm when she laughs. That's a good sign, right? Or is that one of those things women just do and that men misinterpret? I can't remember.

Maria spreads meat sauce all over the two hot dogs that she has on a plate. Then, she leans over to get a bottle of soda out of a small fridge.

JEREMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Why not ask her out? For old times sake. Worst she can say is 'no' and I'll never see her again. And what if we hit it off? This is the 21st century. You can date someone over Skype. And I'm a business owner, I can afford to take a vacation. Why don't I ever take a vacation? Crap, I'll have to get on a plane. Can't drive the Bug Mobile to Columbia.

Maria brings Jeremy his food.

MARIA

There you are. One Jeremy Special.

JEREMY

Gracias, Maria.

MARIA

De nada.

Jeremy stares blankly ahead, frozen by anxiety. He eats his food silently and just lives inside his own head, looking over at Maria momentarily to smile at her. Then, his cell phone rings. He does not recognize the number.

JEREMY

I don't know anyone in New York.

EXT./INT. A GOVERNMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON

An elderly Senator named GEORGE FRIEDMONT opens a bottle of wine in his office. Elaine Lanctot (now 35) sheepishly walks into her boss' office, gently and politely tapping on the doorframe.

ELAINE

Excuse me, Senator Friedmont.

GEORGE

Yes, Elaine. Come on in. Close the door, my dear. Just in case there are any members of the media out there.

(holds up the wine
glass)

They like to exaggerate.

Elaine closes the door as George drinks his wine.

ELAINE

I just wanted to talk to you about the conference. My ex-husband called yesterday and the military shortened his leave. He won't be able to watch Keith while I'm gone. So, I was wondering if I could--maybe--bring him along. He's never seen New York and--

GEORGE

Of course you can. And here I thought you were bailing out on me.

ELAINE

No! No! I wouldn't do that! Ha. I realize how important this conference is to, well, everything.

GEORGE

Bring him along! Such a nice boy. Not going to tear you away from your only child just to follow my old bones around.

ELAINE

He won't be any trouble. The hotel has Wi-Fi, and he'll have his electronic tablet thingy, so--built-in babysitter.

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)
(laughs nervously)
Thank you, sir!

Elaine backs out of the office, relieved as she closes the door behind her.

EXT. A MIDDLE EASTERN DESERT - DAY

"THE MIDDLE EAST"

A large fenced-in area in the middle of the desert with tents and bunkers. Soldiers run drills, jogging past the few military jeeps and tanks that are in this area. On the edge of this area, there is an American flag.

Three armed soldiers are at the gate, guarding this military base with rifles. They stare into the calm desert as they stay on high alert. Suddenly, they see a blurry image off in the distance, coming up over the horizon.

SOLDIER #1
What is that?

The second soldier pulls out a pair of binoculars and looks out into the desert. He sees a very wide Hovercraft speeding across the desert.

SOLDIER #2
Some kind of hovercraft. And it's moving pretty fast.

SOLDIER #3
Are they doing any weapons testing today?

SOLDIER #1
Nothing we were briefed on. But that never stopped them before.

SOLDIER #2
All right, boys. This is what we trained for.

The strange-looking vehicle suddenly shoots up into the air. The soldiers point their weapons at it. The craft disappears from view for a few seconds because of the glare of the hot Middle Eastern sun.

SOLDIER #1
Hold your fire until--

Without warning, a thick laser pours out of the Hovercraft, tearing through the fence and blowing up a tank.

The rest of the base either runs for cover or grabs their weapons and gear.

This hovercraft consists of an enormous glass pod/magnifying glass with two cockpits on either side. The rear of the vehicle has solar collectors that power the vehicle and reflect the rays of the sun into a deadly laser.

Falling out of the sky and skimming about ten feet above the sandy surface, this hovercraft, piloted by two man-sized, anthropomorphic insects, continues towards the base.

The craft fires another laser that tears up the ground, blowing sand and rock in every direction until it hits a bunker. A hole is blown in the side of the bunker, sending soldiers diving for cover.

This bunker houses many weapons, including missiles. A thick black swarm covers the hole and mutant insects start pouring in with large bladed weapons. More than a few soldiers are felled by the speedy attacks of these insects.

The insects start grabbing machine guns, which they use to attack when other soldiers enter. A gunfight ensues. Man vs. insect.

The missiles are lifted out and into the thick cloud while a few insects stay on the ground to cover them. The bunker is emptied of all weaponry and the swarm disappears, leaving dead soldiers behind.

EXT./INT. ROSEWOOD APARTMENTS - AFTERNOON

Jeremy walks into the rec room of this high-rise apartment building. He walks past older men and women, some in wheelchairs, some playing board games, some hobble by using walkers. They are very friendly and greet Jeremy.

Jeremy sees his mother, Janet, using the exercise bike, wearing a grey sweat suit. She is pedaling fervently in front of a large television set, showing a movie car chase.

JEREMY

Mom, you look like you're trying to
break out of here.

Janet laughs as she gets off the bike. She gives her son a hug and a playful pinch on his cheeks.

JANET'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jeremy follows his mother into her apartment, decorated with bright colors, flowery patterns and countless photographs of family, friends and their pets.

JANET

Most of the girls in here show off new pictures of their grandchildren like it's a daytime Emmy. But I don't let it bother me. I know that my Jeremy has a nice girl waiting for him somewhere.

JEREMY

Mom, I'm an autistic, thirty-something bachelor who's obsessed with insects.

JANET

And who owns his own successful business. And who had an article published in a gardening magazine.

Jeremy turns to see that Janet has an issue of 'Soil and Green' magazine framed and on her wall.

JANET (CONT'D)

Women love flowers.

JEREMY

Mom, that was one time. Two years ago. Dad used to write articles for 'Science Monthly' all the time.

JANET

And you're sweet. Girls settle for less. Just promise me one thing. If you EVER decide to settle down. Family first. Your income is the battery that fuels your family, but it's not the most important machine. You know your father's not the only man who's ever made that mistake.

JEREMY

I know, Mom.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - LATER

Elaine comes home from work. Her ten-year-old son KEITH is sitting on the couch, reading a book about chemistry. When his mom comes home, he drops the book and runs up to her to give her a hug.

ELAINE

Hey, Keith! How was school?

KEITH

Good.

ELAINE
That Joab kid pick on you again?

KEITH
No.

ELAINE
Okay.

Elaine's mother JOYCE comes out of the kitchen.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
Hey, Mom! Did Keith behave himself?

JOYCE
Yes. He did. He kept his chemistry
set in his room like I asked.

ELAINE
Mom, it's a kids' chemistry set.
He's not going to blow up the town.

Keith laughs. Elaine playfully tousles his hair.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
Well, good news. Mr. Friedmont says
I can take Keith to the conference
with me, so you won't have to cancel
your date with Sam.

KEITH
In New York City?

ELAINE
Yeah! You excited?

KEITH
Yeah! I'm gonna go pack!

Keith runs upstairs to his room.

KEITH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Keith runs into a room that is full of books that have to do with chemistry and a large periodic table poster on the wall. He pulls a backpack out of his closet and starts packing, throwing clothes and shoes in.

Keith looks at a bloody scrape on his hand. Lifting up his shirt, he sees a bruise on his torso.

QUICK FLASHBACK--Joab, a classmate of Keith's, pushes him to the ground and laughs, bully that he is.

Keith lowers his shirt, saddened by the memory of being bullied.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOYCE

You think he's telling the truth?
About the Army pulling him away?

ELAINE

It's not up to me to catch Wally in
his lies anymore, Mom. Not gonna
get anymore alimony out of it. I
don't know and I don't care.

INT. A BAR - EVENING

Country music blasting. People with cowboy hats are line dancing. 37-year-old divorced soldier (and former school bully) Wally Crimson is sitting at the bar in his army uniform, drinking heavily.

A thirty-something woman with bleached blonde hair, tons of cleavage and a cowboy hat comes over to talk to him. Her name is SANDY.

SANDY

So--you're in the Army?

WALLY

For life.

SANDY

You here because of the Peace Treaty
Conference thing?

WALLY

I won't actually be going to it, but
I think they want all branches of
the military to be on high-alert, so
here I am, standing at attention.

Sandy smiles. Wally leers at her in a drunken stupor. They stare at each other for much longer than they realize.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Barkeep! Another drink for Ms.
Polly Darton!

SANDY

(laughs)
I thought it was Dolly Parton.

WALLY

And I thought this was Sesame Street.

Sandy laughs. The bartender brings Sandy another beer. She puts some salt in it.

SANDY

So, you from around here?

WALLY

No, I'm from New Hampshire originally. But now I'm staying at Ford's Military Base.

SANDY

Really? I've never woken up on a military base before.

Sandy leans in flirtatiously and grabs Wally's leg.

WALLY

They only give me a small cot to sleep in. It would be really cozy for two people.

SANDY

I think we can make it work. I would invite you back to my place, but it might be awkward with the baby sitter. She's kind of religious, so--

WALLY

You have kids?

SANDY

Yeah. A daughter and a son. 6 and 4. You?

WALLY

My son is 10. He's with my ex-wife right now. I was supposed to take him to a Red Sox game this weekend, but the Army whisked me away.

SANDY

You're a lucky man. You have the Army and your ex-wife to cover for you when you need to get away from your kid and remind yourself that you're single again. I have to pay some snobby teenager to watch my brats. She actually charges overtime just to sleep at my house overnight.

WALLY

She's probably saving for a car.

(MORE)

WALLY (CONT'D)
(awkward smile)
Hey, listen, um--I think I'm gonna
go over there and find someone a
little younger to flirt with.
Someone who doesn't have kids.

Wally starts backing away from Sandy. She is insulted.

WALLY (CONT'D)
I might be a little drunk right now,
but you sound like you have some
kids at home who might need some
tucking in.

Wally stumbles over an empty bar stool that was in his way.

WALLY (CONT'D)
My son's not living with me right
now--so, I'm not dumping him on anyone
just to get my swerve on. And
honestly, the only reason I'm drinking
right now is because I miss the little
guy like crazy.
(voice cracks)
You need to get your priorities
straight, sister. Take care of your
kid before he robs me in ten years.

Wally turns around and keeps walking, leaving Sandy at the
bar, angry.

EXT. A BOARDWALK - EVENING

Wally walks alongside a body of water, drinking a bottle of
beer and looking out at a park. There are couples there,
enjoying the romantic scenery in each other's arms. Wally
stands next to a homeless person who is also drinking.

QUICK FLASHBACK--Wally remembers when he was married to
Elaine. Keith was a small child, playing at a park just
like this one. Wally throws a Frisbee to Keith and he runs
to catch it.

Wally becomes angry and smashes his beer bottle against a
wooden railing. When he looks up, his eyes have transformed
into the large, segmented eyes of an insect. He blinks his
eyes and they turn back into normal human ones.

The homeless person cannot believe what he just saw.

WALLY
Sorry.

The homeless person walks away from Wally, pouring all his liquor on the ground.

HOMELESS MAN

Think I've had enough.

INT. JEREMY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jeremy walks through his apartment door, talking to Bill on a cell phone. Bill is in his own apartment.

INTERCUT. Phone conversation with Bill.

