

BIG THINGS

(Episode 1)

"From the Cove"

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Big Things Created by David Hill and Byron Dunbar

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTER SPACE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The CAMERA approaches EARTH. As it continues advancing, ISLANDS become visible. On these islands are various COLONIES, separated by a vast OCEAN.

EXT. EARTH - ESTABLISHING - DAY - CONT'D

The camera PANS over the islands, giving the audience quick glimpses of several colonies; each one represents a different genre of fiction: there's a Tolkien-esque fantasy world; a *Blade Runner*-style dystopia; a craggy, Charles Dickens cityscape, and many more.

Soon, the CAMERA SETTLES on a FUTURISTIC METROPOLITAN CITY, known as NEW HAVENFIELD. Across from New Havenfield, lies a spooking-looking ISLAND in the distance.

The camera lingers on New Havenfield for a moment, before TRACKING INTO IT...

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - ESTABLISHING - DAY - CONT'D

Clouds drift through the sky, as screams are heard OFF-SCREEN. A GIANT SQUID, about twenty-five feet tall, MOVES THROUGH THE SHOT, causing destruction.

FIGHTER JETS ARRIVE, and fire LASER BLASTS at the squid, who SWATS THE JETS AWAY. STOMPING SOUNDS appear, and the ground SHAKES as HARVEY, a GIANT ROBOT, emerges from behind a building. He also stands at about twenty-five feet tall.

The squid CHARGES FORWARD. Harvey pulls back his fist. The squid screeches to a halt, and SPURTS INK at Harvey's eyes. Blinded, Harvey wavers back and forth. The squid wraps his tentacles around Harvey, when a HATCH on Harvey's head POPS OPEN. A windshield wiper emerges from it and mops the ink away.

Harvey WRESTLES with the squid as ink continues spurting about. Most of it splatters across nearby buildings. Harvey grabs the ink shooter, and squeezes it shut. It BALLOONS UP like a clogged hose. The squid wrestles back the shooter, and the built-up ink BURSTS FREE. The blast sends Harvey SPRAWLING BACKWARD.

The squid FLAILS across the street, sputtering ink everywhere. Harvey attempts to regain his composure, but SLIPS in the ink. The squid hears the CRASH, and a devilish glimmer appears in his eyes. He approaches Harvey to deliver the finishing blow, when another hatch POPS OPEN on Harvey's chest, revealing a LASER CANNON!

Harvey FIRES a blast, sending the squid HURLING OFF-SCREEN, followed by a LOUD CRASH! A cloud of dust DISSIPATES. The squid lies on the ground, INCAPACITATED. Harvey gets up and PLACES HIS FOOT on the squid, posing victoriously.

The camera TRACKS OUT. A ten-year-old boy named ZACK is hiding in the bushes, recording everything on a VIDEO CAMERA. He lowers his camera, and GRINS.

Meanwhile, ONLOOKERS CHEER while FIGHTER JETS land. LIEUTENANTS emerge from the jets, holding ropes. They tie the squid up, as TANKS and other MILITARY VEHICLES ARRIVE. They HAUL THE SQUID OFF while NEWS CREWS ARRIVE in vans. Soon, CAMERAMEN are setting up equipment as a NEWSCASTER walks out in front of one of the cameras.

NEWSCASTER

...we on? Okay. This is Bryce Addison, reporting live from New Havenfield Square. The, uh, the crisis has been averted; Lieutenant Bradley Campbell arrived in his H.R.V. unit, and...

(voice trails off)

Zack continues filming as Harvey's head POPS OPEN, revealing a COCKPIT where a man in his early twenties is seated; this is BRAD.

Brad climbs down from Harvey, and greets the soldiers below. Zack looks guilty upon seeing Brad, and stuffs the video camera into his backpack before SCAMPING OFF. Brad walks past the newscaster, and notices Zack departing. Brad SMILES.

EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - DAY

Four children watch the news report on a TELEVISION in a STORE

WINDOW: An energetic boy named TYLER, a jolly girl named DORIS, a clean-cut boy named Jaleel—as well as a nervous girl named MERYL, who flounders behind them. The other kids look about ten years old, but Meryl seems slightly younger; she's about nine.

DORIS

Wow! Imagine what you could do with one of those things! It's **stupendous!**

JALEEL

Mm, y'mean the H.R.V. unit?

TYLER

It'd be sweet, alright! Imagine stomping around in a robot, everyone looking up at ya!

DORIS

I can only dream!

JALEEL

(pointing O.S.)

I bet he could do more than that.

The camera TRACKS OUT to reveal that Jaleel is pointing to Zack, as he JOGS down the SIDEWALK opposite to them. Doris RUNS UP to meet Zack. The others follow, as Doris BLOCKS Zack's path.

DORIS

Hey! Hey kid!

ZACK

Huh?

DORIS

Yeah! It's Zack, right?

ZACK

Uh, ye—

DORIS

Doesn't your big brother pilot that H.R.V. robot?

ZACK

Well, uh, to be honest, he... um, he

usually just calls it Harvey. Um.
Yeah. Harvey's what he calls it.
Yeah.

JALEEL

Pfft! Harvey?

ZACK

Yeah, he did. He does. It's like,
'H. R. V.,' you know, Harvey. H.R.V.

DORIS

I knew it! Wow, I bet that job takes
someone special, huh?

TYLER

Totally dude! That's why I'd make
one sweet pilot!

JALEEL

Hah. As if, Tyler. Remember, you
gotta apply to H.O.T.C. straight
outta grade school. Then there's
extra-curricular activities all
year, field training in the summer,
and that's—

TYLER

Hey man, that doesn't sound so—

JALEEL (CONT'D)

—and that's just before college.
There, you have to get like, a 240
on the physical fitness test, where
you swim fifty meters wearing big,
heavy boots, run through a—

TYLER

(covers ears)

Okay, okay! We get it man!

