

ZATHURA

1 EXT A BACK YARD DAY

1 *

DANNY BUDWING, six and three-quarters years old, sits cross-legged on the grass, staring to his left. He turns and looks to his right. Then his left. Then his right.

Sound creeps in and we hear the THWACK of ball on leather on each head turn. Danny follows the thwacks like a tennis match, left, right, left, right.

From behind Danny, we see what he sees -- DAD, in his late thirties, well okay, forty, and WALTER, Danny's nine year old brother. They both know baseball, that's for sure, healthy arms, good with the glove. They don't drop any.

Danny keeps watching -- left, right, left, right. He sighs, rests his chin on one hand. We move in tighter on his face, tighter still, that annoying "THWACK!" getting louder and louder, the high-spirited yells of his father and brother ("Nice catch!" "Great throw!" "Way to go!") rising up specifically to bug the crap out of him.

When he's all the way in close-up, Danny mutters the essence of his six year old viewpoint on life:

DANNY

Stupid game.

From offscreen comes his father's voice.

DAD (O.S.)

Okay, Danny, you're up!

*

WALTER

I didn't get my whole turn!

DAD

Yeah, I counted, that was twenty-five. That's what we said.

WALTER

That's not fair!

DAD

It's exactly fair. Come on, Danny, time for your turn and then I gotta work for an hour.

DANNY

Walter can have my turn.

WALTER

Hey yeah!

DAD

Hey no.

WALTER

He said!

DAD

Come on, Dan, let's just try a couple.

Danny sighs and picks up his glove. He marches across the grass of their modest back yard as to the gallows, passing his sweaty, athletic brother, who gives him a look.

Danny reaches the middle of the grass and pushes the glove gamely onto his hand. He hits it a few times, stares in his dad's direction. Takes a deep breath.

Dad tosses him one underhand, gently.

Danny closes his eyes, turns his head away, and hears the ball THUD to the grass. He looks back, sees the ball resting by his feet.

DAD (cont'd)

Almost! Good try!

Walter just barely begins to roll his eyes, but Dad catches him, holds out a finger in warning.

DAD (cont'd)

Uh uh.

Walter makes an innocent face. But Danny knows the score. He picks up the ball and throws it back to his dad, gets it almost all the way there.

DAD (cont'd)

Ready? Watch the ball, not me.

Danny nods, but keeps staring at his father.

DAD (cont'd)

Danny? The ball, Dan, not me.

Danny looks down, stares at the ball hard, Superman using x-ray vision.

Dad tosses another underhand one, puts a little more on it. This one sails higher, Danny looks up, raises his glove, closes just one eye this time and the ball actually hits his glove, he opens his other eye in excitement, but the ball bounces off his glove and falls behind him --

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

-- where it's caught by a diving Walter, who has leapt in from the side. He rolls on the grass, holding the glove over his head, a spectacular snow-cone grab.

DANNY

(furious)

WALTER!

Danny hurls his glove at Walter as hard as he can, it hits his brother in the head.

WALTER

DAAAAD!

DAD

Danny...

But Danny storms off across the yard and into their house, a beautiful old arts and crafts place that's seen better days, but could be wonderfully cozy again, with a little TLC. Dad sighs and looks at Walter -- did you have to do that? *

WALTER

What?

CUT TO:

2 INT HOUSE - ENTRYWAY DAY 2 *

Danny storms into the house and SLAMS the front door behind him. The living room is just off the entryway, which has an open central area that leads up to a beautiful skylight in the roof. *

Danny THUMP THUMP THUMPS up the stairs, comes out on the -- *

3 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 3 *

-- second floor landing, and STOMPS down the hall. *

4 INT HOUSE - ENTRYWAY DAY 4 *

Dad comes into the house a few seconds later. *

DAD

Danny? *

No answer. He starts up the stairs to the second floor. *

5 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 5 *

Dad comes up onto the second floor and starts down the hallway, toward a bedroom at the end of the hall. *

But then he stops, backs up a few steps, to something he passed. *
It's a small door in the wall, at about waist height (for an *
adult), looks like a laundry chute. *

The door's an old wooden one, nicely carved, freckled with round *
holes, vents that let in light and air from the landing. *

Dad pulls the door open, revealing Danny, who's scrunched up in *
the wooden box suspended inside the space, which is actually an *
old dumbwaiter. *

Danny's got his knees pulled up to his chest and is sucking his *
thumb, but he whips the offending digit out of his mouth when he *
sees his dad. *

DAD *

You know you're not supposed to play in *
here. *

DANNY *

I'm not playing. Playing is when *
you're having fun. *

Dad squats, so he and Danny are at eye level. *

DAD *

You know, when I was six years old I- *

DANNY *

Six and three quarters. *

DAD *

When I was six and three quarters, *
catching was hard for me too. *

DANNY *

It's not hard for Walter. *

DAD *

Walter is nine. *

DANNY *

So? He's still better. I hate being *
small. *

DAD *

I was small when I was your age too, *
and now look at me. I'm taller than *
both my brothers. In fact, I- *

Sick of that old story, Danny launches himself out of the *
dumbwaiter and takes off down the hall, toward his room. *

6 INT HOUSE - DANNY & WALTER'S BEDROOM DAY 6 *

This is the bedroom of two imaginative, busy kids. The walls are covered with posters, on one side, basketball players and athletes, on the other it's heavy on fantasy themes. They moved in fairly recently, maybe a couple months ago. Not everything is unpacked, but nearly so. *

Danny flies in and flounces face-down on the bed. Dad's not far behind. *

DAD *

Look, Danny, you and Walter are *different*. He's good at some things, and you're good at some things. That's how people are. *

DANNY *

He beats me at *everything*. *

DAD *

Listen to me, because this is important. You know how you always make up games and pretend to be characters and stuff? You have an incredible imagination. *

7 INT HALLWAY DAY 7

Just outside the door to the bedroom, Walter lurks, listening to them and licking a popsicle.

DAD (O.S.) *

(still to Danny)
A *great* imagination. A whole universe of an imagination. *

8 INT BEDROOM DAY 8 *

Danny sits up and looks at Dad. *

DANNY *

Is it better than Walter's? *

9 INT HALLWAY DAY 9

In the hallway, Walter stops mid-lick, listening intently for the answer to that one.

DAD (O.S.)

What?

10 INT BEDROOM DAY 10

Danny persists.

DANNY

Is my imagination better than Walter's?

Dad smiles and lowers his forehead against Danny's.

11 INT HALLWAY DAY 11

Walter leans in closer, straining to hear.

12 INT BEDROOM DAY 12

DAD

(whispers to Danny)

You're different than Walter. *

13 INT HALLWAY DAY 13

Walter, frustrated, couldn't hear.

14 INT BEDROOM DAY 14

DANNY

See? I'm not better at *anything*.

He flops back down on the bed facing away.

DAD

You're not still mad, I can tell.

Danny sits up, looks at him.

DANNY

I won't be mad if we play Smash Brothers.

DAD

I have to work.

DANNY

Okay, read to me.

He thrusts a book at Dad.

DAD

I have to work.

Danny flops back down with panache.

15 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

15

Dad comes down the stairs and into the living room, just as a football flies at his head. He manages to catch it.

DAD

Don't do that. *

Walter, who threw the football, is in a chair facing the TV, which is tuned to his favorite show, SportsCenter. *

Walter's finished his popsicle and is drinking a big glass of red fruit punch.

WALTER

Wanna play catch?

DAD

We already did.

WALTER

No, *football* catch.

DAD

I have to work for an hour.

WALTER

(sacrilege)
But it's Saturday!

The phone RINGS in the other room.

DAD

Tell me about it.

He tosses the football back to Walter and walks into --

16 INT OFFICE DAY

16

-- his office, a small room off the living room. He drops down at his desk, where an array of art supplies is laid out, an ad layout in progress. Walter's behind him, in the doorway.

WALTER

All you ever do is work.

DAD

Nice try.
(answers phone)
Hello?

WALTER

This is *so* unfair.

DAD

(into phone)

Hi. Yeah, can you hang on just one second? Thanks.

(to Walter, covering the phone)

I have a meeting this afternoon, Walter, and I have to be ready. Nothing I can do about it.

WALTER

(double sacrilege)

You're going out?!

DAD

I'm going to a meeting. You'll already be at Mom's, she's picking you up at three.

WALTER

(confused)

We go to Mom's tomorrow.

DAD

No, today.

(into phone)

Just one more second, okay?

WALTER

But this is a four-day Dad week.

DAD

(fast)

No, three-day Dad week. Four-day last week, four-day next week, three-day this week. Four-day Mom's house this week.

Walter sets his glass down dramatically.

WALTER

That's not fair!

DAD

(thinks)

To whom?

WALTER

To anybody.

DAD

(into phone)

I'm sorry, Howard, can I call you right back? Two minutes. Thanks.

*
*
*
*

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

He hangs up and slides his chair across the floor, gliding to a stop in front of Walter. He holds his son by the arms. *

DAD (cont'd) *

Walter, I love you. And no, it isn't fair, to anyone. But you have got to learn another sentence.

WALTER

Do you want to play catch?

DAD

Have I expressed my need to work? *

17 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

17

Danny has come down the stairs and wandered over near the door to the office. He lurks outside, listening.

WALTER (O.S.)

Ten throws.

DAD (O.S.)

I have to work!

Danny leans closer, outside the door, listening hard. Almost unconsciously, he puts his thumb back in his mouth. *

WALTER (O.S.) *

How about five throws? *

18 INT OFFICE DAY

18 *

Walter throws the football to Dad, who catches it instinctively.

DAD

I... let me see, how can I put this? *

Have to work.

Danny appears in the doorway, holding up two Nintendo remotes, their cords dragging behind him.

DANNY

Dad, I'm ready for Smash Brothers. *

WALTER

(an overreacter)
What?! You told him you'd play Smash Brothers?!

DAD

No, I didn't.

He throws the football back to Walter, to be done with it. He is attempting to keep his patience. Walter catches the ball and Danny points hysterically at this outrage.

DANNY

You're playing catch with Walter!

DAD

(rubbing his head)

Guys...

WALTER

He might, if you weren't here!

DANNY

(to Walter)

YOU ARE SO MEAN!

(to God)

EVERYBODY WANTS TO RUIN MY LIFE!

DAD

Guys, please...

WALTER

(to Dad)

You never keep your promises!

DANNY

(to Dad)

ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS WALTER!

Dad finally snaps.

DAD

THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME! Okay?! I don't like this situation either, it sucks, is what it does, but it's the best we could come up with, so climb off my back and give me about two inches of space, will you please?!

They both just stare at him, wide-eyed. Walter sets the football down on a bookcase, as if to apologize for pushing so hard. Danny drops the remotes, starts to put his thumb in his mouth but catches himself and drops his arms to his sides, his lower lip quivering.

Dad feels horrible. He sits back down and stares out the window, takes a breath. When he starts talking he's still facing away from them. He talks softly.

DAD (cont'd)

Do you boys remember the time I ate that bad chicken they keep under the lights at the supermarket and I was sick all night throwing up?

(they nod)

And the next morning we had to get on the plane to go to Grandma's and Lisa and Mom were off looking at colleges and I was still so sick I could barely stand up?

More nods. He turns around and faces them now.

DAD (cont'd)

Remember before we left, when I told you guys I needed you to grow up a few years, right then in that very moment, so that you could help me on the trip instead of me helping you? Otherwise we wouldn't make it?

(more nods)

Remember what happened?

Pause. Danny and Walter look at each other.

DANNY

We grew up?

DAD

There are some days, guys, when you gotta grow up all at once. I need today to be one of those days.

CUT TO:

19 INT BEDROOM DAY

19

SLAM! The door to their bedroom closes and Walter and Danny flop down on opposite sides. Bored. Mad. Long pause.

*

DANNY

Do you want to play Chutes and Ladders?

*

WALTER

No. You'll cheat.

DANNY

Stratego?

WALTER

You cheat at board games, Danny.

19 CONTINUED:

19

DANNY

You can't cheat at Stratego!

*
*

WALTER

You'd find a way.

*
*

20 INT OFFICE DAY

20

Dad drops back into his office chair. Rubs his face with his hands. Picks up the phone and dials.

DAD

Hi, sorry about that.

(pause)

No no, it's fine, I'm not meeting him till three-thirty, I can finish by then.

21 INT BEDROOM DAY

21

Danny, back to us, is rummaging through a toy chest, tossing out boring stuff, looking for good. He comes up with two expensive-looking walkie-talkies. He turns one on, static comes out.

*
*

WALTER

Excuse me, could you please put those back right now this minute? They belong to me.

DANNY

You never play with them.

WALTER

They're still mine.

*

DANNY

When did you get so mean?

WALTER

I'm not mean, Danny. I'm in third grade, I have a girlfriend. You know how Dad said we have to grow up? Well, this is what it looks like.

Danny holds out one of the walkie-talkies invitingly.

DANNY

Play army guy?

*

Walter heaves a theatrical sigh and takes the radio.

CUT TO:

22 INT OFFICE DAY

22

Dad is shuffling through the layout materials on his desk, talking on the phone.

DAD

We might want to allude to it in the copy, but the shot plays so strong I wouldn't-

There is an angry SHRIEK from upstairs. He looks up at the ceiling.

DAD (cont'd)

So strong I wouldn't want to, uh...

Still from upstairs, he hears the bedroom door BANG open --

WALTER (O.S.)

DAAAAAAD!

-- and feet THUDDING on the stairs.

DAD

(trying to wrap up fast)
...we'd be foolish to change at the eleventh hour. Uh, can I call you back one more time real quick? Small domestic emergency here. No, I know. I know. Not a problem. Okay. Okay. Thanks.

He hangs up the phone just as the door to the office bursts open to reveal Walter, holding one of his walkie-talkies in his hand. He displays its newly broken antenna like a prosecutor showing a murder weapon.

WALTER

LOOK what he did!

DAD

I was on the phone.

WALTER

He breaks *everything!*

Danny is behind him, hands shoved in pockets, ashamed.

DANNY

... was an accident...

WALTER

He is *such* a baby!

DAD

Walter...

DANNY

I'm NOT a baby!

WALTER

He breaks all my stuff --

DANNY

... said it was an *accident*...

WALTER

-- he can't catch a ball --

DAD

That's enough.

WALTER

(whirling on Danny with a
flourish)

And he still sucks his thumb!

DANNY

YOU SHUT UP!

Livid, Danny grabs Walter's football from the bookcase next to the door and hurls it at Walter's head as hard as he can. Walter ducks --

-- Dad's eyes pop wide, he lunges for it --

-- but the ball sails past his outstretched fingertips, SMACKS into the glass of red fruit punch Walter left on the desk --

-- *and spills all over the layout.*

Dad leaps to his feet.

Walter GASPS.

Danny's face turns white.

DANNY (cont'd)

I'm sorry!

(no reply)

I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry

I'm sorry I'm sorry!

Dad doesn't reply, just stares down at the desk, defeated, as the ruby-red fruit drink seeps into the layout materials.

CUT TO:

23 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

23

Walter and Danny sit next to each other in the middle of the couch, watching guiltily as Dad pulls on his jacket, gets his wallet and keys, etc.

DAD

It's ten minutes to the office, I just have to grab the duplicates from the art department and I'll come right back.

DANNY

You're gonna leave us alone in this creepy old house?

DAD

It's not creepy, it's just old.

WALTER

Why'd we have to move here, anyway?

DAD

Potential. This place is gonna be fantastic.

WALTER

I like Mom's house better.

DAD

Well, so did she, and now it's hers.

He catches himself, some bitterness crept through. He softens. *

DAD (cont'd)

Look, Mom's house needed even more work when we first moved in. I fixed that one up, and I'm gonna fix this one. Look at that stained glass skylight, must be a hundred and fifty years old. All the woodwork... I love this place, I wouldn't pick any other house in town. *

DANNY

Well we don't want to stay in it alone.

DAD

You won't be. I'll wake Lisa.

23 CONTINUED:

23

DANNY
 NOOO!
 WALTER
 Are you crazy?!

