

NINJA MAN

by Justin Swartz

OVER BLACK

A 90's-style Media Asia logo appears, only the letters say "Media Crap Group."

FADE IN

EXT. DESERTED CITY ROAD - NIGHT

MARLENE BAKER, early to mid 20's, runs down the road. Street lights illuminate her path. She looks back in fear.

MARLENE

Stop it! Leave me alone!!

THUG #1, THUG #2, & THUG #3, all mid to late 20's and dressed in messy clothes, chase after Marlene. They look wild, savage, and hungry for her flesh.

Marlene stumbles. Falls. Looks back again.

The 3 Thugs surround her. Thug #1 whips out a switchblade. Thug #2 unleashes a butterfly knife. And Thug #3 has brass knuckles.

THUG #1

We're gonna cut you up good,
sweetheart!

THUG #2

I like the soft ones!

THUG #3

Bash, bash, bash 'em in!

Marlene screams in horror. The Thugs close in for the kill.

NINJA MAN (O.S.)

Freeze, punk!

The Thugs look around. NINJA MAN, a hero clad in a Power Ranger spandex costume, emerges under a street light. He puts his hand to his sword hilt. Poses dramatically.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man protect woman.

The Thugs look at each other. Can't believe what they're seeing.

NINJA MAN

You three. Take hike. Or pay price.

THUG #1

Puh-lease, dude! Ninja Man?!?

THUG #2

You mean you couldn't come up with a better name than that?

THUG #3

Your costume sucks, too! Spandex is SO nineties.

Marlene looks to Ninja Man. To the Thugs. And back to Ninja Man.

MARLENE

What are you waiting for, hero?! Kick their sorry asses!

Ninja Man puts a hand to his chin. Thinks hard.

MARLENE

What's the matter?!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man thinking of witty retort. Give him minute or two.

MARLENE

I'll be dead by then!

Ninja Man looks up dramatically.

NINJA MAN

Good point.

He draws his sword. Poses once more.

NINJA MAN

You three. Dead meat. Got that?

THUG #1
Whatever, you two-bit Power
Ranger!

THUG #2
Slice and dice!

THUG #3
Pound his face in!

The Thugs charge at Ninja Man. Ninja Man charges back.
Slices each of them with his sword. Sparks fly from each
Thug's body as the sword strikes them.

The Thugs fall to the ground. Their clothes are smoldering.

THUG #1
Holy shit! What was that?

THUG #2
Why are we sparking?!

THUG #3
I have NO idea, dude!!

Ninja Man draws three shuriken from his belt. Puts them
between his fingers.

NINJA MAN
You punks die now. That
okay?

THUG #1
(while standing)
No, NO! No, it's not okay!

THUG #2
It is SO not okay, dude!

THUG #3
What am I gonna tell my Mom?

NINJA MAN
NINJA...SHURIKEN!!!

Ninja Man throws the three shuriken at the Thugs. It snaps
off their belt buckles. Their pants fall to their ankles.

Marlene stands up. A grin forms on her face.

The Thugs try to walk. It's more like waddling. Thug #3 falls over. Knocks himself in the face with his brass knuckles.

NINJA MAN
Take pants off.

THUG #1
Wha-what?

NINJA MAN
You hear Ninja Man! Take pants off--

Ninja Man puts on a karate pose.

NINJA MAN (CON'T.)
--or Ninja Man put boot up ass!
Got that?

THUG #2
Yeah, yeah, we got it!

The Thugs fumble with their pants. Take them off over their shoes.

Ninja Man points to Marlene.

NINJA MAN
You. Hold pants.

Marlene gathers up The Thugs' pants. She looks inside a pair.

MARLENE
Eww! This one has shit stains in it!

NINJA MAN
Don't care. Hold pants.

Ninja Man holds his sword in both hands. Points it at the pantless Thugs.

NINJA MAN
Leave woman alone. Got that?

THUG #1
Got it!

THUG #2
Definitely!

THUG #3
Got it, Ninja Dude!

Ninja Man approaches Thug #3. Puts his sword under the Thug's chin.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not DUDE.

THUG #3
Uh-huh...

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man is MAN.

THUG #3
Yeah...?

NINJA MAN
Do not forget.

Ninja Man turns his back to Thug #3.

THUG #3
I won't, Ninja D--

Ninja Man points his sword at Thug #3.

THUG #3
Man! Man! Ninja Man!

Ninja Man joins Marlene. Waves an arm at the Thugs.

NINJA MAN
You three. Scram.

The Thugs back away slowly.

NINJA MAN
NINJA MAN SAY BEAT IT!

The Thugs take off running. They are soon out of sight.

Ninja Man sheathes his sword. Puts his fists to his hips.

NINJA MAN
Today good day. Ninja Man save
woman.

MARLENE
I have a name, y'know.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man beat up thugs.

MARLENE
My name is Marlene Baker, and I'm
single...?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man save--

Ninja Man stops. Whips around to face Marlene.

NINJA MAN
Say again.

MARLENE
My name is--

NINJA MAN
No. Other thing.

MARLENE
I'm single?

NINJA MAN
That one.

Ninja Man carries Marlene in his arms. She lets out of a
cry of amazement.

MARLENE
Wow! You're strong!

NINJA MAN
And you heavy.

MARLENE
Excuse me?!?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not lift pigs.

MARLENE
All right, that does it!

Ninja Man puts Marlene down. She shoves him. Storms off.

NINJA MAN
What wrong now?

MARLENE
Ugh! Forget it!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man sorry.

MARLENE
Ninja Man can go screw himself!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man tried once. Very hard
to do in spandex.

MARLENE
I don't care! Get lost!

Marlene keeps walking. Ninja Man doesn't follow.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man walk you home.

MARLENE
Ninja Man--or whoever you are--
can go back to whatever planet
he came from!

Ninja Man puts a hand to the side of his head. Shakes it in disbelief. Turns his back to Marlene. Walks the opposite direction.

NINJA MAN

See you in morning.

Marlene stops. Pouts. Turns around as she says:

MARLENE

Don't count on--

Ninja Man is nowhere to be found.

MARLENE (CON'T.)

--it?

Marlene looks around. There's no sign of Ninja Man anywhere.

MARLENE

My God, who are you? Batman?!?

Marlene lets out a disgusted huff. Puts her hands to her hips. Storms off.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

CRIMSON PISTOL, a Power Ranger-style costumed villain, kneels by the edge. Aims his large laser pistol at Marlene.

CRIMSON PISTOL

Hmm. Too easy...

He stands. Spins his pistol with flair. Holsters it.

CRIMSON PISTOL (CON'T.)

...but you'll get your chance.

He makes a fist. Poses dramatically.

CRIMSON PISTOL

And so will Ninja Man!

INT. MARLENE'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Marlene's alarm clock blares its morning song. She reaches for it. Can't find it. Knocks it off the nightstand.

She opens one eye. Explores her surroundings. She's home. In bed. And away from Ninja Man.

MARLENE

What a crazy dream I had. More
like a nightmare...

Marlene throws the sheets back. Climbs out of bed. She wears a white camisole and black panties.

INT. MARLENE'S HALLWAY - MORNING

Marlene walks through the hallway to the kitchen. Stretches her arms. Yawns. Belches. Scratches her butt.

INT. MARLENE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Marlene enters. Ninja Man sits on top of her kitchen table in the classic Zen meditation pose. Says nothing.

Marlene reaches inside a cabinet. Pulls out a coffee mug. Looks inside. Cleans it with the edge of her camisole. Goes to the coffee maker. Yawns again.

She readies the coffee maker to make a cup of coffee. Still hasn't noticed Ninja Man meditating on her kitchen table.

She presses the button to start the coffee maker. Turns around. Leans against the counter. And looks up at Ninja Man.

She shrieks. Drops the coffee mug. It breaks on the floor.

Ninja Man cocks his head to one side. Shakes the cobwebs out. And looks at Marlene.

NINJA MAN

Woman noisy.

MARLENE

What the hell are YOU doing
here?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man save you. Ninja Man
bodyguard.

MARLENE

No, you're not! How'd you even
get in here?

NINJA MAN

Nothing impossible for Ninja
Man.

MARLENE

I must still be dreaming. Yeah,
that's it! This is still a
dream.

Ninja Man leaps off the kitchen table. Approaches Marlene.
Stands against her.

NINJA MAN

You think this dream?

Ninja Man grabs Marlene's hand. Puts it against his crotch.

Marlene's eyes shoot open. Her mouth gapes a little.

Ninja Man nods.

NINJA MAN

You dream now, baby?

Marlene grins a little. Closes her eyes.

MARLENE

Yeah...

Marlene frowns. Pulls her hand away. Wipes it with a dish
cloth.

MARLENE

But that's not the point!

NINJA MAN

It was few seconds ago.

MARLENE

You, you...jerk-off!

Marlene slaps Ninja Man in the face. Her hand strikes his
helmet. She pulls her hand away in pain.

MARLENE

Ow! That hurt!

NINJA MAN

Bitch slap not work on Ninja Man.

MARLENE

I do not NEED a bodyguard!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man think opposite.

MARLENE

Ninja Man can go to hell!

NINJA MAN

Did that. Froze over. Weather sucked.

Marlene gives Ninja Man a worried glance.

MARLENE

Are you for real?

Ninja Man puts a hand to his chin. Thinks that over.

Marlene's coffee is ready. She grabs a new mug and pours herself a cup. Leans against the counter.

Ninja Man's still thinking of a good answer. Marlene lets him squirm.

MARLENE

Okay, let's skip that.

Ninja Man slumps his shoulders in relief. Lets out a heavy 'pew.'

MARLENE

Where are you from?

NINJA MAN

Asia.

MARLENE

That's a pretty big area. What part of Asia?

NINJA MAN
Japan.

MARLENE
What part of Japan?

NINJA MAN
Kyoto.

MARLENE
What part of Kyoto?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man...not know.

MARLENE
What do you mean, Ninja Man
not know?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not know. Not
remember.

MARLENE
Oh, amnesia. Isn't that damn
convenient?

Marlene grabs another coffee mug from the cabinet. Pours a
cup for Ninja Man.

MARLENE
Would you like some coffee?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man LOVE coffee.

MARLENE
Now we're on to something.

Marlene hands Ninja Man the mug.

MARLENE
Drink up.

Ninja Man takes the mug in both hands. Goes to drink it. It
thunks against his helmet.

Marlene sits down at the kitchen table. Stirs her coffee.
Ninja Man's mug thunks again. And again.

MARLENE

Why don't you take your helmet off?

Ninja Man hangs his head.

NINJA MAN

Can't.

MARLENE

Why not?

NINJA MAN

Would reveal secret identity.

MARLENE

So, who are you? Really?

Ninja Man sits down opposite Marlene. Stirs his coffee.
Marlene does the same.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man.

MARLENE

I know that. But, I mean,
your secret identity. Every
hero has one, right?

Ninja Man nods.

MARLENE

So what's yours? Who are you,
Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man.

MARLENE

No, I get that. But what's
your--

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man.

MARLENE

You're not following me here.
Who's the guy under the--

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man!

MARLENE

I KNOW! But who's your alter-ego?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man!

Marlene puts a hand to her forehead. Sips her coffee.

MARLENE

One more time, just for shits
and giggles. You're...?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man.

MARLENE

But when you're not in costume?

NINJA MAN

Still Ninja Man.

Marlene's head thumps against the table.

MARLENE

I give up.

NINJA MAN

What part of Ninja Man you not
understand?

MARLENE

All of it.

INT. MARLENE'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Marlene's in the shower. She washes her hair. Hums a little
tune.

The shower curtain pulls back. Ninja Man hands Marlene a
towel.

NINJA MAN

Take towel.

MARLENE

YOU LOUSY CREEP! GET OUT OF
HERE!!!

Marlene grabs the towel. Throws it at Ninja Man. Pulls the shower curtain closed again.

The towel is draped over Ninja Man's head. He pulls it off. Folds it neatly. Lays it by the sink.

MARLENE

Why are you still here?!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man sorry.

MARLENE

You're gonna be!

Ninja Man exits the bathroom. Closes the door.

INT. MARLENE'S HALLWAY - MORNING

Ninja Man puts his back to the door. Places a hand to his chin.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not sorry. Ninja Man
see woman naked. Woman look
GREAT naked.

MARLENE

(through the door)
I HEARD THAT!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man sorry!!

He makes a hasty exit.

INT. MARLENE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Marlene, now fully dressed and ready for the day, grabs her

car keys and heads for the door. Ninja Man leans against the doorframe. Blocks her exit.

MARLENE

Out of the way.

NINJA MAN

Where you going?

MARLENE

To the grocery store.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man come with you.

MARLENE

No, Ninja Man can keep his butt planted right here.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man come with you--

Ninja Man stands very close to Marlene.

NINJA MAN

--or you feel ninja's wrath.

Marlene stands very close to Ninja Man.

MARLENE

Bring it...Tiny.

Marlene rams her knee into Ninja Man's groin. He folds like a cheap card table. Tumbles to the floor with a squeak.

MARLENE

Ninja's wrath my ass!

Marlene rips open the door. Slams it shut behind her. The lock clicks. Ninja Man raises a hand to the ceiling. It flops back down.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Marlene walks to her car. Unlocks it with her key fob. Gets in.

INT. MARLENE'S CAR - DAY

Marlene closes the door behind her. Still angry over Ninja Man's behavior.

She starts the car. Puts it in gear.

NINJA MAN (O.S.)
Woman should buckle up.

Marlene turns to the passenger seat. Ninja Man sits there, unharmed, with his seatbelt buckled securely.

Marlene is dumbfounded. She can't even form words.

NINJA MAN
Buckle up. For safety.

Marlene puts her seatbelt on. Still dumbfounded. Starts to drive.

The car crawls forward. Marlene pushes the pedal. It doesn't go any faster.

Marlene floors it. The car just inches forward.

NINJA MAN
This helps sometimes.

MARLENE
What does?

Ninja Man reaches for the emergency brake. Releases it. Marlene blasts away.

EXT. CITY ROAD - DAY

Marlene gets control of her car. Drives toward a shopping center.

INT. MARLENE'S CAR - DAY

Marlene looks over at Ninja Man. He sits perfectly still. Calm. Like he's in a world of his own.

MARLENE
How'd you do that?

NINJA MAN

Do what?

MARLENE

Get from my apartment to my car
without me seeing you?

NINJA MAN

Ninja trick.

MARLENE

I'll bet.

NINJA MAN

Handy for ninjas.

MARLENE

Uh-huh.

NINJA MAN

Handy in bed when sleeping
with other man's wife.

MARLENE

You've got to be kid--

NINJA MAN

Red light.

Marlene slams on the brakes. The traffic light has just
turned red.

MARLENE

So, are you really a ninja?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man is NINJA Man, yes?

MARLENE

No, see, that's just your
name. Are you--

NINJA MAN

Green light.

Marlene looks up. The light has turned green. She drives
again.

MARLENE

Ninjas are trained, right?

Ninja Man nods.

MARLENE

So where did you get your training?

NINJA MAN

At temple.

MARLENE

In Kyoto?

NINJA MAN

Can't reveal location of temple.

