

COWBOY BEBOP

"SAD CLOWN A-GO-GO"

S01E01

Written by

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Based on
"Cowboy Bebop"
The Animated Series

MIDNIGHT RADIO
TOMORROW STUDIOS

REMIX DRAFT

The endless vacuum of SPACE stretches in every direction.
You know how they say "in space, no one can hear you scream"?

MAN'S VOICE
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH! PLEASE NO!

EXT./INT. COWBOY ANDY'S SHIP (THE ONYX) - SPACE

Remember **ANDY**? The narcissistic dilettante bounty hunter who kind of helped us in episode #105... his bruised, bloodied face fills the frame, mouth wide open:

ANDY
I'll tell you whatever you want to know! Just stop! Please!

REVEAL that Andy's tied to a chair... and that **LIN**, crouching before him, has JAMMED a screwdriver in his kneecap. Lin JIGGLES the screwdriver, causing Andy even greater torment.

ANDY (CONT'D)
AUGH! Why aren't you asking me anything? I'LL TALK, I SWEAR!

Lin looks to **SHIN**, leaning on a console, smoking a cigarette.

LIN
Let's put a fork in this guy.

ANDY
Fork? OH GOD NO!

A POOL OF URINE GATHERS AROUND ANDY'S FEET

Lin shakes his head, moves away from the urine, and shoots Shin a "can we get on with this?" Look.

Shin rolls his eyes, stubs out his cigarette on the console, and steps over, taking out his Tivando to PROJECT:

A SMALL HOLOGRAM OF **SPIKE SPIEGEL**

SHIN
Know this guy?

ANDY
I know him! Spike. Spike Spiegel!

SHIN
(a smile)
Where can we find him?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY - MARS - DAY

A LOGO decorates a set of double doors. Discerning viewers will recognize it THE SAME LOGO SEEN ON EIN'S COLLAR IN EPISODE #103. Undiscerning viewers can go fuck themselves.

TEXT UNDER THE LOGO READS **CHERIOUS MEDICAL**.

The logo SPLITS as the doors SLIDE OPEN. **VICIOUS** leads the way, flanked by **DOCTOR GODARD** - French, fast-talking, really annoying. Godard cradles a beagle. Lin and Shin follow.

GODARD

I am so excited you are here. I always knew I could be much more useful to you than just the RedEye... and wait until you see what I have for you...

THEY PASS A BANK OF CAGES

Each of them holding a dog: all with Cherious Medical tags, also just like Ein's. The dogs watch them, sad and silent.

GODARD (CONT'D)

He's the one survivor of our supersoldier program. We jacked up his muscles for superhuman strength and speed, we loaded his body with weapons, coms, and transpo implants, we tweaked his mind so he has no memory of fear or pain... and we addicted him to RedEye to increase aggression and give us control. That's why we invented the stuff, you know.

LIN AND SHIN

(heard it a million times)
We know.

THE GROUP TURNS A CORNER INTO AN ALCOVE

Where a single SECURITY GUARD stands, arms crossed, by a pair of big, shiny silver doors: like the ones in *Terminator 2*.

SECURITY GUARD

Evening Doctor Godard.
(an uncomfortable pause)
You know the rules. No guests.

SHIN PULLS A GUN AND SHOOTS THE GUARD IN THE FACE. TWICE.

Godard starts as his heartbeat, breathing, and blood pressure all PEAK simultaneously: did that really just happen?

VICIOUS
(ice cold)
You said we'd be alone.

GODARD
Well... we... are now.

Vicious motions to the door. Godard puts his eye up to a CORNEAL SCANNER. The doors OPEN to REVEAL:

INT. SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY - CRYO CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

A large, extremely high-tech CRYO-TUBE dominates the space, connected to a vast, *Brazil*-like network of ducts, all of them HISSING and emitting wisps of dry ice smoke.

Godard rushes to a terminal, holding his dog under one arm, tapping the keys... while blithering anxiously.

GODARD
Wait til you meet my guy. You wanted the ultimate assassin, I got him right here. He's a guided missile. Give him a target, he will not stop until the mark is dead. Worse than dead. Super dead.

Godard PULLS AN EDISON SWITCH - a series of SPINNING emergency lights bathes the place in SHAFTS OF CRIMSON AND YELLOW as a POWER UP SOUND fills the room.

THE CRYO CHAMBER OPENS WITH AN ECHOING WHOOSH!

And the gurney inside pivots to standing position to REVEAL:

GODARD (CONT'D)
Gentlemen. I give you Mad Pierrot!

Strapped to the gurney, **PIERROT LEFOU** opens his eyes. Six-foot-five. Jacked. Blond - almost yellow - hair on his head (like Sting in *Dune*). Jet-black mustache under his nose.

Vicious looks at Lin and Shin, who beam with pride:

SHIN
Did we find you a killer or did we find you a killer?

Vicious ignores them, turns to Godard:

VICIOUS
Does he speak?
(off Godard's nod)
Can I talk to him?

Godard gives him a "knock yourself out" motion. Godard's beagle lets out a WHINE.

PIERROT LOOKS BACK AT THE BEAGLE WITH PURE HATE IN HIS EYES

And HISSES.

The beagle LEAPS from Godard's and HIDES IN A CORNER.

GODARD
(re: LeFou)
Him and dogs. They have a - thing.

Vicious could not have less regard for Godard, so he steps up to Pierrot, cool and casual... looks him over... then glances to Lin and Shin, who beam with pride over this, then back:

VICIOUS
So. You're the solar system's best hitman.
(off Pierrot's SMILE)
Do one job for me, I'll give you all the RedEye you could possibly want. Sound like a deal?

LeFou's eyes turn to Vicious... his voice a sinister *whisper*:

PIERROT
*RedEye. Yes. And one more thing.
For me.*

VICIOUS
(to Lin and Shin)
This guy. He's bargaining.
(to LeFou)
What else do you want?

Pierrot's lips CURL INTO A VERY DISTURBING RICTUS.

TIME CUT TO:

VICIOUS, LIN, AND SHIN - LEANING ON A CONSOLE

Smoking cigarettes as GROTESQUE SCREAMS OF HUMAN AGONY fill the space. Then a YELP from the beagle.

The beagle RUNS past Vicious, Lin, and Shin and out of the lab. Vicious watches it go:

THE DOG LEAVES A TRAIL OF BLOODY PAW PRINTS IN HIS WAKE

The three men then LOOK UP, stubbing their cigarettes to see:

PIERROT, RISING OVER A POOL OF BLOOD TO FACE THEM

Godard's body - behind him and OUT OF FOCUS - appears to have been FOLDED IN HALF.

Pierrot advances to Vicious, who steps to meet his gaze:

PIERROT
Give me a mission.

Vicious lifts his Tivando... the HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF SPIKE projects from the device.

VICIOUS
Kill Spike Spiegel.

3, 2, 1 LET'S JAM!

COWBOY BEBOP -- MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. OLD TIMEY TRAIN STATION - MARS - DAY

SPIKE SPIEGEL - his expression not dissimilar from his image on Vicious' Tivando - leans on a column, CASING THE JOINT.

The LAYOUT OF THE PLACE comes into focus through Spike's POV - an indoor platform surrounded in a very luxurious Beaux Arts setting with columns, wide staircases, and ornate mezzanines.

The passengers are all dressed to the nines - furs, suits, strings of pearls - this is a place of wealth and privilege.

Spike TAPS his earbud:

SPIKE
No sign of the bad guys.

FIND **JET**: standing across the plaza by the arrivals platform, watching the arrivals/departures board intently.

JET
They'll be here. Like goddamn mushrooms those shipjackers.

A familiar voice comes through his earbud:

FAYE (VIA RADIO)
How long 'til that train gets here?

TRACK ACROSS THE STATION TO FIND **FAYE** - dressed to the nines: Jackie O Givenchy suit in dusty rose, pillbox hat, suitcases stamped with designer labels... and **EIN** on a dainty leash.

FAYE (CONT'D)
I'm starting to feel a little conspicuous.

JET
Conspicuous is the plan. Hang tight.
(then, moving)
Train's incoming, let's get our game faces on.

FAYE
I'm wearing so much makeup I don't know if I can move my face.

JET
Stay frosty, Valentine, we got one chance at this... if Doleac's gang gets to him before we do, they're going to hide him so far underground...

Spike arrives at Jet's position:

SPIKE
We're gonna need a team of Arsian miners to find him again.
(off Jet's nod)
And you say I never listen.

P.A. VOICE
THARSIS CITY COMET ARRIVING ON PLATFORM ONE...

ANGLE ON FAYE - spotting something incoming:

FAYE
Doleac's gang. Three o'clock.

FOLLOW FAYE'S EYELINE to see **DOLEAC'S GANG**

Four hard-core thugs in leather coats, face tattoos, and piercings in places that hurt just from thinking of them.

JET

Cue the diversion - we just need a minute to button Doleac and walk him out of here.

A wind WHIPS around Jet and Spike. The loud WHIRR of an electric engine large enough to haul a caravan of passenger cars FILLS THE STATION.

FAYE PICKS UP HER SUITCASES - TWO PER ARM - AND ADVANCES

While holding Ein's leash and talking into her earbud:

FAYE

They won't know what hit them. I have so much distraction in these suitcases, you're gonna be in Ganymede before they notice.

Jet CHUCKLES as:

THE TRAIN ENTERS THE STATION WITH A ROOM-FILLING WHOOSH

Jet and Spike move closer and closer - but nonchalantly - to the platform, along with the attendant crowd of porters, train employees, and friends and family.