DORIS

Proves my point though, huh? Harvey
needs a pilot, and not just anyone!

(looks to Zack)

Only one fella could pass those
tests...

(smiles)
Your brother!

ZACK
(laughs nervously)
Heh, yeah, he sure is great, he's cool and all, he's great, he's-

DORIS
Great? More like **stupendous!** Brad's the coolest guy ever, he's-!

TYLER
More like he's got the coolest robot ever! If I had one, I'd fly high above all 'a you and-

JALEEL
Pfft, whatever Tyler. The H.R.V. unit is advanced, but it can't fly. It'd be aerodynamically impossible, and...

(continues talking)

The children descend upon Zack, FILLING THE SCREEN. Zack's eyes dart about, searching for an exit. He notices Meryl a few feet away. She's the only one who hasn't invaded his space, or even spoken. Zack LOOKS AROUND, as a plan hatches in his mind.

ZACK
Oh, uh, hey Meryl! Hey buddy! Hi!

Meryl steps back, nervous. Doris releases Zack, and looks confused.

JALEEL
You guys know each other?

ZACK
(walking over to Meryl)
Yeah, uh. Pretty much, yeah. Right Meryl?

MERYL
Er, w-well, kind of, s-sometimes we-

ZACK
Heh, yeah, but like, Meryl and me,

we were gonna go... go give my dog
a bath!

MERYL

Y-you, um, you d-don't have a d-

Meryl can't finish. Zack PULLS her away by the arm.

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - DAY

A TWO-STORY HOUSE is visible on the city's outskirts. Behind it,
lies a REDWOOD FOREST. Zack and Meryl walk toward the house.

ZACK

Sorry 'bout that, Meryl...

Meryl's eyes drift toward the ground bashfully, and a tiny grin
forms across her lips.

MERYL

Oh, uh, i-it... it's okay Z-Zack. I
could t-tell you were, ah... you
were, mm...

ZACK

Overwhelmed?

MERYL

R-right, overwhelmed!

ZACK

Yeah. Sometimes all that attention,
well, it kinda gets to me, to be
honest.

MERYL

I, I bet it's r-rough on your bruh-
brother too.

ZACK

The praise? Naw, he loves it, he
thinks it's great! Sometimes I even
think he-

(voice abruptly ceases)

I mean, he'll probably be talking
about it all night! Yep, all night!

(forces a smile)

Say, did ya wanna tag along?

MERYL

H-Huh?

Zack THUMBS toward the house.

ZACK

We could hang out until dinner. I mean, I'm sure my folks, y'know, I'm sure mom 'n dad wouldn't mind.

MERYL

Oh, um, I... I g-gotta study, I... but, mm... I'll be... I'll see you... I'll be seeing... um...

(beat)

G'bye...

Meryl TRIPS over her skirt while she curtsies, then RUNS OFF-SCREEN. Zack's upset; he kicks up dirt and sulks toward the house.

INT. CAMPBELL FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Zack lays on the carpet, reviewing the squid footage. After a little while, he grows bored and lets out a SIGH. He looks through his backpack for something else, and pulls out a small SCRAPBOOK.

Zack flips through the scrapbook and sees photos of a FAMILY enjoying various activities together. This family consists of a younger version of ZACK (he's about six years old here) a teenage version of Brad, as well as a serious middle-aged man and an awkward middle-aged woman; these are clearly Zack's parents.

Zack SMILES, and examines each photo wistfully. In most photos, the man and the woman shower Zack with attention and presents, including the video camera and PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT. In other photos, Brad plays with Zack. But as Zack turns the pages, he is seen with his family less often, and is also given fewer presents. Soon, even Brad isn't there with him. In some of these later photos, the photography equipment is visible, suggesting that Zack is taking these photos all by himself.

Suddenly, Zack hears the door open. He stuffs both the video camera and scrapbook into his backpack and leaps to his feet. Zack is disappointed when BRAD enters.

BRAD

Hey Zack!

ZACK

Oh. Hi Brad.

Brad kneels down, and hugs Zack. Zack looks over Brad's shoulder, searching for something. Brad notices, and grows concerned.

BRAD

Something wrong, big guy?

ZACK

How come mom an' dad aren't home?

BRAD

Well, about that... Looks like it's just gonna be you and me again.

ZACK

But the H.R.V. unit's fine; it's parked right outside!

BRAD

Yeah bud, but that's not their only responsibility. The squid busted tons 'a machinery.

ZACK

Hmpf. I **never** get to see 'em...

Brad places his hands on Zack's shoulders.

BRAD

Zack, listen. There's nothing mom an' dad would like more than to hang with us. But they've got all 'a New Havenfield to look out for.

ZACK

So do you, and you made it.

BRAD

But y'know what? I'm only here 'cause dad vouched for me. Otherwise, the doctors would still be poking me down at the hospital.

ZACK

Whatever.

BRAD

(walks into kitchen)

Anyways, I'm starved. Whaddaya say
we get something to eat?

ZACK

I guess so.

Zack follows Brad into the kitchen.

INT. CAMPBELL FAMILY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Zack sits at a small table, as Brad places two SALISBURY STEAK
MICROWAVE DINNERS down upon it.

ZACK

Hey, be careful! It's gonna spill.

BRAD

(grunts irritably,
walks toward FRIDGE)

Ya want something to drink?

ZACK

Milk. But don't forget to put down
coasters!

