BUBBLE EP. 8 "DIE HARD"

Written by

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We’re starting with a flashback again. This one is a flash WAY-back. We’re in the Brush. An outdoor religious service is taking place.

    PASTOR DOUG
    What. A. Year we’ve had!

SFX: Applause

Pastor Doug addresses his congregation. He has flowering vines growing out of his skin. Some of the onlookers have plants and flowers coming out of their skin too.

    Pastor Doug (CONT’D)
    They said that humans couldn’t survive here, but look at us. Not only are we surviving, but we’re thriving! And it’s all because of this. The Core.

SFX: He taps the stone

He taps something resting in the middle of his chest. It's the two stones, but joined together as one.

    Pastor Doug (CONT’D)
    Let’s give thanks for everything that’s happened in the last year. Let’s hear some testimonials!

A woman with palm fronds growing out of her hair stands up.

    PALM WOMAN
    Pastor Doug, because of you, I’ve finally learned to commune with The Core and the planet is speaking to me more clearly than ever.

SFX: Applause

A man with baby corn growing out of his face stands up.

    CORN MAN
    I’m growing baby corn out of my face.

SFX: Applause

    PASTOR DOUG
    And it’s gosh-darn delicious Nick. Seriously, if you ever get a chance, taste Nick’s face corn, do it! Just ask his wife first.
Everyone laughs.

Sitting in the middle of the crowd, next to her mother and father is a teenaged Bonnie. She's restless, like all teenagers are in church... even if this one does have crazy plant-hybrid people.

**BONNIE**

Mom, do we have to stay for this whole thing? I want to leave.

**SFX:** Bonnie’s Mom SHUSHHHH-ing her

**BONNIE (CONT’D)**

Ugh. Fine.

**PASTOR DOUG**

Anyone else have a testimonial?

**RANDOM MAN**

I finished my novel! I know that doesn’t have a lot to do with communing with the Core of this planet and becoming one with the native plant life, but I’ve always told myself I was going to finish it and I finished it.

**PASTOR DOUG**

Hey, don’t downplay that. It’s easily one of the best erotic political thrillers I’ve ever read, so give yourself a major pat on the back. And now if everyone will close their eyes, I want to lead the group in a very special prayer...

Blessed Core, we ask of you: Even though you have no mouth, speak clearly to us. Even though you have no ears, listen to our prayers. Even though you have no arms, hold us close.

**SFX:** Vines shooting up out of the ground. People screaming

He raises his hands and vines shoot out of the ground and start enveloping the congregation. Some of them scream, some of them just close their eyes and let it happen. Teenage Bonnie gets up and runs while vines lash at her feet.
BONNIE

Fuck!

SFX: Transition

BONNIE (CONT’D)

Fuck! How many times do I have to tell you? Yes: This is a holiday party, but I’d like the ice lugue to be non-denominational. I’m by no means a religious person, but I just think it’s in poor taste to do vodka shots out of baby Jesus’s manger.

Back in the now, we’re in Bonnie’s office at Tandem.

Morgan sheepishly enters and looks for somewhere to sit. Her yoga balls are gone. Now there are just poles sticking out of the floor where chairs should be.

BONNIE (CONT’D)

Yeah, a candy cane should be fine. I don’t see anything blasphemous about that. Merry whatever to you too.

(gets off the phone)

Morgan! How’s my favorite?

MORGAN

I never got why you always call me that. Haven’t I always been kind of a pain in your ass?

BONNIE

You got me. In the past, that’s been a skooch sarcastic, but after you and your Super Friends brought us BOTH stones, you’re absolutely my favorite, not my “favorite.”

MORGAN

You finally got rid of those yoga balls everyone used to sit on huh?

BONNIE

Yeah, it turns out the bouncing was dangerous when combined with drinking. You know we brew beer here and have daily happy hour and Wine Wednesday and St. Patrick’s Day Third Thursday of Every Month? (MORE)
Well some kid in social media couldn’t handle his shit and bounced right out a plate glass window.

