### BIG THINGS

(Episode 2)

### "A Few Monsters More"

By Byron Dunbar

Big Things Created by David Hill and Byron Dunbar

# EXT. CLIFF RUINS - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The camera pans across the CLIFF RUINS, providing a gorgeous view of MAYTALS BAY. It's a body of water that leads into a vast OCEAN, which itself leads to an island called FORBIDDEN COVE.

ZACK appears on the cliff ruins, carrying a PUMPKIN PIE with an APPLE sitting on it. As Zack walks forward, FRANK becomes visible on the edge of the cliff ruins. Zack and Frank SMILE at each other.

Frank smells the food, and his NOSTRILS flare. Then Frank looks hungry, and licks his lips.

### ZACK

Frank SMACKS his lips and LICKS the apple right off the pie!

ZACK

Whoa! Well, um, I'm glad you're okay with the apple. (lifts pie higher) Y'ready for dessert?

Frank sniffs the pie. Then he SNORTS derisively, and looks away.

# ZACK

Aw, don't tell me ya want the pumpkin without the pie!

Frank smiles, as though he knows something Zack doesn't. Then Frank opens his mouth and leans closer to Zack. Frank doesn't eat the pie; instead he takes hold of the back of Zack's shirt in his teeth, and lifts him up.

# ZACK

# (laughs)

# Whaddaya doing, Frank?

Frank gently TOSSES Zack up in the air, and Zack lands comfortably on Frank's back, pie intact. Then Frank LEAPS off the cliff, toward the ocean. Zack HOLDS onto both Frank and the pie tight, and LAUGHS merrily!

The two friends SPLASH into the ocean. Zack continues laughing, as water falls down around them. Then Zack notices that Frank's head is underwater! Zack's laughter ceases, and a note of concern enters his voice.

### ZACK

Um, uh... Frank? You okay? F-

Frank lifts his head out from the ocean. He gives Zack a sidelong glance, and GRINS WIDELY, revealing that his mouth is full of FISH!

# ZACK

Whoa!

Sheepishly, Zack looks down at the now-soggy pumpkin pie. Then he tosses it into the ocean.

### ZACK

Guess ya don't need me to feed ya or nothin' then.

Zack leans back, and lies on Frank's back. Zack SIGHS with contentment, and stares up at the clouds for a moment. Then he remembers something, and BOLTS UP!

# ZACK

# Oh no! School!

Frank looks apologetic, and paddles back to shore.

ZACK (to Frank) Man, I wish ya hadn't of made me lose my phone! It woulda been beeping by now, and I'd've been able to walk to class. Now I'm gonna hafta get mom or dad to drive me!

Frank arrives at the shore, where he releases Zack onto the sand. Zack immediately breaks into a RUN toward the city.

### ZACK

(calling back to Frank)
I'll be back soon, Frank! Soon! I
promise! Soon!

# EXT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - ESTABLISHING - DAY

ZACK ARRIVES outside the MAINTENANCE FACILITY. Muffled voices are heard inside, and grow louder as Zack APPROACHES. Zack lifts a hand to knock, when he makes out a sentence:

### **GIBSON** (O.S.)

(muffled) How could you be fine with that?

Zack places his ear against the door. The voices FADE AWAY. Zack runs around the building and finds a window. It is open slightly, but blocked by newspapers.

# INT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - DAY

Zack's eyes appear in the window opening. The newspaper headlines read: 'MONSTER SAVES NEW HAVENFIELD', 'MONSTER HERO ADOPTED AS "FRANK"', and, 'IS H.O.T.C. ENABLING MONSTER COLONIZATION?'

ZACK'S P.O.V./PAN THROUGH ROOM: It's a REPAIR SHOP, filled with GIANT ROBOT PARTS. Each has HUGE BITE MARKS and GNASHES. DAMAGE REPORTS and DIAGRAMS of H.R.V. units line the walls.

The camera SETTLES ON A DOOR. A poster depicting Frank's silhouette hangs on it, with a question mark drawn in its center. The FOOTSTEPS RETURN, and a DOOR OPENS. In walk GIBSON and CHLOE.

# CHLOE

... hurt to give Frank a chance.

### GIBSON

It could 'hurt' a great deal, you

saw the damage!

Gibson touches the teeth-marks in a ROBOT HAND, while Chloe puts on WELDING EQUIPMENT, and approaches another ROBOT HAND.

# CHLOE

Well, let's not forget if Frank...

# GIBSON

Please don't call it that.

### CHLOE

But if he wasn't there, things could've been much worse!

### GIBSON

Mm, and the town is ever so
grateful, aren't they?

### CHLOE

Wow! They are?

### GIBSON

Indeed.
 (flicks on a portable radio)
Listen to this.

# VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...Jian Li, a citizen injured in Monday's attack, refuses to pay his hospital bill until the 'Frank' creature is deported. Surveys confirm eighty-five percent of New Havenfield echoes...

### EXT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - DAY

Sadly, Zack leaves the window and BUMPS into someone. It's BRAD!

### BRAD

Hey. You playing secret agent?

### ZACK

I didn't, uh, I mean, I was gonna ask mom or dad to drive me to school, honest I was, but...

### BRAD

I'm not here to grill you. Now, y'said you needed a lift?

# ZACK

Yeah.

### BRAD

Harv's still down. I'll drive ya.

# ZACK

(smiles) You're cool Brad. Real cool.

Brad GRINS; his face is full of pride... and affection! He ruffles Zack's hair.

### BRAD

Hah, next you'll be saying water's wet!

# INT. BRAD'S CAR - DAY

Zack sits next to Brad as they drive without speaking.

# VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...water network is still out of service, despite frequent expeditions to Maytals Bay, securing... (continues in background)

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BRAD

So, anything you wanna chew over?

### ZACK

You uh, you said you weren't like, weren't here to grill me...

Brad shrugs and changes the channel.

# VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...insight into the viciousness of the Cove Monster known as 'Fra-'

The voice is cut short as Zack switches the radio off.

# ZACK

I did wanna talk about... I needed to talk about something.

# BRAD

Shoot.