Brad places two coasters down, followed by two glasses of milk.
Then he takes a seat.

BRAD

You're on edge. What's up?

ZACK

Mom and dad are **never** here. Never!

BRAD

Well, you could call 'em.

ZACK

It isn't the same.

BRAD

Look, they ain't gonna show. But I'm here, right?

ZACK

Honestly, I just wanna see 'em.

BRAD

I got an idea. You like recording the attacks, ri-

ZACK

That's not true!

BRAD

C'mon, I saw you today!

Zack looks away, apologetically.

ZACK

That was, I mean, that was the first... I hadn't done it before!

BRAD

C'mon, I see ya all the time! But tell ya what: skip school tomorrow, an' I'll take you to film ground zero.

ZACK

You'd do that?

BRAD

Sure, I got clearance. Just don't tell our folks!

Zack pushes his tray away, and gets up from the table.

BRAD

Whoa! Not gonna finish your Salisbury steak?

ZACK

I'm not hungry. Plus, the sooner I get to sleep, the sooner we can head out.

BRAD

That's another first: you going to bed early.

ZACK

Well, I was thinking maybe I'd try that video call.

BRAD

Cool, but keep tight-lipped 'bout our plans for tomorrow, 'kay?

ZACK

Sure.

INT. ZACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zack crawls into bed, and faces his BEDSIDE TABLE. Upon it, sits a LAPTOP next to a LAMP. Zack turns his laptop on, and begins typing. A RINGING SOUND FOLLOWS, until the face of a serious MIDDLE-AGED MAN named GIBSON appears on the computer. Gibson is the same man from the photographs Zack looked at earlier.

ZACK

Hey dad, I-

GIBSON

(concerned)

Zackery? You alright, son?

ZACK

Uh, I'm fine. I'm okay. It's just... like... you didn't show up to dinner, so...

GIBSON

After that attack, we have our hands full. I would have called to let you know earlier, but-

ZACK

Ugh! You're gonna spend all night in the lab again, aren't you, huh, aren't you?

GIBSON

What have I said about interrupting me?

ZACK

(groans)

That when a grown-up is speaking,
kids-

From the computer speakers, a CRASH is heard! Gibson turns his head as a FEMALE VOICE appears within the call.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Zack! That you, hon?

ZACK

Mom!

GIBSON

Chloe, what was that racket?

Gibson grimaces as he stares at something OFF-SCREEN

GIBSON (CONT'D)

Oh no!

An awkward MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN squeezes her way onto Zack's computer screen, inadvertently pressing Gibson against the wall. This is Zack's mother, CHLOE; the same woman from the photographs in Zack's scrapbook. Gibson squirms about until he manages a second glance at what she's done.

GIBSON

That took hours to repair! How coul-

Chloe's arms spread out, greeting her son. Her hand accidentally covers Gibson's mouth.

CHLOE

Baby! How ya doing?

ZACK

Okay, I guess. But why aren't you here? It's Family Night!

CHLOE

Wait, that was...? Oh yeah! I-

Chloe is interrupted as Gibson struggles to free himself. Gibson BANGS his head on the wall, and then looks annoyed.

GIBSON

Chloe darling, kindly retreat from my personal bubble, lest I find myself in fellowship with that damaged blaster, due to your *impertinence!*

CHLOE

(blinks)

Just a sec Gibson, I need to grab my dictionary.

(waves to Zack)

Be right back, sweetie!

Chloe dashes off, causing Gibson to collapse to the ground. Zack stares at the screen, as Gibson crawls back up onto his desk.

GIBSON

You should have called when your mother was building that ridiculous sandwich machine for the H.R.V. unit's cockpit. That, at least, would have saved me the trouble of breaking it myself.

ZACK

Sorry dad...

GIBSON

Don't be, these things happen. But it'll cost us another day's work. Now, we'll have to postpone Family Night even-

CHLOE

(reappears,

holding dictionary)

With great grammar, comes great responsibility!

Gibson LEAPS into the air and HITS his head on the ceiling. Chloe looks at him, confused.

CHLOE

What's wrong Gibson? You seem high-strung.

GIBSON

Well, firstly we'll have to delay
Family Night even further to-

CHLOE

So, that **was** tonight!
(looks at Zack,
sincere regret)
Sorry honey, I clean forgot.

ZACK

It's okay, mom. I just wanted to-

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'll order you and Brad a pizza to
make up for it, how's that?

Chloe pulls a CELLPHONE out of her lab coat and begins dialing.

ZACK

Um... to be honest, we've, we've
already eaten...

CHLOE

I knew that! It will be...
(smiles)
Pizza for dessert!

GIBSON

Pizza for dessert? How can you
suggest such drivel? We've spent
years instilling our sons with
healthy nutritional habits, and
here you are, subverting...
(voice trails off)

ZACK

(sighs)
Goodnight mom 'n dad.

Zack closes his laptop and turns off his bedside lamp. He pulls up his covers, when through his window, he sees the edge of SOMETHING BIG moving toward the woods! Zack LEAPS out of bed and BANGS his feet on the ground, before RUNNING to his window! But once he's there, he sees nothing outside, save for TREES RUSTLING.

BRAD (O.S.)
Zack, keep it down, okay?

ZACK
(turns to door)
Uh...? I mean, **sure Brad! Okay Brad!**
whatever!
(looks back outside)
Weird.

Outside, Zack notices a MONSTROUS SILHOUETTE emerging from the trees, and blocking out the moonlight. Then the silhouette disappears back into the woods. Zack DASHES to the door, but just as his hand clasps the handle, he notices his video camera sticking out of his backpack. Zack stops and THINKS.