MORGAN
Oh God. Did he die?

BONNIE
Oh no! He went right to the cybernetics division and now he’s more machine than man, which I’m sure is fun for him.

MORGAN
So you replaced the balls with poles?

BONNIE
Oh yeah! Our posture specialist says they’re great for your glutes.

MORGAN
So... do you lean on them?

BONNIE
Oh no. They’re not built for that. Just stand near them.

MORGAN
You just stand near them? Why even have them?

BONNIE
Morgan, please don’t take your non-sarcastic favorite status for granted. If you want to talk about issues surrounding your glutes I can set a meeting with our posture specialist, but you had some actual Tandem business to discuss?

MORGAN
As much as I like working for Huntr, maybe there’s something more job-like I can do around here? Something without monsters or just monster-adjacent?

BONNIE
Oh of course! It’s always secretly disappointed me you Brush Babies weren’t taking more initiative.
MORGAN
Secretly disappointed? You tell me like all the time.

BONNIE
Is there anything in particular you had in mind?

MORGAN
Well, you have the company holiday party coming up. I’d love to help with that.

BONNIE
Now, don’t take this the wrong way but I wouldn’t say “planning or having fun” is your wheelhouse.

MORGAN
Maybe I can get Annie to help me. She’s fun!

BONNIE
Honey, if that roomie of your plans the party everyone will just get high and eat Cheez-its while they sit on a tarp or something. Isn’t now a good time to maybe trade up in the friend department?

MORGAN
What does that mean?

BONNIE
Just look at everyone working down there. They have 401Ks and fuel efficient cars. Look how the men have their shirt sleeves rolled up. They’re business, but not ALL business!

MORGAN
But I think our trip out into the Brush changed us. Just let me ask Annie to help out. I’m sure she’s up for it.

SFX: Transition

ANNIE
God, I’ve never been up for anything less than that.
MORGAN
We’re not actually going to be working at the Christmas party. We’re going to try and get the stones back. There will be commotion and drinking and limited security.

ANNIE
I just can’t with this anymore. I’m not a mission person. I’m an idea person.

MORGAN
What does that mean? What’s an idea you’ve had?

ANNIE
The pump for the shower that instead of shampoo dispenses shower beers.

MORGAN
And what ever happened with it?

ANNIE
Not my department. I had the idea and put it out in the universe. Not my fault if the universe is a lazy asshole.

MORGAN
Come on, I need you on this.

ANNIE
I told you. I am done. I’m tired of almost dying. It’s been happening a shit-ton lately and I’m not into it.

MORGAN
This Christmas party is going to have an open bar.

ANNIE
Really? Man, those tech guys only drink the good stuff too. I’ve been dying to try that vodka made by the guy who plays the brother on Transparent... no, wait, I’m insulted. Why did you think free booze was enough to convince me?
MORGAN
I mean... it was really close to working.

ANNIE
Was not.

MORGAN
Hey, I need you. You’re seriously the most amazing person I know at breaking the law.

ANNIE
This is a good tactic. Continue with this.

MORGAN
I need your criminal mind. We both know Tandem shouldn’t have those stones. Let’s do this together.

ANNIE
Okay. Together is good. You know, I HAVE been working on something that might help us if this gets fight-y. You know that bug that got Mitch?

MORGAN
The Sinker. Right. Burrows into your skin and gives you unimaginable powers before it kills you.

ANNIE
Good recap. Yes, that’s the one. I saved it’s little corpse and made what’s in this vial. A small amount will give you a small power boost, but it won’t kill you.

MORGAN
And what will a large amount do?

ANNIE
A LARGE power boost. And then kill you.

MORGAN
Neat!

ANNIE
Yeah, I guess it’s for the best we made up. I did NOT want the hassle of finding a new roommate.
MORGAN
You were thinking of finding a new roommate?

ANNIE
Yeah. There’s actually someone looking at the place now. There she is.

