

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

By Derek Simon

FADE IN:

INT. KEVIN'S HOME - DAY

There's a pile of college preparation guides and pamphlets scattered about. On top of one of the piles is a note pad with a list of colleges written on it, and a post-it that reads:

"KEVIN, YALE INTERVIEW PUSHED BACK TO SUNDAY AT TWO PM. DON'T BE LATE! LOVE YOU, MOM."

KEVIN BROWN, 17, is pacing back and forth, looking sweaty and nervous, obsessively tapping a "HOW TO SUCCEED AT INTERVIEWS FOR DUMMIES" type of book with a remote control. He's obviously freaking out.

KEVIN

Prepare for that interview I have in an hour? Watch the season finale of The Amazing Adventures of Agent Z that I taped last night? Interview prep? TV show? Interview prep? TV show?

He's been, twitching and shaking, tapping the remote harder and harder against the book, until the book falls on his toe. In anger and pain and frustration, he throws the remote against the wall--

And very suddenly, he's still, his eyes blank, as if he was a TV that just cut off to snow. After a moment of this, life blinks back into his eyes. He looks down at himself in confusion, then walks into his room, puts on a tuxedo rather haphazardly, and heads outside.

EXT. STREET - DAY

JESSICA, 17, and CHARLIE, 17, are walking as Jessica struggles to read out of a psych text book.

CHARLIE

Have you thought any more about prom?

JESSICA

No, I still have no idea what I'm going to do.

CHARLIE

He's gonna ask you, Jess.

JESSICA

I wouldn't be so sure, Charlie. I don't know how much more obvious I could be-- I bring it up with him all the time, I give him the anime eyes--

CHARLIE

The what?

Jessica adjusts her face to look like a flirtatious puppy dog (if there were such a thing).

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ah.

JESSICA

I even took him out prom dress shopping. I don't know how much more up front about going with him I could be. For valedictorian, Kevin is an idiot.

CHARLIE

Aw, well, he's under a lot of pressure. If you want, I can mention something to him at lunch.

JESSICA

No, don't. It's alright. He's tightly wound enough as it is; Let's just make this a nice, relaxing lunch for him before his big interview.

CHARLIE

Sounds like a plan to me--

Charlie is cut off as a woman shrieks. They head over to the nearby park to investigate what's happening.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A romantic picnic scene has been set up under a large, shady tree. However, the BOYFRIEND and GIRLFRIEND are being interrupted by Kevin, who's staggering towards them, reaching for them.

KEVIN

Brains! Brains!

The woman shrieks again, and the man pushes Kevin down and escorts his girlfriend away from the scene.

CHARLIE

Kevin?

Kevin turns his attention to Charlie and struggles to his feet, running towards them rigidly.

KEVIN

Brains!

Arms outstretched, he grabs for Charlie.

CHARLIE

Kev, what are-- Whoa!

Kevin grabs Charlie and wrestles him to the ground, mouth snapping for Charlie's forehead. Charlie gets out of his grip and grabs a mildly shell-shocked Jessica, pulling her towards the nearby playground, with Kevin in pursuit.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

They pass a swing set as they run away, and Kevin runs straight into the swing, being forced backwards and falling down. Charlie turns back to him.

CHARLIE

Woah, Kevin! Buddy, calm down!

KEVIN

Brains!

He reaches for Charlie's throat, and Charlie firmly sits him down on the swing. Life, suddenly, returns to Kevin's eyes, changing quickly from confusion to desperation.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Wait, no. This is all wrong. I have to get to the warehouse! There's a suitcase nuke that's about to go off any minute!

CHARLIE

What the hell are you talking about?

KEVIN

The bomb! It's going to detonate any minute, and these mutant terrorists don't mess around-- Brains!

He's back in zombie mode!

Charlie runs up the steps of the slide to give himself some time, dragging Jessica along with him.

Kevin shambles irrepressibly forward, onward toward his goal of eating their brains.

CHARLIE

Okay. What was that!?

JESSICA

I think... I think he's acting like Agent Z.

CHARLIE

Who?

JESSICA

You know, the secret agent who's turning into a zombie on that cheesy show in channel four? Kevin's obsessed with it.

CHARLIE

And what? He just suddenly snapped?

JESSICA

I don't know...

She looks over at Kevin, who's just noticed a WOMAN walking a stroller towards the playground. He turns his attention towards her, her brains are quite fresh, so are the baby's.

She quickly turns the stroller around and heads the other way. Jessica and Charlie have to scramble to chase after him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I mean, jeez. I knew he was a fan, but...

