

Better Days

Episode 1
"Red Phoenix"

Written by:
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Characters and story created by
Steven Cameron

Special thanks to:

Arcadio Reyes - For allowing me the privilege of using
his screenplay and likeness in the episode

Alan Holmon - For allowing me to refer to
his masterpiece... Banana Chan

If you have the time check out www.bananachan.com
It's a good looking web site and an enjoyable series

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen is small with a circular table in the middle and all the essentials crammed around, at the table sits JOHN WALKER, a 50 year old wearing only a white muscle shirt and underwear leaving little of his fat and hairy body to the imagination.

He reads the newspaper.

JOHN

Jason! Did you tape soccer for me?

On screen walks JASON WALKER, a 21 year old semi good looking man with short dirty blonde hair dressed in gray jogging pants and a white muscle shirt.

He goes over to the counter and grabs a box of Crispy Rice breakfast cereal.

JASON

Yeah.

JOHN

Good, I hope my team won.

Jason grabs a bowl and feels around the inside and puts it down, grabs another and does the same.

JASON

These bowls have some crap inside, do you not wash them?

JOHN

What are you talking about?

Jason brings a bowl over to him.

JASON

Feel the inside; it's like its growing hair.

John rubs his hand around the inside.

JOHN

Nothing.

Jason goes back over to the counter and finds one that's clean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN (CONT'D)

You have work today?

JASON

No, they never called me in.

Jason dumps the crispy rice into the bowl and pours a lot of sugar on top of it.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

The basement walls are filled with movie and music posters, a lonely window is located right above a metal framed futon, a coffee table in front of it with game systems and junk on it.

A large TV stand with a television set across from them.

The door at the top of the stairs creaks open, feet pound down the wooden stairs and Jason comes down carrying his bowl of cereal, he sits on the futon and turns on the TV to Montel Williams.

JASON (V.O.)

Hi, I'm Jason Walker. This is the story of three friends who just want to have a good time.

Jason looks around.

Subtitle: 10 minutes later...

The cereal bowl sits on the coffee table; Jason is now asleep sitting up with his head down facing his crotch. The door at the top of the stairs creaks open and another pair of feet make their way down the stairs.

KENNY HART JR, a 21 year old average looking male with short black hair and a landing strip goatee walks down the stairs and over to where Jason is sleeping.

KENNY

Trying to give yourself a blowjob will hurt your back, you know. You should get what's her face to do it for you.

Jason wakes up as Kenny jumps onto the futon beside him and places his feet on the coffee table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

(Groggy)
When did you get out?

KENNY

Today.

JASON

Why didn't you call me? I
would've come got you.

KENNY

My father wanted to... Patch
things up, you know, so I had to
go home with him but I'm here now.

JASON

You still have that job in his
hardware store?

KENNY

Yeah, eventhough I know dick all
about tools I still have a well
paying solid job, you?

JASON

Not yet, I can't find anything,
too many foreigners stealing all
the jobs because companies want to
be friendly to the people who will
work for free.

KENNY

Yeah, have you popped what's her
faces sweet little cherry yet?

JASON

Barbie? No. We're just friends,
man.

KENNY

She won't let you, huh?

JASON

No.

Jason's pure black cat named WARRIOR jumps up in his lap,
both pet it.

KENNY

So, this is the only pussy you'll
be getting for a long time.

(Beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENNY (CONT'D)

Me, I'll be getting laid in about an hour because chicks dig guys that do time in the joint, you know?

JASON

I can get laid, I just don't want to right now, I have more fish to fry for now.

On the television comes a commercial for a film called "Red Phoenix - and the Seven Keys to Atlantis"

VOICE ON T.V. (O.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, you've enjoyed all of the other blockbusters this year and now one of the most anticipated films of the year written and directed by Arcadio Reyes "Red Phoenix and the Seven Keys to Atlantis" will be screened today for a select audience at The Rock city center in our fine city of Alberton, I for one will be there...

The television clicks off.

JASON

Man, we have to go.

KENNY

You said this about Spiderman 2 as well, we went to see it and you just thought it was okay, I mean give me a break.

JASON

I'm going, please come with me buddy old pal?

KENNY

Okay, just don't start tearing up and blubbering like a chick.

Jason pats him on the shoulder.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Inside the salon are six work stations with a large mirror and chair, three on each side of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A back room can be seen in the distance where the hair dressers wash hair and the employees lounge.

BARBARA DAVIDSON, a 21 year old with medium length curly brown hair walks on screen from the back and stops behind her chair.

BARBARA

Next.

An ugly red headed pimply faced teen named BILLY gets up, walks over and sits down in the chair. Barbara puts the gown around him and they start talking while she cuts his hair.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Let me guess, your usual?