SPIKE

What are you laughing at?

JET

Not laughing at anything... just... digging that the team's finally come together.

SPIKE

The kind of cheddar they're offering for this guy, who wouldn't want to play along?

JET

You got no cool to blow, slick.
(a smile)
I know you got my back.

Before Spike can offer a snarky reply... the train STOPS before them with the SQUEAL of magnetic brakes

And as it does:

FAYE RUSHES IN FRONT OF DOLEAC'S GANG

And executes a perfect TRIP AND FALL, dropping her luggage before them.

One of the bags SNAPS OPEN, letting out a torrent of sex toys and lingerie!

FAYE

You tripped me! Oh God! My stuff!

Doleac's crew LOOKS DOWN at the spilled goods with a not inconsiderable amount of amusement.

One of them picks up a pair of FUR-LINED HANDCUFFS:

DOLEAC THUG#1

Hey, nice cuffs!

FAYE

Put those down right now!

Behind him, DOLEAC THUG #2 lifts a large, black rubber fist. DOLEAC'S MAIN GUY tries to just step through the mess.

DOLEAC'S MAIN GUY

(to the crew)

Come on, leave it.

(to Faye)

Out of the way, lady.

Faye gets to her feet and puts on her best look of outrage:

FAYE

Out of the way? Who do you think you are? SECURITY! SECURITY!

Faye waves at a few UNIFORMED GUARDS, who see the growing kerfuffle, exchange looks, and MAKE THEIR WAY OVER:

SWITCH TO SPIKE'S POV OF THE SCENE

Faye and the Thugs' ARGUING VOICES are barely audible as the Security Guards join in. Doleac's Main Guy is not happy to talk to them...

As his crew marvels, and SICKERS at the vast array of slave collars and dildoes on the floor, a small crowd gathers about the scene.

RESUME ON SPIKE AND JET

SPIKE

Man... she's good.

(then)

Don't tell her I said that.

JET
More family secrets. Great.
(then spotting someone)
Doleac.

SPIKE
Let's jam.

ANGLE ON **DIRK DOLEAC**

Stepping off the train. He's big and mean, also in leather.
As he steps onto the platform:

JET AND SPIKE FORM UP BEHIND DOLEAC

Drawing guns and JAMMING them into his lower spine:

JET
Keep walking. Head for the side
entrance.

SPIKE
Don't talk, don't make any sudden
moves.

Doleac looks back, regarding Jet and Spike with ice in his
veins. He shakes his head, then turns to go where they lead.

DOLEAC
You're dead. You know that? You
and your pal are already dead.

SPIKE
Yeah, well, me and the other zombie
are walking you out the side door.

JET
You so much as look at your crew
and you'll spend the rest of your
life shitting in a bag.

ANGLE ON FAYE AND DOLEAC'S CREW - ARGUING, DISTRACTED

As Thug #1 now raises a GIMP MASK, and regards it
dubiously... until something catches his eye:

FAYE
(to Doleac's Main Guy)
I'm not a whore, I'm a sex worker,
you have no right to assault me!

DOLEAC THUG#1
(to Doleac's Main Guy)
Hey...boss... look

DOLEAC'S MAIN GUY POV: ON SPIKE, JET, AND DOLEAC, WALKING OFF

DOLEAC'S MAIN GUY
(to the crew, forcefully)
Rustlers on the range. Let's ride.

Doleac's Crew DROPS EVERYTHING as Main Guy shoves Faye aside and CHEWS FLOOR toward their leader.

FAYE
(to the Security Guards)
Hey, aren't you gonna do anything
about -

Before the Guards can respond:

EIN BARKS UNCONTROLLABLY - PULLING ON HIS LEASH

FAYE (CONT'D)
Ein, what the - dammit -
(into the earbud)
Spike, Jet, jig is up, you got
incoming!

EIN KEEPS BARKING

Producing a LOUDER AND MUCH MORE UPSETTING SOUND than you'd
imagine coming from so cute and tiny a dog.

SPIKE AND JET TURN TO SEE THE INCOMING CREW

Drawing some NASTY LOOKING GUNS... and behind them, Faye,
pulling on Ein's leash, trying to join the fray.

SPIKE
(to Jet)
Call it, cap'n. We fighting or
running?

DOLEAC
You're dying.

JET
(to Doleac)
Shut the hell up, will you?

But before anyone can offer a witty riposte or fire a bullet:

DOLEAC'S TORSO EXPLODES IN A VIOLENT MAELSTROM OF CARNAGE

No, that was not hyperbole in the service of cheap thrills.

Doleac's entire upper body is literally gone... but his legs still stand before Spike and Jet, smoke rising from the remains of the pelvic basin as his evaporated blood forms a repugnant red nimbus around Spike and Jet!

Ein keeps BARKING. Doleac's crew watches the remains of their BOSS FALL TO THE FLOOR.

And then Spike sees something:

SPIKE
What the f --

All eyes turn to the main staircase leading to the plaza:

WHERE LEFOU DESCENDS - HOVERING OVER THE STEPS!

Remember "weapons and transportation implants"? Yeah. That was a polite way of saying "motherfucker can levitate". Now he wears the cyberpunkiest tactical gear: half old west duster, half Black Panther armor, and clutched in his massive sledgehammer of a fist?

A DISRUPTOR GUN THE SIZE OF MONTANA

If this were an action film from the 90s, you'd be hearing opera music in the background right about now.

Over this, Ein's BARKING BECOMES EVEN MORE DISTURBING.

ANGLE ON SPIKE

He's doesn't know who this guy is, but he has an idea why this is happening.

SPIKE (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Fucking Vicious.

Spike OPENS FIRE like Han Solo seeing Lord Vader at the Cloud City dinner table.

Doleac's men DO THE SAME. Jet follows suit.

Faye tries to reach for her gun, but Ein PULLS HER in the opposite direction of the fight.

BANGBANGBANGBANGBANGBANGBANG!

Bullets HIT LeFou from every direction... but his ABLATIVE ARMOR - a force field that lights up like a thin layer of laser smoke over his body - diverts every single slug!

LeFou SNICKERS... a creepy, breathy cackle that barely registers as a form of laughter - then lifts the disruptor:

AND OPENS FIRE THROUGH THE CROWD IN SPIKE'S DIRECTION

MOWING DOWN one innocent passenger after another as he flies straight for Spike!

Spike KEEPS FIRING, then ejects his clip. As he RELOADS, Doleac's men move in on Lefou, who simply aims his disruptor:

THWOOMP! THWOOMP! THWOOMP! THWOOMP!

Doleac's crew VAPORIZES.

Just in time for Spike to CHARGE Lefou - expertly aiming his gun at LeFou's disruptor - BANG!BANG!BANG!BANG!

The disruptor CRACKS/SPARKS/SMOKES as Spike's bullets hit.

LeFou looks at the weapon in surprise:

AS SPIKE CLOSES THE DISTANCE GRABS HIS ARM

His hands go THROUGH the ablative armor: it only deflects projectiles. Spike TWISTS LeFou's arm.

THE DISRUPTOR FALLS

SPIKE (CONT'D)

You tell Vicious the truce is off.

Lefou replies by LIFTING his other hand. A high-tech-spy-fi FLAMETHROWER emerges from under his wrist - POP-FWOOM!

Now Spike's arm is ON FIRE. And it hurts. Even a supercool cat like Spike can't help but SCREAM.

LeFou's flamethrower RETRACTS as he GRABS A HANDFUL of burning Spike and LIFTS HIM to eye level:

PIERROT

*I have travelled all this way to
take your life.*

JET JUMPS LEFOU FROM BEHIND

BEATING HIM over the head with his steel arm!

JET

Mess with my crew you sonofabitch!

FAYE FINALLY GETS IN FRONT OF LEFOU

Pulling the BARKING Ein by the leash as she FIRES.

LEFOU RELEASES SPIKE AND SHRUGS JET OFF

Pulling a SHOTGUN from his coat as he ZEROES IN ON EIN!

Now shit's gonna get weird. Even by *Bebop* standards. Ready?

LEFOU'S EYES VIBRATE

THE SCREAMING CHAOS of the station DROPS out... only Ein's BARK remains... and as that DISTORTS and FADES:

ZOOM IN ON LEFOU'S EYES

VIBRATING as everything goes BLACK into his pupil:

INT. SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY - OPERATING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

Bathed in SICKLY SHADES OF GREEN, erratically IN AND OUT OF FOCUS, punctuated by the BEEPS of a heart monitor: a series of STYLIZED CUTS shows LeFou's agony as a subject in Godard's Supersoldier program:

- *LeFou lies strapped to a table. A NURSE puts a BLACK MOUTHPIECE in. Godard HOVERS over LeFou with a hypospray.*

GODARD

*Go to your happy place mon Pierrot
LeFou. To your happy place.*

Godard JAMS the hypospray into Pierrot's neck - and as his teeth clench and a SOUL-SHATTERING GRUNT escapes between his teeth and the black mouthpiece...

- *Godard's BEAGLE watches from a corner... silent and creepy.*

- *LeFou's eyes SHUT hard enough to turn coal into diamonds.*

- *A **LITTLE BOY** holding a bunch of colorful balloons walks under the entrance to a theme park... a sign over the entrance reads EARTH LAND: this was LeFou's happy place.*

- *Godard searches a tray full of OMINOUS MEDICAL GEAR for a BONE SAW... its high-pitched WHINE echoes through the room.*

- *The beagle watches... blood SPATTERS in the foreground.*

- *LeFou's eyes BUG out in unspeakable pain.*

ZOOM OUT FROM LEFOU'S EYE

And back to THE TRAIN STATION, as he aims the shotgun:

LEFOU
DIE! DIE! DIE!