HIPSTER WOMAN
The bathroom is really nice, but you seem to have quite a few oozing monster skulls in there.

ANNIE
Don’t touch those! Those are for work!

SFX: TRANSITION

Morgan sits on a stained gamer chair in Mitch’s apartment. It’s a mess of miss-matched furniture and Star Wars Action figures, weirdly all from the prequels. Mitch is struggling to put together an Ikea bookcase.

MORGAN
Come on Mitch. We both know Tandem shouldn’t have those stones. Let’s do this. Together.

MITCH
No freaking way. That won’t work on me and it’s definitely not going to work on Annie.

MORGAN
It did work on Annie. Basically that exact speech.

MITCH
Huh. That’s a surprise.

MORGAN
I tried “there’s going to be an open bar” first, but then pivoted to sincerity.

MITCH
Okay well I’m not signing up. We boned things so incredibly bad and we’re lucky we’re not dead. Plus, I’ve got a new job, as you can see.
MORGAN
Building Ikea bookcases?

MITCH
Mostly, yeah. It’s Task Rabbit, this app where you do chores for people.

MORGAN
Okay, I can see how that would be fun. Might lead to some lonely housewives who need some “chores” done in the bedroom.

MITCH
Maybe. Mostly it’s just building Ikea bookcases. I’ve already done this same FLERN six times.

MORGAN
I can tell. It’s a good FLERN.

MITCH
I’m sick of FLERNS. And I’m sick of things here. Maybe I should go back out into the Brush where I can psycically communicate with nature or back to Mission Beach where I can eat TGI Friday’s every day and be happy.

MORGAN
Well, that’s why you should come with me! Tandem has us all caged up. If we take them down we can all live the life we want to.

MITCH
Will that work?

MORGAN
Maybe? But Annie is definitely in. And she was just saying how impressed she was that you experimented with those Brush drugs and talked to that jellyfish.

MITCH
Ah crap. This is working. I might actually do it.

MORGAN
Yes! I rule at assembling teams!
MITCH
I guess. But there’s still one missing piece.

MORGAN
I was going to visit Van next.

MITCH
I was talking about the Flern. I need a screw that I can’t find. But yeah, get Van.

SFX: TRANSITION

SFX: Knock on the door. Door opens.

VAN
Oh, hey Morgan.

MORGAN
Hi Van. I know you probably hate me for getting us almost killed and making us do that failed mission where tandem got the stones but I’m planning ANOTHER mission to infiltrate their company Christmas party and steal back the stones and I know it’s going to take a lot to convince you...

VAN
Oh no, that sounds cool. Let’s do it.

MORGAN
Oh... you’re into it? Just like that?

VAN
Sure. Sounds rad.

MORGAN
Huh. You’re not mad about the last mission?

VAN
Nope. It was cool.

MORGAN
Well great then. Man, I should have asked you first.
ACT 2

SFX: Office party noises. Acoustic guitar can be heard playing an Xmas song.

The Holiday party is underway. Funny description of the party to come. A holagram of Lisa Loeb is performing. Morgan is talking to a very nerdy tech guy.

NERD
I mean, my job is in tech, but my passion is film... well, “movies”
I’m not pretentious. I think it’s worth taking a serious look at “popcorn” movies like Jaws or Die Hard.

MORGAN
Uh huh. Well I...

NERD
Hey, speaking of Die Hard, it’s weird that we’re at a Christmas party because Die Hard is ACTUALLY a Christmas movie.

MORGAN
Yeah, I know that.

NERD
I mean I know it LOOKS like a typical shoot-em-up, but it happens ON Christmas and has themes like “family” and “homecoming...”

MITCH
(entering)
Hey guys. What are you talking about?

MORGAN
This guy was telling me about how Die Hard is really a Christmas movie.

MITCH
Oh cool.

The guy continues to talk. Mitch slowly crouches down behind him.
NERD
Lethal Weapon is ALSO set around Christmas, which is a recurring theme for screenwriter Shane Black...