# ZACK

I wanted a drive 'cause I was afraid to... to...

Zack's voice dissolves into mumbles. Brad listens patiently.

# **ZACK** (CONT'D)

I... I was scared to walk to... no, I was scared of, of what people might say if they... I heard dad talking, he was uh, saying... um...

## BRAD

Saying bad stuff about Frank?

### ZACK

Yeah...

# BRAD

(something catches eye) We're here.

# EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

The car grinds to a halt, and Brad opens Zack's door. Zack exits.

BRAD

Y'ever need another ride, just ask.

### ZACK

Sure. Thanks Brad. (beat) Hey, you trust Frank, right?

Brad sucks in air through his teeth and looks away.

# BRAD

You're kinda putting me in a tight position there, bud.

Zack FROWNS.

# **BRAD** (CONT'D)

Look, I get why dad's uneasy. I am too.

Zack looks hurt. Brad buries his face in his hand.

### BRAD

C'mon! You're always telling me to lose the kid gloves with you. But whenever I do, this happens. Later.

Brad's car SPEEDS OFF. Zack wipes his moist eyes and enters the PLAYGROUND. Zack observes CHILDREN frolicking, as MERYL reads on the school steps. He waves, but she does not notice. Zack looks around, and sees JALEEL, DORIS and TYLER. Jaleel is fixing a CELL PHONE. He finishes, and hands it to Doris. Zack approaches.

# JALEEL

(to Doris) Should be working now.

### DORIS

(accepts phone) Awesome, I'll ring someone. (dials) Marissa ol' girl! It's Doris!

### ZACK

Uh, hi guys... hi...

### DORIS

(waves to Zack) Oh, hey kid! How ya doing? (into phone) Sorry, Zack just got here, I... (pauses) Yeah, that's who I said, Za-

**VOICE ON PHONE** (O.S.) Zack, the monster kid?

The ENTIRE PLAYGROUND FALLS SILENT. Doris hangs up. The SCHOOLCHILDREN GLARE at Zack. Zack FROWNS.

# TYLER

### Huh. What's with everyone?

The schoolchildren whisper and point at Zack. Doris and Jaleel look worried.

# DORIS

Um, maybe we should...

# JALEEL

I dunno about that, Doris...

Jaleel leans over Doris' shoulder, to check the time on her phone.

### JALEEL

Bell's gonna ring; let's get inside.

### TYLER

Aw, we'll be in there forever! Let's- Hey!

Jaleel and Doris are already hurrying up the steps. Tyler runs past Meryl, and into the school. Zack takes a seat near her. She peeks at him.

### ZACK

Um, did you need something?

### MERYL

I... I j-just, uh, I just thought...

### ZACK

If ya don't want anything, I kinda just wanna be alone. Y'know, be left alone.

### MERYL

I'm, uh, I'm f-f-fine. But I thought m-maybe you could use... if you had someone to luh-listen, I could...

Zack looks uncomfortable, and gets up to leave.

ZACK

I... um, I gotta go...

### MERYL

It's just that, I wanted to m-maybe-

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS, interrupting Meryl. Zack SIGHS. At first, he follows the children, then TURNS AROUND and eyes the CLIFF where he met Frank. Zack slips off that way. Meryl notices, and watches Zack disappear. Then she turns to enter the school.

# EXT. CLIFF RUINS - DAY

FRANK notices Zack arriving, and hides behind a ROCK. But it's too small to make good cover, and Zack sees Frank. Zack pokes Frank, and Frank chuckles. Frank hoists Zack onto his snout, and BOUNCES him up and down. Zack giggles. The camera TRACKS OUT, revealing HIDDEN CAMERAS recording Zack and Frank.

### INT. MAINTENANCE FACILITY - DAY

Chloe WELDS a ROBOT HAND to a ROBOT ARM, while Gibson holds a glass under a tap. He turns the handle, but no water comes out.

# CHLOE

Honey, I'm tired of arguing...

### GIBSON

We need to agree when General-

# **IDA ULRICH** (O.S.)

When I what, Campbell?

IDA ULRICH APPEARS. Gibson PANICS, while Chloe waves.

### CHLOE

Ida! You weren't at my book club last week.

### IDA ULRICH

I'm never at any of them.

### CHLOE

Yeah! When were ya planning to show?

# IDA ULRICH

Depends, what's the freezing over schedule like down in-

### GIBSON

Excuse my wife, we didn't expect to see you h-

### IDA ULRICH

I have access everywhere.

### GIBSON

Uh, of course. So, what can we-?

### IDA ULRICH

Do you know your youngest son's current whereabouts?

# GIBSON

Zackery? With respect, shouldn't you focus on the Cove monster?

# IDA ULRICH

'Frank' is under observation. That brought the boy to our attention.

### GIBSON

How do you mean?

### IDA ULRICH

Gentlemen!

A gang of SOLDIERS BARGE IN, all talking at once, like the "rabble, rabble" crowds in *South Park*. These soldiers set up a TELEVISION, then go silent.

### GIBSON

Why didn't she do that earlier?

### CHLOE

Dramatic effect?

The television TURNS ON. It shows Zack and Frank playing.

# IDA ULRICH

Seems we have a lot to discuss.

# CHLOE

I'll say! Zack should be in school. Now he only gets nine ice cream scoops for dessert.

### GIBSON

Nine scoo-?

# IDA ULRICH

If I was you, I'd be more concerned about his playmate.

### CHLOE

Why, doesn't this prove Frank's friendly?

# IDA ULRICH

The city feels it's dangerous.

# CHLOE

But isn't being secure more important than feeling secure? And Harvey's out of commission, so-

### IDA ULRICH

I'm sorry, who?

### GIBSON

Ugh. That's what the family's taken to calling the H.R.V. unit.

# CHLOE

Focus! Without Harvey, we're open to attack. But if we trained a monster-

### GIBSON

(slaps forehead) For the love of...!

Chloe looks hurt, and stops talking. That makes Gibson uncomfortable, and his voice trails off. Gibson turns to Ida, and speaks through gritted teeth:

### GIBSON

General; may I have a private word with my wi-?

# IDA ULRICH

No.

