

SPACE GHOST
"Bury the Ghosts"
by
Herculoid Poirot

FADE IN:

INT. LAVA ROOM - NIGHT

Dressed in a radiation suit and helmet, MOLTAR (50) points a switchblade at a quivering WOMAN (40) and her DAUGHTER (5).

WOMAN

Please! What do you want from us?

Moltar chuckles in a dark, gruff, and gravelly voice.

SPACE GHOST (O.S.)

The jig is up!

Moltar and the woman turn around to see a man in a white costume, black cowl, and yellow cape.

On his wrists are red cuffs called Power Bands. Each Power Band has three yellow buttons.

He wears a black Inviso-Belt with a red buckle.

The red-and-black emblem on his chest is a dead giveaway. This is SPACE GHOST (40).

On his right is his sidekick, SPECKTOR (38).

While similar in appearance, his costume is gray, with a black cape and white cowl. His emblem is gray and white.

Moltar inches toward them.

MOLTAR

And so, we finally meet, Space Ghost.

Space Ghost takes a step forward.

SPACE GHOST

Likewise, Moltar. Still a petty criminal or have you moved up the corporate ladder?

MOLTAR

I've made it this far, haven't I?

SPACE GHOST

You can ham it up for the cameras when they take you to the judge. Let them go.

Moltar taunts Space Ghost with the knife.

Specktor threatens Moltar with his fist.

SPECKTOR
Are you deaf, asshole?

TWO HENCHMEN, wearing identical outfits to Moltar, grab Specktor's arms. Specktor tries to break free.

SPECKTOR
What the hell? Let me go, punks!

Double-doors open to reveal an immense pool of boiling, bubbling lava. Bright enough to blind you.

SPECKTOR
No. No.

Space Ghost fires at the henchmen using his Power Bands. Lava engulfs Specktor. He cries out in agony. Space Ghost's eyes widen in horror.

SPACE GHOST
Nooo!

INT. SPACE GHOST'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Space Ghost's voice echoes. He jolts awake, sweating profusely and hyperventilating.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Space Ghost lumbers to the sink. He runs cold water and splashes his face six times. He has shaggy brown hair, purple rings under his eyes, and a week-old beard. He exhales sharply.

SPACE GHOST
Get ahold of yourself, Jim.

He dries his face with a yellow towel matching his superhero cape, then weeps.

INT. PHANTOM CRUISER - DAY

SUPER: MONDAY

Sitting at the cockpit of his starship, Space Ghost, barely awake and still wearing his pajamas, turns on CNN.

WOLF BLITZER appears on screen.

BLITZER

...Some breaking news: The Ghost Planet criminal, Zorak, has escaped from Omegan Prison. He was serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination of Ghost Planet President Clint Leonard four years ago.

Space Ghost grumbles.

BLITZER

Zorak's escape does not appear to be politically motivated at this time. As always, we'll keep you updated. On a related note, the intergalactic crimefighter known as Space Ghost suffered a setback last week as his sidekick, Specktor...

Space Ghost CLICKS the TV off.

SPACE GHOST

I'd like to squash you like a bug, you son of a bitch.

A flashing Red Phone rings.

SPACE GHOST

Dammit, what now?!

He composes himself and puts on his cowl before answering.

SPACE GHOST

Chief?

CHIEF O'MALLEY (50) of the Ghost Planet Police Department, appears on the VideoPhone screen. He has a thick mustache.

O'MALLEY

Casual Friday?

Space Ghost examines his attire and chuckles.

O'MALLEY

Keeping tabs on the news?

SPACE GHOST

Uh, yeah, I just heard.

O'MALLEY

If I may be paternal for a moment...

O'Malley takes a deep breath before continuing:

O'MALLEY

You think you're ready to take the
plunge so soon?

Space Ghost exhales sharply.

SPACE GHOST

I ask myself that question every
day.

O'MALLEY

I mean, look at you! You've almost
got a David Letterman thing going
on.

SPACE GHOST

You're not exactly Ward Cleaver
yourself.

O'MALLEY

True, but... you're like a brother
to me, Space Ghost. And I don't
even know your real name.

SPACE GHOST

That's for the better, Colin. How
would you like it if you found out
Batman were just some rich brat? Or
that Superman were just some geek
at a newspaper?

O'MALLEY

They are?

SPACE GHOST

Hypothetically speaking. But
wouldn't that be comedy gold? But,
come on! There's monsters out there
who could easily exploit that
secret identity shit.

O'MALLEY

Point taken. Listen, a good friend
of mine's a shrink; I'll give you
his card.