MARLENE

Why the hell not?

NINJA MAN

Red light.

Marlene slams on the brakes again. Her head thunks against the steering wheel. Ninja Man stays perfectly still.

MARLENE

Why can't you tell me where the temple is?

NINJA MAN

Could endanger ninja brothers.

MARLENE

Wait, you mean there's more than ONE of you?

Ninja Man looks at Marlene. Holds the look.

MARLENE

Should I start booking hotel rooms or something?

NINJA MAN

Ninjas need no home.

MARLENE
Then why did you--

NINJA MAN
Green light.

Marlene starts driving again.

MARLENE
Be serious with me, if that's
even possible--are you and
your ninja buddies in some
kind of trouble?

Ninja Man looks out the car window. Points to the shopping
center.

NINJA MAN
Woman miss turn.

MARLENE
What?! Are you shitting me?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man sorry.

Marlene puts her car into a u-turn.

MARLENE
If Ninja Man doesn't tell me the
truth, Ninja Man is going to get
a taste of my furious fist-to-the
-head style!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not familiar with fist-
to-the-head style.

MARLENE
You keep this shit up?

Marlene turns the car into the shopping center.

MARLENE
You're gonna know all about it!

Marlene parks her car. Shuts it off. And unbuckles her seat belt.

MARLENE

Stay here. I'll be right back.

NINJA MAN

Wait, woman!

MARLENE

STAY. HERE.

Marlene exits the car. Slams the door shut. Locks the car with her key fob.

Ninja Man tries to open the door. It won't budge.

NINJA MAN

Put window down! Ninja Man
hot in here!

Ninja Man puts his fist to the side of his helmet. Grumbles under his breath.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Marlene grabs a cart. Pushes it through the aisles. Finds what she needs.

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECKOUT - DAY

Marlene puts her items on the belt. CHUCK, early twenties, the playboy cashier, smiles at Marlene.

CHUCK

Hey, Marlene.

MARLENE

Hi, Chuck.

CHUCK

You seem a bit down. Anything
wrong?

MARLENE

Not really.

CHUCK

Hey, I've been meaning to ask you something.

MARLENE

I already know what it is, Chuck, and the answer is no. I'm too busy to date anyone right now.

Chuck blanches.

CHUCK

That...wasn't it at all. You're not even my type. I'd never date you.

Marlene's jaw drops open.

MARLENE

But...if you weren't going to ask me out, then what--?

Chuck jerks a thumb to the end of the checkout aisle.

CHUCK

Is he yours?

Marlene looks in the direction of Chuck's thumb. Ninja Man stands there, struggling to bag Marlene's groceries.

Marlene's jaw drops even further. She storms over to Ninja Man. He rubs the top of a plastic bag to open it.

MARLENE

What the hell are you doing here?!

NINJA MAN

Woman suck at dating.

Chuck snickers. Marlene glares at him.

MARLENE

You stay out of this!

CHUCK

Whatever you say.

Marlene turns back to Ninja Man. He's taken to massaging the plastic bag like a masseur would a person's back.

MARLENE

I told you to stay in the car!

NINJA MAN

Woman forget to roll down window.

MARLENE

So?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not want to suffocate.

MARLENE

You want to suffocate? I'll smother you in your sleep!

NINJA MAN

Can't.

MARLENE

Why not?

Ninja Man taps the side of his helmet.

NINJA MAN

Helmet.

Chuck snickers again. Finishes ringing up Marlene's groceries.

CHUCK

That's forty dollars and fifty-six cents. Will that be cash, check, credit, or debit?

Marlene fumbles to find her wallet. Ninja Man shoves the plastic bag into her chest. Walks to the register. And whips out a Diner's Club card.

Marlene stares at it in awe.

MARLENE

Where have you been hiding that?

NINJA MAN

Woman not want to know.

Marlene gets a disgusted look on her face.

CHUCK

It's warm, wherever it was.

MARLENE

Shut up, Chuck.

Marlene struggles to open the plastic bag. Flips out. Throws the plastic bag on the floor. Stomps on it with her shoe. Over, and over, and over.

Chuck hands Ninja Man's card back to him.

CHUCK

Is she okay?

NINJA MAN

Is woman ever okay?

Chuck and Ninja Man look at each other. Nod in agreement.

Chuck bags some of Marlene's groceries. Ninja Man takes Marlene aside.

NINJA MAN

Woman need to breathe.

MARLENE

Woman need to kick somebody's ass!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man teach you later.

MARLENE
Sounds REAL good!

Ninja Man takes the bag from Marlene's hands. Opens it the first try. Helps Chuck bag the groceries.

Marlene is still in her freaked-out state. She exits the store. Ninja Man doesn't notice.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Marlene steps to the side of the main entrance. A hand reaches out. Covers her mouth. Pulls her out of sight.

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECKOUT - DAY

Ninja Man grabs Marlene's bags. Turns. Notices that Marlene is gone.

Chuck is busy ringing up another customer's groceries.

CHUCK
She went outside to get some air.

NINJA MAN
Woman not need air.

Ninja Man poses dramatically. The grocery bags dangle from his fingers.

NINJA MAN
Woman need bodyguard!

Ninja Man dashes toward the exit. Slams into the sliding doors. Falls flat on his ass.

Chuck ignores him. Keeps doing his job.

FEMALE CUSTOMER (O.S.)
Is that man going to be okay?

CHUCK
Are ninjas EVER okay, ma'am?

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Crimson Pistol drags Marlene to the dark recesses of the place. He shoves her against a wall. Keeps his hand over her mouth. And aims his laser pistol at her.

CRIMSON PISTOL

When I remove my hand, you
will make no sound.

Marlene nods.

CRIMSON PISTOL

If you do, this pistol will
fire a seventy-five-thousand
watt blast of laser energy
that will split your skull
down the middle.

Marlene's eyes widen in fright.

CRIMSON PISTOL

Is that clearly understood?

Marlene nods again.

CRIMSON PISTOL

I shall remove my hand now.

Crimson Pistol does so. Marlene says and does nothing.
She's sobered up awful quick.

CRIMSON PISTOL

You have one chance to answer
this question correctly.

Marlene shakes a little.

CRIMSON PISTOL

Where is Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man right here!

Crimson Pistol turns to his left. So does Marlene. Ninja
Man isn't there.

NINJA MAN

Or here!

A shadow dances across the ground. Crimson Pistol whirls to his right. So does Marlene. There's no one around.

NINJA MAN

Or maybe Ninja Man up here!

Crimson Pistol and Marlene look toward the nearest roof. Ninja Man stands there, silhouetted in a mighty pose against the bright sun.

CRIMSON PISTOL

NINJA MAN!!

MARLENE

(dryly)

Yay.

CRIMSON PISTOL

It's about time you showed up!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know he on the clock!

Ninja Man leaps down from the roof. Lands perfectly on his feet. Puts his hand to his sword.

CRIMSON PISTOL

You killed Skull and Dagger, Ninja Man! They were my best friends!

MARLENE

Is this guy from another galaxy or what?

NINJA MAN

Skull? Dagger? Ninja Man not know these people.

CRIMSON PISTOL

Don't play dumb!

Crimson Pistol fires his pistol. Red beams of energy lash out at Ninja Man. Make huge sprays of sparks around him.

Ninja Man falls through the air. Lands on his back. Smoke drifts from his costume.

Crimson Pistol rests his weapon on his left forearm and looks down its sniper scope. Centers it on Ninja Man's head.

Marlene backs away. Shakes her head. Can't believe any of this is real.

MARLENE

No way...a laser pistol?
Explosions? Smoke coming off
bodies?

Crimson Pistol overhears Marlene. Turns in her direction.

MARLENE

This can't be real...it just
can't...what the hell am I
doing here?!

Marlene turns. Runs away.

Crimson Pistol looks down his sniper scope. Fires.

Spark explosions dance all around Marlene. She curls into a ball. Covers her head. Quivers with fear.

CRIMSON PISTOL

Don't you dare depart, young
lady! The second act has just
begun!

Marlene peeks out. Sees Crimson Pistol marching toward her.

MARLENE

No...no! Stay away! Stay away
from me!

Crimson Pistol twirls his gun on his trigger finger. Keeps on marching.

MARLENE

God, please! Stay away! Don't touch me!!

Crimson Pistol stops twirling his gun. Props it against his left forearm. Sights the barrel on Marlene.

Marlene is frozen in terror. Can't even cry out for help.

Crimson Pistol looks through his sniper scope. Centers it on Marlene's head.

Marlene peeks out further. Her eyes are full of tears.

Crimson Pistol lowers his head a bit. Like he's apologizing for what he's about to do.

CRIMSON PISTOL

(whispered)

You know, you're really good at this.

Marlene shakes her head a little. Crimson Pistol's voice and demeanor are entirely different.

MARLENE

What--what are you...?

CRIMSON PISTOL

(whispered)

Have you taken any classes? Or is this all method?

MARLENE

What are you talking about?

CRIMSON PISTOL

(whispered)

It's like they say--you only learn by doing, right?

MARLENE

I don't--understand--what're you--?

CRIMSON PISTOL

(whispered)

Hey, relax, sweetheart! I'm not
going to kill you! This is just
a--

Ninja Man leaps at Crimson Pistol, letting out a mighty
roar of anger!

NINJA MAN

NINJA MAN SAVE WOMAN!!!

Ninja Man and Crimson Pistol go flying through the air.
They land in the middle of a deserted field.

EXT. DESERTED FIELD - DAY

Marlene looks a bit stunned. She can't figure out how they
got here from the shopping center. It seems so far away.

Ninja Man and Crimson Pistol are engaging in fisticuffs.
Ninja Man is winning.

Marlene shakes her head. Stares at her surroundings. Tries
to piece everything together.

Ninja Man sticks it to Crimson Pistol. Gives him a left,
right, uppercut combo that sends him flying against a rock.

Crimson Pistol struggles to stand. Can't. Reaches for his
gun. Aims it at Ninja Man.

CRIMSON PISTOL

With one pull...of this trigger...
I take my revenge for Skull and
Dagger!

Ninja Man puts his hand to his sword again. Takes a step
back.

Marlene comes to her senses. Reacts to the situation
quickly. Runs to Ninja Man.

Crimson Pistol's finger inches toward the trigger.

Ninja Man takes another step back. Steadies his grip on his
sword.

Marlene runs at full speed. She's almost caught up to Ninja Man.

Crimson Pistol's finger tickles the trigger. It starts to pull back...

MARLENE
NINJA MAN, LOOK OUT!

Marlene tackles Ninja Man to the ground at the crucial moment. Crimson Pistol never fires. He vomits instead.

Ninja Man and Marlene roll off each other. Look at Crimson Pistol in confusion.

CRIMSON PISTOL
Aw, man...I just puked inside
my helmet! Gross!!

MARLENE
Ninja Man, now's your chance!
Take him out!

NINJA MAN
Woman is wrong.

MARLENE
How am I wrong? He tried to
kill you AND me!

NINJA MAN
Never kick man when he down.

MARLENE
Well, I sure as hell will!

Marlene runs over. Kicks Crimson Pistol in the ribs. The stomach. The arm. And the head.

MARLENE
You lousy son of a goddamn
fucking bitch! Why I outta
kick the living shit out of you!!

Ninja Man grabs Marlene. Pulls her away. Crimson Pistol barely moves.

NINJA MAN
Woman need time-out.

MARLENE
And Ninja Man needs to do his
job!

NINJA MAN
Woman do Ninja Man's job for him.

Ninja Man turns to the crumpled form of Crimson Pistol.

NINJA MAN
CRIMSON PISTOL!

Crimson Pistol's head jerks. He looks in Ninja Man's
direction.

NINJA MAN
Next time...we fight with honor!

Ninja Man poses dramatically. Like a hero in an old samurai
movie.

CRIMSON PISTOL
Whatever, man! Sounds good to
me!

Ninja Man puts an arm around Marlene's shoulders. Leads her
away.

MARLENE
I have a question.

NINJA MAN
Ask.

MARLENE
Where the hell are we?

Ninja Man stops. He and Marlene are the only ones around.

Ninja Man looks at his surroundings. Looks at Marlene. And
puts a hand to his chin.

NINJA MAN
Woman ask very good question...

Some distance behind them, Crimson Pistol removes his helmet. Puke spills out of it.

PAYTON HAYES, mid to late forties, is the man behind the mask. He looks like an out-of-work B-movie has-been.

PAYTON
I don't get paid enough for
this shit.

He stands. Clutches his sore ribs. Looks around.

PAYTON
Somebody mind telling me how I
got here?

No one answers.

PAYTON
Somebody going to tell me how I
can get home?

Again, no answer.

PAYTON
Terrific.

Payton kicks his helmet. It bounces off a rock. Ricochets off another. And hits him in the forehead.

Payton goes down. Lies in the dirt under the sun. Doesn't move.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Uh, we just lost Payton, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Is he out cold?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Looks that way.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Damn it, I hate these non-union
jobs! I QUIT!!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Ninja Man and Marlene walk along the edge. A car approaches. Ninja Man sticks his thumb out. The car drives on past.

NINJA MAN

This suck.

MARLENE

You can say that again.

NINJA MAN

This really suck.

MARLENE

It's all your fault.

NINJA MAN

Woman is wrong.

MARLENE

Wrong? How am I wrong?

Marlene stops. Ninja Man looks at her.

MARLENE

If you had stayed in the car--

NINJA MAN

Woman would be dead.

Marlene starts over.

MARLENE

If you had killed the laser guy
back there--

NINJA MAN

Then he'd be dead.

Marlene starts over. Again.

MARLENE

If you had stayed at my
apartment--!

NINJA MAN

Woman would still be dead.

Marlene stomps her foot. Pouts.

MARLENE

Do you have to be right about everything?!

Marlene walks on. Ninja Man scratches the top of his helmet.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know. It nice, though.

Ninja Man catches up to Marlene. Walks beside her.

MARLENE

How did we even end up out here?

NINJA MAN

Say again?

MARLENE

I mean, one minute we were at the shopping center--

NINJA MAN

Yes.

MARLENE

--and the next, we're in the middle of God-knows-where.

Ninja Man looks at Marlene. Lifts his index finger. Goes to speak.

MARLENE

If you say ninja trick again, I'm going to unleash fist-to-the-head style!

NINJA MAN

That might hurt.

MARLENE
How do you figure?

Ninja Man taps the side of his helmet.

NINJA MAN
Helmet.

Marlene throws her hands up in the air.

MARLENE
I can't believe you!! You have
an answer for EVERYTHING!

A pickup truck approaches. Ninja Man holds out his thumb.
The truck slows to a stop.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

EDGAR PETTIBONE, late fifties, with the look of a broke-ass hillbilly, leans out from the driver's side window. A tattoo on his shoulder reads "Born To Be Wilder."

EDGAR
Howdy, folks! Where 'ya fixin'
'ta go?

MARLENE
We need to get back into
town!

EDGAR
That's where I'm headed! Need
to pick up a tub of lard for
the misses!

NINJA MAN
Misses have one already.

Marlene elbows Ninja Man.

MARLENE
Shut up, please!

Edgar eyes Ninja Man. Sizes him up.

