

The Adventures of Megabyte Man

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FADE IN:

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Wind whips over a cliff face in the tropical sun.

Suddenly, a hand reaches for an outcropping of rock and pulls up a Man dressed in a tattered sailor's outfit. He looks down to see--

A swarm of Pirates scrambling after him. The lead Pirate, replete with eye-patch and tattoos, shoots out a hand--

Snagging the Man by his ankle. The Man strains to keep hold when--

A rumble shakes the cliff. A pebble glances off the Man's shoulder and he looks up to see--

Boulders thundering down the cliff.

The Man twists himself away from the avalanche moments before a boulder whips past his head--

Smashing the lead Pirate off the cliff face.

EXT. CLIFF - SUMMIT - DAY

The Man pulls himself onto a plateau and scrambles to the opposite edge: a massive drop ending in a pool of molten rock.

Behind him, the Pirates reach the summit.

PIRATE

This be the end of yer storie,
matey.

As they unsheathe their sabers--

The Man jumps.

The Pirates rush to the edge and watch the Man twist through the air, until--

EXT. LAVA POOL - DAY

Smack! He sinks into the molten rock.

EXT. CLIFF - SUMMIT - DAY

As the Pirates stare at the pool--

EXT. LAVA POOL - DAY

The Man bursts out of the red slop, holding a golden key. He struggles onto shore as--

A Football Defensive Line charges him. The Man punches his way through the D-line, spinning and juking his way to--

EXT. RINGS COURSE - DAY

A sea of suspended gymnastic rings. Hanging the key from his neck, the Man leaps for the first set of rings.

Behind him, the football players follow, some missing the rings and plummeting out of sight. As bodies swing wildly through the air--

The Man looks ahead to a sledgehammer, locked inside a glass case on a circular platform, when suddenly--

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! A stream of tennis balls berates his midsection. His eyes follow the muzzle reports to--

A multi-barreled tennis ball gun leveling its aim. The Pirate that fell from the cliff face stands behind the gun-sights, a smirk curling over his face. He mashes the trigger.

Caught in the crossfire, some of the football players are blown off the rings; but, shirt shredded, the Man reaches the end of the rings and releases--

EXT. PLATFORM - DAY

Landing on a platform and coming face to face with--

An eight-foot tall Robot wielding a bop-stick, a staff with a rubber ball on each end.

The Man wrenches his own bop-stick from a nearby stand just in time to parry a blow from the Robot.

Bop-sticks blur, sweat flies and lubricant spatters as the two gladiators lock in battle. As the Man slows from fatigue--

The Robot lunges for the kill; but the Man dodges the blow and clubs the Robot over the head, sending it over the edge.

Tossing the bop-stick aside, the Man takes the key from his neck and rams it into a lock on the glass case.

Behind him, the Robot's hand grips the edge of the pedestal.

Taking hold of the sledgehammer, he turns to an amusement park bell-tower. A sign atop the tower reads: One Million Dollars.

He lifts the hammer into the air, when--

The Robot raises up behind him. The Man whips around--

Catching a bop-stick in the nose. He flies off the pedestal--

And lands in a tank of colored balls.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Blinding studio lights come up, revealing a cheering studio audience.

Shelly Vaughn, the sparkling host of the show, runs onto stage as Stagehands lift the Man out of the tank.

SHELLY

Unbelievable! Another second and one million dollars was yours! How do you feel?

MAN

I had a blast, Shelly. I wouldn't trade this moment for the world.

Below the audience, Lee White, floor director, reaches to his headset.

LEE

Alright, Shelly. Throw to the prizes.

Shelly turns to the cameras.

SHELLY

Not quite the million you were hoping for, I'm sure. But don't worry, we won't send you home empty-handed.

They turn to a giant monitor where shots of an exotic island fill the screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 For competing in today's
 "Challenge," you've won a two-week
 trip to beautiful Bora Bora!

The Man applauds.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 And now, you can play "The
 Impossible Challenge" at home--

On the monitor, inflatable obstacles of the gameshow stand in a front yard. Little kids scream up and down the colorful eyesores.

LEE
 Alright, Shelly. Let's wrap it up.

Shelly faces the cameras.

SHELLY
 Well, you've waited all year and it's finally here. Tomorrow, join us for our very special 100th episode: "The Impossible Challenge: Tournament of Champions," where we'll pit the six winners of our past ninety-nine shows against each other for the ultimate challenge.

More applause as the show's cast hustles onto stage.

SHELLY
 I'm Shelly Vaughn, and this is "The Impossible Challenge!" Test your limits!

FLASH TO:

MONTAGE:

A breathless Reporter hustles to a crowd of people outside a studio lot.

REPORTER
 ...concludes the 99th episode of "The Impossible Challenge." Shelly Vaughn will be passing through at any moment--

The crowd screams. Secret Service Agents hustle Shelly through a crowd as the camera snaps zoom to Shelly's face. Bulbs flash, catching her in a frenzy of snapshots.

REPORTER

Shelly! A number-one show, the other networks can't even touch your ratings. The world is at your fingertips. How do you balance your personal life?

SHELLY

(laughing)

Easy. By not having one.

A news broadcast. Japanese children rush to the camera, clutching dolls of Shelly Vaughn.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

"The Impossible Challenge" is not only the most popular gameshow on television, but now a way of life for the world.

An English talk show.

HOST

People want imagination, adventure. The possibility that anyone can become, for lack of a better word, a superhero, is very attractive--

Nighttime talk show. The host grins at Shelly.

HOST

So, men.

The audience screams and Shelly blushes.

HOST

Where do you want the horsepower?

SHELLY

Their brain. Definitely.

The first Reporter hustles over the lawn of the studio. The camera whips to a pair of Secret Service Agents posted at a sleek laboratory door.

REPORTER

Inside those doors rest the secrets of the world's most popular gameshow.

The Agents advance.

AGENT

Hold it. Freeze!

REPORTER

I've only got moments to find the
100th episode's deepest--

An Agent muscles the man to the ground as another wraps his hand around the camera.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

Lee punches through a set of glass doors into a white room carrying a thick binder.

Otto, a janitor with a push-broom, sweeps over a circular emblem of the show embedded in the floor tile. Around the emblem's perimeter: Honor. Service. Imagination.

LEE

Nice work, Otto.

OTTO

Thanks, boss. Uh, Mr. White?

Lee turns.

OTTO

I found another clipping--

Otto unfolds a torn magazine page from his coveralls. A sleek, motorized Mopmaster 6000 covers the page.

OTTO

Any word from the higher-ups?

LEE

Word? Oh, should be any day now.

OTTO

It's got a 2 horsepower, twin head rotary system--

He thrusts the clipping into Lee's hands.

OTTO

Just make sure you put that with the others.

Lee folds the clipping into his binder.

LEE
Sure, Otto. Right here. With all
the other clippings of your
Mop...master.

OTTO
Thanks, boss.

Lee hustles to a colossal, metal door. Two Agents snap to attention.

LEE
Gentlemen.

Lee drops his eyes into a retinal scanner to the right of the door. The scanner twitters a greeting as Lee's profile flashes over the screens in the room.

AGENT 1
Welcome, Mr. White.

The Agent places his palm on a touch-plate. Internal locking mechanisms disengage and the door swings open with a pneumatic hiss. As Lee steps through--

AGENT 1
Oh, and sir--

Lee turns.

AGENT 1
Excellent show today.

LEE
Oh, thanks.

AGENT 2
Yes. Very entertaining.

INT. LABORATORY

Lee enters a colossal auditorium. A catwalk spans the walls, encircling a recessed chamber encased in glass. Other gags and machinery for the gameshow litter the work space.

At a control panel are two kid technicians.

LEE
Billy, Sarah!

They turn and smile.

LEE
You guys seen Mike?

Sarah points to the chamber, where inside--

Mike, the lead technician, struggles to walk in the armored-composite bulk of his protective suit to a small podium.

Lee hits the intercom on the panel.

LEE
Yo, Mike!

Mike tries to wave.

MIKE
Hey, Lee!

Lee opens the binder and flips through the pages.

LEE
The grid was dragging on some of
the cues, especially...

He finds a page.

LEE
11-C. We lost the boot launcher
entirely.

MIKE
Gotcha. Working on that right now.
Hit it, Billy!

Billy punches a massive red button and a deep hum fills the lab. Thick arcs of energy peel from the podium and curl up the glass walls of the chamber.

LEE
What are you guys doing?

SARAH
We're installing Mike's newest
invention.

Mike locks a compact metal device onto the podium. The electricity vanishes and the device pulses with a steady glow.

Billy presses a green button and all around the lab, different gags power up, ready for operation.

BILLY
We're online!

LEE

What is it?

BILLY

It's called the Turbo Infuser.

CUT TO:

Blueprints. Designs. Automated soldering irons sparking on microchips.

Flashbulbs, applause. Mike stands before a scientific society, accepting an award.

Newspapers hit the racks: Genius Wins Best Invention in Quantum Electronics.

BACK TO:

INT. LABORATORY

Mike and his behemoth armored suit exit the chamber.

LEE

Turbo Infuser? What does it do?

SARAH

Basically, everything the old grid couldn't.

Mike tries to wiggle out of the armor.

BILLY

It's full automation. Every system in the studio has been streamlined into this one unit.

SARAH

It executes all the protocols for the satellites and lighting grids, amplifies the core reactor's output ten-fold, and--

Next to the control panel, a coffee maker fills a mug.

SARAH

Still has time to make your favorite cup of coffee.

COFFEE MAKER

Your non-fat soy latte is ready, Mr. White.

Lee takes the mug. Behind him, Mike falls from the armor.

SARAH

Guess you could say we're raising
the bar on what we can do.

BILLY

Sarah, with this thing, there is no
bar.

Inside the chamber, a wave of sparks explode from the podium.

Mike jumps to his feet and the Kids snap to a pair of
monitors as an alarm blares through the lab.

SARAH

What happened?

BILLY

We're still calibrating the
guidance systems. Must be a
programming blip--

Mike sees a tennis-ball gun turn its aim on Lee.

MIKE

Oh no.

Billy pounds the keys on the control panel.

BILLY

It's not responding--

As turbines in the gun spin to a high-pitched whine, Mike
dashes to the chamber door and locks eyes on a yellow cable
running from the podium to the floor.

MIKE

I'm gonna pull the plug--

SARAH

Mike, no! You don't have your suit!
(to Billy)
Billy, the kill switch!

Billy rips open a plastic cover and throws a red lever.

Every system inside the lab powers down.

Lee stares at the dormant tennis-ball gun, his hand shaking
coffee onto his pants. Mike heads to the control panel.

MIKE

Hey, Lee. Still ironing out some of the bugs. Oops, a little coffee on the leg...

LEE

Mike, I'm just taking a stab here, but are you planning on replacing the grid with that Turbo McCharger thing?

MIKE

Um, yes?

LEE

Geez, Mike. Do you even remember what happened last time?

CUT TO:

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee stands behind a blast shield watching Mike at a control panel, goggles strapped to his face. Mike speaks into a mic.

MIKE

Don't worry, Lee. This new grid has a point-zero-two percent break-down probability, which is exceptionally low. Even for my work.

He flips a switch and warning alarms howl.

MIKE

Yup. It's gonna blow.

The host's podium explodes, hurling Mike into the air.

BACK TO:

INT. LABORATORY

LEE

It shut us down for an entire month.

Mike blushes.

LEE

Mike, this is the big show. We can't change grids last minute.

MIKE

Lee, we have to. The old grid's out of brain power.

SARAH

And the Turbo Infuser will allow us to do anything we can imagine. Anything.

Lee lifts his binder.

LEE

Guys, this is five years. Five years of planning every event, every cue and every note of this show. We've done our work, now we stick to it.

MIKE

But Lee, things change. Sometimes you have to...not stick to it.

LEE

Sorry, guys. But, everything we've planned for comes down to this.

He heads to the door.

LEE

And if there's one thing I've learned, it's...

Lee shakes the binder.

LEE

Obey the book, no questions asked.

He smiles.

LEE

Don't stay up too late.

The Showrunner exits and the doors hiss shut. The trio turns to the chamber.

BILLY

Guess it's back to the old grid then.

The Kids face Mike, his eyes glued to the Turbo Infuser.

BILLY

Mike?

SARAH
Something tells me we're not gonna
be using the old grid.

MIKE
How long would take to upgrade the
Infuser's firmware?

BILLY
Mike, are you sure? Lee just said--

MIKE
I know. But we can do this.

The Kids look at each other and grin.

SARAH
We're on it.

EXT. STUDIO - PARKING LOT - DAY

In the glow of the early morning sun, a Man crawls out of a
tent and stretches. He takes a breath and yells--

MAN
Test your limits!

Like an army of ants, throngs of people clamor out of
hundreds of tents and echo the scream.

CUT TO:

NEWS CAMERA:

The Reporter from the opening montage stands in the midst of
the half-crazed fans, arm in a sling.

REPORTER
Game-day. The world holds its
breath for what promises to be the
greatest show in the history of
television. What death-defying
stunts can we expect to see? The
producers wouldn't say, but we were
granted an exclusive interview with
two of the reasons for the show's
success.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW:

Billy and Sarah sit in director chairs.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Now I understand both of you
attended the W. L. Judson Genius
Institute in Maine.

BILLY

"The Impossible Challenge" was part
of our internship program. It was
actually Mike McGregor, one of the
alums from school, who got us on
the show.

A terrible yearbook photo of Mike flashes on the screen.

REPORTER (O.S.)

You mentioned Mike McGregor. Is he
the brains behind all of the
incredible stunts on the show?

SARAH

Yes.

BILLY

Absolutely.

SARAH

But you wouldn't hear it from him.

REPORTER (O.S.)

And are you looking forward to High
School?

Billy and Sarah look at each other.

BILLY

Actually, I tested out of High
School when I was five.

SARAH

I'm working on a double Master's in
Material Sciences and Engineering.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Oh. I see.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE

Lee forges his way through the bustling crew with his hand to
his headset. Two assistants follow him with binders and
clipboards.

LEE
Alright, ladies and gentlemen. The
big day. Let's rock and roll.
Cameras--

A Cameraman on top of a crane booms into the air.

LEE
How you guys doin'?

CAMERAMAN
We're set to go.

Lee reaches a black curtain and pushes through to--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The main floor, blanketed in shadow. At the foot of the stage, Makeup and Hair applies their touches to a handful of contestants.