JEREMY

I didn't believe it either until I actually talked to the guy. This is legit. He left me three voice mails.

BILL

(laughs)

So, the same hotel that hundreds of delegates to this Peace Conference are going to be staying--has roaches?

JEREMY

You can understand how big of an embarrassment this must be for the hotel. They're going to be swarming with reporters. That's how I managed to negotiate a price that would make the four-hour drive to New York totally worth it for the both of us! They want us on this thing, like yesterday! And they wanna sneak us in there too.

BILL

Like 'Mission Impossible'.

(deep voice)

Your mission, should you choose to accept it.

(laughs)

This is the weirdest job we ever got!

JEREMY

Must be--for me to even think about getting out of bed before noon. Messin' with my night life.

BILL

Ha. What night life? Flirting with a Columbian chick who's way out of your league?

JEREMY

Seriously, this is gonna be cool!
Like a college road trip!

BILL

With roaches!

MUSICAL MONTAGE. TRAVELING TO NEW YORK.

--Bill and Jeremy load their fumigation equipment and suitcases into their Bug-Busters van and head off down the highway.

--Jeremy drives while Bill taps the dashboard to the beat of whatever song happened to be on the radio.

--Elaine and Keith get into a hatchback vehicle. After waving goodbye to Grandma Joyce, they head off.

--Jeremy stops at a convenience store. Bill looks through a bunch of movies that are for sale. He sarcastically holds up a copy of 'The Human Centipede'. Jeremy reacts with disgust and nods 'no'. Bill laughs.

--Elaine keeps driving. Keith is engrossed in his electronic tablet, watching a documentary about insects. The traffic is ridiculously slow-moving and very frustrating to Elaine.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When it comes to caring for their young, most species of insects are rather inept. They prefer to leave their young behind, sometimes into the care of another species, to fend for themselves against predators.

--Elaine frowns at the idea of parents leaving ones offspring behind.

ELAINE

Poor bugs.

--A large hotel in New York is swarming with limos, news reporters and security guards of all kinds. Jeremy's Bug-Busters van slowly drives through all the chaos, looking very out of place.

--Military personnel use forklifts to load large crates into a bunker in the middle of a field and lock it tight. The crates have labels that make it clear that they contain bio-hazards. Armed guards are left behind to guard it.

--Elaine unpacks in her hotel room as Keith watches all the media action from an upper floor.

END OF MONTAGE.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING

Jeremy and Bill walk into a really swanky hotel with their suitcases and an enormous chandelier above them. They make spectacles of themselves by how impressed they are with this hotel lobby.

BILL

Wow! This doesn't look like a roach motel.

JEREMY

(embarrassed)

Shh. We're supposed to be undercover.

Jeremy sees some hotel employees, welcoming people to the hotel. An elderly man walks behind them. Jeremy gets a quick glimpse of this man before he turns a corner. He looks very familiar to Jeremy.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

(gasps)

Dad?

INT. WALLY'S ARMY BASE APARTMENT - DAY

Wally wakes up from his drunken stupor, shielding his eyes as it knifes into his bedroom. He groans when he hears his cell phone ringing. He answers the phone and tries to sound like he wasn't out all night drinking.

WALLY

(clears throat)

Hello?

(listens)

Yes sir, General Nunes!

(listens)

Yes, sir! I'll be ready in an hour, sir!

(hangs up phone)

Well, this is just great!

INT. HOTEL ROOM 804 - DAY

Jeremy and Bill are donning their Bug-Busters uniforms and slipping tanks of pesticides on their backs.

JEREMY

It was so weird. That guy looked just like my dad. I think he works here too.

BILL
Your father disappeared pretty
suddenly, huh?

JEREMY
Yeah. Ten years ago. I went over
there to watch a movie with him and
he was gone. Then, there was all
that crap on the news.

Jeremy reaches into a pouch in his suitcase. He suddenly
seems alarmed. He frantically looks for something in his
suitcase that he can't find. He starts breathing heavy, the
first part of a panic attack.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Crap! Where is it? Don't tell me I
forgot!

BILL
What?

JEREMY
My meds! Damn it!

Jeremy punches his suitcase in frustration.

BILL
Hey, it's okay. Just let me do the
talking. I'll handle the business
part of this. We're only here to
spray.

JEREMY
(relieved)
Thanks, Bill.

HOTEL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jeremy and Bill are in their Bug-Busters uniforms, talking
to Timothy the hotel manager.

TIMOTHY
The Senators are doing a little
welcoming ceremony in conference
room three in about two hours. I
want you guys to get started now,
because once the President gets here,
you will need military clearance to
go anywhere above the twenty-fifth
floor.

BILL
Looking forward to getting started,
sir.

OUTSIDE THE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jeremy and Bill leave Timothy's office.

BILL (CONT'D)

Military clearance. How cool is that? I feel like 007.

(Sean Connery voice)

Thank you, Miss Money-Penny.

JEREMY

Will you knock it off! Time to put on our game face!

Jeremy holds up his gas mask. As they walk down this hallway, Bill starts humming the 'Mission: Impossible' theme. Jeremy is embarrassed when the wealthy guests start giving them 'looks'. Jeremy slaps Bill in the chest.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Knock it off!

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Foreign dignitaries enter Conference Room Three, a room guarded by Secret Service men.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Bill continue to walk down the hallway. The door to one of the rooms opens and Elaine walks out.

ELAINE

Excuse me. Hi. Would either of you happen to know if there is a vending machine on this floor? Like, with juice or--

(realization)

Oh, I'm sorry, you don't work here-- you're--

(laughs)

I'm sorry.

BILL

No problem. No problem. I did see one around the corner there. But, I don't know what's in it.

Jeremy recognizes Elaine.

ELAINE

Thanks. My son doesn't like crowds too much, so we were going to eat breakfast in our room.

JEREMY

Elaine?

ELAINE

Jeremy?

Elaine starts laughing and throws her arms around Jeremy.
Jeremy lifts her up and swings her around a little.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Bug-Boy! It's great to see you.
It's been forever! What are you
doing here?

JEREMY

Working.

Elaine notices the Bug-Busters logo.

ELAINE

Bug-Busters? So, what, you KILL
insects now? That's so weird! You
used to be a Bug-Bestie!

JEREMY

(awkward laugh)
Yeah! Long story. So, what brings
you here?

ELAINE

Well, I'm Senator Friedmont's press
secretary. I am here for the
conference.

JEREMY

Wow! Small world! This is my partner
Bill.

BILL

Hello.

JEREMY

We're going to be here for another
day or two, doing our bug thing on
the thirtieth floor. We're in room
2804. I know this whole thing must
keep you busy, but if you want to
grab a coffee, catch up on old times.
Oh, wait!

Jeremy pulls out a business card.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

There ya go! Drop me a line?

ELAINE

I will. I do have to get back.

JEREMY

Oh, yes! Me too! Great seeing you!

ELAINE

Same here!

Jeremy waves at Elaine as they walk away.

BILL

Did you just talk to a woman without
your meds?

ELAINE'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elaine walks back into her hotel room. Keith is reading
something on his tablet. Elaine grabs her purse.

ELAINE

Keith. Mommy's gonna go downstairs
and get something for us to drink
with breakfast. Just stay put while
I'm gone, okay? No more running
off.

KEITH

Okay.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Bill talk about Elaine.

BILL

Pretty mom.

JEREMY

Yeah. She's still cute. I had such
a crush on her when we were fifteen.
There's something about her that
hasn't changed.

BILL

She's got a kid.

JEREMY

Doesn't bother me. I like kids.

BILL

I didn't see a wedding ring, but she
was making breakfast. She might
still be with the kid's father.

JEREMY

That's why I kept it casual. I said we should catch up. If she's married, she might not call at all. No harm. No foul.

(sighs)

No anxiety.

BILL

Good plan, kemo sabe!

(thinks)

Hey, wait! Did you just refer to me as your 'partner' in front of your girl?

JEREMY

My *business* partner.

BILL

You didn't say 'business' partner. And you said that WE were in room 2804.

JEREMY

Will you just keep your mind on the job?

BILL

Ha. If she does call you, she's gonna ask you to go shopping with the girls.

JEREMY

Why? Because you're the 'butch' one in this relationship?

BILL

Well, if we were gay, that's how I would see it.

Bill slaps Jeremy's backside.

JEREMY

Knock it off!

INT. AN ARMY BASE - MORNING

Wally Crimson is standing in the office of GENERAL LEO NUNES. They are both watching security camera footage of the army base that was attacked by insects that morning. Wally stares in disbelief at the insects firing guns.

WALLY

When was this taken?

LEO

Last night, which is morning on that side of the globe. Not only are these things stronger and faster than us, but they've got a bunch of our guns and missiles too. Word is that some of the missiles in that bunker may have been nukes. This was why I shortened your leave. Heightened security for the conference was just your cover story.

WALLY

Understood, sir.

General Nunes turns off the computer screen.

WALLY (CONT'D)

You realize what this means. Certain things that we have been doing--years ago--are getting closer to the light.

General Nunes becomes angry. He walks around his desk and gets in Wally's face.

LEO

Wrong, soldier! It means that more effort will be required to keep certain things that we've been doing OUT of the light while we address this matter!

WALLY

Yes, sir.

INT. AN EMPTY HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy pokes his head into another ventilation duct and sees a cockroach stumbling his way down this tiny hallway. Jeremy climbs into the duct and follows the cockroach down the vent.

Kicking open a grate, Jeremy climbs out of the vent and into a hotel room that is filled with cockroaches, all over the walls, beds and tables in this room. He slips on his gas mask.

Jeremy turns on the vent on his backpack and green gas starts spraying out of the hose. The green gas kills the insects. They twitch and fall off of their perches.

Jeremy turns to his left and lets out a scream when he sees ten-year-old Keith sitting on the table, reading something off of his tablet. He is disgusted that the young boy is just sitting there, letting the roaches crawl all over him.

Jeremy quickly turns off of the pesticides. Keith just looks up at Jeremy and smiles. Jeremy is still disgusted and confused.

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine is sitting at a table in the conference room. There are television cameras filming the event as Senator George Friedmont speaks to the Bhelkashani Prime Minister, sitting to his right with his two daughters.

GEORGE

And we welcome the esteemed Royal Family who have put aside the petty squabbles, not only between our two nations, but between the warring factions of their own, in order to come here tonight.

The crowd applauds.

EXT. A LARGE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Army men are guarding a bunker in the middle of a field with high-powered rifles.

GEORGE (V.O.)

As we speak, U.N. forces are guarding a bunker filled with the chemical weapons that our esteemed guests have turned over to them and will destroy after the conference.

BACK TO THE SPEECH.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Because they realize that trust is the first step on the road to lasting peace.

EXT. A LARGE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The soldiers that guard the bunker full of chemical weapons see an enormous dark cloud come over their heads. Man-sized insects start dropping out of this cloud with their machine guns firing.

Once all the soldiers are dead, a housefly named BRUNDLE vomits acid to melt the lock on this bunker. He wraps the chain that once held the bunker shut around himself as the other insects slide the door open.

