FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun is in its setting phase. The backyard of a middle-class variety. Good size lawn. Muskoka cottage chairs. Bbq.

And in the back, far from the house is a large sturdy tree. High in its branches, rests a pretty kickass treefort. One story (level). It looks like someone is climbing the tree.

INT. TREEFORT - SAME

The entrance hatch opens like a trapdoor in the floor. It's MOUSE. He pulls himself up. He flicks on a lamp. FOX is holding GONZO as he peaks in from under the hatch door.

    MOUSE
    Welcome to my humble abode.

    FOX
    Wow... My inner-child is making himself feel ever present in his extreme envy... What a kickass tree fort, man! Totally rad!

    MOUSE
    Thanks, Fox... It's fully stocked.

Fox looks around the fort. Gonzo follows his lead. Sniffing and wagging his tail as he goes.

The lamp isn't the only thing requiring electricity. Laptop. Tv. Small fridge. Small microwave. Power cords noodle around everything. There are boxes of electronic parts: guts for future projects.
MOUSE
I modified a generator to run all this...

FOX
Shoot... Are you an inventor, Mouse?

MOUSE
A tinkerer, I suppose. I modify stuff all the time... But I've never invented anything.

FOX (looking around)
You sure we're safe here?

MOUSE
Ya, for sure... Gonzo will warn us if they get close... Oh, and I have a bug zapper thing...
That'll help...

Mouse digs through one of the boxes and pulls out the gadget.

FOX
What, it will work on space ticks too?

MOUSE
It emits a frequency only insects can hear. They hate it. Keeps the mosquitoes away, at least. So...

FOX
Ya, our best option... For now...
MOUSE
You want a pop?

Mouse opens his fridge, grabs some drinks. Dog barks.

FOX
Shh, Gonzo, we're guests. Don't beg...

MOUSE
Oh, ya, I got snacks. Let's eat.

FOX
Thanks. Oh and I have desert.

Gonzo grins.

EXT. FORT - NIGHT

The sun has set. Light comes from within the fort.

INT. FORT - SAME

The 3 are stuffed. Mouse sits at his computer. Fox and Dog share a seat on a beanbag chair.

FOX
I didn’t know yoga girls could be so aggressive...

MOUSE
I know, isn't yoga supposed to bring inner peace.

FOX
Ya... And those pants... Man, I wish I was 10 years younger...

Fox notices the screensaver on Mouse's computer. It's
pictures of a girl.

FOX
Who's that? Helloooooo...

Mouse bolts up, and turns off the monitor.

FOX
It's her isn't it... Your Juliet?

MOUSE
Okay, so what. I'm not a stalker, alright... I just...

FOX
Mouse... Don't worry... It's normal... Back in my day we would just stare at the yearbook photos.

MOUSE
You're not fuckin with me, are ya?

FOX
Come on, man... Show me some more.

Fox gives a look. Mouse turns the screen on. It cycles through some photos. Some candid, that Mouse obviously took himself.

FOX
You gotta ask her out, man.

MOUSE
I can't...
FOX
You can... The worst she can
do is say no.

MOUSE
No, worse would be her laughin
at me. Tellin her friends, then
they're laughin too... It's not...

FOX
It's worth it, Mouse... Listen,
we got killer bugs from outer
space... You never know what
will happen... You might think
going out on a date with Katie
Nelson is impossible... But,
from what I can tell, nothing
is impossible...

MOUSE
You remembered her name?...
And what do I say to her? How
do I ask her out?

FOX
Ask her if she want desert.
That always works. Girls love
desert.

MOUSE
Well... She'll be at the parade
tomorrow. I guess I can ask her th--

FOX
Whoah, what? Parade?
MOUSE
Ya. To celebrate the town's founder. Every year. It's always packed...

(realizes)
Full of people... Shit. We need to warn em.

FOX
Uh, you're open-minded. Doesn't mean they are... Plus, we don't wanna give warning to those already infected... Maybe it's to our advantage that we---

MOUSE
Wait a tick... Yup... I have an idea.

QUICK CUT MONTAGE:

Mouse modifying the bug zapper. He sods. Re-wiring.

Mouse tests out the modified gadget. Fox and Dog watch, eager, Even though they can't hear it, their ears burn with pain.

FOX
What the fuck did you just MACGUYVER up?