EDGAR

You one of them cosplayer
freaks or somethin'?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not--

MARLENE

Yes, he's a cosplayer. We
were shopping for fabric at
the craft store and he
wanted to show off the costume,
okay? Can you PLEASE give us
a lift, mister?

EDGAR

Don't see why not. But the ninja
sits in the back.

NINJA MAN

What?

MARLENE

Yes!

EDGAR

And the young lady can sit up
front with me and my air
conditioning!

MARLENE

Sweet!

NINJA MAN

Not fair, woman!

Marlene runs to the other side of the truck. Ninja Man
leaps into the back. Leans toward Marlene as she climbs in.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man feel strange aura
around us.

Marlene shoves Ninja Man's helmet out of her face.

MARLENE

Maybe that aura is you suffering

from heatstroke!

Marlene shuts the truck's passenger door. Ninja Man goes into his Zen meditation position in the back.

INT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Marlene pulls on her seat belt. Looks at it. Lets it slide back.

Edgar extends a beefy hand to Marlene. He has a tan line on his wrist where his watch used to be.

EDGAR

Edgar Pettibone, at your service.

MARLENE

Marlene Baker. Nice to meet you.

EDGAR

Likewise. You want some of that cold air I promised you?

MARLENE

Definitely!

Edgar puts the truck in gear. Switches a dial on the dash.

EDGAR

Check this out, cutie!

Edgar drives. White vapor pours out of the vents in the dash.

MARLENE

What the hell?

Edgar grins.

EDGAR

You think that's cool? Wait till you see this!

Edgar shifts gears. Revs the engine. Turns the dial.

White smoke pours from the vents. It's thick and milky.

MARLENE

What IS this?

EDGAR

Pot.

MARLENE

Excuse me?

EDGAR

It's my pot conditioner. You
get a high every time you drive!

Edgar shifts gears. Guns the engine. Pot smoke fills the
inside of the truck.

Marlene coughs. Coughs again. Tries to put down the window.

EDGAR

Now, now, cutie, we won't have
none of that 'round here!

Edgar uses his controls to put the window back up.

MARLENE

I feel sort-of funny.

EDGAR

That's the pot gettin' to 'ya!

MARLENE

What?

EDGAR

That's the pot gettin' to 'ya!

MARLENE

WHAT?!?

EDGAR

That's the--hell, 'ya got it,
cutie! It's in 'ya good!

Edgar lets out a loud, whooping laugh. Marlene rubs her
eyes. Her head bobs from side to side.

MARLENE

What were we talking about?

EDGAR

We weren't talkin'.

MARLENE

Oh.

A moment.

MARLENE

What were we talking about?

EDGAR

The same thing we weren't
talkin' 'bout before.

MARLENE

Which was what?

EDGAR

Nothin'.

MARLENE

Oh.

Another moment. A grin spreads across Edgar's face.

MARLENE

What were we talking about?

Edgar howls with laughter. Slaps Marlene's knee. Marlene slaps her own knee. Slaps it again. And again.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Ninja Man continues to meditate...until he hears a low growl coming from the other end of the truck.

Buried beneath a grungy pile of shirts & some spare parts, HONEYSUCKLE, Edgar's hunting dog, prepares to pounce on Ninja Man.

Ninja Man's head drops. He locks gazes with Honeysuckle. A standoff ensues.

Honeysuckle growls harder.

Ninja Man growls as well.

Honeysuckle's growl deepens.

Ninja Man's growl heightens.

Honeysuckle's paws scratch the bed of the truck.

Ninja Man pounds his fist into his palm.

Honeysuckle pounces...

Ninja Man reaches for his sword...

And Honeysuckle jerks back, his chain leash keeping him from tearing Ninja Man apart!

Ninja Man's confused. He looks under the shirts and spare parts.

Honeysuckle is not a hunting dog, but a wiener dog, with a chain for a leash that is attached to a hook in the bed of the truck.

Honeysuckle whimpers. He's scared now that his secret has been revealed.

Ninja Man sits down next to Honeysuckle. Pulls the dog into his lap. And pets it tenderly.

Honeysuckle wags his tail. Barks happily. He loves his new friend.

Ninja Man looks around. Can't tell where he is. It's all grass, dirt, and forest.

A dirt bike engine revs in the distance. Ninja Man turns toward the sound.

The dirt bike blasts out from the forest. Goes airborne as it hits a bump in the road.

Honeysuckle yaps wildly. Ninja Man hides him under the shirts and spare parts. Puts a finger to the mouth of his helmet.

Ninja Man faces the dirt bike. Puts his hand to his sword.

EXT. DIRT BIKE - DAY

WHITE LANCER, another Power-Ranger-style costumed villain, rides the dirt bike on a collision course with Edgar's truck.

White Lancer's helmet has a small human face on the forehead. Its eyes and mouth move on their own, as if it were alive. This is LANCELOT, White Lancer's bitch-talking combat partner.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Ninja Man draws his sword. The dirt bike accelerates toward him. Edgar's truck continues on its merry pot-smoking way.

Ninja Man looks at the cab of the truck. He's torn between guarding Marlene and fighting White Lancer.

He looks at the dirt bike. At White Lancer. And makes his choice.

EXT. DIRT BIKE - DAY

White Lancer revs the bike. Pops a wheelie. He's so close to the bumper of Edgar's truck he can taste it.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Ninja Man takes a step back. White Lancer stands on top of his dirt bike. Steadies himself. And jumps off and into a flying kick.

Ninja Man takes the kick dead in the face. The dirt bike smacks to the asphalt. Skids across the ground. Spins. And explodes in a ball of fire.

White Lancer pulls his left fist back. A golden rod emerges from his left sleeve. He grabs it. Spins it. And jabs it into Ninja Man's stomach.

White electricity lances across Ninja Man's body. He jerks and contorts in pain. White Lancer pulls his rod away. The electrocution stops.

Smoke drifts off Ninja Man's costume. He puts his sword tip against the bed of the truck. Uses it to stand up. And puts on a dramatic fighting pose.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man want a name!

White Lancer pats his rod into his gloved palm.

WHITE LANCER
They call me White Lancer.

White Lancer points to Lancelot.

WHITE LANCER
And this is Lancelot.

LANCELOT
What's crackin', bitches?

Ninja Man shakes his head in disbelief.

NINJA MAN
Your helmet speaks!

WHITE LANCER
Don't act so surprised. We all
have our little...quirks.

Ninja Man watches Lancelot. Its eyes and mouth continue to move.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man think helmet is gross.

WHITE LANCER
Ninja Man can keep his opinion
to himself!

LANCELOT
You tell 'im, bitch!

Ninja Man holds his sword blade-down in the style of Yojimbo.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not like you.

WHITE LANCER

I don't care for you much
either.

White Lancer stops tapping his rod. Holds it out at his side. Edgar's truck continues to cruise.

WHITE LANCER

Let's do something about that,
shall we?

LANCELOT

Get 'im, bitch!

Ninja Man holds out a hand. Gestures for White Lancer to come get some.

White Lancer's rod and Ninja Man's sword smack together. Smack again. And again.

Ninja Man's sword locks with White Lancer's rod. Their helmets are right against each other.

White Lancer jerks his free hand back. Makes a fist. And knocks Ninja Man in the head with a sweep of said fist.

Ninja Man stumbles against the cab of the truck. White Lancer holds his rod behind his back. Takes on Ninja Man with one hand.

The two warriors circle each other. Feel each other out.

Ninja Man slashes with his sword. White Lancer moves like the wind. Dodges it easily.

Ninja Man slashes again. White Lancer shoves the blade aside with his gloved hand.

Ninja Man thrusts his sword forward. White Lancer spins to the side. Chops the sword out of Ninja Man's hand. And strikes him with the rod in the back of his head.

Ninja Man falls flat on his face. He tries to get up. Can't.

LANCELOT

Papa Lancer gonna make you

his bitch!

WHITE LANCER
Observe, Ninja Man. I have
bested you in all areas of
combat. Your only option is
surrender.

Ninja Man looks toward Honeysuckle. He's shaking with fear.
He looks out at Ninja Man from under his covering. Whines.

White Lancer's head jerks toward Honeysuckle.

WHITE LANCER
Did you hear that?

LANCELOT
Sounds like a bitch in heat!

White Lancer rips back the shirts and spare parts. Finds
Honeysuckle. And reels back in horror.

WHITE LANCER
A DOG!

White Lancer stumbles all the way against the cab.

WHITE LANCER
Get it away from me!

LANCELOT
Don't be such a bitch!

Honeysuckle starts yapping at White Lancer. Ninja Man puts
his palms to the bed of the truck. Pushes himself up one
inch at a time.

WHITE LANCER
Get away, get away, get away!!!

LANCELOT
Stop being a little bitch!

Honeysuckle jerks on his chain. White Lancer crawls to the
farthest corner of the truck's bed.

WHITE LANCER

No, no, no! No doggies! I hate
doggies!

Ninja Man stands to his full height. Towers over White
Lancer.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man LOVE doggies.

Ninja Man grabs the front of White Lancer's costume. Picks
him up.

NINJA MAN (CON'T.)

And Ninja Man HATE you!

Ninja Man punches White Lancer. The blow is so hard it
throws White Lancer off the truck and onto the unforgiving
asphalt.

White Lancer rolls to a stop on the road's surface. He lays
there. Doesn't move.

LANCELOT

What a bitch!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Can somebody shut that damn
thing off?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

We're trying, sir. The fall must
have damaged it.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

I hate working with these
Japanese animatronics! I
QUIT!!

A moment.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Uh, sir?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

WHAT?!?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
You already quit.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Then what the hell am I still
doing here?!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Beats the fuck out of me, sir.

EXT. EDGAR'S FARM - DAY

Edgar pulls his truck up the dirt driveway. Pens for pigs, chickens, and various breeds of dogs decorate the farmland.

Ninja Man leaps out of the truck. Walks to the passenger side. Opens the door. And gets hit with a wave of pot smoke.

Marlene falls out of the truck. Splats against the mud on the ground. She is so high she can't even walk.

Edgar exits the truck. Slams the door shut. And makes his way to the ramshackle house.

NINJA MAN
Hey! Hillbilly!

EDGAR
What you want, ninja guy?

NINJA MAN
What happen to woman?

EDGAR
She's high on pot. It'll wear
off in a hour or two.

NINJA MAN
Oh.

EDGAR
Or maybe three!

Edgar lets out a belly laugh. Opens the screen door to his house. It slaps shut behind him.

Ninja Man sits Marlene up. Slaps her lightly on the cheeks.

NINJA MAN
Wake up, woman.

Marlene doesn't move. Her head hangs limp.

NINJA MAN
Woman okay?

MARLENE
My legs...

NINJA MAN
Yes?

MARLENE
My legs ran off...

Ninja Man looks at Marlene's legs. They're still attached.

NINJA MAN
Woman messed up.

MARLENE
Go get my legs.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man get coffee for you.

Marlene grabs Ninja Man by the neck.

MARLENE
GET. MY. LEGS.

Marlene passes out. Slumps to the ground.

Ninja Man puts his hand to his chin. Thinks hard.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man do what woman tell
him to do.

Ninja Man looks around.

NINJA MAN
Where Ninja Man find pair of
legs?

Ninja Man stands. Walks around the farmhouse. And sees a pair of shapely spandex-clad legs.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Ninja Man cocks his head to the side. Puts his hand to his chin again.

He admires the legs. His view moves to the perfectly rounded spandex ass. Whoever this is, they look great in spandex.

Ninja Man gets in a position like a baseball catcher. Gives the legs and ass a more thorough inspection.

These wonderful female parts belong to NINJA WOMAN, a female Power-Ranger style heroine, who wears an identical costume to Ninja Man's, except hers is a turquoise color.

Ninja Woman is currently piling up bails of hay. Ninja Man admires her every move. Everything Ninja Woman does is graceful, feminine, and almost like a dance. She's nothing like Marlene.

Ninja Man leans back. Studies Ninja Woman's chest.

Ninja Woman's breasts are much larger than Marlene's. Her nipples are showing through her costume.

Ninja Man rubs his chin. Shakes himself out of his erotic stupor. He's in love!

Ninja Woman tosses the last bail of hay onto the pile. Dusts hay from her hands. Looks up. Sees Ninja Man.

NINJA MAN
Ninja...Woman?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN
Ninja...Woman.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Woman!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man!

They run to each other. Embrace tightly. Ninja Woman backs away a little.

NINJA WOMAN
Ow, ow, ow!

NINJA MAN
What wrong?

NINJA WOMAN
Something poked me!

Ninja Man looks down at his groin. He has a huge bulge in his costume.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man sorry!

Ninja Man taps his bulge. Slaps it. Flicks it. Does anything he can to try and calm it down.

Ninja Woman laughs at his antics. Comes to him. Puts her arms around his neck.

NINJA WOMAN
I'm glad you're here, Ninja Man.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man glad too.

NINJA WOMAN
You're glad that you're here,
or you're glad that I'm here?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man...not know. Ninja Man not think with boner.

Ninja Woman laughs again.

NINJA WOMAN

You haven't changed one bit.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Woman more beautiful.

NINJA WOMAN

Thank you! I've been working out.

Ninja Woman goes through a series of dramatic poses. Shows off her lithe body.

NINJA MAN

That not what Ninja Man meant.

Ninja Woman stops. Cocks her head to the side.

NINJA WOMAN

Who's your friend?

NINJA MAN

Friend?

Ninja Man looks at Marlene. She plays with the pigs in the pen. She's covered in mud and dirt.

NINJA MAN

Ignore her. She high.

NINJA WOMAN

Pot smoke?

Ninja Man nods.

NINJA WOMAN

You know what helps with that?

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman tap the side of their helmets.

NINJA MAN & NINJA WOMAN

Helmets!

The two heroes share a good laugh. It's the first time we've heard Ninja Man laugh all day.

NINJA WOMAN

You haven't laughed in a long
time, have you?

NINJA MAN

No reason to.

NINJA WOMAN

You've been gone a while.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man leave? When?

NINJA WOMAN

You don't remember?

Ninja Man shakes his head. Walks away.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not remember much.

NINJA WOMAN

You remember me, though...right?

Ninja Woman wraps her arms around Ninja Man's chest.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man never forget Ninja
Woman.

NINJA WOMAN

I'm glad. What else do you
remember?

NINJA MAN

Remember temple. Where ninjas
train.

NINJA WOMAN

Where was the temple?

NINJA MAN

Can't reveal location of
temple.

NINJA WOMAN

It's just us ninjas! I'm

trying to help you out!

NINJA MAN

If you Ninja Woman, you know
where temple is!

NINJA WOMAN

What's that supposed to mean?

Ninja Man pulls free from Ninja Woman's grasp. Reaches for
his sword.

NINJA MAN

Mean you not real Ninja Woman!

Ninja Woman stares down her former lover.

Ninja Man stares down the woman he loves.

NINJA WOMAN

You're so full of shit!

NINJA MAN

Say again?

NINJA WOMAN

I said you're full of shit!

Ninja Woman hides a sob. Runs into the farmhouse. The
screen door slaps shut behind her.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man suck at dating too.