BILLY

You know it.

BARBARA

Yes, I do.

BILLY

Hey baby, will you go to the dance with me next Friday?

BARBARA

No. Why do you keep coming back every week to get your hair cut?

BILLY

In hopes that I will rub off on you, is it working?

BARBARA

Not at all.

BILLY

So, how would you like some Billy in you?

BARBARA

What?

BILLY

You know.

He winks at her.

BARBARA

What is wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY
I'm in love with you.

BARBARA
You're just a horny little rat.

BILLY
Thanks.

Billy looks down and smiles, Barbara finishes.

BARBARA
(Yelling)
I'm going on break.

JEAN (O.S.)
Okay.

Barbara grabs her purse and leaves, Billy semi follows her out.

FADE OUT:

Opening Sequence

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jason and Kenny are walking away from traffic on the sidewalk, they stop and Jason notices a poster on the window of the convenience store across the street.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

The store is small and attached to other small businesses, the glass windows are dirty but a shiny new poster of "Red Phoenix and The Seven Keys to Atlantis" catches Jason's eye.

JASON
Dude, I must have that.

KENNY
Yeah, but don't do anything stupid.

JASON
When do I ever do stupid things?
(Looks at Kenny)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON (CONT'D)

Okay, there was a couple of times...

Subtitle: A few months earlier...

EXT. CINEMA - DAY

People crowd the theater to get in and get a ticket, a large poster of Spiderman 2 is on the door.

Barbara and Kenny walks a few feet behind Jason who is dressed in a bright Spiderman costume.

BARBARA

Why do you embarrass us this way?

Barbara points to his costume.

JASON

What?

He pulls the mask off.

BARBARA

You're wearing red and blue pajamas, look at yourself.

Jason does and than looks back at her.

JASON

You're just jealous.

A kid in a GREEN GOBLIN costume walks up to Jason, he quickly puts the mask back on.

BARBARA

Yeah, that's it.

JASON

My arch nemesis Green Goblin, I thought I killed you in Spiderman 1.

GREEN GOBLIN

Think again hero. I have arisen from the dead to take revenge.

Both get into a fighting stance. Kenny and Barbara walk by and go into the theatre.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jason sprays some silly string into the eyes of green Goblin, kicks him in the stomach and runs into the theatre.

Green Goblin starts crying.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - BACK TO

Jason and Kenny are now right in front of the poster.

JASON
How did you know that?

KENNY
I was there.

Jason puts his hand on the poster and places his cheek up against it.

JASON
We'll be together very soon, I
promise.

The door opens and a CLERK pokes his head out.

CLERK
Hey you, get off the poster, it is
not a popsicle.

Jason does.

JASON
Sorry dude.

The Clerk disappears back into the store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Kenny is at the counter buying a drink, Jason stares out the window looking at the poster.

JASON
Please let me have it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLERK

You cannot have the posters until they are taken down and it will not be taken down until after the release of the film.

JASON

Just take it down and say someone stole it.

CLERK

I cannot, please stop asking.

JASON

Ten bucks if you do.

CLERK

Boss will kill me if I do.

JASON

Fifteen?

CLERK

Well since you want it so bad, thirty and it's yours.

JASON

What?

CLERK

You want it so bad, right? Give me thirty bucks and I'll give it to you.

Jason looks to Kenny with a dumb smile on his face.

JASON

Kenny, spot me fifteen?

KENNY

Fine, if it shuts you up.

Jason and Kenny give the money to The Clerk.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

The "Red Phoenix" poster is now up on the wall beside one of Banana Chan, Jason and Kenny stand in front looking at it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

It's beautiful.

KENNY

What's this other one here?

JASON

It's Banana Chan.

Kenny looks at Jason and shrugs his shoulders.

JASON (CONT'D)

Come on, it's only the best
American animated series ever.

KENNY

How come I've never heard of it?

JASON

Because it's not on in prison.

KENNY

That hurt.

Kenny grabs his heart.

KENNY (CONT'D)

That really hurt.

JASON

Grow up.

Kenny grabs Jason in a headlock and starts rubbing his
knuckles on his head.

KENNY

What sex position produces the
ugliest children?

JASON

(Muffled)

I don't know.

KENNY

Ask your mom.

Kenny laughs and Jason starts to struggle with him, they
fall to the ground, Kenny holds his grip and at that
moment they look up to see Barbara.

BARBARA

I can come back when you're done.

They let go and get up quickly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JASON

We weren't doing anything.

BARBARA

Yeah, sure.

Barbara looks at the poster.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Another poster, what is this...
Red Phoenix?