MOUSE
Sonic emitter... Non-lethal... With a long enough burst it should theoretically short circuit their brains---
FOX
--- to unconsciousness...
Right on, Mouse.

Dog high fives Mouse.

MOUSE
Thanks... There's more...
While I was tinkering I remembered something... that one yoga chick...

FOX (smirks)
I'll remember her too...
Later... In privacy.

MOUSE (laughs)
For real, though... She said something like "Get him. She wants him"... Who is "SHE"?

FOX
Ya, you're right.

MOUSE
I'm thinkin the Queen...
Insect theory... Hive's dominated by a Queen. Sharing a single conscience.

FOX
Holy shit. Check out the big brains on Mouse... You may have a future in the slaying of the paranormal... Or at least a journalist or sumthin...
MOUSE
Thanks... So, we just gotta find the Queen.

FOX
You hear that, Gonzo? Tomorrow at the parade... We're gonna rely on your powers of smell... 100s of people, one Queen. No problem.

Dog covers his head with his paw, intimidated.

MOUSE
So...

(yawns, stretches)
I guess you can stay up here...
I'm gonna go inside now... Tired.

FOX
What? No? My inner child was glowing at the prospect of a tree fort sleepover...

MOUSE
Um, ya... My dad might think it's weird if I sleepover with a grown ass man and his magic dog.

FOX
Touché... Uh, before you go... Where's the lil boy's room around here?

MOUSE
It's nature, dude. Go where ever... Sometimes I just piss off the edge. Instead of climbin all the way down...
Fox goes to do just that. He climbs out a window onto a sturdy branch.

FOX
Gotta go, bad.

Mouse pets Dog.

MOUSE
Good boy, Gonzo... There's more jerky if you want for later...

They hear Fox yell, swearing to himself.

MOUSE
He forgot to check which way the wind was blowing...
(smiles)
Sucker.

Dog and Mouse laugh.

FOX (O.S.)
I heard that.

EXT. FORT - TIME LAPSE - NIGHT TO DAY

Outside the fort, night quickly time lapses into day.

EXT. MAIN STREET - PARADE - DAY

A small town parade. Floats go by for local businesses. Candy is thrown to kids. Families having a good time.

At the end of the long street, stands Fox and friends. Mouse holds his gadget, big headphones hang around his neck.
FOX
That IS a lot of people.

MOUSE
I know...

FOX (realizing)
Shit!... We're so stupid...

MOUSE
What?

FOX
Dang... It's cuz last night...
We never shoulda ate those
brownies that L.P. gave us.

MOUSE
What is it, Fox? They tasted
fine to me. Sugar gave me buzz
enough to make this.

Mouse holds up sonic gadget.

FOX
Exactly. But we didn't think
it through like we shoulda cuz
we were so hi---

MOUSE (interrupts)
--- Wait... Those were magic
brownies weren't they?

Dog grins, barks.

FOX
Yup.
MOUSE
2 things:
(beat)
what's wrong then... And where
can I get more?

FOX (laughs)
Nice... But, alright.. Step one.
Covered. Bugs come out upon
losing consciousness...

MOUSE (realizes)
Bugs come out and... Shit!

FOX
Exactly... They'll all run for
us... Then we're... Uh... Body
snatched.

The 3 examine the crowd. So many people. Dangerous.

FOX
And then there's still the
fuckin Queen... We have no way
to figure out...

MOUSE
Wait... I know how to execute
a mass squishage of space bugs...
Take this...

Mouse hands Fox the sonic gadget.

FOX
What are you gonna do?

MOUSE
You'll see... Now take this...
Mouse tosses 2 bottles of lighter fluid. One after another.

FOX
Why? Bbq?

MOUSE
My special concoction. Made it after I read GAME OF THRONES... Line the street, both sides, with this shit... When you hear my signal, light it up... The sonic emitter and the flammable liquids...

Dog barks.

FOX
At least someone understands...

MOUSE
Hop to it, guys... I'll see you in 15...

Fox looks at Dog. They watch Mouse turn the other way. He looks back. Puts on shades.

MOUSE (deep voice)
"I'll be back."

Fox shakes his head at reference, but can't help and smile. Mouse leaves. Fox and Dog watch the parade.

Fox undoes the top of the flame liquid. He walks to the sidewalk. He squeezes and squirts an almost thick substance onto the edge of the road.