Faye's eyes BUG as she YANKS the leash, PULLING Ein out of the line of fire as:

BWOOOM! Buckshot DUSTS the floor where Ein stood.

WHILE JET FINISHES PUTS OUT SPIKE'S ARM WITH HIS JACKET

And as he DRAGS him away:

LEFOU PUMPS HIS GUN

This time he is not going to miss.

Until a cluster of bullets HIT the ablative shield on his back - BANGBANGBANG!

LEFOU TURNS TO SEE A **HALF DOZEN STATION SECURITY GUARDS**

FIRING... and as he goes to work on them with his shotgun:

FAYE SCOOPS UP EIN

And RUNS to meet Spike and Jet - and as they ESCAPE:

RACK FOCUS TO FAVOR LEFOU

Back turned to our crew, FIRING AWAY at the guards.

INT. BEBOP - MAIN CABIN - DAY

Still YELPING, Ein RUSHES in and HIDES under a console.

Faye FOLLOWS, the rush of gunfights, ambushes, and rescues still sizzling the air. Jet HAULS ASS - CARRYING the nearly unconscious Spike - in shock, smoke RISING from his charred-black arm - over his shoulder.

JET
Clear the couch - get the Medkit!

Jet makes a line to the couch as Faye quickly gets the food cartons and other garbage off the cushions.

FAYE
What the hell was that... thing?

JET
Third shelf - bulkhead - big tubular box!

Faye rushes across the cabin to the bulkhead as Jet DROPS Spike on the couch... and he lands with an anguished GRUNT.

FAYE

Guy had a disruptor. How many people can afford that?

JET

(to Spike)

Sorry, pal... don't worry, I got something to fix this -

(to Faye)

Where's that medkit?

Faye hurriedly looks where she was told:

FAYE

And he could levitate... did you notice how he did that? Dude could levitate!

Jet has other fish to fry, namely getting Spike's jacket off:

JET

Not now, Valentine! Come on, a-holes and elbows!

Faye finds a large tubular box which she PULLS off the shelf:

FAYE

Seriously - that... that... thing opened up on me -

Jet SNAPS the case open and removes a sleeve: imagine a cyberpunk blood pressure cuff, only the length of an arm and attached to a control module by a series of tubes and wires.

JET

Just help me get this on his arm.

FAYE

He looked me in the eye and yelled "DIE! DIE! DIE!" I'm not the only one who saw that, right?

Jet's just going to ignore her now, focusing on Spike:

JET

Okay partner. Here come the bad news, this might hurt.

Spike looks up at Jet - eyes gone glassy, mouth still snarky:

SPIKE

Might?

JET

Will. You'll probably pass out
from the pain.

SPIKE

Cigarette?

Jet pulls a rubber tube and JAMS it between Spike's teeth.

JET

Bite down. You're gonna need it.

FAYE

What is this?

Jet HITS A FEW BUTTONS on the control module:

JET

(indicates the cuff)
Let's just say if I'd had this a
few years back...
(then his steel arm)
I wouldn't have this.

THE CUFF COMES TO LIFE

SEALING around Spike's arm with a pneumatic SHOOOM. The
surface of the device LIGHTS up with lights and life signs
displays. The thing even TALKS:

FEMALE CUFF VOICE

Initiating skin regeneration.

Spike SCREAMS through the rubber tube, even as he bites down,
then his eyes ROLL. He's out.

Jet and Faye each take deep breaths... a pause... then.

FAYE

You did see how that dude came
after me, right?

Jet looks at her - he might as well address this, since she's
not letting it go.

JET

Faye. He shot at Spike. And me.
And Doleac. And all of his crew.

FAYE

And then he got to me.

(a moment then)

Do you have any idea who that was?

JET

Do you?

(off her head shake)

Then we got some shit to find out.

(re: Spike)

Put him to bed, will you?

Jet turns and HEADS FOR THE EXIT:

FAYE

Where you going?

JET

I got ways.

Faye watches him go - a guided missile of purpose - and as the doors SLIDE shut behind him...

Another set of double doors SWINGS OPEN to REVEAL:

INT. TEMPLE OF THE VAN - THRONE ROOM - CERES - DAY

A **COURTIER** in a red surgical gown, cap, gloves, and mask enters, carrying a silver tray holding THREE COLOR-CODED MASKS in jewel-toned white, blue, and red.

Several more **COURTIERS** - dressed the same, and carrying trays laden with medical equipment - follow through the room: a rich space decked out in thick reds and gilt in gold inlays.

TO REACH THE ELDERS OF THE VAN

Three extremely old people - naked but for loincloths, backs turned - sitting cross-legged on embroidered ottomans at the room's center.

IN A SERIES OF FADES AND CLOSE UPS

The masks go on. Red for **MISTER SCRATCH** of the Red Dragon Syndicate, white for **MADAM NICOLA** of the White Tiger, and blue for **MISTER LUCIUS** of the Serpiente Azul.

Then comes the medical equipment.

Occasionally, there's a flash of the wrinkled, cancerous, liver-spotted, papery and pale skin - and the thin and dewy white hair - of these incredibly old masters as:

THE COURTIERS DO THEIR WORK

INSTALLING prosthetics... INJECTING IVs... INSERTING feeding tubes... and DRAPING ornate robes over their frail bodies:

AS THE DOORS SLIDE OPEN ONCE MORE

A member of the Van's elite guard - the **KOHAI** - ENTERS, decked in a red uniform, carrying a holo-emitter on a tray.

THE OTTOMANS ROTATE TO FACE THE KOHAI

REVEALING the fully dressed and masked Elders.

MISTER SCRATCH

Speak, Kohai.

KOHAI

Mao Yen Rai is on the line. She says it is crucial that she be allowed to speak. Immediately.

The Elders exchange glances, Scratch gives a desultory "go ahead" wave of the bony claw that passes for his hand.

The Kohai places the tray down on the floor before them, pushes a button, and then steps back with a bow:

AS A HOLOGRAM OF **MAO YEN RAI** APPEARS FROM THE EMITTER

BOWING - deeply - before her rulers.

MAO

Your excellencies. I have unfortunate news.

MISTER SCRATCH

We are listening, Mao Yen Rai.

MAO

There is betrayal at the highest level. The three capos must see you in person to settle accounts.

MADAM NICOLA

None but our Kohai has stepped before us in years. Why would we let you see us in their flesh?

MAO

Because Vicious came to me with a proposal to assassinate you, and turn RedEye into the Syndicate's main profit center.

Nicola and Lucious turn their eyes to Scratch, who seems uniquely vexed by the news. A moment, then:

MISTER SCRATCH

Did Vicious also approach the Eunuch with this blasphemy?

MAO

Yes, but the Eunuch took him into custody. We have him. Our loyalty is without measure.

MISTER LUCIUS

So be it. You will come to us. And bring Vicious.

MADAM NICOLA

In chains.

MISTER LUCIUS

He will meet his fate.

MISTER SCRATCH

Treason is death.

Mao lets out a tiny smile and gives another bow. The ottomans ROTATE again: the audience is over. Mao's holographic image DE-REZZES.

EXT. A BUSY NOODLE SHOP IN AN OUTDOOR MARKET - DAY

A very, very uneasy Jet sits alone at the counter, an empty stool next to him. Jet SLURPS his noodles, finally settling on a spot ahead to train his preoccupied stare.

Which is when Jet's old pal, **WOODCOCK**, takes the empty stool: normally, Woodcock would be decked out like Cher at a drag ball, but her look is somber today: hair tied, all black.

WOODCOCK

Jet.

Jet slowly turns to match her eyeline.

JET

Woody. You look festive.

WOODCOCK

I dress for the occasion.

JET

Is this occasion a funeral?

(a long beat, then)

(MORE)

JET (CONT'D)

Now's usually the time you check out my ass, tell me I'm hot for my age and you'll still give me a job if I treat you right.

WOODCOCK

Not today.

JET

That bad?

Woodcock pulls out a Tivando. It projects an IMAGE OF LEFOU:

WOODCOCK

I pulled this off the security cams from the train station - your boy's not exactly afraid to be seen.

JET

He's not "my boy".

WOODCOCK

He's nobody's.

(off Jet's glance)

This guy's been scrubbed. No sign of him in any of the d-bases, local law enforcement, private security, my old buddies from the service, ISSP... nothing. This, my friend, is a ghost.

JET

I don't believe in ghosts.

WOODCOCK

You better start. You know the kind of people who have the kind of access - or money - for this level of invisibility?

JET

Girl Scouts? Nuns?

WOODCOCK

Special forces. Deep State. Syndicate. Since when do you have that kind of heat on you?

JET

Since never.

Woodcock taps the Tivando - the image from the train station SHIFTS, traveling ACROSS THE SCENE to show Spike.

WOODCOCK

That's what I thought, so I took the liberty. Spike Spiegel. Ever run a backgrounder on him?

JET

Saved my life's all the background I need.

WOODCOCK

I'll save you the trouble. He's even less conspicuous than Joe Disruptor over here.

For the first time in a while, Jet allows himself a smile.

JET

Really, with that hair?