EXT. HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Man-sized insects are bolting large magnifying glasses to the roof of this hotel. The magnifying glasses are connected to large batteries and some computer equipment on the roof of the hotel.

More insects carrying dangerous chemical weapons bolt them to the side of the building, around the 31st floor. These flying insects orbit these chemical weapons with their machine guns at the ready.

CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

George's speech ends with a round of thunderous applause. He waves at the crowd and starts to walk off-stage. Suddenly, the large window behind George is blackened by a dark cloud.

Armed mutant insects burst through the window and land in a spray of broken glass. They start pointing their guns at everyone in this room, ordering them under tables by pointing and buzzing at them until they comply.

The world leaders are held at bay as the doors to this room are closed and locked by gun-toting insects. Elaine is taken hostage with everyone else in conference room three.

In the center of this swarm of flying and non-flying insects, Elaine sees a cockroach that is just observing the chaos, wearing a long purple robe. This is the leader of this insect army. His name is THORTAN.

NOTE: The names of the insect characters are not spoken because the insects don't speak and none of the human characters know their names. They are named for the purpose of reading this script.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy swats a few remaining cockroaches off of Keith as he walks him out of the roach-infested room.

JEREMY

Look, kid! I know what it's like to be your age and think insects are cool. But they eat garbage, man! You can't let them crawl all over you like that.

KEITH

They were talking to me.

JEREMY

Oh, they were talking to you? What did they say?

KEITH
The end is near.

Jeremy doesn't quite know what to say to this weird kid.

JEREMY
Okay, well. They can talk to you
later. Now, where's your mom?

KEITH
Conference room three.

JEREMY
(teasing)
Oh. Is your mom, like, a queen or
something? Is there a reward for
returning Prince Keith to her?

KEITH
No, she's a secretary for Senator
Friedmont.

JEREMY
(surprised)
Ha. Seriously?

KEITH
Yup.

JEREMY
And would her name happen to be
Elaine?

KEITH
Yes.

JEREMY
Small world.

KEITH
Can you show me how you spray for
bugs?

Jeremy is startled by gunfire. He pulls Keith through the
nearest hotel door as two insect soldiers with machine guns
come around the corner and start sniffing around.

Soon, both Jeremy and Keith are in the ventilation ducts,
looking down through the vents. Jeremy's eyes widen when he
sees mutant insects wielding machine guns for the first time.

JEREMY
(whispers)
Twilight Zone!

Jeremy motions for an already-frightened Keith to start crawling quietly down the vent. Later, they climb out of the vent, dropping to the floor in a different room. Jeremy looks around for Bill.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

(whispers loud)

Bill! Bill! You're not going to believe what I just--

Turning the corner, Jeremy sees that Bill has been shot to death, along with a few maids and other hotel staff members. One of the dead hotel staff members got his sneakers stolen by the insect that killed him.

Jeremy sees the elderly man from the lobby, the one that Jeremy thought was his dad. He runs from one hallway to the next, dodging insect gunfire off in the distance. Keith grabs Jeremy's arm and they run for safety.

HOTEL KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Keith run into a kitchen. Jeremy is out of breath. He drops to his knees, exhausted and trying to hold back tears, mourning his friend Bill. Keith gives him a hug.

KEITH

I'm sorry about your friend.

JEREMY

I just need to get you back to your mom.

Keith holds up his tablet, showing a news website reporting on the hostage situation. Jeremy sees pictures of insects herding people with their machine guns. Keith makes the picture larger on the screen and Jeremy recognizes Elaine.

KEITH

(tears up)

You can't take me back to my mom.
Not until you finish your job.
That's why you're here, right, to
get rid of the bugs? You must be
the best exterminator in the world!
That's why they called you here in
the first place!

JEREMY

Kid, I don't think--
(laughs)
No one could have foreseen this.

KEITH

You have to try.

Keith grabs his tablet and starts searching the Internet.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Look. I know a website that tells you how to make bug traps. We'll just have to make them really big, like, find one of these empty rooms and rig it.

Slightly distracted, Jeremy starts looking around at the household items, both food and cleaning supplies that were in this kitchen. He starts opening food closets and searching further.

JEREMY

Mint. Red pepper. Honey. A lot of things we would need for a bug trap are right here. I'm sure there's boric acid in those cleaning supplies. I could make a giant fly trap. Not to mention the explosives I could make!

KEITH

You can make explosives?

JEREMY

Between this and the poisons I bought with me--and the pheromones--it might just work.
(psyched)
Come on, kid! You're gonna help me fumigate!

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Police and SWAT teams surround the building. The insects on the roof aim their magnifying glass weapons downwards, firing a thick laser. This laser rips through police cars and the armored SWAT vans that surround the building.

After diving away from an exploding car, one police officer looks up and sees three fighter jets flying towards the hotel.

INTERCUT. Radio conversation between pilots.

PILOT #1

Hostiles are in sight. Over.

PILOT #2

Roger that. Proceed to fire.

The jets open fire on the insect soldiers on the rooftop as they zip by it.

The insects run/fly for cover as the bullets bounce off the giant, bullet-proof magnifying glasses on the roof.

PILOT #3

Those glass pods are bullet-proof,
sir. Over.

PILOT #2

Roger that! Forget the pods. Get
closer and target the hostiles on
the next pass.

PILOT #3

Over!

The planes do a mid-air 180 as the magnifying glass weapons realign, aiming upwards. Each one fires a laser into the air that the fighter jets swerve to avoid. The lasers move quickly, reducing the jets to exploding scrap.

The insect soldiers laugh with high-pitched cackles at the fireworks show they created. Debris rains down on the flaming cop cars below.

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Hostages in conference room three can hear all the explosions outside. They all huddle together, hopeless and frightened, surrounded by armed mutant insects.

Brundle the housefly walks into a back room where Thortan is watching many small screens, monitoring the hotel through its security cameras. He speaks in the insect's buzzing language as Thortan acknowledges the success of his General.

HOTEL ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

More insect soldiers show up, carrying the missiles that they stole from the Middle East base and landing them on the rooftop. News crews on the ground film this.

HOTEL KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Keith hide in the kitchen. Jeremy takes common household cleaners and tubes that they find and teaches Keith how to make explosives.

HOTEL ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Insects start painting the missiles white, adding little black stripes to all sides. One insect spray-paints the words 'Daily News' on one of them while others aim these missiles at specific targets overseas via computers.

BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Thortan watches his insects working, paying particular attention to a specific Asian restaurant in Bhelkashan that he sees on his screen.

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Tanks, military jeeps and military helicopters head towards this hotel to provide backup to the police and SWAT. Wally Crimson sits inside one of the choppers with his machine gun at the ready, looking at the hotel from a distance.

WALLY

I'm coming, kid.

HOTEL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eight armed insect soldiers (three cockroaches and five ants) march together down the hallway. The three cockroaches in the group turn to see what looked like a "sparkler" firework in a candle holder on the wall.

A cockroach (who just happens to be wearing sneakers) pulls the sparkler off of the wall and starts to inhale the scent. He moans with delight, rubbing his antennae all over it. The other cockroaches are also attracted to the scent.

The ants on this patrol are confused by the behavior of the cockroaches and start scolding them in their own language. These cockroaches just ignore them.

The three cockroaches fight over the sparkler, angrily grabbing it from each other so they can sniff it. At one point, all three cockroaches have their hands on the sparkler, tugging on it.

Without warning, the "sparkler" (which is actually a pipe bomb) explodes and blows all three cockroaches into crunchy pieces. The other five insects react with horror. One ant lifts his gun and looks around cautiously.

Jeremy and Keith peer around a corner, unseen by the bug soldiers. They retreat into the kitchen.

JEREMY

My pheromones work on the big bugs too. Good to know.

KEITH

Big bugs need love too.

HOTEL HALLWAY/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The five ant soldiers scour the area with their machine guns at the ready. Suddenly, in the kitchen, sticky honey pours from an overhead vent. The honey restricts one ant's movements as it slimes down his body.

The other ants look up to the vent and hear scuffling sounds. A second ant starts firing bullets into the ceiling that miss Jeremy by inches. He crawls quickly through the vent, leaving the empty barrel of honey behind.

The ants notice a metallic tube stuck to the back of the first ant because of the honey. It is another pipe bomb. It explodes. The first ant is ripped to shreds and the honey goes everywhere. The other ants' feet stick to the floor.

Hardening quickly, the ants find it increasingly difficult to move. Jeremy walks in with two more sparkling pipe bombs. He throws them at the immobile ants. The bombs stick to the honey before blowing the ants to bits.

JEREMY

(to Keith)

Just like flypaper!

(shrugs)

Sort of.

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - LATER

Soldiers line up next to their jeeps and tanks. They look up at the chemical weapons attached to the building and the mutant insects hovering around them.

SOLDIER #1

We can't risk shooting our guns at those freaks. One ricochet and those chemicals could kill everyone in New York. State!

SOLDIER #2

Imagine that. Insects trying to kill US with poison?

SOLDIER #1

Ironical, right?

General Nunes speaks with Wally and another soldier named JUAN MORALES.

LEO

The President is in a secure location and the Bhelkashan Parliament has been informed of the situation.

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

That's all the update I have right now.

JUAN

What exactly are we doing here, sir? Waiting for giant insects to give us ransom demands? I'll bet they're eating people in there. We need to know what they are doing and why they haven't fired at us yet!

WALLY

They stole those missiles from a military base. They're obviously smarter than we think.

LEO

Or someone smart is controlling them. We have to find out who they are before we proceed.

WALLY

Either way, they're as unstable as the weapons they stole. We shouldn't just leave them in there with the Prime Minister of--

LEO

Look, I know your son is in there and I feel for you, Lieutenant. But take your personal feelings out of this! We do NOT barge into buildings like this when we know there are hostages and there have been no demands!

WALLY

(holding in anger)

Yes, sir!

JUAN

There's been some explosions two floors down from where the hostages are. What do you suppose that is?

LEO

I don't know. Just be patient. We'll get clearance to fumigate these freaks soon.

Juan walks away. Leo turns to Wally and speaks in a low tone.

LEO (CONT'D)

I don't care what those things look like. Under NO circumstances are you to show those hostages or the other members of your team what you can do. Do you understand?

WALLY

Yes, sir.

Wally looks down at some black goo that is seeping out of his index finger nail. The goo disappears, seeping back under the nail. Wally's cell phone rings. He answers it.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Crimson here.

HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy looks out the window at the military below. Keith sits on a counter.

KEITH

I don't see my dad that much either. He and my mom got divorced a few years ago. He travels a lot for work.

(sighs)

Sometimes I wish he would teach me how to fight. Kids pick on me at school and all my mom does is tell me "go tell the principal".

JEREMY

Well, don't tell your mom I told you this, but when we were kids, she used to beat up my bullies all the time. Can't count how many bloody noses she sent to the nurse's office.

KEITH

She used to stick up for you?

JEREMY

Yeah. She was practically my bodyguard.

KEITH

I wish she would stick up for me.

JEREMY

She is. She's protecting you by keeping you out of trouble. That's what moms do. But at the end of the day, you have to protect yourself.

Jeremy looks outside at the Army surrounding the building.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Why hasn't the military stormed in here yet?

KEITH

They're probably worried about the hostages.

