"Up the Ante"

Ву

Tyler Higgins

Part of "Squirt!" the Web Series

Higgonaitor@yahoo.com

INT. RUFUS'S DEN--DAY

Rufus, in what can only be described as formal work out clothes, is "jazzercising" in front of the T.V. We get a minute or so of this.

The doorbell rings. Rufus pauses the tape, wipes the sweat from his brow, and goes to answer the door.

INT. RUFUS'S FRONT HALL--DAY

Rufus opens the door revealing Sean, the villain, dressed in all black.

SEAN Hello, Rufus.

OPENING TITLES: "Squirt!"

INT. RUFUS'S FRONT HALL--DAY

Sean stands outside the door.

RUFUS

Hello Sean. I'm not interested in purchasing any magazine subscriptions, but thank you.

Sean fake laughs as Rufus begins to close the door, but Sean sticks his foot in the crack, and re-opens the door.

SEAN Actually, Rufus, I have a little proposition for you and your friend in the wet suit.

RUFUS Auditions for side-kick are over, Sean, and I'm afraid you weren't up to par.

SEAN Oh, let's just stop this little game.

RUFUS I'm not going to quit just because you're losing. SEAN Oh, I'm losing? In what, the battle of quips? Rufus, it's futile, like your little charade with that Squirt guy.

RUFUS I'll have you know we-

SEAN

-What? Stopped a petty theft? Yes, Rufus, I can read, but no, I'm not impressed.

RUFUS

Petty theft Sean? I'll have you know that these petty thefts, plural, are just the tip of some sort of hypnotic or hellish villainous iceberg--the horrible majority of which is simply lying dormant below the choppy waters, waiting to surface and strike.

Sean smiles.

SEAN Oh, is that right?

RUFUS

Indubitably.

SEAN

Well, then, Rufus, I suppose I wish you the best of luck against your worthy foe.

RUFUS Luck, Sean, has nothing to do with it.

Sean is still smiling wickedly as he turns to leave.

SEAN Let's hope not.

Sean walks past Rufus out the door.

RUFUS What a creepy-ass kid. INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Dan and Sue sit at the table enjoying lemonade and playing checkers.

DAN So, you know Rufus likes you right?

Sue gives Dan a look.

SUE I'm not retarded, Dan.

Dan laughs and sips his lemonade.

DAN Well, do you like him?

Sue smiles and moves a piece.

SUE

King me.

A loud, rapid, and obnoxious knocking comes from the front door.

DAN Speak of the devil.

Dan gets up. Sue cheats a little, re-arranging a few pieces.

INT. DAN'S FRONT HALL--DAY

Dan opens the door revealing Rufus, who is staring at his watch.

RUFUS Twelve point four seconds, Daniel. That's what I'd expect from a fledgling.

DAN

Whatever.

Dan turns and Rufus follows him into the kitchen.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Dan and Rufus enter, and Dan takes his seat at the table.

RUFUS Listen, Squirt Squad-

SUE Squirt Squad? Really?

DAN I like it.

RUFUS

Thank you Daniel. And Susan, your opinion is, of course, lovingly noted. Anyway, what I was about to say is that we really need to step things up. My rival, Sean, stopped by my house today and demeaned me. This, of course, will not fly.

DAN

So what you're saying is that you want us to save the day so that you can use it as a gloating pawn against Sean?

RUFUS

Precisely.

Dan looks at Sue for a mutual thumbs down but looks surprised when he doesn't find it.

SUE Hey, at least he's honest.

Dan's cell phone begins beeping.

DAN

Shoot.

SUE What, a call?

RUFUS No, it's his Lis-a-larm.

SUE

What now?

Dan stands up from his chair and gets ready to go.

DAN Every Wednesday at two-fifteen Lisa sells along Pine street, where I tend to run into her on my way home from drum practice. SUE You're not at drum practice. RUFUS That's because he doesn't play drums. DAN Uh, yeah I do. RUFUS Amateur bongo-ing hardly counts Daniel. DAN Whatever. I'm out like a cobra. Dan leaves. Sue looks confused. SUE Like a what? RUFUS And you probably thought I was the weird one. SUE I still do. RUFUS Being so good looking it's weird isn't what I'm talking about Susan. INT. SEAN'S CAR--DAY Sean drives and talks on his cell phone. SEAN

Nico, I need you...I don't care if you're WOW-ing, this is important...It's about taking down Rufus Charleston-

Mid sentence NICO, 20, just seems to pop up in front of Seans car, and Sean quickly brakes, then hangs up. Nico is sort of nerdy and oily looking, with a hint of emo. SEAN Thats more like it.

