

\* Astronaut mentions  
wormholes + time travel

# ZATHURA

*A Space Adventure*

screenplay by  
David Koepp & John Kamps

based on the book by  
Chris Van Allsburg

and a screenplay by  
Eric Fogel

\* cut cheating  
\* Macaroni again  
\* shorten laundry room  
\* Longon set piece incl. downstairs stuff  
\* They hide in study at end to play game

May 24, 2004

1     EXT     "OUTER SPACE"     NIGHT     1     \*

Not even the stars are visible in this distant corner of an  
obscure galaxy.     \*  
\*  
But wait, there's something -- a star, then, a field of stars.     \*  
But they're dim and blurry, like they've been painted on the     \*  
sky.     \*

Because they have. This is the stamped-steel surface of an old-  
fashioned game board.     \*  
\*

A shift to the right, and a narrow slot opens up. A space ship  
running along the track jerks into view. It's crude, die-molded  
steel.     \*  
\*  
\*

A second ship lurches ahead of the first. As credits roll, we  
leave the ships behind and rocket forward to explore other  
features of this outer space landscape -- craters, lunar  
mountains, ringed planets, asteroid fields...     \*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Then, moving faster, we go vertical, rocketing upward into the  
stars and then plunging downward to the center of the game, on  
an unstoppable crash course toward a dark black planet right at  
its center, a scary black mass that pulls us in and plunges  
everything into     \*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

BLACK.     \*

2     EXT     A BACK YARD     DAY     2

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.     \*

From offscreen comes his father's voice.

DAD (O.S.)

Okay, Danny, you're up!

Danny takes a deep breath and picks up his glove. \*

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

It's my turn, Walter. Dad said. \*

WALTER \*

Whatever. \*

Danny scowls as his sweaty, athletic brother walks past him,  
giving him a dirty look. \*

DANNY \*

You're not the only one who gets a  
turn, you know. \*

DAD \*

Okay, Dan. Eye on the ball. You got  
it this time. \*

Danny 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.

DANNY

This game is stupid! Let's play Smash Brothers instead.

DAD

We can play that later, we're doing this right now. Come on, throw me back the ball.

Danny sighs heavily, picks up the ball and throws it back to his dad, and gets it almost all the way there.

DAD (cont'd)

Ready now? Watch the ball, not me.

Danny nods, but keeps staring at his father.

DAD (cont'd)

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 --

-- 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...

DANNY

THIS GAME IS EXTREMELY STUPID!

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

He 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:

3 INT HOUSE - ENTRYWAY DAY 3

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. \*

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

4 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 4

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

5 INT HOUSE - ENTRYWAY DAY 5

Dad comes into the house a few seconds later.

DAD

Danny?

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

6 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 6

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.

7 INT HOUSE - DANNY & WALTER'S BEDROOM DAY

7

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*.

(MORE)

7 CONTINUED:

7

DAD (cont'd)

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.

8 INT HALLWAY DAY

8

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.

9 INT BEDROOM DAY

9

DAD

And, you know, I use my imagination for a living, so I know what I'm talking about.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Danny sits up.

\*

DANNY

Is it better than Walter's?

\*

10 INT HALLWAY DAY

10

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

DAD (O.S.)

What?

11 INT BEDROOM DAY

11

Danny persists.

DANNY

Is my imagination better than Walter's?

Dad smiles and lowers his forehead against Danny's.

12 INT HALLWAY DAY 12

Walter leans in closer, straining to hear.

13 INT BEDROOM DAY 13

DAD  
(whispers to Danny)  
You're different than Walter.

14 INT HALLWAY DAY 14

Walter, frustrated, couldn't hear.

15 INT BEDROOM DAY 15

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.

16 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 16

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 --

17 INT OFFICE DAY

17

-- his office, a converted dining room. He drops down at a big table 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, Richard, can I call you  
right back? Two minutes. Thanks.

\*

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.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

WALTER

Do you want to play catch?

DAD

Have I expressed my need to work?

18 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

18

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!*

19 INT OFFICE DAY

19 \*

Walter is petulant. \*

WALTER \*

If Danny wasn't around, we'd have all the time we wanted. \*

DAD \*

Well, Danny *is* around. \*

20 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

20 \*

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?

21 INT OFFICE DAY

21

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

DAD

I... 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:

22 INT BEDROOM DAY

22

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.

22 CONTINUED:

22

DANNY

You can't cheat at Stratego!

WALTER

You'd find a way.

23 INT OFFICE DAY

23

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.

24 INT BEDROOM DAY

24

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:

25 INT OFFICE DAY

25

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:

26 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

26

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 around the place, all the beautiful woodwork, the floors, the craftsmanship... I love it here, I wouldn't pick any other house in the whole universe.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DANNY

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

DAD

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

26 CONTINUED:

26

DANNY  
NOOO!

WALTER  
Are you *crazy*?!

\*

CUT TO:

27 INT LISA'S ROOM DAY

27

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.

DAD  
What time?

LISA  
We're hooking up at eight.

DAD  
That's six hours from now.

LISA  
Again with the timing.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

DAD

And could you please not say "hooking up?"

LISA

Whatevs.

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 iPod and turns it on loud, puts on her Bose noise-reducing headphones and a sleep shade. She flounces back under the covers, rolls over and faces the wall.

CUT TO:

28 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

28

Danny and Walter are in the living room. Alone now. Danny has turned on the tv and is playing a GameCube game, something with animated characters bashing each other all around the screen.

Walter walks over to the GameCube and SNAPS it off.

DANNY

Hey!

WALTER

Dad said no Smash Brothers.

DANNY

He did not!

Walter switches the channel and the TV comes on, showing an episode of SpongeBob SquarePants.

ON TV,

SpongeBob is frustrated by Mr. Crabs. \*

SPONGEBOB (O.S.) \*

(a curse) \*

Tartar sauce! \*

IN THE LIVING ROOM, \*

Danny sees it, it's his favorite show. His face lights up, but  
Walter grabs the remote and flicks it over to SportsCenter. \*

DANNY \*

Hey! I was watching that! \*

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

DANNY (cont'd) \*

I hate this guy. Can't we see  
SpongeBob? \*

WALTER \*

SpongeBob is for babies. \*

DANNY \*

You used to like it. \*

WALTER \*

Times change. \*

DANNY \*

(mutters) \*

Tartar sauce. \*

Pause. Danny thinks, how to get his brother's attention. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*

I'm hungry. \*

WALTER \*

What do you want me to do about it? \*

DANNY \*

Make me some macaroni and cheese? \*

Walter turns the TV up some more and ignores him. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*

(another curse) \*

Fish paste. \*

Danny thinks for a moment, then leaves the room. He comes back  
a few seconds later 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 (cont'd) \*

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. 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 un-catchlike 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 pygmy! \*

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.

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.

30 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 30

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

31 INT DUMBWAITER DAY 31

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.)

Daaaaannnnnyyyy...

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. He tries to get out of the dumbwaiter, but Walter SLAMS the door on him. Danny pushes against it, but Walter pushes back, trapping him there. As they struggle:

\*  
\*  
\*

DANNY

YOU'RE A JERK!

\*  
\*

WALTER

YOU'RE A DWARF!

\*  
\*

DANNY

I DON'T WANNA BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME,  
I WANNA BE WITH *MOM AND DAD* ALL THE  
TIME!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

WALTER

YEAH, WELL THAT AIN'T EVER GONNA  
HAPPEN!

\*  
\*  
\*

Eyes gleaming with malevolence, Walter 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.