*

CUT TO:

24 INT LISA'S ROOM DAY

24

LISA is sixteen, pretty, and snappish, even while sleeping.
 Which she is right now. Only a fool would wake her up.

*

DAD
 Lisa, wake up.

He hurries into her bedroom and throws open the curtains.

DAD (cont'd)
 I need you to watch your brothers.

Lisa rolls over and looks at him through one open eye.

LISA
 What time is it?

DAD
 Quarter to two. You've been asleep for
 fourteen hours.

LISA
 Don't you have anything better to do
 than sit around and time how long I
 sleep?

DAD
 (will not be drawn in)
 I have to go out for half an hour.

LISA
 I can't help you. I have a date in six
 hours.

*

*

DAD
 Look, I'm not asking you to enrich the
 boys' lives in any way, just keep an
 eye on them and make sure they don't
 set the place on fire. Okay?

*

(no reply)
 Okay?

LISA
 I'm not deaf.

DAD

Thank you.

He walks out. Lisa gets out of bed. She goes to the window and regards the beautiful day. Below, she sees Dad come out the front door and walk towards his car. She yawns --

-- and yanks the drapes shut. She grabs her Sony MP3 player, puts on her Sony noise-reducing headphones and a Sony sleep shade. She flounces back under the covers, rolls over and faces the wall. *

CUT TO:

25 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 25

Danny and Walter are on the couch in the living room. Alone now. Walter gets up, flops into the chair in front of the TV and flicks it on, right back to SportsCenter. *

Danny stares at him.

DANNY

All you care about is TV.

In response, Walter holds the remote out and turns up the volume. Danny sighs. *

26 INT BEDROOM DAY 26 *

Danny's rummaging again. He's bent over the big chest, toys flying out left and right.

27 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 27

Danny comes back into the living room with two baseball gloves and a ball. He drops them on the floor in front of him. He stands there, hoping Walter will notice him. Walter doesn't.

DANNY

How 'bout if you and me play catch?

WALTER

(eyes on TV)
You and I. And no.

Danny still stands there, frustrated. Waiting for Walter to look at him.

But Walter won't.

Danny picks up the ball and tosses it gently into the chair next to Walter.

27 CONTINUED:

27

Never taking his eyes off the TV, Walter picks it up and drops it on the carpet, rolling it almost back to Danny in a most uncatchlike manner.

Undeterred, Danny picks it up. He tosses it again, a little bit harder. Walter sees it coming and takes his eyes off the tube just long enough to catch it. Again, he drops it on the carpet.

Danny marches forward and picks it up again, goes back to where he was. He looks at Walter, frustrated.

Walter just stares at the TV, eyes glazing over.

The baseball hits Walter in the head.

WALTER (cont'd)

OW!

DANNY

I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!

*

WALTER

You're DEAD, you little fungus!

Danny takes off. Walter bolts out of the chair.

Danny races up the stairs two at a time and runs down the upstairs hallway.

Walter covers the stairs three at a time and closes in.

28 INT BEDROOM DAY

28

Danny runs into their bedroom and slams the door behind him. There's no lock so he pushes against it as hard as he can.

But Walter's right behind him, now he's pushing on the other side of the door.

WALTER

Open up, Danny! You're only making it worse!

He's shoving, Danny's shoving back, but it's a losing proposition, Walter is stronger and heavier and the door's coming open so --

-- Danny jumps back, hiding behind it as it swings open. Walter tumbles into the room and Danny races around the door and out into the hallway. Walter gets up and chases after him.

*

*

29 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 29 *

Walter races out of the bedroom and into the hallway. No Danny. That's weird. How could he have gone so far so fast? *

30 INT DUMBWAITER DAY 30 *

Inside the dumbwaiter, Danny is curled up in a ball, knees to his chest, trying not to breathe hard. Through the vent holes in the wooden door, we can see the hallway outside, and Walter approaching. *

WALTER (O.S.) *

Daaaaannnyyyy... *

Danny holds his breath as Walter draws closer -- *

WALTER (O.S.) (cont'd) *

Don't worry, Danny. I'm not going to hurt you. *

-- and exhales as Walter walks right past. *

WALTER (O.S.) (CONT'D) *

(voice fading) *

I'm only going to -- *

The door of the dumbwaiter suddenly flies open and Walter's face is right in front of Danny's, grinning with malicious glee. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

-- KILL YOU! *

Danny SCREAMS. *

Walter, eyes gleaming, spies a rope that hangs alongside the dumbwaiter. The rope is stretched tight, looped around a pulley that's fastened to the wall. Walter grabs hold of the rope and starts pulling down on it, hand over hand. *

Immediately, the wooden box that Danny's curled into starts to descend. *

DANNY *

NO! DON'T! *

But he's already out of sight, as Walter is pulling on the rope like a madman, lowering Danny down, down, down... *

DANNY (O.S.) (CONT'D) *

WALTER DON'T DON'T PULL ME UP PULL ME UP! *

30 CONTINUED:

30

WALTER

What's the matter, Danny? You're not
still scared of the *basement*, are you?!

31 INT DUMBWAITER - MOVING DOWN CHUTE DAY 31 *

It's *much* darker in the dumbwaiter when it's lowering down the
chute, and Danny is terrified as the thing jiggles and rocks and
drops toward the basement.

DANNY

WAAAAALLLTERRR!

32 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE DAY 32 *

Seen from below, inside the dumbwaiter chute, Walter leans his
head in from above and shouts down at us.

WALTER

Three year olds are scared of
basements!

33 INT DUMBWAITER DAY 33 *

The dumbwaiter CLUNKS to a halt and Danny is in almost total
darkness. He's frozen, eyes wide. For some reason, he
whispers.

DANNY

walter? pull me up, walter!

34 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 34 *

Walter SLAMS the door on the dumbwaiter and heads back
downstairs.

35 INT DUMBWAITER - IN THE BASEMENT DAY 35 *

Danny, panicked, SLAMS open the door of the dumbwaiter, hurls
himself out of it --

36 INT BASEMENT DAY 36 *

-- and lands on the floor of the basement. The only light
coming in is a few wayward beams through the crack in the storm
cellar doors, not nearly enough to light the whole creepy place.
And it *is* creepy, looks like they inherited a bunch of junk from
sixty or seventy years of previous owners who didn't feel like
clearing it out. There's stuff piled everywhere.

Danny hits the floor running, takes off across the basement,
leaping up to grab the hanging chain from a light bulb.

As the bulb splashes swinging light on the basement, we see
 Danny's headed for three steps at the far end that lead to a
 closed door, presumably to upstairs.

But in the darkness he trips over a pile of junk and OOPS to the
 cement floor in pain at the base of the bottom step.

And despite wanting to get the heck out of there, his curiosity
 is aroused -- because there's something *under* the stair step,
 something that was shoved there a long long time ago.

It's a handsome handmade wooden box, must be about fifty years
 old, and as the swinging light bulb passes back and forth behind
 him, it throws crazy rays of light along carved letters on the
 edge of the box that read

ZATHURA
 A Space Adventure

Danny grabs the box, shoves it under one arm, throws the door
 open and darts up the stairs as fast as he can and SLAMS the
 door at the top behind him, leaving the basement behind.

CUT TO:

37

37 *

38 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

38 *

Walter is slumped in the chair in front of the television,
 watching his show again. Danny comes into the living room,
 carrying the wooden box and a scowl for Walter.

DANNY

You're mean.

WALTER

You're a midget.

And that just about sums it up. Danny drops down cross-legged
 on the carpet by the window and looks at his treasure. The
 cover of the box is carved with space stuff, old school rockets
 and starfields. He opens it.

The game sort of unfolds before him, its design decidedly retro,
 an early fifties look. Everything is well-worn. Printed on the
 inside of the box in large letters it says "The Rules," but
 Danny doesn't bother reading them.

DANNY

Hey. Look what I found in the
 basement.

Walter cranes around from his chair and looks at the game, a bored expression on his face. *

WALTER *
Looks dumb and old. *

DANNY *
I like it. *

WALTER *
You would. It's for babies. *

He turns back to the TV. *

Danny frowns and looks back at the board. It's a starfield, like on the front of the box, with a path of colored squares leading to a large black planet labelled "Zathura." There's no dice, instead there's a skate key that winds up a crank, and a spinning number dial next to it. *

Danny looks through the game pieces, which are different colored rocket ships. He picks the red ship. *

DANNY *
First one to the black planet wins, I *
guess. *
(to Walter)
Will you play with me?

WALTER *
(eyes on TV)
Of course not.

DANNY *
I won't cheat.

WALTER *
Yes you will.

Danny sighs and looks at the board again. Earth looks like the starting spot, and there's a mechanical track that runs off from there, so he takes his red space ship and CLICKS it into place on the track. *

He cranks the skate key, punches the button, and the number tumbler spins, stopping on a four. *

Danny reaches out to move the rocket ship, but it starts moving by itself, KA-CHUNKING ahead four spaces. *

DANNY *
Cool!

When the ship reaches the fourth square, a buzzing sound comes from the board. *

Danny's eyes widen as a small white card pops out of the edge right in front of him with a smart little CLICK. *

DANNY (cont'd) *

This is awesome. *

Walter ignores him. Danny takes the card and looks at it. It has a big Z on one side, words on the other. Danny furrows his brow. Tries reading it.

DANNY (cont'd)

"Meet... meaty... meeter shoe... meat or shoe..."

OVER WITH WALTER,

his view of the television is suddenly blocked by Danny's face. *

DANNY (cont'd)

Read this for me?

Walter sighs and takes the card. *

WALTER

"Meteor shower, take evasive action."

DANNY

What's "evasive action?"

WALTER

It's when you get out of the way of something.

Danny looks around, takes one step to the side. Looks around again.

DANNY

What exactly am I supposed to get out of the way of exactly?

WALTER

I don't know, all it says is-

He looks back at the card for further information, but stops mid-sentence. There's a small, smoking hole right in the middle of the card.

WALTER (cont'd)

Huh?

He bends down and peers more closely at the hole. Through it, he can see another hole, also small, also smoking, in the floor between his feet.

He looks up, sees a matching hole in the ceiling directly above the card.

WALTER (cont'd)

Oh... wow.

Up above them, they hear a RAT-A-TAT sound on the roof.

WALTER (cont'd)

It's a hail storm!

DANNY

It's not hail!

He grabs the card and waves it in front of him.

DANNY (cont'd)

IT'S METEORS!

BAM! BAM!

There are two sharp raps on the roof, then --

BAMBAMBAMBAMBAMBAM!

-- a furious POUNDING, like a thousand golf balls hammering down on them. Danny and Walter SHOUT to one another, but their words are lost under the cacophony.

39 INT LISA'S ROOM DAY 39

We can hear the POUNDING in Lisa's room too. But Lisa is in the isolation tank, sleep shade on, headphones blaring. Still, she must sense it, because she reaches down, spins the wheel on her MP3 player, and cranks the music even louder. *

40 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 40

The skies outside the window suddenly go dark, plunging the room into gloom. Walter stumbles to the wall and flicks a light switch.

ZZZZZZZZ-CRASH!

A golf-ball sized meteor SMASHES through the ceiling, BLASTS right through the coffee table in front of Danny, and CRUNCHES through the floor below it, burrowing deep out of sight.

Danny leaps back.

DANNY
TAKE ERASIVE ACTION, TAKE ERASIVE
ACTION!

He does, which consists of running around in circles.

But it doesn't seem to be a bad plan, as one golf-ball sized meteor after another SMASHES through the ceiling and craters in the floor. They seem to be landing right behind Danny no matter where he goes.

Walter staggers backwards, bumps into the TV set (which is still on), leaning against it for support.

Above them, a low whistle rises higher and higher, sounds a lot like a falling bomb. Walter looks up in horror; Danny, still leaping around the room, looks up too, through the beautiful stained glass skylight above them.

The whistle gets louder and louder, a dark shape approaches fast, and --

-- a huge meteor, six feet across, shatters the skylight into a million pieces!

The meteor plummets downward into the house at an angle, SMASHES through the wall that divides the living room from the foyer, and Danny and Walter leap out of the way as it crushes the television. Actually, "pulverizes" is more accurate, it turns SportsCenter into so much sports dust. *

Walter and Danny land on the living room floor a few feet on either side of the crater. Everything goes quiet as the meteor shower stops and the dust settles. They sit up, chests heaving.

DANNY (cont'd)
Told you. Meteors.

In shock, Walter looks at the giant meteor that is now buried in their floor. He looks up, through the jagged hole in the foyer ceiling where the skylight used to be. Outside, there's a night sky, brilliantly dotted with starlight.

WALTER
Dad is gonna kill us!

He looks around at the other windows, notices there are starfields outside them too.

WALTER (cont'd)
How'd it get so dark so fast?

Danny looks up too.

DANNY

Wow. *Outer space!*

WALTER

It's not outer space, Danny. It's nighttime.

DANNY

I don't know, Walter. Night never looked so... *close* before.

WALTER

We must have got knocked out or something. We got turned unconscious for a while and now it's night, and that's what happened.

DANNY

(still looking out the windows)
I don't think so...

WALTER

What are we gonna tell Dad?

DANNY

The truth! The game did it!

WALTER

Your game?

DANNY

It's not *my* game.

WALTER

Well it isn't mine!

DANNY

I'm gettin rid of it!

Quickly, he shoves all the pieces back in the box and SLAMS it shut.

41 INT GAME CLOSET NIGHT

41

The door is yanked open on one of those jam-packed toy closets everybody had as a kid. The walls are stacked floor to ceiling with stuff, on whole wall of board games -- Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, Life, Candyland, Snail Pace Race.

Danny shoves the Zathura box into the middle of the stack, flicks out the light and SLAMS the door.

42 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 42

Danny and Walter are back in the living room, standing on either side of the big meteor buried in their floor. *

WALTER
Okay, then.

DANNY
Okay.

WALTER
That's over with.

DANNY
Yep. *

WALTER
How long did Dad say he'd be gone again?

DANNY
Half an hour.

WALTER
Okay, so we tell him there was this big meteor and it hit us and we got knocked out and that's what happened. Right?

DANNY
Right.
(pause)
I have a question.

WALTER
What?

DANNY
If he said half an hour, and it's nighttime now... where is he?

Walter doesn't have an answer for that one.

DANNY (cont'd)
Or... where are we?

Slowly, they both turn and look at the front door. *

43 EXT FRONT PORCH NIGHT 43 *

The front door opens and they step out onto the front porch, but there's no outside there anymore. At least, not the one they expected. *

It's as if the front porch opens up directly on the outer reaches of the solar system, like the view screen of a spaceship, if they had such things. The planet Saturn is clearly visible ahead of them, its icy, brilliantly colored rings lit up like a billion jewels. *

Walter's jaw drops and he teeters on the edge of the front steps. Danny reaches out and grabs his belt, pulling him back up. They stand there, staring in amazement. *

As they watch, Saturn draws closer, they travel through the jade-colored crystals of its outermost ring. *

WALTER

H-How did we get here?!

DANNY

(shrugs)

Some sorta space engine.

WALTER

How come we can breathe?

DANNY

(shrugs)

Some sorta space air.

WALTER

What are we gonna eat?

DANNY

(shrugs)

Some sorta space nuggets. *

WALTER

This isn't a dream, is it? This is really happening. *

DANNY

Well, duh.

Walter turns and looks back inside at the wrecked house with new awe. *

WALTER

We are in *so* much trouble.

(an idea)

We gotta call Dad!

CUT TO: *

44 INT HOUSE NIGHT

44 *

Walter snatches the phone, but of course there's no dial tone. *

WALTER

It doesn't work!

*

DANNY

Well, duh.

WALTER

Should I get Lisa?

DANNY

Don't you think we have enough problems?

WALTER

This is really happening!

*

Danny sighs and sits down, waiting for Walter to go through whatever it is he's got to go through.

DANNY

Let me know when you're ready to do what we have to do, Walter.

WALTER

Do?

DANNY

How do you think we're gonna get home?

*

WALTER

I don't know.

DANNY

Well, what got us here?

WALTER

No, we can't... we can't...