### GIBSON

Mm. Very well; may I instead, turn her around so we're facing the wall, and therefore, have the illusion of a private word with my wife?

# IDA ULRICH

Very well.

Gibson turns Chloe around to face the wall, and leans in close to her, whispering:

### GIBSON

I know what this is really about. You just don't want to hurt Zackery's feelings.

Ida crosses her arms, and rolls her eyes. She hears everything.

# **GIBSON** (CONT'D)

But what's truly of concern, is Zackery's safety. So regardless of how it makes him feel, we must -

Ida SNAPS HER FINGERS, and two soldiers grab Gibson and Chloe by the shoulders, and turn them back around to face Ida.

# IDA ULRICH

Is that what this is about? Some kid with a fixation on monsters? Don't waste my-

### CHLOE

C'mon Ida! How about we compromise? I don't wanna hurt Zack's feelings, and you want Frank gone... so what can we do about it? Well, monsters are animals, right? So, if we sent ol' Franky off on a mission, he might wander off; animals do that! And then we wouldn't upset Zack.

# IDA ULRICH

You don't recognize the seriousness of the situation, Mrs. Campbell. I'm not indulging either you or your ch-

# CHLOE

Well, ya should!
 (crosses arms, smug)
 'Cause if ya don't, I may not wanna

help fix Harvey!

### IDA ULRICH

Then I'll fire-

### CHLOE

Ah, but you need at <u>least</u> two scientists if you wanna fix Harvey in anything <u>like</u> a timely schedule! Plus, Gibson 'n me are the only scientists who <u>get</u> H.R.V. units!

# IDA ULRICH

(becomes grave) Don't be so quick to uh, well... (voice trails off)

Silence follows, and Chloe GRINS.

# CHLOE

Go ahead an' let Gibson work alone! Me an' Zack could always just take Frank for a little vacation, or-

# IDA ULRICH

Alright, alright. I concede. What do you suggest we have 'Frank' do?

### CHLOE

The hydro's still down; why don't we send him to find more water?

### IDA ULRICH

Water's awaiting purification.

### CHLOE

Zack doesn't know that!

# IDA ULRICH

What if he figures it out?

### GIBSON

Well, perhaps we could make something up. Children'll believe anything. They believe in Santa Claus, they believe in the Easter Bunny, they even believe in monst(clears throat) Um, never mind...

### IDA ULRICH

(thinks for a moment)

Follow me.

The others depart but Chloe stays behind, thinking. Gibson looks back at her.

### GIBSON

Chloe? You got what you wanted, come along!

### CHLOE

I just... (beat) I just need to grab something...

Chloe dashes off in the opposite direction to the others.

# EXT. CLIFF RUINS - DAY

Frank BOUNDS around the cliff, while Zack rides on his head. At the cliff's edge, Frank stops to ROAR happily! Zack loses his balance. He tumbles down Frank's back, and nearly falls over the edge of the cliff. He immediately gets up and LAUGHS.

# GIBSON (O.S.) Get away from there!

Zack and Frank turn to find Gibson, Ida, Chloe, and the soldiers APPROACHING. Gibson RUNS AHEAD, and GRABS Zack by his shoulders.

### GIBSON

Zackery, are you hurt?

# ZACK

Huh? No...? I'm fine. Really, I'm fine. Honest.

Frank APPROACHES, and SNIFFS Gibson.

### GIBSON

Um, hello...

Frank SNORTS while the others catch up.

### IDA ULRICH

You practicing to be a spelunker?

# ZACK

What's that?

# IDA ULRICH

Never mind. Listen, I'm Ida...

ZACK

Ida Ulrich, the general?

# IDA ULRICH

Yeah, but you can just call me Ida.

# ZACK

I′m—

# IDA ULRICH

Zack, I know.

Frank sticks out of his tongue and slurps Ida's cheek. The soldiers reach for their weapons, but Ida signals for them to stop.

# IDA ULRICH

You must be 'Frank.'

Zack looks from his mother to his father, and then to the soldiers. He GULPS, takes a step back, and hugs Frank's leg.

# ZACK

Did the school send you?

### GIBSON

No, but we'll discuss that-

### IDA ULRICH

-later. You'll discuss it later. Right now, we've business with Zack's friend.

### ZACK

What are you gonna-?

### IDA ULRICH

I'll ask the questions. For

instance, do you think it was fair for 'Frank' to ruin our water supply?

# ZACK

Well, he was defending us, remember?

# IDA ULRICH

Perhaps, but he still owes us water.

# ZACK

(points to MAYTALS BAY) Can't you go get more?

### IDA ULRICH

Er, it's dirty...

### ZACK

So clean it!

# IDA ULRICH

The, um, the purifier's broken.

### ZACK

I never heard tha-

# IDA ULRICH

Your friend is big. I bet he could collect tons of water in his jaw.

# ZACK

Well, I guess so, bu-

# IDA ULRICH

C'mon! Feeling useful would be good for ol' Frank! (grins up at Frank) Hey fella, I bet you'd love to prove yourself to us!

Frank sees <u>approval</u> in Ida's eyes! Excited, Frank LEAPS UP AND DOWN. The cliff SHAKES. Everyone struggles to stay balanced.

# IDA ULRICH

Okay, heh, alright boy, um, save it for the mission, 'kay...?

Frank sits down and pants happily. Zack remains suspicious.

ZACK

Frank, you really wanna do this?

# IDA ULRICH

He'd be honored! Go on Frank, go find us some clean water!

Frank DASHES AWAY. His thunderous footsteps make everyone FALL.

# ZACK

If the whole world's polluted, where's he gonna-?

# GIBSON

That's something you should ask your teacher, Zackery... back in school.

# CHLOE

I'll drive him!

As everyone gets up, they all look toward Chloe.

# GIBSON

Oh, Chloe. I, uh, I forgot you were... uh. Never mind. Right, go ahead and drive him.

# IDA ULRICH

Don't take too long, Mrs. Campbell. We'll need you back at work on the H.R.V.

The others LEAVE. Zack is quiet, and Chloe walks forward.

### CHLOE

Seems you've got a lot on your mind.