EXT. CAMPBELL RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Zack's tied his bed sheets together into a ROPE. He TOSSES it out of his bedroom window, and crawls down, wearing his backpack. When he arrives on the ground, Zack looks inside, and sees Brad watching television. Zack takes out his video camera and sneaks past HARVEY'S FOOT, into the woods.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Zack wanders until he happens upon a TREE that has been BROKEN IN TWO. Zack looks around for the top of the tree, but finds nothing. He jogs ahead, until he finds another tree missing its top half. Zack runs his fingers over large teeth marks in this tree. Suddenly, the earth SHAKES and Zack hears more RUMBLING. Zack looks to see a TRAIL of half-eaten TREES.

Zack follows the trail into a CLEARING. There, he sees a GIANT PURPLE MONSTER, chewing on trees. Zack looks fascinated. As he backs into the bushes, he films it with his camera. But then, Zack steps on a twig! It SNAPS, and the monster looks up. Zack stuffs his camera into his backpack, and hides in the bushes.

The monster hears, and approaches Zack. Zack SPRINTS AWAY. He looks back, and sees the monster in pursuit! Zack fumbles within his backpack and pulls out his CELLPHONE. He dials, then screams into the phone.

ZACK
Brad, help! I'm in the woods,
there's-!

Zack nearly trips over a stone. He drops his phone. As it falls, Brad's voice is heard:

BRAD (O.S.)

Zack? You're supposed to be in bed!

EXT. CLIFF - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Zack DASHES up a hill, arrives at the edge of a cliff, and hides behind a tree. The monster RIPS it out of the ground, throws it over the cliff, and then stands above Zack. The monster is twenty-five feet tall.

ZACK

Stop it, no, stop! Go away! Leave!

The monster tilts his head to the side, puzzled. Zack takes a moment to think, then summons his courage.

ZACK (CONT'D)

I said get outta here! I mean it!

The monster takes a step back. Then he bounds off, causing the ground to SHAKE. Zack bounces about, and lands in the dirt. He gets up, and SIGHS with relief.

The stomping REAPPEARS. The monster returns, carrying another UPROOTED TREE in his jaw. Zack motions to retreat, and nearly falls over the cliff. He GULPS, and observes the monster towering over him. Oddly, the monster searches Zack's eyes for approval, before DROPPING the tree right above Zack!

The monster begins PANTING like a proud dog. Zack screams, when a GIANT HAND JUTS OUT. TRACK OUT, to reveal HARVEY catching the tree. The voice of BRAD speaks over an unseen microphone.

BRAD (O.S.)

Hang tight, I'll get rid of ugly!

Harvey turns, and HURLS the tree at the monster.

BRAD (O.S., CONT'D)

Eat this!

The monster leaps into the air and catches the tree in his mouth.

BRAD (O.S.)

Uh, I meant that figuratively.

The monster CRASHES BACK DOWN. The impact sends Zack SOARING over the cliff. The monster doesn't notice, and instead spits the tree back out as Harvey CATCHES ZACK. The tree bashes across Harvey's head. FIZZLING is heard as his visor wavers between darkness and static. Harvey fumbles, but manages to release Zack onto the grass.

INT. HARVEY - NIGHT

Brad fiddles with the controls, as the monitors malfunction.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

The monster watches Harvey lose balance. Confused, he tilts his head to the side as he watches Harvey FALL. Zack RUNS, but Harvey will still crush him when he hits the ground. The monster grows concerned. He BOLTS FORWARD, snatches Zack up in his jaw, and TOSSES him to safety, as Harvey CRASHES over onto the monster's back.

INT. HARVEY - NIGHT

Brad BANGS about within the cockpit. Once it settles, Brad searches for his COMMUNICATOR. He sees it, dangling from a wire.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Harvey FLAILS about on the monster's back. The monster looks to Zack. Zack NODS at him, then looks up at Harvey.

ZACK

Hey Brad! Brad, get off! Get off!

INT. HARVEY - NIGHT

Brad grabs hold of the communicator and pulls it close.

BRAD

Hey dad, ya read me?

GIBSON (O.S.)

Affirmative. Is your video working?

BRAD

Uh, negative.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Just a sec!

The monitors FLASH ON. Brad sees his parents in the smaller monitor to the left, while the cliff appears in the main monitor. Chloe is busy connecting WIRES, but smiles into the camera.

CHLOE

Can ya see me, sweetie?

BRAD

Yeah mom, right on!

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Harvey gets up, GRABS THE TREE, and TOSSES it over the cliff. He turns to face the monster, who is spread over the grass, PANTING with exhaustion. Then Harvey turns to Zack.

BRAD (O.S.)

For the record, I meant to do that!

ZACK

Wait Brad, wait! I think-

Harvey LIFTS the monster by his neck, ready to punch him.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Brad, stop it! Please! Stop it!

Harvey pauses, and looks at Zack.

BRAD (O.S.)

Not now Zack! Later on, we'll-

The monster breaks free, and Harvey lands a BLOW on his snout, sending him over the cliff. The ground shifts, and the CLIFF GIVES WAY! Harvey grabs Zack, and RUNS DOWN the hill as it CRUMBLES.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Harvey LIFTS Zack up to his eye-level.

BRAD (O.S.)

You okay, Zack?

ZACK

I'm fine, it's just... I didn't realize, I didn't realize when you came, I mean, you can check the video, because I didn't realize-

BRAD (O.S.)

Didn't realize what?

ZACK

He didn't do anything! Right from the get-go, he just wanted to play!

BRAD (O.S.)

You mean the monster? Zack, the only thing he wanted us to play was dead.