FOX
Ewww. It's like a flammable aloe vera.
Dog barks.

FOX
Ya. Like instead of to stop burning, this shit causes it.

Fox and Dog dodge people as they try to inconspicuously line the street with the flammable fluid. Fox whistles innocently as he goes. He starts to jog, excusing himself as he makes his way.

BIT LATER...

Giant clown face. Smiling huge. A parade float.

Fox and Dog return from the other side of the street. They stand at the end, watching the floats. Fox checks his wrist for the time, except he doesn't have a watch.

FOX
Gonzo. It's about that time.
You ready or what?

Gonzo barks. Fox reaches into his saddlebag. He pulls out ear plugs. Orange stubs. He puts them in his ears. Gonzo looks up at Fox. Fox places ear muffs on Gonzo's head.

FOX
Looks good, Gonzo. Mouse put some sound dampeners in there to protect you, okay...

Gonzo tilts his head. Baby blue, fluffy, winter ear muffs. He whimpers

FOX
Don't worry... I already said you look good...

Fox and Dog turn to see Mouse. He rides atop a giant ZAMBONI, wearing bad ass BEATS BY DRE headphones and a bad ass grin.

FOX

That would be our cue...

Fox reaches into his bag and pulls out the sonic emitter gadget. He flips a switch labelled: FUCK YA!

The parade stops! Suddenly. All of the citizens turn and look at Fox and Dog. Then: they scream. They hold their ears. Some of them drop to their knees. Others convulse spastically where they stand.

Dog barks, looking up at Fox. Fox smiles, holding the gadget.

FOX

It's working... Mouse, you fucking genius.

Mouse gets closer, on the slow moving hulk of a machine. The ice rolling device in front of the vehicle is raised for now. Mouse raises up his fist, yelling.

MOUSE

“Thunderdome!”

Fox smirks at the bad joke. Dog barks. Fox turns to see bugs busting out of people. He “Eeps.”

Mouse gets closer and closer, riding atop the rumbling zamboni.

Fox looks to Dog. Dog nods. Fox nods. He bends and lights one side of the street with his Zippo. A green flame erupts
and snakes its way towards the parade.

Fox runs to the other side of the street. Dog runs ahead, quicker, and jumps at someone smoking. He grabs the smoker's sleeve in his mouth, lowering the arm, and dropping the cigarette. It flies to the sidewalk and ignites, engulfing it in a green flame.

Bugs race down the street. A few run into the flames and burst into fiery death. Other bugs herd, sensing this they avoid the flames, funneling down the street towards the great zamboni.

Clown float. Huge creepy smile. The smile bursts open, violently, spewing a flood of space ticks. The bugs race down the street.

Mouse rides atop zamboni. He lowers the rolling pin.

**MOUSE**

"OFF!"

Fox and Dog at the end of the street, away from danger, watch the zamboni. Mouse crushes 100s of bugs, squishing them into violet puddles.

Dog barks. Fox looks. Dog points. Behind them, away from the parade, stands several hot yoga girls. And with them...

**FOX**

Holy shitballs...

It is the WAITRESS! From before. She points to Fox and Dog.

**WAITRESS**

It's him!... Get him! And his lil dog too!

The girls run at Fox and Dog. The waitress bends to a
squat, waits, then bounces like a coiled spring...up into the air, right at Fox and Dog.

The other girls are agile too, jumping up street signs. They're doing parkour down the street, running and bouncing off objects.

FOX
Come on, Gonzo... They're more dangerous on land. No ice for them to slip n slide this time... So we better....

Dog knocks the ear muffs off of his head, turns, and runs. Fast.

FOX (cont’d)
Run?

Fox takes off after Dog.

FOX
She must be the Queen... Was that before are after she served us our breakfast?

Dog looks back, barks, still running.

FOX
Right... Talk later.

They continue to run away.

Mouse is still squishing bugs on his zamboni. He sees a girl up ahead, surrounded by other people. She seems in trouble.

MOUSE
She's human?!... Shit!
Mouse will hit her if he continues ahead. He slams on the breaks.

Everything seems to slow down for Mouse as he sees the scared girl cowering. In this moment of heightened awareness, with time slowed down, Mouse notices it is his high school crush: KATIE NELSON.

MOUSE
Katie Nelson?!... No!