### ZACK

I think she wants to get rid of Frank. Like, forever. Dad didn't say anything against her. (looks away) Neither did you.

# CHLOE

I'm more of a listener, I guess.

# ZACK

Mostly I like that, 'cause dad's always arguing. Except today. (sighs) When I needed him to.

# CHLOE

(sits on ROCK) I know. Hey, I brought something for ya. You can use it to call Frank.

Zack looks interested. Chloe pulls a WHISTLE out of her pocket.

# CHLOE

Comes with a story; you got time?

Zack smiles weakly, and takes a seat next to his mother.

# ZACK

Been forever since ya told me one.

### CHLOE

I know sweetie. We've been busy, and... and I'm sorry.

### ZACK

S'okay. I've been selfish too.

### CHLOE

Hey, we all are sometimes. Like, take back when I was little. I'd call my old dog Terry with this. Didn't matter how busy he was.

### ZACK

What would a dog be busy with?

### CHLOE

Aw, you know! Dog stuff! Eating grass, rolling around in dirt...

Zack LAUGHS, and Chloe stops to smile.

### CHLOE (CONT'D)

Not everyone thought he was cool.

# ZACK

No?

# CHLOE

We adopted him from a shelter. Kids were scared 'cause he bit a little.

# ZACK

I thought if a dog bit, he was bad.

# CHLOE

Well, it's a sign to be cautious, but it doesn't mean he's 'bad.'

# ZACK

But kids thought Terry was?

### CHLOE

They acted like he was.

### ZACK

Well, I mean... was he?

### CHLOE

I don't think so. Whenever I was sad or needed help, I blew the whistle and Terry came running.

# ZACK

Did people ever get mad at you for keeping a dog that'd bite?

# CHLOE

Sure. This one guy, Richard, he even tried to have Terry sent away.

Zack looks shocked.

# CHLOE (CONT'D)

Don't worry! Eventually, I got Terry to chase off a bully that went after Rich. It changed things.

# ZACK

Why'd you help someone so mean?

Chloe TOSSES ZACK THE WHISTLE. He CATCHES IT in one hand.

CHLOE

Think hard, you know the answer. (exhales) I'm glad Frank's around. A friendly monster could come in handy.

### ZACK

Yeah.

### CHLOE

(gets up) Well sweetie, time for me to head out.

### ZACK

What about school?

# CHLOE

You could use today off. I'll call in sick for ya!

Chloe LEAVES. Zack SMILES. He lays back, and watches the CLOUDS. They RESEMBLE FRANK. Zack sits up. He stares at Frank's footprints.

# EXT. MAYTALS BAY - A LITTLE LATER

Frank collects water in his jaw, when he hears a TWEET from OFF-SCREEN. He looks up. Zack is on a HILL, blowing into his whistle.

### ZACK

No Frank, that's dirty water! Let's look somewhere else.

Frank helps Zack crawl onto his back, and carries him off. The SILHOUETTE OF A PTERODACTYL CIRCLES the spot they left.

# EXT. FORBIDDEN COVE - DAY

TRACK IN through the MOUNTAINS OF FORBIDDEN COVE. The mountains grow more menacing until the CAMERA ENTERS a dark crevice.

# INT. MOUNTAIN - DAY - CONT'D

CAMERA SETTLES ON A TABLE, lit by a candle. Upon it, sits a MAP OF NEW HAVENFIELD, with the WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CIRCLED IN RED. The

CAMERA TILTS TOWARD a CAVE OPENING. The SILHOUETTE of a PTERODACTYL is perched in it. A DRAGON-LIKE SILHOUETTE stands nearby. It's only seven feet tall. The dragon-like silhouette turns, and presses something OFF-SCREEN. A CLICK follows, and a RADIO TURNS ON.

# VOICE ON RADIO (0.S.) ...water is awaiting purification; we'll keep you... (continues in background)

The dragon-like silhouette POINTS out the cave opening. The pterodactyl NODS. The CAMERA TRACKS IN through the cave opening, until both silhouettes are gone.

### EXT. SKY - SAME TIME

A pterodactyl SOARS ON-SCREEN. It's CINDER, from episode one.

### EXT. NEW HAVENFIELD - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A CAR pulls up on a CORNER, blocked by YELLOW TAPE. Out steps BRAD, wearing civilian clothes. A SOLDIER named SHELDON stops him.

### SHELDON

Lieutenant Campbell! What're-

### BRAD

(jogging past Sheldon) I'm here to see my folks!

Brad slips under the YELLOW TAPE quarantining the area.

### EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - DAY

Chloe ARRIVES, as Ida and Gibson oversee WORKERS. The workers use MACHINES to transfer the contents of various WATER CONTAINERS into a PURIFICATION SYSTEM, located above a LARGE STRUCTURE.

### CHLOE

Hey Ida, can we talk?

### IDA ULRICH

What's on your mind?

# CHLOE

Well, uh, look I don't wanna be rude Ida, but like, I didn't like how you spoke to Zack. Seemed a bit, I
dunno, insincere?

### GIBSON

Chloe, don't-

# IDA ULRICH

(to Gibson) It's okay Gibson; she has a reasonable grievance. (to Chloe, smiles) You can't speak to a child the way you would to an adult. I had to appear as nonthreatening as possible.

Chloe begins to respond, when something catches her eye.

### CHLOE

What's that?

Gibson and Ida turn, and see Cinder perched on a DISTANT BUILDING. Ida pulls out a COMMUNICATOR, and speaks into it.

# IDA ULRICH

(into communicator) The thing on the Patton Building, how long has it been there? Over.

# GIBSON

(to Chloe) You're certain that's not equipment?

### CHLOE

Yes! Can't you see it's moving?

Cinder takes off into the air, BLASTING FIREBALLS FROM HIS MOUTH! One DESTROYS A MACHINE CARRYING A CONTAINER! It falls directly above Gibson, Chloe, and Ida. They RUN, but Chloe TRIPS over equipment, and looks up to see the CONTAINER ABOUT TO CRUSH HER. Chloe SCREAMS!