Woodcock levels a grave stare at Jet.

WOODCOCK

No joke. You got issues.

Jet shakes his head - what he has is confirmation of something he has suspected a while... and that he likes.

JET

No. I have a partner who has off-the-charts weapons proficiency, fights like a Wu-Tang monk, and keeps more secrets than you... that's special forces. Has to be.

WOODCOCK

Really? Not government? Not syndicate?

JET

Not Spike Spiegel. Guy's got a soul. That I know straight up no chaser. War hero fits the profile.
(then)
I owe you Woody.

Woodcock stands, annoyed, her words are falling on deaf ears:

WOODCOCK

You'd better be ready to pay up soon if you got this guy after you... or your partner.

And off Jet, going back to his noodles, relieved in spite of the ill tidings from his friend...

EXT. EARTH LAND ASTEROID - PARK ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Remember the EARTH LAND sign in LeFou's happy place? This is it... only in the present day it's abandoned and decrepit, and the "R" is missing.

LeFou - shaking and disturbed - GLOWERS under the sign... looks up... and his eyes VIBRATE...

FLASHBACK TO LEFOU'S ORIGIN:

Little Boy LeFou... holding the balloons... walking under the same sign at a happier time...

RESUME ON PRESENT DAY:

As LeFou continues into the park: a shabby, desultory representation of a main street in the now-wrecked Earth, only with rusting rides and decaying concession stands.

In its prime, this place was probably pretty cheesy, now, it's a nightmare of abandonment. LeFou looks at his wrecked childhood memory and CACKLES uncontrollably... and as his body WRACKS with bizarre SPASMS:

FLASHBACK TO LEFOU'S ORIGIN:

As he lies strapped to a table. The Nurse SHOVES the mouthpiece in. Godard HOVERS over LeFou with a hypospray.

GODARD

*Go to your happy place mon Pierrot
LeFou. To your happy place.*

Godard JAMS the hypospray into LeFou's neck.

A SOUL SHATTERING GRUNT escapes through LeFou's mouthpiece.

Godard's BEAGLE watches.

THE PRESENT DAY LEFOU CLOSES HIS EYES:

FLASHBACK Godard reaches for his OMINOUS MEDICAL GEAR.

The beagle watches... blood SPATTERS.

RESUME ON PRESENT DAY LEFOU:

Falling to his knees. LeFou OPENS his tactical coat...

TO REVEAL A LINE OF VIALS OF REDEYE

LeFou takes one - SHATTERS the top against the ground - and pours its entire contents into his mouth.

The red liquid seeps from the corners of LeFou's mouth as his trembling hands STEADY. LeFou STANDS and shrugs off his overcoat to reveal the sleeveless vest underneath.

LeFou lifts his forearm, runs two fingers down the length of his bare skin...a strange GLOW emanates from his skin, and RESOLVES into:

A SUBCUTANEOUS HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

Which rapidly goes from a SPINNING CHERIOUS MEDICAL logo to a three dimensional interface FLOATING before LeFou.

A door-like icon reads **EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS** - LeFou PUSHES that icon away to TRANSITION to a three dimensional array of icons with different **A SERIES OF IMAGES OF DOGS**.

LeFou SNARLS hatefully as the dogs across before him...

Godard's beagle (**SUBJECT E9L**)...

A poodle (**SUBJECT E4M**)...

A wheaten terrier (**SUBJECT E9K**)...

And finally: **SUBJECT E1N**. Yes. Our Ein.

LeFou SMILES as he ENLARGES the image of Ein... and as he stares - his face transposed over Ein's through the holographic projection...

INT. BEBOP - SPIKE'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Ein NAPS on a cushion in a corner as Spike sleeps off his treatment in his rack.

Spike's eyes FLUTTER open - and his POV focuses to see

JET, ON A SEAT ACROSS THE ROOM

Brandishing a bottle and two tumblers of ice:

SPIKE

(re: the regeneration cuff)
This hurts more than the fire.

JET

Good thing I brought pain meds.

SPIKE
(squinting)
Is that?

JET
Hell yes it is.
(pouring)
Fleming's Commander Jamaica rum,
bitches, distilled in Old Earth
before the fall. I only use it for
medicinal purposes.

Jet hands Spike a glass. Spike WINCES as he takes it. Jet offers an "air toast" - Spike ignores it and GULPS it down.

JET (CONT'D)
Easy, Ace, it's a sippin' rum.

SPIKE
Yeah, and I just sipped it.
(then)
So what area we toasting? Getting
our asses whapped? Losing a
bounty?

JET
I'm toasting you throwing yourself
at that killer when he came at you.

SPIKE
(points to himself, then)
He didn't come at me. I thought he
was there for the dog. One look at
the pooch and the dude went nuts -
"DIE! DIE! DIE!"

JET
Sure thing, buddy. He went for the
dog... he didn't vaporize Doleac to
get to you or anything.

SPIKE
The rum's great but... he was there
for the dog.

JET
Yeah, yeah, no way he was there for
the guy with the hidden past and
the mysterious skills...

Spike looks at Jet, does he know anything about... that thing he's been hiding the whole time they've been at it together?

SPIKE

Dog's are rare commodities, people
got killed for that dog.

JET

Stop it. Who sends a hitman for -

SPIKE

Exactly. We don't know what kind
of enemies that dog's made -

Ein WHIMPERS. Jet lifts his glass to him and DRAINS it:

JET

I like you, Spiegel, you're funny.

Spike stands, regards the cuff, then, as he EXITS:

SPIKE

Had to make it weird.

INT. MAIN CABIN - BEBOP - CONTINUOUS

Faye sits at the main console with the future's version of a
legal pad (I dunno, maybe it's green), writing a long list.

SPIKE

Scooch, I need the gizmo.

FAYE

What for?

SPIKE

Gonna search the webs to figure out
who that hitman was at the station.

FAYE

You're gonna "search the webs?"
(re: the computer)
You even know how to use that?

SPIKE

Sure I do. It's like a gun with a
keyboard, right?

Jet FOLLOWS in, carrying Ein, looks to Spike:

JET

What are you doing?

FAYE

Making a list of enemies. Somebody sent that murderbeast out to kill me. I gotta know which bounty I took that could be responsible.

SPIKE

He was there for the dog.

JET

He was there for Spike.

FAYE

He was there for me.

Spike gives Faye a nudge off the seat:

SPIKE

On the couch, come on -

FAYE

(moving off the seat)
All right, all right -

As the argument continues, Ein Jumps from Jet's arms, and onto the seat, which he uses as a springboard to the console.

Spike sits at the terminal, hits a few keys, nothing happens.

JET

You know how to use that thing?

SPIKE

What is it with you people?

Ein HOWLS... his body SHAKES... nobody seems to notice:

JET

I'm twenty steps ahead of you.

FAYE

You have intel on that guy? And you didn't tell me? Do you know why's he after me?

Ein's howls grow LOUDER, his skin CRAWLS - in an science-fictional manner - his fur moves in WAVES, like a slinky.

JET

He wasn't after you -

SPIKE

You heard him after he saw the dog.

FAYE
When he said "DIE! DIE! DIE!"?
That was for me!

Spike finally turns to Ein, having a paroxysm on the table:

SPIKE
Stop it, you're upsetting the dog.
(re: the computer)
This thing have an on switch?

Now Ein's fur GLOWS, it's almost as if he has a subcutaneous display under all that fur, and as it COMES TO LIFE:

INTERCUT WITH LEFOU AT EARTHLAND

SEEN THROUGH THE HOLOGRAM, LeFou runs his finger up a VIRTUAL SLIDE SWITCH by Ein's image... a process bar above Ein reads **INTER-ASSET LINK IN PROGRESS... INITIATING NEURAL HANDSHAKE.**

RESUME ON EIN - STANDING

As the glow under his fur coalesces - gathering at his neck and forehead and increasing in intensity until his eyes LIGHT UP in a lambent cobalt blue.

JET
(re: Ein)
Am I alone in finding that to be
some weird ass fucked up shit?

SPIKE AND FAYE
No.

RESUME ON LEFOU - AS THE **PROCESS BAR GOES RED**

AND THE DIALOGUE BOX READS **INTER-ASSET LINK ESTABLISHED:**

EIN'S EYES PROJECT A HOLOGRAM OF LEFOU

The Bebop crew takes a collective JUMP back at the sight.

Lefou's mouth - SMEARED like a clown's with RedEye - moves... his voice comes through as a GARBLED burst of WHITE NOISE... his form keeps breaking apart and coming together... and it all adds to the insane dread of the moment...

LeFou's form finally COALESCES. His voice comes through:

LEFOU
Spike... Spiegel. I have come to
take your life.

Faye CRUMPLES the piece of paper in her hand.

FAYE

That settles that.

LEFOU

I will kill your friends. I will
destroy your ship. I will rip your
heart out.

LeFou holds his hand to the holographic display - a map
appears... showing a portion of the asteroid belt... zeroing
in on one asteroid: **Earthland**.

JET

I'd rather you didn't.

LEFOU

Stay out of this... Jet... Black.
(To Spike)
You will face me or see all that
you love destroyed. You have two
hours or the killing begins again.

LEFOU DEREZZES

Ein just stands there, skin and eyes glowing.

FAYE

Our dog shows movies from his eyes!
(to Spike and Jet)
Seriously. What. The. Hell?

