

FREEDOM CORPS.

EPISODE 007

"DIOS DE LA LLUVIA"

by

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FADE IN:

ON TWO GLOWING STATUE EYES

Torchlight flickers to reveal - a Mayan statue face.
Chanting is heard in the BG. Widen to establish...

EXT. MAYAN RUINS - NIGHT

An ancient temple sits atop a seaside cliff, silhouetted against a slate sky. A light rain is falling. More chanting, torches flicker on the grassy plain. Occasional strobos of lightning go off from the top of the temple.

THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS, HARRIS, TOM, SIM, DAVE, LISA and JON climb up the cliff. They huddle against a wall of rubble.

Sim peers over the wall and sees...

HIS POV

A HORDE OF MAYANS in native dress mill about the plain below.

BACK TO SCENE

TWO MAYANS come up the stairs by the Freedom Corps Kids, who hide in the shadows, then run O.S.

THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS

run up the temple steps and are about to go in when they bump into IXCHEL, a young teenage girl in native costume. They jump back.

IXCHEL

(Startled as she recognizes them.)
Tom...? Dave...? What are you doing here?

HARRIS

What are you doing here, missy? This is no place...

IXCHEL

This is my place! My father's place! You can't...

TOM

Ixchel, don't...

HARRIS

Your father's who we're looking for. Maybe you can take us to him.

IXCHEL

No! He was right about you! You're spies! You... you'll have to kill me to get to him!

She crouches, prepared to fight. Harris cocks his fist.

HARRIS

Fine. Have it your way.

Tom jumps between them.

TOM

Noooooooo!

FREEZE FRAME on Tom in midair. We hear his VOICE OVER

TOM (V.O.)

How did we get here? How did it come to this? Well, to explain that, we have to go back to Chicago...

ROLL TITLES OVER...

EXT. HUDSON STREET GARAGE - DAY

It's snowing. A dilapidated old warehouse.

SUBTITLE: "One Week Earlier..."

INT. HUDSON STREET - CONTINUOUS

Dusty rafters high above a dark, shadowy interior. Along the walls are numerous cars stacked in lifters, and TUMBLEWEED, a rather pathetic old Hind Mi-24 helicopter.

Under a spotlight, we see three pairs of legs sticking out

from under a tricked out BMW 750i. They belong to TOM, VAL, and DAVE.

TOM (V.O.)

You see, tensions were getting a bit high on the home front. The job gets to you, you know? Something was bound to give...

TOM

And you position the drip pan like so...

VAL

Hee hee. Drip pan.

TOM

Val, pay attention. I can't believe you guys can't change your own oil.

DAVE

Yeah, pay attention, drip pan. At least I can service a computer.

VAL

But that's all you can service, eh, lug nuts?

DAVE

Monkey wench!

VAL

(squeals)

TOM

Will you guys cut it out? I'm trying to... man, this thing is on tight!

VAL

What, you mean this?

We hear a pop, and thick fluid draining.

TOM

No...
(disgusted gurgle)

Tom jumps up, covered in oil.

TOM

That's it! Would you just get out of here and let me work? You're just screwing it up!

Dave jumps up.

DAVE

Oh yeah? Why don't we change your oil, pretty boy?

Val jumps up.

VAL

Yeah, who you calling a screw-up, lube job?

TOM

Back off, socket-head!

Tom shoves Dave, who slips on the oil and goes down. Dave sweeps Tom with his foot.

DAVE

Dipstick!

Val kicks Tom.

VAL

Gas cap!

Tom grabs an oily rag, throws it.

TOM

Trailer hitch!

VAL

Not in the face!

The rag hits her full on, she goes down. They wrestle, all covered in oil. Dave bends Tom's leg backwards, Val grinds his face on the floor.

VAL

Ratchet lover!

TOM

Your mother was a four by four!

Harris, Lisa, Sim and Jon run in.

SIM
Fight!

JON
Typical.

LISA
What's all the hullabaloo?

HARRIS
Come on, you guys, break it up!

Harris tries to grab Val, who yanks him down and puts him in a sleeper before he wedges himself between them.

HARRIS
How many times have I told you not to try out new karate moves on each other without pads?

Val, Dave and Tom separate, and stand up.

HARRIS
Now what's going on here?

VAL AND DAVE
(point to Tom)
He started it.

TOM
I'm so sick of these two flat tires, Harris. If they'd give me some space, I could get my work done.

LISA
Hang on a sec, Tom. Harris, if I'm reading this right, these are classic signs of workplace stress. We've been Freedom Corps-ing for three months without even a real weekend. What we all need is a serious vacation.

HARRIS
Is that your medical opinion?

LISA

Pre-med, but yeah, I guess it is.

HARRIS

Well, that's great, but we have no money. I don't think Magnus budgets for vacation time.

SIM

Forget it, let's just take our food vouchers and disappear on a bender.

JON

Magnus would just haul us in.

LISA

No, we need a real vacation.
(looks at Harris.)
Aunt Sally would understand.

The Freedom Corps Kids look at Harris.

HARRIS

Yeah, but how do we get the money?

JON

Maybe we should liquidate some assets?

VAL

I'm not doing liposuction on anybody. No way.

JON

No, I mean sell something valuable.

He looks at the car Tom was working on. They all follow his gaze.

TOM

No! You guys, if we lose this car, it's my crankshaft!

EXT. FORD'S JUNKYARD - DAY

Still snowing. The BMW pulls through the chain link gate and stops between two mountains of junk and several exotic cars. FORD, a gangsta mechanic type, comes out from behind his workbench, laughs.