Ninja Man hears a dirt bike engine rev behind him. He whips
around. Poses intensely.

White Lancer screeches to a stop on a new dirt bike. Revs
the engine.

NINJA MAN

WHITE LANCER!

WHITE LANCER

Indeed, Ninja Man!

White Lancer gives the bike a hard rev.

WHITE LANCER

And this time will be the last
time!

Lancelot tries to speak. His voice sounds like a worn-out
cassette tape from the eighties.

WHITE LANCER

God damn it!

White Lancer slaps the forehead of his helmet. Slaps it
again. And again.

Ninja Man relaxes. Takes his hand off his sword. Folds his
arms over his chest.

Ninja Woman bursts out of the farmhouse. Rushes to Ninja
Man's side. And stops.

White Lancer continues to hit himself in the head.
Lancelot's voice pitches down, up, and down again.

NINJA WOMAN

What's with him?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know. But it
funny as hell.

LANCELOT

Ow! Quit hitting me, bitch!

White Lancer catches his breath. Dismounts from the bike.
His pant leg gets caught on the kickstand. He jerks on it.
Jerks again. Can't get free.

NINJA WOMAN

You're right. This is funny as hell.

White Lancer moves his leg in any and every direction.
Still can't get free. He kicks the bike with his other
foot. Kicks it over and over.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman start to laugh. Then they can't
stop.

White Lancer kicks the bike so hard that it slides on the mud. Hits the ground. And drags White Lancer with it.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman are in hysterics. They can't catch their breath.

White Lancer removes his rod. Jabs it into the mud. That stops him from sliding. He slices at his pant leg with the rod. Busts the kickstand off. Now he's free...and he's mighty pissed.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman are holding onto each other as they laugh. They can barely stand.

White Lancer storms toward them. His costume is covered in dirt and mud. He spins his rod. Readies himself for a fight.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman calm down. Catch their breath.

WHITE LANCER
You will pay dearly for
humiliating me, Ninja Man!

Ninja Man looks up. Reaches for his sword.

Ninja Woman looks up. Splits from Ninja Man.

White Lancer leaps in between them. Sweeps his rod. Poses dramatically.

Ninja Man draws his sword. So does Ninja Woman. The three combatants circle each other.

LANCELOT
Look! A ninja bitch!

White Lancer looks at Ninja Woman. Stops.

WHITE LANCER
I'm sorry, I don't believe
we've met. Who are you again?

Ninja Woman goes through another series of action poses.

NINJA WOMAN
I am...NINJA WOMAN!

WHITE LANCER

Oh. How utterly dreadful.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man say give up. Odds
against you.

White Lancer spins his rod. Holds it behind his back.
Extends his free hand.

WHITE LANCER

Two against one? The odds are
excellent. Victory is assured.

LANCELOT

You tell 'im, bitch!

Ninja Woman strikes first. White Lancer steps aside. Gives
her a fierce karate chop in the back.

Ninja Man leaps in. White Lancer blocks each of his sword
slashes with his free hand. Chops Ninja Man in the neck.
Shoves him in the chest with his palm. And somersault-kicks
him into a pile of barrels.

Ninja Woman returns. Slashes feverishly at White Lancer. He
blocks all of her attacks with that one hand. Kicks her
feet out from under her with a sweep of his right foot. And
jabs his rod into her stomach.

White electricity lances across Ninja Woman's body. She
jerks violently. White Lancer keeps up the attack.

WHITE LANCER

Neither of you can stop me! I
am victorious!

A barrel soars toward White Lancer. He leaps off Ninja
Woman. Strikes the barrel with his rod. It shatters in a
cloud of smoke.

Two more barrels come at White Lancer. He smacks them aside
with his rod. They too explode in clouds in smoke.

The smoke blocks White Lancer's vision. He can't see
anything.

Ninja Man rushes through the smoke. Sword drawn. Head down.
And roaring with anger.

White Lancer's back is turned to Ninja Man. He whips around
at the last possible moment.

NINJA MAN
NINJA SLASH!

Ninja Man strikes White Lancer with his sword. Sparks fly
from the blow. White Lancer falls. Drops his rod.

Ninja Man picks up the rod in his free hand. White Lancer
panics.

WHITE LANCER
Wa--wait! Give that back to me,
please!

Ninja Man shakes his head slowly. Drops the rod by his
right foot.

WHITE LANCER
Please, don't! Don't smash it,
I beg you!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man say...no dice!

Ninja Man stomps on the rod. It splits in two. Sparks a
bit. And shuts down.

The smoke clears. Ninja Woman recovers. Spots Ninja Man and
White Lancer.

Ninja Woman leaps into the air. Somersaults. Lands next to
her former lover.

NINJA WOMAN
You ready to bag this sucker?

NINJA MAN
Are you?

White Lancer scoots away. Stands. Backs further away.

WHITE LANCER

Please! You don't understand!!
I was simply following orders!

Ninja Woman holds her sword tip-down. Runs her hand across the blade. The sword glows a bright white.

Ninja Man holds his sword tip-down. Runs his hand across the blade. It also glows a bright white.

LANCELOT

You're in trouble now, bitch!

White Lancer holds his arms up. Prepares himself for the inevitable.

WHITE LANCER

PLEASE...DON'T!

Ninja Woman leaps into the air. Pulls her sword back for a mighty slash.

Ninja Man leaps into the air as well. Pulls his sword back for a mightier slash.

NINJA MAN & NINJA WOMAN:

NINJA BLADE!

As the two heroes come down, they slash White Lancer with their energized swords. White Lancer stands there for a moment. Two moments. And falls to the ground, where he explodes in a mighty torrent of fire.

The two ninja heroes sheath their swords in sync. White Lancer's body is now a smoldering skeleton.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman clasp hands firmly.

NINJA WOMAN

You've still got it, Ninja Man!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Woman still have the moves!

NINJA WOMAN

And don't you forget it.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man never forget you.

NINJA WOMAN

Aw, how sweet!

Ninja Woman hugs Ninja Man around the neck. They embrace tightly. Ninja Woman breaks away again.

NINJA WOMAN

Ow. Ow. Ow!

Ninja Man looks down at his groin. Looks back up.

NINJA WOMAN

You need to get a handle on that thing.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man REALLY sorry.

NINJA WOMAN

Don't be. Happens to me a lot. I guess guys really go for a woman in spandex.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Woman not kidding.

Marlene enters. Her clothes are soaked with mud. Her face is covered in dirt. And she's beyond pissed.

MARLENE

What the hell is going on?

NINJA MAN

Uh-oh...

MARLENE

Who is this?!

Ninja Woman extends a hand.

NINJA WOMAN

Hi, I'm Ninja Woman. You must be...?

MARLENE

Pissed-Off Woman! THAT'S what
I am!

Ninja Woman retracts her hand.

NINJA WOMAN

I think you need a time-out,
miss.

MARLENE

You're not the first person
to say that today!

Marlene storms toward Ninja Man. Grabs his belt. Pulls him
out of earshot.

MARLENE

You mind telling me how I
ended up here? Like THIS?!

NINJA MAN

We hitch ride from hillbilly.

MARLENE

That I remember.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man ride in back of
truck. Woman ride in front.

MARLENE

Yeah, I got that too. What
happened after?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man find doggie in back
of truck.

MARLENE

What happened to ME, Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN

Doggie cute. But doggie chained
up.

MARLENE

Ninja Man! FOCUS! What happened to ME in the truck?

NINJA MAN

Woman smoke pot. Get high. Lose legs.

MARLENE

WHAT?!?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man go to find woman legs. Find Ninja Woman.

Marlene is dumbstruck. Can't follow the story anymore.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man fight White Lancer. Ninja Woman help. White Lancer dead.

MARLENE

Wait, wait, wait a minute! You had another fight while I was--

NINJA MAN

High?

MARLENE

And I missed it?

Ninja Man shrugs.

MARLENE

WHAT THE FUCK?!?

Marlene puts her hands to her head. Pulls them back.

MARLENE

And how did I end up covered in mud?

NINJA MAN

Woman was high. Played with pigs. Got dirty.

MARLENE

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know these
people.

MARLENE

Look, it's irrelevant now.
We need to--

Marlene stops. Takes a closer look at Ninja Woman.

MARLENE

Oh. My. God.

Ninja Man looks in Ninja Woman's direction. Ninja Woman
stretches like a Olympic sprinter.

MARLENE

Her nipples are showing!

NINJA MAN

Yes. Ninja Man know.

MARLENE

If my nipples were showing,
would you care?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know. Woman not
show nipples.

MARLENE

You've seen them, you jerkwad!
You peeked at me in the shower
this morning, remember?

NINJA MAN

Ah. Ninja Man forgot.

MARLENE

Ninja Man seems to forget a
lot whenever he sees a woman
in spandex.

NINJA MAN

Woman not far from truth.

Marlene approaches Ninja Woman. Ninja Man follows.

MARLENE

I think we got off on the wrong
foot.

NINJA WOMAN

You think so, huh?

MARLENE

I'm Marlene Baker. Ninja Man's
been following me around.

Ninja Woman looks at Ninja Man. If looks could kill...

NINJA WOMAN

Yeah. He tends to do that.

MARLENE

Ninja Man tells me you're like
him.

NINJA WOMAN

In what way?

MARLENE

You know. You're a ninja?

NINJA WOMAN

Yeah. I guess.

MARLENE

How did you end up working for
this pot-smoking hick?

Ninja Woman looks at her gloved hands like she's examining
a manicure.

NINJA WOMAN

My boyfriend.

MARLENE

What?

NINJA MAN

What?

NINJA WOMAN

My boyfriend. And he's the
jealous type.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Woman not mention
boyfriend!

NINJA WOMAN

I didn't get a chance to. You
were all over me.

Marlene looks at Ninja Man. Glares at him. Scowls at him.

MARLENE

Oh, really...?

Ninja Woman looks toward the horizon. A tractor approaches.

NINJA WOMAN

There he is now!

Ninja Woman runs off. Waves.

NINJA WOMAN

Hi, sweet cheeks! Guess who I
ran into today?

The tractor stops. A costumed hero leaps off of it. He is
BLAZE MAN, who wears an identical costume to Ninja Man and
Ninja Woman's, except his is a bold red.

Marlene and Ninja Man hurry to Ninja Woman's side. Blaze
Man freezes.

BLAZE MAN

NINJA MAN!

Ninja Man freezes.

NINJA MAN

BLAZE MAN!

Ninja Woman is still waving at Blaze Man.

NINJA WOMAN

Yoo-hoo! Sweet cheeks! I'll
go set the table for dinner!
Don't be long, okay?

Ninja Woman blows a kiss, Marilyn Monroe-style, to Blaze Man.

Blaze Man catches the kiss in the air. Slaps it to the side of his helmet. Waves back.

Ninja Man reaches for his sword. So does Blaze Man.

Ninja Woman walks off. Marlene grabs her arm.

MARLENE

Oh no you don't, you two-timing
Ninja Bitch.

Ninja Woman evens her gaze at Marlene.

MARLENE

I think you need a lesson in
manners.

Ninja Woman jerks Marlene forward. Twists her arm. And spins Marlene onto the ground.

NINJA WOMAN

Another time, you stinky bitch.

Ninja Woman walks off. Marlene looks up from the mud. She's not going down without a fight.

MARLENE

Uh-uh! This ain't over yet!

Marlene charges at Ninja Woman. Tackles her to the mud. They struggle for supremacy.

Marlene holds Ninja Woman's wrists behind her back. Puts a knee into her kidneys. And presses down hard.

MARLENE

I took a self-defense class!
Comes in handy, huh?

Ninja Woman bucks under Marlene's hold. Throws Marlene onto the mud. Grabs Marlene's right arm. Puts her in a judo hold.

NINJA WOMAN

I'm a ninja. I know three hundred and sixty-five different ways to kill you. That's one for every day of the year.

Ninja Woman puts her face next to Marlene's.

NINJA WOMAN

Feel free to choose.

Some distance away from Marlene and Ninja Woman's fight, Edgar scoops up the smoldering remains of White Lancer and dumps them in a barrel.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

That's good, Dean. Keep it coming.

DEAN SMITH, also late fifties, is the real man behind the persona of Edgar Pettibone. He speaks with an aristocratic British accent. Has a dignified air about him.

DEAN

Am I getting paid for this atrocious clean-up act?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

No, I don't think so.

DEAN

Then I want my assistant to contact my agent!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Your assistant quit yesterday, Dean.

DEAN

Why the bloody hell did she do that?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

She got tired of you stealing

her underwear from her trailer.

Dean gasps.

DEAN
Well, I never--!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
She's filed a sexual harassment
lawsuit against the studio.

DEAN
Are you sure?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Positive.

DEAN
I--I can't believe this...!

Dean drops his shovel. Breaks down into tears.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Dean? Can you pull it together
for a few more seconds?

Dean falls to his knees. Sobs uncontrollably.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Sir, we're losing light.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Will somebody come in and get
Dean?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Right away, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Good. And I am SO quitting after
this.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
You already quit, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
I did?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Yes. Twice.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
(with a sigh)
Then what am I still doing here?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Taking up space, sir. Just like
the rest of us.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

In the field just beyond the farmhouse, Ninja Man and Blaze Man face off. Their hands grip the handles of their swords. Their gazes are steady. And their bodies are itching for some action.

NINJA MAN
You take Ninja Man's woman!

BLAZE MAN
Please. She liked me first.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Woman like Ninja Man
better!

BLAZE MAN
Are we really going to play
this game, you ninja school
drop-out?

NINJA MAN
This no game, Blaze Man. This
war!

BLAZE MAN
Bring it on!

NINJA MAN
You first.

BLAZE MAN
No, you first.

NINJA MAN
No. You first!

BLAZE MAN
No! You first!

NINJA MAN
Get ass over here!

BLAZE MAN
No! You get your ass over
HERE!

NINJA MAN
Get ass over here so Ninja
Man can kick it!

BLAZE MAN
Get. Over. Here. NOW!

Ninja Man shrugs.

NINJA MAN
If Blaze Man insist!

Ninja Man leaps at Blaze Man. Tackles him around the waist.
They land in a world filled with darkness and fog.

EXT. FOG DIMENSION - NIGHT

The ground is covered with a thin coating of snow. Fog
rolls across the land. Ninja Man and Blaze Man break away
from each other. Draw their swords. And circle the
battlefield.

BLAZE MAN
You mind telling me how we got
here?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not know. Was aiming
for rock quarry.

BLAZE MAN
Ah. The old stomping grounds.

NINJA MAN
Right of passage for all ninjas.

BLAZE MAN
Except you.

Ninja Man cocks his head to the side. Confused.

BLAZE MAN
Please, don't be stupid. I know
you left the temple to 'find your
own path' and all that good shit.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not remember that.

BLAZE MAN
Then Ninja Man is a total
fool!

Blaze Man draws three shuriken from his belt. Throws them
in a flash.

Ninja Man barely avoids them. They hit the ground. Burst
into flames.

Ninja Man looks up at Blaze Man. Shocked.

BLAZE MAN
Did you forget why they call
me Blaze Man?

Blaze Man draws five shuriken from his belt. Puts them
between his fingers.