EIN LETS OUT A WHINE AS HIS EYES PROJECT AGAIN

Showing a SERIES OF SHOTS not unlike LEFOU'S PTSD FLASHES:

ONLY FROM EIN'S POV - THROUGH THE BARS OF A CAGE

*AT THE SECRET MEDICAL FACILITY HALLWAY - Godard, holding his
beagle - walks in front of LeFou - wheeled by orderlies in a
Hannibal Lechter-style dolly.*

FAYE (CONT'D)

Are these his memories?

*LEFOU TURNS to look at Ein and SHRIEKS hatefully... passing
frame to REVEAL the Cherious logo on the wall.*

FAYE (CONT'D)

He really hates dogs.

And while Jet and Faye try to make sense of this, Spike just
stands there, his resolve and expression HARDENING.

JET

That's the same logo from his collar... they must have been in the same place...

FAYE

You mean the same creepy evil cyborg-assassin-making lab?

EIN'S POV moves to the shiny backslash on his cage... and as Ein's distorted reflection FILLS THE FRAME.

THE HOLOGRAM VANISHES

Ein whimpers. His eyes POWER DOWN. The glow under his fur FADES. His legs give out from under him. Exhausted.

An overwhelming and dreadful silence falls... until:

FAYE (CONT'D)

Okay. Guys. I like the dog. He's cute. He's fuzzy. But - you know - if Johnny Rip-your-heart-out is using him to communicate with us... he could maybe use him to find us?

JET

You wanna get rid of the dog?

SPIKE

Dog's not the one you gotta lose.

Spike turns and exits... and off his scowling face:

EXT. ROOFTOP - VICIOUS' PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Vicious - katana attached to his belt - stands at the ledge, taking in the Tharsis skyline - the lights, video billboards, and skyscrapers - his expression anything but serene as:

A ROOF ACCESS DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL **JULIA**

She quietly SHUTS the door and advances toward Vicious without giving away her presence. Julia GLANCES at her ROSE GARDEN as she passes the GREENHOUSE.

VICIOUS

(knows she's there)
Call come in?

JULIA

Yes. The Eunuch's ship is in the upper atmosphere.

Vicious nods, his attention still on the skyline, the mountains beyond... the moons in the sky.

VICIOUS

My father thinks I'm weak. He never thought I would make it this far. Tonight, he'll see just how far I'm willing to go.

Julia nods, regarding his back. She lifts her hand. He's close to the edge. Julia could so easily... just PUSH.

Her hand moves ever so slightly... is she going to do it? No. She PULLS BACK. Vicious TURNS to her.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

You look afraid.

Julia is completely honest, but not about what he's thinking:

JULIA

I am. I don't trust the Eunuch. Or Mao Yen Rai.

VICIOUS

Me neither. But I don't have to.

JULIA

What if they betray you?

VICIOUS

They can try.

A wind WHIPS UP AROUND THEM. The SOUND OF ENGINES.

A NAV LIGHT BREAKS THE CLOUDS ABOVE THEM - THE EUNUCH'S SHIP

Vicious turns back to Julia, taking her hand:

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

When I return, everything will be different. I love you.

He kisses her... then TURNS AWAY, heading for the LANDING PADS... and off his face, grim and determined, as Julia gets SMALLER AND SMALLER behind him...

INT. SPIKE'S QUARTERS - BEBOP - MOMENTS LATER

An equally grim and determined Spike - still in the arm cuff - OPENS A LOCKER to find his Walther, hanging from its holster.

He shimmies the holster over the cuff and around his shoulders, then grabs every clip, filling his pockets.

Spike then goes for the knives - two switches and a punch blade, which he hides in his belt buckle just as Jet enters.

JET

I know what you're doing.

SPIKE

Then step aside and let me.

JET

Not on your life.

(off Spike)

You're going up against a military grade killer - a guy who took out five hardcore ship jackers without breaking a sweat - and you think you can do that kind of murder solo? Guy's got a force field.

SPIKE

It's ablative energy armor - only deflects fast-moving projectiles. You got your arm on him, so did I -
(Spike holds up a knife)
If I can get close enough with one of these I might be able to...

JET

What? Draw a drop of blood before he tears out your lungs?

SPIKE

That's not going to happen.

JET

Damn right it's not.

(leaning in)

I know about your past. I know what you were. I know how a man's deeds can follow him his entire life.

Spike looks at Jet: has he figured out about him being a hit man for the Syndicate?

SPIKE

Got something you need to say?

Jet moves in, he's not backing down from this one:

JET

Time to come clean, Spiegel. Asses are on the line.

SPIKE

It's not enough to not want you and
Faye to die for some shit I pulled?

JET

Where'd you serve? Tanhauser Gate?
Shoulder of Orion? Kalanthia?

Spike takes a moment... okay, so Jet doesn't know the truth
about him. It's all Spike can do to keep the relief from his
face as he tries to play it off:

SPIKE

I don't talk about it.

JET

I knew it. War hero.

SPIKE

I don't talk about it.

JET

Fine. Don't. I could care less.
You're on my ship. You're on my
team. You're my family now. You
wanna go on a suicide run, you
gotta go through me first.

By now, Faye has made her way to Spike's threshold:

FAYE

Yeah. And me too.

Jet looks at Faye, genuinely surprised:

JET

Really?

FAYE

Don't be too surprised. Geez.

Spike looks at these two - could he fight his way out of
here... of course he could, but this isn't the time for that:

SPIKE

All right. Together, then.

EXT. EARTHLAND ASTEROID - MASCOT/COSTUME WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Dark. Dirty. STARLIGHT bleeds in from large windows broken
and caked with dust and cobwebs. Occasionally, the light
pools on some of the contents of the warehouse:

COSTUMED MANNEQUINS, ANIMATRONIC MASCOTS, AND ANIMAL SUITS

A LARGE DUCK in a sea captain's outfit... not Donald, but close... a few BEARS AND GORILLAS in cop and firefighter uniforms... a CAT in candy-striped regalia... an ape wearing a BUTLER'S SUIT... this is where the park kept wardrobe for its employees and character performers.

Now, illuminated by shafts of dusty light, the place is a gallery of grotesqueries... and among them:

LEFOU: TALKING TO HIMSELF, CACKLING AT NOTHING

As he opens a tube of RedEye and WOLFS the contents. As the RedEye courses through his veins like burning mercury:

LEFOU TURNS A CORNER TO SEE A FRENCH CLOWN MANNEQUIN

A real life *Pierrot LeFou* - white pajama smock with big puffy black buttons, large, frilly collar, tall, conical hat.

Pierrot LAUGHS MANIACALLY and draws a gun. The nickel plated, custom Beretta 93R from Robocop, if you must know.

AND HE BLASTS THE CLOWN'S HEAD OFF - LAUGHING INSANELY

And off the MUZZLE-FLASH from Pierrot's weapon...

EXT. VICIOUS' HOME - LANDING PADS - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The Eunuch's space yacht TOUCHES DOWN. A ramp DESCENDS.

As the Eunuch steps down - flanked by two GUARDS and carrying a set of SHACKLES in hand - REVEAL Vicious: staring at his arriving allies.

The Eunuch walks all the way to Vicious. They don't shake hands or greet one another - these two may be allies in a murderous plot, but they sure as shit ain't friends.

The Eunuch holds out a hand, and one of his Guards hands over a set of shackles.

EUNUCH

Time to lock you down, Vicious.

Vicious doesn't even look at the shackles, just keeps eyes trained on the Eunuch.

VICIOUS

What's with the goons? We agreed, just me and you.

EUNUCH

When we see the elders, sure, but -

VICIOUS

No buts. Send them away.

EUNUCH

To where?

VICIOUS

Back to your transpo, and from there they can crawl back to whatever shit hole you dug them out of.

(off the Eunuch)

We're taking my ship.

EUNUCH

No, no no. That screws up all of my arrangements.

VICIOUS

Think I give a fuck about your arrangements? I'm the one in chains, I'm gonna walk in your ship with your guards and their guns?

EUNUCH

You are one paranoid sonofabitch.

VICIOUS

And you're not?

EUNUCH

We made a deal.

VICIOUS

And I have no way of knowing you won't sell me out and shank me... we take my ship, at least my men can track me if you decide you want to use my balls for jewelry.

(dripping sarcasm)

So please, pretty please, with sugar on top, lose the guards, lose the ship, or lose the deal.

The Eunuch and Vicious stand off, and then:

EUNUCH

All right, all right... what the hell. Let's dance.

(to his guards)

(MORE)

EUNUCH (CONT'D)

Beat it. Take the ship, put it in orbit, wait for my signal.

The Guards look at one another, and the Eunuch, tentatively. The Eunuch waves them away, exasperated. As the Guards go.

VICIOUS

(a smile)

Right this way... partner.

Vicious turns his back and WALKS. And as the Eunuch follows:

EXT. EARTH LAND ASTEROID - BEBOP - SPACE

Even from this distance, Earthland is a city-sized smear on the asteroid's surface: visible in the refracted light from other asteroids, and Jupiter - far, but still a gas giant.

The Bebop's prow enters the asteroid's orbit, and as its retro and maneuvering rockets secure its position:

JET (O.S.)

All right ladies and gentlemen, I give you Earthland. As seen from orbit.

INT. BEBOP - CONTINUOUS

An ORBITAL IMAGE OF EARTH LAND blazes in three dimensions from the main display. Jet, Faye, and Spike crowd in:

JET

We may be fighting an unstoppable assassin -

FAYE

We don't know he's unstoppable?

SPIKE

We know.

JET

But there's only one of him and there's three of us, and that gives us a tactical advantage.