SFX: Shove

NERD (CONT'D)
Hey! Ouch.

Morgan has pushed him over Mitch.

MITCH
Sorry. It was an accident.

MORGAN
Total accident.

NERD
(storming off)
Not cool.

MORGAN
Thanks for the save. I know we’re trying to look natural and mingle, but it’s really tough.

MITCH
Yeah, these people are really hard to talk to.

MORGAN
We’ve only been here five minutes and already I’ve listened to a monologue on how to fold a pocket square and two on the ethics of polyamory.

MITCH
Cool that they got that Lisa Loeb hologram though.

MORGAN
You know, I think that’s technically Lisa Loeb now. She was one of the first celebrities to upload their consciousness so I think she’s a sentient digital being.

MITCH
Oh cool. She still sounds great.
MORGAN
Yeah, for sure.

MITCH
It’s almost stone-stealing time. Where’s Annie?

SFX: Cheering

MORGAN
Looks like she’s under the ice luge having straight vodka poured right into her mouth.

MITCH
Crap. I’ll get her.

ANNIE
Wooo! Oh hell yeah! The guy who plays the brother on Transparent makes a MEAN Vodka!

MITCH
Hey Annie, it’s almost time.

ANNIE
Yeah, time for you to DO. A. SHOT!

MITCH
No, it’s mission time. Morgan scheduled a beer delivery for ten minutes from now. Most of the security will be there supervising so we can slip in back.

ANNIE
Yeah, duh. I know that. I was at the same briefing thing as you were.

MITCH
(whisper yelling) Hey, don’t get wasted.

ANNIE
You are.

MITCH
I’m not! Come on, we need you.

ANNIE
I’m doing what Morgan said, I’m mingling. I’m acting natural. (MORE)
YOU’RE the ones drawing attention to yourselves because you’re at an open-bar party and no one is dumping celebrity vodka into your mouth.

MITCH
We’re all really trying here. Try with us. You’re the whole reason I agreed to come.

ANNIE
Mitch, get over it. We had a bad first date and I made up my mind that we weren’t ever going to be a thing.

MITCH
Well, then why did you agree to the second one?

ANNIE
Because I needed something to do while our internet was getting fixed. It’s weird being in the house while a repair guy is there. Do you make chit-chat with him? Do you offer him a drink? It’s just too fucking stressful.

MITCH
But we made out.

ANNIE
Sorry but making out just isn’t a big deal to me. I do it a lot. It’s like pizza. Something delicious that you can eat five or six times a week.

MITCH
You eat pizza five or six times a week?

ANNIE
Yes Mitch! I am a modern woman and I make out with people when I want to and I eat pizza five or six times a week.

MORGAN
(entering)
Hey what the hell guys? Our window is closing!
ANNIE
Mitch is being a baby because he’s still not over getting ghosted.

MITCH
No I’m not! I’m being a baby because you’re drunk... and like... maybe you could have just called and said you weren’t into it.

MORGAN
Annie! Don’t get drunk when you have something important to do and just call and say you’re not into it!

ANNIE
Why do I have to account for how fucking fragile everyone is? Mitch: If someone doesn’t text you back in a few days, they’re not into it. Morgan: I infiltrate strongholds better when I’ve had a few drinks.

MORGAN
I know you guys are new to missions, but when they include feelings and arguments and shit, they go really wrong.

ANNIE
Right, like I’ve never had to drop everything to hear about Van...

MORGAN
Van. Shit. Where is he?

MITCH
Isn't that him over by the hologram Lisa Loeb?

LISA LOEB
I’m going to take a little break and do some buffering.

SFX: A chuckle from the crowd.

LISA LOEB (CONT’D)
But I wanted to invite on my good friend, social media star Van Joyce to play a few songs.

VAN
Thank’s Lisa Loeb’s hologram!
SFX: Van’s strums the guitar

VAN (CONT’D)
I know Santa is from the North Pole... but I think he vacations in... Margaritaville.