After a second's deliberation, she takes out her phone and begins dialing 911.

CHARLIE

Wait, what're you doing?

JESSICA

Calling an ambulance. Someone's gotta know what to do.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, great idea, Jess. "Nine-one-one? Yeah, hey, my friend, he thinks he's a secret agent meant to disassemble an atomic bomb sent by mutant ninja terrorists to an undisclosed warehouse. Oh, and he's also got a slight case of ZOMBIE!" Hell, call a fire truck while you're at it!

JESSICA

Don't make fun of me! I just want to help him-- If he misses his Yale interview, I mean, I don't even want to think about it!

CHARLIE

Yeah, and I guess lunch is off the table, too.

Jessica gives him a look of disgust.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
What! I'm hungry.

She turns apprehensively to Kevin.

JESSICA  
Uh, Kev-- I mean, Agent Z? You in there?

KEVIN  
Brains! Brain-- Hey, let me out of this thing! I'm an agent with the CIA, and you're under arrest! Don't you understand? Lives are at stake! Where's Matilda? What have you done with her, you dogs! We have to save the world! I need Matilda-- Brains!

Disheartened, she turns back to Charlie.

CHARLIE  
Hey, what does Matilda look like?

JESSICA  
What? I don't know. She has two pony tails and wears, like, a ball gown even when she's fighting crime. And she carries a police baton thing.

Charlie looks from Jessica to Kevin, then back.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
No... No way, Charlie...

CHARLIE  
You have to.

JESSICA  
You may not have noticed, Charlie, but our friend, our best friend, thinks he's a zombie. All he ever cared about were his brains and now HE WANTS TO EAT THEM. He's had some sort of complete mental psychotic breakdown and I'M NOT GOING TO DRESS UP IN MY PROM DRESS AND GO THROUGH ONE TOO.

CHARLIE  
Jess. For Kevin.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - A LITTLE LATER

Charlie leads Kevin in a merry walk all up and down the park. He has to let him get close enough to think he's going to get some

KEVIN

BRAINS!

But he has to keep him far enough way so that the freak doesn't actually chomp him. Up a bench, down a path, through the monkey bars, whatever works.

CHARLIE

So how's the studying coming, dude?

Kevin twitches.

KEVIN

Brains!

CHARLIE

Wait, really?

KEVIN

Brains! Brains!

CHARLIE

No way! Yale and Princeton both, huh?

KEVIN

Brains!

CHARLIE

We have the best talks, man.

Suddenly, Jessica leaps out! She's dressed in a long trench coat, her hair up in two ponytails and she is, in fact, wearing her prom dress. And carrying her Hello Kitty suitcase- go figure.

JESSICA

Agent Z, I just got your call!

Kevin's head snaps up again. His growl is cut off by a harsh breath.

KEVIN

Braiiii-- Wait. Matilda!

JESSICA

Yes, I--

She looks off to the side at Charlie, who's hiding behind the slide and motions to her to continue.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I am Matilda. Matilda is I.

She grimaces at her clumsy grammar, but Kevin pays no notice. As he speaks, she untangles him from the swing.

KEVIN

Thank God you're here, pumpkin pie! We  
have to get to the warehouse, the bomb  
is-- Brains!

He bites towards her and she jumps back, noticeably startled. He  
gathers himself.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Dr. Mysterio has the passcodes! We must--  
BRAINS!

JESSICA

Dr. Mysterio? Uh...

She looks over at Charlie, then reaches into her bag. Pulling out an  
eyeliner, she brandishes it and approaches him.

CHARLIE

What are you doing?! Are you nuts? Do I  
look like I'm opening for Fall Out Boy  
anytime soon?

JESSICA

Just shut up and roll with it, Dr. Mysterio!

Quickly waving the eyeliner, she draws a monocle and a thin, villainous  
mustache on Charlie's face.

KEVIN

As I was saying, we--

Jessica shoves the Hello Kitty suitcase into Charlie's hands.

JESSICA

GO WITH IT.

CHARLIE

Uh, ha ha ha! I'm Dr. Mysterio! I have a  
suitcase bomb! Uh... time to destroy  
civilization Ha ha ha!

He stands there awkwardly, shaking the suitcase.

KEVIN

There! What luck! Let's save the world,  
baby.

JESSICA

Uh, sure-- Ah!

Kevin grabs her by the arm and jerks her forward in pursuit of Charlie  
who's already begun running out of the play ground.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kevin and Jessica chase Charlie down the street, attracting odd looks from onlookers. Kevin stops suddenly, screaming for "brains," arms outstretched and grabbing towards a flock of pigeons on the ground. Jessica grabs him and pulls.