BLAZE MAN
Let me remind you!

Blaze Man throws his shuriken. Flames rise up each time the
projectiles hit the ground. Ninja Man rolls to avoid them.

Blaze Man has five more shuriken at the ready. Throws them
as well.

Ninja Man dodges to the opposite side. He's not fast
enough. A shuriken cuts his left shoulder. Sets it on fire.

Ninja Man taps the flames out with his gloved hand. Stands to face Blaze Man.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not like you very much.

BLAZE MAN

Ninja Man can kiss my ass.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know where ass has been.

BLAZE MAN

It's been up against Ninja Woman's--

Three shuriken fly at Blaze Man. He whacks them aside with his sword.

Ninja Man wags a finger at his foe.

NINJA MAN

Watch language. This rated teens and up.

Blaze Man tosses his sword to his other hand.

BLAZE MAN

You don't know who you're messing with.

NINJA MAN

Blaze Man take own advice.

Blaze Man charges at Ninja Man. Ninja Man storms toward Blaze Man.

Their swords clash in a spray of sparks. They break apart. Clash again. And again. Sparks fly each time their swords collide.

Blaze Man tosses his sword to his original hand. Puts on a dramatic pose.

BLAZE MAN

Let's face it, Ninja Man. You

dropped out of Lord Ninjon's
classes because you weren't
strong enough.

Ninja Man holds his sword Yojimbo-style again.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not remember Ninjon.
Only remember temple.

BLAZE MAN

Oh, yeah? And where is the
temple?

NINJA MAN

If you know so much, then you
tell Ninja Man where temple is.

BLAZE MAN

I can't. Lord Ninjon's subjects
are never to reveal the location
of the sacred temple.

NINJA MAN

Then Ninja Man not reveal
it either.

BLAZE MAN

I think you just plain forgot.

NINJA MAN

Blaze Man liar!

BLAZE MAN

I think you forgot what it
means to be a real ninja.

NINJA MAN

Not true!

BLAZE MAN

I think you never continued
your training.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man stronger than ever
before!

BLAZE MAN

Is that so? Then let's see you
stop THIS!

Blaze Man holds his sword tip-down. Runs his hand across
the blade. The blade catches on fire.

BLAZE MAN

BLAZING BLADE!

Ninja Man backs up. Steadies himself. He can't believe it.

BLAZE MAN

Are you ready for the ultimate
challenge, Ninja Man?

Ninja Man is far from ready. His entire body language has
changed.

BLAZE MAN

Because here...I...come!

Blaze Man swings his flaming sword at Ninja Man. Our hero
barely dodges it in time.

Blaze Man slashes at Ninja Man. Ninja Man spins out of the
way. Blocks the sword with his own.

Blaze Man and Ninja Man's swords lock together. Blaze Man
pushes his sword against Ninja Man's. Ninja Man jerks his
head this way and that. Tries to pull away from the flames.

BLAZE MAN

Submit, Ninja Man!

Ninja Man falls to one knee. Uses both hands to keep his
sword up against Blaze Man's.

BLAZE MAN

Submit, damn you!

Ninja Man's arms shake. He can't take the pressure Blaze
Man is putting on them.

BLAZE MAN

Feel the ninja's wrath!

Those words click inside Ninja Man's brain. He puts his right foot into Blaze Man's stomach. Rolls onto his back. And throws Blaze Man over his head.

Blaze Man spins in the air. Lands on his feet. Looks up.

Ninja Man is already on him. Ninja Man's sword slashes across Blaze Man's chest, sending sparks soaring from his costume.

Blaze Man stumbles. Ninja Man slashes again. And again. Sparks continue to fly each time his sword strikes Blaze Man's costume.

Blaze Man lifts his flaming sword to protect himself. Ninja Man twists his sword up and underneath Blaze Man's. Sends it into the air. It lands tip-down in the snow, away from Blaze Man's reach.

Ninja Man puts the tip of his sword to Blaze Man's neck. Blaze Man freezes.

NINJA MAN

Ninja's wrath my ass!

Ninja Man knees Blaze Man in the balls. He goes down with a squeal of pain. Ninja Man stands over him in a triumphant pose.

BLAZE MAN

You...you cheated...!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not use cheat codes.
Ninja Man just good at game.

BLAZE MAN

You...really...suck...!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man say same about you.

BLAZE MAN

This...isn't...over...!

NINJA MAN

Blaze Man come back? Ninja Man

kick him harder next time.

BLAZE MAN

What...?!?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man kick balls into
asshole next time.

Blaze Man rolls onto his back. Clutches his family jewels.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man see you back at
farm.

Ninja Man looks around.

NINJA MAN

If Ninja Man can find way out
of here.

He sheaths his sword. Walks through the snow and fog. The
world seems to be endless.

Ninja Man puts his hands on his hips. Nods as he looks
around.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man REALLY wish he'd
landed in rock quarry.

EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Marlene socks Ninja Woman in the helmet. Ninja Woman slides
back.

Ninja Woman socks Marlene in the face. Marlene slides back.

The pigs scatter. Squeal like crazy. Marlene puts a hand to
the mud. Steadies herself.

Ninja Woman puts a hand to the mud. Picks up a handful. And
holds it in her fist.

MARLENE

You done yet, Ninja Bitch?

NINJA WOMAN
Not by a long shot.

Ninja Woman looks up at Marlene.

NINJA WOMAN
In fact, I've only been fighting
with half my strength.

MARLENE
Say what?

NINJA WOMAN
Now I'm going to unleash my
full ninja fury!

MARLENE
Is this going to be one of
those Dragonball Z deals
where you start screaming
and your muscles get really
big and--

Ninja Woman throws the mud into Marlene's eyes. Marlene
squeals in surprise. Reaches for her face.

MARLENE
Why, you little mangy good-for--

Ninja Woman chops Marlene in the stomach. The neck. And
lands a double-chop to her shoulder blades.

Marlene stumbles back. Slips on the mud. Falls on her ass.

Ninja Woman pulls out three shuriken. Puts them between her
fingers. Pulls her hand back.

NINJA WOMAN
NINJA--

Marlene wipes the mud from her eyes. Looks up at the
crucial moment.

NINJA WOMAN
--SHURIKEN!

Marlene rolls to the right. The shuriken never hit her.

A shotgun blast echoes across the farm. Marlene stands on her knees. Looks around.

The pieces of Ninja Woman's shuriken lay scattered in the pig pen. The pigs sniff them curiously.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

ETHEL PETTIBONE, mid to late sixties, and Edgar's heavysset wife, holds a double-barreled shotgun in her hands. Smoke twirls from the left barrel. The right one waits its turn.

ETHEL

If you girls are done playin',
dinner's ready! Come on in and
eat up!

NINJA WOMAN (O.S.)

But Ethel--!

ETHEL

HEY! What did I just say?

EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Ninja Woman kicks the mud. It lands all over Marlene.

NINJA WOMAN

Fine...!

Marlene stands. Slides on the mud. Gets her balance. Walks next to Ninja Woman.

NINJA WOMAN

We're not done.

MARLENE

Oh, you got that right!

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Marlene comes face-to-face with Ethel's shotgun. Ethel's aim is steady.

MARLENE

I mean, um, maybe after
dinner, we could, um...

settle this with a card
game?

Ninja Woman walks past Ethel. Looks over her shoulder at
Marlene. And enters the house.

ETHEL

You.

MARLENE

Yes?

ETHEL

You stink.

MARLENE

Yeah, I'm sorry about that.
See, I had a--

ETHEL

Go get cleaned up.

Marlene looks around.

MARLENE

And where exactly am I
supposed to do that?

Ethel jerks a thumb behind the farmhouse.

ETHEL

Shed has a shower. Use it.

Ethel retracts her shotgun. Enters the house.

MARLENE

Wait, what about--

The door slaps shut.

MARLENE

--my clothes.

Marlene hangs her head. Looks up at the sky.

MARLENE

Do you hate me? And if you

do, what did I do to deserve
it?

Marlene gets no response.

MARLENE
That's what I was afraid of.

EXT. FOG DIMENSION - NIGHT

Ninja Man's been wandering around for quite a while. Still hasn't found a way out.

He stops. Holds his index finger to the air. There's no wind.

Ninja Man looks to the sky. There are no stars. It's all black.

He puts his hand to his chin. Lowers his head. And sighs.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man lost.

Ninja Man looks at his surroundings. The ground has a dusting of snow. Fog rolls over it. The rest is darkness.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man REALLY lost.

Three shuriken land at Ninja Man's feet. He reaches for his sword. Hears a woman's laughter echo around him.

Ninja Man turns to his left. His right. And behind him. Can't place the source of the laughter.

A smoke bomb lands behind Ninja Man. The fuse blows. The bomb explodes, leaving Ninja Man surrounded by thick gray smoke.

Ninja Man can't see anything. A sword strikes his right arm. Sparks fly from the hit.

Ninja Man draws his sword. Still can't see anything.

Another sword strikes his left arm. Then his right leg. Then his left leg. Sparks fly from each hit.

Ninja Man's costume is smoking. He clutches his left arm.
Tries to stay upright.

The same sword slashes into his back. The sparks spray out
like blood. Ninja Man goes down to one knee.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man want a name!

The female laughter echoes again.

NINJA MAN
Face Ninja Man!

The female laughter continues.

NINJA MAN
Stop hiding in shadow!

The smoke dissipates in one large sweep. Ninja Man can see
again...and what he sees isn't good.

WHITE WOMAN, a costumed heroine wearing a white version of
Ninja Man's costume, stands across from our hero. She is
posed like a ballet dancer, arms up, feet together, and
standing on the tips of her toes.

NINJA MAN
WHITE WOMAN!

White Woman drops her stance.

WHITE WOMAN
The hell you just call me?!

RECORD SCRATCH SFX. White Woman isn't white, but black, and
very, very ghetto. She storms toward Ninja Man. Pokes him
with her right hand. It's more like a shove.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man...sorry?

WHITE WOMAN
You damn well oughta be! Just
because I'm wearing a white
suit, you assume I'm a
Caucasian ninja, is that it?

Ninja Man shakes his head furiously.

WHITE WOMAN

You thought wrong! I'm a
Chi-Negro! On top of that,
I'm a BLACK ninja! And the
icing on the cake? I'm a
black FEMALE ninja!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man got that! Really!

WHITE WOMAN

Y'sure? 'Cause I can pound it
into 'ya if 'ya like.

NINJA MAN

No, no! Ninja Man got ALL
of that!

WHITE WOMAN

Good.

White Woman stops poking Ninja Man. Puts her arms over her chest. Jerks her chin in his direction.

WHITE WOMAN

So how 'ya been?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man been better.

WHITE WOMAN

What's got 'ya down, Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN

Stuff.

WHITE WOMAN

Stuff? What kinda stuff?

NINJA MAN

Woman stuff.

WHITE WOMAN

Well, I don't know nothin'
'bout that.

White Woman stomps away. Puts her hands to her hips.

NINJA MAN
What with you?

WHITE WOMAN
Shit's goin' down in the
hood.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not know what
that mean.

WHITE WOMAN
Means I got trouble. MAN
trouble.

NINJA MAN
Oh.

Ninja Man thinks that over.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not know much about
that.

WHITE WOMAN
You men never do.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man sorry.

WHITE WOMAN
Y'know, there comes a point when
sorry just ain't enough.

Ninja Man lifts his chin. He seems surprised by this.

WHITE WOMAN
I got a man who loves me--

NINJA MAN
Yes?

WHITE WOMAN
--but he ain't got no money.

NINJA MAN

Oh. That suck.

WHITE WOMAN

I got another man who cheats
on me--

NINJA MAN

Oh. That sucks more.

WHITE WOMAN

--but he got tons of money.

NINJA MAN

Oh. That suck worse.

White Woman whirls around. Faces Ninja Man.

WHITE WOMAN

How does THAT suck? I want
the money! I couldn't give a
shit about HIM!

White Woman thinks that over.

WHITE WOMAN

Hell, I can kill him and TAKE
the money! I am a NINJA, right?

Ninja Man nods.

WHITE WOMAN

Good talk, Ninja Man. Glad
we cleared that up.

White Woman pats Ninja Man's shoulder a little too hard.
Ninja Man rubs it as she walks away.

White Woman disappears into the fog. Ninja Man rubs his
shoulder. His arm. His neck.

NINJA MAN

White Woman play rough.

White Woman returns. Looks around.

WHITE WOMAN

Forgot to ask 'ya somethin'.
Do 'ya mind?

Ninja Man shakes his head.

WHITE WOMAN

Which way is the way out?

Ninja Man slaps his forehead with his palm.

NINJA MAN

This wonderful. White Woman
not know way out?

WHITE WOMAN

Hey, what did I tell 'ya about
callin' me white, all right?
I'm Black Chi-Negro Ninja
Woman! Ya' dig?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man dig it.

WHITE WOMAN

Good!

White Woman holds her hands out.

WHITE WOMAN

So? Which way is it?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not know.

WHITE WOMAN

The hell you say!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man was hoping White--

White Woman draws her sword. Approaches Ninja Man.

NINJA MAN

--Black Chi-Negro Ninja Woman
knew way out!

WHITE WOMAN

If I knew the way out, I'd
have split by now!

NINJA MAN

Good point.

WHITE WOMAN

I can't even remember how long
I've been here!

NINJA MAN

That suck.

WHITE WOMAN

Y'know what's worse?

Ninja Man shakes his head.

WHITE WOMAN

When I first came here, I
was white!

Ninja Man double-takes. SPRING SFX.

EXT. SHED - DAY

Marlene slides open the door. It's dark inside.

MARLENE

Hello?

Marlene enters. Closes the door behind her.

INT. SHED - DAY

Marlene finds a chain for a light. Pulls it on. A dim bulb
flickers to life above her head.

An old, rusty showerhead is attached to the opposite end of
the shed. A knob is attached below it to adjust the
temperature. There's a drain in the metal floor.

A checkered shirt, a pair of denim overalls, and rain boots
are the only clothing options.

MARLENE

It'll do.

Marlene strips out of her ruined clothes. Starts the shower. And lets the water clean all the mud off her body.

MARLENE

Ah...that feels great...!

Marlene puts her hair under the showerhead. Scrubs with her fingers. Gets as much gunk out as she can.

MARLENE

Wait a minute. Where's the soap?

Marlene looks around. There's no soap dish. No soap. Or any shampoo.

What Marlene does find are chainsaws, machetes, cleavers, axes, spiked baseball bats, two-by-fours with nails in them, an assortment of knives, and a hockey mask.

Marlene's eyes widen in terror. She's inside Edgar's work shed of horrors.

Her mouth opens. She goes to scream--

INT. FOG DIMENSION - DAY

Ninja Man wanders with White Woman at his side. She chatters on about her issues like he's her therapist.

WHITE WOMAN

--and so I said 'w-t-f, why she callin' you?'

NINJA MAN

Uh-huh?

WHITE WOMAN

And he said 'She just playin', baby.'

NINJA MAN

Uh-huh.

WHITE WOMAN
And so I said, 'I think you
done playin', boy!'

White Woman stops walking. So does Ninja Man.