JASON

A new film, we are going to a
press conference later and
hopefully get in to see the actual
film.

BARBARA

We?

KENNY

He's making me go, I guess you're
stuck too.

JASON

Yeah, you're stuck.

BARBARA

What if I have a date, do you ever
think I may have other plans?

KENNY

We both know you're in love with
Jason, he's your boyfriend, the
two of you just won't admit it.

BARBARA

Whatever.

JASON

I'll pay for you, please come
Barbie, please!

BARBARA

Okay, I'll come.

Kenny rolls his eyes and sits on Jason's futon beside the
cat, they look at each other.

KENNY

Even you know they're meant for
each other and you're just a
stupid cat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Subtitle: An hour later...

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Jason now alone sitting on the futon, the cat sleeps on his lap while he watches the news.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Tonight with all these stars being in town everyone is trying to make them happy and get tickets to the press conference, eventhough it sold out ten minutes after the booths opened.

Jason smiles to himself and holds up his tickets.

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

Also there is the film viewing which is by invitation only so after the press conference a previously hand selected few will be seeing the film first before it's release next month.

Jason slams his hand down on the futon scaring the cat who jumps down and runs off.

JASON

Shit! Come back Warrior, here kitty, kitty.

(Makes kissing noise)

I'm sorry.

Jason looks at his lap and sees a small puddle on his pants.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sick, you drooled on me.

Some feet pound the steps and Jason's father arrives on screen, he sits beside him.

JASON (CONT'D)

The fucking cat drooled on my leg. So, you like the game?

JOHN

Yeah, god damned Yankee pricks always stealing the games.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

Who, the American's?

JOHN

No, the fucking English. Tree loving hippies.

JASON

Its tee.

JOHN

What's tee?

JASON

You said "Tree loving hippies" and they love tee.

JOHN

I don't care what they want to do with there free time, just as long as it doesn't ruin my soccer.

John watches the television and there is a brief moment of silence.

JASON

Did you want something?

JOHN

Of course, could you be sure to turn on your VCR before you go out and tape soccer again because I'm going out.

JASON

Sure.

John hands Jason some money.

JOHN

Have a good time.

He gets up and winks at him, than walks away.

JASON

What's this for?

He's already gone, Jason just places the money in his pocket and goes back to watching the television.

INT. KITCHEN - HOUSE - DAY

Ken Sr. sits at the table drinking a beer, Kenny walks on screen and sits across from him.

KENNY

So, do I start tomorrow?

KEN SR.

Yeah.

KENNY

What time?

KEN SR.

Make it eight and we'll see how it goes.

KENNY

I'm leaving in about an hour to meet up with Jason, is that okay?

KEN SR.

Yeah, I will most likely go play poker with the guys so if I'm not here when you get back don't worry.

KENNY

Talk to mom lately?

KEN SR.

She hates me because I left you in prison but was she there when you got out? No, stupid bitch just wanted to go screw around with the young guys while I take care of you.

KENNY

Maybe, we don't know the whole story.

KEN SR.

What is there to know? Don't worry about it, I have it under control.

Kenny gets up and walks out.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

A woman sits in a chair with her head in a sink, Barbara washes her hair. Jason walks in while the woman is under.

JASON

Hey Barbie.

BARBARA

What is it, Jason?

Barbara continues to wash the woman's hair while they talk.

JASON

You're almost finished, so I thought I'd come in and wait for you.

BARBARA

That all?

JASON

No, not really.

(Pause)

Have you ever given a guy a foot job?

BARBARA

Have you?

JASON

No!

BARBARA

I do not know what it is, so I couldn't tell you.

JASON

Well, you know, it's like a blowjob or a handjob but with your feet.

BARBARA

In that case, no. Why do you ask?

JASON

No reason, just...

The woman in the chair sits up, her face that of disgust.

BARBARA

Ma'am? What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The women grabs a towel and wraps her head, she walks out leaving Jason to shoot a look to Barbara.

JASON
Something I said?

BARBARA
Guess so.

Barbara checks the clock on the wall.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Anyway, you ready to go?

JASON
Definitely.

The owner JEAN SMITH, a 42 year old women dressed in the same uniform as Barbara walks in.

She stops in front of them and places her hands on her hips.

JEAN
Barb, now I don't mind when Jason stops by to visit but scaring away the customers is unacceptable.

Jason waves at her.

JASON
It won't happen again, Ms. Jeanie.

JEAN
I know, by the way how are your parents doing?

JASON
Good.

JEAN
That's good, tell your mother I'll see her this Sunday at church and maybe someday you'll go with us again.

(Checks the clock)
You can go now, Barb.