SFX: Cheers

MORGAN
Fuck team-ups. I’m doing this on my own.

Morgan storms off. She looks at her phone. The countdown says 2 minutes. She slumps against a wall and puts her head in her hands. The Lisa Loeb Hologram materializes next to her.

SFX: Hologram materializing

LISA LOEB
Hey, sorry to intrude but I spied a little scuffle from the stage. Everything ok?

MORGAN
What? How did you...

LISA LOEB
I know I’m pure digital energy that exists in the cloud, but I’m still very present.

MORGAN
I just... am in the middle of something really big right now and I thought my friends were going to be able to put their shit aside for one night but no luck.

LISA LOEB
I don’t know if this applies, but I learned a long time ago that you can’t expect people to give more than they have. If you know who someone is, don’t expect something else from them.

MORGAN
Yeah, I guess so.

LISA LOEB
The reason I’ve had so much success as a solo artist is that I know the limits of collaboration.

(MORE)
LISA LOEB (CONT'D)
I like working with people, but sometimes you just have to be the master of your own destiny.

MORGAN
Yeah... I guess you’re right. Thanks Lisa Loeb’s hologram.

LISA LOEB
Please, just call me Lisa Loeb.

ACT 3

SFX: Transition

Morgan is now mastering her own destiny. With the guards distracted by the beer delivery, she’s managed to steal a key card and is making her way deeper and deeper into the Tandem building, buzzing through a series of increasingly imposing doors as she does so.

SFX: Keycards buzzing. Doors opening.

Finally, she reaches a giant, almost empty chamber with four numbered doors and the stone, now joined as one and glowing intensely, floating in a liquid-filled jar.

MORGAN
This is going to take a delicate touch...

She takes out two daggers from her fanny pack and raises them to smash the jar, when from behind her she hears...

BONNIE
There’s my favorite. I see you couldn’t keep your shit-head crew together. Figures. You’ve always been a selfish loner, no matter how much help people try and give you.

MORGAN
Fuck them. And fuck you too Bonnie.

BONNIE
What a disappointment you turned out to be. You can take the girl out of the savage alien wasteland...

MORGAN
Tell me what this is. Tell me what they are or I smash.
BONNIE
(worried)
Okay, don’t smash. It’s very important that you not smash. It’s very dangerous. It changes people, speeds up the mutation process.

MORGAN
Why do you want to change people?

BONNIE
What do you think this whole place is for? Fairhaven and Mission Beach and Founders Circle and all the other bubbles aren’t just “planned communities,” they’re control groups. They’re petri dishes that rich assholes pay to live in.

MORGAN
What do you mean? Mitch and everyone else that’s been changed is part of the plan?

BONNIE
In a way. We’re trying to create predictable, boutique, custom mutations. Imagine if you’re into rock climbing and you could get big crazy claw-feet or you wanted to be like, a magnet person... maybe that’s not the best example, I’m not in marketing.

MORGAN
That’s why the Imp attacks have been so bad lately.

BONNIE
We created a few strategic breeches. We wanted to see what would happen if some of this planet’s natural chemicals were added to the mix. But now that we have the stone...

MORGAN
Wait, you said is was dangerous. How do you know?

BONNIE
Because... it is the thing that killed my parents.

(MORE)
MORGAN
It killed your parents? Why don’t you want to destroy it?

BONNIE
Because that’s too good for it! I don’t want it dead, I want it in chains. I want to cage it and suck its power. That’s what it deserves.

MORGAN
Enough crazy. I’m smashing.

BONNIE
Shame we’re not going to see eye-to-eye on this. I was sure you were going to clean up your act someday. That’s on me I guess. Oh, I brought my special briefcase.

BONNIE (CONT’D)
Yeah, I noticed.

SFX: Robot suit expanding

Bonnie clicks open her case and the robot exo-skeleton fuses to her body. She gets in a fighting stance. But before she can throw down, she hears...