SPACE GHOST

Is he good?

O'MALLEY

Damn good.

Space Ghost contemplates.

SPACE GHOST
I'll be right there.

O'MALLEY
Oh, and... my condolences.

Space Ghost nods somberly.

EXT. GHOST PLANET - DAY

The Phantom Cruiser soars across the blue sky.

EXT. GHOST PLANET POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

The Phantom Cruiser lands.

INT. GHOST PLANET POLICE DEPARTMENT - FILE ROOM - DAY

Space Ghost, in full costume, stands at the door. Chief O'Malley holds a manila folder in his hand.

O'MALLEY
Whenever you're ready to get back
into the game...

O'Malley opens the folder. He and Space Ghost look through the files.

O'MALLEY
You think Moltar's behind this
Zorak thing?

SPACE GHOST
Moltar can wait. What have you got
on Zorak?

O'MALLEY
Nothing beyond vague news wires.
What do you think his next move
will be?

Space Ghost pauses for a beat.

SPACE GHOST
You say your friend's a shrink?

O'Malley hands him a business card for a therapist.

SPACE GHOST
(deadpan)
"Seuss"?! That's encouraging.

O'MALLEY

His wife's maiden name is Vork. Not Kevorkian. Besides, we just call him Steve anyway.

Space Ghost waits a beat before responding.

SPACE GHOST

I'll think about it.

Space Ghost exits. OFFICER RONDO (35) rushes into the room.

RONDO

Chief, we got an update on Zorak...

EXT. GHOST PLANET HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The flag, depicting a white ghost on a light blue background, flies at half-staff.

SPACE GHOST (PRE-LAP)

Sorry, I'm late, class...

INT. GHOST PLANET HIGH SCHOOL - MR. FANTA'S CLASS - DAY

MR. FANTA (Space Ghost) stands, slumped over, in front of his class of juniors. He is clearly disgruntled.

FANTA

...I was in a very long meeting. I hope you were all good for Mister Fisher.

Assuring MURMURS.

Awkward silence.

Concerned MURMURS.

Mr. Fanta takes a deep breath.

FANTA

I'm not happy. And I'll tell you why, sweatogs!

His speech accelerates; his manner becomes more manic. The murmurs from the students grow.

FANTA

A dear friend of mine kicked the bucket. Just like that! Poof! Gone! He didn't "pass away"; he died! He's dead! He's never coming back!

A student, AMY (16), raises her hand.

AMY
Are you drunk?

FANTA
You can't turn on the goddamn news
without the same old shit.

Amy runs toward the door.

AMY
Mister Fisher! Principal Harris!

She leaves the room.

FANTA
Every week is a new monster on the
streets. This city is infested with
crime. It's anarchy! And here I am
trying to recover from last week's
shit, and another lowlife piles
some more of it on me! I just had
six shots today, and not the kind
the doctor shoots up your a--

Mr. Fanta passes out.

Another student, PATRICK (16), stands up.

PATRICK
Mister Fanta?

EXT. ALEX TOTH CENTER FOR COUNSELING SERVICES - DAY

The sign in front of the building bears the slogan, "Helping
you develop a sound mind."

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE - DAY

STEVE SEUSS, L.P.C. (40), short hair and glasses, speaks
with Space Ghost during a session.

STEVE
It's a very difficult subject to
approach. You obviously admired
Andy and he was a good sidekick to
you.

Space Ghost lies on his back along the couch.

SPACE GHOST

You'd think a "ghost" would know
how to deal with death.

The two men share a chuckle.

STEVE

Listen, don't let Andy's death get
to you. People die as often as they
get married.

SPACE GHOST

True, Steve.

STEVE

At some point, you need to pick
yourself up and bury the ghosts.

Space Ghost stares at Steve. Steve clears his throat.

STEVE

No pun intended, of course.

Steve looks at his watch.

STEVE

Well, it appears our session is up.
Shall we meet again next week?

INT. SPACE GHOST'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Space Ghost has another dream.

EXT. CEMETERY (DREAM SEQUENCE) - DAY

Medium showers. Gray sky. Space Ghost, holding a black umbrella and wearing his civilian attire, arrives at the grave of ANDREW GEORGE CROKER, alias Specktor; born September 10, 1980; died October 22, 2018.

Specktor (in full costume) appears from behind his own grave, moaning ghostly.

The moans reverberate throughout the cemetery.

SPACE GHOST

No. You're dead. You're in the
past. You're dead!

Specktor, his arms waving like a zombie, approaches Space Ghost. Space Ghost takes a step back, unafraid.