JEREMY

Yeah, yeah, a bunch of foreign dignitaries from--Dookie-shan.

KEITH

My dad is in the military, y'know.

JEREMY

He is?

KEITH

Yup.

Jeremy pulls out his cell phone.

JEREMY

Everyone in this hotel was scheduled to be at the conference. And the hotel manager didn't put my name in the books because I got my room for free. The Army might not even know that anyone else is in here. Can you call him?

Keith takes Jeremy's phone and dials a number. It goes to voicemail.

KEITH

I'll keep trying.

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Elaine is under a table with George Friedmont and two of her co-workers. She peeks out momentarily at the armed insects and then retreats to worry about her son. She notices that one of the doors to this conference room is cracked open.

Elaine's coworkers are whispering a conversation about what is happening.

COWORKER #1

I heard some explosions. They sounded like they were a few floors down.

COWORKER #2

What are these things up to? And
who the heck is controlling them?

Elaine looks up and sees that the insects are facing the other way. She slides off her shoes, realizing they would be hard to run in. Elaine motions for Friedmont to be quiet as she crawls towards the cracked door.

COWORKER #1

A few countries come to mind--and
one of them is sitting on the other
side of this room.

COWORKER #2

Seriously? You think the Prime
Minister of Bhelkashan attacked us
with giant insects just to get his
weapons back?

COWORKER #1

You know how technologically advanced
Asia is and that's just the stuff
our government has bothered to
disclose.

GEORGE

Who knows what kind of diseases they
carry?

COWORKER #2

You just wait. If those things start
killing hostages, the Prime Minister
and his family will be escorted out
of here by soldier ants!

Elaine hides behind a tall potted plant for a few seconds before running out the door and into the hallway. She sees armed insect guards. They turn when they hear a noise, but Elaine ducks into another hallway unseen.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The armed insects walk around the corner to investigate the noise. They don't see Elaine and figure that the noise was nothing. Above their heads, a grate slides into place as Elaine slides into the ventilation system.

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Wally ends his call. His phone rings again. He answers it.

WALLY

Hello?

KEITH

Dad?

WALLY

Keith? Where are you? Are you okay?

KEITH

Yeah. I'm okay. I'm in the hotel with all the insects.

WALLY

They didn't hurt you, did they?

KEITH

No. I'm fine.

WALLY

Can I speak to your mother? Is she there?

KEITH

She's in the conference room. That's where everyone else is being held.

WALLY

And where are you?

KEITH

The thirtieth floor. I'm hanging out with this pest control guy and we've been killing the giant bugs together.

WALLY

(confused)

Can I speak with him?

KEITH

Okay.

Keith gives the phone to Jeremy.

JEREMY

Hello?

WALLY

This is Lieutenant Walter Crimson of the United States Army. Who may I say is speaking?

JEREMY

This is Jeremy Boon--from Bug Busters Pest Control.

WALLY

And you are in the building with my son?

JEREMY

Yes, I was hired to fumigate a few of the rooms in here before all this stuff went down. I think your son and I are the only ones who aren't being held hostage.

WALLY

What can you tell me, Jeremy? What's going on in there?

JEREMY

Well, um--you ever see those old Sylvester the cat cartoons where Sylvester thought he was trying to catch a giant mouse, but it was really a kangaroo that kept kicking the piss out of him?

WALLY

Yeah.

JEREMY

Kind of like that. They're giant insects. And they have machine guns. They've killed some people in here. Yet, they're holding the world leaders hostage in that conference room. I just don't get it.

WALLY

Okay, listen very carefully, Jeremy Boon. The Army is in control of this situation. I want you to find a place to hide yourself and my son until we decide how to proceed.

JEREMY

Are you coming in here to get us?

WALLY

We are working as fast as we can. This is a delicate situation.

JEREMY

Yeah, right! Only reason this situation is 'delicate' is because there are big shots in here. You would have roach bombed this place hours ago if it was just civilians!

WALLY

Pointless debate aside, sir--I don't want you engaging these freaks any further, especially while you are with my ten-year-old son! Do you understand?

Jeremy looks over at Keith. He feels bad.

JEREMY

Yeah. Yeah, I understand.

WALLY

Good.

Wally hangs up.

JEREMY

Your dad wants us to lay low. He says the Army will be in here soon.

Keith nods.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Did he say his name was Walter Crimson?

KEITH

Uh-huh!

JEREMY

And he's your dad?

KEITH

Yup.

JEREMY

(thinks)

Did he know your mom when they were in high school?

KEITH

I think so.

JEREMY

Wally Crimson. Wow! This IS the Twilight Zone!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Juan walks up to Wally and hands him some photographs from inside the hotel.

JUAN

Sir, we were able to hack the security camera image feed from inside the hotel. You're not going to believe this.

Wally looks down at a picture of the hotel employee that Jeremy thought was his father. Wally recognizes this man as Jeremy's father, and former military scientist, Dr. Andrew Boon.

WALLY

Dr. Boon!

JUAN

At least we know who is behind this attack!

WALLY

He's been off the grid for ten years.

LEO (O.S.)

Likely planning this attack the whole time.

Wally turns and salutes General Nunes.

LEO (CONT'D)

This is it, boys! Time to bust this hornet's nest wide open!

WALLY

We're going in there, sir?

LEO

Yes. We know what floor Dr. Boon is on. He's the key to stopping this entire swarm.

WALLY

We're not freeing the hostages?

LEO

No. They can wait. Dr. Boon is our top priority, gentlemen. He's the queen bee of this hive--and I want him alive!

INT. HOTEL ROOM 2804 - LATER

Jeremy and Keith walk into a dark hotel room.

JEREMY

I'm just gonna tape some of these pipe bombs we made to the doorframe. No pheromones this time. We want those things to stay away.

KEITH

We're gonna hide in here?

JEREMY

Yes. Your dad said that the Army was coming in soon. And he thought we should lay low.

KEITH

Okay.

Keith jumps on the bed. Jeremy peers out the window, sliding the tank of pesticides off of his back and leaving it on the floor.

HOTEL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine drops out of the vents and lands on her feet. She sees the cockroaches that Jeremy blew up and reacts with disgust. Elaine peers into the kitchen and sees the remains of the ant trap that Jeremy built.

Elaine notices that one of the dead cockroaches is wearing sneakers that it stole from one of its victims. She steals these sneakers for herself, lacing them up and being impressed with how well they feel.

Elaine picks up one of their machine guns. She unloads it and a few other guns. She very much knows what she is doing.

Loading the machine gun she is holding with the clip that had the most bullets, Elaine hikes the gun onto her shoulder. She sticks the extra bullet cartridges into the waistband of her skirt and continues to search for her son.

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - LATER

A news reporter gives an update with the hotel in the background.

NEWSCASTER

It has been an afternoon filled with horror for the Bhelkashani Prime Minister and his associates, who have gathered for the U.N. peace conference, hoping to achieve peace in their region.

EXT. UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BHELKASHAN - NIGHT

Thousands of protesters in Bhelkashan demonstrate in front of the U.S. embassy, chanting, holding Anti-American signs and burning the U.S. Flag.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

We have now received word that thousands of protesters have gathered around the new U.S. embassy in Bhelkashan, believing that the United States is holding their Prime Minister hostage. They fear that a delayed return on the part of their Prime Minister will leave them vulnerable to attack by rebel troops and they are demanding answers.

Soldiers from inside the embassy fire gas bombs over the fence to disperse the crowd. This results in some protesters fleeing while others angrily climb the fence. Gunshots are heard.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Jeremy counts the number of roach bombs he has left. He looks over and sees that Keith is napping on the nearby bed.

A man walks into the room. He is covered in shadow, but Jeremy can tell that he is an older guy. He concludes that this was the man who was being chased through the hallway earlier.

JEREMY

Hey! Sir! Are you okay? Are you hurt?

The man stops.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Glad to see we're not the only people alive on this floor.

The man arches his back, grunting a bit. Jeremy watches with confusion as this shadowy figure starts to change shape. By the time he steps into the light, he is a six-foot tall grasshopper, a MAN-HOPPER.

NOTE: Humans who can change into giant insects have two arms and two legs, because the exoskeleton is covering their human bodies. Giant insects have four arms and two legs, six appendages like their normal size counterparts.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
(horrified)
You--you--you were human!

The Man-Hopper grabs Jeremy's neck and lifts him off of his feet. Jeremy is surprised to hear this giant grasshopper speak English with a slight buzzing echo to his voice.

MAN HOPPER
So were you!

Jeremy is thrown into the nearest wall. Hard. Keith wakes up and is terrified of the Man-Hopper. Jeremy gets back onto his feet as the Man-Hopper advances on him.

MAN HOPPER (CONT'D)
Your hands!

Jeremy looks down at his hands. Weird, organic plates are coming out of his fingers, covering his hands and making their way up his arm. These make Jeremy's arms look just like Man-Hopper's.

MAN HOPPER (CONT'D)
I knew it! Adrenaline was the key!

Spikes protrude from the plates on Jeremy's arm as two stick-like antennae slide out of wrinkles in his forehead. Keith lets out a gasp as he watches his friend transform just as Man-Hopper just did.

MAN HOPPER (CONT'D)
You tend to avoid stressful
situations, don't you, Jeremy?

JEREMY
What the hell did you do to me?

More plates pop out of Jeremy's back and cover more of his body, turning him into a giant grasshopper himself. Man-Hopper turns towards the window and sees U.S. soldiers zip-lining towards him from a hovering helicopter.

The windows shatter. Keith hides under the bed. Wally's boots hit the rug, backed up by other soldiers as Jeremy continues to transform. Wally watches the last part of Jeremy's transformation as his exoskeleton covers his head.

The other soldiers have their laser sights locked on Man-Hopper. Wally gives hand signals to a few of his soldiers, signaling them to go on a separate mission. Wally scowls at Man-Hopper, stepping closer to him.

WALLY

Is this why you stole our formula
and betrayed your country? To
experiment on your own son?

Jeremy reacts, twitching his antennae.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Now retract your exoskeleton and put
your hands on your head!

Tightening the muscles on his neck, Man-Hopper pulls the
organic plates away from his face, revealing the human face
of someone that Jeremy had not seen in ten years. This
grasshopper with a human head turns to look at Jeremy.

JEREMY

Dad?

Dr. Andrew Boon retracts the rest of his exoskeleton into
his body, returning to human form. His body is still littered
with the red laser dots from the other soldiers' guns. Andrew
puts his hands up.

ANDREW

I did NOT release those insects.
But I did create them. That's why
only I can stop them!

The soldiers start to arrest Andrew, slamming him up against
the nearest wall and cuffing him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I have an antidote to my formula! I
can stop those things!

JEREMY

What are you doing? He says he's
trying to help!

WALLY

Stay out of this, Jeremy! I know
this man is your father, but he is a
terrorist, a traitor to his country.

ANDREW

I can reverse their mutation--turn
them back into something that your
men can step on with their boots!
And we all know how General Nunes
likes to step on things!

One of the soldiers clubs Andrew with his rifle. Wings pop
out of Jeremy's back with the sound of a switchblade.