FORD

Aw, shift, here come the B-team.

Val gets out of the passenger side. She shivers, not dressed for the cold.

VAL

Oh, you know us, Ford. We're always willing to sell you our silence for information. But we had a different... exchange in mind today.

(jerks her head at the car)

You up for it, big guy?

FORD

You gotta be kiddin' me, girl. You guys hassle me for information on accounta the business I'm in, and now you wanna sell me this...

(leers at Val)

...fine piece of machinery?

TOM

You're no rocket scientist, Ford, but you catch on. How much?

FORD

Something that hot? Damn hard to move. Say, five large?

TOM

No good. We need at least twenty.

Ford gets in his face. Tom glares back.

FORD

Twenty! Who do think I am, you jive mother...

Dave steps up.

DAVE

Easy, fly guy, we know where you live.

Five gang-bangers step out from behind the junk with guns, and chains, covering Ford. Tom, Val and Dave tense.

VAL

And Aunt Sally knows we're here.

FORD
(laughing)
Eleven. Best offer.

Tom exchanges a glance with Dave and Val. They nod.

TOM
Deal.

At a signal from Ford, one of the gang-bangers throws Val two wads of cash from the workbench.

FORD
It's still a frickin' hit.

VAL
Cheaper than getting busted, eh, cowboy?

Tom, Dave And Val back towards the gate.

FORD
It's a dangerous game you're playing,
lady. For what a little party money?
Magnus is gonna find out. And he won't
blame me.

They reach the gate and step quickly out.

TOM
Catch you later, G.

Ford watches them go, then shakes his head and laughs.

FORD
Catch you later.

INT. HUDSON STREET - DAY

Tom, Val and Dave enter through the garage side door. They open the elevator. Inside is MAGNUS RANTHORPE.

VAL
Oh, hi Magnus.

They get in the elevator and ride down.

MAGNUS
Hello, sweetheart. Boys. You guys

working today?

DAVE

Yeah, Magnus, we're on the clock.

MAGNUS

Where were you?

TOM

Oh, we were...uh, making sure the "EL"
was terrorist-proof.

He looks back at the others. They shrug.

TOM

(Continuing)

You know.

Magnus raises an eyebrow. The elevator doors open.

MAGNUS

Okay, I won't keep you.

Tom, Val and Dave start to walk quickly away down the hall.

MAGNUS

(continuing)

And don't call me "Magnus!"

VAL

But Aunt Sally does it all the time.

MAGNUS

Well, he's crazy. You can't help that.
Oh and Tom, I need a recount on those
cars. You're off again.

TOM

(shouts over his shoulder.)

Okay, sir, I'll get right on it.

They round a corner.

VAL

(whew!)

That was cozy. Hey, where is everyone?

INT. COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Begin on a crate of grenades. Aunt Sally stacks another crate on top of them.

Tom, Dave and Val come in. The rest of the Freedom Corps Kids are there, and Aunt Sally is loading several crates with stuff for them.

They look dumbfounded.

AUNT SALLY

Let's see if I got it all. A couple crates of grenades, stinger missile launchers, some toughbooks, fake I.D.s, Pontoon boat...

HARRIS

Pontoon boat? Aunt Sally, we're just going on vacation. We don't need all this crap.

AUNT SALLY

There's no such thing as a simple vacation.
(addresses the Freedom Corps Kids.)
What's our motto?

ALL

(dutifully)
You can't be too paranoid.

AUNT SALLY

That's right.
(to Tom, Dave and Val)
You got the money?

DAVE

Right here.

TOM

There's fifteen hundred apiece, unless...

AUNT SALLY

I can't go with you, boys. Someone has to stay here and cover for you. That'll be my mission. Now all we need to do is decide where you're going.

HARRIS

Guys?

LISA

I dunno. Where do you want to go?

HARRIS

I dunno. Where do you want to go?

AUNT SALLY

Let's ask the computer. Zelda?

He looks at the wall, which the computer, ZELDA, takes up. On its wide screen are the words "SPY CUBE 3000".

ZELDA

I'm listening.

AUNT SALLY

Where should these guys go on vacation?

ZELDA

What are their parameters?

HARRIS

Someplace cheap, where we can get the most for our money.

SIM

And warm.

DAVE

And they speak Spanish.

HARRIS

That's a little specific, don't you think?

DAVE

Hey, lots of places speak Spanish.

HARRIS

Okay...

LISA

Someplace sanitary.

JON

Culturally interesting.

VAL

I want to be treated like a queen!

ZELDA

On fifteen hundred apiece? Not likely.

VAL

Hey!

TOM

They have to be used to Americans, and speak English too.

ZELDA

Thinking...

VAL

Hey, do I get another one?

ZELDA

Thinking...

VAL

Tom got two!

ZELDA

Done. Your vacation destination is...

INSERT

We zoom into the computer screen where we see a map of the Yucatan, and a graphic reads "Cancun."

We continue in until radar weather becomes real clouds. We hear a jet sound as we transition to...

INT. CANCUN AIRPORT - DAY

The Freedom Corps Kids stand in a long, long immigration line. Everyone is fanning themselves and sweating. The airport looks as though it were intended to be opulent, but due to poor construction methods or corruption or both, is merely shabby and unfinished.

VAL

Dude, this sucks! We've been in this line for two hours! Two hours and no air conditioning!

HARRIS

Well, there might have been a better option if Lisa hadn't left the tour book on the plane!

LISA

Hey, shut up!

SIM

Yeah, Aunt Sally doesn't need a tour book.

DAVE

Aunt Sally would have some way of sneaking through immigration.