BARBARA
Okay, I'll see you in the morning.

Barbara and Jason walk out, Jean shakes her head and than goes back to business.

CONTINUED: (2)

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jason, Kenny and Barbara walk toward the cinema.

JASON

Thank you guys for coming with me tonight, I don't like going places alone.

KENNY

Yeah, yeah. Let's just hope they don't stand on stage for an hour and go on and on about how this film came together like every other film in history.

Kenny looks into the camera.

INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

The cinema is crowded with press and fans, a podium stands at the end of a long table with seats for the guests. Jason, Kenny and Barbara sit in the front row at the end of an aisle.

The host, a tall skinny man walks up to the podium.

HOST

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to this special press conference to talk a little about this wonderful film Red Phoenix and The Seven Keys to Atlantis. Tonight we would like to...

The host continues in the background as Jason leans over Barbara to Kenny.

JASON

We're not actually going to the screening.

KENNY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

I thought this was the screening
as well but its invitation only so
we only get this.

KENNY

That sucks.

BARBARA

Look on the bright side, at least
we can get out of here earlier.

JASON

I really wanted to see this film,
tonight.

Jason sits back in his seat and the host continues.

HOST

Now without further ado I would
like to bring out a selected panel
who have come out for this press
conference. First the
writer/director Arcadio Reyes.

On stage walks ARCADIO REYES, a fairly young looking man
in his early twenties with short brown hair and a cocky
swagger, he sits at the far end of the table almost
directly in front of where Jason sits.

HOST (CONT'D)

Next, the two female stars Keira
Knightly who plays Gwen and Eliza
Dushku who plays Debra.

Both women walk on stage and sit at there respective
spots, the host acknowledges them and than goes back to
his speech.

HOST (CONT'D)

Than we come to the guy who plays
Webb, some of you may know him...
Seth Green.

Seth Green walks on stage to a loud roar of Buffy fans,
he than hugs Arcadio in a comedic way and sits.

FANS

Oz! Oz! Oz! Yeah! Turn into the
wolf...

Everyone looks at the kid that said that, he slouches in
his seat until they stop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOST

Now we have Brian Cox who plays Colonel Grey and the man himself starring as Red Phoenix Joaquin Phoenix.

Brian and Joaquin walk on stage and sit as well.

HOST (CONT'D)

The first question will be directed to the writer/director Arcadio Reyes.

A young chubby kid with glasses stands at a podium in the audience with a microphone up to his mouth.

KID

Uh, Hi... Sorry, I'm a little nervous.

ARCADIO

It's okay, you don't have to be nervous, take your time.

The kid clears his throat, a few trouble makers start to make farting noises in the background.

KID

Thanks, I was wondering what made you make this film now and not wait until the buzz from other films of this caliber die down?

ARCADIO

Well, the money was right...

He is cut off by the roar of laughter throughout the large theater.

ARCADIO (CONT'D)

Really, I was offered a deal that would allow me to make my film, my way and I took it, plus they gave me an endless budget and hey, I'm not stupid.

The kid moves away and goes back to his seat.

The Screen Goes Black

Subtitle: About an hour later...

Everything is the same as it was, some of the audience like the press begin to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOST

Thank you all for coming, the director and the stars will sign some autographs now but please be patient they will try and get to all of you.

Jason, Kenny and Barbara are the first in line with Arcadio, Jason unravels his poster and Arcadio signs it.

JASON

Could I shake your hand?

Arcadio looks at him, Jason looks back.

All of the sudden everything goes dark, Arcadio stands up and flames begin to shoot from his eyes.

ARCADIO

(Demonic Voice)

No, you little fucker.

He punches Jason straight in the face sending him flying back, the crowd has now turned into a demonic mosh pit, Jason is carried to the back and thrown out onto his head.

ARCADIO (CONT'D)

(Normal Voice)

Sure man.

Everything turns back to normal and Jason shakes his head.

ARCADIO (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

JASON

No, not at all.

Jason grabs his hand and they shake.

ARCADIO

Hey, since you and your two friends here seem to be big fans of the film, do you wanna come to the screening as my special guests?

JASON

Are you serious?

ARCADIO

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JASON

That's very cool of you.

Arcadio calls over a guard who escorts them off to the side where they wait to see the film.

Subtitle: After The Film

EXT. CINEMA - NIGHT

Jason, Kenny and Barbara walk out amongst a crowd of other viewers.

JASON

Wow, better than sex.

KENNY

How would you know, virgin.

JASON

Shut up.

Jason looks at Barbara

BARBARA

Hey, don't look at me.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jason has the poster back on the wall beside the poster of Banana Chan, this time Barbara looks at it.