Jeremy leaps through the air and kicks that soldier as bullets from the other soldiers bounce off his exoskeleton.

WALLY
Hold your fire!

Jeremy grabs Wally's neck.

JEREMY
Let him go!

WALLY
You don't know what you're doing,
Bug-Boy! You're playing a very
dangerous game!

JEREMY
And you're still a bully, Wally!

Black goo starts pouring down Wally's forehead. The goo hardens into black plates that cover his face. More black plates come out of his body, turning Wally into a man-sized beetle.

A fist fight commences between "Grasshopper Jeremy" and "Beetle Wally" as soldiers watch. The fight smashes furniture and puts holes in walls. Keith manages to sneak out of the room unseen, thanks to this unusual distraction.

WALLY
I'm the one trying to protect people
here, Jeremy!

JEREMY
Then, why didn't you barge in here
with your bulletproof exoskeleton
hours ago! You could have protected
a lot more people! People who are
DEAD!

WALLY
Soldiers follow orders.

Wally overpowers Jeremy and knocks him out the window.

OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy falls through shattered glass. He catches himself with his wings and hovers. This garners a lot of attention from the media and Army on the ground. Wally pulls his exoskeleton back into his body, returning to human form.

When Jeremy notices how high up he is, it triggers a panic attack. His exoskeleton retracts into his body as he loses altitude, struggling to breathe.

Jeremy can see Wally standing in that twenty-eighth story window, looking down on him.

QUICK FLASHBACK--Wally remembers the first time his exoskeleton came out, standing in a military lab. He was also in a state of panic.

Wally dives out of the window, pulling the black exoskeleton back out of his body in mid-air as Jeremy plummets to the ground. He catches Jeremy, too close for comfort, a few feet above the ground and hovers there.

All of this is being filmed by the surrounding news media. Wally the flying man-beetle gives a knowing nod to General Nunes before flying away with an unconscious Jeremy in his arms, creating strange, but newsworthy footage.

INSIDE - CONTINUOUS

The soldiers resume arresting Dr. Andrew Boon. Antennae slip out of Dr. Boon's forehead when he hears buzzing noises coming closer. Soon, the soldiers can hear it too. Andrew drops to the ground and rolls under the bed.

The walls of this room are ripped apart by gunfire as more insect militants swarm into the room. The bed that Andrew rolled under is lifted up as Andrew rises in full exoskeleton. Bullets bounce off of his chest.

Andrew starts fighting off these giant insects with his own superior speed and strength, violently throwing his enemies into the hallway along with their guns. It is a VERY one-sided fight. They are no match for Andrew.

Walking into the hallway, Andrew grabs a canister of green liquid that he stashed under a table. Retracting his exoskeleton back into his body, Andrew peers into the canister, thinking about how all this insanity got started.

FLASHBACK - INT. ANDREW'S LAB - TEN YEARS AGO

Andrew sits in a meeting with his fellow scientists. Two scientists are giving a presentation. Diagrams show insect DNA. Andrew turns and sees two military officials in uniform sitting at this meeting. One of them is General Nunes.

LATER.

Andrew walks past glass incubators that house giant insects. Some are dog-sized. Others are man-sized. He peers into a glass case that is full of normal-sized insects. He overhears two scientists talking.

SCIENTIST #1

Still can't believe the military is going to use these things as drones.

SCIENTIST #2

General Nunes already has a mission for them. He called in an insect behavior expert to teach them how to use guns.

Andrew grabs a vial of black goo off of rack and discreetly hides it in his coat sleeve, walking away casually as the conversation continues.

SCIENTIST #1

Guns? You're kidding.

SCIENTIST #2

(nods)

Thank God we didn't breed any blood-sucking insects. Mosquitoes. Ticks. Bed bugs.

SCIENTIST #1

Not yet, we didn't.

LATER.

Andrew walks into the men's room and comes out a few minutes later walking "funny". He is walking like his back is out-- or like he has something up his butt.

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - THAT NIGHT

Andrew goes home and waddles fast into his own bathroom. He sits on the toilet and puts on a rubber glove, struggling before pulling the vial of black goo out of his rear end. He is horrified to find a crack in the vial.

YOUNGER ANDREW

Geez! This thing is made of glass!
What was I thinking?

LATER.

Andrew looks at his own blood through a microscope. He notices black spots on his blood cells.

YOUNGER ANDREW (CONT'D)

It's part of me now.

There is a knock at the door. Andrew can see 25-year-old Jeremy on his porch, holding a pizza. He hides the cracked vial of black formula quickly before getting up to answer the door.

INT. ANDREW'S LAB - DAYS LATER

One of the head scientists at the lab makes an announcement.

HEAD SCIENTIST

We will be having a mandatory drug screening this afternoon at 2. Everyone will be required to present a blood sample.

Andrew knows he is caught.

BACK TO THE HOTEL - PRESENT DAY

Andrew pries open the elevator shaft with a crowbar and starts climbing down the thick cables.

HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Keith watches from a window as his father flies away with Jeremy in his arms. He runs out of the room. The black hand of a mutated insect grabs Keith, covering his mouth and yanking him into the shadows.

ANOTHER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine searches the halls for her son, holding her machine gun at the ready. She is wearing her professional/classy pencil skirt outfit and the sneakers that she stole.

A television is on in one of the rooms, showing footage of Jeremy falling from the hotel window.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

You won't believe it no matter how many times you watch it! The latest viral video from the New York hostage situation showing a giant grasshopper turning into--or back into--a human being.

ELAINE

Jeremy?

Elaine's thoughts are interrupted by a loud buzzing noise. Gun-toting insects start flooding down the hallway. Elaine lifts her machine gun and starts blowing them away with skill and precision as she backpedals.

CONTROL ROOM - LATER

Thortan watches security camera footage of Elaine blowing away giant insects, zooming in and studying her face for future reference.

He turns towards the screen that shows him that specific restaurant in Bhelkashan. He starts to reminisce about when he was a normal-sized cockroach living in the kitchen of that restaurant.

FLASHBACK - INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY

Thortan (normal-sized insect) finds himself hiding behind a metal container on a cluttered, dirty kitchen counter. After eating a small crumb, he steps out and looks up at his surroundings.

This kitchen is bustling with humans that tower over him, walking every which way. They are chefs and servers operating a very busy restaurant in an Asian country.

Thortan watches a chef as he plunges a scoop into a large container. He pulls countless dead insects out with this scoop. The chef starts dumping these dead insects onto a skillet, creating smoke.

Thortan is horrified to watch these insect corpses being burned to a crisp and covered with other ingredients. He is distracted when a human's shadow towers over him. This man is holding a rolled-up newspaper.

Thortan starts running for the edge of the counter, leaping off of it as the newspaper comes crashing down. Thortan flutters away, slipping into a vent before this man realizes that he missed the cockroach completely.

EXT. AN ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Thortan is soon in a trash strewn alley. Looking towards the nearby street, Thortan sees more humans walking back and forth. Suddenly, a drinking glass clamps down on him from above, trapping him.

INT. ANDREW'S LAB - LATER

Thortan finds himself in a glass container with a bunch of other insects of different species. Looking up, he sees scientists in lab coats, including Dr. Andrew Boon.

BACK TO THE CONTROL ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Thortan's mind snaps back to reality. Glaring at an on-screen image of that very same Bhelkashani restaurant in which he was trapped, Thortan closes his eyes and sheds a tear.

On a separate security camera screen, Thortan sees Dr. Boon climbing down a ladder that would take him into the basement of this century-old hotel.

Buzzing angrily and banging his fists against the table, Thortan flies out of this room, determined to handle Dr. Boon personally.

INT. AN ARMY BASE - LATER

Jeremy wakes up on an examining table, surrounded by doctors who are watching him sleep. Suddenly, he wakes up and is very spooked by all the people around him, just staring. Wally pushes through the crowd.

WALLY

Jeremy! Buddy! It's okay! Just breathe, buddy!

Jeremy is still having a panic attack as the doctors back away. Jeremy looks at his spikey "bug hands" and freaks out some more. He is in full exoskeleton.

WALLY (CONT'D)

It's okay. Just relax. It's like a cocoon. It's healing you. All you have to do is relax and it will go away!

JEREMY

I can't relax! I can never relax!

Jeremy takes deep breaths and when he is calm enough, his exoskeleton starts retracting back into his body, returning him to human form.

WALLY

See? It feeds off of adrenaline. No food and it goes away. Just like my sister's first boyfriend. Ha.

JEREMY

Where's my dad?

NEARBY HALLWAY.

Jeremy follows Wally down a hallway, explaining how Dr. Boon was connected to all of this.

WALLY

You probably already know that your father used to work for Null Tech about twenty years ago on military projects.

JEREMY

Yes. That was right before he and my mom split up.

WALLY

Did he ever tell you what he was working on?

JEREMY

No. He couldn't. Eighth level top secret. First time in his life he didn't come home and blab about work for hours on end.

WALLY

You understand why I ask though, right?

JEREMY

(smirks nervously)

To figure out if you have to kill me?

WALLY

I would have just let you drop. Guess again.

JEREMY

Because if I have an "exoskeleton" too, he obviously drugged me with something weird from his lab.

WALLY

Something weird from his lab that he was ordered to destroy. Something that he wanted to regain control over.

FLASHBACK — INT. MILITARY LAB — DAY

Wally remembers being strapped to a chair ten years ago. Dr. Boon stands over him with a syringe containing black liquid before injecting him.

WALLY (V.O.)

Your father was trying to use the minerals inside of an insect's exoskeleton to make soldiers' bones less breakable.

JEREMY (V.O.)

Biomimetics?

WALLY (V.O.)

Yes, on the genetic level. He always dreamed that there would be civilian applications for his work, so that everyone could benefit from what he

(MORE)

WALLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
was working on. Pro athletes, kids
with calcium deficiency, everyone.

Wally transforms into a man-beetle for the first time. It is painful for him. He drops to his knees as the black plates and goo emerge from his body. Dr. Boon watches with keen interest as other scientists cringe.

WALLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was the first human that he
experimented on and when the Army
saw what his formula did to me, they
discontinued human trials and ordered
your father to destroy the formula.

BACK TO THE ARMY BASE - PRESENT DAY

WALLY (CONT'D)
Instead, he stole the formula and
experimented on himself, so that he
would always have a piece of what he
created in his bloodstream. So, we
did what we always do when someone
steals an expensive, dangerous
biological weapon from the United
States Military.

JEREMY
You tried to kill him.

WALLY
No. The story about him being
murdered at that New Jersey truck
stop was--

JEREMY
Greatly exaggerated?

FLASHBACK - EXT. TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

Wally jumps out of a military jeep and joins his fellow soldiers in surrounding Andrew with machine guns. Blinded by their headlights, Andrew's eyes turn into bug ones.

WALLY (V.O.)
A cover-up. A smoke screen. The
more people who thought that Andrew
Boon was dead and later saw him as a
giant grasshopper--less likely they
would deduce he was the same person.
It would make his capture less messy,
politically-speaking.

Wings pop out of Andrew's back. He leaps extremely high into the air before flying into the treetops. A few soldiers open fire, but they miss him. One soldier orders the others to run into the woods and they obey.