(thinks)

We have to-

(thinks some more)

We have to-

He can't come up with anything. Finally facing facts --

45 INT GAME CLOSET DAY

45

-- the door on the game closet opens slowly, spilling light on the Zathura box. Danny and Walter stand outside staring in, backlit by the bright light from the hall.

WALTER

We have to play your stupid game.

CUT TO:

46 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 46

CLOSE ON a big black blob, the drawing on the game board that represents the planet Zathura. *

WALTER *

(reading) *

"Turn crank until tight. Press button to Spin Spin-O-Matic. Move number of spaces indicated." *

Pulling back slowly from it, we find Danny and Walter, sitting cross-legged on either side of the game board. Walter is leaning over the open box, reading the rules that are printed on one side of the flip-top cover. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

"First player to Zathura wins. Once the game has begun it will not end until there is a winner." *

Danny cranks the crank a few times and gestures to Walter to push the button. *

DANNY *

Guess you'd better go, then. *

Walter reaches out to the button, transfixed, then seems to snap out of it and sits back. *

WALTER *

Wait a minute, this is crazy. You expect me to believe that just because you started this stupid board game, just because of that our house, I mean, I'm talking about a HOUSE, Danny, for God's sake, that it's somehow flying through OUTER SPACE toward a planet called ZATHURA? And you ALSO expect me to believe that the only way we can get ourselves and this FLYING HOUSE of ours back home is if we keep playing and move these dumb, cheap little GAME PIECES around this dumb, cheap little GAME BOARD and THAT will get us home? You expect me to believe THAT?!

DANNY

Yes.

Walter stares at him for a moment --

WALTER

Okay, I'm red. *

-- and reaches out for one of the rocket ships. *

DANNY

No, I'm red. *

WALTER

All right, I'll be blue. *

DANNY

Your go.

Walter CLICKS the blue ship into place on the starting spot. *
He looks over his shoulder at the planet Neptune, approaching *
through the windows. He shakes his head, one last moment of *
disbelief, then starts to crank up the key. *

But he notices the look Danny's giving him. *

WALTER

What are you smiling at? *

DANNY

You're playing a game with me, Walter.

WALTER

Just don't try to cheat. Even in *
space, I don't like being cheated on. *

Walter hits the button. The Spin-O-Matic spins, slowing to a *
stop on the number -- *

DANNY

Ten. Figures. You're gonna win, you *
always win. *

Walter reaches out to move his ship, but the board takes over, *
WHIRRING and CLICKING as it moves his rocket ahead ten spaces, *
landing on a blue square. *

The board BUZZES and a card pops out in front of him. Walter *
takes it. He holds his breath and moves it sloooowwwly up in *
front of his eyes, cradles it in the palm of his hand, lays eyes *
on it --

-- AND SCREAMS AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS!

Danny leaps to his feet.

DANNY (cont'd)
WHAT WHAT WHAT?!?!?! *

WALTER
I'm just yankin ya.

DANNY
(sits back down)
You are *so* not hilarious. What does it say?

WALTER
(reading)
"Your robot is defective."

From the hallway outside comes the sound of rattling metal and a steady CLANK CLANK CLANK.

Both boys leap to their feet, staring at the source of the sound. A shadow falls on the floor in the hallway, growing larger. It's a very scary shadow, all hyperextended arms and claws, and it's growing, growing --

WALTER (cont'd)
DANNY!

DANNY
WALTER!

-- growing, growing --

WALTER
WHAT?!

DANNY
I DON'T KNOW!

WALTER
ME NEITHER!

-- they grab onto each other as the shadow completely fills the hallway outside the door, this thing must be absolutely --

-- well, turns out it's tiny. A shiny metal robot about a foot tall rolls into the doorway and stops.

Danny and Walter laugh in relief.

WALTER (cont'd)
It's just a toy.

The robot's upper body rotates toward them. Its eyes light up, faint red search beams come on and scan the room. The beams pass over Danny without stopping, but then they fall on Walter and fixate --

-- on the card he still holds in his hands.

ROBOT

EMERGENCY.

Walter drops the card as if it were on fire.

WALTER

No no!

ROBOT

EMERGENCY.

WALTER

No it isn't! There's no emergency!

ROBOT

ALIEN LIFE FORM. ALIEN LIFE FORM.

DANNY

Walter, he's talking about you.

ROBOT

MUST DESTROY.

Suddenly the robot begins to *grow*, fast, the best transformer you've ever seen. Its lower section extends, its arms telescope out, twenty-four additional layers of metal shielding WHIP-WHAP-WHIP around its midsection, its head quadruples in size, whole metal sections unfurling from within. In about five seconds, it stands six feet tall and four feet wide.

The robot's clawlike hands extend, SNAP open and shut several times quickly.

DANNY

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!!!

They bolt in opposite directions, just as twin turbo jets on the back of each of the robot's feet suddenly spit blue flame and the robot rockets across the floor toward Walter. He lunges out of the way just as the robot SMASHES into the wall behind where he was standing.

It pivots around.

ROBOT

ALIEN INVASION. MUST DESTROY.

Walter turns to face the robot, which takes off again, straight at him. Walter leaps, lands on the back of the couch, and it tips over, Walter on top of it.

DANNY

WALTER! WHAT DO I DO?!

Walter's too busy to answer, now he's stuck underneath the overturned couch.

WALTER

I'm stuck!

Across the room, the robot has driven itself completely into the far wall. Twin circular saw blades emerge from its midsection and begin carving into the dry wall and broken joists. The robot is extracting itself. *

Walter pulls on his foot, harder, harder, trying to get free. Danny lunges toward him, but -- *

WALTER (cont'd)

NO! Stay back!

Danny does, helpless and not happy about it. Across the room the robot pivots, its red beams search for Walter again -- *

-- Walter pulls himself free and somersaults backwards, rolling out of the way as --

-- the robot BLASTS across the room, SMASHING into the couch, sending feathers flying everywhere.

Walter jumps to his feet, breathing hard. This can't go on much longer. He looks around frantically for something, anything. He sees a door out of the corner of his eye, out the corridor near the kitchen. *

WALTER (cont'd)

(to Danny)

The basement door! Open it! We'll lock the thing in there!

DANNY

Right!

He turns and starts toward the door, then stops and turns back.

DANNY (cont'd)

Really? The basement?

WALTER

Danny!

The robot is pivoting toward Walter.

DANNY

How about if I open another door?

WALTER

DANNY!

The robot takes off again, racing across the room. Walter leaps *
out of the way at the last second and the robot SMASHES through *
a plate glass window, its blue jets fading as it disappears into *
the blackness of space. *

Walter and Danny look at each other, breathing hard. Silence *
for a moment. They start to smile, but -- *

-- the robot SMASHES back into the house through the other plate *
glass window, narrowly missing Walter and plowing into the wall *
behind him. *

Danny and Walter SCREAM. *

Danny drops to his knees in front of the game board. *

DANNY

Maybe if I go it'll end your turn!

He cranks the crank and spins the spinner. He gets a six and *
his ship starts moving. *

The robot turns and its beams find Walter. He bolts out of the *
room and the robot gives chase. *

47 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 47 *

Walter races down the hallway toward the kitchen, but as he *
passes a certain door he grabs the handle, turns it, and whips *
the door open, revealing a staircase that leads down to another *
closed door at the bottom -- the basement. *

Carried by his momentum, Walter rides the door all the way open, *
flat against the wall of the hallway, which is fortunate, *
because the robt is right behind him. *

It BLASTS past him and SLAMS through the kitchen door, leaving *
one of those cartoon robot-shape outlines in the splintered *
wood. *

WALTER

Wow!

48 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 48 *

Back in the living room, the game board BUZZES and spits out a card. Danny snatches it, tries to read the card but can't. *

DANNY *

I don't know what this means! *

We zoom in fast on the words, maybe he can't read, but we can, and what we read says: *

YOU PASS TOO CLOSE TO TSOURIS 3
GRAVITY INCREASED. *

Danny hears a low WHOOSH and turns. Through the windows, he sees a massive orange planet so dense it HUMS as they pass it. *

DANNY (cont'd) *

Oh my. *

On the near wall, half a dozen framed pictures drop off and SMASH into the floor. But they don't even bounce, they just SMACK into the floor and stay there, as if they were suddenly very, very heavy. *

In a corner, a ficus plant droops, hard. *

Danny himself falls to his knees, his leg muscles giving out from his new, and very sudden, weight gain. *

49 INT LISA'S ROOM NIGHT 49 *

Still asleep, Lisa sinks even further into her cushy bed, pulled down by the extra gravity. Looks kind of comfortable, actually. *

50 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 50 *

Walter OOFs to the floor in the hallway himself, hard. *

WALTER *

What the-?!

He turns, painfully, and sees the robot at the other end of the hall, heading toward him, but slower now, as its metal feet are digging into the boards, leaving long nasty gashes in the wood. *

Hand over hand, Walter crawls down the staircase, toward the closed door at the bottom. *

He reaches the bottom, reaches up to the handle, turns it and pushes it open. He drags himself up to his knees and turns to start back up the stairs -- *

50 CONTINUED:

50

-- and stops dead in his tracks. The robot is at the top of the stairs. No way out. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

Whoops. *

51 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 51

Back in the living room, Danny covers his head in the middle of the floor as everything that was up starts to come down around him. Books, light fixtures, more wall hangings. *

Outside the window, that big orange planet draws even closer, and Danny's whole face starts to droop, pressed into the floor, and the floorboards beneath him GROAN and CREAK with his increased weight. *

52 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 52

At the top of the stairs, the robot's eyes glow red.

Walter looks down in horror as the red beams find their mark on his chest.

WALTER

DANNY! I'M TRAPPED!

53 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 53

Danny looks up and sees Tsouris 3 *right outside* the window, completely filling it. He starts to raise an arm but it SLAMS back to the floor. *

54 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 54

Walter falls to the stairwell, hard, pinned there by the gravity, a sitting duck. *

But the increased gravity hits the robot too, and its metal legs suddenly collapse, telescoping into themselves and crumpling slightly. *

This sudden movement causes it to lose its balance and it teeters off the top step and cartwheels, ass over teakettle, down the stairs. *

It somersaults right over Walter and SMASHES to a stop at the base of the stairs, just short of the opened basement door and the darkness beyond. *

55 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 55 *

From outside the house, we see Tsouris 3 pass by, its massive orangeness now headed away from the house. *

56 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 56

The branches on the ficus plant slowly rise again as the orange planet releases its gravitational grip. *

In the middle of the floor, Danny lifts his face out of the mess of broken stuff. *

DANNY *

Walter?! *

He gets up and races out of the room. *

57 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 57 *

Danny appears at the top of the basement stairs and looks down, to where Walter is lying under a pile of broken robot. *

DANNY *

Is it -- is it dead?! *

Walter leans over and peers into the robot's eyes, which no longer glow red -- they're black. It doesn't move. One arm is completely detached, lying on the steps next to it. *

WALTER *

I... I think so. *

Danny edges down the stairs. He and Walter tower over the robot, staring down at it. *

DANNY *

What do we do with it? *

WALTER *

Lock it in the basement! *

DANNY *

But that's mean. *

WALTER *

It tried to kill me! *

DANNY *

Only cause it's defective. *

WALTER *

Just give me a hand with it. *

Walter leans down and grabs a hold. *

DANNY *
I'm not touching it. *

WALTER *
Well, I can't do it by myself. *

DANNY *
What if it comes to life? *

WALTER *
Please, Danny, it's not coming to life, *
this thing is *trashed*. *

And on "trashed," he gives it a swift kick in the side, which of *
course causes the robot's eyes -- *

-- to light up again! *

DANNY *
Nice work, butthead! *

ROBOT *
AUTO-REPAIR ENGAGED. *

A small panel in the robot's chest slides open and a multi- *
pronged tool emerges on the end of a folding metal arm. It *
BUZZES to life. *

WALTER *
Hurry! *

Walter and Danny both grab hold of the robot and drag it down *
the remaining stairs, its head KA-THUNKING on each step as it *
goes. The whirring tool starts repairing broken wires as they *
toss it the last few feet into the basement, where it tumbles *
down the remaining three stairs and SMASHES hard on the floor. *

Walter turns to close the door as fast as he can. Danny picks *
up the robot's detached arm from the stairs and hurls it into *
the basement just before the door SLAMS shut. *

WALTER (cont'd) *
What'd you throw his arm in there for?! *

DANNY *
I don't know, what if it comes alive *
and starts pointing at us and stuff?! *

WALTER *
Go get it! *

57 CONTINUED: (2)

57

DANNY

You go get it!

WALTER

I'm gettin' out of here!

He turns and takes off up the stairs. Danny, never one to be left by himself, takes off after him.

58 INT HALLWAY NIGHT

58 *

They emerge from the basement, SLAM the door at the top of the stairs behind them, and throw the deadbolt. They stand there for a moment, backs against the door, breathing hard.

DANNY

I'm hungry.

WALTER

Look, I'm afraid to say this, but I don't think we have a choice. We need help.

CUT TO:

59 INT LISA'S ROOM NIGHT

59 *

Cut to Lisa, still in bed, eyeshade on and music blaring. The boys stand over her in her darkened bedroom. Walter leans over and pulls one of the headphones off Lisa's ear. He's clutching the folded up Zathura board under one arm.

WALTER

Lisa. We need to talk to you.

She pulls the eyeshade off one eye and stares at them.

LISA

What'd you break?

DANNY

Nothing!
(thinks)
Some things!

Lisa looks past them, notices that it's dark outside.

LISA

Is it dark already? I'm gonna be late.

She leaps up and heads for the bathroom, SLAMMING the door in their faces. Walter POUNDS on it.

WALTER

Lisa, we're playing this board game
that turned real and sent us all into
outer space and we don't know how to
get back to earth!

DANNY

Plus we're hungry!

From inside the bathroom, they hear the shower turn on.

LISA (O.S.)

Order a pizza.

DANNY

They won't deliver here.

LISA (O.S.)

Call Domino's.

DANNY

Trust me.

WALTER

Will you guys forget the food?! Lisa,
we have a *problem* with this *game*!

The door to the bathroom opens and Lisa pokes her head out.
Inside, the bathroom is filling with steam.

LISA

Quit.

WALTER

It won't let us!

LISA

Hmm. This does sound vexing. Tell you
what, just sit tight, I'll be out in
about an hour. Maybe two. Three tops.

And SLAM! She's back in the bathroom.

DANNY

She doesn't believe us.

WALTER

We'll have to prove it to her. We'll
take our turns and make something
happen!

DANNY

Right! It's your go!

They drop to the floor outside her bathroom door and spread out the game. Walter CRANKS the key, SMACKS the button and the spinning wheel spins. It stops on a seven and Walter's space ship moves ahead that number of spaces. *

The board BUZZES and spits out a card. Walter takes it. *

WALTER *

"You are promoted to Starship Captain." *

DANNY *

(outraged) *

What?!

WALTER *

Hey, that's cool, I'm a Captain now!
Your turn. *

DANNY *

How come you get to be a Captain? *

WALTER *

See, it's not always bad stuff. Hurry
up, go, fast, come on!

(calling out) *

Hang on, Lisa, we wanna show you
something! *

CRANK. SMACK. Spin. A two. BUZZ -- a card. Danny takes it, Walter leans in over his shoulder. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

"Shipmate enters cryonic sleep chamber
for two turns." *

DANNY *

What the heck does that mean? *

All of a sudden, the sound of the shower stops from behind the bathroom door. Worried, Danny and Walter look at each other. *

WALTER *

Lisa? *

They notice that steam is no longer coming from under the door of the bathroom. In fact, there's a thin seam of ice along the bottom now. *

Walter gets up and tries to open the door, but it's frozen shut. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

Help me! *

59 CONTINUED: (3)

59

He and Danny lower their shoulders and SMACK into the door,
which gives way.

60 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT

60 *

It's cold in the bathroom, really, really cold, the room is now
a deep-freeze. The tub is an ice rink, the steam that hangs in
the air is more like hail and falls when you touch it, and the
shower water that was coming out of the nozzle is frozen in long
strands, as if someone stopped time.

Lisa stands frozen in her bathrobe, hair white with frost, one
hand outstretched in the middle of the frozen strands, she must
have been feeling the shower water prior to jumping in.