\*

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!

WALTER

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

32 INT DUMBWAITER - MOVING DOWN CHUTE DAY 32

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

WAAAAALLLLTERRR!

33 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE DAY 33

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!

34 INT DUMBWAITER DAY 34

The dumbwaiter CLUNKS to a halt and Danny is in almost total darkness. He's frozen, eyes wide. He whispers. \*

DANNY  
*walter? pull me up, walter!*

35 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING DAY 35

Walter SLAMS the door and heads back downstairs. \*

36 INT DUMBWAITER - IN THE BASEMENT DAY 36

Danny trembles in the dumbwaiter, panicked. He peers through the holes in the door, but can't see much. \*

He takes a deep breath, then touches the door and pushes it open eeeeeever so slightly. \*

37 INT BASEMENT DAY 37

Danny's eyes peek around the corner of the slightly open door. The only light coming into the basement 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 pushes the door open a teensy bit more, takes a deep breath -- \*

-- and hurls himself out of the dumbwaiter. He hits the floor running, headed for a closed door at the far end. \*

He throws the door open, revealing a stairwell that leads upstairs. He lunges inside, tripping on the steps and OOFING down hard on his stomach. \*

He wriggles around and SLAMS the door behind him -- \*

38 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL DAY 38 \*

-- then FLICKS the deadbolt lock on the basement door. \*

He lies there, crumpled at the bottom of the steps, breathing heavily. Safe for the time being, he takes a moment to collect himself. \*

But as he starts to get up, he stops, his curiosity aroused. \*

38 CONTINUED:

38

There's something *under* one of the stairs, looks like it was shoved there a long long time ago, but you'd never see it unless you fell at the bottom of the steps just the way Danny has. \*

It's a tattered old cardboard box, must be about fifty years old. Carved letters on the edge of the box read \*

*ZATHURA*  
*A Space Adventure* \*

Danny pulls the box out and admires it. \*

CUT TO: \*

39 INT LIVING ROOM DAY

39

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 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

Check out 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 at the game pieces, which are different colored rocket ships. There's a red and a blue ship, stuck into the track on the planet earth. \*

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 the mechanical track that runs off from there. \*

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

Danny reaches out to move one of the rocket ships, but the red ship starts moving all 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... meator 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.

POINK!

A rock drops onto the floor in front of them.

\*

\*

PLINK! \*

Another rock lands on the fireplace mantle, bounces off, bounces across the room and lands on the rug in front of them. \*

SSSSSS! The rock burns a hole in the rug, then drops *through* the living room floor and falls into the basement below. \*

Walter and Danny look at each other. \*

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!*

TEENK! A meteor smashes a vase on an end table. \*

THWOK! A meteor rips through the seat of a side chair. \*

POW! A meteor SMASHES through a pile of books on a shelf. \*

TAK! TAK! TAK! TAK! The drizzle of meteors increases to a shower, and then -- \*

RAMBAMBAMBAMBAMBAMBAM! \*

-- 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. \*

40 INT LISA'S ROOM DAY 40

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 iPod, and cranks the music even louder. \*

41 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 41

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.

He staggers backwards and falls into an easy chair so hard it tips over backwards, landing him on his back on the floor, staring up at the ceiling. He SCREAMS and leaps out of the chair --

-- as a meteor SMASHES right through it.

Walter, meanwhile, is running across the living room, pursued by CRASHING meteors, which nip at his heels. He races out into the entryway and skids to a stop, looking up --

-- *AT THREE METEORS SLAMMING THROUGH THE ROOF* right over him.

He turns back around and races away as they SMASH into the floor.

Back to Danny, who's crawling across the floor. He hides behind the other easy chair, we can't see him for a moment, and then --

-- the chair is obliterated by a crashing meteor. When the dust settles, Danny is revealed, curled up in a ball behind the chair, hands over his head.

The meteors stop. Danny looks at Walter, who's also curled up in a ball in the middle of the floor, hands over his head to protect himself.

Silence for a second. They look at the smoking, smashed, ruined living room.

Walter turns, looks at the only intact thing left in the room -- the big TV set. He sighs in relief.

A low whistle like a falling bomb rises up, gets louder and louder, a dark shape approaches fast, and --

-- a huge meteor, six feet across, *SMASHES* through the roof! \*

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 pulverizes the television. \*

WALTER \*

Holy sh- \*

DANNY \*

(cutting him off) \*

Tartar sauce! \*

Walter and Danny slowly get to their feet and walk over to either side of the crater. Everything goes quiet as the meteor shower stops and the dust settles. \*

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 roof. Outside, there's a night sky, brilliantly dotted with starlight. \*

WALTER \*

Dad is gonna *kill* us! \*

(looking around) \*

*Look* at this place! It's wrecked! \*

Danny looks up, out the hole in the roof. \*

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

DANNY

I don't think so. It's three o'clock,  
why is it so dark? \*

WALTER \*

Well... maybe it's daylight savings  
time. \*

Danny just gives him a look -- don't be pathetic. \*

WALTER (cont'd) \*

Well, I don't know. How long did Dad  
say he'd be gone for? \*

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?

They both turn and look at the front door. Danny walks toward  
it, but Walter does not, he just watches his brother. \*

Slowly, Danny opens the front door. He peeks outside, then  
turns back to Walter, amazed. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*

Walter! C'mere! \*

WALTER \*

I don't want to. \*

DANNY \*

What are you, afraid? \*

41 CONTINUED: (4)

41

Walter doesn't like to have that one turned on him. Frowning, he walks forward slowly to join Danny at the door.

\*  
\*

42 EXT FRONT PORCH NIGHT

42

The front door swings open and Danny and Walter 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.

\*

43 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT

43

Jumping back from the house, we see it is completely detached from its earthly moorings, trailing pipes and power wires out its basement, which looks like a molar that's been ripped out by the roots.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

The house is drifting somewhere through the outer reaches of our solar system. Saturn is clearly visible up ahead, its icy, brilliantly colored rings lit up like a billion jewels. Walter's bike, which was parked on the front porch earlier, drifts lazily alongside the house.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

44 EXT FRONT PORCH NIGHT

44

Back on the front porch, Walter's jaw drops. He walks forward toward us a few steps, transfixed, and when he reaches the top step, he starts to drift upward, out of frame, freed from the house's gravity.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Danny reaches out and grabs him by the belt, pulling him back down. Slowly, they back into the house --

\*  
\*

45 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

45

-- and close the door softly behind them.

\*

WALTER

H-How did we get here?!

DANNY

Some sorta space engine.

\*

WALTER

How come we can breathe?

DANNY

Some sorta space air.

\*

WALTER

What are we gonna eat?

DANNY

Some sorta space nuggets.

WALTER

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

DANNY

Well, duh.

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

WALTER

We gotta call Dad!

ACROSS THE ROOM,

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

WALTER (cont'd)

It doesn't work!

DANNY

Well, duh.

WALTER

Danny, I hate to say this and I know you're going to think I'm crazy -- but maybe we have to wake up Lisa.

DANNY

Don't you think we have enough problems?

CUT TO:

46 INT LISA'S ROOM NIGHT

46

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!

WALTER

A couple things!

DANNY

That's not the point!

They start talking at the same time:

DANNY

We started playing this board game and it turned real and sent us into outer space and we don't know how to --

WALTER

There was a meteor shower and everything got wrecked and now we're in space and we don't know how to --

DANNY & WALTER

-- get back to earth!

Lisa sits up, gravely concerned.