VAN
Time to check out baby!

BONNIE
Hey, there’s that catchphrase I’ve never been nuts about.

MORGAN
Van! Annie! Mitch! You came! You followed through!

ANNIE
Yeah, we were kind of up in the air about it, but the Lisa Loeb hologram convinced us that teamwork was the answer.

MORGAN
Huh. She convinced me that I needed to take care of things for myself.
VAN
She’s versatile, that’s for sure.

ANNIE
Mitch put The Sting on all your guards, so you’re SOL. Time to give up I guess.

VAN
Hey, what are the four numbered doors in here for?

BONNIE
Glad you asked.

SFX: The doors opening

BONNIE (CONT’D)
Maybe you remember Book Club? Three fun Moms who operate as a collective, driven by a ceaseless hunger for more members?

BOOK CLUB
We are Book Club. Soon you will all be book club. We hope you’re game for bottomless mimosas.

SFX: Door opening

BONNIE
And then there’s these beer snobs. Rage-driven tentacle beasts driven mad by the sheer intensity of their opinions.

JULIAN
We will destroy you. Just like DC Comics destroyed its chances of having a successful film universe by giving Zack Snyder creative control.

SFX: Door opening

BONNIE
And then there’s this Standard Guy. He’s a guy who’s like, big and good at fighting.

STANDARD GUY
I’m here too.
MITCH
Hey, what’s behind that other door?

ANNIE
Yeah, was there supposed to be a fourth guy?

BONNIE
What? No. It’s just an extra door.

ANNIE
Uh huh. Sure. Whatever.

BONNIE
It is! This is a multi-purpose chamber. It wasn’t designed specifically for this showdown you know.

MITCH
There’s going to be a showdown?

MORGAN
That’s what I assumed.

MITCH
Cool. I can roll with that.

BONNIE
Well, seems like we’re all on the same page now.

Act 3

In a cavernous room deep inside Tandem HQ, Mitch, Annie, Morgan and Van are facing off against Bonnie in her robot suit, The Book Club, The Beer Snobs and Standard Guy.

MORGAN
(unsure)
Hey, before shit goes down can we like... have a minute.

BONNIE
Take all the time you need.

MORGAN
(sotto voice)
First of all: Thanks for coming back you guys. I know I don’t open up a lot but it means the world that you have my back. I love you.

SFX: hugging
VAN
I’m really glad we’re doing this.

ALL
(They ad lib. “Oh yeah” “Me too” “The best”)

MORGAN
So, we didn’t plan for her having a super-powered fight team.

VAN
I’m glad we’re getting this time to plan ahead. I wonder what the other team is talking about over there?

SFX: Transition

JACK
So basically what people call “pop-punk” now is what we would have called “emo” back in the 90s, but I can’t imagine any of these bands have listened to the seminal band, Rites of Spring...

SFX: Transition

MORGAN
Let’s get a plan going. Van, you were once a part of The Book Club, so you know them best. Can you handle them?

VAN
Totally. Also, Christine and I made love on a few occasions, so there’s a carnal connection there as well.

MORGAN
Van, gross.

ANNIE
Don’t slut shame him. Christine is a gorgeous older woman who looks amazing considering she’s had two kids.

ALL
(They ad lib “Yeah, you’re right” “She looks great” “Pilates? Do you think she does Pilates? “Lifting kids is GREAT for the arms”)}
MORGAN
Mitch, you take care of the beard boys, I’ll get Bonnie...

VAN
Wow, that’s dramatic. Because of your shared history?

MORGAN
Honestly? Just kinda wanted to fight someone in a robot suit. And I guess I could try and get Standard Guy too...

ANNIE
No, let me. Seems like a good chance to try this untested super liquid.

MORGAN
I like your initiative, but have you figured out the amount that will give you powers versus the amount that will give you powers and then kill you?

ANNIE
Nope.