Space Ghost picks up a shovel.

SPACE GHOST

I come to bury Caesar, not to
praise him.

Space Ghost hits his transparent friend in the head with the shovel. He starts digging a hole in front of the tombstone.

FADE TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK

STEVE (V.O.)

(reverberating)

Bury the ghosts. Bury the ghosts!

SPACE GHOST (V.O.)

Spaaace Ghooost!

Space Ghost's voice echoes.

FADE IN:

EXT. GHOST PLANET POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

SUPER: TUESDAY

Space Ghost waits a beat before entering the building.

INT. GHOST PLANET POLICE DEPARTMENT - FILE ROOM - DAY

Space Ghost, now clean shaven and in good spirits, reviews Zorak's files with Chief O'Malley and Officer Rondo.

O'MALLEY

Welcome back, Space Ghost.

RONDO

Good to see you again, man.

Rondo hugs the superhero.

RONDO

We got this note from Zorak.

SPACE GHOST

(grabbing the note)

Let's take a look.

O'MALLEY

I don't get it. Why would Zorak set
up his own trap?

Written using newspaper and magazine clippings, it reads:

"Dear Space Ghost and All Authorities:

I plan to trick-or-treat at the First Intergalactic Bank and steal all the candy from the vault, this Wednesday, at 8 p.m. Be there or be square.

Zorak".

SPACE GHOST
It's "more fun" that way.

O'MALLEY
That's tomorrow!

SPACE GHOST
(deadpan)
At least I've got a costume. You think Zorak's got the same idea?

O'MALLEY
I was gonna ask you the same thing.

SPACE GHOST
Do you have backup for me?

RONDO
We got it all set up for you, homes. As soon as he moves in on you, bam!

Rondo pounds his left fist in the palm of his right hand.

O'Malley shakes Space Ghost's hand.

O'MALLEY
Get some rest tonight. You're gonna need it.

SPACE GHOST
Thanks, Colin.

INT. GHOST PLANET HIGH SCHOOL - MR. FANTA'S CLASS - DAY

Space Ghost (as Mr. Fanta) listens as his students read Hamlet aloud. He appears well-rested and well-groomed.

PATRICK
..."Be all my sins remember'd."

Mr. Fanta raises his hand.

FANTA

Freeze. Before we continue, this is a very famous soliloquy, can anyone tell me what Hamlet is really saying?

PATRICK

He's contemplating suicide.

Amy raises her hand.

AMY

Hamlet blames himself for his father's death.

Patrick turns his head toward her.

PATRICK

But Claudius killed him.

FANTA

Hamlet blames himself for a lot of things, not the least of which is that he did nothing to avenge his father's death or to protect Denmark. Or to stand up to Claudius.

AMY

He's also saying, "How much more can I bear?"

FANTA

Exactly. And...

Mr. Fanta clears his throat and straightens his necktie.

FANTA

On a similar note, I'd like to apologize for the other day. I've had a lot on my mind, and I really wish fall break had been a week longer, so that I could have the time to recuperate.

A male student COUGHS.

AMY

Were you drunk?

FANTA

Yes, I was. But... Let's put it this way. I do like the occasional drink, but you'll never see me sitting next to Cliff and Norm.

Awkward, confused silence.

FANTA
Cheers?

Nope. The Students shrug.

FANTA
Homer and Barney?

The students murmur and nod in comprehension.

FANTA
So, do you forgive me?

The BELL RINGS. The 20 students leave for their next class.

FANTA
I guess I'll find out tomorrow.
Happy Halloween! Can't wait to see
your costumes!

EXT. FIRST INTERGALACTIC BANK - NIGHT

SUPER: HALLOWEEN

A sign advertises: "Open 24 hrs".

A group of TRICK-OR-TREATERS -- eight of them -- arrive at the entrance...

...at the same time as THREE ANTHROPOMORPHIC PRAYING MANTISES carrying yellow laser guns. The insects wear matching blue vests, black-and-blue capes, black belts, yellow gloves and yellow boots.

A trick-or-treater dressed as MICHAEL MYERS (14) takes off his mask, impressed.

MICHAEL MYERS
Hey, cool costumes.

ZORAK
Thank you.

The praying mantises are ZORAK (40) and TWO IDENTICAL HENCHMEN. Michael Myers stands frozen in fear.

The trick-or-treaters pause for a beat. Zorak and his henchmen enter the bank.

INT. FIRST INTERGALACTIC BANK - NIGHT

Zorak and his partners raise their guns and point them at the ceiling.