DANNY

Great. I killed her.

WALTER

She's not dead, she's in a cryonic
sleep!

DANNY

I'll get some matches and paper and
gasoline and we'll melt her!

He heads for the door, but Walter grabs him.

WALTER

We can't. She's just gonna be like
this for two turns. We have to keep
playing!

CUT TO:

61 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

61 *

CRANK! SPIN! SMACK! Back in the living room, the spinner
comes up with a four and Walter's red ship moves that many
spaces. A new card spits out of the board.

WALTER

(reading)

"You are promoted to Fleet Admiral."

DANNY

WHAT?!

WALTER

Cool!

DANNY

This game stinks! I quit!

WALTER

You're the one who started it in the first place! Well, now we're in space and our sister is frozen and the rules say we can't stop until we finish!

DANNY

I'm hungry. I'm dizzy. I want lunch.

WALTER

Okay, look -- if I make you lunch, will you play the game?

Danny looks at him, weighing this.

DANNY

Depends what you make.

CUT TO:

62 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

62 *

The kitchen also shows the effects of the super gravity that hit the house earlier -- it's trashed, pots and pans that were once hanging from a rack are all over the floor.

Danny is staring obstinately at the Zathura game board laid out in front of him on the kitchen counter, where Walter is studying the directions on the side of a box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. A pan boils on the stove.

DANNY

You don't know how to make mac and cheese.

WALTER

It can't be that hard. I've seen Dad do it a million times.

He takes the cheese packet out and sets it aside.

WALTER (cont'd)

Will you spin the spinny thing, already?

DANNY

No. Every time I go something bad happens and every time you go you get promoted.

WALTER

Well, you know Daniel, I wouldn't be Fleet Admiral if I hadn't taken my turn, now would I?

He lifts the pan off the stove and dumps the macaroni water into a strainer in the sink.

DANNY

I don't care. I don't even want to win.

WALTER

Oh, come on, of course you do. Don't you know what Zathura's like? It's incredible.

DANNY

How do you know?

Walter takes the chair next to his brother. As he talks, he unwraps a whole stick of butter and dumps it into the pan.

WALTER

Well, if you get there you win, right?, so they gotta make it good. Maybe it's, like, your wish comes true, whatever your wish is.

(warming to this)

So maybe if I won I'd get to play catch with Dad whenever I want as much as I want and he wouldn't get tired or have to go to work or anything stupid. And I'd never have to quit or give up turns because it'd be-

He stops, seeing the look on Danny's face. He realizes what he's implying. Danny snatches up the cheese packet and starts tugging on it.

DANNY

Because it'd be just you and Dad.

WALTER

I didn't say that.

DANNY

And I wouldn't even have been borned.

POOF! The cheese packet rips open all at once, sending cheese powder flying into the air. Danny dumps the remainder into the pan.

WALTER

Look, that's not what I said.

DANNY

Whatever.

Walter picks up a wooden spoon and starts stirring the macaroni mess.

WALTER

Okay, what do you think Zathura's like?

DANNY

Black. Scary. Evil. Your basic nightmare.

WALTER

Try again. Something good. Use your imagination.

DANNY

Well... maybe...

(getting an idea)

Maybe it's like this place? It's like this place where bullies aren't allowed to even go. And the guy who invented evil gets in really big trouble. And when I play a game I don't always have to be the worst one at it, and you and me and Mom and Dad and even Lisa all live in one house together, and you're probably gonna make fun of me for even thinking that, so you just go right ahead because I don't care and I'm not playing.

Walter scoops a big spoonful of macaroni and cheese from the pan, PLOPS it into a bowl and slides it over in front of Danny.

Danny looks down at it. It oozes too much melted butter, there are large chunks of un-mixed cheese powder coagulating at the edges, and the whole thing has a bright orange color that is nowhere to be found at nature.

Danny looks up at Walter, impressed but not wanting to show it.

WALTER

Take a bite.

Danny takes a spoon and eats a mouthful. His expression is rapturous. Walter slides the Zathura game board over in front of him and gives the skate key a couple CRANKS.

62 CONTINUED: (3)

62

WALTER (cont'd)

Take your turn? Please?

Danny's waffling.

WALTER (cont'd)

Danny? All those things you said?
They can never come true unless you
play the game.

Realizing he's right, Danny reaches out and SMACKS the button.

The wheel spins. Stops on a nine, and Danny's space ship CLUNKS
ahead that number of spaces and a card spits out.

Walter takes it and reads while Danny eats.

WALTER (cont'd)

"You are visited by Zorgons." There,
that's not so bad. Visitors, is all.
What's a Zorgon?

Danny, looking over Walter's shoulder, doesn't respond.
Instead, his eyes go wide, his spoon droops, and the macaroni
PLOPS back into the bowl.

Walter looks at him, puzzled, then whirls around, following
Danny's line of vision and looking out the kitchen window.

63 OUTSIDE THE WINDOW,

63

a nasty-looking, old fashioned Buck Rogers-type spaceship has
pulled up right alongside the flying house and is measuring its
pace. Bizarre guttural SQUAWKINGS are blasting from external
speakers, somebody's trying to tell them something in tones so
loud the windows rattle.

64 BACK IN THE KITCHEN,

64

DANNY

ZORGONS!

WALTER

MAYBE THEY'RE FRIENDLY!

65 OUTSIDE THE WINDOW,

65

the barrel of a cannon emerges from a porthole on the side of
the ship and points right at them.

66 BACK IN THE KITCHEN, 66

DANNY
THEY'RE NOT FRIENDLY!

Walter scoops up the game board, Danny scoops up his bowl of macaroni, and the boys take off, running out of the kitchen and into --

67 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 67

-- the living room, but by the time they get there the Zorgon ship has already banked around the house and pulled up in front of the big picture window.

The boys SCREAM.

Outside, a white hot light glows from within the laser cannon and a ball of searingly bright light fires out, headed straight for the house.

WALTER
TAKE COVER!

He grabs Danny and they dive into the only place that looks remotely like cover -- the fireplace.

The photon blast SLAMS into the chimney at the top of the house. Walter looks up, sees a cascade of bricks dropping right towards them.

WALTER (cont'd)
TAKE COVER SOMEPLACE ELSE!

They both dive out of the chimney just before the bricks CRASH to the hearth where they were crouching, crushing the bowl of macaroni and cheese Danny dropped there, and nearly crushing the Zathura game board, which Walter dropped in his haste.

68 OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, 68

the laser cannon adjusts its aim and fires another blast at the house. Danny and Walter throw themselves to the floor and cover their heads. The blast --

69 INT UPSTAIRS BATHROOM NIGHT 69

-- EXPLODES through the wall of the upstairs bathroom.

70 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 70 *

Frozen Lisa doesn't stir as the entire house shudders from the blast, but a few icicles SNAP off in the shower and SHATTER on the tub. *

71 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 71

Back in the living room, a spray of water springs from a new hole in the ceiling. Danny and Walter uncover their heads and look out the window. The Zorgon ship is zipping around them, searching for an angle of attack. *

DANNY *

I told you I didn't want to go! You're the one who made me roll! *

WALTER *

I didn't tell you to roll Zorgons! *

The loudspeakers kick in again, the Zorgons BARKING commands at the house in unintelligible tones. *

Danny and Walter are cowering under the window ledge, the only place they're unseen by the ship outside. Walter army-crawls across the floor and scoops the Zathura game board off the floor, then crawls back and opens it up in front of Danny. He starts CRANKING the key, preparing to take his turn. *

DANNY *

Are you crazy?!

WALTER *

You have any better ideas?!

Walter hits the button and the spinner spins a five. As Walter's ship moves ahead, the board BUZZES and spits out a card. Walter grabs it. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

(reading) *

"Reprogram. For use against enemy machines." What does that mean?! *

Walter holds the card up in front of him, pointing it toward the windows like an FBI badge. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

REPROGRAM!

As if in response, the Zorgon ship levels another blast, which SLAMS into the side of the house right in front of them. *

DANNY

It doesn't work!

Walter shoves the card in his pocket --

WALTER

We'll figure it out later!

-- cranks the crank, and shoves the game board over in front of Danny.

WALTER (cont'd)

Spin!

Danny SMACKS the button. The spinner spins a five and Danny's ship moves ahead. The board spits out a card, which Danny snatches before Walter can get to it.

Behind them, they don't notice as the Zorgon ship wipes past, revealing a white speck visible in the distance outside the window, a white speck that's growing larger.

WALTER (cont'd)

What's it say?!

DANNY

(squinting at it)

"Rest on standing Astroturf!"

WALTER

Huh?!

The white speck, unseen by either of them, is larger still. It's a human form, tumbling straight for their window.

DANNY

"REST ON STANDING ASTROTURF?!" I don't get it!

WALTER

(reaching for it)

Oh, let me!

DANNY

(holding card away)

I know how to read!

Danny squirms away, but Walter grabs him and pins his hand to the floor, pries his fingers open and reads the card.

WALTER

"Rescue stranded astronaut!"

DANNY

What stranded astronaut?

BOOM BOOM BOOM!

They whirl and see the white speck we've been watching, but it's no longer a white speck, it's an ASTRONAUT in a space suit, a square pack strapped to his back, a propulsion system he controls by squeezing right and left handles on which he rests his hands, little bursts of power that control his speed and direction.

WALTER

Who is it?!

DANNY

How should I know?!

The Astronaut keeps POUNDING on the window.

WALTER

We have to let him in!

DANNY

No we don't!

The Astronaut tries to open the window, to no avail.

WALTER

It could be Dad!

DANNY

It could be a Zorgon!

WALTER

He's trying to tell us something!

Walter leans closer to the window but he can't see the astronaut's face through the reflective visor on his helmet, he just sees a big, distorted image of himself.

DANNY

Walter! Get away from there!

The Zorgon ship, still not giving up, BLASTS past them, behind the Astronaut, sending him cartwheeling away from the window, swept along in their wake, out of frame to the left.

For a moment, it's silent. The boys look at each other. Maybe he went away?

DING DONG.

He didn't go away. He's ringing the doorbell.

DANNY (cont'd)

Who's that?!

WALTER

Who do you think?! I'm gonna let him in!

He starts to get up, but Danny yanks him back down.

DANNY

Are you crazy?!

WALTER

He could die out there!

But their argument is cut short by a RATTLING sound over at the front door.

The doorknob is turning!

They draw in their breath --

DANNY

Did you lock the door?

WALTER

Who locks their door in outer space?

-- and a second later the front door BANGS open, SLAMMING up against the wall, revealing the Astronaut in full glory.

But upside down. He squeezes his handles and his propulsion pack HSSTS on one side, rotating him counter-clockwise to an upright position.

Now he squeezes both handles and bursts forward, floating into the center of the entry hall and THUDDING down on his boots as the house's gravity takes hold of him.

He pushes the door shut behind him and turns toward the boys.

They cower in the corner, no idea what to make of this guy. The Astronaut takes off his helmet, revealing a good-looking young guy around twenty. He shakes his shaggy hair out of his eyes and looks around the room in amazement. *

ASTRONAUT *

Which one of you rolled me? *

KA-BOOM!

Another Zorgon blast shakes the house to its foundations. The Astronaut flops himself onto the floor and wriggles expertly out of his space suit, revealing a pair of ill-fitting jeans and an old, torn oxford shirt.

He crawls over to join the boys in the corner.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Come on, who was it?!

Wide-eyed, Walter points to Danny. The Astronaut turns and looks at Danny. His eyes fill with emotion. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

You're a sight for sore eyes, Kid, I'll tell you that. *

DANNY *

I'm Danny. *

ASTRONAUT *

Thanks, Danny. *

WALTER *

I'm Walter. I'm a Fleet Admiral. *

ASTRONAUT *

Yeah, I got that card too, kid, it doesn't do anything. *

Walter looks crestfallen, Danny triumphant. *

WALTER *

Who are you? *

ZORRCH! A photon blast cuts through the wall and obliterates Walter's favorite easy chair, reducing it to a pile of ash.

ASTRONAUT

First things first. Right now you have a serious Zorgon problem to deal with.

WALTER

What do we do?!

ASTRONAUT

Only one thing we can do -- hide.

DANNY

What good is hiding?! They'll just explode the whole house!

71 CONTINUED: (5)

71

The Astronaut looks at Danny. Just the sight of the little kid seems to fill him with glee.

ASTRONAUT

We're going to hide the house.

72 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

72

Danny and Walter crouch on the kitchen floor behind the Astronaut, who's rummaging through the cabinet under the sink. They talk fast as the RUMBLING Zorgon ship circles outside the windows.

WALTER

What do they want?

ASTRONAUT

Zorgons are lizards, cold-blooded, so they're heat-seekers. Even the tiniest spark of warmth draws them like moths. They fly all over the galaxy looking for things to burn up.

WALTER

Why don't they go burn up their own planet?

ASTRONAUT

Already did. But that's not the worst part. The real problem is their appetites -- they never stop eating. Besides burn things, all they do is eat, sleep, and make more Zorgons.

*

He finds what he was looking for -- a can of EZ-Off oven cleaner.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Ah hah.

WALTER

Wh-what do they eat?

ASTRONAUT

Meat.

DANNY

(relieved)
Well, that's good.

ASTRONAUT

Dude -- you're meat.

*

Danny GASPS.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)
Go turn off all the lights and
electrical appliances.

*
*

Danny runs off to follow orders. The Astronaut turns to Walter.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)
You, kill that flame on the stove.

Walter turns, sees the still-lit burner on the stove.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)
Burning gas, that's probably what
brought 'em in the first place.

WALTER
Right!

ASTRONAUT
And then hit the pilot light on the
furnace.

He takes the can of oven cleaner and hurries toward the door to
the living room.

WALTER
What's a pilot light?

ASTRONAUT
(over his shoulder)
In the basement. Little blue flame
under the big heater. Just blow it out
like a candle.

WALTER
Um...

The Astronaut stops, waiting impatiently.

ASTRONAUT
Yeah?

WALTER
Well... there's a robot in the basement
who wants to kill me.

ASTRONAUT
(nods sympathetically)
Yeah, I been there. Try to avoid him.

72 CONTINUED: (2)

72

And he leaves. Walter turns and flicks off the burner on the stove.

CLOSE ON the blue flame as it's extinguished.

73 INT HALLWAY - UPSTAIRS NIGHT 73

Danny runs down the upstairs hallway, turning out the lights one by one.

74 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 74

The Astronaut hurries into the living room and searches around in the rubble, looking for something in particular. He comes across a small wooden box and his eyes light up.

He flicks it open, revealing a stash of fireplace matches.

75 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT 75

Walter walks nervously down the stairs toward the basement door as a photon BLAST hits hard somewhere in the house.

But as he reaches for the doorknob, he notices something in the crack under the door. *

Sparks. Like from a welding torch. *

He leans closer to the door, puts his ear against it. He hears machinery inside, a little saw, a power screwdriver -- *

-- and the Robot's muffled VOICE, giving itself repair instructions. *

Walter turns and races back upstairs without opening the door. *

76 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 76

Walter runs down the hallway to a gadget on the wall at the far end -- the thermostat.

He turns it down, way down, below fifty.

77 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 77

In the basement, the bright yellow flame under the furnace THUNKS out. But the blue pilot light burns on.

In the background, we can see the robot lying on the floor in pieces, lit by the light of the blowtorch it's using to reattach its own arm. *

78 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 78

Walter gives himself a little smile for his ingenuity. Danny runs up beside him, out of breath and scandalized.

DANNY

The Astronaut Guy's wrecking our couch!

*

79 INT FOYER NIGHT 79

They come running around a corner and into the foyer to discover the Astronaut is, indeed, wrecking the couch. He's holding the can of EZ Off in one hand and a lit fireplace match in the other, turning the thing into a flame thrower.

He sprays the couch with the fiery concoction, the fabric catches and bursts into flame.

WALTER

That's Dad's nap couch!

*

ASTRONAUT

(to Danny)

Open the front door!!

(to Walter)

Give me a shoulder here!

Danny runs to the door and flings it open as the Astronaut ducks down behind the couch, puts his shoulder up against the part of it that has not yet caught on fire, and pushes hard. Walter joins in and together they shove the thing all the way across the foyer and out the front door.