Brad BURSTS ON-SCREEN. He PULLS Chloe to safety, as the fireball HITS, inches away from them. Cinder passes overhead, and PERCHES ON THE WATER PURIFIER.

# EXT. MAYTALS BAY - ESTABLISHING - DAY

FRANK swims along. ZACK sits on his head, holding his WHISTLE. Zack notices something OFF-SCREEN. He GASPS! From the purifier, Cinder shoots fireballs at FIGHTER JETS. Zack looks worried, then hurt.

ZACK

Ida was lying to me! She was! The water purifier isn't broken at all! She was lying! She was going to get rid of you, Frank! (looks away) Honestly, they can just deal with their own problems.

Zack shifts around. He expects Frank to swim away, but he doesn't.

ZACK

C'mon boy, let's-

Frank GRUNTS, and motions toward the city. Zack GETS UP.

### ZACK

What's up Fra-?

Zack DROPS THE WHISTLE. Frank catches it. Zack tries to take it, but Frank moves it away, and nods toward the city. Zack stares at the whistle, then looks at New Havenfield.

### ZACK

Full speed ahead, Frank.

Frank GRINS. He gives Zack the whistle. Zack puts it in his coat pocket, and zips it up.

### EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - DAY

SOLDIERS build a BARRICADE where Gibson, Chloe, Brad, and Ida stand by a SONAR MACHINE. Sheldon watches COMPUTER SCREENS: Each depicts a different area of New Havenfield. The largest monitors Cinder.

### SHELDON

Hey General, sure you don't need-?

# IDA ULRICH

Keep your eyes on the monitors.

Ida makes a face. Gibson grins mischievously at Chloe.

### GIBSON

He makes you seem positively bearable, darling.

Chloe laughs and kisses Gibson on the cheek, then looks to Ida.

### CHLOE

Any word on Zack?

### IDA ULRICH

Didn't you drive him to school?

# CHLOE

Uh... sure did! Heh.

# IDA ULRICH

Then he's probably in a shelter.

### GIBSON

I'd like to know his precise whereabouts.

# IDA ULRICH

Look, all we can do for Zack is make sure things don't get any...

The sonar machine BEEPS, picking up on an approaching shape.

# **IDA ULRICH** (CONT'D)

...worse.

A screen shows Frank and Zack arriving in New Havenfield. Gibson turns and runs.

# GIBSON

We have to stop them!

# IDA ULRICH Campbell? Campbell, stand down!

Ida, Chloe and Brad chase Gibson. The sonar machine BEEPS twice. Another screen shows ZIRA and HUNCH swimming toward New Havenfield.

# INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - DAY

MERYL, TYLER and DORIS watch JALEEL twisting a RADIO ANTENNA. The RADIO drifts between static and garbled voices.

# MERYL

A-are we allowed to, I mean, c-can we have a r-r-radio down here?

# DORIS

'Course we can, Meryl! I mean, we're the only ones using a city bunker 'n all.

### TYLER

Yeah Doris, thanks to you.

### DORIS

C'mon Ty; H.O.T.C. reported the attack late!

### TYLER

You froze up when the alarm went!

### DORIS

I made sure everyone's accounted for!

# TYLER

Was that before or after the three of us dragged you outta school? I-

# JALEEL

Be quiet, you're distracting me!

Jaleel twists the antennae, and the news comes on.

# VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...creature is preventing water transfer, although specific directives are unheard of for... (voice continues in background)

### DORIS

Wait, it's doing stuff on purpose? (panics) They've never done that before!

### TYLER

Right, real brave Doris.

Doris looks ashamed. Meryl rests a hand on her shoulder.

### MERYL

Th-things'll be... they'll get better. Buh-but only if we have our... um, if we k-keep... if...

# JALEEL

If we keep the radio working?

# MERYL

Uh... no, if we, mm, if we... um...

Meryl pauses, then focuses.

### MERYL (CONT'D)

F-faith. If we keep our faith.

Doris smiles. Tyler looks guilty. The radio continues.

### VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...confirms 'Frank's' arrived. He appears to be... he's... he's carrying a child!

### EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - DAY

Frank and Zack ARRIVE, as Cinder SPITS FIREBALLS from the purifier. Zack places a finger to his lips. Frank NODS. He climbs up the purifier, but SLIPS. Frank digs his claws into it. A SCRAPING NOISE FOLLOWS. Cinder TWITCHES. Frank and Zack FREEZE.

Cinder RELAXES. His back is to Frank and Zack, but his eyeballs roll in their direction. Cinder BREATHES IN. His nostrils SMOKE. Zack and Frank arrive at the top. They see the smoke. Zack GASPS. Cinder WHIPS AROUND AND SPITS OUT A FIREBALL. It HITS Frank. Zack FALLS. Frank SLIPS over the side of the building. Both DISAPPEAR.

### INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - DAY

### MERYL

Th-that's...th-th-, um, that's...

### JALEEL

... that's Zack out there. We know.

# DORIS

Darn tootin'! So, what're we gonna do about it?

# JALEEL

Nothing. Let's play it cool until-

### VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)

...unconfirmed, but the child, we uh, we think he fell. We'll keep you updated on...

(voice continues in background)

# DORIS

We've gotta go after him!

### TYLER

No way, Zack's toast!

### JALEEL

Perhaps literally.

### DORIS

I'm going.

Doris heads to the bunker door. Her fingers clasp its handle.

### MERYL

A-aren't you... weren't you scared?

Doris PAUSES. Then she smiles at Meryl.

### DORIS

Courage is just fear with a little faith.

Doris LEAVES. The others exchange a look, then FOLLOW.

# EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Gibson ARRIVES. A fireball hits the ground. Gibson LOOKS UP. Cinder shoots at fighter jets, which in turn, blast LASERS at him. Frank CLINGS to the purifier. Zack is nowhere to be seen. Cinder notices Gibson. He SHOOTS A FIREBALL at him, as IDA APPEARS.