LEE
Billy, Sarah?

INT. LABORATORY

The Kids stand at the control panel wearing their headsets.

BILLY
Stand by, Lee.

LEE (V.O.)
No grid, no show, Billy.

BILLY
Copy that.

SARAH
Mike, all the drives are
stabilized.

With his jumpsuit on, Mike stands inside the electricity-filled chamber, holding the Turbo Infuser.

MIKE
Ready to connect.

SARAH
Go connect.

Mike snaps the Infuser in place and the lab hums to life.

SARAH
(eyes on monitor)
Levels are stable.

The Kids take a breath.

BILLY
Go for grid.

He presses a green button and--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The stage lights up like a Christmas tree, revealing a massive Amazon jungle.

LEE
Grid is hot. See, I knew you guys
could do it.

INT. LABORATORY

The trio trade relieved glances.

BILLY
Uh, thanks, Lee. Break a leg.

Mike hangs his jumpsuit inside a locker. As the Kids make their way to the door, Mike pulls out a box of chocolates and shuts the locker.

Billy and Sarah stare at him.

MIKE
I, um, was gonna do one, last
safety check.

BILLY
But you just put your tools away.

Mike opens the locker.

MIKE
Yeah, I was getting those.

BILLY
Are those chocolates?

MIKE
Uh. Yup.

Sarah smiles.

BILLY
If you want me to help you run a
systems check--

MIKE
No, I'm good. Really.

SARAH
We'll save you a seat.

BILLY
Are you sure you don't want any--

SARAH
Billy. Are you serious?

Sarah hauls Billy out by the shirt.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee watches the audience file in, buzzing with excitement. He looks to a giant clock above the stage, counting down from fifteen minutes.

LEE
(into headset)
Give Shelly the fifteen.

INT. STUDIO - HALLWAY

A half-dozen Agents stand guard outside the door. The Secret Service Captain reaches to his ear.

CAPTAIN
Copy that, Mr. White.

INT. STUDIO - DRESSING ROOM

Shelly flips through cue cards as a Stylist attends to her hair.

A knock on the door, and the Captain peeks inside.

CAPTAIN
Fifteen minutes, Ms. Vaughn.

SHELLY
Thank you.

The door shuts. After a moment--

CAPTAIN (O.S.)
Sir, this is a secured area.

AGENT 3 (O.S.)
Take him down--

Bodies scuffle. She opens the door to find--

INT. STUDIO - HALLWAY

Five Agents constraining Mike in a back-breaking position.

CAPTAIN
Sir, you are in violation of code
623, section 8--

SHELLY
No, guys. He's with us.

Mike shoves his ID badge in their faces. The Agents relax their hold.

CAPTAIN
Mr. McGregor. Sorry, sir. Never can
be too careful.

MIKE
I think I ripped something.

AGENT 3
I believe it was your trousers,
sir.

AGENT 4
Sir, we are trained to rip the
trousers as it impairs the
perpetrator's mobility.

CAPTAIN
Security protocol. Ever since...the
breach.

AGENTS
The breach.

SHELLY
Would you guys go over there now?

CAPTAIN
Yes, ma'am.

As the Agents resume their posts, Mike turns to Shelly.

MIKE

Okay, Shell. For the hang gliding round, just wanted to remind you to maintain a minimum distance of ten feet from the croc launcher. Steve from engineering got bit the other day when--a lot of people don't realize that crocodiles are still just as dangerous in the air as they are--well, if anything, just remember ten feet.

SHELLY

Mike, are you trying to ask me out?

MIKE

Yes. Yes I am.

Shelly smiles while Mike fidgets with the chocolate box.

SHELLY

Good. How about some coffee after the show?

MIKE

Yes. I think coffee is awesomely good.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee looks at the clock, now two minutes from zero.

LEE

(into headset)

Alright, gentlemen. Let's bring in Shelly.

INT. STUDIO - HALLWAY

The Captain spins to Shelly.

CAPTAIN

Ms. Vaughn. It's time.

The Agents yank Shelly from her room and push to the hallway. Shelly waves after Mike.

SHELLY

I'll find you after!

EXT. STUDIO - DAY

The Agents burst from the studio wing escorting Shelly.

Gates hold back throngs of fans as Security Guards try to keep the flood of people at bay.

CRAZED FAN

Shelly!

A fan breaks loose. With pen and picture in hand, he scrambles toward Shelly.

AGENT 3 (O.S.)

We got a stray bogey, 6 'o clock--

AGENT 4 (O.S.)

Copy that. I'm inbound.

An Agent slams into the fan's midsection like a cruise missile.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE

Agents escort Shelly to one of the wings while--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Mike joins the Kids in the front section of the audience, a grin plastered over his face.

Billy points at the forgotten box of chocolate in Mike's hand and Mike smacks his head.

The lights fade, shooting a ripple of excitement through the audience.

LEE

Cue the open.

Music erupts from stage as the giant monitor above the audience illuminates.

Images of excitement flash over the screen. Contestants run from lions, jump from helicopters and crawl through mud.

Lee looks up to the countdown.

LEE

Twenty seconds, control.

EXT. TIME'S SQUARE - NIGHT

Thousands of fans stand riveted to the jumbo-tron.

SCREEN: The show's graphic slams into place: The Impossible Challenge's 100th Episode: Tournament of Champions.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee takes a breath.

LEE
Alright, Ladies and Gentlemen. Look sharp. On my mark--

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

A Dark Figure approaches the Agents standing guard.

AGENT 1
Excuse me, engineering is off limits--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee gives the finger count.

LEE
And we're up in five...

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

The Figure produces a metal rod.

AGENT 1
Sir--

With a flick of his wrist, a chrome sphere snaps out of one end of the rod and arcs of electricity curl over the surface of the strange weapon: the goo-stick.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

LEE
Four...

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

The goo-stick clubs the chest of the first Agent--

AGENT 2

Dear God! Man down! Man--

Then catches the second upside the head. Convulsing, both Agents collapse to the floor as if they were made of jelly.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

LEE

Three...

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

The Figure slaps the first Agent's head into the retinal scanner, then smacks the other's hand on the touch-pad, unlocking the door.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

LEE

...Two. Alright, Shelly. Go get 'em.

The music pounds to a climax and the audience goes insane. The lights burn to full and--

Shelly bounds onto stage.

EXT. EIFEL TOWER - NIGHT

People cheer as Shelly's image flashes over a jumbo-tron.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTROL ROOM

Bob, the control room operator, studies the monitors as the host heads to center stage.

BOB

Ready two. Go, two. Get me closer, five. Ready five. Go, five--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Shelly hits her mark, smiling to the screaming audience.

SHELLY

What makes a hero? Is it honor? Is it courage? Or is it something more? Tonight will be unlike anything you've ever seen as we search for the hero we've all been looking for. Tonight we test our limits. This is "The Impossible Challenge."

The audience explodes as six Contestants run onto stage.

INT. LABORATORY

A gloved hand wraps around the Turbo Infuser and rips it from its socket.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Shelly turns to the Contestants as the stage-lights fluctuate.

SHELLY

Congratulations, guys. You've made it farther than anyone in the history of the show. But none of that matters now. By the end of tonight, only one of you will be left standing. Only one of you will be the champion of champions.

As the audience applauds--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTROL ROOM

Power levels peak into the red.

LIGHT TECH

Sir! I'm getting some bad power spikes, sir.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lee looks to the pulsing lights.

LEE

Control, what's the problem?

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTROL ROOM

Bob's pounds a keyboard while warning icons fill the control screens.

BOB

The grid's flooded. We're shut out!

Battle-red lights flood the control room.

LIGHT TECH

All hands, all hands, this is not a drill--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Lights overhead pop, spilling showers of sparks onto the set. The audience loves it.

Mike looks from Lee to the Kids.

MIKE

Something's wrong.

Billy pops open his laptop, when--

Boom! A boot-launcher fires an oversized work boot into a contestant, knocking him off the stage.

Billy's screen flashes with warning icons.

SARAH

The control grid, it's overloading!

BILLY

We've got to cut the power.

They jump from their seats moments before--

A crocodile lands in the middle of the audience, snapping at nearby limbs and feet.

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

Mike and the Kids burst in to find Otto bent over the gurgling Agents. Billy and Mike race to open the door.

SARAH

Otto! What happened?

OTTO

I dunno--

BILLY
Sarah, come on!

He grabs her arm and pulls her through the doorway to--

INT. LABORATORY

Mayhem. Technicians scramble to snuff fires and administer first-aid.

CONTROL GRID (V.O.)
Warning. Core overload.

Sarah and Billy rush to the control panel while Mike moves to the glass chamber.

Electricity whips from the Turbo Infuser's empty socket.

MIKE
The Turbo Infuser. It's gone!

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The tennis-ball gun opens fire on the stage.

Agents wrestle Shelly to the ground, shielding her from the hail of tennis balls.

INT. LABORATORY

CONTROL GRID (V.O.)
All personnel, please move to your
nearest emergency exit.

A computer station explodes, hurling a technician across the lab.

SARAH
The reactor! We have to get it off
line.

Billy flips open the plastic cover and throws the red switch.

CONTROL GRID (V.O.)
Detonation in three.

BILLY
The system's not responding!

Sarah turns to Mike, who--

Enters the chamber, spilling electricity into the lab.

SARAH

Mike!

CONTROL GRID (V.O.)

Two.

He pulls the yellow cable from its socket.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The lights cut out, plunging the stage into darkness.

INT. LABORATORY

Electricity rips through the glass chamber.

The Kids watch Mike wrestle with the cable like an out-of-control firehose. Arcs of electricity overtake him--

And Mike disappears.

In a flash, he reappears on the other side of the room.

The Kids watch Mike zap all over the lab, trailing ribbons of electricity. Then, in one last burst--

Mike vanishes for good.

CONTROL GRID (V.O.)

Core stabilized. Have a nice day.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The audience gasps as backup generators cut on, washing the studio in pale light. On stage, the Agents writhe around like larvae.

Shelly is no where to be seen.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Shelly's gone!

Lee grabs his headset.

LEE

Control, kill broadcast!

INT. LIVING ROOM

On their TV, a family watches "The Impossible Challenge" cut to a commercial.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Mike snaps awake on an examination table, smoke curling from his hair. The door to the room opens and a Doctor walks in.

DR. GARDENPANTS

Mike, I'm Doctor Gardenpants.

He helps Mike sit up.

MIKE

...woozy. I feel a bit woozy.

Dr. Gardenpants chuckles.

DR. GARDENPANTS

Okay, let's see what we can do.
Tell me about it.

He takes his stethoscope and listens to Mike's heartbeat.

MIKE

Well, I disconnected the power source on the mainframe because we were going through a thermal meltdown...

DR. GARDENPANTS

Uh huh. Big breath--

MIKE

I think I got a nasty shock. I was zapping around the room--

Dr. Gardenpants sticks a tongue depressor in his mouth.

MIKE

Vlahhh zuuuuh buuuuuuuglll...

Dr. Gardenpants removes the tongue depressor.

MIKE

And I don't even like refried beans, but that's how I got here.

DR. GARDENPANTS

I see.

He picks up a giant encyclopedia and hands it to Mike.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Here, read this.

Mike flips through the book in a blink. The Doctor takes the book and opens to a random page.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Now, Sungkiang. Tell me about it.

MIKE
A province of Central Manchuria.
30,703 square miles. Population
2,571,000. Established in 1947.

Dr. Gardenpants flips to another page.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Hiawatha?

MIKE
Mohawk Chief responsible for the
confederation of the Five Nations
of the Iroquois League.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Well, it's just as I expected.
You're suffering from what we, in
the medical community, call
Molecular Restructuritis.

MIKE
Molecular Restructure--I've never
heard of that.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Well, it's very, very rare.

He grabs a tape off a shelf and inserts it into a VCR.

CUT TO:

SCREEN:

A graphic flies in: Molecular Restructuritis and You.

A cartoon boy sits in a chair, head hung low.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Why the long face, Timmy?

The boy looks up.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Were you recently hit with a 10,000
volt surge of superconducted
electricity?

The boy nods.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Are you now able to remember just
about everything, and also
accomplish incredible, superhuman
feats?

Another nod.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Do others now make fun of you
because you are different?

The boy stands.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Well, Timmy, different is not
necessarily bad.

Scientific equations float by.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Your cerebral cortex has undergone
complete molecular rearrangement,
resulting in dynamic synapse
functionality. Think of it this
way, Timmy. If your brain was an
old lawn-mower--

Above the boy's head, a brain turns into a lawn-mower.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And that old lawn-mower was struck
with such great energy that all the
parts of the lawn-mower separated,
and then reformed into a shiny new
sports car!

A Ferrari honks and drives away.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
That's what happened to your brain,
Timmy.

TIMMY
My brain does zero to sixty in no
time!

NARRATOR (V.O.)
That's right. But be careful. With
extra power comes extra
responsibility.

TIMMY
Oh, you mean like making my bed?

NARRATOR (V.O.)
No, Timmy. I mean like saving the
world from evil.

BACK TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

On the TV, the animated short ends.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Massive information storage,
instant recall, and electronic
displacement.

As Mike soaks in the information--

DR. GARDENPANTS
Mike, you've turned into a
supercomputer.

MIKE
Did you say a supercomputer?

DR. GARDENPANTS
That's right. Your superpowers will
allow you to travel anywhere
there's an electronic signal.

He indicates an Ethernet outlet on the wall.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Come on, give it a try.

As Mike stands, the Doctor whips out a calculator.

DR. GARDENPANTS
(typing)
Wait, Mike. Quick, the square root
of 2,576--

MIKE
50.75431016!

DR. GARDENPANTS
Holy kazooly, you are ready. Go get
'em, Mike. Go get 'em!

MIKE
Okay!

He focuses his concentration on the outlet and it glows white-hot. In a flash, he disappears into the socket.

INT. INTERNET

Mike rockets through a tunnel of electricity, terrified by the brilliant, rushing world of energy--

INT. LABORATORY

And launches out of an outlet, slamming into the opposite wall.

Billy and Sarah look up from the control panel and rush to his side as fits of electricity shoot from his body.

SARAH
Mike! Are you okay?

MIKE
Yeah, my doctor said I checked out
just fine.

He reaches for a rack of servers to steady himself and receives a jolt.

MIKE
Yow!

Lee storms in.

SARAH
Uh oh.