LISA

Oh, no!

WALTER

Oh, yes!

But she's not reacting to what they said, she's looking past them, noticing that it's dark outside.

LISA

It's 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, you gotta listen to us, 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. She hits the switch on a boom box and cranks up the MUSIC, singing along loudly. Apparently, her milk shake brings the boys to the yard.

The boys POUND on the door, calling her name, nearly hysterical. She yanks the door open again, just a towel wrapped around her.

LISA (cont'd)

*What?!*

WALTER

You gotta believe us! Look, we'll prove it! We'll take our turns and make something happen!

Lisa SIGHS heavily.

LISA

Fine. Prove it.

DANNY

Right! It's your go, Walter!

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.

WALTER

Watch, it's gonna be incredible!  
You're not gonna believe it.

Danny winces, covering his head. Walter cowers next to the board.

DANNY

(to Lisa)  
Watch out! Here it comes!

WALTER

Protect yourself!

The wheel stops on a one, and Walter's space ship THUNKS forward one space most underwhelmingly.

Danny and Walter peek out.

LISA

Wow. That's somethin.

She starts to go into the bathroom.

The board BUZZES and spits out a card.

DANNY

Wait, the card!

WALTER

Yeah, the card! The card's what makes it happen!

Walter takes the card and reads it.

WALTER (cont'd)

"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?

LISA

All righty then.

And she's gone, into the bathroom, SLAMMING and LOCKING the door behind her. The MUSIC comes back on.

DANNY

I get killer meteors and you get promoted?! How is *that* fair?

WALTER

Just go, hurry up!  
(calling out)  
Hang on, Lisa, that one didn't count,  
wait till you see this one!

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 five turns."

DANNY

What the heck does that mean?

All of a sudden, the sound of the shower stops from behind the bathroom door. The music stops too. 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!

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

47 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT

47 \*

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

I killed her! I killed her!

WALTER

No you didn't, she's just frozen in cryonic sleep!

He turns and runs out of the room.

DANNY

What the heck does that mean?!

Walter races over to the counter and finds a bunch of long-handled matches in a jar next to a scented candle. He grabs one.

WALTER

It means we gotta melt her!

Next he picks up a can of Aqua Net hair spray, lights the match, and points the hair spray can toward it.

WALTER (cont'd)

Get me some gasoline!

He sprays the hair spray, which hits the flame and creates a huge blow torch effect. \*

DANNY  
ARE YOU CRAZY?!

He knocks the hair spray out of Walter's hand and the flame immediately goes out. \*

WALTER  
We can't just *leave* her like this!

DANNY  
Well, you can't *burn* her! She's a girl!

WALTER  
So what are we supposed to do?!

Danny looks at him, grimly serious. \*

DANNY  
We have to play. \*

CUT TO: \*

48 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 48 \*

CLOSE ON a big black blob, the drawing on the game board that represents the planet Zathura. Pulling back, we find Danny and Walter, sitting cross-legged on either side of the game board back in the smashed-up living room. \*

Walter is leaning over the open box, reading some words that are printed on the inside of the box top. \*

WALTER  
"Pieces return to starting position when the game is complete." \*

He flips the top over, looking for more. \*

WALTER (cont'd)  
That's it?! That's all they tell you? \*

DANNY  
What else do you need to know? \*

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

DANNY (cont'd)  
It's your turn, Walter. \*

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 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.

\*

DANNY

I'm already red.

\*

WALTER

All right, I'm blue.

\*

DANNY

Your go.

Walter reaches out to push the button that spins the spinner, but 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

Nine. 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 -- \*

-- 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, then realize they're hugging  
each other. Embarrassed, Walter shoves Danny away. \*

WALTER (cont'd) \*

Get off me! \*

DANNY

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.

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.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

WALTER

No no!

ROBOT

EMERGENCY.

WALTER

No it isn't!

\*  
\*

He drops the card as if it were on fire.

\*

WALTER (cont'd)

There's no emergency!

\*  
\*

ROBOT

ALIEN LIFE FORM. ALIEN LIFE FORM.

DANNY

Walter, he's talking about *you*.

ROBOT

MUST DESTROY.

The robot reaches its full size, now standing six feet tall and four feet wide. Its clawlike hands extend, SNAP open and shut several times quickly.

\*  
\*

And it starts to walk -- THUNK. THUNK. THUNK. Moving steadily toward Walter.

\*  
\*

DANNY

*RUN!!!*

\*

They bolt in opposite directions, just as twin turbo jets emerge \*  
 from the robot's back. The jets spit blue flame, the robot's \*  
 legs fold up behind it, 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.

Its head pivots around and looks at Walter, but its body stays \*  
 where it is, driven completely into the wall and stuck there. \*

ROBOT  
 ALIEN INVASION. MUST DESTROY.

Walter stares, wide-eyed. \*

DANNY \*  
 It's okay! It's stuck! \*

But the robot's working on that. Its arms snake around to the \*  
 its back and flip open two circular panels there. The claw- \*  
 hands SNAP into the center of the circular panels and come out \*  
 spinning, now attached to -- \*

-- CIRCULAR SAWS. \*

Danny and Walter SCREAM and take off as the robot goes to work \*  
 on the wall, trying to cut itself free of the drywall and broken \*  
 joists. \*

WALTER \*  
 DANNY, GO! IT'S YOUR TURN! \*

Walter races across the room and toward the open door to the \*  
 den. Danny leaps behind the sofa and hides there, eyes peeking \*  
 over the top of the cushion to get a look at the robot. \*

The robot, meanwhile, finishes extricating itself from the wall \*  
 and BLASTS across the room toward the den -- \*

49 INT DEN NIGHT 49 \*

-- as Walter SLAMS and locks the door behind him. The den is a \*  
 book-lined room with a big desk on one side. Walter takes off \*  
 toward the desk, but -- \*

-- SMASH! The robot explodes through the door. Walter cowers \*  
 behind the desk as the robot advances on him, saw blades \*  
 WHIRRING. The machine has him cornered. \*

Behind him, Walter can see Danny, who races into the room \*  
 brandishing a broken chunk of wood. \*

WALTER

Danny, no! Stay back!

The robot's head spins around and sees Danny behind him.

Danny quivers. Now the robot's whole *body* spins around (this time its head holds still) to face Danny.

DANNY

Ulp.

The robot advances until --

-- KA-THUNK. A book smacks it upside the head.

The robot turns back to Walter, who's standing at the bookcase, loaded up with another hardcover. He lets it fly.

WALTER

Go, Danny! Take your turn, make it go away!

Danny turns and races out of the room, Walter takes cover behind the desk, but --

-- the robot saws the desk in half. So there goes that.

The robot advances, but Walter dives and rolls out of the way.

50 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

50 \*

In the living room, Danny slides to the floor in front of the game board and starts twisting the key frantically, winding up the game.

Behind him, Walter races out of the den, pursued by the robot. The robot hits its afterburners, rockets across the floor --

-- Walter leaps, but hooks a foot on the back of the couch, he falls --

-- and the rocket BLASTS right over top of him. It SMASHES through one of the picture windows, 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.

DANNY

M-maybe we should take a break for a while?