### IDA ULRICH

# Campbell, you idi-!

The fireball STRIKES NEARBY. Gibson and Ida nearly lose their balance. Chloe and Brad ARRIVE. Cinder prepares another blast. Frank's EYES WIDEN. Cinder fires. The purifier SHAKES. The fireball is THROWN OFF-COURSE. It misses the adults. REVEAL: Frank is SHAKING THE PURIFIER!

Cinder spits a fireball at Frank. He is hit and FALLS, revealing Zack DANGLING FROM A FLAGPOLE. Frank SMASHES INTO THE PAVEMENT, CREATING DEBRIS. Zack loses his grip. He FALLS, but GRASPS HOLD OF A LEDGE. Cinder notices, and returns to the purifier. Gibson panics, until a voice distracts him:

# CHLOE (O.S.) Hey! Yoo hoo! Hey! Hey...!

Gibson turns and sees Chloe RUNNING across the street, WAVING HER ARMS. Cinder HISSES. Zack crawls back up onto the ledge, and slides toward an OPEN WINDOW. Zack notices Chloe entering an alley. Cinder shoots a fireball at her. Distracted, Zack SLIPS.

In the alley, Chloe hides behind a DUMPSTER. On the ledge, Zack regains his footing. The fireball BURSTS inside the alley, but the dumpster SHIELDS Chloe. On the ledge, Zack enters the building through the window.

# EXT. PROVIDENCE STREET - DAY

More FIGHTER JETS arrive. The adults regroup below.

### IDA ULRICH

...can't believe you ran into a war zone! Even kids know not to-!

### DORIS

(appears) Hiya gang! Is Zack okay?

Ida slaps her forehead. Tyler, Jaleel, and Meryl ARRIVE as well.

### BRAD

I saw him duck into a window.

### JALEEL

(points toward purifier)

I don't know about a window duck, but I do see a sitting duck.

Under the purifier, Zack approaches Frank, who lays among DEBRIS. Zack BLOWS into his whistle. Frank hears the noise, and looks up.

ZACK

Listen, that thing's focused on the jets, right? It's distracted!

The fireballs hit another jet. It retreats, as Zack turns to look.

ZACK (CONT'D) (gulps) For now, anyway. (looks to Frank) Hey, see the debris?

Zack PATS a HUNK of debris.

# **ZACK** (CONT'D) Pitching it could take him out.

Frank SMILES, and PICKS UP the hunk of debris. Cinder notices. In his mouth, he prepares a fireball. A jet FIRES at Cinder. He RETURNS FIRE, then turns and SHOOTS at Frank. The fireball hits Frank. He drops the debris, and it SHATTERS. Gunfire DESTROYS the other pieces, save for one. Frank LUNGES for it, and HURLS it at Cinder. The debris STRIKES Cinder. He FALLS TO THE PAVEMENT, unconscious. Ida and the others make their way forward. Frank places Zack on his head.

# IDA ULRICH

Alright Mrs. Campbell, you win. Maybe we do need backup.

DORIS

Cool! I know a thing or-

### IDA ULRICH

No way! First, we'll get you and your friends to a shelter, then we'll contain the monster.

Ida observes JETS LANDING near Cinder. A LIEUTENANT EMERGES.

# IDA ULRICH

(calls to lieutenant) How many crafts are airworthy?

### LIEUTENANT

Not many. We can cage this thing, but another regiment will have to haul it to the slammer.

# IDA ULRICH

Understood. I'll summon the-

# **ZACK** (O.S.)

Navy?

Ida LOOKS UP. From the top of Frank's head, Zack STARES FORWARD.

ZACK (CONT'D)
'Cause I've got bad news about the
navy.

Worried, Ida attempts to crawl up onto Frank, but he looks nervous.

### ZACK

It's cool Frank, let her see.

Frank picks Ida up and places her on his head. In the ocean, ZIRA DESTROYS NAVAL FLEETS. On land, HUNCH DESTROYS THE AERIAL BASE. Ida bangs at Frank.

### IDA ULRICH

Go! Go! You have to stop them!

Frank SNORTS contemptuously, and lifts Ida off his head.

### ZACK

Frank, no! Put her back.

Frank reluctantly obeys.

### ZACK (CONT'D)

He, uh, he kinda only listens to me.

# IDA ULRICH

Then go with him and order-!

**GIBSON** (O.S.) No, absolutely not! Zack looks down from Frank's head to see Gibson.

### IDA ULRICH

You got a better idea, Campbell?

### GIBSON

How about anything that doesn't treat my son like a soldier?

### IDA ULRICH

You can't talk to a superior like that. Zack is-!

### GIBSON

No!

Everyone FALLS SILENT. Gibson's eyes MOISTEN.

GIBSON (CONT'D) No... he's my son. Can't you see? (voice cracks) He's my son.

Ida looks away. She is quiet until she turns to Zack.

IDA ULRICH

Zack, ask Frank to put me down.

### ZACK

Um, Frank? Could you, like, uh...?

Ida steps onto Frank's claw. She smiles at Zack, teary-eyed.

### IDA ULRICH

Have him take you and the other kids somewhere safe, okay? You're the... y-you're...

Ida forces back tears, then grins again.

IDA ULRICH (CONT'D)

... you're the future.

Zack NODS, but looks perplexed. Frank places Ida down, then places the other kids on his head. He WALKS AWAY, in the direction opposite to the danger.

# MERYL

Zack? Uh, w-what's going, what's ggoing on?

### ZACK

We're leaving.

# DORIS

That's it Zack ol' boy, show us what travelling monster style is all about! Where'll we be headed?

### ZACK

I dunno.

### JALEEL

Wonderful plan.

# ZACK

You're not funny.

# MERYL

Z-Zack, Jaleel's just, he's just nervous.

# DORIS

C'mon Zack, seriously! What **is** the plan?

### ZACK

How should I know?

### TYLER

'Cause you're the monster kid. Duh!

### ZACK

So, that makes me leader? And what was it last time, 'cause my brother is a pilot, drives an H.R.V.?

The others go silent. Zack SIGHS, then bites his lower lip.

### **ZACK** (CONT'D)

You think I'm different just 'cause I have these things. But I'm not. Honestly. I'm **not**.

### MERYL

S-so what're we, um, what're we gonna do...?