BILLY
Lee, wait--

SARAH
The Turbo Infuser. Someone--

LEE
We'll talk about the that later.
Right now, we've got a bigger
problem. Shelly's missing.

MIKE/KIDS

What?

Lee looks to Mike.

LEE

When the grid crashed, she disappeared.

BILLY

What do you mean, disappeared?

LEE

We've checked everywhere. She's gone.

The Kids look to Mike.

LEE

The network's leaking this out as a publicity stunt and they're serious about getting the show up again. Tomorrow.

SARAH

Tomorrow? It's impossible. Shelly--

LEE

Believe me, I know. But they doesn't see it that way. Shelly's just the host. She's...

SARAH

What?

LEE

Replaceable.

BILLY

Bullshit, you have to do something.

LEE

Guys, I'm following my orders. Like you should've done. And because you didn't, we've lost Shelly and crashed on live TV--

He shakes his head.

LEE

With any luck, we'll find Shelly before we go live.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

In the mean time, Billy, Sarah, you two need to pull together a working plan for the old grid.

SARAH

What about Mike?

Lee looks to Mike, who hangs his head.

LEE

I think he knows.

He turns for the door.

LEE

We only have 23 hours left to fight for our jobs, so let's get on it.

As Lee exits, the Kids turn to Mike, packing his tools.

SARAH

Mike, what are you doing?

MIKE

Going home.

SARAH

But you can't quit!

BILLY

The Turbo Infuser's not your fault and you know it.

MIKE

But I was so busy breaking the rules, I didn't even set the backup systems. So the grid failed, Lee probably lost his job, and I lost Shelly.

He places the last tool inside his bag.

MIKE

Not bad. Even for me.

BILLY

That's why you can't walk out. Shelly needs your help.

MIKE

The whole world's gonna be looking for her, Billy. What good am I gonna do?

He zips his pack.

MIKE
Besides, I'd just mess it up.

SARAH
Mike--

He exits.

BILLY
Is this really happening?

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

Horrific laughter cascades through networks of dank passageways engorged with moldy remains of old technology. We pass through a corridor into--

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

An enormous chamber of slimy rock. Minions, armless little goblins, scabble over clefts in the walls. They whoop and chirp, their bulging eyes focused on--

The Virus, who cackles on his throne.

VIRUS
Excellent! My brilliant first phase is now complete. I am brilliant.

His sniveling assistant, wearing coke-bottle glasses, titters behind a rusty control panel.

PEE-ON
Yes, Virus.

VIRUS
Shut up, Pee-on.

Virus turns to a large screen embedded in the wall. Otto's image illuminates the cavern.

VIRUS
Otto, my deliciously fiendish friend--

He springs from his throne and moves to an armored case sitting atop a workbench. He pops open the latch on the lid--

VIRUS

...you have proven yourself capable
of delivering my plan.

OTTO

Thanks, boss. So, um, about the
Mopmaster you promised me...

Otto holds up an ad for the mop and swallows as--

Virus' gaze caresses the case's contents: the Turbo Infuser.

OTTO

Boss?

VIRUS

What? Oh, of course. It's in the
mail.

(to Pee-on)

Done! Turn it off!

The image cuts out as Virus spins from the workbench.

VIRUS

Bring her in!

A massive battle-door slides away and a herd of Minions
carries Shelly in, her hands and feet bound by chain.

Virus dances over her, a wicked smile smearing his face.

VIRUS

Well, if it isn't Shelly-makes-me-
want-to-blehh-Vaughn! Oh, this is
very exciting. The entire world is
looking under every rock to find
their beloved pukeshow host, but
they'll never find you here.

SHELLY

Please, don't--

VIRUS

Don't what? Fill you up with candy
and hang you up like a piñata at a
14 year-old's birthday party? Well,
shut-up! You're in my world now,
sister, so I get to do whatever I
want.

Shelly looks up.

SHELLY

Wait, I know you. You were on the show.

VIRUS

Well, thank you, Miss A-plus, genius student.

He swoops in, snarling inches from her face.

VIRUS

How nice of you to remember...

FLASH TO:

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The audience is on their feet, screaming as Shelly bounces onto stage. Other contestants share the stage with Virus and Pee-on.

Shelly moves to Virus as he adjusts an uncomfortable belay harness. Pee-on picks at the straps.

SHELLY

Thank you. Our next contestants have been fans of the show from day one.

Pee-on waves.

SHELLY

Now Virus, is it?

VIRUS

Virus, yes.

SHELLY

Virus, tell us why you think you'll go all the way.

VIRUS

Well, I've been working out. Uh...

Pee-on whispers into his ear.

VIRUS

The what?

Another whisper.

VIRUS

I can't understand you, Pee-on.

Shelly looks to Lee as Pee-on whispers again. Someone coughs in the audience.

VIRUS

Yes, when do I get my prizes?

SHELLY

Soon enough. But first, you'll have to prove your mettle in our first round, the Wall of Heroes. Virus, are you ready to "Test Your Limits?"

VIRUS

I was told there were prizes--

A thunderous gong shakes the studio.

CUT TO:

Virus jumps onto the wall and stretches for the first handhold. His foot slips, but he recovers. He reaches for the second hold when--

A giant boot clobbers him off the wall.

The audience laughs as Virus picks himself up off the ground. He reaches for the wall when--

Another boot cleans his clock.

The audience howls. Virus struggles for the wall a third time.

SHELLY

Virus! You'd better hurry--

An avalanche of normal-sized boots falls from the top of the wall and buries him.

SHELLY

Whoops. Too late.

Virus climbs out of the mountain of footwear when another oversized boot knocks him to the ground.

He looks up to see everyone in the soundstage in hysterics. Shelly doubles over with laughter.

Virus screams and rips the harness off, making a beeline for the shoe gun.

The audience's laughter turns to horror as Virus hoists a boot into the air and bashes the gun to pieces.

In moments, a throng of agents tackle him to the ground.

Virus locks eyes with Shelly.

VIRUS
I'll get you. I'll get you all.

BACK TO:

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

Virus gnashes his teeth.

VIRUS
For years, I've been waiting.
Waiting to sink my teeth into a
giant, steamy loaf of sweet
revenge.

He rips down a curtain on the wall, revealing an endless sea of news clippings and defaced pictures of Shelly.

Shelly gasps.

VIRUS
I had a little bit of a breakdown.

SHELLY
Well, you were pretty awful.

VIRUS
Shut up! I was not awful! You set
me up. You made me fail in front of
the world.

Virus howls as he tears his fingers down his wall of hate.

VIRUS
I never wanted to be on your
Impossible Crapshow to begin with.

SHELLY
If you didn't want to be on the
show, then why were you a
contestant?

Virus looks to the workbench, where next to the armored case rests a grotesque helmet of cables and metal panels. A grin curls across his face.

VIRUS
Oh, wouldn't you like to know.

He faces Shelly.

VIRUS

But too bad you're not going to be
around long enough to find out.

(to Pee-on)

Lock her up!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Mike shuffles down the sidewalk. As he passes a storefront--

TALK SHOW HOST (O.S.)

Let's be real. Do you think there's
any chance this is a publicity
stunt like the network is claiming?

Mike turns to a wall of televisions displaying a heading that
reads: Is Shelly Really Missing?

GUEST

Not at all. Publicity stunts are
used when ratings are down, but the
"Challenge's" ratings have never
been higher. It makes no sense.

Mike continues on.

TALK SHOW HOST

Which reminds me. You know who's a
big, dumb coward? Mike McGregor.

Mike stops.

TALK SHOW HOST

I mean, Shelly is missing, but Mike
won't do a single thing about it.

GUEST

Y'know, Ken, if Mike's willing to
walk away from the most important
thing in his life, then he's not
good for much, is he?

TALK SHOW HOST

You know what? I'm not even going
to use his real name. I'm going to
call him Captain Moron.

They look directly at Mike.

TALK SHOW HOST

Hey, Cap'n. You waiting for someone else to be a hero?

Mike stares at the screens, gears turning.

TALK SHOW HOST

Yeah, see? He's still not doing anything. What a waste.

The host storms off set.

GUEST

Great. Now look what you did. Hope you're happy.

Mike blinks. The host and his guest continue their discussion about Shelly.

Mike notices an outlet by the televisions and cracks a smile.

INT. LABORATORY

The lab is dark.

Then, an outlet crackles. It spews Mike and a trail of electricity across the floor and into a server rack.

As he recovers from the electrical surge, Mike's eyes rest on the suit of armor standing in his locker.

His hard-wired brain flashes over the suit's armored skin. Chest plates. Arm guards. Helmet.

The highlights strobe with dizzying intensity as visions of wiring and devices mingle with the armored exoskeleton.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LABORATORY

Billy and Sarah enter to find--

The floor littered with tools and mechanical parts.

Snoring echoes through the lab as Billy and Sarah approach a pair of legs protruding from the gutted remains of the armored suit.

BILLY

Mike?

MIKE
...Captain Moron...

Mike snaps awake and grabs the nearby lab phone.

MIKE
Hello, this is Mike.

SARAH
Have you been here all night?

Mike struggles to his feet, adjusting a crash helmet on his head. Grease covers his face and clothes.

MIKE
Guys, it just clicked. It's like my brain put on a shoe and kicked me in the head. I was thinking about what Lee said. That Shelly's replaceable, but she's not replaceable. Then it hit me--

He scrambles over the pile of parts.

MIKE
I couldn't see past my fears.

He moves to a steel vault.

MIKE
There was this chance to do something great, and I didn't even see it. It was right there, in front of my face, like a giant walrus.

SARAH
A what?

MIKE
Huh?

BILLY
He said a giant walrus.

SARAH
Mike, are you okay?

MIKE
I'm better than okay.

He keys in a code on a keypad and the vault hisses open, revealing--

A rack of sleek, shimmering armor.

MIKE
I'm going to go save Shelly.

BILLY
Aw, cool.

MIKE
Yeah.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - DUNGEON

A shaft of light stabs through a rift in the ceiling of a cell littered with bones and rusted chains.

Shelly sits in a corner, staring at a row of crackling electric bars preventing her escape.

A scuffle catches her attention, and a small, teddy-bear-like animal steps into the light. Shelly reaches out to pet it, when--

A snarl tears through the dungeon.

From the shadows, a lizard the size of a lion approaches the cell.

Suddenly, the electric bars snap off. The lizard lunges--

But a leash running from the wall to its neck holds true, and the monster flops on the ground, inches from Shelly.

Pee-on enters, brandishing a goo-stick.

PEE-ON
The Virus requests your presence at
a special event.

SHELLY
No, thank you.

The goo-stick crackles with bands of electricity.

PEE-ON
Allow me to rephrase the offer.

He thumps her on the head and she collapses to the floor.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

Shelly lands at the foot of Virus' throne.

VIRUS

Well, well. Miss Smelly Shelly. I'm glad you could make it to our little show.

(to Pee-on)

Nice work, Pee-on. Let's begin!

A stage-light snaps on a red curtain and Pee-on leaps into the spotlight.

PEE-ON

Fellow Minions, it is my expressed pleasure to bring to you, our very own Virus' latest and greatest invention...

A rousing applause.

PEE-ON

The perfect dispatch for those little, icky gameshow hosts named Shelly--

The curtain whips open, revealing--

An old dentist's chair, revamped with terrifying technological devices.

PEE-ON

The Goo-ifier.

Terror floods Shelly's face.

VIRUS

Excellent! Power up for a test run.

Amidst a chorus of chirping minions, Pee-on links a giant power cable into the chair's power base.

VIRUS

Now, for a volunteer.

He rises--

VIRUS

How about you?

And snatches a Minion from the wall.

INT. LABORATORY

Billy and Sarah stand with clipboards next to Mike, who is dressed in full armor as Megabyte Man, the superhero of the computer age.

MEGABYTE MAN
Billy, run the checklist!

BILLY
Arm-o-tron with Web-page capacitor.

MB raises a keyboard attached to his arm.

MEGABYTE MAN
Check!

BILLY
Mega-pixel virtual display goggles.

MB snaps a visor down.

MEGABYTE MAN
Check!

BILLY
Utility belt with two, 500 terabyte
hard-drives.

MEGABYTE MAN
Check!

Billy looks to Sarah.

BILLY
Whaddaya say we take him for a
spin?

INT. TEST CHAMBER

Behind a clear blast shield are Billy and Sarah. MB stands in the center of a white room in the crossfire of two giant ion guns.

SARAH
Alright, MB. We're gonna see how
well that suit protects you from
the strain of web travel. On my
mark.

Billy's enters a command on his laptop.

BILLY
Ion barrage set, level 5.

SARAH
Mark!

She mashes a trigger on a remote control.

The guns fire, bombarding MB in a glimmering wave of electrons.

CUT TO:

Ethernet outlets, labeled "A" and "B".

He gives a thumbs-up to the Kids and enters coordinates on the arm-o-tron. With a zap--

MB flashes from socket to socket. Suddenly--

He smashes into the blast shield. He struggles to his feet--

MEGABYTE MAN
One of my buttons is a little
sticky...

And falls to the floor.

Sarah jots down notes on her clipboard.

CUT TO:

The ion jets blaze as MB digs his shoulder into the barrage. Showers of superconducted electrons crackle off the surface of his armor.

BILLY
Level 8!

SARAH
This is amazing.

CUT TO:

MB snaps his visor down. An alarm blares and a door opens, emitting a large Battle-bot into the room.

A cannon on its arm opens fire, chewing into the walls. As MB skirts the weapon--

VISOR POV: Readouts show the bullets' trajectories.

Another door opens, ushering in a Flying Battle-bot.

As MB twists and parries around the chamber--

He lassos his firewire cable around the legs of the walking battle-bot. Legs tied, the battle-bot topples to the floor, ala' "Empire Strikes Back." As the Flying Robot comes about--

BILLY

Alright, MB. Time to test those utilities.

MEGABYTE MAN

Copy that.

MB's fingers flash over his arm-o-tron.

Mechanisms whir and a utility compartment snaps open on his belt, ejecting a baseball bat and cap.

MB fits the cap on his head, taps his cleats and swings, knocking the Flying Robot out of the park.

MB lifts his visor, spits, and tosses the bat.

CUT TO:

MB thrusts his chest into the thundering ion jets.

Billy's laptop flashes a red "Level 10."

BILLY

Full power!

SARAH

Light speed!