ZACK

But even when you were fighting, when Harvey fell over, he rescued me, he tossed me outta the way! He did!

BRAD (O.S.)

Sounds to me like he was cruising in for a snack, and dropped you when ol' Harv took a dive.

ZACK

The visor was all fuzzy, it was blurry, you didn't see how-

BRAD (O.S.)

(sighs)

Okay Zack, time to get serious.

The top of Harvey's head opens, revealing Brad sitting in the cockpit. Brad pulls a knob, and Harvey lifts Zack closer. Brad places his hands over Zack's shoulders.

BRAD

I've been putting up with you a lot lately, 'cause I know you're bummed about our folks. But playing with monsters man, that's just-

ZACK

Stop it, I'm not stupid! I called you, didn't I? But he didn't do anything! He did nothing!

BRAD

What about the tree?

ZACK

That was like, y'know, honestly, it was like he was playing fetch...

BRAD

Fetch, huh?

(laughs)

Listen big guy, I don't think you're old enough to have pets until you're old enough to have acne.

ZACK

That's not-!

Zack is silenced as Brad ruffles his hair.

BRAD

Anyway, we'll have to take a rain check that tour. It was weird how Harvey started wiggling out. I'll get mom 'n dad to look him over.

Brad pulls a lever, and Harvey places Zack on his right shoulder. The cockpit closes, and Harvey marches into the city. Zack SIGHS.

ZACK

(muttering to himself)

Nobody ever listens to me...

(looks back at cliff)

I hope he's okay...

After Zack and Harvey are gone, the CAMERA PANS TO THE CLIFF.

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF - NIGHT

There is a pile of DEBRIS in the ocean, where the cliff collapsed. The monster CRAWLS OUT, and paddles toward an island called FORBIDDEN COVE.

EXT. FORBIDDEN COVE - NIGHT

The monster crawls onshore. He approaches a CAMPFIRE. There, he sees three creatures warming themselves: a pterodactyl named CINDER, a giant armadillo named HUNCH, and an aquatic beast named ZIRA. These creatures also stand at roughly twenty-five feet tall, except for Cinder, who is about twenty feet tall.

The monster steps on a twig as he approaches. The twig SNAPS, and the other creatures look up, only to SCOWL at the monster. Cinder spits out a FIREBALL, aimed at the monster. The fireball nearly hits the monster, but he DODGES it. Then he looks sad. The monster retreats into the ocean, and swims away.

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF - NIGHT

The monster crawls under the debris, and WEEPS HIMSELF TO SLEEP.

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - THE NEXT DAY

Establishing shot of a SCHOOL.

INT. CLASSROOM - ESTABLISHING - SAME TIME

The only kids in class are ZACK, DORIS, TYLER, MERYL, and JALEEL. MERYL huddles at the back of the room, while Zack sits at the front near DORIS, who texts someone on her PHONE. Tyler sits with Jaleel and plays with a YO-YO, as Jaleel observes the desolate classroom. Suddenly, the DOOR OPENS! A teacher named JIAN LI enters.

JIAN LI

Hmpf. Well, I'd take attendance, but I'd just be naming who isn't here.

DORIS

Hiya Teach! Lemme lay a news flash on ya: Marissa just texted me, an' her school cancelled classes 'cause of the attack yesterday. Maybe kids here thought-

JIAN LI

That's a rumor, just like the notion I tolerate children skipping class.

JALEEL

Pfft, so you're taking it out on the kids who **did** show up?

JIAN LI

(to Jaleel)

On the contrary, Jaleel.

(to everyone)

Considering everyone's interest in the monster attacks, today will be something of a treat.

Jian Li presses a button on a large COMPUTER SCREEN. Photos of a chaotic POST-APOCALYPTIC CITY appear on the computer screen. It resembles John Carpenter's *Escape from New York*.

JIAN LI (CONT'D)

War. Famine. Pollution. Just a few generations ago, these factors ravaged our society.

Jian Li presses the button again, and new slides appear onscreen. They depict space exploration, and resemble Ridley Scott's *Alien*.

JIAN LI (CONT'D)

In search of a new home, we explored space. Yet we never found any planets that would support life.

Jian Li presses the button yet again, and slides depicting GIANT MONSTERS and FORBIDDEN COVE appear.

JIAN LI (CONT'D)

Consequently, we searched Earth until we found the island we christened New Havenfield. Unfortunately, our new home was located near Forbidden Cove; a place where monsters dwell. Most of the creatures are prehistoric leftovers. However, many were once believed to only exist in legend, such as The Loch Ness Monster, a Cyclops or two, and as we saw yesterday-

DORIS

(points at a SQUID on the screen)

-wow, giant squids too! Like the fella who attacked!

JIAN LI

Correct Doris, but raise your hand!
(turns back to slides)
Ten years ago, they began attacking
out of malevolence, so-

Zack SNORTS, trying not to laugh. That makes Jian look STERN.

JIAN LI

(looking at Zack)
Er, something you wanted to add?
(waits for Zack to respond;
Zack says nothing)
...Zack?

ZACK

Well, honestly, I dunno, I just,
well, I just don't think that's very
convincing. It's like, why would
they attack for no reason? There's
gotta-

The wail of a WARNING SIREN appears outside. The students LOOK UP,
and a VOICE speaks over the INTERCOM.

VOICE ON INTERCOM (O.S.)

Attention students, classes are
dismissed. H.O.T.C. reports that
we'll be experiencing a raid today.
(keeps repeating message)

The children squirm, until Jian Li claps his hands together.

JIAN LI

Simmer down. H.O.T.C. usually picks
up on this stuff well in advance.

JALEEL

Yeah, usually.