BACK TO THE ARMY BASE - PRESENT DAY

Jeremy scowls at the term "politically speaking" as he follows Wally into a gymnasium.

GYMNASIUM.

WALLY (CONT'D)

A few months ago, a top secret research facility that was breeding man-sized insects for retrieval missions was attacked by a computer virus. This allowed all of the mutated specimen to escape. Those were the gun-toting insects that you saw in that hotel.

JEREMY

The Army bred them?

WALLY

From your father's research. At that point, your father was already a wanted fugitive, so we weren't able to question him. But out of all the people who were connected to 'Project Exoskeleton', none of them had the bad blood with General Nunes that your father did. He was very vocal that breeding man-sized insects to use as drones was going too far, a perversion of his work. As far as General Nunes was concerned, he was guilty without trial, a traitor to his country.

JEREMY

And what do you think?

WALLY

Honestly, I don't see a motive. Why would a scientist who dreamed of his work being used for humanitarian purposes take a room full of world leaders hostage during a peace conference?

JEREMY

You think he was telling the truth about having an antidote?

WALLY

It makes sense. I think he's doing damage control. That's why he gave you an exoskeleton. He wanted someone to help him fight back if those monsters got loose, that or another blood sample to work with.

JEREMY

Then why did you try to arrest him?

WALLY

Same reason I waited so long to barge into that hotel and rescue my son. I was following orders.

Jeremy follows Wally into a smaller room where soldiers are analyzing computer data. CAPTAIN BONIN is in charge.

COMPUTER ROOM.

BONIN

Lieutenant Crimson. We've analyzed the data from those missiles on the roof. They're far too encrypted for us to mess with their signal, so we won't be able to stop their launch. But we did discover where they were being aimed.

WALLY

Where?

A map of Bhelkashan appears on a computer screen behind Bonin. Another screen shows an image of a small restaurant in the middle of a bustling city.

BONIN

Bhelkashan.

JEREMY

Bhelkashan?

BONIN

Bhelkashan! And it gets weirder. The missiles are specifically aimed at this one restaurant. It's a hole-in-the-wall, owned by one family. Not even a chain.

WALLY

And where is that restaurant in relation to the rest of the country? Is it city? Coastal?

BONIN

It's in their capitol city, which is close to the middle of the country. Somewhat strategic, I suppose.

WALLY

(to Jeremy)

According to our intel, at least one of those rooftop missiles is a nuke.

JEREMY

Well, they are insects. With Bhelkashan, they have a motive.

BONIN

(scoffs)

The *insects* have a motive?

JEREMY

Yes. Insects are routinely cooked and eaten in Bhelkashan. An insect looks at that restaurant and sees endless genocide. I think these insects want to cook them right back.

BONIN

(laughs)

Lieutenant, I think your friend here is trying to downplay his traitorous father's involvement in this catastrophe.

WALLY

I think Jeremy has a point, Captain. Look at those glass circles that they used to shoot down our planes. You grew up in the country, right? Haven't you ever burned ants with a magnifying glass before?

Jeremy takes notice of news footage of mutant insects spray-painting missiles white and writing 'Daily News' and 'Extra' on them with black paint. It is their deadly version of a rolled-up newspaper.

WALLY (CONT'D)

All these makeshift weapons they have seem like very ironic ways for insects to kill humans.

JEREMY

That's a rolled-up newspaper!

WALLY

Their tech skills, their twisted sense of humor, it all implies intelligence. Just the fact that these freaks can use machine guns shows they are way smarter than anyone thought insects could be before we started playing Klingon Boggle with their genes.

JEREMY

They're just mad at how we treat them.

BONIN

Regardless of their 'motive', Lieutenant, this situation has become an international incident. We have to get our men in there soon.

WALLY

Talk to the General. He sent us in there to arrest Dr. Boon and collect rooftop data. He hasn't even spoken about rescuing the Prime Minister or the Senators.

BONIN

(disappointed)

He doesn't want the press to link these monsters to him.

WALLY

Bingo!

JEREMY

Politics.

Wally gestures for Jeremy to follow him and takes him back into the gymnasium.

GYMNASIUM.

WALLY

My son is still in there.

JEREMY

Yes.

WALLY

You were right. I could have pulled him out hours ago.

JEREMY

If you didn't have to follow orders.

WALLY

From a militant opportunist who just wants to cover his own thorax!

JEREMY

You're probably in big trouble already. The whole world knows your secret. Not sure how you could make it worse by saving innocent lives and making General Nunes look bad for starting all this. Could give you some leverage in military court.

WALLY

You're saying that I should fly into that building in full exoskeleton and bust out my son?

JEREMY

No. Not just Keith. The Senators. Elaine. The Prime Minister and his hot daughters. All of them. We can be the heroes that the heroes can't be, because it's not about politics for us. This should have ended hours ago, so let US end this!

WALLY

Us?

JEREMY

I'm just as bullet proof as you are! And I'm the bug expert on this team, right?

WALLY

(raises eyebrow)

Team?

JEREMY

Seriously, do you really want to be sitting in that barbed wire, butt-raping military prison thinking about how you *didn't* rescue your son when you had the chance?

WALLY

(laughs)

You always did have a big mouth, Bug-Boy! Follow me. I have to show you something.

JEREMY

What is it?

WALLY

Something your father taught me.

OUTSIDE.

Wally takes Jeremy into the woods that surround this military base. He takes a lady bug into his hand off of a tree. He turns to Jeremy as black antennae ooze out of his forehead. They twitch as though they are grabbing the air.

WALLY

Can you do this with your antennae?

Jeremy frowns, making his grasshopper antennae emerge from the lines in his forehead.

WALLY (CONT'D)

When your father and I were experimenting, trying to figure out what my exoskeleton could do, I discovered that I could sense what normal-sized insects were saying. I could understand the noises that they made. Sometimes.

Jeremy looks closer at the ladybug, twitching his antennae.

JEREMY

I don't sense anything.

Wally realizes that they can hear crickets chirping off in the distance.

WALLY

How about that? Try to listen to the crickets.

JEREMY

(shrugs)

They sound like crickets.

WALLY

Listen harder. Concentrate on one of them.

Jeremy does, closing his eyes. He cringes when he can suddenly hear every sound over a two-mile radius, from voices to police sirens to televisions and radios.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Cool, huh? It's like having a satellite dish on your head.

JEREMY
(strains)
It's too loud!

WALLY
Try to focus.

JEREMY
(pained)
I can't focus! I can never focus!

WALLY
Focus on one sound and the rest of
them will fall in line like good
soldiers.

Jeremy takes a deep breath and tries again. The noises quiet down in his head, except for one voice a few miles away. It is the voice of a little boy who is trapped and frightened.

KEITH (O.S.)
Jeremy! Jeremy! Help me!

JEREMY
Keith!

WALLY
I hear him too, Bug-Man!
(nods)
Let's go bust him out!

MOMENTS LATER.

Jeremy follows Wally into another room that has row after row of machine guns and smaller guns on metal racks.

WALLY
Your exoskeleton might be fueled by
adrenaline, but its a part of you,
which means you can control it.

JEREMY
Even when I'm not panicking?

WALLY
The serum tapped into your DNA, so a
lot of it is just instinct. It's
kind of like a muscle. It shouldn't
take you too long to master.

Both men pull their exoskeletons out of their bodies as they select a gun.

WALLY (CONT'D)
You ever go hunting as a kid?

JEREMY

Am I from New Hampshire? Ha. Yeah,
I can shoot.

Wally and Jeremy, in full exoskeleton, walk out of the Army base with machine guns in their hands. They receive curious looks from soldiers as the man-hopper and the man-beetle flap their wings and take to the skies.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY CONTINUOUS

Elaine mows down insect after insect with her machine gun. Insects explode in a spray of white goo before she runs into the next hallway, still wearing the sneakers that she stole.

Elaine turns to see Keith trapped inside of a glass jar-shaped enclosure. She barges into that room with her machine gun blazing, killing more giant insects.

There is one mutant bumblebee whose gun is jammed. As he struggles to get it unstuck, Elaine grabs this bee's head and slams it against the glass jar, putting a hole in it. Elaine kicks the glass to make the hole bigger.

Keith climbs out of this over-sized jar and gives his mother a hug. He looks up and sees more insects flooding into the room. Realizing that she is outnumbered and surrounded, Elaine places her gun on the ground and puts her hands up.

Keith lifts up his shirt. There are "roach bombs", filled with pesticides, stuck into his jeans.

KEITH

Gotta protect myself, Mom. It's the
end of the day.

Keith pulls the pins and starts rolling the roach bombs towards the armed insects. The poison makes them cough as Elaine kicks her gun into the air. She catches it and blows away the insects in front of her in one foul swoop.

ELAINE

(scowls)
Fumigated!

KEITH

Holy crap, mom! You're like friggin'
Rambo!

ELAINE

Language! And where did you see
that movie? It's very violent.

KEITH

At dad's house. It's, like, his fav!

(pause)

I know where Jeremy left the rest of his pesticides!

Elaine follows Keith out of the room.

JEREMY'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Elaine and Keith are in the room in which Jeremy fought the Man-Hopper. Elaine straps Jeremy's pesticide tank to her back and reloads her machine gun.

ELAINE

All right! We're getting out of here, baby! Are you okay?

KEITH

(nods)

Jeremy's really cool, mom!

ELAINE

Yeah, he is, Keith.

Elaine looks through Jeremy's suitcase to see if there are any more bug-killing supplies in there. She finds the prescription pill bottle that Jeremy couldn't find underneath all of his clothes.

EXT. THE HOTEL MOMENTS LATER

The Army men and surrounding media watch two streaks fly through the air, smashing through windows on an upper floor. Armed insects fly towards these broken windows and are riddled with bullets from inside the hotel.

The insects come crashing to the ground. This prompts General Nunes to send soldiers up the side of the building, scaling wires, to dismantle the chemical weapons that are attached to the building. They are no longer guarded.

INSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy and Wally meet in an adjacent hallway and fist-bump each other with their guns at the ready.

ANOTHER HALLWAY - LATER

Elaine sneaks Keith towards the elevator. She sees armed insects off in a distant hallway, but stays silent so as to not alarm them. She presses the button on the elevator.

When the elevator 'dings', the doors open and the insects hear it. They come flying towards Elaine. She shoots a few of them as Keith gets on the elevator. Elaine backs on herself.

The door closes. Spikey insect hands come through the crack in the door. Elaine turns on the pesticide tank, spraying the giant insects, burning them until she can get the door closed.

Keith climbs to the top of the elevator car, moving an access panel to the side. He gets on top of the car as Elaine follows his example. They start climbing the cables as the insects manage to storm into the elevator car.

ELAINE

Hang on, Keith!

Elaine fires her machine gun at the elevator car below them, severing the cables. The cables snap and the car drops, hoisting Keith and Elaine upwards. She drops her machine gun as she holds on to the cables for dear life.

Brundle the housefly is the only insect that flies out of the elevator car before the car itself plummets. He catches the gun that Elaine drops and keeps flying towards them.

Brundle chases Elaine and Keith up the elevator shaft. The tube on the tank of pesticides that Elaine is wearing dangles beneath her, spewing poison and burning Brundle's eyes.