Mouse swerves to avoid her, hitting 2 of the 3 guys around Katie, and bursting through green flames. He crashes the zamboni into a store on the side of the street. Zamboni and store, busted.

MOUSE
My dad is gonna be so mad at me.

VOICE
I said, come here... Girly!

Mouse looks over to see the MECHANIC still trying to infect / get Katie. Mouse jumps down, off the tall zamboni.

Dog leads Fox down an alley. They turn and see 2 yoga girls approaching. Dog and Fox at dead end. Faced with girls.

FOX
Fuck? What do we do now, Gonzo?

Dog barks, points to Fox's saddlebag.

FOX
Dang... Totally forgot...

Fox pulls out the sonic gadget.
The yoga girls laugh like hyenas at their cornered prey. They toy with them, slowly prancing forward.

FOX
The gadget must have a small directional range radius thingy... It didn't get these guys before...

Another hot yoga girl drops down from above. She leaps from the rooftops all the way down. She giggles. All 3 laugh childishly together. Salivating

FOX
Cover your ears, Gonzo...
I'm gonna crank this bitch to 11...

Dog covers ears. Fox hits the FUCK YA switch. The girls stop laughing. Suddenly.

They convulse. Cleavage jiggles. Then bugs burst out of their mouths. Violet blood sprays.

The bugs come to Fox and Dog. Fox stomps one. Dog eats 2. Savagely ripping them apart.

FOX
Good job, Gonzo... Now, I hope you don't get stinky space farts later on...

Dog grins, devilishly.

Mechanic holds 2 writhing space ticks in his hands as he walks towards Katie.

MECHANIC
I have presents...
She backs away, trips and slips on a puddle of bug guts.

WHISTLE! Loud, piping shrill. Mechanic looks over to the sound and sees Mouse, standing atop the smoking wreck of the Zamboni.

MOUSE
What's a parade without fireworks...

Mouse has a large rocket, its wick sparkles. The fireworks shoot at Mechanic, lodges in his screaming mouth and explodes. BANG!

Mouse jumps off the Zamboni, down to the ground. He rises and walks to a confused and scared Katie. She's still on the ground, frozen in fear.

Mouse extends his hand to her...

MOUSE
"Come with me if you want to live..."

She looks up. Half smiles. And takes his hand.

Fox and Dog exit the alley. Smoking zamboni. Puddles of violet bug guts up and down Main street. Green flames burning parade floats. Burnt clown face.

BANG! They hear the fireworks. Then they turn around to see dozens of people running...right at Fox and Dog.

VOICE
Your dog better be magic as fuck...

They turn and see the WAITRESS behind them.
WAITRESS (cont’d)
... cuz today is the end of the world, dickwad...
(beat)
Whadda ya gotta say to that?

Fox, still holding the sonic gadget, he looks down to it...

FOX
FUCK YA!

Fox hits the switch. The waitress convulses.

The crowd runs to him, too far out of range.

Gonzo falls over, shaking slightly, his leg twitching.

The waitress shakes her body about, it cracks and bends at weird angles.

WAITRESS
Noooo! All your planet...

Her neck cracks her head askew.

WAITRESS (cont’d)
Are belong...

Her jaw hinges wide open.

WAITRESS (cont’d)
To us!

A longer, larger space bug erupts from her mouth, tearing the skin on her face. Violet blood spews about. Her skin slinks off like a thin nightgown, crumpling on the ground.

The large 6 foot bug, coils up. TIMES SLOWS down as the large alien creature leaps at Fox.
WHOOSH! A firework rocket zips by Fox's head - this moment EXTENDED in time. It flies into the giant space tick and lodges itself in the segmented torso.

TIME SPEEDS back up to normal as two more rockets ZIP by. Fox shields his face with his arms... BOOM!

FOX
Space guts.

BOOM! BOOM! Fox is splashed, head to foot, with purple space guts. He looks over to where the rocket came from.

There stands Mouse, with Katie, holding her in one arm and in the other a long red BBQ lighter.

The crowd stops running. Confused. They look around.

Fox bends down beside Dog, upset. Gonzo is unconscious.

FOX
No... No...

Fox shakes Dog, trying to wake him up. Tears form, welling up.

FOX
Fuck! No... Gonzo... Be okay...

Nothing. Dog is out. Fox is worried.

Then he smirks, realizing something from before.

