

Publicity
By
Tyler Higgins

Part of "Squirt!" the Web Series

Higgonaitor@yahoo.com

EXT. PLAZA SHOPS--DAY

Dan, Sue, and Rufus are walking in an outdoor shopping center.

DAN

You know, it's horribly uncomfortable wearing a wet suit under my clothes.

RUFUS

You know, it's horribly uncomfortable listening to you complain. Sue doesn't.

SUE

That's because I'm not wearing mine.

RUFUS

Susan!

Just then, a shout is heard as CARL, 18, grabs MS. LAWSON's (30) purse, and runs, awkwardly but quickly, away. Dan notices, and ducks off quickly.

MS. LAWSON

Help! Thief!

Sue, acting quickly, pulls chopsticks from the air and chucks them at Carl with no effect.

Rufus sticks his foot out and trips Carl, buying Dan some time.

Carl quickly gets up, not seeming to notice that he skimmed his knee on the pavement, and it is now bleeding.

People in the center all look as Dan, dressed as Squirt, jumps out of an alley and takes chase.

The crowd mumbles in surprise. Dan runs quickly and is soon right behind Carl, who he squirts in the face. One woman, WANDA WITHERS, 22, snaps a picture of the scene.

Carl sputters, blinks, and topples forward.

OPENING TITLES: "SQUIRT!"

EXT. PLAZA SHOPS--DAY

A small crowd has gathered around the dazed Carl, including Sue, Rufus, Dan, and Ms. Lawson.

Carl wipes the water from his face and looks around confused.

CARL
What's going on?

Ms. Lawson angrily grabs her purse back.

MS. LAWSON
You stole my purse, is what's going on!

RUFUS
Please calm down, M'am. Your purse has been returned thanks to this young hero.

Ms. Lawson looks up at Dan, who stands awkwardly in his wet-suit.

DAN
Uh, hey.

MS. LAWSON
What on earth are you wearing?

DAN
It's, um, a wet-suit.

MS. LAWSON
I don't have time for this.

Ms. Lawson struts off with her purse.

CARL
I- Um, I still don't get whats happening. Where am I?

Wanda Withers runs up with her camera, then fiddles in her purse for a tape recorder.

WANDA
What's going on here, people?

CARL
Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

WANDA

Wanda Withers, truth seeker. I noticed a commotion and it's my obligation to get to the bottom of it.

RUFUS

Well, Wanda, as an observant citizen I think this may be the story to jump start your career.

WANDA

I've got eyes, don't I?

Wanda turns to Dan.

WANDA

Whats the story, super-boy?

Carl raises his hand awkwardly.

CARL

I'm still *really* confused...

Sue grabs Carl's hand and helps him up, as Dan and Rufus talk to Wanda.

SUE

Hey kid. Let's go have a chat, 'kay?

CARL

Sure.

They walk aside to a little bench and sit down.

SUE

Whadd'ya remember?

CARL

Uh...Not much, really. I was walking home from my job when this creepy-lookin' dude-

SUE

Creepy lookin' dude? That's all ya got?

CARL

I dunno, creepy looking. Wore a lot of black.

(CONTINUED)

SUE

Okay, go on.

CARL

Yeah, this creepy looking dude wanted to show me his watch, and I was, like, "No thanks," but, I dunno, that's all I remember, and even that's sort of, like, hazy.

SUE

Huh. Well, thanks.

Dan and Rufus are still talking to Wanda. Rufus appears to be doing most of the talking as Dan just sort of stands their, rubbing his neck.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Dan, in a bathrobe, walks into the kitchen, up to the refrigerator. He opens it, looks around, grabs a lemon and a tub of vanilla yogurt.

On a cutting board, he cuts up the lemon, removing the peel, and puts the fruit into a bowl, then dumps some yogurt over it, finally sprinkling a little extra sugar on top.

He sits at the counter, mixes it, takes a bite, and puckers up. His initial reaction shows that its not the tastiest thing, but looking at the lemons mixed in, he smiles.

A knock is heard at the door. Dan, confused, gets up to answer it.

INT. DAN'S FRONT HALL--DAY

Dan opens the front door, revealing Rufus, fully dressed, holding a tray with three coffee's and a newspaper. He steps right in.

RUFUS

Good morning, Daniel. Is Sue here yet?

Dan looks very confused. He closes the door behind Rufus.

DAN

Um, no, should I be expecting her?

(CONTINUED)

RUFUS

Well of course! We're having a meeting here this morning.

DAN

We're having a meeting here this morning? I wasn't aware.

RUFUS

Well, you don't exactly need to be, when it's at your house, Daniel.

DAN

Um-

Rufus walks past Dan into the kitchen. Dan sighs and follows.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Dan follows Rufus into the kitchen.

DAN

I mean, I'm not even dressed, Rufus.

Rufus sets the coffee and newspaper down on the table, then sits. There's one Vanilla Frappucino with whip cream in a clear cup, and two hot-looking paper cups.

RUFUS

Oh, who cares, Daniel. We're all family.

The doorbell rings. Rufus excitedly stands.