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

The boys SCREAM. Danny drops to his knees in front of the game \*  
board and SMACKS the button for the spinner. The wheel spins, \*  
he gets a six, and his ship starts moving. \*

The robot turns and its beams find Walter. \*

Walter takes off down a hallway toward the kitchen. The robot \*  
gives chase. \*

The game board BUZZES and spits out a card. Danny snatches it, \*  
tries to read the card but can't. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*  
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 looks up. In the window, a large \*  
orange mass starts to rise up from below. \*

The game board slowly begins to slide toward the window, of its \*  
own accord. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*  
Oh my. \*

Now *Danny* starts to slide toward the window, sucked there by \*  
some invisible force. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*  
(sliding on his stomach) \*  
OH MY. \*

51 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 51 \*

In space, the house passes near a massive orange planet so dense \*  
it HUMS as they come near. \*

52 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 52 \*

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.

52 CONTINUED:

52

In a corner, a ficus plant droops, hard.

Books are sucked off the bookshelves and SMACK to the floor,  
motionless.

\*  
\*

53 INT HALLWAY NIGHT

53 \*

Walter, fleeing from the robot, falls flat on his stomach.

\*

The robot, chasing Walter, is SMACKED down onto the floor as  
well.

\*  
\*

Walter grabs hold of a door frame and pulls himself forward.

\*

THUNK! The robot sinks a claw into the floor and drags himself  
forward toward Walter, still in pursuit.

\*  
\*

54 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT

54 \*

In Lisa's bathroom, she's still frozen. But icicles SNAP off  
her one by one and SMASH on the floor.

\*  
\*

55 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

55 \*

Danny is pulled all the way over to the one unbroken picture  
window, then THUNKS up against it, sucked in by the  
gravitational pull of the passing planet.

\*  
\*  
\*

A lamp SMASHES through the window beside him and tumbles out  
into space.

\*  
\*

56 INT HALLWAY NIGHT

56

Walter turns, painfully, and sees the robot at the other end of  
the hall, still 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, unlocks the  
deadbolt and throws open the door at the base of the stairs.  
He drags himself up to his knees and turns to start back up the  
stairs --

\*  
\*  
\*

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

WALTER

\*

Whoops.

57 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 57

Back in the living room, still pressed against the window, Danny winces as everything that's not bolted down in the room starts flying toward him, some of it sailing out the hole in the window. \*

Outside, that big orange planet draws even closer, and Danny's whole face starts to droop, pressed into the window. \*

58 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 58

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!

59 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 59

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

60 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 60

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, through the open basement door, and SMASHES to a stop on the floor of the basement. \*

61 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 61

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

62 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 62

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

62 CONTINUED:

62

Danny THUNKS to the floor, dropping off the window as the planet releases its hold on him. \*

DANNY

Walter?!

He gets up and races out of the room.

63 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT

63

Danny appears at the top of the basement stairs and looks down, to where Walter is twisted around, staring in shock at the 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 floor a few feet away with a bunch of other broken robot stuff. \*

WALTER

I... think so. \*

Danny edges down the stairs. He and Walter stand in the doorway to the basement, staring down at the robot. Danny looks apprehensively around the basement, doesn't want to go in. \*

Walter creeps in for a closer look. \*

DANNY

Don't go too close! \*

WALTER

It's okay! \*

Walter kicks the arm. Nothing happens. \*

Walter gets right up over the robot corpse. He gives it a gentle kick in the side. Nothing happens. He bends down, to look into its eyes -- \*

-- *and they light up!* \*

Danny SHOUTS. \*

DANNY

WHAT'D YOU DO?!

WALTER

NOTHING! I SWEAR! \*

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.

DANNY  
Get out of there!

Don't have to tell Walter twice. He takes off for the door as the whirring tool starts repairing broken wires in the robot's torso.

Walter bolts through the door and SLAMS it, leaving the basement dark, except for the flashing laser lights of the robot's repair mechanism.

CUT TO:

64 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 64

Danny and Walter drop to the floor on the cushions of the overturned couch, leaning against its back, exhausted. Danny is quivering, truly shaken now. This isn't fun anymore.

After a long moment --

WALTER  
Well...

-- Walter drags the game board over toward them.

WALTER (cont'd)  
... only one way out of this.

DANNY  
Don't!

WALTER  
You got any better ideas?

Danny doesn't. Walter cranks the key, hits the button, and the spinner spins. A four comes up and Walter's blue ship moves that many spaces. A new card spits out of the board.

WALTER (cont'd)  
(reading)  
"You are promoted to Fleet Admiral. Go ahead two spaces."

Danny rolls his eyes as Walter's blue ship THUNKS ahead another two spaces.

WALTER (cont'd) \*

Great! \*

DANNY \*

(imitating him) \*

"Great!" \*

WALTER \*

Your turn. \*

Danny shakes his head no. \*

WALTER (cont'd) \*

Come on, I can't finish by myself. \*

DANNY \*

I don't care. \*

Walter looks at him. Danny's on the verge of tears. \*

WALTER \*

Maybe something good'll happen to you.  
I got Fleet Admiral, didn't I? \*

DANNY \*

Yeah, and I got meteors and scary  
gravity and froze our sister! I don't  
want to go! \*

WALTER \*

You have to! You're the one who  
started it in the first place! Well,  
now we're in space and our sister is  
frozen and there's nothing we can do to  
fix it except *play!* \*

DANNY \*

I don't want to play, I want to go  
home! I want to eat lunch! I'm  
hungry! I'm dizzy! \*

And he sits back, arms folded across his chest. Walter looks at  
him, thinking. \*

CUT TO: \*

65 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

65

The kitchen also shows the effects of the super gravity that hit  
the house earlier -- it's completely 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. He lifts the pan off the stove and dumps the macaroni water into a strainer in the sink. \*

WALTER (cont'd) \*

So maybe after you eat, we could start the game up again? What do you think? \*

DANNY \*

No. I hate it. I don't even want to win. \*

WALTER

Oh, come on, sure 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 you won you'd get to play games with Dad whenever you want as much as you want and he wouldn't get tired or have to go to work or anything stupid. And I won I'd never have to quit or give up my 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.

*What do you want home to be like?*

*~~Home is~~  
Home is without me.*

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.

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 six --

\*

WALTER (cont'd)

(encouraging)

Hey, you got a six, good job!

\*

\*

\*

-- 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.

66 OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, 66

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.

67 BACK IN THE KITCHEN, 67

DANNY

*ZORGONS!*

WALTER

MAYBE THEY'RE FRIENDLY!

68 OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, 68

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

69 BACK IN THE KITCHEN, 69

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 --

70 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 70

-- 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.

70 CONTINUED:

70

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.

71 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 71 \*

Outside, the laser cannon adjusts its aim and fires another blast at the house -- \*

-- which decimates the front porch, knocking it clean off the front of the house. \*

Walter's bicycle, still floating along beside the house, is blown upward by the force of the blast, tumbling end over end toward the roof. \*

72 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 72 \*

Danny and Walter throw themselves to the floor and cover their heads. Another blast -- \*

73 INT UPSTAIRS BATHROOM NIGHT 73

-- EXPLODES through the wall of the upstairs bathroom.

74 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 74

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.

75 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 75

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

I have to, the card said!

\*

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 spun 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 tattered flight jump suit. \*

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!

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.

76 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

76

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.

\*

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.

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

CLOSE ON the blue flame as it's extinguished.

77 INT HALLWAY - UPSTAIRS NIGHT 77

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

78 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 78

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.

79 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT 79

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.

80 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 80

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.

81 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 81

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

82 INT HALLWAY NIGHT 82

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!

83 INT FOYER NIGHT 83

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.

84 EXT OUTER SPACE NIGHT 84

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.

85 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 85

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...

86 THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR, 86

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.

86 CONTINUED:

ASTRONAUT

You have no idea how close that was.