BARBARA

This anything like Bananarama?

JASON

What is Banana...?

KENNY

Barbie, please just let it go,
don't ask.

Jason plops down on his futon, Kenny does the same and Barbara sits in front of them on the coffee table.

JASON

So, what did you guys think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

I mean at least it had a story to back up all of the action.

KENNY

I think it shows a growth from the older plain movies that basically were labeled a "Guilty Pleasure"

JASON

It's my new favorite movie, I will have to go see it 10 more times once it comes out to.

BARBARA

It wasn't that great, Red Phoenix is a sexist pig who is probably that way because he has a small penis, in fact Jack-quin Phoenix probably has a small dick as well.

KENNY

Who?

BARBARA

That guy who played Red Phoenix, I don't know his name.

KENNY

You call him Jack-quin.

Kenny falls back laughing, Barbara takes the remote and throws it at his crotch hitting directly.

KENNY (CONT'D)

(In pain)

Bitch, that hurt.

Kenny holds himself as Barbara is now the one laughing.

BARBARA

Your own fault. Anyway like I was saying, the writer must be sexist if this is all he can do, sure the film is good but his lead male basically sleeps with both female leads.

JASON

It's only a movie, you cannot expect every man to be chick friendly, it's just impossible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA

"Chick friendly" What is that supposed to mean?

JASON

Exactly what I just said, you as the chick in this instance are all like "He's sexist, he's this, he's that" but if you'd watch the film from a guys perspective you'd see that he saved the world, he was betrayed, all of this happened and where were you? Thinking about yourself and other girls, that's what's wrong.

Kenny looks a little shocked by Jason's anger toward Barbara.

BARBARA

Whatever, I'm out of here.

Barbara gets up and walks to the stairs.

JASON

Good. Go!

BARBARA

Asshole.

She scoffs and than leaves, Jason sits back and than...

FADE OUT:

...THE END...

End Of Episode 1, Stay tuned for Episode 2 coming soon...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Deleted Scene

The following scene was originally in the opening but it just drags the beginning on and on and I think the readers just want me to cut to the chase. I put it down here because I do like this scene but ultimately Kenny just works better without seeing him in prison.

Black Screen

Centered Subtitle: Kenny

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

KENNY HART JR, a 21 year old average looking male with short black hair and a landing strip goatee. He sits on the toilet with his pants around his ankles reading People Magazine.

The cell itself is small; it fits a bunk bed for the two cell mates, a toilet and a sink.

KENNY

Jesus Christ, not another article
about the Olsen Twins.

(Yells)

Guard!

Kenny waits for a moment and a GUARD shows up.

GUARD

What is it Kenny?

Kenny holds the magazine out.

KENNY

How am I supposed to concentrate
on taking a shit when I have to
read depressing stories about
girls who don't eat?

GUARD

That's why you called me?

KENNY

Yeah, could you go under my
mattress and get me another?

GUARD

Get Omar to do it... where is he
anyways?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNY

Probably re-enacting scenes from
Oz with another guy.

Kenny looks over to the bed; The Guard walks in and lifts
up the mattress revealing dozens of magazines.

GUARD

You guys really need a life.

KENNY

Omar collects magazine articles, I
just look at the hot women and
think what if this was an X Rated
movie and she was my co-star.

GUARD

So, what will it be? Today's
paper or Vogue?

KENNY

Let's go with Vogue, the sunshine
girl has lost her sunshine.

The Guard tries to open the paper, the pages are stuck
together. He drops it, grabs the Vogue magazine and takes
a minute to admire the cover.

CLOSE ON: The cover is of a woman in a tight silver
outfit lying on her stomach with her legs bent back up
past her head.

The guard hands it to Kenny after a minute.

GUARD

That bitch must be in the circus
or something.

KENNY

Nah, she's famous.

The guard shakes his head and walks away, Kenny turns to
a random page and starts reading.

EXT. PRISON -

The steel gate opens and Kenny walks out with a bag in
hand, he stops and smells the air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Soon after a red pick up truck pulls up and out walks KEN HART SR., a large built red headed middle aged man in dirty overalls.

KEN SR.

Junior, it's good to see you again. What in the fucking hell did you do to your hair?

KENNY

You don't like it?

KEN SR.

Not at all, but I still am glad to see you, my boy.

Ken Sr. grabs his son in a hug and releases after a few moments.

KENNY

(Coughs)

What's that smell?

Ken Sr. smells his shirt.

KEN SR.

Oh, that's my man smell.

KENNY

Ever hear of deodorant?

KEN SR.

Only on special occasions, my boy.

They both get into the truck and drive off.