NINJA MAN
What happen?

WHITE WOMAN
I fucked him till his eyes
popped out.

Ninja Man thinks that one over.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man...not know what
to say.

WHITE WOMAN
Yeah, well, that's what he
said.

White Woman taps her knuckles against Ninja Man's chest.

WHITE WOMAN
Right before I killed him.

White Woman walks on. Ninja Man scratches the top of his
helmet.

WHITE WOMAN
Cheatin' piece of white trash
deserved it, too.

Marlene's scream echoes in the air. Ninja Man puts his hand
to his sword. Scans the area.

WHITE WOMAN
Who da hell is that?

NINJA MAN
Woman!

WHITE WOMAN
I'm right here! Why you yellin'?

NINJA MAN

No, not you, woman! The other
woman! Ninja Man's woman!

Marlene screams again.

NINJA MAN

WOMAN! WHERE ARE YOU?

WHITE WOMAN

Here's an idea--why don't we
jump in the direction of the
screams?

NINJA MAN

That very good idea!

WHITE WOMAN

It really ain't, but...it's
worth a shot.

Marlene screams a third time. White Woman points to her
right.

WHITE WOMAN

Over there!

NINJA MAN

GO!

Ninja Man and White Woman leap into the air. Soar through
the darkness. And land in the grassy field behind the farm
house.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

Ninja Man and White Woman roll into crouches. Scan the
horizon. Listen for Marlene's voice.

WHITE WOMAN

We made it!

NINJA MAN

We did?

Ninja Man looks around. Sees the sun.

NINJA MAN

We did!

WHITE WOMAN

Yeah, but I'm still black!

NINJA MAN

Maybe it wear off?

WHITE WOMAN

Haven't you heard? Once you
go black, you don't--

Marlene lets out a final scream. Ninja Man turns to the desolate shed. Points. Draws his sword.

NINJA MAN

There!

Ninja Man dashes off. White Woman stomps her foot.

WHITE WOMAN

Hey! Wait up, brother!

White Woman draws her sword. Follows Ninja Man.

EXT. SHED - DAY

Ninja Man leaps in front of the door. Slides it open. Slowly.

NINJA MAN

Woman? Ninja Man here to--

MARLENE (O.S.)

STAY OUT, OKAY?!?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man hear screams! Woman
in danger!

MARLENE (O.S.)

STAY THE HELL OUT!

NINJA MAN

Then why woman screaming?

MARLENE (O.S.)
Because...because I'm surrounded
by a horror movie!

NINJA MAN
That do it. Ninja Man coming in!

MARLENE (O.S.)
No, wait a minute, I'm--!

Ninja Man enters the shed. Shuts the door. White Woman is still trying to catch up.

INT. SHED - DAY

Marlene covers her naked body every which way she can. Ninja Man looks at her. Surprised.

NINJA MAN
Why you naked?

MARLENE
I was taking a shower!

NINJA MAN
Again?

MARLENE
Because of playing with the
pigs!

NINJA MAN
When woman was high.

MARLENE
Yes!!

NINJA MAN
Oh. Woman fine now?

MARLENE
No! Look!

Marlene points with her index finger at the chainsaw. Ninja Man takes a step back.

NINJA MAN
Hillbilly tool of torture.

MARLENE
They all are!

Ninja Man takes in all of Edgar's tools.

NINJA MAN
This hillbilly torture
chamber.

MARLENE
No shit!

NINJA MAN
What you want Ninja Man do?

MARLENE
I want...Ninja Man...

NINJA MAN
Yes?

MARLENE
TO. GET. OUT!!!

Ninja Man looks at Marlene's eyes. Fire is about to burst from her eye sockets.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man VERY, VERY sorry!

Ninja Man bows. Bows again. Keeps bowing as he backs out of the shed and closes the door.

Marlene grabs the shirt. The overalls. And the rain boots.

EXT. EDGAR'S FARM - DAY

Ninja Man and White Woman walk toward Edgar's truck.

NINJA MAN
Woman complicated.

WHITE WOMAN
You just now figurin' this

out?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not deal with woman
before. Ninja Man only ninja.

White Woman elbows Ninja Man in the ribs. Points to the tractor parked by the hay bails.

WHITE WOMAN

Then what about her?

Ninja Man turns. Ninja Woman sits on some hay bails with Blaze Man. Puts ice to his groin.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Woman? Two-timing bitch.
No like her no more.

WHITE WOMAN

You used 'ta be pretty hot for
her, right?

NINJA MAN

Used to.

WHITE WOMAN

And what about now?

Ninja Man takes another look at Ninja Woman. She gives Blaze Man a hard slap.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man say no way.

WHITE WOMAN

Give her 'nother shot, brother!

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man hurt once. That
enough.

WHITE WOMAN

Ninjas can't resist other ninjas,
brother!

Ninja Man glances over at the tractor again. Ninja Woman punches Blaze Man in the face. Over. And over. And over.

NINJA MAN

Maybe Ninja Man NOT suck at dating.

WHITE WOMAN

There 'ya go! Get 'ya head in 'da game!

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Ninja Man approaches Ninja Woman and Blaze Man. Ninja Woman cocks her fist back for another punch.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man say hi.

Ninja Woman stops. Lets go of Blaze Man. He slumps against the hay. Out like a light.

NINJA WOMAN

Hi there.

Ninja Woman walks over. Holds her hands behind her back. Ninja Man looks down at his feet. Gives the dirt a little kick.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man sorry.

NINJA WOMAN

I'm sorry too.

NINJA MAN

What Ninja Woman sorry for?

NINJA WOMAN

For being a two-timing ninja bitch.

Ninja Man nods.

NINJA MAN

You were.

Ninja Woman looks toward the unconscious Blaze Man.

NINJA WOMAN
And I'm sorry about dumping
you for HIM.

NINJA MAN
What about HIM?

NINJA WOMAN
Oh, we're through. He's a
dick.

NINJA MAN
Blaze Man barely have one.

NINJA WOMAN
Once you were through with him.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman lock gazes.

NINJA WOMAN
Ninja Man...?

NINJA MAN
Yes?

NINJA WOMAN
I have...something to tell
you...

NINJA MAN
Tell Ninja Man.

NINJA WOMAN
I'm hopelessly in love with--

MARLENE (O.S.)
YOU!!!

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman come back to reality. Split
apart. Look toward Edgar's truck.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Marlene stands there in Edgar's oversized shirt, overalls,

boots, and hockey mask. She holds the chainsaw in her hands. Jerks the cord. It roars to life.

MARLENE
YOU AND ME, BITCH! ROUND TWO!!

White Woman leaps into the back of Edgar's truck. Hides from Marlene.

WHITE WOMAN
The white chick's gone bat
shit!

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Ninja Woman shoves Ninja Man aside. Rolls up imaginary sleeves. Storms toward Marlene.

NINJA WOMAN
You want a piece of this?
Come and get it!

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Marlene's completely lost her mind. She revs the chainsaw.

MARLENE
I won't just get a piece! I'LL
GET PIECES!!

Marlene charges toward Ninja Woman.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Ninja Woman draws her sword. Charges toward Marlene.

EXT. EDGAR'S FARM - DAY

Marlene and Ninja Woman storm forward. They're almost in reach of each other's weapons.

KRAKA-BOOM! A bolt of lightning crackles from the sky and strikes between Marlene and Ninja Woman. Throws them into the air. They land against hay bails on opposite sides of the farm.

Ninja Man looks toward the sky. Dark clouds have gathered. Thunder rolls. Lightning dances between the clouds.

Ninja Woman shakes the cobwebs out. Her costume is smoking. She manages to stand. Looks toward the sky.

NINJA WOMAN

Oh, no...

Marlene is buried so deep in the hay bails she can't get out.

MARLENE

Ninja Man? A little help here?!

The sky grows darker. Rain falls. The weather has completely reversed.

White Woman joins Ninja Man and Ninja Woman. She looks a tad scared.

NINJA WOMAN

Where have you been?

WHITE WOMAN

I was hidin' in the truck.

NINJA WOMAN

Oh.

WHITE WOMAN

Peein' myself.

Ninja Woman looks White Woman over. Shakes her head.

The storm reaches its peak. The wind whips through the farm. The pigs squeal. The chickens cluck. The dogs howl.

Two lightning bolts strike the ground. Send torrents of sparks and smoke in the air.

Two figures somersault out of the smoke. The first is CYBER-ONE, yet another costumed villain whose outfit is red on one side and blue on the other. He has a robotic look to him, as a portion of his head is clear, exposing lights, switches, and circuit boards.

The second is CYBER-TWO, Cyber-One's younger brother. His outfit is blue on one side and red on the other. He also has a section of his head that is clear, only his lights and circuits blink much faster. His words run together in a rapid clip whenever he speaks.

CYBER-ONE

We have arrived, Cyber-Two.

CYBER-TWO

Indeedwehave, Cyber-One.

Our three heroes look at each other in confusion. They've never seen these guys before.

CYBER-ONE

What is our primary objective,
Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO

ToexterminateNinjaManandhisallies,
Cyber-One.

Our three heroes take a step back. Did they hear that right?

CYBER-ONE

Shall we proceed with primary
objective, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO

Weshallproceedwithprimaryobjective,
Cyber-One.

Cyber-One's eyes light up.

CYBER-ONE

Acknowledged, Cyber-Two.

Cyber-Two's eyes light up.

CYBER-TWO

Acknowledged, Cyber-One.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's electronic brains light up like Christmas trees.

Lightning dances across the clouds. Strikes Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Energizes them.

Our three heroes draw their swords. Ready for anything.

CYBER-ONE
Activate Lightning Blade, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO
Activatelightningblade, Cyber-One.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two fold their right hands like they're doing a karate chop. Lift the hands to the clouds.

The lightning they absorbed dances across their bodies. Accumulates in their right hands. Makes those hands glow a bright blue.

WHITE WOMAN
Uh, Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN
Yes?

WHITE WOMAN
I think we'd better move...!

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two lower their right hands in a swift downward chop. Two blue slashes of energy zip toward Ninja Man.

Ninja Man has no time to dodge. A huge explosion of sparks, fire, and smoke erupts across the farm.

White Woman and Ninja Woman have dodged the attack just in time. They look toward Ninja Man.

Ninja Man is gone. There's nothing left but smoke and smoldering dirt.

NINJA WOMAN
NO! NINJA MAN!!

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two put on robotic battle poses.

CYBER-ONE
Proceed with termination of

alternative targets, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO
Proceedwithterminationofalternative
targets, Cyber-One.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two advance in a slow march, one step at a time, toward White Woman and Ninja Woman.

WHITE WOMAN
Come on, girl! We gotta get
outta here!

NINJA WOMAN
I can't! Not without--

WHITE WOMAN
Don't 'ya get it? He's dead!
Now haul ass!

White Woman takes off running. Ninja Woman takes one last look. Follows.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Blaze Man wakes up. Looks around. Sees nothing but smoldering dirt and smoke.

BLAZE MAN
What the hell?

Ninja Woman emerges from the smoke. Grabs Blaze Man's hand. Jerks him forward.

BLAZE MAN
What's going on?

NINJA WOMAN
Less talk, more running!

BLAZE MAN
Whatever you say, baby cakes!

Blaze Man follows Ninja Woman through the smoke. He holds her hand tightly.

EXT. EDGAR'S FARM - DAY

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two stop marching. Scan the landscape.

CYBER-ONE

Have alternative targets escaped,
Cyber-Two?

Cyber-Two's eyes light up. He looks from left to right.

CYBER-TWO

Alternativetargetshaveescaped,
Cyber-One.

Cyber-One's eyes light up. He looks from right to left.

CYBER-ONE

Confirmed, Cyber-Two. Shall we
withdraw?

CYBER-TWO

Weshallwithdraw, Cyber-One.

Cyber-One's eyes go dark. He turns his back to the farm.

Cyber-Two's eyes go dark. He also turns his back to the
farm.

Lightning dances across the clouds. Cyber-One and Cyber-Two
stand in the spot where Ninja Man was vaporized.

CYBER-ONE

Activate retrieval, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO

Activateretrieval, Cyber-One.

Two lightning bolts strike Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Sparks
and smoke rise up from the ground. When the smoke fades,
Cyber-One and Cyber-Two have vanished.

Silence falls on the farm. Flames lick the spot where Ninja
Man used to exist. Thunder rolls.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

And CUT! Beautiful!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
It's the only scene that's gone
right today, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Send someone to get Miss Baker.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Where's my production assistant?

MARY WAYNERIGHT, late teens to early twenties, enters. She wears a headset, thick glasses, and a Bettie Page haircut. She also carries a spiral-bound notebook littered with notes.

MARY
Right here, sir.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Go get Marlene for me, will 'ya?

MARY
Right away, sir.

Mary exits in a hurry.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
And while you're at it, get me
some coffee!

MARY
Ten-four!

Mary walks toward the hay bails. Film crew members dash left and right. Set up equipment for the final scene.

Marlene is buried in the hay. She kicks her legs like crazy. Can't get free.

MARLENE
Okay! Where the hell is my
Ninja Man?!

Mary reaches Marlene. Grabs Marlene's right ankle. And drags her out of her confinement.

MARLENE

Whoa, whoa, whoa!!!

Marlene lays on her back. Looks up at Mary.

MARLENE

Well, this is new.

Mary leans down toward Marlene. Shows off a ton of cleavage.

MARY

Miss Baker? I'm Mary Wayneright.

MARLENE

Uh...hi.

MARY

Yes, hi. We need to get you ready for the next scene. You'll need to ditch the hockey mask.

MARLENE

Say what?

Marlene hops up. Rips off the hockey mask. Looks at Mary.

MARLENE

What scene? What is this? And just who the hell are you, Mary Wayneright?

MARY

I'm the production assistant for Sentai Studios. If you'll follow me, please?

MARLENE

Sentai Studios?! What is this, some kind of hidden camera gimmick?

Mary narrows her eyes at Marlene.

MARY

You mean nobody told you?

MARLENE

If somebody told me, would I
be asking questions?

Mary pushes her glasses up with her middle finger.

MARY

Sentai Studios produces the Ninja
Ranger reality show.

MARLENE

The Ninja Ranger...you mean all
of this has been fake?

MARY

Most of it, yes.

MARLENE

So everything that's happened to
me in the last twenty-four hours
has been staged?!

Mary shrugs a little.

MARY

We had to make it look realistic.

MARLENE

So there really isn't a Ninja Man?

MARY

Oh, there is. But he's just an
actor in a spandex suit.

Marlene blanches.

MARLENE

No, see, I think Ninja Man REALLY
thinks he's Ninja Man.

MARY

Some actors get really deep into
character.

MARLENE

I'll prove it to you, Wayneright.
Where's Ninja Man now?

Mary puts a hand to her headset.

MARY

Chuck, can you give me a
location on Alex?

MARLENE

Wait. There really is a guy
named--

MARY

Thanks.

Mary turns to Marlene.

MARLENE

He's in the loft of the farmhouse.

Marlene grabs her chainsaw. Grips Mary's wrist with her
other hand.

MARLENE

Follow me.

MARY

Wait a minute, Miss Baker!
You're hurting me!