A LONG PAUSE follows. Then Doris SITS UP, and puts a hand on Meryl's shoulder.

### DORIS

We're gonna have faith.

Doris smiles at Meryl, then Tyler. They smile back at her.

# DORIS (CONT'D)

We got faith in ya Zack. Y'got faith in us?

Frank STOPS WALKING, and HOWLS HAPPILY. Zack looks down at him. After a LONG SILENCE, Zack looks up and smiles at his friends.

# ZACK

(nervous) I, I think we both do. (looks down at Frank) And he'd better. He's New Havenfield's only protection.

### TYLER

(sticks out fist) Not the only protection.

Doris GRINS, and presses her fist against Tyler's fist.

### DORIS

Not by a long shot!

Meryl presses her fist against Doris' fist.

### MERYL

Th-the grownups, they may not believe in us... buh-but I sure do.

Jaleel presses his fist against Meryl's fist.

# JALEEL

Y'know... even I do.

Zack PAUSES. Then he SMILES, and adds his own fist.

ZACK

Y'heard 'em Frank. Let's do it to it.

Frank ROARS, then TURNS AROUND AND CHARGES TOWARD THE OCEAN!

### EXT. BEACH - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Frank ARRIVES. ZIRA NOTICES and SLIPS UNDERWATER. Frank and the children see NAVY PERSONNEL aboard a SINKING SHIP, and Frank stops to think. He looks worried, then sets the children down. Zack tries to climb back up, but Frank forces him away.

### ZACK

What're you doing? We're a team!

Frank licks Zack apologetically, and enters the ocean alone.

# EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Frank swims out to the navy personnel as they enter LIFEBOATS. He SALUTES, indicating he's there to guard them. Some personnel are scared, others hopeful. Soon, all of them have boarded lifeboats.

Zira swims to the lifeboats, and BITES THEM. They are destroyed, and the personnel SPLASH into the water. Frank lowers his nose for them to crawl onto. Zira BITES Frank's leg. He CRIES OUT, and jerks his head back. The personnel CLING to his snout.

Frank notices ZIRA CIRCLING UNDERWATER. She DARTS FORWARD and bites Frank's leg. He HISSES in pain. A NAVY OFFICER loses his grip on Frank's snout, and FALLS! Frank uses his teeth to CATCH HIM BY HIS SHIRT COLLAR.

Frank starts swimming back to shore. Underwater, ZIRA BITES HIM AGAIN. This time, she doesn't let go. Instead, she PULLS BACK. Frank manages to release the navy personnel into the shallows, before ZIRA DRAGS HIM UNDERWATER.

# EXT. BEACH - DAY

On land, the children look afraid.

DORIS That fella's sure giving Frank the ol' whuppin'.

### ZACK

See those gills? It's 'cause he's fighting in that monster's element. We need to get it on land!

The navy personnel SCRAMBLE TO SHORE. Zack BOLTS AROUND THEM, and into the water. The kids try to follow, but navy officers GRAB THEM AND RUN. They ARRIVE NEAR Ida and the adults, and place the children down.

# MERYL Z-Zack, someone has to save Z-Z...!

### EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Zack enters WAIST-LEVEL, as Frank BURSTS ABOVE WATER. Zira WRESTLES him back down. Zack looks determined, and RUNS forward. When he gets deep enough to tread water, he pulls out his whistle and BLOWS into it. A loud TWEET follows.

Zira hears the tweet. She turns to look, releasing Frank. Zack sees Zira approaching, and swims away. Frank floats to the surface. As Zack runs, he continues BLOWING into his whistle. Frank hears the tweets from OFF-SCREEN. He coughs up water.

Zack returns to waist-level. Zira ZOOMS into the shallows. Frank opens his eyes. Zack makes it to knee level. Zira APPEARS behind him, when NAVAL WRECKAGE HITS the side of her head. Zack SCRAMBLES onshore. Zira looks to where the ship was thrown from.

Frank wades in the shallows. He holds TWO PIECES OF NAVAL WRECKAGE. He THROWS one at Zira. It HITS her. She GROWLS and LUNGES FORWARD.

### ZACK

# (from shore) No Frank, get it on land!

### EXT. BEACH - DAY

Frank hears Zack, and runs onshore, but Zira TACKLES HIM TO THE SAND. She tries to bite him. He SHOVES THE WRECKAGE into her jaw. Zira withdraws into the water, trying to remove it. Zack runs up to Frank and he scoops Zack up in one claw.

The children, adults and navy personnel APPEAR onshore. Gibson

opens his mouth to say something, when A TANK CRASHES BETWEEN FRANK AND THE OTHERS. Everyone TURNS. A CLAW THUNDERS DOWN, FILLING HALF THE SCREEN. It's HUNCH. He SNARLS. Frank places Zack down. Zack and the other humans RUN FOR COVER. Hunch takes a step forward. The humans arrive in a MOUNTAINOUS AREA, and hide.

### MERYL

H-he um, he doesn't look like he can, uh, h-handle another, another fight...

Hunch LEANS CLOSER to Frank, and LIFTS a claw, poised to strike.

### ZACK

# Maybe he doesn't have to. Frank, you already creamed him, remember?

Frank hears Zack, and looks at him. Hunch hears as well. He looks intimidated, and takes a step back. Frank's eyes SNAP BACK to Hunch. Zack looks tense. Frank SNARLS and PUFFS OUT HIS CHEST. Hunch eyes Frank, then growls and STEPS FORWARD.

Frank STANDS HIS GROUND. He raises his LEFT ARM. Hunch PAUSES. Frank moves his claw toward a NEARBY MOUNTAIN. Frank fingers a LARGE BOULDER on the mountain. He PICKS IT UP. Zack GRINS, and NODS with understanding. Hunch lifts his claw HIGHER. Frank continues standing his ground.

SPLASHING APPEARS FROM OFF-SCREEN. Hunch looks, and sees Zira SWIMMING AWAY. The wreckage remains in her jaw. Hunch looks back at Frank, GULPS, and SWIMS AWAY as well. Zack wipes sweat from his forehead, SIGHS, and looks around.