HARRIS

But that's the whole point. We have to go civvie because unlike Aunt Sally, we're not sanctioned by the government.

TOM

Still, we should have some gizmo, like a cloaking device.

VAL

Or a hypno-ray.

LISA

Did anyone bring any bottled water?

JON

...typical American tourists...

LISA

That's what I thought.

HARRIS

Hey, speaking of which, where are our bags? Are they going through them? What if they find our gear?

TOM

Or our pontoon boat?

HARRIS

That would end our trip real quick.

VAL

Ah, they're so inefficient, they probably can't find it. Stupid Mexicans.

JON

I'm sure they're doing the best they can. Let's not rush to...

VAL

Gimmie an "N!"

ALL

(except Jon)

"N!"

VAL

Gimmie an "efficient"!

ALL

(except Jon)

"Efficient!"

VAL

What's that spell?

ALL

(except Jon)

"Inefficient!!"

JON

Yeah. I was saying, let's not judge a country by its airport immigration.

DAVE

No, by how easy it is to sneak through.
(He ducks under the tensa-barrier.)
You coming?

Sim follows, then Tom, then Val. Lisa and Jon follow with worried expressions.

HARRIS

Hey, you guys!
 (They keep walking.)
 Come back, this isn't a joke!
 (No effect.)
 You're gonna get us busted!

A security guard notices Dave.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Sir! Sir! Jou have to go back and wait
 in line! Sir!

They walk fast, ignoring him. Harris brings up the rear,
 sweating.

HIS POV

A guard bars his way.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Sir! Jou have to wait.

BACK TO SCENE

Harris wears a pained "why me" expression.

HARRIS

(guilty, frustrated sigh)
 He decks the guard.

SECURITY GUARD #2

(surprised grunt)

He falls back. Other guards some running. The guards circle
 the Freedom Corps Kids, guns raised.

SECURITY GUARD #1

ALTO! usted vendrá con nosotros para el
 cheque de la seguridad!

TOM

Why are they speaking Mexican? Don't
 they know we don't speak Mexican?

THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS

Fall into the seven guards. They brawl. Sim whips out a pair of toenail clippers.

Close on a guard's horrified reaction.

SECURITY GUARD #2
(screams in terror)

He drops his gun and runs away. Sim gives chase.

Tom runs through a metal detector, setting it off, and OS. We HEAR a BEEP. The guard chasing him follows, also running OS. We HEAR a BEEP. O.S. we hear a thump, and the guard goes sliding back through, KO'd. We HEAR a BEEP. Tom runs back through, picks up his gun, and runs through again. We HEAR a BEEP. Two more guards chase him through. We HEAR TWO BEEPS.

The guards run towards the camera.

GUARD'S POV

As Val and Jon swing their heavy backpacks like sledgehammers.

BACK TO SCENE

The two guards go sliding back through the metal detectors. We HEAR TWO BEEPS.

The guards are in a pile. Instead of stars, they see security wands and plastic gloves.

HARRIS

Good work, boys and girls. Now, let's find our bags and get out of here.

EXT. CANCUN AIRPORT - LATER

The Freedom Corps Kids run up to curbside, carrying all their bags.

HARRIS

Taxi!!!!

They wait for several agonizing seconds.

TOM

You know, this vacation isn't getting off to a very good start.

There is a clap of thunder, and it begins to pour. They look at Tom.

INT. COL. GORDO'S OFFICE - DAY

COL. SANTA GORDO, an overbearing military man who might be Aunt Sally's fat Mexican counterpart, leans over his desk and shouts at his battered security guards.

GORDO

Seven Americans jumped the line and beat you up? Are they still in the building?

SECURITY GUARD #1

I don't know, sir. I was knocked out. I have men looking now.

GORDO

And you call yourselves security guards! This is intolerable!

SECURITY GUARD #1

But sir, they took us by surprise. We're not trained or anything. We were no match...

Gordo cuts him off with a wave of his hand. He reviews the tape. On the monitor we see a shot of Sim chasing Security Guard # 1 in circles with the toenail clippers.

GORDO

You're absolutely right. They completely outclass you. You're fired. Get me the army. I want a tank. And I want you to find those Americans before they can get away.

SECURITY GUARD #1

I thought I was fired!

GORDO

You are. But find them first. Then you're fired.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Okay...

GORDO

My superiors will finally have to listen to me. The American invasion I warned them about is finally here. And when I alone stop it, they will make me General Santa Gordo, supreme commander! Now find those Americans, whatever it takes!!

EXT. CANCUN HOTEL - EARLY MORNING

Again - intended to be swank. Everything is marble. An yet, somehow, the effect is lackluster. And it's still raining.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A darkened room. The Freedom Corps Kids are crowded onto two double beds. Val, Lisa and Dave sleep on one, taking up most of the room, with Sim, being short, curled at the foot. Tom, Harris, and Jon are on the other. Jon's feet hang off the end. Light peeks through the drawn curtains.

Their crates are stacked in the corner. Empty glasses and blankets litter the room. There is a knock on the door.

Harris's eye opens a crack.

HARRIS

What the?!

They rouse from sleep.

LISA

Who's that?

SIM

It's seven thirty, man!

Another knock.

ALL

Go away!

The door begins to open. The Freedom Corps Kids dive alternately for their clothes, and to hide their contraband.

Harris, in his overzealous haste, knocks over the crate with the pontoon boat inside.

IXCHEL enters the room. She wears a maid's uniform. She comes toward the camera and reacts when she sees them all in various states of undress, standing in front of or sitting on crates. Harris is sprawled on the floor and the pontoon boat lazily inflates.