Walter and Danny both look up at him.

WALTER

Who are you?

CUT TO:

87 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

87

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

What does it look like?

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.

*Feeding at  
Fridge  
instead*

\*

ASTRONAUT

Dig in.

DANNY

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

ASTRONAUT

What am I, a food cop? \*

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. House is a wreck, Zorgons snapping at your heels, you cheat, and Whingey McWhine over here has an attitude problem. \*

WALTER

I do not! That's not fair! \*

ASTRONAUT

See, there you go, complaining about everything. \*

(MORE)

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

(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'm already in  
a game of my own. It's complicated. \*

DANNY

Why don't you just finish the game  
you're in? \*

ASTRONAUT

I can't. \*

WALTER

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:

88 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

88

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

Nine. 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 floating slowly up toward the roof, in a slow head-over-heels tumble. \*

WALTER (cont'd)

I've got no gravity! They took my gravity! \*

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

DANNY

Cool!

ASTRONAUT

Isn't it?

WALTER

GET ME DOWN! \*

ASTRONAUT \*

Relax, I'll find some rope.

He turns and heads out of the room, in no great hurry. Walter is still floating upwards -- \*

-- toward the hole in the roof, the one the meteor crashed through when they started the game. \*

89 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 89

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 hole in the roof. \*

90 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 90

DANNY

HANG ON WALTER, I'LL SAVE YOU!

91 INT UP NEAR THE ROOF NIGHT 91 \*

Walter is still tumbling upwards, headed straight for the hole in the ceiling and deep space beyond.

91 CONTINUED:

91

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 --

92 EXT HOUSE - OUTER SPACE NIGHT

92

-- he's still dangling upside-down over the house as it moves through outer space.

Pulling back fast and far, we get a view of the whole crazy situation -- the house, motoring along like Dorothy's in the tornado and the little boy hanging upside-down out the hole in the roof, SCREAMING at the top of his lungs.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

93 INT TOP FLOOR NIGHT

93 \*

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.

93 CONTINUED:

93

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, YA*  
*DUMBASS!*

\*  
\*

DANNY

Don't call me dumb! *Or the A-word!*

\*

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

\*

94 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

94

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!

95 INT UP ON THE ROOF NIGHT

95 \*

Walter throws both hands around the rope and holds fast.

WALTER

I GOT IT!

96 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

96

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

97 INT UP ON THE ROOF NIGHT

97 \*

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

WALTER

Ow!

97 CONTINUED:

97

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!

98 INT FOYER NIGHT

98

Walter BANGS into the edge of the overhang --

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 --

99 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

99

-- 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. \*

ASTRONAUT

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

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

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

It's your turn.

CUT TO:

100 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT

100

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.

100 CONTINUED:

100

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

LISA

What the-?

101 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 101

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 --

102 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 102

-- 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.

103 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 103

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

104 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 104

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:

105 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 105

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. Look, it's fixed, okay? It's not a big deal, guys.

(to Danny)

Will you just take your turn without cheating, please?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

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.

*Danny has an outburst*  
*Walter it's not my fault he's a loser.*  
*Apologize*  
*W*  
*Okay, then*  
*I'm sorry you're a loser.*

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! 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! I'm always too little and he always beats 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

For the last time, we *have* to play the game if we want to get home!

\*  
\*

DANNY

Well maybe I don't want to go home, not if *you're* there!

\*  
\*

WALTER

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

DANNY

I HATE THIS GAME! I HATE YOU! YOU'RE A MEAN OBNOXIOUS JERK AND --

\*  
\*

WALTER

I HATE YOU RIGHT BACK, YOU STUPID MIDGET!

\*  
\*  
\*

*Takes the game & throws it*

DANNY

-- AND IT'S YOUR FAULT MOM AND DAD GOT DIVORCED!

\*  
\*  
\*

Walter's eyes narrow as Danny drops this nuclear bomb of sibling insults.

For a split-second, Danny regrets it, knows he's gone too far, but it's too late to take it back. He turns, 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, everything in the room starts to slide toward the big picture windows -- vases, pictures, rubble on the floor -- it's as if a giant magnet is pulling up outside the house.

WALTER

I get my wish now, don't I?

\*  
\*

ASTRONAUT

The moment it passes, yeah.

\*  
\*

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

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

Don't do it, Walter.

\*

WALTER

Don't do what?

\*

ASTRONAUT

Don't wish what you're thinking.

\*  
\*

The pull of the star grows even stronger -- now their clothes billow out in front of them, their hair stands up and floats toward the windows.

WALTER

You don't know what I'm thinking.

\*  
\*

ASTRONAUT

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

\*  
\*  
\*

Walter lets the star pull him to the window and he stares outside, an idea forming in his mind that is every bit as dark as the star is bright. The shooting star is just ten seconds away now.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

I'm telling you, no matter how good an idea something seems like when you're mad --

Walter reacts, he *is* thinking something awful, but he still won't look at the Astronaut. The shooting star's closer, they can start to hear it now, a hot SIZZLING WHOOSH growing louder and louder. Five seconds away.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

-- it isn't, you gotta believe me on this one.

But Walter is transfixed, staring out the window. The Astronaut grabs him.

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.

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

What did you wish?

WALTER

I can't tell you. \*

ASTRONAUT \*

What did you wish?! \*

WALTER \*

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

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

ASTRONAUT

Tell me! TELL ME! \*

WALTER

What's the matter with you?

The Astronaut lets him go, turns and looks upstairs.

105 CONTINUED: (7)

105

ASTRONAUT

You did it, didn't you?!

He takes off for the stairs.

106 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT

106

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

ASTRONAUT

Danny?!

107 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

107

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.

108 INT WALTER AND DANNY'S ROOM NIGHT

108

The Astronaut stands in the doorway to Walter and Danny's room and looks everywhere 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:

109 INT WALTER AND DANNY'S ROOM NIGHT

109

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?

Deal.

WALTER

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

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

KA-CHUNK! Danny hits handle.  
DANNY

\*

\*

\*

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:

110 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

110

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.

111 INT BASEMENT NIGHT

111

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

112 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

112

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.

*downstairs*

*No.*

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. \*

WALTER

What is it?!

He and Danny take off down the rest of the steps and are about to burst into the living room when they are both suddenly lifted off their feet, pulled back, and SLAMMED onto the steps. \*

The Astronaut stands over them, eyes ablaze. \*

ASTRONAUT

(whispering) \*  
Are you crazy?! Are you *trying* to get \*  
eaten?! \*

Sufficiently terrified, they shake their heads no. \*

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

(still whispering) \*  
Wait here. I'll check it out. *If* I \*  
give you the all clear... come on in. \*

They nod again. He straightens and creeps into the living room, silently. \*

Danny and Walter stay where they are, trembling. \*

113 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 113

The Astronaut comes around the corner into the living room,  
which is -- \*

-- completely empty. We're talking *totally* empty, no furniture,  
no drapes, no pictures on the mantel, not even a rug. \*

He suppresses a GASP, which is a good thing, because a chunk of  
brightly colored glass falls to the floorboards and TINKLES at  
his feet. \*

He freezes, hunching low in the shadows, and dares a look up. \*

Through the hole in the roof, he can't see the stars anymore,  
what he sees instead is a hatchway on the underside of a  
spaceship that has landed on their roof. \*

And through that hatchway he sees 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. \*

The Astronaut stays perfectly still, not even daring to breathe. \*

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

Finally, the Astronaut lets out a breath. He calls out. \*

ASTRONAUT \*

It's okay. You can come out now. \*

Walter and Danny creep around the corner, in time to see out the  
picture window as the Zorgon ship hits the afterburners. \*

114 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 114 \*

The Zorgon ship banks away from the house and heads out into  
space. \*

115 INT EMPTY LIVING ROOM NIGHT 115 \*

Danny HISSES out one word. \*

DANNY \*

Zorgons! \*

WALTER \*

But they're gone, right?! They're  
gone! So let's just 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.