(to Spike)

You agree, war hero?

Spike lets out a breath - this is almost worse than Jet knowing the actual truth.

FAYE

Since when?

(off the looks)

(MORE)

FAYE (CONT'D)

You guys in the shit together?
's'that how this bromance was born?

SPIKE

Yeah, we served in the battle of
let's get to the point please.

JET

Spike - phase one:

SPIKE

OK. Phase one. I take the
Swordfish II to the asteroid, I
land a nice distance from the park
and walk the rest of the way.

As each crew member speaks:

THE PLAN UNFOLDS IN FLASHES:

FLASH! SPIKE flies the Swordfish II toward the asteroid.

FLASH! To PARK ENTRANCE - as Spike walks beneath the "EA-
THLAND" sign.

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

Then I do exactly what the killer
asked... I show up at the park,
pretend to face him down...

And as the SHADOW OF LEFOU towards over Spike...

RESUME ON THE BEBOP CREW

As Jet points to Faye:

JET

Which leads us into Phase 2, Faye?

FAYE

Unknown to our killer...

FLASH! To Faye PILOTING THE RED TAIL down to the asteroid.

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

I'm also flying down to Earthland,
and while he's distracted facing
off against Spike...

FLASH! To LeFou... facing off against Spike... then looking
up to see:

THE RED TAIL, SWOOPING IN BEHIND HIM

And letting off a barrage of FLASH BANG GRENADES... a massive LIGHT SHOW that engulfs LeFou...

FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's when I let loose the
flashbangers to confuse and
disorient the enemy...

RESUME ON THE CREW

As Jet takes over:

JET
Paving the way for Phase 3...

FLASH! The light from flashbangers fades. LeFou looks up:

TO SEE THE BEBOP - HOVERING ABOVE HIM

And FIRING a claw-like GRAPNEL from a ventral gun...

JET (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's when I fly the Bebop into
the asteroid's atmosphere... fire a
grapnel at the killer...

The grapnel CLOSES AROUND LeFou with a mechanical CLATTER... and the Bebop LIFTS him off the ground.

FLASH! The Bebop hovers toward a massive SINK HOLE at the end of the park's midway... the GRAPNEL RELEASES.

JET (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Then I drop him into that massive
sinkhole at the end of the midway
and hit him with the poison gas.

FLASH! To LeFou - FALLING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT... followed by a canister, which EXPLODES into a cloud of gas!

JET (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And then dark and stormys, on the
house!

FLASH! To the crew, toasting with mixed drinks.

RESUME ON THE BEBOP CREW

SPIKE
Dark and stormys?
(off Jet's nod)
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Never pegged you for a girl drink drunk.

JET

Do you ever stop?

SPIKE

Yes.

FAYE

Can I say something?

JET

What?

FAYE

Poison gas feels a little intense. I mean... overkill much?

JET

You're a pacifist now?

FAYE

No, I mean - can't Spike just shoot him? From the edge of the pit?

SPIKE

I already tried shooting him.

JET

Yeah, and what else am I supposed to do with a canister of poison gas? I've had the stuff sitting on a shelf for years, I finally get a chance to -

FAYE

Fine, fine. Sorry I brought it up.

Jet leans in, dead serious:

JET

Listen, people, we got a lot riding on this -

SPIKE

Like my life.

JET

And we're only going to get one chance at it.

SPIKE

What with my dying if it doesn't work.

JET

(holds up his hand)
So let's do this thing.
(off the lack of response)
Really? It's like that?

Faye and Spike exchange glances, then RETURN the hi-five:

SPIKE

Yay us.

JET

Okay... break.

INT. SWORDFISH II - DOCKING BAY - BEBOP - SPACE

Spike HITS the toggles, TURNS the dials, and PULLS the levers... the Swordfish II COMES TO LIFE around him.

Spike looks out of his canopy to see:

FAYE - IN THE COCKPIT OF THE RED TAIL NEXT TO THE SWORDFISH

Shooting him a SALUTE as she buckles up.

THE HANGAR BAY DOORS OPEN

REVEALING the inky gloom of open space.

SPIKE GRABS HIS SHIP'S YOKE

And as he GUNS the throttle:

EXT. BEBOP - SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The Swordfish II SLAMS out of the docking bay, leaving the Red Tail behind.

INT. SWORDFISH II - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Spike's expression hardens. He pulls out the Cowboy Bebop equivalent of a FLASH DRIVE and JAMS it into a slot.

A DISPLAY lights up on a nearby console:

CAPTAIN KANGAROO STANDING BY

Spike hits a red button:

CAPTAIN KANGAROO ENGAGED

JET

Right here!

Jet practically RIPS a panel off the wall, and digs into the maze of machinery inside.

FAYE

Did what I think just happened really happen?

JET

If you think every one of our ship's systems just got knocked down by a multipartite fractal cascade virus? Yes.

FAYE

A what?

As he speaks, Jet struggles to get his arm deep into the bulkhead.

JET

It's a simple, self-replicating vector, but it's a real nasty one. Street name's Captain Kangaroo.

FAYE

Okay then.
(a moment)
What's a "kangaroo"?

Jet PULLS OUT A MODULE - smoke Oozes from within.

JET

Son of a bitch. Fried the crystalline fusion module.
(looks at Faye)
He never meant us to go.

FAYE

Spike did this? What, to save us?

JET

(snaps, pissed)
No. He did this to get himself killed and I'm not having it. It's gonna take about an hour to replace this core, run a system debug, and get this ship online.
(off Faye)
And then we're flying down there to get our friend.

Faye is not about to offer an argument... and off Jet, his face lit by lanterns, his resolve twice as bright...

INT. TEMPLE OF THE VAN - THRONE ROOM - ASTEROID CERES - NIGHT

A half dozen KOHAI dressed in quasi military regalia and carrying nasty-looking bladed lances make their way to the massive doors leading into the throne room.

The six take positions in front of the door and plant their lances like an honor guard.

The doors SWING OPEN.

TO REVEAL VICIOUS - LED IN THE EUNUCH

Bound in high-tech manacles, his leg motion restricted by thick, high-tension wires looped through his ankle restraints, and his voice stifled by a ball gag, Vicious truly is at the mercy of the Eunuch, who - adding insult to injury - carries Vicious' katana in his hands.

ANGLE ON THE ELDERS - FLANKED BY MAO

Watching as Vicious and the Eunuch reach the center of the room. The Kohai SHUT THE DOOR - and move to take defensive positions around the room.

MISTER SCRATCH

Santiago Penalba. Capo of the
Serpiente Azul.

EUNUCH

(a deep bow)

Your Excellencies. May I express
my gratitude for your receiving us
in your -

Madam Nicola RAISES her hand - shutting him up like a punch to the throat - no time for obsequious bullshit.

MADAM NICOLA

Mao Yen Rai has told us that you
you will corroborate her testimony.
(indicating Vicious)

That this man came to you with a
plot to betray our sacred trust and
undermine the foundation of all we
have fought for.

EUNUCH

Yes, excellency. That is correct.

Vicious GRUNTS through his ball gag - the only sound that gets through is a MUFFLED SHOUT OF PROTEST.

One of the Kohai lifts his lance and BASHES Vicious in the legs, forcing him down to a painful kneel.

MISTER LUCIUS

Then there is only one way ahead.
(to Mao, a gesture)
Proceed.

Mao STEPS DOWN from the dais of the Elders and ottomans:

MISTER SCRATCH

We have no choice but to demand
summary execution by your accuser.
(to the Eunuch)
Mister Penalba... hand the
traitor's weapon to Mao Yen Rai.

Mao reaches the Eunuch... the two exchange knowing glances.
The Eunuch PRESENTS MAO WITH VICIOUS' SWORD.

Mao SCHWINGS the sword from its scabbard and lets the cover fall to the floor.

VICIOUS' EYES WIDEN AS MAO COMES CLOSER

MADAM NICOLA

Prepare to meet your fate, traitor.

The Kohai who bashed Vicious LIFTS his lance and POUNDS him mid-back into child's pose: head down and neck out.

Mao TWIRLS the sword with sadistic glee. Vicious looks up.

Their eyes meet. Mao's are anything but friendly.

Mao LIFTS the sword. Vicious SHOTS A GLANCE at the Eunuch: okay, now would be a good time to free him and for Mao to hand over the sword... you know... like they planned...

The Eunuch shakes his head: "sayonara, sucker."

This is bad.

Really bad.

Vicious is gonna get Ned Starked, and he has no friends here.

MISTER SCRATCH

Take his head. Now!

The sword hangs over Mao's head as she gathers her strength.

Now... you might be wondering what the last minute save is... I mean, we're not going to kill one of our leads... our Big Bad for the season... right? We wouldn't...

We couldn't!

MAO BRINGS THE SWORD DOWN FULL FORCE

Arterial spray STRIPES her victorious face.

VICIOUS'S HEAD FLIES FROM HIS BODY

And ROLLS to the floor: that look of "HOLY SHIT I'M FUCKED" still on his features as the head comes to a stop.

And then... silence.

So yeah. We did that.

Mao lets the sword's tip fall, still holding the hilt, and looks at the Eunuch... the double cross is complete.

UNTIL A FRITZING FILLS THE ROOM

Everyone turns to look at its source... the severed head!

VICIOUS' DISEMBODIED FACE CHANGES INTO THAT OF THE EUNUCH

The Elders LEAN FORWARD, not entirely sure what just happened.