80 EXT OUTER SPACE NIGHT 80

Here's a good image -- the house, plummeting through space. Suddenly a burning couch comes flying out its front door and sails off, weightless, blazing as it sails off into the void.

*

81 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 81

Danny, Walter, and the Astronaut stand in the open doorway, watching as the burning couch sails off into the distance.

ASTRONAUT

Go on, follow... follow...

82 THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR, 82

they see the Zorgon ship keel over to starboard and turn to follow the flaming projectile. They watch as it disappears into the vast reaches of space. The Astronaut sighs in relief.

82 CONTINUED:

82

ASTRONAUT

You have no idea how close that was.

Walter and Danny both look up at him.

WALTER

Who are you?

CUT TO:

83 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

83

Back in the darkened kitchen, the door opens on the freezer section of the refrigerator and the Astronaut shines his flashlight inside. His eyes fall on something and light up.

ASTRONAUT

Oh, sweet memory...

He reaches in and pulls out three half-finished pints of Ben & Jerry's, a package of Eggo waffles, and a box of Haagen Dazs vanilla almond ice cream bars.

He SLAMS them down on the kitchen table and sticks his head in the fridge.

WALTER

What are you doing?

The Astronaut emerges from the fridge with a big squeeze bottle of Hershey's Syrup and opens the cupboard over the dishwasher.

ASTRONAUT

I'm going to put that ice cream in a bowl, cover it with chocolate and candy, and then I'm going to eat it. All of it.

He finds a bag of M&Ms and a long sleeve of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Beneath the counter he locates a mixing bowl. *

DANNY

Are you doing this to keep Zorgons away?

ASTRONAUT

I'm doing this because it might be another twelve years before I run into my good friends Ben and Jerry again.

He piles the ice cream into the bowl and douses it with the Hershey's Syrup. Danny watches enviously.

DANNY

You know, I never got my dessert from lunch.

ASTRONAUT

Dig in.

DANNY

Well... the truth is I never actually ate my lunch.

ASTRONAUT

Like I care.

He tosses Danny a spoon and Danny grins enormously at this anarchy.

WALTER

Okay, look. Seriously. *Who are you?*

ASTRONAUT

When I was a kid, there were things I'd ask my parents and they'd say, "I'll tell you when you're older." This is one of those things.

DANNY

I hate when they say that.

*
*

He plows a massive spoon of ice cream into his mouth, salts the bowl with M&Ms.

WALTER

Well, how'd you get here?

ASTRONAUT

(gestures to Danny with his spoon)

He spun me. Good thing, too. Maybe I can help you finish the game.

*

DANNY

(ice cream all over his face)
We can finish on our own.

ASTRONAUT

Yeah, you're doing great. Robot in the basement, Zorgons snapping at your heels, you cheat, and Wingy McWhine over here has an attitude problem.

WALTER

I do not! That's not fair!

ASTRONAUT

See, there you go, complaining about everything.

(goes back to the cupboard)

Is there a Kit Kat around here someplace?

(back to topic)

Fly around the universe in a lousy game for a decade or so and then tell me what you have to complain about.

He finds a Kit Kat bar, rips the wrapper off, and takes a bite. Relishes it.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

These haven't gotten any worse.

DANNY

So you're gonna play the game with us?

ASTRONAUT

No, you're gonna play. I'll help, but I can't join in. I'm already in a game of my own. It's complicated.

DANNY

Well, why don't you just finish the game you're in?

ASTRONAUT

I can't.

DANNY

Why not? *

The Astronaut doesn't answer, just picks up his ice cream and carries it with him toward the living room. *

ASTRONAUT

Come on, let's get going. *

Walter and Danny look at each other, then follow him. *

CUT TO:

84 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

84

An overhead shot, above the game board in the entrance to the ruined living room. Walter, Danny, and the Astronaut sit down around the board, preparing to play. Danny and the Astronaut are on the living room side of the board, Walter, on the other side of the board, is technically sitting in the foyer.

Walter SMACKS the button and the spinner spins. *

WALTER
Eleven. Awesome spin! *

DANNY
(imitating Walter)
"Awesome spin."
(to the Astronaut)
Is he annoying or *what*? *

ASTRONAUT
Yeah, he just doesn't know it. *

Walter's rocket ship motors forward and stops on a blue square. *
Walter takes the card from the board and reads. *

WALTER
"Command room loses..." *

He scoffs and tosses the card on the board.

ASTRONAUT
What's it say?

WALTER
It's stupid.

Danny picks up the card and squints at it, doing his best.

DANNY
"Command room loses art-art-artface-
force-ar-ti-fi-" This is like a fifth
grade word!

ASTRONAUT
Can I have a look at-

DANNY
Ar-ti-face-ell... "Artificial!" I got
it!

ASTRONAUT
(reaching out for the card)
Let me just take a-

DANNY
(slaps his hand away)
"Command room loses artificial gr-gra-
GRAVE?" Loses grave? That's scary.
No wait...
(looking up)
What's the last word, Wal-

But Walter has vanished, he's no longer sitting across from him.

DANNY (cont'd)

Walter?

The Astronaut, next to Danny, is looking up at the ceiling, a big grin on his face.

ASTRONAUT

Oh yeah. I remember this one.

WALTER (O.S.)

GRAVITY!

Danny drops the card and looks up. In the foyer, Walter is spread-eagled against the second floor overhang like a runaway balloon at a birthday party.

WALTER (cont'd)

"Command room loses artificial gravity!" I've got no gravity! Danny, they took my gravity!

Danny stares at him in shock -- and a little impressed.

DANNY

Cool!

ASTRONAUT

Isn't it?

WALTER

It is *not* cool! It is not cool at *all*!

ASTRONAUT

Oh, don't be a baby.

DANNY

(to the Astronaut)
But how come we're not floating?

ASTRONAUT

(shrugs)
It said command room. The entry there must be the command room.

WALTER

Will you get me down from here?!

ASTRONAUT

Relax, I'll find some rope.

He turns and heads out of the room, in no great hurry.

WALTER

Don't just *stand* there, Danny! Do something!

DANNY

Like what?

Walter is slowly drifting across the ceiling, despite his best attempts to claw at it to stay in place.

WALTER

I don't know, grab me!

DANNY

I can't come in there, I'll float too.
You jump down here!

*

*

Good idea! Walter twists himself around so his legs are beneath him and pushes off the second floor overhang. As he is weightless, a strong push from his legs is far more oomph than he needs and he blasts off the ceiling --

-- slams into the floor of the foyer, just short of the living room --

*

*

WALTER

OOOF!

*

-- and bounces right back up into the air. Unfortunately, he's in the middle of the foyer now, out from under the overhang, and there's nothing but open space between him and the broken skylight three floors up, the one the meteor crashed through when they started the game.

*

*

*

*

85 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

85

From the second floor landing, we see Walter fly up through the foyer, SCREAMING, feet first. Feet, legs, torso, head, outstretched hands all fly up through the open space toward the broken skylight above.

86 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

86

*

DANNY

HANG ON WALTER, I'LL SAVE YOU!

*

87 INT UP AT THE SKYLIGHT NIGHT

87

Walter is still tumbling upwards, headed straight for the hole in the ceiling and deep space beyond. At the last second, he just manages to grab hold of a roof joist sticking out of the jagged edge of the hole in the roof, which saves him from sailing out into the blackness, but unfortunately --

88 EXT HOUSE - OUTER SPACE NIGHT 88

-- he's still dangling upside-down over the house as it moves through outer space. The house motors along like Dorothy's in the tornado, the little boy hanging upside-down out the hole in the roof, holding onto the broken joist with one hand, SCREAMING at the top of his lungs.

89 INT TOP FLOOR NIGHT 89

Danny races up the stairs onto the second floor landing and runs over to stand beneath the hole. He stares up at Walter and puts his hands on his hips, furious.

DANNY

Walter, get back in this house! *

WALTER

Throw me something and pull me down!

DANNY

Right!

Danny looks around for something rope-like, can't see anything.

DANNY (cont'd) *

Like what?! *

WALTER *

Something with a cord on it! *

DANNY

Right!

He spots a lamp on a hallway table. The outlet is a ways away and the lamp is plugged into an extension cord, so there's a good ten feet of length. He unplugs it.

DANNY (cont'd)

Catch!

He tosses the cord up at Walter. Once it passes over the railing and is in the foyer's airspace it's weightless too, so it flies straight up at him pretty easily. *

Walter stretches out, straining, straining, the extension cord looks like it might be just out of his reach, but he stretches himself as far as humanly possible -- *

-- AND GRABS HOLD! *

His face breaks into a triumphant smile, as he wraps his hand around the lifesaving cord for maximum grip, and he's actually still smiling -- *

-- as he watches the lamp itself go floating right past him and drift out the hole in the roof. Whoops. *

WALTER *

Danny, throw me something with a cord on it *AND HOLD ON TO THE OTHER END!*

DANNY *

Oh! Right!

WALTER *

Are you *trying* to be an idiot?!

Danny stares at him, burning with rage and embarrassment.

Suddenly, a coil of rope comes tumbling up from beneath, unfurling as it rises straight up toward Walter. It shoots up through the broken skylight.

90 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 90

The Astronaut is standing at the edge of the living room below, holding the other end of the rope, which rises up through the foyer in front of him.

ASTRONAUT

GRAB ON!

91 INT UP AT THE SKYLIGHT NIGHT 91

Walter throws both hands around the rope and holds fast.

WALTER

I GOT IT!

92 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 92

In the living room, the Astronaut starts hauling Walter down, fast, hand over hand.

93 INT UP AT THE SKYLIGHT NIGHT 93

Walter is suddenly yanked back into the house, hard and fast, and he SMACKS his head off the ceiling.

WALTER

Ow!

93 CONTINUED:

93

He goes shooting downward, BANGING off the second floor railing right in front of Danny.

WALTER (cont'd)

Ouch!

As he keeps getting pulled downward, Danny leans out over the railing, yelling furiously.

DANNY

I hope it hurt!

94 INT FOYER NIGHT

94

Walter BANGS into the edge of the overhang, KNOCKS into the skylight --

WALTER

OW, I said OW!

-- and the Astronaut, visible now at the edge of the living room, keeps hauling him in, as fast as he can. Walter drags upside-down across the underside of the second floor overhang, crosses the threshold into the living room --

95 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

95

-- and THUDS to the living room floor at the Astronaut's feet, where gravity is normal. The Astronaut drops the rope on top of him.

Walter claws it off himself and looks up at the Astronaut, angry.

WALTER

You didn't have to be so rough about it!

ASTRONAUT

You didn't have to be so mean to your brother.

WALTER

He almost got me killed!

ASTRONAUT

He's doing the best he can. He's only six.

WALTER

And three quarters!

ASTRONAUT

What's the matter with you? Why do you have to put him down?

WALTER

I have issues with my temper. It says so on my report card. I lose it once in a while.

ASTRONAUT

Once in a *while*? Try a couple dozen times a day.

WALTER

Ah, what do you know about it. He's a clumsy little spazz, and this time he almost got me killed.

Danny tromps back into the room.

DANNY

You shut up, Walter!

WALTER

Make me!

DANNY

I don't make trash, I just... um...
(can't remember the rest)
I throw it, um... in the trash.

WALTER

Good one, Danny.

ASTRONAUT

That's *enough!* Both of you guys. Sit down and be quiet before I lose my temper and throw you both out the skylight. *

They do. He points to the game board and looks at Danny. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

It's your turn. *

CUT TO: *

96 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 96 *

In Lisa's bathroom, the shower stream suddenly turns into water again, the ice particles turn back into steam, and Lisa's eyes pop open. *

96 CONTINUED:

96

She shivers once, confused. She exhales, sees her own breath. *

LISA *

What the-? *

97 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 97

Lisa STOMPS out of her room, MUTTERING and hugging her arms tight around herself. *

LISA *

... freezing my *ass* off... *

She heads directly to something on the far wall, not looking up, down, or sideways, so focused is she. *

LISA (cont'd) *

... living like *animals*... *

She reaches the far wall and squints at the thermostat. *

LISA (cont'd)

... forty-eight degrees?... what are we, *savages*?

She reaches up and spins the dial all the way to eighty-five. Immediately, we cut to --

98 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 98

-- the basement, where the furnace is. Right above the still-lit pilot light, there is a low WHUMPH as the gas jets HISS to life and a lake of bright orange flame erupts.

99 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 99

Lisa nods in disgruntled satisfaction and shuffles back to her bedroom. *

100 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 100

Lisa comes into the bathroom and gets ready to shower. She hits a boom box on the counter, spins a CD, and cranks up the volume. *

CUT TO:

101 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 101 *

Downstairs, Danny cranks the key and is about to hit the spin button on the board when Walter suddenly sits forward. *

WALTER *

Hey, wait a minute. *

He looks down at the board. His astronaut game piece is only two squares ahead of Danny's rocket ship.

DANNY

(innocent)
What?

WALTER

I was farther ahead of you.

DANNY

(super innocent)
No. I'm there. That's like it was.

He reaches out again, but this time Walter grabs his hand, stopping him.

WALTER

Are you sure?

DANNY

Positive. Uh huh. Yep.

He looks up, notices the Astronaut is just staring at him.

DANNY (cont'd)

What? It was.

The Astronaut continues to stare.

DANNY (cont'd)

Um... unless... I don't know... maybe somebody... accidentally kicked it...

WALTER

You can't kick 'em, they're stuck in the... hey!

He bends down, looks at Danny's piece, which has been wrenched ahead on the track and is now jammed in place at an odd angle.

WALTER (cont'd)

You broke it! You little cheater, you yanked your piece ahead and you BROKE it!

(to the Astronaut)
He cheats at *everything!*

DANNY

I do not!

WALTER

God, I don't know why I even play with you!

ASTRONAUT

Just take it easy.

He reaches down, wiggles Danny's rocket ship just so, and it SNAPS back into place the right way. Immediately, the chain inside the board CRANKS the piece back to where it ought to be, far behind Walter's piece.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

There.

The Astronaut gestures to Danny to come toward him. They lean in together and the Astronaut whispers in his ear.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Let me give you a tip about this game, Small Person. You don't win it. You survive it. Got it?

Danny nods, busted. He reaches out and SMACKS the button. He gets a four and his rocket ship RATTLES forward and stops on a new space. The board BUZZES and Danny snatches up his card. He reads it, moving his lips silently.

Danny's jaw sets. He's angry.

WALTER

Well?

ASTRONAUT

What's it say?

No answer from Danny, but his hand trembles with rage. Walter takes the card and reads it.

WALTER

"Lose map of galaxy, go back six spaces." Serves you right!

ASTRONAUT

Hey, no gasoline on the fire, if you don't mind.

The board WHIRRS to life again, moving the piece back six spaces automatically. Danny sits back, arms folded across his chest, breathing hard through his nose.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd) *

Deep breaths. Hold it together. Only a game. We play together, maybe we all get to go back home. Okay?

Danny doesn't respond, but then, he doesn't explode either. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Okay. Okay, good.
(to Walter, under his breath)
Go. Quick.

Walter spins the wheel and it comes up nine. *

WALTER *

Nine! Great! *

Danny's forced nose breathing gets even louder, he sets his jaw harder. But still he doesn't explode. *

Walter's rocket ship moves ahead to a special-looking square, one of the only ones on the board with a drawing on it -- it's a bright star, brilliant fiery rays shooting out from all sides. *

The Astronaut GASPS slightly, holding in his breath. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

What? *

ASTRONAUT *

(softly, he seems almost afraid
of it)
Shooting star. *

WALTER *

Cool. Hey, I'm far! Only a few more
and I win! *

Even LOUDER breathing from Danny, who is like a volcano with its crater plugged up. The Astronaut holds out a calming hand.

The board BUZZES out Walter's card. He takes it and reads. *

WALTER (cont'd) *

"Shooting star. Make a wish as it
passes."

He looks up at the others, thrilled.

WALTER (cont'd) *

Awesome! I get a wish! I get to make
a wish and have it come true and
everything!