IXCHEL

(In a small voice)
Housekeeping?

VAL

Come back a little later, dear.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Val, Lisa, Sim, Harris and Jon venture out, puffy eyed, amidst a drizzling rain. They wear beach clothes and carry towels.

SIM

I can't believe this, man. It's worse than Chicago weather. This keeps up, our vacation will be ruined! Why couldn't we have gone to Sandals or something?

LISA

It rains there too, you know.

SIM

Well, at least it rains in English.

VAL

And the housekeeping! Who's up at seven thirty on vacation?

HARRIS

Crazy Mexicans.

They take shelter under a palapa.

JON

Come on, guys, it's a big complex, and we're on the end. Maybe she needs to start early.

HARRIS

I thought they'd be better prepared for Americans in a resort town like this. No one speaks English very well. Don't they know they need that?

JON

I doubt they're thinking that socially.

VAL

Too bad none of us speak Spanish. This is all Dave's fault.

HARRIS

Hey yeah, where are Tom and Dave?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Dave and Tom hang out in the room while Ixchel is making the bed.

DAVE

I have never seen anyone make a bed as neat as that. Have you, Tom?

TOM

Yeah, it's good.

Ixchel picks up their bottles and puts them in a garbage bag.

DAVE

So how old are you?

IXCHEL

Sixteen.

TOM

You're not serious.

IXCHEL

Maybe.

DAVE

Still, that's legal in Mexico, right?

IXCHEL
(giggles.)

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Ixchel scrubs the toilet. Tom and Dave sit on the counter.

TOM
Did you have that thing already, where you go in a big group to Disney World, and you all wear t-shirts...

IXCHEL
No, I think they do that in Brazil.

TOM
Oh right.

DAVE
You know, we could get you in for free there.

IXCHEL
Really?

TOM
Yeah. We know people.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVEN LATER

Dave blocks the door with his arm as Ixchel gets ready to leave.

DAVE
You wanna get together later,... maybe back here... we could talk it over?

IXCHEL
I've got a better idea. We could go ask my father tonight. I'm sure he'd love to meet you.

DAVE
Um, that's not exactly what I had in mind, but... sure, why not? It'll be fun.

Tom grins at Ixchel, and yanks Dave aside.

TOM

(sotto)

Are you kidding me? Go to meet daddy?
Bummer!

DAVE

(sotto)

Stick with me, Tom. Family is very
important to Mexican girls. She'll dig
this, and it'll pay off. You'll see.
(grins at Ixchel)
It's a date.

She smiles and leaves.

EXT. MAYAN RUINS - EVENING

A small Nissan 4-door pulls up along a rough dirt road. It stops, and Ixchel, Tom and Dave get out.

DAVE

This is where you live? When you said it
was a ruin, I thought...

IXCHEL

Well, not exactly. This is where my
daddy works. Sometimes it seems like we
live here.

She leads them towards the main temple. Tom and Dave eye the
Mayan guards in their ceremonial dress warily.

IXCHEL

It was abandoned as an archeological
site, and now my father and his
followers perform their rituals here.

TOM

Rituals?

They climb the ruins and go...

INSIDE THE TEMPLE

We follow them down into the tomb where Ixchel's father,
HUNAB, a cross between a mad scientist and a medicine man.

He is large and intimidating, dressed in fancy priest garb. As he chants and makes adjustments to a machine that looks like a cross between a giant telescope, and a transformer assembly. Occasionally, it sends off little sparks.

TOM
(sotto, to Dave)
Weird.

DAVE
(sotto)
Yeah.

DAVE'S POV

Dave notices a large red digital sign with a countdown on the wall.

BACK TO SCENE

Dave taps Tom on the shoulder and points.

TOM
Hey, Ixchel, what's that on the wall?

IXCHEL
Oh, it's counting down to the end of the world.

DAVE
Yeah? When's that?

IXCHEL
Tomorrow.

TOM
Really.

IXCHEL
Daddy's doing it. He's a brilliant scientist, as well as a Dualist Priest, and according to the Mayan calendar, the world ends tomorrow, on 13 Bak'tun. So he's going to use this weather device to make sure it happens.

DAVE

Interesting work. You don't seem too concerned about it.

IXCHEL

I like to live in the moment.

Tom makes a face at Dave.

TOM

That sounds like a good idea, don't you think?

Ixchel taps her father on the shoulder.

IXCHEL

Daddy?

(He turns to face them.)

Daddy, these are some friends I met at the hotel, Tom and Dave. Guys, this is my father, Hunab.

Hunab looks gravely down his nose at them. He says nothing. Ixchel urges Tom and Dave forward.

IXCHEL

Go ahead, he won't bite.

TOM

Are you sure?

DAVE

(extends his hand.)

Ahem. Hola, Senor.

(Hunab doesn't take it.)

Your daughter is muy bonita, no? She must have many suitors.

He watches Hunab. No response.

DAVE

(continuing)

But you want a man with a lot of money, yes? Here I can help you. Look at this.

(shows Hunab what is left of his cash.)

I have lots of money, no?

(Sotto, to Ixchel)

Is he living?

HUNAB

Are you trying to buy my daughter like a car?

DAVE

Uh, well, not exactly like a car...

HUNAB

Get lost.

DAVE

But, senor, I...

HUNAB

Guards!

TOM

Just a second...

Two Mayans in ceremonial dress grab Tom and Dave. They tussle. Tom and Dave get knocked around, but aren't going down. Hunab whistles loudly. More guards come running.

DAVE

I don't suppose now would be a good time to ask if I...