Mao turns to the Eunuch next to her, confused.

THE EUNUCH TAPS A MODULE HIDDEN UNDER HIS COLLAR

And his face FRITZES out to REVEAL VICIOUS.

Remember how facial hologram technology was established in episode #103? That's what screenwriters call "a plant"...

And this is what we call "a payoff."

VICIOUS POUNCES ON THE STILL STUNNED MAO

ELBOWING HER FACE and taking the sword from her hands as:

KOHAI
Protect the elders!

The Kohai RUSH for the dais as Vicious RUNS the Katana into Mao Yen Rai's stomach.

Mao Yen Rai FALLS. Vicious grabs a handful of her collar, just enough to keep her from the ground while he says:

VICIOUS

Shouldn't have made Julia sing.

Vicious YANKS the sword from her stomach. She HITS the floor with an agonized GROAN. Vicious turns to the Elders.

Remember how Mao twirled the sword? Vicious is doing that now - and he looks a billion times cooler and more menacing.

The Elders - surrounded by Kohai - holding their lances in a defensive stance - look to Vicious:

MADAM NICOLA

There is still time for you walk out of here alive. Don't do something you cannot undo.

Vicious steps to them, twirling... twirling... twirling...

VICIOUS

Lady, I am way past "undo".

VICIOUS THRUSTS INTO THE FIRST KOHAI'S DEFENSIVE CIRCLE

The Kohai SPINS his lance to block. Vicious GRABS THE KOHAI'S HAND, using his momentum to SEND HIM DOWN.

Vicious SNATCHES the lance and SHUNKS it into the Kohai.

One down, five to go.

The other Kohai are not about to attack one by one like some chop-socky villains. Four leave their posts and CHARGE Vicious - leaving one with their charges.

Vicious TOSSES the lance up, catches it with a better grip, and THROWS it, IMPALING one Kohai.

The remaining three ATTACK - two from the front, one behind.

Vicious levels a powerful BACK KICK at one, then RUSHES the incoming two.

THE LANCES CRASH INTO VICIOUS' SWORD

Vicious PARRIES one, sending it downward, then GRABS it, holding it - and its wielder - at bay as he BLOCKS an incoming stab from the other.

The Kohai behind Vicious recovers and LEAPS BACK TO THE FRAY.

Vicious SPINS the Kohai whose lance he holds, RELEASING him just in time to CRASH into the one coming from behind.

Giving Vicious enough space to DODGE A BLOW from front Kohai:

AND SLICE OFF HIS ARM!

A GOUT OF BLOOD lines Vicious' face as he TURNS.

IT'S A STAND OFF

Vicious LIFTS HIS HILT to eye level, POINTING THE BLADE at the Kohai... the Kohai assume their *kamae*...

Vicious shoots the Elders a glare that says "you bitches better settle your affairs".

Vicious heaves a ROARING BATTLE CRY and goes in - one against two. One lance meets his blade - KLANG!

Vicious gets under the lance. The Kohai turns his lance downward to stop Vicious' blade.

The second Kohai PLUNGES to run Vicious through, but Vicious SIDESTEPS from the crash and SHOVES one Kohai into the other!

Giving Vicious enough space to SLICE some Kohai stomach.

MISTER SCRATCH TURNS TO THE ONE KOHAI WITH THE ELDERS

And motions him to enter the fray...

AS THE FIFTH KOHAI SIDESTEPS HIS DYING COMRADE

And SPINS his lance into a DEATH BLOSSOM...

Vicious BLOCKS, but the lance SLASHES his arm, his chest, his face... and moves in for a killing blow from above...

BUT VICIOUS THROWS HIMSELF DOWN

Into a TUCK AND ROLL that gets him out of the line of fire and back on his feet to SLASH the Kohai's side and spin his blade back to front JUST IN TIME TO BLOCK THE LAST KOHAI.

The two men PUSH and PULL, blades crossed. The Kohai JAMS a fist into the wound on Vicious' chest!

Vicious WINCES and lowers his sword. The Kohai SPINS his lance to put Vicious in a choke-hold.

Vicious TOSSES his Katana up, GRABS it back in a reverse-hold and GUTRAMS the Kohai.

As the Kohai's hold on his lance lessens, Vicious pulls out and SLASHES the Kohai's throat.

Now all that stands between Vicious and control of the Solar System's most powerful criminal syndicate are three decrepit Elders...

All of them looking at him with fear in their eyes and shit in their pants.

LET'S DO THIS IN A SLO-MO MONTAGE, SHALL WE?

Vicious runs for the dais. The Elders RECOIL.

SLASH - MADAM NICOLA'S HEAD GOES FLYING!

Vicious doesn't waste the momentum, advancing to Mister Lucious and...

SLASH - ever heard the expression "head in the clouds"?

Yup. Vicious is already standing before Mister Scratch before Lucius' head hits the floor.

MISTER SCRATCH

Think this through, Vicious.

The expression on Vicious bloody face makes it abundantly clear he's not going to do that:

VICIOUS

Take. That. Stupid. Mask. Off.

Mister Scratch removes his mask to REVEAL a face we have already seen in this show!

HE'S VICIOUS' FATHER. Holy shit!

MISTER SCRATCH

Don't do this.

VICIOUS

Sorry, dad.

SLASH! THUNK! And off the sound of shit getting real...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. EARTHLAND - MIDWAY - NIGHT

Deserted. Lit and wet down like a Michael Mann movie.

SPIKE'S LONG SHADOW PRECEDES HIM INTO MAIN STREET

A piece of waste FLUTTERS before him like a tumbleweed.

He RETRACTS his overcoat to reveal his guns.

LEFOU STEPS INTO LIGHT AT THE OPPOSITE END OF THE MIDWAY

Now dressed in the French clown outfit, face SMEARED with joker-like war paint, mouth frozen in a terrifying smile.

IT'S HIGH FUCKIN' NOON

Only Spike ain't Gary Cooper, and he's facing a murderously insane cyborg drug addict assassin.

LEFOU REACHES FOR THE HOLOGRAPHIC CONTROL PANEL ON HIS ARM

And LEVITATES as he DRAWS an AR-15 with a grenade launcher mod. Remember *Scarface*? Say hello to his little friend.

SPIKE DRAWS BOTH HIS GUNS

And CHARGES LEFOU in a ZIG-ZAGGING pattern.

LeFou BANGBANGBANGS the ground around Spike, CRATERING every place Spike's feet have been, but missing the man himself.

Spike FIRES his double fisted weapons - ADVANCING even as LeFou's forcefield VAPORIZES his blasts.

LEFOU PUMPS THE GRENADE LAUNCHER - SCHWOOOOOOMBANG!

The projectile LANDS a few meters in front of Spike and EXPLODES! The SHOCKWAVE sends Spike flying back.

SPIKE LANDS HARD ON THE GROUND - HIS GUNS FALL

His overcoat COVERED IN SHRAPNEL and SMOKING, Spike SHAMBLESCRAMBLES to his feet, and THROWS OFF his overcoat...

TO REVEAL LEFOU - NOW WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE!

Spike draws his backup pistol - a small Beretta - and OPENS UP, but LeFou SWATS his hand away BANGBANGBANGBANGBANGBANG!

Now Spike's clip is empty.

LeFou SQUEEZES SPIKE'S WRIST until the gun flies off, and then PUNCHES him in the face.

Spike REELS back, but LeFou is not done with him by a damn sight. He MOVES IN and presses his attack before Spike can get back on his feet.

Now we're going to do the sequence every fan of the anime has been waiting for...

THE REALLY WIDE SHOT WHERE SPIKE GETS HIS ASS HANDED TO HIM
IN ONE SEQUENCE OF BALLETTIC MAYHEM

LeFou GRABS SPIKE and FLINGS him up into the air with such
force that Spike winds up in a completely graceless and
unplanned UPWARD FLIP.

LEFOU LEVITATES

And CATCHES Spike in mid-air, leveling a Baryshnikov-level
HIGH KICK that sends Spike back on an upward trajectory...

LEFOU RISES AGAIN

And repeats the move... as as Spike FLIES UP and also DOWN
the length of the midway.

LEFOU KICKS HIM BACK INTO ANOTHER FLIP

And another. And another. And another.... SHIT THAT HURTS.

In a final move of such grace and power that a viewer would
be forgiven for seeing it as beautiful, LeFou RISES to meet
Spike, and THROWS his to his journey's apogee...

LEFOU THEN SPEEDS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF SPIKE AS HE FALLS

LeFou's feet hit ground, he PLUCKS Spike from his fall and
sends him CAREENING into:

INT. EARTH LAND - MASCOT WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

One of the few intact windows SHATTERS as Spike flies in like
a rag doll shot out of a Howitzer and lands with a PUNISHING
THUNK.

He doesn't get up... is he dead?

Spike's eyes OPEN. He looks up to see:

A LARGE PAIR OF SAD EYES STARING DOWN AT HIM

One of the mascots from the park, eyes in a beam of light.

Spike's bloody face registers the eyes. A HAIL MARY IDEA
forms in his brain.

SPIKE
Hello... boy...

INT. TEMPLE OF THE VAN - ASTEROID CERES - NIGHT

A smear of BLOOD leads to Mao, still alive... but barely... HEAVING wet, bloody breaths as she DRAGS herself to the exit, keeping her guts in her belly with a pressing hand.

UNTIL THE TIP OF VICIOUS' SWORD BLOCKS HER PATH

He casually ROLLS HER OVER with his foot:

VICIOUS

Hi.