Spires of supercharged particles stream from MB's armor. The particles converge into a blazing flash.

FLASH TO:

MB strikes a pose in front of a giant American Flag to the tune of a soaring theme song.

MEGABYTE MAN

Fighting for justice, on the World Wide Web! Defending the world from evil! It's Megabyte Man!

CUT TO:

INT. LABORATORY

At the control panel, MB is lost, humming his own theme song.

SARAH
Congratulations, MB. All systems
go!

MB continues to hum the song.

BILLY
Megabyte Man.

MB comes to.

BILLY
We don't have much time.

MEGABYTE MAN
In an instant, I'll be shooting
through the World Wide Web at the
speed of light--

He pauses.

BILLY
What's wrong?

MEGABYTE MAN
I don't know where to go.

SARAH
I have an idea.

INT. SECURITY ROOM

Megabyte Man and Billy watch a screen over Sarah's shoulder
as she jogs through a security feed.

SARAH
Here we go. Right before the show
went haywire.

On the screen, the armored suit enters the glass chamber and
removes the Turbo Infuser, spilling electricity into the lab.

BILLY
It's the mech-suit.

SARAH
But who's in it?

The suit exits the chamber and closes it. He then spritzes
the door with glass cleaner.

BILLY
He's wiping the scene.

The intruder empties the trash bins.

SARAH

Wait. Is he emptying the trash?

BILLY

Yeah, and he's replacing the trash bag.

They watch the armored suit scrub the floors with a mop.

MEGABYTE MAN

He's quite the consummate janitorial professional. Still, not much of a lead--Ohhhhhhhh.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

A Minion sits, strapped to the Goo Chair with a metal suction cup on its head. All around, its brethren stomp in unison, chanting--

MINIONS

Goo! Goo! Goo!

Virus leans in.

VIRUS

Look at you, little Minion. It's your lucky day. Can you taste it? The air is thick with anticipation! Time to goo!

At the control panel--

PEE-ON

We're at full power!

VIRUS

Goo it!

Pee-on flips open a protective shield and throws a switch.

The Goo Chair crackles with electricity. Virus dances with glee while the Minion writhes in agony.

Shelly watches in horror as--

A final energy surge devours the Minion, reducing it to a giggling slop of muck. Virus leans in and tastes the goo.

VIRUS

Oh, goo! Delicious, nutritious goo.

He turns to the Minions.

VIRUS
Yes, my little lovelies. It's lunch
time!

Minions rush the Goo Chair and feast on their former comrade.
Shelly is about to throw up when a buzzer sounds.

PEE-ON
Virus! We have an urgent message,
topside.

Virus wipes a swath of goo off his lip.

VIRUS
But I'm right in the middle of
lunch, Pee-on.

His face drops.

VIRUS
Urgent? On screen!

Otto's image appears on the monitor.

VIRUS
What, Otto?

OTTO
Virus, "The Impossible Challenge"
has a secret weapon. His name is
Megabyte Man and he's begun the
search for Shelly!

VIRUS
Mega-what?

From the monitor, someone pounds on a door.

MEGABYTE MAN (O.S.)
Otto! We know you're in there--

OTTO
Oh no! They've found me!

Otto reaches to the camera and the monitor blinks off.

VIRUS
Where did it go? Pee-on!

PEE-ON
We've lost the signal, Virus.

Virus' faces twists into a snarl.

VIRUS
Megabyte Man...

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

Otto cowers on a folding chair, wrapped in chains. On every wall are pin-ups of the Mopmaster 6000. MB paces behind Otto while Billy and Sarah pull up chairs in front of him.

BILLY
Now, Otto. This can be easy, or
this can be hard. It's your choice.

SARAH
We hope we don't have to...convince
you.

They turn to MB accosting a cabinet.

SARAH
Truth is, we're not sure how long
we can hold him back.

MB growls and chews on a mop handle. Otto whimpers.

BILLY
Gosh. I hope it doesn't come to
that.

SARAH
So, who's behind this, Otto?

OTTO
I--I don't know what you're talking
about.

BILLY
Wrong answer, janitor.

He turns to MB, who stands out of ideas for his tough-guy routine. He moves to Otto's desk and scatters some papers onto the floor, then takes a chair and lays it on the ground.

BILLY
Uh oh. Now you made him mad.

OTTO
I told you I don't know anything!

MEGABYTE MAN
Oh, really? Then what is this?

He kicks aside a trash can on wheels, revealing a wall plastered with monitors, cameras, and a spinning satellite dish.

OTTO

Please, I didn't mean for Shelly to get stolen. He promised me a Mopmaster if I gave him the Turbo Infuser.

BILLY

Who promised you?

OTTO

No, I can't tell you.

MEGABYTE MAN

I was hoping I wouldn't have to use this.

He types a command into his arm-o-tron and a giant feather snaps out of his utility belt.

OTTO

No! Please, I'm really ticklish--

MB whips the feather into his ear and Otto breaks into a fit of laughter.

OTTO

Okay, okay...

MB withdraws the feather.

OTTO

No, I can't.

The feather returns under his nose.

MEGABYTE MAN

Coochie, coochie, coooooo--

OTTO

Okay! The Virus!

The feather withdraws.

MEGABYTE MAN

Ah ha! The Virus!

BILLY

The Virus. Wasn't he--

SARAH

A contestant on the "Challenge."
The worst ever, actually.

MB lunges in front of Otto.

MEGABYTE MAN

Alright, Otto. Where can we find
this dastardly no-good-doer of
evil?

SARAH

What's his web address?

OTTO

Web address? I--I don't know.

MEGABYTE MAN

Oh, really?

The feather dances all over Otto's face.

OTTO

He never told me! I swear!

BILLY

MB, I think he's telling the truth.

MB stows the feather.

SARAH

I'll run a search through all our
data logs.

She pops open her laptop and types in the name.

SARAH

Here we go. I'm getting re-routed
through Homeland Security.

On her screen, "Classified" flashes over a grayed-out
photograph of the Virus.

SARAH

Oh no. The Department of Defense.

BILLY

What is it?

SARAH

All Virus' files are on a server at
the Pentagon. I can't access it.

MEGABYTE MAN

But I can.

The Kids turn to MB.

MEGABYTE MAN

Billy, Sarah, we're going to the Octagon.

SARAH

Pentagon.

MEGABYTE MAN

The Pentagon.

BILLY

MB, it's too dangerous.

SARAH

MB's right, Billy. We're out of options.

MB places a hand on Otto's shoulder.

MEGABYTE MAN

Otto, you've done the right thing,
and that takes character.
(to the Kids)
Now, let's download some files.

As they head for the door, MB pauses.

MEGABYTE MAN

Oh, and sorry about your desk.

They exit.

OTTO

So, I'll just wait here. Okay?

INT. LABORATORY

MB watches as schematics of the Pentagon spill over the control panel's screens.

BILLY

The file's located on a remote terminal inside machine room six.

SARAH

Once you log on, you'll have thirty seconds to find the address before you trip the security network. After that, there's no way out.

MEGABYTE MAN

Got it.

SARAH

MB--

He looks over.

SARAH

Be careful.

MB nods.

MEGABYTE MAN

It's time to plug in, and power up!

He pulls a FireWire cable from his belt and plugs it into the panel. With a flash--

INT. INTERNET

MB flies through the Web.

MEGABYTE MAN

Approaching the Pentagon--

His eyes widen and he stops in midair, his goggles reflecting a furious orange glow.

MEGABYTE MAN

Billy, Sarah! I've encountered a fire-wall.

In front of him is a gigantic steel wall, covered in flames and stretching as far as the eye can see.

INT. LABORATORY

The Kids type away, their eyes glued to the screens.

BILLY

We see it, MB.

SARAH

I'm gonna hack a way through. Give me a sec--

Billy sees something on his monitor.

BILLY
MB, look out!

INT. INTERNET

MB ducks just as a torpedo screams over his head, detonating on the fire-wall.

MEGABYTE MAN
Virtual downloads!

BILLY (V.O.)
MB, anti-virus software!

Three more torpedoes shoot toward MB.

MEGABYTE MAN
But Billy, I'm not a virus--

BILLY (V.O.)
You are to the Pentagon.

MB tears along the fire-wall, dodging and diving as the torpedoes detonate all around him.

MEGABYTE MAN
They're getting closer.

INT. LABORATORY

She pounds the keys.

SARAH
Almost there...

A beep sounds from her station.

SARAH
Got it! I'm through.

INT. INTERNET

The flames dissipate and a section of the wall fractures into a thousand jigsaw pieces.

Immediately, the shattered pieces begin to reconnect.

BILLY (V.O.)
Hurry, MB. It's closing.

MB eyes the narrow gap and banks hard, shooting through the closing fissure. The torpedoes slam into the wall as--

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

MB tumbles out of a wall and into a rack of servers. The rack begins to wobble.

INT. LABORATORY

Billy sees something on his screen.

BILLY

MB, a guard's coming your way!

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

The rack tips.

MB spins behind the machine room door, and catches the falling metal shelf just as--

A guard stops outside the machine room windows.

MB, hidden behind the door, shakes from the exertion of holding the rack.

MEGABYTE MAN

Ack. Heavy--

A server on the top of the rack slips loose.

MEGABYTE MAN

Oh no. No, no.

The guard takes note of his reflection and fixes his hair when--

The server slides off the rack. MB sticks out his leg and catches the server on the top of his foot with a dull crunch.

MB's face turns blue with pain.

The guard checks his teeth and straightens his tie. Finally, he moves down the hall.

BILLY (V.O.)

Okay, MB, you're clear.

MB lets the server and its rack smash to the floor.

INT. LABORATORY

Billy and Sarah lean back, breathing a sigh of relief.

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

MB scans the dark room. On a desk against a wall is a computer.

MEGABYTE MAN
I found the terminal.

SARAH (V.O.)
Roger, MB. You're gonna have to
plug in so I can hack the system.

He goes to the station and plugs in his FireWire cable. A log-in prompt appears on screen.

INT. LABORATORY

The same prompt appears on the Sarah's monitor and she types away.

SARAH
Alright, MB. Remember, thirty
seconds.

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

A search window appears on screen.

SARAH (V.O.)
Go.

MEGABYTE MAN
Giddeup.

He types in "The Virus" and--

A hundred windows full of articles, reports, and photographs flood the monitor. After a few seconds--

MEGABYTE MAN
Got it!

The web address "www.viruslair.org" appears on screen.

SARAH (V.O.)
Nice work, MB. Now make sure to log
off--

MEGABYTE MAN

Wait a minute.

A sleek helmet with a single panel on its front fills the screen. A caption reads: Brainwave Emitter stolen from gameshow vault.

Another caption with a photo of the agents hauling Virus away from the boot launcher: Virus prime suspect.

MEGABYTE MAN

Busy Bee. My Emitter. So that's why
Virus was on the show.

INT. LABORATORY

Billy studies the Helmet.

BILLY

What's a Brainwave Emitter?

MEGABYTE MAN (V.O.)

A very dangerous toy that I locked
away years ago. Pretty much to
prevent this from happening.

SARAH

MB, 12 seconds.

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

MEGABYTE MAN

So, Virus? How did you know--

MB searches through more articles, until--

A gangly man appears on the monitor with the caption: Virus surfaces after Gerald Van Kott goes missing.

SARAH (V.O.)

MB, you're almost out of time!

MEGABYTE MAN

Gerald...

FLASH TO:

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Bees. Thousands of them.

They attack and envelop a roast turkey. But strangely enough, a slice of the turkey slides off the bird and onto a plate next to a helping of mashed potatoes and peas.

The throbbing sea of bees ejects a previously unseen carving knife from their swarm and slides the turkey plate to a well-dressed mannequin seated at the head of a dining table.

Another swarm enters the room pushing a vacuum cleaner.

Applause erupts as Mike McGregor steps in front of his "Busy Bees" exhibit wearing the sleek Helmet.

Behind him, a banner spans the rafters, reading: 67th Annual Robert A. Heinlein Science Fair Invitational.

MIKE

As you can see, the delivery system encodes messages from my brain to targeted neurotransmitters in the bees.

A hand goes up in the front row. It belongs to Gerald Van Kott.

MIKE

Yes. Question?

GERALD

I'm fascinated. How does your Emitter work, say, in larger applications?

MIKE

Like cows?

GERALD

Yes, like cows. That was exactly what I was thinking.

MIKE

Theoretically, anything with a brain can be influenced. You'd just need to increase the power amplitude relative to the subject's brain size. Theoretically--

GERALD

Excellent. I'll be sure to explore the endless applications.

With a flip of the wrist, Gerald extends a goo-stick. He zaps two bystanders and jumps onto stage.

AGENT 1
Gerald Van Kott, freeze!

Two agents lead a SWAT Team through the crowd.

AGENT 2
Back away from the science dork,
Gerald!

AGENT 1
Think about it, Van Kott. You know
how the department responds to
deserters.

AGENT 2
They'll pin you with treason.

GERALD
Oh, I'll commit more than treason.
I've got enough secrets up here to
keep me quite busy.

Gerald whips around to Mike.

GERALD
Like your bees. I'm curious. How do
they respond--

He grabs Mike by the face.

GERALD
To aggressive stimulation?

The crowd gasps as Gerald cranks the Emitter to maximum.

MIKE
No!

The panel on his Helmet glows white-hot.

The bees decimate the interior of the exhibit and burst
through the exhibit's mesh barrier.

GERALD
Yes, my lovlies. Go!

Chaos erupts as people scramble, screaming from the buzzing
horde.

Gerald rips the Helmet from Mike's head and jumps off the
stage, slamming into--

A large man in a HAZ-MAT suit. The man stumbles back and knocks into a ten-foot tall vat. The vat tips as a posted banner falls in front of Gerald: Toxic Waste Fertilizer!

GERALD

No.

KA-FOOM! The vat hits the floor and a tidal wave of radioactive sludge swallows Gerald whole, knocking the Emitter from his hands.

BILLY (V.O.)

Wait. I don't understand--

BACK TO:

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

MB stares at the file.

BILLY (V.O.)

...Shelly, the Infuser, and now the Emitter...

INT. LABORATORY

BILLY

How does this all fit?

An alarm sounds from Sarah's work station. She spins to Billy.

SARAH

Time's up.

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

MB's computer locks.

MEGABYTE MAN

Something's stinky, and it smells like the Virus.

INT. LABORATORY

A warning blips from Billy's station. His eyes snap to his screen.