(MORE)

WALTER (cont'd)

This is the greatest, I get whatever I want, I can have anything, I can-

Finally, the top blows off the volcano. Danny leaps to his feet, SHOUTING.

DANNY

I HATE THIS GAME!

WALTER

Oh boy, here we go...

ASTRONAUT

Hey, calm down, you're doing fine.

DANNY

No I'm not! I always lose! He does everything better than me!

WALTER

Don't be stupid, Danny.

ASTRONAUT

Don't call him stupid!

DANNY

(to Walter)
You're stupid! This game is stupid!
Our whole stupid family is stupid and
I'm sick of it and I hate it!

ASTRONAUT

Danny, please sit down.

DANNY

No, I won't play! You can't make me!

WALTER

Just play the game, already, I want to go home.

DANNY

I don't! I don't want to go home if you're there!

WALTER

Oh yeah?! Well I feel exactly the same way!

DANNY

I HATE THIS GAME! I HATE YOU!

WALTER

(jumping to his feet)
I HATE YOU RIGHT BACK, YOU LITTLE
CREEP!

Danny bends down, hooks both hands under the game board --

ASTRONAUT

DANNY, DON'T!

-- and flips it upside down into the air. Game pieces and cards go flying everywhere.

WALTER

HEY!

Danny storms out of the room and races upstairs. They hear his feet BOOMING down the hall, then the door of the bedroom SLAMS in the distance.

Suddenly, the living room gets very bright, brilliant even. Walter and the Astronaut turn and squint out the big picture window. There's a huge glowing fireball headed straight for them, fast.

WALTER (cont'd)

What is it?!

ASTRONAUT

It's your shooting star.

WALTER

I get my wish now, don't I?

The Astronaut is staring at him intently.

ASTRONAUT

The moment it passes. Yeah.

Walter goes to the window and stares outside, eyes wide, an idea forming in his mind that is every bit as dark as the star is bright. The shooting star is just fifteen seconds away now.

The Astronaut steps up beside him.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Don't do it, Walter.

WALTER

Don't do what?

ASTRONAUT

Don't wish what you're thinking.

The shooting star's closer, they can start to hear it now, a hot *
SIZZLING WHOOSH growing louder and louder. Ten seconds away. *

WALTER *

You don't know what I'm thinking. *

ASTRONAUT *

Maybe not, but I can tell it isn't *
good. *

Walter reacts, he *is* thinking something awful, but he still *
won't look at the Astronaut. The star is just five seconds away *
now. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd) *

Don't do it, I'm telling you, no matter *
how good an idea something seems like *
when you're mad, it isn't, please, you *
gotta believe me on this one. *

Walter looks at him, thinking, the Astronaut's words resonating *
with him. But then he looks back at the star, his face glowing *
in its brilliant light. He's transfixed. *

The Astronaut grabs him, but Walter keeps staring out the *
window. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd) *

This isn't a game you can play alone! *

With a CRACKLING WHOOSH, the star passes directly by the living *
room windows, its brilliant light washing the whole room hot *
white for one spectacular moment -- *

-- and then it's gone. *

As the room returns to normal, it's as if Walter comes out from *
under a spell. He shakes his head to clear it, and turns away *
from the window. *

The Astronaut looks at him, hushed. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd) *

What did you wish? *

WALTER *

I can't tell you. *

ASTRONAUT *

What did you wish?! *

101 CONTINUED: (7)

101

WALTER

You know the rules about wishes. It
won't come true.

The Astronaut grabs him by the arms and spins him around.

ASTRONAUT

Walter, tell me what you wished!

WALTER

No.

The Astronaut lets him go, turns and looks upstairs.

ASTRONAUT

You did it, didn't you?!

He takes off for the stairs.

102 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT

102

The Astronaut bounds up the stairs, three at a time.

ASTRONAUT

Danny?!

103 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

103

The Astronaut tops the stairs and races down the hallway.

ASTRONAUT

DANNY?!

No answer from the other end. He reaches the door to the boys' room, closes his eyes and murmurs a silent prayer --

-- and throws open the bedroom door.

104 INT WALTER AND DANNY'S ROOM NIGHT

104

The Astronaut stands in the doorway to Walter and Danny's room and looks everyplace at once.

There's no one in the room.

He comes inside, looks all around. Nobody.

His shoulders sag.

ASTRONAUT

Oh, no. Oh, Danny.

He drops onto the bed.

DANNY (O.S.)

Ow!

The Astronaut leaps to his feet, looks down at the bed, his face lighting up.

ASTRONAUT

Danny?!

DANNY (O.S.)

Leave me alone.

The Astronaut drops to the floor and looks under the bed. Danny is wedged underneath, thumb stuck in his mouth. He doesn't bother to remove it, just talks around it.

DANNY (cont'd)

I wanna be alone.

ASTRONAUT

DANNY!

He grabs hold of the kid and hauls him out from underneath, stands him up on his feet --

DANNY

Hey!

ASTRONAUT

He didn't do it!

-- and pulls him in close for a big hug.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

You're here, you're really here!

WALTER (O.S.)

Wow, there it is!

*

Walter races into the room and picks up a regulation size NFL football that has suddenly appeared on his bed.

WALTER (cont'd)

My wish came true!

*

The Astronaut turns and looks at it. There's some scribbling on the side of the ball.

ASTRONAUT

That was your wish? A Brett Favre autographed football?

WALTER

Check it out! *

DANNY

You coulda wished us home! You coulda
wished the game over! *

WALTER

Well, I was under a lot of pressure. *
(points to the Astronaut)
He was yelling at me. *

DANNY

What were you yelling at him for?!

WALTER

(to the Astronaut)
Yeah, Bozo, who are you, anyway?!

CUT TO:

105 INT WALTER AND DANNY'S ROOM NIGHT 105

Walter, Danny, and the Astronaut sit in a corner of the darkened
bedroom, huddled together, lit by the starlight streaming in
through their window. They speak in hushed tones.

ASTRONAUT

Twelve years ago, I sat down to play
this very same game with my brother. *
We were fighting a lot back then, and
when the game started things got even
worse.

DANNY

Just like us.

ASTRONAUT

Yeah. Well, as the game went on I got
madder and madder. And I landed on the
star space, the same one Walter just
landed on. And... you know how you get
sometimes, it's like you're not in
charge of what you're thinking in your
own head?

WALTER

Yeah.

DANNY

Definitely.

ASTRONAUT

I was so mad that when that star passed, I made my wish. And my wish was... I...

(to Danny, tearful)

I wished my brother had never been born.

*
*
*

Danny draws in his breath. He looks at Walter skeptically, wondering if Walter too had the very same thought.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

But as soon as I did it, I felt horrible. I tried to roll again, I thought maybe I could land on another star and wish him back, but the game wouldn't let me go -- because it wasn't my turn.

(to Walter)

That's what I was telling you downstairs. There are some games you can't play alone.

He wipes some sweat from his forehead.

DANNY

Why was he telling you that, Walter?

Walter blushes and looks away.

ASTRONAUT

And I've been wandering around the universe inside this stupid game ever since, looking for a way to get my brother back, and get us both out of here.

*
*
*
*
*

WALTER

So what do we do now?

ASTRONAUT

We go downstairs and we finish this thing, once and for all. No more cheating, no more arguing, all you guys have to do is spin the wheel a few times. I'll help you fight off whatever comes out, and then maybe, maybe if you guys finish it, all of us can go home. Deal?

*

*
*
*
*

DANNY

Deal.

WALTER

I still don't get it. Why us?

ASTRONAUT

Is it getting warm in here? *

They look at each other. The Astronaut reaches up and wipes his brow -- he pulls back a palmful of sweat.

He looks at Walter, concern creasing his brow.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

You blew out the pilot light on the furnace, right?

WALTER

Um...

ASTRONAUT

YOU BLEW OUT THE PILOT LIGHT ON THE FURNACE, RIGHT?!

WALTER

You know, there *is* a killer robot down there.

ASTRONAUT

YOU BLEW OUT THE PILOT LIGHT ON THE FURNACE, RIGHT?!?!

CUT TO:

106 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 106

The Astronaut races out of the bedroom and tears ass down the hall to the thermostat at the far end. He checks the reading.

ASTRONAUT

Eighty-five?!

He spins the dial back down as far as it will go.

107 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 107

The bright orange flames under the furnace in the basement WHUMPF out again.

108 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 108

The Astronaut whirls around to face the boys, who have followed him out of the bedroom.

ASTRONAUT

Which one of you did that?!

DANNY

Wasn't me!

WALTER

Lisa! I'm gonna kill her!

ASTRONAUT

I'm gonna help you.

They turn toward the other end of the hallway and head for Lisa's bedroom, but stop in their tracks when they hear --
-- a THUNK from downstairs.

WALTER

(whispers)

Did you hear something?

DANNY

(whispers back)

No. I only heard a thunk.

WALTER

That's what-

(oh, never mind)

He looks at the Astronaut, exasperated.

WALTER (cont'd)

You see what I put up with?

ASTRONAUT

Shh!

He holds up a hand for quiet. He creeps toward the stairs, slowly.

The boys follow, even more slowly. They start to descend. Up ahead, they see the Astronaut reach the bottom of the stairs and stop.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Awww..... shucks.

WALTER

What is it?!

He and Danny take off down the rest of the steps. They reach the base and stop too, staring into the living room, which is --

109 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

109

-- completely empty.

We're talking *totally* empty, no furniture, no drapes, no pictures on the mantel, not even a rug. It's like the Grinch was here.

As they stand there staring in shock, a chunk of brightly colored glass falls to the floorboards at their feet and SMASHES.

They look up to the broken skylight, where it came from, and out the hole in the roof. But they can't see the stars through it anymore, what they see instead is a hatchway on the underside of a spaceship that has landed on their roof.

And through that hatchway they can see two pairs of scaly, green, lizard-like legs, still dangling down into the house. The legs slither up through the hatchway, pulling their scaly, green, lizard-like tails up after them.

ASTRONAUT

Zorgons!

The hatchway slides shut, the ship accelerates and lifts off the roof. *

The Astronaut and the boys rush to the picture window and watch the Zorgon ship as it hits the afterburners and banks away from the house, headed out into space.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

That stuff won't last them long.
They'll be back, and more of 'em.

WALTER

Then we've got to hurry up and finish
the-

He stops in the middle of his sentence. The Astronaut looks at him. So does Danny. As one, they turn away from the window and look into the living room again.

From across the room, we see the vast expanse of empty floorboards. Besides three people, there is *nothing* in that room.

WALTER (cont'd)

The game!

DANNY

It's gone!

ASTRONAUT

They took it.

DANNY

Why do they want the game?!

ASTRONAUT

They don't know it's a game, all they know is it catches fire. They're going to burn it up. *

On either side of the Astronaut, Danny and Walter slide down the wall and collapse into a sitting position on the floor, staring in shock and dismay. Now what do we do?

DANNY

We're never getting back home.

ASTRONAUT

No, no, no, this is no big deal.

WALTER

We'll never see Mom or Dad again.

ASTRONAUT

You think this is hard? This isn't hard. Fighting off sand sharks under the carpet in your dining room, *that's* hard. This? Piece of cake.

WALTER

What are you talking about? We can't get back without the game, the Zorgons have the game, and they're gone! We'll never be able to find them!

ASTRONAUT

Then they'll just have to find us.

CUT TO:

110 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

110

CRACK! The Astronaut swings a kitchen chair down on the edge of the counter as hard as he can, smashing it to bits. He picks up another and SMASHES that one to smithereens too, does the same with a third, tossing the pieces onto a pile he's making in the big fireplace in the kitchen. *

111 INT DAD'S OFFICE NIGHT 111

CRASH! Danny and Walter tip over the big bookcase in Dad's office and an ocean of paper spills out onto the floor, all the projects he's worked on for the past few years.

They scoop up as much of it as they can carry and head into the kitchen --

112 INT KITCHEN NIGHT 112

-- and hurl it into the fireplace, where the Astronaut has started a fire. The small fire gets bigger, not a bad little blaze. The Astronaut steps back and looks at it. *

ASTRONAUT

More. *

MOMENTS LATER,

stuff starts flying into the jammed up fireplace. Pillows. Boxes of cereal. Anything remotely combustible. *

The three guys step back. This fire's really getting there, the flames are licking out of the fireplace and up the wall. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

More!

113 INT LISA'S ROOM NIGHT 113

SLAM! The door to Lisa's room BANGS open, revealing Walter and Danny. Lisa is in the bathroom behind them, blow-drying her hair, now dressed in a Juicy track suit. She sees their reflections in the mirror.

LISA

HEY!

She whirls around. The boys are in her closet, rifling through her stuff.

LISA (cont'd)

What do you think you're doing?!

Walter and Danny look back at her over their shoulders --

WALTER

We need to burn your clothes.

-- and head for the door, carrying huge armloads of Lisa's stuff.

113 CONTINUED:

113

Lisa is so stunned she's paralyzed for a moment, staring after them as they leave.

114 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

114

Walter and Danny come BANGING down the stairs carrying Lisa's clothes and head for the kitchen. A few moments later, Lisa TROMPS down behind them, livid.

LISA
YOU ARE SO GOING TO DIE!

But the boys are already gone. Lisa stomps down the hall toward the kitchen, shaking her head and muttering dire threats under her breath.

She reaches the swinging kitchen door, pushes it open --

115 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

115

-- and recoils from the intense heat of the bonfire inside.

LISA
OH MY GOD!!!

She's just in time to see Walter and Danny throw her clothes into the fireplace, which has no more room for anything now and is spitting out six foot tongues of flame which reach the ceiling. *
*
*

LISA (cont'd)
YOU IDIOTS SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE! YOU
ACTUALLY SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE!

They turn and look at her calmly.

DANNY
Duh. WALTER
Duh.

LISA (cont'd)
THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER, WHERE'S THE FIRE
EXTINGUISHER?!

She starts ripping through the cabinets, searching for it.

LISA (cont'd)
WHY DID YOU SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE?!

DANNY
To attract Zorgons.

LISA
WHAT THE HELL ARE ZORGONS?!

WALTER
Oh, so now you're interested.

Suddenly the Astronaut BANGS through the opposite door of the kitchen carrying a bunch of sheets and tablecloths. He throws them on the fire. *

LISA
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

The Astronaut looks at her and draws in his breath, about to tell her his story --

ASTRONAUT
Take too long.

-- then changes his mind and goes back to work.

LISA
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS GOING ON AROUND
HERE?!

WALTER
We told you once. It's not our fault
if you weren't listening.

DANNY
Board game. Outer space. Can't get
home.

The fire is growing ever larger and Lisa still can't find the fire extinguisher. *

The Astronaut goes to the French doors on the other side of the kitchen, unlocks them, and KICKS them open. *

Immediately a great SUCKING sound comes from outside, and the tongues of flame that were licking up the wall and onto the ceiling lash out across the room and leap out the open doors. *

The SUCKING SOUND gets louder, and all the burning rubbish in the fireplace starts to fly across the room, drawn toward the emptiness of space. It's like a horizontal column of fire, flying across the kitchen and out the door, then tumbling, burning, into outer space. *

LISA
I gotta get you out of here!

115 CONTINUED: (2)

115

She grabs hold of the boys and hustles them toward the door, over their objections.

116 INT FOYER NIGHT

116

Lisa runs across the dining room, both boys in tow, headed for the front door. As she approaches the foyer the boys cry out.

WALTER
Not that way!

DANNY
Lisa, wait!

But she doesn't listen. She crosses over the edge of the room, into the foyer --

-- and all three of them go weightless, cartwheeling over and over into the gravity-free space.

They start tumbling upwards, toward the skylight above, they SCREAM, then they hear a loud GRUNT from behind them and turn around just in time to see --

-- *the Astronaut*, running at top speed across the dining room. He launches himself right at the edge of the foyer, sails through the air like a missile, and SLAMS into the three of them.

The Astronaut's momentum changes their path, they fly across the rest of the foyer, cross the border into the living room --

117 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

117

-- and SLAM to the floor with a collective GROAN. The Astronaut rolls off and hurries over to the window.

Lisa looks up at her little brothers, eyes wide.