(off Mao)

How's your day working out for you, Mao... good? Bad? Yeah. I'm going to guess "bad".

Vicious PULLS her to eye level. Painfully.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

You truly believed I'd let you put me in chains, and trust you with my life... that I didn't have a plan?

Mao may be at death's door, but she has one final shank to sink before she shuffles off the mortal coil:

MAO

I believed in you... I was going to go along... but someone came to me. Convinced me to kill you.

VICIOUS

Who?

(off Mao's smile)

Who came to you?

Mao knows these are her last words, she makes them count:

MAO

Your. Wife.

Vicious' face goes RED. Mao LAUGHS.

Vicious STANDS, bringing down his sword like an AXE.

And off the terrifying SLASHSQUISHTHUNK that ensues...

EXT. EARTH LAND - MIDWAY - NIGHT

LeFou STALKS down the midway toward the warehouse, his steps slow and deliberate, and his laughter GROWING in intensity as he RELOADS his AR-15 and the grenade launcher.

Until a strange sound steals his thunder... the sound of a CHILDREN'S SONG in a twee and childlike MECHANICAL VOICE.

TWEE MECHANICAL VOICE

There was a farmer had a dog and
bingo was his NAME-O... B-I-N-G-
O... B-I-N-G-O... B-I-N-G-O.. and
Bingo was his NAME-O...

LeFou turns to the source of the music...

A FEW ROTTING CONCESSION BOOTHS

At the edge of the midway near the warehouse. Something MOVES behind the booths... something not Spike Spiegel... and it's coming CLOSER.

The music gets LOUDER - and now includes RHYTHMIC CLAPPING.

TWEE MECHANICAL VOICE (CONT'D)

There was a farmer had a dog and
bingo was his NAME-O... (CLAP!)-I-N-
G-O... (CLAP)-I-N-G-O... (CLAP!)-I-
N-G-O and Bingo was his NAME-O...

LeFou LOCKS AND LOADS. The gun primes with an ECHOING CLICK.

TWEE MECHANICAL VOICE (CONT'D)

There was a farmer had a dog and
bingo was his NAME-O...
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)-N-G-O...
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)-N-G-O...
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)-N-G-O and Bingo was
his NAME-O...

The thing TURNS A CORNER... LeFou's eyes WIDEN when he sees:

AN EIGHT FOOT TALL MECHANICAL DOG MASCOT!

One of the characters from the park! Coming straight at him!

And as the song continues...

LEFOU FLASHES WITH PTSD

DOG MASCOT

There was a farmer had a dog...

FLASH! GODARD'S DOG - STARING!

DOG MASCOT (CONT'D)

And Bingo was his name-o!

FLASH! GODARD WITH THE BONE SAW!

DOG MASCOT (CONT'D)
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)(CLAP!) G-O!

FLASH! GODARD'S DOG - STARING!

DOG MASCOT (CONT'D)
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)(CLAP!) G-O!

FLASH! GODARD DIGGING IN WITH THE BONESAW - BLOOD FLIES!

DOG MASCOT (CONT'D)
(CLAP!)(CLAP!)(CLAP!) G-O!

FLASH! GODARD'S DOG STARES!

DOG MASCOT (CONT'D)
AND BINGO WAS HIS NAME-O!

RESUME ON LEFOU IN THE PRESENT

Staring down this cartoon nightmare, LeFou SCREAMS IN FEAR, PANIC, AND AGONY... and EMPTIES HIS AR-15 into the Dog Mascot, right before FIRING the grenade launcher!

RATATATATATATATATATATATAT! KABOOM! THE DOG MASCOT VAPORIZES!

And as LeFou PANTS for oxygen, trying to recover from his panic attack...

SPIKE RUSHES UP BEHIND LEFOU

Drawing the punch knife from his belt to STAB LEFOU'S neck!

Remember how Godard said that LeFou doesn't know pain? Now he does. For the first time. He doesn't like it.

LEFOU REELS - CLUTCHING HIS NECK - LEAVING SPIKE BEHIND

STUMBLING AND STAMPING while SCREAMING like a baby.

SPIKE LIMPS - PAINFULLY - TOWARD LEFOU

Seriously, Spike's really fucked up.

I don't mean "John McClane before he rallies and kicks ass" fucked up... I mean the kind of fucked up that makes us wonder if this is a series finale.

Spike sees one of his GUNS and PICKS it up with a grunt as LeFou's meltdown threatens to go all the way to China.

LEFOUU
AUGH! WHY? WHY? MOMMY! MOMMY!

That's right, LeFou has so little memory of hurt that he's regressed to a child-like state. He FALLS TO THE GROUND.

As LeFou THUNKS, his arm FLOPS out... the HOLOGRAPHIC INTERFACE fluttering over his now-exposed forearm.

Spike now stands over LeFou, gut at the ready... he lifts the gun over LeFou's head, broken fingers and trembling hands struggling to... squee... squeez... SQUEEZE the trigger.

CLICK.

Really? Oh, come on.

Spike STUMBLES to LeFou... one of his knees GIVES OUT... and that's when he spots...

THE HOLOGRAPHIC INTERFACE - SHOWING A CONTROL PANEL

At the top of which is a legend:

ONBOARD LEVITATION COMMAND

With all the obligatory sci-fi gobbledygook... and at the bottom, a red button:

AUTOMATED EMERGENCY ASCENT

Spike TOUCHES the button.

COMPUTER VOICE
AUTOMATED EMERGENCY ASCENT ENGAGED

Spike then PISTOLWHIPS LeFou's arm, DAMAGING the interface as LeFou, still SCREAMING, slowly LIFTS OFF... shoulder... torso... legs... toes... he's just FLYING up, up, and away...

Spike entire body is jelly. He CRUMBLES down to his back.

LEFOU JUST KEEPS RISING

LEFOU
(dopplering away)
WHYYYYYYYYY! MOMMEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

LeFou's WAVES his arms wildly, then SLAPS his belt:

RELEASING A GRENADE

BEEPING... BEEPING... BEEPING as it falls all the way down to LAND next to Spike.

And the time between the BEEPS just gets shorter and shorter!

SPIKE ROLLS HIS BLOODSHOT EYES

You have got to be fucking kidding.

Spike DRAGS himself to the **PREVIOUSLY-DISCUSSED SINK HOLE BY THE MIDWAY**. BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

He reaches the edge... the BEEPING becomes one BEEEEEEEEEEEEEP.

WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH, SPIKE THROWS HIMSELF IN!

KERROOOOOOMMMMMM! The explosion BLOOMS over the sink hole.

AND BENEATH LEFOU

And as he ENTERS THE STRATOSPHERE and continues up to his final destination in the inexorable vacuum of space...

INT. BEBOP - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Faye stands by the command chair - which Ein sits on - looking at the Asteroid, the explosion CLEARLY VISIBLE even from this distance.

FAYE

Jet! You gotta see this - Jet -

Jet BOUNDS in, immediately clocking the fireball.

The two look at one another in silent dread... neither wanting to say the thing in their mind: that Spike might be burning in that fire. Ein lets out a WHIMPER.

JET

No. He's not in that. No way
Spike Spiegel goes out like that.

Faye decides to play along because she doesn't want to countenance the other possibility.

FAYE

Our war hero? Hell no. That's him
killing that guy... that's what
that is.

JET

Damn straight.

FAYE

I'm sure he'll be pulling up in the
Swordfish in no time.

JET

Or maybe he needs an assist, or a ride... let's get back to work, I want the Bebop online now... we're getting our friend back.

Jet turns to go. Faye keeps looking out the window.

JET (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for, Valentine? I owe that guy my life a dozen times over.

EXT. EARTH LAND - SINK HOLE - NIGHT

Some time later. Smoke RISES from the ground above.

A very faint, very bloody Spike barely opens his eyes with all the strength left in his body... and looks up from the bottom of the pit to see:

A WHITE LIGHT FROM ABOVE

Is this it? What everyone sees before they meet their maker?

No... it's a light... from a ship...

And bursting through the wash-out? Looking down from the edge of the pit?

A HUMAN FIGURE

But who's?

Well, this is a bingeable serialized show, so keep wondering.

FADE TO WHITE.

INT. VICIOUS' PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Julia sits in an armchair... holding up her Tivando... but the device is completely inert.

Whatever she is waiting for, it is vehemently not happening.

THEN THE FRONT DOOR OPENS

Julia LOOKS UP... and an expression of pure, unadulterated fear moves into her face as she sees:

VICIOUS - ENTERING, COVERED IN BLOOD

A mad, sadistic grin on his face, one arm behind his back.

Julia would stand up... but her legs are paralyzed.

VICIOUS

Hello, sweetie. Don't get up.

VICIOUS WALKS TOWARD HER

Getting uncomfortably close... she can feel his breath on his her cheek as he smiles...

AND THEN HOLDS UP THE SEVERED HEAD OF MAO

Julia would RECOIL in shock and revulsion, but the chair gives her nowhere to go.

VICIOUS (CONT'D)

You have a good day? Mine was good. Bloody good.

(off her silence)

And you will never believe what your friend told me before I took off her head.

Vicious pushes the severed head closer to Julia's face.

Julia shuts her eyes, hard. There's no way in Hades her feminine wiles are getting her out of this one.

Julia is FUUUUUUCKED.

Her plan failed.

Her allies are dead.

Vicious has come to get payback.

SMASH TO BLACK.

See you, space cowboy...

END OF EPISODE