# INT. MILITARY PRISON - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Cinder sits in the last cell in a LONG ROW OF CELLS, some of which are occupied by monsters, including the SQUID from the first episode. Cinder wears a MUZZLE, preventing him from opening his mouth wide enough to spit fireballs. Zack, Meryl, Doris and Tyler sit near a RADIO. Frank licks his wounds, as Jaleel fiddles with a BROKEN TELEVISION.

VOICE ON RADIO (0.S.)
...a being that size is incapable of
living in a place as small as New
Havenfield, look what...
(voice continues in background)

# MERYL

Is, uh, is your dad mad at ya, Zack?

# ZACK

(groans) I bet he's planning my punishment as we speak.

VOICE ON RADIO (0.S.)
...Frank saved lives, but consider
the long-term implications of...
(voice continues in background)

Frank looks SAD. Zack FROWNS, and flicks the radio dial.

VOICE ON RADIO (0.S.)
Jian Li's right! Frank just wants to
gain our trust before (Zack changes channel)
...a monster should be given no (Zack changes channel)
...General Ulrich refuses to admit
that Frank is responsible for just
as much damage as any-

Zack switches off the radio. He SITS UP, and walks away, depressed.

# ZACK

Nothing's changed. Nothing.

Zack DISAPPEARS around a corner. Frank looks sad. Meryl ventures forward.

### MERYL

F-Frank... even if the city doesn't appreciate you, I, me and the other kids, we do. And I'm sure the city, they'll come around. Y'just gotta have, have...

Jaleel connects a wire. The TELEVISION COMES ON. A navy officer is being interviewed. It's the same one Frank caught in his teeth.

# NAVY OFFICER

...hospital should be open by tomorrow.

### NEWS REPORTER

Any thoughts on this 'Frank' creature?

### NAVY OFFICER

Well, he does lots of good that goes unreported, I'll tell ya that much.

Frank TURNS HIS HEAD to watch the television.

### NEWS REPORTER

So, you're a Frank supporter, then?

### NAVY OFFICER

Depends. What does that entail?

### NEWS REPORTER

Well, uh, do you trust him?

### NAVY OFFICER

Absolutely.

Frank SMILES. Meryl grins too, and HUGS HIS SNOUT.

# EXT. MILITARY BASE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Zack walks away from the MILITARY PRISON, and approaches the military base. Countless soldiers repair the damage that the monsters caused, but Zack pays them no mind.

Suddenly, Zack hears a voice:

# **IDA ULRICH** (O.S.)

Zack.

Zack looks up at Ida, as she steps onscreen.

**IDA ULRICH** (CONT'D) Your parents are in my office. Let's meet 'em there, okay?

### ZACK

I'm not going with you. You lied to Frank 'n me. To me!

# IDA ULRICH

Zack, I did what I felt needed to be done. At the time, anyway. Subsequent events have proved me wrong.

Zack looks intrigued, and walks up to Ida. She smiles confidently, and the two of them make their way toward the military base's entrance, side-by-side.

### INT. IDA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ida and Zack enter the office, to find Gibson and Chloe waiting.

# CHLOE

(to Zack) Howdy to ya, hon! (nods to Ida, cheerful) An' to Ida!

### GIBSON

Forgive my impropriety General, but what's this all about?

Ida sits down at her desk, and takes out some papers. She pushes them across the desk, toward Zack, Gibson, and Chloe. Then she places three pens over each paper.

# IDA ULRICH

As we observed today, Frank will only listen to Zack. As such, I've realized the necessity for his presence in New Havenfield.

### GIBSON

Just a moment, I'm not sure I agree!

Ida notes Gibson's discomfort, and nods to him.

# **IDA ULRICH** (CONT'D)

I'll make it worse for you, Gibson. As Frank will only respond to Zack's orders, Zack must join H.O.T.C. as Frank's official trainer. Here's a contract for him to sign, and waivers for you and your-

### GIBSON

But he's underage! This can't be lawful, he-

### IDA ULRICH

New Havenfield is under martial law, meaning I decide what's legal.

### CHLOE

But, um, it'd be dangerous, for Zack I mean, and-

### IDA ULRICH

(looking at Zack)
...and I think we should hear from
Zack himself.
 (winks at Zack)
What do you say kiddo; you in?
 (leans closer to Zack)
It'd be a <u>lot</u> of power.

### ZACK

(grins)

I'm in!

# CHLOE

(nervous)

Maybe, heh, maybe we should take a day or two before-

# IDA ULRICH

No time for that; another monster could attack tomorrow. Speaking of which, you're not the only one with leverage, Mrs. Campbell...

### CHLOE

Huh?

# IDA ULRICH

If Zack isn't permitted to train Frank, we're going to need the H.R.V. unit sooner than ever. So, if you don't sign these waivers, prepare to put in more overtime.

### CHLOE

Wait! But we already put in... I

mean, even now we hardly see Za-

# IDA ULRICH

Exactly. And even after the H.R.V. unit is fixed, I can find plenty of other things to keep you occupied. (points at Zack) If you don't comply, you'll <u>never</u> see him.

### GIBSON

Then so be it! I'm not putting my son in danger. I stood up to you before, General; I have no qualms about doing so again! We won't-

ZACK

(interrupting, icy cold) Dad...

Gibson looks to Zack in surprise, as do Chloe and Ida.

# ZACK (CONT'D)

(to Gibson/Chloe, serious) If you guys don't sign that, I'm not speaking to <u>either</u> of you again. Ever.

Gibson and Chloe look to each other, shocked. Their expressions shift to fear, then melt into somber acquiescence. They pick up the pens and sign the papers.

Zack GRINS mischievously, then signs his paper. Meanwhile, Ida looks uncomfortable; was this quite what she wanted?

# EXT. FORBIDDEN COVE - NIGHT

A familiar, seven-foot tall DRAGON-LIKE SILHOUETTE is watching a news report, featuring Frank. It turns to FACE THE CAMERA. The light from the television screen reveals a DEMONIC FACE.

With a single claw, the creature strokes its chin thoughtfully. Its eyes BLAZE RED.

# FADE TO BLACK.