FOX (emphatic)
Yo... Gon-Zo!

Dog wakes. Dog jumps to Fox, and licks his face. Fox turns to Mouse, smiling.

FOX
(southern accent)
This town... “Is cleeerear”...

They stand. United. Victors. Then Mouse looks to Fox.

MOUSE (confused)
That was a quote, wasn't it...
Like I do.. But what the hell from?

Conversation FADES in volume, with scene...

FOX
You're kidding me, right? If you're gonna be a paranormal investigator, you'll hafta do some research. Watch some movies. Early Spielberg is---

MOUSE
Wait... You really think I could be an investigator?

FADE:

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

A pretty nice suburban house. Nice lawn. Flowers.

Gonzo is sharing looks with Katie's female dog on the front lawn. Katie Nelson bends and pets both dogs.

Fox stands in the driveway with Mouse. They're beside the busted up rental car.
FOX
It's now or never, Mouse...
Remember? Impossible is nothing.

MOUSE
Right... And was that backwards?

They laugh. Then Fox motions Mouse to lead the way. Mouse gulps. They walk to Katie and the dogs.

FOX
Well, it was nice to meet you, Katie Nelson. Although I wish it was under different circumstances.

KATIE
Likewise... I like your dog too.

FOX
He's magic...

Katie looks confused.

On the front, Gonzo is having sex with Katie’s cute dog.

FOX
Well, this is where I go...
Duty calls... Can't wait to hear what Swan has next for us...

MOUSE
When you write about us...
All this... You gonna tell the truth?
FOX
Ya... I will... The truth will be in there... In between the articles on past lives and lizard people...

MOUSE
So, the rest of the stories... They're made up?

FOX
Duh, yeah... Whadda you expect? I'm the only journalist they got.

MOUSE
Oh, I get it now... Reporters just repeat what they've heard... Repeat the news... While you---

FOX
--- Uncover the news... Exactly... Let's hope I don't see you soon... Cuz that would mean some weird shit is goin down in the Tick again...

Gonzo is still humping Katie's dog. Now they notice. Fox and Mouse laugh.

FOX
Uh, like... That.

MOUSE
Looks like you have a minute before you go...
FOX
Lemme get your number, Mouse...
In case I need some extra
backup some time... You know
how to handle it, when the shit
gets thick...

Fox hands Mouse his notepad and pen.

MOUSE
Um, thanks... I'll be your
SHORT ROUND...

Gonzo barks, running over. Tail wagging. Tongue hanging.
Dog barks again.

FOX
You mean my other SHORT
ROUND...

MOUSE
Right. My gadgets might come
in handy some time... You
never know.

Fox and Dog go to the car. Fox turns back, before he goes.

FOX
Mouse?... You need a ride
home?

Mouse looks to Katie. She seems shy, looking at the ground.

Fox nudges Mouse on, with an encouraging head nod.

MOUSE
Um... Katie? It's been such
a crazy day... You wanna get
desert?
KATIE
Desert?... With you?

Fox watches. Smiling. Mouse looks to him, nervous.

KATIE (cont’d)
Ya... I could go for desert.
There’s an ice cream place on the corner.

Fox waves, and drives off. HONKS. Mouse and Katie wave good bye. Then Mouse goes to hold hands with Katie. She accepts his hand.

They walk down the street. Into the sunset. Holding hands.

KATIE
And was that TERMINATOR you quoted earlier?

MOUSE (laughs)
I think I love you, already...
You saw TERMINATOR?

KATIE
Fuck ya. But I love T2 waaaaay more.

The conversation FADES in volume as they walk over the hill, into the sunset.

MOUSE (fading volume)
Me too. No way! T2 is so ---

Fox and Dog, in the car, round the corner at the other end of the street. They’re both eating melting ice cream.
FOX
Nerd gets the girl?...
Impossible. Now that is some
bizarre shit, right there.

Fox turns the busted up rental car around, doing a 3 point
turn. When he puts it in reverse, the bumper falls off.

Fox turns to dog, huge smile.

FOX
Insurance.

They laugh and high five.

The IMAGE FROZEN still: Fox and Dog, laughing with goofy
grins, giving a high five, and holding their melted ice
cream.

FADE OUT:

FOX & DOG: MEET THE TICK
PART 2
EPISODE 3

By Daniel Viau

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