\*

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:

116 INT KITCHEN NIGHT 116

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 bits too, does the same with a third, tossing the pieces onto a pile he's making in the big fireplace in the kitchen. \*

117 INT DAD'S OFFICE NIGHT 117 \*

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 --

118 INT KITCHEN NIGHT 118

-- 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!

119 INT LISA'S BATHROOM NIGHT 119 \*

Lisa is blow-drying her hair in her bathroom, now dressed in a Juicy track suit. She stops, SNIFFS the air. She turns off the blow dryer and SNIFFS again. \*

Definitely smells something. What are those little bastards up to? She walks out. \*

120 INT UPSTAIRS HALLWAY NIGHT 120 \*

Lisa comes out of her bedroom and heads down the hallway, looking around more carefully than last time. \*

The smell is stronger out here, but she notices something else as she comes out onto the landing -- the huge hole in the roof. \*

120 CONTINUED:

120

LISA

Oh. My. God.

She starts down the stairs.

121 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

121 \*

Lisa comes down the stairs and her face goes slack with disbelief and taut with rage at the same time (good luck).

The living room, aside from being completely empty, is also completely trashed.

LISA

OH. MY. GOD!

She turns and looks toward the kitchen, where black smoke is pouring from underneath the swinging door.

LISA (cont'd)

OH MY GOD!!!

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

122 INT KITCHEN NIGHT

122

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

LISA

OH MY MY MY MY MY MY MY MY MY GOD!!!

She's just in time to see Walter and Danny throw a pile of dirty laundry 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, break into big smiles.

WALTER

Hey, you're defrosted!

DANNY

I'm so glad we didn't melt you!

LISA

FIRE EXTINGUISHER, WHERE'S THE FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER?!

She starts ripping through the cabinets, searching for it.

WALTER

Don't! You're gonna wreck all our work!

LISA

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.

DANNY

Go get your clothes. We need to burn them.

Lisa finds the fire extinguisher, points it at the fireplace, and pulls the handle. An enormous SPLOOSH of foam shoots out and blankets the fire.

The boys cry out to object, but Lisa keeps blasting until the fireplace is full of foam.

WALTER

Well *that* wasn't very smart now, was it?

Suddenly the Astronaut BANGS through the opposite door of the kitchen and races over to the big windows.

ASTRONAUT

Don't worry, it worked!

The boys race over to look out the windows with him. In the distance, they see the tiny dot of a Zorgon ship approaching.

LISA

(to the Astronaut)  
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

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

ASTRONAUT

Take too long.

-- then changes his mind and turns back to the window.

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. \*

Through the window, a Zorgon ship is nearly upon the house and  
turning broadsides to fire its cannons. \*

ASTRONAUT

TAKE COVER! \*

He takes off toward the living room, sweeping everyone off in  
front of him, they BANG through the kitchen doors -- \*

123 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

123

-- and SLAM to the floor of the living room with a collective  
GROAN. The Astronaut rolls over and army-crawls to the window,  
peering up over the ledge at the ship, which fills the windows.  
But it's not about to fire anymore, it turns and dives *under* the  
house. \*

Lisa looks from the ship to the Astronaut to her little  
brothers, eyes wide. \*

LISA

Who's that guy?! What are those space  
ships?! Why is everything trashed?! \*

WALTER

Lisa, when you sleep late, you miss a  
lot. \*

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Everybody down! Second Zorgon ship  
incoming! \*

Sure enough, a second ship has appeared from on the horizon and  
is circling the house. \*

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 the first Zorgon ship SLAMS into it from below. \*

ASTRONAUT

The first ship! It's coming in from below! \*

SLAM! The house rocks back the other way as the second 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 hole in the roof. 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.

WALTER

Which ship's got the game in it?!

ASTRONAUT

I don't know! But there's only two of 'em, so we've got a fifty fifty chance! \*

DANNY

It should be the one down below 'cause it got here first so that means it was closer! \*

ASTRONAUT

(impressed)

Good thinking! Okay, here's what we-

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

harpoons,  
ship pulling up

123 CONTINUED: (2)

123

WALTER

Did she say downstairs?

124 INT HALLWAY NIGHT

124

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!

125 INT STAIRWELL NIGHT

125

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 SEES THE HALF-REPAIRED ROBOT SITTING UP AND DRILLING ITS OWN HEAD!

Lisa SCREAMS.

*Handwritten notes:*  
don't chase you  
her a bigger  
head start  
she  
meets  
them at  
top of  
stairs

\*  
\*  
\*

125 CONTINUED:

ROBOT  
ALIEN LIFE FORM.

Lisa's frozen, SCREAMING, 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  
We gotta hide!

CUT TO:

126 INT LAUNDRY ROOM NIGHT

126 \*

Shadows move under the crack of the door. Walter, Danny, and Lisa are crammed into the laundry room upstairs, huddling on the floor in front of the washer and dryer 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.

05/24/2004  
125  
She must back up,  
ship is pulling up  
to side

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 alone. The only light comes from the crack beneath the closet door.

Lisa stares after the Astronaut, fascinated.

LISA

Wow... that guy... who *is* he? I just feel so... so *safe* around him.

WALTER

Oh, *brother*.

LISA

What? He obviously feels very protective of me... if we get out of this, who knows?

WALTER

Would you just?

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. Suddenly, a voice SQUAWKS out from right among them, an urgent whisper:

→ go out with him \*  
see Lisa \*  
sneak down back staircase \*  
Then come back in. \*

No Zorgon feet

\*  
\*  
\*

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

(on the walkie-talkie)

Zorgons!

Lisa, Danny, and Walter all jump at the sound and grab onto each other.

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

Everywhere!

Realizing what it was, they all look at each other sheepishly. The Astronaut's voice starts cutting in and out.

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

... basement, but... looking for us all over... see the game! Hang on, I'll get closer!

There's bumping and rustling on the other end.

WALTER

(into radio)

Are you okay?!

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

(crackly again)

... furnace ship... storm cellar doors... burning everything! The game's on a... inside the ship... up with junk to burn!

WALTER

(into radio)

Can you get it?!

ASTRONAUT (O.S.)

Negative... can't... see me! I-

There is a frantic rustling for a few seconds, and then the transmission abruptly cuts out.

WALTER

Hello? Are you there?! Hello?!

Silence. They look at each other, terrified. Finally, Danny speaks what's on their minds.

DANNY

Is he... dead?

WHAM! The closet door jerks open. They're all about to SCREAM when they realize it's the Astronaut, who has returned.

*shorten*

He closes the door quickly behind him and hunches down in front of them, speaking in an urgent whisper.

ASTRONAUT

I couldn't get to it! The game's on board their ship, but there were too many of 'em. There was a narrow vent that led right to it, but I couldn't fit through... .

*game is on floor right by dumb waiter*

He takes a moment, catching his breath.

LISA

We know you did the best you could.

ASTRONAUT

Thanks.

She reaches over and puts her hand on his.

LISA

We believe in you.