JIAN LI (CONT'D)

Just head home, and stay calm.

The children exchange worried glances, then LEAVE.

INT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - DAY

GIBSON and CHLOE are in Harvey's open cockpit, repairing his oil-soaked circuits. LIGHTS FLASH. Chloe does not notice. Gibson ignores them, until Brad BURSTS IN.

CHLOE

Oh, hey hon. What's up?

BRAD

Big trouble! Harvey and I need to get on it pronto.

GIBSON

You won't be on anything but the critical list if we don't finish cleaning these circuits.

BRAD

Is that what you're doing? Or just polishing them up pretty?

GIBSON

Lovely. We've raised a son as caustic as our chemicals.

BRAD

There's no time for this, I need Harv now! Reports are saying—

GIBSON

Slow down! The oil damage alone nearly cost us Zackery's life, I'm not risking your safety.

BRAD

So, you'd rather risk the city's?

GIBSON

If we send out a malfunctioning H.R.V. unit, there's—

A MONITOR flicks on, and the face of General IDA ULRICH appears.

IDA ULRICH

Care to explain the delay, gentlemen?

Chloe raises a hand without looking up from her work.

CHLOE

And lady!

GIBSON

General Ulrich, the H.R.V. unit is still acting up from the squid attack the other-

IDA ULRICH

Is it operational?

GIBSON

Well, yes, but it's-

IDA ULRICH

Then get our pilot in there, we don't have all day.

BRAD

Alright, let's juice!

GIBSON

Wait, I-

IDA ULRICH

Gibson, if this turns into an argument, I'll consider it insubordination.

The monitor GOES BLACK. Gibson grabs Chloe by her arm, and drags her along as he slides off the robot. Chloe works until Harvey's circuits are out of reach. On the ground, Brad pushes past them and climbs into Harvey. Chloe and Gibson watch him DEPART.

GIBSON

(gulps)

That's our son in there...

CHLOE

(pinches Gibson's cheek)

You're cute when you're worried!

Gibson smiles, but looks discomfited.

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - DAY

Zack walks home, flanked by Doris and Meryl.

ZACK

Honestly, I'd rather walk home alone, by my-

DORIS

Nonsense Zack! In these dangerous times, even the toughest fella needs a woman or two looking out for him.

ZACK

Well, thanks I guess, but-

DORIS (CONT'D)

'Sides, we...

(becomes guilty)

...we kinda owe it to you. Meryl mentioned ya seemed outta sorts.

Startled, Meryl squeezes her schoolbooks close to her chest.

MERYL

Oh? I d-d-did? I... uh... y-yeah...

(calms)

Yeah, I g-guess I did.

DORIS

Just tell him what you told me.

MERYL

Well uh, w-with what happened yesterday, I mean, with everything, I thought m-maybe you needed... you know, y-you needed, you, um...

Doris SIGHS, and turns to Zack. She puts an arm around his neck, but without realizing it, she SQUEEZES too tight.

DORIS

Listen Zack, me an' Meryl, we don't wanna pry, but if I made ya feel weird on account 'a all the questions I was asking about your brother, well... I'm sorry.

ZACK

(shoving Doris off)

Ugh. Thanks I **guess**, but I still—
Once Zack shakes Doris off, he BUMPS into Jaleel.

JALEEL

Hey, watch where you're going!

ZACK

Jaleel? How'd you get here so quick?

JALEEL

I happen to know a few short cuts.

ZACK

Yeah? Like what?

JALEEL

(pushes past Zack)

Look, I don't have time for this! We
need to get home before—

(slips)

Augh!

Jaleel is about to step into a GIANT HOLE IN THE GROUND, when a
HAND grabs his collar and pulls him back onto the road.

TYLER

Hah. Looks like you almost got deep
for once.

JALEEL

Where'd you come from?

Zack and the girls arrive. Tyler nods to them, then Jaleel.

TYLER

I got a better question: where'd
this hole come from?

JALEEL

(kneels down,
examines hole)

Well, judging from the claw marks,
I think we can rule out
construction...

(gets up)

Come to think of it, hmm, the

street's kinda...

The children hear a RUMBLING NOISE, and FALL SILENT. Doris looks particularly afraid, and FREEZES, while Meryl SQUEAKS. The edge of the hole where Jaleel stands SHAKES. He YELPS, and scrambles away. The others follow, except Doris.

TYLER

(pulling Doris along)

What's with you? C'mon!

The children huddle together. The rumbling GROWS LOUDER.

DORIS

(to Zack)

What should we do?

ZACK

Wha...? I, I... I dunno, I...

DORIS

Come on, think! Your brother must have said something about—

The rumbling INCREASES. The children do not notice, save for Meryl. Her eyes dart back in the direction opposite to the hole.

MERYL

G-Guh-G-Guy-Guh—

JALEEL

If you don't know, just call him!

ZACK

Wha-Who?

JALEEL

Your brother!

ZACK

No! I, my phone, I lost it, I don't have it, my phone, I...

MERYL

(grows more panicked)

G-Guh-G-Guh-Guys!

TYLER

What, you lost your phone, that it?

MERYL

(grits teeth)

Nrrrrrhhhh...!

ZACK

Wait, look at Meryl!

TYLER

(turns to Meryl)

What do you—?

Meryl jerks her head to the right, and bites her lower lip. The others look, and see a GIANT MOUND BURROWING FORWARD! Tyler and Zack BOLT DOWN a nearby street. Jaleel and Meryl DASH INTO A CORNER, but it's a dead end. Doris stands by the hole, FROZEN WITH FEAR. Zack notices, and runs back after her.