BILLY
Guards! Sectors 3, 6 and 8. Bearing
on your position--

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY

Guards race down the hall.

INT. LABORATORY

SARAH
MB, you've gotta hide until we can
find a way out.

BILLY
They're right outside!

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

Through the windows, two waves of guards approach the door
from opposite directions.

MB runs to a closet and his FireWire cable yanks the computer
off the desk, shattering equipment across the floor.

MEGABYTE MAN
Holy modems.

He looks from the broken computer to the door as--

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY

A guard punches a key pad as an internal door lock
disengages.

INT. PENTAGON - MACHINE ROOM

All is quiet as the guards enter. On the desk is the
computer, its monitor and CPU hastily wrapped with duct tape.

GUARD 1
Alright, spread out. He's not far.

The guards pause, looking at each other.

GUARD 1
What are you guys doing?

GUARD 2

Well, how do you know it's a "he"?

GUARD 1

What?

GUARD 3

He's right, John. It is kinda assumptive.

GUARD 1

Well, it's faster than saying "the perpetrator is not in the immediate vicinity."

GUARD 2

See, now you're just getting snippy.

GUARD 1

Alright, I'm sorry I got snippy. It's just that I'm under a lot of pressure with the new promotion and with the baby on the way--

GUARD 4

Oh, that's right. I never got to congratulate you on that.

GUARD 1

Thank you, Rick. So, can we please form a perimeter because the intruder isn't far.

GUARD 2

Yes. That I will do because you were pleasant and professional.

A dozen guards head outside while six remain, their flashlights sweeping the room.

The lead guard approaches the smashed computer. His flashlight lands on MB's cable and follows it to the ceiling, where--

MB sits, wedged in a rafter.

MEGABYTE MAN

Whoopsie.

GUARD 1

Hey--

MB jumps from the ceiling and stuffs an inflatable pool ring over the first guard. Another guard turns, finding himself also bound by an inflatable pool toy.

GUARD 2

Take him down!

A third guard swings and is wrapped in another pool ring. MB spins and wallops the remaining guards with a pair of pool-noodles.

INT. PENTAGON - HALLWAY

MB bursts out of the room, towing along the computer with his FireWire cable. A moment later, the guards sprint after him.

MB rounds a corner, the computer whipping behind him.

SARAH (V.O.)

MB! I've established a remote proxy
in the north wing. It's your only
way out.

MB snaps his visor down.

VISOR POV: A blinking icon appears on a map of the Pentagon.

MEGABYTE MAN

Copy that. On my way.

He rounds another corner, when--

A group of guards rushes at him from the other direction. MB turns around, he is cut off by another wave.

GUARD 1

Don't move!

From head to toe, red laser dots mark MB's body. He glances to a door labeled, "Break Room" and dives through--

INT. PENTAGON - BREAK ROOM

Scrambling over tables and chairs toward an open door.

As the guards give chase, MB leaps into the room and slams the door behind him.

The computer, still attached to the cable, flies across the floor until it slams against the door.

GUARD 1
You're trapped, there's no way out.

GUARD 2
Down on the floor, now!

Guns raised, the guards kick in the door, revealing--
An empty room. An outlet by a desk crackles with electricity.

INT. INTERNET

MB rockets through the Web.

INT. LABORATORY

The Kids exhale.

BILLY
Nice work, MB.

SARAH
Try the address.

INT. INTERNET

MB types on his arm-o-tron and a beep sounds.

MEGABYTE MAN
Address accepted! Looks like we've
got one Shelly Vaughn to go rescue.

SARAH (V.O.)
We've got you on approach. Systems
look good.

MEGABYTE MAN
Coming up on www.viruslair.org.
Prepare for entry--

BILLY (V.O.)
Have a safe--

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB bursts from a rusted socket in the rock and crashes into a
pile of debris.

BILLY (V.O.)
--landing.

MB shoots to his feet and taps his arm-o-tron. A small antenna extends from his helmet with a blinking red LED.

MEGABYTE MAN
Shelly tracking system activated.
Scanning perimeter...

INT. LABORATORY

A floor-plan of the cavern spills across Sarah's monitor.

SARAH
The data feed is good. I'm
receiving the floor plans now.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

The antenna's LED blinks green.

MEGABYTE MAN
Target acquired!

SARAH (V.O.)
Roger, MB. We've got a lock. Head
to bearing 2-5-3.

BILLY (V.O.)
Be careful, MB.

MEGABYTE MAN
Don't worry about me, Billy. I'm a
superhero.

A small surveillance camera rises out of a stalagmite and swivels to MB.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

Shelly hangs above the floor inside a giant birdcage.

Virus pins a new clipping to the wall. The headline, "Shelly Vaughn: Nothing Is Impossible", is crossed out with magic marker. Scribbled above is, "Shelly Vaughn: Is Chained To My Ceiling In A Giant Birdcage, Virus Rules." Suddenly--

An alarm blares from Pee-on's control panel. A computer-generated outline of Megabyte Man spills over his screen.

PEE-ON
Virus! We have a perimeter breach!
It's Megabyte Man!

VIRUS
What?! On screen!

On the giant monitor, MB stupidly stares into the camera.

VIRUS
Megabyte Man.

Virus spins to the chirping minion population.

VIRUS
Uh, well, ladies and gentlemen, due
to technical difficulties...

He glances to the birdcage.

VIRUS
We may have to cut to the show's
finale.
(to Pee-on)
How long till full power?

Pee-on flips a switch and in the recesses of the lair, an enormous Generator hums to life.

PEE-ON
Twenty minutes, Virus.

Virus turns attention to the monitor, where MB continues to stare into the camera.

VIRUS
As for you, Megabyte Man, I will
squash you like a Mega-bug.
(to Pee-on)
Fetch me my special viruses!

Pee-on rushes to his side with a tray holding three vials of liquid labeled: Da Bomb, Overload, and Dark Freeze.

VIRUS
Could have been faster, Pee-on.

They move to--

The Incubator, a metal stomach the size of a house, suspended high off the ground by three massive cables. From its belly, a thick birthing canal curls to the floor. A vacuum tube runs from a flush-hatch on the ground into the back of the Incubator.

Virus opens the hatch and pours in the vials.

VIRUS

Now you kiddies remember to bring
him back to me in one piece.

He flushes. As dark sludge swirls up the tube and into the
Incubator, Virus looks to Shelly.

VIRUS

I want him to have front seats to
my big show.

Virus mashes a series of buttons on a console next to the
flush-hatch and Megabyte Man's schematics appears on the
console's screen.

The giant apparatus rattles like an old washing machine.
Squeezing out of the birthing canal--

A glob of goo drops onto the floor. It congeals into--

Da Bomb, a beautiful killing machine. Her eyes level on
Megabyte Man's technicals with steely precision.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB hustles down a passageway, shadowed by a chorus of tiny
shuffles.

INT. LABORATORY

Sarah's data feed flickers.

SARAH

Um, sorry MB. I'm getting a little
interference. Take a left.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB almost runs into a wall.

MEGABYTE MAN

Sarah, there is no left.

SARAH (V.O.)

What? Are you sure?

MEGABYTE MAN

I'm pretty sure there is no left.

BILLY (V.O.)
Alright, MB. You'll just have to
double back.

MB turns. Another dead end.

MEGABYTE MAN
I thought I just came down that
way.

INT. LABORATORY

Interference fizzles over the screens again. Billy sees something.

BILLY
Sarah, look.

On the data feed, they watch as a wall shifts position.

SARAH
MB, you've got to hurry! The walls
are moving.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB stands, staring at the walls.

MEGABYTE MAN
Now, Sarah. Everyone knows that
rocks don't move.

Suddenly, a slab of rock shuffles over the floor, sealing another exit.

MEGABYTE MAN
Except that one.

A Bowel Minion, an albino cousin of Virus' servants, steps into the dim light.

MEGABYTE MAN
Hey there, little guy. Where did
you come from?

The creature attaches to his leg with its mouth.

MEGABYTE MAN
Ahh, you must be hungry. But
Megabyte Man is not for nibbling.

MB shakes the Minion loose--

But a dozen more latch onto his body like ants devouring a piece of candy. His movements become sluggish.

MEGABYTE MAN
Can't...stand...

From a distance, a flare cascades through the tunnel and lands at MB's feet, illuminating--

A cavern blanketed with hundreds of the Bowel Minions. In a blink, they scurry into the shadows.

MEGABYTE MAN
Thanks for the light! Close one.
Hello?

INT. LABORATORY

Sarah sees a flashing icon on her monitor.

SARAH
MB! I'm tracking an unknown unit
toward your position.

Billy's fingers fly over his keyboard and a schematic of the Da Bomb appears on his screen.

BILLY
I've got a positive ID--

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

Heavy boots echo down the passageway.

BILLY (V.O.)
It's Da Bomb.

MEGABYTE MAN
Holy hard drives!

He dives behind a column of rock just as--

Da Bomb rounds a corner.

MEGABYTE MAN
I'll attempt to evade her with my
stealthy cunning.

He scampers from a wall into another fold of rock. The wall moves away, leaving MB exposed.

MEGABYTE MAN

Oh, yeah. The walls move.

Da Bomb squares off with MB.

DA BOMB

Well, Mr. Megabyte. So we meet.

MEGABYTE MAN

Return Shelly Vaughn at once!

MB's fingers flash over his arm-o-tron.

MEGABYTE MAN

Or will I have to brush your teeth
with my wooden chair of justice?

He wields a wooden chair.

BILLY (V.O.)

A chair? MB, what about a sword?

SARAH (V.O.)

Or a machine gun?

MEGABYTE MAN

Sorry, I panicked.

In a blink, Da Bomb swings. MB deflects and parries the rain of terror with his wooden chair until--

Da Bomb breaks the chair with a swift kick. In rapid-fire succession, she whips handfuls of grenades from her belt at MB--

Who runs from the onslaught of explosives until he reaches a wall. A grenade lands at MB's feet and he taps his arm-o-tron, summoning--

A metal trash can. MB jumps in head first, just before--

The grenade detonates, hurling him and the trash can across the tunnel.

In the thick smoke, MB peaks his head out--

And receives a series of jabs into his face.

With blinding speed, Da Bomb yanks out his FireWire cable, ties him up--

And magnetically attaches a bomb to his armor. A timer on the bomb counts down from 30 seconds.

DA BOMB
Looks like your system's about to
crash.

She walks away.

INT. LABORATORY

Fingers pound the keyboards.

SARAH
Alright, MB, talk to us.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB wriggles in his cable. The bomb's counter ticks to 26
seconds.

MEGABYTE MAN
C-spec digital time trigger linked
to an H-6 blast charge.

MB's finger stretches to his arm-o-tron and mashes a button.
Wire cutters snap out of his belt.

BILLY (V.O.)
Pulling up the specs now.

With quick snips, MB's cable peels away.

CUT TO:

Da Bomb moves behind a stalagmite and punches a monitor
embedded in the rock. Virus appears on the screen.

DA BOMB
Virus, you can call off the search.
Our little friend's motherboard is
about to get fried.

VIRUS
No! I want him brought back to me
untouched--

Da Bomb clicks off the monitor.

DA BOMB
Oops. Bad connection.

INT. LABORATORY

A bomb schematic uploads to the Kids' screens.

SARAH
Alright, MB. It's a class 2
electric detonator.

BILLY
Now, remove the detonator housing--

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

19 seconds.

MB pulls away the bomb casing, exposing a small capacitor.

BILLY (V.O.)
Cut the master circuit.

MEGABYTE MAN
Wait. It's a trap.

He pulls off a compartment exposing a row of duplicate master circuits.

MEGABYTE MAN
Dummy circuits.

INT. LABORATORY

Sarah flies through pages of schematics.

SARAH
Of course. It's a multiple
redundancy.

BILLY
So it has to have an off-switch!

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MEGABYTE MAN
Sorry, the bomb has an off switch?

BILLY (V.O.)
MB, throw the off switch!

MEGABYTE MAN
Wait. It's a trap.

MB pulls away another section exposing a row of duplicate switches.

MEGABYTE MAN
Dummy switches.

SARAH (V.O.)
7 seconds.

BILLY (V.O.)
MB, we're out of time. Throw the switch!

MEGABYTE MAN
Einie, meanie, miny moe catch a--
guys I'm not feeling too confident
about this.

SARAH (V.O.)
Wait! Turn the breaker key.

MEGABYTE MAN
Nope. It's a trap.

MB pulls away another section exposing a row of duplicate keys.

MEGABYTE MAN
Dummy keys.

INT. LABORATORY

BILLY
Three seconds!

SARAH
Billy, the bomb! It's a magnet!

BILLY
MB, reverse polarity.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MEGABYTE MAN
Copy that--

MB hits a button on the arm-o-tron and the bomb flops to the ground.

Like a swarm of flies, an old refrigerator, a car hood and other metallic objects encase MB as--

The counter hits zero.

KA-BOOM! The fireball rips through the tunnel.

Da Bom smiles as the churning wall of flame curls away. As the smoke clears, her smile fades.

A mound of metal debris stands in the middle of ground zero. The debris falls to the ground, revealing--

MB, holding a fire extinguisher at his side.

MEGABYTE MAN

Time to snuff out this bomb.

DA BOMB

No--

MB mashes the trigger, plastering Da Bomb into the wall with a cloud of fire repellent.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

A glob of goo drops out of the Incubator, turning into--

Overload, a giant, fat clown.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB drops the extinguisher while Bowel Minions envelop Da Bomb.

BILLY (V.O.)

Nicely done, MB, but you can't rest yet.

SARAH (V.O.)

I've got another signal headed straight for you.

BILLY (V.O.)

It's Overload!

MB turns as a small ringing echoes through the cavern.

A miniature toy circus monkey, clanging its cymbals, picks its way over the mounds of debris.

Clink, clink, clink! The monkey stops at MB's feet.

MEGABYTE MAN

Circus monkey!

MB dives behind a rock. Moments pass before he dares a look. As MB peeks over the rock he comes face to face with--

The monkey, now staring directly into MB's face.

MEGABYTE MAN
Circus monkey.

White smoke blasts from the monkey, smothering MB's face.

MEGABYTE MAN
Billy, Sarah. I'm getting sleepy.

INT. LABORATORY

An hourglass icon appears with the warning: System busy. Please wait...

BILLY
MB! Get out of there, it's bogging down your system.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

MB stumbles away from the monkey.