TOM

we...

DAVE

... we could date your daughter?

The guards surround Tom and Dave.

DAVE

Oh no...

OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE

The guards throw Tom and Dave down the temple stairs into the rain.

They get up painfully.

TOM
(groans)

DAVE
You said it.

Ixchel appears at the top of the stairs.

IXCHEL
(calling down to them)
Sorry about that! He's old! See you
tomorrow?

Tom and Dave wave weakly and move off. They stop dead.

TOM
How are we going to get back?

INT. MAYAN TOMB - LATER

Ixchel confronts her father as he works on the machine, his
back to her.

IXCHEL
Father, why were you so mean to my new
friends?

HUNAB
They were American secret agents, honey.
You could tell.

IXCHEL
Then how come they got beat up by our
followers?

HUNAB
Well, they're not very good secret
agents.
(moves to her, puts his hands on
her shoulders)
I'm just trying to protect you, Ixchel.
You're too young and trusting. When you
get to be my age, you'll understand.

IXCHEL
(giggles)
But daddy, I thought the world was
ending tomorrow.

HUNAB
 (laughs)
 Oh yeah, never mind.

EXT. CANCUN HOTEL ZONE - MORNING

Santa Gordo is sitting in an army jeep in front of a posh Cancun hotel. Two soldiers with rifles come running out of the hotel to him.

SOLDIER #1
 They're not in this one either, sir.

GORDO
 Well, they have to be here somewhere.
 Check the next one!

He whips out a megaphone and the jeep slowly follows as the soldiers trot down the sidewalk.

GORDO
 (Continuing)
 Move it! Move it! Move it!

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The Freedom Corps Kids are sitting dejectedly under a palapa as the rain intensifies.

Lisa is getting her hair braided by an OLD MEXICAN GUY.

Harris is wearing a Hawaiian shirt, sunglasses, and drinking a beer.

Sim is wearing a sombrero and playing solitaire on a beach towel.

Jon is practicing his golf swing - he swings back, and gets zapped by lightning.

Val is wearing a bikini and has one of those tinfoil ray catcher, even though she's in the shade.

Suddenly, with a clap of thunder, Tom and Dave appear looking rain soaked and a little worse for the wear.

LISA
 There you guys are! Where have you been?

VAL

Yeah, we had to go to Señor Frog's without you last night.

TOM

You guys aren't going to believe this, but...

DAVE

We went home with that housekeeping chick last night...

HARRIS

You what? She was like, sixteen!

DAVE

Wasn't no thing. Anyway, her father is, like, some kind of mad priest. He wants to destroy the world with this weather device he's created.

SIM

That's pretty ambitious for a Mexican.

Jon looks anxiously at the guy braiding Lisa's hair.

JON

Sim, that's just the kind of attitude that keeps them from liking us.

SIM

Well, it's true.

TOM

Are you guys deaf? He wants to destroy the world with a weather device! He had us beat up and thrown down the steps!

HARRIS

Well, let him try. Ten to one it doesn't work anyway.

VAL

That's what you get for going after girls too young for you.

TOM

Earth to guys! It's a weather device!

That's what's making it rain like this!

This gets the Freedom Corps Kids's attention. They all sit bolt upright.

LISA

(eyes narrowing)

Let's get him.

Harris, Lisa, Val, Sim and Jon jump up and head for the hotel. Tom and Dave look after them.

DAVE

Nice going. You realize if they kill him, that'll quash any chance we have of scoring with Ixchel.

TOM

Hey guys! Wait!!

INT. HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Tom and Dave run after the Freedom Corps Kids, dripping water all over the hotel's marble floor.

They draw the attention of Col. Gordo, who is inquiring after them at the front desk. He follows them with an intense gaze. Then he shrugs his shoulders.

GORDO

Five men, two women... ah, all Americans look alike.

We follow Tom and Dave as they catch up to the rest of them.

TOM

Hey, guys, we don't have to do it this way, you know. Maybe just a little sabotage...

DAVE

He has computers, maybe I could take a laptop and...

HARRIS

Listen, I don't know about you, but I paid good money and stuck my neck out for this vacation. Moreover, I happen to like the universe. So if he wants to

ruin all that, this son of a churo is
going to pay!

VAL, LISA, SIM AND JON

YEAH!

INT. BUDGET CAR RENTAL - DAY

The Freedom Corps Kids stand behind Harris at the counter.

HARRIS

Yes, we'll take the extra insurance.

INT. HUDSON STREET, COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

The Computer room is empty. Then we hear a little musical
chime.

ZELDA

Aunt Sally?

Aunt Sally pokes his head around the corner.

AUNT SALLY

Yes?

ZELDA

I have something for you. Will you look
at it?

AUNT SALLY

Not until you say it.

ZELDA

(annoyed moan)
Very well.
(sigh)
You've got mail.

AUNT SALLY

Great! Let's see it.

INSERT

A picture of a beach with palm trees comes up on the

monitor. It says, "Greetings from Cancun."

BACK TO SCENE

AUNT SALLY
Cute. Turn it over.

INSERT

The image flips over. On the back is handwritten text. We HEAR Aunt Sally READ ALOUD.

AUNT SALLY (O.S.)
Dear Aunt Sally, Mayans are trying to
destroy the world, and ruining our
vacation. Please send the helicopter.
Thanks, The Freedom Corps Kids.

BACK TO SCENE

Aunt Sally puzzles over this for a moment.

AUNT SALLY
Mayan bastards!

Just then MAGNUS comes in.

MAGNUS
What's that?

AUNT SALLY
(still lost in thought)
Postcard from Cancun.