SFX: Annie takes a sip, hulks out
Annies hulks out with giant muscles and strange spiky fur

MORGAN
Okay, we’re ready!

Music: Fight music
Everyone rushes at their intended target. Van fights the book club.

VAN
Have you guys always been so good at fighting?

BOOK CLUB
We’ve retained some of your skills. From when you were a part of book club.
VAN
Oh cool! Actually, now that you mention it, I came out with a lot of positive feelings about Magic Mike XXL, which I’ve never seen.

BOOK CLUB
Join us again Van. Know the true bliss of surrender. Become part of something greater.

VAN
A tempting offer. It was a real load off giving my will to the collective, and you guys are all doing a great job keeping it tight...

BOOK CLUB
Thanks. That’s Pilates.

VAN
I thought that’s what it was! Anyway, it was cool being part of Book Club for awhile, but I’m kind of set with another group right now, and they’re super cool.

Meanwhile, Annie squares off against Standard Guy

ANNIE
(to standard guy)
Here’s a bright side to look on: You’re going to be a lot less in love with me once I kick your ass.

STANDARD GUY
Oh, I’m totally over you.

ANNIE
What? No way.

STANDARD GUY
Oh totally. I don’t think I’m even in the right head space for dating. I just need to concentrate on me for awhile, and my new life as a mutant enforcer for a shadowy Corporatocracy.

ANNIE
Pssh. Whatever. You’re still totally in love with me.
On the other side of the room, Mitch faces down the beer snobs, who’s tentacle beards have grown considerably.

JACK
You know it’s funny we’re having this battle in an office AT Christmas, because Die Hard is actually...

MITCH
Stop. Shut up. We’ve already been through this tonight.

JULIAN
Come on Mitch, why do you fight us?

JOSHUA
We KNOW you have some opinions about the rebooted Star Trek movies.

JACK
Just say it: They totally betray the ethos of the original series.

MITCH
Fellas, I might agree with you on some points, but there’s one reason I’ll never be one of you: I just don’t like IPAs.

JULIAN
Well, maybe not at first, but you have to train your palette!

JOSHUA
You have to learn to appreciate the notes! The notes!

MITCH
Sorry. I’ll always be a Coors Light man.

SFX: The Sting

In the center of the room, Morgan vs. Bonnie. That’s happening.

MORGAN
(fighting)
See, my shit-head crew came back for me.
BONNIE
(fighting)
I’ll give you that. It’s a shame things turned out like this. You could have had a future as a manager.

MORGAN
Oh please. I can’t hear a “join me” speech right now.

BONNIE
Oh don’t worry, we’re WAY past that. Bridge burnt.

Bonnie swings at Morgan who leaps back, but Bonnie’s robot fist snags her fanny pack. She rips it off and flings it across the room.

BONNIE (CONT’D)
I always hated this thing.

MORGAN
It’s practical. It leaves my hands free to beat the shit out of you.

BONNIE
Oh whatever. You’re totally going to loose.

Bonnie is right. The Beer Snobs are all whipping Mitch, who can’t get his aim straight. Standard Guy is wailing on Annie. Book Club has dogpiled on Van.

MORGAN
Shit. Fall back everyone!

ANNIE
I can’t! I’m going to get some more juice!

Annie takes out her vial again but Standard Guy knocks it out of her hands. It rolls over to Mitch who snags it.

MITCH
I’ve got it! I’m going to take it!

MORGAN
Mitch, NO! That’s too much!

SFX: Mitch’s energy tentacles shoot out of the ground

Mitch’s energy tentacles blast out of the ground and knock back all their attackers.
(All react to being blown away)

VAN
Mitch dude! You did it!

ANNIE
Mitch?

MORGAN
Shit! He's hurt. I don't think his body can take all that power.

SFX: The gang run over to Mitch

MORGAN (CONT’D)
Mitch, are you ok?

MITCH
You know what, I don’t think so. Annie, you made this stuff. Am I going to die?