Brundle swerves to avoid the tube of poison. When the elevator car hits the bottom, smashing and killing the other insects, Elaine and Keith's ride is over. They dangle from the cable as Brundle aims Elaine's gun.

Elaine and Keith cringe when they hear machine gun fire, but are relieved when they see Brundle's body being shot. He falls down the elevator shaft in a trail of smoke.

Keith is the first to look up at the giant beetle hovering above them with his machine gun. Wally pulls back the plates on his face, revealing his face to his son.

KEITH

Dad!

HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wally helps Elaine and Keith out of the elevator shaft with his exoskeleton on and human face showing. Jeremy is there too. Elaine reacts to seeing both Wally and Jeremy's human heads on insect bodies.

ELAINE

(to Jeremy)

You're going to have to explain this to me later.

JEREMY

(shrugs)

I was hired to kill insects, Elaine.
I always get it done.

Keith gives his father a hug. Wally reciprocates.

WALLY

(to Elaine)

Thanks for keeping him safe.

Keith pokes his father's exoskeleton in the chest.

KEITH

What is this?

WALLY

This is the reason I can't come home as much as I would like. The Army ordered me to keep it a secret so they could do all kinds of experiments on it. Sorry I couldn't show it to you before.

KEITH

Jeremy has one too.

WALLY

I know. Guess who taught him how to use it?

Wally laughs and hugs his son again.

WALLY (CONT'D)

(to Elaine)

I'm getting you and Keith out of here. And then we're freeing everyone else.

ELAINE

Everyone else?

WALLY

The big whigs in the conference room.

ELAINE

I can help you with that. Um, you guys have an extra machine gun?

WALLY

What'd you do, drop yours?

Elaine gives her ex-husband a 'look'.

JEREMY

You know how to shoot?

ELAINE

I do.

WALLY

She does, actually. I used to take her to the firing range when we were dating. She's pretty good.

ELAINE

(scoffs)

I'm pretty good for Rambo.

JEREMY

But you're not bulletproof, Elaine. You should let Wally and I handle--

ELAINE

Hey, I killed more of those things than you did, Bug-Boy!

JEREMY

To protect Keith, I'm sure. Stick with that. We'll make sure you get outside and the Army will keep you safe.

ELAINE

(disappointed)

Fine.

Elaine hands Jeremy the pill bottle that she found in his suitcase.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

But you might need these.

Jeremy is so happy to see his pills that he grabs Elaine and plants a kiss on her lips right in front of her ex-husband and son. It was an odd sight to see Elaine kissing a giant grasshopper with a human head.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Well, maybe you *don't* need them anymore.

JEREMY

Maybe not.

WALLY

(annoyed)

Yeah, all right. Can we get going?

Keith laughs.

OUTSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine and Keith both run out of the hotel and towards the Army who immediately act to protect them. Once Elaine and Keith are safe, Jeremy and Wally fly from the lobby to the conference room.

A manhole cover moves to the side and the severely injured, chain-wearing housefly named Brundle emerges from the sewers. He flies towards Elaine, grabbing her and carrying her to the roof of the hotel.

KEITH

Mom!

Elaine is kicking and screaming as Brundle carries her away. He has a wobbly flight pattern, thanks to holes that were shot in his wings.

BASEMENT BOILER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew Boon pours the canister of his XO2 antidote onto one of the valves of this archaic boiler system. He turns the knobs on the boiler, increasing the pressure until steam is pouring out of all the other valves in this room.

ANDREW

(pirate accent)

Thar she blows, Captain!

Andrew laughs at his own joke before becoming terrified by a horrible scraping noise. Andrew turns to see the shadow of Thortan, scraping a machete against the cement walls alongside him.

Andrew starts pulling his exoskeleton out of his body (not his head) as Thortan attacks Andrew. Andrew blocks the machete with the spikey plates on his arms. This allows Thortan to look into Andrew's human eyes.

QUICK FLASHBACK--Thortan remembers being in Dr. Boon's lab years ago, inside a glass box with other normal-sized insects. He recognizes Dr. Boon's eyes from when he would peer into the glass box.

Andrew pries the machete from Thortan's grasp. Thortan immediately starts beating him with his four fists, pummeling him with ferocity and speed.

Andrew gets beaten quite badly before the enraged cockroach body-slams him to the cement floor and steps on him. Andrew is unconscious.

The valves start spewing green smoke into the boiler room. Thinking it might be some kind of poison, Thortan flees the room as the green chemical consumes the fallen scientist.

HOTEL ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Brundle opens a panel on one of the missiles and throws Elaine into it. Sealing up the panel, Elaine is trapped inside. She desperately bangs on the panel, screaming for help. Brundle turns and sees Thortan standing there.

Thortan punches a code into a nearby keypad. Smoke starts to pour out of the missiles as Brundle drops to his knees, weak from his bullet wounds. Thortan walks over to Brundle and kneels next to him.

Brundle keels over dead, vomiting acid before doing a face plant against the rooftop. The missiles start to take off as Thortan holds his newly deceased friend in his arms.

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

The doors to the conference room fly open. Jeremy and Wally, in full exoskeleton, walk in with machine guns. They attract attention from both the hostages and the insect militants.

Jeremy and Wally simultaneously lift their weapons and open fire. Their bullets rip apart the insect militants, both flying insects and grounded ones.

Bullets bounce off of Jeremy and Wally's bulletproof exoskeletons as the insects shoot back. Wally fires his gun into the air as insect body parts and white goo rain down from the ceiling.

Jeremy leaps across the room like only a grasshopper can, mowing down row after row of insects with his machine gun. Once he lands, Jeremy starts punching mutant insects through walls with his newfound super strength.

Jeremy twitches his antennae. He hears the sound of missiles being fired. He also hears a faint voice.

ELAINE (O.S.)

Help! Help me!

JEREMY

Elaine!

WALLY

Go get her, bro! I'll hold them off
here!

Jeremy flies through the nearest wall, leaving a hole there.

OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Keith, along with all onlookers, watches as the missiles fly through the air. Without warning, Jeremy bursts out of the building, hovering there for a few seconds.

Jeremy twitches his antennae, calming himself with deep breaths as he senses his surroundings. He can hear Elaine screaming from inside the missile.

ELAINE (O.S.)

Help me! Help! Please!

JEREMY

I'm coming, Elaine!

There is a sudden burst of acceleration as Jeremy flies after her. Keith immediately starts to cheer.

KEITH

Go, Jeremy! Go!

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Valves on pipes inside the conference room start to pop, spewing green smoke throughout the room. The mutant insects drop to their knees and start shrinking back to their normal size. It appears that Andrew's antidote is working.

Wally's exoskeleton starts to fall off of him, turning to black ash and returning him to human form. This is much to the astonishment of the foreign dignitaries that watch this happen.

Unbeknownst to Wally, a few of the insects that Jeremy had knocked through the wall are still alive and had escaped unaffected by the "cure". They leave the scene to avoid the chemical.

The Senators and the Prime Minister of Bhelkashan all crawl out from under the tables. They applaud Wally's heroism. Wally catches the eye of one of the Prime Minister's daughters. Wally finds her sexy. She winks at him.

EXT. THE ATLANTIC OCEAN - LATER

The missiles scream over the ocean. Jeremy flies towards them at blinding speeds. He finally reaches one missile, landing on it and going along for the ride. He can still hear Elaine screaming in terror from a different missile.

Jeremy plunges his fist into the missile, ripping out some circuitry. The missile loses trajectory and drops into the ocean as Jeremy leaps to the next one.

Jeremy rips devices out of all of these missiles. They drop into the ocean as Jeremy leaps from one to the next like only a grasshopper can.

Jeremy sees one last missile ahead of him. He can hear Elaine screaming and banging for freedom as he tries to fly faster.

ELAINE (O.S.)

Help me! Help me! Jeremy! Jeremy!

EXT. ASIAN RESTAURANT IN BHELKASHAN - DAY

A chef is outside of his restaurant, the same one that Thortan escaped from years earlier, sweeping the steps as the sun rises. The chef looks up and sees a missile flying out from behind the tall buildings off in the distance.

The missile swoops upwards and misses the restaurant. Jeremy is underneath it, pushing it off-course. He opens a panel on the missile. Elaine drops into his arms. Elaine looks lovingly into Jeremy's segmented insect eyes.

Jeremy "gently" (as gently as possible from a speeding missile) drops Elaine on a rooftop as he speeds by.

JEREMY

(speeding away)

Gotta go! Love you! Bye!

Jeremy continues to follow the missile, directing it out to sea. Elaine can see the ocean from the rooftop.

Elaine turns around and sees a native mother and children on their rooftop. Elaine doesn't know their language, so there is an awkward moment as she smiles and waves at them in a friendly manner. They are still frightened.

Suddenly, the entire sky is illuminated when this nuclear missile goes off. Elaine shields her eyes from the mushroom cloud as the nuke goes off "harmlessly" over the ocean. Elaine climbs down from this rooftop via a ladder.

EXT. A BHELKASHANI BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine joins a group of natives who have gathered at the beach to watch the mushroom cloud that the missile left behind. Elaine steps into the shallow water, drops to her knees and starts to cry.

Suddenly, Thortan drops out of the sky and places a machete on Elaine's shoulder, ensuring that she would not move. The other natives are frightened by the sight of a six-foot-tall cockroach and run back to their homes.

MINUTES LATER.

Jeremy trudges out of the ocean, minus the shirt that he ditched so that he could swim easier. He is happy to see Elaine on the shore and waves both arms at her.

JEREMY

Hey! Elaine! I just survived a
nuclear blast! Just like a cockro--

Jeremy is kicked in the face by this giant cockroach. He rolls out of the way when Thortan plunges his machete into the sand. The first parts of his exoskeleton start to emerge, covering his arms with plates and spikes.

Jeremy blocks Thortan's machete with those spikes. He rakes Thortan across the face with the spikes on his other arm, kicking the roach away from him. Thortan drops his machete.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

You took my family away! You took
my girl!

Blinking his eyes, Jeremy's eyes turn into the segmented eyes of an insect. Antennae squeeze out of the lines in his forehead. Like Wally said earlier, Jeremy can use his antennae to understand Thortan's buzzing noises.

THORTAN

(subtitled)

You slaughter my kind in droves!

Thortan picks up the machete. The rest of Jeremy's exoskeleton emerges from his body as he reacts with surprise to hearing Thortan "speak". Thortan swings his machete at Jeremy and he blocks multiple blows.

THORTAN (CONT'D)

(subtitled)

You are pest!

JEREMY

Did you just--?

Thortan then delivers a nasty head butt right in the middle of Jeremy's antennae.

As Jeremy staggers to regain his balance, Thortan grabs his arm and pulls him closer. He puts Jeremy in front of him, facing Elaine, and presses the machete to his throat. Elaine gasps.

THORTAN
(subtitled)
Time to fumigate!

JEREMY
Good idea!

Jeremy's wings suddenly pop out of his back like a switchblade, running Thortan through and drawing white goo. Thortan starts to weaken, dropping his machete into the sand below.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
SPLAT!