MARLENE

Won't take but a minute!

MARY

Do you even know where the
loft is?

Marlene stops. Whips Mary around. Pushes her forward.

MARLENE

You go first, then.

MARY

What if I don't want to?

Marlene revs up the chainsaw.

MARY

Okay, okay! We're going!

INT. FARMHOUSE LOFT - DAY

Ninja Man has collapsed inside a rusty toilet. A chunk of his helmet is gone. It's also split open.

He stirs. Looks around. His helmet falls off as a result.

Ninja Man looks down at his broken helmet. Holds it in his hands.

He pulls himself out of the toilet with some effort. Notices a cracked mirror on the wall to his left.

He walks to it. Puts his gloved hand to it. He sees eighteen versions of his real face. Studies each one.

ALEX STONE, early to mid thirties, is the actor under Ninja Man's helmet. He holds his helmet under his left arm. Puts his right hand against the mirror.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man's...secret identity?

Ninja Man drops his helmet. Falls to his knees. Puts both hands to the mirror.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not Ninja Man.

He tears up. Swallows hard.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man just...actor.

Ninja Man shakes his head violently. Like he's fighting with himself. Doesn't want to face the truth.

Ninja Man puts his back to the mirror. Sits on his ass. Pulls his knees to his chest. And cries.

Mary and Marlene enter. Mary slaps her forehead.

MARY

Oh Jesus. Not again.

Marlene shoves Mary out of the way. Shuts the chainsaw off. Tosses it aside.

MARLENE

Ninja Man...?

Ninja Man shakes his head again. Chokes back a sob.

Mary puts a hand to her headset.

MARY

Chuck? Can you tell the director that Alex needs another five minutes?

Ninja Man puts his head back. Tears stream down his cheeks. Marlene kneels by him.

MARY

Uh, actually, you'd better make that ten minutes.

Marlene points an accusing finger at Mary.

MARLENE

You're not helping, Wayneright. Beat it.

MARY

You can't boss me around! You're not even a real cast member!

Marlene cocks her head toward the chainsaw.

MARY

Fine, fine! Consider me gone!

Mary jets off. Marlene turns back to Ninja Man.

MARLENE

Look, Ninja Man--

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man not Ninja Man, woman!

MARLENE

I know.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man just actor!

Marlene pulls Ninja Man into her arms. He buries his face in her shoulder.

MARLENE

I know. I'm sorry.

Marlene realizes something.

MARLENE

But hey, you did save me. And more than once.

NINJA MAN

But Ninja Man not real ninja!

MARLENE

Sure looked real to me. And you DID save my life. No ordinary actor could do that.

Marlene looks into Ninja Man's eyes.

MARLENE

So, now that you took your helmet off...what's your name?

Ninja Man shakes his head again. Scoots into a corner.

MARLENE

Come on, Ninja Man. What's your secret identity?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man...not know.

MARLENE

Of course you do. Otherwise you wouldn't be crying.

NINJA MAN

Ninjas no cry.

MARLENE

Those tears tell a different story.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man...I'm...Alex Stone.

Marlene frowns. It's the first time she's heard Ninja Man not refer to himself in the third person.

MARLENE

Alex Stone. I like that name.

ALEX

I'm glad you approve.

MARLENE

What happened to you, Alex?

ALEX

I was on the original Ninja Ranger show, back in the nineties.

MARLENE

Careful. You're dating yourself.

Alex chuckles. Marlene smiles.

ALEX

I was eighteen then. I had a black belt in karate. Blue belt in judo. And a purple belt in tae kwon do.

MARLENE

I bet you're a nasty kung-fu mother fucker, aren't you?

Alex stifles a laugh.

ALEX

Back then? I sure thought I was. Ninja Ranger started out small, and in the beginning, it was all a gimmick to make money.

Marlene frowns.

MARLENE

How so?

ALEX

Ninja Ranger came from a Japanese show. I still can't pronounce the name of it.

Alex gets a faraway look in his eyes.

ALEX

Anyway, the producers saw this Japanese show, got the rights to it, and used all the action footage, with the Japanese actors in the costumes, for the fights.

Marlene snaps her fingers.

MARLENE

And then they replaced the other scenes--

ALEX

--with American actors. Like me.

MARLENE

Boy. That IS a gimmick to make money.

ALEX

It's also a cheap way to make a kids' T.V. show.

Marlene scoots closer to Alex.

MARLENE

So? What happened?

ALEX

The producers ran out of action footage. The Japanese series got canceled after

thirty-nine episodes due
to low ratings.

MARLENE

And the American version lasted
longer than that, didn't it?

Alex nods.

ALEX

The only thing they knew to
do was put us in the costumes
and film all-new episodes with
costumes borrowed from the
Japanese studio's other shows.

Marlene puts her head back against the wall.

MARLENE

Bet that was expensive.

ALEX

After four more fifty-two
episode seasons? Yeah, you
could say that.

MARLENE

Studio went bankrupt, didn't
it?

ALEX

Uh-huh.

MARLENE

And left all of you without
a job.

ALEX

But somewhere, deep in my head,
I knew I could play better
parts. I knew I was better than
Ninja Man!

Marlene puts a hand to Alex's shoulder.

MARLENE

But nobody else saw it that way,

did they?

Alex shakes his head sadly.

ALEX

No. I learned a hard lesson.
There is no life after Ninja
Ranger.

Alex stands up. Crosses the room. Puts a hand on a wooden
beam above him.

ALEX

So, when another network
revived Ninja Ranger, I
went back to being Ninja
Man.

Marlene stands up. Stands in the center of the room.

MARLENE

And how long did that last?

ALEX

Too long.

MARLENE

So long you forgot who you
were?

Alex looks away.

ALEX

I don't like talking about
it.

MARLENE

Hey, I get it. It's not your
fault, either. You got typecast
as Ninja Man and couldn't escape
it.

ALEX

Yeah, but...somewhere along the
line reality and fantasy blurred.

Marlene approaches Alex. Puts a hand on his arm.

MARLENE

You'd be surprised how many of us have the same problem.

Alex looks at Marlene. His eyes speak of hope.

ALEX

Listen, I'm--sorry for dragging you into this. It wasn't my choice.

MARLENE

I kind-of guessed that.

ALEX

Another studio picked up the rights to Ninja Ranger and came up with this reality show concept.

MARLENE

You mean reality shows aren't real?

Alex gives Marlene a deadpan look. She grins.

ALEX

You're funny.

MARLENE

Tell me about it.

Alex walks back to the mirror.

ALEX

The director thought I was really into my character. He never asked why I talked Ninja Man, walked like Ninja Man, and basically lived like Ninja Man.

Marlene cocks her head to the side. Intrigued.

ALEX

Last season was all about me. It was just Ninja Man versus the outside world. Being in character that long...

MARLENE

Made you lose your mind.

Alex frowns at Marlene.

ALEX

I didn't exactly lose it.

MARLENE

Trust me. 'Ya lost it.

Alex smiles. Just a little.

ALEX

I had to see a psychiatrist for a few months. She pulled me out of my insanity.

MARLENE

But the show got renewed.

ALEX

Much to my great surprise.

MARLENE

And here we are.

Alex nods slowly.

ALEX

And here we are.

Alex and Marlene lock gazes.

MARLENE

But now there's a problem.

ALEX

I know.

MARLENE

You have to finish this show.

ALEX

Marlene, I--

Marlene smiles.

MARLENE

So Ninja Man DOES know my name.

Alex smiles back. The smile fades.

ALEX

I don't know if I can do this.

Marlene takes Alex's hands in hers.

MARLENE

I know you can, Alex.

She leans in closer.

MARLENE

Because you're Ninja Man.

Closer still.

MARLENE

Because you're MY Ninja Man.

Marlene and Alex share a passionate kiss. Alex breaks away first.

ALEX

Wow.

MARLENE

Yeah.

ALEX

That was...nice.

MARLENE

Did you like it?

ALEX

I loved it.

MARLENE

I can tell.

Alex looks down at his groin.

ALEX

Ah, damn it...

Marlene gives Alex's groin a light tap.

MARLENE

Now go and save the world.

Alex looks back up at Marlene.

MARLENE

IF you can think straight.

Alex grins. Gives Marlene a two-fingered salute. Runs off.

Marlene picks up her chainsaw. Props it on her shoulder.
And walks the opposite direction.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

We need you over here, Miss Baker.

Marlene turns around. Walks again. Fans herself.

MARLENE

Maybe I'M the one who can't
think straight...

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Alex runs to his mark. Mary tosses him a spare helmet. He
puts it on. Snaps it shut.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

You ready, Alex?

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man always ready!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Glad to hear it.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Three! Two! One!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Action!

EXT. GRASSY HILL - DAY

The sky is still overcast. Ninja Woman, White Woman, and Blaze Man kneel by Ninja Man's broken helmet.

NINJA WOMAN
No...NINJA MAN!

Ninja Woman breaks down. Covers the front of her helmet. Sobs.

Blaze Man puts his arm around Ninja Woman's shoulders. She uses her free hand to pry his arm off while she cries.

White Woman stands. Brushes dirt off her hands. And walks away.

BLAZE MAN
What do you think you're doing,
White Woman?

WHITE WOMAN
Black Chi-Negro Ninja Woman is
gettin' the fuck on, that's what.

BLAZE MAN
You can't leave the team at a
time like this!

White Woman puts her hands on her hips. Puts on a sassy pose.

WHITE WOMAN
The hell I can't! Have you seen
what happens to ranger teams when
the leader dies? They get killed!

Blaze Man stands. Storms toward White Woman.

WHITE WOMAN
And I, for one, choose life over
death. Got that?

Blaze Man puts a finger to White Woman's chest.

BLAZE MAN
Ninja Man is NOT the leader of

this team.

Ninja Woman stands. Holds Ninja Man's broken helmet in her hand.

NINJA WOMAN
He's more of a leader than
you'll ever be!

BLAZE MAN
You take that back, Ninja
Woman!

NINJA WOMAN
I will not!

Blaze Man looks to White Woman. To Ninja Woman. And back to White Woman.

BLAZE MAN
Say something!

WHITE WOMAN
Nah. I'm just gonna stand here
and watch.

White Woman puts her elbow in the air like it's resting on a piece of furniture. Rests her fist against the side of her helmet. And watches.

BLAZE MAN
I have always been the leader
and YOU know it!

Ninja Woman jabs a finger into Blaze Man's helmet.

NINJA WOMAN
Why? Just because you wear the
color red?

Blaze Man folds his arms over his chest.

BLAZE MAN
Well, duh!

Ninja Woman slaps him with her free hand.

NINJA WOMAN

You're no leader, Blazing Gay
Man!

Blaze Man recoils. His hands draw into fists.

WHITE WOMAN

Ooh. Good one, Ninja Woman.

BLAZE MAN

You don't know anything about
me.

NINJA WOMAN

I was your woman, remember? I
know all about you and your
Playgirl collection!

WHITE WOMAN

She's airin' the dirty laundry!

BLAZE MAN

You're making me angry...!

NINJA WOMAN

Good! Maybe you'll know how I
felt when I found you in the
shower with Yellow Blitz!

BLAZE MAN

Don't you mention his name!

WHITE WOMAN

Who da hell is Yellow Blitz?

NINJA WOMAN

He was one of us...emphasis on
WAS.

BLAZE MAN

We never did find out who killed
him.

WHITE WOMAN

Da hell? Where was I when all this
shit went down?

BLAZE MAN

We...really don't know.

NINJA WOMAN

Yeah. That's a good point.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman forget their fight. Turn on White Woman.

WHITE WOMAN

Whoa, whoa, slow your roll,
ninja brothers! I was in
that funky alternate
dimension, remember?

BLAZE MAN

Yeah...

NINJA WOMAN

But when exactly did you
get there...?

WHITE WOMAN

Hey, knock it off! That
crazy place seriously
screwed me up! Hell, it
turned me from white to
black, brother!

NINJA WOMAN

Yeah...

BLAZE MAN

But when exactly did that
happen...?

White Woman puts her hands to the sides of her helmet.

WHITE WOMAN

Oh, shit! Now you're tryin'
to shut the black girl down!
The world ain't even safe for
a Black Chi-Negro Ninja Woman!

Blaze Man puts his hand to his sword.

BLAZE MAN

Tell us what really happened
to Yellow Blitz!

WHITE WOMAN

How should I know? I didn't
know who he was until a few
seconds ago!

Blaze Man draws his sword.

BLAZE MAN

Tell us NOW!

Ninja Woman takes a dangerous step forward. So does Blaze
Man.

White Woman shrugs heavily.

WHITE WOMAN

Okay, okay. 'Ya got me, brother.

White Woman spins rapidly in one place. She becomes a blur
of white color.

Ninja Woman draws her sword. Blaze Man puts a hand in front
of her. Pushes her back.

The spinning slows. Slows more. And stops.

White Woman is gone. In her place stands TIGER CLAW, a
female costumed villain, dressed in a fuzzy tiger-print
body suit with tiger-print boots and gloves. Tiger Claw has
a Caucasian face, but still speaks with White Woman's black
voice.

BLAZE MAN & NINJA WOMAN

TIGER CLAW!!

TIGER CLAW

'Ya damn right, bitches!

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman exchange glances. Can't get over
Tiger Claw's strange voice.

BLAZE MAN

What have you done with Yellow

Blitz?

TIGER CLAW

Oh, he be dead. Just like that
fool Ninja Dude.

Tiger Claw throws her hands out at her sides. The nails at the tips of her gloved fingers extend to their full length, transforming them into tools of destruction.

TIGER CLAW

Now, what Ninja Dude got?
You'z about to get ten-fold!

Thunder rolls. Lightning dances from cloud to cloud. Two lightning bolts crash into the ground. Throw Blaze Man and Ninja Woman into the air and onto their backs.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two are back. Blue lightning cracks across their bodies. Their electronic brains are blinking at full strength.

Tiger Claw stands between Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Puts her elbows on their shoulders.

TIGER CLAW

Whaz up, my niggers?

CYBER-ONE

Shall we resume primary
objective, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO

Weshallresumeprimaryobjective,
Cyber-One.

Tiger Claw gives Blaze Man and Ninja Woman an exaggerated salute.

TIGER CLAW

Forward march!

Cyber-One's eyes light up. He marches, one step at a time, toward our heroes.

Cyber-Two's eyes light up. He also marches, one step at a time, toward our heroes.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman stand up. Clutch their wounds. They know they're not going to make it.

BLAZE MAN

Baby cakes?

NINJA WOMAN

Yes, sweet cheeks?

BLAZE MAN

I take back all the bad things I ever said to you.

NINJA WOMAN

I take back all the times I called you a homosexual.

BLAZE MAN

Why? You were right, y'know.

Ninja Woman double-takes.

NINJA WOMAN

Just what the world needs. A gay Red Ranger.

BLAZE MAN

Hey, there's a first time for everything.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman retreat slowly, step by step, toward the forest beyond the farm.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two continue to march. Tiger Claw holds a bag of cheese balls. Has a cheese ball on the end of each of her claws. Gobbles them up one at a time.

CYBER-ONE

Shall we activate optic rays, Cyber-Two?