WALTER

(to Lisa)  
*Will you please!*

ASTRONAUT

Worst part is, they saw me when I took off... now they've got guards at the bottom of the stairs and I'll never get back in!

DANNY

The box thingy!

ASTRONAUT

What?

DANNY

I got a great idea! Somebody could sneak down from upstairs in the box thingy on the rope, right, Walter?!

WALTER

Yeah!

DANNY

It goes all the way down to the dark side of the basement, they wouldn't even see you!

WALTER

But he's too big!

DANNY

No, *he* couldn't do it, it'd have to be somebody small, somebody who could fit in the... fit in the, um... fit in, uh...

He trails off, noticing they're all staring at him.

DANNY (cont'd)

Do we really *need* the game?

CUT TO:

127 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT

127 \*

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

I mean, maybe we could get home some other way.

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?

*floor*

Danny looks at him, wide-eyed. He nods, trying to be brave.

DANNY

I guess so.

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

You're the only one that can do this, Dan. Only you.

Danny gestures to Walter to lean in close. He whispers, so the others can't hear.

DANNY

I'm *scared*, Walter! You won't tell anybody, will you?

Walter puts an arm on his shoulder, and it's the first compassion we've seen from him.

WALTER

I'm scared too. If you weren't scared, it wouldn't be such a brave thing. And when you get back, you're gonna be a hero, and when people ask me "Do you know that kid Danny, the hero?" I'm gonna say "Yeah, sure, I know Danny. He's my *brother*."

DANNY

I didn't mean what I said to you before, Walter. About Mom and Dad... that it's your fault.

WALTER

I know.

DANNY

I'm sorry.

WALTER

Me too. Listen, I promise, nothing bad is going to happen to you. I won't let it. I *promise* you that. Believe me?

DANNY

I believe you.

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.

128 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT

128

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.

128 CONTINUED:

128

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

129 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 129

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.

130 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 130

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.

131 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 131

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.

132 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 132

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 --

133 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 133

-- *and the screws pull free!*

The pulley yanks out of the ceiling and the rope starts whizzing through the Astronaut's hands.

134 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 134

Danny CRIES OUT as the box goes into free fall.

135 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 135

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.

136 INT DUMBWAITER CHUTE NIGHT 136

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).

Danny peers out through the holes in the cabinet door but can't see much. But the SOUNDS coming from the other side are sure scary -- the THROB of a motor, the ROAR of a hungry inferno. \*

137 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 137

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!

138 INT DUMBWAITER DAY 138 \*

Summoning all his courage, Danny takes a deep breath and pushes the CREAKY dumbwaiter door open slowly. \*

He slips out, and into -- \*

139 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 139 \*

-- a basement taken over. It was a creepy place before, but now it's a hundred times worse, lit by the uneven orange light of a fire. \*

Danny looks around. 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. \*

Despite the fact that every ounce of him wants to run the other way, Danny creeps toward it. \*

140 INT STAIRS TO SECOND FLOOR NIGHT 140 \*

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

141 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 141 \*

Lisa sees it and crawls over to the Astronaut. \*

LISA \*

*It's coming!* \*

ASTRONAUT \*

Get out of here, both of you! Hide! \*

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?! \*

142 INT ZORGON SHIP NIGHT 142 \*

The light from the fire reflects off Danny's eyes, peering up over the top of a huge pile of junk that sits right in the entrance to the Zorgon ship. Danny slips over the pile and into the ship, darting between two crates. \*

When he turns around to get another look into the ship, he comes face to face -- \*

-- WITH THE HILT OF A ZORGON SWORD. \*

One of the beasts is standing right in front of him, but facing the other way. Danny holds his breath, the Zorgon walks off to join another, and we get our first good look at these things. \*

They're hideous, green, scaly bastards, and every one of them holds a ruby-handled, blood-encrusted broadsword. Much worse than we imagined. And there must be a half-dozen of them, just in the bowels of this one ship. \*

Danny swallows. \*

Peering out from his hiding place, he gets the lay of the land. The walls are lined with massive cables and ducts. A long conveyor belt runs across the floor, to the furnace on the far side, where a Zorgon is shoveling piles of stuff into the flames. \*

There, on top of a pile of stuff waiting for burning, something is shining. \*

Danny waits until the Zorgons are facing the other way and scurries across the floor, to another hiding place where he can get a better look. \*

That shiny something is the Zathura game box, charred and scarred, but basically intact. \*

Danny's eyes light up. He's only about fifteen feet from it now. \*

A Zorgon scoops up more junk with a shovel and tosses it on the pile, right on top of the board game. There's no way Danny can get to it without that Zorgon seeing him. \*

BLEAT! \*

Danny nearly jumps out of his skin. He suppresses a scream and whirls around. There behind him, he is face to face with some kind of SPACE GOAT. \*

The pitiful thing makes eye contact with Danny. \*

The Zorgon tugging on it stops and SNIFFS the air for a moment -- \*  
 does he smell Danny? -- then RATTLES the goat's chain and drags \*  
 it away, toward the group of Zorgons at the far end. \*

Danny sighs in relief. He scurries closer to the flames, closer \*  
 to the Zathura game. But the Zorgon guard is still there. \*

-- until the Zorgon with the goat BARKS and SNAPS at him. The \*  
 shoveling Zorgon drops his shovel and goes over to join a group \*  
 of them across the room, all BARKING and SNAPPING at each other. \*

The goat is in between them all, moving around. \*

Danny takes advantage of this opportunity to move closer. He \*  
 steps out of his hiding space. \*

SQUISH. \*

He looks down. His shoe is covered in glow-in-the-dark space- \*  
 goat shit. \*

He moves on. The Zorgons are now clustered around the SQUEAKING \*  
 goat and completely distracted. But then they goat isn't \*  
 squeaking anymore. \*

Yuck, we realize. They're eating. The occasional bone flies \*  
 over their shoulder and skitters across the cement floor. \*

Danny is horrified. \*

143 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 143 \*

Up on the second floor, Zorgon feet come to a stop on the \*  
 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? \*

144 INT ZORGON SHIP NIGHT 144

While the feeding Zorgons are distracted, Danny crawls quickly \*  
 across the pile of junk and digs through it, 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.

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 --

144 CONTINUED:

144

-- 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 their 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 is about to head back the way he came in when TWO ZORGONS walk over and take up position right between him and the storm-cellar doors that lead to the basement. \*

Tartar sauce! Danny looks around for another way out. The walls are lined with massive cables and ducts. To his left, he notices a duct that runs along the ceiling, with an entrance just big enough for a little guy to wriggle into. \*

He crabwalks toward it, the game under one arm. He scales the wall of the ship and wriggles into the duct. \*

ACROSS THE SHIP, \*

one of the Zorgons looks up from his meal, hearing a low BOOM. He draws his sword and goes to check it out. \*

145 INT DUCT NIGHT 145 \*

In the duct, Danny watches through a vent as the Zorgon passes beneath him. \*

146 INT ZORGON SHIP NIGHT 146 \*

In the ship, the Zorgon's nose leads him to Danny's old hiding place between the crates. Finding nothing, he goes back to join the others -- \*

-- but stops. Something has caught his eye. \*

*Footprints! In glowing green space-goat shit.* \*

Danny's tracks can clearly be seen leading toward the entrance to the duct. \*

147 INT DUCT NIGHT 147 \*

Danny starts crawling through the duct as fast as he can. There is a SCREECH of metal and sharp shafts of light that rip into the duct as the Zorgons stab their swords into it from underneath, just behind him. \*

Danny moves faster, but they're catching up. \*

147 CONTINUED:

147

*SCREECH!* A Sword shoots up right in front of him, just under his nose. \*

Danny maneuvers around it, kicks open the grate at the other end, and tumbles out, falling onto -- \*

148 INT ZORGON SHIP NIGHT 148 \*

-- the huge pile of junk near the entrance to the basement. The pile falls over, knocking into the Zorgons, giving Danny a couple seconds' head start. \*

He takes off, back into the basement. \*

149 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 149 \*

Danny scampers across the basement and leaps into the dumbwaiter chute, still hanging by the rope. 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.