MEGABYTE MAN
Must...find...refreshment...

The crack of a soda can echoes through the cave.

MB turns to see a rickety carnival stand with lights and scratchy circus music. A sign reads: Looking for refreshment?

On the stand is a can of cola in a bucket of ice.

MEGABYTE MAN
Ooh. Frosty.

He licks his lips.

MEGABYTE MAN
Just what I need to punch up my RAM.

He snatches up the can and guzzles down the cola.

BILLY (V.O.)
No, MB! It's a trick!

MB belches as he looks at the can's label: Overload Cola.

INT. LABORATORY

Error icons spill across the monitors.

SARAH
Quick, MB, run a virus scan!

BILLY
It's too late.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

Laughter erupts and Overload explodes out of the wooden stand.

MEGABYTE MAN
Son of a motherboard!

OVERLOAD
One system overload, coming right up!

MEGABYTE MAN
So much for frosty refreshment.

OVERLOAD
Now you're coming with me.

MEGABYTE MAN
Ha! You'll have to catch me first.

MB falls to the floor, asleep.

INT. LABORATORY

The Kids stare at the screens.

BILLY
MB? MB!

He turns to Sarah.

BILLY
We've gotta reach him before he overloads.

She hits a command and a blinking icon over a topographical map appears on her screen.

SARAH
I've got a lock on his position.
Let's go!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

Billy and Sarah suit up with climbing equipment, Kevlar, and explosives.

They bail out of a plane, blast through the desert on ATV's, and scale a cliff--

Coming within view of the Virus Lair, a black tower stretching into a stormy sky.

CUT TO:

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

Inside the birdcage, Shelly notices a loose bolt protruding from the rusted base. She looks to the cavern floor as--

Virus enters with a toolbox. Placing it on the workbench, he grabs a wrench and cranks a bolt of the disfigured Helmet.

Shelly wraps both hands around the loose bolt. She looks to Virus, and as he cranks the wrench, Shelly tugs the bolt.

Squeak! Metal grinds against metal.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - TUNNELS

The screech from the bolt echoes through the cave.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

Virus looks at his wrench. He shimmies the jaw and places it back on the bolt. Another crank--

Squeak!

Virus looks up at the birdcage, but Shelly sits, staring at the wall.

One of the Minions pops up from the herd.

MINION
Squeak!

The others chirp approval.

VIRUS
Shut up!

MINION
Squeak!

All around, Minions join in with a cacophony of squeaking.

VIRUS
No! No squeaking! Shut up!

Shelly frees the bolt from the base, when--

The granite door slides open. Overload hauls in MB, wrapped in rope, and tosses him at Virus' feet.

VIRUS
Well, well! Megabyte Man. We meet at last.

MEGABYTE MAN
And you must be the Virus.

Virus prances about, clapping.

VIRUS
Yes, yes! Oh, very good. You know my name!

MB sees Shelly in the cage.

MEGABYTE MAN
Shelly! Sit tight. I'm a superhero, so I'll handle this.

SHELLY
Nuuggghh!

VIRUS
So, you're the secret weapon the world is counting on to rescue their beloved host. How deliciously poetic. Instead of saving little Miss Blechk, you've won a front-row seat to the goo-a-thon.

MB looks to the workbench where he sees Virus' helmet.

MEGABYTE MAN
The Brainwave Emitter!

VIRUS

Ah, you've found my pride and joy.

MB's computer-brain superimposes strobatic blueprints over the foundational elements of the Brainwave Emitter.

MEGABYTE MAN

No doubt twisted into a foul instrument of evil.

VIRUS

No doubt.

MB furrows his brow.

MEGABYTE MAN

There's only one way a Virus might acquire such sensitive gadgetry. By stealing the rightful property--

INT. INNER VAULT

Mike stands from his drafting table and pulls on his jacket.

MEGABYTE MAN

...of one Mike McGregor.

MB, still tied in rope, observes his own flashback.

MEGABYTE MAN

Who is, consequently, a brilliant, young, scientific heartthrob with a really great haircut, a heart of gold--

A radiant glow emanates from Mike's chest.

MEGABYTE MAN

...and a unicorn, from what I've heard.

A white Mare with a shimmering horn bays behind him.

MEGABYTE MAN

And, maybe the other haircut.

Long, golden curls tumble from Mike's head.

MEGABYTE MAN

Awesome.

Click! Mike turns out the light.

INT. STUDIO - HALLWAY

MB watches the mob of Agents hustle Virus off the set, past the hallway leading to the lab.

MEGABYTE MAN
First, the wretch would have to
find a way past security--

Mike passes MB and nods to Otto mopping the hallway.

When Mike disappears, Otto turns to repeated cracks of the goo-stick echoing through the corridor.

MEGABYTE MAN
...and into the lab.

MB watches Virus round a corner and come face-to-face with Otto.

MEGABYTE MAN
Next, perhaps a kind word and the
promise of friendship--

Virus leaks the word "friendship" from his lips. Otto reaches for the "All Levels Clearance" keycard clasped to his belt.

MEGABYTE MAN
...would usher even the worst Virus
into the secured inner vaults.

INT. INNER VAULT

Virus opens the vault room, enthralled. Technology of every kind glimmers on the shelves.

MB bounces in behind Otto as Virus moves to Mike's drafting table.

Pages of designs and work-ups of the Turbo Infuser cover its surface. Virus snatches them up.

MEGABYTE MAN
That's where those went!

Virus turns. On a high shelf covered in dust sits the prototype Brainwave Emitter.

Virus grins. He then shoves a schematic of the Turbo Infuser at Otto.

VIRUS
 Soon, you will bring me this.
 Then this will be yours.

Virus hands Otto a janitor's catalogue. On the cover is the Mopmaster 6000. When Otto looks up, Virus and the Emitter are gone.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

MEGABYTE MAN
 Viruses like you have only one
 purpose. Corruption and lies. Well,
 that's two. And robbery. So, three.

VIRUS
 Oh, cry me a river.

Virus moves to his workbench.

VIRUS
 McGregor was a sniveling idiot with
 no vision.

MB steams as Virus pulls the Turbo Infuser from its case.

VIRUS
 Cutting-edge technology wasted on
 bees? Pathetic. Just like him.

He snaps the Infuser into the Helmet and it glows a sickly green.

VIRUS
 Now who's the visionary? Virus is.

PEE-ON
 Yes, Virus!

MEGABYTE MAN
 Of course. With that kind of power,
 there's no limit to how many bees
 you can control.

VIRUS
 Wha--?

MEGABYTE MAN
 All the bees in the world--

MB looks to Shelly.

MEGABYTE MAN
...and you're using Shelly Vaughn
as their evil Hive-Queen.

VIRUS
No, you're missing the--

MEGABYTE MAN
Well, I've got news for you, Shelly
Vaughn is allergic to bees--

VIRUS
No! No bees!

MEGABYTE MAN
Not even one bee? Wait, you're
making a super-bee--

VIRUS
No, shut up! Forget about the bees.

MEGABYTE MAN
No bees at all.

VIRUS
No!

MEGABYTE MAN
And Shelly's not the Hive-Queen?

VIRUS
No, she's gonna get goood 'cause
she terrorized me on tv.

MEGABYTE MAN
I don't follow.

Virus rakes his hand over his face and spins to the helmet.

VIRUS
Gah! It's called a Master Plan. I
have a Master Plan. Forget the
bees, that was McGregor's stupid
idea. Forget her, she's just icing
on the turd. This--

He lifts it off the workbench.

VIRUS
...is my Master Plan.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Standing on top of a building with storm clouds brewing overhead, Virus places the Helmet on his head.

VIRUS

And when I reveal it to the world,
all of humanity will do my bidding--

On the streets below, thousands of people stare at him like zombies.

VIRUS

They will all feel the power of my
Brain Trap.

CROWD

Yes, Virus.

Virus roars with laughter.

EXT. DOWNTOWN BANK - NIGHT

A horde of people marches into a downtown bank and carries out piles of money.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOFTOP - NIGHT

MB, tied in his ropes, watches in horror.

MEGABYTE MAN

Vile monster! You're twisting their
innocent minds...

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

Another horde marches into the White House.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Virus sits, feet up in the Oval Office as Pee-on snivels at his feet. They watch an army of zombies drive by in tanks and humvees.

MEGABYTE MAN (V.O.)

...controlling them, like stinky,
little sock puppets--

BACK TO:

VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

MB grits his teeth.

MEGABYTE MAN

And I hate sock puppets.

VIRUS

That's too bad, Megabarf Man.
Because I've found the mind is a
wonderful thing to control.

MEGABYTE MAN

Now that's just naughty.

VIRUS

Oh? And what are you gonna do about
it? Nothing. Who's lying on my
floor, tied up with a rope?
Megabyte Man is.

MEGABYTE MAN

It may appear as such, Virus. But
you made one, fatal error.

VIRUS

A fatal error? And what would that
be?

MEGABYTE MAN

You thought you could capture a
superhero!

He struggles to his feet and makes a pathetic break across
the cavern.

Shelly peers from the birdcage as MB reaches the control
panel.

Amused, Virus watches MB smash a button with his face.

An old Kung-Fu movie flashes over the main monitor.

MB mashes another button. From the back of the lair, a toilet
flushes.

Another button and Shelly's cage descends.

MB scrambles towards the cage.

MEGABYTE MAN

Never underestimate the superdrive
of Megab--

Pee-on tries to grab hold of him.

MEGABYTE MAN
No, don't--Don't!

He breaks free and hobbles to Shelly.

MEGABYTE MAN
Shelly! Are you hurt?

SHELLY
Uhh!

MEGABYTE MAN
How many fingers am I holding up?

He holds up two fingers.

MEGABYTE MAN
Nnngguh!

MEGABYTE MAN
Good! Are there any contusions,
cuts, scrapes or sprains that might
prevent you from making an escape?

SHELLY
Gnuuhhhh!

MEGABYTE MAN
Excellent.

MB wedges himself between two iron bars. He brings his legs to his chest and forces them apart.

MEGABYTE MAN
Now, Shelly! Quickly, crawl through
the bars.

Shelly burps.

His legs give way and the bars snap back, folding him in half.

MEGABYTE MAN
This hurts more than it looks.

Virus falls off his throne, laughing. Pee-on looks up from the control panel.

PEE-ON
Virus! Two minutes till full power.

VIRUS

Excellent! Let the fun begin. Pee-on, get her in the chair.

PEE-ON

Yes, Virus.

Pee-on heads to the cage. As he opens the door, MB wiggles out of the bars.

MEGABYTE MAN

Stop. Don't you do it. Don't you touch her--

Pee-on carries her to the Goo Chair.

MEGABYTE MAN

I forbid you to strap her to the chair.

Pee-on straps her to the Chair.

MEGABYTE MAN

Now, whatever you do, do not put a giant, metal suction cup on her head.

Pee-on clips a metal suction cup on Shelly's head.

MEGABYTE MAN

Okay. If I even hear a generator power up, I'm going to be very upset with all of you.

At the control panel, Pee-on flips a switch. The Generator's deep hum pulses through the cavern.

MEGABYTE MAN

You'll never get away with this, Virus!

VIRUS

But of course I will. There's no one to stop me!

EXT. VIRUS LAIR - NIGHT

Sarah plugs her ears and Billy mashes a trigger.

A deafening roar splits the outer shell of the lair.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

The fireball curls into the cavern. When the smoke clears, Billy and Sarah step through a gaping hole in the wall.

MEGABYTE MAN

Billy! Sarah! That was loud.

VIRUS

Dark Freeze!

An alarm echoes through the cavern.

Billy and Sarah look to the Incubator, where black gobs push through the canal and fall to the floor.

A dozen hooded monsters take form, whispers passing through the members. They respond collectively--

DARK FREEZE

Yesss, Virussssss...

VIRUS

Remove them.

DARK FREEZE

Yesss...

The Dark Freeze advance.

SARAH

I'll keep 'em busy. You get MB.

BILLY

Right!

As Sarah rushes to the Dark Freeze--

Billy turns to MB, who writhes on the ground, trying to worm away from a swarm of Minions crawling all over him.

BILLY

MB!

He whips a telescopic tazer rod from his pack and rushes to MB's side, zapping the armless goblins out of the way.

MEGABYTE MAN

Billy, what are you doing here?

Billy opens a panel on MB's helmet.

BILLY

Sit still. You're getting an
overhaul.

Billy whips out his power drill as--

The Dark Freeze close in on Sarah. Virus cackles as--

Sarah pulls off her gloves and drops her equipment. Before
the Dark Freeze can blink--

She sinks her fist into the closest member's head,
splattering goo into the air.

The others charge and Sarah beats them to slop with a rain of
fists and feet.

Virus stops laughing.

VIRUS

What are you doing? She's just a
little girl!

Another score of Dark Freeze charges as--

Billy drills a stick of RAM into MB's head.

BILLY

I'm installing 500 gigs of RAM into
your system to counteract the
overload. I'm also boosting your
processors.

MEGABYTE MAN

But Billy, I'm already speedy and
powerful. I'm a superhero.

BILLY

I know, I know. Just trust me,
okay?

Pee-on looks up from his control panel.

PEE-ON

Thirty seconds, Virus!

Sarah splatters another wave of Dark Freeze. She turns her
attention to--

The three cables securing the Incubator. With a running leap--

Sarah springs into the air and catches hold of the birthing
canal. She scales the Incubator as--

The Dark Freeze claw their way after her.

Sarah reaches the Incubator's summit, then releases the latch on the first support cable.

The Incubator lurches, hurling two Dark Freeze off the edge.

Virus shakes with rage.

VIRUS
Get her! Overload--

He turns to his giant clown.

VIRUS
I will feed you to my Minions if
you don't do something!

Sarah kicks off the second latch. The cable shoots away and the Incubator jars wildly in the air.

Overload pulls himself over the lip of the Incubator. He approaches Sarah, pulling a mallet from his clown pants.

As he raises the mallet into the air--

Sarah pops the final latch. She grabs onto the free cable as--

The Incubator and Overload crash to the ground, flattening the remaining Dark Freeze.

Virus snarls as metal and goo rain from the air.

Billy watches Sarah swing to safety against a wall, then snaps the last drive into MB's helmet.

BILLY
That should do it.

As if he were a robot, MB powers down.

VISOR POV:

A "Booting Up" progress bar appears.