TIGER CLAW

Do it, do it! Fry their asses!

CYBER-TWO

Weshallactivateopticrays, Cyber-One.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's march stops. Their eyes darken. Their electronic brains blink like a light show at a rock concert.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's eyes blink on and off rapidly. Blaze Man and Ninja Woman are almost in the forest. Just a few more steps and they'll make it.

Yellow beams of light lash out from Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's eyes. They zap the forest entrance. Send a torrent of sparks and smoke in the air.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman are thrown onto their backs. They roll onto their stomachs. Look up at their foes.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's eyes blink rapidly again. Tiger Claw throws the bag of cheese balls over her shoulder. Brushes cheese dust off her claws.

BLAZE MAN

This is it...!

NINJA WOMAN

If only Ninja Man were here...!

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two fire their optic rays. The yellow beams of light lance out toward Blaze Man and Ninja Woman.

BOOM! A large burst of flames and black smoke erupts where the optic beams hit. When it clears, Ninja Man stands there, posing dramatically, with his sword in one hand and three shuriken in the other.

All eyes focus on Ninja Man. No one can believe it.

BLAZE MAN

What--

NINJA WOMAN

The--

TIGER CLAW

Fuck--?

Ninja Man goes through a series of dramatic poses.

NINJA MAN
NINJA...MAN!

Tiger Claw stomps her foot. Waves her arms. Pitches a fit.

TIGER CLAW
Aw, hell no! Hell! No! You
gotta be dead! YOU GOTTA BE
DEAD!!

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman rise to their feet. Stand on
either side of Ninja Man.

BLAZE MAN
I can't believe it! It's
really you!!

NINJA WOMAN
Oh, Ninja Man...!

Ninja Woman throws her arms around Ninja Man's neck. They
hold each other.

NINJA WOMAN
Ninja Man...all I could think
about was that I'd never see
you again!

BLAZE MAN
Oh, cut that out, you two!

Blaze Man separates Ninja Woman from Ninja Man. Jabs a
finger into the front of Ninja Man's helmet.

BLAZE MAN
Where have you been all this
time?

NINJA MAN
Explosion throw Ninja Man into
farm loft. Land in stinky toilet.
Ninja Man not want to talk about
it.

BLAZE MAN
And frankly, I don't want to hear
it.

Ninja Woman and Blaze Man draw their swords. Pose dramatically.

NINJA WOMAN
I am...NINJA WOMAN!

BLAZE MAN
I am...BLAZE MAN!

NINJA MAN
I am...NINJA MAN!

Our three heroes pose together.

NINJA RANGERS
We are...NINJA RANGERS!

Tiger Claw puts her hands on her hips. All sass.

TIGER CLAW
Well, slap the stuffing in the
turkey, put it in the oven,
and call it done! The Ninja
Rangers are back together!

NINJA MAN
Ninja Rangers spell death for
you, Tiger Claw!

TIGER CLAW
Come and get it, Ninja Man!

CYBER-ONE
Shall we exterminate all targets,
Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO
Weshallexterminatelltargets,
Cyber-One!

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's eyes light up. They march forward, one step at a time. Tiger Claw runs her claws together. Charges forward.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman charge forward with a mighty battle cry. Ninja Man holds out his hand to stop them.

NINJA MAN
NINJA MAN SAY STOP!

Everyone freezes.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man not fight here!

TIGER CLAW
Why the hell not?

Ninja Man points toward Edgar's truck.

NINJA MAN
Might scare doggie.

EXT. EDGAR'S TRUCK - DAY

Honeysuckle yaps. Hides under the pile of shirts and spare parts. Lets out a whine.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

Ninja Man makes a fist.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man fight elsewhere!

BLAZE MAN
Like where?

Ninja Man throws his arm out. Opens his fist. And waves everyone forward.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man show you!

Ninja Man leaps into the air. So do Blaze Man and Ninja Woman. They land in the Fog Dimension.

EXT. FOG DIMENSION - DAY

The Ninja Rangers land on their feet. Look around.

BLAZE MAN
Way to go, Ninja Man!

NINJA WOMAN
What is this place?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man need better aim.

Tiger Claw runs up. She's out of breath. Puts her hands on her knees. Gulps in air.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two silently fall in behind her.

TIGER CLAW
I'll...I'll get you...

The Ninja Rangers turn to look at Tiger Claw.

TIGER CLAW
Right after I...catch my...
breath...!

BLAZE MAN
Please tell me this isn't what
you were looking for, Ninja Man!

Ninja Man does his arm-throwing pose again.

NINJA MAN
No! Ninja Man have better place!

Ninja Man leaps into the air again.

NINJA MAN
Follow Ninja Man!

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman leap after their teammate.

BLAZE MAN
You'd better be right this time!

NINJA WOMAN
Here we go again!

EXT. DESERTED FIELD - DAY

Ninja Man lands on his feet. Looks around. Scans the horizon.

NINJA MAN

Wait! This not rock quarry!

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman land in front of Ninja Man.

BLAZE MAN

Where the hell are we now?

NINJA WOMAN

Beats me.

BLAZE MAN

Quit jerking us around, Ninja Man! Either take us to the right place or don't go there at all!

Ninja Man holds his hands up. Calms Blaze Man.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Man will do that...Blazing Gay Man.

Blaze Man whips around. Ninja Man whistles to himself.

BLAZE MAN

What did you just say...?!?

Tiger Claw stumbles onto the scene. She's wheezing. Can barely talk.

TIGER CLAW

Hey...why...you guys...runnin' everywhere...huh?

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two continue to march in synchronized steps. Tiger Claw looks at the ground. Wipes sweat from her forehead.

TIGER CLAW

Just...hold on...a...minute...

Ninja Man points to a spot on the horizon.

NINJA MAN

There! Ninja Man see it!

BLAZE MAN

See what?

NINJA WOMAN

There's nothing out there,
Ninja Man.

Ninja Man makes a fist. Nods his head.

NINJA MAN

No...this time, Ninja Man
get it right!

Ninja Man leaps into the air.

NINJA MAN

Ninja Rangers! Follow Ninja Man!

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman leap into the air as well.

NINJA WOMAN

You think he's on to something?

NINJA MAN

No, I think he's ON something.

EXT. ROCK QUARRY - DAY

Ninja Man lands on a high ledge on the outer rim of the area. It's stained black with soot. Gravel lines the cliff sides. And there's a flat open field in the center coated with stones and dust.

Blaze Man and Ninja Woman land on a wider ledge to the left of Ninja Man. Look around.

NINJA WOMAN

What the...?

NINJA MAN

Yes! Rock quarry!

BLAZE MAN

I still say he's on something!

The Ninja Rangers look down into the center. Tiger Claw drags her feet, literally, and falls to her knees. She's hyperventilating.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two fall in behind her. Stand still.

TIGER CLAW

Wait...up...you...guys...!

Tiger Claw falls face-first into the dirt. Passes out.

BLAZE MAN

I call dibs on Tiger Claw.

NINJA WOMAN

What? She's already out!

BLAZE MAN

Means she won't put up a fight,
will she?

NINJA WOMAN

Ninja Man, will you--?

NINJA MAN

No. Let Blazing Gay Man sit this
out.

Blaze Man points his sword at Ninja Man.

BLAZE MAN

You call me that one more time,
and I swear, I'm going to shove
my Blazing Blade straight up your--

Blaze Man looks around. Realizes he's talking to himself.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman are already on the ground. They face off against Cyber-One and Cyber-Two.

BLAZE MAN

HEY! I WASN'T FINISHED!

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman have their weapons at the ready. They stand several feet away from their foes.

NINJA WOMAN
Any ideas, Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man say you take one on
left. Ninja Man take one on
right.

NINJA WOMAN
Then what?

NINJA MAN
Then we slice with Ninja Blades.

NINJA WOMAN
That's good. But how are we going
to get them apart? They seem to
work in perfect sync!

Ninja Man points to Cyber-One with his sword.

NINJA MAN
That one asks approval from brother.

Ninja Man points to Cyber-Two.

NINJA MAN
That one give approval.

Ninja Man points at the space between their foes.

NINJA MAN
Then they both use weapons.

NINJA WOMAN
So if we separate them, they
won't be able to attack us?

NINJA MAN
Is not what Ninja Man say?!

NINJA WOMAN
Okay, Ninja Man. Let's do it!

NINJA MAN
Here? In rock quarry?

Ninja Woman gives Ninja Man a head slap.

NINJA WOMAN
Don't be stupid.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Man sorry.

The clouds gather. Lightning dances across them. Strikes Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Energizes their circuits.

CYBER-ONE
Shall we continue with primary
objective, Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO
Weshallcontinewithprimary
objective, Cyber-One!

Cyber-One's electronic brain blinks rapidly. So do his eyes.

Cyber-Two's electronic brain and eyes blink rapidly as well.

NINJA MAN
NOW!

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman charge toward Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Weapons drawn. Heads down. And with a stirring battle cry.

CYBER-ONE
Activate Lightning Blade, Cyber-Two?

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman draw closer.

CYBER-TWO
Activatelightningblade, Cyber-One.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman close in.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two lift their right hands like they're about to do a karate chop. Thunder rolls. Lightning dances across the sky.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman are almost there...

Two lightning bolts strike Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. The lightning gathers around their right hands. The hands glow a bright blue.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman move in for the kill!

NINJA MAN & NINJA WOMAN
NINJA SLASH!

Ninja Man slashes Cyber-One right hand off with his sword.

Ninja Woman does the same to Cyber-Two's right hand.

The robots' hands fall to the ground. The glow fades away.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman stand behind Cyber-One and Cyber-Two. Whip around to face their foes.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's wounds are sparking and smoking. Wires, cords, and circuits spill out of the hole where their hands used to be.

CYBER-ONE
Shall we activate optic rays,
Cyber-Two?

CYBER-TWO
Weshallactivateopticrays,
Cyber-One.

Cyber-One's electronic brain works overtime. His eyes blink on and off rapidly.

Cyber-Two's brain and eyes do the same thing. The brothers are making a last-ditch effort.

NINJA WOMAN
Shall we finish them off, Ninja Man?

NINJA MAN
We shall finish them off, Ninja Woman!

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman hold their swords tip-down. Run their hands over the blades. The blades glow a bright white.

Smoke twirls from Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's brains. Their eyes blink faster than ever. They're putting everything they've got into this one.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman rush toward the brothers. Put their feet together. And leap into the air.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two fire their optic rays. Yellow stabs of light strike the spot where Ninja Man and Ninja Woman used to be.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman bring their swords back for a pair of savage slashes.

NINJA MAN
NINJA...BLADE!

Ninja Man slices Cyber-One down the center.

NINJA WOMAN
NINJA...BLADE!

Ninja Woman chops Cyber-Two right down the middle.

Cyber-One and Cyber-Two's bodies are ruined. Thick smoke twirls out of their wounds. Wires spark. Circuit boards fry.

The brothers waddle from side to side for a moment. Two moments. And then explode in mighty balls of fire that rise up into the sky.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman look at each other. Clasp hands. Nod.

NINJA WOMAN
You did it, Ninja Man!

NINJA MAN
WE do it...Ninja Woman!

Their gazes lock. Their arms wrap around each other.

NINJA MAN
Ninja Woman want to tell Ninja
Man something before.

NINJA WOMAN

It can wait.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman go to kiss. Their helmets rub against each other. They don't care. They make out like old-time movie stars, even with their helmets on.

Someone claps in the distance. Ninja Man and Ninja Woman stop rubbing helmets.

Blaze Man claps his hands slowly. Walks toward them. Relieved.

BLAZE MAN

Well, I'm glad that's all settled.

NINJA WOMAN

Uh, we were busy, Blaze Man?

NINJA MAN

Butt out. This Ninja Man's lovey-dovey time.

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman go back to rubbing helmets. Blaze Man folds his arms over his chest. Looks to the sky. Shakes his head.

BLAZE MAN

I guess it's all over. The villains are defeated, the heroes have won--

Blaze Man glances at his comrades. Their spandex costumes are rubbing together, making for some interesting noises.

BLAZE MAN

--and while SOME of us found love, most of us are...still single.

Blaze Man bring his gaze back down to Earth.

BLAZE MAN

And looking.

Blaze Man looks at the camera.

BLAZE MAN

And horny.

A moment.

BLAZE MAN

God, am I in high school
again?

FADE OUT

DIRECTOR (V.O.)

And...CUT!

SLAM IN

EXT. ROCK QUARRY - DAY

Ninja Man and Ninja Woman split apart. Take off their
helmets. Blaze Man takes his off as well.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

That was gorgeous, people! Well
done!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Are you still quitting, sir?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

What, are you kidding? This thing's
got at least two more seasons in it!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

I'll hold you to that, sir.

Ninja Man--nigh, Alex Stone--walks around the cameras. The
lights. The crew. And finds Marlene.

Marlene has changed into more suitable clothes. She wraps
her arms around herself. A smile spreads across her face.

Alex pulls her close. Looks into her eyes.

MARLENE

You were wonderful, Alex.

ALEX

I couldn't have done that
without you.

MARLENE

Aw, come on...!

ALEX

Marlene, I'm serious!

MARLENE

How can I tell? You're
an actor! You could
be faking it!

Alex puts his hand to Marlene's chin. Tips it up toward
him.

ALEX

You tell me if THIS is fake.

Alex kisses Marlene hard on the lips. Marlene's eyes widen.
Then close in ecstasy.

Alex pulls away first. Marlene can't get over the power of
his kiss.

ALEX

Well?

MARLENE

Nope. Definitely not fake.

Alex smiles.

ALEX

Didn't think so.

Marlene frowns.

MARLENE

And neither is that!

Alex frowns back. Looks up at the sky in disgust.

ALEX

I am SO sorry, I--

MARLENE

Don't be!

Alex kisses Marlene on the cheek.

ALEX

Let me get out of this
spandex strait jacket
and I'll drive you to
the temple, okay?

Alex walks to his trailer. Marlene waves. Stops.

MARLENE

Wait, did you say temple?

ALEX

Yeah! Wong-Fu's Temple
of Chinese Food!

Marlene gives Alex a look.

ALEX

What? You didn't know THAT
was the temple?

Marlene shakes her head. Fights a grin.

Alex hops inside his trailer. Shuts the door.

MARLENE

I think I'm in love with
you, Alex Stone.

EXT. WONG-FU'S TEMPLE OF CHINESE FOOD - DAY

Alex pulls his muscle car into a parking space. He and
Marlene exit the car. Look up at the neon marquee.

ALEX

Welcome to the temple.

MARLENE

Where ninjas train.

ALEX

And out-of-work actors too.

Alex takes Marlene's hand in his. She intertwines their fingers.

ALEX
You ready for this?

MARLENE
For what?

ALEX
For me. The acting world.

MARLENE
The spandex acting world?

ALEX
Touché.

Marlene pulls Alex's hand to her chest.

MARLENE
I think I can handle it.

Marlene pulls Alex toward her.

MARLENE
The question is...are YOU
ready?

Alex puts a hand to Marlene's cheek. Smiles.

ALEX
Nothing is impossible for Ninja
Man.

As Alex and Marlene share one more kiss...

SLAM OUT

THE END