ZACK

(pulls Doris' dress)

Doris, come on! You'll—

The mound DRAWS NEAR. Zack gulps. Tyler appears and TACKLES Doris and Zack in the opposite direction. The three tumble, until they CRASH against a garbage can. Doris' cellphone FALLS out of her pocket, and CRACKS when it hits the pavement. The sound of it breaking STARTLES DORIS. She SNAPS BACK to reality, and she slips her phone back into her pocket. Zack clutches his head. He endured most of the impact, while Tyler is unharmed.

DORIS

Zack! You okay, kid?

TYLER

Look, when you're between a rock, a hard place, and an open space, ya go for the open—!

Tyler GOES SILENT when a shadow FALLS OVER THEM. Zack and Doris notice it too, then SMILE as HARVEY'S GIANT FOOT passes overhead, and JAMS into the mound.

BRAD (O.S.)

Book it kids! I'll—

A GIANT MONSTER HAND bursts from the mound. It GRABS Harvey's leg, and PULLS him to the ground. Harvey hits the street, and BASHES his head against a building. His visor fills with STATIC. Zack notices as he and Doris retreat, while Tyler watches the fight.

DORIS

(running)

Wow, did ya call your brother on a special wrist-watch or something?

ZACK

(looking back at Harvey)

Huh? No, I-

Zack BUMPS into Jaleel. Seconds later, Meryl RUNS UP TO THEM.

JALEEL

Zack!

MERYL

Where's, uh, where's Tyler? Did-?

TYLER

(catches up)

Already accounted for, chief.

Jaleel notices something over Zack's shoulder.

JALEEL

Hey, what's wrong with the H.R.-
Wait, you call him Harvey, right?

ZACK

Harvey! That's right!

Zack whips around to see Harvey FLAILING ABOUT on the ground. His visor is filled with static, and he makes SIZZLING NOISES.

ZACK

No, it's still happening! It's happening again!

TYLER

What?

ZACK

The other day, when Brad came to the

cliff, he, at the cliff, Harvey
started... he...
(goes silent with realization)

Zack SPEEDS away.

TYLER

Hey, where ya going?

MERYL

(follows)

W-we all should be running...

ZACK

(calling back)

Just hang on, I'll find help!

Jaleel runs after Zack and Meryl. Tyler follows, and pulls Doris
along by her arm.

TYLER

Help? Dude, didn't you see the
robot? That ship has sailed!

JALEEL

Yeah, straight into an iceberg.

EXT. CLIFF RUINS - DAY

Zack squats by the ruins of the cliff, and stares down, calling.

ZACK

Hey! Hey monster! Hey!

Zack waits, and then hears ROCKS SHIFTING. He GRINS. No further
noises follow. His smile fades. The others arrive. Meryl turns
Zack around by his shoulders.

MERYL

Z-Zack, um, w-what're you doing?

ZACK

I, I... he... I thought...

The others look worried, as Meryl leads Zack away.

ZACK (CONT'D)

I thought he'd be here, I...

MERYL

Um, who Zack? Who did you...

Meryl GOES SILENT. She stares over Zack's shoulder. Zack TURNS. Shifting stones are heard OFF-SCREEN. Zack SMILES.

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Harvey wrestles with the monster's hand.

INT. HARVEY - SAME TIME

Brad glances at a POWER GAUGE on one of the PANELS, reading LASER. It's low, but periodically spikes up.

BRAD

Mom! Dad! What's with the laser?

His communicator only gargles in response.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Come on guys, you can do better than-

The gauge displays full power.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Yes!

EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - DAY

Harvey FIRES A BLAST at the monster hand. It disappears underground.

BRAD (O.S.)

Woo hoo! How you like that you-

The jaw of a GIANT ARMADILLO bursts up from underground, and bites Harvey in the chest. Its owner pushes himself to the surface. It's HUNCH, one of the creatures from the island! Hunch attempts to chew through Harvey. He makes progress, but can't bite him in two. Frustrated, he TOSSES HARVEY AWAY.

Harvey CRASHES through a row of buildings. As he attempts to get up, his right hand falls off, followed by his right arm. Then he FALLS BACKWARD. The bite mark CRACKLES with electricity.

Hunch lunges full-force at Harvey when a GIANT PURPLE FIST PUNCHES HIM. Hunch assumes a defensive position, then GRUNTS. He is surprised when he recognizes the creature before him. It's the GIANT PURPLE MONSTER, growling and POUNDING at the ground! Hunch stares at the monster. He LAUGHS, and turns back to Harvey. The purple monster looks uncertain, then he hears a voice calling: It's Zack and the other children!

ZACK

Don't let him get to you!

The purple monster NODS. He LUNGES at Hunch. Hunch BURROWS UNDERGROUND. The purple monster trips in the hole that Hunch dug, and SMASHES into a LAMPPOST, breaking it in two. The lamppost CRACKLES with electricity, and the purple monster is disoriented. Hunch BURSTS UP from underground and PUNCHES the purple monster. The monster SWINGS BACK, but MISSES when Hunch digs his way back underground. The monster grows even more disoriented!

Hunch digs his way above ground, appearing near a FIRE HYDRANT. The purple monster CHARGES. Hunch DISAPPEARS into the HOLE he dug, and the monster TRIPS in it. He FALLS, and BREAKS the fire hydrant. WATER SPRAYS EVERYWHERE.

JALEEL

We're gonna need a bigger monster.

ZACK

Wait a minute!

(calling)

Flood the holes! Understand? Flood the holes!