He rolls down his window.

SEAN

Get in!

EXT. PINE STREET--DAY

Lisa walks down from a doorstep with her basket of Lemons, and notices Dan turning the corner down the street. She waves.

LISA

Hey Dan!

Dan sees her and waves back.

DAN

Hey Lisa!

He jogs a bit to get to her.

LISA On your way back from practice?

DAN Yeah, tough day-

Dan stretches his arms out non-chalantly.

DAN I just learned "Wipe-Out". You know, no big.

LISA Wipe-out? I love that song!

Lisa smiles and begins air-drumming "Wipe-Out", complete with noises.

LISA Duh, duh, duh, duh, duh-duh...

Dan looks awkward.

DAN

Um...

He realizes she's not trying to catch him, and just goes along with the fun, adding the air guitar.

DAN Duh-nuh-nuh-nuh, nuh-nuh...

They air-jam for a bit.

INT. SEAN'S ROOM--DAY

This is the room with the creepy bulletin board with Squirt and Rufus clippings on it, as well as college rejection letters and so-on. It is in a dank basement.

Sean and Nico sit facing each other.

NICO Okay, so what's the plan?

SEAN We take down Rufus Charleston.

NICO Awesome, how?

SEAN Well, he's made a little, like, super-team-

NICO Yeah! That Squirt kid! That's pretty cool, I read about it in the paper! Who d'you think he is?

SEAN

(Angry) I don't *know*, Nico, or this wouldn't be a problem.

NICO Cuz of the whole hypnosis thing, right?

SEAN

Right.

NICO Cool. I think it's real cool we oth have powers Sean.

SEAN Teleportation is hardly considered a power, Nico.

(CONTINUED)

NICO Right, sorry, I forgot.

Nico hangs his head in shame.

SEAN It's okay, just don't let it happen again.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Rufus sits with Sue. They play checkers.

RUFUS You know, Susan, Gigi always used to say the funniest things to me, like, "Oh, Rufees," She called me Rufees, due to her accent, she would say, "Oh, Rufees-"

SUE Come on. Enough.

RUFUS Enough what?

Sue rolls her eyes.

SUE Just ask me out already.

Rufus is caught off guard, he awkwardly moves a piece while sheepishly looking up at Sue.

RUFUS Oh, well, um... Susan? Would you like to, um, go out on a date with me?

Sue triple jumps him, then sighs, as if to say "whatever".

SUE

Fine.

Rufus pumps his fist in the air.

RUFUS

Karoo!

The air-jammin continues, they've worked through most of the song. Dan continues with the guitar part, as Lisa continues with the drums. They are both really into it.

LISA Aaaaand fade out.

Dan pants and wipes some sweat from his brow.

DAN Woah. I'm impressed. You really know your Surfari's.

Lisa laughs.

LISA Yeah, I'm just real into that sort of music. The Surfari's, the Beach Boy's...

DAN I *love* the Beach Boys!

LISA That's probably because you're one groovy dude, Danny Adams.

DAN You ain't so square yourself, Lady.

They walk off down the street laughing and talking together.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN--DAY

Rufus looks overjoyed as Sue looks nonchalantly pleased.

RUFUS Tommorow night it is then!

Dan bursts in, super happy.

DAN I've got a date tomorrow!

SUE Yeah? So do we.

This catches Dan off guard.

RUFUS And it's going to be extremely sensual and romantic.

Sue rolls her eyes, but grins.

DAN Yeah, well, mine's going to be, um... Babysitting.

A moment of silence. Rufus tugs on his collar, the national symbol for "Awkward."

RUFUS

Ouch.

CLOSING TITLES: "Squirt!"

INT. SEAN'S ROOM--DAY

Sean and Nico sit.

SEAN So we need *some* way to *some* how hypnotize a whole lot of people at once.

NICO Maybe we could use the internet?

SEAN Nico, that's downright moronic. How could I use the internet to hypnotize people?

NICO You're right. Sorry.

SEAN Hey, but here's an idea--what if we used Youtube?

NICO Uh...great!

End of episode...um...six?