ANNIE
Well... yeah. I think so. I’m so sorry Mitch. You saved us.

VAN
Yeah, way to go out like a total boss.

MITCH
I’m really glad I could help. This has been the best thing I’ve ever been a part of. I’ve got to see tons of alien stuff and become super powered... and I never told you this but when we were in the Brush village, I snuck off into the sex pit and I think I handled myself really well.

ANNIE
Atta boy Mitch.

MITCH
Annie, I’m sorry if I made you feel weird about rejecting me. Honestly, I just really like you and it hurt when you didn’t feel the same. But I should have just been glad that you wanted to hang out with me at all.
ANNIE
It’s okay Mitch. Honestly, you’re the least weird guy in here that I went on two or two and a half Tinder dates with. The other one is a hulking mutant that tried to kill us.

MITCH
That’s really nice of you to say. And Morgan, I know it’s hard for you to let people into your circle. Thanks for finding me and making me a part of this, even though I sucked at first.

MORGAN
No problem buddy.

MITCH
And Van... I think it’s really cool that you like the same shitty bands as me.

VAN
No dude. I like the same AWESOME bands as you.

MITCH
Oh yeah. Cool.

Mitch closes his eyes. On the other side of the chamber, Bonnie has extricated herself from the wreckage of her robo-suit. She spots one of Morgan's throwing knives on the floor and picks it up.

ANNIE
Look out!

Morgan rolls out of the way. The knife smashes into the chamber that holds the stone.

SFX: Knife toss. Glass smashing.

BONNIE
No! It can’t be out of its suspended animation!

ANNIE
Well maybe you shouldn’t be throwing knives around it like an asshole while our friend is dying!

SFX: Floor cracking. Vines growing.
The stone falls to the ground. Instantaneously, a vine bursts through the floor, snatches up the stone and pulls it downward, leaving a massive hole in its wake. Then, a huge stalk rockets out of the ground and bursts through the Tandem ceiling. It continues upwards and smashes though the top of the dome.

SFX: Stalk shooting up, glass shattering, electricity whirring

MORGAN
Holy shit. You can see the sky. Not the projected digital one... but the real, actual sky.

VAN
The Bubble is broken... or burst? One of those works better than the other one.

BONNIE
You idiots have no idea what you’ve just done.

As the gang gazes up through the hole in The Bubble, a flower blooms off the side of the stalk.

SFX: Flower blooming. Gunk spilling on the floor.

It opens up, and spews a naked man onto the ground. He stands up on wobbly legs. The stone glows in his chest. It’s Pastor Doug.

PASTOR DOUG
Oh Lordy. It’s good to be back.

Bonnie’s eyes fill with rage. She rushes at him, but another vine bursts through the floor and knocks her back.

SFX: Vine whacks Bonnie

PASTOR DOUG (CONT’D)
Not back for even a whole minute and already everyone is making with the violence. It’s a shame nothing has changed. I need to rest up. Get my strength back. But don’t worry, soon my arms will be strong enough to hold you close. All of you.

SFX: Vines envelop him and pull him down.

A mess of vines envelops him and pulls him back into the hole. Everyone stands agog.
VAN
(helping Bonnie up)
Hey, I’m not exactly sure what that was... but are we all going to have to team up on this?

BONNIE
Yeah... probably.

MORGAN
Well shit. Someone get me my fucking fanny pack.

Epilogue

SFX: Mitch’s body being heaved onto a table

Bonnie and Morgan drag Mitch’s limp body into a medical room and heave him onto an operating table.

MORGAN (CONT’D)
Is he going to be okay? Please, we need him to be okay.

BONNIE
Well, the bad news is that he’s almost dead. The good news is that “almost.” And the extra bonus good news is that if he doesn’t make it, I can get you a nice employee discount on another one.

She flicks on a light, illuminating the room. We see a dozen of fluid-filled chambers with a dozen sleeping Mitch’s floating inside.