The purple monster's eyes SNAP OPEN. He GETS UP, and pushes down on the water. It squirts into the holes that Hunch created. Hunch has no time to hold his breath, and is SUBMERGED IN WATER. Hunch BURSTS ABOVE GROUND, gasping for breath. There, he finds the purple monster looming over him! The purple monster picks Hunch up and TOSSES HIM INTO A BUILDING. Hunch SMASHES INTO IT, then GETS UP, YELPING. Then Hunch CURLS INTO A BALL, and ROLLS AWAY.

Harvey's head pops open, and Brad LEAPS UP.

BRAD

Zack! Where are-?

ZACK

Over here!

Brad GASPS. The children are sitting on the purple monster's head!

ZACK (CONT'D)

Ever see anything like this?

BRAD

About every other week, get down!

TYLER

Uh, we're kinda high up for that...

BRAD

But it's a Cove monster, it'll-

JALEEL

Hey, least ya got a clean shot.

BRAD

Kids, this is-

ZACK

C'mon Brad, can't you see he's cool?

Brad looks skeptical. He leans closer to the monster, who GROWLS.

BRAD

Yeah... this isn't good.

DORIS

You kidding? It's **stupendous!**
What're ya gonna call him Zack?

ZACK

Hmm. How about... Frank? Yeah.
Frank's good.

BRAD

Frank?

ZACK

(grumbles)

Don't you think that's a good name?

JALEEL

Eh, it is kinda silly.

ZACK

(to Jaleel)

I wasn't talking to-

BRAD

Zack, look, naming him is a little low on my concern list, but...

ZACK

But what?

Brad pauses. Then he feels a raindrop. Brad extends his right hand outward, and catches a few more raindrops. He SIGHS, and stares up at the sky. It's beginning to RAIN.

BRAD

Look, let's just call dad in on this one...

EXT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - ESTABLISHING - LATER

Chloe is outside the facility, whistling in the rain. She uses her gloved hands to pick up earthworms that are crawling across the pavement, and shoves them into plastic bags.

CHLOE

(to worms)

You l'il fellas are just gonna be sooo helpful with my experiments! But don't worry. I'll be your mama, and make sure you get tons 'a manure to eat, an'-

Familiar STOMPING NOISES are heard, and Chloe looks up. She sees Harvey arriving with the newly christened FRANK, who is still giving Zack and the other kids a ride on his back.

BRAD (O.S.)

Uh, hey mom, I know how this looks but-

CHLOE

(to Harvey, casual)

Hey-ya sweetie!

(smiles casually at Frank)

Ooooh, who's your new pal?

There's a BEAT of silence.

BRAD (O.S.)

Right. Almost forgot who I was talking t-

GIBSON (O.S.)

WHAT THE DEVIL?!

Gibson DASHES ONSCREEN, looking terrified. But once he accesses how peaceful the situation is, he looks confused.

GIBSON

Whuh-whuh, buh whuh, buh wuh, wuh?

CHLOE

Speak slowly hon; saves time!

GIBSON

But I, I mean, I... but-

(takes Chloe aside)

Er, may I have a word with you darling...?

Zack notices that Gibson is upset. Zack FROWNS.

CHLOE

'Sup sweetie?

GIBSON

(whispering to Chloe)

Get inside... call Ulri-

CHLOE

**Aw, heck Gibster! D'ya think Ida'll
wanna ride too? That'll sure be-**

Gibson CLAMPS his hand over Chloe's mouth, and looks up at Frank. Frank pants like a happy dog, and searches Gibson's eyes for approval. When Frank only sees fear, pain fills his eyes.

BRAD (O.S.)

I don't believe this... Look dad, some giant turtle-looking thingie attacked, and-

ZACK

Armadillo!

BRAD (O.S.)

Huh?

ZACK

It was an armadillo! It attacked,
and things went bad!

BRAD (O.S.)

Look, whatever it was, it-

ZACK

And things got even more bad when
Harvey started breaking down, so I
went 'n got Frank, an'-

JALEEL

Zack, slow down! I mean, you parents
don't even know who Frank is ye-

TYLER

It's like this: The H.R.V. unit was
down for the count, but then Zack
went an' got this here monster, and-

DORIS

And he K.O.'d the armadillo! He-

GIBSON

QUIET!

Gibson's cry of anger shocks everyone into silence. Even Frank
takes a nervous step back.

GIBSON

Children: this brute hasn't
attacked yet. Therefore, I'd advise
you to remove yourselves from its
dorsal cavity while you can.

Reluctantly, Jaleel, Doris, Meryl, and Tyler slide down Frank's
back, and walk toward Gibson and Chloe. Meanwhile, Zack hasn't
moved an inch.

GIBSON

You too, Zacker-

ZACK

No.

Zack's response is calm, yet icy cold. Gibson falls silent.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Take me back to the cliff, Frank.

Frank ROARS with happiness, and turns around, carrying Zack away. Gibson is silent for a moment, then looks to the other humans.

GIBSON

Somebody stop him! **Stop him!**

BRAD (O.S.)

No, it, it might provoke that thing.

INSERT: Frank looks deeply hurt at being called a "thing."

BRAD (O.S., CONT'D)

Just... just give Zack his space.

An establishing shot depicts Harvey and the humans watching as Frank departs with Zack riding on his back. As Zack rides on Frank, the space between Zack and the humans seems as vast as an ocean.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORBIDDEN COVE - NIGHT

Hunch slinks out of the shadows. Zira and Cinder appear. Zira starts growling at Hunch, but a DRAGON'S WING FILLS HALF THE SCREEN.

OMINOUS VOICE (O.S.)

No, leave him alone.

Zira and Cinder GULP, and retreat into the darkness.

OMINOUS VOICE (O.S., CONT'D)

What happened?

Hunch looks nervous.

CUT TO BLACK.