ZORAK
Trick or treat.

ZAP! Zorak fires his weapon.

The FIVE CUSTOMERS and TWO BANK TELLERS panic. Zorak cackles like a witch.

The three mantises open up their money bags.

A WHITE BOOT

lands on the floor with a loud thud. It's

SPACE GHOST

The superhero opens his mouth to speak:

JACE (O.S.)
Not so fast, Zorak!

Zorak turns around.

ZORAK
Who the hell said that?

Standing in front of the door are two trick-or-treaters, and a sentient ape, dressed in blue and yellow outfits with black domino masks.

These are JAN (16), JACE (16), and BLIP (55), respectively.

SPACE GHOST
(mutters)
Last thing I need right now.

JACE
(to Zorak, deadpan)
Aren't you a little too old for Halloween?

ZORAK
Aren't you a little too young for crimefighting?

Blip speaks in a stuffy British accent, halfway between John Cleese and Michael Caine.

BLIP
He actually has a point, Jace.

Jace just stands there, unafraid.

SPACE GHOST

(mutters)

What the hell are you doing, kid?!

JACE

Drop your weapons and leave us all
in peace.

ZORAK

You and what army?

SPACE GHOST (O.S.)

This army!

Space Ghost POWS Zorak in the face, knocking the mantis down to the ground.

Space Ghost continues beating up Zorak repeatedly, drawing moderate blood from the mantis.

The two henchmen ZAP Space Ghost repeatedly with their guns, to little effect. The lasers ricochet back to the evildoers.

Space Ghost finishes off the henchmen by using his Power Bands. A huge BLAST shoots from Space Ghost's fist and hits Zorak's minions.

KABLAM! The henchmen drop to the floor, covered in SIZZLING soot, alongside Zorak.

Space Ghost turns back angrily at his makeshift sidekicks.

Jace is taken aback by Space Ghost's reaction.

SPACE GHOST

What the hell was that?! Being a superhero isn't about good looks and snappy one-liners! It's about fighting crime. People die. You could have gotten yourself killed!

JACE

I was just trying to be like you!

SPACE GHOST

What's your name, kid?

JACE

I'm Jason Matthews. My friends call me Jace. And over there is my sister, Jan.

JAN

Pleasure to meet you, Space Ghost.

Space Ghost notices Blip.

SPACE GHOST

Doctor Zaius, I presume?

BLIP

I am afraid not. I go by the title of Baron Lionel Ivan Percival. However, you may refer to me as Blip.

SPACE GHOST

Blip?

BLIP

I quite fancy it.

SPACE GHOST

(deadpan)

I fancy it better than Sir Baron Percival Elton John The Third.

Space Ghost turns toward Jace.

SPACE GHOST

You kids still have a lot to learn about crimefighting.

JAN

We learned from the best.

SPACE GHOST

Why don't I teach you more about it after school or on weekends, if it's alright with your parents?

Awkward silence.

JACE

Zorak killed our parents.

JAN

Four years ago.

BLIP

I have taken on the role of the children's legal guardian. I shall grant my permission for this endeavor, so long as I may also accommodate you on your quest for justice.

SPACE GHOST

(deadpan)

Done. Aren't you going to finish
trick-or-treating?

Space Ghost uses his Inviso-Belt to make himself invisible.

EXT. GHOST PLANET - NIGHT

The Phantom Cruiser travels through the pitch-black sky.

INT. PHANTOM CRUISER - NIGHT

Space Ghost watches the local news.

A BLACK, MALE NEWS ANCHOR sits behind the desk.

NEWS ANCHOR

Our top story tonight,
latebreaking: Universally infamous
criminal Zorak has been captured
after escaping from Omegan Prison
Sunday night. He was apprehended at
First Intergalactic Bank by Space
Ghost and, curiously, a local
teenager. Take a look at the video.

The picture cuts to black. The Red Phone flashes. Space
Ghost quickly answers.

SPACE GHOST

Chief?

Instead, Moltar appears on screen.

SPACE GHOST

Moltar! How'd you get this number?

MOLTAR

Congratulations on your successful
recovery. I knew you could do it. I
believed in you.

SPACE GHOST

Get on with it. What do you want?

MOLTAR

I'm not here for simple condolences
nor congratulations. A wise man
once said, "Don't kick a man while
he's down."

SPACE GHOST
Cut to the chase, you bastard!

MOLTAR
How would you like a rematch with
me, say, next week? Same
Ghost-Time, Same Ghost-Channel...

Moltar chortles.

FADE OUT.

THE END