LISA
What the hell is going on around here?!

*

WALTER
Lisa, when you sleep late, you miss a lot.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)
Zorgons!

The boys jump up and hurry over to the picture window, where the Astronaut is staring outside at two Zorgon ships that are hovering in front of the house.

118 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT 118

Outside the house again, we see huge chunks of fire billowing *
 out the open kitchen doors and into the greedy nothing of space. *
 Soon there won't be any fire left in the kitchen. *

119 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 119 *

Lisa joins the three guys at the window.

LISA
 What are Zorgons?!

ASTRONAUT
 Space lizards.

WALTER
 They wanna burn us and eat us.
 (jerks a thumb at his brother)
 Danny spun 'em. *

DANNY
 You made me! *

SLAM! The house rocks as a Zorgon ship SLAMS into it from *
 below. *

ASTRONAUT
 They're coming in from below!

SLAM! The house rocks back the other way as a ship lands hard
 on the roof.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)
 And from above!

The Astronaut and the boys run to the edge of the foyer and look *
 up through the broken skylight. The hatchway to the Zorgon ship
 is back, it slides open and a dark shape slithers out of the *
 ship, THUDS to the carpet on the second floor landing, and
 crawls quickly out of sight.

Lisa GASPS.

Now a *second* dark shape slithers through the hatch and THUDS *
 to the carpet up on the second floor. Overhead, they hear lizard
 feet SCURRYING across their floor.

LISA
 Downstairs! We can lock 'em out, come *
 on! *

She races out of the room, expecting the others to follow her, but they're all distracted.

DANNY

Which ship's got the game in it?!

ASTRONAUT

I don't know! But these two got here first, which means they were the closest, so it has to be in one of them! All we have to do is-

*

He stops, looking after Lisa, her words sinking in.

*

WALTER

Did she say downstairs?

*

*

120 INT HALLWAY NIGHT

120 *

Lisa races down the hallway, calling back over her shoulder.

LISA

COME ON, YOU GUYS, HURRY!

She hears THUNDERING feet as they approach, assumes they're following. She reaches the door to the basement stairs and throws it open, starts down the stairs as the others appear at the other end of the hall.

WALTER

LISA, WAIT!

ASTRONAUT

DON'T GO IN THE BASEMENT!

DANNY

NOT THE BASEMENT!

121 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT

121

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM, Lisa's feet pound down the steps that lead to the basement.

LISA

GUYS COME ON, WE'LL BE SAFE IN HERE,
HURRY, HURRY!

She reaches a hand out for the door.

The Astronaut and the boys are approaching, we can hear their SHOUTS.

Lisa flicks the lock on the door.

The guys appear at the top of the stairs and race down toward her, ALL SHOUTING AT ONCE. The result is an incomprehensible jumble of words, "basement," "don't," "robot," "killer," "all Walter's fault."

Lisa throws open the basement door --

-- AND THE HALF-REPAIRED ROBOT SITS UP, EYES GLOWING RED!

Pretty much everybody SCREAMS.

ROBOT
ALIEN LIFE FORM.

Lisa SHRIEKS in the robot's face and freezes, but a hand SMACKS down on her shoulder and yanks her away. It's the Astronaut. He shoves her behind him --

ROBOT (cont'd)
MUST DES-

-- and SLAMS the door shut in the robot's face. He turns back to the kids.

ASTRONAUT
You three -- we gotta hide you
someplace safe!

DANNY
Where?!

ASTRONAUT
The game closet! Let's go!

He starts up the stairs. They follow, all except for Walter, who's momentarily puzzled.

WALTER
Hey, how do you know about the game
closet?

But the Astronaut is gone already, and the WHIRR of the robot's power drill, coming from behind the basement door, spurs him up the stairs.

CUT TO:

122 INT GAME CLOSET NIGHT

122

Shadows move under the crack of the door. Walter, Danny, and Lisa are crammed into the game closet, huddling on the floor with the lights out. The Astronaut has Walter's set of walkie-talkies in his hand and is working on the broken antenna.

ASTRONAUT

You guys wait here. I'll keep in touch with these.

WALTER

They're not gonna work. Danny broke 'em, they're completely destroyed, he-

The Astronaut SNAPS the "broken" antenna back into place easily.

WALTER (cont'd)

(sheepish)

Oh.

ASTRONAUT

(puts a hand on Walter's shoulder)

Two words of constructive criticism. Lighten. Up.

WALTER

Okay.

The Astronaut hands the walkie-talkie to Walter.

ASTRONAUT

Keep the volume low. Use this only if you need me.

DANNY

Where are you gonna be?

ASTRONAUT

I'm going to try and get the game back.

The Astronaut slips out the door and closes it behind him, leaving the three kids in almost total darkness. The only light comes from the crack beneath the closet door.

LISA

(breaking the silence)

That guy... what's his name?

DANNY

Shhhh!

LISA

Kinda stupid hair, probably from the helmet. Still, he's... interesting.

WALTER

What, you like him?

LISA

So? These feelings are natural, in a situation like this. He obviously feels very protective of me... if we get out of this, who knows?

WALTER

Oh, *brother*.

DANNY

Shh! I hear something --

Shadows move under the crack in the door. Walter, Danny, and Lisa are holding their breath, trying not to make any sound.

A pair of feet move past, but they're not human -- Zorgon feet. Another pair of lizard feet meet the first pair, now soft Zorgon BARKING can be heard outside. They're looking for the humans.

Danny is terrified, sucking his thumb again. He sees Lisa looking at him and pulls it out of his mouth, doesn't want to get busted. Lisa, softening, slides over next to him, takes his hand --

-- and pushes his thumb back in his mouth.

The Zorgon feet move away, but they remain frozen in fear.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

(on the walkie-talkie)

Walter --

His voice was an urgent whisper, but it comes across like a SQUWALK. Lisa, Danny, and Walter all GASP and hug each other.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Walter!

Realizing what it was, they all look at each other sheepishly. Walter picks up the radio and tries to be cool.

WALTER

Status report.

DANNY

(rolls his eyes)

Puh-leeze.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Zorgons everywhere. Mostly in the basement, but they're looking for us all over. I can see the game.

WALTER

(into radio)
Where is it?!

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

They've got a furnace ship backed up to the storm cellar doors and they're filling it up with junk to burn right now. The game is on the pile, just inside their ship.

WALTER

(into radio)
Can you get it?

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Negative. We've got Zorgons everywhere and the robot's just about fixed himself. I'd never get by.

Lisa takes the walkie-talkie from Walter.

LISA

(into radio)
Hey.

She gives it back to Walter, then takes it away from him again.

LISA (cont'd)

(into radio)
Over.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Hello?

LISA

(into radio)
Hey.

WALTER

Would you give that back to me!

He grabs it.

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Listen to me, I've got a plan. The storm cellar doors are near the little chute where the dumbwaiter opens up into the basement.

WALTER

(into radio)
How do you know about the dumbwaiter?
(MORE)

122 CONTINUED: (4)

122

WALTER (cont'd)

How do you know all this stuff about
our-

Suddenly, the closet door jerks open. They all are about to
SCREAM when they realize it's the Astronaut, who has returned.
He closes the door quickly behind him and hunches down in front
of them, speaking in an urgent whisper.

ASTRONAUT

Never mind that. We need a volunteer.

WALTER

Uh...

LISA

Well...

ASTRONAUT

Someone small.

They all look at Danny.

CUT TO:

123 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

123

Danny is jammed into the dumbwaiter box on the second floor
landing, his knees crunched up against his chest. Even he
barely fits, nobody else would stand a chance.

DANNY

Not fair, not fair, not fair, SO not
fair I can't even believe it!

The others are grouped around him, speaking in hushed voices.

ASTRONAUT

It's very simple... we lower you down,
you snatch the game off the pile, and
we pull you back up before the Zorgons
know what hit 'em. Got it?

DANNY

We are talking about the *basement* here,
people!

ASTRONAUT

You're gonna be a hero, Danny.

DANNY

I'm gonna be toast on a rope!

LISA

Shh!

She's standing at the railing, looking downstairs, where Zorgons can be heard patrolling the living room, their clawed feet CLICKING off the floor.

Walter bends down in front of his brother.

WALTER

Danny... none of the rest of us can fit inside. You're the only one that can do this. Only you.

DANNY

I'm scared, Walter.

WALTER

So am I. But you're brave. If you weren't scared, it wouldn't be so brave.

DANNY

Hm.

WALTER

Listen to me, Dan. I promise nothing is going to happen to you. You hear me? I *promise*. I won't let it. You believe me?

DANNY

I believe you, Walter.

Walter steps aside and the Astronaut reaches for the rope. He starts to pull it, hand over hand, and the box begins to move.

As Danny lowers out of view, we look up to the pulley, the one that's fixed into the ceiling of the shaft, the one that holds the dumbwaiter box up.

It's pulling right out of the wood.

124 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 124

Inside the dark chute, Danny-in-a-box lowers past us, hugging his knees and managing to look rather miserable.

DANNY

It is very, very, very, very, very, VERY hard to be the youngest.

We look down, past him. The chute seems to go down forever, toward a blazing bright spot at the bottom.

125 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 125

The Astronaut keeps tugging on the rope -- and the pulley keeps straining at its screws. *

The Astronaut notices. *

ASTRONAUT *

Uh oh. *

He starts lowering Danny faster. *

126 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 126 *

The box starts moving faster, bouncing and shaking as it lowers. Danny notices. *

DANNY *

(whispering up at them) *

Hey! Take it easy! *

But the box moves faster, and faster still. *

127 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 127

Up on the landing, Lisa is standing lookout at the railing while Walter and the Astronaut continue to lower Danny. Suddenly she crouches, as the shadow of a six foot lizard falls on the wall behind her -- a Zorgon on patrol down in the living room.

LISA

(whispers)

Stop! Get down! *

The Astronaut freezes, stops lowering Danny. He and Walter get down low. *

LISA (cont'd)

Don't move!

They all freeze. They follow her gaze, look up at the Zorgon shadow on the wall above them. It turns, looking in all directions.

The Astronaut looks back at the pulley. With the box stuck in midair and the Astronaut not suspending it, the strain is too much. *

The screws are pulling right out of the wood. *

128 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 128 *
 Danny has stopped, not yet at the bottom. He wriggles, trying to move again.

DANNY
 Hey. Why'd you stop?

He twists around, trying to look up at them.

DANNY (cont'd)
 Come on!

He rocks back and forth in the box --

129 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 129 *
 -- and the screws pull free! *
 The pulley yanks out of the ceiling and the rope starts whizzing through the Astronaut's hands. *

130 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 130 *
 Danny CRIES OUT as the box goes into free fall. *

131 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 131 *
 On the second floor landing, the ruckus attracts attention -- the shadow of the Zorgon on the wall turns abruptly toward them. *
 But the rope is still sliding through the Astronaut's hands. *

ASTRONAUT
 Help me!

Walter lunges over and grabs hold, together they stop the rope and hold it fast. *

132 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 132 *
 The box containing Danny JERKS to a sudden stop right about at basement level (although it could still go down further, to the bottom of the chute). The cabinet door falls open and Danny finds himself looking straight into -- *

133 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 133 *
 -- a basement taken over. It was a creepy place before, but with Zorgons in it it's a hundred times worse. We get our first good look at these things in the sickish light of the basement's light bulb. *

133 CONTINUED:

133

They're hideous, green, scaly bastards, and every one of them holds a ruby-handled, blood-encrusted broadsword. Much worse than we imagined.

Danny swallows.

134 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 134 *

While Walter and the Astronaut strain to hold the dumbwaiter rope, on the wall behind them the shadow of the Zorgon starts getting larger. It's approaching.

LISA

It's coming up the stairs!

135 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 135 *

Still in the dumbwaiter box, Danny scans the room. There are a pair of storm-cellar doors that are flung open on the far side. A Zorgon furnace ship is backed up to them, white-hot flames raging within. A giant pile of junk is just beyond the doors, on board the ship, stuff that's being fed into the furnace.

Danny squints for a better look. There, on top of a pile of stuff waiting for burning, is the Zathura game box, charred and scarred, but basically intact.

Danny's eyes widen.

Suddenly THE HILT OF A ZORGON SWORD appears right in front of him.

Thankfully, the Zorgon doesn't look into the dumbwaiter box, doesn't see the human six year old wedged into the tiny space just a few feet away from him.

A Zorgon on board the ship scoops up more junk with a shovel and tosses it on the pile, right on top of the board game.

136 INT STAIRS TO SECOND FLOOR NIGHT 136

A pair of Zorgon feet climb slowly up the stairs to the second floor.

137 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 137

Lisa sees it and crawls over to the Astronaut.

LISA

It's coming!

ASTRONAUT

Get out of here, both of you! Hide!

137 CONTINUED:

137

They scamper away across the second floor. The Zorgon's head and the tip of his blood-encrusted sword, are just visible coming up the top of the stairs. *

The Astronaut, who is still holding the rope, looks around -- what the heck do I do with it?! *

138 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 138

Danny wriggles out of the dumbwaiter box and THUDS to the basement floor. *

The Zorgons don't see him, they're clustered around something on the far side of the room, BARKING and SNAPPING at each other. The something in between them is SQUEAKING, maybe moving, but we can't see it.

Then it's not squeaking anymore.

Yuck, we realize. They're eating. Tearing something apart with their claws. The occasional bone flies over their shoulder and skitters across the cement floor.

The Zorgon who was shoveling stuff into the fire hears the others eating. He drops his shovel and heads over to join them, leaving the pile of stuff momentarily unattended. *

This is as good a time as any. Danny scampers low across the floor, through the storm cellar doors, and into the belly of the Zorgon ship. *

139 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 139

Zorgon feet come to a stop on the second floor landing. But there's nobody up there.

There is, however, a rope, conspicuously tied to the railing, leading down into the dumbwaiter chute. *

The Zorgon steps forward to the rope, studies it. What does this mean?

140 INT ZORGON SHIP NIGHT 140

Danny crawls quickly across the pile of junk in the Zorgon ship. The basement is still visible behind him, through the open storm doors. *

He digs through the stuff, searching for the game he saw just moments ago. He finds it, stuck under a corner of the pile, and starts tugging at it. It won't come, and the stuff on top of it teeters precariously. *

140 CONTINUED:

140

Danny braces his feet, grabs hold with both hands, and pulls as hard as he can. The game comes free, Danny falls over backwards, the mountain of stuff on top of it tips and CRASHES to the floor of the basement -- *

-- the Zorgons on the other side of the room whirl around to see what the sound was -- *

-- and Danny lands with a THUNK on the floor, just out of the Zorgon's vision. *

The Zorgons see nothing, figure it was just falling junk. They turn away again, go back to eating. *

Danny tucks the game securely under his arm and sneaks back into the basement. *

141 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 141

Danny crabwalks across the floor to where he came in. He reaches the rope, still hanging out of the dumbwaiter chute. He climbs into the box and HISSES up into the chute. *

DANNY

Pull me up! Hey you guys, pull me up!

He reaches out of the box and tugs on the rope a few times to get their attention. *

142 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 142

Up on the landing, the Zorgon who was staring at the rope jumps back in alarm as it bounces in front of him, pulled by Danny from below. This thing is alive!

The Zorgon BARKS at the rope, raises his sword --

-- and cuts right through it with a single slice.

143 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 143

Danny is still tugging on the rope.

DANNY

Come on, I don't have all-

The rope suddenly goes slack and falls out of the chute, dropping into a useless pile of hemp at his feet. *

DANNY (cont'd)

-day. *

Something SKITTERS to a stop at his feet. It's a bone. *

He looks up. Across the room, half a dozen Zorgons, backlit by the raging inferno outside the storm cellar doors, are looking right at him.

DANNY (cont'd)

Ohhhhh...

They ROAR.

DANNY (cont'd)

... *crap.*

Danny takes off across the basement as fast as he can.

The Zorgons take off after him.

But Danny is little, and little means maneuverable. He lets loose a truly brilliant broken field run -- he crawls underneath a work bench, bounces off the front of the washer, he cuts a circle around the water heater, he wriggles through a narrow maze of ducts, all the while leaving slipping, GROWLING, flailing Zorgons too big to get through the spaces he's finding.