MAGNUS
Who do you know that's there?

Aunt Sally whirls around.

AUNT SALLY
Oh! Uh...nobody.

Aunt Sally reaches behind his back and hits a button. The screen goes blank.

MAGNUS

Hey, where is everyone?

AUNT SALLY

...at the bar.

MAGNUS

This early?

AUNT SALLY

You know... it's Tuesday.

MAGNUS

You guys get any work done this week?

AUNT SALLY

Sure, Magnus, we got leads.

MAGNUS

Okay...

MAGNUS leaves. Aunt Sally scratches his head. What to do...?

EXT. MAYAN RUINS - NIGHT

The Freedom Corps Kids speed along in their pontoon boat. Sim is struggling to hold his sombrero on.

HARRIS

Sim, would you take that stupid thing off?

SIM

I thought it was cool.

HARRIS

Sombreros are never cool.

They beach the pontoon boat in the natural harbor below the cliff. They crouch, run up the beach, and hide behind a rock. They peek over the rock.

THIER POV

They see the Mayans guarding the front entrance to the

temple.

HARRIS

We'll have to go around.

JON

I didn't know there were going to be natives here. I don't think we should do this.

TOM

Yeah, see? It's an authentic native ritual. We shouldn't disturb it.

LISA

Yeah, right. It's as authentic as that New York cheesecake we had last night. I think I know what store those costumes came from.

SIM

If I don't get to wear my sombrero, then they can't do their native thing. That's the rule.

HARRIS

Come on, people. We've got a job here. Let's quit talking and get it done. Val?

Val stands up, and undoes her wet suit. She has a bikini on underneath. She walks around the rocks towards the Mayans, working at the back clasp. We HEAR her VOICE OFF SCREEN.

VAL (O.S.)

Excuse me, boys, but I was swimming at this beach back here. Have you seen my bikini top?

HARRIS

(smirks)

Let's go.

Harris, Tom, Sim, Dave, Lisa And Jon climb up the cliff. They huddle against a wall of rubble.

TWO MAYANS come up the stairs by the Freedom Corps Kids. They hide in the shadows, then run O.S.

The Freedom Corps Kids runs up the temple steps and are about to go in when they bump into IXCHEL. They jump back.

IXCHEL

(Startled as she recognizes them.)
Tom...? Dave...? What are you doing
here?

HARRIS

What are you doing here, missy? This is
no place...

We HEAR TOM'S VOICE OVER.

TOM(V.O.)

And that's how we got here. She said...

IXCHEL

This is my place! My father's place! You
can't...

TOM(V.O.)

I said...

TOM

Ixchel, don't...

TOM(V.O.)

She said...

IXCHEL

You... you'll have to kill me to get to
him!

She crouches, prepared to fight. Harris cocks his fist.

TOM(V.O.)

Harris said...

HARRIS

Fine. Have it your way.

Tom jumps between them.

TOM(V.O.)

And I said...

TOM

Noooooo!

FREEZE FRAME on Tom in midair.

TOM (V.O.)
(doing Walter Kronkite)
And that's... the way it was! I always
wanted to say that.

The scene unfreezes, and Tom lands hard on the ground at
Ixchel's feet.

Everyone looks down at Tom

HARRIS
Tom, what are you doing?

TOM jumps up, dusting himself off.

TOM
(sheepishly)
Uh, I thought we might... need her or
something.

HARRIS
Okay. Are you going to come quietly,
chica?

IXCHEL
Uh, no.

Harris sighs heavily, raising his fist to cold-cock her.

LISA (O.S.)
(clears her throat)
Harris freezes.

LISA
You know, Harris, child endangerment is
very unattractive.

HARRIS
Fine then, you do it! Let's go!
Lisa grabs Ixchel in a vise grip behind
the ears.

LISA
One sound, and I squeeze. Move it.

INT. MAYAN RUINS - CONTINUOUS

They reach the room where the device is and...

THEIR POV

...see the countdown. It reads 0009:59

BACK TO SCENE

TOM

There's only a few minutes left!

HARRIS

No sweat. Tom, you disable the machine.
 Sim, rig it to blow on my command.
 Dave, monitor the computers and warn us
 if you notice anything. Jon, Lisa,
 guard the doors. I'll watch the girl. If
 anything goes wrong, wait for my signal.

Dave sits at the computer. He types something, frowns.

Jon Takes up position by one door. Lisa by the other.

SIM opens a crate of explosives.

We follow TOM as he goes under the machine like a car

TOM

Let's see what we got here...

Harris forces Ixchel to sit in the middle of the room.

HARRIS

Have a seat missy.

At the computer, Dave's frown deepens.

DAVE

You guys, something's bogus here...

Suddenly, the room fills with Mayans and they are surrounded!

MAYANS

(various walla)

HARRIS

(plaintive)

Jon! Lisa!

JON

Sorry, there are a lot of doors.

Hunab comes into the room with two guards carting Val. She has her whole bikini on, but that's all.

VAL

Hi, guys.

Ixchel runs to her father.

IXCHEL

Daddy!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Col. Santa Gordo and his soldiers are searching The Freedom Corps kids' room. He lifts a pair of panties from the drawer with a pistol.

GORDO

Camouflage underwear?

He turns to the other maids, who are lined up against the wall.

GORDO

(parenthetical)

Where did they go?

MAID #1

I...I think the w-w-went to see some ruins.

Gordo scowls at them.

GORDO

Which ones?

Just then, a soldier comes into the room, and hands Gordo a walkie-talkie.

SOLDIER #1

Col. Gordo? For you, sir.