Jeremy's bladed wings flap rapidly. Thortan explodes, spewing his highly-pressurized insides all over the beach. Jeremy turns back to human form. Elaine clearly likes looking at Jeremy's bare (human) chest.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

ELAINE
(distracted)
Um-yes! Yes. I'm fine. Is Keith okay?

JEREMY
Come on! Let's go ask him!

Wings pop out of Jeremy's back. Antennae slide out of Jeremy's forehead. He does not pull out the rest of his exoskeleton. He picks up Elaine and flies away as a human being with bug wings and bug antennae.

EXT. HOTEL - LATER

The foreign dignitaries are escorted out of the building by Army men, an image that is broadcast around the world within minutes. More Army men escort survived, still-mutated giant insects, out of the building in chains.

INSERT CUT--Maria and Quincy are in Starlight Weiners watching these developments on the news.

Jeremy lands in front of the hotel and puts Elaine down on her feet. He gets many curious stares as his bug features retreat into his body.

KEITH (O.S.)

Mom!

News cameras film a touching reunion between mother and son, making Jeremy smile. The Prime Minister gets into his limo with his daughters. One of them blows Wally Crimson a kiss before getting in.

Jeremy sees soldiers carrying his father out of the building, unconscious after being beaten by Thortan. Andrew is put into an ambulance and Jeremy gets in with him. Elaine watches, saddened by what she sees.

CONFERENCE ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Hotel manager Timothy Lando walks into the conference room and sees all the shrunken normal-sized insects crawling all over the tables and floors. He rolls his eyes before stepping on one cockroach.

TIMOTHY

I'm in big trouble with corporate!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy is sitting at his father's bedside when he slowly wakes up.

ANDREW

Did my formula work? Did we beat 'em?

JEREMY

Yeah. Your formula worked. Both of them.

Jeremy blinks his eyes and turns them into insect ones, quickly turning them back.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Let me guess. You slipped your formula into the soda I drank that night when I came over for pizza.

ANDREW

(nods 'yes')

I just wanted to control what I started. I didn't want anyone to die.

LEO (O.S.)
Control is important, Doctor. So
people don't die.

General Nunes is standing in the doorway.

LEO (CONT'D)
Dr. Boon, may I have a word with you
alone?

Jeremy stands up, angry by the intrusion.

JEREMY
No! It's after five and you're not
family--so piss off!

LEO
I might not be family.
(holds up envelope)
But I have something that might keep
you out of "butt raping military
prison"?

JEREMY
(scoffs)
For what?

LEO
For concealing a stolen biological
weapon from the United States
government--in your genes. I sign
this pardon, both of you are off the
hook.
(to Andrew)
You know I'm capable, Doctor.

After Andrew gives him the nod, Jeremy leaves the room,
frustrated.

LEO (CONT'D)
Passionate boy. The apple doesn't
fall far, does it?

ANDREW
No. So, what do I need to do for
that pardon?

LEO
Trust me. It's right up your alley.

Leo opens the envelope and hands Andrew a diagram of a series
of underground tunnels.

LEO (CONT'D)

We need to build a prison, preferably underground, for the surviving members of the swarm. You understand how these things function better than anyone. I want you to design it, based on these specs.

ANDREW

A prison? You're not going to destroy those freaks--after what they did?

LEO

You did the bookkeeping at Null Tech, Doctor. You understand the monetary investment that these creatures represent.

ANDREW

As drones?

(scoffs)

They're not just weapons. They're too smart. You can't control them. You build this prison and they will escape again.

LEO

You have my permission to make modifications to this blueprint so that won't happen.

ANDREW

How about you give me the chemicals I need for another batch of antidote? And a truck-sized can of Raid? Maybe a bug zapper?

LEO

Do this job for me and you will have enough money to live quite comfortably for the rest of your days. No long hours like you had at Null Tech. More time to reconnect with your loved ones. Much better than being on the run, looking over your shoulder, fearing for your freedom.

Andrew sees that there is a large amount of money written at the bottom of this blueprint and contemplates the offer.

ANDREW

This is insane! But I think I know a safe place where we can build this thing. And I want to talk to someone first.

LEO
(smiles)
After you rest up, Doctor.

Andrew looks down at the diagram and starts visualizing the project.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - DAY

Janet is watching footage on the evening news of the peace conference at the United Nations. Treaties are signed. Foreign dignitaries shake hands and wave for the press. The President of the United States later speaks.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
Because trust is the first step on
the road to peace.

There is a knock on the door. Janet opens it and sees her long-lost husband Andrew, holding a bouquet of daffodils. She drops the mug that she is holding as tears fill her eyes. They tearfully embrace.

Unbeknownst to Janet, when Andrew opens his eyes, they become insect eyes. Andrew senses this and blinks them away before his wife can see. It is clear that his antidote didn't work on him.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Jeremy sits in a waiting room outside of an office door that reads 'Cunningham Hardware'. He is nervously tapping his fingers on a box on his lap, staring out the window. A secretary walks into the waiting area.

SECRETARY
Mr. Boon. Mr. Cunningham will see
you now.

Jeremy follows the secretary into the office. There are three businessmen sitting at a table. Jeremy pulls his Bug Dome invention out of the box and starts explaining it to his attentive audience as the door closes.

LATER.

Jeremy walks out of the room after his presentation. He is clearly elated that it went so well. He pulls the anxiety medicine pill bottle out of his pocket and kisses it.

JEREMY
Still need ya, baby!

Jeremy pulls out his phone.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Janet is sitting on Andrew's lap, kissing him passionately as he reciprocates. Unbeknownst to Janet, bug antennae have emerged from Andrew's forehead and are running through her hair.

Andrew's cell phone rings. Andrew puts his phone on a nearby table, so it won't interrupt them any further. The screen reads 'Missed call: Jeremy'.

LEO (V.O.)

You disobeyed a direct order, son.

INT. GENERAL NUNES' OFFICE - DAY

Wally and General Nunes have a heated discussion.

LEO

You're lucky my superiors didn't throw you in that underground prison with them.

(sighs)

But I guess they understand what you have to offer. We need someone like you to hunt down the remaining insects, the ones we haven't captured yet.

EXT. A LANDFILL - DAY

Cranes dig up garbage as a structure is built with thick steel rafters. Dr. Boon is there, giving orders. Jeremy is there too, in full exoskeleton, using his super strength to help with the construction, lifting enormous beams.

LEO (V.O.)

You've experienced something extraordinary. And you understand these freaks in a way that will help us keep them at bay.

General Nunes shows up to inspect the work, along with Juan Morales. He takes notice of Jeremy's feats of strength.

LEO (CONT'D)

We could use that kind of power on the battlefield.

JUAN

You will have it, sir. We've captured at least thirty of those insects so far. And this prison will be a perfect place to reprogram them. Nothing will stand in our way!

General Nunes watches Jeremy laughing and bonding with his father, enjoying a cup of coffee with him. Nunes glares at Jeremy with apparent suspicion.

LEO

Let's hope not.

INT. UNDERGROUND PRISON - LATER

"THREE WEEKS LATER"

Two soldiers escort two chained mutant insects through a metal door that leads to a subterranean level underneath a mountain of garbage. Wally and Dr. Boon follow these soldiers.

This subterranean level is a prison for the remainder of Thortan's army. There are many mutant insects occupying the cells here. Wally opens up a metal cell and the insects are violently pushed in.

Andrew looks up at the ceiling of this underground prison, which consists of garbage from the landfill. Certain insect prisoners are eating garbage off the walls.

ANDREW

This might seem strange, Lieutenant,
but this is sort of what I wanted.
This is what I wanted my work to
mean. Something that will do good
in the world.

WALLY

(nods)

Giant insects eat more garbage.

ANDREW

Yes. This landfill should be gone
within the year. Maybe less. Not
sure if these things can eat plastic
or not.

Wally leans up against the cell bars.

WALLY

Didn't this landfill used to be a
trailer park back when Jeremy and I
were kids?

ANDREW

Pineland Park, yes. My family lived
here for many years and now, here I
am. The circle of life, I suppose.

(reacts)

Be careful, Lieutenant!

One of the insect prisoners, a hornet, pokes through the bars and stings Wally. Wally instinctively punches the insect in the head and he falls back unconscious. Because he has lost his stinger, the hornet quickly dies.

Wally turns to look at Andrew, pulling the large stinger out of his leg. Wally now has the segmented eyes of an insect. Wally blinks and turns his eyes back to normal, not sure what to say. Andrew smiles.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Our little secret, soldier.

WALLY

Thank you, sir.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Elaine is looking at herself in the mirror, putting on her earrings. Keith is in his room, playing around with a chemistry set. Joyce pokes her head into Elaine's room and admires her pretty daughter.

JOYCE

Y'know, I've always liked Jeremy.
You've always been there for him.
What took you guys so long to get
together?

ELAINE

I guess I was waiting for him to
rescue me.

There is a knock on the door. Elaine comes running down the stairs and opens the door. Jeremy is there with flowers for his date. Elaine takes the flowers and gives Jeremy a kiss. Keith comes running down the stairs as well.

KEITH

Hi, Jeremy!

JEREMY

Hey, Keith!

Elaine kneels down next to Keith and gives him a hug.

ELAINE

You be good for Grandma. Daddy's
supposed to pick you up in an hour,
okay?

KEITH

Okay.

ELAINE

Have fun.

Keith runs upstairs as Jeremy and Elaine leave. They hold hands as they walk down the walkway.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

We should have done this a long time ago, Bug-Boy!

JEREMY

I know.

(smiles)

A pick-up truck pulls up and Wally jumps out, wearing a Boston Red Sox hat and jersey. Jeremy and Wally shake hands as MUSIC STARTS.

MUSICAL MONTAGE UNTIL CLOSING CREDITS.

EXT./INT. FENWAY PARK NIGHT

Wally and Keith enjoy the Boston Red Sox game from box seats behind the first base line. Keith has the time of his life and leaves the ballpark with a new hat and other souvenirs.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sleeping over at his father's house, Keith is too excited to sleep after the exciting ball game. He is wide awake, staring at the ceiling from his bed.

Keith hears a car and gets up to look out of his window. He sees a woman getting out of a limo, wearing a black trench coat and shades. She is trying way too hard to be inconspicuous.

DOWNSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Wally lets this woman into his house. It is the Prime Minister's daughter, the one who winked at him. She pulls off her shades as Wally takes off her coat. There is a candlelit dinner on the table, complete with wine.

Wally and his beautiful female guest start kissing each other passionately. Black antennae emerge from Wally's forehead and start caressing her hair as they kiss.

UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Keith opens his bedroom window as small fly wings burst out through the back of his pajamas. Antennae slide out of his forehead as his eyes become segmented insect eyes.

NOTE: These are abilities that Keith inherited from his father genetically after Wally was experimented on, but that manifest themselves during the early stages of puberty.

Keith flies into the woods that surround his father's house with a book in his hand. He flies into an old dilapidated barn and sits there, allowing the cockroaches to crawl all over him as he reads the book.

Just like before, Keith can understand what the cockroaches are saying. He looks down at one specific roach on his right knuckle.

COCKROACH

(subtitled)

You ain't seen nothing yet!

FADE TO BLACK.