Billy looks up as hordes of Minions close in. He grabs his tazer rod while--

Pee-on monitors the throbbing Generator.

PEE-ON
Virus, five seconds!

Virus waves to Shelly.

VIRUS
Good-bye little gameshow host!

MB is still shut down.

VISOR POV:

The progress bar finishes and "Welcome, Megabyte Man" appears.

CUT TO:

The lights on Pee-on's console turn green.

PEE-ON
Virus! We have full power!

VIRUS
Yes! Goo her!

BILLY
MB!

His head snaps up.

MEGABYTE MAN
Don't worry, Billy. I've got upgrades.

MB explodes to his feet in a blinding wash of light, blasting Minions into the walls. The ropes shoot from his body.

Pee-on flips open the protective shield on the switch.

MB looks from an outlet next to the control panel to an outlet by his feet.

Sarah gasps as Pee-on's finger drop towards the button.

In a bolt of lightening, MB zaps into the outlet--

And explodes out of the other side. The Megabyte freight train hits Pee-on so hard, his glasses hover in the air without a face, then clatter on the console.

BILLY
Yes!

As MB jumps to his feet, Virus runs to the panel.

VIRUS
Nice try, Megadork, but you're too late!

He smashes the button.

Time crawls as--

INT. CONTROL PANEL

A spark shoots from the button and travels down the cable leading to the Chair.

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

MB zaps into the control panel's power cable--

INT. CABLE

And rockets through a tunnel of energy. He snaps down his visor as he nears--

The spark, streaking through the tunnel.

MB tears past the spark and whips around. When the spark closes in--

MB racks the spark with a knuckle-sandwich. It hurtles back the way it came and--

INT. VIRUS LAIR - MAIN CAVERN

The control panel explodes, knocking Virus on his back.

MB zaps out of the Chair.

MEGABYTE MAN

Hang on, Shelly! We'll get you out
of there in no time!

MB rips off her constraints. With her motor skills gone, Shelly flops to the ground.

MEGABYTE MAN

Sweet freedom!

As MB helps her off the ground, a shudder rolls through the cavern.

GENERATOR (V.O.)

Core overload. Core overload.

The Generator belches a shower of sparks onto the floor.

Virus lunges at the control panel and pounds a red "Panic" button.

Another shudder and a massive stalactite falls from the ceiling, shattering on the floor.

VIRUS

Pee-on, it's not stopping.

PEE-ON

Megabyte Man must have shorted out the Goo Chair's capacitor. Without it, the Generator will overload!

Virus watches the Kids join MB and Shelly.

VIRUS

Very well. Pee-on! Lock it up.

Pee-on presses a button. With a deafening thunder, iron doors seal all passageways.

Virus scoops up the Helmet and heads to the main exit.

BILLY

MB! Don't let him get away!

MB turns to his foe, when--

A giant chasm splits the floor of the cavern. Shelly falls into the rift, clutching an outcropping of rock for life.

Below, the dungeon lizard paces, hungry for a snack.

Virus grins while the Kids try in vain to reach for Shelly.

VIRUS

What's it gonna be, Megabug? Me, or the girl?

Shelly begins to slip.

SARAH

MB!

Shelly's hand slips from the rock when--

MB's hand catches her wrist. He pulls Shelly to safety and faces Virus.

MEGABYTE MAN

This isn't over, Virus.

VIRUS

Oh, it's over, alright. I built this lair from the ground up, so believe me when I say there is no way out. Now, excuse me. I've got a gameshow to host!

Behind him, droves of Minions scramble out of the exit.

VIRUS

Yes, my little lovelies, go. It's about to get ugly.

He locks eyes with MB.

VIRUS

Very ugly.

With a heavy crunch, the door seals.

BILLY

What does Virus mean, gameshow?

MEGABYTE MAN

The Impossible Challenge. He's gonna broadcast the Brainwave Emitter on International TV.

BILLY

We've gotta stop him.

The Generator purges spires of electricity into the air.

SARAH

We've gotta get out of here first. This place is gonna blow!

The Kids hustle to the control panel.

SARAH

Find an outlet so MB can get us out of here.

BILLY

All systems are dead. We're in complete blackout.

Shelly gasps as the teddy-bear creature emerges from the chasm and rushes to her lap. It looks back, where--

The dungeon lizard scrambles up from the crack, a chain dangling around its neck. Shelly clutches the bear tight.

GENERATOR (V.O.)
Thermal core meltdown in five...

BILLY
If we can reboot the core computer--

SARAH
Billy, there's no time!

GENERATOR (V.O.)
Four.

MB looks to the Generator, then to the lizard, then to his friends.

GENERATOR (V.O.)
Three.

MEGABYTE MAN
Wait a minute.

GENERATOR (V.O.)
Two.

MEGABYTE MAN
Upgrades.

GENERATOR (V.O.)
One.

EXT. VIRUS LAIR - NIGHT

The tower buckles, bursting into a brilliant storm of fire, rock and metal.

EXT. SPACE

With earth-shaking thunder, a seething nuclear ball bubbles on the Earth's surface. A satellite flies by, cracking with electricity.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. STUDIO - CONTROL ROOM

Lee stands at a bank of screens, where a Reporter covers the pregame show outside the studio. A graphic on the screens shows the countdown until game-time. 2 hours left.

The Secret Service Captain enters.

CAPTAIN

Sir, we've checked with every available authority. No one has any leads on Shelly Vaughn.

LEE

I see.

CAPTAIN

Sir, if you say the word, I know people.

Lee looks to the Captain.

CAPTAIN

I can make this problem go away.

LEE

Do it.

INT. DRESSING ROOM

Ryan Seacrest sits at his mirror, checking his hair.

Someone knocks on his open door.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Mr. Seacrest?

Ryan turns to find the Captain standing in the doorway.

RYAN

Yes?

Smack! A tranquilizer dart slaps into his neck.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A husband, wife and their two kids sit on their couch watching "The Impossible Challenge" countdown.

REPORTER

It's now only a matter of minutes before we find out if Shelly Vaughn really is missing--

A nearby outlet fizzes and crackles. The family turns as--

MB and his team spew from the socket. Sarah holds the cuddly bear in her arms.

BILLY
We're still alive!

SARAH
MB, how did you do that?

MEGABYTE MAN
Well, thanks to you and your
overhaul, Billy, I'm now wireless.
It's the wave of the future.

The bear jumps out of Sarah's arms and runs to the kids,
licking their faces.

MB faces the stunned family.

MEGABYTE MAN
Sorry, folks. But when the Virus
Lair exploded, I didn't have time
to type in a web address, so I just
took the first exit I saw.

Billy looks to the TV.

BILLY
Look, it's starting.

SARAH
We don't have much time.

MEGABYTE MAN
Well, folks! We're off.
(to Sarah)
Did you want to get the little
bear? Or just leave it here?

The little boy clutches the teddy bear.

MEGABYTE MAN
Alright, gang. Hang on.

In a flash, the team disappears. The little boy turns to his
mom.

BOY
Mommy, why was Shelly in our house?

MOMMY
I don't know, dear. Ask your
father.

INT. HOLDING CELL

SEACREST POV:

Black.

Suddenly, the darkness rips away, revealing--

A host of blurry Agents standing in a cemented holding cell.

Ryan Seacrest sits chained to a chair. The Captain tosses the black hood away.

CAPTAIN

Mr. Seacrest, listen carefully. You have something we want, something very valuable. And I have authorization to obtain it by any means necessary.

Ryan looks to a maniacal man in a white apron sharpening a pair of gleaming shears.

CAPTAIN

The choices you make in this moment, Mr. Seacrest, could shape the future. The future of "The Impossible Challenge."

RYAN

What do you want?

CAPTAIN

Your hosting.

RYAN

My hosting? But Shelly--

The Captain shakes his head. Suddenly, an agent breaks into sobs. He runs out of the room.

RYAN

Dear God. So it's true.

CAPTAIN

You have a rare and valuable gift, Mr. Seacrest. One that we will use in our finest hour, to save this planet from a terrible and desperate sickness...

RYAN

Bad television.

The Captain nods.

RYAN

I'll do it. For Shelly.

The Captain looks to the Barber and nods. The Barber smiles a terrible smile as he pulls a pair of scissors from his tray.

RYAN

Wait, I said I'll do it--

The Barber strikes. His precision with the blade is only rivaled by his flare of style, until--

A mirror lands in front of Ryan. Side view, impressive.

The Barber whips the mirror to the other side. Splendid.

Like a samurai, the Barber splays two mirrors for the back view. Immaculate.

RYAN

Impossible Challenge, here I come.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The audience sits, electrified.

LEE

Cue open.

Music pounds from the stage as--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE

Droves of assistants tend to Ryan. They comb his eyebrows, preen his coat and pick his teeth.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The music thunders and the lights go up. The audience leaps to its feet, the noise deafening.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

Otto scooches his chair up to the crack in the closet door.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

On the giant screen, "The Impossible Challenge: Tournament of Champions" slams into place, followed by: "Special Guest Host: Ryan Seacrest."

The applause dribbles to a stop.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Boo!

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE

Seacrest looks to the Secret Service Captain, who nods his approval.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The lights go down as Lee looks to the stage.

LEE

And, go Ryan!

Nothing happens.

LEE

And, go Ryan.

Still nothing.

LEE

Ryan. Go. Seacrest. Action. For God's sake I'll give you all the money in my wallet, just get on stage!

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE

A production assistant scrambles to Ryan's waiting spot. As he rounds a corner--

Ryan, the team of assistants, and Agents lie on the floor, goood.

P.A.

Sir, something bad has happened.
Something very bad.

He locks eyes on something.

P.A.
Oh, dear God--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The stage lights cut out.

LEE
Control, what's--

Lee freezes in the wake of a sudden, deafening roar.

The lights flicker as dark rivers of chirping Minions envelop the stage.

The lights burn to full and the audience gasps.

Looming mid-stage, stands Virus. The Minions swirl around him, throbbing as one living organism.

VIRUS
Well, well, well. Here...am...I.

Lee grabs his headset.

LEE
Control, cut broadcast--

VIRUS
Not so fast. Pee-on!

Pee-on jumps behind Lee, holding a crackling goo-stick to his head.

VIRUS
I'd keep the cameras running if I were you.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTROL ROOM

Bob lifts his finger away from the "On Air" button.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Virus snarls and faces the cameras.

VIRUS
Shame, shame, shame. Look at this.
Millions of people slurping up this
pop-culture slop like ignorant,
little poo beetles.
(MORE)

VIRUS (CONT'D)

Are you people so stupid as to actually believe what they've been telling you? That you can be a hero?

Virus bends to his sea of Minions.

VIRUS

Well, go ahead. We'll see how many heros are in this room. I dare you.

The Minions advance into the audience, salivating.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

Horrified, Otto watches Virus prance across the stage.

VIRUS

Allow me to introduce myself. For those of you who can't stomach calling me Ruler of the World--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Virus grins.

VIRUS

Please, call me Virus.

EXT. ROME COLOSSEUM - NIGHT

Thousands of people sit before a jumbo-tron, riveted on the Virus.

VIRUS

Now, let's get this show started.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Virus holds up the Brainwave Emitter.

VIRUS

For my first act, I'm gonna need a little audience participation.

As he sets the Helmet onto his head--

MEGABYTE MAN

Not so fast, Virus.

The audience whips around to see MB standing with Billy and Sarah.

VIRUS
What? Megabyte Man?!

MEGABYTE MAN
No, no, Virus. I'm new and improved. I'm--

Drives sparkle and processors twinkle.

MEGABYTE MAN
Gigabyte Man!

VIRUS
Gigabyte Man. You think a simple, little upgrade can stand between me and world domination?

MEGABYTE MAN
Um. Yes!

VIRUS
Too bad, Gigabyte Man. You're always one step behind.

Virus flips a switch on the Helmet.

BILLY
The Emitter--

Pee-on flips down a pair of shades over his glasses as--
A blinding flash washes over everyone in the soundstage.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

Untouched by the light, Otto watches as the audience and crew go numb.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

Virus' Brain Trap bleeds over millions of screens across the world. Stadiums stand riveted, households freeze, and pedestrians gawk at the pulsing light.

VIRUS
Hello, world. Welcome to the Virus
show.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Virus laughs while the audience stares, reduced to drooling
drones.

MB and the Kids stand frozen in action.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

Rage burns over Otto's face. His shoulders swell and the
chains that bind him squeal and bend.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Virus gathers his chi.

VIRUS
Now, rise.

In one motion, the entire studio audience stands.

Pee-on, still gripping Lee and the goo-stick, giggles with
glee.

PEE-ON
Virus! So many people. It's
beautiful...

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - JANITOR'S CLOSET

With a roar, Otto splits his chains and bursts from the
maintenance room.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Like a locomotive, Otto charges Pee-on. Virus turns his head--

And the Helmet's light veers away from MB and the Kids,
snapping them out of their stupor.

Otto collides into Pee-on, smashing him to the ground.

VIRUS

No! Look at me! Look at me!

Virus flounces on stage as Otto grabs Pee-on's goo-stick.

OTTO

Gigabyte Man!

Otto hurls the goo-stick through the air.

The audience holds their breath as MB Man sets off on an interception course. He makes a flying leap--

Snatches the goo-stick out of the air--

And lands only yards away from Virus. As Virus whips his head around--

MB snaps down his visor. The mind-controlling light washes over him, to no effect.

MEGABYTE MAN

I'd take that little thingy off
your head before you get bitten by
the Gigabyte.

Virus snarls and flips the switch. The Helmet powers down as he removes it from his head.

VIRUS

Fine, Giga-butt Man. We do this
now, with the world watching.

He removes a metallic handle. With a flick of his wrist, the handle extends and a globe snaps to place on either end of the staff.

The double-gooer cracks to life.

VIRUS

Care to tango?

MB disengages his visor.

MEGABYTE MAN

Don't mind if I do.

Virus lunges and MB parries the blow. Another deadly swing--

And MB zaps to the opposite side of Virus.

Virus twirls the staff again and again, but each time MB zaps to safety. The audience cheers.

BILLY

MB! You have to goo Virus!

MEGABYTE MAN

Goo Virus. Got it!

SARAH

MB, look out!

MB ducks just as Virus' goo-stick whistles past. The swing catches MB's antenna, busting it to pieces.

In a blink, Virus swings again and MB blocks the blow with his goo-stick. Virus smiles--

VIRUS

What, no zapping to safety?