He emerges from the maze of pipes, nothing between him and the stairs now --

-- except of course the killer robot.

Danny SCREECHES to a halt, as the robot BEEPS and BUZZES and levitates right up onto its feet, putting the finishing touches on its self-repair. One of its arms WHIRRS out in front of it, a VICIOUS BLUE LASER BEAM HISSES out the end of one of its digits --

-- Danny flinches --

-- and the robot SNAPS shut a face plate in its chest and applies the laser beam to the edges, soldering it shut.

Danny bolts past it and bounds up the three steps that lead to the bottom door, SHOUTING.

DANNY (cont'd)

WALTERLISA OPEN THE DOOR SOMEBODY OPEN
THE DOOR I'M COMING OPEN THE DOOR!!!

He BANGS into the door and turns the handle, but it's locked.

144 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT

144

The basement door handle RATTLES back and forth, we can hear Danny's muted SHOUTS from the other side, but that door ain't budging.

144 CONTINUED:

144

A SHADOW falls over the door, a great big scary shadow of something at the top of the stairs. The something starts down toward the door, descending, headed right for it.

145 INT BASEMENT NIGHT

145

Danny is BANGING on the door as hard as he can when the doorknob turns, the door swings open -- *

-- and Walter grabs hold of his brother and hauls him out of the basement. *

DANNY *

Walter! *

WALTER *

Told you I wouldn't let anything happen to you! *

They turn to flee, but at the top of the stairs, TWO MORE ZORGON LIZARDS appear! *

Walter and Danny SCREAM, yep, they're doomed for sure, stuck on the stairs, killer lizards above and below, no way outta this one. The Zorgons above SNARL, the Zorgons below BARK and SPIT -- *

-- and suddenly go flying out of the way like bowling pins.

THE ROBOT now stands where they were, eyes blazing red again. *

ROBOT *

AUTO-REPAIR COMPLETE. *

It turns, its eyes blazing red at Walter. *

ROBOT (cont'd) *

ALIEN LIFE FORM. MUST DESTROY.

WALTER *

GAAHH! It still wants to kill me! *

DANNY *

The card! The card, use the CARD! *

Remembering, Walter fumbles in his pocket for the card the game gave him earlier. *

The robot's red beams fall squarely on Walter's chest. *

Walter pulls the card out, holds it in front of him like a badge, and SHOUTS: *

WALTER

REPROGRAM!

The Robot BEEPS, a series of rapid BOOPS and HUMS come from its processor, and suddenly its red beams SHIFT, they split and land on two new targets --

-- the Zorgons, standing at the top of the stairs!

ROBOT

ALIEN LIFE FORMS! MUST DESTROY!

The robot's turbojets BLAST and he takes off like a guided missile, flying straight up the stairs.

Walter and Danny drop to the stairs as the robot SHRIEKS over their heads.

The Zorgons bolt out of there, headed back toward the living room, and the robot SLAMS into the wall where they stood.

Walter SLAMS and locks the basement door, trapping the other Zorgons downstairs.

Immediately, their swords start to hack at the door.

146 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

146 *

The two Zorgons fleeing the robot race back into the living room and BARK up at the ceiling, to their shipmates above. TWO ROPES appear, thrown down through the hatchway in the bottom of the ship.

The Zorgons grab hold and climb frantically, BARKING and SNARLING up at their shipmates to pull them up.

The robot appears in the doorway of the living room. Its turbo jets fire and it rockets across the room, just missing the Zorgons as they are pulled up into their ship, the hatchway sliding shut behind them.

Walter and Danny appear in the doorway, amazed and grateful and staying the hell back. Lisa and the Astronaut come racing in from the other room.

But the robot isn't satisfied. As the Zorgon ship starts to pull away, the robot's turbojets fire again, and it blasts off, straight up, through the hole in the roof.

It SMASHES through the closed hatchway of the Zorgon ship as it rises. FRANTIC SCREAMS can be heard coming from inside the ship as it takes off with its new passenger.

Everyone runs to the window and sees the Zorgon ship fly away into deep space, twisting and turning, barely in control as the robot wreaks whatever havoc it's wreaking inside. *

WALTER

One ship down, one to go!

ASTRONAUT

Forget the ship, play the game!

SMACK! Wasting no time, Danny slaps the Zathura game down in the middle of the floor and all four of them dive down to it. *

LISA

Hurry, the basement door won't hold long! *

DANNY

My turn! *

He starts cranking the key frantically. *

147 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 147

The basement door SPLINTERS as the Zorgons SLAM into it with their swords from the other side. They're going to come through. *

148 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 148

The number spinner spins and comes up eight. But Danny's piece doesn't move. *

DANNY

Come on, move! *

He flicks it with a finger. *

DANNY (cont'd)

It won't move! It's broken! *

Outside, a Zorgon ship fires a photon blast at the house. It SMASHES through the big plate glass window, shattering it and spraying glass everywhere. *

149 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT 149

And that's not even the worst of it. Outside the house, we see that there are now at least a dozen Zorgon ships who've come to join the party. They're circling the house in big lazy arcs, mosquitoes around a porch light.

149 CONTINUED:

149

More and more and more specks are visible on the distant horizon. This is not going to end well.

150 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

150

Walter, Danny, Lisa, and the Astronaut are flat on their stomachs, covering their heads from the falling debris as the house is attacked. *

DANNY *

Why won't it move? *

LISA *

Are you sure it's your turn? *

WALTER *

But nobody else is playing! *

The Astronaut's eyes widen as he realizes something.

ASTRONAUT

Of course....

He cranks the crank and slams the button, spins a three. Immediately, Walter's blue space ship RATTLES ahead three spaces. *

WALTER *

Hey, that's my ship! I'm blue! *

And the board spits out a card! *

ASTRONAUT

So am I.

WALTER

But how can that be?

ASTRONAUT

This is still my game!

The Astronaut snatches up the card and reads it. His eyes light up.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

"Hit time warp. Go back three spaces and repeat last turn."

He moves his piece slowly back three spaces, which of course lands him right back on the wishing star.

Immediately, they all wince from a blinding light that is shining through their windows. They turn and look.

A shooting star is approaching, exactly like the one that Walter wished on. Just as it did then, everything in the room starts sliding toward the windows, drawn by the star's mass. *

The Astronaut stands up, transfixed, unable to believe what seems to be happening. The star is just ten seconds away. *

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

A shooting star...

SLAM! Walter looks up. Another Zorgon ship has landed on the roof and he can see the dark shapes of Zorgon pirates wriggling through the open skylight.

The shooting star is just a few seconds away.

WALTER

Make a wish!

DANNY

Hurry!

The star is just two seconds away.

The Astronaut steps forward toward it, closes his eyes, and makes his wish, softly, to himself.

ASTRONAUT

I wish I had my brother back.

The star passes the house with its hot SIZZLING sound and the light turns brilliant, blinding, they all turn away and cover their eyes as it washes the entire screen white for a second.

Finally it passes and the light fades, they all turn back toward the windows as they are slowly able to see again, and when they see what they see is --

-- *an EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD KID standing in front of the windows!*

The Astronaut's jaw drops.

So does pretty much everybody else's.

KID

I feel weird.

The Kid looks around, just as confused as everybody else, trying to figure out where he is. He looks down at his own hands, flips them over once or twice as if they're new to him. He sees the Astronaut, who has tears running down his cheeks.

ASTRONAUT

Danny?

KID

Walter? Is that you?

The Astronaut rushes forward and throws his arms around the Kid, pulling him into a tight embrace.

KID (cont'd)

What happened? Two seconds ago I was me and now I'm... I'm *big!*

Young Walter looks at Young Danny as they both figure it out.

YOUNG WALTER

Oh.... wooooowwww.

LISA

What did they call each other?

YOUNG DANNY

(to Young Walter)
He's you!

YOUNG WALTER

(to the Astronaut)
You're *me?!!*

ASTRONAUT

I'm you.

Young Walter looks at Young Danny, pointing at Grown Danny.

YOUNG WALTER

And he's you!

YOUNG DANNY

You are?!

GROWN DANNY

I am?

LISA

Wait a minute, who's who?

YOUNG DANNY

This one's me grown up and that one's Walter grown up!

LISA

Oh my God, and I wanted to-
(can't finish the sentence)

*
*

YOUNG WALTER

Ew!

LISA

If he's him and he's you, then who's me?!

Young Danny puts a sympathetic hand on her shoulder.

YOUNG DANNY

You can play next game.

KABOOM! The front door of the house EXPLODES off its hinges, hit by a Zorgon blast. Grown Walter and Grown Danny hit the deck, now all five of them are back around the game board.

YOUNG WALTER

(to Grown Walter)

Why didn't you tell us before?

GROWN WALTER

I was ashamed.

(to Grown Danny)

I'm sorry, Danny. I didn't mean it. *

SMASH! The Zorgons from the basement finally burst through the door. Grown Walter lunges over and SLAMS the top basement door, locking that one as well. *

But two swords CRUNCH through the wood, it won't take them long to get through again. *

GROWN WALTER (cont'd) *

(to Grown Danny)

Go, you little fungus, it's your turn!

LISA

A twelve! You need a twelve!

KAWHUMP!

The entire house is rocked by a blast from a Zorgon ship. They look up and see that the entire roof has been ripped off.

GROWN WALTER

HURRY!

Grown Danny cranks the crank -- *

GROWN DANNY

Come on twelve, come on twelve...

-- and SLAMS the button. The big wheel spins. *

151 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT 151

One of the circling Zorgon ships directs a FIRE BLAST at the top of the house and it bursts into flame. They're going to destroy this thing right here, right now.

152 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 152

The wheel slows, passes eight, nine, ten, it's slowing down too much!, just barely makes it to eleven -- *

153 EXT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 153

The Zorgons in the basement SMASH through the top door, it CRACKS right in half and the lizard-things pour through, heading for the living room. *

154 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 154

-- the wheel passes eleven, eleven and a half, teeters there for a moment -- *

-- AND CLICKS OVER TO TWELVE! *

GROWN DANNY

TWELVE!

His rocket ship motors ahead twelve spaces, toward the round black blob Zathura, which waits at the end of the trail. *

Young Danny leaps to his feet, SHOUTING, the way he sees it, if Future Him wins, then damn it, he wins.

YOUNG DANNY

He got a twelve! I mean, I got a twelve! I mean, WE got a twelve!!!

The Zathura board spits out its last card, all the way out this time, it spins onto the floor and the slot SNAPS shut with finality. Young Walter snatches up the card and reads it.

YOUNG WALTER

"Take black hole Zathura back in time to planet earth!" *

Suddenly, everything in the house goes very dark. *

YOUNG DANNY

Black hole?! *

YOUNG WALTER

Zathura's not a planet at all! *

As Zorgons pour into the living room from above and below,
something even more striking happens --

-- the whole front of the house tears off!

Suddenly they're flying through space without a front wall, and
now they're moving fast, really fast, headed straight toward
this giant swirling black mass which occupies nearly their
entire field of vision, outside the front of the house.

It's a black hole, all right, and it's pulling them and
everything else into it. Books, lamps, furniture, everything
not nailed down sails out the front of the house and disappears
into Zathura, the entire house starts to crumble, to
disintegrate as it is sucked out into space, and then they are
sucked out into space, first Grown Up Walter, then Grown Up
Danny, then Lisa, Young Walter, Young Danny, all SCREAMING, and
we follow them of course, right into that black mass --

155 INT BLACK HOLE NIGHT 155

-- and, in the elongated black space of a wormhole, we see Lisa,
tumbling, SCREAMING. And next to her are Young Walter and Grown
Walter, stretched out like crazy, tumbling head over heels
through the backside of the universe. They're elongating and
spinning around and around each other, and Grown Walter is
getting younger as we watch, shrinking.

The same is happening with Young Danny and Grown Danny, they're
spinning together, becoming one, like a piece of yarn twirling
itself back together, we go in tight on Young Danny's face as
the two faces meld together, and he's still SCREAMING and then --

156 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 156

-- we pop out, but we're still tight on Danny's face and he's
still SCREAMING, but he's sitting on the living room floor now,
and the living room is brightly lit like it was at the
beginning, sunlight and trees out the window, and Walter's
sitting with his back to Danny like he was at the beginning,
slumped in the chair in front of the TV set, SportsCenter
playing again.

Danny stops screaming and looks around, completely disoriented.
He looks down.

His red rocket ship game piece is resting on the planet earth
again. Walter's blue ship is back in the box. The board is
spread out in front of him, and Danny's hand is outstretched,
ready to push the button for the first time.

He turns, his hand frozen in mid-air, and looks at Walter.

DANNY

Walter?

Walter turns around slowly and stares at him. Walter's eyes are as wide as saucers.

WALTER

Don't. Push. That. Button. *

Veeeeeeerrrrry carefully, Danny stands up and backs away from the game. *

Walter gets up out of the chair. They stare at the board for a second, then at each other. *

DANNY

I DID IT!

WALTER

YOU DID IT!

Danny hurls himself at Walter and tackles him, they both fall backwards onto the carpet.

DANNY

I won a game; I finally won a game!

He's hugging Walter so hard they're both rolling across the carpet.

DANNY (cont'd)

And I didn't cheat or anything, Walter, maybe it took me twelve whole years but I didn't have to cheat and I won I won I won!

Walter wrestles Danny off of him and they roll around on the floor, but it's playful this time, Walter is laughing, they're both laughing --

-- when Dad hurries through the door.

DAD

I distinctly remember asking you guys not to kill each other.

DANNY

DAD!

They both get up and hurl themselves at their father, each tackling a leg, and now he goes down to the carpet and all three of them are down on the floor, rolling around like crazy people. Danny and Walter talk at the same time, a mile a minute.

WALTER

Dad there was this game we played this game and it sent the house into outer space and everything got wrecked and we almost had to stay in it forever and we saw ourselves grown up and-

DANNY

It was so scary there were these lizard guys and we went through a black hole and I'm the one who stole the game back from the Zorgons I did it by myself and everything and-

DAD

Wow, sounds like fun! Hey, your mom's gonna be here any minute, go grab all the books and games and whatever you wanna take to her house, it's almost three.

And he gets up and heads upstairs, WHISTLING.

The boys stop wrestling and look at each other, realizing there's no point in telling Dad later, or anyone else for that matter, no one would ever believe this.

DANNY

But you and me know, right?

WALTER

(nods)
You and me.

CUT TO:

157 EXT HOUSE DAY

157

A car pulls up in front of the house and HONKS twice. MOM gets out and comes around to the sidewalk. She waves, friendly, at the front door --

158 INT HOUSE DAY

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-- where Dad waves back, standing in the open doorway. He turns, bends down to help Danny put on his backpack.

DAD

I'll miss you, Kiddo, but I'll see you on Wednesday.

Danny is having trouble zipping his jacket, so Dad helps. He brushes Danny's hair out of his eyes and kisses him.

DAD (cont'd)

I love you.

Walter hurries up, zipping his own coat, backpack already on.
Dad kisses him too.

DAD (cont'd)

And I love you too, exactly the same
amount.

Walter and Danny head out the door, walking down the sidewalk
toward their mom, who waits smilingly at the car.

Lisa comes steaming out of the house, jammed-up backpack over
her shoulder. She looks a wreck, hair all over the place, eyes
as big as dinner plates, dark circles under them.

She bends down between the boys as she passes through them.

LISA

We never speak of this. Got it?

DANNY

Sure.

WALTER

Whatever.

Lisa looks at Walter, holds out a hand.

LISA

And you-

She stops, nothing to do except shudder in horror.

She stomps toward the car, blows past her mother, gets in the
front seat, and SLAMS the door behind her, staring off into
space.

Walking the short walk from one parent to another, Danny looks
at his brother.

DANNY

Hey, Walter.

WALTER

Yeah, Dan?

DANNY

Did you happen to notice I end up
taller?

As Walter good-naturedly grabs his brother by the backpack and drags him around in circles with it, we pull back across the yard to take in the whole scene -- Dad standing in the doorway, Mom waiting at the car, and the two little boys walking down the sidewalk, closing the space between. *

CUT TO: *