RUFUS

That must be Susan!

He leaves for the door. Dan sniffs the two paper cup coffees, then just shrugs and takes the Frappucino, eating a gob of whip cream from the top.

INT. DAN'S FRONT HALL--DAY

Rufus opens the door to reveal Sue.

RUFUS

Hello, Susan! Come right in.

Sue walks in. She doesn't appear to be a morning person.

(CONTINUED)

RUFUS
Right his way. I got you a Frappa-
Rufus leads her into the kitchen.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Rufus sees Dan enjoying the Frappucino.

RUFUS
-cino. Oh. It looks like Dan took
it.

Sue plops into a chair, and points at one of the paper cups.

SUE
What's this?

RUFUS
Um, just coffee, I got it for
Daniel and me.

Sue takes one and sips it.

RUFUS
Their's sugar and cream-

SUE
I like it black.

Rufus' face lights up.

RUFUS
I love you.

SUE
What?

DAN
What?

Rufus snaps out of his brief love-trance.

RUFUS
What? I love coffee. That's what I
said.

He takes it and gulps some down, then reacts to the intense heat of it by quickly pulling it away from his face.

RUFUS
Hot!

Sue smirks, Dan shakes his head, smiling. Rufus sets the coffee down.

(CONTINUED)

RUFUS

Well, did anyone read the paper
this morning?

Dan and Sue are too busy enjoying their respective coffee projects to answer. Rufus fiddles with the paper, getting to a certain place.

RUFUS

Well, on page G7 we have a story,
people!

Rufus begins to read from the paper.

RUFUS

"Super-Boy Squirts to Save:
Yesterday afternoon at the Plaza
Del Lago shopping center, a
costumed college teen stopped a
pick-pocket by squirting him in the
face with his index finger. This
is not a joke. Rufus Charleston,
an observant citizen, said of the
event: 'Never have I seen such an
amazing feat.'"

Rufus looks up, excited. Dan and Sue are still too involved with their beverages.

RUFUS

Well, after that she just sort of
babbles on.

Dan looks up.

DAN

Is there a picture?

RUFUS

Yes.

Dan looks over at the newspaper, where there is a picture of him squirting Carl.

DAN

Eh. I look okay.

Sue finishes the last of her coffee.

SUE

Listen up. While you were blabbing
to the reporter-

RUFUS
Blabbing? I would hardly-

SUE
Shut-up.

Rufus stops talking and smiles.

SUE
Basically, I found out that the kid who stole the purse was in a trance like those two dudes from the other day. I think Dan's water broke it.

Dan smiles and looks at his finger.

RUFUS
Hmm. Mayhaps Dan's finger squirts Holy Water-

DAN
Oh, just give up the possessed angle already, Rufus.

SUE
Yeah, but anyway, I asked him the last thing he remembered-Right? And get this-

INT. VILLAINS ROOM--DAY

It is dark, but a desk lamp slightly illuminates the room. Sitting at a desk, we see Sean, dressed in all black.

He is looking at the newspaper, turned to page, G7, where there is a picture of Dan dressed as Squirt, and Carl.

SUE (V.O.)
-it was a creepy looking Dude--dressed in all black--who wanted to show him some sort of creepy watch.

On the desk next to the Newspaper is a silver pocket watch on a chain. Sean circles Rufus's name in the article with a red pen, then cuts out the article and picture and tacks it to a bulletin board behind his desk.

The bulletin board has a few pictures of Rufus already on it, with his eyes poked out and what-not, as well as a few college rejection letter and a flyer for side-kick auditions.

Sean takes out a sharpie and, across the article writes "Who is Squirt?".

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Rufus and Dan sit at the table with Sue, having just heard the end of her story.

RUFUS
Well, I guess we may have a
villain!

CLOSING TITLES: "SQUIRT!"

EXT. DAN'S FRONT DOOR--DAY

Lisa walks up the steps to Dan's door with her basket of Lemons. Before she even knocks, Dan opens the door.

LISA
Oh, hey Danny!

DAN
Hey Lisa! Beautiful day, right?

LISA
Oh, definitely. Can I interest you
in-

DAN
Of course, I'll take three.

Dan holds out a few bills with Lisa smiles and takes, giving him three lemons in return.

LISA
Thanks, Danny. You guys are my
best customers!

Lisa smiles and turns, but Dan asks her:

DAN
Hey, Lisa, did you happen to read
about that new super-hero in the
Trib?

Lisa looks confused, and smiles at Dan.

LISA
Can't say that I have. A
super-hero? Really?

(CONTINUED)

DAN
Yeah, a power and a costume and
everything.

LISA
Well that's cool! I love
super-hero's!

Dan blushes.

LISA
I used to be obsessed with
spider-man comics when I--

Lisa blushes.

LISA
That's embarrassing.

DAN
No way. Spider-man rocks.

Lisa brightens and laughs.

LISA
You're too funny, Danny.

Dan blushes as Lisa leaves.

END OF EPISODE FIVE. HOPEFULLY THE END OF ALL THIS BLUSHING.