JESSICA  
Agent Z, snap out of it!

Kevin shakes his head and keeps running. A bit farther down the road, a BICYCLIST passes them.

CHARLIE  
Ha ha ha! You'll never catch me! Not with  
my kung fu skills ! Ha ha ha!

Charlie does a cheesy jump kick in the air and keeps running, and Kevin, yelling for "brains!" again, reaches for the bicyclist. The rider yelps loudly and turns the bike, crashing into a bush.

Jessica is still pulling them in a run, but nearby a YOUNG GIRL is holding a stuffed doll. Still in mid-run, Kevin grabs it and stops on the sidewalk.

YOUNG GIRL  
Hey, that's my dolly!

KEVIN  
Brains!

The girl screams and runs away. Kevin looks oddly at the doll's head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
Brains?

He bites the head lightly, then harder, then begins tearing on it with his teeth. Jessica, frustrated, grabs him again and pulls. They run as Kevin keeps chewing on the head, spitting out cotton as he goes, his yells for "brains" muffled through wads of it.

EXT. INTERVIEW OFFICE - DAY

Charlie stops in front of a building with a sign that says "YALE INTERVIEWS HERE ALL WEEKEND." He takes a deep breath and looks at the sign, satisfied.

CHARLIE  
Ah, finally!

Momentarily distracted, Charlie is taken by surprise as Kevin tackles him from the side once he's caught up, knocking Charlie to the ground. Kevin pins him down.

KEVIN

Ha! I've caught you, you dastardly villain! Now you'll pay!

CHARLIE

Uh, Jess?

Matilda grabs the suitcase off the ground, and picks Kevin up.

JESSICA

Agent Z, here, the suitcase bomb! Now, defuse it so we can all go back to normal-- I mean, go home.

She opens the suitcase, and inside is a Rubick's Cube with all the sides perfectly lined up except one.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

All you have to do is line up the colors, and the bomb will immediately shut off.

KEVIN

Great work, baby doll-- Brains!

He drops the Rubick's Cube, reaching for Charlie, screaming for brains. He jumps on top of Charlie, holding him down, biting towards his face. Jessica pulls Kevin away, and he turns, landing on top of her instead.

Stuck under him, she starts smacking his back with the soup ladle. Charlie gets up and grabs Kevin under both arms and tries to pull him up, Jessica using the ladle to push him off. As she does this, she grabs the Rubick's Cube.

JESSICA

Kevin! Agent Z! Look!

Kevin looks at her as she turns the Rubick's Cube back into place. After a moment's pause, life returns to his eyes.

KEVIN

Why are you dressed like that?

Before she can answer, the door opens and the YALE INTERVIEWER steps outside. He's an older man wearing a tweed suit with glasses and carrying a folder. He pauses to look at the three sweaty, oddly dressed, out-of-breath teenagers at his doorstep looking as if they just had a three-way wrestling match.

INTERVIEWER

Uh, can I help you all?

It takes Kevin a moment to realize where he is-- He looks from the sign on the door to the interviewer and back. In shock, he frees himself from a stunned Charlie's grasp-- whose moustache is half falling off-- and stands up, straightening out his shirt and quickly running his hand through his hair.

KEVIN

Oh, uh, sir, are you Mr. Irving?

INTERVIEWER

Indeed, I am.

KEVIN

I'm sorry I'm so late, sir-- We, uh, we had an issue, I guess.

The interviewer frowns.

INTERVIEWER

I'm sorry, didn't you get the message? I had to reschedule you for tomorrow.

Brushing past them, the interviewer leaves. Kevin pauses, thinking about this for a moment.

KEVIN

Oh, yeah, you know, she did leave me a note.

Charlie and Jessica grunt in exasperation, and Jessica reaches out to throttle him.

KEVIN

You look great, by the way.

Perhaps she'll throttle him later.

JESSICA

Thanks. The tux is not exactly a bad look on you, either.

KEVIN

Yeah, about that, I've been thinking about prom...

Interrupting, Charlie waves his hands, hello, he's still here.

CHARLIE

Can we get out of here? I'm starving.

KEVIN

Yeah, um... yeah, so lunch? My treat? For the trouble.

CHARLIE

Definitely. You know what I'm in the mood for?

Jessica gestures at the eyeliner all over his face.

JESSICA

Nosh and Noxema?

CHARLIE  
Scrambled eggs and brains.

They all groan and we

FADE OUT.

THE END