Sarah gasps.

SARAH

Come on, MB. Arc out of there!

BILLY

He can't. He's lost wireless--

Virus roars.

VIRUS

Guess it's time to call your internet provider, Mega dead man.

Virus strikes again, but MB spins away as the double-goer liquefies the floor. Superhero and Villain swirl in the throes of epic battle.

An assistant next to Lee flips through the pages of his binder.

ASSISTANT

Mr. White, I'm not seeing this anywhere!

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTROL ROOM

Bob moves his finger over the "On Air" button.

BOB

I'm cutting broadcast--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

LEE
No! Stay live.

He smiles.

LEE
This is about to get good.

In the bleachers, a woman screams.

Billy looks to the audience to see the minions crawling over the crowd. Gritting his teeth, he jumps to the tennis ball gun.

BILLY
Sarah! Lock and load!

Sarah whips back the bolt on the gun.

SARAH
Go!

Billy mashes the trigger and the gun screams. Sarah feeds the ammo belt as--

Tennis balls tear from the gun, surgically removing minions from the audience until--

The last minion is blown off the bleachers.

The audience cheers as the spinning gun barrels whir to a stop. Sarah stares at Billy.

BILLY
Eaglescouts.

The audience gasps. The Kids turn to see--

MB and Virus at the base of the cliff. Dirt flies and trees tear from their roots, when suddenly--

MB stumbles, narrowly missing a crackling goo-stick. He dives into the lake of colored balls. Virus follows--

And the whirlwind of war stirs up a storm of balls.

Up and out of the colored balls, they run to a curling spiral staircase leading up to the top of the final pedestal.

MB bounds up the steps and turns, accosting Virus with a torrent of blows.

With each strike, the metal railings conduct spires of electricity, enveloping the two warriors in waves of brilliant sparks.

SARAH

Billy! Come on--

Billy and Sarah jump to a control panel, their fingers flying over the keys.

MB and Virus bash their way up the stairs. Oversized boots, crocodiles and watermelons launch at Virus, but he continues unabated.

Billy glances up from his screen.

BILLY

I'm out.

SARAH

Me too.

Virus yells from the middle of the staircase.

VIRUS

Hey, guess what? Preschool called, they want their toys back!

Virus ducks just as MB's goo-stick whistles over his head.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - PEDESTAL

They reach the summit, goo-sticks flashing in the light.

With a horrific swing, Virus locks his goo-stick with MB. Laughing, Virus kicks MB onto his back--

Bouncing the superhero's goo-stick off of the pedestal.

VIRUS

Oops. You dropped something.

Virus steps over him.

VIRUS

Well, well, well. Gigabyte Man. Here we are, with millions watching for what happens next. I have to confess, I never thought you'd come this far. But I'm glad you did.

He smiles his most evil smile.

VIRUS

Because it's going to be far more
satisfying finishing you here,
where the world can hear you
scream.

He raises his goo-stick.

MEGABYTE MAN

Unfortunately, Virus, there's
something you've forgotten.

VIRUS

Oh? And what's that?

MEGABYTE MAN

I'm a superhero.

MB's presses a button on his arm-o-tron and time crawls.

A flash, like a cannon, shoots from MB's belt.

Before Virus can blink, a cherry pie hits him in the face. He
clutches his eyes as bits of pie spatter from his mouth.

In a liquid pirouette, MB springs from the ground and grabs
Virus' goo-stick as--

Virus rakes the pie from his eyes in time to see--

MB jab the goo-stick into his midsection. With a crack of
electricity--

Virus' molecular structure disassembles. Retching and
burping, he stumbles to the edge of the platform. With one,
last whimper--

He tumbles backward off the pedestal and onto the bell tower.
The weight shoots to the top, igniting the winning sign.

Fireworks explode from the bell tower and--

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The audience jumps to their feet, screaming and cheering. Lee
fumbles for his headset.

LEE

Cut to break!

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - DRESSING ROOM

Lee and the Kids watch MB lay Shelly on her couch. She giggles like a baby.

LEE
What happened?

SARAH
She's been goood.

LEE
Goood? Will she be all right?

SARAH
We don't know.

Billy scans Shelly with an MRI wand. The scan translates to a schematic of Shelly on Billy's laptop. Red indicators, revealing a growing infection, cover Shelly's diagram.

BILLY
The goo's spreading.

LEE
Can't we stop it?

MEGABYTE MAN
No. But I know who can.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Dr. Gardenpants bursts through the doors to find MB, Lee and the Kids standing vigil over Shelly.

DR. GARDENPANTS
I got here as soon as I could. How is she?

SARAH
Not good.

The Doctor checks Shelly's pulse as she gurgles a string of incomprehensible syllables.

DR. GARDENPANTS
I see.

Billy shows him the laptop.

DR. GARDENPANTS
My goodness. The goo's shutting down her entire nervous system.

He hangs a bag of antibiotics.

DR. GARDENPANTS
I'm putting her on antibiotics.
Let's hope the infection slows
before she suffers permanent brain
damage.

SARAH
There's gotta be something to make
her better. Some kind of serum.

MEGABYTE MAN
Pancakes.

DR. GARDENPANTS
We'll have to wait on the blood
work. But even then, it could take
several days to develop an
effective serum.

MB snaps his fingers.

MEGABYTE MAN
Serum. See, I thought you said
syrup. Is anyone else hungry
besides...

The Doctor's eyes land on MB. He smiles.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Of course...

BILLY AND SARAH
What?

DR. GARDENPANTS
There is one thing.

MB looks up.

MEGABYTE MAN
A kiss from a superhero. Yes, it's
so simple.

He puts a hand on Lee's shoulder.

MEGABYTE MAN
I'll do it. For the show.

MB pulls a tube of chapstick from his utility belt and
applies it generously.

BILLY
I don't think--

MEGABYTE MAN
Billy, please. I'm a superhero.

He leans in.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Actually, a rare herb from the
Bavarian Alps came to mind.

MB freezes.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Moosethistle, I believe. It's
healing properties are impressive.

MEGABYTE MAN
Well, I'm no doctor, but I'm pretty
sure a kiss will do the trick.

He leans down again.

DR. GARDENPANTS
If taken in a large enough dosage,
the Moosethistle sap could get her
on her feet again. Worth a shot!

SARAH
MB, can you do it? Can you find the
herb?

With his lips puckered, MB looks from Shelly to the group.

MEGABYTE MAN
Find the herb. Of course. Sit
tight.

He flips down his visor and in a flash, he's gone.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Now, this is an old, family recipe.

Dr. Gardenpants pulls a blender from a cabinet and dumps in
iodine, band-aids and cotton swabs.

DR. GARDENPANTS
Unfortunately, there are no
guarantees with an infection this
rare.

Suddenly, MB returns with lederhosen on his head and a small goat nipping his bum. He hands the Doctor a small bush, completely uprooted.

Dr. Gardenpants takes the plant and stuffs it into the blender.

MEGABYTE MAN

You are a bad goat. Bad goat.

Dr. Gardenpants hits "puree" while MB rubs his bum.

The Doctor pours a thick, blue liquid into a glass. After adding a straw and umbrella, he brings the glass to Shelly.

DR. GARDENPANTS

Alright, Shelly. Drink up.

She takes a sip.

SHELLY

Ugh.

DR. GARDENPANTS

That's actually a good sign.

BILLY

Sarah, look.

On his laptop, the red indicators reduce in severity.

SARAH

It's working.

Shelly sits up and coughs.

LEE

How are you feeling?

SHELLY

Better. What happened?

LEE

You had quite a ride.

Her eyes fall on MB.

SHELLY

Wait a minute. In the caves. You saved me.

MEGABYTE MAN

With a little help from my friends, of course.

SHELLY

Thank you.

MEGABYTE MAN

No, no. No thanks necessary for this superhero. But, there is a show out there that needs you.

She sips down the last of the potion.

SHELLY

Uhh. This tastes like shoes.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

Shelly hits the makeup chair. Assistants paint, curl and primp.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - SECURITY ROOM

Otto giggles to himself as he rides a roaring, rotating mop. Lee passes through the glass doors.

LEE

How's the Mopmaster, Otto?

Otto just laughs in bliss.

INT. LABORATORY

The Kids are at the control panel, their fingers flying over keys. MB stands behind them, fidgeting with the Turbo Infuser.

BILLY

We're at 63 per cent capacity.

SARAH

It ain't pretty, but looks like the old grid might hold.

Lee bursts into the Lab, beside himself with giddy laughter.

LEE

Ratings gold. We struck absolute gold. I mean off-the-charts kinds of stuff. You guys are amazing.

He almost shakes MB's arm out of its socket.

LEE

This is good. This is very good.
Deep breaths. Take some deep
breaths with me--

Billy and Sarah laugh.

LEE

So, anyone seen Mike?

Billy and Sarah share a smile, then look to MB.

MEGABYTE MAN

Uh. Sure, Lee. I can go get him for
you.

MB hands the Turbo Infuser to Sarah and scurries behind a
bank of equipment.

MEGABYTE MAN (O.S.)

Hey, Mike. Lee's lookin' for you.

A zipper zips and clothes rustle to the floor.

MEGABYTE MAN (O.S.)

Just another minute or so. He's
moving some equipment for the new
operating--

Mike pops out from the upper catwalks, carrying a heavy
turbine. He puts the turbine down and descends the stairs
while tucking in his shirt.

MIKE

Lee! I was just moving that heavy
equipment. Gigabyte Man said you
were looking for me. What's up?

LEE

Listen, Mike. We're going back on
air in a few minutes and the old
grid's just about useless, so I'm
gonna need a new one.

Mike nods.

LEE

And I'm gonna need a professional
running the system.

MIKE

Yeah.

LEE
A real professional.

Lee stares at Mike. Finally--

MIKE
Who, me?

LEE
Whaddaya say? Can you have your
grid up and running in two minutes?

Mike looks at Billy and Sarah. They smile, elated.

MIKE
What? Two minutes? Yeah, I can have
it--

Mike screams.

MIKE
I can have it up in two minutes.
It's do-able. Yeah, sure.

BILLY
Lee, what about the book?

LEE
The book?

He smiles and chucks his binder into a trash can.

LEE
What book?

As he leaves, Sarah hands Mike the Turbo Infuser.

Billy flips a switch and the glass chamber pulses with
streams of energy.

He steps inside--

MIKE
Go for launch.

And secures the Turbo Infuser to the podium. The electricity
curls into the device and the ports glow white-hot.

At the console, the Kids monitor their screens.

BILLY
Levels look stable.

MIKE

Let's run the diagnostics--

As he grabs a voltage meter, Shelly enters the Lab.

MIKE

Shelly! Hey, welcome back.

Sarah looks to Billy as Mike exits the chamber.

SARAH

Y'know what? I think we've got to check some of the systems on set.

BILLY

But Mike said he needed us to help him run a diagnostic--

SARAH

Billy, forget the stupid diagnostic. We just need to check the systems on set.

BILLY

Cuz, I could stay and help him while you--

She stares at him.

BILLY

What?

SARAH

You are such a boy.

Sarah grabs Billy's collar and drags him out of the lab.

MIKE

Shelly, Aren't you supposed be on--

He shocks himself with the voltage meter.

MIKE

I'll just put that down--what are you doing here?

SHELLY

I was just wondering if you'd seen Gigabyte Man anywhere.

MIKE

Um. Nope.

Shelly moves closer.

SHELLY

Well, if you do see him--

She kisses him on the cheek.

SHELLY

Tell him thanks.

As she heads for the exit, she turns.

SHELLY

Oh, I almost forgot. We never did
grab that coffee.

Mike blinks.

SHELLY

See you after the show?

MIKE

Yes. Yes you will.

SHELLY

Great. I can't wait.

Mike smiles from ear to ear as Shelly leaves.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

The lights and music explode as the show returns from break.

Mike joins Billy, Sarah and Otto in the stands when the
audience screams.

EXT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS - NIGHT

A ripple of excitement surges through the masses when Shelly
Vaughn takes stage on a jumbo-tron.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE

Shelly smiles at her audience.

SHELLY

Thank you, all.

The audience quiets down.

SHELLY

Yesterday, I asked you a question:
What makes a hero?

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Well, here's an answer. It's not the only answer, but it's close. A hero isn't just someone with special powers that you read about in comic books, or see on TV. A hero is much more than that. It's the one who thinks of you first, before they think of themselves. It's the one that rises to the challenge, no matter how tough things get.

She looks to Mike.

SHELLY

And it's the one you think of when you look at them and wonder where you'd be if they weren't there.

She turns back to camera.

SHELLY

That's a hero. So, will we discover one tonight? Join me, Shelly Vaughn, as we test our limits.

The music pounds to a climax.

SHELLY

This is "The Impossible Challenge!"

The audience roars.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

A maximum security prison stands as its own island, battered by the raging surf.

INT. PRISON - CELL BLOCK

A sentry turns from his security monitors and buzzes a host of guards through a steel door.

The guards wheel in a prisoner on a man-dolly to an isolated cell. The base of the dolly hits the floor and the Warden steps forward, staring into the face of the prisoner.

A muzzled Virus glares back.

WARDEN

Get comfy. You're going to be here
a long time.

The Warden walks away with the guards in tow.

WARDEN

Lock it up!

The bars slide shut and a guard moves to the door locks.
Virus looks up to see--

Pee-on, wearing a guard uniform. He slides a bolt shut on the
bars and follows the rest of the guards out.

The Virus grins.

FADE OUT.

After the credits...

EXT. BAVARIAN ALPS - DAY

A small boy stands, yodeling on the cleft of a beautiful
mountain slope.

A clothing line, draped with laundry, stretches from a baby
pine to the gables of his quaint gingerbread house.

Suddenly, he turns at the sharp crackle of electricity.

MEGABYTE MAN

Entschuldigen, mein kleiner Freund!
Haben Sie bitte ein Bavarian
Moosethistle?

The child points to a bush being chewed on by a goat.

MEGABYTE MAN

Ah. Viel dank!

MB pulls the bush up, roots and all, when--

The goat charges. Running away, MB hits the laundry on the
clothes line. Lederhosen stick to his head as the goat bites
him in the bum.

The boy watches in awe as MB and the goat disappear in a
flash of lightning.

His fat mother waddles out of the house.

MOTHER

Klaus! Ich kann dich nicht yodeling
hoeren.

CUT TO BLACK.