Focus and Fashion

By

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Part of "Squirt!" the Webseries

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EXT. DANS BACKYARD--DAY

Dan and Rufus stand in the backyard. Water squirts from Dan’s right index finger, splattering on the ground.

    RUFUS
    Focus...

Dan’s face tightens in concentration. Water continues to squirt.

    RUFUS
    Focus...

Dan’s face tightens further. The water continues to splatter to the ground.

    RUFUS
    Focus...

Dan opens one eye just a bit, and stares at Rufus. Rufus is standing on one foot. His eyes are closed and he holds his hands in the air, then points them at Dan as he speaks:

    RUFUS
    Focus...

Dan relaxes.

    DAN
    I don’t think this is working...

Rufus clutches his head with one hand and waves the other, as if dismissing Dan.

    RUFUS
    Hosh-sha-sha. Focus...

Dan doesn’t focus. He suddenly smiles, then points his finger at Rufus, squirting him with water and causing him to lose his balance. Rufus sputters and falls.

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Dan beams. Rufus gets up and brushes himself off.

    RUFUS
    Oh, real mature Dan. Real mature. If you don’t want my help, I’ll just leave.
DAN
No, I do, I do. I just don’t think this is working...

Rufus gets back to his "Focus" position.

RUFUS
Then you’re doing it wrong.

DAN
But-

Rufus dismisses Dan with another hand wave, this one more impatient.

RUFUS
Hosh-sha-sha! Now focus.

Dan smiles, amused, and closes his eyes.

RUFUS
Focus...

The water still splatters.

RUFUS
Focus...

Still splattering...

RUFUS
Focus...

Dan opens his eyes.

DAN
This isn’t working Rufus!

RUFUS
Hosh-!

Dan angrily steps towards Rufus.

DAN
No! You are not shushing me again!

The water ceases to squirt.

DAN
Could we please, for the love of God, try something else?

Rufus points at Dan’s hand.
RUFUS
There. I stopped it.

Rufus looks smug as Dan looks at his hand. It begins to squirt again. Now Dan looks smug.

DAN
Real efficient job you did there, Tim Allen.

RUFUS
Your sarcasm, Daniel, is noted but not appreciated. And no one even liked Home Improvement. Don’t fear, however, for I have something much more productive:

Rufus holds up his eureka-finger.

RUFUS
A hypothesis!

Dan sighs.

DAN
Yeah?

RUFUS
Perhaps . . .

Rufus begins, as he starts to pace,

RUFUS
...Perhaps your finger only squirts water when you think about it.

He turns to Dan.

RUFUS
Correct me if I miss-speak, but its probably been the only thing on your mind since it began. Except-!

Rufus excitedly stabs the air with his finger—another "Eureka!" moment.

RUFUS
Except for just now, when you were fed up with my amazing help. In that moment your mind wandered from your finger to your unwarranted anger at me.
Rufus, impressed with himself, begins to pace again as he finishes his thought.

**RUFUS**
I can therefore conclude that the water which squirts from your finger only does so when your attention is directed at it.

He turns to Dan.

**RUFUS**
Therefore, if we train your mind, we train your finger.

**DAN**
You may actually have something, there. You’re like my Alfred, or something.

**RUFUS**
Alfred was a butler, a chauffeur, a manservant. I am no such thing. I’m more like your...Splinter.

Dan smiles and nods.

**DAN**
Nice turtles reference.

**RUFUS**
Compliment accepted.

**DAN**
So what do I do? I can’t always just get mad at you.

**RUFUS**
Try focusing on your other hand. Wiggle your fingers, and try to forget the freak of nature on your right hand.

Dan stares at his left hand, wiggles his fingers, and focuses. The water squirting from his finger dwindles, then stops.

**DAN**
Mission accomplished, I guess.
RUFUS
Don’t get too excited, Daniel, there is much work ahead of us.

Dan looks confused.

DAN
Like what?

Rufus walks up the steps to Dan’s front porch. Dan follows.

RUFUS
Well, you must have gotten this power for a reason...

They enter the house.

INT. DAN’S HOUSE--DAY

Rufus leads as they walk through a living area. Dan looks confused.

DAN
Power?

Rufus turns and faces Dan.

RUFUS
Well what else would you call it Daniel?

Dan shrugs. Rufus continues onward into the kitchen. Dan follows.

RUFUS
Anyway, fate must have given you your power for a reason. Obviously there’s something big in store for you, and you’ll need all the help you can get.

Rufus sits at Dan’s kitchen table. Dan follows suit.

DAN
What, like you?

RUFUS
Well obviously. We’ve already established me as your Splinter, but-

(CONTINUED)
DAN
-But there were four turtles.

RUFUS
Exactly.

DAN
So you’re suggesting we build a team?

RUFUS
Not necessarily, I’m suggesting we find you a sidekick.

DAN
A sidekick? how are we gonna do that?

RUFUS
Well, that is somewhat of a predicament. One doesn’t simply come across a sidekick.

They think.

DAN
We could have auditions.

RUFUS
Hmm . . . I suppose we could. Except...

DAN
Except what?

RUFUS
Except we can’t have everyone knowing who you are. We need to keep your identity a secret.

DAN
You mean I need a secret identity?

RUFUS
No, Dan. try to keep up. You already have an identity, we just need to keep it secret. What you need is-

Dan looks excited.
CONTINUED:

DAN
A costume?

Rufus looks annoyed.

RUFUS
No one likes an interrupter, Daniel. But, yes. And a name.

DAN
Awesome!

Dan suddenly looks worried.

DAN
I’m not wearing tights though.

Rufus grins.

RUFUS
You’ll wear what I tell you to wear, and you’ll like it . . .
Squirt.

CLOSING TITLE: "Squirt!"

Dan stands in front of a full length mirror. He wears a blue and black wet suit, and a blue bandanna blinfold, with two holes cut out for eyes. Rufus stands next to him.

DAN
I look ridiculous.

RUFUS
Correction, Daniel. You look heroic. You are about to turn a new leaf in your life. today you take on the added persona of Squirt, the boy with the aquatically inclined digit. You will roam the streets fighting crime and saving the helpless.

DAN
This suit gives me a killer wedgie.

END OF EPISODE TWO.