GORDO

Hmph! Yes? This is Gordo. A disturbance at the ruins? I'll be right

there!

He waves an arm to his soldiers.

GORDO

We have them! Vamanos!

INT. MAYAN RUINS - NIGHT

HUNAB

(imperious)

You dare to interfere with our ultimate design? It is no matter. In a few minutes, you will all be gone, and the Mayans will be reinvented as glorious beings in a grand new age.

The Mayans drag Tom out from under the machine. They Mayans take Sim's explosives away, and force the kids to their knees, spears at their necks.

DAVE

(to Mayans)

Guys, you don't want to fight us. This machine...

HUNAB

(cutting him off)

Silence! Before our new age begins, you will witness the power and devotion of the Mayan people!

SIM

What are we gonna have to play that ball game with the stone hoop, where the winner gets killed?

HUNAB

No, we are going to sacrifice you to Chaac, the god of rain.

Harris looks over at his Freedom Corps Kids, then up at Hunab.

HARRIS

Hey pal, does the finger mean the same thing in Mexico?

HUNAB

Yeah.

HARRIS

Good!

He goes to shoot the bird. Cut away as...

THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS

go into action, avoiding their captors and jumping up to fight.

HUNAB

Mayans, attack!

Mayans rush the camera with spears ready.

MAYANS

Grrrahh!

Jon dodges one Mayan then uppercuts another.

JON

Sorry for not taking the time to appreciate your culture!

Lisa hits pressure points, like Aunt Sally Taught her. Mayans go down, writing in pain.

LISA

But we've been under a lot of pressure, lately.

Sim pulls a flash grenade pin with his teeth and... throws it.

SIM

Remember the Alamo!

Mayans dive out of the way as the grenade goes off.

The room shakes, and large stones fall from the ceiling taking out more Mayans.

Tom throws a wrench, clocking a Mayan. Sim looks at him funny. Tom shrugs.

Harris rolls over to where their supplies are in a pile. He grabs two cans of mace and throws them to Val and Dave

HARRIS

Heads up!

They catch a can each and start blasting. Mayans scream in pain and duck for cover. One Mayan bumps into the Doomsday Machine and is comically electrocuted.

JON

(knowingly)

Ooh, I know how you feel, brother.

The whole place is shaking and crumbling. Stone blocks fall from the ceiling. Hunab and Ixchel start to sneak out a side door, but Harris sees them.

HARRIS

We're not through with you two yet!

He throws a flash grenade at the door and it crumbles to rubble in front of Hunab and Ixchel.

More Mayans pour into the room through another door.

MAYANS

Aargh!!

SIM

They're still coming!

DAVE

And we're out of time!

The Freedom Corps Kids turn in horror as...

THE COUNTDOWN ON THE WALL

Reaches 0000:05...0000:04...0000:03...0000:02...

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone is looking up at...

THE CLOCK

The last seconds on the clock tick away.

0000:03...0000:02....0000:01

BACK TO SCENE

Even the Mayans are frozen in anticipation as...

THE MACHINE

is engulfed in electric VFX. It charges up...then pizzlies and does nothing.

BACK TO SCENE

The Mayans are dumbfounded

MAYAN#1

What the?

MAYAN #2

Where's the new universe?

DAVE

That's what I was trying to tell you.
The machine is a set piece.
These computers don't actually do anything.
(to Mayans)
Get a clue, people. It's all a big con!

The Mayans turn on Hunab

MAYAN #1

You took our money!

MAYAN #2

And promised us an apocalypse!

MAYAN #3

And we had to buy these stupid outfits!

HARRIS

(to the Mayans, and Freedom Corps)
Lets get him, boys!

The Mayans converge on Hunab, as does Freedom Corps.

Ixchel and Tom jump to defend Hunab from the mob. Tom

smiles stupidly at Ixchel.

VAL

Tom... what are you doing?

TOM

Guys, we might still need him!

SIM

What on earth for?

IXCHEL

Get away from my father you stupid gringo! I never liked you. I just Wanted you to join the cult. But you ruined all that! I hate you!

Suddenly the whole building shakes as we HEAR the thunderous VOICE of...

Col. Gordo over a megaphone outside.

GORDO (O.S.)

American agents! We have the place surrounded. Give up quietly, or we will be forced to take you by force!

TOM

(confused)

Bummer.

MAYAN #1

I'm outa here.

The Mayans bolt, en masse. KAPWING!!

HARRIS

Let's move it, people!

The Freedom Corps Kids run out of the room as it continues to crumble, and large stone blocks fall from the ceiling.

THEIR POV

up the stairs as they come out onto the temple patico.

EXT. MAYAN TEMPLE - NIGHT

Our heroes wonder what to do as they stand atop the crumbling temple.

On the ground below are jeeps with bright headlights surrounding the three landward sides of the ruin site. A tank rolls up and raises its gun.

The Freedom Corps Kids whirl to see...

Boats are approaching from the ocean side.

LISA

What do we do now?

JON

Pray to the rain god?

Just then a gust of wind hits them, and a rope ladder descends. They

look up to see...

TUMBLEWEED

hovering above them. Aunt Sally leans out the window and waves.

AUNT SALLY

Come aboard, boys! EVAC is here!

THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS

jump on the ladder one by one. Lisa, Dave, Jon...

Gordo watches in frustration.

GORDO

(to a subordinate)

They're getting away! Hand me that megaphone!

(on megaphone)

American agents! Land your aircraft immediately or we will be forced to shoot you down!

HARRIS

(on the ladder below Sim)
 We left the explosives in the temple!
 Climb faster!