150 INT SECOND FLOOR LANDING NIGHT 150

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.

151 INT BASEMENT NIGHT 151

Danny is still tugging on the rope.

DANNY

*Come on!!!* \*

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

DANNY (cont'd)

*Tartar sauce!* \*

He looks up. Across the room, half a dozen Zorgons, backlit by the raging inferno outside the storm cellar doors, are clambering over the pile of junk and coming into the basement. \*

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 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. \*

Danny leaps forward and cuts toward the stairs but stumbles, flying into a corner of a paint rack and grabbing on for dear life. \*

The paint rack flips around with Danny on it, like a revolving bookcase, and SLAMS up against a pillar just as the Zorgons catch up to him. \*

But the shelves of the paint rack hold the Zorgons back, and just a GROSS ZORGON TONGUE slithers between the shelves and flicks across the back of Danny's neck. \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*

*EWWWW!* \*

But no time to think about it, Danny leaps back to his feet, BANGS into the basement door and turns the handle, but it's locked! \*

DANNY (cont'd) \*

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

152 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT

152

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.

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.

153 INT BASEMENT NIGHT

153

CRASH! Behind Danny, the paint rack EXPLODES into wood chips as the Zorgons chop the hell out of it with their swords and start to climb over it. \*

Danny is BANGING on the basement door as hard as he can, but it's no use, the Zorgons have him pinned now, but no!, 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.

Danny and Walter SHOUT in triumph! \*

But the robot turns, its eyes blazing red at Walter. \*

ROBOT (cont'd)

ALIEN LIFE FORM. MUST DESTROY. \*

Danny and Walter SCREAM in despair! \*

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. \*

It lurches forward, *STOMPING* toward them, its feet *SMASHING* through the stair steps. It's on them in a second, looming over them, its arms shoot out -- \*

-- and gently push the boys aside. Now its red beams *SHIFT*, they split and land on the Zorgons, standing at the top of the stairs! \*

ROBOT

*ALIEN LIFE FORMS! MUST DESTROY!*

The robot's afterburners pop out of its back and it takes off like a guided missile, flying straight up the stairs. \*

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.

154 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

154

The two Zorgons fleeing the robot race back into the living room, *BARKING* and *SNARLING* in fear. \*

The robot appears in the doorway of the living room, busting out its spinning, *WHINING* circular saw blades. Its afterburners fire and it rockets across the room, just missing the Zorgons as they *leap* up toward the ceiling, giant lizard leaps that carry them all the way up through the hole in the roof and into their ship. \*

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 hatchway starts to slide shut, the robot's afterburners kick in again, and it blasts off, straight up, just squeezing through the hatch before it closes. \*

*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. From inside it, green goop *SPATTERS* up against one of the portholes. \*

The ship careens away into deep space, twisting and turning as the robot wreaks its havoc 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 twists the key, hits the spinner button, and the spinner comes up four. Danny's piece moves ahead, the card comes out, and the Astronaut grabs it for him. \*

ASTRONAUT \*

I got it! \*

(reading) \*

"Flunk space academy, lose one turn." \*

Everyone looks at Danny, expecting an explosion, but he simply blinks and gives them a deadpan look. \*

DANNY \*

I'm not even going to *comment* on that. \*

WALTER \*

My turn! \*

He cranks the cranker and is about to push the button to spin the spinny thing when the Astronaut reaches out and grabs his hand. \*

ASTRONAUT \*

I'll take this one, if you don't mind. \*

WALTER \*

Huh? \*

ASTRONAUT \*

I've been waiting twelve years for this turn. \*

They all look at him, puzzled, as he SMACKS the button and spins the spinner. \*

WALTER \*

What are you talking about? \*

The spinner stops on three and Walter's blue space ship RATTLES ahead three spaces. \*

WALTER (cont'd)

Hey, that's my ship! I'm blue!

\*  
\*

ASTRONAUT

That's right, I am.

\*

The board spits out a card, which the Astronaut snatches up and reads. His eyes light up.

\*  
\*

ASTRONAUT (cont'd)

*"Hit time warp. Go back three spaces  
and repeat last turn."*

His piece moves 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...

\*

WALTER

Make a wish!

DANNY

Hurry!

The star is just three 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 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? 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.

155 INT BASEMENT STAIRWELL NIGHT 155 \*

The basement door SPLINTERS as the Zorgons SLAM into it with  
their swords from the other side. \*

156 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 156 \*

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. \*

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. \*

157 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT 157 \*

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. \*

More and more and more specks are visible on the distant  
horizon. This is not going to end well. \*

158 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 158 \*

Walter, Danny, Lisa, and the Astronaut are flat on their  
stomachs, covering their heads from the falling debris as the  
house is attacked. \*

GROWN WALTER  
(to Grown Danny)  
Go, you little pygmy, it's your turn! \*

LISA  
A ten! You need a ten! \*

GROWN WALTER  
HURRY!

Grown Danny cranks the crank --

GROWN DANNY  
Come on ten, come on ten... \*

-- and SLAMS the button. The big wheel spins.

159 EXT HOUSE IN SPACE NIGHT 159

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.

160 INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT 160

The wheel slows, passes five, six, seven, it's slowing down too  
much!, just barely makes it to eight -- \*

SMASH! The Zorgons from the basement finally burst through the  
door and STOMP up the stairs. \*

-- the wheel passes nine, nine and a half, teeters there -- \*

-- *AND CLICKS OVER TO TEN!* \*

GROWN DANNY  
TEN! \*

His rocket ship motors ahead ten 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 ten! I mean, I got a ten! I  
mean, WE got a ten!!!* \*

But instead of spitting out a game card, this time the whole game board itself opens up, like a flower blooming, revealing a dark, black round thing in the middle.

YOUNG WALTER

What is it?!

YOUNG DANNY

It doesn't look like a planet to me!

*Suddenly, the whole front of the house tears off!*

Now 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.

ASTRONAUT

*IT'S A BLACK HOLE! ZATHURA IS A BLACK HOLE!*

Yep, 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. Everybody SCREAMS as --

161 EXT HOUSE (IN SPACE) NIGHT 161

-- the house tumbles and spins toward the black hole, sending Zorgons flying in all directions, back out into space, some grabbing onto their fleeing spaceships as they go.

But the house keeps headed for Zathura twisting and bucking and we follow it right into that black mass until suddenly --

CUT TO:

162 INT LIVING ROOM DAY 162

-- we pop out, 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, 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 look at each other, realizing there's no point in telling Dad later, no one would ever believe this.

\*

\*

DANNY

But you and me know, right?

WALTER

(nods)  
You and me.

\*

163 EXT HOUSE DAY

163

A car pulls up in front of the house and HONKS twice.

\*

164 INT HOUSE DAY

164

Dad waves to the car, 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. \*

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 warning finger. \*

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. \*

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.

A lovely moment. \*

And then Walter's bike falls from the sky and SMASHES to smithereens on the front lawn. \*

CUT TO: \*