Sim looks down past Harris. Val is still on the ground. She watches them climb.

THE TANK

levels its gun at the ruin. Val jumps on the ladder as...

INSIDE TUMBLEWEED

Aunt Sally yanks on the controls.

TUMBLEWEED pulls up and away at the last second.

THE TANK

fires, dramatically blasting the temple.

Val clings to the last few rungs of the ladder as Tumbleweed rises above a huge fireball.

INT. TUMBLEWEED - TRAVELLING

Val climbs wearily aboard.

HARRIS

That was close.

LISA

I've cut it closer.

JON

I can't believe we blew up a cultural treasure!

SIM

It was it or us, pal. Well, sorta.

DAVE

I can't believe Ixchel never really liked us. I mean, I'm charming.

HARRIS

It's their own fault. It was Mexicans conning Mexicans. Stuff like this happens all the time.

LISA

And we fell for it, too. That machine wasn't making the weather bad. It's just the rainy season!

HARRIS

(infuriated)

We're getting so paranoid, we see secret missions in everything.

AUNT SALLY

(beaming)

I'm so proud of you guys!

TUMBLEWEED

starts to pull away, but is intercepted by 6 Mexican Apache helicopters.

INT. TUMBLEWEED - TRAVELING

AUNT SALLY

Uh-oh.

SIM

Can't we just blast them? I thought this was an American helicopter!

AUNT SALLY

Nope. Those are American helicopters. This one's Russian, and it has no guns.
(beat)
Sorry, boys, looks like it's just not our week.

INT. COL. GORDO'S OFFICE - MORNING

The Freedom Corps Kids and Aunt Sally sit dejectedly in plastic chairs. Col. Gordo sits with his feet up on his desk. He's on the phone.

Harris looks accusingly at Aunt Sally.

HARRIS

Well, it's finally happened. We're going to jail, and a Mexican one at that.

Gordo hangs up the phone.

SIM

Hey, we still get our one phone call, right?

GORDO

(on top of the world)
Actually, we don't do that in Mexico. Normally we just go straight to the soda-up-the-nose torture.
(beat)
But since I won, I'm willing to make concessions. Call whomever you like.

Harris looks at Aunt Sally.

AUNT SALLY

Go ahead, kid.

Harris gets up, dials a number.

HARRIS

(beat)
It's ringing. Damn it, answering machine. Oh wait... Hi, Magnus. I

mean, General Ranthorpe.

SPLIT SCREEN - HARRIS AND MAGNUS

MAGNUS

Harris? Aunt Sally said you guys were up on North Beach. What's up?

HARRIS

Well, sir, that's not exactly true. We're in Mexico.

MAGNUS

Mexico? How did you get down there?

HARRIS

We sold the BMW, sir. The tan one.

MAGNUS

The 750i? Damn shame. Nice car. So what happened?

HARRIS

Well, there was this Mayan who wanted to destroy the universe, and... well, to make a long story short... we got busted.

MAGNUS

Well, what'd you call me for? You're on your own. Nice knowing you, sport. It was fun while it lasted.

HARRIS

Wait, sir, don't hang up! You gotta help us! This Col. Gordo's a real mean tack. He's gonna put soda up our nose!

GORDO

(winks at Harris.)

Gracias.

MAGNUS

Wait a sec, you don't mean old Santa Gordo? He's a Colonel now?

HARRIS

I guess so, sir.

MAGNUS

Put him on!

Harris hands the phone to Gordo.

HARRIS

He wants to talk to you.

GORDO takes the phone.

GORDO

Hola? Magnus! You old gringo, how are you doing? Fine, hey, what are... what? These are your kids? Aw, no no no...

(beat)
 ...Secret mission to protect tourism?
 You're kidding!

FULL ON THE FREEDOM CORPS KIDS

Their jaws are in their laps.

EXT. PRIVATE BEACH - DAY

The Freedom Corps Kids sit beachside on lounge chairs in the sun, sipping beer. Tumbleweed sits nearby. Several armed soldiers stand in the BG.

GORDO

I suppose I have to thank you for capturing the dangerous criminals,

Hunab and Ixchel Chaac. They were both wanted for fraudulent business deals and leading a cult.

SIM

They were wanted for fraudulent business? That's like, a national pastime in Mexico, isn't it?

JON

Sim, that's just the kind of comment that...

GORDO

Yeah I know. Crazy, isn't it? Anyway, they were going to escape before the machine went off, but you detained them.

HARRIS

It was our pleasure, Colonel Gordo.

DAVE

(to Tom)

So was Magnus cool with you selling that car to pay for our vacation, or what?

TOM

Yeah, he said a BMW was a stupid kind of car for a secret agent to drive anyway. Even if it was supercharged.

GORDO

Ha! He's an okay guy sometimes.

VAL

Yeah, I can't believe you and Magnus are old Drug War buddies.

LISA

Thanks for letting us stay on your private island, for what money we had left.

SIM

The weather's much nicer out here.

JON

Yes, and here I don't feel I'm taking advantage of Mexicans willing to

sell their souls and culture to Americans for money.

VAL

The only thing is there's no room service.

GORDO

Well this is the next best thing...

Widen to reveal Ixchel and Hunab have been forced to climb a palm tree. They look unhappy. Soldiers with guns watch from the ground.

GORDO(O.S.)

Hey you! Priest! Bring us those coconuts!

ANGLE ON GORDO

GORDO

(Continuing)

Andele, or we shoot!

FREEDOM CORPS KIDS / GORDO / SOLDIERS

(laugh it up)

FADE OUT

THE END